

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
April 11, 2018 Edition

Upcoming CLADD Sessions in April – Eucharist As Source & Summit of the Church’s Activity with Kim Mandelkow:



This month’s session is excellent for everyone in any phase of lifelong formation in faith ministry!

Beginning with the Last Supper until now and until the Lord comes again, the followers of Jesus have done what he told them to do: ***“Do this in memory of me.”*** How do we reflect this fundamental reality in our parish faith formation

programs? How do we grow in our Eucharistic theology so that we are effective witnesses to our catechists, youth ministry volunteers and families? Agendas are attached to this e-newsletter.

Our facilitator will be Kim Mandelkow who is the director of the Diocesan Office of Worship.

- CLADD West will be held on April 17 beginning at 9:00 am at Holy Family parish in Council Bluffs.
- CLADD East will be held on April 19 beginning at 9:00 am at St. Mary of Nazareth parish in Des Moines.

Background checks tell children, teens and families that safety is important to us:

The blog below is written by Group Youth Ministry, which a non-denominational Christian resource, who has provided permission for us to reprint. In Catholic Dioceses around the country, as well as ours, we already have these safeguards in place. However, the article gives many reasons why we need to have safe environment training (Virtus) and background criminal checks in place. If you have any questions about safe



environment please contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org or at 515-237-5026.

Jack Anderson (not his name) thought it could never happen — at least not at his church. The color drained from his face when he received the call that a police investigation was in progress due to a report of sexual misconduct from one of his volunteers.

The days of thinking nothing like this could ever happen at your church — or to the people your volunteers serve — have long since ended. As a result, the subject of church background checks has become a hot issue for churches today. To check — or not to check — is one of many questions children's ministers are asking. Are criminal background checks really worth the expense? How can I get my volunteers to see the need — without offending their good intentions? And how in the world do I get started?

Worth the Expense

Churches weren't asking these questions just a few years ago, but the recent attention to clergy pedophilia has forced the church to not only ask the questions, but to also come up with answers. Paul warned the Ephesians to "have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11). Background checks have become a new screening tool for the church to expose the darkness.

A survey conducted by Church Law and Tax Report found that church volunteers commit 50 percent of all incidents of sexual abuse in churches, paid staff commit 30 percent, and other children commit 20 percent. Many risk-consultant professionals agree that the church and other nonprofits are the predator's last refuge. Perpetrators are looking for easy access to vulnerable children, youth, senior citizens, and people with disabilities, and often just knowing that a screening process is in place protects these vulnerable people.

If you're like most people responsible for hiring and training volunteers, you take your responsibility very seriously, and would never endanger the children or teens in your church. In *Background Check Programs: 8 Steps to Implementing Church Background Checks into your Christian Volunteer Programs and Church Volunteer Handbooks* you'll find the resources and help you need to take the first steps toward protecting your church.

The Volunteers for Children Act signed in 1998 states that you can be sued for negligent hiring if you have an incident with one of your volunteers or employees and you didn't conduct a national search to look for a previous criminal record. So anyone who works with children at your church, paid or unpaid, should be on your list for mandatory personal background checks.

Create a safety-first culture. Creating a new policy doesn't automatically mean people will buy into the change. You'll need to create a culture that recognizes the need for proper risk-management screening.

Rase says their entire staff started the "buzz" within the church to promote their plans for a safer place. "It's the glass half-empty or half-full syndrome," explains Rase. "It's not a witch hunt, so we wanted to communicate that this really was for the benefit of the ministry and the volunteers."

Train your volunteers. Cherry Hills Community Church creates a safety-first culture through training. They sent letters to all their children’s ministry volunteers, inviting them to a special training class about the rationale and importance of implementing background checks.

“We were able to debunk some of the myths the people had ; like those who thought we were going to be checking their credit history,” Rase explains.

Training is also the key to volunteers accepting the change to background checks at Life Covenant Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. This church calls volunteers in their LifeKIDS ministry Cast Members and requires them to attend training before they serve.

“You don’t get to work in a room with children unless you are trained,” says Desiree Good, the director of LifeKIDS Central. The training includes risk-management procedures and begins the process of screening volunteers. “Screening helps them see we are serious about this ministry.”

Both of these churches have created a culture that communicates that kids are important — and the church cares about their protection.

Catholic Youth Camp Update:

Counselors:

- Still in need of male counselors for Senior Week (July 22-27). For more information on counseling for CYC go to <https://stmcenter.com/counselors>

Camp Registration:

- Spots are filling up quickly for CYC weeks, especially junior high weeks. If possible in your next parent update, please let parents know this so they can make sure they register their children and teens. They have updated many “camp” activities with the construction of the high ropes course and a crate stacker. Both opportunities are designed to build self-esteem and strengthen team skills.
- For more information follow this link <https://stmcenter.com/> or contact Alex Kautzky at alex@stmcenter.com.



Diocese of Des Moines Pastoral Center Open House – June 3:



Please help us get the word out for the Pastoral Center Open House scheduled for June 3 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This is a family friendly event with music, games, face painting, balloon animals, tours of the renovated Pastoral Center and food (cotton candy, popcorn and cookies.)

A flyer is attached that you can share with your parish family. Please contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org if you have any questions.



THE WORLD

TELLS US TO SEEK
SUCCESS,
POWER,
AND MONEY;

GOD

TELLS US
TO SEEK
HUMILITY,
SERVICE
AND

LOVE.

- Pope Francis