

Diocese of Wheeling – Charleston Catechist Certification

Prior to 2021 – 2022 School Year, all DWC diocesan schools required only Religion teachers or Catechists to be trained by attending religion formation classes through the University of Dayton VLCFF online courses. These courses were usually a semester long in length.

Four levels of certification were required:

- I Practitioner Level (5 modules)
- II Professional Level I (4 modules)
- III Professional Level II (4 modules)
- IV Advanced/Masters Level B.A. in Theology or Religious Studies. M.A. in Theology or Religious Studies would automatically qualify as Masters Level.

Beginning with the 2021 – 2022 School Year, Bishop Brennan approved the expansion of the Religious Certification training to include all teachers in a catholic school. This included Teachers in preschool through grade 12.

Through the cooperation between the Catholic Schools Office, Bishop Mark Brennan and the collective body of catholic school principals, a curriculum was implemented that provided sound Catholic doctrine and community building activities within a 60 minute format that was formative and ongoing.

Through the **Sophia Institute** in conjunction with the Catholic Schools Office, a three year cycle of Religious Knowledge training was developed which enables all teachers, no matter what subject area is taught, to deepen knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Year I – Practitioner Level

Essentials in Belief Course:

- I believe in God
- God the Son I
- God the Son II
- Holy Spirit
- The Church
- Our Eternal Reward

Year II – Professional Level I

The Sacraments and Discipleship Course

- Encountering God's Love in the Sacraments
- The Sacraments of Initiation
- The Eucharist
- The Sacraments of Healing

- Holy Matrimony
- Holy Orders

Year III – Professional Level II

Spirituality of a Teacher Course

- Spirituality for Teachers
- Teaching as a Vocation
- Being Inspired and Uplifted
- Doing the Little Virtues
- Avoiding the Big Temptations
- The Never-Ending Need to Know

Ongoing Formation – Beginning with year #4 and each year following, teachers & principals attend a minimum of one lass per year that enhances their life as a teacher or administrator in a Catholic school.