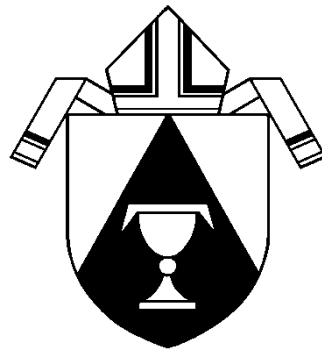


Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

2023



Ministry Specialization Guidelines

Office of Family and Faith Formation

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Background

California Catholic Conference Guidelines (2009)

“IV. Catechizing the People of God in Diverse Settings

Certification for specialized areas should include a comprehensive course of formation and instruction in the above-mentioned content areas [basic certification classes] as well as formation pertinent to that particular specialization. This includes:

A. That the catechist “must take into consideration all the human factors of a particular age level in order to present the Gospel message in a vital and compelling way” [NDC, p. 187].

B. That skills training for particular catechetical areas such as: whole community catechesis, adult catechesis, the elderly, young adults, adolescent catechesis, comprehensive youth ministry, family catechesis, elementary, early childhood, and catechesis for those with special needs. Skills training may also focus on areas such as RCIA, Scripture Study, Infant Baptism, Restorative Justice, specific cultural groups, life long faith formation.” (*CCC guidelines, p.9*)

Diocesan Strategic Plan (2012)

“Develop basic level specialization courses in several pastoral areas to be offered twice per year. These courses will satisfy the California Catholic Conference Basic Certification Standards. Such courses will include: catechesis, sacramental catechesis, new media evangelization, RCIA, youth & young adult ministry, natural family planning, marriage preparation, liturgy, social justice, respect life issues, marriage preparation and family life, as well as special needs ministry.” (*p.8*)

Diocesan Ministry Series Specializations

Purpose: The Diocese of Sacramento offers various Ministry Series Specializations that aim to provide an intermediate level of holistic faith formation with focus on pastoral skills and spiritual development for lay leaders.

Selection Criteria:

To be a candidate for certification in each Specialization, participants must also:

- a. Hold a valid Basic Catechist/Ministry Certificate
- b. At least one year of ministry experience in the chosen ministry specialization
- c. Open to provide orientation to new candidates in this area of ministry in the parish

Ministry Specializations Certification:

In order to receive a Ministry Specialization certificate the candidate must fulfill the following requirements:

- A. Coursework (30-40 hours)
 - a. Theology of the ministry/Important Church Documents
 - b. Best Practices
 - c. Skills Training
 - d. Resources / Diocesan Guidelines
- B. Spiritual Development
 - a. Candidates are encouraged to participate in a spiritual retreat once a year.
- C. Intercultural Competence
 - a. Candidates must complete the course, Building Intercultural Competency for Ministers (after Summer 2023)

Expiration and Renewal of Ministry Specialization Certification:

Certification expires at the end of four years from the date of issue. Renewal of Certification should be done every four years. The purpose of Renewal of Certification is to encourage Lay Ministers/Apostles to avail themselves of the opportunity for ongoing formation. Renewal requires at least 30 hours of ongoing ministry specialization training.

Teachers:

Teachers for Ministry Specialization courses are diocesan Master Catechists (or other diocesan endorsed lay presenters), diocesan clergy, deacons and religious or diocesan approved outside experts.

Ongoing formation:

Ministry Series are offered yearly. Participants who complete the series and receive a Specialization Certificate are encouraged to attend ongoing ministry series trainings as well.