Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry

Grades 9-12 Catechetical Program Inventory
2011-2012

The Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee conducted a survey of parish religious education programs during May-July 2012. 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 93 of 204 parishes--a 46 percent response rate. 71 lay ecclesial ministers, 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]

Areas of responsibility
Over 90 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	67	96%
Confirmation preparation	66	94%
Youth ministry	59	84%
6-8 catechesis	48	69%
Sacramental prep of children	37	53%
K-5 catechesis	36	51%
Adult formation	6	9%
Young adult ministry	5	7%

70 respondents answered this question.

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[1] The responses in this report will not all add to 71 for three reasons: (1) non-responses to questions 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 often reported in order of magnitude, not necessarily in the order they were listed in the questionnaire. Percentages are rounded, so sometimes do not total 100%.

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. 29 percent of those responding were involved in a collaborative program with more than one parish.[2] 71 percent indicated they were responsible for one parish only. Of the parishes represented, 20 were involved in 2-parish arrangements, and 24 were involved in 3-parish collaborations. Respondents in 49 parishes were not involved in joint or collaborative programs at this level.

Parish collaboration	# of responses	% of responses
Responsible for one parish only	50	71%
Responsible for joint/collaborative programs in more than one parish	17	24%
Collaborate with a staff person from another parish on a joint program	7	11%

70 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	50	71%
Part time	20	29%

70 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 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	1755	1882	869	66
Program size	1-79	2-86	1-112	1-12
# of responses	69	68	30	12

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[2] The 29 percent can be explained by the fact that respondents could and did respond positively to more than one of the alternatives. 71 percent indicated they were responsible for programs in one parish only, leaving 29% responsible for various collaborative arrangements.

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 service learning (61%), weekly catechetical programs (61%), and retreats (57%)

Models of religious education	# of responses	% of responses
Service learning	43	61%
Weekly catechetical program	43	61%
Retreats (beside confirmation retreat)	40	57%
Scripture study/reflection	23	33%
Mini-course program	15	21%
Intergenerational program	14	20%
Lectionary-based program	13	19%
Home schooling religious education	12	17%
Family-centered program	6	9%
Programs for teens with special needs	5	7%
Summer catechetical program	2	3%

70 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 31 annual contact hours for programs in grades 9 and 10, with responses ranging from 13 to 78 hours. About half of the respondents reported hours for 11th grade (non-confirmation). Nine reported hours for 12th grade.

Grades	9th	10th	11th	12th
Average contact hours	31	31	36	49
Range of contact hours	13 - 78	13 - 78	12-78	20 - 80
Median	28	29	35	50
# of respondents	66	65	35	9

Textbooks/resources used

Respondents were asked what textbook or series they used for their 9-12 grade catechesis. About one third of responses were choices from the list of textbooks provided in the survey; roughly two-thirds of all responses were "other." The Catholic Faith Handbook was the most used text.

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Catholic Essentials, Ave Maria Press	1	1	0	0
Catholicism Series, C.R. Publications	1	1	1	0
Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Saint Mary's Press	12	10	8	1
Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, with Total Catechesis, Saint Mary's Press	9	12	3	1
Other	39	38	25	13

"Other" resources included: YOUCat (4 respondents), Youth Ministry Access (4), Theology of the Body for Teens (3), LifeTeen materials (3), Catholic Youth Bible (3), Spirit lectionary-based (3), Didache Series (2), Horizons series (2),T3 Bible Study (2), Your Life in Christ (2). Ten other resources were noted by individual respondents.

Meeting times
Respondents were asked when they held classes and to check all that applied. The largest number held classes on weekday evening (47%), followed by Sunday evening (44%). Some offer more than one classtime option.

When classes are held	# of respondents	% of respondents
Weekday evening	33	47%
Sunday evening	31	44%
Sunday morning	23	33%
Saturday morning	0	0%

70 respondents answered this question.

Parent involvement
When asked how they involved parents, most said through take home materials.

Methods of parent involvement	# of responses	% of responses
Take-home materials	42	70%
Special programs for parents	27	45%
Sessions with teens in class	22	37%
Intergenerational sessions	18	30%
Other	12	20%

60 respondents answered this question.

"Other" parent involvement included chaperones for field trips and service projects, liturgies, parent emails, and district sessions for parents and teens.

