

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
August 15, 2018 Edition

Catechetical Sunday – September 16 – Theme is “Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ”:



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 16, 2018. The theme will be "Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ." Those who the Community has

designated to serve as catechists in religious education, youth ministry, Catholic Schools, RCIA, sacramental preparation and adult faith formation 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.

Download materials for Catechetical Sunday [here](#). Resources include an excellent commissioning service, prayers for catechists and family commitment, as well as an awesome image file. I recommend that Catechetical Sunday be celebrated at Mass which includes the commissioning service. As you know, passing on the faith is not “just another volunteer experience.” Formation is a significant part of the primary mission of the parish and those engaged in the ministry need to be celebrated publically. If you have a pastor who is not favorable to this, please have him contact me so I can share the vision of Catechetical Sunday.

Upcoming CLADD Sessions for September – Conversations and Best Practices to Catechize your Catechists with Patsy Carlson & Cindee Hays (SOUTH CLADD Presenter: John Gaffney)

What are the best methods you have discovered to catechize your catechists? Do you struggle in this area? Join two of our diocese's most experienced catechetical leaders as they facilitate a discussion and share their experiences. Facilitated by Patsy Carlson and Cindee Hays.

- CLADD West will be held on September 18 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at St. Patrick parish in Neola. Register [here](#) by September 14.



- CLADD East will be held on September 20 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Des Moines. **Register [here](#) by September 17.**
- CLADD South will be held on September 13 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Edward Parish in Afton. CLADD South serves primarily the Osceola region of parishes. **Register [here](#) by September 11.**

Alex Kautzky named new Executive Director for the Saint Thomas More Center:



Bishop Richard Pates announced Aug. 2 that Alex Kautzky has been named the new executive director of the St. Thomas More Center, home of Catholic Youth Camp, effective Monday, Sept. 17.

Kautzky has been involved with the St. Thomas More Center, at Lake Panorama, for the past four years. She served as an intern in early 2014 organizing CYC retreats and then joined the staff later that as program director. She became the director of camps and retreats in January, 2017. She has been responsible for all CYC programming, hiring and management of staff, volunteer recruitment and camper management.

Prior to coming to the St. Thomas More Center, Kautzky served as coordinator of the faith formation program at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, and served on the staff of Legendary Lodge, the Diocese of Helena’s summer youth camp.

The Saint Thomas More Center serves the Diocese of Des Moines by offering retreats and a host facility for youth and young adults. The Center hosts retreats for teens in middle and high school, and young adults as they grow to become joy-filled missionary disciples of Christ. Contact [Alex](#) or the office staff at 515-309-1936 to discuss how the Center can be a partner for your parish for retreats or days of reflection.

REACH (Religious Education for All Children) available at St. Francis of Assisi:

St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Des Moines will be opening up opportunities to participate in their REACH Program this catechetical season. REACH stands for Religious Education for All Children. The goal is to offer small group learning and one-on-one attention with special support for sacramental moments. Attached is the flyer and the parish membership agreement.



On another note, the Diocese of Des Moines is making positive movement in the creation of a Disability Coordinator position. The first threshold of this office is establishing a Disability Task Force whose goals are to survey and evaluate the most pressing needs for persons with disability and to create a job description for the position that is focused on the highest priorities of those needs. Stay tuned for more information about this task force and ways to engage.

Two Outstanding Webinars from NFCYM Coming Up – August 21 & 28:



- Webinar 1 – Three Focused & Effective Pastoral Care Strategies for Youth Struggling with Bullying, Depression, and LGBTQ Issues. Presented by Dr. Tim Hogan.
 - Today’s youth carry emotional pain unknown to previous generations. Youth leaders in teen ministry, religious education and Catholic Schools on the front lines are often confronted with novel forms of emotional distress that challenge previously effective psychological and religious approaches. Dr. Hogan will present a pastoral counseling approach that will help to bring order to emotional chaos and offer struggling youth support and a plan to move towards healing. Special attention will be paid to challenges working with youth experiencing bullying, depression, suicide, and LGBTQ issues.
 - Register [here](#). The webinar will be broadcast from 1:00 to 2:00 pm CDT.
- Webinar 2 – Reimagining Confirmation Ministry with Youth. Presented by Tom East.
 - What would it be like if your parish ministry of confirmation was built around providing youth with experiences of faith, relationships with faith witnesses, and engaging commitments for ministry, leadership, and service? Youth would learn and grow in their faith through this journey of hands-on faithful living. This webinar will explore ways to engage families, equip sponsors, and recreate your preparation and follow-through for confirmation to share faith with youth in vibrant ways.
 - This session is a practical follow-up to Tom’s April 2018 session on Confirmation. Watch this webinar titled “The start of something BIG! Preparing youth for Confirmation” [here](#).
 - Register [here](#). The webinar will be broadcast from 1:00 to 2:00 pm CDT.

“Let the Church always be
a place of Mercy
AND Hope,
where everyone is welcomed
Loved and Forgiven.”
Pope Francis

