



Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

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

January 25, 2017 Edition

Adult Faith Formation Lenten Resources from the Diocese:

The Pastoral Center Team has been working feverishly to provide three Lenten resources for you and your parish leadership to use. Bishop Pates and I recommend these resources be broadly distributed to your parish formation teams, family faith formation opportunities and adult formation groups. These groups can include your leadership committees, small Christian faith sharing groups, Altar & Rosary/Catholic Daughters groups, Knights of Columbus, teen and young adult gathered events, among other usages. The resources also work well for private reflection



To view and download the materials please use this link:

<http://www.dmdiocese.org/evangelization-and-adult-faith-formation.cfm>. All of the resources can be found on this web page listed individually under each resource type. You will find the following: Enclosed are materials to assist you Encounter Lent 2017, including:

- Pope Francis' 2017 Message for Lent (English and Spanish) - Pope Francis' insights will provide you with an opportunity to ponder the gifts of God's Word and the human person.
- Discussion Questions for Pope Francis' Message (English and Spanish)
- Encounter Lent 2017 Series Leadership Guide – a companion piece to the 5th Encuentro Process being undertaken in our Hispanic communities around the diocese. This process is ideal for Lenten reflection and discussion.
- Encounter Lent 2017 Personal Journal (printing instructions included)
- “Caring for our Common Home: A Lenten Reflection for Iowans” from the Iowa Catholic Conference - provides **daily Lenten reflections** from a uniquely Iowa perspective in order to deepen appreciation for the preservation of creation.

Share your experiences this Lent, and promote this opportunity to those in your parish, at #encounterlent on social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

Bishop Pates' memo is attached to this e-newsletter. Sometime next month I will be connecting with you and your pastor about your parish usage of these materials and feedback you have that we can share with others.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Opens Path to a Culture of Encounter:



This year, CRS Rice Bowl provides a path for Catholics in the United States to build, what Pope Francis calls “a culture of encounter”. By following the [daily Lenten calendar](#), sharing the weekly [stories of hope](#), and making the [meatless meals](#), participants will follow a personal journey that leads to us seeing ourselves in the faces of our neighbors, cultivating a spirit of global solidarity and encountering God’s love anew.

Pope Francis told Catholic leaders that the “ability to see yourselves in the faces of others, this daily proximity to their share of troubles and their little acts of heroism: this is what enables you to practice the commandment of love, not on the basis of ideas or concepts, but rather on the basis of genuine interpersonal encounter.”

“We do not love concepts or ideas,” the Pope said. “We love people.”

This year’s weekly Lenten features are:

Week 1: [Encounter the Singh Family from East India](#)

Serve this simple meal from India: [Dalma with spinach](#)/Vegetable stew.

Week 2: [Encounter Evelina from Zambia](#)

Serve this simple meal from Zambia: [Ifisashi](#)/Peanut stew over polenta.

Week 3: [Encounter Fernando from El Salvador](#)

Serve this simple meal from El Salvador: [Pupusas with cheese](#)/Cheese stuffed tortillas.

Week 4: [Encounter Maria from Mexico](#)

Serve this simple meal from Mexico: [Arroz rojo](#)/Red rice.

Week 5: [Encounter Dita from Ethiopia](#)

Serve this simple meal from Ethiopia: [Injera with atkilt wat](#)/Cabbage wotj crepes.

Week 6: [Encounter Our Neighbors from the Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii](#) representing the local use of CRS Rice Bowl alms given in each U.S. diocese.

Youth Ministry Go-To Games from *Group Magazine*:

Have you ever needed a new ice breaker activity or some way to fill in some time during a youth ministry event? Chelsea Kendall from *Group Magazine* recently asked youth ministry leaders to text their ideas to her and attached is a great list that should help you for the remainder of the winter season and possibly beyond.

If you have an ice breaker or activity that is well received by the youth and your volunteers, send me the information and I will pass it along to our colleagues.



CLADD Retreat with Sr. Joyce Rupp – February 9-10 in Urbandale – RSVP Today:



We have had a lull in registrations for our upcoming CLADD Retreat. Everything was well ahead of schedule and the last ten days have been very slow. Take time today and RSVP your attendance to Sherri Simmer.

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

Attached to this e-newsletter is a poem written by Sr. Joyce regarding Winter. It is a good example of the reflective tone this retreat will offer participants.

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

- Retreat fee is \$75.00 which covers the cost for the meals and snacks
- \$105.95 for an executive king or double queen room (cost is halved if you find a roommate)
- (You may still be able to receive our special CLADD rate for room reservations. Contact the Holiday Inn today.)
- 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.

Although registrations have slowed, we will still only accept participants from one of our catechetical leadership ministries (religious education, adult faith formation, youth ministry, lifelong formation in faith directors). If you have registered, please invite a friend.

Attached is a prayer reflection from Sr. Joyce that will help you imagine the spiritual opportunities found in this retreat.

Let us offer the men
and women of our
time stories marked
by the logic of the
“good news”.

@PONTIFEX
JANUARY 24, 2017

