



Catechetical Program Inventory - Grades 9-12 2015-2016

The Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee conducted a survey of parish religious education programs during June-July 2016. The purpose of the survey was to gather information on what our parishes are doing in the way of catechesis, sacramental preparation and youth ministry. Information will be used to identify trends, to review and update policies, to plan resources and professional development, and to share with parishes for their own assessment and planning.

Two questionnaires were developed--one for programs for grades K-8 and one for programs for grades 9-12. This document reports on the responses to the 9-12 survey.

Responses to the surveys were received from 94 of 199 parishes--a 47 percent response rate. 67 catechetical leaders, several of whom serve more than one parish, responded to the grade 9-12 survey. They identified themselves by name, title, parish, and parish contact information. This document reports on their responses.¹

Position titles

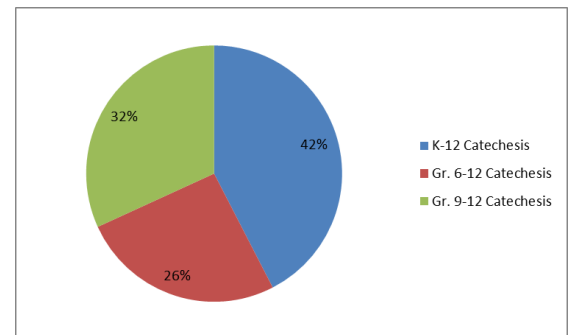
16 respondents (25%) said their job title was Director of Religious Education (DRE), the most frequent title. Other common titles included Director of Youth Ministry (9), Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (6), Youth Minister (6), Director of Faith Formation or Life Long Faith Formation (5), Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (5), Pastoral Associate (2). 4 respondents did not answer this question.

Areas of responsibility

Over 95 percent of the respondents to the 9-12 questionnaire identified grade 9-12 catechesis and Confirmation preparation as their areas of responsibility. Respondents were asked to check all the areas that applied.

Area of responsibility	# of responses	% of responses
9-12 catechesis	66	99%
Confirmation preparation	64	96%
Youth ministry	54	81%
6-8 catechesis	45	67%
K-5 catechesis	28	42%
Sacramental prep of children	28	42%
Family Formation	27	40%
Catechesis for preschool	18	27%

Total Respondents: 67



“Other” responses included Young Adult (8), Adult Formation (5), RCIA (4), Human Concerns (2), and Bereavement Ministry (2).

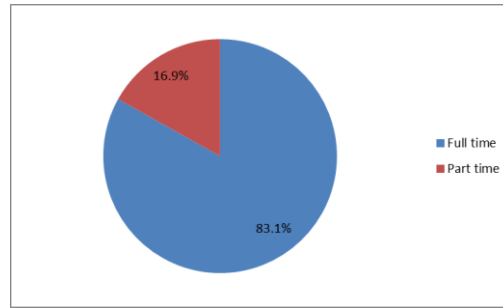
¹ The responses in this report will not all add to 67 because: (1) many questions asked respondents to check all areas that applied and (2) not all responded to all questions or all parts of a question. Responses are often reported in order of magnitude, not necessarily in the order they were listed in the questionnaire. Percentages are rounded, and so sometimes do not total 100%.

Full or part time position

When asked if their position was full-time or part-time, over three-quarters of the respondents reported holding full time positions.

Status of position	# of responses
Full time	54
Part time	11

Total Respondents: 65



Collaboration among parishes

Respondents were asked whether they were responsible for catechetical programs in one parish only or for joint or collaborative programs with more than one parish. 78 percent indicated they were responsible for one parish only. 22 percent of those responding were involved in a collaborative program with more than one parish.² Of these, 8 were involved in 2-parish arrangements, and 6 in 3 (or more) -parish collaborations. Respondents in 59 parishes were not involved in joint or collaborative programs at this level.

Parish collaboration	# of responses	% of responses
Responsible for one parish only	52	78%
Responsible for joint/collaborative programs in more than one parish	15	22%
Collaborate with a staff person from another parish on a joint program	6	9%

Total Respondents: 67

Association membership

Respondents were asked what professional associations they belong to. Only 37% of respondents answered this question. Of those who indicated that they belonged to an association; over three fourths stated that they belonged to Mareda. 10 respondents stated that they belonged to multiple associations. "Other" responses included WDREF and NALM.

