



# CI FORMATION DAY SUGGESTIONS



## Recommendations for the Day:

CI Formation Days are normally a full day in length, beginning at breakfast and ending prior to dinner. The diocese would need to provide a continental breakfast for participants, and a lunch. Some elect to extend the hospitality to an on-site dinner for those wishing to stay, but most Formation Days end at dinner time and do not include that meal. See the next page for a sample schedule.

We strongly recommend doing the event as an *in-service offering* targeting all faith formation leaders and catechetical leaders in the diocese. When we've done this as a large event for dioceses we've found that it creates substantially more positive momentum, generates many excellent questions from which the whole group benefits, and also serves to give a diocese a shot in the arm on person-to-person discipleship.

If the Formation Day is large-scale or planned as a diocesan-wide in-service, we'd normally bring two people. Instead, if the event is expected to have 40 people or less, we'd usually send one person. The Catechetical Institute does not charge for this kind of training, other than travel, meals, and lodging costs. We'd need the ability to have the [www.FranciscanAtHome.com](http://www.FranciscanAtHome.com) site projected up on a screen, so we can walk through various parts of it. We'll also send to the diocese PDF handouts to copy ahead of time (about 8 pages).

It is very common for dioceses to schedule the Formation Day next to another event, like a school teacher in-service, a catechetical day, an RCIA training, a clergy day, etc. We strongly recommend this since it allows the diocese to also benefit from other types of formation events that we regularly are invited to do by many dioceses every year. These other events would be for a stipend, not free, but you are welcome to decide the stipend according to what you feel is a "just" wage and normal for your diocese.

## General Overview of the Day:

One of the biggest challenges facing the Church in the United States is how to bring a new evangelization to an increasingly secularized, fragmented culture. Parish mergers, shrinking budgets, and a shortage of priests and catechists to instruct the laity compound the challenge. Against this backdrop, Franciscan University of Steubenville launched the Catechetical Institute in 2017. The Institute's overriding desire is to reach into parishes, families, and communities to support the strengthening of Catholic culture and the handing on of the treasure of faith, in every possible place and situation. Through conferences, new catechetical resources, and especially online courses, the Catechetical Institute seeks to serve all those who form others in the faith. This includes priests, parish catechists of all types, Catholic school teachers, and parents—the primary educators of their children.

The cornerstone of the Institute's work is a rapidly-growing *online collection of mentor-based workshops* that will eventually total more than 800 topic areas within many different tracks such as: Ministry of Parenting, Catechist, Parish Catechetical Leader, Catholic Schools, Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry, Pastoral Accompaniment, First Proclamation, and more. The Catechetical Institute doesn't seek to replace diocesan services with distant experts. Rather, it works with dioceses to establish local, on-the-ground *mentoring* that connects participants to others living and working in their own community of faith. This mentor-based platform provides a long-term way to *accompany people in ministry* and *provide solid formation*, while constantly increasing the local community's ability to cultivate stronger ministerial relationships.

## Individual Elements of the Day:

### ***Rationale for doing formation with this methodology***

Explains why CI was created, how it is different from any other online formation, how this derives from the heart of the Church and core catechetical methodology, and how the design of CI workshops supports the principles of good formation.

### ***The need to engage the whole person and the role of beauty***

Explains the way in which formation and beauty interact in a critically important manner in a catechetical setting, and how CI's workshops are designed to foster that.

### ***Key elements of the Institute's formation system***

Walks through [www.FranciscanAtHome.com](http://www.FranciscanAtHome.com) as a general orientation to its structure from both learner and mentor perspectives.

### ***A detailed look into the Institute's workshops and ministry standards***

Walks through an individual workshop to see how it is structured, how to wield it, and why it is effective as a formation tool.

### ***How to effectively employ this type of online formation***

Gives a general walk through how mentoring is done, what it is and isn't as a type of formation, and how the system is designed, as a primary goal, to support relationships of this kind.

### ***How to understand learners and wield the potential of this way of formation***

Opens up the nuances of good mentoring practices, what promotes longevity in the relationship, and real growth for the learner.

