

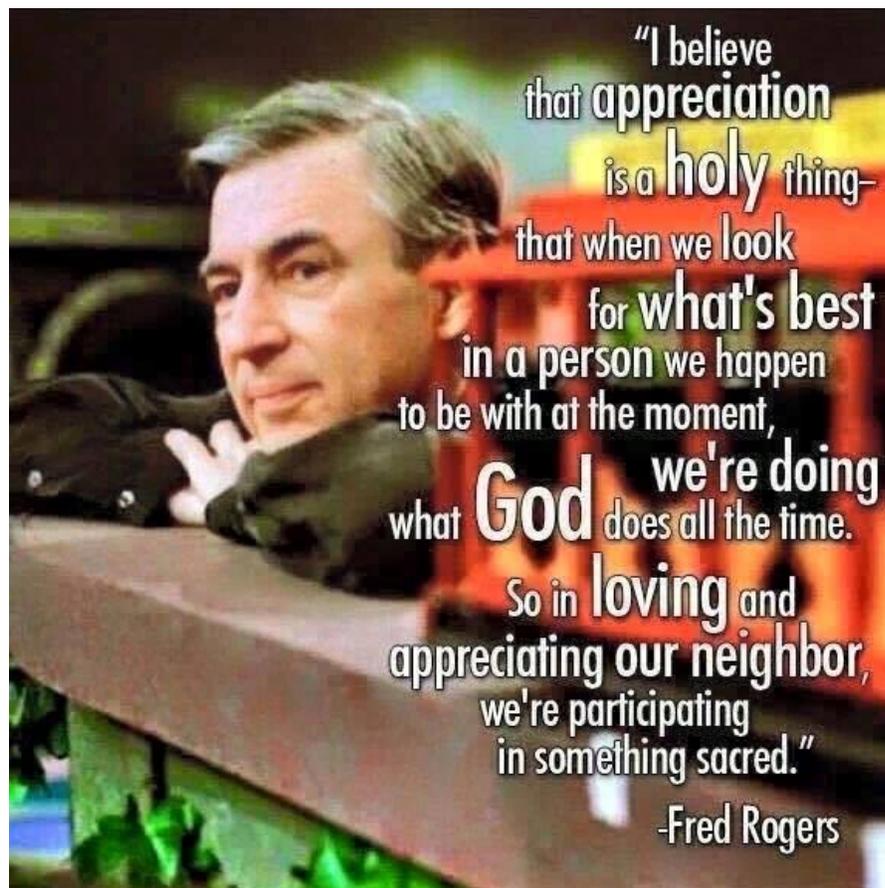
Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
July 31, 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)

Welcome back! 2019-2020 is going to be awesome:

In preparation for our work together throughout this catechetical season, I want to take a moment to thank you for the hard work it takes to engage in faith formation ministry. Although I know there will be ups and downs throughout the year, professionally and personally, I hope you know that you are God’s beloved, so are your catechists, the parents and your pastor. Below is a great quote that I came across in the last week that expresses my appreciation for YOU and everyone on your parish team!



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 CLADD (Catechetical Leaders Association of the Diocese of Des Moines) invite you to join your colleagues as Angel Barrera from the Center for Ministry Development provide a 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.

Why should I come?

- Helping equip you for your ministry is our number one priority whether it is your leadership team with CLADD or all of us here at the Diocese. We seek out the very best resources from around the country and invest Diocesan funds to bring them to you. Normally this workshop would cost \$50.00 per person and you would have to travel to a location outside of the Diocese to attend. Your cost is \$10.00 for the day which includes materials as well as a delicious breakfast and lunch from Theresa Romens and crew. Our hope is that for your investment, you will come away with three new ministry tools to help you and the families you serve.
- Helping our families engage in the sacramental life of the Church is the number one priority in each of our parish programs. Jon Roberto produced a document in 2007 that is as good today as it was 12 years ago (attached). In one part of the text he writes, “One of the most significant and startling findings in the National Study on Youth and Religion (NSYR) is the impact of parental faith and religiosity on the beliefs and practices of teenagers. Christian Smith writes, “Parents for whom religious faith is quite important are thus likely to be raising teenagers for whom faith is quite important, while parents whose faith is not important are likely to be raising teenagers for whom faith is also not important.”” This is near the beginning of the period where the “nones” started to emerge. Please take time to read through this document and you will see why our session on August 8 and your ministry is vital to the Church.
- Helping our colleagues by YOUR presence is essential. Most everyone works by themselves, so our opportunity to come together and share our experiences and our expertise is the most important part of our gathering. Colleagues share that great ideas have come from others whether they have been in catechetical leadership for 25 years or 25 days.

