

## The Content of Catechist Formation according to the *GDC*<sup>1</sup>

Formation seeks to enable catechists to transmit the Gospel to those who desire to entrust themselves to Jesus Christ. The purpose of formation, therefore, is to make the catechist capable of communicating “The summit and centre of catechetical formation lies in an aptitude and ability to communicate the Gospel message” (DGC (1971)111).<sup>2</sup>

In order to communicate the Gospel, one must know the Gospel and all that has brought the Church to this point in her history of understanding. Therefore, the scope of catechist formation is broad in that it covers many subjects and, at the same time, narrow in that all subjects lead to and come from the source of faith, the Person of Jesus Christ.

### Initial Catechist Formation

A catechist at the initial level is someone who is inexperienced or who has minimal experience in catechesis. They would have received some orientation and basic formation.<sup>3</sup>

### General Knowledge

1. Does the process or program offer the catechist a deeper understanding of the mystery of Christ?  
 Yes  
 No
2. Does the process or program help the catechist to be familiar with Sacred Scripture?  
 Yes  
 No
3. Does the process or program offer the catechist the broad strokes of salvation history?  
 Yes  
 No
4. Does the process or program help the catechist to be aware of the *General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)* or the *Catechetical Directory of the Ukrainian Catholic Church*?  
 Yes  
 No

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<sup>1</sup> *GDC*, 33, 137, 235, 236, 237, 238, 240, 242, 244, 247

<sup>2</sup> *GDC*, 235

<sup>3</sup> This section has used the work of the WCCRE on Recommendation #5 regarding the definition of *Initial Catechist Formation* and required content formation items for both of these levels. The work done for this section of *The Sower Went Out to Sow* was also based on the requirements for catechist formation from the *GDC*.

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5. Does the process or program help the catechist to be aware of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*?  
 Yes  
 No
6. Does the process or program explore with the catechist other resource material (for example, commentaries, DVD resources, etc.)?  
 Yes  
 No
7. Does the process or program offer the catechist basic faith knowledge (for example, understanding of the use of symbols)?  
 Yes  
 No
8. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the flow of the liturgical year and its usefulness as a tool for formation?  
 Yes  
 No
9. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand their role?  
 Yes  
 No
10. Does the process or program offer the catechist knowledge of different forms of prayer?  
 Yes  
 No
11. Does the process or program provide the catechist experiences of different forms of prayer?  
 Yes  
 No
12. Does the process or program help the catechist to take their role seriously with a sense of humour and a spirit of joy?  
 Yes  
 No
13. Does the process or program help the catechist to mature on their own faith journey?  
 Yes  
 No

### Knowledge specific to Adult Catechists

14. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand how to incorporate adult learning styles?
- Yes
- No
15. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the different levels of adult faith development?
- Yes
- No
16. Does the process or program help the catechist to be sensitive to the multicultural dimension of the Canadian Church?
- Yes
- No
17. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand how to use dialogue as a tool for faith formation?
- Yes
- No
18. Does the process or program help the catechists to understand that the adults that they are working with are the protagonists of their own faith journey?
- Yes
- No
19. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand and honour the life experience of the adults gathering for formation?
- Yes
- No

### Knowledge specific to Children and Youth Catechists

20. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the pedagogy of passing on the faith?
- Yes
- No
21. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the developmental stages of children and youth?
- Yes
- No
22. Does the process or program help the catechist to develop lesson plans based on the learning cycle?
- Yes
- No
23. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand classroom management?
- Yes
- No
24. Does the process or program help the catechist to know and be able to work with the programs and resources particular to the diocese or eparchy?
- Yes
- No
25. Does the process or program give an overview of the catechetical resources endorsed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops?
- Yes
- No

## On-Going Catechist Formation

An on-going catechist is one who has had the experience of being formed in the basics of catechesis. This stage of formation enables the catechist to grow and mature in the work of catechesis.<sup>4</sup>

1. Does the process or program offer the catechist a deeper knowledge of the mystery of Christ, promoting the Trinitarian experience of life in Christ as the centre of the life of faith?  
 Yes  
 No
2. Does the process or program deepen the catechist's knowledge of the Sacred Scripture?  
 Yes  
 No
3. Does the process or program offer an understanding of salvation history?  
 Yes  
 No
4. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the development of the Creed and the meaning of the Creed as a statement of belief?  
 Yes  
 No
5. Does the process or program help the catechist to discover the rich history of the Church?  
 Yes  
 No
6. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the place of Sacred Tradition and its significance in the Catholic Church?  
 Yes  
 No
7. Does the process or program help the catechist to become knowledgeable of the Vatican II documents and the social teachings of the Church?  
 Yes  
 No

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<sup>4</sup> This section has used the work of the WCCRE on Recommendation #5 regarding the definition of *On-Going Catechist Formation*, and required content formation items for both of these levels. The work done for this section of *The Sower Went Out to Sow* was also based on the requirements for catechist formation from the *GDC*.

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8. Does the process or program explore with the catechist current issues of ethics and morality?  
 Yes  
 No
  
9. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the relationship between liturgy and catechesis?  
 Yes  
 No
  
10. Does the process or program help the catechist to deepen their knowledge of prayer and spirituality?  
 Yes  
 No
  
11. Does the process or program help the catechist to deepen their experience of prayer and spirituality?  
 Yes  
 No
  
12. Does the process or program offer the catechist opportunities to develop different types of skills to enhance their role as a catechist?  
 Yes  
 No
  
13. Does the process or program help the catechist to deepen their understanding of their role as a catechist?  
 Yes  
 No
  
14. Does the process or program help the catechist to develop the necessary skills for planning liturgies and presiding at prayer services?  
 Yes  
 No
  
15. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the relationship between catechesis and evangelization?  
 Yes  
 No

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16. Does the process or program present the catechist different types of learning styles?
- Yes
- No
17. Does the process or program help the catechist to become an educator – with an ability to be attentive to people, an ability to interpret or respond to educational tasks or initiatives in organizing learning activities, and the ability of leading a group toward maturity?
- Yes
- No
18. Does the process or program employ the sciences in the light of faith in order to help the catechist to have a deeper understanding of people and the reality in which they live?
- Yes
- No
19. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the different stages of faith development?
- Yes
- No
20. Does the process or program help the catechist to understand the cultural and demographic realities of their particular diocese or eparchy?
- Yes
- No
21. Does the process or program assist the catechist in working with the particular cultural and demographic realities of their diocese or eparchy?
- Yes
- No
22. Does the process or program help the catechist to mature on their own faith journey as a believer?
- Yes
- No

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23. Does the process or program offer the catechist personal development workshops?

Yes

No

24. Are there opportunities offered to mature catechists to pursue certified courses in religious studies and/or theology?

Yes

No