



CALIFORNIA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE



Guidelines for Obtaining the California Catechist Certificate & the California Master Catechist Certificate

Office of Religious Education

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

[This page intentionally left blank]



1119 K STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
T: (916) 313-4000
F: (916) 313-4066
www.cacatholic.org

May 6, 2009

To All Church leadership,

On behalf of the Cardinal Archbishop of Los Angeles, the Archbishop of San Francisco and all the bishops of the Catholic Conference I am pleased to present these revised guidelines for catechist certification to be used in catechist formation programs throughout the state of California.

The promulgation of these guidelines is the culmination of a nearly two-year process of dedicated leadership and extensive consultation among the Catholic Bishops of the state with the Directors of Catechetical Ministry, the Superintendents of Catholic Schools, the Directors of Youth Ministry and the Directors of Adult Faith Formation of the Dioceses of the State of California.

These guidelines are consistent with the *General Directory for Catechesis*, *National Directory for Catechesis*, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard* and *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*.

The bishops of California express their gratitude and prayerful support to everyone involved in the essential ministry of catechesis in our Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward E. Dolejsi".

Edward E. Dolejsi
Executive Director

Contents

Purpose of the Guidelines.....	6
Catechetical Ministry and the Mission of the Church.....	6
Formation, Certification and Commissioning	8
Diocesan Responsibility	8
The Mission of Catechists in the Life of the Parish, the Family and the Catholic School	8
Personal Qualities of a Catechist	9
Selection and Formation of Catechists	10
Standards for the California Catechist Certification Catechist Formation Course.....	11
CONTENT.....	11
A. Course of Studies to Obtain a California Catechist Certificate	11
PROCESS.....	14
B. California Catechist Certification	14
C. Expiration and Renewal	14
D. Alternative Methods to Obtain a California Catechist Certificate	14
E. Reciprocity	14
The Mission of Master Catechists in the Life of the Diocese.....	15
Qualifications of a Master Catechist.....	15
The Selection and Formation of Master Catechists.....	15
Standards for California Master Catechist Certification	16
CONTENT.....	16
A. Course of Studies to Obtain a California Master Catechist Certificate.....	16
PROCESS.....	19
B. California Master Catechist Certification.....	19
C. Expiration and Renewal	19
D. Alternative Methods to Obtain a California Master Catechist Certificate.....	19
Statewide Recognition of Certification	20
Catechetical Documents	21
INTRODUCTION.....	25
KNOWLEDGE OF FAITH	28
Liturgical Life	31

MORAL FORMATION.....	34
Dignity of the Human Person.....	34
Sin, Grace, Redemption	34
Ten Commandments, Great Commandment & Beatitudes.....	35
Virtue and Gospel Values.....	35
Moral Principles	36
Conscience Formation, Moral Decision Making	36
Catholic Social Teaching.....	37
CHRISTIAN PRAYER.....	38
Communal Life	39
MISSIONARY SPIRIT.....	42
Nature and Purpose of Catechesis.....	44
METHODOLOGY	47
Divine Methodology.....	47
Human Methodology	48
Learning Styles, Teaching Styles	49
Technology and Catechesis.....	51
Lesson/Session Planning	52
Resources	53

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

Matthew 28:19

Guidelines for Obtaining The California Catechist Certificate and The California Master Catechist Certificate

Purpose of the Guidelines

In order to promote effective catechesis and standardize the quality of the formation of catechists under their jurisdiction, the Bishops of the California Catholic Conference, in consultation with the Directors of Catechetical Ministry, the Superintendents of Catholic Schools, the Directors of Youth Ministry and the Directors of Adult Faith Formation of the Dioceses of the State of California, have agreed upon the following revised Guidelines for the Formation and Certification of Catechists and Master Catechists.

These Guidelines outline the process and standards whereby a catechist can gain or renew the California Catechist Certificate or an experienced catechist can gain or renew the California Master Catechist Certificate.

Catechetical Ministry and the Mission of the Church

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore, and make disciples” clearly calls for the formation of catechists who will proclaim the Gospel message in such a way that it may take root in those being catechized and foster conversion to the person and message of Jesus Christ. The postmodern context culturally, socially, and technologically, of the US in the 21st century, in which this process takes place, impacts the condition for the reception of the Gospel and a response to it.

- The following key catechetical criteria must be upheld to help bring the transforming power of the Gospel to touch persons in their hearts and cultures at their deepest levels:
- That the same Gospel message that was given by Jesus Christ in its integrity, authenticity, and purity be preserved in the cultural environment in which it is presented. [NDC, p. 82]
- That “The baptismal catechumenate be the source of inspiration for all catechesis” [NDC, p. 115]
- That Adult catechesis be the organizing principle by which coherence is given to the various catechetical programs offered by a particular church. Adult Catechesis “is the axis around which revolves the catechesis of childhood and adolescence as well as that of old age” [GDC, no. 275]

The General Directory for Catechesis (hereafter GDC) and the National Directory for Catechesis (hereafter NDC) contextualize the whole of catechesis within the process of evangelization, calling catechesis an essential moment in the evangelization process. [GDC, nos. 85-86; NDC, pp. 59-62]

The NDC delineates the inclusion of the following six interrelated tasks for the development of full Christian faith:

- 1) to deepen knowledge of faith;
- 2) to provide a liturgical education that brings the faithful to full, conscious, and active participation in liturgy;
- 3) to provide a moral formation that transmits Jesus’ attitudes to the faithful in a way that leads to interior transformation;
- 4) to teach people to pray in such a way that catechesis is permeated by a climate of prayer;
- 5) to prepare the Christian to live in community;
- 6) to prepare Christians to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church [GDC, nos. 85-86; NDC, pp.59-62]

Catechesis needs to include all of these interdependent elements for the Christian faith to attain full development.

Formation, Certification and Commissioning

“The call to the ministry of catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit” [NDC, p. 228] and is discerned within the community. To be truly effective, catechists should be appropriately formed, prepared and certified for this important ministry which carries out the teaching mission of the Church. Since those seeking to be catechists have varying levels of experience and catechetical competence, catechetical formation programs should “help them acquire the knowledge and skills they need to hand on the faith to those entrusted to their care and assist them in living as disciples in Christ” [NDC, p. 235]. Persons serving as catechists, both experienced and newly invited, should be commissioned in a ceremony that “expresses the Church’s call, recognizes the catechist’s generous response, and confidently sends the catechist out to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ” [NDC, p. 236].

Diocesan Responsibility

Under the direction of the local Bishop, who is specifically responsible for the transmission of the Faith in the particular Church entrusted to him several diocesan offices share responsibility for the diocesan catechetical mission. The diocesan catechetical office is chief among these in bringing leadership. [NDC, pgs. 215; 250; GDC, no. 265].

