

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
April 12, 2017 Edition

2017 Earth Day Program – “Know the Creator through Creation”:



Earth Day will be held on April 22, 2017. Bishop Pates recently sent a memo to you advising you of an Earth Day program published by the Catholic Climate Covenant. It is titled “*Know the Creator through Creation.*” He believes that the resources will be valuable whether or not you use it either on Earth Day or on another location.

This is the second year Catholic Climate Covenant has produced an educational program for parishes, schools, and religious communities to help them celebrate Earth Day. Once again, they have joined with the Earth Day Network to celebrate Earth Day and to embrace the call as Catholics to increase awareness of care for creation and climate change issues.

This year, the Catholic Climate Covenant offers three different age-specific programs:

- A one-hour program for adults and high-school students
- A 45-minute program for grades one through eight
- A 30-minute program for pre-K/kindergarten

The programs are wonderful for inter-generational parish programs, schools, and any group interested in exploring how a deeper connection with creation can draw us closer to God.

Each program includes prayers, scripture readings, a short video, discussion questions, and suggested activities to help the group learn about climate change and Catholic Social Teachings about climate change issues. With the goal to increase climate literacy, the programs also offer suggestions for continued education and advocacy activities on climate issues.

To receive the program guide follow this link:
<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/EarthDay>

CLADD Sessions in April:

The CLADD Leadership team focuses us to ponder the balance of evangelization and catechesis in March. Attached to this e-mail you will find the flyers for CLADD West and East. Please



take time out of your schedule to join us for outstanding professional development and an opportunity to reconnect with your colleagues in catechetical ministry.

- **CLADD West & East – The Evangelization Cycle: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You with John Gaffney**

We all know that our parish evangelization outreach and catechetical programming intimately connect because each one of us, by virtue of our baptism, is called to live our faith and to bear witness to the Gospel. Did you know that there is a cycle by which most people move through and which we as lay ecclesial ministers can work more effectively if we know how to use it?

This session is about breaking open the Evangelization Cycle through the lens of a catechetical leader and effectively offer resources and formation to others to help with outreach. The morning is highly interactive and based upon the successful workshop John uses with parish leadership across our diocese.

CLADD West will be held at St. Mary in Hamburg on April 18.

CLADD East will be held at St. John the Apostle in Norwalk on April 20

- **CLADD South – What we learned this catechetical season**

Join us as we share the areas of success in our programming and areas that need some TLC. This session is a walk through an evaluation process to prepare for next year. Contact John for location.

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) 2017 Inquiry:



Within the last few months, several youth leaders from around the diocese have asked if there were a possibility of holding the Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference at some place other than Dowling Catholic High School. The reason given was to bump up the day a little more and offer a special environment that isn't something they experience Monday through Friday. As most of you know about me, I believe in researching possibilities rather than immediately discounting the idea.

Space has opened up at The Iowa Events Center here in Des Moines and it appears would also be within our budget for the event and would not increase the cost to participants. The issues is that to have this opportunity may mean altering the event by one week. This year's Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference is scheduled for October 22, 2017.

Please let Sherri Simmer know if your parish would be available either on October 15 or 22 (both are Sundays) for this event. A Survey Monkey will also be sent to you after Easter.

Because of our transition in leadership, we are also looking at other ideas from around the country to enhance the experience at DCYC. More to come later.

Focus Questions for the Upcoming 2018 Synod on Youth & Young Adult Vocational Discernment:

Based upon focus group feedback on questions for the Preparatory Document in advance of the Synod we have proposed the following five questions to Bishop Pates to ask of high school teens and young adults.

The Questions are:

- 1. Is your voice heard by the Church? Where are you given opportunities to share your thoughts and perspectives?**
- 2. What are the biggest challenge(s) you face in living out your faith? The biggest opportunities?**
- 3. What groups/movements/programs have been most meaningful to you in the Church? Outside of the Church?**
- 4. Do you feel welcome to participate in the life of the Church? How so?**
- 5. How does the voice of the Church impact your discernment about the future, and questions about what you will do with your life and who you want to be?**



Once Bishop Pates approves of this approach, you will be sent a digital informational packet with many approaches you can use with the teens for them to answer the questions. This packet will also include ways in which you will report your findings to the diocese.

