

Part I (Late Summer)

1. CREED

We begin our profession of faith by saying, “I believe” or “We believe”. However, we must first ask what “to believe” means. Whoever says: “I believe” says “I pledge myself to what we believe. Communion in faith needs a common language of faith, normative for all and uniting all in the same confession of faith. This presentation will follow the Apostles’ Creed with references to the Nicene Creed, and how this faith is lived in the Catholic Church. (CCC Part I)

2. SACRAMENTS

Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven sacraments that touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life. They give birth to faith and increase it, and are a source of healing and mission for the Christian’s life. Those who teach the meaning of sacraments need a clear grasp of them to maintain a balanced view of revelation and the role of the Catholic Church. (CCC Part II, Section Two)



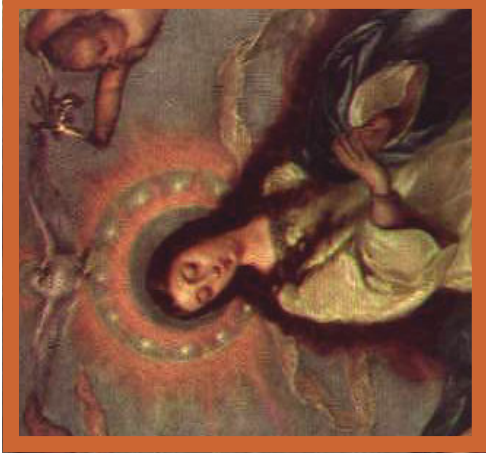
Part I. (Winter)

1. LIFE IN CHRIST: BEATITUDES AND COMMANDMENTS

Jesus Christ himself is “the way, the truth and the life”. It is by looking to him in faith that Christ’s faithful can hope that he himself fulfills his promises in them, and that, by loving him with the same love with which he has loved them, they may perform works in keeping with their dignity. Catechesis has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ. This is a Catechesis of the Holy Spirit, of grace, of beatitude, of sin and forgiveness, of human virtues, of Christian virtues and an ecclesial catechesis. (CCC Part III, Sections One and Two)

2. PRAYER

St. Therese of Lisieux said “For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.” The great mystery of faith requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer. The power of the Spirit who introduces us to the Lord’s Prayer is expressed as straightforward simplicity, filial trust, joyous assurance, humble boldness and the certainty of being loved. (CCC Part IV, Sections One and Two)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Diocese of Burlington

Office of Religious Education
Office of Catholic Schools

351 North Avenue

Burlington, VT 05401

802-658-6110

WHAT IS CATECHESIS?

Catechesis is an essentially “ecclesial act”- an action of the Church:

The true subject of catechesis is the Church which, continuing the mission of Jesus the Master and, therefore animated by the Holy Spirit, is sent to be the teacher of the faith. The Church imitates the Mother of the Lord in treasuring the Gospel in her heart. She proclaims it, celebrates it, lives it, and she transmits it in catechesis to all those who have decided to follow Jesus Christ. This transmission of the Gospel is a living act of ecclesial tradition. (NCD, p.56)

TASKS OF CATECHESIS

1. Promote knowledge of faith
2. Promote knowledge of liturgy and sacraments
3. Promote moral formation
4. Teach prayer with Christ
5. Prepare others to actively participate in the life and mission of the Church
6. Promote Christian presence in society (NDC, pp 60-62)

PROFILE OF A CATECHIST

A catechist is a person who is part of a faith and/or school community who reveals the Christian message not only by word but especially by how they witness to their faith.

QUALITIES OF A CATECHIST

1. A person of faith and prayer
2. A love of God, the Church, and all God’s people
3. A witness to the Gospel through faithful practice of the faith
4. A missionary zeal to enthusiastically proclaim the faith
5. An active participant in a parish community
6. A devotion to Mary and to the Most Holy Eucharist (NDC, p. 229)

COMPETENCIES OF A CATECHIST

1. Know the content to be taught
2. Understand the principles of human growth and development
3. Be able to design a goal-directed learning program
4. Carry-out a variety of goal-directed learning experiences
5. Evaluate student-learning progress in relation to the goals

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

Catechist/teacher certification is a program that is divided into two parts.

Part One: Basic Certification :

- All DREs and Catechists
- All Catholic School Teachers

Part One: Year 1 - Late Summer (4 hours)

1. The Profession of Faith: The Creed: What Do Catholics Believe?
(August - 2 hours)
2. Celebration of the Christian Mystery: Intro to the Sacraments
(September - 2 hours)

Part One: Year 1 - Winter (4 hours)

1. Life in Christ: Ten Commandments & the Beatitudes
(January - 2 hours)
2. Christian Prayer: Types of Prayer & the “Our Father”
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Part Two: Advanced Certification:

- All DREs and Catechists
- All Catholic School Religion Teachers

Part Two: Year 2 - Late Summer (4 hours)

1. Divine Revelation and Scripture
(August - 2 hours)
2. Liturgy: The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery
(September - 2 hours)

Part Two: Year 2 - Winter (4 hours)

1. Conscience and Morality/Virtue
(January - 2 hours)
2. Humans in Community: Social Justice
(February - 2 hours)