Each diocese, recognizing its individual needs and resources, has the responsibility to establish its own process to prepare and form catechists. When the diocesan formation process includes the standards outlined in this document, the diocese may issue the state-recognized certificates, i.e., the **California Catechist Certificate** and the **California Master Catechist Certificate**. All dioceses in California recognize the validity of these two certificates.

The Mission of Catechists in the Life of the Parish, the Family and the Catholic School

The mission of catechists is to “exemplify the manner in which we cooperate with God’s grace to ensure the growth of faith and remind us that it is God who causes the growth” [NDC, p. 217]. The catechist “is God’s instrument in the mission to ‘make disciples of all nations’” [NDC, p. 243].

“The parish is ‘the primary experience of the Church’ for most Catholics. It is where the faithful gather for the celebration of the sacraments and the proclamation of the word of God, and where they are enabled to live distinctively Christian lives of charity and service in their family, economic, and civic situations. It is the living and permanent environment for growth in the

faith” [NDC, p. 254]. The parish provides a variety of models, settings, for nourishing growth in faith for adults, youth, young adults, and children.

Within the life of the family “parents are the primary educators in the faith” [GDC, no. 255]. “They have a unique responsibility for the education of their children; they are the first educators or catechists. They catechize primarily by the witness of their Christian lives and by their love for the faith” [NDC, p. 234].

Within Catholic schools “the distinctive Catholic identity and mission...depend on the efforts and example of the whole faculty” [NDC, p. 233]. “All the members of the faculty, at least by their example, are an integral part of the process of religious education” [NDC, p. 233].

Regardless of catechetical setting or environment, “catechesis is the responsibility of the entire Christian community” [GDC, no. 220] and “not only brings to maturity the faith of those being catechized but also brings the community itself to maturity” [GDC, no. 221].

Personal Qualities of a Catechist

The Church calls forth exemplary followers of Christ who have a living, conscious, active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Personal qualities of catechists should include:

- faith that manifests itself in their piety and daily life;
- love for the Church;
- apostolic spirit and missionary zeal;
- love for their brothers and sisters and a desire to give generous service;
- a willingness to continue their own religious education and formation;
- the human, moral, and technical qualities necessary for the ministry of a catechist such as dynamism and good relationships with others;
- respect for the diversity of cultures;
- an ability to appreciate different stages of individual growth and development;
- an ability to communicate effectively with the persons to be catechized.

These general qualities will have to be made more specific for local conditions and applied to the particular circumstances in each area [see NDC, p. 236].

Selection and Formation of Catechists

It is an important task of parish catechetical leadership to discern who has the gifts, talents and abilities to be a catechist. “The suggestion that anyone can be a catechist should be scrupulously avoided in all communication involving the recruitment of catechists” [NDC, p. 236].

The pastor and catechetical leadership in each parish and school have the duty to:

- call forth practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church;
- assist potential candidates in discerning their vocation to become faith-filled and dynamic catechists;
- screen and train candidates in accord with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and diocesan policies for safe environments;
- require candidates to complete formation programs for catechist certification as sponsored/developed by the diocese within the time period specified by the diocese;
- select, orient, commission, supervise and evaluate catechists — both those in the process of obtaining certification and those renewing certification;
- provide catechists with ongoing opportunities for continued personal, spiritual and professional formation and development annually.

The *National Directory for Catechesis* asserts that catechists should be known by the catechetical leadership, should be invited to ministry and should receive initial and ongoing formation. [NDC, pp. 236-237] This formation should conform to the following standards.

Standards for the California Catechist Certification

Catechist Formation Course

CONTENT

A. Course of Studies to Obtain a California Catechist Certificate

The course of studies is consistent with the *General Directory for Catechesis*, *National Directory for Catechesis*, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard* and *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*.

I. Tasks of Catechesis

- a) Knowledge of the Faith
 - Revelation/Faith
 - Scripture
 - Tradition
 - The Creed
 - Trinity and the Image of God
 - Christology
 - Ecclesiology
 - Mary and the Saints
 - Life Everlasting
- b) Liturgical Life
 - The Paschal Mystery
 - Sacramental Theology
 - Liturgy
 - Eucharist as Source and Summit
 - Sacraments of Initiation
 - Sacraments of Healing
 - Sacraments at the Service of Communion
- c) Moral Formation
 - Dignity of the Human Person
 - Sin, Grace, Redemption
 - Ten Commandments, the Great Commandment, the Beatitudes
 - Moral Principles
 - Conscience Formation, Moral Decision Making
 - Virtue and Gospel Values
 - Catholic Social Teaching
 - Life Long Conversion

- d) Christian Prayer
 - Prayer in the Christian Life
 - Spirituality
 - Prayer Forms
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Leading Prayer
- e) Communal Life
 - Communal Character of Life in Christ - Households of Faith, Parish Communities
 - Apprenticeship in Christian Living
 - Ecumenical Dimension
 - Multicultural Reality
 - Safe Environments
- f) Missionary Spirit
 - Evangelizing Spirit, New Evangelization
 - Discipleship
 - Call of Laity in Mission and Service in the World
 - Interreligious Dialogue

II. Nature and Purpose of Catechesis

- a) Initiating and Ongoing Catechesis
- b) Catechumenate as Model and Inspiration
- c) Evangelizing Catechesis
- d) Inculturation
- e) Faith and Human Development
- f) Authentic Presentation of Christian Message
- g) History of Catechesis

III. Methodology

- a) Divine Methodology
- b) Elements of Human Methodology
- c) Learning Styles, Teaching Styles
- d) Technology and Catechesis
- e) Resources
- f) Lesson planning

IV. Catechizing the People of God in Diverse Settings

Certification for specialized areas should include a comprehensive course of formation and instruction in the above-mentioned content areas as well as formation pertinent to that particular specialization. This includes:

- a) That the catechist “must take into consideration all the human factors of a particular age level in order to present the Gospel message in a vital and compelling way” [NDC, p. 187].
- b) That skills training for particular catechetical areas such as: whole community catechesis, adult catechesis, the elderly, young adults, adolescent catechesis, comprehensive youth ministry, family catechesis, elementary, early childhood, and catechesis for those with special needs. Skills training may also focus on areas such as RCIA, Scripture study, Infant Baptism, Restorative Justice, specific cultural groups, life-long faith formation.

V. Spiritual Development of the Catechist

“Spiritual formation aims to arouse and animate true hunger for holiness, desire for union with the Father through Christ in the Spirit, daily growing in love of God and neighbor in life and ministry, and the practices of prayer and spirituality that foster these attitudes and dispositions. It promotes and strengthens that fundamental conversion that places God, and not oneself, at the center of one’s life” [Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, p.38].

“Every theme covered by formation should feed, in the first place, the faith of the catechist” [GDC, no. 239].

