



CLADD Programing in September – How the Diocesan Year of Marriage and Family can help with a better understanding of the Domestic Church with Adam Storey:

Adam Storey, diocesan director for the Office of Marriage and Family Life, will update us on the pastoral objectives and goals for the upcoming Year of Marriage and Family as well as present on how well these topics dovetail together with the pastoral objectives and goals for catechetical ministry. There will be plenty of time to have a good discussion on the domestic church while sharing bright spot stories and challenges with colleagues. Attached you will find flyers for CLADD East and CLADD West.

- CLADD West will be held on September 16 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Corpus Christi Parish (Holy Family Worship Site) in Council Bluffs.
- CLADD East will be held on September 18 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Saint Pius X Parish in Urbandale.
- CLADD South will be held on September 22 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Edward Parish in Afton. CLADD South serves primarily the Osceola region of parishes.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Training Coming Up in October:

St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale will be hosting a Level 1 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd formation class this fall. The formation sessions meet once a month, with the exception of December. CGS will offer FREE TUITION for the second person from your parish who attends. The program offers FREE TUITION for any Catechetical Leader (DRE, CRE or Sunday School Coordinator) who attends. A brochure is attached to this e-mail with additional details. For more information contact Mary Heinrich at mheinrich@saintpiuschurch.org or by calling her at 515-278-5684, extension 130.

Lesson Plan on Forgiveness from the Center for Ministry Development:

Sr. Kieran Sawyer through her work at the Center for Ministry Development has prepared a lesson plan for high school youth based on the theme for Catechetical Sunday: **God's Gift of Forgiveness**. The lesson is available from the Center for Ministry Development subscription website, Youth Ministry Access. I received this information through membership to the NCCL but also called the Center for Ministry Development to see if we could share it with you: they agreed. Thank you to our good friends at the Center for Ministry Development.

Here are the links to the Forgiveness Session and the accompanying PowerPoint Slideshow.

<https://app.box.com/s/y5kkw3vx3hqnc48gzzgl>

<https://app.box.com/s/7tvbkqoer0bnzc13pkxd>

Free Webinar Series: Building a Better Disciple from the Office of Catechesis in the Diocese of Springfield:

This fall the Office for Catechesis of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is hosting a free webinar series entitled “Building a Better Disciple”. The webinars explore what it means to be a Christian through the lens of Acts 2:42: “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.” The webinars begin on October 13 and end on November 10.

The webinars will take place from 7:30-9:00pm CDT on five consecutive Monday evenings. Below you will find a link to the website with more information about the five week session and how to register. The Diocese of Springfield is making these available to catechetical leaders, catechists and youth ministers from other dioceses. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link. Please do not share the link: it is your individual link and will not work if someone else has already logged in under it.

The site link is <http://buildingabetterdisciple.tumblr.com/>

Catechetical Certification begins in pilot parishes this month:

You may hear through the grapevine that Catechetical Certification has returned and yet haven't heard officially about it from the Diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis. Well it is true that we have begun this fall, but only in limited parishes that have agreed to pilot the process this year.

The parishes that are part of the pilot process include:

- Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Atlantic
- Corpus Christi Church in Council Bluffs
- Saint Patrick Church in Council Bluffs
- St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines
- Holy Rosary Church in Glenwood
- St. Patrick Church in Neola and St. Columbanus Church in Weston
- All Saints Church in Stuart

Catechetical Certification is beneficial to your catechist's vocation as well as those children and teens they work with. “You can't give what you don't have”, an adage attributed to St. Augustin is very true. The Roman Catholic tradition of catechesis has endured for over 2000 years because it has lived in the hearts of faithful Catholic people. Catechists are entrusted with making the tradition available to people through prayer, experiences of sharing faith as well as accurate and honest teaching.

How will the process help your catechists?

- Your catechists will have an increased sense of confidence in the Church's teachings
- Your catechists will be able to learn how to share their knowledge of the faith, the Church, morality and spirituality by being part of a this formation process

- Your catechists will continue their own faith development as they actively participate in opportunities for spiritual reflection and intimacy with God: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Parish Mission, Retreats, Pilgrimage, etc.

There are three components to our new process:

- Being – an annual component that helps the catechist nurture the personal and spiritual development to achieve a fruitful growth in faith
- Knowing – a systematic process of eight formation areas to help the catechist address the content part of catechesis (will be offered in workshops and digitally)
- Know-How – a formation process that helps the catechist grow in one’s skills to better communicate the Gospel message (will be offered in workshops and digitally)

Keys to the success of the new process include:

- holistic vision of the complete person (catechist) being formed
- catechist can achieve initial certification and master catechist certification at her/his own pace
- offered in a variety of formats, workshops and using a digital format for those who want to learn from home, so that the catechists can feel this process is achievable and scheduled within the many facets of their family life
- certain parish faith formation opportunities for catechists will be allowed if approved beforehand by Cheryl Fournier who is in charge of this process

We will keep you informed on the status of the pilot parishes as the year proceeds. For more information, please contact Dr. Cheryl Fournier at cfournier@dmdiocese.org or at 515-237-5006.

Called & Gifted Workshop scheduled for October 18:

Called & Gifted is a one-day, interactive workshop that includes Church teaching on the laity and lay ministry; the nature of spiritual gifts, call and vocation; and how to undertake the process of discernment.

This workshop will be held at Ss. John & Paul Catholic Church in Altoona. It is co-sponsored by Saints John & Paul Church and the Saint Joseph Educational Center. There is no cost to the event but a free will donation will be accepted. Registration is open through October 15 at <http://sjeciowa.org/called-gifted-workshop>

Who should attend this workshop? Parish staff, parish leaders and council members, faith formation and ministry volunteers, RCIA teams, catechists, parents, young adults, people in transition, new or returning Catholics...*all* are welcome.

Daily Prayer of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta:

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.

**To “be” catechists!
Not to “work” as catechists.
Catechesis is a vocation:
“being a catechist”,
this is the vocation,
not “working” as a catechist.**

Pope Francis,
Congress on Catechesis