Association	# of responses
Mareda	20
NACYML	7
PMMA	4
NCCL	3

Total Respondents: 25

Management of religious education program data

Respondents were asked how they manage of Religious Education Program Data. "Other" responses made up 33% of the responses and included Excel (12), Access (3), Paper & Pencil (1).

Area of responsibility	# of responses	% of responses
PDS	27	45%
ACS	6	10%
Parishsoft	5	8%
WeShare	2	3%

Total Respondents: 60

² The 22 percent can be explained by the fact that respondents could and did respond positively to more than one of the alternatives.

Program Information

Number of participants in religious education

Respondents were asked for a count of the number of participants in their catechetical programs, by grade level, not including their confirmation program. Not all respondents answered this question and those who did respond did not always report participants at every grade level. For each grade level, the numbers of catechetical participants, the program size, and the number of responses is shown in the chart below.

Grades	9th	10th	11th	12th
Total # of participants	1644	1749	809	139
Program size	3-70	1-80	1-73	1-23
# of responses	62	61	39	34

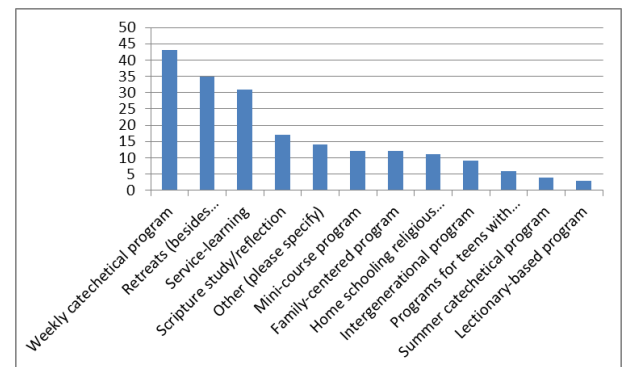
Total Respondents: 62

Models of religious education

When asked to indicate what models of religious education they used and to check all that applied, the top three mentioned were weekly catechetical program (70%), retreats (beside confirmation retreat) (57%), and service learning (51%).

Models of religious education	# of responses	% of responses
Weekly catechetical program	43	70%
Retreats (beside confirmation retreat)	35	57%
Service learning	31	51%
Scripture study/reflection	17	28%
Mini-course program	12	20%
Family-centered program	12	20%
Home schooling religious education	11	18%
Intergenerational program	9	15%
Programs for teens with special needs	11	10%
Summer catechetical program	6	7%
Lectionary-based program	3	5%

Total Respondents: 61



Other Responses included twice a month or Bi-Weekly Catechetical Programs.

Annual contact hours

When asked about the number of contact hours per year in each grade level, respondents reported an average of about 31 hours for programs in grades 9 and 10, with responses ranging from 12 to 97 hours. A little over half of the respondents reported hours for 11th grade (non-confirmation). Thirty reported hours for 12th grade.

Grades	9th	10th	11th	12th
Average contact hours	31	31	31	31
Range of contact hours	12 - 95	12 - 97	11 - 88	12 - 88
Median	29	29	29	25
# of respondents	62	61	39	30

Total Respondents: 62

Textbooks/resources used

Respondents were asked what textbook or series they used for their 9-12 grade catechesis. Roughly two-thirds of all responses were "other." *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, Saint Mary's Press, 2004, 2008, 2013, was the most used text with 13 respondents indicating they used it. Other textbook/resources used are: *Theology of the Body for Teens* (7), *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, with Total Catechesis*, St Mary's Press, 2004 (6), *Life Teen* (6), *Decision Point* (5), and *Chosen* (5), *Youth Ministry Access* (3), and *Catholicism Series*, C.R. Publications, 1997, 2006, 2007, 2009 (1). There were at 60 respondents answered this question.

Meeting times

Respondents were asked when they held classes and to check all that applied. The largest number held classes on Sunday evening with 48% and the 2nd highest was a Sunday morning with 42%.

