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Take the ECHOES course challenge

People across the diocese are taking the ECHOES challenge because it's good for them. Will you consider it, too? You'll grow in faith and gain understanding about many core Catholic truths and why they are relevant today.

The ECHOES course has no required homework and is only 11 sessions long. Contact your parish for details. Bart and Andrea Salazar took the ECHOES challenge and wrote:

"We found a number of wonderful benefits from participating in the ECHOES program. With a number of catechists in the group, it truly built a sense of camaraderie among us as we went forth to train the young people of the parish in our faith. It can be hard for religious education catechists to form a bond when everyone is teaching in a different classroom. The ECHOES program allowed us to be together, interact and learn from each other.

"Not only were we able to appreciate the richness of the Catholic Catechism within our ECHOES discussions, but we were also afforded the opportunity to extend the discussions and delve further into the topics with much deeper thought. It was not uncommon for sessions to last longer as participants stayed to talk and discuss our faith. For many of the participants, the end of the program was met with a feeling of wanting and the question of what might be the next step for the group. It appears that this enthusiasm is likely to be channeled into the group attending a series of sessions scheduled this fall, focused on providing clarification as to the changes planned for the Roman Missal.

"As a couple, we found that our class time offered us starting points for further discussion at home on how what we were learning could be used in our domestic church and as we shared our faith with others. So often, life at home can revolve around the day-to-day issues with little thought on how the catechism relates to us personally. This program helped us look further and deeper into what our responsibility is to our family and our faith in spreading the Gospel of our Lord."

Bart and Andrea Salazar are members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in New Rockford.