

**Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry**

**Grades 9-12 Catechetical Program Inventory  
2009-2010**

The Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee conducted a survey of parish religious education programs during June-July 2010. 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.<sup>1</sup>

Responses to the surveys were received from 143 of 210 parishes--a 68 percent response rate.<sup>2</sup> 91 lay ecclesial ministers, several of whom serve more than one parish, responded to the 9-12 survey. They identified themselves by name, title, parish, and parish contact information. This document reports on their responses to the survey questions.<sup>3</sup>

**Areas of responsibility**

Over 90 percent of the respondents to the 9-12 questionnaire identified grades 9-12 and Confirmation preparation as their areas of responsibility. Respondents were asked to check all the areas that applied.

<b>Area of responsibility</b>	<b># of responses</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
9-12 catechesis	86	95%
Confirmation preparation	84	92%
Youth ministry	68	75%
6-8 catechesis	64	71%
Sacramental preparation	46	51%
K-5 catechesis	46	51%

90 respondents answered this question.

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<sup>1</sup> Data compiled and report prepared by Jenann Olsen.

<sup>2</sup> This was an excellent response rate, particularly considering the timing of the survey, June and July, the time most parishes are ending or have ended their catechetical programs for the year.

<sup>3</sup> The responses in this report will not all add to 91 for three reasons: because (1) non-responses are not recorded in this report; (2) many questions asked respondents to check all areas that applied; and (3) not all responded to all questions or all parts of a question. Responses are reported in order of magnitude, not necessarily in the order they were listed in the questionnaire.

### 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. Over 20 percent of those responding were involved in a collaborative program with more than one parish (with 80 percent of the respondents saying they were responsible for one parish only). Respondents could and did respond positively to both other alternatives. 21 respondents were responsible for the 26 collaborative responses.

Parish collaboration	# of responses	% of responses
Responsible for one parish only	72	80%
Responsible for joint/collaborative programs in more than one parish	18	20%
Collaborate with a staff person from another parish on a joint program	8	8%

90 respondents answered this question.

### Program collaboration

Of the 21 respondents involved in collaborative programs, 100 percent collaborated on Confirmation preparation programs; nearly three-quarters also collaborated on religious education for grades 9-12 and other youth ministry programs.

Collaborative programs	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation preparation	21	100%
Religious ed for grades 9-12	15	71%
Other youth ministry programs	15	71%

21 respondents answered this question.

### Full or part time position

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

Status of position	# of responses	% of responses
Full time	62	68%
Part time	29	32%

91 respondents answered this question.

### 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 all respondents answered this question and those who did respond did not 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	2,274	2,253	1,488	279
Program size	1-100	1-85	1-100	1-59
# of responses	81	84	57	22

### Models of religious education

When asked to indicate what models of religious education they used and to check all that applied, the top three models mentioned were service learning (58%), weekly catechetical programs (52%), and retreats (51%) Less than one-third of the respondents reported using any of the other models listed for their consideration.

Models of religious education	# of responses	% of responses
Service learning	47	58%
Weekly catechetical program	42	52%
Retreats (beside confirmation retreat)	41	51%
Scripture study/reflection	26	32%
Mini-course program	25	31%
Intergenerational program	16	20%
Home schooling religious education	14	17%
Family-centered program	8	10%
Lectionary-based program	5	6%
Summer catechetical program	3	4%
Programs for teens with special needs	3	4%

81 respondents answered this question.

### Annual contact hours

When asked about the number of contact hours per year in each grade level, respondents reported an average of 28-34 annual contact hours for catechetical programs. Several respondents noted that the number of hours reported did not include retreat(s). The responses ranged from 12 hours to 48.75 hours; the mode (the number of hours that occurred most frequently) was 30 hours for grades 9, 10 and 11; and 45 hours for gr. 12.

