



Basic Catechist Certification for Catholic School Teachers

Religion is at the center of a Catholic School curriculum. Schools must be permeated with Catholic theology and practice of the faith. It is critical that a religion instructor have adequate preparation:

Teachers of Religion:

- Are required to complete the Basic Catechist Certification for Catholic School Teachers awarded by the Diocese of Raleigh within the first year or two of hire.
- The Certification is composed of three components: A) Foundation in Catholic Doctrine, B) Methodology in Catechesis, and C) Catholic School Culture.

Teachers who do not teach Religion, are Non-Catholic, or who have been away from the Church:

- Must complete a four-hour course entitled "Mission and Culture of Catholic Schools."
- The course is offered each year jointly through the Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship.

Record Keeping:

Once certified there is no requirement to renew. However, ongoing formation is encouraged. The teacher is responsible for keeping a record of his/her Certificate and ongoing formation. A copy of the Certificate is to be kept by the school principal. Teachers who would like CEUs for their NC Teaching License may submit evidence of their ongoing formation through the Catholic School's Office CEU submission process.

Basic Catechist Certification for Catholic School

The Certification is designed for Catholic School Teachers to develop their knowledge in three areas: **Foundation in Catholic Doctrine**, **Methodology in Catechesis**, and **Catholic School Culture**. It is required to complete Components A, B, and C within the first year or two of hire.

Component A:

Foundation in Catholic Doctrine

Program: University of Notre Dame McGrath Institute for Church Life

Course: Foundations of Catholic Belief**

Website:

<https://mcgrath.nd.edu/>

Available: Offered three times a year

Time Expectation: 4-6 hours per week / 7 weeks

Approximate Cost: \$50.00

Component B:

Methodology in Catechesis

Independent Study*

Read: *The Catechist's Toolbox: How to Thrive as a Religious Education Teacher* by Joe Paprocki

Required Written Assignment (min 150 words per question):

1. What new catechist tool did you learn, and how do you envision applying this to your teaching?
2. Share a Scripture, prayer, or quote that you found meaningful. Please explain

Book cost: \$10.00

Component C:

Catholic School Culture

Program: Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) at the University of Dayton

E-Seminar Course: Catholic Identity and Culture

Website: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>

Available: Offered three times a year

Time Expectations: 3 weeks

Approximate Cost: \$40.00

* *This option is equivalent to the courses: "Six Tasks of Catechesis" offered by the University of Notre Dame McGrath Institute for Church, and "Introduction to Catechesis" offered by VLCFF. If you took these courses, upload the Certificate of Completion when applying for the Certification.*

** *The McGrath Institute announces that, starting June 13, 2022, the course "Foundations of Catholic Belief" replaces the course "Catholic Faith and Tradition for School Teachers."*

For questions contact the Certification Specialist:

Aracely Alcalá

registerme@raldioc.org

(984) 900-3421

Updated: 01/30/2026

Apply for the certificate online: <https://raldioc.configio.com/go/basic-catechist-teacher>

FAQ's for Online Courses

How can I register for a course?

Register online for the corresponding course through the host institution's website: McGrath Institute for Church Life (Notre Dame) OR the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) (University of Dayton).

How much does each course cost?

Cost of each course depends on the host program, from \$40-\$50 per course. This is a discounted rate because the Diocese of Raleigh maintains a membership. The discount is applied during the registration process.

To obtain the discounted rate from the McGrath Institute enter "Raleigh" as the Promotional Code.

To receive the discounted price from VLCFF, you do not need to provide a discount code, instead select "Diocese of Raleigh" when asked "Select Diocese."

When can I start taking the courses?

Plan ahead. Each course is offered 2-3 times per year. Consult the "Course Calendar" of each institution to determine when registration opens for each course and the dates of classes. Course requirements are determined by the host institution and the particular instructor.