



VOCARE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Continuous Conversion, Lifelong Formation

YOUTH EVANGELIZER: HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION TEACHER

High School Teachers of Religion are required to have a Bachelor's degree in theology or a related field. In addition, they are to have a university course in adolescent developmental psychology, a course in secondary teaching, and student teaching. The Archdiocesan Assistant Director of Certification Management is the point-person for the certification of High School Religion Teachers, and all new teachers should contact this person to discuss certification before they begin teaching religion in an Archdiocesan high school.

All Youth Evangelizers are required to complete 10 credits annually in the Archdiocesan Vocare certification program. This was mandated by our Archbishop and is part of a school religion teacher's contract. High School religion teachers must complete all 10 credits each year to be certified to teach religion in the school. The Vocare year aligns with the fiscal year: July 1 to June 30.

All new faculty members of Archdiocesan Catholic schools are required to complete the course *Teach, Lead, Serve*. This is a requirement of the Archdiocesan Human Resources Department, and must be completed in the first year of employment. This course is available in the Vocare system. *Teach, Lead, Serve*, if completed online in Vocare, is worth 10 credits.

In their second year, new High School Religion Teachers begin in Vocare with the course *New High School Religion Teacher*. This course familiarizes new religion teachers with the basic tenets of Theology of the Body so they can implement this aspect of the Graded Course of Studies into the courses they teach. In addition, the course reviews the policies and documents related to their position as a new High School Religion Teacher. Upon completion of this 5-credit course, the teacher needs to finish their 10 credits with 5 additional credits.

Credits can also be obtained through workshops, religious in-service meetings, seminars, etc., outside the Vocare online system of courses. These credits can be used in combination with courses to achieve the 10 annual credits. See your department chair for details.

High School Teachers of Religion are the heart and soul of youth evangelization in the school! The High School Teacher of Religion is the face of Christ for those in their care. Through their interactions, this catechist invites youth to an ever-deepening friendship with Christ. Be assured of the prayers of the Archbishop as you embark on this ministry.