

# St. John Bosco Conference

## *Director of Religious Education Certification*

<http://steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/sjb>

This is a comprehensive plan offering the catechetical and philosophical topics essential to leadership in parish catechetical programs. This plan also covers essential administrative skills, including recruitment and training of catechists, planning and evaluation of curriculum and programs, and managing pastoral and parental relationships. In addition, topics such as evangelization and its link to catechesis, as well as catechetical program organization and assessment will be treated.

Since this track does not present the doctrinal foundation of Catholic teaching grounded in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the candidate for this track is expected to hold an MA in Theology or to pass a significant assessment on the moral and doctrinal teachings of the Catholic Church before completion of the DRE track (see C.4 below). This certification, offered through the St. John Bosco Conference for Catechists and Religious Educators, meets or exceeds the standards for the National Profile of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education set by the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership.

### **A. Registration and Attendance**

Conference participants who would like to participate in the DRE Certification Track must come to Track Check-in on the first day of the conference, after Conference Registration, to confirm your participation in the track. At Conference Registration, they will tell you the location of Track Check-in. Acceptance into the DRE track will not be considered unless this registration has been completed. (**SPECIAL NOTE:** Only twelve to fifteen (12-15) new participants are accepted into the track each year because of the specialized nature of the course of study. Participants are accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.)

Participants pursuing the certification must attend all five Director of Religious Education Certification Track workshops and all general sessions during the week. Attendance will be monitored at all sessions, including the general sessions. An appointment will be scheduled with a member DRE track faculty to discuss the program and determine the participant's objectives and suitability according to the needs and interests of the participant. To complete the track and receive certification, participants must commit **to attend the** five consecutive summers necessary for the full complement of workshops and requirements.

### **B. Administrative Fee**

In order to cover administrative costs to the Office of Catechetics (postage, supplies, photocopying, etc.) **all Director of Religious Education Certification Track participants will be charged a \$20.00 fee each year.** This fee will be paid to the Conference Office with your regular conference and housing costs. Please inform the conference staff that you would like to participate in the Director of Religious Education Certification Track.

### **C. Certification Requirements**

Over five consecutive summers, Director of Religious Education Certification Track participants will attend 35 workshops and 20 general sessions on catechetical methodology, strategies for successful programs, doctrine, Sacred Scripture, legal and pastoral issues, as well as the significant responsibilities of catechetical leaders. Each participant must attend (4) elective workshops as well as the first orientation workshop entitled *The Personality and Profile of the Successful Director of Religious Education*.

Each participant will meet with one of the members of the track faculty for an interview to discuss goals and expectations for the track.

The following are additional requirements:

1. One reflection paper, 8-10 pages, is required each summer. This paper is to address what was part of the DRE track for the most recent summer on the administrative, organizational, and developmental aspects of catechetical leadership as well as the catechetical, formational, and spiritual aspects. (Also, see D. below)
2. During the third year of certification, the candidate will be required to teach a particular audience for 30 minutes on a topic of the candidate's choice. A video of this teaching will be submitted to the DRE track faculty for evaluation according to specified criteria.
3. During the fourth year of certification, the candidate will be required to submit a complete organizational plan for parish Religious Education program according to a specific profile. The plan will then be defended by the candidate during their final summer before the DRE track faculty during an oral question/answer period.
4. The candidate will be required to complete and pass a thirty-six (36) question exam on doctrine and theology as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This test is to be passed prior to completion of the program. First-year track participants must take this exam. There will be three opportunities to pass this exam during the course of certification.

**Sample Catechism Exam Questions** (there may be more than one correct answer):

1. These things must be understood about the transmission of Divine Revelation: (CCC 81, 85)
  - a) there are two distinct modes of transmission — Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
  - b) Divine Revelation is on-going
  - c) the Magisterium of the Church has the task of giving an authentic interpretation of it
2. Which of the following is/are true about the sacraments: (CCC 1118, 1123, 1128, 1134)
  - a) the fruits of the sacraments are personal, not ecclesial
  - b) the sacraments both strengthen faith and express it
  - c) they bear fruit in those who receive them with the proper dispositions
3. Which of the following is/are false concerning venial sin: (CCC 1863)
  - a) several venial sins are equal to a mortal sin
  - b) impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of the virtues
  - c) it is of little consequence for a life of charity
4. Which is/are true of grace: (CCC 1999, 2001, 2027)
  - a) sanctifying grace is the gratuitous gift of His life that God makes to us
  - b) God acts through many actual graces
  - c) no one can merit the initial grace which is at the origin of conversion

**D. Assignments and Guidelines**

The purpose of the reflection/analysis paper is to expand upon the thoughts presented in the workshops and general sessions attended during summer conferences. It is expected that the candidate will describe how the information received applies to their particular ministry situation. Papers are to be typed double-spaced. The paper may be organized at the writer's discretion, but the content of each of the workshops and general sessions must be addressed, and include significant references to readings done outside the conference. Any citations to documents should be made within the text of the paper as follows: (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* or CCC #1234). Do not use endnotes or footnotes.

Papers for this year's conference must be postmarked by **September 19, 2016**, and mailed (or emailed) to the Office of Catechetics at:

**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
**Office of Catechetics**  
**1235 University Blvd.**  
**Steubenville, OH 43952**  
**Email: catechetics@franciscan.edu**

The Office of Catechetics will then forward assignments to the candidate's DRE track faculty advisor. Please make sure the full name and address of the writer as well as the name of the track and the year attended are included clearly on the cover sheet. Papers and projects will be returned to the candidate the following summer.

Questions regarding assignments may be directed to the Office of Catechetics at: (740) 284-5317, or by email: [catechetics@franciscan.edu](mailto:catechetics@franciscan.edu).

### **E. Five Year Workshop Schedule for Director of Religious Education Certification\***

#### **2016**

1. Four General Sessions
2. Religious Education Material Evaluation and Selection
3. Getting Parents involved as Primary Educators
4. The Parish as Workplace: Essential Pastoral Realities and Relationships
5. Scripture: The Big Picture (also in CT track)
6. Catechesis and Inculturation for Diverse Communities, and Persons with Physical or Developmental Disabilities
7. Elective

#### **2017**

1. Four General Sessions
2. Budgeting, Time Management, and Goal Planning for Religious Educators
3. Developing Religious Education Policies and Procedures
4. Philosophy of the Human Person (also in CT track)
5. Selecting and Planning Liturgical and Prayer Experiences for Children
6. The Evangelizing Classroom
7. Elective

#### **2018**

1. Four General Sessions
2. The Deposit of Faith across the Curriculum
3. Penance and Eucharist Preparation

4. Panel on the GDC
5. Legal Issues for DRE's
6. The Essential Link between Liturgy and Catechesis
7. Elective

#### **2019**

1. Four General Sessions
2. Analyzing Doctrine with Doctrinal Keys
3. Confirmation Preparation: Issues, Catechesis and Liturgy
4. Recruiting, Training and Forming Volunteers I
5. Recruiting, Training and Forming Volunteers II
6. Teaching Catechesis for Conversion (also in CT track)
7. Elective

#### **2020**

1. Four General Sessions
2. Program Organization and Assessment: Planning for Success
3. Magisterial, Council, and Catechetical Documents I
4. Magisterial, Council, and Catechetical Documents II
5. Basic Catechetical Methodologies and Learning Styles
6. The Spiritual Life of the Catechist (also in CT track)
7. Elective

\*Workshops subject to change without notice