

The Albany Diocese has a long tradition of training, forming and supporting those in catechetical ministry. Built upon principles found in the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the *Catechist in the Third Millennium* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*, as well as other documents, our formation and certification program is meant to provide the initial and ongoing faith and methodological development of all catechists, youth ministers and Catholic school religion teachers in our diocese.

Catechesis is a complex form of communication where many elements are skillfully planned and ordered so that learning may take place. While never losing sight of the centrality of Jesus' message, the catechist, youth minister and religion teacher uses the insights of sound educational psychology and other human sciences in presenting the Christian message according to age, needs, circumstances and capabilities of the learner. Our formation program is designed not only to expose you to the content of the faith – “what to teach” – but also to provide you with strategies, insights and approaches on how to effectively communicate that content – “how to teach”.

The Diocese of Albany's and Family Life and My Catholic Faith Delivered partnered to provide you with new, interactive, user-friendly online courses. My Catholic Faith Delivered combines Catholic content with innovative technology to form a unique web-based platform which enhances knowledge and understanding while fostering a full, conscious and active Catholic Faith.

### **Our Diocese's Certification Requirements**

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Our Diocese has slightly different certification requirements based on the particular track or specialization you are concentrating on: catechist of children, youth minister, catechist of adults, intergenerational catechist and lower or upper grade Catholic school religion teacher. Certification is awarded upon completion of the first four of eight basic topics (provisional certification), the second set of four basic topics (basic certification), the twenty intermediate certification topics specific to your track or specialization (full certification, with each four intermediate topics completed qualifying for one level of intermediate certification), and advanced certification (full certification plus eight hours in each of eight theology/scripture topics, sixteen hours of methodology and electives and eight hours of spiritual renewal). Refer to the Diocese's *Guidelines and Policies for the Formation and Certification of Catechists, Youth Ministers and Catholic School Teachers* for details.

While the Diocese continues to offer a variety of ways for those engaged in catechetical ministry to pursue their formation and certification, including our annual Spring Enrichment program, we are pleased to offer the following opportunities through My Catholic Faith Delivered:

**Catechesis 101** (8 lessons) will count towards the following Albany Diocese requirements: the basic certification topic “Call & Mission of the Catechist and Youth Minister” and the intermediate certification topics Evangelization/Evangelization & Outreach, Faith Development, and Learning Styles.

My Catholic Faith Delivered's “Foundations” covers

the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Looking at each “pillar” separately

**Foundations – Creed** (13 lessons) will count towards the basic certification topic “Introduction to the Creed”, the intermediate certification topics “Church”, “Ecumenism”, and “Mary and the Saints”, and one part (out of four) of the advanced

theology/scripture “Morality” requirement.

**Foundations – Liturgy & Sacraments** (8 lessons) will count towards the intermediate certification topics “Worship” and “Introduction to the Sacraments” and three parts (out of four) of the advanced theology/scripture “Sacraments” requirement.

**Foundations – Life in Christ** (7 lessons) will count towards the intermediate certification topic “Introduction to Morality” and three parts (out of four) of the advanced theology/scripture “Morality”

requirement.

**Foundations – Prayer & Spirituality** (8 lessons) will count towards the intermediate certification topic “Prayer” and half (4 hours) of the advanced certification spiritual renewal requirement.

**Scripture** (8 lessons) will count towards the basic certification topics “Introduction to Hebrew Scripture”, “Introduction to Christian Scripture” and “Jesus: Who do you say that I am?”.

You may opt to either purchase the entire four part (36 lessons) Foundations series, or each “pillar” individually. Purchasing all four at the same time provides a discounted registration fee.

When you complete all of the lessons in a course you will receive a certificate of completion which you should turn in to your parish’s catechetical/youth ministry leader or Catholic school principal so that the credited topics can be recorded on your official certification transcript.

## **Cost**

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Catechesis 101 and each of the four Foundations components (the four pillars) are \$29 each. If you register for all four Foundations courses as a package the combined cost is \$59 (vs. \$116 if paid for separately). The Scripture course is \$39.

Individuals can register themselves, or parishes & schools can purchase for a group of parishioners/teachers.

## **Administration**

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The Diocesan Director of Catechist Formation serves as the administrator of the Albany Diocese group and can view the progress of anyone registered through that group. Parishes and schools may opt to set up a local group administrator if they will be having a number of people taking courses through My Catholic Faith Delivered.