

Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

PCL Connect E-Newsletter  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
November 2022 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)*

**November PCL Connect/CLADD Formation Session with special guest Paulette Chapman - Accompanying and Equipping the Domestic Church: Steps in Family/Intergenerational Faith Formation – November 10 in Harlan and November 17 in Des Moines:**



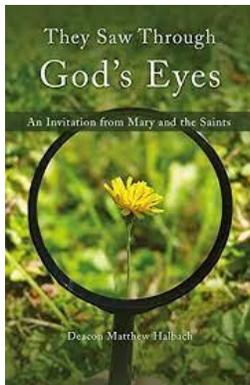
Crisis offers opportunity, or as we Catholics describe it, from death comes new life – the paschal mystery. While we will be accompanying people in healing and recovery from the pandemic for some time to come, it is important to pay attention to what was learned. The time of quarantine compelled many of us to put the responsibility for faith formation of children and youth back where it belongs – in the home.

Joins us for the November PCL Connect/CLADD meetings as we explore practical ideas for continuing to implement family/intergenerational faith formation. There will be something for everyone – parishes fully embracing this approach, those considering it, and those continuing with the schooling model who seek to involve parents and guardians more actively. Discover what the new *Directory for Catechesis* and Pope Francis are calling us to do and hear about ways to make it happen!

The agenda is attached. Please RSVP to Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org) which date you will be attending, November 10 or 17.

**Save the Date for February 2023 – PCL/CLADD Retreat with Deacon Matt Halbach – Cardiovision: Seeing with the Eyes of Faith**

Sherri and I are excited to announce that we have scheduled a wonderful spiritual opportunity for you this February. Deacon Matt Halbach will spiritually invite us to use Cardiovision to see

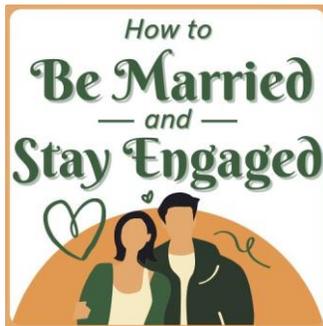


with the eyes of faith. This retreat is based upon his latest best selling book, *They Saw Through God's Eyes: An Invitation from Mary and the Saints* from Word Among Us Press. More information to come as we work with Deacon Matt on the details.

The retreat will be February 2-3, 2022 at the [Hilton Garden Inn](#) in West Des Moines. It is a wonderful location, close to Jordan Creek Mall. Please use [this link](#) to book your room in our PCL/CLADD Retreat Block. The room rate is \$129.00 a night, before taxes, with two options: a one king option or a two queen option. It is important to get away, so please consider staying with us and enjoying our wonderful catechetical community in southwest Iowa. We even worked with the hotel to extend the special rate from February 1 to 4 if you want to come in early or stay an extra day.

The PCL/CLADD Retreat begins on February 2 at 1:00 pm and will end at 3:00 pm on February 3. More details on the retreat fee soon, but we feel confident it will be between \$80.00 and \$90.00 per person. As always, we will have scholarships available so you can attend if your parish is unable to cover the cost. Contact [Sherri](#) or [me](#) if you have questions.

### **How to be Married and Stay Engaged – Digital Marriage Enrichment Event:**



Exciting news for married couples! Nationally respected speaker, Dr. Jim Healy, will provide a half-day digital marriage enrichment experience on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> (from 10am-1:30pm). *How to be Married and Stay Engaged* will offer practical ways for couples to build skills for a strong, joyous and faith-filled marriage.

Visit [www.dmdiocese.org/marriage](http://www.dmdiocese.org/marriage) to learn more, or click on the QR code below!

It takes three types of intimacy for a marriage to thrive. Happily, these are also the basis for our three Christian marriage vows. In down to earth and sometimes humorous ways, Dr. Healy will help couples discover again what it takes to live out these vows fully and joyfully.

- Back to Back Intimacy - How our vision of marriage inspires every moment of our lives together.
- Face to Face Intimacy - How we invigorate our marriage now because we WANT to, before we HAVE to.
- Shoulder to Shoulder Intimacy - How deciding who/what we care about adds meaning & joy to our lives.

Dr. Jim Healy has spoken across America on marriage. His marriage materials are used in every Catholic diocese in the U.S. A counseling psychologist with over 30 years of full-time experience working with families, he was honored with the Family Ministry Award from the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers in the year 2000.



Your parish could offer a gathered “digital” event or “watch party.” This could be offered at the parish or small groups in parishioner’s homes. Providing a “gathered” formational opportunity brings together couples for an enjoyable and beneficial formation experience in an environment that fosters a sense of community.

