

Catechist Certification Program

Effective Date: August 2025

All Catholic School teachers are in a ministry dedicated to handing on the Catholic faith through the Word and through the modeling of the Catholic life by their actions. The Bishop shares his responsibility of educating young people in the faith with each teacher in a Catholic School. Teachers must take up the challenge to live their lives in a manner that reflects this call to ministry and work diligently to provide their students with opportunities to grow in faith. The faith is passed on by providing students with a solid foundation in Catholic doctrine, worship, prayer and service experiences.

Catechist Requirements:

All Religion teachers in grades PreK through 12 must be certified catechists within two years of hire, unless already enrolled in a Theology Degree program. Those teachers who have completed a previous catechist program of which there is documentation will not be required to complete this program. Any teacher in progress in a previous program will need to start over.

Bishop Persico's Expectations:

- Elementary and Middle Schools: Those who teach religion are to be outstanding in correct doctrine, the witness of a Christian life, and teaching skill. (See Code of Canon Law, 804.2.) Only practicing Catholics should teach religion.
- Secondary Schools: The local ordinary is to be concerned that those who are designated teachers of religious instruction in schools... are outstanding in correct doctrine, the witness of a Christian life, and teaching skill." (Code of Canon Law, #804.2)

To receive a Catechist Certificate, a religion teacher must complete both A and B.

Step A: Complete all sessions of the Catechetical Formation Series provided by Loyola Press.

[Loyola Catechetical Formation Series](#)

[To access the online program:](#)

Access Code: each school has a unique digital access code (found in the hardcopy resource books)

Learning Session 1: Getting Started & Getting to Know Your Learners (DOING)

Learning Session 2: The Catechetical Process (DOING)

Learning Session 3: Prayer and Leading Prayer (DOING)

Learning Session 4: Facilitation Skills and Handling Difficult Situations (DOING)

Learning Session 5: What We Believe – The Creed (KNOWING)

Learning Session 6: What We Believe – The Sacraments (KNOWING)

Learning Session 7: What We Believe – The Moral Life (KNOWING)

Learning Session 8: What We Believe – Prayer (KNOWING)
Learning Session 9: Understanding God's Word – Scripture (KNOWING)
Learning Session 10: The Person of the Catechist (BEING)

Each session has a downloadable interactive PDF and assigned readings.

Each building will have a set of the hardcopy resources needed for the assigned readings. Upon completion of a session, the teacher will receive a certificate of completion. Please retain as these will be required to submit to the building principal.

Once all sessions are completed the teacher submits the Statement of Completion from Loyola Press (received via email) to the building principal.

Step B: Attend the New Teacher Induction – All newly hired teachers (beginning 2025) are required to attend the New Teacher Induction. Attendance will be tracked using a sign-in form, and the Director of Curriculum will record the date each teacher participates. *Note: Teachers hired before 2025 are grandfathered in for Step B.*

Once both A and B have been completed, the building principal will submit a Catechist Certification Form to the Director of Curriculum at the Catholic Schools Office. The Director of Curriculum will issue a Catechist Certificate. The certificate will be mailed to the principal, so a copy may be placed in the teacher's personnel file. The original certificate is given to the teacher.

Annually, in September the building administrator will complete the individual school report that indicates each teacher who is teaching religion and their catechist certification status. Indicate the date of the last Pastor Recommendation form for each religion teacher for their building and return it to the Catholic Schools Office.

Reminder:

Each year all religion teachers in grades Pre K-8 must submit a Pastor Recommendation form to the school/system per Bishop Persico's expectations.