When classes are held	# of respondents	% of respondents
Sunday evening	31	48%
Sunday morning	27	42%
Weekday evening	24	38%
Saturday morning	2	3%

Total Respondents: 64

Parent involvement

When asked how they involved parents, most said through regular email, or newsletter.

Methods of parent involvement	# of responses	% of responses
Regular Email or Newsletter	44	75%
Take-home materials	36	61%
Special programs for parents	23	39%
Sessions with teens in class	21	36%
Intergenerational sessions	15	25%

Total Respondents: 59

"Other" parent involvement included district parent/teen events, family session, mission trip, involvement in service, and small group leaders.

Annual fees

Respondents were asked what they charge for their 9-12 religious education programs.

	One child	Two children	Three children	Maximum
Lowest fee	\$30	\$45	\$35	\$35
Highest fee	\$200	\$320	\$480	\$500
Average fee	\$100	\$171	\$237	\$239
Median fee	\$100	\$173	\$240	\$228
# of respondents	61	53	51	47

Total Respondents: 62

One respondent listed there was no annual fees for their program.

Programs for Teens with Special Needs Respondents were asked to describe their program for teens with special needs, if they had such a program.

Response to Special Needs	# of responses
Special program (SPRED, Vine & Branches, ARISE, Journey, Risen)	6
Mainstream children with extra assistance from catechists or aides	5
Treat each child and situation individually as needed	4

Total Respondents: 15

Spiritual development opportunities

Respondents were asked what spiritual development opportunities their parish offered teens. Retreats (besides the confirmation retreat) were mentioned by 75% percent of those responding. Less than 50 percent of the respondents reported offering any of the other spiritual development opportunities listed for their consideration.

Spiritual development program	# of responses	% of responses
Retreat (besides confirmation)	44	75%
Youth-friendly liturgy	29	49%
Prayer or faith-sharing group	28	47%
Eucharistic adoration	22	37%
Scripture study	13	22%
Spiritual direction	4	7%

Total Respondents: 59

“Other” responses included: youth group, pray services, offsite events such as: ARISE, St. John Bosco Youth Day, Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally, Service Opportunities, Summer Mission Trips, Steubenville Conference, Speaker Night with District

Justice and service opportunities

Respondents were asked what service opportunities their parish offered teens. Service opportunities within the parish (such as committees, liturgical roles, catechist aide) were mentioned by 97 percent of those responding. Other opportunities mentioned by over 50 percent of respondents included direct service to the needy (80%), summer mission trips (76%), and collecting/ fundraising for a cause (65%).

Justice and service program	# of responses	% of responses
Parish service opportunities (e.g., committees, liturgical roles, catechist aide)	64	97%
Direct service to the needy (e.g., meal programs, shelters)	53	80%
Summer mission trips	50	76%
Collecting/fundraising for a cause	43	65%
Projects chosen and designed by youth	28	42%
Advocacy, letter writing, awareness raising projects	10	15%
Other	3	5%

Total Respondents: 66

Leadership opportunities

Respondents were asked what leadership opportunities their parish offered teens.

Leadership opportunities	# of responses
Youth leadership training	19
Youth on parish committees	18
Youth advisory board	14
Other	6

Total Respondents: 36

“Other” responses included Senior High Leadership Team, Youth Ministry team, retreat team, Mission Trip Leadership Team, Bible Study leader, Youth Involvement in parish ministries.