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

9:00 am Register and enjoy hospitality

- 9:30 am CLADD Leadership 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

Sacramental life is not only focused on preparation for 1st Communion and Confirmation. It also includes how our adult parents accompany their children towards all the sacraments (session 1) and help equip parents in leading their family of faith at home as well as the parish (session 2).

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

News from parishes around the Diocese:



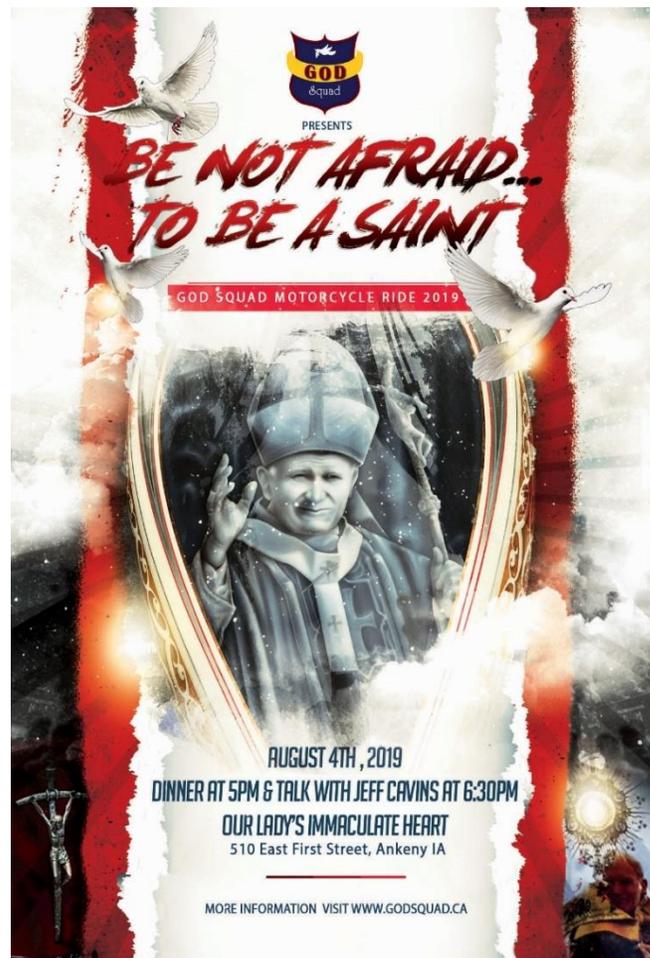
Alpha at St. Francis of Assis Parish, West Des Moines:

Alpha helps bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing the good news of the gospel in an informal environment that includes a meal, a video, and open discussion.

Sessions are open to all adults. Come and see...and invite a friend of any faith or no faith! Meets

Thursdays, Aug 29-Nov 14, 6-8pm, Serra Room. Retreat day, Oct 19, 8:30am-4pm in the Serra Room. Details and registration at saintfrancischurch.org/adultfaith/shareyourfaith

The God Squad to be at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny on August 4th:



Upcoming Webinar from NFCYM on August 13 at 1:00 pm CDT:

**High Anxiety:
Unlocking the
Effects of Stress and
Anxiety in the Lives
of Youth and Young
Adults**

Presented by
Dr. Jodi Hunt

*Moderated by
Cindee Case*



This webinar will unlock the mystery of the young mind and the high rates of anxiety that we are seeing play out through the lives of young people today. Specifically, we will explore the causes of anxiety and how it affects the spiritual lives of the youth and young adults we minister to.

Dr. Jodi Hunt, PhD (Fordham University) has over ten years' experience in teaching catechesis at both the parish and Catholic school levels. Her research interests include exploring modern moral/ethical issues that Catholic youth and young adults encounter outside the walls of the church and finding practical, meaningful ways of response formed from within the walls of the church. After six years in NYC, Dr. Hunt now resides in the great state of Texas in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with her husband and their three free spirited children and she currently teaches at the University of Dallas as an Affiliate Assistant Professor of Ministry in the Neuhoff School of Ministry.

To register follow this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3420163255640934923>

Welcome Bishop-Elect William Joensen:



Bishop-Elect William Joensen from the Archdiocese of Dubuque will be ordained and installed as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines at 2:00 pm on Friday September 27, 2019 at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

In preparation for welcoming the new bishop the Diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis will send special curriculum on the role of the bishop, why a cathedral is called a cathedral and the special role of the bishop's chair which is known as the cathedra.

More information will be coming soon on all the festivities involved surrounding the upcoming ordination and installation.