

Methods for Grades 1 and 2 8 clock hours

This module begins with a reflection on the life journey of faith. The three segments that follow explore strategies for helping six- and seven-year-old children grow in their understanding of faith concepts, respond to the message of Jesus in age-appropriate ways, and respond to the demands of the justice dimensions of the Gospel.

Methods for Grades 3 and 4 8 clock hours

This module begins with a reflection on the life journey of faith. The three segments that follow explore strategies for helping eight- and nine-year-olds grow in their understanding of faith concepts, respond to the message of Jesus in age-appropriate ways, and respond to the demands of the justice dimensions of the Gospel.

Methods for Grades 5 and 6 8 clock hours

This module begins with a reflection on the life journey of faith. The three segments that follow explore strategies for helping ten- and eleven-year-olds grow in their understanding of faith concepts, respond to the message of Jesus in age-appropriate ways, and respond to the demands of the justice dimensions of the Gospel.

Methods for Grades 7 and 8 8 clock hours

This module begins with a reflection on the life journey of faith. The three segments that follow explore strategies for helping twelve- and thirteen-year-olds grow in their understanding of faith concepts, respond to the message of Jesus in age-appropriate ways, and respond to the demands of the justice dimensions of the Gospel.

Advanced Level Certification Requirements

60 hours of Theology (through six specific classes or similar ones) + 20 hours of Skills

Skills Workshops (20 hours)

Participants may choose from Skills workshops that fit their particular ministry, such as children's catechesis, RCIA, youth catechesis, adult faith formation, catechetical leadership, baptismal or marriage preparation, etc.

Our Goal

To enable catechists to transmit the Gospel to those who desire to entrust themselves to Jesus Christ."
(*General Directory for Catechesis #235*)

In order to fulfill its responsibility of the formation of catechists, the diocese offers formation in all three dimensions described in the GDC:

1. The personal faith and spirituality of the individual catechist;
2. Knowledge of the Scriptures, the teachings and traditions of the Church and of the people to be catechized;
3. Skill in transmitting the sacred message through use of various effective methods of catechesis.

Completion of Basic Level Certification is expected for all catechists. (40 hours of theology plus 20 hours of skills)

Completion of both Basic Level and Advanced Level Certification is expected for anyone serving in a leadership role in catechesis. (Basic Level plus 60 hours of theology and 20 hours of skills)

Completion of Ongoing Formation (minimum 5 hours per year) is expected of those who continue as catechists after receiving the Basic and or Advanced Level Certificate.

Graduate Studies may be required for certain full time professional positions in parishes, Catholic Schools or other Church-related agencies or institutions.

Are you a Catechist?

Catechists are people who are involved in:

- Baptism Preparation for Parents & Godparents
- Marriage Preparation
- RCIA
- Child Catechesis or Religious Education
- Mid-school or High School
- Confirmation Preparation
- Preparation for First Eucharist or Reconciliation
- Bible Study Facilitation
- Faith Sharing Group Facilitating
- Catholic School Teaching
- Adult Faith Formation
- Parenting or Parent Education
- Any other activity that involves transmitting the Gospel in the name of the Church



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Faith Formation**



Description of Basic and Advanced Skills for Catechists



**Office of Faith Formation
4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505-831-8142**

Basic Level Certification Requirements

40 hours Theology + 20 hours Skills

Basic Level Skills Workshops

(2 clock hours each workshop)

1-G Using Scripture in Ministry

This workshop acquaints participants with ways of using Scripture for faith-sharing in a variety of settings that can be applied to their specific area of ministry.

2-G Leading Prayer Ministry

This workshop teaches a variety of skills and methods for leading groups in prayer in various pastoral settings and situations.

3-G Integrating the Liturgical Year into Ministry

This workshop offers ideas for integrating the seasons of the church year into areas of ministry, using the appropriate signs and symbols of our faith.

4-G Community Building and Motivating Others in Ministry

This workshop helps ministers in their role as leaders in the wider community and as enablers of others in ministry.

5-G Preparing the Planning in Ministry

This workshop provides motivation for taking time to prepare for any ministerial event, and offers concrete techniques for long and short range planning.

6-C Storytelling in Catechesis

This workshop offers the catechist an experience of four different story-telling styles that will help any catechetical session come to life.

7-C Using Media in Catechesis

This workshop provides practical hands-on guidance in the use of a variety of audio-visual aids to enrich catechetical sessions.

8-C Full Initiation into the Catholic Faith Community: The Role of the Catechesis

This workshop introduces the proper use of the Rite of Christian Initiation for various ages of people who are not catechized, as well as appropriate materials for use with different age groups.

9-C Involving Families in Catechesis

In this workshop, catechists explore effective and creative ways to involve the entire family in the process of faith development in the parish.

10-C Cultural Sensitivity in Catechesis

This workshop encourages reverence for the differences unique to various groups and individuals, and provides skills for effectively adapting catechesis for those differences.

11-C Effective Group Management in Catechesis

This workshop suggests practical techniques for preparing the meeting space and materials, and for managing time in the catechetical session.

12-C Creativity and the Catechetical Environment

This workshop provides practical techniques for preparing the catechetical meeting space, and provides creative ideas and materials to enliven the catechetical session.

- **A Deeper Look at Reconciliation**
- **The Place of Eucharist in Catechesis**
- **Living and Teaching Mercy**



ECHOES OF FAITH is a basic-level, video-assisted resource for the formation, enrichment, and certification of parish catechists in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. It consists of a video and companion booklet. The booklets prepare the catechists for viewing the video, invite them to record their Reflections regarding its content, provide pertinent articles to extend the learning, and suggest activities to apply the material to life and catechetical settings. Videos and booklets are available from the Office of Faith Formation.

ECHOES OF FAITH addresses the themes and topics identified by the Office of Faith Formation for basic catechist skills formation and certification, and provides at least twenty (20) hours of basic skills formation. Each catechetical module provides a minimum of two (2) hours of learning.

ECHOES OF FAITH

Getting Started as a Catechist 8 clock hours

- **Creating the Physical Environment**
- **Nurturing the Social Environment**
- **Using Creative Activities for Learning**
- **Planning for Success**

Introduces new catechists to some basics that will help them take their first steps as catechists. They'll learn how to set up their classroom space, how to create an appropriate social climate for catechesis, appropriate ways to use creative activities, and the basics of session planning.

Roles of the Catechist 8 clock hours

- **Catechist as a Storyteller**
- **Catechist as Teacher Companion**
- **Catechist as Leader of Prayer**
- **Catechist as Witness for Justice**

Invites catechists to explore four aspects of their ministry in greater depth: skills for telling the story of faith, ways to walk with learners on their faith journey as teacher companions, strategies for leading prayer, and the importance of being a witness for justice and of inviting learners to do the same.

The Person of the Catechist 8 clock hours

- **The Vocation of the Catechist**
- **The Qualities of the Catechist**
- **Growing as a Catechist**
- **Trusting the Spirit**

This module addresses the spirituality of the catechist. It includes segments that explore the vocational call of the catechist, the qualities of committed catechists, the importance of continuing formation, and the necessity for catechists to trust in the activity of the Holy Spirit as they continue in their ministry.

Introduction to the Learner 8 clock hours

- **Building Knowledge**
- **Relating To Others**
- **Learning To Love**
- **Growing in Faith**

The four segments of this module look at the life-long cycle of human growth and development from three perspectives: building knowledge, relating to others, learning to live a moral life, and growing in faith. This is a foundational module upon which to build sound catechetical methods and strategies.