

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

for

Catholic School Teachers



Diocese of Boise
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
1501 S. Federal Way, Suite 400
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 342-1311 phone
(208) 342-0224 fax

August 2005

Diocesan Vision Statement

The Catholic People of God in Idaho are called to be a faithful servant community. Spirit filled and directed, nourished by the Sacraments, we are challenged to hear, live and proclaim fully the gospel of Jesus Christ

Diocesan Mission Statement

United with our Bishop and in communion with the universal church, we the People of God in Idaho are called to build up the Kingdom of God by:

- Proclaiming the presence of God in Word and Sacrament.
- Calling each other to conversion and to joyful sharing of the Good News by word and deed.
- Nurturing and supporting vital faith communities.
- Being a prophetic voice which affirms the good values of society and challenges what is destructive.
- Discovering, celebrating and integrating the gifts of each individual, community and culture.
- Recognizing and responding to those in need.

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Boise are called to live the vision and mission of the diocese by working in collaboration with pastoral leaders to further that vision and mission.

Approved: August 27, 2005
Bishop Michael P. Driscoll

The Diocese of Boise's Religious Education Department would like to express our gratitude to the Diocese of Salt Lake City for the use of their "Catechist Certification for Catholic School Teachers" as a source in developing this document.

CATECHIST CERTIFICATE

Role of the Principal

Recognizing that all faculty members share in catechetical ministry, the principal:

1. recruits teachers with appropriate qualifications in view of the Catholic school's mission,
2. provides opportunities for ongoing catechesis for faculty by which they can deepen their faith and grow in the ability to integrate their teaching,
3. is responsible to be sure the curriculum reflects the dimensions of the Gospel message, community, worship and service,
4. and is responsible for the basic formation of catechists at the school.

Program for standard system of basic certification

The standard program adopted for Basic certification is "Echoes of Faith" from Resources for Christian Living (RCL) publishers. It is a video-assisted resource for basic formation of catechist of parishes and schools. It consists of thirteen modules that treat theological and catechetical themes. Access to these videos and companion booklets is available through the Diocesan Resource Center and many parishes.

Nominations for Catechist Certification

By July 1, the Principal (or DRE) will nominate those teacher catechists eligible for certification, using the forms provided. The principal will send the completed form(s) to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Standards for the Basic Catechist Certificate

To receive the Basic Catechist Certificate, the candidate must:

1. complete a course of studies that includes:
 - Scriptural Studies
 - Theological Studies
 - Ethical Studies
 - Catechetical Studies
 - Ministerial Studies
2. and have at least one year of catechetical experience.

Requirements of Basic Certification

All elementary teachers and religion teachers in middle school and high school must fulfill requirements within three (3) years of hire.

There are four (4) ways of obtaining this certificate.

1. Complete 40 Clock Hour Program for the Basic Catechist Certificate.

Scriptural Studies
Theological Studies
Ethical Studies
Catechetical Studies
Ministerial Studies
Spirituality and Prayer

These topics are addressed in the modules of "Echoes of Faith."

The Catholic Faith

I Believe/We Believe
Liturgy and Sacraments
Catholic Morality
Prayer and Spirituality
The Scriptures

Human Development

Introduction to the Learner

Methodology

Methods for Grades 1-2
Methods for Grades 3-4
Methods for Grades 5-6
Methods for Grades 7-8

Catechesis

Roles of the Catechist

2. Complete a degree in Theology/Religious Education from a Catholic College as well as on-going professional development and experience in the catechetical ministry.
3. Complete college-level course work from a Catholic college equivalent to the Basic Catechist certificate course work in the areas listed above. (1 semester credit = 15 clock hours; 1 quarter hour = 10 clock hours) as well as on-going professional development and experience in the catechetical ministry.
4. Have at least five (5) years of catechetical experience, on-going professional development, and demonstrate knowledge of content areas.

Requirements for Renewal of Basic Catechist Certification

The certificate expires three (3) years after the date of issue. To renew this certificate, the Catechist shall complete at least ten (10) clock hours annually in the content areas outlined in the Basic Catechist Certificate course for a total of thirty (30) clock hours.

Methods of attaining renewal credit include:

1. Attendance at
 - a. Diocese of Boise's Fall Conference
 - b. Los Angeles Religious Education Congress
 - c. Diocesan Mid-Year Catechetical Days
 - d. Diocesan, Parish and School sponsored workshops and lectures.No single activity can count for more than (10) clock hours.
2. Course work offered by Catholic colleges, the Diocese or the Parish
 - a. Adult Catholic Education- Treasure Valley (ACE –TV) Catechist Certification
 - b. Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program (LIMEX)
3. Other plans with the prior approval of the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Note: If a teacher wants Continuing Education Units (CEU) for teacher recertification, it is available through the ACE –TV option which consists of six (6) courses and two (2) seminars. The time commitment is 100 hours for 6 units. The cost is \$40/unit through Gonzaga University.

BASIC CATECHIST CERTIFICATE

Mail the completed form to: Superintendent of Catholic Schools
1501 S. Federal Way, Suite 400
Boise, ID 83705

Applicant's Name _____

Home address _____

Daytime phone _____ SSN _____

Check one of the four methods of obtaining Basic catechist Certification

- 1. _____ I certify that I have completed 40 Clock Hour Program for the Basic Catechist Certificate. Verification of course work is attached.
- 2. _____ I have completed a degree in Theology/Religious Education from a Catholic College as well as on-going professional development and experience in the catechetical ministry.
- 3. _____ I have college-level course work from a Catholic college equivalent to the Basic Catechist certificate course in the areas stipulated as well as on-going professional development and experience the catechetical ministry.
- 4. _____ I have had at least four (5) years of catechetical experience, on-going professional development and can demonstrate knowledge of content areas.

Signature of Catechist _____

Date _____

I acknowledge receiving verification and approving the course work for the Basic Catechist Certificate.

Signature of Principal _____

Date _____ School _____

BASIC CATECHIST CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION

Choose one (1) of the four (4) methods to qualify for Basic Certification.

Fill out information that applies to your choice and attach any added verification.

1. 40 hours of course work

COURSE DESCRIPTION	DATE	FACILITATOR/INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION
Catholic Faith/Beliefs			
Liturgy and Sacraments			
Catholic Morality			
Scriptures			
Roles of the Catechist			
Introduction to the Learner			
Methods for Teaching Religion			
Other			
Other			

2. Degree in Theology or Religious Education

Copy of Degree and transcripts are attached.
 Verification of on-going professional development in religion is attached.

3. Catholic College course work

I have taken the following courses and have attached verification of credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTION	COURSE #	SCHOOL	CREDIT HOURS	DATE

Verification of on-going professional development in religion is attached.

4. **Catechetical Experience**

I have taught religion in the following:

School	Dates	Grade
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Verification of ongoing professional development in religion is attached.

Comments

RENEWAL OF CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

Mail the completed form to: Superintendent of Catholic Schools
 1501 S. Federal Way, Suite 400
 Boise, ID 83705

Applicant's Name _____

Home address _____

Daytime phone _____ SSN _____

Date Basic Certificate was issued _____

YEAR ONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION	DATE	INSTRUCTOR/ FACILITATOR	LOCATION	CLOCK HOURS

YEAR TWO

COURSE DESCRIPTION	DATE	INSTRUCTOR/ FACILITATOR	LOCATION	CLOCK HOURS

YEAR THREE

COURSE DESCRIPTION	DATE	INSTRUCTOR/ FACILITATOR	LOCATION	CLOCK HOURS