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

	One child	Two children	Three children	Maximum
Lowest fee	0	0	0	0
Highest fee	$175	$320	$480	$480
Average fee	$88	$153	$209	$197
Median fee	$80	$140	$195	$175
# of respondents	69	60	54	41

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

Special needs program in parish or cluster (e.g., ARISE, Journey, SPRED, Vine & Branches)	8
Mainstream students, with parent involvement or aide	3
American Sign Language program for deaf students	1
Accommodate as needed	1
Refer to another parish	1
None	4

19 respondents answered this question.

Spiritual development opportunities

Respondents were asked what spiritual development opportunities their parish offered teens. Retreats (besides the confirmation retreat) was mentioned by 70 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	70%
Youth-friendly liturgy	26	41%
Prayer or faith-sharing group	19	30%
Scripture study	19	30%
Eucharistic adoration	15	24%
Spiritual direction	9	14%

63 respondents answered this question.

"Other" individual responses included: youth group, Dead Theologians Society, youth choir, Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally, living Stations of the Cross, and others.

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 (87%), collecting/ fundraising for a cause (77%) and summer mission trips (64%).

Justice and service program	# of responses	% of responses
Parish service opportunities (e.g., committees, liturgical roles, catechist aide)	68	97%
Direct service to the needy (e.g., meal programs, shelters)	61	87%
Collecting/fundraising for a cause	54	77%
Summer mission trips	45	64%
Projects chosen and designed by youth	31	44%
Advocacy, letter writing, awareness raising projects	15	21%
Other	4	6%

70 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.

Leadership opportunities	# of responses	% of responses
Youth on parish committees	23	62%
Youth leadership training	14	26%
Youth advisory board	13	20%
Other	11	31%

61 respondents answered this question.

"Other" responses included peer ministry, mentoring program, and leadership within youth group.

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.	44	66%
Confirmation program takes place during 11th grade, but we also offer a religious ed program during the 11th grade.	8	12%
Confirmation program overlaps the 10th and 11th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	7	10%
Confirmation program overlaps the 11th and 12th grade years; we offer religious ed during part of the 11th grade.	1	1%
Other	8	12%

67 respondents answered this question.

"Other" scenarios included confirmation every other year, two-year program, or small number of candidates referred to another parish.

Number of confirmation candidates
Respondents were asked about the size of their confirmation class. The total number of confirmation candidates reported was 2,359. Class sizes ranged from 0 to 112, with the average class size of 35. 67 respondents answered this question.

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 cited were classes/presentations, service, and retreat.

Program elements	# of responses	% of responses
Classes or presentations	65	98%
Retreat	65	98%
Service	63	95%
Candidate interview	56	85%
Small group faith sharing	50	76%
Sponsor session	50	76%
Parent sessions	49	74%
Other	3	5%

66 respondents answered this question.

Confirmation program contact hours
Respondents were asked the approximate number of contact hours for their confirmation program (not including the retreat). Based on the 64 responses, the average number of contact hours was 28 hours. The number of hours ranged from 10 to 109.

Confirmation textbook/program

Respondents were asked what textbook or program they used for confirmation preparation, and were asked to choose from a list of eight textbooks/programs, or indicate "other."

Textbook	# of responses
Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Saint Mary's Press	8
Confirmed in a Faithful Community, Saint Mary's Press	8
Confirmation: Receiving the Gift of the Spirit, Pflaum Publishing	7
Confirmation, RCL Benziger	5
Call to Celebrate: Confirmation, Harcourt (OSV Curriculum)	2
Send Out Your Spirit, Ave Maria Press	2
Un llamado a celebrar: la Confirmación, Harcourt (OSV)	1
Anointed in the Spirit, Saint Mary's Press	1
Other	23

57 respondents answered this question.

Of those who indicated "other," 10 used multiple resources, 5 used material written by themselves or a predecessor. Other materials noted by more than one respondent were Confirmation by Liguori Publications; YOUCAT; Youth Ministry Access; and LifeTeen.

Confirmation sponsor involvement

Respondents were asked how sponsors were engaged in the confirmation preparation program. The largest number of respondents cited confirmation rehearsal (97%), followed by sponsor-candidate session(s) during the program (62%) and requiring candidates and sponsors to meet on their own (62%).