Grades	9th	10th	11th	12th
Average contact hours	28	29	34	29
Range of contact hours	12-48.75	12-48.75	12-48.75	12-50
Mode	30	30	30	45
# of respondents	83	85	63	20

### Textbooks/resources used

Respondents were asked what textbook or series they used for their 9-12 grade level catechesis, and were asked to choose from a list of three textbooks/series, fill in the blank for "other," or check "none." Roughly two-thirds of the respondents answered "other." There was no consensus among the "other" textbooks--no text or resource was used by more than five respondents. Thus, although the numbers are small, the Catholic Faith Handbooks were the most used texts.<sup>4</sup>

Grade level	Catholic Essentials	The Catholic Faith Handbook	The Catholic Faith Handbook--Total Catechesis	Other	None
9th	0	8	13	52	4
10th	0	11	13	49	4
11th	0	4	7	45	4
12th	0	1	1	26	13

78 respondents answered this question.

<sup>4</sup> *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, St. Mary's Press, 2004, 2008; and *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, with Total Catechesis*, St. Mary's Press.

### Meeting times

Respondents were asked when they held classes and to check all that applied. The largest number held classes on weekday evening (49%), followed by Sunday evening (47%).

When classes are held	# of respondents	% of respondents
Weekday evening	42	49%
Sunday evening	40	47%
Sunday morning	37	44%
Saturday morning	4	5%

85 respondents answered this question.

### Parent involvement

When asked how they involved parents, most said through take home materials. Special programs for parents and work with teens in the classroom were also mentioned by more than half the respondents.

Methods of parent involvement	# of responses	% of responses
Take-home materials	38	57%
Special programs for parents	35	52%
Work with teens in the classroom	35	52%
Intergenerational sessions	26	39%
Other	19	28%

67 respondents answered this question.

### Annual fees

Respondents were asked what they charge for their 9-12 religious education programs. Five respondents said they had no fees; 13 respondents said they had no maximum fee.

	One child	Two children	Three children
Lowest fee	0	0	0
Highest fee	\$175	\$350	\$525
Average fee	\$75	\$132	\$180
Median fee	\$75	\$120	\$155
# of respondents	83	75	73

### Spiritual development opportunities

Respondents were asked what spiritual development opportunities their parish offered teens. Retreats (besides the confirmation retreat) was mentioned by 74 percent of those responding. Less than 50 percent of the respondents reported using any of the other spiritual development programs listed for their consideration.

Spiritual development program	# of responses	% of responses
Retreat (besides confirmation)	51	74%
Prayer or faith-sharing group	32	46%
Youth-friendly liturgy	30	45%
Eucharistic adoration	24	35%
Scripture study	20	29%
Spiritual direction	12	17%

69 respondents answered this question.

### 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 95 percent of those responding. Other opportunities mentioned by over 50 percent of those responding included direct service to the needy (82%), collecting/fundraising for a cause (77%) and summer mission trips (63%).

Justice and service program	# of responses	% of responses
Parish service opportunities	84	95%
Direct service to the needy	72	82%
Collecting/fundraising for a cause	68	77%
Summer mission trips	55	63%
Projects chosen and designed by youth	46	52%
Advocacy, letter writing, awareness raising projects	19	22%
Other	14	16%

88 respondents answered this question.

### Leadership opportunities

Respondents were asked what leadership opportunities their parish offered teens. Youth serving on parish committees was mentioned by 62 percent of the respondents. Less than 50 percent of the respondents reported any of the other leadership development programs listed for their consideration.

Leadership opportunities	# of responses	% of responses
Youth on parish committees	38	62%
Youth leadership training	16	26%
Youth advisory board	12	20%
Other	19	31%

61 respondents answered this question.

### Relationship between confirmation program and other catechetical programs

Respondents were asked about the relationship between their parish confirmation program and other catechetical programs. Over 60 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.	51	61%
Confirmation program takes place during the 11th grade, but we also offer a religious ed program during the 11th grade year.	13	16%
Confirmation program overlaps the 10th and 11th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	7	8%
Confirmation program overlaps the 11th and 12th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	4	5%
Other	8	10%

83 respondents answered this question.