### ***Explanation of next steps***

Explains helpful follow-up workshops on the system and the ordinary way to move forward (including specific choices for a given diocese).

### ***Questions and answers***

A Q&A period of normally 30-45 minutes in length.



## CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE FORMATION DAY

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Denver

Located at St. John Vianney Seminary ♦ 1300 South Steele Street, Denver, CO

Please note that these sample time frames are flexible in terms of starting time, ending time, lunch time, and the availability of Mass. See the previous page for details on this and other suggestions for the event.

8:00am	Holy Mass
9:00am	Continental breakfast available
9:45am	Welcome, introductions, and overview of the Catechetical Institute's work Rationale for doing ministry formation with this methodology The need to engage the whole person and the role of beauty
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Key elements of the Catechetical Institute's formation system A detailed look into the Institute's workshops and ministry standards
2:00pm	Break
2:15pm	How to effectively employ this type of online formation
3:15pm	Break
3:30pm	How to understand learners and wield the potential of this way of formation Explanation of next steps Questions and answers
5:30pm	Closing Prayer





**When we discuss a partnership between your diocese and Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute, we want you to know that we plan to accompany you in the short-term and for the long-haul.**

- **In the short-term, we place ourselves at your service to answer your initial questions and to assist you with the launch of our partnership.**
- **For the long-haul, we will provide as many CI Explanation Events as you desire over as many years as you need to maximize our partnership with you and at no additional cost to your diocese.**

**Please consider the following four event options like an accordion, i.e., we can lengthen or shorten the event as you need. The times provided are only suggestions for your initial planning, but we prefer to speak with you about how to customize these events for your diocese and for each unique audience.**

- I. *CI Overview* – (1 hour) 60 minutes or less with 3 objectives:**
  1. Participants will taste communion within a diocese and with the Church Universal through the local, mentored, substantive, and engaging CI Approach to catechist formation.
  2. Participants will gain enough knowledge of the user-friendly Learning Management System, FranciscanAtHome.com, to create an account and to begin a workshop.
  3. Participants will trust the CI Approach to Catholic mentoring as a faithful way to accompany missionary disciples in their formation.
- II. *Strengthening Communion – Partnership Launch with Franciscan University's CI as a wide and long, high and deep way to meet the catechetical needs in your diocese, i.e., the Story of the CI's Origins and Our Unique Approach to Catechist Formation* – (2 hours) 120 minutes in 3 segments:**
  1. 30-minute S.W.O.T. exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) in small groups and report to large group among catechetical leaders concerning the present state of catechist formation in the diocese.
  2. 60-minute presentation on the origins of the CI and the 4 characteristics of the CI approach to catechist formation (local, mentored, substantive, engaging) that respond to the needs identified in the S.W.O.T. exercise.
  3. 30-minute large group Question and Answer.

**III. *Gaining Competence*** – *Nuts and Bolts of the CI Learning Management System, FranciscanAtHome.com and how to master it in a short amount of time, i.e., CI Orientation to*

*FranciscanAtHome.com* – (2 hours) 120 minutes in 5 segments:

1. 15-minute review of: (a) S.W.O.T. report from previous meeting, highlighting especially the use of technology in catechist formation; (b) 4 characteristics of the CI approach.
2. 30-minute presentation and demonstration on the user-friendliness of FranciscanAtHome.com.
3. 15-minute demonstration and participation in a workshop segment.
4. 15-minute exercise to create account and to take “first drive” of the learning management system with troubleshooting for anyone who needs it.
5. 30-minute large group Question and Answer.

**IV. *Building Confidence*** – *Catholic Mentoring Explained and How to Implement the CI Approach Successfully and Fruitfully in your parish or school, i.e., CI Catholic Mentoring Explanation* – (2 hours) 120 minutes in 4 segments:

1. 15-minute review of: (a) S.W.O.T. report from previous meeting, highlighting especially the use of technology in catechist formation; (b) 4 characteristics of the CI approach.
2. 45-minute presentation and the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of the CI approach to mentoring.
3. 15-minute small-group discussion on the presentation of the CI Approach.
4. 30-minute large group Question and Answer.