The integration of the following methods of spiritual formation:

- A Theology of Ministry to include nourishment of the vocation of Catechist
 - Prayer (to include retreats and days of reflection) and spiritual practices
 - Spiritual guidance
 - Faith sharing and theological reflection
 - Practice of justice and charity
 - Celebration of liturgical life
-

PROCESS

B. California Catechist Certification

A catechist will receive California Catechist Certification from the Diocese upon:

1. Satisfactory completion of the California Catechist program of formation and study as identified in Section A (above);
2. One year of catechetical experience;
3. Evaluation of the candidate's performance, by a Master Catechist / or experienced certified Catechist. including at least one observation and evaluation of the catechist in a catechetical session.

C. Expiration and Renewal

The California Catechist Certification expires in no less than three (3) years and no more than four (4) years after the date of issue. To renew this certificate, the catechist shall complete at The California Catechist Certificate least ten (10) hours annually in the content areas delineated in Section A (above) during the life of the certificate. Courses should have the prior approval of the diocesan office. The catechist must demonstrate on-going catechetical formation in accordance with diocesan requirements.

D. Alternative Methods to Obtain a California Catechist Certificate

Each diocese may establish alternative methods to obtain a Catechist Certificate. Some basic qualifications for eligibility include:

1. Completion within the last 5 years of a Degree or Certificate Program in Religious Studies, Catechesis or Theology, from a Catholic college, university, School of Ministry, that reflects knowledge in the content areas delineated in section A-1 through V plus B above and proven experience in catechesis.
2. A current Catechist Certificate from a diocese outside of California with evidence of on-going professional development and proven experience in Catechesis.
3. Connection with local Diocesan Catechetical Office so as to become familiar with and participate in local formation programs.

E. Reciprocity

All dioceses in California recognize the validity of the California Catechist Certificate issued by other dioceses in California that comply with these Guidelines.

The Mission of Master Catechists in the Life of the Diocese

Master Catechists, as extensions of the teaching office of the Bishop, are selected and commissioned to:

- a) Provide the specific formation and courses of studies and evaluations required by the diocese for catechists to obtain or renew a California Catechist Certificate;
- b) Provide workshops and in-services for the continued growth and formation of catechists and Catholic School teachers;
- c) To be willing to participate as a member of a catechetical leadership visioning team.

Qualifications of a Master Catechist

In addition to the "Personal Qualities of a Catechist," (pg. 5) the Master Catechist should have:

- a) A current California Catechist Certificate;
- b) Proven expertise and recent experience in catechetical ministry at various age levels;
- c) An ability to communicate and work effectively with adult learners in a formation setting;
- d) The personal recommendation of the candidate's pastor or other catechetical leader;
- e) Evidence of ongoing education in: Theology, Catechesis, the teachings of the Church and Spiritual Development in light of Vatican II and post-conciliar documents.
- f) Evidence of the ability to work in multi-cultural situations;
- g) An understanding of the purpose of the Master Catechist and a willingness to serve as such when certified;
- h) An ability to study at an advanced level.

The Selection and Formation of Master Catechists

The Bishop and/or his catechetical staff have the duty to:

- A. Call forth practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church;
 - B. Select candidates and evaluate their potential to become Master Catechists;
 - C. Certify candidates upon completion of the entire formation program for the Master Catechist;
 - D. Orient, commission, supervise and evaluate Master Catechists;
 - E. Provide Master Catechists with opportunities for continued personal, spiritual and professional development [NDC pg.249].
-

Standards for California Master Catechist Certification

CONTENT

The Master Catechist pursues an in-depth study of the same content offered in the Catechist formation course.

A. Course of Studies to Obtain a California Master Catechist Certificate

The course of studies is consistent with the *General Directory for Catechesis*, *National Directory for Catechesis*, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard*, *Renewing the Vision*, and *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*.

I. Tasks of Catechesis

- a) Knowledge of the Faith
 - Revelation/Faith
 - Scripture
 - Tradition
 - The Creed
 - Trinity and the Image of God
 - Christology
 - Ecclesiology
 - Mary and the Saints
 - Life Everlasting
- b) Liturgical Life
 - The Paschal Mystery
 - Sacramental Theology
 - Liturgy
 - Eucharist as Source and Summit
 - Sacraments of Initiation
 - Sacraments of Healing
 - Sacraments at the Service of Communion

- c) Moral Formation
 - Dignity of the Human Person
 - Sin, Grace, Redemption
 - Ten Commandments, the Great Commandment, the Beatitudes
 - Moral Principles
 - Conscience Formation, Moral Decision Making
 - Virtue and Gospel Values
 - Catholic Social Teaching
 - Life Long Conversion
- d) Christian Prayer
 - Prayer in the Christian Life
 - Spirituality
 - Prayer Forms
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Leading Prayer
- e) Communal Life
 - Communal Character of Life in Christ - Households of Faith, Parish Communities
 - Apprenticeship in Christian Living
 - Ecumenical Dimension
 - Multicultural Reality
 - Safe Environments
- f) Missionary Spirit
 - Evangelizing Spirit, New Evangelization
 - Discipleship
 - Call of Laity in Mission and Service in the World
 - Interreligious Dialogue

II. Nature and Purpose of Catechesis

- a) Initiating and Ongoing Catechesis
- b) Catechumenate as Model and Inspiration
- c) Evangelizing Catechesis
- d) Inculturation
- e) Faith and Human Development
- f) Authentic Presentation of Christian Message
- g) History of Catechesis

III. Methodology

- a) Divine Methodology
-

- b) Elements of Human Methodology
- c) Learning Styles, Teaching Styles
- d) Technology and Catechesis
- e) Resources

IV. Additional Formation for Master Catechists

In addition to the formation and course of studies required to obtain a California Catechist Certificate, the Master Catechist Course of study should include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) Teaching-learning process
- b) Effective teaching methods and skills
- c) How to recognize those with special needs
- d) Communication and public speaking skills
- e) Behavior management skills
- f) How to evaluate textbooks / Web based resources
- g) Goal-setting and supervision skills
- h) Thorough knowledge and use of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*
- i) Curriculum development and adaptation
- j) Lesson planning
- k) Adult, youth, and child psychological and moral development
- l) Conflict management skills

V. Spiritual Development of the Master Catechist

The course of study should include opportunities and direction in personal spiritual development by integrating the following spiritual formation practices:

- Prayer (to include retreats and days of reflection) and spiritual practices
- Spiritual guidance
- Faith sharing and theological reflection
- Practice of justice and charity
- Celebration of liturgical life.