### Number of confirmation candidates

Respondents were asked about the size of their confirmation class. 86 respondents answered this question. The total number of confirmation candidates reported was 2,909. The average class size was 34. Class sizes ranged from 2 to 115.

### Confirmation program elements

Respondents were asked what program elements are included in their parish confirmation program. Over 70 percent responded positively to all program elements listed for their consideration. The top three were cited by 99 percent of the respondents: classes/presentation, service, and retreat.

Program elements	# of responses	% of responses
Classes or presentations	85	99%
Service	85	99%
Retreat	85	99%
Candidate interview	79	92%
Small group faith sharing	66	77%
Sponsor session	63	73%
Parent sessions	62	72%
Other	9	10%

86 respondents answered this question.

### Confirmation program contact hours

Respondents were asked about the approximate number of contact hours of their confirmation program (not including the retreat). Based on 86 responses, the average number of contact hours was 28 hours. The number of contact hours ranged from 4 to 72.

### Confirmation textbook/program

Respondents were asked what textbook or program they used for confirmation preparation, and were asked to choose from a list of six textbooks/programs, fill in the blank for other or check none. Nearly half of the respondents answered other. Most of the respondents who said other listed a variety of sources. In the other category, only one text was mentioned more than three times. Six respondents said they used the *Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* published by St. Mary's Press. The number of responses to the publications listed in the questionnaire are shown in the chart below.<sup>5</sup>

Call to Celebrate: Confirmation	Confirmation	Confirmation: Receiving the Gift of the Spirit	Confirmed in a Faithful Community	Send Out Your Spirit	Un llamado a celebrar: La Confirmacion	Other	None
1	8	9	12	2	1	37	9

79 respondents answered this question.

<sup>5</sup> Call to Celebrate: Confirmation, Harcourt, 2008; Confirmation RCL, Benzinger, 2007; Confirmation: Receiving the Gift of the Spirit, Pflaum Publishing Group; Confirmed in a Faithful Community, St. Mary's Press, 2006; Send Out Your Spirit, Ave Maria Press, 2003, 2010; Un llamado a celebrar: la Confirmacion, 2008.

### Confirmation sponsor involvement

Respondents were asked how sponsors were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of respondents cited confirmation rehearsal (94%), followed by sponsor-candidate session(s) during the program (65%) and requiring candidates and sponsors to meet on their own (64%).

Sponsor engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation rehearsal	81	94%
Sponsor-candidate session(s) during the program	56	65%
Require candidates and sponsors to meet on their own	55	64%
Sponsor handbook or other materials	49	57%
Sponsor orientation session	39	45%

86 respondents answered this question.

### Confirmation parent involvement

Respondents were asked how parents were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of responses were received for parent letters to candidates (84%) and parent meeting(s) (80%).

Parent engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Parent letters to candidates	72	84%
Parent meeting(s)	69	80%
Invited to participate in service projects	45	52%
Take home materials	43	50%
Parent-candidate session	40	47%

86 respondents answered this question.

### Length, location and leadership of confirmation retreat

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

Length of retreat: 42% of the respondents said their confirmation retreat was held on a weekend with two overnights.

Length of retreat	Weekend/2 overnights	One overnight	One day	Other
	36 (42%)	30 (35%)	19 (22%)	1 (1%)

86 respondents answered this question.

Location: In responding to the locations listed for their consideration, 34 (40 percent) of the respondents said their confirmation retreat was held at the TYME OUT center. The next largest number said other. Locations mentioned in the other category included Camp Whitcomb/Mason (8), Daniel Soref Retreat Center (4), Saint Francis Seminary (2) and a Salvation Army Camp (2).

Location of retreat	TYME OUT	Holy Hill	Schoenstatt	St. Vincent Pallotti	Mt. Tabor	At parish	Other
	34 (40%)	5 (6%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	5 (6%)	12 (14%)	26 (31%)

86 respondents answered this question.

