

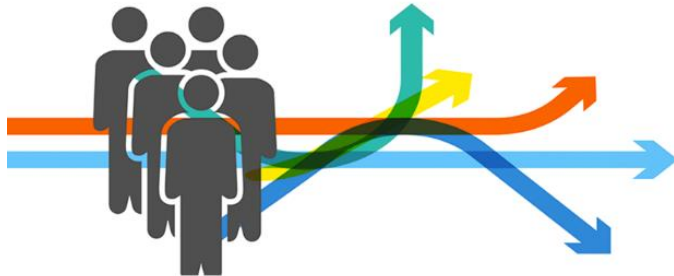
Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

PCL Connect E-Newsletter
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
February 23, 2022 Edition

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)

Local Formation Opportunities for Leaders:

PCL/CLADD Connection Gatherings on March 8 and 10 – Topic is Illuminating the Parish Formation Pathway: focused discussions on strategic visioning findings, financial grants for faith formation, and the 2021-2022 religious education survey results:



Great News – now that we are back on track with in-person gatherings, we will meet as a PCL community in March

- PCL/CLADD Gathering West – March 8 at Holy Rosary parish in Glenwood
- PCL/CLADD Gathering East – March 10 at St. Francis of Assisi parish

Gatherings begin at 9:00 am with welcoming and hospitality with prayer

scheduled for 9:15 am. The morning session concludes at 12:30 pm when lunch is served for those who can stay.

Our guests for the morning include;

- A senior member of the Strategic Visioning team for the Diocese of Des Moines
- A staff or Board Member of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa
- John Gaffney will help lead a conversation to break open the RE survey

An agenda for the day will be sent under separate cover. Please RSVP to [Sherri Simmer](#) by Friday March 4 for resources and food. We will offer a Zoom option for those who are unable to join us. A light breakfast will be served which includes pastries, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, and juice. I hope you will join us on March 8 and 10. Contact [John Gaffney](#) if you have any questions.

Information for Parish Catechetical Leaders:

Lenten Family Digital Resources – Please share generously:



On behalf of Anne Marie Cox, Adam Storey, and Kristi Quinlan, we are pleased to share with you the Lenten resources created for families of all sizes and ages. Kristi Quinlan is the author of these amazing resources and this project is a collaboration between the Diocese of Des Moines and the Saint Joseph Educational Center.

We invite you to share these resources in your spheres of influence, especially through the digital platforms you use professionally and personally. Not only are there resources for families, but also amazing opportunities for adults of all ages and teens. Personally we would put the six weeks of Lent Faith Conversations up with anything from the major religious publishers.

All of the materials are found in [this link](#).

Our newest addition created by Kelly Collins with Kristi Quinlan is a Diocesan Pinterest platform where we have some curated resources and are inviting others to share their Lenten ideas and resources. The link to this page is <https://www.pinterest.com/dmdiocese/lent-with-little-ones-2022/>. Share with families this special section using the resource “Preschool Flyer.” There are also some additional materials to send to your families with preschool children.

Thank you for helping us get the word to families so that they can begin using these resources on March 2. Please help us spread the word. Let [John Gaffney](#) know of any group or organization that you feel he should reach out to personally or if you have questions.

Lifelong Formation in Faith Survey for Formation Leaders – Please Complete Soon:

As we move forward into a post-pandemic landscape, we at the Diocesan offices are looking to you to help us chart the path forward on professional formation opportunities that would be helpful for your specific ministry in lifelong formation in faith. Please complete this survey as soon as possible.



Here is [the link](#) to complete the survey which has 14 questions. The questions ask for the following information:

- Questions 1-5 are demographic information
- Questions 6-10 have to do with the logistics of the professional sessions
- Question 11 includes a variety of potential topics for you to select the ones that would be most

helpful for you and your professional role in the parish

- Questions 12-15 are optional but help us in finding other topics that would be of interest to you, local and national colleagues who would be good facilitators for these sessions, and if you would be interested in being part of the 2022-2023 planning team.

Your help will allow us the opportunity to plan a variety of gathered sessions with all involved in lifelong formation in faith as well as more individual sessions for specific ministries (youth ministry, RCIA, adult faith, religious education, or sacramental preparation).

Let [John Gaffney](#) know if you have any questions. The survey uses Google Forms from his g-mail account which is jabgaf@gmail.com. However, the survey is anonymous unless you decide to enter your name on the last question.

2021-2022 RE Survey is complete – Results attached:



Thank you for helping us gather the data needed for the 2021-2022 Religious Education survey. We will take time on March 8 and 10 to break this open and listen to each of you on what is needed to help you with your vital mission of lifelong formation in faith.

