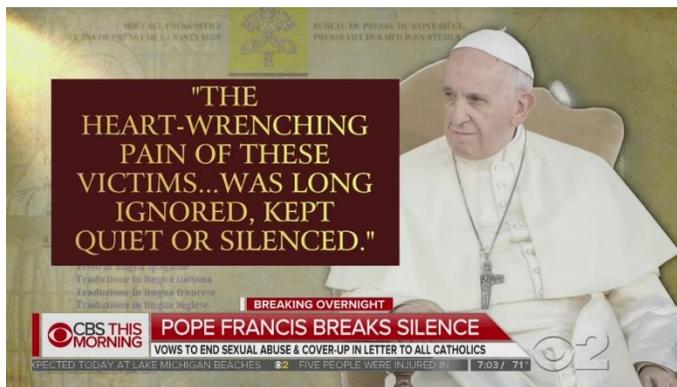


Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
August 22, 2018 Edition

**Thoughts on the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and Cardinal McCarrick:**



As a fellow catechetical leader in the Catholic Church I have been shocked, saddened and angry about the crimes committed against innocent children, teens and young adults by priests and the cover-up by bishops and other senior leadership within each of those dioceses. Similar to 2002, our role is essential because we are the face of the Church with young people for many of our families.

Below is a letter from Dr. Michael St. Pierre, who is the Executive Director of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA). I think he has a lot of wisdom for each of us as we prepare for a new formation year. Attached to this E-Newsletter is also the press release from the Diocese with excellent talking points that can reassure you and your family about how important this issue is, and has been, to leaders in our diocese. Our diocese has been a leader in protecting God’s children dating back to Bishop Dingman. As we pray for the victims, their perpetrators including bishops who looked the other way, as well as holy priests, bishops and lay leaders who work hard each day to share the reign of God with those in our parish communities, we also need to take time to recognize our hurt and suffering and bring this to God. I hope you find some words of wisdom and solace in the letter below.

“September is almost here! This comes either as a source of stress or a wellspring of anticipation. Hopefully the latter will outweigh any last minute details before campus is again full of life.

This has been a difficult summer for the Church and all of God’s people. When news broke of Archbishop McCarrick and the Pennsylvania grand jury report, my heart broke. I grew up in Boston and lived through the Cardinal Law era. I can remember attending Sunday Mass and gently pushing through those picketing outside of church. Those were dark days and yet, somehow, this feels both familiar and still very different.

As a father of four children, I've had to explain to my kids the current situation. The unpleasant look on their faces said, "Why would someone do that?" Our family conversations then led to anger and then to resolve - that we would do anything we could to make things better. For now, that looks like a particular prayer at the dinner table but we are still searching for something more tangible, something to take away the betrayal and pain.

As you engage with your students on campus, a similar process may unfold - disbelief, anger, resentment, betrayal and frustration. *These emotions are very normal.* Things look bleak. Now is not the time for trite statements or pithy sayings. It's better to be honest about how much evil has impacted the Church. We've included some resources at the bottom of this email that can help.

While the current scandal is horrific, *your students are fortunate to have you at their side.* The Catholic community you create, with and for them, may be the only portal for their understanding and healing. You are the bridge to their appropriation of the faith and that makes all the difference."

With prayers for you and your ministry on campus,  
Michael St. Pierre, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

Resources – [Catholic Answers – Discussing the Scandal: Do's and Don'ts](#)  
[Bishop Barron's Word on Fire – Crisis Resources](#)  
[Pope Francis' Response](#)  
[USCCB's Response](#)

**More Resources for 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."



More resources were made available last week to assist you in celebrating with your catechists the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and those who serve in the ministry. Catechetical Sunday is celebrating its 88<sup>th</sup> year.

- [Catechist Magazine Resources](#)
- [Pep Talk for Catechists by Janet Schaeffler, O.P. \(courtesy of 23<sup>rd</sup> Publications\)](#)
- [RCIA's Six Keys to Making Lifelong Disciples \(courtesy of Team RCIA\)](#)
- [Catechetical Sunday Toolkit \(courtesy of Sadlier Publishers\)](#)
- [USCCB Catechetical Sunday Resources](#)

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.**

**USCCB Respect Life Program Materials Available:**



The annual Respect Life Program is a year-round, nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life. This program is sponsored by the U.S. Bishops but its success throughout the years is in large part because of parish leaders like you.

Each parish should have received at least one packet of materials. If your parish includes a school, you should have received two packets. Included in the packet is:

- “How-To” file folder which includes action ideas, liturgical resources and more
- 17X22” Poster (bilingual, English on one side and Spanish on the other)
- 8 ½ X 5 ½ Reflection Flyer (bilingual, English and Spanish)
- 6 Bulletin inserts
- U.S. Bishops’ Pro-Life Resources Catalog

You can locate free digital resources [here](#). If your parish didn’t receive your Respect Life packet, contact [Ken Bresnan](#). Ken is the Parish Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities and serves on the Social Justice Consortium.

Ideas to get you started for this year:

- Hang up the poster and explain the theme. Provide sticky notes to the children and teens and instruct them to write down specific ways to apply the theme to daily life (one idea per sticky note). Post their ideas throughout the year as a challenge for the week.
- Use the articles to supplement the class curriculum. The articles are written for an older audience so make sure it is age appropriate.
- Host an evening event series covering the theme and article topics. Focus especially on helping attendees understand the Church’s teaching on life issues within a broader context of the Catholic faith. Contact [Ken Bresnan](#) for speaker suggestions.
- Invite youth to take part in the *9 Days for Life* prayer and action campaign scheduled for January 14-22, 2019. Hold a kick-off event and encourage the teens to download the free app. Leader resources including a social media toolkit are available [here](#).
- Coordinate a service event based on the theme. After the event, hold a follow-up session for participants to break open and reflect the experience.
- Dates to include in your program calendar:
  - October 2018 – Respect Life Month
  - October 7, 2018 – Respect Life Sunday
  - January 14-22 – 9 Days for Life Campaign
  - January 22, 2019 – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Resources:**

In the resources area of our new Diocesan website, you will find information on the benefits of being a member of the [National Conference for Catechetical Leadership](#). As a catechetical leader in the Diocese of Des Moines, you have access to a FREE annual membership. There is no limit on the number of memberships, so register your associate director (if you have one) and your pastor. NCCL is not just for Directors of Religious Education. Members include those leading adult faith formation and RCIA, sacramental preparation ministry, youth and young adult ministry, disability ministry, evangelization directors, school principals and teachers, as well as diocesan directors and staff. The resources on our web page include:

- [Recent digital issues of CL \(Catechetical Leader\) Magazine](#)
- [How to register for your FREE annual NCCL membership](#)

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

