

***Catechetical Certification
Program Formation of
Catechists***

The formation of catechists is designed to develop the person of the catechist as a proclaimer of the Gospel. The qualities of the catechist should include:

- A strong awareness of the working of God’s grace in their lives and a growing faith life in response to that grace;
- a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, who is the center of the message;
- a strong understanding and love for the Church, evidenced by a personal commitment.
- an ability to appreciate different types and stages of individual growth and development;
- an ability to communicate effectively with the persons to be catechized;
- a willingness to continue their own religious formation..

The catechist certification program in the Diocese of El Paso is an extensive course. It is basic study at an adult level to help the catechist attain the knowledge, skills and abilities for the ministry of catechesis. The goal is to challenge catechists to grow spiritually, theologically, and in the foundational skills of a catechist.

Basic Certification

<u>Level One</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Ministry Formation	22
Intro. to Learner	4
Methodology	4
Intro. to Scriptures	4
Creed (We Believe)	4
Getting Started as a Catechist	4
The Person of the Catechist	4
Role of the Catechist	4
Sexual Misconduct /	
Safe Environment Wkshops	6
Catechist Retreat	4
Total hours	<u>60</u>

Intermediate Certification

<u>Level Two</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Intro to New Testament	4
The Mystery of God	4
Border Faith Expressions	4
Communication Skills	4
Highlights of Vatican II	4
Church History I	4
Liturgy & Sacraments	4
Christology	4
Ecclesiology	4
Social Justice I	4
Spiritual Formation	4
Catholic Doctrine I	4
Adult Faith Formation	4
Catechist Retreat	4
Total hours	<u>56</u>

Full Certification

<u>Level Three</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Intro. To Old Testament	4
Synoptic Gospels	4
Catholic Morality	4
Catholic Doctrine II	4
Sacraments	4
Liturgy	4
Social Justice II	4
Revelation	4
Reign of God	4
Church History II	4
Preparation for Young	
Adolescent Retreat (13-15yrs)	6
Mariology	4
Catechist Retreat	4
Total hours	<u>54</u>

Master Certification

<u>Level Four</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Leadership & Admin. (Required for PCLs)	12
Adolescent Catechesis	4
Preparation for older	
Adolescent Retreat (16-18yrs)	6
Prayer & Spirituality	4
Children’s Liturgies	4
Adolescent’s Liturgies	4
Summer Camp Experience	8
Catechist Retreat	4
Total hours	<u>46</u>

★Credit will be given for workshops attended at the NCCL, LA Religious Education Congress, etc. with proof of attendance.

The Catechetical Certification Program for the Diocese of El Paso consists of a total of 216 clock hours in the course of study.

All catechists should continue their formation to complete all four levels of certification.

- **Renewal of Catechist Certification**

The Texas Catholic Conference- Religious Education Department has proposed that Parish Catechetical Leaders and Catechists renew their Master Level Certification with a total of 60 hours every three years by means of conferences, workshops, courses, retreats and other classes approved by the diocese.

- **Required of All Who in Contact with Children or Youth**

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States has mandated that anyone ministering or volunteering in a Parish Catechetical Program is required to get a background check and attend the Sexual Misconduct and Safe Environment Workshops.