

Goals and Learning Outcomes for Basic Certification

Profession of Faith

Goal: To help catechists to understand more clearly the truths we believe so that they can share the faith more effectively with others.

Session 1: Revelation in Scripture and Tradition/Faith Response

Goal: To understand more fully the Church's understanding of Revelation and to identify faith as the gifted response to God's call to relationship.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify how sacred Scripture and Tradition reveal God.
2. Summarize the gradual unfolding of the history of salvation.
3. Give examples of ways God's invitation to relationship occur in one's life.

Session 2: Trinity and the Image of God

Goal: To appreciate the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Describe the early Church's attempts to understand the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Identify ways Jesus reveals the Father and the Holy Spirit.
3. Provide examples of ways the Holy Spirit transforms life.

Session 3: Christology and Redemption

Goal: To understand that Jesus is the fullness of God's revelation.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Articulate the meaning of the Incarnation.
2. Explain the meaning of the paschal mystery.
3. Define the resurrection of Jesus.

Session 4: Church/Mary and the Saints

Goal: To understand the Church's role in continuing Christ's presence on earth.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Appreciate the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
2. Describe what it means to say that the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
3. Explain the Church's belief in the communion of saints.
4. Describe the Church's key teachings about Mary.

Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Goal: To explore the meaning of liturgy and sacrament. To demonstrate why the sacramental life of the faith community is central to our Catholic identity.

Session 1: Paschal Mystery/Liturgy

Goal: To deepen understanding of the importance of liturgical worship in our lives as Catholics.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Reflect on the reality that liturgy celebrates: the paschal mystery of Jesus.
2. Describe how the liturgy expresses our relationship with God.
3. Identify who celebrates the Church's liturgy, how it is celebrated, when and where liturgy is celebrated.

Session 2: Sacramental Theology

Goal: To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the place of Sacraments in the worship and life of the Church.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify from personal experience the sacramentality of the world and life.
2. Express a foundational understanding of the basics in sacramental theology.
3. Describe how sacraments provide ways to celebrate significant moments of life in God.

Session 3: Sacraments of Initiation

Goal: To lead catechists to a familiarity with and appreciation for the Sacraments of Initiation.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Trace the history of initiation in the Christian Church.
2. Identify the stages and rites of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.
3. Share experiences and growth in understanding the mystery of the Eucharist.

Session 4: Sacraments of Healing/Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Goal: To deepen catechists' understanding of Sacraments of Healing and Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Define reconciliation and explain the ways to celebrate it, especially in the various rites of Penance.
2. Identify the purpose of Anointing of the Sick and the ways the sacrament is celebrated.
3. Describe the sacramentality of Matrimony and Orders.

Life in Christ

Goal: To explore the foundations of Catholic moral teaching.

Session 1: Dignity of the Human Person-Virtues, Sin, Grace and Redemption

Goal: To deepen catechists' understanding that human life is founded on the desire for happiness; that the risen Christ continues to call each person to healing and wholeness; that the refusal of God's invitation to ongoing repentance and conversion causes sin and separation.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify from Scripture and tradition the dignity of the human person.
2. Identify from Scripture and tradition the nature of sin.
3. Define virtue and give examples of virtues needed in everyday life.
4. Define grace and describe its relationship to the paschal mystery.

Session 2: Ten Commandments and Beatitudes

Goal: To develop an understanding of Christian behavior that comes out of exploring these questions: Who is a Christian? What kind of person is a Christian called to be? How does one live as a Christian?

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify from Scripture God's concern for the poor and the oppressed
2. Understand the relationship between law and happiness in the moral life

Session 3: Catholic Social Teaching

Goal: To lead catechists to a familiarity with the Church's social teaching and the human conditions that give rise to Catholic Social Teaching.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify from their own experience the obstacles that prevent people from becoming fully conscious and sensitive to social justice in contemporary society.
2. Map the development of Church teachings as expressed in the modern encyclicals beginning with "Rerum Novarum" through "Deus Caritas Est."

Session 4: Conscience Formation/Decision Making

Goal: To bring catechists to an understanding of how conscience and the ability to make moral decisions develop.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Describe the formation and development of conscience.
2. Explain how a Catholic Christian deals with conflicting opinions pertaining to theological and ethical issues.
3. Discuss how to use a dilemma and how to apply the process in addressing current issues.

Christian Prayer

Goal: To give catechists a basic understanding of the nature of prayer and its various forms, its source in the word of God and its movement from communion with God interiorly toward communion with others in and through community life.

Session 1: Call to Prayer/Prayer and Worship

Goal: To understand the basic dynamic of prayer as listening and responding to God's call.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Define prayer as listening and responding to God's call.
2. Explain the relationship between personal prayer and the community of faith.
3. Describe the importance of praying throughout the day.

Session 2: The Lord's Prayer

Goal: To illuminate the great themes of the Lord's Prayer.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Explain why the Our Father is the central Christian prayer.
2. Describe the seven petitions of the Our Father.
3. Reflect on the ways the Our Father expresses our relationship with God.

Session 3: Forms of Prayer/Prayer Styles/Leading Prayer

Goal: To explore the various prayer forms through which we respond to God.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify some of the traditional kinds of prayer.
2. Examine some distractions to prayer.
3. Identify essential principles to leading prayer.

Session 4: Introduction to Scripture

Goal: To teach catechists what the Bible is and why it is considered the sacred book of the Christian community.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of the original context of the biblical writing.
2. Describe several types of literary forms found in the Bible.
3. Trace the process of the formation of sacred Scripture.

Session 5: Communal Life

Goal: To ponder the communal character of life in Christ through households of faith to the larger parish community.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Articulate the importance of community relationships in the Christian life
2. Recognize the responsibility to create a safe & inclusive faith environment

Nature of Catechesis and Catechetical Development

Goal: To assist catechists to be more at ease and self-confident in the catechetical setting through gaining basic knowledge of: faith and human development, evangelization, nature of catechesis and catechetical process, learning and teaching styles.

Session 1: Faith and Human Development

Goal: To introduce the catechists and/or deepen their understanding of how faith develops in persons as they grow as individuals and in communities.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Name the ways in which this understanding is applied to catechetical efforts.
2. List a variety of ways in which faith is nurtured.
3. Discuss the challenges to faith that we face.

Session 2: Evangelization and the Nature of Catechesis

Goal: To equip participants with an understanding of evangelization and its relationship to catechesis.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Describe the relationship of catechesis to the evangelizing mission of the church
2. Define catechesis and state its aim in the larger process of evangelization.
3. Describe the tasks of catechesis (GDC #85) and the “new evangelization”
4. Demonstrate knowledge of *the General Directory for Catechesis, Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Evangelii Nuntiandi”*, and other catechetical documents.

Session 3: Catechetical Process/Family and Culture as Context for Catechesis

Goal: To equip catechists with an understanding of the catechetical process and the effect of family and culture on the process of catechesis.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify the scriptural and historical basis of the catechetical process.
2. Explain the components of the process and how to apply them.
3. Explain the influences of family and culture on the outcome of catechesis

Session 4: Learning and Teaching Styles/Resources Use of Media

Goal: To provide catechists with an understanding of the different styles of learning and of teaching and the importance of the use of resources, media, and technology in the catechetical session.

At the end of the session, catechists will be able to:

1. Identify different ways in which people learn.
2. Help catechists identify their preferred teaching styles.
3. Demonstrate ways to use resources, media and technology to enhance the learning process.