



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIOCESE OF TUCSON

❖ BISHOP MORENO PASTORAL CENTER ❖
111 SOUTH CHURCH AVENUE
P.O. Box 31 ♦ Tucson, Arizona 85702-0031
520-838-2500 ♦ Fax: 520-838-2590 ♦ www.diocesetucson.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 2007

Dear Director of Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults:

There is no greater privilege or responsibility within the Church than to be entrusted with teaching and passing on the Catholic faith, not only to our young people, but also to our families, and all those within the reach of our voices and our example.

What a joy and comfort it is to know that the Bishop's catechetical mission and responsibility in the diocese are, by extension, shared with so many dedicated clergy, religious and laity.

To faithfully and effectively carry out this responsibility, our diocese is placing a greater emphasis on the quality formation and training of our parish catechists, youth ministers, and schoolteachers at all levels. There is never a point at which we can say that we have "arrived" and are in need of no more spiritual formation, growth or knowledge.

Toward this goal of ensuring a fundamental preparation of catechists who may be ministering to children, teens or adults, we are asking that parish and school coordinators of catechesis at all levels make it the highest priority to promote the training and formation of such persons, which then leads to diocesan certification.

I am pleased to endorse the enclosed revised curriculum for Level One diocesan certification, as well as the national Echoes of Faith catechist training series adopted by the diocese last year. This series is an effective means toward achieving the basic level of certification requirements at the parish level.

Our diocesan Offices of Catechesis and Catholic Schools are working together with professional associates such as the Jordan Ministry Team, to implement a common approach to formation of parish catechists and teachers, which leads to diocesan certification. It is expected that parish catechists be working to obtain Level One certification within a five year period, and then to maintain such certification with periodic renewal. Because Catholic schoolteachers have greater access to formation courses and "in-service" presentations, teachers of Religion in the school are expected to be certified in two years, and all other teachers within three. The revised curriculum officially took effect in July of 2004.

As this process unfolds, I know you will join me in asking the Lord's blessings on this ongoing project, which is so worthy of our efforts and attention.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D.
Bishop of Tucson