

CATECHETICAL WORKSHOPS

for Teachers and Catechists



SOPHIA
INSTITUTE
FOR TEACHERS

www.SophiaInstituteforTeachers.org

Our High-Quality Professional Development Programs



Sophia Institute's day-long professional development programs engage teachers and catechists with informed, enthusiastic Catholics whose wisdom and example offer educators a model for improving classroom engagement and renewing their enthusiasm for teaching young people.

Our programs are team-taught by a catechetical scholar who deepens teacher knowledge of Christ and confidence in teaching the Faith, and one of Sophia Institute's master teachers who models research-based teaching strategies that have been proven to effectively engage students.

We serve hot meals for breakfast and lunch to show we respect teachers and their vocation, and we distribute free of charge teacher's guides that supplement whatever textbook series they are using. These guides are packed with up to 30 days of lesson plans that provide ideas for activities, readings, discussion starters, and more.

Best of all, at each program we emphasize to teachers that nothing – no book, no script – can replace them and their witness in the classroom when it comes to leading students to encounter Christ.

In many cases, Sophia Institute is able to offer our programming at no cost thanks to local philanthropic support. In all cases, our team will handle all logistics, thereby completely freeing your staff from bearing the burden of planning and hosting professional development programs.

What Makes our Professional Development Programs Unique?

Sophia Institute for Teachers is a non-profit organization founded by Catholic educators in 2014 with the mission to provide programs that are enlightening to the mind and ennobling to the heart; faithful and complete, as well as useful and practical.

In five years, we have hosted over **400 workshops** in **65 dioceses**, providing over **30,000 teachers** and catechists with sound catechetical and spiritual instruction. Each of our workshops provide teachers with:



Increased Background Knowledge

A catechetical scholar leads several sessions that provide participants the knowledge they need to develop in their students a deep and abiding love for Christ and His Church.



New Teaching Strategies

One of Sophia Institute's master teachers provides research-based teaching strategies that offers immediate ways to apply the content they've learned into the classroom.



Classroom Materials

Each teacher receives at no cost one of our supplemental teacher's guides focused on the day's content – a guide that can be used with any textbook series. These academically rigorous, classroom-tested guides provide teachers with all the resources they need to help young people more effectively engage with the teachings of the Catholic Faith.



Spiritual Formation

Mass is offered at each of our programs, and teachers are led throughout the day to explore their vocation as a teacher, coming to see their calling as a witness to Christ.



Ongoing Support

Each teacher will receive weekly lessons to help students spiritually prepare for Sunday Mass through an exploration of the week's Gospel reading, lesson plans that apply Catholic teachings to current events, as well as resources for incorporating the liturgical year into the classroom.

Free Resources for Teachers and Catechists

Sophia Sketchpad

You'll be hard-pressed to find a more effective tool for explaining difficult-to-understand theological concepts to young people. Sophia SketchPad is an innovative, engaging, and accessible video series to help young people better understand and live the Catholic Faith.



Curriculum Exchange

The Catholic Curriculum Exchange enables teachers across the country to share lesson plans and offer reviews and tips about what worked and didn't work in the classroom. Hundreds of lesson plans are available at every grade level and in every subject matter.

Lesson Plans on the Sunday Gospel

Released weekly, these lessons enable teachers to engage students with the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Each lesson includes readings along with interactive activities such as role-plays, attitude inventories, journal exercises, and more.

