



Adult Faith Formation Updates on the website:

Dr. Cheryl Fournier has updated the Diocesan Website on Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation to include two new resources: Lenten Scripture Reflection questions by Father John Ludwig of Saint John the Apostle parish in Norwalk and a formational resource by the National Council of Catholic Women.

Father John's reflection questions begin with the First Sunday of Lent on February 22 and conclude with Easter Sunday on April 5, 2015. You can find this resource with this link: http://www.dmdiocese.org/faithformation/lay_ecclesial_ministry/Lent-B-Questions-2015.pdf We are thankful for Father John sharing his many gifts with the entire diocese as we enter into the Lenten season.

We Are Called to Witness is the title of the National Council of Catholic Women's document providing resources for intentional small group sharing in the spirit of the New Evangelization. There are many parts of this resource that would be wonderful for different groups within your parish community and for small group sharing among catechists and other volunteers. We are thankful for the use of this resource by the NCCW. You can find this resource with this link: http://home.catholicweb.com/NCCW/files/New_Evangelization_09172014.pdf

There are many other wonderful resources to be found on our Diocesan Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation Website. You can find all these treasures and more at this link: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/evangelization-and-adult-faith-formation.cfm>

Faith for the Journey Men's Conference offers inspiration, hope and fellowship:

The third annual day of inspiration, prayer and fellowship for men featuring nationally known speakers will be held March 7, 2015 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

Speakers sharing their stories and insights are:

- Patrick Madrid, syndicated Catholic radio host and popular author, is a father and speaker who brings a practical, down-to-earth, humorous perspective to the Catholic faith.
- Teresa Tomeo, popular Catholic author, radio host for Ave Maria and EWTN radio host. As a successful news reporter, Teresa became troubled by bias in the national news rooms and rediscovered her Catholic faith.
- Hector Molina, a speaker for Catholic Answers, will give two keynotes in Spanish. He is dynamic motivator, who challenges us to be intentional in our faith.

- Father Enrique Garcia-Elizalde, is an enthusiastic priest who will join Hector in our Latino presentations. He joins us from Conception Seminary to bring the exciting message on the role of men leading families to Christ.

Tickets for the conference are \$30 per adult, \$15 for students, and \$45 for a family group. See the website for details www.iowacatholicmensconference.com.

Documentary *The Francis Effect* to air on local ABC Affiliates:

Through a special partnership with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission and ABC Television Network in the USA, Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation is pleased to announce that their 2014 documentary "*The Francis Effect*" will begin airing on close to 250 ABC affiliates beginning on February 8, 2015. A special 58-minute version of the original 75-minute production was edited for television broadcast on ABC Television Network.

The documentary will have a broadcast window of six weeks. Those interested in watching the documentary should consult their local TV guides to determine broadcast times in your area during the broadcast period. The documentary is very timely as it coincides with the second anniversary of the historic transition in the papacy of 2013 that culminated in the election of Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Bishop of Rome on March 13, 2013.

The documentary can be rented and watched on-demand through Salt and Light TV by using the following link: <http://saltandlighttv.org/thefranciseffect/> The cost is \$2.99 for a rental and \$9.99 to order the DVD. This is cheaper than the cost to purchase at Amazon.

Link to the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thefranciseffect>

What Are You Doing This Summer?:

Before we know it summer will be upon us. Is your parish going to hold a summer VBS program? If so what are you doing? We are trying to do some research so we may help our colleagues around the diocese with opportunities in VBS or Totus Tuus. We will share this information around the beginning of March. Please send us your summer plans to Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmidiocese.org. Thank you in advance for sharing your plans with us.

LAST CALL - 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

Registration Due to Sherri Simmer by February 9!

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.

CLADD Retreat Novena:

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of
Father and Son.

You desire justice for all: enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be
pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Ark of Mercy, pray for us
Pope St. Pius X, pray for us
St. Faustina Kowalska, pray for us
Pope St. John XXIII, pray for us
Bl. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us
Pope St. John Paul II, pray for us.

Amen

(Prayer contributed by Tom Neal, Ph.D.)

Trusted curated sites for this newsletter include:

- Diocese of Des Moines Office of Adult Faith Formation - <http://www.dmdiocese.org/evangelization-and-adult-faith-formation.cfm>
- Iowa Catholic Men's Conference - www.iowacatholicmensconference.com
- Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation - <http://saltandlighttv.org/>
- Diocese of Des Moines Department of Evangelization & Catechesis - <http://www.dmdiocese.org/faith-formation.cfm>