The aggregate results will be copied in today’s e-newsletter as a jumping off point for reflection. The full report includes all the data on tab one, and then broken down by regions in tabs two through seven. Some may have a first read of, “Of this is awful, we have lost over 3,000 children and teens and 800 catechists in two years of the pandemic.” Others will look at this and say, “It is amazing that we kept 75% of the children and teens over the last two challenging years.” However, when we gather on March 8 and 10, the reality is somewhere in between these two positions.

When you have a chance, take some time to look at your parish and your region. Our March sessions will be a time to actively listen to those in the field about what these numbers are telling us and how we can support you as we continue to move out of the pandemic. Contact [John Gaffney](#) with your questions.

2021-2022 Annual RE Survey	Catechists	Students
Pre-K	104	338

K-8	806	5663
9th-12th	388	2979
Totals	1298	8980

		Year of COVID19 fall 2020 spring 2021
2020-2021 Annual RE Survey	Catechists	Students
Pre-K	99	259
K-8	714	5604
9th-12th	320	2585
totals	1133	8448

2019-2020 Annual RE Survey	Catechists	Students
Pre K	256	831
K-8	1405	7603
9th-12th	454	3468
total	2115	11902

The PCL/CLADD Retreat with Becky Eldredge Follow-up:



It is hard to believe that it has been a few weeks since our retreat ended.

For those who could not attend, attached to this e-newsletter email you will find the resources provided by Becky. Below you will find the video links in our unlisted YouTube channel.

- [Conference 1](#)
- [Conference 2](#)
- [Conference 3](#)
- [Conference 4](#)

As we begin Lent next week, I invite you to take some time and enter into a self directed retreat using the videos and the materials provided by Becky.

Pour CLADD colleagues made this retreat possible and deserve a great deal of appreciation: Becky Eldredge, Sherri Simmer, Julie Williamson, Paulette Chapman, Tom Primmer, Jill Faust, Patty Origer (for filling in for Justin), Mayra Moriel de Banuelos, and Jessica Maciel Hernandez. All of your efforts made this retreat possible as we are still emerging from the COVID pandemic.

Grants available from the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa (CFSWIA) – submissions open today:



For the 2022 CFSWIA Grant Program, the Catholic Foundation is prepared to award two types of grants to the parishes, schools, and other Catholic entities within the Des Moines Diocese:

- Cornerstone Grants
- General Foundation Grants
- A new grant category called Parish Mission Renewal Grant.

As we prepare for the 2022 grant cycle, please know that this year, and potentially years to come, grants are being provided by CFSWIA and the IGNITE! Campaign. Dollars were specifically fundraised through the IGNITE! Diocesan

Capital Campaign to allow for growth within Parish Renewal. The funds available to grant will increase as the campaign progresses; as gifts are made into this fund, the endowment creates additional annual interest income. If you are given a grant funded by the Campaign, you will be notified of that, but we will be facilitating these gifts on behalf of CFSWIA and the Diocese of Des Moines.

Our colleagues at the Catholic Foundation love to walk you through all the expectations of your grant application, to give you the best chance possible to receive an award. Join them for a [webinar on March 24 at 2:00 pm](#).

Important submission information:

- Entry deadline: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 4:00 pm CST. Please note that this entry deadline is final and there will be no extensions provided (you may edit your entry after submitting, up until the entry deadline).
- You may only submit one application per organization. The Catholic Foundation believes a connected parish and school to be one entity. We recommend that parishes and related schools coordinate applications (if two are submitted, both will be denied).
- If you received a grant last year, but have not yet reported to us the outcomes of your grant dollars, you will not be qualified to receive a grant this year.
- If you received a Cornerstone Grant last year, you are ineligible to receive a grant this year. You may apply again next year.
- The system will automatically prevent entry submission after the deadline.
- Please make sure all your personal details are entered accurately, including contact details.
- All entrants will be notified of our decisions with a letter post marked no later than May 27, 2022.
- Awards presentation ceremony is currently planned for Wednesday, June 22, 2022. There will be details to follow; status of an actual event will be determined by COVID-19 conditions.

Questions: If you have any questions on the entry process, please contact the Catholic Foundation by email at contact@cfswia.org or call 515-237-5044.

February and March Important Dates:

- February 23 – [Saint Polycarp](#)
- March 2 – [Lent begins](#) – Ash Wednesday
- March 3 – [Saint Katherine Drexel](#)
- March 7 – [Saints Perpetua and Felicity](#)
- March 9 – [Saint Frances of Rome](#)
- March 15 – [Saint Louise de Marillac](#)
- March 17 – [Saint Patrick](#)
- March 18 – [Saint Cyril of Jerusalem](#)
- March 19 – [Saint Joseph](#)
- March 24 – [Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero](#)
- March 25 – [The Anunciation of the Lord](#)

