

## **Christ in the Classroom Catechetical Certification for Catholic School Administrators and Teaching Faculty**

The Christ in the Classroom Program (CIC) has been designed to communicate core premises of the Catholic faith so Catholic school administrators and teaching faculty (certified or pending certification; Catholic or non-Catholic) can teach students by **centering all aspects of school life in the person of Jesus Christ**.

### **Christ in the Classroom Foundation Annual Catechetical Certification for Catholic Schools**

The Christ in the Classroom Foundation (CIC Foundation) is required for **ALL** Catholic school administrators and teaching faculty (PreK - 12) annually. The Christ in the Classroom Foundation is intended to be a starting point, not a destination, rather a catechetical foundation for all Catholic schools. The Christ in the Classroom Foundation invests in the school administrators and the teaching faculty of the school community to respond to our vocational call to pass on the gift of our Catholic faith to all in our care.

### **Christ in the Classroom Foundation – Program Requirements**

- A. A Catechetical Introductory Retreat that is 5 hours of instruction and integrates core catechetical content extracted directly from the Archdiocesan PreK - 12 Religion Standards and Curriculum.
- B. This Retreat will affirm the identity of our Catholic faith – what we believe, how we celebrate, how we live, how we pray, how we live in community, and whom we are called to serve. (Six Tasks of Catechesis)
- C. Retreat time will include moments for Sacred Scripture, witness and testimony (faith sharing), personal reflection, and mission effectiveness extensions to bring the learning back into the school.
- D. An Annual Retreat that is 5 hours of instruction, focused on bringing Christ into the individual teacher's classroom and back into the school environment.
  - i. The CIC Retreat day will be an annual experience for each school.
  - ii. The CIC Retreat day will occur at the local school, with the school administrator (with support from the local CIC Leadership team) leading the annual retreat.
  - iii. Nominal costs will be incurred by the local school. OCS will create all CIC Program materials and resources.
- E. Annual Catechetical certification through the CIC Foundation will be achieved through participation in an annual Retreat day (5 clock hours) plus the completion of an OCS clock hour evaluation form.

### **2017 - 2018 Implementation Plan for the Christ in the Classroom Foundation Annual Catechetical Certification for Catholic Schools**

1. It is expected that the super-majority of Catholic schools will earn their CIC Foundation Certification in the 2017 - 2018 school year. ALL schools will secure CIC Foundation Certification by the 2018 - 2019 school year.
2. The School Leaders CIC Retreat on September 21 - 22, 2017 will be reformatted and designed to provide all school leaders with the 5 hours Catechetical Introductory Session. Our Facilitator will be Rev. Ron Nuzzi, University of Notre Dame.
3. Teacher Excellence Day (TED) scheduled for Friday, October 6, 2017 has been suspended for 2017. Friday, October 6th will be used by school leaders to present the Catechetical Introductory Retreat to their respective teaching faculty at the local school.

4. The 2017 – 2018 OCS Calendar secured a mid-Winter Retreat Day, suggested for Friday, Feb. 16, 2018. This second CIC Retreat Day will be designed for 5 additional clock hours. CIC Retreat materials will be available for all schools to use. The annual Fall Leadership Retreat will now focus on CIC Foundation content which will then be replicated through the local October Local CIC Foundation Retreats. By the Fall of 2019, each school is encouraged to plan two Christ in the Classroom Retreats annually (ie: October Retreat and the Mid-Winter Retreat).
5. CIC Resources will be developed and share on-going to support each school's quest to strengthen Catholic identity, promote strong mission effectiveness strategies, and deepen their local knowledge of the Catholic Northwest History curriculum.

## **Christ in the Classroom Level I**

### **Requirements for Teaching Faculty and School Leaders**

1. ALL teachers responsible for teaching the PreK – 12 Religion Curriculum and Standards shall have up to three years to complete Christ in the Classroom Program (CIC) Level I Catechetical Certification through a program that has been vetted and approved by OCS.
2. Level I Catechetical Certification is also required for ALL elementary school administrators who are charged to “motivate and supervise the teaching staff in the development, maintenance and improvement of the Religion program and other areas of the curriculum” (Language from the Principal Covenants).
  - i. Level I Catechetical Certification is highly encouraged for secondary administrators who are charged to “motivate and supervise the teaching staff in the development, maintenance and improvement of the Religion program and other areas of the curriculum” (Language from the Principal Covenants) but not required.
3. CIC Level I Catechetical Certification would be granted to those school administrators and teaching faculty who have attained the OCFE Catechetical Certification Program (CCP) documentation or will attain it by July 31, 2018.
  - i. It is highly recommended to seek out these leaders to serve as consultants on the local CIC Leadership Team.

## **Christ in the Classroom Level I Implementation**

During the 2017 - 2018 school year, the OCS will provide our Catholic schools with the vetted and approved online Catechetical Certification program information for schools.

- i. Basic Catechist Certification Sessions through [Symbolon](#), an online platform, through the [Augustine Institute](#)\*. **Symbolon**, is a different online subscription than formed.org. The Symbolon program has additional features such as videos, study guides, quizzes, and a catechist tracking mechanism.

Level I Catechetical Certification for Catholic schools can be achieved through a school faculty-led initiative using the approved program or when necessary, individually.

*\*Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle, currently serves on the Bishops' Advisory Board for the Augustine Institute.*

## Office for Catholic Schools Policy\* for Catechetical Certification for Catholic Schools

2.1 (A) The Catholic religious instruction and education in the Catholic school are subject to the Archbishop (Canon 804). Curriculum for religion will be consistent with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, conform with the guidelines of the Archdiocese for curricula, and be developmentally appropriate and relevant to students' lives.

2.1 (B) The Christ in the Classroom Foundation (CIC Foundation) is required for ALL Catholic school administrators and teaching faculty (PreK-12) annually. The teaching and assessing of religion in all Catholic schools shall be subject to the same standards of professionalism and excellence as all subjects in the school to include, but not be restricted to, allocation of resources, teacher professional development, evaluation, assessment and hours of instruction.

2.1 (C) ALL teachers responsible for teaching the PreK-12 Religion Curriculum and Standards must be practicing Catholics, witnesses to the faith, and participating in the Christ in the Classroom Program – Level 1 Catechetical Certification for Catholic schools. Teachers shall have up to three years to complete Christ in the Classroom Program (CIC) Level 1 Catechetical Certification through a program that has been vetted and approved by OCS.

2.1 (D) ALL elementary school administrators must be practicing Catholics, witnesses to the faith, and participating in the Christ in the Classroom Program –CIC Foundation and Level 1 Catechetical Certification for Catholic schools.

2.1 (E) ALL secondary school administrators must be practicing Catholics, witnesses to the faith, and participating in the Christ in the Classroom Program –CIC Foundation. Level 1 Catechetical Certification for Catholic Schools is highly encouraged for secondary administrators.

2.1 (F) CIC Level 1 Catechetical Certification would be granted to those school administrators and teaching faculty who have attained the Office for Catholic Faith Formation (OCFF) Catechetical Certification Program (CCP) documentation or will attain the certification by July 31, 2018.

- It is highly recommended to seek out these leaders to serve as consultants on the local CIC Leadership Team.

2.1 (G) Teachers and administrators with advanced degrees in theology/religious studies from an accredited Catholic university, or those transferring into the Archdiocese with a Catechist Certification from another diocese, will participate in approved OCS or CIC programs as appropriate.

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