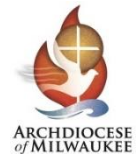




SUSTAINING THE MISSION



Prayer

Gracious God, you gather us today as ministers of Catholic education.

Send us your Spirit and bring us together as a community of service and love.

Open our hearts, so that we may always seek to grow closer to you.

Teach us wisdom and guide us to a greater understanding of the Catholic faith.

Form us more and more into the likeness of Christ,

full of compassion, generosity, courage, and joy.

Fill us with a deep sense of vocation and a commitment to your mission.

And as we live out that mission, show us the way to walk with our students,

to teach them your truth, and to lead them to you.

Amen.

Welcome to Sustaining the Mission:

Sustaining the Mission is the official program for Religious Education Certification for educators in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. It provides systematic, intentional content education in Catholic faith traditions and core theological teachings so that Catholic school educators may competently and confidently advance the mission of Catholic education.

This program is a collaborative effort. The Archdiocesan Office for Schools establishes the policies, such as who must attend, and has delegated the actual delivery of the program to Cardinal Stritch University's Saint Clare Center. In order to deliver the presentations, develop the curriculum, and evaluate the program, the Saint Clare Center relies on the collaborative efforts of a wide range of people working in Catholic higher education, parishes, and schools.



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How the Program Works:

All educators from a group of schools gather on **one and one-half in-service days**, and instructors come to your general location. The specific location is normally scheduled by the Deanery.

On **day one**, participants complete **2 core curriculum classes** (differentiated by level) from the curricular strand for the year (Scripture, Systematic Theology, or Prayer, Spirituality & Sacrament), as well as **2 extended learning sessions** of their choosing (no distinction by level) related to that same curricular strand.

On **day two**, participants complete **2 core curriculum classes** (differentiated by level) from the curricular strand for the year.

During the two in-service days, participants will gather in school teams to share learning and consider school-level applications. This gives them **time to reflect and process in school groups**.

The curriculum for Sustaining the Mission is divided into levels.

- **Level One** is for participants who have no religious education certification and are working to attain Basic certification. The Level One curriculum for STM takes three years to complete.
- **Level Two** is for participants who have Basic religious education certification and are working to attain Advanced certification. The Level Two curriculum for STM takes six years to complete.
- **Level Three** is for participants who have completed the Level Two curriculum and who have Advanced certification. Educators in this level work in coordination with their principals to arrange for ongoing theological education and faith formation on a local or independent basis.



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Program Goals:

Along with opportunities for prayer, worship, service, and retreat, offered by schools and parishes locally, Sustaining the Mission is an important piece of the overall faith formation program of the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The primary goal of the program is to provide a foundational understanding of the teachings of the Catholic tradition, and how they apply to the vocation of teaching and to the mission of Catholic schools.

Overall objective:

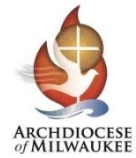
Participants will have a *heartfelt* and *informed* faith that *is connected* to their lives and teaching.

Annual objectives, by curricular strand: Scripture

1. Participants will have a deep appreciation for the Bible as the foundation for Catholic faith, spiritual growth, and living their call.
2. Participants will understand the elements and application of a Catholic approach to Scripture.
3. Participants will have a working knowledge of the major storylines and themes of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
4. Participants will be able to help students use a scriptural lens in various contexts to integrate faith and life.



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Core Curriculum (revised in 2020):

Level One – Three Years	Level Two – Six Years
<u>Theology</u>	
<p><u>Theology 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catholic Moral Tradition • Exploring Catholic Social Teaching • Trinity and Incarnation • The Church 	<p><u>Theology 2A: Justice and Morality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Person as a Reflection of God’s Goodness • Society as a Reflection of God’s Goodness • Growing in Virtue • Building a Just World <p><u>Theology 2B: Creed and Doctrine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Immanence and Transcendence of God • Christology • Ecclesiology • Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations
<u>Prayer and Sacrament</u>	
<p><u>Prayer and Sacrament 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature of Faith and Spiritual Growth • Catholic Prayer and Spirituality • The Gift of the Sacraments • The Mass 	<p><u>Prayer and Sacrament 2A: Survey of the Sacraments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Sacramental World View • Sacraments of Initiation • Sacraments of Healing • Sacraments of Service <p><u>Prayer and Sacrament 2B: Our Rich Spiritual Tradition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stages of Faith and Common Concerns about Prayer • Exploring Types of Prayer • Liturgy Through the Centuries • Mary and the Saints
<u>Scripture</u>	
<p><u>Scripture 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the Most Out of Scripture • Themes & Storylines of the Old Testament • Themes & Storylines of the New Testament • Scripture for Life 	<p><u>Scripture 2A: Exploring the Old Testament</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentateuch • Historical Books • Psalms and Wisdom Literature • Israel’s Prophetic Tradition <p><u>Scripture 2B: Exploring the New Testament</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Synoptic Good News • The Gospel and Writings of John • The Writings and Influence of Paul • The Acts of the Apostles, and Later New Testament Writings