

# Foundational Certification

## ***What is Foundational Certification***

Foundational certification is the first of two levels in the Diocese of Superior's *Forming Effective Disciples* program.

## ***Who Must Complete Foundational Certification***

All catechetical leaders, religious education catechists, school catechists, and teachers are required to complete this level. Catechetical leaders and school catechists are also required to earn Elevated certification.

- Individuals who have completed Basic or Intermediate level certification in the Diocese of Superior *Ministry of Catechesis Certification* program will be deemed as meeting the Foundational requirement.
- Individuals who have earned a Basic catechetical certification from another diocese will be deemed as meeting the Foundational requirement providing that the certificate is still valid and appropriate documentation is supplied with an application.

## ***How Much Time is Allowed for Completion of Foundational***

Individuals have three (3) years from the start of their employment or voluntary ministry to complete Foundational.

## ***What are the Requirements for Foundational Certification***

Foundational certification is achieved by completing specific required modules of the *Echoes of Faith Plus* (EOF+) DVD series or the *Echoes 3.0* series online from RCL Benziger and participation in a retreat meeting diocesan guidelines.

### *EOF+ Required Modules:*

- The Scriptures
- I Believe, We Believe
- Liturgy and Sacraments
- Catholic Morality
- Prayer and Spirituality
- The Learner
- A methods module listed below that coordinates with grade level taught
  - Methods for Grades 1 and 2
  - Methods for Grades 3 and 4
  - Methods for Grades 5 and 6
  - Methods for Grades 7 and 8 (use this one for high school grades)
  - Adult Faith Formation

*Complete Syllabi for Foundational Level is included in this section.*

### *Retreat Guidelines:*

- Minimum of eight hours in length
- Mass available during the retreat
- Sacrament of Reconciliation available during the retreat
- Includes a reflection or presentation by an approved speaker
- Location is such that participants are away from usual daily activity
- Includes time for solitary prayer and rest
- Allows participants to be free of all duties for the retreat and to be free from distractions such as networking among peers, cell phone calls and texts, etc.

*Retreat resources are available on the diocesan website.*

### ***How are the Modules to be Delivered***

There are two formats for completion of the required modules. The first utilizes *Echoes of Faith Plus* DVD series and is a gathered group setting with a qualified facilitator leading the group. Portions of a module will be viewed followed by group discussion. This process continues until the module is completed.

The second is an online process using Echoes 3.0. Those interested in completing modules online must complete a "Request for Echoes 3.0 Activation Code." Once the request is processed by the Diocese, the individual will be able to complete modules on any electronic device with a browser and internet access.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- Individuals may complete the requirements for Foundational certification using both formats. (*i.e.*, 4 modules completed in gathered group format, 3 modules completed online.) However, an individual module may be completed only using one format.
- If the gathered group format is chosen, all portions of the module must be completed in a group setting. Individual viewing of the DVDs at home or other setting without group discussion is not accepted as the group discussion is key to the learning process and the comprehension of the materials presented.

### ***What is the cost of the FED Foundational Program***

Working with Catholic Extension and the publisher, the Diocese of Superior has been able to provide *Echoes* materials at no cost. Each parish has been given or shares an *Echoes of Faith Plus* DVD series. Parishes are responsible for the cost of replacing damaged or lost DVDs or purchasing their own set should they not wish to share with a neighboring parish.

Optional participant books are available for each module. Parishes that choose to use these books are responsible for ordering the books directly from the publisher. Parishes using the books may choose to assume the cost or recover the cost from participants.

***Echoes of Faith Plus materials are copyrighted. Only those items specifically indicated by the publisher may be duplicated. All other duplication is a violation of civil law and Catholic social justice principles.***

Echoes 3.0 activation codes are available at no charge to those currently serving as catechists and teachers in the programs and schools of the Diocese of Superior.