There are the logistics of setting up for hospitality and lunch as well as plugging a laptop into a large screen TV or projection screen. Primarily, it would be a matter of inviting parishioners to a “watch party”. Along with the experience of fellowship that would occur in experiencing this event in a gathered space, the facilitator(s) could glean interest from these couples for future marriage ministry experiences and the parish could have, in some of these couples, the core of a new marriage ministry enrichment team.

### **Advent Resources:**



#### Diocesan Family Faith Advent Resources:

Christmas is a busy time! It can also be a meaningful, joyful, and even peaceful time. . . if we live Advent intentionally, as a season of preparing our hearts and homes for Jesus's coming. Use [this link](#) for our Advent essentials. *Living Advent 2022* intentionally, as a season of preparing our hearts and homes for Jesus's coming, can help us do that. Here

are some Advent essentials we have for this season:

- [Living Advent – A Four Week Journey](#) with simple ideas to provide meaning for family traditions as well as incorporate prayer and acts of kindness.
- [Advent Faith Conversations](#) – A one page per week resource providing adult reflections to spark family conversations (A Spanish equivalent is also included)
- Additional stand-alone resources that are also hyper-linked in the *Living Advent* four page resource.

Attached to this document are also resources to help you and your catechists use *Living Advent* in your formation processes, helping families learn how to use the resources, and resources to help them locate them on our diocesan website. I particularly like the *Living Advent* business cards that you can pass out generously in a variety of ministry gatherings.

Thanks to the team of Kristi and Tom Quinlan as well as Anne Marie Cox for the development and promotion of the product which we help is an on ramp opportunity for households of faith.

#### Sadlier Religion:

Celebrate Each Day of Advent

This printable Advent calendar offers families a daily activity to complete together for each day of the four-week Advent season. From lighting the candles of the Advent wreath to celebrating

December feast days and the O Antiphons, families can wait with wonder, together, all season long. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

**RCL Benziger:**

Use [this link](#) for Advent Resources available in English and Spanish.

**Pflaum Publishing Group:**

Day by Day to Christmas 2022 – The Absolutely Advent Series. This series has three age differentiations: primary, intermediate, and teens. The resource includes a page a day focus that includes daily reflections and age-appropriate activities. Use [this link](#) to explore the resource and costs.

**Twenty-Third Publications:**

Use [this link](#) to order page-a-day Advent resources.

**Distribution of the Precious Blood Update letter from Father Trevor Chicoine:**



Diocesan Director of Worship, Father Trevor Chicoine, announced recently that parishes again will be permitted to distribute the Precious Blood to the faithful in the Diocese effective the Feast of Christ the King, November 19-20, 2022. As Father writes in the attached letter, this is not a mandate but an option to parish communities by Bishop Joensen. Pastors and Parochial Administrators are asked to discern with staff and parish leadership the community's readiness

to resume distribution under both species.

As those who work with the faithful on lifelong formation in faith, it may be a time for a refresher regarding either the distribution or reception of Holy Communion under both species. Here is [a link](#) to the USCCB which provides a rich resource for you and your community.

If you have questions, please contact your pastor or email Father Trevor at [tchicoine@dmdiocese.org](mailto:tchicoine@dmdiocese.org).

**Items from Disability Ministry:**

**We Believe Caregivers Deserve More Than a Thank-You:** And, we know you do too! Join in



Our Mission is to Support & Empower Caregivers Through the Gift of Faith

the month of November (National Family Caregivers Month) in making sure caregivers are UPLIFTED. Share these tangible tools in your parishes and let them know YOU Care. Download these images and corresponding links and share them on your website, in a

newsletter, via social media, or whatever works best for you.

- Nourish for Caregivers had their first Support Group meeting in our diocese the end of October. The next meeting will be November 30 at 6:30 pm at Holy Trinity Parish. Call 515-255-3162 or contact Deacons [Jim Houston](#) or [Dan Maxcy](#) for more information! November is a great time to promote this support group.
- Please contact [Patty Origer](#) if your parish is interested in starting your own Nourish for Caregivers Support Group,
- The Nourish for Caregiver website also includes a variety of [FREE resources](#) to nourish mind, body and soul including:
  - [Practical Nourishment InfoKeeper](#) - a must have digital app for every family,
  - [Emotional Nourishment](#) a holistic measure of stress, with suggested actions for incorporating spiritual well-being and
  - [recorded Monthly Topic for Caregivers webinars](#).

