



catechist FORMATION

As you might remember, Bishop Caggiano announced in 2019 that all catechists, Catholic school teachers, readers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are required to engage in lifelong learning, so all are prepared to share the Gospel message effectively.

To that end, The Leadership Institute launched face-to-face and online formation back in spring 2019 for liturgical ministers and in fall 2019/spring 2020 for catechists and Catholic school teachers.

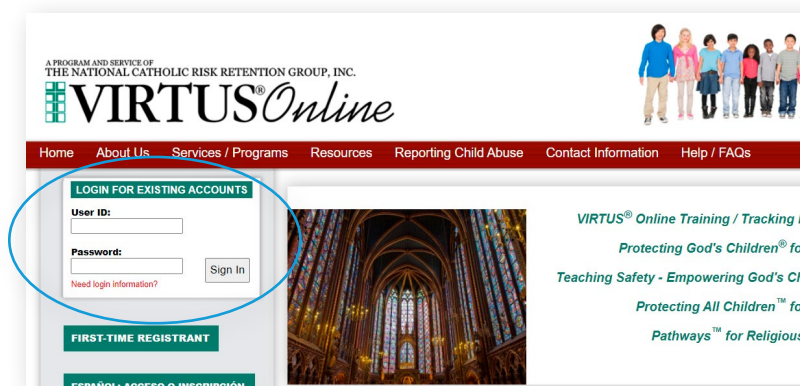
More than 4,000 liturgical ministers completed their initial formation, and more than 2,000 catechists *began* formation before Covid-19 hijacked our plans.

Last summer, catechists received invitations to enter online formation regardless of whether they had been able to attend a face-to-face session (a pre-requisite to online formation at the time). Some catechists got the invitation and began. For others, their junk file received it, and for others, it just got lost.

We are now circling back to all catechists, asking that they complete the initial phase of formation in LEAD, the diocesan online learning platform, by **May 30, 2021**. Face-to-face formation is suspended. The entire process is outlined here - formationreimagined.org/catechetical-formation.

A word about VIRTUS

By this point, you are well aware of the VIRTUS requirements. Please note that your emails in VIRTUS and LEAD should match. Since you cannot change your email in LEAD once you set up your account, please [log into VIRTUS first](#) and see which email you used and, if necessary, update it to your current email. Then use the current email to set up an account in LEAD.



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What Now?

When you are ready to proceed, visit <https://bridgeport.leadlms.com/login> and choose "Forgot Password." This will allow you to check to see if you are already in the system. *Why would I be in the system? Because we manually entered those who finished formation as liturgical ministers and those who attended face-to-face formation for catechists.*

If you are, you will receive instructions to reset your password. If you are not in LEAD, you will see that there is no account set up for you.

If you are told that no account exists or an error occurred, no worries. Just visit this link - <https://bridgeport.leadlms.com/register> - and create an account.

- + Fill out the information.
- + Choose your parish.
- + Choose the learning path "Catechist Formation" in English or Spanish.
- + Then choose "Catechist" as ministry.

Once your account is set up, you are ready to proceed. You will want to bookmark <https://bridgeport.leadlms.com/login> in case you need to come back.

There are several pieces to your learning path as a catechist:

- + Opening prayer (a short prayer experience that will take about 10 minutes)
- + Two short courses about the different generations with whom we minister
- + An inventory (survey) that will help you evaluate your learning needs and help us create future learning opportunities.
- + A short course on the intersection of catechesis and evangelization
- + An assignment in which Bishop Caggiano invites you to reflect on why you wish to be a catechist in your parish

Formation at the initial stage will only take two or three hours, but you are welcome to break it up in smaller bites. Please note that once you begin a course, you must complete it for credit. If you quit the course before you finish, you will have to restart.

If you have any questions, please email your DRE or The Leadership Institute at institute@diobpt.org.

Again, thank you for all you do, including your willingness to continue your own formation.

