

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
September 30, 2015 Edition

October is Respect Life Month – “Every Life is Worth Living”:

The Respect Life Program sponsored by the USCCB begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes new materials each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups, youth ministry programs, religious education sessions, schools and other organizations.

The link to many resources to be used this month can be found at:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/index.cfm>

Some of the materials you will find includes:

- 7 articles that are very relatable to many different issues in life (very pastoral) – available in English and Spanish
- The Respect Life Poster & Flyer (available in English and Spanish)
- Prayers and programs (one of my favorite is coffee & conversation)
- Prayer cards
- Graphics and images

CRS Education – Going Global with Youth:

Did you know that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has awesome education activities and prayer services that are extremely well crafted for teens? Did you know that with a little tweaking they can also be used with young adults, those new in the faith through RCIA, and perhaps some can be used in intergenerational faith opportunities?

Why not explore these resources today with your formation team. You can find the resources at this link: <http://www.education.crs.org/educational-resources/>

Some of the topics available, with multiple resources under each topic, includes:

- Care for Creation
- Catholics Confront Global Poverty
- Fair Trade Migration
- Peacebuilding
- Solidarity
- Water
- World AIDS Day

There are many different prayer resources available at this link:

<http://www.education.crs.org/prayers/>

- Prayers (11 different prayers)
- Prayer Services (6 different services)
- Prayer Services for special intentions (6 different services)
- Prayer services in times of Natural Disaster (3 different services)

We are also planning an interactive digital program for your teens that will link all of us together on December 2, 2015 just before the Jubilee. Watch for additional information on this in upcoming editions of Growing Disciples.

DCYC Registration is now open:

Registration for DCYC (Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference) is now open. Please promote to all your middle school and high school teens.

This year we are transforming our former Diocesan Youth Rally into a conference similar in nature to what is found at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) or the Steubenville Youth Conferences. We have received a great deal of feedback from teens, chaperones, youth leaders and pastors that this direction is long overdue. Thanks to our friends at Dowling Catholic High School we have a facility large enough to be able to accomplish this transition.

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference for 2015 is titled, "Saved by the Call." What an awesome message for our teens and their chaperones as we move towards launching the Jubilee of Mercy in our diocese. The day encompasses a lot of great opportunities:

- Mass with Bishop Pates and worship music with Eric Webster and his band
- Jon Leonetti and Jeanne Wells will MC the day for us
- Keynote with Jackie Francois (who will be one of the NCYC MCs this November)
- Vendors representing vocations, religious communities, Catholic Charities and hopefully our 2 Catholic High Schools
- Q&A with Bishop Pates
- Breakout sessions with 3 tracks: high school track, middle school track and an adult track
- Sacrament of Confession and Penance
- An optional opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of the day

Please know that DCYC can be a gathered event from 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. Thank you for your help in promoting this to all your youth in your middle school and high school programming at the parish and in our schools..

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **October 1, 2015** – Des Moines Area Youth Ministers Meeting at St. Augustin’s parish
- **October 4, 2015** – What is the New Evangelization & Why Bother? A Family Friendly Evening with Dr. Ralph Martin, host of EWTN’s *The Choices We Face*. Event will be at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale beginning at 7:00 pm. Free childcare is available.
- **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 (St. Theresa Parish) – 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 Justice Blessing (by Elaine Menardi, Diocese of Cheyenne, Wy):

May God bless you with discomfort with easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships... so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people... so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May God bless you with tear to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war... so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world... so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Amen.

