



## DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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September 19, 2011  
+St. Januarius

Dear Catechetical Leader,

It is my pleasure to present the *Guidelines for Obtaining the California Master Catechist Certificate and its Renewal*. They have been developed by the California Conference of Bishops and, upon review of the Presbyteral Council, have been adapted for use in the Diocese of Oakland. These guidelines are a response to the great need of well-prepared catechists for the future of the Church and for the service of the Church to the world.

The Master Catechist Program is open to experienced catechists who are ready to deepen their involvement in the catechetical ministry of the Church. This preparation will require dedication and commitment. Nevertheless, I join Pope Benedict XVI in his recent exhortation to catechists, “Do not be afraid to commit yourselves to the Gospel!”

I encourage pastors to seek out experienced catechists from their parishes, school principals to send their religious education teachers, and the lay faithful themselves to listen to the call the Lord has placed on their heart to share the Good News. The Holy Father reminds us of the need to re-echo the Gospel message, “Faith is not kept by itself in the world, it is not automatically passed on to the human heart, but must always be proclaimed.”

I would like to thank all of you who dedicate themselves to the ministry of evangelization and catechesis for your generous and invaluable service in this work. May the Lord continue to bless you abundantly as you “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:20).

Presentations on the *Master Catechist Guidelines* may be requested at the deanery level. To schedule such a meeting, or if you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Wiesinger, Associate Director of the Department for Evangelization and Catechesis at [mwiesinger@oakdiocese.com](mailto:mwiesinger@oakdiocese.com) or (510) 267-8352. You may also search <http://www.oakdiocese.org/education/evangelization/formation> .

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading “+ Salvatore Cordileone”.

The Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone.  
Bishop of Oakland

*To know Christ better and make Him better known*