

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



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

January 6, 2016 Edition

CLADD Retreat for 2016:

Attached please find a flyer for the 2016 CLDD Retreat. Our facilitator is Cindy Shaw who is the Co-Director of the Emmaus House in Des Moines. Cindy received her Master of Arts in Ministry as well as Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha. She is a gifted spiritual director and retreat facilitator. She was such a hit at the CLADD Year-end Celebration that the CLADD Leadership team was asked to have her back some time soon.

The title of the year's retreat is ***Recalling the Call: What's Love Got to Do With it?*** Cindy has based a lot of this retreat based upon the final contemplation of St. Ignatius of Loyola titled *The Contemplation of the Love of God*. This retreat is a great extension from last year's wonderful retreat with Dr. Tom Neal.

It is so important for us to reflect and contemplate our call from God. As a professional lay minister within the Catholic Church it helps us on so many levels with those we serve, but especially in sharing our witness with others. Furthermore, with all of the tasks and planning that our ministry requires, it is vital to take a little time away and ***be*** with God.

The retreat will include a great deal of time to reflect individually and at those you are with at your table. It will also include great food and a time set aside on Thursday evening to socialize and reconnect.

To keep the retreat experience focused it is strongly proposed that you consider staying at the Holiday Inn. Even though they have experienced a rate increase, they have kept the same double occupancy rate as the Holiday Inn in Urbandale last year. To guarantee this rate you must contact them by January 14. Go ahead and sign-up today...you will not be disappointed.

Catholics Come Home Ministers of 1st Impression Workshops:

It is hard to believe that we are four weeks away from the beginning of the *Catholics Come Home* outreach that is one of the major initiatives of the Jubilee of Mercy here in the Diocese of Des Moines. It is helpful for you to be aware of these workshops in case you are asked to participate or will be part of a later session at your own parish.

To prepare parishes for this great blessing the diocese will hold welcome and hospitality workshops in each region of the diocese. The schedule for your region is listed below but will be either on Tuesday, January 12 or Thursday, January 14, 2016. We will begin each evening at 6:30 pm and end by 8:00 pm. A light supper will be served beginning at 6:00 pm as you gather at the workshop location.

Much of the workshop was crafted using practices that parishes around the country in small rural areas as well as cities and suburbs found very helpful during and after the *Catholics Come Home* outreach. I was especially blessed to work with a dynamic group of volunteer parish training coordinators from the Archdiocese of Seattle who helped us finalize the final workshop agenda. I did include verbiage from *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us* since this is an excellent platform to advocate for adult faith formation.

Your workshop will be led in most of the regions by volunteers who are serving on our Diocesan Jubilee of Mercy Committee along with a diocesan staff member. This is a workshop where members of your parish community along with your leadership will help craft a hospitality plan that builds on the strengths of your community.

Parishes have been asked to RSVP with the number of people attending from your parish to Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org by Thursday, January 7, 2016. This will be helpful so that we have enough materials and food ordered for your session.

Schedule:

Des Moines Region:

Christ the King parish (DSM) – January 12 – facilitated by MK Meister with Jason Kurth
St. Augustin parish (DSM) – January 14 – facilitated by Joe Happe with Jason Kurth

Council Bluffs Region:

Corpus Christi parish (CB) – January 14 – facilitated by Jen Brown with Kim Mandelkow

Adair Region:

All Saints parish (Stuart) – January 12 – facilitated by Adam Storey

Osceola Region:

Holy Spirit parish (Creston) – January 14 – facilitated by Father Lazarus with Adam Storey

Portsmouth Region:

St. Boniface parish (Westphalia) – January 12 – facilitated by Dana Wenstrand with Joan Bindel

Red Oak Region:

St. Mary parish (Red Oak) – January 14 – facilitated by Dana Wenstrand

St. Francis Catechetical In-Service Tomorrow evening:

(From Christen Cota) Hello Colleagues. Happy New Year! I pray that your Christmas season has been richly blessed with joy. I just wanted to send a quick reminder about the Winter Catechist In-Service at St. Francis of Assisi this Wednesday, **January 6, from 7:00 – 9:00**

p.m. If you plan on your catechists coming, please send them a reminder! There is a flyer attached with information about the presentations. All are welcome

Baptism of the Lord Reflection (Pope Emeritus Benedict)

“Whoever is moved by love begins to perceive what “life” really is. He begins to perceive the meaning of the word of hope that we encountered in the Baptismal Rite: from faith I await “eternal life” - the true life which, whole and unthreatened, in all its fullness, is simply life.

Jesus, who said that he had come so that we might have life and have it in its fullness, in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10), has also explained to us what “life” means: “this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (Jn 17:3). Life in its true sense is not something we have exclusively in or from ourselves: it is a relationship. And life in its totality is a relationship with him who is the source of life. If we are in relation with him who does not die, who is Life itself and Love itself, then we are in life. Then we ‘live’”

– Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical on Hope, November 30, 2007.