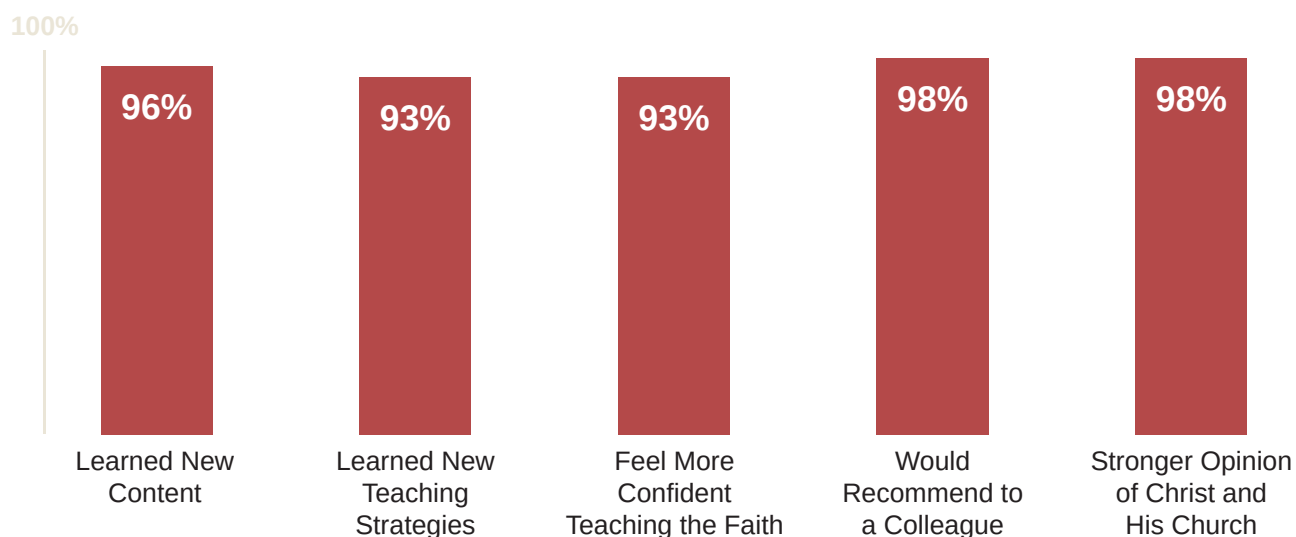
Teaching the Faith With Current Events

Released monthly, these lessons use today's issues as a means of teaching Faith principles, and provides student-friendly overviews, news links, discussion questions, extension options, and a complete answer key.



Since August 2014, Sophia Institute for Teachers has either hosted or scheduled over 400 day-long catechetical workshops with approval from 65 (arch)dioceses throughout the country.

Here are our results...



81%

of teachers attending a Sophia Institute for Teachers program say that **our day-long training is better than any other professional development program they've attended.**



Encountering the Person of Jesus

Sample Agenda

8:30-9:00am	Breakfast and Sign-In
9:00-9:15am	Program Introduction
9:15-9:45am	Pedagogical Session: Who Do You Say That I Am? <i>Explore ways to lead your students in a reflection on who Jesus is.</i>
9:45-10:30am	Scholar Talk: The Significance of the Incarnation
10:30-10:40am	Break
10:40-11:25am	Pedagogical Session: Fully God and Fully Man <i>Engage in interactive, hands-on activities that will help your students understand what the Church believes about Jesus.</i>
11:30-12:15pm	Holy Mass
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-1:45pm	Scholar Talk: the Catholic Proposal — Union with Christ
1:45-2:20pm	Pedagogical Session: To Teach as Jesus Taught <i>Jesus is the model teacher and catechist. Examine His pedagogy and learn concrete ways to emulate Him in your classroom.</i>
2:20-2:30pm	Additional Resources, Evaluation

Diocese Hosting Our Workshops

Archdiocese of Atlanta	Diocese of Gary
Archdiocese of Boston	Diocese of Grand Rapids
Archdiocese of Chicago	Diocese of Great Falls
Archdiocese of Denver	Diocese of Green Bay
Archdiocese of Detroit	Diocese of Gary
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston	Diocese of Helena
Archdiocese of Hartford	Diocese of Laredo
Archdiocese of Los Angeles	Diocese of Lafayette
Archdiocese of Louisville	Diocese of Manchester
Archdiocese of Mobile	Diocese of Marquette
Archdiocese of New Orleans	Diocese of Monterey
Archdiocese of New York	Diocese of New Ulm
Archdiocese of Philadelphia	Diocese of Oakland
Archdiocese of Portland	Diocese of Omaha
Archdiocese of San Antonio	Diocese of Orange
Archdiocese of San Francisco	Diocese of Palm Beach
Archdiocese of St. Louis	Diocese of Peoria
Diocese of Albany	Diocese of Pittsburgh
Diocese of Arlington	Diocese of Providence
Diocese of Austin	Diocese of Richmond
Diocese of Billings	Diocese of Rockville Centre
Diocese of Bridgeport	Diocese of San Diego
Diocese of Camden	Diocese of San Jose
Diocese of Charleston	Diocese of Springfield
Diocese of Cleveland	Diocese of St. Petersburg
Diocese of Covington	Diocese of Superior
Diocese of Dallas	Diocese of Venice
Diocese of Duluth	Diocese of Wichita
Diocese of Erie	Diocese of Wilmington
Diocese of Fresno	Diocese of Winona
Diocese of Gallup	

What Teachers Say About Sophia Institute for Teachers

"This was the best religious conference day that I have attended in 12 years. Thank you!"

"This was as close to perfect as could be."

"This was the most useful conference day I have ever participated in!"

"Best Religion In-Service day in past seven years."

"The best part of today was the overall commitment and sincerity of Sophia leaders and the expertise of the professor."

"This was one of the better conferences I've been to. From the materials given to the location, I was very impressed."

"Today was bonding experience for myself and my colleagues. Today was a wonderful experience. I was able to take away spiritual and educational experiences."

"Very well organized and thought out day!"

"The entire format of the day was great."

"The use of interactive technology and hands-on activities was a great way to actively participate and apply the presented info."

"It was a wonderful day of recollection."

"I liked the interactive trivia game – fun, and students would love that, too!"

"I love an opportunity for faculty to focus on spirituality. It was a great time to reflect and grow in Faith. Grateful for the free lesson plans/resources! Thank you for this awesome apostolate!"

"Overall, well done. It's nice to have professional learning in religion since we tend to not offer this as much to teachers."



Learn More at
SophiaInstituteforTeachers.org

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