



# Called to teach.

## 2017 Vocare Frequently Asked Questions

Updated as of 5/23/2017

Contact VocareSupport@CatholicCincinnati.org

### 1. What is Vocare?

It is the new catechetical certification process, a blend of in-person and digital formation offered through the Office for Evangelization and Discipleship (OED). The norms policies and procedures take effect in June 2017.

### 2. When can I register for Vocare?

Registration will begin in June 2017. All principals, teachers of religion, DRE/CRE/ARE, catechetical leaders and parish catechists should register immediately upon launch. Those discerning a call to be a catechist may register at any time after the launch to begin their formation and maintain active certification status.

### 3. Who participates in Vocare?

Catholic school principals, grade school and high school religion teachers, DRE/CRE/ARE's and paid or volunteer catechists participate and maintain annual active status.

### 4. What are the expectations of participation in Vocare?

All catechists pursue ten credits per year via Vocare. Credits will be calculated following the fiscal year (July 1-June 30). In 2017 the year will be calculated from June 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

### 5. I am certified. Do I need to participate in Vocare?

Yes. The requirement to initiate annual ongoing catechetical formation in Vocare starts June 30, 2019 for anyone holding an existing active certification.

### 6. What if I am not currently certified?

Anyone not currently certified as a volunteer or paid catechist, DRE/CRE/ARE, teacher or principal is required to initiate the process of ongoing formation through Vocare by registering in June 2017 and completing the 10 annual credits during the year.

Current reported progress towards certification will be accounted for in Vocare. Work completed toward a basic, general, or advanced certification will be recognized at the equivalent level in Vocare.

7. What is happening to the certification workshops currently offered by the Archdiocese?

The content covered in existing in-person catechetical workshops and classes will now be available in Vocare. The on-site classes will be discontinued after May 31, 2017.

8. How will Vocare be more affordable?

Online delivery minimizes extraneous costs while delivering more content. We are grateful to the grant from the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign that will cover the initial costs of our digital platform. A small fee per course will be required.

9. What can you tell me about the content of the courses?

Catechetical workshops developed by trusted partner organizations ensure our formation is reliable and of the highest caliber. Future development includes additional partnerships and locally produced content, taking advantage of the rich catechetical leadership in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

10. How will the voice of the catechist be included in the ongoing development of Vocare?

A representative group of priests, principals, catechetical leaders, teachers and catechists is being formed to serve as an ongoing advisory committee. Their leadership in schools and parishes will provide invaluable insight and input as we plan out the future of Vocare.

11. Will learning experiences outside of Vocare fulfill annual requirements?

Learning experiences outside Vocare may be entered by the participant into the system. Following approval of the submission, credit will be applied. To maintain consistency in Vocare, the number of credits allowed from outside the system may be limited. Please make sure you work with the OED before attending outside events to understand how they will be applied to your annual credits.

12. Will classes taken through outside sources including the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) be accepted as ongoing formation?

VLCFF is of great value to those looking for college-level course work. This and other outside sources of formation may be submitted for consideration, subject to

the outside source credit limitation and evaluated based on how they match the goals of Vocare.

13. What is “active” participation status?

“Active” participation status is the completion of ten annual credits and ongoing participation in a faith sharing group.

14. Do first-year parish catechists need to be certified before they can teach religion?

Catechists will need to show progress toward completing ten credits and finish the ten credits by year end within their first year of teaching religion to acquire and maintain an active status. This will provide them with the methodology and deeper understanding of the faith they are entrusted to teach.

15. How will I know if my certification is about to expire?

Active status in Vocare, maintaining participation requirements, will ensure your certification will not expire.

16. What does “All current catechetical certifications will now expire in June 2019” mean?

Active certifications to expire between June 2016 and June 2019 are extended to June 30 of 2019. Catholic schools and teachers should note this satisfies state compliance audits during the intermediary period.

17. Do first-year Catholic school teachers need to be certified before they can teach religion?

First year teachers are required to complete the *Teach, Lead, Serve* program during their first year of teaching. In their second year, specific courses are required. Credits outside of the CI system will not be approved as meeting requirements towards certification.

18. Is classroom observation required for Catholic school religion teachers?

Elementary school teachers are required to have catechetical method observation concurrent with the “badge” they are pursuing. This is limited to the first three badges. These are separate from state licensure observations. Observations may be done by a parish catechetical leader, Catholic school principal, or a designated catechetical leader in the who has completed the Inspire badge.

Observation is not required for high school religion teachers provided they have pre-requisite theology degrees and student teaching method training according to developmental cycle.

19. How will Catholic school teachers use this system to report on completed CEUs to LPDC?

Catholic school teachers may enter courses completed outside the system with accompanying transcripts to facilitate tracking and reporting at a later date. Vocare can produce certificates for submission to the Catholic Schools Office for purposes of applying for CEUs.