

**DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR**  
**POLICIES FOR PERSONNEL IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**  
**Updated - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014**

The National Directories of Catechesis states: *Like all Christians, catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith and, for this reason, are called to ongoing spiritual formation. The catechist should continue his or her own spiritual formation through frequent reception of the sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Penance and Reconciliation, through spiritual direction, and through continued study of the faith.* (236-237). From this directive, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, made up of the five bishops of the State of Wisconsin, updated their 1975 Standards for Educators in Catholic Parishes and Schools in 2008.

The **Catechetical Leader** includes Principals, Directors of Religious Education, Coordinators of Religious Education, Youth Ministers and others with similar roles. This individual must...

- Be a Catholic who has admission to the full sacramental life of the Church and is actively engaged in a Catholic parish community.
- Hold ELEVATED Level Catechetical Certification in the Forming Effective Disciples program or obtain it within eight (8) years of beginning their ministry.
- (Principals only) Maintain a master's degree and principal licensure with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- Attend Diocesan offerings to achieve on-going spiritual and professional development, e.g. leadership days, conferences, workshops.
- Obtain 45 clock hours or 3 semester credits in religious studies or a related field every five years after obtaining certification.

The **School Catechist** includes teachers in the school that teach religion class. This individual must...

- Be a Catholic who has admission to the full sacramental life of the Church and is actively engaged in a Catholic parish community.
- Hold ELEVATED Level Catechetical Certification in the Forming Effective Disciples program or obtain it within eight (8) years of beginning their ministry.
- Maintain a bachelor's degree and teaching licensure with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- Obtain 15 clock hours or 1 semester credit in religious studies or a related field every five years after obtaining certification.

The **Religious Education (non-school) Catechist** includes individuals who teach at least one hour a week in a parish religious education program. This individual must...

- Be a Catholic who has admission to the full sacramental life of the Church and is actively engaged in a Catholic parish community.
- Hold FOUNDATIONAL Level Catechetical Certification in the Forming Effective Disciples program or obtain it within three (3) years of beginning their ministry.
- Obtain 15 clock hours or 1 semester credit in religious studies or a related field every five years after obtaining certification.

The **Teacher** includes teachers in the school who do not teach religion class. This individual must...

- Preference in filling teaching positions should be given to a Catholic who has admission to the full sacramental life of the Church and is actively engaged in a Catholic parish community.
- Hold FOUNDATIONAL Level Catechetical Certification in the Forming Effective Disciples program or obtain it within three (3) years of beginning their ministry.
- Maintain a bachelor's degree and teaching licensure with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- Obtain 15 clock hours or 1 semester credit in religious studies or a related field every five years after obtaining certification.