



Diocese of Gary

Ministry of Initiation Certification

Since effective catechesis depends on skilled catechists, their ongoing formation should enhance the human, spiritual, and apostolic qualities and catechetical skills they bring to their ministry.

Diocesan pastoral programs must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists.

National Directory for Catechesis, p. 238.



Introducing...

the official diocesan certification program
for catechists in the ministry of initiation.

Ministry of Initiation Certification

The ministry of initiation catechist is a response to God's Holy Spirit calling the catechist to service. Therefore, every minister of initiation catechist should have a copy of this brochure and be working toward certification.



The apostolic work of the catechist springs from the sacrament of Baptism through which all believers come to share in the prophetic ministry of Christ and the evangelizing mission of the Church.

National Directory for Catechesis, p. 228.

Over three years, the following workshops are required for certification:

❖ Emmaus Program workshops:

- Introduction to Scripture (*either Old Testament or New Testament*)
- Morality
- Social Justice
- The Gospels or The Letters of Paul
- Introduction to Liturgy: The Mass
- The Sacraments

❖ Formational Workshops

- Overview of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Breaking Open the Word
- From Membership to Discipleship: The Mission of Christ for the Church
- The Four Pillars of Liturgical Catechesis

❖ Spiritual Retreat:

- Participation in one retreat on an aspect of initiation. This may be a program offered by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate (e.g., a Beginnings and Beyond), or a retreat offered by a Catholic diocese (e.g., Wading Deeper of the Diocese of Springfield or the annual retreat offered by the Archdioceses of Chicago).

For materials, please contact Kristopher Seaman at 219.769.9292, ext. 226, kseaman@dcgary.org or check out our website: www.dcgary.org

