

Parish Adult Formation Leader **

Introduction

By virtue of Baptism, all Christians are called to proclaim the Gospel. Certain individuals responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit take on the specialized role of forming adults within the faith community. "The catechesis of adults . . . is the principal form of catechesis because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form" (*National Directory of Catechesis*, 48, A). The adult formation leader, in collaboration with the pastor, is responsible for the development and implementation of a program that meets the needs of parishioners at various levels of their faith, (practicing Catholics in need of spiritual nourishment, persons in need of comprehensive catechesis, non-practicing Catholics in need of re-evangelization, etc.) and enables each adult to grow as a disciple of Jesus and witness to the Gospel.

Main Responsibilities

- Overall direction of the parish program for adults
- Planning, implementation, and evaluation of the parish adult catechetical program that recognizes the various needs of parishioners.
- Promote formation and development of life in the Risen Christ through the sacraments, prayer life, works of charity and justice.
- Promote evangelization.
- Promote the Church's social doctrine.
- Encourage adults to assume their baptismal responsibility for the Church's mission and their commitment to give Christian witness in society.
- Clarify religious and moral questions.
- Recognize and support parents in their role in the family.
- Implementation of diocesan guidelines and policies, such as Safe Environment policies.
- Collaboration with pastor and other parish ministers and appropriate committees.
- Participation in and promotion of Diocesan events such as LEAD, *Celebrate Christ*, etc.
- Attention to their ongoing personal, spiritual, and professional development.

Competencies and Skills

- Does the Adult Formation Leader accept and live the Gospel and the teachings of the Church?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's regular attendance at Sunday Mass, participation in the Sacraments, and active participation in parish life.

- Is the Adult Formation Leader committed to ongoing formation and diocesan certification as a catechist?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's participation in opportunities for spiritual formation and renewal, attendance at diocesan events and commitment to personal and communal prayer.
- Does Adult Formation Leader have the skills to plan, maintain and implement an adult faith formation program?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's Diocesan GIF certification status, formation in the areas of Scripture, Sacraments, Morality, Church, Prayer, Liturgy, Social Teachings of the Church, experience, organization, and leadership skills.
- Can the Adult Formation Leader help parishioners broaden their horizons beyond both former and current parish boundaries and collaborate in the development of formation programs that address the needs of reconfigured parishes?
Consider the AFL's vision and leadership capacity to assist others as the parish experiences the dying/rising involved in the change of parish structure.
- Does the Adult Formation Leader understand the meaning of evangelization?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's capacity to address current issues in light of the Gospel, models for outreach to inactive and unchurched persons, commitment to hospitality to all people.
- Is the Adult Formation Leader familiar with and have the capacity to implement the content of the catechesis of adults presented in the National Directory of Catechesis?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's knowledge/familiarity of National Directory of Catechesis.
- Can the Adult Formation Leader help parishioners to discern their gifts and implement their use in the life of the parish?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's communication/listening skills that support individuals' discernment to identify their gifts and use them effectively in the formation program.
- Does the Adult Formation Leader effectively use digital technology to enhance catechesis?
Consider the Adult Formation Leader's use of digital material that supports faith formation, knowledge of on-line resources and ability to use websites effectively and appropriately, email, mobile devices, and social media.

**** A parish Adult Formation leader should be commissioned through the Formation For Ministry Program**

Note: No one person has all these qualities. However, people working in Church ministry should exemplify some of these qualities. As they continue in ministry, it is hoped that they would begin to develop those qualities that may be deficient.

7/2/24