



CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE MENTOR TRAINING

Friday, May 4, 2018

Hosted by the Diocese of Brooklyn

Located at the Immaculate Conception Center ✦ 7200 Douglaston Parkway, Little Neck, NY

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 next page for details on this and other suggestions for the event.

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





MENTOR TRAINING SUGGESTIONS



Recommendations for the Day:

Mentor trainings 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 mentor trainings end at dinner time and do not include that meal.

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 mentor training is large-scale or planned as a diocesan-wide in-service, we'd normally bring two or three 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 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 mentor training 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 online 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 role of beauty and the need to engage the whole person (used if there is time)

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 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 mentor effectively in this type of online context

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 in mentor formation

Explains the five 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 30-45min serves both mentors and diocesan officials.