

Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
January 2, 2019 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)*

**“I am healthy and feeling great” – Health Update and a request for prayer:**



Well...there are some years you can't wait to say goodbye to. Outside of my fourth grandchild's birth this past year, I am looking forward to a much brighter and healthier 2019.

What happened? Well the short story is that somehow I acquired a flesh eating gas in my left foot on December 11 and the all too real possibility was that if we didn't move quickly I could move into sepsis within the next 36 to 48 hours. The harsh decision was to amputate my foot the next day and then complete a below the knee amputation revision on December 14. The surgeries went well and I was off pain killers within a few days. I was released on December 20 and had a fantastic Christmas with all of my family who came home. They have already removed ½ of the staples and the rest will come out next week. The prognosis looks great: labs back to normal, vitals are all normal, and the home physical therapists and nurses have already discharged me. I am currently working at home if you need anything. Hopefully, I will be back in the office by January 7. All CLADD events and our February Retreat are full speed ahead (more on both of these later in the newsletter). Thank you for all your prayers, phone calls, texts, cards and e-mails. Our community is amazing and YOU have been an integral part of my healing.



I am asking you for prayers for the repose of the soul of Kathy Mullins and for her family. Whereas I was lucky regarding the potential of sepsis throughout my body, Kathy was not. She collapsed on Christmas Eve and very quickly lapsed into a coma. Kathy has been a catechist at St. Theresa parish for over 30 years and is survived by her husband, five children and nine grandchildren. She was an amazing catechist who taught kindergarten at St. Theresa parish. She was one of the first people I met when I arrived in 2005 and I had the blessing to visit her classroom about a year ago. Kathy is an example of the exceptional people of faith we have in our religious education, youth ministry and RCIA programs.

We do not know how much time we have here on Earth and it is important to keep focused on our mission. Kathy always knew her mission: love of God and love of the people He put in her life. She lived the Kerygmatic message that is on the top of this E-Newsletter. Please keep everyone in prayer as Kathy's funeral is tomorrow morning. Please also pray for Jane Ann Becicka, Barb Woods and Megs Howes as well as all the St. Theresa catechists as they say goodbye.

### **CLADD Sessions for January 2019: Self-care is NOT Self-ish with Tom Green:**

Caught up in the day-to-day demands of ministry, catechetical leaders often find it difficult to take time to attend to their physical, emotional and spiritual health. On the long list of items that must be done every day, we often put ourselves last. Each of us can get caught up in trying to meet what may be unrealistic expectations -- both the parish's and our own. This session will be an interactive morning of learning certain practices and putting them into action. Our session will help us honor our bodies and our time by taking time for sabbath--these are as important as caring for others.



We are blessed to have our good friend, Tom Green, to accompany us through this important topic that is not always easy for any of us to attend to. Agendas are attached with registration information. Please register as soon as possible:

- CLADD West will be held on January 15 at St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah. Please register by January 11.
- CLADD East will be held on January 17 at St. Boniface Church in Waukee. Please register by January 15.

### **Spirituality Once Removed Webinar by Mike Patin -- Must see viewing by all in lay ministry:**



Mike Patin provided a thought provoking and powerful webinar thanks to our friends at The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. This webinar was a few weeks ago and may have been missed because of the Advent rush of ministry responsibilities. Please take one hour for your self and watch this free webinar. The link is below and the materials are attached to this E-Newsletter.

Much of our time and effort is spent on soul care and spiritual formation of others. But how do we, as ministers, open OUR minds, hearts, and bodies to create space for God? Near-spiritual experiences are not enough. After watching this webinar I hope you will register for our CLADD Retreat in February (more on this below).

Webinar link:

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/3137548062961020934/recording/c216bef9a18d42b0af8a649262e13884/watch?source=CHANNEL>

## CLADD Retreat 2019 – Register Today:

On behalf of our CLADD Leadership Team (Theresa Romens, Jane Ann Becicka, Julie Williamson, Kelly Howard, Bernie Koch and Tom Primmer) we wish you and your family a blessed 2019.

A blessing you can provide yourself is to take some time away from your ministry and spend time with God at the CLADD Retreat on February 7 & 8, 2019 (think about what Mike Patin said in the webinar above). The flyer is attached with information about registration and a special rate offer by Holiday Inn. There is a deadline for Holiday Inn registration special rate. Even if you are in the Des Moines area, staying at the hotel is an opportunity to extend some one-on-one time with God and your colleagues by booking a room.



Please know that each of you are in my daily prayers. Let me know if you have any questions. There are scholarships available if you are unable to afford the CLADD Retreat. Due to space limitation, we will limit the registration number to 44.

“Let the Church always be  
a place of Mercy  
AND Hope,  
where everyone is welcomed  
Loved and Forgiven.”  
Pope Francis

