

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



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

February 5, 2014 Edition

We apologize for the delay but wanted to hold off e-mailing this edition until we had a link to the Ascension Press “Chosen” Confirmation Product Webinar. It arrived late on Wednesday after I had left for the day.

Ascension Press’ Webinar for “Chosen” is available:

The long wait to review the entire program for “Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation” is about over. We at the Diocese of Des Moines should receive our preview copy on Friday or Monday. Our department will make this one of our top priorities in reviewing the video content, the Leader’s Guide, the Student Workbook, as well as the Sponsor’s/Parent’s Guide for conformity to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its methodology. It received an imprimatur from Archbishop Charles Chaput, Philadelphia, in January.

Sherri Simmer will be researching primary Confirmation series that are currently being used in parishes around our diocese. If a recommendation to add “Chosen” is submitted to Bishop Pates, we will probably trim the number of resources available for Confirmation preparation. We will grandparent parishes in regarding approved materials already purchased: this would only affect your parish if one is considering replacing a series.

A few of our colleagues have asked if the parish needs approval to purchase “Chosen” if it is not going to be used as a primary resource. Chris Stefanick, project director, answers that very well himself in the webinar proposing that this is a complete primary preparation series not a supplement. I am paraphrasing him but Chris shares his experience, and ours too, that many times we are trying to piece a lot of different things together with different methodologies. “Chosen” is designed as a complete program so that your volunteer group leaders, catechists, core team have one thing to use in preparation of the session...not several.

The webinar is 60 minutes and helpful for good background to this product. For more information I will also provide a link where you can view a sample of a video and materials.

Webinar Link: <http://www.myeventpartner.com/ASCENSIONPRESS/EB50DF88874C>

Link for more information: <http://confirmationstudy.com/>

2nd Year for Nigerian School Lenten Project for Parishes and Schools:

Last year, Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs in 14 parishes raised close to \$10,000 for the Holy Ghost Juniorate School in Nigeria. This year we are working to include more parish participation and we are going to shoot for \$15,000 during Lent.

To help us accomplish this goal you will receive the following materials that are currently being developed:

- A newly produced DVD for parish and school use which shows the need but also how much work was accomplished with last year's contributions.
- Fundraising ideas for a variety of parish communities so that children from all socio-economic backgrounds can participate whether with family financial contributions or with their time and talent.
- Promotional materials including information for pastors, faith formation staff, catechists and youth ministry volunteers as well as parents
- Instructions for your parish bookkeeper or business manager to send the parish contribution to the diocese.

Perhaps there is a parent volunteer(s) who may want to spearhead your parish effort? This is a great way to engage them in a very short term project.

More information will be sent by the end of the month. Let us know if you have any ideas on easy fundraisers and we will include it in the information packet.

Bishop Pates approves *Alive in Christ* (OSV Curriculum Division) and *Be My Disciples* (RCL Benziger):

Bishop Pates formally approved two new series for use in K-8 parish and school religious education: *Alive in Christ* (grades 1-6) and *Be My Disciples* (grades 1-8). Both will be added into our approved list of resources for catechetical use in parishes and schools.

Link to OSV Website: <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/>

Link to RCL Benziger: <http://www.rclbenziger.com/Pages/Item/57124/Left-Menu-Be-My-Disciples.aspx>

Prayer for doctors and nurses:

Today is the feast day of Saint Agatha, patroness of nurses and doctors.

O merciful Father, who have wonderfully fashioned humans in your own image, and have made the body to be a temple of the Holy Spirit; sanctify, we pray you, our doctors and nurses and all those whom you have called to study and practice the arts of healing the sick and the prevention of disease and pain.

Strengthen them in body and soul, and bless their work, that they may give comfort to those for whose salvation your Son became man, lived on this earth, healed the sick, and suffered and died on the Cross.

Amen.