



ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI
VOCARE

VOCARE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Continuous Conversion, Lifelong Formation

YOUTH EVANGELIZER: ELEMENTARY RELIGION TEACHERS

All Youth Evangelizers are required to complete 10 credits annually in the Archdiocesan Vocare certification program. This was mandated by our Archbishop and is part of a school religion teacher's contract. Elementary religion teachers must complete all 10 credits each year to be certified to teach religion in the school. The Vocare year aligns with the fiscal year: July 1 to June 30.

While it is possible to take any course in the Vocare Store at any time, it is highly recommended that new Elementary religion teachers (catechists) follow the path described below. This sequence of courses will give new catechists a well-rounded presentation of the basics of our faith. In addition, periodically during the certification process, a lesson presented to the youth by the elementary catechist is observed by the Principal or a parish Catechetical Leader so that mentoring is facilitated.

All faculty members new to the Archdiocesan Catholic school system are required to complete the course *Teach, Lead, Serve*. This is a requirement of the Archdiocesan Human Resources Department, and must be completed in the first year of employment. This course is available in the Vocare system. *Teach, Lead, Serve*, if completed in Vocare, is worth 10 credits.

Elementary catechists are the heart and soul of youth evangelization in the school! Whether working with young children or with teens, the elementary teacher of religion is the face of Christ for those in their care. Through their interactions, the elementary catechist invites youth to an ever-deepening friendship with Christ.

Recommended Course of Study for New Elementary Religion Teachers/Catechists

Year 1: *Teach, Lead, Serve* (10 credits)

Year 2: Begin the **Call** series of courses

Year 3 and following: 10 annual Vocare credits

- complete **Witness** courses, then
 - continue with the **Proclaim** courses, then
 - complete the **Inspire** course, then
 - choose any course from the Vocare Store
- This is the suggested path of studies.

A total of 3 lesson observations between years 1 and 8.

Credits can also be obtained through workshops outside the Vocare online system of courses. These credits can be used in combination with courses to achieve the 10 annual credits. See your principal for details.