



CLADD Year-End Celebration, Awards & Swap Shop on May 13 in Atlantic:

Make sure you RSVP to Sherri for our wonderful year-end celebration focused on YOU! The CLADD Year-End Celebration is something that let's each of us look back at our hard work in the Lord's vineyard and share the high and low points with our colleagues. Although you have received a save-the-date, you will also receive a personal invitation and flyer for the day. The day begins at 10:00 am. However, below is a quick look at what will occur on May 13.

- 10:00 am - Mass celebrated by Father Michael Amadeo, pastor of Holy Trinity parish in Des Moines
- Service awards conferred by Father Michael and Paulette Chapman
- Mentee/Mentor awards conferred by Father Michael and Dr. Cheryl Fournier
- 11:00 am – Swap Shop – bring those gems you have not used in a while (resources, art & environment, books, CDs, etc.) to swap with a parish who is looking exactly for that item. This is very popular. We will serve refreshments and fresh fruit during the swap shop
- 11:30 am – Short program on celebrating formation (two possibilities at this point)
 - Using music as part of the formation/catechetical process, OR
 - Dr. Cheryl Fournier presenting formational secrets from an animated movie (similar to what she did with Cars a few years back)
- Presentation of the new slate of CLADD officers and sign-up to host CLADD for 2014-2015
- 12:30 pm – Lunch provided by the Downtowner

Contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org and RSVP today. We look forward to seeing everyone in Atlantic on May 13.

Prayer Pillow Craft:

Recently I had the opportunity to work on a wonderful craft activity that was quite effective with children. Details about the project are below:

- Materials
 - two large felt rectangles for each pillow (we used 9" X 12")
 - needles and thread or large school size staplers and staples
 - scissors
 - glue
 - variety of colors and sizes of felt pieces to be used as designs and pockets
 - batting or stuffing
 - foam shapes

- decorative ribbons or bias tape
- beads, buttons, craft jewels, etc.
- plain paper and pencils to sketch out a pattern
- Procedure
 - Sew or staple together the two pieces of large felt, leaving an edge of one-inch. Make sure you leave room for inserting the batting or stuffing (about a hand's width)
 - Cut out designs from other color felt and glue them to the large panel that will be the front. Include a small shape (box, heart, rectangle, etc.) that can be used as a pocket. Glue only three sides down to the pillow.
 - Stuff pillows with batting or stuffing and close the opening by sewing it or stapling it.
 - If you used staples, use bias tape, ribbon or felt strips to cover the staples.

In the pocket you can place a prayer intention and while the children are praying, they can sit on their prayer pillow. This was quite a beautiful activity but it took one catechist and about four volunteers to help a group of 15 3rd grade students to finish the project.

Update on *Chosen* Confirmation Product from Ascension Press

I am about finished with the review of the *Chosen* Confirmation Process from Ascension Press. Once I complete my report I will send it to Bishop Pates for his insights. It is my hope that a decision will be able to be provided to all of you by the end of May regarding the possibility for it being included in our Approved List of Catechetical Materials.

Prayer for Spring:

Dear God;

Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth.

May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As the God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too.

Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

(Provided by the Catholic Health Association of the United States)