

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



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

January 27, 2016 Edition

CLADD Retreat for 2016: *Recalling the Call: What's Love Got to Do With It?*:

Registrations are coming along nicely but it wouldn't be in our nature if we didn't continue to advocate for you to seriously discern attending this year's retreat as part of your Lenten observance. Think of it like this, you will be asking a variety of people in your formation processes (such as teens preparing for Confirmation, catechumens and candidates preparing for the sacraments at the Easter Vigil, and Lenten opportunities for mini-retreats as well as CRHP and CEW) but what about you and your relationship with Christ? As St. Augustine proposed, "You can't give what you don't have."

Most of the "I'm thinking about it" responses surround this issue: this is at the beginning of Lent and the first weekend is crazy. I shared this with one of our CLADD Leaders and her response was, "when isn't there a time in our ministry and personal life when there is more reasons to say no than to say yes because of schedules?" How true...this goes for me as well. I believe I speak for Paulette, Cindy, Jill, Patsy, Jenifer and Julie when I ask you to think about your relationship with Christ and how much some time away with Him can bring new focus to Lent and your ministry.

Our topic this year is *Recalling the Call: What's Love Got to Do With it?* based upon the final contemplation of St. Ignatius of Loyola titled *The Contemplation of the Love of God*.

If that is not enough to have you contact us immediately perhaps the menu will? It includes salmon or chicken for dinner along with many sides and dessert that includes a chocolate torte or a cheesecake. The Friday lunch includes a two meatless soups and salad. Breakfast is complimentary at the hotel. The team also has some delicious snacks planned.

Contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org today to register. Although our time has passed to guarantee the room rate you might still get it if you ask for Jessica Vanderpool when you contact the hotel. The phone number is on the flyer. The CLADD Leadership team and I look forward to being with you on February 11 & 12.

Clarification of Updated Confirmation Manual:

Earlier this week Sherri sent out an update on our Confirmation Manual to each of you. Unfortunately I was out of the office working with a parish and Angie Hemmingsen asked it be sent immediately so I didn't have a chance to include text as to what changed. The only changes with this update versus your previous update is changing the text in the Bishop's letters from the old centennial stationary to the current stationary as well as replacing our new worship director's contact information from what was information about Kyle Lechtenberg.

We may have additional changes based upon Kim Mandelkow's experience regarding confirmation and liturgy but that will come down the road. Please continue to work towards including your teens, or at least representatives, to work with your parish music ministers on planning the music well in advance and using that music in your catechetical and Christian service sessions. The parishes currently doing this have expressed how well it is going and how well the candidates are prepared for the Confirmation liturgy.

Ministry Training Day March 3 – Your Spiritual Backpack with Loyola Press author Julianne Stanz:

This is a day you will not want to miss!

The core quality that is essential for all of us and our volunteers no matter what aspect of formational ministry we specialize in is a rich and diverse spiritual life. Pope Francis on many occasions has stressed the role of witness. While in Uganda last November he urged catechists, "The message you bring will take root all the more firmly in people's hearts if you are not only a teacher but also a witness."

Julianne, through the imagery of items needed in a backpack for a journey, will provide each of us the opportunity to have an enhanced understanding of how the spiritual life of the parish leader provides an apprenticeship in faith for all we serve. She is also a lot of fun!

This ministry training day is ideal for those whose work is in religious education, sacramental prep, youth ministry, campus ministry, adult formation, Catholic schools, RCIA and retreat ministry. Registration information will be out shortly. Attached is a 1st attempt at a flyer so you can save the date. A more professional flyer will be created by Loyola Press and distributed through us.

Adult Faith & Family Presentation – St. Mary Parish in Avoca – February 20:

Deacon Joel and Lisa Schmidt will be the keynote speakers on a presentation focused on families providing them with inspirational and practical ways to live the domestic church. Attached to the e-newsletter is a flyer. For more information or to register contact Mary Pearson at 712-307-6279 or at smpavoca@walnutel.net. Childcare is available for those who register.

