

NORM 16

Norm Description: The Bishop is to encourage all catechists to attend the Catechist Accreditation in Religious Education (CARE) program. This program is to be offered annually in each deanery. Additional models, using creative and flexible approaches beyond the CARE program, are also to be made available.

Department or Office with Primary Responsibility: Office for Catechesis

Departments or Offices with Secondary responsibility: Bishop, Department of Education

Person Submitting Plan: Cele Regan

Goal: The Bishop is to encourage all catechists to attend the Catechist Accreditation in Religious Education (CARE) program as well as pursue continuing formation beyond CARE.

Objectives:2009-2010

1. Bishop Bootkoski, as keynote speaker at the 2009 Catechetical Congress, will address this norm directly to the 500+ catechists who attend and encourage formation (completed November, 2009).
2. Continue to encourage the Bishop's participation in all major catechetical events to witness his support of catechetical ministry in this Diocese (completed & ongoing).
3. Encourage catechists to participate in formation through personal outreach by the Bishop: letters to catechists, diocesan policy, personal contact and homilies, with awarding of certification by the Bishop at the Catechetical Congress (ongoing through 2012).
4. Encourage the Bishop, as the one bearing responsibility for the overall direction of catechesis in our Diocese (GDC#222), to remind pastors and priests to make their own continuing catechetical formation a priority (GDC #234) (completed November, 2009).

2010-2011

1. Develop criteria for “Catechist of the Year,” one for each parish that will include completion of accreditation requirements, ongoing formation, and outstanding service to the parish community, with recognition by the Bishop (June, 2011).
2. Choose one diocesan “Catechist of the Year” and two honorable mentions who meet the criteria from the parish “Catechist of the Year” on a yearly basis, with recognition and award by the Bishop at the Catechetical Congress (June, 2011).
3. Ask *The Catholic Spirit* to write human interest stories on the honorees and list the names of those nominated by their parishes (June, 2011).

2011-2012

1. Evaluate and adapt catechist formation according to perceived needs, and encourage the Bishop to be an advocate for initial and continuing accreditation/formation (June, 2012).