

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
October 17, 2018 Edition

Ministry to and With Persons with Disability Opportunities:

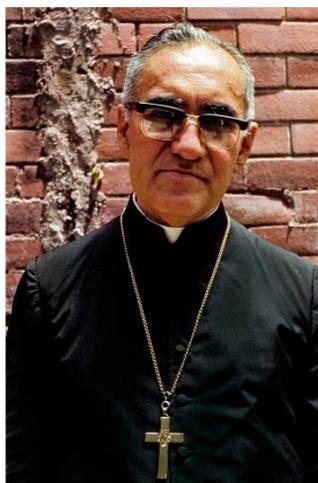
Opening Our Eyes and Ears: An event to support deaf and special needs communities in our parishes – October 20 beginning at 8:00 am.

Join the Saint Joseph Educational Center for a morning focused on inclusive ministry with a variety of national speakers: David and Mercedes Rizzo (authors of Faith, Family and Children with Special Needs – Loyola Press), Mary O'Meara (Director of Special Needs Ministry Department at the Archdiocese of Washington), and Father Paul Zirimenya Who will celebrate the Mass in ASL. Father Zirimenya is from the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



The event begins at 8:00 am and will be held at St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Des Moines. Register for this event [here](#). There is no fee for this wonderful professional development resource morning. Contact Deacon Matt Halbach, Ph.D. for more information at mhalbach@dmdioocese.org.

Celebrate our two newest canonized Saints:



Pope Francis canonized Archbishop Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI on October 14 in a ceremony in Rome.

Pope Paul VI continued the Second Vatican Council after the death of Saint John XXIII, which he closed in 1965, implementing its numerous reforms.

He wanted a Church that was in dialogue with the modern world. He treated the theme of dialogue at great length in his encyclical *Ecclesiam*

Suam (His Church), released on Aug. 6, 1964. In it, he wrote he felt a “vocation” to dialogue between the Church and the world.

In *Evangelii Nuntiandi (Evangelization in the Modern World)*, Pope Paul VI wrote that the Church itself “has a constant need of being evangelized,” and that people today listen “more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

“The world calls for, and expects from us, simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially towards the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility, detachment and self-sacrifice. Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile,” Paul wrote.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was outspoken against military oppression during his country’s bloody civil war in the 1980s, and also of the role the United States played in it. He was gunned down during Mass in a hospital chapel March 24, 1980, a day after telling an army made up largely of peasants that they were killing their own people. His death is considered by the Catholic Church to have been in “*odium fidei*,” meaning in hatred of the faith.

His funeral took place at the cathedral six days after he was murdered. An estimated 200,000 people attended the service, which was interrupted by gunfire that left between 30 to 50 people dead. His murderers remain unpunished.

A great way to celebrate in your formation sessions is to use materials about canonization, prayers from Saint Paul VI or Saint Oscar Romero or other resources found from the publishers you use for curriculum.

Annual RE Survey e-mailed last week:

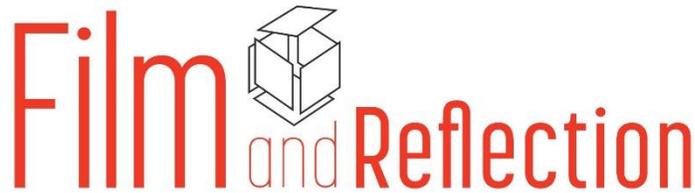
Last week, Sherri Simmer e-mailed each parish the fillable form for our annual parish Religious Education Survey. The e-mail that accompanied the survey shared with you how we use the data that is received.

This year we are using numbers reported from your parish to the Kenedy Directory (the Official Catholic Directory). The problem with the 2018 numbers is that only 53 of our parish communities provided data. Of those parishes, most did not provide accurate numbers based upon what you submitted in 2017. Some parishes that did report sacramental statistics did not report any enrollment in their parish faith formation programs. We need your help. If you are not the person who completes the Kenedy Directory on-line request for data, find out who it is and provide her/him accurate information. The Kenedy



Directory is updating their 2019 data beginning October 23. Thank you for taking the initiative and making sure we provide the best data that will be published in next year's directory. Please contact me at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org if you have any questions.

Film & Reflection offered by ODB Films – A Unique Adult Faith Formation Opportunity:



Straight from the box office and into your faith community! Host a feature presentation of **Paul, Apostle of Christ** or **Full of Grace** in your parish or school - facilitated by a member of the ODB Films team.

Film & Reflection events are designed to lead participants into deeper contemplation about the lives of these great Saints and reflect on their own journey and relationship with Christ. Simply choose the package (Silver, Gold or Platinum) that fits your faith community's needs, send us an email, and we will get in touch with you to answer any questions you have, provide more details, and book the event!

It's a unique ministry experience that is suitable for parishioners of all ages. This could be an excellent opportunity during Advent or Lent. Available in English, Spanish or both! For more information click on this [link](#).

Upcoming Professional Webinars by Ave Maria Press and Sadlier Religion:

The Work of Prayer and the Prayer of Work for Ministers – What the Saints can Teach Us – October 23 at 2:00 pm

In this webinar, Justin McClain will look at how saints throughout history worked to balance reflection and action, prayerfully centering their lives on Christ and spreading His Gospel while living virtuously in contemplation of the Good News and its promises. A perfect topic as All Saints Day approaches. Justin McClain is the author of *Called to Pray*. Register [here](#) for this free webinar sponsored by Ave Maria Press, The National Association for Lay Ministry, The National Federation of Priests Councils, Catholic Family Life Ministries and NCCL.



Forming Innovative Catechetical Leaders – October 24 at 3:00 pm



Innovative catechesis requires innovative catechetical leaders. Innovative leaders not only have a strong background in catechetical theology and pastoral praxis, but also see and make meaningful connections between the faith we espouse, the pedagogies we employ, and the real-life experiences of catechists and those seeking catechesis that might not ordinarily seem connected.

In this exclusive Sadlier/NCCL webinar, Colleen Moore, MDiv, will:

- Identify essential elements needed to form innovative catechetical leaders

- Explore practical approaches and adaptable resources for a variety of ministerial settings and budgets

Register [here](#) for this free webinar from Sadlier Religion.

“**L**et the Church always be
a place of **Mercy**
AND Hope,
where everyone is welcomed
Loved and **Forgiven.**”
Pope Francis

