

## **Advanced Leadership Formation** **for Coordinators of Religious Education (*GDC 144*)**

For Coordinators of Religious Education, the Advanced Leadership Formation is the second step in completing the *Catechetical Leadership Program*. There are nine courses each consisting of eight three-hour sessions. They provide in-depth preparation in theology, catechesis and catechetical administration. Coordinators are required to take all eight courses.

The pre-requisites for entrance into this program are completion of the Catechist Formation Program, Levels 1 and 2, and the Basic Leadership Training Course.

For Directors of Religious Education, most of the courses in this program have been taken in their Master's Program (in Theology, Religious Studies, Religious Education). Directors are urged to take the courses that they have not had in the Master's program.

For persons with a Masters in Education, completing the Advanced Leadership Formation will allow them to become a Director of Religious Education.

# Contents of Advanced Leadership Formation

## ***Development of the Christian Person***

Studies the development of the Christian person according to Catholic spirituality and human psychology and provides a practicum in leadership styles.

### *Course Outline:*

- The Family and the Development of the Person
- Cognitive Development
- Stages of Faith Formation
- Moral Development
- Forms of Prayer in the Catholic Tradition
- Spiritual Traditions especially the Ignatian “Contemplation in Action”

## ***Christology***

Provides an overview of the Church’s understanding of the person and mission of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures and the development of Christology in the history and tradition of the Church.

### *Course Outline:*

- Christology of St. Paul
- Gospel Christologies
- Christology in Selected Other New Testament Writings
- Biblical Research on the Historical Jesus and the Christ of Faith
- Development of Christology in Church History especially the Ecumenical Councils
- Understanding of Jesus Christ through Prayer and Christian Mysticism

## ***Church Documents***

Presents the rich tradition of Church documents from the period of the early Church to the present with a special emphasis on the Second Vatican Council.

### *Course Outline:*

- Church Documents: their purpose, author(s), types
- Vatican Council II
- Social Justice Documents
- Catechetical Documents

## ***Morality***

Presents Catholic morality and explores the criteria for moral decision-making

### *Course Outline:*

#### Nature of Moral Theology:

- Faith and Morality
- Contemporary Moral Theology

#### Nature of the Human Person:

- The Human Person
- Freedom and Knowledge
- Sin and Kinds of Sin

#### Formation of Conscience:

- Moral Decision Making
- Discernment of Spirits

#### Criteria for Judgment:

- Scripture in Moral Theology
- Jesus and Discipleship
- Church Teachings on the Moral Life

#### Natural Law:

- Concept of Natural Law in Tradition and in Current Catholic Morality
- Law and Obedience
- Morality of Human Actions

#### Grace and Virtues:

- Grace: Its Meaning and Its Effects
- The Human Virtues
- The Theological Virtues
- The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

### ***The Church: Its History to the Present***

Provides an exploration of the development of the Church as affected by sociological, political and historical factors:

#### *Course Outline:*

- Early Church: Pentecost to the Edict of Milan (313)  
Council of Nicea
  
- Church in the Dark Ages: 4<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Centuries  
Council of Constantinople,  
Council of Ephesus,  
Council of Chalcedon
  
- Church in the Middle Ages: 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries  
Lateran Council 4,  
Council of Florence
  
- Reformation: 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries  
Council of Trent,  
Vatican Council 1
  
- Church in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Vatican Council II
  
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## ***History of the Sacraments***

Presents the theological and historical development of the seven Catholic sacraments.

### *Course Outline:*

- Baptism and Christian Initiation
  - Baptism in Middle Ages,
  - Baptism in Modern Times
  
- Confirmation and Christian Initiation
  - Age of Confirmation through history
  - Confirmation in Modern times
  
- Eucharist
  - From the Last Supper to the Liturgy
  - Development of the Liturgy through the centuries
  - Changes in the Eucharistic Liturgy after Vatican Council II
  - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: Vatican Council II*
  
- Penance
  - Repentance and Reconciliation in Early Christianity
  - Confession and Penance in Middle Ages
  - Sacrament of Penance in Modern Times
  
- Anointing of the Sick
  - Healing and Anointing in the Early Church
  - From Anointing of the Sick to “Extreme Unction”
  - Anointing of the Sick in Modern Times
  
- Marriage
  - Early Christian Marriage
  - From Secular to Ecclesiastical Marriage
  - Marriage understood as Sacrament
  - Marriage in Modern Times
  
- Orders
  - Christian Ministries in the Early Church
  - Development of understanding of “Orders”: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - Holy Orders in the Middle Ages
  - Catholic Priesthood after the Reformation and the Council of Trent
  - Orders in the Church Today

### **The Catechetical Leader and Evangelizing Catechesis**

Presents an overview of the Church's understanding of evangelizing catechesis, including the nature and the history of evangelization and catechesis and its multi-cultural context.

#### *Course Outline:*

- Development of Catechetical Ministry from Early Church to Present
- Evangelization and Catechesis
- The Changing Parish Landscape
- The Multi-cultural Catechetical Program
- Promotion of the Parish Catechetical Program.

### **Catechetical Leadership**

Helps the Coordinator to identify personal leadership styles and skills and to explore ways to apply them in the Parish Program.

#### *Course Outline:*

- Inculturation
- Personality Types and Leadership Styles According to the Myers Briggs Inventory
- Profiles of Catechetical Leader as presented in Archdiocesan Handbook
- Collaborative Leadership: Relational Skills as presented in Archdiocesan Handbook
- Supervision, Evaluation and Professional Guidance of Catechists
- Evaluation of Parish Catechetical Program and its Personnel

### **Communication and Administration Skills**

Teaches the communication skills necessary for effective parish catechetical ministry, focusing on listening skills, interviewing, group management, effective oral and written communication, digital communication, public speaking and conflict management.

#### *Course Outline:*

- Oral Communication Skills and Skills in Public Speaking
- Written Communication Skills
- Listening Skills
- Group Management Skills
- Skills in Delegation
- Interviewing Skills
- Conflict Management Skills