PROCESS

B. California Master Catechist Certification

While there is no specific length of study required to obtain a Master Catechist Certificate, the Bishop and/or his catechetical staff shall develop specific, professional criteria and time-lines for awarding a Master Catechist Certificate. Completion of these criteria will be determined by means of:

1. A review of the candidate's application for Master Catechist Certification;
2. An interview of the candidate;
3. A review of the candidate's continuing education and formation;
4. The evaluation of the candidate's supervised performance;
5. On-going professional development and proven experience in catechesis

C. Expiration and Renewal

This certificate expires in no less than three (3) and no more than four (4) years after the date of issue. To renew this certificate, the Master Catechist must demonstrate on-going professional growth based upon his/her previous and current evaluations and serve as a presenter in the basic Catechist formation program as called upon.

D. Alternative Methods to Obtain a California Master Catechist Certificate

Each diocese may establish alternative methods to obtain a Master Catechist Certificate. Some basic qualifications for eligibility include:

1. Completion within the last 5 years of a Masters Degree or Masters Certificate Program in Religious Studies, Catechesis or Theology, from a Catholic college or university, that reflects knowledge in the content areas delineated in section A-1 through V plus B above and proven experience in catechesis with Adults.
 2. A current Master Catechist Certificate from a diocese outside of California with evidence of on-going professional development and proven experience in Catechesis with Adults.
 3. Connection with local Diocesan Catechetical Office so as to become familiar with and participate in local formation programs.
-

Statewide Recognition of Certification

The Bishops of California recognize the competency of each diocesan Catechist and Master Catechist program based on these guidelines. An authorized California certified Catechist or Master Catechist who moves from one diocese to another should participate in the local formation programs for the following reasons:

1. By participating in the local programs, the Catechist becomes part of that catechetical community.
2. The catechist becomes acquainted with the scope and direction of each program as designed to meet the particular needs of that diocese.
3. The Diocesan staff can become acquainted with the person and the competencies of the Catechist or Master Catechist.

Catechetical Documents

Catechesi Tradendae (On Catechesis in Our Time), Pope John Paul II, 1979

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1992

Christifideles Laici (Apostolic Exhortation on the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World), Pope John Paul II, 1988

Co Workers in the Vineyard, USCCB, 2006

Dei Verbum (On Divine Revelation), Vatican II, 1965

Encuentro and Mission: A Renewed Pastoral Framework for Hispanic Ministry, USCCB, 2002

Evangelii Nuntiandi (Evangelization in the Modern World), Pope Paul VI, 1975

Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), Vatican II, 1965

General Directory for Catechesis, Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, USCC, 1997

Go and Make Disciples (A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States), USCC, 1993

Guide for Catechists, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, USCC, 1993

Maturing in Faith: The Challenge of Adolescent Catechesis, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, 1986

National Directory for Catechesis USCCB, 2005

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us USCCB 1999

Principles for Inculturation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCC, 1994

Redemptoris Missio (On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate), Pope John Paul II, 1991

Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, USCCB, 2005

Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, NCCB, 1997

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults USCCB 1988

Sin Fronteras (Without Borders), Comité Episcopal de Baja y Alta California, Sonora u Arizona, 1994

To Teach As Jesus Did, USCC, 1973

The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School 1988

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB, 2006

Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, USCC, 2000

Loving, Learning, Living Your Faith, Orange Diocese

Goals and Objectives

Content of Course of Studies to Obtain a California Master Catechist Certificate and Catechist Certificate

[This page intentionally left blank]

INTRODUCTION

**As you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
Now live your lives in him,
Be rooted in him and built up on him,
Held firm by the faith you have been taught
And overflowing with thanksgiving.**

(Col: 2:6-7)

These words will hopefully find a nesting place in the lives of every catechetical minister. Competent ministers of the Word recognize their responsibility to be grounded in a spirituality that roots them in the heart and mind of Christ. This personal relationship of the human person with the living God is central to effective ministry. In fact the National Directory for Catechesis states that Jesus Christ is the energizing center of evangelization and the heart of catechesis.

When we reflect on the Gospels, it is clear that Jesus had a pattern of prayer and spirituality in his life. This pattern and rhythm of prayer nurtured and was nurtured by his mission and ministry. We see him moving apart to enter into silence and solitude. He chose to go to lonely places to be alone and at times he spent the whole night in prayer. He listened, he discerned he spoke to his Father in secret and reached out to attend to the varied needs and hopes encountered in his travels. He was truly a contemplative in action.

Catechists and leaders in this important ministry of sharing **Good News** would do well to mirror Jesus' commitment to pause, to pray, and to reflect. The process of thrusting lives into the rich soil of God's love and compassion brings freedom from fear and gives the courage to go on in spite of the struggles that are inevitable along the way.

It is in the context of this rootedness and connection to the source of life that catechists and catechetical leaders find the strength to go forth and share the richness of their Catholic faith story with all of its rituals, beliefs and spiritual traditions. Weaving contemplation and action they discover God in all of life and lead others into a like experience of God 'with us.'

The following goals and objectives specify the content of the course of studies for the **California Catechist Certificate** and the **California Master Catechist Certificate**. This certificate is for all the Arch (dioceses) in California for the training of catechists in catechesis at the parish, youth ministry and school levels.

In implementing them, it is important that the criteria for catechist formation found in the *National Directory for Catechesis* is adhered to and that the general andragogy of the formation of catechists be congruent with the pedagogy proper to the catechetical process. In other words, the catechetical process should be used in the formation of catechists (NDC #55E).

It is also important to remember that the presentation of content must be seen in relation to the entire formation of the catechist. As stated in the *General Directory for Catechesis*, “the deepest dimension refers to the very being of the catechist, to his or her human and Christian dimension. Formation, above all else, must help him or her to mature as a person, a believer and as an apostle.” (GDC #238)

The presentation of content must also be seen in relationship to multicultural and multilingual settings.

KNOWLEDGE OF FAITH

Goal 1: The Master Catechist will teach God’s ongoing self-revelation and the nature of our response.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Explain reasons for belief in the existence of God. | CCC 1-3; 27-43 |
| 2. Give examples of how God communicates with us from Scriptures, tradition and lived experience. | CCC 31-35, 51-62 |
| 3. Explain how God’s plan of salvation came to fullness through Jesus Christ. | CCC 65-67 |
| 4. Identify faith as our response to God’s revelation. | CCC 144-165 |
| 5. Give an example of how we work with God’s grace to respond in faith to life situations. | CCC 166-175 |

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will articulate that the Sacred Scriptures are the Word of God.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Explain authorship and inspiration of Sacred Scripture. | CCC 101-119 |
| 2. Outline the process of the formation of Scripture. | CCC 120-130 |
| 3. Name several literary forms found in the Bible. | CCC 109-119 |
| 4. Describe the themes of covenant and exodus found in Scripture. | CCC 54-64 |
| 5. Explain the relationship between the Old and the New Testaments. | CCC 102-103, 121-130,140 |
| 6. Describe the unique form of the four Gospels, their formation and central place in our Church. | CCC 124-127 |
| 7. Break open the Word of God based on the liturgical year. | |
| 8. Explain the Catholic approach to Scripture and how it differs from the fundamentalist and literalist approaches. | CCC 111- 114, 137 |
| 9. Give examples of the importance of Scripture in one’s own life as a disciple. | CCC 104, 131-133, 141, 2653 |

