

REQUIREMENTS FOR A CATECHIST
from the Commission on Ministry
of the Diocese of Hawai'i

A Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and shall function under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. (Title III, Canon 4, Sec. 8)

INTRODUCTION

The catechumenate is a period of training and instruction in Christian understandings about God, human relationships, and the meaning of life, which culminates in the reception of the Sacraments of Christian initiation (*Book of Occasional Services*, p. 112).

PRE-REQUISITES (FOR AUTHORIZATION)

- ❖ The Catechist shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing of the Episcopal Church and the congregation.
- ❖ The Catechist shall have been invited to train for this ministry by the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of that congregation or community of faith, after a period of discernment.
- ❖ The Catechist shall have the ability and willingness to tell his or her own faith story.
- ❖ The Catechist shall have an ability to teach the material required to prepare persons for Christian initiation, and the capacity to guide people to material learned in the catechumenal process.
- ❖ The Catechist shall be respectful of individuals' faith journeys and have the ability to guide and lead catechumens on this journey.
- ❖ The Catechist shall have previously participated in a faith discovery experience that provided the opportunity for in-depth reflection on Scripture (e.g., Education for Ministry, Cursillo).

FORMATION

- ❖ A potential Catechist must go through a catechumenal training process to better understand what catechumens will be experiencing.
- ❖ The Catechist shall receive training in active listening, communication skills, teaching, and group facilitation, if needed, to supplement the basic capacities in these areas that he/she already possesses.

RENEWAL

The renewal of Catechist licenses is to be done every three (3) years, according to the Diocesan guidelines, with the Clergy or leader exercising oversight of the congregation or community of faith attesting in writing to the Catechist's formation and his/her fulfillment of the above requirements.