

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



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

August 31, 2016 Edition

RCL Benziger Acquired by Kendall Hunt Publishing:



Iowa based Kendall Hunt Publishing Company acquired Cincinnati based RCL Benziger on Tuesday August 16. According to our local sales representative, Tom Primmer, the change will enhance their opportunities to integrate the very best of all their products which help us resource the families we serve. On many fronts you will not see many noticeable differences, especially the level of customer care you have come to expect from RCL Benziger staff.

For those who may not know the history of many of these publishers there is a bit of irony involved in this latest acquisition. Kendall Hunt was part of the William C. Brown Publishing Company that eventually expanded into Brown ROA. Today the remnants of Brown ROA are found in the products offered by Our Sunday Visitor. The Diocese of Des Moines continues to enjoy a wonderful relationship with our colleagues at RCL Benziger which will include Nancy Bird coming in March 2017 to help us break open the topic, “The Care & Feeding of Catechists.”

Save the Date October 2 – An Evening with *America* Magazine Correspondent and Scholar John Carr:

This event is a wonderful opportunity for youth ministry leaders, catechists, high school teachers, RCIA team members who want to learn more about the intersection of public policy and the principles of our Catholic faith. There may be some high school juniors and seniors who would appreciate this presentation. Attached please find the flyer. To register, please contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org or by calling her at 515-237-5058.



The evening with John Carr will be held at St. Pius X Church in Urbandale on Sunday, October 2, 2016. The evening begins with some social time at 6:30 pm with the presentation at 7:00 pm. Following the presentation will be an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you for your help in promoting this special event.

Utilizing Teens in Your Religious Education Program:

Being a former youth ministry leader, I am all for utilizing the talents and gifts of our teens in assisting in religious education programs but there are limitations that need to be in place regarding this practice:

- It is highly recommended that teens participate in the Virtus Safe Environment Program. If I could require it, I would make this mandatory because the awareness factor is important for them and it holds them to a higher level of authority.
- Teen's own faith formation development should not be impaired by helping with faith formation for younger students.
- I highly recommend that this practice only be allowed for juniors and seniors. At Catholic Youth Camp one must be at least 16 years of age to counsel. Even then there can be developmental issues to address. If you and your pastor agree to have someone under 16 help in a classroom, they must be with an adult 21 years of age or above.
- Teens should never be allowed to be by themselves supervising other minors. We cannot



perform background checks on minors. One of the fastest growing abuses that is occurring in western society today is minor to minor. F.F. Regulation 463.1 provides guidance on this issue with regards to adult supervision.

- It is essential to help teen catechists grow in their ministry by reviewing lesson plans, helping them with resources as well as practices such as praying with children, proclaiming the Word and classroom management.

Thank you for the work you do to help teens who feel called to be catechists have a place in your program and to be nurtured in this ministry calling. Please contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org with any questions.

Update on Confirmation Dates:

Angie has been busy working on the adjustments Bishop Pates has made to the latest draft. What is complicating this is more parishes have finalized the move to 10th grade confirmations, especially in the East, and there just aren't as many dates available as desired. However, Angie made lots of progress and she is hoping to have everything out this week. Keep praying.

CLADD Dates for September – Save the Date:

Tom Chapman, Paulette's husband if you didn't already know this, will be with us in September to break open *Faithful Citizenship* for those of us in formational ministry. With the approach of the 2016 elections, now is a great time to address "faithful citizenship" and the role of Catholics in the political process. The most important place to share and reflect on the message of the Gospel and the Church's teaching is in our families. Tom will lead us through an informative



presentation and vibrant table discussions on practical ways to raise awareness and engage the family to encounter God through participation in the public arena.

- CLADD South – September 8 at St. Edward parish in Afton
- CLADD East – September 15 at St. Mary of Nazareth parish in Des Moines
- CLADD West – September 20 at St. Michael parish in Harlan