



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

CATECHIST FORMATION

FALL OFFERINGS

September—December 2019

DOBformation.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Well-formed catechists are those who can effectively share the Catholic faith in a way that is transformative in the lives of others. Through intentional formation, catechists are prepared and equipped for their ministry, experience growth in their relationship with Jesus, and model lifelong learning to youth and others.

EACH YEAR, CATECHISTS MUST STRIVE FOR:

- **2 THEOLOGICAL TOPICS , 3 CREDITS EACH**
- **1 MINISTRY SKILL TOPIC, 2 CREDITS**
- **MONTHLY VIRTUS COMPLIANCE**

THE LEARNING PORTAL:
WWW.DOBFORMATION.ORG

All catechist formation opportunities in the Diocese of Buffalo can be found at

WWW.DOBFORMATION.ORG

There is a combination of live workshops, online learning, and independent study programs for catechists to become more equipped to serve in the ministry to which they have been called.

The learning portal records all completed catechist formation in individual accounts, and will be stored on the site for users and coordinators to review.

How to Register for Workshops/Courses:

Visitors can view online courses and live workshops as well as other formation offered at partner sites.

- Select the workshop/course of your choice by clicking on “Add to Cart” and then “Checkout.”
- Follow instructions in the secure checkout and select “Place Order.” (*online courses have a fee, live workshops do not*)
- View your “purchased” selections by logging into your account at DOBformation.org
- Choosing an option under the “External Formation” tab? Please notify Lifelong Faith Formation at llff@buffalodiocese.org in order for us to note your account accordingly.

FOR LEADERS: PLANNING CATECHIST FORMATION

The Department of Lifelong Formation is dedicated to assisting and supporting parish leaders in providing quality formation for catechists.

Leaders can choose from a selection of approved catechist formation in the form of live workshops, online courses, or external formation (such as Formed, Christ the King Seminary, Boston College) or they can contact the department for assistance in developing a personalized plan for their parish catechists.

Things to consider about catechist formation:

- Review the 14 standards in the *Forming Disciples* curriculum to consider which topics are needed most.
- Guide catechists toward specific offerings that will strengthen knowledge or skills they need the most.
- Use resources/activities in your parish community to supplement or strengthen catechist formation

If you are considering providing alternative formation, please contact the Department for Lifelong Faith Formation prior to implementation for approval.

THEOLOGICAL FORMATION OFFERINGS

GOAL: 2 TOPICS ANNUALLY

For up-to-date listings of locations and dates of workshops, visit www.DOBformation.org

ECUMENISM & INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

LIVE:

Unity Amidst Diversity: Many households are no longer “only Catholic”, but rather comprised of different Christian denominations or even non-Christian religions. How can we help our youth and families feel welcome, and highlight many of the things that unify rather than divide? Learn strategies to address these issues in a way that allows us to accompany families and celebrate our own Catholic identity. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

ONLINE:

Church of and for the Poor: Explore the biblical and theological roots of the Church’s continuing commitment to the poor, evaluate several proposals about ways to respond to poverty, and converse with others about being a Church of and for the poor. *(10/23-11/13, Boston College, \$25)*

CST 101: A collaborative seven-part video and discussion guide series on Catholic social teaching presented by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. The series brings the themes of Catholic social teaching to life and inspires us to put our faith into action. *(Formed)*

LIVE:

Catholic Social Teaching: Explore the history of these teachings and come away with ideas for witnessing to our faith in daily life and as a model for young people. A short follow-up activity required to receive credit for workshop. *(Dates & locations available upon request)*

CATHOLIC TEACHING

LIVE:

Ministry Essentials—Intro to Catholic Teachings: This introductory course will explore essential Catholic themes, history, and vocabulary of our faith and its value to our ministry and our lives. *(9/9-12/2, Niagara Falls, Amherst, and Christ the King Seminary, \$35)*

MORALITY

LIVE:

