



Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
September 19, 2018 Edition

Emmaus House names new co-director:



Bishop Richard Pates, chair of the board of the Emmaus House Spirituality Center, announces that Kevin O'Donnell will become the new co-director of Emmaus House effective Sept. 17. O'Donnell's primary responsibilities will include spiritual direction, leading retreats and developing programs.

He comes to Des Moines from Michigan. He earned his master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University, as well as a graduate certificate in spiritual direction and directed retreats. O'Donnell holds his bachelor's degree in psychology from Oakland University.

The Emmaus House Search Committee was impressed with O'Donnell's background and education, but also his great listening skills, passion for helping others find Christ and ability to connect to young adults. Father Dan Krettek, co-director of Emmaus House and member of the search committee, said O'Donnell will help a new generation of Catholics interested in knowing and deepening their faith.

A welcome and open house is planned for people to meet and greet O'Donnell on Sunday, Sept. 23 from 2-4 p.m. at Emmaus House, located at 1521 Center St. in Des Moines.

Resources offered from the Center for Ministry Development to help have discussions about clergy sex abuse with families:

Tom East, the Director of the Center for Ministry Development, released his own statement about the clergy sex abuse news and thoughts on how to pastorally help others, and ourselves, through it. Below please find his thoughts and some additional resources.



I was in a conversation yesterday with a ministry leader who said that this moment is like waiting in the tomb. It's September, but it feels like Good Friday. The continuing reports of

sexual abuse with children, youth, and adults, and the cover-up of abuse are alarming and disturbing. This crisis impacts our ministries with youth and families, but it also impacts each one of us on a personal level. As catechists, youth ministers, and family life ministers, we said “yes” to ministry leadership because of our love for God, faith in the Church, and our love for God’s people, young and old. This situation cuts to very heart of our faith, our vocation, and our work. *We are called to self-care and prayer as we lead and attend to the children, youth, adults, and families that we serve.*

These are ideas and resources that could help us as we wait for Easter and the resurrection that is coming.

- **Handle with Prayer** – The busyness of the fall along with extra work that may be needed could be taxing our time to stay in prayer. We need this time with the Lord in prayer more than ever. Pray for victims of abuse and their families. Pray for the perpetrators of abuse. Pray for clergy. Pray for ministry leaders. Pray for all children, youth and families who are confused and disillusioned at this time. Pray for a healing of our Church. Pray for peace.
- **Attend to Your Needs and the Needs of Your Team** – When you are on an airplane they instruct you that in an emergency you should to attach your oxygen mask prior to assisting others. In this situation, take time to process your feelings and concerns about the crisis and be attentive to caring for the ministry leaders that you work with. As ministry leaders, it is critical that we take care of our needs to vent but not at the expense of those with whom we minister. We cannot burden children, youth, adults, or families with our anger, frustration, or disillusionment. When we discuss, listen, and pray with our communities we can be honest about our feelings, but we need to be centered and focused on caring for those who have been entrusted to us.
- **Provide a Way to Listen to Concerns and Pray this Moment in Your Ministry** – People expect us as ministry leaders to be present in this moment, to acknowledge this crisis and to provide opportunities to listen and pray. This will look different with children, youth and adults. As a ministry team, take the time to think through and provide a ministry response in your setting.
- **Be Especially Attentive to Safe Environment Concerns** – Our communities expect us to model transparency as we continue to implement the policies and processes designed to keep children, youth, and adults safe in our ministries. Parents are likely to be especially cautious and will need reassurance and patient explanation of our safe environment precautions.
- **Be Aware as you Express your Love for Our Catholic Church and our Shared Faith** – This is a time to provide reassurance and steadiness. During this crisis, you should be explicit in sharing your love for the Catholic Church, your faith in the Holy Spirit to guide us in this crisis, and your commitment to be part of the solutions that will lead to the continued transformation of lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. As you share your faithfulness to the Church, be aware of how people may hear your comments. We do not want to stifle the expression of our community by retreating to a limited way of understanding what it means to be faithful. This is not a time to draw a line in the sand between those who are standing with the Church and those who are “doubters”. This is

not a time to be triumphal or judgmental of those who are angry about the crisis. *This is a time for holy listening and sacred conversation.*

- Resources and links:
 - **Catholic News Agency Article – How to Talk to Children about the Church Sex Abuse Scandal** – When speaking to their children about sexual abuse scandals in the Church, parents should listen to their children's concerns and be careful to not to make assumptions, experts told CAN. For resources visit the website [here](#).
 - **Talking to Young People About the Scandals in the Catholic Church** – Roy Petitfils, LPC offers tips for parents, teachers and ministers on how to discuss the recent scandals in the Catholic Church with young people. Watch the YouTube video [here](#).
 - **Courageous Conversations to Have About the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis** – Developed by Dr. Dobie Moser and Dr. Sean Reynolds (Mustard Seed Consultants) to assist in processing the crisis with small groups. Download the PDF Guide [here](#). Download the participant worksheet [here](#).

Powerful website from the Diocese of Bridgeport – The Face of Prayer:



The Face of Prayer

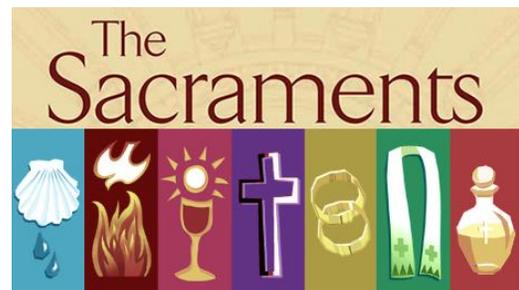
The Face of Prayer™ exists for those in need of prayer, healing, and answers. Prayer is important because prayer is powerful and can transform everything. God always hears

our prayers and wants to pour His blessings upon each one of us. Additionally, The Face of Prayer™ is embarking on an exciting video catechism series and the Diocese of Bridgeport want to hear from you and those you minister to and with! They invite us to submit questions you've encountered along your faith journey and together, as Bishop Caggiano and others answer your questions, a video catechism will be created.

For ways to use The Face of Prayer™ in ministry click this [link](#). For ways to use The Face of Prayer™ in the classroom click this [link](#).

Webinar on Disability Ministry by Sadlier Religion and NCCL:

How does your parish prepare individuals with disabilities to celebrate sacraments? Charleen Katra, MA, will share strategies to make the preparation process and the liturgical celebrations a joyful and meaningful experience for everyone involved. Join this Sadlier/NCCL event. The webinar will be offered on September 27 at 3:00 pm CDT.



Register [here](#) for this free webinar.

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

