

## **CATECHIST FORMATION PROGRAM**

*And those who have taught many people to do what is right will shine like the stars forever*  
(Daniel 12:3)

### **Statement of Philosophy:**

*The Catechist is called to witness to the Word in all areas of life. If the message of faith is to be heard and lived, the catechist must be given ongoing formation in the faith in order to understand it more fully and to speak it clearly, skillfully, and faithfully.*

(The Catechist in the Third Millennium, pg. 2)

### **The Certification Process:**

The process has a three-fold purpose, namely:

1. To provide catechists with skills needed to prepare for the practical aspects of the catechetical ministry.
2. To increase theological knowledge out of which one catechizes.
3. To encourage and enable ongoing, lifelong education and formation.

The Diocese of Syracuse offers two levels of catechetical certification:

Level One Catechetical Certification

Level Two Catechetical Certification.

### **Level One Catechetical Certification:**

#### **Requirements:**

The Catechist must satisfactorily complete thirty (30) contact hours, divided into three courses. These courses may be taken in any order.

#### **Course I: The Catechist: Call, Mission and Formation**

This course will present participants with the Vatican II vision of Church, the history of catechesis in the United States, an exploration of the call of the catechist and stages of faith development. Other topics include the skills and information needed to prepare for this important ministry: lesson planning, discipline, classroom management, prayer styles, creative teaching ideas and use of audio-visual and technology resources.

#### **Course II: The Word: Foundation of Catechesis**

This course will focus on the catechetical ministry of proclaiming the revealed Word of God in both Hebrew and Christian Scripture as well as in the person and ministry of Jesus. Participants will be led to deeper awareness of Jesus as the center of catechesis.

#### **Course III: Discipleship: Living the Faith**

This course will provide a contemporary overview of traditional themes and basic beliefs of our faith by focusing on the Creed and the Sacraments. Other aspects of the course include an overview of theology, spirituality and social justice. This course will deepen the catechists' understanding of our faith tradition so that they are better prepared to communicate it to others.

## **Level Two Certification :**

### **Requirements:**

The Catechist must satisfactorily complete thirty(30) contact hours in courses and/or workshops as follows:

A total of twenty (20) contact hours, including four (4) hours in each of the following CORE areas:

- \*Scripture
- \*Christology
- \*Sacramental Theology
- \*Morality
- \*Advanced Methodology

A total of ten (10) contact hours from among the following electives, with a maximum of four (4) hours in any one area:

- \*Church/History
- \*Creed
- \*Spirituality
- \*Peace and Justice
- \*Liturgy and Worship
- \*Prayer

Courses/workshops must ordinarily be at least two hours in length in order to be recognized as credited toward this certification. Level II Catechetical Courses may be taken before the Level One Certification is completed.

To begin the process of certification, please contact your parish Catechetical Leader or Regional Director of Faith Formation.