

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

*(Matthew 28:19,20)*



ACTS

Anglican Catechist Training School

Are You Called to Be a Catechist?

## What is a Catechist?

Primarily when we think of catechists, we think of people being called to a teaching ministry in the local congregation, which may include teaching youth and adult catechism classes, leading Alpha Groups, or Bible studies. This ministry is greatly lacking and much needed in God's church today.

However, catechesis is far greater than just teaching doctrine. Catechesis involves the formation of the whole person into the image of Christ; therefore, licensed catechists may be called to:

- Spiritual Direction
- Intercession
- Pastoral Counseling
- Inner-Healing
- Ministering to the Poor and the Infirm
- Evangelism and Church Planting

Since these ministries can only bear fruit by the leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, students engage in spiritually formative practices throughout the year that enables them to hear God's voice and follow his leading.



## What is the Anglican Catechist Training School (ACTS)?

The first year of ACTS consists of three modules, which prepares the student for licensing as a Catechist in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin. The program incorporates three-dimensions:

- Deepening of biblical and theological knowledge
- Spiritual Formation
- Ministry Practicum

Each dimension works with the others in forming and preparing the student for the ministry of a Catechist and lay leader. The course will consist of a combination of hands-on training and regular mentoring with one's clergy or other lay leader and independent study and class attendance.

## What is required to become a licensed Catechist?

- Completion of Saturday class, “What is catechesis?”
- Successfully complete three module courses based on the content of To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism.
- Pass a three-part exam on the four parts of To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism. Each exam is administered at the end of each of the three modules.
- Engage in a year of mentoring and praxis with one’s clergy.
- Completion of Lay Eucharistic Minister, Pastoral Lay Eucharistic Minister, and Lay Reader Licenses.



## Overview of the ACTS Modules

- *Module 1: The Apostles’ Creed (Offered in the fall)*
  - Scripture, Tradition, Catholicity and Creeds
  - The Trinity
  - God the Father & Creator
  - God the Son
  - Salvation
  - God the Holy Spirit and the gifts
  - The Church & the Communion of Saints
  - The Sacraments
  - Heaven
  - Exam I
- *Module 2: The Lord’s Prayer (Offered in winter)*
  - The Fatherhood of God
  - The Kingdom of God
  - Spiritual Warfare
  - Trusting in God’s Provision
  - Growing in Grace: Repentance and Forgiveness

- Prayer: Hearing God’s Voice
- Praying the Psalms
- Exam II
- *Module 3: The Ten Commandments (Offered in the spring)*
  - The Ten Commandments
  - The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount
  - A Christian View of humanity & sexuality
  - A Christian View of Justice
  - Pedagogical Approaches & Creating How to a Catechism Course
  - Exam III

## Cost

There is a one-time application fee of \$25. Module 1 costs \$250 and Modules 2 & 3 each costs \$125 each. Cost for each module is payable by the first night of each class. Students are responsible to purchase books and other materials as well as pay for their retreat fees at the end of the year. There are a limited number of scholarships available, but students are first encouraged to ask their vestries for support in order that each church has an investment in the student’s development.



“Now, more than ever before, the Church needs faithful men and women to answer our Lord Jesus’ call to make disciples. The ministry of Catechist is at the heart of our diocesan vision for renewal. Will you discern this call to serve?”

+Eric Meneses

## Contact Us

If you are interested in this course, first pray and ask the Holy Spirit to confirm your call to participate, and then talk to your clergy for further discernment.

- You can obtain information and an application at:
  - [www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net](http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net)
- If you have questions, please feel free to contact:
  - Cn. Beth Conkle: [eaconkle.acts@gmail.com](mailto:eaconkle.acts@gmail.com)
  - Fr. Anthony Velez: [aj68velez@gmail.com](mailto:aj68velez@gmail.com).