

Welcome to over 6,000 people and 100s of parishes and schools that have joined our ministry formation platform in recent months!

Some thoughts from evaluations of our workshops that may be of help in setting your expectations...

- I have completed work on three different platforms for Catechist Training.... I work 40 hours a week at a normal job. I then teach my own class at our parish while also filling the role as a catechetical leader. In the midst of this, I try to balance keeping up with household duties, spending time with family and friends. I am so grateful for this new platform. This my first “course” through the Franciscan University and in the first video clip, I think the first five minutes, I had already been challenged in my spiritual life. This course provided a healthy balance between spiritual growth, theology, and reflection. I did not feel overburdened by assignments nor by the material. While this is a welcomed relief, the more important aspect is the personal challenge I have received to move deeper into prayer and into Scripture. And the second, to become an effective witness.
- I very much enjoyed this workshop and was surprised at the amount of soul searching that I did! The workshop was not only catechetical but very personal! Excellent! After completing this workshop, I find that I have a new zeal for Christ. A new excitement to keep growing in my faith. A new desire to share this mission with others.
- During these past few months while I was completing these workshops, it seemed as if my awareness was heightened to a level I never thought possible...Thank you! These lessons will enable me to do my ministry with greater confidence, but also humility. I have become a better listener and not the judge, jury, and hangman I sometimes feel I was.
- I wasn't sure about this workshop when I began it but now that I have completed it, I definitely see its immense value as a catechist!!

Bottom-line: these workshops are built to really grow people, and their method and design needs to be trusted.

Seeing thousands of evaluations and experiences of those using our workshops, what are the top five best practices?

- 1) Focus on discovering people's real needs / aim to listen more intentionally to people in their struggles, concerns, and hopes / focus on them as people with spiritual needs, not just functions and roles.
- 2) Attend very carefully to what a person's first experience feels like with a workshop, and encourage it to happen preferably in a group setting if possible / assume a need for dialogue and accountability in learning.
- 3) Encourage people to explore the free choice of all the workshops, not just required tracks, to meet their own needs, perceived gaps and areas of interest / walk through with them what's there, rather than hope they'll discover things beyond required tracks.
- 4) Pace the learning, providing clear expectations / define how much to do by when, rather than leaving people's movement forward to chance.
- 5) Speak often of a culture of ownership of a ministry role / use language of building a positive culture of diligence in serving God's own.

What other helpful resources does Franciscan have to offer to help our parish or school succeed in our mission?

- Our resources section on the site: www.FranciscanAtHome.com/resources.
- Our annual St. John Bosco Conference and all Franciscan University's other summer conferences.
- Our ministry formation magazine – The Catechetical Review.
- Our events regularly held for dioceses, local and on-line, and our tutorials and webinars.
- Our University's online and on-ground degrees and School of Spiritual Direction.
- Our intentional priority on formation for pastoral accompaniment, with workshops that help build you in that specific skill set, and the option to join the Franciscan International Guild of Catechists and Leaders.

Welcome to the Franciscan At Home Family! We are thankful for the privilege of serving you.