Retreat Leadership: In responding to the leadership options listed for their consideration, 31 percent of the respondents said they used the TYME OUT staff for their confirmation retreat. If the categories of parish director of youth ministry and parish team are combined, the response rate for parish staff conducting the confirmation retreat is 41 percent.

Retreat Leadership	Parish DYM	Parish team	TYME OUT staff	Guest presenter/director	Other
	18 (21%)	17 (20%)	27 (31%)	11 (13%)	13 (15%)

86 respondents answered this question.

### Number of confirmation retreats

Respondents were asked how many retreats or retreat options they offered candidates. 70 percent of the respondents said they offered one retreat for all candidates.

Number of retreat options	# of responses	% of responses
One retreat for all	60	70%
Two options	22	26%
Three options	2	2%
More options	2	2%

86 respondents answered this question.

### Service component of Confirmation preparation

Respondents were asked what strategies were used to engage candidates in Christian service during their confirmation preparation. The largest number of responses were: discuss service during the confirmation interview (77%); involve candidates alongside adult parishioners (63%), require a certain number of service hours (61%) and offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates (59%).

Service strategies	# of responses	% of responses
Discuss service during confirmation interview	67	77%
Involve candidates along side adult parishioners	55	63%
Require a certain number of service hours	53	61%
Offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates	51	59%
Assign group service projects	31	36%
Facilitate group reflection on service experiences	28	32%
Help candidates identify needs and design service projects	27	31%
Offer a service journal for reflection on the experience	27	31%

87 respondents answered this question.



### Charge for confirmation preparation

Respondents were asked what they charge for their confirmation program and retreat. Fifteen respondents said they had no charge for the confirmation program; 15 respondents said they had no charge for the retreat. Seven said that had no charge for either preparation or retreat.

	Confirmation fee	Retreat fee	Total
Lowest fee	0	0	0
Highest fee	\$200	\$155	\$285
Median fee	\$75	\$75	\$150
# of respondents	82	67	76

### Catechists - demographics

Respondents were asked how many 9-12 catechists they have, how many have completed training for basic religious education certification, and their years of service. Because the numbers do not tally accurately, they should not be taken as exact. They are, however, valuable in getting a general picture of catechists in the archdiocese.

			# of respondents
Total number of catechists reported	835	100%	86
Number with certification	102 <sup>6</sup>	12%	68
Number with 0-5 years of service	416	50%	73
Number with over 5 years of service	345	41%	72

### Catechists - formation

Respondents were asked what kind of formation they provide for their catechists. Individual orientation was most often mentioned (by 77 percent of the respondents). Over 50 percent said they used catechist group sharing, sharing reading materials and in-service training.

Formation opportunities	# of responses	% of response
Individual orientation	63	77%
Catechist group sharing	60	73%
Sharing reading materials	58	71%
In-service training	54	66%
Speakers/adult education	40	49%
Funding to attend conferences/courses	40	49%
District catechist day	33	40%
Echoes of Faith	10	12%
Mentor program	10	12%
Forming the Catechetical Spirit program	6	7%

82 respondents answered this question.

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<sup>6</sup> Several reported they did not know how many of their catechists were certified.

### Adults serving in religious education program

Respondents were asked in what ways adults serve in their religious education program other than as catechists. Serving as confirmation sponsors was mentioned by 80 percent of the respondents. Other items mentioned by over 50 percent of the respondents include event chaperones, substitute catechists, presenters on special topics and group facilitators.

<b>Service</b>	<b># of responses</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
Confirmation sponsors	67	80%
Event chaperones	65	77%
Substitute catechists	60	71%
Presenters on special topics	47	56%
Group facilitators	45	54%
Mission trip team	40	48%
Catechist aides	36	43%
Service mentors	30	36%
Office assistants	25	30%
Set up/equipment assistants	18	21%
Special event team	18	21%
Assistants for children with special needs	9	11%
Hosts for groups in homes	8	10%

84 respondents answered this question.