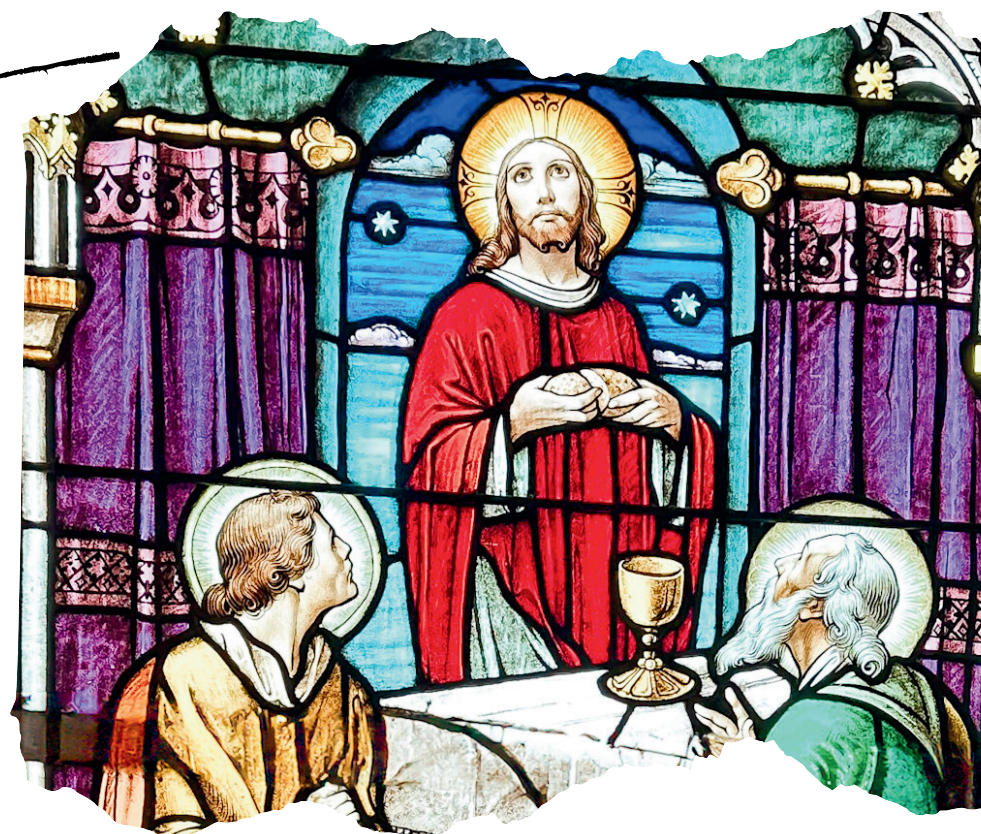




Sacred Scripture becomes the 'environment' in which we feel part of the same salvation history, encountering the first witnesses of faith. Catechesis is taking others by the hand and accompanying them in this history. It inspires up a journey, in which each person finds his or her own rhythm, because Christian life does not even out or standardize, but rather enhances the uniqueness of each child of God."

Franciscus

Catholic Diocese of Biloxi



A Catechist's Prayer

Loving Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit upon me that I may be a good catechist of your Word, your Son, Jesus Christ.

Render my mind and heart so open, receptive and responsive to your Holy Spirit that, like Mary, I might become a living instrument of your Word to others. Help me to be a faithful witness to Gospel life so that your Church may become ever more alive.

Let the fire of your love so enkindle my heart that I may be an instrument of drawing others to love of you in the Church of your Son.

I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES



Office of Faith Formation

+228-702-2131

abuckley@biloxidiocese.org

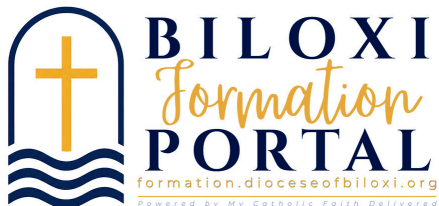
biloxidiocese.org/faith-formation

1790 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

DIOCESAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

CATECHIST QUICKSTART

- Intense, one-day in-person course or online multi-module class
- Designed to give first-time catechists an introduction to classroom tips and catechetical ministry
- Reviews the mission of the Diocese of Biloxi: The Great Commission
- Cost: Free



- Online learning platform with a variety of courses, including a Level II certification track
- Available for catechist certification or certification renewal
- Cost: Varies depending on the course



- Two-year lay ministry formation program
- Disciple-making initiative for lay ministers to step into leadership roles within their parishes
- A deep dive into missionary discipleship
- Cost: \$400 per year (\$200 catechist; \$200 parish)

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

LEVEL I

- Earned through "QuickStart" Program
- Validity: 3 years
- Nonrenewable

LEVEL II

- Earned through "Echoes of Faith" Program or the Biloxi Formation Portal
- Validity: 5 years
- Renewable

LEVEL III

- Earned through non-degree program such as *New Wine* or similar
- Validity: 5 years
- Renewable

LEVEL IV

- Earned through theology/religion college degree (bachelor or higher)
- Validity: 5 years
- Renewable

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION

- Recommendation by principal/DRE and pastor
- Mentorship by certified catechist
- Development of plan to obtain Level I certification during the "emergency year"
- Validity: 1 year, nonrenewable



CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

To renew Level II, III, and IV certificates, individuals must:

- Earn 3 college credits in theology/religion OR
- Earn 5 Religious Education Units (REU) through continuing education workshops approved by the Office of Faith Formation
 - 1 REU is awarded for every 5 contact hours within workshops
 - REU record sheets can be downloaded at the Office of Faith Formation website
 - Individuals are to keep up with their record sheets
 - When complete, record sheets should be signed by the individual's pastor, principal, or DRE and submitted to the Office of Faith Formation

A list of pre-approved continuing education workshops can be found on the Office of Faith Formation website.