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# Formation Programs for the Catechist Formation Process

Office for Catholic Education  
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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A variety of organizations offer ongoing faith formation. The programs listed below can be used to obtain the designated level of certification from the Catechist Formation Process. Programs not listed can be reviewed for suitability upon request.

## **University of Dayton's Institute for Pastoral Initiatives**

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) offers seven sessions of synchronous online courses for ongoing formation each year. All courses in the program can be used for credit in the Catechist Formation Process, see [www.dio.org/catechesis/approved-formation-programs.html](http://www.dio.org/catechesis/approved-formation-programs.html) for details. The Certificate in Catechesis through VLCFF satisfies all the requirements for the Advanced Level Certificate in lieu of individual credit in each category, personal spiritual enrichment and electives. Information about the VLCFF program is available at <http://vlc.udayton.edu>.

## **Echoes of Faith**

RCL Benziger offers an asynchronous online formation program through the Echoes of Faith initiative. Completing the Emmaus Edition online plus the additional 30 hours of Personal Spiritual Enrichment requirements qualifies as completion of the Basic Level of certification in the Catechist Formation Process. See <https://www.flourishkh.com/rclb/login> for details.

## **Franciscan at Home ~ Catechist Track**

The Catechetics Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville exists to prepare students to join the "army of catechists" called for by Saint John Paul II, eager to help the Church in her mission of making all nations disciples of Jesus Christ. The catechetics program combines a thorough study of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and magisterial documents with training in proper and effective pedagogical techniques to help students grasp the intelligibility and coherence of divine truths, and to pass them along faithfully. Completing the Catechist Track along with an additional 30 hours of Personal Spiritual Enrichment requirements qualifies as completion of the Basic Level of certification in the Catechist Certification Process. Courses are asynchronous and students have the option of being assigned a mentor. See <https://franciscanathome.com/tracks-and-workshops> for details.

Other formation courses can be used for credit in specific areas of the Catechist Formation Process. Below is a list of programs that have been evaluated and how these courses can be applied for credit. Other local courses can be used as well with prior approval from the Office for Catholic Education. Conferences, including online events, are eligible for evaluation. To apply for approval of a local course or online event, please complete Application for Course Approval or Summary of Webinar for Credit form as appropriate found in the Catechist Formation Process handbook or online at [www.dio.org/catechesis/catechist-records.html](http://www.dio.org/catechesis/catechist-records.html).

### **Ann Jackson Catholic Scholars Program at Eastern Illinois University**

Students at Eastern Illinois University can participate in the Ann Jackson Catholic Scholars Program to earn a minor in religious studies. Course credits apply to the Catechist Formation Process.

### **Catholic Studies Certificate Program at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville**

The Catholic Studies Certificate Program gives students a foundation for theological formation as well as college credit. Courses in this program, combined with VLCFF courses from the University of Dayton, have Catechist Formation Process equivalents.

### **Professional Educator License**

Credentialed educators automatically earn 5 hours each in Basic and Intermediate Methodology I and II for having a professional license in education.

### **Protecting God's Children**

- Participant – Elective (3 hours)
- Facilitator – Elective (8 hours)

### **My Catholic Faith Delivered**

This asynchronous online platform offers a variety of formation topics to study. The adult tracks are noted below.

- *Catechesis 101* – Basic Methodology I & II (5 hours each)
- *Introduction to Catholicism* – Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours)
- *Understanding the Scriptures* – Introduction to Scripture (10 hours)
- *History of the Church* – Church History (10 hours)
- *Moral Life in Christ* – Introduction to Morality (10 hours)
- *Foundations – Creed* – Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours)
- *Foundations – Liturgy and Sacraments* – Sacraments in General (10 hours)
- *Foundations – Life in Christ* – Introduction to Morality (10 hours)
- *Foundations – Prayer and Spirituality* – Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours)
- *Scripture Course* – Introduction to Scripture (10 hours)
- *Theology of the Body in Touch with Adult and Educators* – Elective (10 hours)
- *Called to Accompany* – Basic or Intermediate Methodology I & II (5 hours each)

