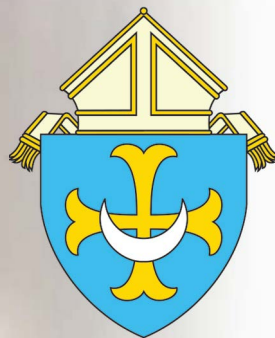


# PARISH CATECHETICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Fall 2025- Spring 2027



**Diocese of Trenton**  
**Department of Catechesis**

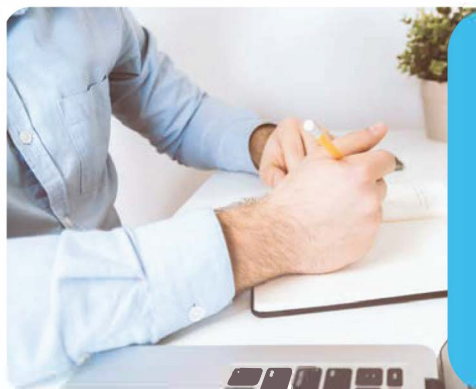
*"The single most critical factor in an effective parish catechetical program is the leadership of a professionally trained parish catechetical leader."*

**~ National Directory for Catechesis**

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VISIT US ONLINE: <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/parish-catechetical-leadership-program>



The Parish Catechetical Leadership Program offers adults practical ministerial skills and foundational theological training through classes taught through the Diocese of Trenton.

\* The program does not convey university credit.



## Who would benefit?

Those engaged or interested in a faith formation role in a parish. Specifically, for Directors, Coordinators, Administrators of Religious Education Programs. We refer to these positions as Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCL). All new PCLs in the Diocese of Trenton are required to register.



## What is expected of me?

Candidates agree to engage fully in all components of the process. Completion of all reading, class assignments, and all requirements for year 1 & 2. Candidates will be required to relate their ministry experience and participate in all discussions through the 2-year process.



## How do I apply?

- Complete the application
- Obtain an endorsement from your Pastor
- Interview with a Diocesan Staff member from the Department of Catechesis.

All application materials are available upon request



## How much does it cost?

The cost of the program will be \$450 for the two-year process. It will include the 12 sessions in year one with materials, two online courses for year 2, and a retreat.



## How long does it take?

The Parish Catechetical Leadership Program is a two year process

### YEAR 1

There are a total of 12 topics to be presented in the first year. These topics will be taught using a hybrid model to accommodate current restrictions and guidelines. Some classes will be in-person if restrictions allow and some will be virtual. (Schedules / Dates / Times will be available in Spring 2021)

#### The Effective Catechetical Leader, Loyola Press

- 1 Called by Name; Preparing Yourself for the Vocation of Catechetical Leader
- 2 Cultivating Your Catechists; How to Recruit, Encourage and Retain Successful Catechists
- 3 All God's People; Effective Catechesis in a Diverse Church
- 4 Catechetical Leadership; what it should look like, How it should work, and whom it should serve.
- 5 Developing Disciples of Christ; Understanding the Critical Relationship between Catechesis and Evangelization
- 6 Excellence in Ministry; Best practices for Successful Catechetical Leadership.

#### Core Theology Classes:

- 1 Identity of Catechesis / Pedagogy
- 2 Sacred Scripture
- 3 The Creed / Jesus Christ
- 4 Introduction to Canon Law
- 5 Sacraments
- 6 Foundations of Liturgy



### YEAR 2

The process of formation will continue with advanced learning, project development and a retreat experience.

- Advance the participants theological knowledge through online specialization courses through Notre Dame Step or University of Dayton.
- Two Formation Days—Topics to be announced
- Retreat Day
- Presentation of Projects
- Celebration of Completion

### Mentor

Each participant will be assigned a mentor for the entire course. Several meetings will take place over the two years.



Candidates may place out of individual Core requirements upon demonstration of education equivalent background. (Discretion of The Department of Catechesis)