

Understanding *Forming Effective Disciples* Catechetical Certification

The Diocese of Superior has had a catechetical certification program in place for nearly 40 years. There have been several revisions from the original but the primary goal has always been the same – to form catechists and leaders in knowledge of the Catholic Church so they can be stronger witnesses to Jesus Christ.

The most recent re-working of the catechetical certification program is called *Forming Effective Disciples* (FED). At the directive of Bishop Peter F. Christensen in early 2012, a diocesan team began the development of this content-based program. To distinguish it from prior programs, new names were chosen for the program itself and the levels of certification. The first level is *Foundational*, the second is *Elevated*, and the final stage is *Continuing Formation*.

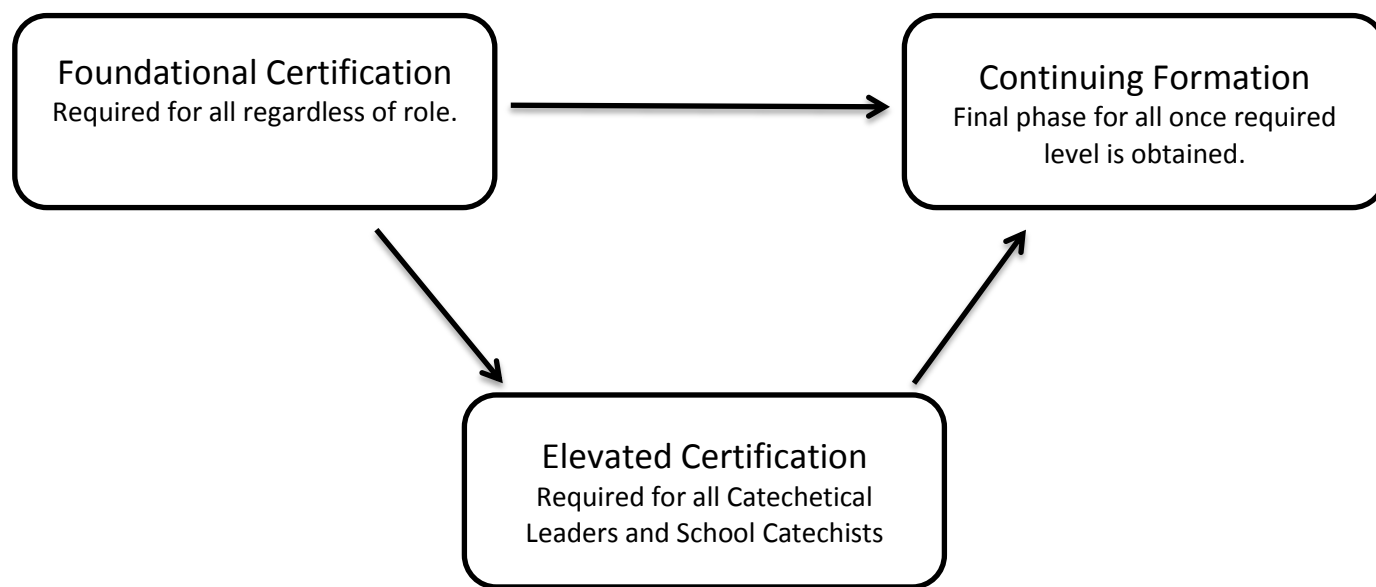
The development of the FED program took into account the primary goal for all certification programs as well as the need to offer *consistent content* across the diocese and the need for *flexibility in delivery* to meet the strained schedules of both parishes and catechists. It also takes into account that learning is a life-long process.

The requirements of the FED program were established based on the Diocese of Superior *Policies for Personnel in Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education Programs* (referred to as “Standards”). The Standards call for two levels of certification and indicate the level required based upon the role filled by an individual. Regardless of the level to be earned, the Standards require continued formation to maintain that level of certification.

Forming Effective Disciples can be viewed as having three distinct phases:

- Working on Foundational;
- Working on Elevated;
- Working on Continuing Formation Hours for Renewal.

All participants begin with Foundational. When this level is completed, some go directly into the Continuing Formation phase. Others, because of their role within a school or parish program, must also earn Elevated. When Elevated level has been completed, these individuals also move into the Continuing Formation phase. It is important to remember that there is no overlap - each FED participant will be distinctly within one phase at a time.



This handbook is divided into four sections – general information and the three phases. Each phase is color-coded with samples of all forms associated with a phase included within the section. This entire handbook is available on the diocesan website. Forms may be printed from the website at any time.