



Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
January 9, 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)

13 New Year’s Resolutions for RCIA Teams from Nick Wagner at Team RCIA:



Like most people, I am terrible at keeping New Year’s resolutions. But several years ago, I found a way to become better. Now, I make 90-day resolutions. At the end of 90 days, I check in with myself to see how I’m doing. Then I either recommit to my resolutions, or I trade them in for new resolutions.

Also, I keep my resolutions to a manageable number — usually three and no more than five.

Choose your RCIA resolutions from this list or create your own. Each item includes a hyperlink for more information if this is an idea your team would like to pursue. Just click on the orange title. Mark on your calendar your 90-day check-in points, and come back to comment here about how you are doing.

1. “Give up” looking for sponsors

If finding sponsors is hard for you, my advice is stop looking and do this instead.

2. Memorize the three discernment questions your bishop is going to ask of the godparents

These questions give us the criteria for discerning the readiness of the catechumens for initiation. Our job is to prepare the catechumens so well that the godparents will be able to reply truthfully and enthusiastically to the bishop’s questions.

3. Don’t let the scrutinies scare your catechumens

How do we explain the scrutinies to the catechumens without scaring them?

4. Rekindle your “desire for the infinite” in ministry

When our desire is small, our answer to the seeker who wants to become Catholic is small.

5. Throw out your syllabus

The RCIA is not a series of “classes” one takes in order to “graduate” as a Catholic. Rather, it is a process of conversion to the Christian life.

6. Do more to involve parishioners in the RCIA process

If we want our parishioners to become involved in the catechumenate process, we have to use every opportunity available to us to catechize them about primary importance of this ministry.

7. Spend some time as a team discussing why you do mystagogy

Do the reasons you do mystagogy match those the church gives us?

8. Learn the core principles for initiating children

As we encounter children and their families who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, we will give them the wrong impression of who Jesus is if we treat our formation processes as rules to be skirted and procedures to be avoided.

9. Become better at these three catechetical competencies

Pope Francis says we have to do these things if we want to call ourselves catechists: allow ourselves to be gazed upon by God, go out to encounter others, and go to the outskirts.

10. Try to be less busy

A brain surgeon, in the midst of an operation, is busy. A single mom who has to work three jobs to be able to feed her children is busy. The rest of us — not so much. Our artificial busy-ness is deadly. It leads to broken families, poor health, and fatal mistakes.

11. Be more flexible with seekers who don't fit your schedule

When we encounter a seeker who cannot fit into our formation plan, we're often flummoxed. Learn how to become more creative.

12. Stimulate your sacramental imagination

Is imagination-training a core component of our catechumenate formation processes?

13. Claim your baptismal priesthood

Our special charism is ordered toward making Jesus known in the world, not inside the church.

Nick is the codirector and cofounder of TeamRCIA. To contact Nick about their services please e-mail him at Nick@TeamRCIA.com.

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 Waukeez. Please register by January 15.



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.

Changes in 2019 to Diocesan Background Screening Applications:

Due to some changes required by law and procedure in our background requests, new forms are required. The Diocesan Form (two sided) to use shows the revision date of November 16, 2018 (section 1 and section 2.) The Iowa Department of Human Services form is now authorized by Allie Loomis who has taken over from Jacque Shoeman. This form is #470-3301 (Rev 2/16). I have attached them to this e-newsletter.



National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:



Beginning with **Epiphany Sunday on January 6th, 2019**, the youth ministry community in the United States will spend 33 days in prayer and deep reflection preparing for a renewed commitment to the mission of bringing young people to Jesus Christ through the Blessed Mother. The 33 days will conclude with a nine-day Novena which would lead up to and including the membership meeting. *(This 33-day period includes World Youth Day (Jan 21-28), the March for Life (Jan 18), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan 21), the feast of St. John Bosco (Jan 31), Anti-Human Trafficking Day (Feb 8).)*

Resources for the consecration:

1) 33 Days of Memes – The member-driven Consecration Project Team will be taking over the NFCYM Facebook page from Sunday, January 6, 2019, through Thursday, February 7, 2019.

[See daily posts here.](#)

2) Reflections by NFCYM Members

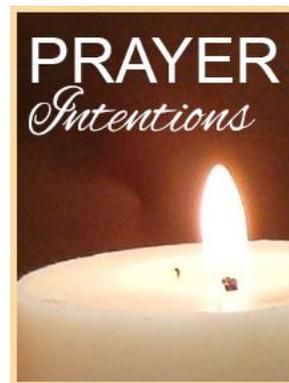
3) 33 Days to Morning Glory – Videos, prayers, and resources through the Augustine Institute that are commonly used as a part of diocesan consecrations throughout the United States.

NFCYM.formed.org

Please keep the following in prayer:

We have many special prayer intentions but below are a few that affect our catechetical community.

- Barb Wolter (DRE at St. Patrick in Perry) – recovery from an auto accident – Barb and her son Joe were involved in an accident on December 28. Both are fine but Barb suffered a concussion.
- Father Trevor Chicoine and family (associate Pastor at St. Francis in West Des Moines) – Father Trevor’s father passed suddenly on January 5 because of a kayaking incident. The funeral will be held on Saturday, January 12 in Indianola.



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

