



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

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To emphasize the collaborative effort for formation within our diocese we have formed the *Institute for Parish Leadership and Ministry Formation*.

### **Introduction to Diocese of Corpus Christi Catechist Certification Process**

**Disciples Called to Teach-Serve-Witness** is the new blended learning certification process of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

St. John Paul II stated “ The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (CT 6). Catechesis is a call to service in the ministry of the word, and at the heart of it is the person of Jesus Christ. This program is predicated upon personal encounter with Jesus Christ. All the baptized have a vocation to service for the Kingdom, but sometimes within this call is a particular call to serve the Church as a catechist. (GDC no. 231). The call to be a catechist flows from the baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king. The catechist fulfills each office in this way: by giving witness to faith in Jesus Christ, serving the parish community as parish catechist, and being attentive to both his or her spiritual life and that of the learners.

The word catechesis is derived from the Greek word meaning “to echo”, “to resound.” Those called to the particular ministry of teaching the faith in our Catholic schools, adult formation, R.C.I.A., parish religious education, and parish youth ministry are therefore called catechists, which comes from the Greek term meaning “to echo.” Their purpose is to hear and echo the voice of Christ the Teacher and that of the Magisterium, the teaching office of the Church. The catechist passes on what has been received in the sacred deposit of faith: Scripture and Tradition.

Our Diocesan Catechist Certification program forms catechists and parish leaders for ministry. This formation program is centered on the six tasks of catechesis and the vocation of the catechist as disciples called to teach, serve, and witness (NDC no. 29).

To be an effective instructor in parish or school catechetical programs, the following six tasks of catechesis are essential to formation and catechetical instruction:

- **Knowledge of Faith – *What We Believe***
- **Liturgy and Sacraments - *How We Celebrate***
- **Morality - *How We Live***
- **Prayer - *How We Pray***
- **Education for Living in the Christian Community - *How We Live in the Community the Church***
- **Evangelization and Apostolic Life - *How We, as Individuals and Community Live in Service to the World***

These six key elements of Catholic life “constitute a unified whole by which catechesis seeks to achieve its objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ” (GDC, nos. 85-86; NDC, no. 20).