

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
May 13, 2015 Edition

Thank You for Your Ministry to the people of southwest Iowa:

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

Someone once wrote, "Don't judge each day by the harvest but by the seeds you plant." Sometimes at the end of the catechetical season we, catechetical leaders and catechists/youth ministry volunteers, can get down thinking about the things that didn't go well or the changes that need to be made for the upcoming year. Don't get me wrong, we do need to evaluate the programming we offered throughout the year. However, many of us only focus on the negatives rather than the many more aspects of our programming and lessons that went well. As you evaluate and make pastoral plans for next year please consider the wisdom below:

"It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying  
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation

in realizing that. This enables us to do something,  
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,  
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.  
Amen.”

--Attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero but originally created by Bishop Ken Untener

On behalf of Tessa, Sherri, Cheryl and me, thank you for a wonderful catechetical year. Sherri and I will be around all summer if you need us. Tessa will return from maternity leave late July. Please save either August 11 or 13 for the next ALL CLADD kickoff which we hope will once again be at Holy Rosary parish in Glenwood.

CLADD Leadership for 2015-2016

With 100% of the vote the slate for 2015-2016 was elected. Below are the CLADD members who will lead our organization for the upcoming year:

West Leadership: Cindee Hays (St. Mary - Red Oak), Julie Williamson (Ss. Peter & Paul - Atlantic), and Jill Faust (Corpus Christi - Council Bluffs)

East Leadership: Jenifer Parsons (Basilica of St. John - Des Moines), Patsy Carlson (Ss. John & Paul - Altoona), and Paulette Chapman (Holy Trinity - Des Moines).

Thank You from Dr. Cheryl Fournier:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I want to thank you for your kind words, promise of prayer, friendship, hugs, and support. You have touched my life in ways you will never know.

Thank you for the generous and beautiful gifts as well...the Gerber daisy is a living reminder of the life and ministry we have shared. The quilt is a symbol of the ways the threads of our lives and ministry have intertwined to build the Kingdom of God where we are. The pen, is simple elegance...something that will rest in my hand and remind me of how we have indeed touched each other's lives.

As I said yesterday, may the God who has called us all by name continue to bless each of you, each of us, as we continue the journey we have been called into.

Once again, thank you!

Blessings,  
Cheryl

You can reach Cheryl at:

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Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry Webinar with Eric Gallagher (Sioux Falls Diocese) May 26 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm:

Eric Gallagher, Diocesan Director for the Office of Youth Discipleship and Evangelization for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, will be sharing his approach for discipleship focused youth ministry beginning May 26 and continuing with our Youth Ministry Kickoff in late summer.

The webinar is an introduction to the fundamentals of a Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry Model that will be continued at the kickoff and at an evening event as well. There is no cost to the webinar but we are limited to 100 participants. To attend this digital webinar follow the instructions below. Your computer will need a microphone however, Eric will be the only person who will require a camera.

To join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone, go to:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/244089101>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United States : +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 244-089-101

Please let me know if you have any questions by contacting me at [jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org). A flyer is attached to this e-newsletter for more information as well.

Franciscan University Online Master of Arts in Catechetics & Evangelization:

There may be some of you who maybe considering on-going studies towards a Master of Arts degree. Franciscan University has proved to be a leader in quality on-line formation. Attached please find a pdf of their brochure. There may be some money to assist from the Diocese of Des Moines. Please contact John Gaffney at [jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org) about this possibility and more information.

NCYC Update:

Parish Commitment Form is due by Friday, May 22, 2015 in our office. At this time you will submit how many participants you have who will attend NCYC this fall. Please know that this number can and should fluctuate throughout the summer and early fall. You have until September 18, 2015 to have everything finalized without any penalty. That means if you have additions or deletions it can be handled at this point. There are two ways you can choose to accomplish this task given the fact that we have on-line registration:

- Option 1 – Submit your parish commitment form with the exact amount of participants and chaperones you have registered on-line. Include a parish check

with the parish commitment form (\$100 times the total number of people attending from your parish.) If you have additional participants, you will register them on-line and our office will send a bill directly to you for the amount that is owed. You can continue to do this up until early September when we have to finalize our registrations with NCYC.

- Option 2 – Submit your parish commitment form with an educated guess of how many teens and chaperones you feel will attend. Register those who have already committed by May 22 on-line. Submit a parish check with the commitment form for the total number of participants you have listed on the parish commitment form. As you continue to make payments we will keep all of this on-file until early September when we will ask you to determine your actual number. If you have overpaid we will send you a refund check.

Final Growing Disciples E-Newsletter for the season:

This edition is our final E-Newsletter for the 2014-2015 catechetical season. Many of our colleagues, whether volunteer, part-time or full time, start winding down with less activities and sessions throughout the summer. So that we do not inundate your mailbox, you will receive a monthly Growing Disciples E-Newsletter on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in June and July. Regular weekly publishing of this newsletter will resume on August 5, 2015.

May your late spring and summer be one of spiritual growth, relaxation and renewal.

Prayer for the End of the School Year (USCCB):

Christ, Teacher and Lord,  
bless all in this school (religious education/youth ministry program)  
as we seek to end our year  
with the grace you so generously provide.

We give thanks for the children and teens  
and the parish staff, the catechetical leaders, volunteers  
and all who have contributed  
to this year of nurturing and growth.

We affirm all the positive moments,  
of insight, of the excitement of learning,  
of accomplishment, of creativity,  
of laughter, of a sense of community.

We recognize the times of struggle,  
of difficult work, of misunderstanding,  
even of failure--we give these  
to you for transformation,  
so they can become seeds  
that will find fertile soil.  
As we leave for the summer,  
may we take with us

the knowledge that  
you will keep us all  
in your embrace so  
we may rest and be restored  
and so we can continue in  
the ongoing discovery  
of your Love.

