



CATECHETICAL FORMATION PROGRAM 2011 - 2012



DIocese of NASHVILLE

IN COLLABORATION WITH **AQUINAS**
COLLEGE
IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION



Like all Christians, catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith. To provide the ongoing spiritual formation needed to nurture this growth, the Diocese of Nashville, in collaboration with Aquinas College, offers a **Catechetical Formation Program** for adults.

The Catechetical Formation Program offers catechists the opportunity to learn from systematic continuing education in the truths of the Catholic faith. Catechists who complete program requirements earn the title of *Certified Catechist*.

Orientation—August 2011...

An Orientation Session will be offered annually to introduce interested participants to the program. You only need to attend an Orientation Session once.

Fall 2011 / Spring 2012...

Two sessions per year (one in the fall and one in the spring) will be offered in locations throughout the Diocese. You choose the date and location that is convenient for you. Each session includes five program “modules” (Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, and Methods). Participants should try to attend ONE fall Session and ONE spring session to ensure that all material is covered. Catechists can complete program requirements over a three year period by attending the fall and spring sessions each year as well as other approved catechetical events offered by the Diocese of Nashville.

NEW Online Program, October 2011

Coming in October the program will be offered online. Watch the Diocese of Nashville or Aquinas College websites for more information coming soon.
www.dioceseofnashville.com or
www.aquinascollegecatechetics.org

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO,
PATRON OF CATECHISTS

Teaching was of paramount importance in the public life and ministry of Jesus. In fact, His parting words to His disciples were...

“Go...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”
(Mt. 28: 18-20)

Christ calls catechists to His work

The Church depends on faith-filled followers to assist in the handing on of the faith. Christ responds to these willing hearts and faith-filled followers. He is the Master Teacher. He is the one who calls them to do God’s work.

The Lord beckons catechists to “follow Him”

Jesus calls catechists for building up the kingdom and giving glory to the Father. This is an awesome task for anyone who aspires to this calling. God is at work in the lives of His followers everyday, even if they may not be fully aware of His workings. Jesus often comes into the lives of his followers in unexpected ways.

Catechists assist students in discovering and rediscovering the legacy of faith that has been handed down through many generations

Everything we need has been handed on to us from Sacred Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterial teachings of the Church. The truth is the same yesterday, today and forever.

What is a catechist?

Through word and example, catechists teach the Catholic faith and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Catechists are those who are called to serve through teaching, witness, prayer, service and building community. Catechists minister to adults, youth and children in a variety of locations and programs: parish faith formation and religious education programs, youth ministry programs, sacramental preparation, RCIA, family programs, Scripture study, Catholic schools and more.

What is a certified catechist?

A certified catechist is one who has completed the requirements to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to pass on the Catholic faith to others in the name of the Church. A certified catechist has been adequately formed in the area of Catholic doctrine according to a program that has been approved or established by the diocesan Bishop through the Office of Catechetical Formation.

Why should I become certified?

The Catechetical Formation Program is a way for catechists to grow in their faith, to develop confidence in their role as a catechist and to achieve certification. Becoming certified indicates that a level of knowledge, education, formation, and skills have been attained according to specifically set standards and competencies.

How do I become certified?

A catechist becomes certified by participating in the Catechetical Formation Program and completing the requirements. A certificate will then be presented indicating that one is a Certified Catechist in the Diocese of Nashville. Certification is an official recognition by the Office of Catechetical Formation that a person has participated in a minimum amount of approved formational experiences intended to enhance one's knowledge and skills as a catechist.

Why is certification important?

A uniform program is important for the standardization of teaching the truths of our Catholic faith. Certification recognizes an achievement of this important accomplishment. Bishop's are "beyond all others the one primarily responsible for catechesis, the catechists par excellence" (Cf CT63). As chief catechist in the diocese, the bishop is responsible for the total catechetical mission of the local churches.

I've been teaching for years, do I still need to get certified?

Working towards and achieving certification is an option. The program is designed to motivate catechists to achieve excellence in their teaching/facilitating skills and competence in their understanding of our Catholic faith.

What if I'm not interested in becoming a Certified Catechist, can I attend?

Yes, all are welcome at anytime to attend any sessions offered as long as one registers.

I am certified in another Diocese. Is my certification transferable?

Yes, certification from another diocese is transferable. However, just like the apostles, catechists need continued information, formation and encouragement. Therefore, catechists are encouraged to foster ongoing faith formation by attending the Diocese of Nashville's program. See your parish DRE or school principal for more information on the approval process.

How many hours are required for Diocese of Nashville Catechist Certification?

A total of 72 Notional Hours are required before applying for Catechist Certification.

