



**USCCB and Lent – Many Excellent resources for you and your families:**

- **Six Ways to Evangelize during Lent** - During Lent, when your friends or co-workers express curiosity about Catholic customs and symbolism, use those moments as opportunities to evangelize! Follow the link below for six common questions Catholics hear during Lent and some evangelizing answers. Link: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/ideas-for-evangelization-during-lent.cfm>
- **Lenten Videos** – The USCCB has teamed with CRS to produce 11 videos surrounding Lenten topics. Each one would be excellent for a variety of formation settings. Link: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/lent-videos.cfm>
- **Journey to the Foot of the Cross** - Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers “10 Things to Remember for Lent.” Link: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/journey-to-the-foot-of-the-cross-10-things-to-remember-for-lent.cfm>
- For many more resources by the USCCB follow this link to their Lenten Home Page: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>

**Lenten videos by Father Mike Schmitz:**

Father Mike Schmitz has produced two video resources that will be helpful for Lent. The first one focuses on the significance of Ash Wednesday and the second one on preparing for Lent. Father Mike will be one of the presenters for youth at this fall’s Christ Our Life Conference.

- Ash Wednesday video - [http://ascensionpresents.com/video/the-significance-of-ash-wednesday/?mc\\_cid=d58e3884ca&mc\\_eid=bc627f7fa4](http://ascensionpresents.com/video/the-significance-of-ash-wednesday/?mc_cid=d58e3884ca&mc_eid=bc627f7fa4)
- Preparing for Lent - [http://ascensionpresents.com/video/preparing-for-lent/?mc\\_cid=d58e3884ca&mc\\_eid=bc627f7fa4](http://ascensionpresents.com/video/preparing-for-lent/?mc_cid=d58e3884ca&mc_eid=bc627f7fa4)

**Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Rice Bowl and Building the Kingdom Campaign for the Holy Ghost Juniorate:**

If you have not already received your materials for the Building the Kingdom campaign, please look for it in the Annual Diocesan Appeal bag that is being distributed. Because of weather and illness we weren’t able to get out as much as we hoped. Thank you for your help in advocating for families in Nigeria. A series of videos shot on location at the Holy Ghost Juniorate will be available for you on-line to share with your students and families.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at a flyer so you can save the date. A more professional flyer will be created by Loyola Press and distributed through us.

**Radix Senior Retreats:**

Now is the time to encourage high school seniors to register for a spring Radix retreat to sink their roots deeper into Christ as they transition to the next chapter in life.

Two dates are available: March 4-6 at Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold and April 22-24 at St. Thomas More Center in Panora.

Visit [www.dmdiocese.org/radix.cfm](http://www.dmdiocese.org/radix.cfm) for more info and registration. Parishes interested in a “roadshow” to promote the retreat to their seniors can contact Tessa Roberts at (515) 237-5098 or [troberts@dmdiocese.org](mailto:troberts@dmdiocese.org).

