



Diocese of Austin

6225 Highway 290 East · Austin, TX 78723
(512) 949-2415 · Fax (512) 949-2521
www.austindiocese.org

Office of the Bishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for accepting God's call to serve His Church through the Ministry of Catechesis. We are called to carry out the teachings of the Catholic Church, teachings that have been handed down from the apostles. By answering this call to ministry, you serve as a witness to your students, their families and other members of the Catholic community. Maturity in the Catholic faith is the key to continued spiritual growth for the Kingdom of God on earth. Paragraph 15 in the *National Directory for Catechesis* states:

“Christ calls all the faithful to proclaim the good news everywhere in the world and to hand his message on to successive generations by processing, living, and celebrating the faith in liturgy and prayer. Evangelization and catechesis are among the principal means by which the Church hands on the faith.”

Proper preparation for the Ministry of Catechesis requires prayer, time and study. To assist you in this task, the Diocese of Austin offers opportunities for your own faith formation. The Diocese requires that you continue your faith growth through participation in the sacramental life of the Church and through your own continuing education. The *National Directory of Catechesis*, paragraph 48, states:

“From infancy through maturity, catechesis is a permanent school of faith and follows the major states of life.”

This certification booklet outlines the levels of catechetical certification and explains the process of becoming a certified catechist. We strongly encourage all in the Ministry of Catechesis to work toward full certification. In consultation with the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Family Life, all DRE's must either be certified by the Diocese of Austin or have earned a degree in Theology or equivalent from a Catholic college or university. In consultation with the Offices of Catholic Schools and Evangelization, Catechesis and Family Life, Catholic school teachers are required to complete Part I certification; and Catholic school religion teachers are required to complete full certification or have earned a Theology degree or equivalent from a Catholic college or university. High school Theology teachers must have earned a Master's degree in Theology from an accredited Catholic college or university.

The Offices of Evangelization, Catechesis and Family Life, Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, and Catholic Schools are available to guide you in this important ministry. Please call them to schedule certification classes and assist you with other catechetical formation needs.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez
Bishop of Austin