



## **CATECHIST CERTIFICATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI KEY ISSUES FOR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

### **What is required of first or second year elementary school religion teachers?**

*Those teachers who are in their first or second year of teaching religion must be working toward catechist certification. Basic Catechist Certification must be completed before a teacher begins to teach religion for their third year. Schools that have one or more religion teachers in their first or second year of teaching religion, and who are not yet certified as catechists, are eligible for accreditation. (Note: This exemption only applies to a new teacher of religion. If a teacher has previously taught religion in another Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati the exemption does not apply.)*

### **What must a religion teacher do after achieving Basic Certification?**

*Once a religion teacher achieves Basic Catechist Certification she or he must continue to work toward Advanced Catechist Certification and must always have a current (i.e. unexpired) certificate. To keep catechist certification current, she or he must either achieve the next level of certification – General or Advanced – or she or he must renew their current certification within three years. To renew at the Basic or General Level means to take two additional courses and attend workshops in three skill areas. For a summary of the catechist certification process, [click here](#).*

### **What is required of those who teach in a Catholic school but do not teach religion?**

*All teachers employed by Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are to have a basic understanding of and respect for the teachings of the Catholic tradition and the role of the school in the students' formation. Teachers who do not teach religion are not required by the Archdiocese to hold catechist certification. If such teachers take the required courses for catechist certification, it cannot be granted until the other requirements for certification can be met.*

**N.B. Different levels of certification are required of private, independent elementary schools. If you have questions about the certification requirements for a private, independent elementary school, please get in touch with your school's contact person in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.**

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