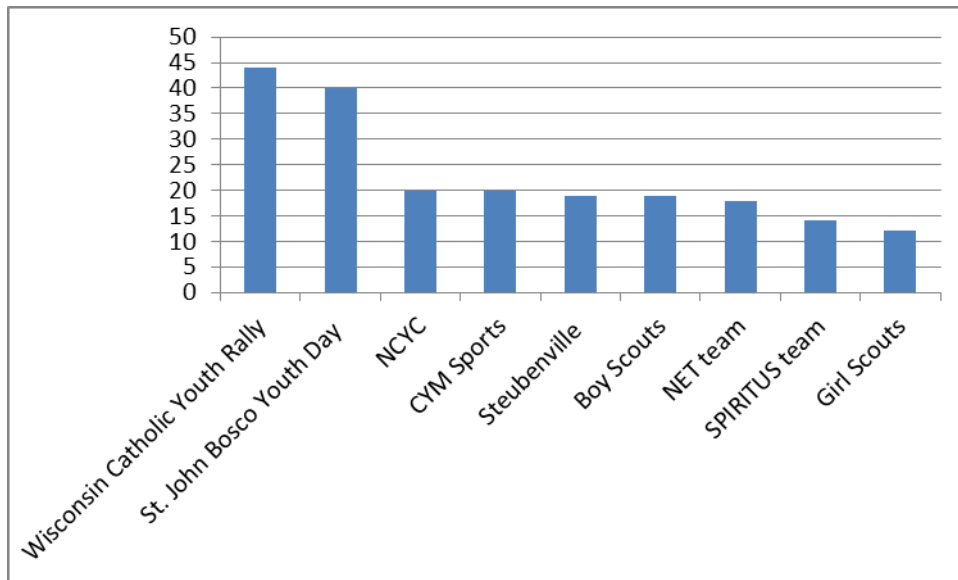
Other Youth Ministry Opportunities

Respondents were asked whether they offer specific opportunities to their teens.

Youth Opportunities	# of responses	% of responses
WCYR - Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally	44	71%
St. John Bosco Youth Day at Holy Hill	40	65%
CYM Sports - volleyball, basketball, bowling	20	32%
NCYC - National Catholic Youth Conference	20	32%
Steubenville Youth Conference	19	31%
Boy Scouts	19	31%
NET - National Evangelization Team	18	29%
SPIRITUS team	14	23%
Girl Scouts	12	19%

Total Respondents: 62

“Other” responses included Life Teen Summer Camp.



Confirmation Preparation

Relationship between confirmation program and other catechetical programs

Respondents were asked about the relationship between their parish confirmation program and other catechetical programs. 50 percent of the respondents said the confirmation program corresponds to 11th grade and is the only catechetical program for 11th graders. All other responses received very few responses.

Program relationships	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation program corresponds to 11th grade and is the only catechetical program for 11th graders.	32	50%
Confirmation program takes place during 11th grade, but we also offer a religious ed program during the 11th grade.	14	22%
Confirmation program overlaps the 10th and 11th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	8	12%
Confirmation program overlaps the 11th and 12th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	1	2%
Other	9	14%

Total Respondents: 64

“Other” scenarios included confirmation as a 2 year program, confirmation spanning 3 years (9th, 10th, 11th), Confirmation program corresponds to 12th grade and is the only catechetical program for 12th graders, Program open to Juniors and Seniors – they can do either year.

Number of confirmation candidates

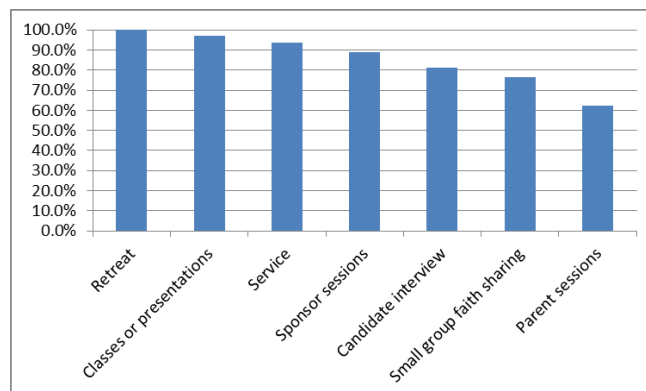
Respondents were asked about the size of their confirmation class. The total number of confirmation candidates reported was 2,246. Class sizes ranged from 1 to 130, with the average class size of 35. 65 respondents answered this question.

Confirmation program elements

Respondents were asked what program elements are included in their parish confirmation program. The top three cited were retreat (100%), classes/presentations and service.

