

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
April 26, 2017 Edition

Save the Date – All CLADD Year End Celebration – May 11 in Adel:

The CLADD Leadership Team has assembled a wonderful year-end celebration for all of us. RSVP today for Thursday, May 11 at St. John's Parish in Adel. This special celebration is for all parish catechetical leaders: adult faith formation leaders, youth ministry leaders and leaders in religious education. Our special guest is Sr. Jude Fitzpatrick, CHM, who will provide a reflection on "Beatitude." The day also includes a delicious lunch, Mass with Bishop Pates, our annual swap shop opportunity, and honoring those who have served their parishes and the diocese for a significant period of time. Attached is the agenda. RSVP to Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.



This year we will honor Patsy Carlson and Diane Thierer in a very special way as their journey leads them away from catechetical leadership.

Some things to consider as the catechetical season draws to a close:



As the season to celebrate 1st Eucharist is upon us, the final month of work brings some important tasks that can help us kick-off next year well. Below are some of the best practices by our colleagues:

- Confirm that 1st Eucharist and Confirmation are recorded in the appropriate parish record books and that notifications are sent to parishes of Baptism
- If it is your parish custom, file baptismal certificates of First Eucharist recipients so they will be available for their Confirmation year.
- Finalize Vacation Bible School preparations and finalize plans for summer events such as mission trips or summer formation field trips
- Schedule all facilities for the new fiscal/contract year calendar (or, if your parish staff does this as a group, prepare for that scheduling meeting).
- Order or renew subscriptions to periodicals for the new fiscal year if you can arrange for July billing.
- Order other "annual" materials for the new fiscal year if you can arrange for July billing.

- Thank and appreciate catechists and other volunteers.
- Evaluate the grade level sessions and share the results of the evaluation with the appropriate individuals and groups (contact me for some excellent evaluation tools.)
- Make a list of facilities and equipment needs to be addressed over the summer.

Summer Teen Worship Event – June 11 – All Saints Parish in Des Moines:

On June 11th, to kick off their Youth Summer Mission, All Saints in Des Moines is having an event geared toward teens and they would like to invite anyone and everyone who would like to join.



Benedictine College is bringing a team of young college students, as well as Brother Levin and Father Simon. They will have a couple of Nashville Dominicans on site as well! (Father Simon is the nephew of an All Saints parishioner).

If you will be bringing a large group from your parish, the parish leadership team encourages you to bring some parents and chaperones as well. In parish lingo, this would be considered a non-gathered event.

The parish contact for this event will be Mandie DeVries: Mandie@dmallsaints.org or 515-402-6549 due to the parish youth minister being at a Life Teen Conference that weekend.

Fundraising Best Practices Series by Project YM:



Whether you love fundraising or you feel it is your best way to reduce time in purgatory, this task is highly important for many of our formational ministries. Beginning this week I will share some excellent tips from ProjectYM on how to avoid fundraising mistakes.

Mistake #1 – Lack of Vision: One of the biggest fundraising mistakes ministers make is going into a fundraiser without a clear vision for why they're fundraising and a specific plan for how they're going to do it. Honestly, you should have a clear vision and specific plan for any event you're running, but it's especially important when you're asking parishioners and strangers to financially invest in your ministry.

Your plan should include:

- A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE – Make sure you have clearly defined the objective (or goal) of the event on paper. It’s also worth defining a handful of secondary goals as well (see below).
- A GENERAL CONCEPT – Think of this as “the pitch”. It’s a complete, well thought-out explanation of the event that you can quick share with the people who might be interested.
- SMART GOALS – These are the secondary goals mentioned above. They are Specific, Measurable, Accurate, Reasonable, and Time-sensitive. They will help you break things down into smaller, more manageable chunks. [Click here to download our free guide to creating SMART Goals.](#)

Bonus tip: Once your SMART goals are written down, post them somewhere where you can see it everyday in your office. It is a daily reminder of what I set out to do.

Mistake #2 – Lack of Publicity: The only reason we put it second is that a clear vision prevents this issue 70% of the time. To prevent this mistake:

- TELL PEOPLE REPEATEDLY – There’s no way around it: You have to tell people things repeatedly. You have to say things in multiple ways. If you think you are over communicating you are probably still falling short. You have to say the same thing over and over again before it penetrates. Reread those last four sentences, and you will get an idea of the amount of repetition you need to convey a basic message.
- USE VISUALS – You need to do more than just TELL people about your event, you have to SHOW them. Take the time (and spend the money) to get beautiful and eye catching graphics and posters made for your event. A good promotional package is worth every penny.
- USE MULTIPLE PLATFORMS – Think about all the different ways people can receive information from your parish. No, do more than that: list them out (pulpit announcements, social media, email, snail-mail, flyers in the narthex, bulletin, phone calls, word of mouth, etc.). Then find a way to communicate details about your event using EVERY platform on your list.

More fundraising assistance next week.

