

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
October 14, 2015 Edition

Opportunity to Advocate on Behalf of Lifelong Formation in Faith – AFF, RE; Youth Ministry, Sacramental Prep, RCIA, etc:

You may have heard about the Summit on Church Administration to be held in two locations in the Diocese on two consecutive Saturdays. The primary purpose of these summits is to recognize the great contributions our volunteer lay leadership members have been to their pastor and the parish/school staff. Secondly, the day is filled with opportunities for those who are participating to solidify our relationships with the diocesan and parish communities as well as to foster best practices to enhance effectiveness. The first Summit gathering will be held on Saturday, October 31 at Queen of Apostles Hall, Council Bluffs from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The second gathering will be held at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale on Saturday, November 7 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

There will be a general session and breakout sessions for each parish leadership group: trustees, finance council, pastoral council, school boards and now those who are advisory on areas of lifelong formation in faith. I appreciate the work of Jason Kurth who has invested many months of work on this project to joyfully invite those who advise you, your leadership team and pastor in ministry relating to lifelong formation within the parish community.

I ask that you and your pastor identify a member or members of the leadership committees who advocate for lifelong formation (dedicated member(s) of pastoral council who represents faith formation, dedicated member(s) of school board who represents faith formation, or member(s) of a parish faith formation council or council of catechesis and personally invite her/him to participate.

Please have the identified individual register on-line by contacting Jason Kurth at [jkurth@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jkurth@dmdiocese.org) or completing the attached registration form that is included with the flyer.

This is a wonderful opportunity to advocate on behalf of lifelong formation in faith and for those representing your parish community to “reflect upon the roles, responsibilities, opportunities and challenges of Church administration.”

Called & Gifted Workshop – October 30 & 31, 2015 at St. Pius X parish in Urbandale:

St. Pius X parish in Urbandale is offering the *Called and Gifted Workshop* on Oct 30 and 31st. This workshop reminds us of our Baptismal call to be disciples of Christ and then helps us discern and affirm those gifts God has placed in us to go forth and share the Gospel. If you

are looking for direction in your life or want affirmation you are in the right place, consider attending this workshop.

The workshop will be held Friday, Oct 30, 7-9:30pm and Saturday, Oct 31st, 9am-4pm. A suggested donation of \$15 is asked to help cover costs of material and food. Lunch and childcare will be provided on Saturday. An alternative time will be offered to those who are unable to come Friday due to Beggar's Night. Please go to St. Pius X's website for more information and registration forms ([www.stpiushome.org](http://www.stpiushome.org)) or contact Emily Schmid at [eschmid@saintpiuschurch.org](mailto:eschmid@saintpiuschurch.org) or 515-276-2059.

For those of you on the western end of the diocese, please let me know if you feel there would be interest to bring the *Called & Gifted Workshop* to Council Bluffs. For those who have experienced this opportunity, many fruits are being experienced.

#### Mental Illness Awareness Month:

One out of every four families in a parish will have to cope with the effects of mental illness. Find out some simple ways your parish can reach out to them.

Although Mental Illness Awareness Week was celebrated October 4-10, please consider still recognizing the pastoral need in your parish if you didn't have the opportunity to participate.

In 1990, the US Congress passed a resolution designating the first full week in October "**Mental Illness Awareness Week**" (MIAW). Its purpose was to give recognition to the work accomplished by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and similar organizations to educate and raise awareness about such conditions as depression, bipolar depression, and schizophrenia.

One special highlight has been the designation of the Tuesday of MIAW (this year it is October 6) as a day of prayer for mental illness recovery and understanding. People of all faiths take part in a diverse prayer services across the country, where our religious traditions add their voice to MIAW's effort to raise awareness and loving support for people whose lives are affected by mental illness.

NCPD has developed a variety of resources for your use. Prayer services, reflections, personal stories, and links are some of the tools you will find. It is our hope that within each of our dioceses, the Catholic Church will in some way be a part of the 2015 observance of Mental Illness Awareness Week.

For more information and resources please follow the links below:

- Families coping with mental illness – a reflection using St. Therese of Lisieux: <http://www.ncpd.org/sites/default/files/Therese%20English%20Q.pdf>
- Homily notes: <http://www.ncpd.org/sites/default/files/Homily%20Thoughts%20English%20Q.pdf>
- Prayer Service: <http://www.ncpd.org/sites/default/files/prayer%20service%2010-15%20BQ.pdf>

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Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

- **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>
- **October 31, 2015** – Summit on Church Administration – Queen of Apostles parish – 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- **November 2, 2015** – Des Moines area Adult Formation Director’s Meeting at Ss. John & Paul parish in Altoona
- **November 7, 2015** – Summit on Church Administration – St. Pius X parish – 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

**Blessing of the Harvest:**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
Who has made heaven and earth.  
The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

Almighty Lord God, You keep on giving abundance to men in the dew of heaven, and food out of the richness of the soil. We give thanks to Your most gracious majesty for the fruits of the field which we have gathered. We beg of You, in Your mercy, to bless our harvest, which we have received from Your generosity. Preserve it, and keep it from all harm. Grant, too, that all those whose desires You have filled with these good things may be happy in Your protection. May they praise Your mercies forever, and make use of the good things that do not last in such a way that they may not lose those goods that are everlasting, through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Amen.

