

PATHWAYS for Catechist Formation

What's New?

FAQs revised 8/3/09

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What is PATHWAYS 2009?

The revised Pathways for Catechist Formation is called Pathways 2009 and is a one-day, instructor-led, interactive program of prayer, learning and reflection for all parish catechists of adults, youth and children AND Catholic school religion teachers.

What is the content of Pathways 2009?

The diocesan curriculum developed for Pathways 2009 includes the following:

Session One: The Vocation of the Catechist, Creed, and Scripture

Session Two: Methodology for catechists of adults, youth or children

How is Pathways 2009 presented?

Participants receive a print training resource kit to help guide their learning experience through this full day program of multi-media presentations, facilitated discussions, question/answer periods, methods demonstrations, hands-on activities, meditation, prayer and reflection.

What's Required?

What is expected of participants at these training days?

No lengthy writing is required! All curriculum materials are provided to the catechists/teachers for continued study and reflection at home/school. Participants are asked to enter fully into the learning process with active listening, lively table discussion, candid questions, and brief written evaluations of the morning and afternoon sessions, and of the entire day.

Who is expected to participate?

Parish Catechists – All parish catechists of adults, youth or children are required to participate in a Pathways 2009 training day scheduled between August 2009 – Fall 2010.

Catholic School Religion Teachers – All **NEW** catholic school religion teachers are required to participate in Session One of the Pathways 2009 training day during the school year, 2009-2010. All other religion teachers are invited to attend Session One.

What are the requirements for parish catechists participating in PATHWAYS?

Parish catechists must be registered members of a diocesan parish, fully-initiated Catholics in good standing, with VIRTUS training and background checks completed.

What if I went through the Pathways 2004 and was certified? Do I still need to participate in Pathways 2009?

Certified Pathways 2004 catechists need only complete **Session One** of the Pathways 2009 training day, which includes Vocation, Creed, and Scripture. Participation in Session Two (Methodology) is optional.

Is Pathways 2004 still available?

Pathways 2004 is available online (www.richmonddiocese.org/ocf/pathways) and in print and will continue as a training option through June 30, 2010.

What if I have already started Pathways 2004 and am not quite finished...should I continue?

Parish catechists may choose to continue their study of Pathways 2004, as long as it remains available. All Pathways 2004 program elements remain the same, including the written Response Form and Reader assignment and evaluation. Catechists completing Pathways 2004 **will still be asked to complete the Session One of Pathways 2009.**

After I complete a Pathways 2009 training day, am I certified?

At the conclusion of the entire day (9:00am-4:30pm), which includes **Session One: Vocation, Creed & Scripture** and **Session Two: Methodology**, parish catechists are certified in accordance with *Called to Be Disciples*. Catechetical Leaders will receive a diocesan certificate for each catechist completing a Pathways 2009 training day. Ongoing learning each year maintains certification.

Catholic School Religion Teachers completing Session One earn 3 hours toward their certification requirements listed in **Handing on the Faith Religion Formation for Catholic School Teachers**.

After I complete Pathways 2009, is anything more required?

Parish Catechists – Annually, each catechist must complete at least one learning module of 3 hours to maintain certification. Multiple, flexible options will be provided.

Catholic School Religion Teachers – Annually, each religion teacher must fulfill 10 hours of formation within the categories listed in **Handing on the Faith Religion Formation for Catholic School Teachers**.

What's the Schedule of Pathways 2009?

Where and when are the Pathways 2009 training days scheduled?

13 sessions have been scheduled this fall throughout the diocese. The schedule of dates and sites is posted on the Christian Formation, Youth Ministry and Catholic School websites. Future dates/sites will be scheduled winter, spring/summer, and fall 2010. The same session content is presented in each location.

What time is the training day?

8:30am – 9:00am	Hospitality, check in
9:00am – 12:30pm	Session One
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 4:30pm	Session Two & evaluation

How do I register?

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Registration is online at <http://tinyurl.com/cdrpathways> . Each catechist/religion teacher may register themselves. If you do not personally have access to the internet or email, you may ask your catechetical leader or principal to register you online.

Will I get a registration confirmation?

If you register online, you will receive an immediate reply email confirming your registration. If your catechetical leader or principal registers you, she/he will receive your confirmation email. Please contact her/him to receive this important information.

What about deadlines for registration?

Registrations must be entered by Wednesday of the same week Pathways is scheduled.

What about cancellations?

Cancellations must be entered by Wednesday of the same week Pathways is scheduled. Contact Sandra Survello, ssurvello@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5114. Please include your first and last name, date of pathways event and your home address. Your cancellation will be confirmed via email within 24 hours. If you do not receive a cancellation confirmation email, please contact Sandra again. Please be mindful of your parish/school as registrations that are not cancelled by Wednesday will be billed to the parish/school.

What about substitutions?

Substitutions must be entered by Wednesday of the same week Pathways is scheduled by contacting **Sandra Survello**, ssurvello@richmonddiocese.org or **804-622-5114**. Your substitution will be confirmed by Sandra via email. Your substitute will need to register using the online registration system.

Walk-in substitutions will NOT be accepted on the day of the event. Substitutes must register online.

How Do I know who is registered from my parish/school?

Each parish catechetical leader and school principal has been given the web address of the online registration system, a user name and password to view their parish/school record of registrations and payments. Leaders/Principals can access this online system at their own convenience anytime.

What's the cost?

Parish Catechists - \$20/catechist (Session One & Two)

Parish Catechists certified through Pathways 2004 with certificate - \$15/catechist (Session One)

Catholic School Religion Teachers - \$15/teacher (Session One)

Parish/Schools are asked to help support their catechist's participation in the training day program with funding. Participant fees cover **some** of the costs of the Pathways 2009 training day, including online registration, curriculum resources and hospitality/food. All other costs are funded through the diocesan budget for the Office of Catholic Education. Parishes/Schools will be sent a monthly invoice for the number of catechists/religion teachers registered for Pathways 2009. To accommodate differing parish/school circumstances, payments may be made incrementally on a monthly basis to the diocese. All fees are due to the diocese no later than April 30, 2010.

For more information:

Schools – contact Miriam Cotton, mcotton@richmonddiocese.org

Parishes – contact Katie McMaster, kmcmaster@richmonddiocese.org

For Cancellations/Substitutions:

Schools/Parishes –contact Sandra Survello, ssurvello@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5114, by Wednesday of the same week Pathways is scheduled. Please provide your first and last name, date of pathways event and home address. **Walk-in substitutions will NOT be accepted on the day of the event. Substitutes must register online.**