



# THE OFFICE OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION PRESENTS:

## DIOCESAN-WIDE ADULT FAITH FORMATION ECHOES OF FAITH<sup>®</sup>

*Echoes of Faith* is more than an online learning program for adult Catholics in Maine. The 11 modules in the *Echoes of Faith* learning program focus on three key aspects of witnessing to the Catholic faith: being, knowing, and savoir faire. It is a low cost, flexible, 2 year process which models the story of the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32). *Echoes of Faith* helps you to know yourself, know and love God, and know other learners. The **community track** puts you in contact with your parish community and others across the state of Maine as you explore and learn. Learners also the option to choose the **catechist certification track** to work toward basic formation for handing on the faith.



### INVITE

The disciples on the road to Emmaus invite Jesus to stay with them and when Jesus accepts their invitation they share a moment of communion with each other.

The *Echoes of Faith* learning program provides you with inspiration, invites you into prayer, sets forth the objectives for each learning segment.

The Office of Lifelong Faith Formation (OLFF) team invites you to join a community of disciple learners who are seeking to echo the Gospel in their lives.



### DISCOVER

Jesus shares with these disciples the Scriptures concerning Himself.

The *Echoes of Faith* learning program helps you dive deeper into the Catholic faith through 11 modules each containing several engaging and thought provoking videos.

The OLFF team encourages you to rediscover the beauty of our Catholic faith through active participation in the modules and in the opening and closing gatherings



### DIALOGUE

The disciples who were on the road to Emmaus share a conversation with Jesus, detailing the events that had taken place, their hopes, their sorrows, their struggles with belief.

The *Echoes of Faith* learning program gives you the opportunity to dialogue with others to share ideas, experiences, reflections.

The OLFF team encourages you to dialogue with those in your small online group or with others from your parish who are participating in the program.



### RECOGNIZE/WITNESS

Once the two disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread they ask "were not our hearts burning within us" and then they go tell all they had seen and experienced.

The *Echoes of Faith* learning program gives you the opportunity to stop, reflect, and recognize where God has been working in your daily life, so that you can go out and share your experiences with others as a witness for Christ.

The OLFF team gives you a safe opportunity to practice witnessing during the closing gatherings.



# ECHOES OF FAITH<sup>®</sup>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### Why did the Diocese of Portland adopt this program?

The mission we are given as Catholics in Maine is to echo the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, baptizing and making missionary disciples (Mt 28:19). One of the goals of the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation (OLFF) is to invest and equip parishioners with the skills necessary to share the Catholic faith with others. *Echoes of Faith* is a tool which helps people learn about the faith and how to articulate it clearly in their everyday lives.

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### Who can participate in this program?

All fully-initiated adult Catholics in Maine (18 years of age or older, baptized, confirmed, and sharing in holy Communion) who want to deepen their own relationship with Christ, practice skills for sharing the faith with others, and support the Church's mission of evangelizing and catechesis, can participate in the *Echoes of Faith* learning program. This includes parents/guardians, young adults, and those who currently serve as catechists or teachers and leaders of any aspect of parish or Catholic school religious education and faith formation.

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### Why should I participate in the *Echoes of Faith* program?

*Echoes of Faith* equips you more fully to go out and fulfill the Great Commission (Mt 28: 19-20) wherever you may find yourself. The program gives you new and fresh insight on the Catholic faith and helps you to more confidently articulate it to anyone of any age. The *Echoes of Faith* learning program gives you time to engage in theological reflection.

Through the guidance of moderators, organization from OLFF and the accompaniment of other adults, *Echoes of Faith* is a great opportunity which can make a positive impact on the future of our faith and the world.

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### Can Echoes of Faith be used as a pathway for catechist training? If so what would I need to do to become certified?

Yes! *Echoes of Faith* can be used to obtain Basic Catechist Certification. Those who would like to pursue *Echoes of Faith* as a pathway for certification must email [echoingfaith@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:echoingfaith@portlanddiocese.org). In addition to completing all 11 modules there is a process of self-assessment and dialogue with the OLFF team. If you are looking to obtain more than basic catechist certification, please contact the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation so we can help you discern the pathway that is best for you.

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### How do I learn more and/or register for the program?

To learn more about the *Echoes of Faith* learning program go to <https://portlanddiocese.org/olff/echoing-faith>.

To participate in the *Echoes of Faith* learning program, contact your parish to register. **New modules start every 1 to 2 months!**