

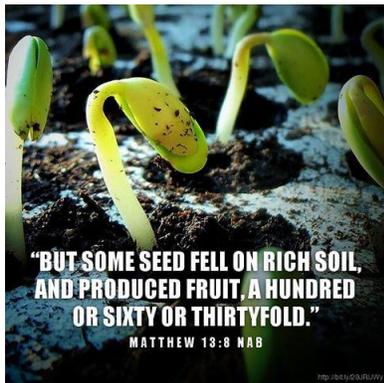


Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

July 26, 2017 Edition

Gospel Reflection for Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne – The Rich Soil:



Can you imagine what people heard when Jesus first told this story of a sower who generously so the seeds in a variety of environments; many of which were not ready or prepared for the seed to flourish? “This is silly, farmers know the cost of being reckless and sow only in areas they feel assured will take the seed,” one person probably said or thought. “No wonder this man is a carpenter and not a farmer, he doesn’t even know the basics. He probably was not very good at being a carpenter too if he values sloppiness,” thought another person. Given the cost of the seed and the yield that the sower would need to make a profit, most farmers only sow in fertile ground.

However, this parable is about God’s action in the world not effective farming techniques. God’s seed is given out for all and it is up to us to nourish it. As catechetical leaders, you and I work with many people who fit this parable:

- people whose faith is shallow and whose heart or the culture eat up any good beginning that may be made in following the Christian path,
- people whose faith is sowed in difficult home environments where faith has not taken root; it soon fades because it isn’t fed or watered by family faith habits,
- people whose faith is sowed in home environments with a family member or close friend hostile to faith,
- people whose faith is sowed in a rich home environment where faith is taken seriously and practiced.

Often times it is easy to be captivated by those found in the last category because they get it and we see fruit in our ministerial work. This is fine as long as we realize this is our launching off point to the peripheries of the other three categories. When ministering to those in the other three categories you and I must ask ourselves, “How deeply **can** they let the Word of God root itself in their lives?” God sows generously; perhaps even recklessly. Are you and I ready to be as generous and reckless when it comes to going out and helping the Word of God root itself where they are, even if we know our efforts may be eaten up, scorched or choked? As we begin a new catechetical year, let us say yes to God’s invitation to be an agent of evangelization and walk with our sisters and brothers no matter how deep they have been open to God’s Word in their lives.

Save the Date – ALL CLDD Fall Kick-Off – August 17 in Glenwood:

CALED TO JOYFUL WITNESS

Witnessing with Words:

The Practice of Sharing the Kerygma through our Personal Stories

Sr. Maureen Colleary, FSP from RENEW International will lead us in a day that our CLADD Leadership Team and I believe would delight Pope Francis; sharing the joy we have in our friendship with Jesus and the wonderful opportunity to minister in the field of lifelong formation in faith.



What does it really mean to witness to our faith? As catechists, we need to reflect on who fanned the flame of faith for us. The practice of sharing our faith through our personal stories, witnessing with words, that's what we are about today and every day of our lives. Through dialogue and reflection, we will share our faith stories so we can empower others to do the same.

The agenda is attached. Breakfast and lunch will be delicious because it is being prepared by Theresa Romens and friends. If you have not been to Holy Rosary in Glenwood, it is worth the travel time. It is nestled in the rolling hills of SW Iowa, not far from Council Bluffs.

Besides a wonderful formation session, the day will be filled with introductions including Justin White - our new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, diocesan updates and door prizes.

Contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org to RSVP today. Please contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org for more information or if you have questions.

CLADD Update:

CLADD Officers for 2017-2018

- Paulette Chapman – Chairperson
- Theresa Romens – Vice Chairperson
- Jane Anne Becicka – Secretary
- Kelly Howard, Bernie Kock and Annette Lorenzen – East & West Team



Some CLADD monthly programming already planned for 2017-2018 includes:

- Inclusive Ministry Formation with Jess Streit & Christen Cota
- Program Evaluation & Goal Setting with Dr. Matt Halbach
- The Gift of the Eucharist as Source & Summit of Catechetical Programming with Kim Mandelkow

Monthly programming currently being finalized includes:

- Discovering Your Gifts – An Introduction to Called & Gifted

- Spiritual preparation in advance of participation in retreats
- The 2018 CLADD Retreat
- The 2018 March Ministry Day

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) Update – Save the Date for October 22:



DCYC 2017 is going big after many comments suggested a larger venue and opportunities that mirror aspects of NCYC and the Steubenville Conferences. We listened.

WE ARE BOLDLY SENT

IOWA EVENTS CENTER

OCTOBER 22, 2017

Our keynote speaker is Chris Padgett with special musical guest, Eric Webster. Attached is the flyer.

Your challenge – HELP US FILL THE VENUE!

More to come next month. For more information or to help, contact Justin White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org.