Sponsor engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Confirmation rehearsal	63	97%
Sponsor-candidate session(s) during the program	40	62%
Require candidates and sponsors to meet on their own	40	62%
Sponsor handbook or other materials	33	51%
Sponsor orientation session	28	43%
Other	4	6%

65 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 parent letters to candidates (77%) and parent meeting(s) (77%).

Parent engagement	# of responses	% of responses
Parent letters to candidates	50	77%
Parent meeting(s)	50	77%
Take home materials	35	54%
Invited to participate in service projects	30	46%
Parent-candidate session	27	42%

65 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:

Length of retreat	Weekend/2 overnights	One overnight	One day	Other
	20 (31%)	26 (40%)	18 (28%)	1 (2%)

65 respondents answered this question.

Location: In responding to the locations listed for their consideration, 40 percent of the respondents indicated a location not on the survey list. 31 percent said their confirmation retreat was held at the TYME OUT Center.

Location of retreat	TYME OUT	At parish	Mt. Tabor	St. Vincent Pallotti	Holy Hill	Schoenstatt	Other
	20 (31%)	9 (14%)	6 (9%)	3 (5%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	26 (40%)

65 respondents answered this question.

"Other" locations included Camp Whitcomb/Mason (7), Daniel Soref Retreat Center (4), at another parish (3), Cedar Valley Retreat Center (2), Camp Y-Koda (1), Campus Life Family Center (1), Inspiration Retreat Center (1), Salvation Army Camp (1), Siena Center (1) and Saint Francis Seminary (1).

Retreat Leadership: In responding to the leadership options listed for their consideration, 27 percent of the respondents said the TYME OUT 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 44% of the responses. "Other" retreat leaders included Spiritus (8) and the NET team (2).

Retreat Leadership	TYME OUT staff	Parish team	Parish DYM	Guest presenter/ director	Other
	18 (27%)	16 (24%)	13 (20%)	7 (11%)	12 (18%)

66 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	50	76%
Two options	12	18%
Three options	1	2%
More options	3	5%

66 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. More than 50% of respondents answered: discuss service during the confirmation interview (69%); involve candidates alongside adult parishioners (65%), require a certain number of service hours (60%) and offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates (51%).

Service strategies	# of responses	% of responses
Discuss service during confirmation interview	45	69%
Involve candidates along side adult parishioners	42	65%
Require a certain number of service hours	39	60%
Offer a catalog of service opportunities for candidates	33	51%
Facilitate group reflection on service experiences	23	35%
Offer a service journal for reflection on the experience	21	32%
Assign group service projects	20	31%
Help candidates identify needs and design service projects	16	25%

65 respondents answered this question.

Cost for confirmation preparation

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

	Confirmation fee	Retreat fee	Total
Lowest fee	0	0	0
Highest fee	$250	$150	$290
Median fee	$100	$75	$145
# of respondents	64	51	66

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 45 catechists.

Total number of catechists reported	635	100%
Number with certification	111	17%
Number with 0-5 years of service	321	51%
Number with over 5 years of service	314	49%

67 respondents answered this question.

Catechists - formation

Respondents were asked what kind of formation they provide for their catechists. Individual orientation was most often mentioned (by 87 percent of the respondents). More than half the respondents indicated they used catechist group sharing, sharing reading materials and in-service training.

Formation opportunities	# of responses	% of response
Individual orientation	59	87%
Catechist group sharing	49	72%
Sharing reading materials	49	72%
In-service training	49	72%
Speakers/adult education	32	47%
Funding to attend conferences/courses	30	44%
District catechist day	24	35%
Forming the Catechetical Spirit program	13	19%
Mentor program	12	18%
Echoes of Faith	6	9%

68 respondents answered this question.

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 event chaperones, confirmation sponsors, substitute catechists, and members of mission trip team.

Service	# of responses	% of responses
Event chaperones	57	83%
Confirmation sponsors	56	81%
Substitute catechists	49	71%
Mission trip team	39	56%
Catechist aides	34	49%
Presenters on special topics	30	43%
Group facilitators	25	36%
Office assistants	25	36%
Special event team	17	25%
Service mentors	16	23%
Assistants for children with special needs	12	17%
Set up/equipment assistants	12	17%
Hosts for groups in homes	4	6%

69 respondents answered this question.