



Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

August 11, 2021 Edition

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)

Now What? – A Reflection from The Pastoral Center (Publisher):



The reflection below from the staff of [The Pastoral Center](#) seemed to be a wonderful mix of recognizing where we have come from and how we can make a difference going forward. If you have not looked at the resources they offer, I invite you to click on the link and see if there are some resources that will be helpful for you no matter what specific ministry in lifelong formation in faith you work in. They have seasonal resources, family

formation, lectionary resources, healing and grief resources, sacred scripture resources, and downloadable resources.

The last couple of years have been a challenge, to say the least. We should be grateful that we're left standing!

The decisions we make now may define our parishes and schools for many years to come. While parishes have been reopening, many are seeing pews emptier than pre-pandemic. Some families have gotten out of the habit of attending.

What can we do? Here are some ideas you can run with.

- *Step up your hospitality and welcome to make sure parishioners feel at home when they return. [Here is a free resource to help get you and your parish started.](#)*
- *Party like its 2019. Seriously plan some fun, meaningful parish-wide gatherings to help rebuild community and just plain have a good time.*
- *Focus on (the whole) family. If we have learned anything from this experience, it's how reliant we are on parents to pass on faith to their kids. Now, in the Year of the Family, it's time to evangelize and coach parents by bringing them into the faith formation process.*

- *Make a difference in the world. People want to make a difference. One of the best ways to attract them—families and young people in particular—is to help them serve in community.*

Finally, we are grateful for YOU, the many leaders who have done their best in an often impossible situation. Thank you for all you do and who you are.

Grace & Peace from Paul Canavese, Ann Naffziger, Bill Huebsch, and Leisa Anslinger.

Parish Catechetical Leader/CLADD Summer Kick-Off Event – August 24 at All Saints Parish in Stuart:



You are invited to All Saints Parish in Stuart on August 24 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm to be renewed personally and in your ministry. We will also look at reimagining professional formation for you through a facilitated conversation.

The day will be filled with an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and connect with those new to the ministry, be renewed as we enter a new catechetical season, and dialogue on needed

changes in diocesan structure to better equip you with professional development designed to enrich your parish ministry. Tom Quinlan will be with us to lead us through the day. Register [online](#) or contact [Sherri Simmer](#). **This kick-off event is free and includes lunch.** The agenda is attached to this e-newsletter. You will not want to miss this opportunity to gather together before your parish formation begins.

Contact [John Gaffney](#) if you have any questions.

A few updates to the Newly Updated Approved Curriculum List:



Thanks to Barb Wolter (St. Patrick parish, Perry) I realized we left two resources off of the list:

- **Faith Fusion:** Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ in grades 3-5 and grades 6-8 (Our Sunday Visitor)
- **Altaration** (Ascension Press) Many parishes are using this resource to help teens learn the significance and beauty of the Mass and it is very well done.

Clarifications on support resources such as Catechisms (the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the YOUCat, and the USCCB Adult Catechism) are always approved resources as are Catholic translations of Bibles. Please keep in mind that Catechisms do not have curriculums included so you will want to use them in concert with an approved curriculum.

Additions to the Diocesan Approved Curriculum List (attached) reflect Bishop William Joensen's vision. There is no perfect curriculum. However limited curriculum opportunities presented by emerging and established formational partners don't allow for the innovation needed to respond to our current ministerial challenges as well limiting subsidiarity. This list doesn't include, nor ever will, the entire USCCB conformity list. Bishop Joensen reserves the privilege to add additional titles once they are reviewed by Diocesan staff. Contact [John Gaffney](#) if there are new titles you wish to explore that are not on this current curated list. Conditional approval is usually authorized for assessment purposes before full approval is granted.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation next cycle's offerings:



Wednesday (August 18) is the deadline day for signing up for digital courses offered in Cycle 6 from the [Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation \(VLCFF\) of University of Dayton](#). Cycle 6

courses will run from August 22 through September 25.

Go to [this link](#) and select Cycle 6. When you click on Cycle 6 you will see a listing of the courses being offered. There is a course listed to meet most everyone's need or interest. Sign in (or create your profile, if you've not already done so) to register for a course.

Remember that you and others on staff or parishioners in ministry roles are eligible to take VLCFF courses at no cost (as long as you complete the course)! The St. Joseph Educational Center and the Diocese of Des Moines wants to help you and others in ministry to grow in spirituality, theology and ministry skills, so please take advantage and invite others to participate. The SJEC pays the fees for those in the Des Moines region while the Diocese of Des Moines pays for everyone in the other five regions.

[Here is the link](#) to a video that quickly walks people in the Diocese of Des Moines through the onboarding and course registration processes. Remember, do not pay for the course, as SJEC or the Diocese of Des Moines will pay for all coursework at the end of the cycle, provided the course is completed.

Please contact [John Gaffney](#) or [Tom Quinlan](#) with any questions.

Recorded Catechetical Institute Webinars:

How to strengthen your RCIA process to be the best your parish has ever offered and how the Catechetical Institute can help with that.



The Catechetical Institute hosted their fourth webinar yesterday and was again very successful and continues to draw more and more people.

In case it's of use to you, below is a link to that webinar video to enable you to share it with anyone you feel would benefit:

[How to strengthen your RCIA process to be the best your parish has ever offered and how the Catechetical Institute can help with that.](#)

The PDF that was screen-shared during the webinar is attached.

They had colleagues request links to the two books on how to teach the doctrines of the faith:

- [Echoing the Mystery: Unlocking the Deposit of Faith in Catechesis](#)
- [RCIA Catechist's Manual](#)

As well, remember that Franciscan CI has tutorials and a much larger Q&A section always available [here](#).

They look forward to hopefully seeing you – and any others you'd like to invite – for their next webinar, which will be held on September 7 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm (Eastern Time U.S.). It will focus on: ***How to effectively reach parents to truly enable them, not just exhort them.*** I will send out the webinar link in a future Growing Disciples E-Newsletter.

Contact [John Gaffney](#) for more information or if you have questions about Franciscan CI.

August Important Dates:

- August 12 – [Saint Jane Frances de Chantal](#)
- August 14 – [Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe](#)
- August 15 – [Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
 - Mass with Bishop Joensen at St. Patrick Irish Settlement Consecration to St. Joseph ([Blessing of St. Joseph's Table](#))
- August 20 – [Saint Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- August 22 – [Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- August 23-31 – The first week of school in many places ([Beginning of School Prayer](#))
- August 27 – [Saint Monica](#)
- August 28 – [Saint Augustine of Hippo](#)