

Guidelines for Catechetical Formation
in the
Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

As a Diocesan Church we have a serious duty to provide for the catechesis of all of our members and especially to support and assist our parents as the primary and principal educators of their children in faith and in Christian living.

This year our diocese is introducing a catechetical program called “Alive in Christ” published by Our Sunday Visitor. It is a family based parish program for children ages five to thirteen. We are asking all the parishes to begin using this program in their 2016 – 2017 catechetical year.

Furthermore, as a part of our efforts to ensure that adequate catechesis is given and that children are properly prepared for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, we are asking all parishes to ensure that children participate in two years of faith formation in preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion and in two years of faith formation in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

To promote a diocesan wide consistency in the age for the reception of these sacraments, beginning with the 2016 – 2017 catechetical year, we are asking all the parishes of the diocese to have seven years of age as the minimum age for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion and to have thirteen years of age as the minimum age for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

These guidelines were developed in collaboration with the parish clergy of the diocese at their Study Day of March 17, 2016 and were subsequently approved by the Diocesan Council of Priests on March 21st, 2016.

Promulgated this 23rd day of March, 2016

+Peter Hundt
Bishop of Corner Brook and Labrador

References: - Paragraph 3, Declaration on Christian Education, Vatican II;
- Canons 773 – 777, 1983 Code of Canon Law.