



CENTER *for*
EVANGELIZATION
& CATECHESIS

at AQUINAS COLLEGE

The Certificate in Catechetical Leadership consists of four courses in Theology, Catechetics, and Leadership:

Each course will consist in attending 4 sessions via Zoom held 10-11:45am (CST) on Tuesdays and Thursdays over a 2 week period. In the case of scheduling conflicts, sessions will be recorded and available until the end of the course. The format for the sessions will be a combination of course lecture with seminar-style discussion on topics, readings, and practical application. Along with readings for each course, there will be a short reflection and application assignment due at the end of the following week.

I. **Christ and the Deposit of Faith (Theology)** ♦ January 12, 14, 19, 21

Description: Christ and the Deposit of Faith is a survey of Catholic doctrine with the intensive purpose of a catechetical application. We will address the articles of faith, sacramental fundamentals, and general moral principles. At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the unity of doctrine that is contained in the Deposit of Faith
- Integrate the goal of catechesis and the Deposit of Faith
- Apply the Christocentric principle to all catechetical activity

2. **The Catechetical Documents (Catechetics)** ♦ February 2, 4, 9, 11

Description: To think and act with the heart and mind of the Church, we need to be well-grounded in the documents of the Church. In this course, we will look at 4 foundational documents in the areas of evangelization, catechesis, and the laity. We will read and explore together selections from *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Pope Paul VI), *Catechesi Tradendae* (Pope John Paul II), *Evangelii Gaudium* (Pope Francis), and the *General Directory for Catechesis* (1997*). At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and articulate the Church's vision of catechesis in regard to its nature, aim, and goals
- Practically demonstrate how the catechumenal model is the basis for all forms of catechesis
- Ground catechetical decisions in the documents of the Church

* In the next course, we will cover the new *Directory for Catechesis* (2020) since one of its aims is to build upon the GDC (1997) and deal specifically with the relationship between evangelization and catechesis.

3. **Evangelization & Catechetics: Theory & Method (Catechetics)** ♦ February 23, 25; March 2, 4

Description: Catechesis is the Church's efforts "to make disciples, to help people to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, so that believing they might have life in His name, and to educate and instruct them in this life and thus build up the Body of Christ" (*Catechesi Tradendae*, 1).

The purpose of this course is to inform catechists of the nature and scope of their participation in the Church's mission; to form them in the skill of handing on the faith; and with God's grace, to transform them into disciples who bear joyful witness to the Lord and to His Holy Church. We will look in depth at the *Directory for Catechesis (2020)*. At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the guiding principles of all catechetical activity
- Understand and place themselves within the mission of the Church as a whole
- Form their own catechists according to the principles outlined by the Church

4. Catechetical Leadership (Leadership and Practical Theology) ♦ March 16, 18, 23, 25

Description: Catechetical Leadership seeks to draw upon the previous courses along with diocesan guidelines in order to bring about fruitful activities and undertakings at the parish level. In a spirit of community and collaboration, this course will look at many elements that make up catechesis and the duties of the catechetical programs. At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply tools learned to the discernment of catechetical activities in their parish
- Inspire new activities and improve current ones with principles and policies that are focused on the communication of the Gospel and the needs of the local community
- Gain a better understanding of the following elements and their relationship within catechesis:
 - organization and prioritization of ministries
 - canon law
 - sacramental norms and records
 - proper role of clergy, laity, parents, and catechists

About the Instructors



Jason Gale, M.A., L.Div., is the Director of the Center for Evangelization and Catechesis at Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee. He has earned Bachelor and Master degrees in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has also received a Master of Arts degree in Catholic Pastoral and Education Studies along with an Ecclesiastical License of Divinity (in Catechetics) from the Maryvale Institute. He lives with his wife and 6 children in Dickson, Tennessee.



Sister Mary Esther Potts, O.P. has Master of Arts degrees in Theology and English from St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia and Middle Tennessee State University respectively, a Master of Science degree in Information Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Aquinas College. Sister has taught at the elementary and high school levels and is currently the librarian at Aquinas College.



Sister John Thomas Armour, O.P. received Bachelor degrees in English and Theology from the University of Dallas and a Master of Science degree in English Education from the University of Tennessee and is completing a Master of Arts in Theology from the Augustine Institute. Sister has served in retreat ministry and taught in parish and summer catechetical programs, in Level I Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and in middle and high school classrooms. She currently serves as the Director of Formation Programs at Aquinas College.