What is the Catechetical Formation Series?

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How can I use this formation series?

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Resources Featured in this Series

These resources, and many more, are available for purchase online or by phone.
What concepts are covered?

Learning Session 1: Getting Started & Getting to Know Your Learners (DOING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- the importance and benefits of planning and preparation;
- creating measurable learning outcomes;
- the stages of development and age-appropriate activities and methodologies for learners age three to adult;
- various learning styles and common characteristics that require lesson adaptation.

Learning Session 2: The Catechetical Process (DOING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- the foundation of faith formation—creating opportunities for learners to encounter Jesus Christ;
- incorporating the “language of mystery” in every aspect of faith formation sessions;
- creating a climate of prayer;
- the catechetical process and how this process, the language of mystery, and climate of prayer all come together to help catechists transmit our faith to learners.

Learning Session 3: Prayer and Leading Prayer (DOING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- the importance of prayer and how to lead others in prayer of various types—reflective prayer, liturgical prayer, spontaneous prayer, and traditional prayer.

Learning Session 4: Facilitation Skills and Handling Difficult Situations (DOING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- the skills to facilitate learning in group settings;
- difficulties that arise in catechetical situations and how to handle them;
- maintaining discipline and responding to disciplinary concerns, including when to notify others (i.e. the catechetical leader or parents);
- the skills and approaches for minimizing the likelihood of misbehavior by establishing an authoritative and positive presence.

Learning Session 5: What We Believe – The Creed (KNOWING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- the basic beliefs of our Catholic faith—Revelation, Scripture and Tradition, the Magisterium, and an overview of the Four Pillars;
- the Creed, which will include an in-depth review of the Trinity, the Church, Mary and the Saints, the Marks of the Church, and the afterlife.

Learning Session 6: What We Believe – The Sacraments (KNOWING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- Catholic sacramental life, the liturgical year, and the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Service of Communion.

Learning Session 7: What We Believe – The Moral Life (KNOWING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- Catholic morality, including human dignity, conscience, sin, and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching;
- how the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes develop our sense of morality.

Learning Session 8: What We Believe – Prayer (KNOWING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- additional forms of prayer in all its expressions;
- the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, and the central form of Catholic prayer—the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Learning Session 9: Understanding God’s Word – Scripture (KNOWING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- how the Bible is put together, how to navigate it, how to locate passages and characters, and how to interpret what we read.

Learning Session 10: The Person of the Catechist (BEING)
In this session, catechists will learn about:
- their vocation as a catechist;
- the unique components of the spirituality of the catechist.
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