

Parish Catechetical 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 catechetical leader within the faith community. The catechetical leader, in collaboration with the pastor, is responsible for the development, implementation and supervision of a lifelong formation program that enables each adult, youth and child to know and love Jesus, and to grow as a disciple and witness to the Gospel.

Main Responsibilities

- Overall direction of the parish catechetical program for adults, youth, and children in collaboration with the pastor.
- Planning, implementation, and evaluation of the parish catechetical program
- Recruitment, formation, ongoing development, and evaluation of catechists
- Recognize and support parents in their role as the first educators of their children.
- Implementation of diocesan guidelines and policies, e.g., *Tools for Parish Catechesis* and *Family Catechesis of the Seven Sacraments*, Catechist Certification, Safe Environment/Protection of God's Children, etc.
- Collaboration with pastor and other parish ministers and appropriate committees.
- Participation in Diocesan Faith Formation events, e.g., *Celebrate Christ*, Regional and Diocesan Lead events, etc.
- Attention to their ongoing personal, spiritual, and professional development.

Competencies and Skills

- Does the Catechetical Leader accept and live the Gospel and the teachings of the Church?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's regular attendance at Sunday Mass, participation in the sacramental life of the Church and active participation in parish life.
- Is the Catechetical Leader committed to ongoing formation and diocesan certification as a catechist and catechetical leader?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's certification status, participation in opportunities for spiritual formation and renewal, and commitment to personal and communal prayer.
- Does the Catechetical Leader have the skills to plan, maintain and supervise a lifelong faith formation program?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's Diocesan GIF certification status and formation in the areas of Scripture, Sacraments, Morality, Church, Prayer, Liturgy, Social Teachings of the Church, experience as a catechist, organization and leadership skills and ability to work collaboratively with the pastor.

- Can the Catechetical Leader help parishioners to broaden their horizons beyond both former and current parish boundaries and to collaborate in the development of faith formation programs that address the needs of reconfigured parishes?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's vision and leadership capacity to assist others as the parish experiences the dying/rising involved in change in parish structure.
- Is the Catechetical Leader fully aware of the many and varied changes affecting the family and how they impact faith formation programs?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's willingness to be sensitive to the complexities of family life, provide for flexible and alternative choices to form children in faith that meet the needs of today's families and promote adult faith formation that assist parents to cope with challenges they encounter.
- Does the Catechetical Leader have community building skills?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's ability to build community, collaborate with others and develop strategies/models to address the changing catechetical needs of the parish, facilitate conversation and cooperation with parish leadership and recruit and train volunteers.
- Does the Catechetical Leader have adequate teaching skills?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's ability to articulate the Church's teachings, draw others into the rich heritage of the Catholic faith and tradition and help others to examine their beliefs and practices in light of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- Does the Catechetical Leader have a general understanding of contemporary technology, its value, limitations, challenges, and obstacles in passing on the Good News?
Consider the Catechetical Leader's ability to understand and critique the use or misuses of technology in light of Christian values.
- Does the Catechetical Leader effectively use digital technology to enhance catechesis?
Consider the Catechetical 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 catechetical 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