 **Diocese of St. Augustine**

**Certification Program**

**Level I**

The current level I certification for teachers of religion (catechists) was promulgated by Bishop John Snyder in 1998, reaffirmed by Bishop Victor Galeone in 2005 and

reaffirmed again with updating by Bishop Felipe Estévez in 2018. It is presumed that each catechist is aware of the catechetical guidelines for the United States published in the *National Directory for Catechesis* (U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, 2005). In addition, it is assumed that Catechists are familiar with *The Catechism of the Catholic* *Church* and have at least a working knowledge of the curriculum guidelines for Religion for their particular teaching level. Also, assumed is a working knowledge of the Diocesan Sacramental Guidelines as well as familiarity with the teacher’s manual and the scope and sequence of the approved religion textbook series that they are currently using.

In addition, the following resources are to be mastered by those who serve the Church in catechetical ministry. **These readings are to be done prior to attending the certification sessions.**

# Level I Foundational Level: 20 hours over 2 years for all catechists

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| **CONTENT/TIMEFRAME** | | **REQUIRED READING** |
| **ROLE OF THE CATECHIST**  ***Introduction to the role of the catechist***  ***and how he/she can better share the faith*** | | **No pre-read** |  |
| **3 hours** |  |  |
| **PRACTICAL SKILLS** |  |  |
| ***Develop an awareness of the various skills*** |  | **No pre-read** |
| ***methods utilized in the communication*** |  |  |
| ***premises of the faith***  **2 hours** |  |  |
| **FAITH DEVELOPMENT** |  | **C.U. *How God Invites Us to Grow*** |
| ***Develop an appreciation of the various*** |  | **(Sweeney)** |
| ***Stages of faith development as well as*** |  |
| ***moral development. The essential elements*** |  |  |
| ***of the social teachings of the Church*** |  |  |
| ***will also be discussed.***  **3 hours** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **LITURGY/SACRAMENTS** |  | **C. U. *What are Sacraments* (Martos)** |
| ***Develop a deepening appreciation of the*** | **C.U*. A Walk Through the Mass*** | |
| ***sacramental life of our faith, as well as*** | ***(*Richstatter)** | |
| ***assistance with personal prayer and skills*** | **C.U. *The Liturgical Year* (Richstatter)** | |
| ***in leading others in prayer*** |  | |

# 3 hours

**BASIC BELIEFS C. U. *Nine Things That Make Us Catholic***

***Survey of the various tenets of the* (Groome)**

***Catholic Faith* C.U*. The Nicene Creed (*Friedman)**

# 2 hours C.U. *Celebrating Mary* (Carroll)

**SCRIPTURE C.U. *Choosing and Using a Bible***

***Develop an appreciation of the Bible*, (Witherup) *both Old and New Testaments as well* C.U. *Celebrating God’s Word***

***as an opportunity to connect the Word of* (Ralph)**

# 3 hours

**CHURCH C.U. *Treasures of Vatican II***

***Overview of the Church, with an*  (Hahnenberg)**

***emphasis on the Church since Vatican II* C.U. *Ten Peak Moments of Church***

# 2 hours *History* (McBride)

**CATECHETICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE/LEGAL Office of Christian Formation materials *Exploring the various legal and ethical* No pre-read**

***concerns of church ministers today.***

# 2 hours

**The reading materials are available in our online library at** [**https://www.dosaformation.com/basic-certification-pre-reads**](https://www.dosaformation.com/basic-certification-pre-reads)

**The password to access the readings is cformation.**