

# Catechumenate Team Formation

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

## Who should take part in Catechumenate Team Formation?

- Parish catechumenate team members who are new to the ministry.
- Parish team members who have more experience but want or need an update.
- Those who are working in adult catechesis.
- Others in the parish who are interested.

## Options for Catechumenate Team Formation

- **Saturday mornings**
  - 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 6 PM to 9 PM, with a light supper
  - once per month
  - ten months of the year

## Getting started with Catechumenate Team Formation

- Much of the work for organizing team formation falls to the director of the catechumenate for your parish, along with the pastor.
- At first, it seems as though more work will be on your desk, but in the end, with better prepared team members, your work will be reduced significantly.
  - They will feel more confident.
  - Retention from year to year will increase.
  - You can count on trained team members for more help.
  - They become a key part of your team.
  - They encourage others to obtain more formation.
  - The overall quality of your program increases.
- **Step one: make the commitment!**
- **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 parish. Most parish leaders will invite team members to one three-hour meeting per month, ten months in the year (skipping July and August).
- We tend to ask for too little of our team members. Formation is an essential part of development a strong catechumenate, one which will attract catechumens and candidates.
- Many catechumenate team members dearly want training.
- Ask everyone to get involved with formation, but if you wait until everyone is ready, you'll never accomplish this. Get started with whomever you've got ready!
- Invite youth ministers, parish catechists, marriage prep folks, baptism preparation folks, and others working in catechetical ministries to take part, too.
- Work closely with the school and religious ed program in your parish if you have one. Why not include all the teachers and catechists in one formation process?
- Keep your pastor informed as you go!

■ **Step four: recruit your team members 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. The total cost is quite low.
- Ask the team members or others to pay for the CEUs from Loyola University New Orleans. For more on this, visit [www.intothefields.org](http://www.intothefields.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 [www.intothefields.org](http://www.intothefields.org). It's easy and fast.
- Be sure to order one teacher/catechist pack for each learner, plus a facilitator's guide for yourself.
- Other resources you may need can be found on the website as well.

■ **Step six: get started!**

- And enter a new, more vigorous period of catechesis for all ages and all stages in your parish!

