

**Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry**

**Grades 9-12 Catechetical Program Inventory
2013-2014**

The Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee conducted a survey of parish religious education programs during May-June 2014. The purpose of the survey was to gather information on what our parishes are doing in the way of catechesis, sacramental preparation and youth ministry. Information will be used to identify trends, to review and update policies, to plan resources and professional development, and to share with parishes for their own assessment and planning.

Two questionnaires were developed--one for programs for grades K-8 and one for programs for grades 9-12. This document reports on the responses to the 9-12 survey.

Responses to the surveys were received from 112 of 202 parishes--a 55 percent response rate. 82 lay ecclesial ministers, several of whom serve more than one parish, responded to the grade 9-12 survey. They identified themselves by name, title, parish, and parish contact information. This document reports on their responses.¹

Areas of responsibility

Over 90 percent of the respondents to the 9-12 questionnaire identified grade 9-12 catechesis and Confirmation preparation as their areas of responsibility. Respondents were asked to check all the areas that applied.

Area of responsibility	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation preparation	76	93%
9-12 catechesis	75	91%
Youth ministry	65	79%
6-8 catechesis	52	63%
K-5 catechesis	35	43%
Sacramental prep of children	33	40%
Young adult ministry	10	12%
Adult formation	9	11%

¹ The responses in this report will not all add to 82 because: (1) many questions asked respondents to check all areas that applied and (2) not all responded to all questions or all parts of a question. Responses are often reported in order of magnitude, not necessarily in the order they were listed in the questionnaire. Percentages are rounded, and so sometimes do not total 100%.

Collaboration among parishes

Respondents were asked whether they were responsible for catechetical programs in one parish only or for joint or collaborative programs with more than one parish. 72 percent indicated they were responsible for one parish only. 28 percent of those responding were involved in a collaborative program with more than one parish.² Of these, 14 were involved in 2-parish arrangements, and 8 in 3-parish collaborations. Respondents in 59 parishes were not involved in joint or collaborative programs at this level.

Parish collaboration	# of responses	% of responses
Responsible for one parish only	59	72%
Responsible for joint/collaborative programs in more than one parish	22	27%
Collaborate with a staff person from another parish on a joint program	8	10%

Full or part time position

When asked if their position was full-time or part-time, over two-thirds of the respondents reported holding full time positions.

Status of position	# of responses	% of responses
Full time	62	76%
Part time	19	23%

Number of participants in religious education

Respondents were asked for a count of the number of participants in their catechetical programs, by grade level, not including their confirmation program. Not all respondents answered this question and those who did respond did not always report participants at every grade level. For each grade level, the numbers of catechetical participants, the program size, and the number of responses is shown in the chart below.

Grades	9th	10th	11th	12th
Total # of participants	1969	2183	1010	259
Program size	1-100	1-102	1-116	1-65
# of responses	82	82	43	18

² The 28 percent can be explained by the fact that respondents could and did respond positively to more than one of the alternatives. 72 percent indicated they were responsible for programs in one parish only, leaving 28% responsible for various collaborative arrangements.

Models of religious education

When asked to indicate what models of religious education they used and to check all that applied, the top three mentioned were weekly catechetical program (52%), retreats (beside confirmation retreat) (48%), and service learning (39%).

Models of religious education	# of responses	% of responses
Weekly catechetical program	43	52%
Retreats (beside confirmation retreat)	39	48%
Service learning	32	39%
Scripture study/reflection	17	21%
Mini-course program	15	18%
Lectionary-based program	11	13%
Intergenerational program	9	11%
Home schooling religious education	8	10%
Family-centered program	8	10%
Summer catechetical program	3	4%
Programs for teens with special needs	1	1%

Annual contact hours

When asked about the number of contact hours per year in each grade level, respondents reported an average of about 29 hours for programs in grades 9 and 10, with responses ranging from 1 to 56 hours. About half of the respondents reported hours for 11th grade (non-confirmation). Twenty reported hours for 12th grade.

