

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
August 19, 2015 Edition

Youth Ministry Kick-Off Week – August 27-29 – Register Today for You and Volunteers:

You have recently received an e-mail invite to the wonderful gatherings we have in store next week focused around ministry to and with teens. Please register yourself and as many volunteers you can gather this week for these opportunities with Eric Gallagher.

One question we have heard from many parishes throughout our diocese in all settings (rural, urban and suburban) is, “How do I build solid encounters with my teens into a ministry that moves them into discipleship with the limited resources (human, technology, and budget) that we have?”

While focusing on this question, Tessa Roberts entered into dialogue with Eric Gallagher from the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Within a short time she realized he was the person we needed to help kick-off our new youth ministry year. Besides learning about the principles of Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry and its application, you will also be able to vision a better balance in your ministry with teens between relational ministry and programming.

We have three opportunities opened to you and those on your teams...or those who may be interested:

- An Evening of Inspiration on August 27 – Fabulous dinner by Downtowner followed by an inspirational keynote by Eric. This will be held at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Center in Atlantic beginning at 6:30 pm.
- Coordinator Training Day on August 28 – Begin with Mass at 8:30 am, or join us in the parish hall around 9:00 am as we launch a day focused on learning the principles and applications of Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry. This will be held at St. John Parish Hall in Adel. Lunch is included.
- Small Group Leader Training on August 29 – Eric will work closely with volunteers on the principles and applications of Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry. This will be held at St. Boniface Parish Hall in Waukee.

Please contact Tessa Roberts at [troberts@dmdiocese.org](mailto:troberts@dmdiocese.org) for questions about any part of kick-off week. Please sign-up today with Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org) for what is expected to be an outstanding series of workshops.

Lifelong Formation in Faith & Adult Faith Formation Resources:

Our colleagues at Lifelong Faith Associates have many exceptional resources that can help you integrate the fullness of lifelong formation into your parish pastoral plan. Two new resources that can be helpful as you bring parish leadership and your pastor together to help plan includes:

1. *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (John Roberto, author) - is a proposal for what twenty-first century faith formation can look like. Much has been written about the challenges facing Christianity and faith formation. This book seeks to provide a way forward.
  - a. How can we address the big adaptive challenges facing churches and faith formation?
  - b. How can we reimagine faith formation with a vision that honors the past and is open to the future?
  - c. How can we build a new faith-forming ecosystem that supports religious transmission and faith growth?
  - d. How can we design new models with the best understandings and practices of learning and faith formation?
  - e. How can we engage all ages and generations in growing in faith and discipleship for a lifetime?
2. *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation* (multiple authors) - provides leaders with a deeper understanding of adulthood today, a vision of twenty-first century adult faith formation, and the tools and processes for designing faith formation for all the seasons of adulthood. Chapters included are:
  - a. Faith Formation for All the Seasons of Adulthood—John Roberto
  - b. The Development of Modern Adult Education and Faith Formation—Ed Gordon
  - c. Young Adulthood—Kyle Oliver
  - d. Midlife Adulthood—Jim Merhaut
  - e. Mature Adulthood—Janet Schaeffler
  - f. Older Adulthood—Dorothy Linthicum
  - g. Spiritual Transformation for Adult Faith Formation—Tom Zanzig
  - h. Developing Adult Faith Formation Programming—John Roberto
  - i. Designing Twenty-First Century Adult Faith Formation—John Roberto

For more information about these resources or to view other resources offered on their website follow this link: <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/>

#### Formation through the Catholic Theological Union:

Are you aware that CTU offers a variety of free educational videos, podcasts, and articles on their website? CTU Link is:

[http://learn.ctu.edu/?utm\\_source=Free+educational+videos+and+podcasts+from+CTU+-+5-18-15&utm\\_campaign=EM+%7C++Eblast+4-10-13&utm\\_medium=email](http://learn.ctu.edu/?utm_source=Free+educational+videos+and+podcasts+from+CTU+-+5-18-15&utm_campaign=EM+%7C++Eblast+4-10-13&utm_medium=email)

They have recently completed an 11 part lecture series on The Gospel According to Saint Matthew given by the CTU President Emeritus and Chancellor Father Donald Senior, CP. Fr. Senior is a world renowned Scripture scholar who served on the Pontifical Biblical Commission at the request of three popes. Link to this series is: [http://learn.ctu.edu/gospel-matthew?utm\\_source=Free+educational+videos+and+podcasts+from+CTU+-+5-18-15&utm\\_campaign=EM+%7C++Eblast+4-10-13&utm\\_medium=email](http://learn.ctu.edu/gospel-matthew?utm_source=Free+educational+videos+and+podcasts+from+CTU+-+5-18-15&utm_campaign=EM+%7C++Eblast+4-10-13&utm_medium=email)

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **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.
- **Friday August 28, 2015** at St. John Parish in Adel (9:00 am to 3:30 pm) – Coordinator Training Day
- **Saturday, August 29, 2015** at St. Boniface Parish in Waukee (9:00 am to 12:00 pm) – DFYM Small Group Leader Training
- **September 10, 2015** – Des Moines Area Youth Ministers Meeting – St. Pius X Church from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
- **September 14, 2015** – Des Moines Region Adult Faith Formation Directors Meeting – St. Theresa Church from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.
- **September 14, 2015** – CLADD South – St. Edward Church in Afton from 6:00 to 8:30 pm – Topic is Jubilee Year of Mercy
- **September 15, 2015** – CLADD West – St. Mary Church in Red Oak from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Topic is Jubilee Year of Mercy
- **September 17, 2015** – CLADD East – St. Augustin Church in Des Moines from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Topic is Jubilee Year of Mercy
- **October 25, 2015** – Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference – “Saved by the Call” – For more information follow this link: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/dcyc.cfm>

**Prayer to Begin a School Year**

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonders of our being,  
for mind, body, and spirit.

Be with our children and teens as they begin a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and staff.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

