



Diocese of Green Bay: Office of Families & Schools of Discipleship
Foundational Catechetical Certification
Frequently Asked Questions (July 2021)



Why the changes?

For several years our diocese has used a free platform through Schoology for most of our Foundational Catechetical Certification classes. The free platform is no longer being supported by Schoology. At the same time, the videos and interactive aspects of the classes needed to be updated, made more flexible and robust while at the same time giving greater emphasis to discipleship and to the importance of forming families while improving both the content and delivery. We also wanted to ensure that all the needed Foundational Catechetical Certification classes could be offered online. After two years of research, and the review of a cross-functional team of various diocesan offices determined that Franciscan University of Steubenville Catechetical Institute's *Franciscan at Home* online service was the best option for our diocese. Bishop Ricken and his Leadership Roundtable then approved *Franciscan at Home* as the replacement for the current Schoology based version of Foundational Catechetical Certification.

What's different?

All the Foundational Catechetical Certification classes will now be available online through *Franciscan at Home*. Instead of six ten hour classes (Creed, Sacraments & Liturgy, Prayer & Spirituality, Morality, Bible, and Methods) there will be several one hour long workshops that together will cover everything that was previously covered in those six classes. Also, not everyone will be taking all the same workshops. There will be different tracks of workshops designed specifically for folks with different needs. There is a track for catechists, a track for Catholic school teachers, a track for Catholic school religion teachers, a track for Catholic school administrators and pastoral staff, a track for coordinators of religious education and lastly a track for youth ministers. Another difference is that local mentors will be assigned to each person going through each track and interacting with them after each completed task associated with every workshop. Lastly, Foundational Catechetical Certification through *Franciscan at Home* is especially designed to be used in groups, making it easy and effective for use in catechist or teacher in-services.

How is this seen as an improvement?

First, all the coursework is now accessible online. Second, the audio and visual quality of each workshop will be consistent and professional. Third, all the workshops are done by experts in the areas on which they are presenting. Fourth, the workshops are meant to be as engaging as they are informative to this end the way that they are formulated is heavily influenced by the Montessori approach to instruction. Lastly, the addition of a mentor component strengthens the formation component of the coursework by providing meaningful accompaniment for those taking the workshops.

What about administrators/teachers/catechists that have completed some but not all of the Foundational Catechetical Certification (FCC) coursework (either in person or through Schoology)?

They will only need to complete the *Franciscan at Home* equivalents of the FCC classes that they have not taken yet. Those equivalents will be arranged under the old FCC course headings (e.g., Creed, Morality, etc.) in a special track designed for those who have not fully completed FCC online through Schoology or in person using the previous format for FCC (e.g., Creed, Morality, etc.)

What if a person has a college degree in Theology or related subject, or has completed the Diocesan Commissioned Ministry program?

As in the past, college/commission ministry transcripts (unofficial copies acceptable) may be submitted to the Child and Youth Faith Formation Director for consideration. Credit for appropriate components of Foundational Certification will be granted based on college coursework successfully completed.

What are the costs associated with this plan and who's paying them?

Thanks to a grant from the Catholic Foundation, there is no cost to you associated with taking Foundational Catechetical Certification through *Franciscan at Home*.

Why would a schoolteacher be required to take a Methods component for catechetical certification?

The Methods track for teachers (Faith Integration) will delve into much more than classroom methods, by introducing and developing the ideas of integrating our Catholic faith into all subject areas.

What comes after Foundational Certification?

Once a person has achieved Foundational Certification, the plan calls for ten hours of Ongoing Formation every year, which may be as simple as re-taking Foundational Components as a refresher; or taking ten hours of the hundreds of workshops available through *Franciscan at Home*. In addition, there are several pre-approved adult faith formation options listed on our website.

How will I know what component to offer my teachers/catechists first?

The component workshops can be taken in the order found in their respective track or in any order that the teacher/catechist chooses. A principal/DRE/CRE can also highlight or prioritize various workshops based on the need of the teacher/catechist or of the school/parish: e.g., you can choose to have them take workshops that are related to the Theology of the Body first.

You can check the current status of your teachers/catechists' certification at anytime by utilizing the administrator dashboard on *Franciscan at Home*.

Can the components be offered in person as a group?

Absolutely. We encourage parishes and schools to consider doing the workshops in their respective tracks as a group. This allows for maximum interaction for all involved.

How can I help?

First, you can adopt and promote a positive attitude about this plan for certification. This refined plan builds on the former plan and makes improvements in continuity and content. This plan reflects the Families and Schools of Discipleship Office's efforts to make continual improvements in the certification process while maintaining our conformity to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter:

"Realizing Our Dream for the Call to Holiness – We will deepen our commitment to disciple people and teach them to pray, to teach them to cultivate their relationship with Christ, with the Blessed Mother, and with the Saints to help them to see that within the church there is such a rich treasury of wisdom and knowledge about the spiritual life."

Second, you can encourage catechists/teachers to sign up and begin.

Above all please keep our efforts in your prayers. Forward any questions you have or encounter to the Families and Schools of Discipleship and in particular to the Child and Youth Faith Formation Director. We strive to serve you in your ministry!