

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

ADMINISTRATION

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CATECHETICAL LEADERS

PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

1. Ecclesial & Theological

- a) Catechetical leaders work collaboratively with the pastor (and/or other supervisors) and associates in ministry.
- b) Catechetical leaders faithfully represent and practice the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
- c) Catechetical leaders are competent and receive education and training commensurate with their role(s) and responsibilities (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).
- d) Catechetical leaders respect the diversity of spiritualities in the faith community and will not make their own personal form of spirituality normative.

2. Inclusion

- a) Catechetical leaders recognize the dignity of each person and refrain from behaviors or words that are disrespectful of anyone or any group.
- b) Catechetical leaders serve all people without regard to gender, creed, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political beliefs.
- c) Catechetical leaders act to ensure all persons have access to the resources, services and opportunities they require with particular regard for persons with special needs or disabilities.

3. Accountability

- a) Catechetical leaders are accountable to the pastor or other duly appointed representative, under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
- b) Catechetical leaders are called to serve the faith community, carrying out their ministry "...conscientiously, zealously, and diligently" (§ 231, Code of Canon Law).

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- c) Catechetical leaders exercise responsible stewardship of resources while holding themselves to the highest standards of integrity regarding fiscal matters placed in their trust.

4. Confidentiality

- a) Catechetical leaders respect confidentiality, yet are not held to confidentiality in the same way as ordained ministers and licensed, certified counselors.
- b) Catechetical leaders adhere to civil and ecclesial law concerning the reporting of neglect, abuse or when physical harm could come to the person or to a third party.
- c) Catechetical leaders support the rights and roles of parents while ministering to the needs and concerns of children and adolescents.

5. Conduct

- a) Catechetical leaders are aware they have considerable personal power because of their ministerial position. Therefore, they will sustain respectful ministerial relationships, avoiding manipulation and other abuses of power.
- b) Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between a catechetical leader and a child or adolescent is unethical and prohibited.
- c) Catechetical leaders model healthy and positive behaviors with children and adolescents.
- d) Procuring, providing, or using alcohol and/or controlled substances for or with children or adolescents is unethical and prohibited.

6. Referrals and Intervention

- a) Catechetical leaders are aware of the signs of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect.
- b) Catechetical leaders are aware of their limitations with respect to paraprofessional counseling and make appropriate referrals.
- c) Catechetical leaders adhere to civil and ecclesial law, policy and procedure for reporting abuse, suspected abuse or neglect.

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7. Parish/Diocesan Policies

- a) Catechetical leaders are aware of and comply with all applicable parish, organizational and/or diocesan policies with special attention to sexual misconduct, safety, transportation, parental permission, and medical emergency policies.

I have read and understand the above code of ethics and commit to uphold this code in my ministry.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