Other ideas or resources you may want to include:

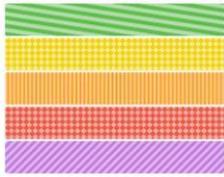


- Include in your Mass Prayer Intentions prayers for our caregivers. You can do this by just adding the words “and their caregivers” when praying for those who are ill or use a specific prayer intention for caregivers from our [Disability Ministry Prayer Resource](#).
- [Spiritual Nourishment--Medicine for the Caregiver's Soul](#), 58-page eBook. Use image and link to share: <https://bit.ly/RxForCaregiverSoul> a link to receive this FREE resource
- [Friends of St. Johns the Caregiver](#) is an international Catholic organization addressing the growing needs of family caregivers and [Catholic Caregivers](#) offer **free** material such as [mini-posters](#), [holy cards and prayer books](#), and [Bulletin Briefs](#) .
- Patron Saints of Caregiving include: [St. John the Evangelist is the Patron Saint of Caregivers](#) and [Patron Saint of Family Caregivers in Canada—Saint Brother Andre`](#)
- Promote [Become a Dementia Friend](#): Request to be connected to a Dementia Friend for your loved one. Volunteer to be a dementia friend by attending a one-hour informational session to learn about this worldwide movement, about living with dementia, and the simple things you can do to support someone living with the disease.
- [Supporting Mom and Dad at Home](#) to create a plan for current/future needs and find resources.
- [Being Honest with Ourselves as Caregivers](#) which includes links to Henri Nouwen Society which has caregiver resources including online events and workshops, podcasts, videos and sign up for FREE daily meditations and newsletter.

### **How does your website work for people with physical disabilities?**

Does your parish website include a statement, resource, or a person to contact to find out if your church is physically accessible or offer accommodations for Mass, faith formation or parish events? The resource [A Good Host is a Good Planner is a checklist](#) can help parishes insure all guests feel welcome and can participate. Consider adding a statement to your website/bulletin that you are a parish that welcomes ALL and who to contact for assistance regarding accommodations!

## Trello Colorblind Friendly



**Accessible websites and documents is another way your parish can be welcoming and inclusive for people with disabilities!**

- Easter Seals Iowa Assistive Technology Department offers a low cost [full accessibility review](#) of an organizations website and FREE online accessibility course [Creating Accessible Materials](#).

Trello Colorblind Friendly Mode



- Peter McNally, user experience and accessibility consultant, and board member for Catholic Polytechnic University recommends: if you can only do ONE thing for accessibility you should-- Make sure you navigate within each web page and across all the pages ONLY using the keyboard.

Other accessibility points Mr. McNally recommends to work on from his “How to Improve Digital Accessibility in your Faith Community” presentation include:

- All images on a web page need Alternative (ALT) text
- Use color correctly by evaluating color contrast and use color to convey information
- If interviewing a contractor or firm for digital work, ask them about their web accessibility knowledge and experience? Ask for a reference digital site and try to navigate their site with the keyboard. If you can’t then not the best choice for digital accessibility
- If you are doing the work yourself, think about accessibility before coding.

Review the Teach Access tutorial: Teach Access Tutorial:

<https://teachaccess.github.io/tutorial/> .Look for templates that are accessible

- Ask for feedback from people with disabilities. Put together a group of informal panel of testers from your faith community or organization. Ask them to do important tasks, for example finding the Mass times on your parish web site.



Please contact [Patty Origer](#), Coordinator of Persons with Disability Ministry if you have questions or need additional resources.

## Free Webinars for November:



The Catechetical Institute from Franciscan University continues their webinar series in November. Check out these opportunities.

- Tuesday November 8 at 1:00 pm - **Making Parents Primary & Helping Parents Strengthen Catholic Identity in the Home**
  - Presented by Mary Mosher, Master Catechist and Catechetical Institute Mentor
  - Use [this link](#) to register.
- Tuesday, November 15 at 1:00 pm – **Ways Forward for Parish Renewal**

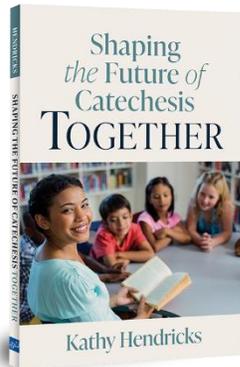
- Presented by Dino Durando and Marc Cardaronella of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
- Use [this link](#) to register.
- Tuesday, November 22 at 1:00 pm – Making Discipleship and Accompaniment a Reality Locally
  - Presented by Marcel LeJeune, Founder and President of Catholic Missionary Disciples.
  - Use [this link](#) to register.

Bayard Publishing (co-sponsored by the University of Dayton and the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives) is launching a new webinar series focused on the Eucharist in our lives and the life of the Church.

