

August 2, 2022

Dear Pastor/Administrator,

Thank you for the faithfulness with which you lead your parish community. The Catechetical Office is eager to support you in helping all those you serve to encounter the living God and to grow in missionary discipleship.

A key factor leading to the success of your parish faith formation program is the placement and formation of the Parish Catechetical Leader(s). A Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL):

- is anyone serving as a Pastoral Associate/Director/Coordinator of Catechesis/Religious Education/or Faith Formation at your parish.
- can be lay or ordained.
- can be a full or part-time parish employee and can sometimes be a volunteer.

Our office has already been working with many pastors/administrators in order to prepare for the upcoming catechetical year. If you have recently appointed a new PCL and have not had the opportunity to inform our office, please contact us as soon as possible.

- Parishes in Bergen and Union Counties – Contact Patty Rodriguez, Director, at patricia.rodriguez@rcan.org or 973-497-4297
- Parishes in Essex and Hudson Counties – Contact Joanne DePasquale-Parent, Associate Director, at joanne.depasquale-parent@rcan.org or 973-497-4288

It is important that we have the opportunity to speak with you in order to ensure your new PCL is well prepared and ready to support you in ministry. One of the principal ways in which we do this is by providing the **“Essentials for Parish Catechetical Leaders: Training, Formation, and Preparation”** program. It is expected that all new parish catechetical leaders participate. [CLICK HERE](#) for the complete brochure and registration information. *Accommodations can be made for part-time or volunteer coordinators.* If we are already aware of a transition in your parish, then you have already received this information.

The Catechetical Office understands that parishes have different models of faith formation and approach the leadership and coordination of their programs in different ways. No matter how your parish has decided to coordinate and implement religious education, having a PCL that is well formed in catechetical ministry will make it possible for your parish program to thrive and provide you with adequate support and peace of mind in your role as pastor/administrator.

We look forward to working with you to serve the needs of the faith community that God has entrusted to your care.

With joy in the Lord,



Patricia Rodriguez
Director