

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

PERSONNEL

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CATECHISTS

1. Ecclesial & Theological

- a) Catechists work collaboratively with the pastor, catechetical leaders, parents and other associates in ministry.
- b) Catechists faithfully represent and practice the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
- c) Catechists are competent and receive education and training commensurate with their role(s) and responsibilities (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).
- d) Catechists respect the diversity of spiritualities in the faith community and will not make their own personal form of spirituality normative.

2. Inclusion

- a) Catechists recognize the dignity of each person and refrain from behaviors or words that are disrespectful of anyone or any group.
- b) Catechists serve all people without regard to gender, creed, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political beliefs.
- c) Catechists act to ensure all persons have access to the resources, services and opportunities they require with particular regard for persons with special needs or disabilities.

3. Accountability

- a) Catechists are accountable to the pastor, catechetical leader, or other duly appointed representative, under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
- b) Catechists are called to serve the faith community, carrying out their ministry “...conscientiously, zealously, and diligently” (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).
- c) Catechists exercise responsible stewardship of resources while holding themselves to the highest standards of integrity regarding fiscal matters placed in their trust.

4. Confidentiality

- a) Catechists respect confidentiality, yet are not held to confidentiality in the same way as ordained ministers and licensed, certified counselors.

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- b) Catechists are aware of their limitations with respect to paraprofessional counseling and make appropriate referrals.
- c) Catechists are aware of the signs of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect.
- d) Catechists adhere to civil and ecclesial law concerning the reporting of neglect, abuse or when physical harm could come to the person or to a third party.

5. Conduct

- a) Catechists support the rights and roles of parents while ministering to the needs and concerns of children and adolescents.
- b) Catechists are aware they have considerable personal power because of their ministerial position. Therefore, they will sustain respectful ministerial relationships, avoiding manipulation and other abuses of power.
- c) Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between catechists and a child or adolescent are unethical and are prohibited.
- d) Catechists model healthy and positive behaviors with children, adolescents and other adults.
- e) Procuring, providing, or using alcohol and/or controlled substances for or with children or adolescents is unethical and is prohibited.

6. Parish

- a) Catechists are aware of and comply with all applicable parish, organizational and/or diocesan policy with special attention to sexual misconduct, safety, transportation, parental permission, and medical emergency policies.

I have read and understand the above code of conduct and commit to uphold this code in my ministry.

Signature: _____ Date: _____