

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
May 15, 2019 Edition

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)

Do you use teen catechists in your RE program? – Take time to review our policies when staffing your catechists for next fall:



Recently I have received quite a few questions about the use of high school juniors and seniors as catechists in your parish catechetical programs. I have attached diocesan policy 463 and 463.1 for your review. Bottom line: teens need to be paired with adult catechists who are Virtus trained with a background check who is 21 and over. At the very

least (which I do not recommend) you will want to pair two teen catechists together with frequent adult supervision. In this case, if a teen needs to leave the room, an adult who has Virtus and a background check needs to be with the teen until the other teen returns. **Please remember that Safe Environment is also for the protection of our volunteers as well as children.**

Teens are a wonderful addition to a parish religious education process. Their vitality, passion and witness adds an amazing dimension. Furthermore, when I ask many of our colleagues to share their vocation story with me, many share of their experiences in teaching religious formation when they were in 11th and 12th grade.

You may be asking why?

- We are not legally able to background check a person who is currently in high school, even if that young person has already reached the age of 18 before graduation. Based upon nationwide police statistics, there are teens convicted of inappropriate behavior and sexual behavior with younger children. Because of this, we need to be diligent.

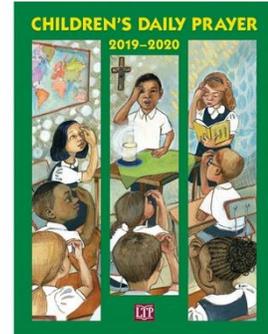
- Teens do not have experience handling behavior issues appropriately as those who are older. Most catechists are not professionally licensed teachers, but have experiences with children misbehaving and handle classroom situations well.
- Teens need extra assistance in preparing for the classroom experience. This needs to be provided by the catechetical leader or a mentor. I used high school teens at St. Theresa and they were awesome. But, I needed to meet with them monthly to help them create lesson plans, work on methodology and answer any questions they had. This was deeply rewarding but it also took an investment in time.
- Teens working in religious education often do not have time to participate in other parish functions, including youth ministry opportunities.

Contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org if you have any questions. Please contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org if you need a new policy manual. You can also find all of our policies on the CLADD Resource page of our website (the second bullet point) at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/evangelization-catechesis/catechetical-services/cladd>.

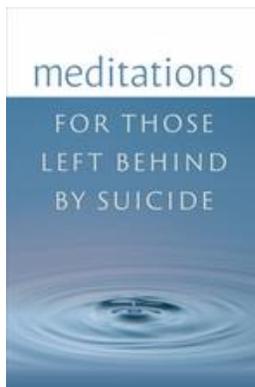
LTP Children's Prayer for 2019-2020 available:

Attached is the order form to order *Children's Daily Prayer* and other resources from Liturgy Training Publications for the 2019-20 year.

Please return the form to Sandy Riesberg in the worship office either by mail or email at sriesberg@dmdiocese.org or by fax, 515-237-5070. Order forms are due to her by June 21, 2019. Call Sandy at 515-237-5046 if you have any questions.



Meditations for those left behind by suicide:



Suicide rates are increasing. In every parish there are families suffering from the devastation it leaves behind. People within the parish family will struggle. You and your pastor will face professional and personal challenges as well. How can pastoral ministers respond to the families, the parish community and even your own needs?

Twenty-Third Publications has just released a new resource titled *Meditations for Those Left Behind*. In this concise and comforting booklet of meditations and prayers, author Woodeene Koenig-Bricker walks with the reader through the stages of being the one left behind. Filled with consoling guidance and prayerful hope, it invites us to move from anguish to peace, from darkness to light, and from despair to hope.

Woodeene Koenig-Bricker is a writer, editor and blogger who has published numerous books and articles for Catholics on topics ranging from the saints to spirituality. You can see a sample of the booklet or purchase this resource by following this link: <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/meforthlebeb.html>.

Free Professional Development Webinar from Ave Maria Press on May 21 – Choose Joy with St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s *The Little Way* as a Guide:

How prepared are you to serve, even in difficulty and hardship? Using St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s "The Little Way" as a guide, Mary Lenaburg will share what she discovered when applying those lessons to her daily life while serving as a catechist, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, sacristan, youth ministry volunteer, and one-time liturgy coordinator for her home parish. St. Thérèse of Lisieux gave us beautiful examples of how to love and serve with gratitude through the smallest of tasks. A personal relationship with the Lord and always striving for holiness allowed St. Thérèse to be a grateful servant. Lenaburg will share five practical steps to find joy and peace while serving the Body of Christ.



The Ave Maria Press Professional Development Webinar Series is a partnership with the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, the National Association for Lay Ministry, the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers and the National Federation of Priests Councils. To register follow this link:

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8178594495788471299?utm_source=bronto&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Sign+Up&utm_content=Free,+Live+Webinar!+Choose+Joy+with+St.+Th%C3%A9r%C3%A8se+of+Lisieux%E2%80%99s+%E2%80%9CThe+Little+Way%E2%80%9D+as+a+Guide&utm_campaign=190514+Webinar+-+Lenaburg+-+Invite+-+PMR&bta_tid=11514713271401968224973794338112422106711304533575285008814757692342126853176040403022533317358658254766870&bta_c=3by5bhy4zwe3gz1vjw3iiuei2ngs8

Save the Date for August 8 – CLADD Kick-off in Glenwood – Center for Ministry Development National Workshop Series:



*Connecting Families to Sacramental Ministries
for Children and Youth*

2019 National Workshop Series for Catholic Leaders

The Center for Ministry Development invites you to join your catechetical colleagues within our diocese for this workshop series which will provide vision and practical resources for all leaders (religious education, adult faith formation and youth ministry) to know, welcome, engage, and empower parents as they share faith and sacramental life with their children.

The schedule and information about the day can be found below:

9:00 am Register and enjoy hospitality

- 9:30 am Welcome and gather in prayer
- 9:45 am Session 1 – Accompanying Today’s families
Families are the school of love and the place where children learn to live the truth of Baptism, Families are the school of love and the place where children learn to live the truth of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. In this session, we will explore the Church’s vision for families and sacraments. We will share current research and insights about families and faith, and we will envision new relationships between families and the ministries that prepare children and youth for the sacraments of initiation.
- 11:00 am Break
- 11:15 am Session 2 – Engaging Families in Sacramental Ministries
Families of faith gather at two tables, the table of Eucharist at our parish, and the family table. In this session, we will share a process for engaging families that helps parents see their role of leading their family in faith at home and in the parish. This step-by-step process begins with hospitality and includes support for faith sharing at home as well as gatherings at the parish.
- 12:45 pm Lunch Break
- 1:30 pm Session 3 – Exploring Best Practices for Each Sacrament of Initiation
Parishes are re-imagining Sacramental ministries with families in mind and finding ways to connect families with these ministries for their children and youth. This session will provide practical examples and explore best practices for the preparation, celebration, and follow-through for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, and Initiation ministries. This will include networking with leaders working in similar ministries and planning for first steps for implementing your vision back home.
- 2:45 pm CLADD Programing for 2019-2020
- 3:00 pm Closing Prayer

Normally the registration fee for this workshop is \$54.00. Since the Diocese of Des Moines is paying the workshop cost there will be a small fee of \$10.00 per person materials, lunch and refreshments.

Contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org to register.

Enjoy your summer and know that we are here in June and July if you need us.