



The Practice of Catechesis with All Ages & Generations

NCCL National Catholic Certificate Program for Parish Catechetical Leaders

The *Practice of Catechesis with All Ages and Generations* Certificate Program is designed to provide a holistic educational experience for the Parish Catechetical Leader (Coordinator), integrating personal spiritual growth, leadership formation, and the latest thinking, approaches, and skills for catechesis with all ages and generations. The emphasis of the Certificate Program is on *practice* – equipping leaders for the requirements and challenges of their role as the leader of the parish’s catechetical ministry with all ages and generations.

The *Practice of Catechesis* Certificate is an **applied education program**, designed to help leaders develop and implement vibrant and engaging faith formation with age groups across the life span, with families, and with all of the generations together.

The *Practice of Catechesis* Certificate is a **hybrid program**, blending in-person with online learning, in synchronous and asynchronous formats. The program will utilize an online learning management system to integrate all aspects of the course work. Participants will have access to an extensive online library to complement the content in each of the courses with research studies, articles on effective practices, videos, audio podcasts, and online content.

The *Practice of Catechesis* Certificate is a 12-month **curriculum** consisting of three courses and a spirituality for ministry retreat experience.

- Course 1. Vision and Practice of Catechesis
- Course 2. Catechesis for Every Age and Generation
- Course 3. Leadership for Catechetical Ministry
- Retreat The Spiritual Life of the Catechetical Leader

The *Practice of Catechesis* Certificate is a **cohort-based** program of 8-10 participants (in a diocese or a region) who experience the program together, guided by a **mentor** who facilitates monthly cohort meetings and provides 1-1 assistance throughout the program.

The *Practice of Catechesis* Certification uses a competency-based approach to learning that is developed around a **Parish Catechetical Competency Assessment Tool** with competencies for catechesis and leadership to guide Catechetical Leaders in discerning their level of proficiency in each course, identify the areas they most need to focus on, and assess their growth at the conclusion of the course.

The *Practice of Catechesis* Certificate is a **12 month program** that can begin at any time during the year.

Preliminary Orientation Meeting (on Zoom)

Months 1-3. Course 1. Vision and Practice of Catechesis

- Month 1: Two-day on-site program, led by an instructor (e.g., 9-5 pm daily)
- Months 2 & 3: Independent online learning using the online learning modules
- Months 2 & 3: Monthly cohort meetings (on Zoom)
- Conclusion: Applied project

Months 4-7. Course 2. Catechesis for Every Age and Generation

- Months 4-7: Webinars on forming the faith of families, children, youth, young adults, and adults
- Months 4-7: Independent online learning using the online learning modules
- Months 4-7: Monthly cohort meetings (on Zoom)
- Conclusion: Applied project

Months 8-10. Course 3. Leadership for Catechetical Ministry

- Month 8: Two-day on-site program, led by an instructor (e.g., 9-5 pm daily)
- Months 9 & 10: Independent online learning using the online learning modules
- Months 9 & 10: Monthly cohort meetings (on Zoom)
- Conclusion: Applied project

Months 11-12 Retreat: The Spiritual Life of the Catechetical Leader

- Month 11: Two-day on-site retreat, led by a retreat leader (overnight experience)
- Month 12: Final cohort meeting (on Zoom)

The participant **tuition** is \$1000 for the entire course of study. Books are additional, as are expenses for the on-site meetings (lunch and refreshments).

The Program

Course #1. Foundations of Catechesis with All Ages and Generations

Course Structure

- Two-day on-site program, led by an instructor (14 hours of class time)
- Independent online learning using the online learning modules
- Two cohort meetings (on Zoom)
- Conclusion: Applied project

Course Competencies

This course will guide learners in developing the knowledge, attitudes, values, skills, and/or behaviors to:

1. Cultivate a deeper sense of God's calling to catechetical ministry as a leader.
2. Understand the catechetical vision of the Catholic Church as expressed in the *Directory for Catechesis* and integrate that vision into parish catechetical ministry.
3. Understanding catechesis within the Church's mission of evangelization and making disciples.
4. Develop a shared vision of lifelong catechesis in the parish community.

5. Create a lifelong vision of maturing in faith and translate the vision into specific goals that can guide the design of catechesis at every stage of life.
6. Understand the research on the principles and methods for learning today and how it can be applied to catechesis with all ages.
7. Understand the contemporary family and the research on family faith transmission and practice and how it can be applied to family catechesis and parent formation.
8. Understand the life tasks and religious needs of life stages (children, adolescents, young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults) and how it can inform catechesis with each life stage.
9. Understand the variations in the spiritual-religious practices and engagements of Catholics today and how it can inform catechesis with families and life stages.
10. Understand the religious traditions and values of ethnic cultures in the Catholic Church and the principles of culturally-appropriate catechesis.

