

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



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

August 12, 2015 Edition

Mary's Meals – A Wonderful Opportunity to Foster Mercy within your formation program:

Deb Ryan, catechetical leader at Saint Joseph parish in Des Moines, and Ellen Miller, youth ministry leader at St. Thomas Aquinas in Indianola, provided a brief presentation at the CLADD Kickoff about Mary's Meals. Although the presentation was short, it was very powerful not only about those who are the recipients of the meals, but especially the transformation that was experienced at Saint Francis of Assisi parish where Deb worked.

As we prepare for this Jubilee Year of Mercy, what transformation do you want to see happen with those you serve? Perhaps an opportunity to partner with Mary's Meals might be just what is needed? Before you finish your planning for the year, watch this video titled "Child 31": <https://www.marysmealsusa.org/en/get-involved/child-31/>

Ellen provides dynamic presentations to parish programs and schools. To contact Ellen about availability please e-mail her at [ecosmo@mchsi.com](mailto:ecosmo@mchsi.com).

To learn more about how the impact Mary's Meals had on a local parish, please contact Deb Ryan at [dryan@stjosephdsm.org](mailto:dryan@stjosephdsm.org).

Mary's Meals full website link is: <https://www.marysmealsusa.org/en/>

Follow-Up for All CLADD Kick-off at Holy Rosary Parish in Glenwood:

We had a wonderful celebration to kick off the new catechetical season in grand style: spending time with Pope Francis and the effect his pastoral style has had on the Church. Our presenter was Joan Weber, coordinator for Young Neighbors in Action and the Family Bible Project at the Center for Ministry Development. Joan challenged us to think of how our ministry leads to an encounter with Christ and to call others into missionary discipleship.

Thanks to Joan and our friends at the Center for Ministry Development, we were able to videotape the presentation. You can find them on our website at this link: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/cladd.cfm>. There are 9 videos that are embedded in our faith formation page. Attached with this e-mail you will find Joan's presentation.

Thank you to our CLADD Leadership Team for a wonderful day of professional development: Cindee Hays, Paulette Chapman, Jenifer Parsons, Patsy Carlson, Jill Faust and Julie Williamson. A special thank you goes to our hosts at Holy Rosary parish: Theresa Romens and Cathy Evans.

### NCYC Bills to be Prepared Soon:

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) final bills will be prepared beginning on August 24. Please make sure you have registered your teen participants and adult chaperones by this time using our on-line system. We cannot prepare a proper bill for you unless you have everyone registered.

- If you need help, please let John Gaffney know at [jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org). He is very happy to come and help you with the on-line registration.
- You can continue to recruit more registrations if you would like. We need liability forms and health forms by September 18.
- Any over payments or awards by Catholic Youth Foundation USA will be adjusted on the August bill.

### In-Service Opportunities John Gaffney can provide to your catechists:

Five in-service opportunities have been created 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 and presented by John. 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](mailto: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 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.

#### **Reflection inspired by the Assumption of Mary (August 15)**

At the parish where I grew up, my grandmother had a special responsibility. She tended a garden that surrounded a statue of the Blessed Mother. The statue of Mary was made of white stone that sparkled in the sunlight. On top of Mary’s head was a crown. Each spring, my grandmother polished the statue, pulled weeds, and planted petunias and marigolds. With great humility, she brought beauty to that sacred space. God gives each of us a garden to tend on earth. Where’s your garden, and are you tending it?



In this Jubilee Year,  
let us allow God  
to surprise us.

The Face of Mercy (Misericordiae Vultus), #25