

Policy Regarding Annual Catechetical Contact Hours

“Catechesis develops a deeper understanding of the mystery of Christ, encourages more profound incorporation into the Church, and nourishes Christian living. It encourages discipleship in Christ and instructs in Christian Prayer. Just as the mission of evangelization enlivens the Church’s pastoral and missionary activity, catechesis makes concrete for mission of evangelization.”

National Directory for Catechesis #22

Whereas, no clock can measure the process of a deepening of discipleship. But from a human stand point, sufficient time must be appropriated to develop a culture of faith and to provide a proper orientation in Christian discipleship for our students in grades K-12...

Therefore, given the variety of parish sizes, structures and catechetical staffing, it is the policy of the Diocese of Crookston that every catechetical program meet or exceed 25-30 contact hours per (school) year for each grade assembled.

1. Contact hours are understood to be time spent with students in active evangelization of them and/or instruction in the content of faith and the life of prayer.
2. This does not include time spent in the ordinary exercise of the Catholic life of faith (e.g., attendance at obligatory Masses or parish-wide devotionals, or parish-wide service events, etc.) the time spent in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist are not to be counted toward this goal of 25-30 hours either. These are to be considered additional catechetical, formational efforts.
3. Recognizing the unique nature and structure afforded to home-schooling families, it is important that the pastor (or by his designation the Director of Faith Formation) see that comparable time is spent within those environments as well.