



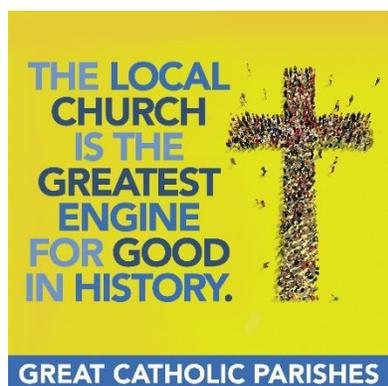
Save the Date – All-CLADD Gathering:

During the summer our staff has the opportunity to work closely with leaders in religious education and youth ministry on subjects that will inspire and promote professionalism in lifelong formation in faith. This summer is no exception so save the dates for the following opportunities:

- **ALL CLADD Fall Kick-off** – Thursday, August 17, 2017 at Holy Rosary parish in Glenwood. We will gather beginning around 9:30 am with homemade breakfast items and beverages. The topic for the day will be finalized in the next few weeks but the keynote presenters being considered are exceptional. The day will end by 3:00 pm. A small cost will be a small contribution for lunch.



How to Create and Maintain a Great Parish – 4 essential qualities to consider in Lifelong Formation in Faith:



A new book titled *Great Catholic Parishes: How Four Essential Practices Make them Thrive* (Ave Maria Press) by William E. Simon Jr. suggests four ways to increase the vitality in our parish communities. Although all four essential qualities are much larger than the ministries found in lifelong formation in faith, they do give us some things to consider regarding the vitality of our programs. The qualities are:

1. **Great parishes share leadership** – The author points to Pope Francis as a model for sharing leadership. Vibrant parishes take pride in their strong staffs and programs for volunteer leadership. In what ways are you sharing your leadership with others and equipping them for leadership? This question to ponder is the same for parishes with a 10 to 15 hour per week catechetical leader as well as one who works full time. The diocese has a variety of ways to help you equip volunteers for ministry and help you share leadership.
2. **Great parishes foster spiritual maturity and plan for discipleship** – 91% of parishes with a high level of engagement identify the spiritual growth of their parishioners as their

#1 strength. Engaging the spiritual hunger of parishioners increases their participation in parish community life and outreach. Discipleship flourishes where people experience a deep sense of belonging. In what ways are you providing opportunities for your volunteers to grow in their Catholic faith? Is your methodology focusing only on an intellectual pursuit of the faith, or does it include prayer and worship as well as charitable outreach to those less fortunate? The diocese can help you assess your volunteer team to identify the spiritual hungers they possess helping equip you with the knowledge to feed them spiritually.

3. **Great parishes excel on Sundays** – Although this quality may not seem to line-up with formational ministries, how well we shepherd those we serve to the Sunday liturgies helps make our parishes great. Classroom practices that support liturgical catechesis are most helpful, but also encouraging hospitality by inviting families to coffee/rolls with you and/or your catechists is an easy way to make Sundays very special. In what ways can you and your catechists share hospitality with the children and families you serve?
4. **Great parishes evangelize** – Most parishes, even those who work hard in evangelization, believe they need to do more in this area. For those serving in lifelong formation in faith ministries this includes creating a culture of invitation: to service programs, special events, mission work, leadership opportunities and the celebration of the sacraments. Witness of life is one of the most important aspects of evangelization. Seeing you and your catechists participate in the life of the parish provides a model of engagement for your parish families.

Preparing for Catechetical Sunday – Prayer: The Faith Prayed:

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17, 2017 and will focus on the theme "**Living As**



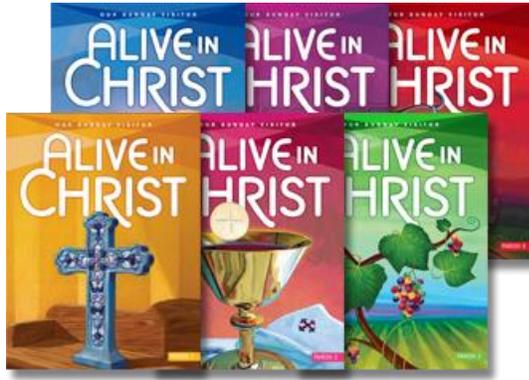
Missionary Disciples." Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

There are many resources that the USCCB has available for all catechetical leaders (youth ministry, adult faith formation, and religious education.) These resources include:

- Webinars from the Leadership Institute focused on this year's theme
- Various articles that could be used in catechist formation
- Liturgy resources for the commissioning service
- Prayer Cards
- Parish resources (many of which can be utilized in parish bulletins and on websites)
- Poster and clip art (used by the Diocesan Office in your Catechetical Leader Directory – thank you Sherri)
- Certificates for catechists

The link to the USCCB website is: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/living-disciples/index.cfm>

Resources Free for the taking from OLIH:



Joyce Clawson from Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny has resources from the OSV products *Alive in Christ* that they would love to find a home...is it at your parish?

The items include:

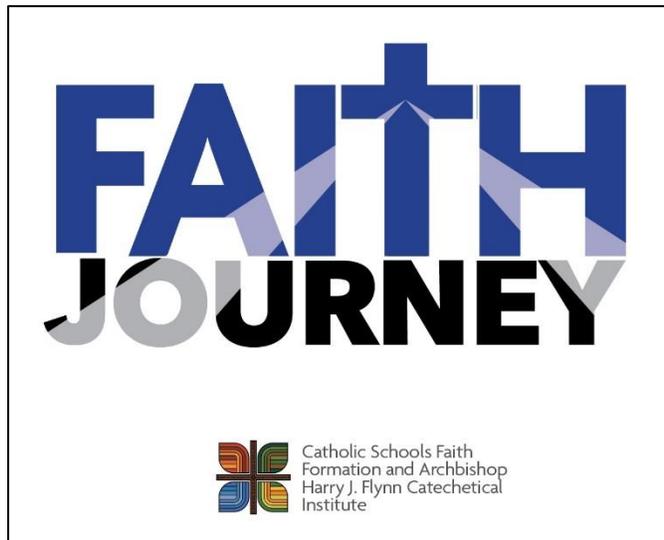
- 18 Fifth Grade Catechist Editions of the teacher manuals
- 5 Fifth Grade Textbooks
- 2 Fifth Grade music CDs

Please contact Joyce Clawson at joyce@olih.org or by calling her at 515-964-3038, ext. 110 if interested. If you cannot pick these items up at OLIH, perhaps we at the diocese can drive them to you when we are in your area.

Registration still open for remaining spots in Faith Journey – The Catechetical Institute:

Is God still speaking to you to learn more about the Catholic Church and see how your story is unfolding in “the” story? This is the journey that you can join, along with others from around our diocese, as this wonderful opportunity begins this fall.

Faith Journey – The Catechetical Institute is a 2 year process that takes you through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church. Each module has 11 formational sessions that are catechetical along with 2 retreat day sessions. The cost for each module is \$250.00 although there is limited financial assistance if the cost is a factor.)



Faith Journey – The Catechetical Institute is a wonderful process for our parish leaders in a variety of ministry settings. For more information contact John Huynh at 515-237-5006 or at jhuynh@dmdiocese.org. Link to the website is: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/about-catechetical-institute.cfm>