



Dept. of Evangelization &  
Catechesis

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

January 11, 2017 Edition

**Religious Education Survey Results – 2016/2017:**



Thank you for your participation in the year's survey of religious education and youth ministry programming. As always the information is useful for us in many ways. This edition of our E-Newsletter will share information with you regarding some of the most significant findings.

**By the Numbers:**

- # of catechists and youth ministry associates – 2,137 (up from 1,837 in the last survey) – a 16% increase
- K-8 parish enrollment is 8,987 (down from 9,275 in the last survey) – a 3% decrease (decrease attributed to population shifts in SW Iowa...reduction in many rural communities were not picked up in the urban and suburban gains which also include rural communities close to larger urban areas)
- 9-12 parish enrollment is 3,082 (down from 3,128 in the last survey) – a 1.5% decrease (slight decrease attributed to population shifts but offset mostly by gains in urban and suburban areas as well as those in rural areas close to larger urban areas...communities pointed to more teen opportunities in parishes being a factor in increased enrollment as well)
- Active parish pre-school programs are in 37 out of 81 parishes. More detailed report will be generated and sent out in the next edition of Growing Disciples.

Enrollment is only one way in which to assess the programming landscape, with numbers only scratching the surface. Another area that is far better is engagement which includes volunteer recruitment and retention. It is obvious from this report that lifelong formation in faith is valued when I look at the substantial increase in volunteers across all ages of K-12 programming. Much of the success of increased volunteers is the hard work you put into this endeavor which includes catechist formation. Thank you for your presence and your witness to lifelong formation in faith.

Next week I will include a report on registration fees and the pre-school findings. Please let me know if you **do not** want your fee schedule published to your colleagues. This report is not posted publically.

## **Search for new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry for the diocese:**

During the holidays I sent you a special e-mail letting you know that Tessa Roberts has submitted her resignation so that she may take a parish position in Adult Faith Formation. As someone who treasured his time in parish ministry, I know that Tessa will enjoy the joys and opportunities of sharing the Gospel with others in a parish faith community.



The team at the diocese has hit the ground running regarding an active search for a new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. This will be the first time since I began as a lay ecclesial minister that we will have a director 100% dedicated to helping parishes with resources, skill enhancement and programming for teens and young adults.

I invite you to help us by sharing the job description with people you feel would be valuable to parishes in our diocese in ministering to, and with, youth and young adults.

Some general information to help keep you in the loop:

- Moving from a diocesan coordinator to a director will take us from the foundation established over the last four years to the next level, especially in helping parishes with processes and programs that build discipleship/internalization of the faith (1<sup>st</sup> 2 bullet points under position responsibilities are the two most vital needs)
- The successful candidate will have years of parish experience or a combination of parish/diocesan experience.
- Adam Storey will be the chairperson of the search committee. Usually a department director, or in a corporation a division head, is not tasked with leading the process. This allows the director to evaluate candidates based upon collaboration and vision.
- Very aggressive nationwide search including: recruiting from larger archdioceses staff who may want to move to the next tier of leadership, several Catholic Universities with large alumni in lay ecclesial ministry roles, Augustin Institute, Life Teen, St. Paul Street Evangelization, FOCUS, as well as outreach to Matt Halbach, Jon Leonetti and Dr. Tom Neal who have nationwide connections, Bob McCarty former ED for the NFCYM has been contacted, as well as asking you to be our agents in suggesting this position to people you feel would be a great fit.

Time-Line (approved by Bishop Pates):

- January 3-10 Adam invites potential search committee members to be on team
  - Youth Ministers from east and west side of diocese
  - Representatives of diocesan offices of worship and vocations
  - Parents of active teens from east and west side of the diocese
  - Joe Connolly from the St. Thomas More Center
  - 1 pastor who has a passion for youth and young adult ministry

- Applications open until February 17, 2017 (posted ad and invites)
- Eileen, John & Adam (possibly members of search committee) evaluate applications Feb. 20-22 and arrange phone screening for top candidates
- Phone screening and digital conference interviews Feb. 27-March 3
- Search Committee Interviews of top candidates March 13-17

Recommendation to Bishop Pates by chair and search committee on March 17; with offer to start between April 17 and May 15.

Please continue to reach out to me about youth and young adult ministry throughout this transition. Your prayers are appreciated for a successful search and new hire.

**CLADD Sessions in January 2017 – RSVP Today:**

**West & East CLADD Sessions – A New Way Forward: Talking About What Matters with Tom Green:**



Organizations pay a deep price for ignoring the elephants in the room. Our January session helps us as part of parish leadership to speak openly in hope to better achieve our ministry and parish goals. This session will be an interactive morning of learning certain practices and putting them into action. Our session will not only enhance our work relationships but our personal relationships as well.

Our facilitator for the morning is Tom Green who is the president of the Discussables Group. He has over 20 years of experience training, coaching and studying leaders toward better organizational and personal results.

Tom is also the husband of Mary Green who was our friend, colleague and mentor in catechetical leadership. Mary entered eternal life on July 4, 2014.

- CLADD West is scheduled for January 17, 2017 at St. Patrick parish in Missouri Valley
- CLADD East is scheduled for January 19, 2017 at All Saints parish in Stuart

**CLADD Retreat with Sr. Joyce Rupp – February 9-10 in Urbandale – Save the Date:**

Sr. Joyce Rupp, O.S.M. will be our retreat facilitator and the topic is **“Gestating Grace: Growing in Faith in Difficult Times.”**

This year’s conference returns to the Holiday Inn in Urbandale. Thanks to their partnership the cost is similar to that of last year:

- \$105.95 for an executive king or double queen room (cost is halved if you find a roommate)
- Retreat fee is \$75.00 and \$80.00 which covers the cost for the meals and snacks



- Room reservations will need to be made before January 20, 2017 to ensure the special pricing for CLADD
- Sr. Joyce's facilitator fee is covered by the Diocese as part of our ongoing commitment to the catechetical leaders of the diocese, reducing the retreat cost for you.

Sr. Joyce Rupp is in such high demand we are blessed to have her as our retreat facilitator. Because her ministry attracts many people, we have only 45 spots available for this retreat and it is limited to those who are listed in the CLADD Directory as well as retired catechetical leaders.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Sherri Simmer to guarantee your spot. Your CLADD Leadership team encourages everyone to consider staying at the hotel throughout the retreat to allow yourself time to be away from the world. We also try and have a wonderful bonding opportunity on Thursday evening.

***We are called to enlarge  
the horizons of our hearts,  
to be surprised by the life  
that is presented each day  
with its newness.***

**Pope Francis  
Advent Message  
November 27, 2016**

