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: 4th through 10th Centuries
  Council of Constantinople,
  Council of Ephesus,
  Council of Chalcedon

- Church in the Middle Ages: 11th through 15th Centuries
  Lateran Council 4,
  Council of Florence

- Reformation: 16th through 19th Centuries
  Council of Trent,
  Vatican Council 1

- Church in the 20th Century
  Vatican Council II
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\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} 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