



Resources for Jubilee of Mercy during Lent:

It has been amazing for those of us who serve in diocesan ministry to observe the ways in which our parish communities from around the diocese have leaned into the Jubilee of Mercy. One parish distributed strips of paper with ideas on how individuals/families could stretch themselves in a merciful way during Advent. When the individual or family completed the task it was brought back to the parish and used as the straw in the Nativity Scene. Another parish reintroduced the practice of the daily Angelus as well as offering a Liturgy of the Hours evening prayer on Friday evenings during Advent (similar to Stations of the Cross during Lent) and it was very well received.

Since Lent will be here within three weeks a resource by OSV that can be helpful for you is titled *The Gospel of Mercy: Lenten Reflection for the Year of Mercy*. These reflections are designed as bulletin inserts or could be used in take home packets for children and teens. They were written by our good friend, Sr. Janet Schaeffler. For more information follow this link: <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=X1776> or for Spanish resources follow this link: <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=X1777>

Best Lent Ever digital resources by DynamicCatholic.com:

Many parish communities distributed *Rediscover Jesus* throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. The goal of this book is that by rediscovering Jesus and getting to know him better, our love affair with him and our faith deepens.

Well, in case you don't have a copy of the book, DynamicCatholic.com has focused their on-line Lenten reflection series towards *Rediscover Jesus*. Each day a member of the DynamicCatholic team will guide each of us through the 40 chapters of the book.

Here is how to participate:

1. Encourage everyone in your parish to sign up at www.DynamicCatholic.com/bestlentever
2. Participants receive daily e-mails with a short video from Matthew Kelly or a member of the team on how to bring Jesus into their everyday lives.

You can also share your reflections periodically throughout Lent which will help foster more participation by the families you work with. Depending upon the age of the group, you can also use this for faith sharing with your catechists and possibly your teen groups.

Welcome New Coordinator for Hispanic Youth Ministry:

Please join me in welcoming Jessica Maciel Hernandez to the Diocese as our new Coordinator of Hispanic Youth Ministry beginning January 14th. Jessica is a graduate of Iowa State University and has been involved in Hispanic youth ministry at Our Lady of the Americas. During her college years, Jessica was very active at St. Thomas Aquinas Church's Catholic Student Center. Jessica has a passion for the faith and a heart for ministry to quote one of the search committee members.

Jessica will be joining us at one of our upcoming CLADD Sessions and has been invited to the 2016 CLADD retreat. You can reach Jessica at jernandez@dmdiocese.org or by calling 515-237-5051.

CLADD Retreat for 2016:

The title of the year's retreat is *Recalling the Call: What's Love Got to Do With it?* Cindy Shaw, co-director of the Emmaus Retreat House in Des Moines, has based much 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.

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 21.** Go ahead and sign-up today...you will not be disappointed.

Reconciliation Resources from Office of Worship – For Children:

Thanks to Kim Mandelkow from the Office of Worship, I have included some resources that will be helpful for children's reconciliation services. This is especially important as your parish begins to consider the *24 Hours for the Lord* initiative from Pope Francis in this Jubilee of Mercy.

Resource of Holy Doors

You will find two resources from the Jubilee Steering Committee on the Holy Doors. One is a informational brochure and another is a resource to be used at the Holy Door site.



In this Jubilee Year,
let us allow God
to surprise us.

The Face of Mercy (Misericordiae Vultus), #25