



Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

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

August 23, 2017 Edition

Lessons from Sr. Maureen connected to today's Gospel:



Today's Gospel from Matthew describes a scene of great mercy. A wealthy landowner hires workers for his vineyard. As the day goes on, he hires more workers. This continues until near the end of the day. When he gathers everyone together he pays each the "usual daily wage" no matter at what time the worker began. How would you feel if you were the worker who worked the entire day and received the same amount as those who worked for only a short time? Perhaps you wouldn't grumble but I probably would.

If we look at the story from a different angle, we may have a better understanding. Those picked early may be stronger and faster than others. They may not have family commitments and had access to get to the job site early. What if you were weaker and slower than others, or had family commitments that prevented you from getting to the vineyard early? How would you feel when the landowner comes along and hires you? How would you feel if you were one of the last ones hired?

Everyone who comes to God is treated with the same fairness, generosity and mercy. God accepts you for what you have to offer. Sometimes the generosity of mercy is hard. For those who have followed the Catholic rules all their life they may feel resentful. For those who have received this mercy, they may feel unworthy.

Those we minister to, and with, can sometimes feel as though they are late in the game and perhaps shouldn't even show up at the church door. We do not know their story and perhaps they do not know ours. This is the connection with the wonderful workshop offered by Sr. Maureen Colleary last week. We have a wonderful opportunity to invite others into a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church by sharing our story. Attached are some handouts how to share your story and ideas to cultivate witness in your parish community.

Thank you to our CLADD Leaders for organizing a wonderful kick-off: Paulette Chapman, Annette Lorenzen, Bernie Koch, Jane Ann Becicka, Kelly Howard and in a special way as host Theresa Romens and Holy Rosary staff.

Attached to this e-mail is the CLADD Calendar with a dynamic year of professional development available to you.

Time to get ready for Catechetical Sunday – Living as Missionary Disciples:

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17, 2017 and will focus on the theme



"Living As Missionary Disciples." Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists 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.

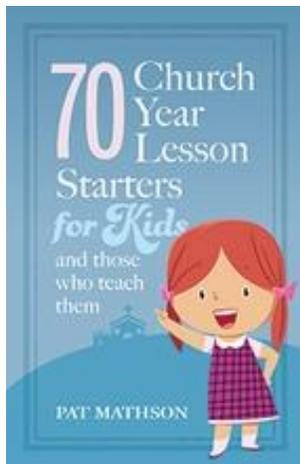
There are many resources that the USCCB has available for all catechetical leaders (youth ministry, adult faith formation, and religious education.) These resources include:

- Webinars from the Leadership Institute focused on this year's theme
- Various articles that could be used in catechist formation
- Liturgy resources for the commissioning service
- Prayer Cards
- Parish resources (many of which can be utilized in parish bulletins and on websites)
- Poster and clip art (used by the Diocesan Office in your Catechetical Leader Directory – thank you Sherri)
- Certificates for catechists

It is not too late to order resources for your catechists, RCIA teams, youth ministry volunteers, Catholic School religion teachers, etc. But do it soon to avoid any items being out of stock.

The link to the USCCB website is: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/living-disciples/index.cfm>

New book by local author Pat Mathson on lesson starters for kids:



Journey through the church year with these engaging and meaningful activities for children. From poster projects to prayer prompts, this abundant collection spans the church seasons from Advent and Christmas to Lent, the Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

You'll find:

- craft projects
- service ideas
- games
- sharing questions
- small group suggestions
- prayers
- ideas for exploring scripture

- and much more

With such a wide variety of activities to choose from, you can easily accommodate many learning styles, personalities, and age groups. Ideal for parish, school, or family settings, this rich resource can help children explore the many ways our church seasons help us discover God’s loving presence all year long.

Pat Mathson was a catechetical leader in our diocese for many years and has authored over 15 books that have helped many of us in faith formation. She writes for 23rd Publications. For order information follow this link: <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/70chyelestfo.html>

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) Update – Save the Date for October 22:

DCYC 2017 is going big after many comments suggested a larger venue and opportunities that mirror aspects of NCYC and the Steubenville Conferences. We listened.



WE ARE BOLDLY SENT

IOWA EVENTS CENTER - OCTOBER 22, 2017

Our keynote speaker is Chris Padgett with special musical guest, Eric Webster. Attached is the flyer.

Your challenge – HELP US FILL THE VENUE!

More to come in your mail and digitally. For more information or to help, contact Justin White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org.

Farewell to Dorothy Miller – DRE at St. Ambrose – Good & Faithful Servant:



It is with great sadness that I announce that Dorothy Miller will be retiring this September as the catechetical leader at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. Dorothy has been a mentor, colleague and friend for many of us for a very long time. She is one of the most pastoral lay ecclesial ministers that I have had the privilege of working alongside and I will miss her. Dorothy also has a wicked sense of humor. My hope is that she will join us for the retreat or the end of year celebration so we may gather with her again and show our appreciation for her and her ministry.

For those who know Dorothy, you can send her your greetings and best wishes to:

St. Ambrose Cathedral
Attn: Dorothy Miller
607 High Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Below is the letter that Dorothy wrote to the St. Ambrose Parish community earlier this month:

Today's feast is one of my favorite, the *Feast of the Transfiguration*. This feast reminds me of being open to listening to the Word of God and having a willingness to go where God leads me. Twenty-two years ago I was lead to St. Ambrose Cathedral, a place I began to call home. The first time I wrote for the bulletin it was entitled "Home is Where You Hang Your Heart". I was greeted at the front door that day by two ushers, Dorothy Schuster and Mabyll Taylor who instantly made me feel welcome. From that day forward my heart was at home at St. Ambrose. I became involved in several ministries at St. Ambrose starting with teaching confirmation and being part of the music ministry. When Sr. Virginia was ready to move into leadership in her community, Fr. Kiernan called me and asked me to say yes. That was all he asked....say, yes! After all, I was asking to be transfigured and go where God was leading me and now I had to decide if I was willing to do so. Soon I found myself on staff as the Director of Religious Education.

All of these memories makes this even more difficult for me. I have turned in my resignation and plan to retire for health reasons on September 2 before classes begin this year. It has been a joy getting to know each of you and sharing faith with you and your children. I have treasured your friendships and your stories over the years. You and your stories have become part of my story and for that I thank you. I plan to continue attending Mass at St. Ambrose most weekends and hope we have a chance to catch up on life. After all, if home is where you hang your heart.... my heart is at St. Ambrose.

I will continue to remember you in prayer as I hope you will continue to remember me in prayer also. Having more time for quiet prayer is one thing I'm looking forward to in retirement. I also hope to be able to spend more time reading and take my camera and go into the wilderness to experience all of God's creation.

My hope and prayer for each of you as we journey in faith comes from Micah 6, "Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with your God".

God's Blessings be Yours, This Day and Always,

Dorothy Miller

