

Philosophy

The Elementary Division of the Office of Religious Education recognizes, celebrates, and maintains as its focus the unique expression of God's presence in children. In support of the gifts children bring to the world and the Catholic Church specifically, the Elementary Division serves the Archdiocese by training and empowering those who are involved in catechetical ministry with children in grades one through six.

“Let the children
come to Me.”

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“...whoever
receives
a child
in my
name
receives
me.”

Matthew 18:5

Contact Information

To learn more about the elementary division and the many ways in which we can help you, contact:

Dione L. Grillo
Elementary Consultant

Elementary Division



Faith is a lifelong journey!

development

The Elementary Division was formed to address the specific goals and needs of the elementary-level catechetical community. In addition to support and resource for the DRE/CRE, we provide opportunities for catechist training and enrichment as well as individual parish consultation.

workshops

Lively, participative, and filled with practical ideas for the elementary catechetical setting, our workshops are excellent resources for training. We are available for workshops, retreats, and in-services both at the parish and regional levels.

resources

From textbooks to guidelines to new catechetical paradigms, we are here to answer your questions on Elementary Catechesis. Far from providing *just* information, we will provide you with current, real-life examples and contacts, where available, on our recommendations.

1 Specialization

As part of the certification process, we offer the Elementary Specialization Program where we teach skills specific to the elementary setting. All catechists are welcome whether pursuing certification or not. Encourage your catechist's growth and skill development through Specialization. This 16-hour course is a dynamic, in-depth program that is interactive and exemplifies successful elementary techniques, pedagogies, and creative ideas!

2 In-Service & Retreats

In addition to the annual Religious Education Congress held in Anaheim, various in-services are held throughout the year that provide further opportunities for catechist formation. Such in-services include:

- Parish-based retreats and in-services
- Publisher-Sponsored Workshops
- Regional Congresses
- Seasonal Workshops *for* Advent & Lent

3 Supporting & Advising

Here are a few ways that we are here to support and encourage you in your ministry:

- Textbook Evaluations
- Archdiocesan Elementary Commission
- Elementary Resource Library
- Personalized, one-on-one consultations

Communicating

Be informed. Stay informed. Our monthly electronic newsletter, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Division, is timely and full of practical ideas for use in your ministry. We also send out periodic e-mails as things occur that we feel you should know about or as we happen upon resources that may be of benefit to you. Join our Yahoo! Group where you will find liturgies, retreats, workshops, and more! We are here to serve you and the children and families *you* are called to serve! Also visit our CatholicMom.com blog and YouTube Channel.



We are the ORE.

- Catechist & Children's Spirituality
- How to Plan Retreats for Children
- Including Family in Your Ministry
- Liturgy of the Word with Children
- Prayer with Children
- Sacramental Preparation...and more!

- Support
- Grow
- Encourage

- Sacramental Preparation
- Learning Styles
- Retreats

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come to Me.”