Phase I—FOUNDATIONAL ORIENTATION (6 HOURS)

Phase II—INSTRUCTION & PORTFOLIO (66 HOURS) consisting of:

- A. DIRECTED NOTIONAL LEARNING HOURS—The "Aquinas College Catechist Formation Curriculum Course of Study". The catechist must attend 6 Formation Sessions in the course of 3 years. (5 hours per session = **30 hours**)
- B. HOME STUDY REFLECTION: Personal reflection on content of the session attended. (1 hour per session = **6 hours**)
- C. INDEPENDENT NOTIONAL LEARNING HOURS: The catechist must participate in additional instruction through approved lectures, speakers or workshops. (**20 hours**)
- D. PORTFOLIO (Notebook): The Catechist keeps record of formation events. At the completion of Phase I & II, the catechists meet with his/her Catechetical Leader to review the Portfolio and requests Catechist Certification. (**10 hours**)

RENEWING Catechist Certification

Phase III—ON-GOING FORMATION: "Deepening Spirituality"(18 HOURS)
Minimum of six (6) Notional Learning Hours per year for three (3) years.

By making available faculty, research and knowledge prepared in the light of the Magisterium of the Church, the Diocese of Nashville Catechetical Formation Program, developed by Aquinas College, offers a systematic and organic formation program based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other catechetical documents of the Universal Church and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Objectives of the Catechetical Formation Program

- Encourage catechists to develop an understanding of the nature and goals of catechesis.
- Familiarize catechists with the resources available to them.
- Foster a growth in Christian virtue and courageous witness to the Catholic faith.
- Present the various elements of the Christian faith in a well structured way and in harmony with each other by means of an organic vision that respects the “hierarchy of truths.”
- Equip catechists to transmit the authentic faith of the Church by adapting the message of Christ “to all cultures, ages, and situations.”
- Promote and foster among catechists the importance of ongoing study, especially within Sacred Scripture, the Catechism, and current issues pertinent to societal needs.
- Develop the human, spiritual, and apostolic qualities of the catechist and encourage them to carry out their apostolic activity in communion with the local and universal Church.
- Propose to the catechist the need for an intense sacramental and prayer life, especially through frequent reception of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, recitation of the universal prayers of the Church, Marian devotion, participation in prayer groups, days of renewal, and spiritual retreats.

The Diocese of Nashville Catechetical Formation Program leads the participant in a developed, comprehensive, doctrinal program that results in Diocesan Catechetical Certification.

What is a catechism?

A catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding. There are two categories of catechism: major and minor. A major catechism is a resource or a point of reference for the development of minor catechisms. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is an example of a major catechism. The Baltimore Catechism is an example of a minor catechism.

What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church contains the essential and fundamental content of the Catholic faith in a complete and summary way. It presents what Catholics throughout the world believe in common. It presents these truths in a way that facilitates their understanding. The Catechism presents Catholic doctrine within the context of the Church's history and tradition. Frequent references to Sacred Scripture, the writings of the Fathers, the lives and writings of the saints, conciliar and papal documents and liturgical texts enrich the Catechism in a way that is both inviting and challenging. There are over three thousand footnotes in the Catechism.

What is the purpose of the Catechism?

The Catechism serves several important functions:

- It conveys the essential and fundamental content of Catholic faith and morals in a complete and summary way.
- It is a point of reference for national and diocesan catechisms.
- It is a positive, objective and declarative exposition of Catholic doctrine.
- It is intended to assist those who have the duty to catechize, namely promoters and teachers of catechesis.

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults is the resource referenced and utilized by the Catechetical Formation Program. This particular Catechism is an adaptation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is an organic and systematic expression of the Apostolic Tradition, expressed in an inspired way in Sacred Scripture and authoritatively interpreted by the Magisterium of the Church.

Each session of instruction (one held in the fall of each year and another held in the spring) include five “modules” - Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer and Methodology.

To view the overall content of each session, read across the page. Each of the five modules within a session earn one hour of credit toward certification.

Participants can begin the certification process at any time. The sessions do not need to be taken in sequence.

See page 10 for date and location options for the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 sessions. Participants should try to attend ONE Fall Session and ONE Spring session, each of the three years. Registration is required to attend the sessions of your choice.

An Orientation Session will be offered each year to introduce interested participants to the program. You only need to attend an Orientation Session once. See page 10 for date & location.

Beginning October 1, 2011 the program will be available online at www.aquinascollegecatechetics.org

Program resources are available at www.aquinascollegecatechetics.org

		Creed	
YEAR ONE (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012)	Fall Session	1 Hour Credit	<i>I believe...</i> Faith Dogma Magisterium
	Spring Session	1 Hour Credit	<i>The Trinity</i> God the Father Son Holy Spirit
YEAR TWO (Fall 2012 and Spring 2013)	Fall Session	1 Hour Credit	<i>The Word Made Flesh</i> Christ Passion Resurrection
	Spring Session	1 Hour Credit	<i>The Church</i> Origin Four Marks Body of Christ
YEAR THREE (Fall 2013 and Spring 2014)	Fall Session	1 Hour Credit	<i>Our Eternal Destiny</i> Death Judgment Heaven & Hell
	Spring Session	1 Hour Credit	<i>Mary, Mother of Christ</i>

