



Upcoming CLADD Sessions on *Laudato Si* with Father Bud Grant:

Father Bud Grant will provide us with a theological and pastoral foundation in Pope Francis' new encyclical *Laudato Si*. It is a challenging document on many fronts. But as a document of faith, what is its message to each of us as disciples and catechetical leaders? We will also examine how this encyclical can be a great resource for our work within an understanding of lifelong formation in faith.

Please invite anyone who shares catechetical leadership in your parish communities. CLADD is a support group for all who have responsibilities at any point in lifelong formation in faith. I believe that we will learn a great deal from Father Grant and our discussions will be enlightening for those in adult faith formation, youth ministry and RCIA as they are for those whose work is primarily rooted in religious education.

CLADD Sessions for October are held at:

- St. Theresa Parish on October 15 – CLADD East
- St. Edward Parish on October 19 – CLADD South (John will be leading the presentations at CLADD South)
- St. Patrick Parish on October 20 – CLADD West

What are some simple steps that we and our families live our rich Catholic faith in our care for our common home:

- Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” (no. 91). How can we help our children, teens and families become more aware of our connectedness?
- Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference. What small changes can our children, teens and families make and how can we share this information as an advocacy campaign?
- Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace. How can we identify areas of waste in our places of work and parish communities and work to be better stewards of the gifts God has given us?
- Support local efforts to solve environmental problems. What are the biggest issues in central and southwest Iowa? How can we be agents of mercy in making and advocating changes that will have a positive effect on these problems?

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) – *Saved by the Call* – October 25, 2015 at Dowling Catholic High School – Register Today:

Registration for DCYC (Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference) is now open. Please promote to all your middle school and high school teens whether you will have an official parish delegation or not. We will have extra chaperones available in case parents may want to drop off and then pick up later.

Some details worth noting:

- DCYC will be held at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be:
  - a live band,
  - a keynote talk from Jackie Francois (who will be on the mainstage at NCYC),
  - MCs for the day are Jon Leonetti (an NCYC Speaker) and Iowa Catholic Radio's Jeanne Wells
  - a variety of breakout workshops (including one for first time NCYC participants) for high school teens, middle school teens and adults
  - a Q&A session with Bishop Pates,
  - Sunday Mass, and more!
  - The main part of the day is from 10am-5pm and only costs \$25 (includes lunch & a t-shirt), but for \$5 more you can also register for an optional extended session from 5:30-7:30pm, which includes a pizza dinner and XLT. We will have an XLT on the main stage at NCYC, so this is a great way to prepare yourself for that experience!
  - *You can either register with a parish group, form your own group of family/friends, or register individually and we will pair you with chaperone for the day.*
  - Register by October 12<sup>th</sup> to guarantee a t-shirt, but we will continue to accept late registrations online and on-site.
  - Find out more at [www.dmdiocese.org/dcyc.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org/dcyc.org). You can also view a [promotional video here](#).

Pope Francis' Vision in even better in Action (by Tom Quinlan, Diocese of Joliet):

*The following is an email message I sent to catechetical leaders in our diocese, offering a strategy and a tactic for a narrow slice of parish life. While the focus is on child and youth formation ministry, I would assert that there is a strong evangelizing element here, as we reach out to marginal parishioner families and non-parishioners.*

In the light of Pope Francis' visit to the United States last week, I would like to invite you to consider the following action steps. I offer them knowing that these weeks are some of the busiest of our catechetical year. Nonetheless, please take a moment to ponder them prayerfully and what they might mean for your ministry.

- We have, in this moment, a unique opportunity. It has been handed to us by Pope Francis (in his visit to our country last week). There is greater openness to Catholic faith and the

Church than any time in recent memory. I believe it is up to us (indeed, not just catechetical leaders but all parish leaders) to seize this opportunity to both renew our Church from the inside...and also to be particularly outreaching. For us as catechetical leaders this can mean, among other things, that we conduct a plan of intentional outreach that invites families into our parish faith formation programs...now and throughout the fall. Please consider how you might wish to do this in your role in your parish. Yes, this might complicate things. However, every family that your outreach brings into the program will be pleasing to God and a blessing to the Church. **This October might be the best time EVER to get word out in your community about faith formation and youth ministry in your parish! Thanks, Pope Francis!**

- Outreach doesn't only mean to folks who have never been connected to us before. It can also mean taking extra-generous steps with our formerly registered families. A catechetical leader this week started calling her families who were registered last year but have not returned for this year. Here are the responses she's been getting:
  - *Thanks so much! Your call is a wake-up call to get the kids in. Thanks!*
  - *We can't make our schedule work for RE this year. We feel bad. Home-schooling? We can do that with our kids here at home? Great! Let's do it!*
  - *Thanks so much for calling. We appreciate you thinking of us.*
  - (No answer. Leave a message...or not, if you prefer connecting live with the parent.)

*Please* consider what you can do to help families in your parish (and in the broader community) plug into the life of parish faith formation...and, hopefully, the parish itself. Pope Francis poured himself out for us in his time here. What can we each now do in response to our Pope's generosity and inspiration to turn "good will" into good outcomes for marginal and disconnected families in our midst?

*Used with permission of NCCL.*

#### Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **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

**Prayer to Care for Our Common Home (by USCCB):**

Father of all,  
Creator and ruler of the universe,  
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.  
Help us to care for it and all people,  
that we may live in right relationship--  
with You,  
with ourselves,  
with one another,  
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,  
both divine and human,  
You lived among us and died for our sins.  
Help us to imitate your love for the human family  
by recognizing that we are all connected—  
to our brothers and sisters around the world,  
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,  
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,  
giver of wisdom and love,  
You breathe life in us and guide us.  
Help us to live according to your vision,  
stirring to action the hearts of all—  
individuals and families,  
communities of faith,  
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may  
together care for our common home.

Amen.

