



Video Resource – Pope Francis speaks about the importance of going to confession

Committing oneself to being penitent and going to confession is tough for people of any age. Here is a short video by Catholic News Service from Pope Francis' noontime Angelus message. It would be helpful for teens, parents of those who will be attending 1st Reconciliation, and those candidates for full communion in the RCIA process.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2Ks2APOg60>

Faith Opportunity at the Iowa State Fair – Matt Maher Concert – Sunday, August 23

Popular Catholic recording artist, Matt Maher, will be playing a free concert on the Anne and Bill Riley Stage at the Iowa State Fair at 8:00 PM on August 23rd. We encourage you to promote this opportunity to your youth and families. For more information on Matt's music and message, visit <http://www.mattmahermusic.com>.

NCYC Registration Continues

The National Catholic Youth Conference parish registration campaign continues. The diocesan office has lots of resources to help you with registration. Contact us and we can schedule a visit. You have until Sept. 18 to have everything finalized without any penalty. For more information, visit the [diocesan website](#) or contact [John Gaffney](#) at 515-237-5026.

In-Service Opportunities you can provide to your catechists:

This year we have developed five in-service opportunities that you and your parish/region can offer. The five programs are:

- **“The Catechist’s Backpack”** – Spiritual essentials for those who engage in formational ministry (from Loyola Press book). The program objectives at the end of the session is: to be an effective catechist requires a deep commitment to one’s own Catholic spirituality, know the six spiritual essentials for those leading formation, and learn spiritual exercises that will help participants grow in their faith
- **“The Church of Mercy”** – How Pope Francis’ focus on mercy has a profound effect on how we evangelize and catechize (from Loyola Press book). The program objective at the end of the session is: to be knowledgeable about Pope Francis understanding of mercy and how it frames his pastoral vision, dialogue on what it means to be evangelized by the poor, and small group discussion on what this vision means for parish formation programs.

- **“Jesus: The Master Catechist”** – Lessons for catechists to model from Christ himself (from Twenty-Third Publications book). The program objective at the end of the session is: to become a stronger catechist by following the example of Jesus’ pedagogy, know twelve essential lessons Jesus has for those working in faith formation, and applying one or two of these lessons in your catechetical year.
- **“Evangelization”** – How understanding the Evangelization Cycle is essential in building a solid pastoral/catechetical plan. The program objective at the end of the session is: to learn the evangelization cycle, to discuss pastoral/catechetical planning with this cycle in mind, and apply one or two of these insights into your pastoral/catechetical plan this upcoming year.
- Theology Component for year – **“Sacred Scripture”** – Practical Ideas on using sacred scripture in formation settings. The program objective at the end of the session is: cultivate an appreciation for Sacred Scripture within the catechetical session, discover through dialogue practical ways in which Sacred Scripture can be incorporated into the catechetical session, and identify one concrete way in which the catechist can bear witness to God using Sacred Scripture.

These sessions are designed for parish or regional offerings. In parish settings these sessions last about one hour up to one and one-half hours. Regional sessions are scheduled up to 3 hours but also incorporate prayer, more small group discussion and an opportunity for catechists to share bright spot stories in grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and high school.) We will also be providing these sessions digitally using our GoTo Meeting technology.

Contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org to schedule a session for your parish or region or if you have questions.

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **August 11, 2015** – All CLADD Kick-Off – Holy Rosary parish in Glenwood - Joan Weber from the Center for Ministry Development will share with us the ways our ministries can create a culture of encounter by using the example set for us by Pope Francis. This session is intended to be multi-faceted to connect to the specific ministry you find yourself: adults, family ministry, a traditional K-8 or Catechesis of the Good Shepherd environment, RCIA, youth ministry, special needs ministry, etc.
- **August 27-29, 2015** – Youth Ministry Fall Kick-Off Week – Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry
 - Thursday August 27, 2015 at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Atlantic (6:30 to 8:30 pm) - We invite you to enjoy dinner and an inspirational talk from Eric Gallagher. Eric will be speaking on intentional discipleship in youth ministry, explaining how the general idea of four marks of discipleship can be incorporated into whatever models of youth ministry you are currently using. This is a free evening for all.
 - Friday August 28, 2015 at St. John Parish in Adel (9:00 am to 3:30 pm) – Coordinator Training Day - We invite you to begin the day with Mass before diving deep into a day-long training session on the DFYM model. It will introduce you to the model in its fullness and show how the principles could

be applied within what you are already doing. The diocese will provide breakfast, lunch and resource materials free of charge.

- Saturday, August 29, 2015 at St. Boniface Parish in Waukee (9:00 am to 12:00 pm) – DFYM Small Group Leader Training - We invite parish volunteers to a morning training session focused on volunteers and what they need to start discipleship groups from scratch. The diocese will provide breakfast, but we ask that the individual or parish cover the \$15 resource fee per person.
- **October 25, 2015** – Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference – “Saved by the Call” – This year’s initial conference will be held at Dowling Catholic High School. Plans are underway for a great day including Jackie Francois as our keynote, separate tracks for middle school, high school and adults, Mass with Bishop Pates, vendors, games and so much more...Please put this wonderful event on your ministry calendar and start letting your teens know that this event will be awesome.

The Memorare Prayer (Feast of the Dedication of St. Mary Major Basilica)

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that
anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins,
my Mother; to thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful;

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.