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will teach the central beliefs of the Catholic faith as articulated in the Creed.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Articulate the Trinity as the central mystery of the Christian faith, the source of all the other mysteries. CCC 234-267
2. Present God's plan of loving kindness, which was conceived by the Father, was fulfilled in the Son, and is directed by the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. CCC 199-267
3. Define the term *creed* and distinguish between the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. CCC 185-188; 194-5; 197
4. Express a basic understanding of the following concepts: Incarnation, Resurrection, Holy Spirit, and Communion of Saints. CCC 461, 464, 638, 685, cf. 152, 243, 948, 957, 960, 1474
CCC 677-9, 1021, 1038,1001; cf. 668, 673, 1023,1033, 1031, cf. 1472, 988,1020-1060
5. Understand concepts such as death, judgment, second coming of Christ, heaven, hell, purgatory, resurrection of the body and life everlasting. CCC 900-913
6. Describe the role of the baptized in passing on the Catholic Tradition.

Goal 4: The Master catechist will articulate the centrality of Christ in all catechesis.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Identify Jesus Christ as true God and true man. CCC 464-470
2. Explain the meaning of the Kingdom of God and relate it to his or her own call to discipleship. CCC 128; 121-127
3. Describe key images of Jesus that emerge from a careful reading of the Gospels. CCC 541-546; Lumen Gentium 5
4. Explain the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. CCC 561-570, 619-623

Goal 5: The Master catechist will teach that the Church is a mystery both human and divine.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Tell the story of the founding of the Church. | CCC 748-769 |
| 2. Describe the mission of the Church to evangelize and make disciples of all nations. | CCC 767-768, 849-865 |
| 3. Describe the major images of the Church, including those in the Documents of Vatican II. | CCC 738, 770-801 |
| 4. Name and explain the Four Marks of the Church. | CCC 811-870 |
| 5. Describe the basic structure of the Church. | CCC 771, 871-933 |
| 6. Explain the meaning of the hierarchy of truths in Catholic doctrine. | CCC 90, 234 |

Goal 6: The Master Catechist will share that the Church honors Mary, the Mother of God, and commemorates the heroic example of the lives of the Saints.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Explain the meaning of the Immaculate Conception, Mary's obedience of faith ("fiat") at the Annunciation, her Perpetual Virginity, the Assumption, and her inseparable union with Christ. | CCC 484-511, 964-966 |
| 2. Explain how the Church imitates the Mother of the Lord in treasuring the Gospel in her heart. | CCC 721, 829, 973 |
| 3. Explain why the saints are models of holiness and discipleship for all believers. | CCC 823-828 |
| 4. Explain the proper devotion to the saints and how they serve as models and intercessors for us. | CCC 965-959 |
| 5. Highlight the heroic examples of particular saints. | |

Liturgical Life

Goal 1: The Master catechist will articulate that liturgy, especially the Eucharist, is the source from which the Church's power flows and the summit toward which Church activity is directed.

CCC 1113, 1066-1206, 1324

Objectives: The catechist will be able to:

1. Define liturgy.
2. Describe the essential elements of liturgy.
3. Give an example of how the richness of various cultures is incorporated into liturgy.
4. Describe the meaning of the Paschal Mystery and its relationship to Liturgy and Sacraments.

CCC 1136; 1069-71

CCC 1140; 1145-62

CCC 1200-07; 1209

CCC 1115; 1168-69

Goal 2: The Master catechist will articulate that the liturgy involves conscious, active and fruitful participation of everyone.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Identify the role of the assembly in liturgy.
2. Identify the four ways Christ is present in liturgy.
3. Explain the liturgical year.

CCC 1140-44

CCC 1088

CCC 1163-73

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will articulate that Christ is mediated through the Church's sacramental life.

CCC 1114-1199

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Express a basic understanding of the concept of Sacrament.
2. Name and describe the seven Sacraments.
3. Explain how we participate in Christ's Paschal Mystery through the Sacraments.
4. Identify the symbols for each Sacrament and their meaning in human experience.
5. Describe the communal nature of the Sacraments.

CCC 1076; 1114-21

CCC 1113; 1285;
1322; 1422; 1499;
1534

CCC 1115; 1132;
1239

CCC 1119; 1145-
52; 1214-16; 1235-
43; 1293-96; 1320;
1412

CCC 1140; 1329;
1517; 1591; 1663

Goal 4: The Master Catechist will teach that the Sacraments of Initiation- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life.

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Explain the scriptural, theological, historical and liturgical aspects of the Sacraments of Initiation.
2. Explain the stages of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and their accompanying rites.
3. Explain the importance of Baptism for new life in Christ.
4. Explain the meaning of sharing in the priesthood of Christ.
5. Explain how Confirmation completes Baptismal grace.
6. Explain the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and describe how they are lived.
7. Explain that the mode of Christ's presence in the Eucharist is unique and raises Eucharist above all other sacraments.
8. Explain the meaning of Eucharist as the real presence of Christ which calls for a response of commitment to justice.

CCC 1212; 1229

CCC 1234-45

CCC 1262-74

CCC 1546-47

CCC 1285; 1316

CCC 1830-32

CCC 1374

CCC 1397; 1398

Goal 5: The Master Catechist will teach that the Sacraments of Healing – Penance and Anointing of the Sick - continue Christ’s work of healing and reconciliation.

CCC 1440-1532

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Explain the scriptural, theological, historical and liturgical aspects of the Sacraments of Healing.
2. Explain the importance of the Sacrament of Penance in one’s personal life and in the life of the Church.
3. Describe the communal and individual celebration on the Sacrament of Penance.
4. Explain the importance of the Sacrament of Anointing in one’s personal life and the life of the Church.
5. Describe the communal and individual celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing.
6. Explain some of the spiritual effects of the Sacraments of Healing.

CCC 1420-21; 1449

CCC 1425-29; 1440

CCC 1440; 1443-45

CCC 1500-10

CCC 1517-19

CCC 1468-70;
1496; 1520-25

Goal 6: The Master Catechist will teach that the Sacraments at the Service of Communion - Matrimony and Holy Orders - serve to build up the people of God.

CCC 1533-1666

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Explain the scriptural, theological, historical and liturgical aspects of the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
2. Describe the relationship between the Sacrament of Matrimony and Christ’s love for the Church.
3. Explain the role of the couple, the priest, the deacon and the community in the Sacrament of Matrimony.
4. Explain the unique service to the community given by bishops, priests and deacons in the name and person of Christ.

