



Catechist Certification Information Guide

Levels of Certification

Strand A

Provisional Certification – Given by the Parish

- Cumulative total of 25 hours
- Those involved in a Parish certification will not take part in the Basic Catechist Certification of Levels I, II, and III found in Strand B

Strand B

Basic Catechist Certification – given by the diocese

Level I:

- Protecting God's Children – required before the catechist begins in the classroom
- Cumulative total of **8 clock hours** of effective formation
- These 8 hours include 2 clock hours in each of the four dimensions of formation
- These are required during the first year as a catechist.

Level 2:

- Cumulative total of **24 clock hours** of effective formation (8 from Level I and 16 for Level II)
- These 24 hours include at least 5 clock hours in each dimension with the other 4 in any dimension
- These should be completed during the second-third year as a catechist, (understanding that for some this is not possible).

Level 3:

- Cumulative total of **40 clock hours** of formation (16 hours beyond Level 2).
- This cumulative total of 40 clock hours includes a minimum of 8 hours in each of the four dimensions of formation plus 8 hours in any of the four dimensions.

Diocesan Catechist Certification

- Cumulative total of **50 clock hours** of effective formation beyond Level 3.
- These 50 hours include at least 10 clock hours in each dimension with the other 10 in any dimension.
- When 40 hours, from Levels I, 2, and 3, have been earned an additional 10 clock hours are needed for the **Diocesan Catechist Certification**.

Advanced Catechist Certification

- Cumulative total of **80 clock hours** of formation.
- These 80 hours include a minimum of 15 hours in each of the four dimensions of formation plus 20 hours in any or all of the four dimensions of formation.
- An Advanced Catechist Certification requires 30 hours beyond the Diocesan Catechist Certification

Master Catechist Certification

- Must have an Advanced Catechist Certification of 80 clock hours
- Plus at least 18 Academic Credit hours (minimum of 12 credit hours in theology, with the other 6 credit hours in theology or other disciplines related to catechetical ministry).

Renewal of Certification

Basic Catechist Certification – Level 1

- There is no renewal for this level.
- It is expected that all catechists have at least a Level I certification within the first year.

Renewal of Basic Catechist Certification- Level 2

- Ten clock hours of formation with hours split between the four dimensions of formation
- Must be completed within two years of receiving **Level 2** certification
- Renewal is good for two years

Renewal of Basic Catechist Certification – Level 3

- Ten clock hours of formation with hours split between the four dimensions of formation
- Must be completed within two years of receiving Level 3 certification.
- Renewal is good for two years.

Renewal of Diocesan Catechist Certification

- Cumulative total of 15 clock hours of effective formation.
- These 15 hours include a minimum of 3 clock hours in each of the four dimensions of formation plus 3 additional clock hours in any or all of the four dimensions.
- Renewal of this certification must be completed within 3 years of achieving this level of certification. Renewal extends certification status for three additional years.

Renewal of Advanced Catechist Certification

- Cumulative total of 15 clock hours of effective formation
- These 15 hours include a minimum of 3 clock hours in each of the four dimensions of formation, plus 3 additional clock hours in any of the four dimensions.
- Must be completed within 3 years of achieving this level of certification. Renewal extends certification status for three additional years.

Renewal of Master Catechist Certification

- Cumulative total of 25 clock hours of effective formation.
- These 25 hours include a minimum of 5 clock hours in each of the four dimensions of formation, plus 5 additional clock hours in any of the four dimensions of formation.
- Must be completed within 5 years of achieving this level of certification. Renewal extends certification status for five additional years.

NOTE:

- Hours earned toward renewal of certification also count in advancement toward the next level of certification.
- If certification lapses without renewal, the person is no longer certified as a catechist.
- All Parish Catechetical Leaders and Catechists with current certification will receive a discount for the annual catechetical conference.

Understanding Cumulative Hours

	Catechist	Learner	Method	Content	Additional	TOTAL
Level 1	2	2	2	2	PGC	8
Level 2	3	3	3	3	4	24
Level 3	3	3	3	3	4	40
Diocesan	2	2	2	2	2	50
Advanced	5	5	5	5	10	80
TOTAL	15	15	15	15	20	80

A **Master Catechist Certification** requires the 80 hours of formation plus at least 18 Academic Credit hours (minimum of 12 credit hours in theology, with the other 6 credit hours in theology or other disciplines related to catechetical ministry).