

## **Certification is our investment in You!**

The task of a catechist is to till the soil, sow seeds and help nurture growth in faith.

A catechist who nurtures her or his own faith will be better able to assist another in deepening one's Catholic faith. To aid the catechist, the Diocese of Des Moines offers a two-part process of formation and certification to help one grow in one's own faith and to further develop the skills of effective faith formation.

This process is intended for:

- Catechists
- Youth Ministry volunteers
- Sacramental Preparation

Those who achieve levels of certification will receive an award at a special Mass with Bishop Pates.

There is no charge to the catechists or the parishes for participation in The Rich Soil Catechist Certification Process.

## **How will this process help me?**

**1st**—You will increase your confidence in the knowledge you have of what the Church teaches and what we are called to become as members.

**2nd**—You will be better able to “think on your feet” and share your knowledge, experience and understanding of God, the Church, living our faith and our Catholic spirituality.

**3rd**—Formation towards Catechetical certification is a process of adult faith formation which allows you to grow deeper in your faith. The relationships you will make during this process will allow you opportunities for continued dialogue and sharing, long after the formal sessions are complete.

**4th**—The formation process will help you blend information with formation so that your sessions lead to transformation. Faith is more often caught than taught, so being an effective witness is essential.



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Diocese of Des Moines  
The Rich Soil  
Catechetical Certificate Program  
Register today by contacting  
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## Formation—Year 1

(sessions are 2 hours)

- \* **Spirituality of the Catechist An Echoer of Christ Retreat +**
  - \* A retreat that gives the opportunity to reflect on one's Christian witness.
- \* **The Call of the Catechist ++**
  - \* Catechists reflect on the catechetical vocation and understanding one's role within it.
- \* **Roles within the ministry of Catechesis ++**
  - \* Catechists reflect on how to lead others to grow in one's faith within the Catholic tradition.
- \* **Fostering Faith Growth in Catechetical Formation +++**
  - \* Catechists reflect on the process of faith growth from four distinct perspectives: cognitive, moral, developmental, and faith development.

- + Retreat held in late summer/early fall in east and west
- ++ Held digitally (offered twice)
- +++ Workshop held in spring in east and west

## Formation—Years 2 & 3

(sessions are 2 hours)

(content modules are held digitally and offered once per year)

- \* **Sacred Scripture**
  - \* Catechists reflect on the core themes and structure of the Bible.
- \* **Prayer & Spirituality**
  - \* Catechists reflect on prayer and spirituality as a response to our Triune God.
- \* **Liturgy & Sacraments**
  - \* Catechists explore the meaning of sacraments and liturgy so to understand why the sacramental life is central to our Catholic identity.
- \* **The Creed**
  - \* Catechists reflect on the core beliefs of the Church as reflected in the Creed.
- \* **The Catholic Moral Life**
  - \* Catechists reflect on the foundations of Catholic morality and living the moral life.

## Who Teaches the Sessions?

- \* Sessions are taught by diocesan staff from the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis or other diocesan offices. When possible the staff will partner with experienced catechetical leaders and youth ministers for certain sessions.

## What are the levels of certification?

- \* **Initial Certification**—Completed in 1 year.
  - \* Main focus is on tools to be successful in a religious education or youth ministry setting within 1st year
- \* **Intermediate Certification**—Completed in up to 2 years
  - \* Main focus is to cover the basics of the faith to help those feel competent teaching in the name of the Church.
- \* **Master Catechist Certification**—Successful Completion of:
  - \* Faith Journey
  - \* Approved Certificate Programs
  - \* Bachelor Degree that is ministry specific.