CCC 1533-1535

CCC 1602-04

CCC 1621-23

CCC 1119-20;
1536; 1538; 1549;
1552; 1554; 1562-
71; 1591-1600

MORAL FORMATION

Dignity of the Human Person

Goal 1: The Master Catechist will provide a foundation for the Understanding of the dignity of the human person made in God’s image, and call of our Lord to live as children of the light.

CCC1700, 1730

Objectives: The catechist will be able to:

CCC 1706,1730,
1780

1. Identify human dignity as a foundation for moral life.
2. Identify the Catholic understanding of human freedom and authentic happiness from the perspective of Scripture and tradition.

CCC 1723, 1730-
1742, 1749

Sin, Grace, Redemption

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will share the good news of the gospel concerning the fulfillment of God’s saving plan in the person of Jesus Christ. Our moral choices are our response to this gift of God’s grace.

CCC 1709. 1741

Objectives: The catechist will be able to:

1. Understand the gift of God’s loving presence, communicated through grace freely given (sanctifying and habitual)
2. Define sin, its degrees of gravity (mortal/venial,) and its effects on our relationship with God, others and all of creation.
3. Reflect on the continual need for ongoing conversion and “growth in holiness.”

CCC 1987, 1995,
1996- 2005

CCC 1849-1864

Ten Commandments, Great Commandment & Beatitudes

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will demonstrate the relationship between the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes for committed Christian discipleship.

CCC 2052-2055,
2074, 1716, 1724

Objectives: The catechist will be able to

1. Show how Christ's example of love for God and neighbor is the standard that we are to imitate and follow in all of our thoughts, words, and actions.
2. Understand the call of the Beatitudes to spiritual growth and discipleship.
3. Help others to inform their conscience through a contemporary understanding of each of the Ten Commandments.

CCC 520-521,
561-562, John
13:34

CCC 1716-1724

CCC 2083-2550

Virtue and Gospel Values

Goal 4: The Master Catechist will articulate virtue as a quality of character which enables a Christian to live a life that is fully free.

CCC 1803-1804

Objectives: The Catechist will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the four cardinal virtues, the three theological virtues and their relationship to Gospel values.
2. Recognize that virtue as well as vice is acquired through habitual action and that they constitute a person's character and interior life.
3. Describe the way in which a person's character is formed through moral choices.
4. Identify important gospel values and how they essential for Christian discipleship.

CCC 1805-1809,
1812-1829

CCC 1803-1804

CCC 1810-1811

CCC 1716-1717;
1720-1724

Moral Principles

Goal 5: The Master Catechist will describe key principles of Catholic Morality including the difference between the objective moral law and the subjectivity of the moral agent; the sources of morality and the authority of the Church's moral teaching.

CCC 1950-1974;
2030-2040

Objectives: The Catechist will be able to:

1. Articulate the relationship between objective morality and the subjectivity of the moral agent.
2. Understand how the morality of human acts is specified by the intention, the object or means chosen and the circumstances.
3. Understand the sources for arriving at moral truth: the Life and teachings of Jesus, the teachings of the Church and human reason guided by the action and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

CCC 1755-56,
1790-94

CCC 1750-1756

CCC 1935, 1955,
2032

Conscience Formation, Moral Decision Making

Goal 6: The Master catechist will articulate the need for formation of the primacy of conscience and the role of conscience in moral decision-making.

CCC 1776-1802
Article 16
Gaudium et Spes

Objectives: The Catechist will be able to:

1. Understand conscience as our most secret core and sanctuary in which consists our human dignity, a judgment of reason that enables a person to judge the moral quality of an action.
2. Describe the process of informing one's conscience and how to do an examination of conscience, including the role of prayer.
3. Articulate the primacy of conscience and show why a person is obliged to follow a *certain judgment* of their conscience.
4. Show how an upright conscience requires accepting full responsibility for one's actions.

CCC 1777-1778

CCC 1783-1875,
2822-2827

CCC 1786-1788

CCC 1781

Catholic Social Teaching

Goal 7: The Master catechist will articulate key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and will illustrate how to apply them to our lives in a global society.

CCC 1877-1942
CSDC Chapter 4

Objectives: The Catechist will be able to:

1. Understand the foundational principles of human dignity and the common good.
2. Identify current social issues that relate to each of the seven major themes of Catholic social teaching.
3. Understand the significance of the principle of solidarity for social justice and especially for developing nations and peoples.
4. Describe the difference between personal and social sin, between sins of commission and sins of omission.

CCC 1878-1938

CCC 1880-1883;
1888 ; 1905-1906;
1913 - 1915, 1929-
1933, 1939-1942

CCC 1929-1933
1939-1942

CCC 1868-1869

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Goal 1: The Master catechist will share the nature and value of both personal and communal prayer throughout the entire formation process.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Understand prayer as gift and as communication /relationship with God.
2. Connect with and understand his or her own spiritual journey.
3. Discover and celebrate God at the heart of all creation.
4. Grasp that authentic spirituality is characterized by faith, hope, charity, courage and joy.

NDC 229

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will demonstrate various styles of prayer and skills to lead others in prayer.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Be exposed to a variety of prayer forms: liturgical, vocal, contemplative and meditative prayer.
2. Learn how to lead others in prayer, including Lectio Divina.
3. Be able to plan a liturgy/prayer service.
4. Be able to identify the Our Father as a model for prayer and the synthesis of prayer contained in scripture and in the life of the church.

NDC 61, #4 and 85

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will articulate the nature of prayer and the various forms of prayer.

Objectives: The catechist will

1. Understand the importance of prayer in daily life using the various forms of prayer: blessing, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.
2. Be aware of cultural expressions of prayer.
3. Be familiar with the Liturgy of the Hours.

Communal Life

Goal 1: The Master Catechist will articulate that all are part of a community of believers called by their baptism to witness, to worship and to serve.

NDC, p. 109

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Know the term *ecclesia* as it refers to Kyriake, or Church; “what belongs to the Lord”, the liturgical assembly, the local community or the whole universal community of believers.
2. Understand that they are incorporated into the Church is through Baptism.
3. Understand that faith and worship are closely related: that faith gathers a community for worship and worship renews the faith of the Community.
4. Keep, live and profess the faith and confidently bear witness to it.
5. Understand that all are called to serve in the ecclesial community for the sake of its growth and life.

CCC 751-752

CCC 1273

NDC p.109

CCC 1816.

CCC 910

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will explain that Christian life is an apprenticeship to Jesus Christ.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Understand that all Catholics are to have an enthusiasm for their faith, and in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.
2. Participate in the divine calling to teach as Jesus did. Their personal relationship with Jesus Christ energizes their service to the Church and provides the continuing motivation, vitality, and force of their catechetical activity.
3. Show a special solidarity with those whom they catechize and a particular sensitivity to their needs.
4. Live a spiritual life characterized by a call to holiness NDC Pg 229
5. Be familiar with the words and actions of Jesus through Sacred Scriptures in order to emulate his life and teaching.

