



Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

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AMS Catechist Certification Requirements

Office of
Evangelization

New and Uncertified Volunteer Catechists
AMS Certified Catechists
Religious Education Coordinators (REC)

New and Uncertified Volunteer Catechists: Basic Minimum Certification Requirements

- ___ 1) Submit a signed and completed **AMS Catechist Certification Application Form** to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (*there is no processing fee associated with the new application.*)
- ___ 2) Provide a **certificate of completion of Child and Youth Protection Training**. Applicants may participate in such training in the local diocese where their base/post is located or take a free online course offered by the BSA Online Learning Center, <http://olc.scouting.org/info/ypt.html>.
- ___ 3) Complete a **favorable background check** as determined by local base/post policy. To be kept on file at the local installation.
- ___ 4) Create a user profile, <http://vlc.udayton.edu/profile/agreement.php>, and successfully complete **ONE online course** (*seminars do not satisfy the basic requirement*) with the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. Please note that there is a reduced fee of \$40 per course as the AMS is a partner diocese with VLCFF, the normal fee is \$90 per course. Courses are 4-6 weeks in duration. Content is accessed online at times convenient to the participant throughout the duration of the course. Courses are available in English and Spanish.
 - New and uncertified volunteers should take **any one** of the **basic courses** posted on VLCFF.
 - Those who have served as Catechists may choose from the VLCFF course list **any course** that will enhance their own faith formation and those they serve as well.
- ___ 5) Volunteer Catechists are **highly encouraged** to participate in an additional course or seminar that would enhance their particular focus in catechesis based on the wide variety of courses offered by VLCFF (i.e., take a required basic course—such as *Catholic Beliefs*, encouraged course—such as *Sacraments* for those teaching First Communion or Confirmation.)
- ___ 6) The completed course certificate will be mailed to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA for signature. That VLCFF certificate and an AMS Catechist Certificate, good for five years, will be mailed to the applicant upon the completion of the requirements listed above.

AMS Certified Catechists: Recertification (every 5 years)

- ___ 1) Those who have already been certified as a Catechist for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA may renew their certification every five years by completing **at least ONE online course** with VLCFF along with submitting a completed and signed application for recertification.

Religious Education Coordinators (REC): Full Certification, VLCFF Certificate in Catechesis

- ___ 1) The REC must complete the **basic minimum certification** and **pursue the full Catechist Certification** with VLCFF which includes Level I and Level II coursework in theology, method and formation. More information about the Certificate in Catechesis may be found online at, <http://vlc.udayton.edu/certificates/catechesis.php>
- ___ 2) A record of each course completed will kept on file since it will take time to complete the full certificate. Our partnership with VLCFF allows members of the AMS to participate in coursework at reduced rates.