

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



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

January 28, 2015 Edition

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) 2015 Update:

Thank you so much for your patience as we await the final key piece of information before promoting our 2015 pilgrimage. We are happy to report that we have once again been assigned to the Omni Severin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis for NCYC 2015. This is an ideal spot because it is two blocks from Lucas Oil Stadium and one block from the Convention Center. For more information about the hotel use this link: <http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/indianapolis-severin>

Initial Information packets will be mailed on Friday, January 30 to parish youth leaders. There is a great deal of information to be found in this packet to help you plan a wonderful youth pilgrimage. For more information about NCYC please visit the website: <http://www.ncyc.info/>

The pricing for NCYC 2015 is:

- \$505 per person – with four people to a room
- \$554 per person – with three people to a room
- \$650 per person – with two people to a room
- \$940 per person with one person to a room

We would love to visit your parish whether you are a veteran or new to NCYC. Luis, Tessa and I would love to come and share the NCYC experience with your teens and parents. Furthermore, if you are new we will partner you with a veteran NCYC parish so you will not feel intimidated. Contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdioocese.org to schedule a parish visit.

The Diocesan Website will be updated by January 30 and on-line registration will open on February 20, 2015.

CLADD Retreat – February 12 & 13, 2015 – Holiday Inn & Suites, Urbandale Iowa – Dr. Tom Neal – Echoes of Mercy: Building a culture of Compassion through Catechetical Ministry

The United States Bishops ask lay ecclesial ministers to attend to three dimensions within our own formation in this ministry: being, knowing and know-how. A retreat is an excellent opportunity for all of us to step away from life's hectic pace and "be" with God and "know" of God's love for each of us...we are his delight. Nurturing the personal and spiritual development of the catechist is essential to achieving a fruitful growth in faith of those seeking to be catechized. Furthermore, it is hard to ask families to give up time for a parish retreat or diocesan youth event if we can't spare a few hours ourselves.

With that said the CLADD leaders have a GREAT retreat lined up for you. Tom Neal, Ph.D. will be our retreat facilitators. Tom's experience as a composer (Co-wrote the Centennial Hymn used in our Diocese), educator and pastoral minister helps him lead retreats that are deeply spiritual, insightful and inspiring. He currently is a professor of Spiritual Theology and Academic Dean at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Many of us are very familiar with his work in our diocese as the director of the Saint Joseph Educational Center in West Des Moines.

What will I get if I register for the retreat?

- an opportunity to get away from the routine of life, lots of personal prayer time, and gatherings to engage in conversation, reflection and catching-up
- 26 hours of retreat using focusing on compassion in ministry.
- Great food and lodging from the team at Holiday Inn & Suites in Urbandale, Iowa.
- Exceptional hospitality from our CLADD Leadership Team (Diane, Jill, Cindee, Julie, Mary and Jenifer) as well as Cheryl, John & Tessa from the Diocesan Department of Evangelization & Catechesis.

All in all, the CLADD 2015 Retreat is not only an exceptional experience for on-going formation in our Catholic faith, it is also one that is very affordable. Attached to the newsletter is the flyer. There are still a limited amount of scholarships available if your parish cannot afford to send you to this retreat.

Registrations are due by February 4, 2015 and we would like to see your name on the retreat participant list. For more information please contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org, or Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.

2015 Catechetical Theme Announced:

The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis is pleased to announce that the theme for Catechetical Sunday 2015 is: "**Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person.**" To allow dioceses and parishes to incorporate the theme and artwork in their planning, 13 jpeg images of clip art plus images of the entire poster in English and Spanish have been created. The new 2015 Catechetical Sunday site complete with articles, clip art, prayer cards, customizable catechist certificates, Commissioning service, and promotional information will be posted on the [Catechetical Sunday website](#) in April.



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A Prayer Moment with your child:

Let's pray now to God, the source of all love and compassion:

God of judgment and mercy, thank you for your love,
which continually calls me to come closer to you.

Help me to see you in all people I meet
and to recognize how to serve you by helping others,
especially those in need.

Amen

(Prayer contributed by Loyola Press - <http://www.loyolapress.com/a-prayer-moment-with-your-child.htm>)

Trusted curated sites for this newsletter include:

- National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) - <http://www.nfcym.org/>
- Diocese of Des Moines Office of Youth Ministry - <http://www.dmdiocese.org/youthministry.cfm>
- Diocese of Des Moines Department of Evangelization & Catechesis - <http://www.dmdiocese.org/faith-formation.cfm>
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/index.cfm>
- Loyola Press - <http://www.loyolapress.com/>