

Catechist Formation Program (A Virtual Model), Diocese of Hamilton

Schedule of Learning

AUGUST 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2023: Survey of Catholic Doctrine

This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. Participants will be asked to identify the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.

Required Reading: Pennock, Michael Francis *This Is Our Faith* Ave Maria Press, 2018.

OCTOBER 16 – NOVEMBER 19, 2023: Directory for Catechesis

The *Directory for Catechesis*, presented to the universal Church on June 24, 2020, was developed to address the current needs of catechesis such as the globalization of culture, the rise of a digital culture, the need for the “way of beauty” in catechesis, and other pastoral needs and opportunities for catechesis. This e-course will explore those issues as well as practical guidelines for catechesis within the work of evangelization. The e-course is recommended for all involved in formal religious education.

Required Reading: CCCB, *Directory for Catechesis*, 2020.

JANUARY 15 – FEBRUARY 10, 2024: Jesus the Master Catechist

In this four-week seminar, we will take the opportunity to reflect on our role as catechists through the example of Jesus. Following the twelve lessons of Bill Huebsch, we will gather a greater understanding of how to integrate Jesus’ gospel message into our identity as catechists and then apply this learning through practical resources for ministry. This course will strengthen one’s understanding of vocation as a catechist as well as provide helpful takeaways for future ministerial application.

Required Reading: Huebsch, Bill *Jesus the Master Catechist* Novalis, 2015
CCCB, *Directory for Catechesis*, 2020.

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 23, 2024: **Introduction to the Sacraments of Initiation**

The sacraments of initiation draw us deeply into Christ's life and life within the Christian community, and through them, we are sent out in mission in Christ's name. This course will provide a foundational study and reflection on the history and theology of these key sacramental moments.

Required Reading: CCCB, *Directory for Catechesis*, 2020.

Stasiak, Kurt *Sacramental Theology Means of Grace, Ways of Life* Loyola Press, 2002

All other required reading will be made available online.

APRIL 8 – MAY 12, 2024: **Understanding Culture in Ministry: Building Bridges**

Ministry around the world is often to and with persons of different cultural backgrounds. What may work for one group in a particular cultural setting, may not work for another cultural setting. Thus, there is the need to understand the skills needed to reach across cultures and build bridges even as ministry takes place. A careful reflection on the Canadian mosaic is presented by Mary Jo Leddy and her work, *“Why Are We Here? A Meditation on Canada”*.

Required Reading: Leddy, Mary Jo *Why Are We Here? A Meditation on Canada* Novalis, 2019

Ospino, Hosffman, *Interculturalism and Catechesis* 23rd Publications, 2017

ANY CYCLE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 2024: **An Elective of Choice**

This elective period is intended to cover any specialty areas of catechetical ministry that may require supplemental learning. A strong encouragement of any of the following will be made on behalf of the Diocesan Office:

- Prayer and Worship with Adolescents
- Faith and Human Development
- Bible Basics
- Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation
- To Inform, Encourage and Heal: A Canadian Response to the Residential School Crisis