

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
August 20, 2014 Edition

Catechetical Sunday – Teaching About God’s Gift of Forgiveness – September 21, 2014:

Catechetical Sunday is a great opportunity to reflect and celebrate the role each of us plays in passing on the Catholic faith and witnessing to the Gospel. The celebration of Catechetical Sunday during the celebration of Holy Eucharist allows each catechist to rededicate themselves to the Church’s mission.

We hope that all parish communities will recognize the many women and men who give of their time and talent to share the faith to those in formational ministries within the parish community. These ministries are not only found with children such as religious education or work in a Catholic school. Others who should be recognized within the context of Catechetical Sunday commissioning includes:

- RCIA teams
- Adult Faith Formation leaders and catechists
- Youth Ministry directors/coordinators and volunteers
- Sacramental preparation teams for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Teams working on Baptism preparation
- Teams in formation to lead a parish retreat
- Religious Education directors/coordinators and catechists
- Marriage preparation teams and sponsors
- Catholic school teachers
- Web (Internet) volunteers who post formational materials on the parish website

We also want to recognize and honor the domestic church by recognizing parents as the primary catechist in their child’s life. Many parish communities do this after recognizing the parish catechists by asking parents to stand and sharing the formational role they have regarding their own children. Following this there is a blessing for parents.

The USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis has prepared a variety of materials associated with this year’s Catechetical theme. These resources not only help parishes in celebrating Catechetical Sunday in September, but throughout the 2014-2015 year. The materials are provided free of charge by the USCCB. There are materials you can purchase from USCCB Publishing as well as NCCL. I have provided links below.

USCCB downloadable resources - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/sacramental-forgiveness/index.cfm>

USCCB resources to purchase - <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/client/catsunquickform.cfm>

NCCL resources to purchase - <https://nccl.wildapricot.org/>

Sacrament of Confirmation News:

1. "Chosen" from Ascension Press has been approved as a new resource to be used with candidates preparing for the Rite of Confirmation. After a thorough review including usage of lessons and videos and the retreat, all reviewers found this material very helpful in preparing teens for Confirmation and discipleship. Most felt that the materials were not only comprehensive and the videos were very well done, but that the process and preparation for each session was well thought out so that all parish communities would find success: from those with large paid staff to those who were smaller and had volunteers.

The Office of Catechetical Services has a copy that we can share with parishes. I am also available to meet with your team and pastor on any of our resources and what would be of most help for your community.

Please remember that any resource is just that, a resource for your team to use to help candidates prepare for this significant moment in their lifelong formation in the faith. The more significant investment is in engaging and empowering members of the parish community to be team members, sponsors, witnesses, prayer partners, and mentors not only through this process but as the candidates become confirmed and are invited to participate in the life of the parish community.

2. Confirmation Workshop 5 – From Rite to Missionary Action – September 2014

In response to the needs that parish communities have identified as you continue the transition into high school Confirmation, Bishop Pates will lead workshops this fall centered on the movement from preparing candidates for the Rite of Confirmation into an active role in the life of the parish community. Bishop Pates will be joined by Kyle Lechtenberg, diocesan director of Worship, Randy Henderson, director of Youth Ministry at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny, Theresa Romens, director of Religious Education at Holy Rosary parish in Glenwood as well as me.

Although a formal letter will be sent to you and your pastor next week, we wanted you to have these dates on your calendar so you can make plans to attend. The workshop team also strongly suggests you invite a high school junior or senior to participate for insights from those already in your teen ministry program.

Attached is a flyer. The date to set aside for this workshop for all parishes in our diocese is:

- Thursday, September 25 at Corpus Christi parish hall in Council Bluffs (for parishes in the western part of the diocese)
- Tuesday, September 30 at Saint Francis of Assisi parish hall in West Des Moines (for parishes in the eastern part of the diocese).

Both workshops begin at 6:00 pm and end by 8:30 pm. Refreshments will be served beginning at 5:45 pm.

Please RSVP by September 15, 2014 to Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.

Catechist's Prayer:

O God, our Heavenly Father, you have given us the gift of these catechists to be heralds of the Gospel to our parish family. We lift them up to you in thanksgiving and intercede for them concerning their hopes and needs.

May we be attentive to the presence of your Word in them, a Word that lifts up and affirms, calls forth and challenges, is compassionate and consoles.

We pray that our parish family will always be blessed with those who have responded to the call to share in Christ's prophetic mission as catechists. May we too be open to the universal call to service that Christ addresses to all of his disciples, contributing our gifts to the communion of faith, the Church.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.