Program elements	# of responses	% of responses
Retreat	64	100%
Classes or presentations	62	97%
Service	60	94%
Sponsor session	57	89%
Candidate interview	52	81%
Small group faith sharing	49	77%
Parent sessions	40	63%

Total Respondents: 64



Confirmation program contact hours

Respondents were asked the approximate number of contact hours for their confirmation program (not including the retreat). Based on the 61 responses, the average number of contact hours was 26 hours. The number of hours ranged from 4.5 to 60.

Confirmation textbook/program

Respondents were asked what textbook or program they used for confirmation preparation, and were asked to choose from a list, or indicate other resources.

The most frequently used is the new *Chosen* program by Ascension Press (23%). Other materials used by more than one respondent include: *Confirmed in a Faithful Community* (7%), *Confirmation: Receiving the Gift of the Spirit* (7%), *Decision Point* (7%), *Confirmed in the Spirit* (5%), *One Eight Confirmation Curriculum* (5%), and *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* (3%). Ten respondents (16%) report using two or more published programs. Eleven respondents (18%) developed their own programs.

Confirmation sponsor involvement

Respondents were asked how sponsors were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of respondents cited confirmation rehearsal (98%), requiring candidates and sponsors to meet on their own (73%), and sponsor-candidate session(s) (72%).

Sponsor engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation rehearsal	63	98%
Require candidates and sponsors to meet on their own	47	73%
Sponsor-candidate session(s) during the program	46	72%
Sponsor handbook or other materials	39	61%
Sponsor orientation session	30	47%
Other	2	3%

Total Respondents: 64

“Other” responses included a candidate commitment liturgy with sponsors & parents and a meal, an introductory letter of congrats and with suggestions for sponsoring the candidate.

Confirmation parent involvement

Respondents were asked how parents were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of responses was parent meetings (85%) and email materials or e-newsletter (83%).

Parent engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Parent meeting(s)	55	86%
Email Materials or E-newsletter	53	83%
Parent letters to candidates	51	80%
Take home materials	32	50%
Invited to participate in service projects	31	48%
Parent-candidate session	26	41%

Total Respondents: 64

Other responses included intergenerational sessions, parent sessions, help on retreat.

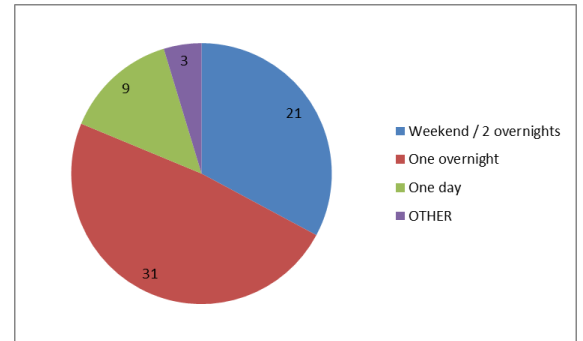
Confirmation Retreat

Respondents were asked about the length, location and leadership of their confirmation retreat.

Length of retreat:

Length of Retreat	# of Respondents	% Of Respondents
One Overnight	31	48%
Weekend/2 overnights	21	33%
One Day	9	14%
Other	3	5%

Total Respondents: 64



Other responses included: 2 day retreats that did not have an overnight included or that had different locations for day 1 and 2.

Retreat Leadership: In responding to the leadership options listed for their consideration, 23% of the respondents said the Inspirio staff led their confirmation retreat. If the categories of parish team and parish director of youth ministry are combined, then parish personnel conducted the confirmation retreat in 50% of the responses.

Retreat Leadership	Number of Respondents	% Of Respondents
Parish DYM	22	34%
Inspirio staff	15	23%
Parish Team	10	16%
Spiritus Team	9	14%
Guest Presenter/Director	5	8%
Net Team	2	3%
Other	1	2%

Total Respondents: 64

Location of retreat:

Location of Retreat	# of Responses	% Of Responses
Inspirio Youth Ministries	19	30%
Mt. Tabor Center	8	13%
St. Vincent Pallotti Retreat Center	7	11%
Camp Whitcomb/Mason	7	11%
At Our Parish	5	8%
At Another Parish	3	5%
Daniel Soref Retreat Center	3	5%
Saint Francis De Sales Seminary	2	3%
Holy Hill Guest House	1	2%
Other	8	13%

Total Respondents: 64

Other options include: Newman Center, Green Lake Conference Center, and multiple locations.