Getting Comfortable with Hot-Button Topics: When talk turns to immigration, gender identity, or pro-life issues, do you avoid the conversation or feel ill-equipped to reply? Learn how we form our moral conscience and get comfortable with what we believe so we can enter into these conversations with confidence and understanding. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

ONLINE:

Who Am I to Judge? What is “right” and “wrong”? In this small group study program featuring Edward Sri, we’ll explore the classical view of morality and find that it’s not merely a set of guiding principles for theoretical situations—it is an entire way of life. *(Formed)*

Finding a Moral Compass: This course lays out the social nature of the human person, explaining the human dignity of every person, as well as stating the demands that this places on each of us if we are to honor and protect our human dignity. *(9/25-10/23, Boston College, \$25)*

SACRAMENTS

ONLINE:

Sacraments: Consists of three lessons that cover a general overview of all sacraments and the sacraments of initiation in depth. *(My Catholic Faith Delivered, \$15)*

LIVE:

Sacraments of Initiation: Take a trip down memory lane to re-discover why the Sacraments of Initiation are key moments to be lived out every day by authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. *(Dates & locations available upon request)*

Important Note: *Theological workshops require completion of a follow up activity in order to receive credit. Follow up activity will be emailed after attending the live workshop*

Need assistance? Contact Lifelong Faith Formation at 716-847-5501

MINISTRY SKILLS OFFERINGS

GOAL: 1 TOPIC ANNUALLY

**For up-to-date listings of locations and dates of workshops, visit www.DOBformation.org*

EFFECTIVE FAITH WITNESS/SHARING

LIVE:

From Classroom Teacher to Faith Witness: This workshop offers effective strategies to properly balance discussion, sharing, and learning about the Catholic faith. In this interactive session discover how to make the most of the time you have with a group – whether adults or youth. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

Catechist as Missionary Disciple: Guides the catechist in personal reflection of the faith journey and the importance of being a faith witness. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

Evangelization: The Game Changer In this 10 session course, gain confidence in your own faith story; explore the who, what, how, and why of Catholic evangelization; consider best practices; and learn how to evangelize in any setting using five simple steps: prepare, equip, connect, welcome, and engage. *(9/12-11/21, Christ the King Seminary, \$35)*

ONLINE:

Skills I Basics: Learn more about the mission of catechesis and evangelization, and the spirituality of the catechist. *(My Catholic Faith Delivered, \$10)*

ACCOMPANIMENT WITH YOUTH & FAMILIES

LIVE:

Praying With...: Move beyond memorized prayer in your gathered sessions. Through hands-on practice and discussion, learn how to lead and guide a group in praying FOR and WITH each other. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

Growing Pains: Adolescent Accompaniment: This workshop explores research on the physical and social changes that characterize adolescence, followed by discussion on strategies to effectively walk with youth during these years. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

Partnering with Parents: How can we support and encourage families to be households of faith, empower them to be faith leaders in the home and grow in their own faith? Discover practical strategies to reach out to parents, no matter your faith formation setting. *(For dates and locations, go to DOBformation.org)*

ONLINE:

Skills II Basics: Discusses the nature of catechesis and the various stages of development of the person catechized. *(My Catholic Faith Delivered, \$10)*

PERSONAL SPIRITUALITY

LIVE:

Spiritual Essentials: This 8 session courses entails learning more about what spirituality is, and exploring our own spirituality by recognizing where we are and being open to where God is leading us. *(9/11-10/30, Fredonia, co-sponsored by Christ the King seminary)*

ONLINE:

Skills III Basics: Focuses on prayer and strategies for strengthening prayer life *(My Catholic Faith Delivered, \$10)*

Skills IV Basics: Learn more about our universal call to holiness and how sacraments and devotions play a part in our growth in holiness. *(My Catholic Faith Delivered, \$10)*

The Wild Goose Series: Allow yourself to be led on an unforgettable journey around the world and into the very heart of God. Discover the immense power and beauty of the unconditional love of God that is the Holy Spirit. *(Formed)*

*See a topic you like?
All Live Workshops can be offered at your
location—contact Lifelong Faith Formation for
more details!*

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