



The Practice of Catechesis with All Ages & Generations

NCCL National Catholic Certificate Program for Parish Catechetical Leaders

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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 inspired by and designed around the *Directory for Catechesis* (Vatican, 2020) – applying the *vision* of the *Directory* to the *practice* of catechetical ministry in parish communities. The Certificate is an **applied education program**, designed to help leaders develop and implement vibrant and engaging faith formation with families and age groups across the life span.

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 resource library (print, podcasts, videos) to complement the content in each of the courses.

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 (Months 1-3)
- Course 2. Catechesis for Every Age and Generation (Months 4-7)
- Course 3. Leadership for Catechetical Ministry (Months 8-10)
- Retreat The Spiritual Life of the Catechetical Leader (Months 11-12)

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

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

(Two-day on-site program with online learning and monthly cohort meetings on Zoom)

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 #2. Practices for Catechesis with All Ages and Generations

(Online course with monthly cohort meetings on Zoom)

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.
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.
6. Design catechesis for the children, adolescents, and adults 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.
7. Design catechesis for children and youth with disabilities.
8. Design culturally appropriate catechesis for families and people of all ages in multi-cultural parishes.
9. Design hybrid models of catechetical programming using a variety of digital tools, methods, and media.
10. Create a multi-year plan for lifelong catechesis in the parish incorporating intergenerational, family, and life stage catechesis.

Course #3. Leadership for Catechetical Ministry

(Two-day on-site program with online learning and monthly cohort meetings)

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 adaptable leadership skills and the ability to lead innovation in catechetical ministry.
8. Facilitate change that leads to the implementation of new projects and initiatives.
9. Build the capacity of the parish—people and materials—for implementing and sustaining 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.

Retreat Experience: The Spiritual Life of the Catechetical Leader

Two-Day Overnight Retreat Experience

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