

Dept. of Evangelization &  
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

September 28, 2016 Edition

**DCYC Update – Great Breakout sessions confirmed:**

Plans are coming together for the best Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) ever. DCYC 2016 will be held on October 23 at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines.



Besides an amazing and faithful Catholic keynote presenter in Paul J. Kim, the following have confirmed breakout sessions for the afternoon:

- High School Breakout sessions
  - Paul J. Kim **Your Life Makes a Difference** – In the end love wins because God is love. Love is the clear antidote for racism, ignorance, bigotry and bullying.
  - Katie Patrizio (DRE and youth leader at St. Cecelia in Ames) **Word of God, Speak** – Discover how you can pray with the Bible in order to truly encounter Jesus and find peace of heart.
  - Ken Bresnan (outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities) and a member of the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Staff **Shelter the Homeless** – Experience what it is like to be a refugee and learn how you can make a difference
  - Fr. Joseph Pins (Diocesan Vocations Director) and the School Sisters of Christ the King **The Reality of Vocation** – A panel discussion with priests and religious sisters with opportunities to ask questions.
  - 5 other high school breakout sessions are currently being planned – more to come
- Middle School Breakout sessions
  - Paul J. Kim **Your Life Makes a Difference** – In the end love wins because God is love. Love is the clear antidote for racism, ignorance, bigotry and bullying.
  - Joe Tallman (middle school religion teacher at St. Pius X parish) **You Are a Child of God** – God has loved you through all of eternity. Joe will share stories of how you can know that you are loved and God doesn't make junk.
  - Abby Henderson (Asst. Catechetical Leader – grades 6-8, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish) **St. Therese's Little Way of Love** – An interactive breakout session that will help the youth with a simple way to count your little acts of love and sacrifice done for God.

- Erin Maxon (ELL teacher at Meredith Middle School in Des Moines) **Shelter the Homeless** – Erin has created a wonderful program of teaching guitar to refugee youth. This wonderful ministry builds relationships and is a beautiful way in which to help the refugees in our community.
- 2 other middle school breakout sessions are currently being planned – more to come.
- Adult Formation Breakout sessions
  - Maggie Peiffer (formerly Maggie Schoop, youth leader at St. Mary of Nazareth) **Searching for and Maintaining Peace of Heart** – Practical reflections based upon the spirituality of Father Jacques Phillipe
  - 3 other adult track sessions are currently being planned – more to come.

The Diocesan Youth Council has also booked a dynamic high school rock band to get everyone moving at the beginning of the day as well as a wonderful praise and worship group for Mass and the XLT Adoration session. This along with the sacrament of Reconciliation, good food, time with Bishop Pates and hospitality.

To guarantee each person in your parish delegation gets a t-shirt, please register by Friday, September 30. We will order some additional t-shirts but it is difficult to gauge how many.

To register or for a variety of resources, please follow this link:

<http://www.dmdiocese.org/dcyc.cfm>

### **Sharing Stories of Hope – The Lost Boys of Sudan:**



At the recent CLADD Session on Faithful Citizenship, a few of our colleagues expressed frustration and concern about how to address important issues that are clearly advocated upon by the Church to a parish community that is sharply divided and critical of such tactics.

At both sessions, the strategy of sharing stories was put forth as one way in which to encounter the people rather than the main focus as the problem to solve. Attached to this e-newsletter is a hopeful story about the life of one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. It was published by *Columbia Magazine* from the Knights of Columbus. Reading the circumstances and struggles of refugees allows us to understand the plight of our sisters and brothers who come desire to come to the United States as a beacon of hope. It adds a dimension that is lost in the headlines. I was fortunate as a young youth ministry leader to encounter three of the Lost Boys who lived in Kansas City. Their story has stayed with me almost 20 years later and has had an effect on my perception of the refugee crisis in parts of our world.

There are many stories of hope regarding a variety of the topics Tom Chapman shared with us this month. Contact us if there is an issue in which you would like to have some stories of hope. I am confident that between all of us, we can help you.

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) will have a high school breakout session surrounding the experience of being a refugee. Perhaps this is a great place to begin for your parish teens?

**An Evening with America Magazine Correspondent and Scholar John Carr – This Sunday:**

This Sunday evening event is an outstanding opportunity for youth ministry leaders, catechetical leaders, catechists, high school teachers, and RCIA team members who want to learn more about the intersection of public policy and the principles of our Catholic faith. There may be some high school juniors and seniors who would appreciate this presentation. Attached please find the flyer. Come early, because it appears we will have a packed room.



The evening with John Carr will be held at St. Pius X Church in Urbandale on Sunday, October 2, 2016. It begins with some social time at 6:30 pm with the presentation at 7:00 pm. Following the presentation will be an opportunity to ask questions.

**Christian Experience Weekend for the Deaf – October 28-30:**



Peggy Chicoine, our diocesan deaf community coordinator, along with a team of wonderful people, will be facilitating the first CEW retreat for the deaf in Iowa. It will be held at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny on October 28-30.

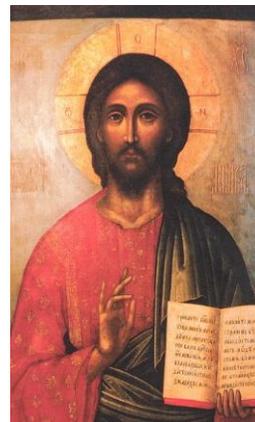
The retreat team will welcome two priests and two deacons who are deaf who will complete the retreat team. This retreat is for those who deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and for those who has a spouse who is deaf although they can hear. The registration deadline is October 14. For more information contact Peggy at [dpchicoine@msn.com](mailto:dpchicoine@msn.com).

**Registrations Still Open for The Rich Soil Catechetical Certification Program:**

It is exciting to see such a wonderful response to the new catechetical certification process. The more people we have, the more fun and exciting it will be for everyone. Please keep promoting this process, especially for those who are new catechists and youth ministry volunteers in the last 3 years.

**One major change: retreat dates.** I have heard from many of our colleagues that you are still visiting with your volunteers about the new program. Because of this the original posted dates for the retreat was not feasible for many. As I shared in a recent e-mail the upcoming dates will be:

- Osceola Region on October 8
- Western part of the Diocese on November 12



- Eastern part of Diocese on November 19

Sherri is still working on locations for the retreats. Although the retreats are highly encouraged, I will work with participants on a one-on-one basis if they cannot attend the retreat closest to them. The reason for it to be highly encouraged is that retreats are not only catechetical, they help us grow closer to the heart of Christ.

Let me know if you have any questions but please keep sending the registrations in to our office.

*Today I ask you,  
in the name of Christ and the  
Church, never tire of being  
merciful."*

*Pope Francis  
The Church of Mercy*

