

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
September 10, 2014 Edition

Adult Faith Formation Study Guides using books written by Christ Our Life speakers:

Dr. Cheryl Fournier, diocesan director for Lay Ecclesial Formation and Adult Faith Formation, has developed four excellent study guides to be used with books written by Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Immacule'e Ilibagiza. These study guides are a wonderful resource for lay ecclesial formation of your volunteers (especially *Doers of the Word* by Cardinal Dolan), for parent groups, for intentional small Christian communities, and for parish/school staff development. The four study guides are attached to this e-mail but can also be found at our diocesan website using the following link: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/evangelization-and-adult-faith-formation.cfm>

- *Called to be Holy* - How will you — how can you — answer God's call to holiness? The path to holiness is traveled step by step. The way of holiness is lived grace by grace. Your journey to God is nothing more, and nothing less, than that series of steps.

But how do you take that step each day? How do you live that grace each day? How, each day, do you answer God's call, God's personal invitation to holiness?

What Archbishop Timothy Dolan recommends, urges, reminds, and teaches is radical in the truest sense of that word: It is basic. It is at the roots. It's fundamental. This solid theologian, noted Church historian, and natural-born storyteller goes first to the source: what Christ said and promised, what Scripture and Tradition tell us. Then, building on that firm foundation, here, too, is what the Church teaches; what the saints have discovered, lived, and shared; what the Fathers and Doctors of the Church have written; what "ordinary" Catholics — on that path, accepting those graces — have come to learn. (Text by Amazon.com)

- *Doers of the Word* - Whether you are surrounded by the peaceful tranquility of an empty chapel or the anxiety-driven mad dash of the New York City rush hour, God is always there.

He's there in the stillness. He's there in the chaos. Our call is to seek Him, find Him, and serve Him.

As Archbishop of New York (now Cardinal), Timothy Dolan knows only too well the many faces of Christ. Known for his devotion, dedication, and sense of humor, he uses *Doers of the Word* to share a unique combination of simplicity, practicality, and guidance to give our faith a daily dose of meaning and application. (Text by Amazon.com)

- *Left to Tell* – Immacule'e Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994, her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Her family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans.

Incredibly, Immacule'e survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them.

It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immacule'e discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love -- a love so strong she was able seek out and forgive her family's killers. (Text by Amazon.com)

- *Our Lady of Kibeho* - Thirteen years before the bloody 1994 genocide that swept across Rwanda, the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ appeared to eight young people in the remote village of Kibeho. Through these visionaries, Mary and Jesus warned of the looming holocaust, which (they assured) could be averted if Rwandans opened their hearts to God and embraced His love.

Mary also sent messages to government and church leaders to instruct them how to end the ethnic hatred simmering in their country. She warned them that Rwanda would become "a river of blood"—a land of unspeakable carnage—if the hatred of the people was not quickly quelled by love. Some leaders listened, but very few believed. The prophetic and apocalyptic warnings tragically came true during 100 horrifying days of savage bloodletting and mass murder.

Much like what happened at similar sites such as Fátima and Lourdes, the messengers of Kibeho were at first mocked and disbelieved. But as miracle after miracle occurred in the tiny village, tens of thousands of Rwandans journeyed to Kibeho to behold the apparitions. After the genocide, and two decades of rigorous investigation, Our Lady of Kibeho became the first and only Vatican-approved Marian (related to the Virgin Mary) site in all of Africa. (Text by Amazon.com)

### Christ Our Life Conference coming to Des Moines' Wells Fargo Arena September 20-21:

The upcoming event has many inspirational opportunities for you, your volunteers and the parishioners you serve, no matter where they are in their faith journey:

- catechists, youth ministry volunteers, RCIA and Sacramental prep teams
- parish staff
- teachers in Catholic schools,
- those who serve on advisory boards
- the teens

Speakers for the event include:

- Timothy Cardinal Dolan
- Angela Perez Baraquio Grey
- Mark Hart (The Bible Geek) – an NCYC favorite among teens
- Immacule'e Ilibagiza
- Fr. Larry Richards
- Tony Melendez – an NCYC favorite among teens
- Tom Peterson from Catholics Come Home
- Steve Angrisano – an NCYC favorite among teens
- Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for youth and students for the entire conference. The teen programming is better than it ever has been before so please consider this event so it becomes part of each event in the future. Sign language is available for the Mass and the major speakers of the conference.

For more information on the conference or of the speakers please go to the Christ Our Life website. The site link is <http://www.christourlifeiowa.com/>

Adult Faith Formation Bright Spot Story – *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame* group at St. Mary of Nazareth:

Deb Richards, catechetical leader from St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines, successfully launched a six week program based on *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame* by Fr. Albert Haase, OFM (Paraclete Press). Several groups at the parish participated this last year.

Besides the book, there is a DVD with six 30-minute segments that included the following topics/process:

1. Spiritual Journey as a Process of Transformation
2. Your Image of God
3. The Examen of Consciousness
4. The 7 Principles of Prayer
5. The Challenge of Forgiveness
6. God's will

Each session included discussion and was supplemented with various expressions of prayer: Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Spirituality of Play, etc.

Several members of the group were so moved that they asked to continue so Deb created a second process titled *Going Deeper*. She sent the group readings on various topics and then they come together to pray and discuss.

For more information contact Deb at [debr@stmarysdsm.org](mailto:debr@stmarysdsm.org) or call her at 515-276-7589.

Prayer to begin a new formational year:

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children and teens as they begin a new school year.  
Bless them and their catechists.  
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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

