

## **Requirements for Catechist Specialization Certificate in Marriage Preparation Ministry**

The Diocese of Sacramento offers advanced training in marriage preparation ministry. A catechist Specialization Certificate in Marriage Preparation Ministry is available for those who complete the seven trainings specific to marriage preparation ministry and who also meet other requirements not specific to marriage preparation ministry.

### Seven trainings specific to marriage preparation ministry

1. Marriage and the Mystery of God
2. How to Lovingly Present the Church's Challenging Teachings about Marriage
3. Teaching and Modeling a Happy and Wholesome Marriage
4. NFP Intro session
5. Diocesan Marriage Preparation Policies
6. Sponsor Couples: Tools and Principles of Evangelization.
7. Building an Effective Marriage Prep Program.

### Other requirements not specific to marriage preparation ministry

1. Participate in a Diocesan sponsored (or approved) leadership retreat on spiritual development.
2. Participate in a full-day Diocesan sponsored (or approved) training on intercultural competency in ministry.
3. Meet these pre-requisites:
  - a) Hold a valid Basic Catechist / Ministry Certificate
  - b) Be recommended by their pastor as a ministry leader
  - c) Have at least one year of ministry experience in marriage preparation
  - d) Be open to continue to serve in this ministry area for at least two years
  - e) Be open to provide orientation to new candidates in this area of ministry in their parish.

Once a person or couple obtains the Marriage Preparation Specialization Certificate they are also asked: 1) to dedicate 8 – 10 hours per year to ongoing education and formation specific to marriage preparation ministry, and 2) to coordinate and report their education and formation activities with the Diocese of Sacramento's Office of Family and Respect Life Ministries.

Contact Steve Patton with any questions: [spatton@scd.org](mailto:spatton@scd.org), 916-733-0133.