

Catholic School Teacher Formation

(The goal is to complete one trimester per school year.)

Who should take part in Catholic School Teacher Formation from your school?

- Every teacher who is responsible for helping to pass on the Catholic faith to the students.
- Every aide who assists those teachers, especially if they work in any class where religion is taught or where Christian formation is underway.
- Volunteer parents who assist in the religion program.
- School staff who have not recently had any Catholic updating or formation.

Options for Catholic School Teacher Formation

- **Teacher in-service days, 5 per year**
 - two sessions per in-service day
 - completes a total of 10 within the year
- **Saturday morning**
 - 9 AM to noon, with a light breakfast
 - once a month
 - ten months of the year (skip July and August)
- **One evening during the week**
 - from after school to 6 PM, possibly with a light supper
 - one time per month
 - ten months of the year
- **August institute**
 - 5 days to complete one trimester

Getting started with teacher formation

- Much of the work for organizing teacher formation falls to the school principal and the religion department head if you have one, along with the pastor.
- At first, it seems as though more work will be on your desk, but in the end, with better prepared teachers, your work will be reduced significantly.
 - They will feel more confident teaching religion in the classroom.
 - More teachers will want to keep teaching from year to year.
 - You can count on trained teachers for more help in your school.
 - They become a key part of your team.
 - They encourage others to obtain more formation.
 - The overall quality of your program rises and you become a more truly “Catholic” school!

■ **Step one: make the commitment!**

- Only you can make this commitment for your school.
- Invest in your teachers, and your school will grow!

■ **Step two: call on us at 23rd to help you!**

■ **Step three: schedule formation in your calendar.**

- Choose the meeting schedule that works best in your school. Most principals will invite teachers to one three-hour meeting per month, ten months in the year (skipping July and August), or to five in-service days per year.
- We tend to ask for too little; we must ask more of our Catholic school teachers!
- Many teachers dearly want training.
- You won't have everyone involved, but if you wait until everyone is ready, you'll never accomplish this.
- Invite youth ministers, catechumenate team members, marriage prep folks, baptism prep folks, and others working in catechetical ministries in your parish to take part, too, along with the parish catechists.
- Work closely with the catechetical program in your parish. Why not include all the teachers and catechists in one formation process?
- Keep your pastor informed as you go!

■ **Step four: recruit your teachers one by one for this formation.**

- In fact, one three-hour training session per month is not asking very much.
- Budget to pay for the materials as a parish.
- But ask the teachers (or others) to pay for the CEUs from Loyola University New Orleans. For more on this, visit www.intothe-fields.org.
- Remember, YOU must be the first one to believe in this!

■ **Step five: order your materials.**

- For more on how to do this, visit the website.
- Be sure to order one textbook for each learner, plus a facilitator's guide for yourself.
- Other resources you may need can also be found on the website.

■ **Step six: get started!**

- And enter a new, more vigorous period of being a truly Catholic school for all ages and all stages!