Grades	9th	10th	11th	12th
Average contact hours	30	30.5	30.25	33
Range of contact hours	12 - 56	12 - 56	5 - 55	5 - 55
Median	29	29	28	34
# of respondents	73	72	37	18

Textbooks/resources used

Respondents were asked what textbook or series they used for their 9-12 grade catechesis. About one third of responses were choices from the list of textbooks provided in the survey; roughly two-thirds of all responses were "other." The Catholic Faith Handbook was the most used text.

	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Catholic Essentials, Ave Maria Press	2	2	1	1
Catholicism Series, C.R. Publications	0	0	1	0
Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Saint Mary's Press	18	18	2	4
Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, with Total Catechesis, Saint Mary's Press	5	6	9	0
Other	47	43	26	16

"Other" resources included: Life Teen (6), T3 Bible study (5), Theology of the Body for Teens (5), Youth Ministry Access (3), Horizons (3), and Didache series (2).

Meeting times

Respondents were asked when they held classes and to check all that applied. The largest number held classes on Sunday evening with 43% and the 2nd highest was a weekday evening with 39%.

When classes are held	# of respondents	% of respondents
Sunday evening	35	43%
Weekday evening	31	39%
Sunday morning	27	33%
Saturday morning	1	1%

Parent involvement

When asked how they involved parents, most said through regular email, or newsletter.

Methods of parent involvement	# of responses	% of responses
Regular Email or Newsletter	48	59%
Take-home materials	35	43%
Special programs for parents	28	34%
Sessions with teens in class	23	28%
Intergenerational sessions	14	17%
Other	11	13%

“Other” parent involvement included district parent/teen events, family discussion assignments, involvement in service, and a parent book study.

Annual fees

Respondents were asked what they charge for their 9-12 religious education programs.

	One child	Two children	Three children	Maximum
Lowest fee	0	0	0	0
Highest fee	\$220	\$350	\$525	\$1000
Average fee	\$92	\$166	\$227	\$214
Median fee	\$90	\$170	\$225	\$185
# of respondents	77	69	69	59

Programs for Teens with Special Needs

Respondents were asked to describe their program for teens with special needs, if they had such a program.

Accommodate as needed; individualized response	7
Special needs program in parish or cluster (e.g., ARISE, Journey, SPRED, Vine & Branches)	6
Mainstream students, with parent involvement or aide	3
Refer to another parish	1

Spiritual development opportunities

Respondents were asked what spiritual development opportunities their parish offered teens. Retreats (besides the confirmation retreat) were mentioned by 66 percent of those responding. Less than 50 percent of the respondents reported offering any of the other spiritual development opportunities listed for their consideration.

Spiritual development program	# of responses	% of responses
Retreat (besides confirmation)	54	66%
Prayer or faith-sharing group	35	43%
Youth-friendly liturgy	30	37%
Eucharistic adoration	26	32%
Scripture study	22	27%
Spiritual direction	10	12%

“Other” responses included: youth group, Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally, mission trips.

Justice and service opportunities

Respondents were asked what service opportunities their parish offered teens. Service opportunities within the parish (such as committees, liturgical roles, catechist aide) were mentioned by 96 percent of those responding. Other opportunities mentioned by over 50 percent of respondents included direct service to the needy (80%), collecting/ fundraising for a cause (66%) and summer mission trips (66%).

Justice and service program	# of responses	% of responses
Parish service opportunities (e.g., committees, liturgical roles, catechist aide)	79	96%
Direct service to the needy (e.g., meal programs, shelters)	66	80%
Collecting/fundraising for a cause	54	66%
Summer mission trips	54	66%
Projects chosen and designed by youth	36	44%
Advocacy, letter writing, awareness raising projects	17	21%
Other	6	7%

Leadership opportunities

Respondents were asked what leadership opportunities their parish offered teens. Youth serving on parish committees was mentioned by 38 percent.

Leadership opportunities	# of responses	% of responses
Youth on parish committees	31	38%
Youth leadership training	19	23%
Youth advisory board	10	12%
Other	9	11%

“Other” responses included peer ministry, mentoring program, and leadership within youth group.

Other Youth Ministry Opportunities

Respondents were asked whether they offer specific opportunities to their teens.

Youth Opportunities	# of responses
CYM Sports - volleyball, basketball, bowling	24
NCYC - National Catholic Youth Conference	16
NET - National Evangelization Team	18
SPIRITUS team	7
St. John Bosco Youth Day at Holy Hill	48
Stuebenville Youth Conference	13
WCYR - Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally	45

“Other” responses included district youth events, Hispanic Encounter, and Life Teen Summer Camp.

