



VOCARE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Continuous Conversion, Lifelong Formation

YOUTH EVANGELIZER: CATECHETICAL LEADER

YOUTH EVANGELIZER: PRINCIPAL

All Youth Evangelizers are required to complete 10 credits annually in the Archdiocesan Vocare program. These credits can be a combination of courses and events that promote the faith formation of the Catechetical Leader. The Vocare year aligns with the fiscal year: July 1 to June 30.

Catechetical Leaders and Principals are responsible for the certification of their catechists. They should strongly encourage their catechists or teachers of religion to complete their 10 annual credits in Vocare, offering opportunities for their continued faith development. The Archbishop considers this formation mandatory, so parish catechists and school teachers of religion should take the 10-credit requirement seriously. The 10 annual credits are part of a school religion teacher's contract and they must complete all 10 each year to be certified to teach religion in the school. Catechetical Leaders and Principals can choose to lead a *Live Course* in Vocare, enabling several or all their catechists the option to take a course together and discuss what they learn (see the *Live Course* documents in the Vocare Library under the Resources Tab). Catechetical Leaders and Principals also direct the classroom Observations of their catechists (see the *Observation Packet* in the Vocare Library).

All NEW Catechetical Leaders are required to take the Vocare course *New Catechetical Leader*. This course will familiarize them with the basic tenets of Theology of the Body so they can work with their catechists on implementing this aspect of the Graded Course of Studies. In addition, the course reviews the policies and documents related to their position as Catechetical Leader.

All NEW Principals are required to take the Vocare course *New Principals Discussion Group*. This year-long group study also includes the basic requirements of a new Archdiocese of Cincinnati school employee. This course will earn the new principal 10 credits and complete their requirement in Vocare for their first year.

The Catechetical Leader is the proverbial 'multiple-hat-wearer' of the parish. While directing youth evangelization programs in all or part of grades K-12, Catechetical Leaders are often given other responsibilities as well, and are often the point-person for various activities in the parish. Likewise, the Catholic school Principal directs all aspects of the faith development of the students in their care, usually through delegation. But as the Spiritual Leader of the school, the Principal is responsible for the catholicity of the school and its atmosphere of hospitality. Successful Catechetical Leaders and Principals will be persons of prayer who rely on the Spirit's

movement in their ministry. Sometimes 'leaders' fall into the trap of thinking they are in control of programs and processes. The leader who is a person of prayer realizes that it is God who is in control and, knowing this, can better deal with any difficulties that may arise. It is hoped that the Catechetical Leader and the Principal will engage in a faith-sharing group of some kind for their own continued growth.

For the purposes of certification, the term *Director of Religious Education* (DRE) is used to delineate those who have a Master's or Doctorate Degree in theology or a related field. The term *Coordinator of Religious Education* (CRE) delineates those with a Bachelor's Degree in theology. The *Associate of Religious Education* (ARE) or the *Professional Catechetical Leader* (PCL) does not have a university degree in theology, but is presumed to have taken appropriate certification courses so they can lead catechists with confidence in their knowledge of the faith. This is how the titles are used for *certification*. Note that parishes can give employees any title they wish and that Catechetical Leaders with no university education might be called the DRE in the parish. This is acceptable at the parish level but has no bearing on the *certification* of the Catechetical Leader.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and its Archbishop are blessed with Catechetical Leaders and Principals who participate faithfully in the growth of the students and adult religion teachers in their care. We hope that our small expressions of gratitude reveal our appreciation of your ministry to the Church!