

# Diocese of Corpus Christi



Office of Evangelization and Catechesis  
Office of Laity, Family, and Life  
Office of Youth Ministry

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October 9, 2017

Dear Catechetical Leader,

First, we would like to thank you for your service to our children and families and your dedication to faith formation. We are writing to update you on the progress of the new parish catechist certification program. As we proceed, please allow us to explain where we are with the certification process, and what your role as a parish leader will be. We will provide you with a list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the new certification program.

This process is a collaboration of the Offices of Evangelization and Catechesis; Laity, Family, and Life; and Youth Ministry.

## **The Development of the Process**

On June 9, the Diocese of Corpus Christi began a pilot program with thirteen parishes representing the eight deaneries in our diocese. Approximately seventy participants enrolled in the online parish catechist certification program. The pilot program concluded on August 9, 2017. Any needed adjustments will be made before our official launch on November 7, 2017.

## **The Role of Parish Catechetical Leaders in Preparation for the New Program**

Because we are entering a period of final adjustments to our new certification program, it is important that our catechetical leaders do the following:

- Continue to follow our Flocknote updates which will include information on the new parish catechist certification program.
- Familiarize yourself with the new certification program.
- Encourage your catechists to register for the new catechist certification program.
- Continue to give us your feedback during this phase as you read our updates.
- Prepare your parish to adjust to this new program by attending our soon to come orientation live webinar training session on Thursday, November 2, 2017 (Time TBA).
- Attend scheduled deanery meetings for updates and detailed information.

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## **The Institute for Parish Leadership and Ministry Formation**

We have engaged in a two year process of discernment and feedback with clergy, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, and catechists throughout our diocese. The newly established ***Institute for Parish Leadership and Ministry Formation*** is a result of this process. All Diocesan sponsored lay ministry formation and trainings from our three offices will now be under the auspices of the institute. The website and digital registration platform is [www.faithformationcc.com](http://www.faithformationcc.com).

As our three Offices have partnered, we will continue to improve the certification and ongoing formation process. Our goal is to support our parishes with strengthening Catholic Identity and improving Catholic instruction. To accomplish these goals, we will be working with our parish catechetical leaders, RCIA coordinators, adult formation coordinators, youth ministers, and marriage preparation coordinators. We believe the changes made to our catechist certification process will allow us to be flexible when it comes to certification requirements, timing, and cost. By making the certification shorter and bringing online ongoing formation, we hope to help you as catechetical leaders strengthen the Catholic Identity of your parishes, as well as build a community of authentic witnesses of the Gospel.

If you should have any questions please feel free to reach out to us:

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