Confirmation Programs

Relationship between confirmation program and other catechetical programs

Respondents were asked about the relationship between their parish confirmation program and other catechetical programs. About 60 percent of the respondents said the confirmation program corresponds to 11th grade and is the only catechetical program for 11th graders. All other responses received very few responses.

Program relationships	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation program corresponds to 11th grade and is the only catechetical program for 11th graders.	46	56%
Confirmation program takes place during 11th grade, but we also offer a religious ed program during the 11th grade.	12	15%
Confirmation program overlaps the 10th and 11th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	9	12%
Confirmation program overlaps the 11th and 12th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	4	5%
Other	7	8%

“Other” scenarios included confirmation every other year, two-year program, or small number of candidates referred to another parish.

Number of confirmation candidates

Respondents were asked about the size of their confirmation class. The total number of confirmation candidates reported was 3,112. Class sizes ranged from 0 to 150, with the average class size of 38. 81 respondents answered this question.

Confirmation program elements

Respondents were asked what program elements are included in their parish confirmation program. The top three cited were classes/presentations, retreat and service.

Program elements	# of responses	% of responses
Classes or presentations	79	96%
Retreat	79	96%
Service	78	95%
Candidate interview	66	80%
Sponsor session	61	74%
Small group faith sharing	60	73%
Parent sessions	54	66%

Confirmation program contact hours

Respondents were asked the approximate number of contact hours for their confirmation program (not including the retreat). Based on the 75 responses, the average number of contact hours was 28 hours. The number of hours ranged from 6 to 60.

Confirmation textbook/program

Respondents were asked what textbook or program they used for confirmation preparation, and were asked to choose from a list of eight textbooks/programs, or indicate "other."

Textbook	# of responses
Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Saint Mary's Press	10
Confirmation: Receiving the Gift of the Spirit, Pflaum Publishing	5
Confirmation, RCL Benziger	4
Call to Celebrate: Confirmation, Harcourt (OSV Curriculum)	4
Anointed in the Spirit, Saint Mary's Press	3
Send Out Your Spirit, Ave Maria Press	2
Un llamado a celebrar: la Confirmación, Harcourt (OSV)	2
Confirmation, Inspired by the Spirit, William H. Sadlier, Inc., 2012	1
Confirmación: Inspirados por el Espíritu, William H. Sadlier, Inc., 2013	1
Confirmed in a Faithful Community, Saint Mary's Press	1
Other	37

Of those who indicated "other," 17 used multiple resources, 7 used material written by themselves or a predecessor. Other materials noted by more than one respondent were Confirmed in the Spirit, Loyola Press; Catholic Youth Bible; YOUCAT; and LifeTeen.

Confirmation sponsor involvement

Respondents were asked how sponsors were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of respondents cited confirmation rehearsal (93%), requiring candidates and sponsors to meet on their own (71%), and sponsor-candidate session(s) (63%).

Sponsor engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation rehearsal	77	94%
Require candidates and sponsors to meet on their own	59	72%
Sponsor-candidate session(s) during the program	53	65%
Sponsor handbook or other materials	46	56%
Sponsor orientation session	37	45%
Other	8	10%

“Other” responses included involvement with candidates in service, writing a letter to candidate on retreat, and pot luck meal.

Confirmation parent involvement

Respondents were asked how parents were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of responses were parent meetings (78%) and parent letters to candidates (74%).

Parent engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Parent meeting(s)	64	78%
Parent letters to candidates	61	74%
Email Materials or E-newsletter	52	63%
Invited to participate in service projects	43	52%
Parent-candidate session	39	48%
Take home materials	34	41%

Confirmation Retreat

Respondents were asked about the length, location and leadership of their confirmation retreat.

