



ARCHDIOCESE
of CINCINNATI

February, 2015

To whom it may concern,

Office of
The Archbishop

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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Lifelong Education and Formation is one of my top priorities for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The New Evangelization reminds us that we are all disciples called to witness. In order to become Missionary Disciples, we must commit ourselves to lifelong Catholic education and formation. Catholic schools, parish religion programs, adult faith formation, and most importantly the domestic Church help form disciples prepared to profess the hope that is within them.

Lifelong education and formation in missionary discipleship is very important for our Catholic School teachers as well as those who teach in our parish religious education programs. These individuals are ministers of the faith, or catechists, and "The call to the ministry of the catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. (NDC 54.8)" The National Directory for Catechesis reminds us that

Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training. Their commissioning by the Church is a participation in the divine calling to teach as Jesus did. Their personal relationship with Jesus Christ energizes their service to the Church and provides continuing motivation, vitality, and force of their catechetical activity. Christ invites all catechists to follow him as teacher of the faith and a witness to the truth of the faith (NDC 54.8)

It is for this reason that I am pleased to endorse the School of Faith and, at my request, invite them to minister in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. School of Faith is a program of adult catechesis designed to provide doctrinal and spiritual formation for Catholic school teachers, administrators, spiritual mentors and individuals. Its purpose is to lay the theological foundation upon which an authentic Catholic culture can be developed. It is comprehensive in its content, but always with the goal of explaining the faith in a simple and engaging way.

The mission of School of Faith will be to provide ongoing doctrinal and spiritual formation for Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati through catechetical programs that stress the call to prayer, virtue, and holiness of life. This formation not only benefits the teachers themselves, but also equips them to build a solid Catholic environment in our Catholic schools.

It is my vision that the School of Faith will be a catalyst for helping the entire Archdiocese prioritize lifelong education and formation. The Office of the New Evangelization will be working closely with the School of Faith to support and promote their good work. I urge every Catholic School to prayerfully consider working with them in the future.

For more information on the School of Faith go to www.schooloffaith.com or contact John Leyendecker at john@schooloffaith.com

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati