

Course of Studies

The Master Catechist program extends over three years and pursues an in-depth study of the same content offered in the Basic Catechist Formation course. The course of studies is consistent with the *General Catechetical Directory*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, *Renewing the Vision: a framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* and the *National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Leadership*.

Faith Development: Profession of Faith, Celebration of Christian Mystery, Life in Christ and Christian Prayer

Documents: Personal and Spiritual Maturity, Lay Ecclesial Ministry Identity, Catholic theology, Pastoral Praxis, Adult Learning.

Practicum: The development of personal teaching styles and an ability to relate to various cultural groups

Catechist Recertification:

The certification is good for three years and is renewed by the following methods

- Ten hours each year in courses offered by or as recommended by the OREYM
- Attendance at the annual Faith Formation Conference (2 out of the three years)
- Yearly course work from Boston College C21 program

Alternative Method of Certification

A Master Degree in Religious Education or related field, teaching experience and up-to-date workshops. Contact the Office for more information. It will also require an observation of the candidate's skills.

Archdiocese of San Francisco
One Peter Yorke Way, SF 94109
415-614-5650
sforeym.org



Archdiocese of San Francisco

Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry

Obtaining & Renewal of the Master Catechist Formation Certification



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California Catholic
Conference of Bishops

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Master Catechists

Master Catechists are an extension of the teaching office of the Archbishop of San Francisco and are selected and commissioned by him.

They provide a vital service by:

- Providing the specific formation and courses of studies required by the Archdiocese of San Francisco to obtain or renew the California Bishop's Catholic Certification.
- Providing workshops and in-services for the continued growth and formation of catechists.
- Building a core group of adults in the Archdiocese who will exercise catechetical leadership.

Cost: \$100 per year.
Scholarships are available.

Qualifications

In addition to having the personal qualities of a catechist, the Master Catechist must have:

- A current California Catechist Certification
- Proven expertise and recent experience in catechetical ministry at various age levels
- An ability to communicate and work effectively with adult learners in a formation setting
- The personal recommendation of the candidate's pastor or other qualified person
- Evidence of the ability to work in diverse cultural communities
- An understanding of the purpose of being a Master Catechist and a willingness to serve as such when certified
- An ability to study at an advanced level
- Completion of the *Inventory for Growth Assessment* from the National Catholic Education Association.

Process for Beginning

- Each potential candidate must send to the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry a letter of intent to become a Master Catechist and the reason for seeking this certification
- A letter of support from the Pastor or responsible authority as to the ability of the candidate to become a Master Catechist
- Completion of the Master Catechist Application Form
- Submit a list of continuing education and formation work done in the last five years
- Have an interview with a staff member of the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry regarding the candidate's potential to become a Master Catechist