

Diocese of Victoria

Pastoral Institute Short-Term Program

The Pastoral Institute under the direction of Bishop David E. Fellhauer is committed to making catechist education and faith formation a priority in the Diocese of Victoria.

Two catechetical documents of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops state: "Diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists." (GDC, no. 234) "Like all Christians, catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith and, for this reason...opportunities should be provided for spiritual and pedagogical formation, especially as society, teaching methods, and culture change." (NDC, 55C) *General Directory for Catechesis (GDC, 1997), National Directory for Catechesis (NDC, 2005)*



BASIC CATECHETICAL COURSES

Catechetical modules help catechists and Catholic school religion teachers build a firm foundation with practical teaching ideas. Each module is three (3) hours.

- Getting Started
- Roles of the Catechist
- Person of the Catechist

Human Development module familiarizes catechists with the growth and development which occur throughout the lives of their learners. This module is six (6) hours.

- The Learner

Methodology modules provide essential teaching skills needed for specific grade levels. Catechists are expected to *only* take the appropriate course for the grade they are teaching. Each module is two (2) hours.

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

Non-Echoes classes: Adolescent Catechesis/Confirmation & Post-Confirmation
(not available at this time)

THEOLOGICAL COURSES

Theology modules provide in-depth doctrinal themes contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church along with compelling stories to connect faith to everyday life. These courses can be taken by anyone who wants to further his/her understanding of the basics of the Catholic faith. This module is six (6) hours.

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

Basic Catechist Certificate hours

Short-Term Basic Catechist Certificate (for grades 1-8 and post-conf catechists) 59 clock hours
Short-Term Basic Catechist Certificate (for adolescent/confirmation catechists) 65 clock hours