

Parish Catechetical Leadership Program (PCLP)

Diocese of Trenton | Department of Catechesis
Fall 2025 - Spring 2027

Department of Catechesis

Denise Contino, Director	dcontino@dioceseoftrenton.org	609.403.7179
Michelle Angelo-Santoro, Associate Director	mangelo@dioceseoftrenton.org	609,403,7174
Debbie D'Agostaro, Administrative Assistant	ddagos@dioceseoftrenton.org	609.403.7175

Website landing page for course updates: <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/pclp25-27>

General information

Description

The Parish Catechetical Leadership Program (PCLP) is a two year program offered through the Diocesan Department of Catechesis. Providing adults systematic training to gain the skills needed for success as a PCL. The program will provide the participant with practical ministerial skills and foundational theological training through classes taught by instructors with an advanced degree in theology. The program will be adjusted for those with a master's degree in theology or extensive experience.

Expectations and goals

Candidates agree to engage fully and be present throughout all components of the process. During the two year process completion of all reading, assignments, and in person sessions are expected. Candidates will be required to connect what they are learning to their ministry experience and participate in all discussions through the two-year process.

Mentor

Each participant will be assigned a mentor for the course. Several meetings will take place over the two year process. Mentors report back to the director with updates.

Project

Participants will develop a project that will advance, improve, add, or adapt something to ministry. Participants will submit a project proposal, an outline, and present the project during the two-year process.

Retreat

Retreat days will be scheduled for participants at Francis House of Prayer. This day provides the participant with a day of recollection, time for quiet prayer, and fellowship.

Course materials

Required materials *(Provided by the Diocese of Trenton)*

The Effective Catechetical Leader Series by Loyola Press is a collection of 6 books that will accompany the process. The series is written by some of the top catechetical leaders in the county and encompasses many aspects of catechetical leadership. The series will offer practical skills, strategies, and approaches that will assist in creating successful faith formation for the parish.

1. Called By Name, Preparing Yourself for the Vocation of Catechetical Leader by Joe Paprocki, DMin
2. Catechetical Leadership, What it Should Look Like, How it Should Work, and Whom it Should Serve by Adrian Alberto Herrera
3. Developing Disciples of Christ, Understanding the Critical Relationship between Catechesis and Evangelization, By Julianne Stanz
4. Cultivating Your Catechists, How to Recruit, Encourage, and Retain Successful Catechists by Jayne Ragasa-Mondoy
5. Excellence in Ministry, Best Practices for Successful Catechetical Leadership by Tom Quinlan
6. All God's People, Effective Catechesis in a Diverse Church by Donna Toliver Grimes

Living as Missionary Disciples; A Resource for Evangelization

<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/living-as-missionary-disciples/files/assets/basic-html/page-l.html#>

Catechism of the Catholic Church

<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/files/assets/basic-html/page-l.html#>

Directory of Catechesis

National Directory of Catechesis

Models of Catechesis; Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J.

The Catechetical Institute – Franciscan University – Franciscan At Home:

Participants are required to create an account. Workshops will be assigned mid-way through the process. <https://franciscanathome.com/diocese-trenton>