



ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI

Youth Religious Education Policies For Parishes

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2001.01 ROLES IN CATECHESIS

Are Catholic School Teachers considered Professional Catechists? Do they need to comply with the new requirements?

No. The Professional Catechist designation is for parish workers only. Catholic School teachers must still comply with the Catholic School Certification requirements. Catholic School teachers are welcome to take the Professional Catechist exam for their own purposes.

2001.02 PROFESSIONAL CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

Why is the Archdiocese requiring a professional catechist examination?

The Archdiocese seeks to ensure a minimum foundation of theological competency among Professional Catechists across the Archdiocese.

I have a master's degree. Do I still need to take the professional catechist examination?

Yes. All professional catechists, regardless of degree, will need to take and pass the professional catechist examination.

What happens if I fail the professional catechist examination?

You will be able to take the exam multiple times a year in order to pass the exam.

How can I study and prepare to take the exam?

The CNE will provide resources and coursework to prepare for the exam.

Are volunteer catechists required to take the professional catechist exam?

No, but they can take the exam on their own recognizance.

2001.03 & 2001.04 PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER CATECHIST ONGOING EDUCATION

What qualifies as ongoing education for professional catechists? Volunteer catechists?

Any education in the areas of theological, spiritual, moral, sacramental, and pedagogical formation. This includes but is not limited to: adult faith formation opportunities offered at the parish, books/podcasts, training offered by the CNE, training offered by parishes or apostolates, undergraduate or graduate courses.

Who approves on-going education for professional and volunteer catechists?

The Pastor and/or his delegate.

How will I report catechist ongoing education to the Archdiocese?

You will report the formation opportunities that you plan to provide to professional and volunteer catechists for the upcoming year. You will not be required to report for each individual catechist. This report will be included in the annual student count survey. For example, “Catechists will be invited to ‘Light the Match’, and we will read Ablaze together.”

Are professional and/or volunteer catechists still required to use Vocare?

No. The Vocare requirements still apply to Catholic School teachers and Principals. Professional and Volunteer Catechists in the parish are no longer required to track credit hours on Vocare. Vocare is still a resource for ongoing education and may still be used.

What are the consequences if a Professional or Volunteer Catechist does not complete his or her on-going education requirements?

The Policy is meant to set standards for on-going education that is offered, not to track individual compliance to those opportunities. This is a change in how certification and on-going education was tracked in the past. The Pastor and/or his delegate have the freedom to establish appropriate expectations and accountability that work in their particular situation.

I don't think my volunteer catechists will comply with 5 hours of on-going education. I'm afraid that I will lose them if I force them to comply with these new requirements.

Remember, the only expectation from the Archdiocese is to provide an opportunity for 5 hours of on-going education, not to track it. In many cases, you are probably already providing on-going education in your beginning and end of the year meetings, extra catechetical resources that you are providing, weekly e-mails, and the like. Even if you are not already including on-going education in these ways, you can begin to fold on-going education into the things you are already doing such as your catechist meetings, weekly e-mails, and book or articles that are offered throughout the year.



2003.00 TIME ALLOTMENTS

My parish does family faith formation, and the parents are responsible for doing lesson plans at home. How does this work with the time allotment requirements?

The time allotment requirement includes any religious education done at home or at the parish. This includes but is not limited to: family faith formation, youth ministry, traditional classroom instruction, and small groups.

My parish does religious education over the summer. Do we have to stop our summer faith formation programs?

No. Summer faith formation programs can be part of a comprehensive approach to religious education but cannot be the only religious education offered by the parish. Summer faith formation programs may count as part of the 25-week yearly requirement.

My parish has religious education during a Mass. Do I have to change the time?

No. Religious education cannot be offered exclusively during Mass, i.e. if a church offers a single Sunday Mass, religious education cannot run concurrently with this Mass.

2004.02 INCREASED PRIVACY

Does my parish need to construct a new bathroom to comply with increased privacy requests?

No. Parishes should provide reasonable accommodations for those who request increased privacy for bathroom use but do not need to construct or redesign bathroom spaces.

2004.03 GENDER CONFUSION AND GENDER DYSPHORIA (DSM-V)

Does this policy apply to Catholic Schools?

No. This policy only applies to parishes and their ministries and programs. The Catholic Schools Office has a separate policy for Catholic Schools.

2005.01 AOC STANDARD ASSESSMENT

What is the purpose of ARK? How will the Archdiocese use the results? How should I use the results?

The purpose of ARK is to provide useful data to the Archdiocese and Catechists. The Archdiocese will use this data to help direct and inform resources and training for Professional and Volunteer Catechists. The results should be used similarly at the parish level to evaluate the efficacy of resources, curriculum, and methodology. The purpose of ARK is not to evaluate the quality of an individual's faith life or theological qualifications.



Who has to take the ARK annually?

The ARK will be taken by all students in religious education in grades K-12 as well as all Professional and Volunteer Catechists.

Is ARK different than the Professional Certification Test?

Yes. The Professional Certification test is a one-time test and only required for Professional Catechists. ARK is taken annually and is for all Professional and Volunteer catechists as well as the students.

2005.02 FORMAL PROGRAM EVALUATION

Do I need to submit my formal program evaluation to the Archdiocese?

No, but the CNE can assist in program evaluation and implementation of new resources, curriculums, and methodologies by request.

