

**RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, AND RETENTION OF CATECHETICAL PERSONNEL**

For programs under the jurisdiction of the parish, the recruitment and selection of volunteers shall primarily be the responsibility of the Pastor and C/DRE. In addition, others may be requested to assist in the interview process.

Only those individuals grounded in faith, willing to support Gospel values and Catholic teaching, and willing to inspire students through their word and example may be selected or retained as volunteers in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Volunteers are expected to maintain the quality of their faith commitment and their willingness to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church. Volunteers who espouse, by word or action, practices contrary to the teachings of the Catholic faith will be dismissed.

Catechetical volunteers are expected to fulfill the Sunday liturgical obligations and otherwise participate fully in the life of their Catholic parish.

All parish catechists must be committed to on-going personal religious education and formation. They are to complete the requirements for the Basic Catechetical Certificate, and are encouraged to further their formation with additional certificates and certification available through the diocesan programs for catechists.

Reciprocity may be extended to those catechists holding certification from other dioceses with similar requirements. The Diocesan Director of Religious Education will make the necessary determination.

The Diocese of Harrisburg requires catechists and other volunteers to have the Pennsylvania State Police (and FBI Background check if applicable) and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Background check.

Age requirements for volunteers and catechists:

**Catechist for Elementary Students (pre-school to grade 8)**

Catechists are to be at least 21 years old. (In exceptional cases, a catechist may be a High School graduate and a minimum of 18 years old. Catechists between 18 and 21 may only supervise students in the parish educational building, under the general supervision of the C/DRE.)

**Catechist for Secondary Students (grades 9-12)**

Must be at least 21 years old.

Catechist or Chaperone for off-campus trips

Must be at least 21 years old to drive students or to serve as a chaperone for students on trips away from the parish property, or for any over-night retreats or other activities.

Student Volunteers

High School students are permitted to serve as volunteer assistants in the parish religious education programs. They must assist an adult catechist (21 years old), and may never be responsible for supervising children alone. As minor students, they must be considered to be always under the direct care or supervision of an adult, as with any other younger student.

Policy

Revised:

September 1, 2008

KCR/Bishop of Harrisburg