

### Section Three

## What is the Next Step for Your Particular Situation regarding Catechist Formation according to the *GDC*?

...the quality of any form of pastoral activity is placed at risk if it does not rely on truly competent and trained personnel. The instruments provided for catechesis cannot be truly effective unless well used by trained catechists. Thus the adequate formation of catechists cannot be overlooked by concerns such as the updating of texts and re-organization of catechesis. Consequently, diocesan pastoral programmes must give absolute priority to the formation of lay catechists...<sup>1</sup>

The formation of lay catechists cannot ignore the specific character of the laity in the Church, and cannot be regarded as merely a synthesis of the mission received by priests and religious. Rather, “their apostolic formation acquires a special character precisely from the secular nature of the lay state and from its particular type of spirituality”.<sup>2</sup>

To ensure excellent catechist formation takes more than having an excellent process or program. Consideration must also be given to the who, where, and how of the process or program.

The following questions will first help the diocese or eparchy to look at where they are now in terms of their formation process or program for catechist formation. The second set of questions will help the diocese or eparchy plan for the next step required to ensure excellent catechist formation.

### Step One: Current Situation

1. What process or programs are currently being offered in the diocese or eparchy for catechist formation?

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2. How often is the current process or programs offered?

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<sup>1</sup> *GDC*, 234

<sup>2</sup> *GDC*, 237

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3. Who does the teaching?
- local catechetical coordinators
  - parish priest
  - diocesan or eparchial catechetical director
  - specialized resource person
  - other \_\_\_\_\_
4. How is the learning offered?
- in person
  - through reading material
  - DVD with a written study guide
  - audio and video podcasts
  - topic specific blog
  - video conferencing
  - webinars
  - online course
  - website links for further learning
  - other \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is there a communal aspect to the diocesan or eparchial catechist formation?
- Yes
  - No
6. Have you done an assessment of the current diocesan or eparchial catechetical process or program?
- Yes
  - No
7. Does the process or program being offered meet the criteria for catechetical formation laid out by the *GDC*?
- Yes
  - No

8. Have you done a needs assessment with the catechists?  
(Section One above would help the diocese or eparchy determine who their catechists are—for example, moms just trying to get their children through the sacraments, or those who are called to be catechists beyond their own personal needs.)
- Yes
- No

### Step Two: Planning for the Future

1. Is there an established time within the yearly calendar for catechist formation?
- Yes
- No
2. Will the process or program offered be systematic and comprehensive?
- Yes
- No
3. At what level of the Church will the catechist formation occur?
- parish
- deanery
- diocesan or eparchial
- inter-diocesan or inter-eparchial
- other \_\_\_\_\_
4. What levels of formation will be provided?
- initial catechist formation
- ongoing catechist formation
- both initial and ongoing catechist formation
5. Who will facilitate the formation sessions?
- local catechetical coordinators
- parish priest
- diocesan or eparchial catechetical director
- specialized resource person
- other \_\_\_\_\_

6. How will learning be offered?
- in person
  - through reading material
  - DVD with a written study guide
  - audio and video podcasts
  - topic specific blog
  - webinar
  - video conferencing
  - online course
  - website links for further learning
  - other \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who will coordinate the formation?
- parish catechetical coordinators
  - parish priest
  - diocesan or eparchial catechetical director
  - other \_\_\_\_\_
8. Will there be a certificate offered at the completion of the process or program?
- Yes
  - No
9. How will the funding be provided for the process or program?
- catechist
  - parish
  - deanery
  - diocese or eparchy
  - sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_
  - shared partnership \_\_\_\_\_
  - other \_\_\_\_\_

10. How frequently will the diocese or eparchy incorporate a process of ongoing evaluation of catechist formation?

semi-annually

annually

bi-annually

other \_\_\_\_\_