



Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
September 12, 2018 Edition

Talking points with young people and families struggling with the recent news on clergy abuse:



Dr. Thom Burnford, president of NCEA (National Catholic Educational Association) in his message to membership has seven talking points that I found very helpful in conversations with people grappling with the horrors of clergy abuse. Since our catechists are on the front line, I would recommend you share these with them. Please remind them to be age appropriate. Thank you for all you do to accompany our parish family members through these extremely difficult times. You are the best!

1. Anger is a normal response to this news. It is reasonable to be horrified, angry, disappointed and upset at the news coming out of the Pennsylvania grand jury's report. Talking to each other helps; avoiding what we feel does not. Have open and honest discussions with others... Support one another as faculties/staff, and spend time together in discussion and prayer.
2. Remember the basics. The Gospel message is not complex: It's about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior, and our relationship with him individually and together. Let's ground ourselves in the basics of what it means to be Catholic as explained, for example, in Ephesians 2:1-2, in the first three paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in the first two sentences of "The Joy of the Gospel" by Pope Francis: "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness." Only from this foundation can we move forward and serve the students before us. Let us pray deeply to the Lord we know and encounter him in the sacraments.
3. [Do] what we can do. While we may feel powerless to do anything about this broad and terrible situation, there is something we can do: we can live with integrity today, right now; we can put our students first and embrace our calling as Catholic school educators. Remember the statement that is at the entrance of so many of our schools: "Let it be known to all who enter here that Jesus Christ is the reason for this school, the unseen but ever present Teacher in its classes, the Model of its faculty and staff, the Strength of its parents, the Inspiration of its students." ...

4. Keep students safe. Review your diocesan/local child protection policy and implement all programs; ensure full participation by adults and implement safe environment training for students; focus on child safety in all aspects of the life of the school. Many strides have been made in the past decades to practically keep students safe, but everyone must continually work hard to ensure that our children are protected.

5. Teach the truth. Ensure that we as Catholic educators teach the fullness of the Catholic faith, especially with regards to sin, forgiveness, justice, grace, morals and virtue. Now more than ever, effective faith formation and a clear proclamation of truth are needed, and those of us who teach the truth must live that truth with integrity. Let us live with words and actions based on the truth of the Gospel.

6. Tell stories of good works. Amidst the stories of sin and evil, we need to tell stories of good and grace, and there are many stories to tell: ...

7. Build trust. Trust is built gradually over time through right relationships. While trust can be shattered in an instant through awful acts, God's work in our lives is a process, and our work with students unfolds over the daily interactions through which they come to trust their teachers and administrators (Dr. Thomas Kelly, Diocese of Marquette).

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has provided a liturgical resource to support church leaders at this time, assisting us in the seeking of healing of souls and transformation of lives.

A forty-five page booklet provides a variety of resources, including:

1. Mass preparation sheets (six options)
2. A full presider's text for a Holy Hour (A Celebration of the Word with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)
3. A list of relevant Psalms and Canticles
4. A list of suggested hymns
5. Sample Intercessions
6. Sample Prayers
7. Talking Points for meetings or discussion groups

You can access this free resource [here](#).

GREAT PROGRAMMING FOR CLADD Sessions for September – Conversations and Best Practices to Catechize your Catechists with Patsy Carlson & Cindee Hays – Register Today

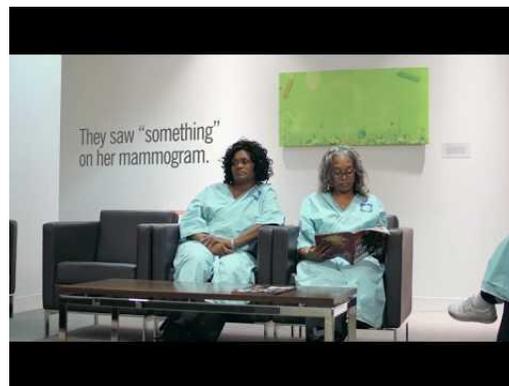
What are the best methods you have discovered to catechize your catechists? Do you struggle in this area? Join two of our diocese's most experienced catechetical leaders as they facilitate a discussion and share their experiences. Facilitated by Patsy Carlson and Cindee Hays.



- 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.**

Powerful Video to Ponder as you kick-off the catechetical year:

Tom Green (Mr. Mary Green) shared with the diocesan staff a powerful video from the Cleveland Clinic. Cleveland Clinic produced this video for their staff as a reminder that at the heart of patient care and healing is empathy. Ministry is tough. For proof of this we only have to look at a crucifix. In those difficult moments with families, the young people, parishioners, staff and even your pastor, empathy reminds us that we need to consider standing in “that person’s shoes” first and perhaps that will change our perspective. Click the image to watch this video.



Catholic Charities Movie Night – Little Women:



Join the staff of Catholic Charities for a private showing of Little Women. This is a modern adaption of the classic story. The event is showing at Cinemark 20 Jordan Creek in West Des Moines on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased through Beth Gibbons at Catholic Charities. Request your by e-mail [here](#).

If you can’t make it, Beth has shared discussion questions and a vision board exercise that can be used in your parish if you sponsor a local event at a theater near you. The movie is scheduled to be released on September 28.

NCYC Kick-Off Event Webinars – October 2 & 17:

Before you know it, planning for NCYC 2019 will be upon us. Given the difficulties we experienced with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) in preparation for 2017, they have



bounced back by being very pro-active for 2019. Two webinars are planned in October for diocesan delegation leaders: on planning and preparation for teen and adult participants. Justin and I will take lots of notes and pass what we have learned to you. So stay tuned in future editions of Growing Disciples for updates. NCYC 2019 will be held in Indianapolis from November 21-23, 2019.

Vaping is an ‘epidemic’ according to FDA Chief:



Whether or not teen members of your high school programs are “Juuling” at your gathered events or not, it is important to understand this trend that is sweeping the nation.

Juul is an e-cigarette that resembles of flash drive. They use the computer to heat-up the nicotine. Once ready, Juul many times goes undetected because of a lack of odor. Teens can vape behind the adult’s back. Another reason that Juul has become popular is infinite range of flavors to

sample. One Juul has the same amount of nicotine as a pack of traditional cigarettes.

NBC updated their story as the use has reached an epidemic status among teens. If you are doing a current events evening, perhaps this might be a good addition. Please keep in mind that “Juuling” would be covered under your Code of Conduct rules the same as smoking cigarettes. It is a conduct issue not a “Mandatory reporter issue.” If you ever have any questions about the difference, please contact me at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org.

You can find the NBC News article [here](#).

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

