

in cooperation with the



## Certificate in Catechesis Program Overview

The Office of Formation & Discipleship in cooperation with the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) at the University of Dayton is offering a **Certificate in Catechesis Program** that is designed for catechists, teachers and parish leaders who desire to expand their knowledge of the fundamentals of Catholic Church teaching. The program consists of two levels of study and 12 courses of study in theology, methods and formation. The two levels must be taken in order.

Level I Courses
<b>Theology:</b>
1. Survey of Catholic Doctrine
2. Introduction to Scripture
3. Images of Jesus
4. Sacraments
<b>Methods:</b>
1. Introduction to Catechesis
<b>Formation:</b>
1. Introduction to Prayer
Level II Courses
<b>Theology:</b>
1. Old Testament
2. New Testament
3. Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
4. Introduction to Practical Morality
<b>Methods:</b>
1. Faith and Human Development
<b>Formation:</b>
1. Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of Catechists

There are six regular 5 week cycles in the VLCFF calendar year (and one 3 week cycle that is reserved for seminars only). The Certificate in **Catechesis** Program requires approximately **two** years to complete if all **twelve** courses are taken consecutively. Each course earns 2.5 CEU credits (Continuing Education Units) or 30 CEUs total credit.

When the Certificate in Catechesis is completed, the student is required to apply for a Certificate of Completion that can serve as a foundation component for achieving Master Catechist status if all the other Master Catechist requirements are met. (See Chapter 9, Page 85 of *Communicating the Catholic Message* at [www.archatl.com](http://www.archatl.com) under Office of Formation & Discipleship for detailed information about Master Catechist requirements.)

The Certificate in Catechesis is now being made available to all parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is VLCFF?

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) at the University of Dayton is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere online via the Internet. The goal is to support the church's professional ministry of religious education and faith formation in cyberspace. The Archdiocese of Atlanta is a "partner" diocese in the VLCFF program which entitles students to reduced fees for the VLCFF programs and courses.

### What is the Certificate in Catechesis?

The Certificate in Catechesis Program is a ministry education program for adults in all areas of catechetical ministry. It equips catechists and teachers with the knowledge, skills, practical tools, and techniques needed for creative and comprehensive catechetical ministry.

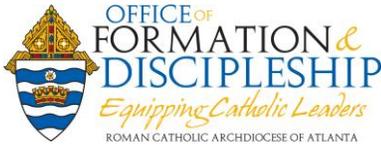
The Certificate in Catechesis is recognized by the Office of Formation & Discipleship as one of the required foundation components for awarding of Master Catechist status. The certificate alone does not confer Master Catechist status. The other requirements to achieve Master Catechist status are spelled out in "*Communicating the Catholic Message*" (CCM), the official Catechist Certification guideline for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. (See Chapter 9, Page 85 of *Communicating the Catholic Message*. Go to [www.archatl.com](http://www.archatl.com) under Office of Formation & Discipleship for detailed information about Master Catechist requirements.). Questions about certification should be directed to the Office of Formation & Discipleship.

### How does the program work?

The VLCFF program is an online program available for access 24/7, 365. The student is required to submit programmed work assignment to an online facilitator and the other members of a class (called a cohort) who respond individually and collectively by means of an online Discussion Board. Being assessable online, the students can work the program into their particular lifestyle and schedule their course work when it is most convenient, any hour of the day or night.

### How long does it take to get a certificate?

It would be academically possible for a cohort to complete as many as six courses in a calendar year if the courses were taken consecutively. Therefore, a student or cohort could complete all 12 courses in two years.



### **What is a “cohort”?**

All VLCFF courses operate with cohorts. The term cohort means a group of students who form a class unit and stay together during the entire course or program. The students in each cohort would be classmates throughout the program. There is an option to form a cohort within a parish or groups of parishes or allow VLCFF to assign a student to a cohort made up of students in other parts of the U.S. or globally.

### **What does the VLCFF Certificate in Catechesis Program cost?**

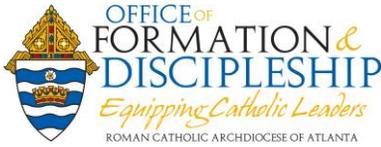
The Archdiocese, through the Office of Formation and Discipleship, is offering a special tuition grant of \$20 per student per course, or a total of \$240 for all 12 courses. The total fee of \$240 is due and payable in advance. The normal rate is \$90 per course for non-participating dioceses and \$40 per course for partner dioceses. OFD is absorbing half of the tuition as an incentive to get more catechists certified in youth ministry. In addition to the course fee, the student must pay a one-time, non-refundable registration fee of \$15. Some courses require a text book that can be purchased separately through Amazon.com. The books are reasonably priced in relation to university level textbooks.

### **Is the program available in Spanish?**

Yes, the program is available in Spanish. All a student needs to do is specify on the application that they want to take the course in Spanish.

### **When will the program start?**

The Atlanta cohort of the Certificate in Catechesis program is scheduled to start in January 2016. If you are interested in forming or joining a cohort, please contact Bill Clarke, [wclarke@archatl.com](mailto:wclarke@archatl.com) or by phone at 404-920-7635.



## Certificate in Catechesis Application

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Role in Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Level of Education \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Experience in Catechesis \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Years Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Applying to the Certificate in Catechesis Program

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Language Preference: I want to take the course in \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish

Contact Information:

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to apply for the Certificate in Catechesis Program. I have read and understand the commitment that will be required. I understand that I must submit a signed Student Learning Contract and a check for advance tuition payment or pay by credit card directly to VLCFF.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach Student Learning Contract & FAX or mail to Archdiocese of Atlanta, Office of Formation & Discipleship, Attn: Bill Clarke, 2401 Lake Park Dr., Smyrna, GA 30080. FAX: 404-920-7621*