

CATECHETICAL POLICIES

DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

1. The parish community is responsible for the evangelization and catechesis of its people, hence each parish should implement faith formation programs for children, youth and adults.
2. The pastor is responsible for overseeing the catechetical ministry of the parish assuring that its educational and formational elements are congruent with the Gospel and Catholic faith tradition. Those whom he hires or delegates to share this responsibility should be professionally prepared or have a ministry certificate.
3. Since the family is the primary setting for education and formation in the faith, pastors and staffs should work closely with parents encouraging prayer in the home, family participation in the sacraments, especially Sunday Eucharist and the experience of Christian living.
4. Catechists must be practicing Catholics and shall be encouraged and expected to obtain certification based on diocesan criteria which include a basic theological background and catechetical skills.
5. Catechetical texts for use in schools, religious education programs, and sacramental programs for children and youth are to be selected from a list of approved publishers. The Office of the Bishop will periodically designate those publishers whose texts are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the General Catechetical Directory, To Teach as Jesus Did and the National Catechetical Directory.
6. Parish catechetical programs for children and youth shall include at least 25 hours of religious education each year.
7. Parents above others are obliged to form their children in the faith and the practice of Christian life by word and example. The parish and the Parish Services Office will recommend appropriate catechetical resources if parents instruct their children apart from parish religious education programs.
8. It is fitting for parishes to acknowledge the ministry of catechists through formal acts of appreciation and other appropriate gestures of gratitude.

Approved by Bishop William S. Skylstad after consultation with the Presbyteral Council

September 24, 1996