Sacraments	Morality	Prayer	Methods
1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit
<i>Baptism</i> Introduction to Sacraments Man—Image of God Original Sin	<i>Life in Christ I</i> Human Dignity Moral Act Virtue / Sin	<i>Man’s Desire for God</i> Faith Reason	<i>The Liturgical Year</i> Liturgical Calendar Sunday Liturgy & Culture
1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit
<i>Confirmation</i> Consecrated For Mission	<i>Life in Christ II</i> Moral Law Grace Justification	<i>Revelation</i> Scripture Tradition	<i>Using Scripture to Pray and Teach</i>
1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit
<i>The Eucharist: Source & Summit</i>	<i>Love of God</i> 1st Commandment 2nd Commandment 3rd Commandment	<i>The Liturgy</i> Definition	<i>Celebrating the Mass with Children</i>
1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit
<i>Holy Orders</i> Deaconate Priesthood Episcopacy	<i>The Gift of Life</i> 4th Commandment 5th Commandment	<i>Christ at Prayer</i> The Our Father	<i>Developing Retreats</i>
1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit
<i>Blessed are the Merciful</i> Penance Anointing	<i>Social Justice</i> 7th Commandment 8th Commandment 10th Commandment	<i>A Life of Prayer</i> Liturgy of the Hours Meditation Contemplation Lectio Divina	<i>Children at Prayer</i> Eucharistic Adoration
1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit	1 Hour Credit
<i>Marriage</i> Consecrated Life Laity	<i>Blessed are the Pure of Heart</i> 6th Commandment 9th Commandment	<i>Popular Devotions</i> Saints Litanies Sacramentals	<i>Teaching with the Saints</i>

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Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Session Schedule

We welcome all teachers of our Catholic faith— parish catechists, Catholic school teachers, ministry leaders and other interested adults—to participate in the **Catechetical Formation Program Sessions**

All sessions are held on Saturday, beginning with Mass at 8:00 a.m. and session presentations from 8:45am—3pm (lunch provided)

The content at each of the four Fall Session dates and locations are the same; choose the one that is most convenient for you.

The content at each of the four Spring Session dates and locations are also the same but are different than the Fall Session content.

To ensure that all YEAR ONE content is covered, choose one session in the Fall and one session in the Spring.

It is important that those new to the program begin with Orientation, if possible.

Register online at www.dioceseofnashville.com

FALL 2011 SESSIONS

(choose one)

October 1, 2011

St. Rose of Lima Church
1601 N. Tennessee Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

October 15, 2011

Aquinas College
4210 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205

October 29, 2011

St. Stephen Church
14544 Lebanon Road
Old Hickory, TN 38138

November 19, 2011

St. Christopher Church
713 West College Street
Dickson, TN 37055

SPRING 2012 SESSIONS

(choose one)

February 18, 2012

Good Shepherd Church
2021 Decherd Blvd.
Decherd, TN 37324

February 25, 2012

Aquinas College
4210 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205

March 31, 2012

Our Lady of the Lake
1729 Stop 30 Road
Hendersonville, TN 37077

April 21, 2012

St. Philip
113 2nd Ave South
Franklin, TN 37064

ANNUAL ORIENTATION SESSION: Saturday, August 27, 2011

Aquinas College—4210 Harding Road—Nashville, TN 37205
8am Mass; Orientation Session 8:45am—12:15pm

Handing On The Truths of The Faith

Every catechist has the task of handing on the truths of the faith.

In order to give to others, one must first be prepared.

Catechetical formation is formation in Christ – grounded in truth.

We must therefore say that in catechesis it is Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God, who taught – everything else is taught with reference to Him – and it is Christ alone who teaches – anyone else teaches to the extent that he/she is Christ's spokesperson, enabling Christ to teach with his lips. Every catechist should be able to apply to him or herself the mysterious words of Jesus: My teaching is not mine, but His who sent Me (On Catechesis in Our Time, 6)

Catechists are called to be fully initiated Catholics who faithfully attend Mass each Sunday and participate in the sacramental life of the Church.

Catechists are asked to lead a life that is morally and doctrinally consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Catechists must accept and hold as true everything the Holy Catholic Church teaches, believes and proclaims to be revealed by God.

Catechists must strive to serve by sharing the Catholic faith in accordance with the teachings of the Magisterium of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.



Aquinas College is the only four-year Catholic liberal arts college in middle and east Tennessee.

Through an academically challenging liberal arts and sciences curriculum, Aquinas College provides students with *A Foundation for Life* while preparing them for careers in the professions of Education, Nursing and Business.

Founded in 1961 by the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Congregation ("Nashville Dominicans"), the College is committed to the intellectual, moral, and professional development of students.

For additional information, please call
(615) 297-7545 or visit www.aquinascollege.edu



DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

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