Diocese of Green Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop Ricken announces sweeping new religion certification program

GREEN BAY, Wis. (March 30, 2012) – Green Bay Bishop David L. Ricken today reveals a new 60-hour religion certification program, the Foundational Catechetical Certification (FCC), to members of the diocesan Department of Education, Catholic school administrators, and catechetical leaders. The ultimate goal of the FCC is to ensure that all teachers and parish religion educators in the Diocese of Green Bay are well educated in the teachings of the Catholic Church.

"To the best of my knowledge, there is no current catechetical program in our country that is this comprehensive in integrating the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA)," said Bishop Ricken, who is also chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "I hope this program can be of service to others."

The new plan covers six components of study: Creed, Sacraments & Liturgy, Morality, Prayer & Spirituality, Bible, and Methods. These components encompass the four pillars of the USCCA, the Bible, and Teaching Methods. In 2009, Bishop Ricken announced that the USCCA would be the primary text for catechesis in the diocese. The Methods component contains two tracks, one for Catholic school teachers on integrating the Catholic faith into the subjects they teach and the other to assist religion education teachers with techniques and classroom management skills.

"The coursework is set so that no matter where you are in the diocese, the content will be the same," said Dr. Joseph Bound, diocesan director of education. "The Education Department and Bishop Ricken really strive for this kind of consistent teaching. Another great aspect of this new program is that it affords Catholic schools and religious education programs the opportunity to work collaboratively."

The revised religion certification program is the result of a lengthy and extensive process of preparation by a committee of experienced catechetical leaders, including Sr. Jacqueline Spaniola, diocesan religious education director. "I would like to thank them for the tremendous amount of work, time and attention they invested into developing this innovative new program," Dr. Bound said.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 345,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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