

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
September 27, 2017 Edition

October is Respect Life Month – 2017 USCCB Campaign “Be Not Afraid/No Temas”:



The Respect Life Program materials are meant to help you build a culture of life, whatever your area of formation ministry.

Each year the USCCB produces new materials designed to help Catholics understand, value and

become engaged with supporting the God-given dignity of every person—which naturally leads to protecting the gift of every person’s life.

The materials are intended to help you integrate respect life into your ministry: to talk and collaborate with the families and teens on how you can help each other build a culture of life. Even though October is Respect Life Month, the campaign is always designed for a full year and the materials can be used at any time.

Some of the excellent brochures in this year’s package include:

- What to do when a friend is considering abortion
- Top reasons to oppose assisted suicide
- Considerations for our earthly passing
- Understanding conscience
- Death Penalty – A Catholic Q&A
- How to build a culture of life

All of the materials are available in Spanish. For more information and materials go the USCCB website with this link: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>

**Share the Journey Update – Week of Prayer & Action
October 7-13 (Love Your Neighbor):**

Today Pope Francis launched his global campaign to support migrants and refugees around the world. In collaboration with the USCCB Respect Life month, the United States Bishops by kicking off the campaign with a week of prayer



and action. Below are some ideas of that you and your community can do (including links to help you save time on materials):

- Kick off the week with a special Mass praying for migrants and refugees.
- Start religious education classes and teen ministry with a [different prayer intention for migrants and refugees](#). Print these off for children and teens to take home for families to pray throughout the week.
- Showcase [stories and pictures](#) in newsletters and on social media platforms from migrants and refugees who live both around the world and in the United States.
- Use lesson plans ([elementary and high school](#)) to articulate the reasons people leave their home countries, common myths about the issue, and what the Church teaches about it.
- Read a brief reflection by the daughter of Mexican immigrants: “[Bridging Borders for a Culture of Life](#).”
- Share stories of migrants and reflect on those stories as you pray the [rosary](#).

Find other suggestions for educators at education.crs.org/migration or the [Catholic Legal Immigration Network](#).

Safe Environment Program Compliance:



Thank you for all the efforts you and your catechists put forth so that we have

outstanding religious formation for our children and teens. YOU are the best!

With that said, one way in which we always need to be vigilant is in keeping up to date with our safe environment training. The Diocese of Des Moines along with the diocese in the United States provide ongoing formation in a variety of areas that help you to provide a safe environment for our young people and help you with youth advocacy. The program we use is Virtus.

Every catechetical leader who works with youth (pre-school formation, religious education and youth ministry) must complete the monthly Virtus update sent to your e-mail. This includes volunteers, part-time and full-time staff. Up to date Virtus files on all catechetical leaders is one of several benchmarks that we as a diocese must pass when being audited for our safe environment efforts.

If you have not received a Virtus bulletin in your e-mail login to www.virtus.org and make sure your contact information is correct. If it is correct, please check your junk mail settings. The staff responsible for safe environment asked me to remind everyone to complete any outstanding bulletins in the next two weeks.

If you have any questions about your account or compliance, please contact Jacquie Shoeman at jshoeman@dmdiocese.org.

50 Ways to share Jesus: Ideas for evangelizing different age groups by Catechist Magazine – Part 4:

Catechist Magazine is exploring evangelization in their September issue. This excerpt will explore ideas 21 through 30. For more on this article you may want to subscribe to Catechist Magazine through this link: www.catechist.com.

#21 – Meet Jesus at work in daily life: Invite teens to think of “coincidences” that could only be attributed to divine intervention.

#22 – Find Jesus in the Eucharist.

#23 – Allow time for silence.

#24 – Encourage teens to see Christ in those less popular or those who have greater needs within their own friendship groups, school groups and at their youth group.

#25 – Invite teens and pre-teens to youth conferences and retreats.

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) scheduled for October 22 at the Iowa Events Center (Des Moines) and is open for grades 6 through 12. There are two tracks: one for middle school and one for high school.

#26 – Have each youth design a personal crest that includes who they are, what they love, and what their goals are.

#27 – Encourage young people to invite others to Mass and youth friendly events.

#28 – Have your teens text a scripture quote that is special to you every day for 30 days to different people. (You may need permission from parents to do this.)

#29 – Assignment: write a one-page testimony of how Jesus has been your best friend and has given you joy and peace.

#30 – Do something nice for someone when they don't expect it.

Next week we will look at ten more ways in which to share Jesus.

