

into THE fields



Catechist and Teacher Formation for the Whole Community

Into the Fields is a comprehensive and systematic program primarily for catechist formation, but all adults are welcome to enroll. It is rooted in Scripture, liturgy, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and based on both the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*. The complete program encompasses three units, which we plan to cover over three years.

There are ten sessions in year one of this program. Each session blends spiritual formation with theological content, and both of those with theory, practice, and suggestions for age-appropriate activities. Each one provides a comprehensive means for learning and acquiring skills for catechetical ministry.

Spiritual Exercises for Teachers & Catechists

Each of the ten sessions begins with the "Spiritual Exercises." These profound experiences combine prayer, meditation, and reflection. The purpose of these Spiritual Exercises is threefold: To nourish your soul and feed the hunger within each of us to know God more fully. To help you as a teacher or catechist know how to lead your learners to deeper spirituality. And to help you become a "friend of Jesus" so you can share that friendship with your learners.

Growing Faith – Content and Knowledge

Next comes "Theological Content," an essential ingredient for catechist and teacher formation. The ten sessions use appropriate booklet(s) from the *Growing Faith Project*, a comprehensive and systematic presentation of the faith based on the *Catechism*. By following the complete, three-year program of *Into the Fields*, you will obtain a thorough review of our Catholic faith.

Tools for Teaching

"Tools for Teaching" is the formal teaching section, providing the connecting link between spiritual growth, the content of the faith, and the instructional strategies needed to do excellent catechesis. Here you will learn more than two dozen practical skills that work in real teaching situations. You will gain the essential background needed to be formed as a Catholic teacher or catechist.

Loyola University CEUs

Loyola University New Orleans, one of 28 Jesuit universities in the United States, offers continuing education units (CEU) for *Into the Fields* participants. The award of CEUs for completion of one or more years of the *Into the Fields* program is a level of recognition and credentialing that provides a portable, international documentation of the completion of a program of studies.

	AT HOLY INFANT	AT ST. THOMAS MORE	
Session 1	August 16 & 18	Tuesday, November 6	Saturday, November 10
Session 2	August 18 & 23	Tuesday, November 13	Saturday, November 17
Session 3	Saturday, Oct 13 (am)	Tuesday, November 27	Saturday, December 1
Session 4	Thursday, Nov 8	Tuesday, December 4	Saturday, December 8
Session 5	Saturday, Jan 19 (am)	Tuesday, December 11	Saturday, December 15

Session 6	Thursday, Jan 24	Tuesday, February 5	Saturday, February 9
Session 7	Saturday, Feb 23 (am)	Tuesday, February 12	Saturday, February 16
Session 8	Saturday, Feb 23 (pm)	Tuesday, February 19	Saturday, February 23
Session 9	Thursday, April 24	Tuesday, February 26	Saturday, March 1
Session 10	Thursday, May 8	Tuesday, March 11	Saturday, March 15



How to Enroll in *Into the Fields* at HOLY INFANT

Each participant will receive a learning manual, related *Growing in Faith* booklets, and a subscription to *Religion Teachers Journal*. The course fee for the ten sessions of *Into the Fields - Year One* is \$75. Upon completion of the course, catechists who serve in one of the many catechetical ministries at Holy Infant will receive a full refund of the course fee. To enroll in this program please contact Lynn Sale at the Faith Development Office.