Course Texts

- *Directory for Catechesis*. Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, 2020.
- Online readings and videos

Course Topics

1. The vocation and personal call to catechetical ministry
2. The catechetical vision of the Church presented in the *Directory for Catechesis* and development of a shared vision of catechesis in the parish community
3. Goals for faith maturing to guide catechesis with all ages and generations
4. The social, cultural, and religious context of catechesis in the U.S.
5. The diverse spiritual and religious practices and engagements of Catholics today
6. Contemporary principles and methods for learning today
7. Family faith transmission and practice; and application to parent and family catechesis
8. The life tasks and religious needs of each stage of life—childhood, adolescents, young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults—and application to catechesis with life stages

Online Learning Modules

1. Vision and practice of catechesis
2. The social, cultural, and religious context of catechesis today
3. Principles and methods for learning today
4. Faith formation with families
5. Faith formation through the life cycle: children through young adults
6. Faith formation through the life cycle: adults (40+)

Course #2. Catechesis with All Ages and Generations

Course Structure

- Monthly webinars on forming the faith of families, children, youth, young adults, and adults
- Independent online learning using the online learning modules
- Monthly cohort meetings (on Zoom)
- Conclusion: Applied project

Course Competencies

This course will guide learners in developing the knowledge, attitudes, values, skills, and/or behaviors to:

1. Utilize the vision and practices from the *Directory for Catechesis* in designing catechesis with all ages, families, and the whole community.
2. Utilize contemporary learning practices and methods in designing and teaching catechetical programs for all ages.
3. Design intergenerational / whole community catechesis for all ages to learn together.
4. Design family faith formation for the home and family catechetical experiences in the parish.
5. Design catechesis for forming the faith of parents and equipping parents as faith formers of their children and teens.
6. Design catechesis for the first third of life (children, adolescents, and young adults in their 20s) utilizing a variety of life-stage appropriate faith-forming content and experiences in physical, online, and hybrid settings using on your own, mentored, small group, large group, family, and whole church models of learning.
7. Design catechesis for children and youth with disabilities.
8. Design catechesis for adults – young adults (30s), midlife adults (40s-50s), mature adults (60s-70s, and older adults (80+) – utilizing a variety of life-stage appropriate faith-forming content and experiences in physical, online, and hybrid settings using on your own, mentored, small group, large group, family, and whole church models of learning.
9. Design culturally appropriate catechesis for families and people of all ages in multi-cultural parishes.
10. Design hybrid models of catechetical programming using a variety of digital tools, methods, media, and learning platforms.
11. Create a multi-year plan for lifelong catechesis in the parish incorporating intergenerational, family, and life stage catechesis.

Course Texts

- One course text
- Online readings and videos

Online Learning Modules

Leaders will use a competency tool to assess their learning needs and then select the modules they need for their growth and development.

1. Catechetical approaches and learning methods
2. Designing intergenerational faith formation
3. Designing family faith formation
4. Designing parent formation and education
5. Designing catechesis for children
6. Designing catechesis for young people
7. Designing catechesis for children and youth with disabilities
8. Designing catechesis for young adults (20s-30s)
9. Designing catechesis for Adults (40+)
10. Designing catechesis for cultural communities
11. Creating a plan for lifelong catechesis

Course #3. Leadership for Catechetical Ministry

Course Structure

- Two-day on-site program, led by an instructor (14 hours of class time)
- Independent online learning using the 6 online learning modules
- Two cohort meetings (on Zoom)
- Conclusion: Applied project

Competencies Developed in the Course

This course will guide learners in developing the knowledge, attitudes, values, skills, and/or behaviors to:

1. Recognize the calling by God to catechetical leadership and model the transforming presence of God in their lives as catechetical leaders.
2. Lead out of a clear set of core values and personal principles.
3. Practice effective leadership by modeling the way through personal values and example, inspiring a shared vision, trying innovative ways to grow and improve, enabling others to act by fostering collaboration and sharing responsibilities, and recognizing contributions and celebrating values and accomplishments.
4. Cast a vision of catechesis in today's Church and mobilize and empower people to work toward it— influencing people in ways that will help them achieve their goals.
5. Practice relational and communication skills in ministry.
6. Develop and work collaboratively and co-responsibly with teams.
7. Develop adaptability and the ability to lead innovation in catechetical ministry to address challenges and needs.
8. Facilitate change that leads to the implementation of new projects and initiatives.
9. Build the capacity of the parish—people and material resources—for implementing and sustaining lifelong catechesis.
10. Discover and utilize the gifts of the community for catechetical ministry; equip volunteer leaders with knowledge and skills for catechesis; and support, encourage, and mentor volunteer leaders.

Course Texts

- Leadership book
- Online readings and videos

Topics

1. Biblical and theological perspectives and practices for Christian leadership
2. Personal strengths for leadership
3. Practices for effective leadership: model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart
4. Relational skills: listening, communicating, and responding pastorally
5. Intercultural intelligence: knowledge and skills
6. Adaptability and innovation: skills, practices, and processes for adaptability; and designing and implementing innovations
7. Facilitating change and managing conflict: skills and processes
8. Working with teams: skills and processes for situational leadership and working effectively with teams
9. Building capacity for catechetical ministry: people, tools, technologies, and resources
10. Leadership development: discovering and utilizing the gifts of leaders; equipping leaders with knowledge and skills for catechesis; and supporting, encouraging, and mentoring leaders
11. Management skills and tools for catechetical ministry

Online Learning Modules

1. Five practices of leadership
2. Relational skills
3. Working with teams
4. Intercultural communication
5. Developing leaders
6. Facilitating change and managing conflict
7. Management skills and processes

Retreat Experience: The Spiritual Life of the Catechetical Leader

Structure

- 2-Day overnight retreat experience
- Follow-up cohort meeting on Zoom

Topics

1. Spirituality of ministry for today's leaders
2. Theology of ministry for today's leaders
3. Calling and vocation as a parish catechetical leader
4. Living the mission of Jesus Christ and being a witness to the kerygma
5. Spiritual practices for maturing as a parish catechetical leader