

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
March 19, 2014 Edition

Registration Fees for RE and Youth Ministry Programs:

Attached you will find a report regarding fees charged for religious education, sacramental preparation and youth ministry programming. This information is intended for you as you consider making adjustments in your upcoming budgets for 2014-2015.

A recent study conducted by Catholic Answers found that 84% of parishes charge for formation programming. Although the parish budgets for a majority of the expense in religious education and youth ministry programming, there are factors such as books, supplies, stipends for special speakers or additional priests to hear confessions.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal formula does take into consideration formation expenses for children and teen programming. Please collaborate with your parish bookkeeper/business manager to make sure all associated expenditures are coded correctly.

Awakenings Retreat for Freshman and Sophomores – Beginning this Fall:

Beginning fall 2014, the Diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry will offer a new retreat designed for freshman and sophomores who are new to a retreat experience. The retreat is titled *Awakenings* and is designed as “call and response” retreat. The participants will consider what one needs to do to be able to hear God’s voice...and then to respond.

It is a fast paced retreat that ideally begins at 1:30 pm on a Saturday afternoon and ends at 1:30 pm on Sunday. However, if a parish or region would like to sponsor one for their teens, we could hold it locally and begin early on Saturday morning and end by 9:00 pm.

Two dates will be scheduled at the Saint Thomas More Center (November along with January or February). The ideal size for the group is 36 participants.

This retreat also allows you the opportunity to have your high school seniors go deeper into discipleship by being part of the team. Each retreat will need 6 high school senior student leaders. Along with agreeing to four meetings, many of which can be done using technology, the Diocese will provide quality formation in a leadership retreat. One leadership retreat will be offered in the fall and another will be offered in January. We will also be looking for an experienced youth minister and/or catechetical leader to assist the retreat director for the weekend.

Information is attached to this week's update e-mail. John Gaffney will be the retreat director. Late this spring, a retreat brochure listing Awakenings (9th/10th Grade retreat), Emmaus (Confirmation Retreat) and Radix (12th Grade Retreat) will be available.

Contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org for more information.

2 Great Videos – 1) Lenten Sacrifice Video from Worship House Media and 2) Confirmation Video by VCAT:

Below you will find links to two powerful videos you could include in programming for pre-teens, teens and even catechist/youth ministry volunteer training.

Worship House Media - <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/36339/Animated-Argument-Lent>

This video really adds a humorous and yet profound commentary on why and what we give-up for Lent. This short video could be part of your Lenten offering or possibly posted on your Facebook presence for some non-gathered time programming.

VCAT (Video Catechism) - <http://www.vcat.org/>

This latest video is on the Sacrament of Confirmation; titled *It's NOT Graduation*. This video includes a discussion guide and can be a very helpful session, especially as you are getting closer to Confirmation.

Questions local teens have about their Catholic faith:

Recently I have been spending a great deal of time visiting with high school students about their faith. Each time I ask them to give me a few questions that they have about being Catholic that doesn't make sense to them. Up through Easter I will share these with you. Perhaps your teens and pre-teens have similar questions? Perhaps by knowing these questions, we can boost formation in younger grades to help answer these questions before they become teens or pre-teens?

1. If God can forgive sins why is reconciliation necessary?
2. If Jesus died for our sins, why do we still have sins?
3. Do you go to Hell if you are not baptized?
4. Why does God hide himself to those who need him the most?
5. What is the difference between divorce and annulment?

Prayer to St. Joseph:

Glorious Saint Joseph,
foster-father and protector of Jesus,
to you I raise my heart and my hands
to implore your powerful intercession.
Please obtain for me

from the kind heart of Jesus
the help and the graces necessary
for my spiritual and temporal welfare.
I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death
and the special favor I now implore

(Make your petition here...)

Guardian of the Word Incarnate
I feel animated with confidence
that your prayers in my behalf
will be graciously heard before God's throne.

O glorious Saint Joseph,
through the love you bear to Jesus,
and for the glory of His name,
hear my prayers
and obtain my petitions.

Amen