

Catholic School Orientation (CSO) for new teachers/principals

(Courses marked with also count toward Basic Level Catechetical Certification. All courses are 5 hours in length unless otherwise noted.)

CSO consists of a total of 5 sessions:

John 3:16 --- The Gospel and Catholic Schools

This in-service (9:00 – 3:00) focuses upon the Gospel message of Christ and the distinctive nature and mission of a Catholic school. It can be fulfilled only by attending the large group in-service (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) offered jointly by the Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Catechesis. It is ordinarily offered once per year in early November.

Introduction to Scripture

This course will provide a brief introduction to a Catholic approach to the nature and interpretation of the Bible, and then proceed to an overview of some key figures, events and themes. The focus of the course is biblical theology (rather than exegetical methods, theories of composition, etc.) Particular emphasis is given to how Old Testament figures, events and themes of salvation history prepare for, prefigure and culminate in the coming of Christ and his New Covenant people, the Church (typology). Likewise, emphasis is given to the portraits of Jesus as presented in the Gospels --- and how these portraits complement each other and together provide a rich composite picture of Christ. The substance of the early apostolic message of salvation in Christ (kerygma) will also be studied. Finally, the relationship of Scripture to the liturgical life of the Church, as well as the practical use of Scripture for devotion and ministry, will be addressed (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd edition, numbers 50- 141; 1093-1103 and 1333-1334; and the *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, Vatican II 1965).

The Creed

Students will be introduced to the foundational Truths of the Catholic Faith as they are summarized in the Creed (Apostles/Nicene) and proclaimed by the Church. Topics to include: Divine Revelation; Trinity, Creation, Angels; the Fall and its effects; Jesus' Incarnation, Redemption, Second Coming; Holy Spirit, new life through divine grace; Church; Blessed Virgin Mary; Communion of Saints; the Last Things. (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd edition, "The Profession of Faith," numbers 26-1065).

Prayer and Sacraments

This course begins with a brief overview of Christian prayer, focusing on the Our Father (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd edition, numbers 2558-2865). Then students will study the foundational principles of Catholic liturgical and sacramental theology, and overview the seven sacraments in the Roman tradition (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd edition, "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery," numbers 1066-1690).

☑ Catholic Moral Teaching

This course provides an introduction to Catholic moral teaching. Topics include: natural moral law, divine revelation, magisterium, human person, formation of conscience, Ten Commandments, virtue, nature of sin, morally good acts, morally evil acts, conversion; necessity of divine grace for living out Catholic moral teaching. A key emphasis: far from being an obstacle to freedom and fulfillment, Christian morality marks out the path to true life, freedom and happiness (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd Edition, “Life in Christ,” numbers 1691-2557).

Basic Catechetical Certification

- **New** principals and **religion** teachers are required to complete both the CSO and the Basic Level Catechetical Certification; but this means completing only one additional course beyond the CSO series: “Introduction to Catechetics”
- For principals who are **not** new, the combination of their Second Year Principals program and their NTMO satisfies the Basic Level certification
- For religion teachers who are **not** new, but lack a Basic level Catechetical Certification (or its equivalent), they are to complete the 4 courses from the CSO curriculum (Introduction to Scripture, The Creed, Prayer and Sacraments, and Catholic Moral Teaching) and the Introduction to Catechetics course below:

☑ Introduction to Catechetics

This course provides parish catechists and religion teachers with an introduction to the nature of catechesis as this is articulated in key documents of the Church, as well as an overview of basic catechetical techniques. Use of various audio-visual media in catechetical ministry is also addressed. Sources include: *The National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) from the USCCB and the book, The Mystery We Proclaim: Catechesis for the Third Millennium, Francis Kelly, Our Sunday Visitor Press.

Distribution of Certificates

Upon completion of the required level of formation, principals and/or participants are to contact the Office of Catechesis to request the corresponding certificate be mailed (this request is to be accompanied by a copy of the record sheet showing which courses have been completed). The certificate originals are to be kept by each participant, while copies are to be kept on file for each individual at the school.

Questions about Certification Status

For inquiries regarding class dates and sites, or for one’s CSO or catechetical certification status, please contact Suzie Pinkham 419-244-6711 x 330; spinkham@toledodiocese.org