Greta Siddiqui: Teaching Catholic Religious Education

A lifelong member of the Catholic church, Greta Siddiqui has taught religious education on numerous occasions. A former certified teacher, Greta Siddiqui has applied many different instruction techniques in her catechism classes.

In the Catholic church, religious education is typically known as Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), or simply as catechism. The catechist, or religious education teacher, is charged with instructing children in the beliefs of the faith. Teachers work under the supervision of parish directors of religious education (DREs), who typically provide training for new teachers as well as guidance for veterans. Some teachers also choose to pursue outside training, such as that given at the Religious Education Conference held annually at Rhode Island's Bryant University.

Catechists teach the full range of Catholic beliefs and customs. The particular doctrines and practices taught depend on the age of the students. Good catechists develop well-planned, engaging lessons appropriate to both student development levels and church curriculum. Effective religious education teachers also keep order in the classroom, develop a positive rapport with students, and maintain open communication with their DRE and families. This way, the children not only learn the catechism but also develop a positive relationship with religion.