Go and Make
Disciples, Goal 1

NDC p. 229

NDC p. 229

NDC p. 229

Goal 3: The Master Catechist develops a loving and respectful attitude in the context of ecumenical dialogue engendering and nourishing an authentic desire for unity.

NDC pp. 62,
211-13

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Comprehend an ecumenical dimension and encourage fraternal attitudes toward members of other Christian churches and ecclesial communities.
2. Understand the basic teachings of the Catholic Church and be able to give an account of her teaching and her discipline.
3. Seek to present the teachings of other churches, ecclesial communities and religions correctly and honestly.
4. Affirm their Catholic identity while respecting the faith of others.
5. Understand a basic awareness of the Catholic principles of ecumenism.

NDC p. 62

NDC p. 211

NDC p. 211

NDC p. 211

NDC p. 212

Goal 4: The Master Catechist will embrace the rich cultural pluralism of all the Faithful, encourage the distinctive identity of each cultural group, and urge mutual enrichment.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Invite all people, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic Church.
2. Promote a unity of faith within the multicultural diversity of the people.
3. Respect appropriate forms of piety and popular religiosity practiced by the faithful.
4. Sustain and support popular religiosity and, if necessary, purify and correct the religious sense which underlies these devotions so that the faithful may advance in knowledge of the mystery of Christ.

Go and Make
Disciples, Goal 2

CCC 1676

Goal 5: The Master catechist will communicate the necessity of a safe environment for the parish community.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Provide generous, competent and realistic aid, by seeking dialogue with the families, by proposing appropriate forms of education and by providing catechesis which is proportionate to the concrete possibilities and needs of children.
2. Ensure that children and youth who worship, study and participate in activities sponsored by a parish, can do so in the safest and most secure setting possible.
3. Be familiar with the comprehensive set of procedures established by the USCCB in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.
4. Will be trained in and follow the guidelines for Safe Environment provided by each Diocese.
5. Will recognize that children have a dignity of their own and that they are important not only for what they will do in the future, but for who they are now.

GDC 180

USCCB Safe
Environment
www.usccb.org

MISSIONARY SPIRIT

Goal 1: The Master catechist will emphasize that the primary task of evangelization is a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the Word as the Person of Jesus Christ.

NDC p. 47

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Understand that Jesus Christ is central to all aspects of human life.
2. Identify and reflect upon the responsibility of all the baptized called for in Mt. 28: 19-20.
3. Understand the need for a new evangelization and what it entails.

NDC p. 46-47

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will strengthen in the catechist their own sense of participation in the mission of Jesus to proclaim the good news of the kingdom.

NDC p.3

Objective: The catechist will:

1. Relate a number of Scripture passages of Jesus' work, his manner, actions, prayer and sense of mission and connect them to their faith stories.

Mt.28:19-20

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will encourage the catechist to give witness to the Good News in our own times through a life of on-going conversion of heart and conformed to that of Jesus Christ through full adherence to his person, his teachings and to his life of self-giving love.

NDC p. 47, 98-99

GDC 152

OHWB, 46

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Define *metanoia* and explain its meaning.
2. Give a number of examples in ordinary life that demonstrate a catechist's on-going commitment to a change of heart and to a life of prayer and action that demonstrates a conformity to discipleship to Jesus Christ.

EN 10; NDC p.47

Goal 4: The Master catechist will create an awareness that the Gospel is intended for every people and nation and that it finds a home in every culture.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge and appropriate sensitivity to the diversities of culture in terms of ethnicity, special needs, age, levels of faith development and so on.
2. Be able to draw on a knowledge of inter-religious dialogue to show how Christ brings hope to all people.

NCD p. 46

NDC p 63-64

Nature and Purpose of Catechesis

Goal 1: The Master Catechist will articulate the role of both initiating and ongoing Catechesis.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Understand that initiating catechesis may either precede or follow Baptism. NDC p. 57
2. Define initiating catechesis as the initial faith in Jesus Christ. NDC p. 58
3. Define ongoing catechesis as a process that includes lifelong learning for the individual and constant pastoral activity for the Christian community. NDC p. 59
4. Describe the most effective forms of ongoing catechesis NDC p. 59

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will explain that the catechumenate process is the model and inspiration for all catechesis.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Embrace the catechumenate process as the model and inspiration for all catechesis. NDC p. 118
2. Understand how the four stages of the baptismal catechumenate mirror The Father's divine pedagogy. NDC p. 116, CCC 5
3. Include the Church's rites, symbols, biblical and liturgical signs in their catechesis where appropriate. NDC p. 116
4. Recognize that conversion is a life-long process and is accompanied at every stage by an appropriate catechesis.
5. Provide mystagogical reflection experiences. NDC p. 117

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will articulate the nature and purpose of an evangelizing catechesis.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. The catechist will understand that catechesis and evangelization integrates and compliments each other.
2. The catechist will be able to proclaim the Word in such a way that calls forth a conversion of heart.

NDC p. 67

Goal 4: Inculturation: The Master Catechist will have an understanding of the culture in which the learner lives and how the Gospel can transform that culture [NDC-65]

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Identify the presence of God and traces of authentic Gospel values in culture.
2. Use the language and culture of the people as a foundation to express the common faith of the Church.
3. Recognize that the different generations within the community is cultures unto themselves, requiring appropriate catechesis.
4. Present the teaching of the faith in a complete and authentic way, nurturing the seed of faith sown by the Holy Spirit.
5. Orient the use of mass media and technology for service of the Christian message.

NDC p.64

NDC p. 65

NDC p.82-83

Goal 5: Faith and Human Development: The Master Catechist will understand the continuous cycle of growth and development in human life.

Objective: The catechist will:

1. Be familiar with theories of the following areas of human development and their implications for catechesis:
 - Psycho-social
 - Moral Development
 - Faith Development

Goal 6: Authentic Presentation of the Christian Message: The Master Catechist will have a clear understanding of how the Church, animated by the Holy Spirit, is sent as the teacher of the faith.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. Present Christ as the definitive Revelation of God, the point in salvation history toward which the created order proceeds from the beginning of time, and the final event toward which it converges. Christ is the Center of the Gospel message. NDC p.75
2. Demonstrate how Scripture and Tradition are the source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior. NDC p.75
3. Explain the Trinitarian dimension of the Gospel message.
4. Communicate the profound dignity of the human person NDC p. 85
5. Foster a common language of the faith. NDC p.86
6. Faithfully teach the doctrine and traditions of the Catholic Church. NDC p.87

Goal 7: History of Catechesis

The Master catechist will understand how Catechesis has been articulated and handed down through the ages so as to better grasp why we may be teaching and learning the way we do today.

