



Catechetical Sunday – Blessings to You and your Catechists:

Whether your ministry is formation of adults, children, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, intergenerational, sacramental preparation, RCIA, formation for those with disabilities, youth ministry, formation for the aged, schools, young adult ministry, deaconate and leadership training for those entering lay ministry, Catechetical Sunday celebrates YOU!

This week I was asked what is it that keeps me moving forward in this outreach from the diocese. I am inspired by you and those for whom you work with to share the *Joy of the Gospel* with those you encounter. When I visit a parish I am constantly renewed by the witness shared with others of their personal encounter with Christ.

Catechetical Sunday is one small way in which we can inspire the parish to not just thank those involved in lifelong formation of our Catholic faith, but to see that these are ways in which the parish community nurtures growth in faith from conversion of heart to discipleship into apostleship.

In spiritual preparation for this day, we want you to know that you and your parish has been specifically prayed for by name through the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. To get through all parishes we begin this project in early August. May Mary, Star of Evangelization pray for each of us.



Breakout sessions announced – Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference – Saved by the Call:

We have been hard at work for our first ever Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference to be held on October 25 at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines. It is going to be an awesome day. Below are the breakout sessions we have identified through the Diocesan Youth Council and local youth workers, priests and DREs.

- High School Track
 - Called to reverent relationships (Theology of the Body) – Bobby Angel with Jackie Francois Angel will provide an inspiring session on God’s call within our relationships
 - Called to Worship – The Mass explained – A pastoral and teen friendly understanding of Mass
 - Called to be Light – Living your faith with social media

- Called to the Collar or Convent – a panel discussion with priests, seminarians and religious
- Called to Not Be Afraid – How to step out of your comfort zone and live your faith at home and in school
- Called to Receive Mercy – Confessions are ongoing throughout the breakout sessions
- Called to Extend Mercy – exploring the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy
- Called to witness - How to step out of your comfort zone and share your faith with others
- Called to Be Christ-like in the World – Using your Catholic lens to discern the best response to today’s issues affecting teens
- Called to Advocacy – Learn about the mission of Catholic Charities and how you can be a voice for those who don’t have a voice
- Called to Pilgrimage – Encountering NCYC and Steubenville Conferences for 1st timers
- Called to Prayer – An experiential opportunity surrounding several different prayer styles and apps to help you speak to God daily
- Middle School Track:
 - Called to Belong – Your place in the family of God
 - Called to Trust – facing change with an unchanging God
 - Called to Listen – How to hear God’s voice in your life
 - Called to Care – Being Christ to others (exploring the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy)
 - Called to Holy Friendships – Being an image of Christ in your personal friendships
 - Called to Being You – Don’t feel like you measure up? Not fast enough? Not smart enough? Not funny enough? Not good looking enough? Find out what God says about your self-image.
 - Called to Use Your Gifts – Whether sports, dance, music, theater, art or any other talents you have, how you use these talents can reflect God. Find out how!
 - Called to Receive Mercy – Confessions are ongoing throughout the breakout sessions
- Adult Tracks:
 - Called to be Agents of Mercy in your family
 - Called to Agents of Mercy in Your Family (Spanish)
 - Called to Be parent in Social Media with a special focus on bullying - (Spanish)
 - Called to Pilgrimage – Encountering NCYC and Steubenville Conferences for the 1st Time chaperone
 - Called and Gifted – An Understanding of the charism God has given you

Please know that DCYC can be a gathered event at your parish or you can encourage families to attend even if it isn’t an event planned by the parish. We want as many teens to come as they can. We are hoping to have extra Virtus and background checked adults available to take groups up to 8 and chaperone them for the day.

This is a celebration of our Catholic faith with our youth gathering around their bishop. Please let us know we can do to help you have an awesome experience. We ask that you promote this event to all your middle school and high school teens whether it is an official parish event or proposing families attend. Thank you for your help.

Jubilee of Mercy Preparation:

NCCL's Evangelization Blog has a fascinating article by Terri Baldwin that might be helpful for all of us as we prepare for the upcoming Extraordinary Jubilee on December 8. She writes,

At the NCCL conference in Buffalo, Dr. Tim Hogan presented a keynote, *Encountering Who? The Gift of the Cultural Hurricane: How to build Bridges that Empower Parents and Transform Catholic Families*. A facilitated conversation with evangelization leaders followed asking the question, "What are the gifts in the cultural hurricane and how can we respond?"

To read the rest of the blog article follow this link:

<http://www.21stcenturycatholicsevangalization.org/blog/gifts-in-the-cultural-shift-hospitality-hope-healing-terri-baldwin-diocese-of-cleveland>

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **September 20, 2015** – Catechetical Sunday
- **October 1, 2015** – Des Moines Area Youth Ministers Meeting at St. Augustin's parish
- **October 11, 2015** – Year of Marriage and Family concluding celebration – "Family is a School of Virtue" at St. Boniface Parish from 1:00 pm until 5:30 pm. More information can be found at <http://www.dmdiocese.org/finish%20flyer%20english.pdf>
- **October 15, 2015** – CLADD East (Place to be determined) – Laudato Si Encyclical – What Does it Mean for Lifelong Formation in Faith?" with Fr. Bud Grant, environmental theologian at St. Ambrose University
- **October 19, 2015** – CLADD South (St. Edward parish in Afton) – Laudato Si Encyclical – What Does it Mean for Lifelong Formation in Faith?" with John Gaffney
- **October 20, 2015** – CLADD West (St. Patrick parish in Missouri Valley) – Laudato Si Encyclical – What Does it Mean for Lifelong Formation in Faith?" with Fr. Bud Grant, environmental theologian at St. Ambrose University
- **October 25, 2015** – Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference – "Saved by the Call" – For more information follow this link: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/dcyc.cfm>
- **November 2, 2015** – Des Moines area Adult Formation Director's Meeting at Ss. John & Paul parish in Altoona

A Catechist's Prayer (Prepared by the USCCB):

Father of all families, you have called me to serve the family in truth and love as a catechist.
May I be faithful to this call, rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

May I use these gifts, especially the gifts of faith, hope, and love, to serve the family as a witness to you, who are love and life and the source and destiny of all families.

Let your Spirit enlighten my mind and strengthen my heart so that I can be a path of Christ's love to families, especially those in need, the homebound and aged, the disabled and disheartened.

Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, I pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, whose mission to build a civilization of love passes through the family.

Amen.