Length of retreat:

Length of Retreat	# of Respondents	% Of Respondents
Weekend/2 overnights	36	44%
One Overnight	21	26%
One Day	21	26%
Other	0	0%

Location of retreat:

Location of Retreat	# of Responses	% Of Responses
Tyme Out Youth Center	20	24%
At Our Parish	11	13%
Camp Whitcomb/Mason	10	12%
St. Vincent Pallotti Retreat Center	6	7%
At Another Parish	5	6%
Mt. Tabor Center	4	5%
Daniel Soref Retreat Center	4	5%
Saint Francis De Sales Seminary	2	2%
Cedar Valley Retreat Center	2	2%
Camp Vista	2	2%
Holy Hill Guest House	1	1%
Schoenstatt Retreat Center	1	1%
Camp Y-Koda	1	1%
Campus Life Family Center	1	1%
Inspiration Retreat Center	1	1%
Salvation Army Camp	1	1%
UWM Newman Center	1	1%
Edwards YMCA Center	1	1%
Greenlake Conference Center	1	1%

Retreat Leadership: In responding to the leadership options listed for their consideration, 27 percent of the respondents said the TYME OUT staff led their confirmation retreat. If the categories of parish team and parish director of youth ministry are combined, then parish personnel conducted the confirmation retreat in 55% of the responses.

Retreat Leadership	Number of Respondents	% Of Respondents
Parish Team	26	32%
TYME Out staff	19	27%
Parish DYM	18	23%
Guest Presenter/Director	4	5%
Spiritus Team	5	6%
Net Team	2	2%
Other	7	9%

Number of confirmation retreats

Respondents were asked how many retreats or retreat options they offered candidates. 66 percent of the respondents said they offered one retreat for all candidates.

Number of retreat options	# of responses	% of responses
One retreat for all	54	66%
Two options	18	22%
Three options	4	5%
More options	3	4%

Service component of Confirmation preparation

Respondents were asked what strategies were used to engage candidates in Christian service during their confirmation preparation. More than half of respondents answered: require a certain number of service hours (64%) discuss service during the confirmation interview (63%); involve candidates alongside adult parishioners (55%), and offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates (54%).

Service strategies	# of responses	% of responses
Require a certain number of service hours	53	64%
Discuss service during confirmation interview	52	63%
Involve candidates along side adult parishioners	45	55%
Offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates	44	54%
Offer a service journal for reflection on the experience	30	37%
Help candidates identify needs and design service projects	29	35%
Facilitate group reflection on service experiences	26	32%
Assign group service projects	21	26%

Cost for confirmation preparation

Respondents were asked what they charge for their confirmation program and retreat.

	Confirmation fee	Retreat fee	Total
Lowest fee	0	0	0
Highest fee	\$275	\$170	\$285
Average fee	\$100	\$84	\$162
Median fee	\$100	\$100	\$200
# of respondents	76	54	72

Catechists - demographics

Respondents were asked how many catechists they have for grades 9-12, how many have completed training for basic religious education certification, and their years of service. Respondents reported numbers ranging from 0 to 32 catechists.

Total number of catechists reported	744	100%
Number with over 5 years of service	335	45%
Number with 0-5 years of service	306	41%
Number with certification	125	17%

Catechists - formation

Respondents were asked what kind of formation they provide for their catechists. Individual orientation was most often mentioned (80%). More than half the respondents indicated they used catechist group sharing, sharing reading materials, in-service training, or speakers/adult education.

Formation opportunities	# of responses	% of response
Individual orientation	66	80%
Sharing reading materials	62	76%
Catechist group sharing	50	61%
In-service training	50	61%
Speakers/adult education	42	51%
Funding to attend conferences/courses	34	41%
District catechist day	25	30%
Forming the Catechetical Spirit program	19	23%
Mentor program	10	12%
Echoes of Faith	7	8%

Adults serving in religious education program

Respondents were asked in what ways adults serve in their religious education program other than as catechists. Roles mentioned by more than 50% of respondents include confirmation sponsors, substitute catechists, event chaperones, presenters on special topics, and members of mission trip team.

Service	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation sponsors	71	87%
Substitute catechists	56	68%
Event chaperones	55	67%
Presenters on special topics	47	57%
Mission trip team	46	56%
Group facilitators	33	40%
Catechist aides	28	34%
Office assistants	27	33%
Set up/equipment assistants	20	24%
Service mentors	20	24%
Special event team	18	22%
Hosts for groups in homes	9	11%
Assistants for children with special needs	5	6%