Number of confirmation retreats

Respondents were asked how many retreats or retreat options they offered candidates. 72 percent of the respondents said they offered one retreat for all candidates.

Number of retreat options	# of responses	% of responses
One retreat for all	46	72%
Two options	13	20%
Three options	3	5%
More options	2	3%

Total Respondents: 64

Service component of Confirmation preparation

Respondents were asked what strategies were used to engage candidates in Christian service during their confirmation preparation. More than half of respondents answered: discuss service during the confirmation interview (66%); require a certain number of service hours (61%); offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates (61%) and involve candidates alongside adult parishioners (55%).

Service strategies	# of responses	% of responses
Discuss service during confirmation interview	42	66%
Offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates	39	61%
Require a certain number of service hours	39	61%
Involve candidates along side adult parishioners	35	55%
Assign group service projects	27	42%
Help candidates identify needs and design service projects	17	27%
Offer a service journal for reflection on the experience	17	27%
Facilitate group reflection on service experiences	17	27%
Other	8	13%

Total Respondents: 64

Cost for confirmation preparation

Respondents were asked what they charge for their confirmation program and retreat.

	Confirmation fee	Retreat fee	Total
Lowest fee	\$20	\$10	\$50
Highest fee	\$265	\$200	\$340
Average fee ³	\$116	\$110	\$176
Median fee ³	\$100	\$117.5	\$175
# of respondents	62	45	59

Total Respondents: 64

There were 2 respondents who did not charge for either part of confirmation preparation. Five respondents said they charged just a retreat fee while 6 just charged a confirmation program fee.

³ The Average & Median fees do not include any zero data.

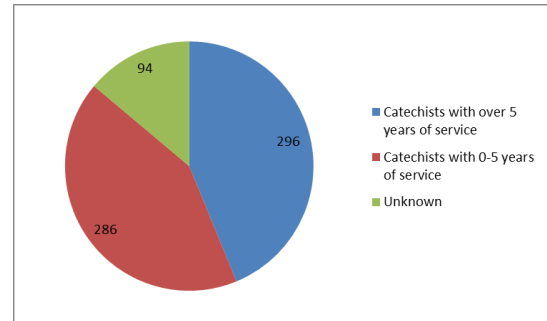
Catechists and Assistants

Catechists – demographics

Respondents were asked how many catechists they have for grades 9-12, how many have completed training for basic religious education certification, and their years of service. Respondents reported numbers ranging from 1 to 62 catechists.

Total number of catechists reported	676	
Number with over 5 years of service	296	43%
Number with 0-5 years of service	286	42%
Number with basic certification	88	13%

Total Respondents: 63



Catechists – formation

Respondents were asked what kind of formation they provide for their catechists. Individual orientation was most often mentioned (78%). More than half the respondents indicated they used catechist group sharing, sharing reading materials, or in-service training.

Formation opportunities	# of responses	% of response
Individual orientation	49	78%
In-service training	40	63%
Sharing reading materials	36	57%
Catechist group sharing	36	57%
Funding to attend conferences/courses	25	40%
Speakers/adult education	22	35%
District catechist day	15	24%
Forming the Catechetical Spirit program	14	22%
Mentor program	6	10%
Echoes of Faith	1	2%

Total Respondents: 63

Adults serving in religious education program

Respondents were asked in what ways adults serve in their religious education program other than as catechists. Roles mentioned by more than 50% of respondents include confirmation sponsors, event chaperones, substitute catechists, presenters on special topics, and members of mission trip team.

Service	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation sponsors	54	84%
Event chaperones	51	80%
Substitute catechists	46	71%
Mission trip team	39	61%
Presenters on special topics	34	53%
Catechist aides	30	47%
Group facilitators	28	44%
Office assistants	28	44%
Special event team	19	30%
Set up/equipment assistants	15	23%
Service mentors	12	19%
Assistants for children with special needs	6	9%
Hosts for groups in homes	4	6%

Total Respondents: 64