

St. Monica RCIA Catechist

Job Description

RCIA for uncatechized children/teens with their parents usually begins the Thursday after Labor Day. In less than nine months, meeting weekly, the job of the Catechist is to introduce the youth to Christ & the Catholic Church – helping them to begin “to put on Christ” with the help and direction of their parents, as disciples in the Catholic Church. It is a big task, but Catechists support one another and help is provided!

RCIA Catechist TASKS

1. Prepare by participating in Safe & Sacred and the background check
2. Know the Curriculum, Resources, Goals, & Schedule
3. Attend the monthly Team Meetings – see Calendar
4. Set tone of welcome/hospitality/personal growth for children/teens
5. Prepare Lessons based on weekly session goals & materials – as well as the progress of youth in your class
6. Take Attendance: set aside the week’s materials for absent children/teens
7. Use the assessment form to asses individual student progress, quarterly
8. Teach on designated evenings: Open classroom at 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm
9. Pray for students – weekly or as often as possible
10. Celebrate the Rites with the Youth/RCIA: Help with Rites Check-In and/or Ushering as much as possible

[Link to “Safe & Sacred” Training](http://safeandsacredarchindy.org/login/index.php)

<http://safeandsacredarchindy.org/login/index.php>

What is the GOAL/PURPOSE of Catechesis?

“...at the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth...It is Jesus who is ‘the way, and the truth, and the life,’ [John 14:6] and Christian living consists in following Christ...”

“The primary and essential object of catechesis...is therefore to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God’s design reaching fulfillment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ’s actions and words and of the signs worked by him, for they simultaneously hide and reveal his mystery.

Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.

“Christocentricity in catechesis also means the intention to transmit not one’s own teaching or that of some other master, but the teaching of Jesus Christ, the Truth that he communicates or, to put it more precisely, the Truth that he is.”

St. Pope John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae*, 1979, #5, 6

Three “Vital Behaviors” of a DISCIPLE

1. PERSONAL PRAYER
 - To know God’s will and ask for help in following
2. LIFE in COMMUNITY: SCRIPTURE & EUCHARIST
 - Encounter God & neighbor – in worship & in daily living
3. RECEIVE & SHARE GOD’S LOVE & MERCY
 - Share with all persons – close & far

Necessary Qualities of the Catechist

Faithful & growing in daily prayer, weekly Eucharist/full Sacramental Life

Attentive to God

Desires to serve others – Attentive to needs of others

Desires to bring others to Christ

Enjoys children/teens

Believes in the work of the Holy Spirit within us

Loves the People of God, the Catholic Church & Catholic Tradition/teaching

Possesses a whole-family perspective in working with children/teens

Able to cooperate/work as member of a team: Patient/Flexible

Organized/Responsible – Able to plan Lessons, Track Attendance

Willing to give one’s time: generous

Possessing skills in teaching & relating with children/teens

Energized rather than drained by participation in Catechetical Ministry