Objective: The catechist will:

1. Trace the core content and story of catechesis through:
 - Sacred Scripture.

(Lk.1: 4; Acts18:25; Rom.2:18, Gal 6:6)
 - Oral instruction
 - Liturgy
 - The Lord's prayer, Apostles Creed, Ten Commandments
 - Restoration of the Catechumenal Model
 - Impact of the development of catechesis after Vatican II and how it shaped the directions of catechesis
 - Be familiar with the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the *National Directory for Catechesis* and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

METHODOLOGY

Divine Methodology

Goal 1: The Master Catechist will be able to articulate that Divine Methodology is the transmission of the knowledge of faith by God's own methodology – through the Father's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit – and that Divine Methodology is and will always remain the model for all human methodologies.

NDC 28, pp.
90-95

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. understand that we are called to ministry through the community of faith.
2. be able to explain that Jesus is the ideal catechist and how the Emmaus story illustrates Jesus' methodology
3. understand and witness to how God's grace and self-revelation
4. underlies all efforts in catechesis
5. understand that catechesis depends on the Holy Spirit's actions in peoples' lives, bringing them to a deeper faith

Human Methodology

Goal 2: The Master Catechist will be familiar with and utilize the various elements of human methodology in their catechetical efforts.

NDC 29 pp.
95-107

1. human experience
2. Christian community
3. Christian family
4. witness of the catechist
5. commitment to living the Christian life
6. memorization (by heart)
7. apprenticeship
8. discipleship

Objectives: The catechist will understand the components of human methodology and integrate them into their sessions/lesson planning.

They will:

1. understand the importance of learning through **human experience** and how through reflecting upon our experiences we come to meet and know God in our lives; (fulfillment of divine methodology)
2. understand how the parish **community** serves as an effective catechetical agent.
3. be able to explain how the first experiences of Christian community and faith are found in the primary environment of the **Christian family** and that the parents are the primary catechists for their children in matters of faith.
4. demonstrate through their Christian life and experiences that they are a **witness** to faith and an example of learning about faith by others.

5. be able to explain how living a committed **Christian life** is possible through:
 - prayer
 - sacraments
 - liturgy
 - fostering works of charity and justice
 - promoting virtues such as liberty, peace, justice, care for creation
6. understand how rote techniques and **“learning by heart”** is but one method of learning about faith matters and be able to demonstrate various “learning by heart” techniques such as prayers, formulas to provide factual information, repetitious practices and responses, songs, etc.
7. be able to articulate **Christian apprenticeship** is, how it is integral in the Catechumenal model of catechesis, its place in Christian initiation and provide assistance in helping persons find proper mentor/apprenticeship partnerships.
8. be able to explain that through **discipleship**—following the life style of Christ—that we are able to grow deeper in our relationship with, and our understanding of Christ (continual conversion opportunities).

Learning Styles, Teaching Styles

Goal 3: The Master Catechist will be familiar with the various styles of learning and incorporate various teaching styles to meet the diversity of needs among a group of learners in a catechetical setting.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. be familiar with concepts relating to the various developmental skills of learners and how each stage can affect the learners abilities to grasp and process knowledge:
 - cognitive
 - psycho-social
 - Moral
 - Faith
-

2. be familiar with concepts relating to learner styles and multiple intelligences of learners and strive to incorporate activities addressing these concepts throughout the catechetical process:
 - learner styles:
 - auditory
 - visual
 - tactile
 - kinesthetic (movement/activity)
 - multiple intelligences of learning:
 - logical/mathematical
 - verbal/linguistic
 - musical/rhythmic
 - intrapersonal/introspective
 - interpersonal/social
 - bodily/kinesthetic
 - visual/spatial
 - naturalistic

3. understand and demonstrate the need to incorporate the methods and techniques during a catechetical session (experiential learning vs. didactic learning) utilizing the following elements:
 - prayer, reflection, meditation, retreats
 - role playing, drama, puppets and skits
 - storytelling
 - dance, song, music
 - games and physical activity
 - crafts, projects, art
 - video, multimedia presentations
 - service projects

Technology and Catechesis

Goal 4: The Master Catechist will understand the impact of Communications and technology on catechesis and be able to develop strategies to incorporate new and changing technologies into the catechetical process.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. understand the impact of modern communications, media and technology for learners in this “digital age.”
2. examine the benefits and implications of modern technologies on faith formation.
3. understand the need to incorporate contemporary means of communication, media and technology as instruments of catechesis.
4. recognize the following media and be willing to utilize them effectively in preparation and execution of catechetical sessions:
 - electronic media: radio, television, movies, broadcast media (cellular phones, iPods, etc.)
 - print media: newspaper, magazines, periodicals, books, journals, pamphlets, bulletins, etc.
 - computer media: internet, YouTube, social networks (MySpace, Facebook, YourSphere, Twitter, etc.), instant messaging, software and search engines (word processing, databases, PowerPoint, Keynote, Photoshop, Google), e-mail, etc.

NDC 30
pp.105

NDC 69 pp.
286-291

Lesson/Session Planning

Goal 5: The Master Catechist will be proficient at developing adequate and comprehensive lesson plans for a variety of catechetical processes such as small group, large group, discussion, reflective, total community sessions/intergenerational catechesis sessions across all ages and formation needs or levels.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. be able to determine a clear focus or objective to the lesson
2. be able to stipulate and incorporate the necessary parts of a comprehensive lesson plan
3. have knowledge of the material to be presented
4. include adequate preparation time
5. relate the lesson/session content to learners' experiences
6. prepare questions to engage learners and determine satisfactory understanding on their part of material covered
7. incorporate Scripture, prayer and doctrine into lesson
8. allow for variety of technologies, activities and learning styles.
9. offer ways to incorporate lesson into everyday life (take home materials, how to's, etc.)
10. adjust lesson for special needs learners
11. evaluate effectiveness of lesson overall and make changes as necessary.

Resources

Goal 6: The Master catechist will become familiar with and utilize a variety of necessary and adjunct resources in support of the preparation and facilitation of catechetical sessions.

Objectives: The catechist will:

1. be knowledgeable of the following resources as necessary and integral to comprehensive catechesis:
 - Sacred Scripture
 - General Directory for Catechesis
 - National Directory for Catechesis
 - Vatican II documents and post-conciliar documents
 - Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - Adult Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
 - approved textbooks in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - USCCB website
 - Diocesan guidelines
2. be familiar with other resources as supplemental and important to comprehensive catechesis:
 - leader guides
 - parent education materials
 - resources for baptismal catechumenate sacramental preparation materials
3. strive to incorporate resources and materials that are artistically sensitive, technically up to date, theologically authentic, ecumenically accurate, and methodologically sound
4. understand the need to keep informed of new documents and resources made available from publishers and other sources for continued spiritual growth and catechetical formation