



DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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Dear Catechetical Leader,

I am pleased to present the revised *Guidelines for Obtaining the California Catechist Certificate and Renewal* to be used in catechist formation programs throughout the state of California, and which have been adapted for use in the Diocese of Oakland. These guidelines outline the process and standards whereby a catechist can gain or renew the *California Catechist Certificate*, also known as the certificate for “Basic Certification.”

The guidelines were developed to promote effective catechesis and to standardize the quality of the formation of catechists in our diocese. The promulgation of these guidelines comes at the end of a nearly two-year process of extensive consultation among the Catholic Bishops of California with the Directors of Catechetical Ministry, the Superintendents of Catholic Schools, the Directors of Youth Ministry, and the Directors of Adult Faith Formation.

I call upon all catechists to be well prepared to carry out the great mission which Christ entrusted to his Church when he said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28:19). More than ever, we need catechists who can transmit the Deposit of Faith with confidence and joy. Pope John Paul II recognized this saying, “The most valuable gift that the Church can offer to the bewildered and restless world of our time is to form within it Christians who are confirmed in what is essential and who are humbly joyful in their faith” (CT 61).

The Serra Catechetical Institute is a diocesan program for granting Basic Certification and I invite you to participate in this program, or others which have been approved through the diocesan offices. I express my deep gratitude and prayerful support to everyone involved in the essential ministry of catechesis in the Church, and I pray for you as we advance the mission to know Christ better and make Him better known.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Salvatore J. Cordileone".

The Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Bishop of Oakland