- Friday, November 18 at 10:00 AM EST – **The Whole Spiritual Wealth of the Church: Christ Our Living Bread**
- Presented by William H. Johnston, Ph.D. and Heidi Busse
- How can we meet Jesus in the Eucharist with renewed faith and love? What is happening when we celebrate Mass, and how can we let its riches and power transform our hearts and lives? Why are the U.S. Catholic Bishops sponsoring a National Eucharistic Revival?
- Us [this link](#) to register.

**A few resources worth considering for you as you assess your formation landscape:**

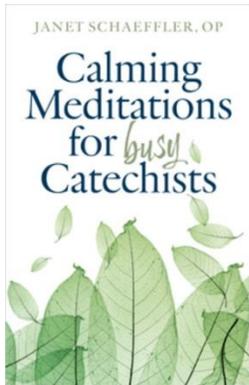
Shaping the Future of Catechesis Together, by Kathy Hendricks, from Twenty-Third Publications.



*One of the many changes affecting parish life in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic is the need for a fresh approach to catechesis. Moving forward entails a robust process of formation for catechists, a revitalization of the essential content of faith and practice, and creative use of technology, while also retaining the best of our traditional approaches to the ministry. Shaping the Future of Catechesis Together offers insights into each of these vital aspects of catechesis. Drawn from a series of webinars and grounded in the vision set forth in the Directory for Catechesis, this book offers a springboard for catechists and catechetical leaders to consider how we might move into the future of catechesis with renewed hope and*

*joy.*

Use [this link](#) to order.



Calming Meditations for Busy Catechists, by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP from The Pastoral Center.

*In this gem of a booklet, best-selling author Sister Janet Schaeffler offers beautiful reflections and prayers that speak to the realities of being a catechist in today's world. Here are prayers to take to God when catechists are feeling overwhelmed or unqualified, when lessons don't go according to plan, or when students are facing trials and difficulties of their own. Here, too, are meditations for those wonderful days when things go well and students seem to "get it." Each reflection is full of understanding and compassion and is accompanied by a meditation and suggestion for action—to bring catechists peace and calm, confident in God's loving plan for them*

Use [this link](#) to order.

Affordably bulk priced to give to all your catechists.

**Emmaus House Announces a new associate director – April Young:**



The Emmaus House is excited to announce the hiring of April Young as the new associate director! April brings many gifts, years of experience in pastoral care, and a passion for Ignatian spirituality. Her gifts and experience are a great fit with the mission and ministry of Emmaus House. April will join the staff on October 31st!

April Young, M.A., received her graduate degree in Pastoral Care from Fordham University in New York. She is currently working on a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction and Retreats from Creighton University to be completed in the summer of 2023. April also has a BS in English from Iowa State University.

She comes to Emmaus House with over eight years of experience in pastoral care, following a deeply felt calling to be present with another in her or his spiritual journey. Grounded in Ignatian Tradition, through formation and personal practice, she is eager to bring its simple power to other people.

“Ignatian Spirituality is such a powerful, yet pragmatic practice, connecting us with God in a personal way by recognizing God’s presence in our everyday lives. Emmaus House has been so instrumental in my own spiritual journey. I am so excited to join this ministry and to carry on its mission of compassion and hospitality.”

The [Emmaus House](#) is located at 3315 70<sup>th</sup> Street in Urbandale.

**November Important Dates:**

- November 1 – [Solemnity of All Saints](#)
- November 2 – [Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed](#)
- November 3 – [Saint Martin de Porres](#)
- November 4 – [Saint Charles Borromeo](#)

- November 9 – [Dedication of Saint John Lateran Basilica](#)
- November 10 – [Saint Leo the Great](#)
- November 11 – [Saint Martin of Tours](#)
- November 13 – [Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini](#)
- November 14 – [Saint Gertrude the Great](#)
- November 15 – [Saint Albert the Great](#)
- November 16 – [Saint Margaret of Scotland](#)
- November 17 – [Saint Elizabeth of Hungary](#)
- November 18 – [Dedication of Churches of Saints Peter and Paul](#)
- November 21 – [Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- November 22 – [Saint Cecilia](#)
- November 23 – [Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro](#)
- November 24 – [Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions](#)
- November 24 – [Thanksgiving Day](#)
- November 26 – [Saint Columban](#)
- November 29 – [Saint Clement](#)
- November 30 – [Saint Andrew](#)
- October 4 – [Saint Francis of Assisi](#)
- October 5 – [Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska](#)
- October 7 – [Our Lady of the Rosary](#)
- October 11 – [Saint Pope John XXIII](#)
- October 15 – [Saint Teresa of Avila](#)
- October 16 – [Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque](#)
- October 18 – [Saint Luke](#)
- October 19 – [Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brebeuf, and Companions](#)
- October 22 – [Saint Pope John Paul II](#)
- October 28 – [Saints Simon and Jude](#)