- *Together in God's Love* – Personal Spiritual Enrichment (10 hours)
- *Gifts of the Holy Spirit* – Elective (5 hours)
- *Spirituality for Teachers and Catechists* – Discipleship/Spirituality (5 hours)
- *Coaching to Make a Positive Difference* – Basic or Intermediate Methodology I & II (5 hours each)
- *Mission Theology* – Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours)
- *Forming Missionary Disciples: The Basic Tasks of Catechesis* – Basic Methodology I or II (5 hours only)
- *Introduction to Sacred Scripture and the Gospel Message* – Introduction to Scripture (5 hours)

## Why Catholic?

Why Catholic? is available through Renew International, <https://store.renewintl.org/>. Each book covers a different part of the Catechist Formation Process based on the schedule below. Formation is done in small Christian communities for facilitated discuss.

- *The Profession of Faith* – Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours) and Personal Spiritual Enrichment (15 hours)
- *The Celebration of the Christian Mystery- Sacraments in General* (10 hours) OR *Sacraments in Depth* (10 hours) and Personal Spiritual Enrichment (15 hours)
- *Life In Christ – Walking With God* – Introduction to Morality (10 hours) and Personal Spiritual Enrichment (15 hours)
- *Christian Prayer* – Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours) and Personal Spiritual Enrichment (15 hours)

## Word on Fire Ministries with Bishop Robert Barron – <http://wordonfire.org>

- *Catholicism: Faith Formation Program* – Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours)
- *Catholicism: The New Evangelization* – Personal Spiritual Enrichment (10 hours)
- *Priest, Prophet and King* – Christology (10 hours)
- *Pivotal Prayers* – Elective (10 hours)
- *Eucharist, Sacred Meal* – Personal Spiritual Enrichment (10 hours)
- *Mystery of God* – Elective (10 hours)
- *The Sacraments* – Sacraments in General or Sacraments in Depth (6 hours)
- Other series in the Word on Fire Ministries evaluated on request

## Ascension Press

- *Bible Timeline* – Introduction to Scripture (10 hours), Gospels (10 hours), Themes in Scripture (10 hours) and Personal Spiritual Enrichment (18 hours)
- *A Journey Through the Bible* – Introduction to Scripture (10 hours) and Elective (5 hours)
- *Matthew The King and His Kingdom-* Gospels (10 hours), Themes in Scripture (10 hours) and Elective (28 hours)
- Other series from Ascension Press evaluated on request

## **Augustine Institute Short Courses**

The Augustine Institute offers a series of short online courses for individual instruction. Courses are taken at your own pace. A completion certificate is awarded for documentation of completion for the Catechist Formation Process.

- *The Story of the Old Testament* – Introduction to Scripture (5 hours)
- *Jesus and the Gospels* – Gospels (5 hours)
- *The Letters of St. Paul* – Themes in Scripture (5 hours)
- *God* – Elective (5 hours)
- *The Manger and the Cross* – Christology (5 hours)
- *The Church and the Sacraments* – Sacraments in General (5 hour)
- *Our Life in Christ* – Introduction to Morality (5 hours)
- *Prayer and Catholic Spirituality* – Discipleship/Spirituality (5 hours)
- *The New Evangelization* – Elective (5 hours)

## **Webinars**

Various catechetical publishers and organizations offer online webinars for the benefit of catechists. A catechist participating in such a webinar, either live or via a recording, may receive credit equal to the length of the webinar. To verify participation, catechists must fill out the Summary of Participation in a Live or Recorded Webinar and send this completed form to the Office for Catholic Education for verification. This form is available on the diocesan website, <https://www.dio.org/catechesis/approved-formation-programs.html>.

## **Book Studies**

For book studies to qualify for Catechist Formation credit, studies must be done on an approved book as a group with a facilitator to lead the discussion. Everyone in the study must read the book and meet to discuss on a regular basis. A list of approved books is available from the Office for Catholic Education and on the diocesan website, <https://www.dio.org/catechesis/approved-formation-programs.html>

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