

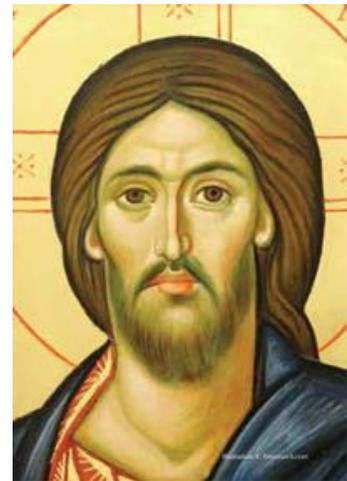
Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
October 25, 2017 Edition

National Vocation Awareness Week – November 5-11, 2017:

National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual weeklong celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

Father Ross Parker, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Des Moines, expresses his appreciation for everything you and your volunteer catechists/youth ministry team does to cultivate a culture of vocations in our diocesan parishes. Below he shares with us four specific things we can do to promote vocation awareness during this week.



1. Talk about your own vocation (both your universal call to being a holy person and your specific vocation – married, clergy, and consecrated religious or consecrated single) and what it means to you.
2. Encourage people to pray for vocations, especially for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Also, include a petition encouraging vocations during the Sunday liturgy.
3. Invite young men to attend the Andrew Dinner at the Basilica of St. John on November 8 at 6PM.
4. Welcome people to the “Vocation Team” along with Bishop Pates, Fr. Parker, and Cathy Jordan. Remind them that all of us are charged with the task of inviting young people to think about where God may be calling them.

Father Parker would love to come to your parish and visit with your young people. You can reach him at rparker@dmdiocese.org.

The USCCB has provided additional resources for this weeklong celebration including:

- Two formats for holy hours for vocations (one with a priest present and one without the presence of a priest)
 - Priest present link: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-vocations-with-priest.cfm>

- Priest not present link: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-vocations-without-priest.cfm>
- Prayers for the Faithful for Vocations in English and Spanish (excellent resource for use in the classroom or the gathered youth event) - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/prayers-for-vocations/index.cfm>
- PDF of a Holy Card with Prayer for Vocations that can be printed - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/upload/Prayer-for-Vocations-Card-2014.pdf>

The USCCB website on Vocations has excellent lesson plans found on their webpage. The link is <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/educators-and-youth-leaders/lesson-plans/index.cfm>

Executive Summary from the Diocese of Des Moines in Preparation for the 2018 Synod on Youth & Young Adult Vocational Discernment:



The Church encourages youth and young adults to boldly follow Jesus, wherever He may send them. Pope Francis will be gathering bishops and other Church leaders from all around the world in October 2018 for the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The topic is about how well the Church offers opportunities to walk with young people as they discern their personal “vocation of love.”

In preparation for this event, the Diocese of Des Moines surveyed and focused group a large number of youth and young adults, both those who practice their faith and those no longer practicing as well as non-Catholics. The local results were consolidated in an Executive Summary that was sent to the USCCB in September. The report is attached for you to review and study. You will find information that is affirming of our work in lifelong formation in faith as well as challenging. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Upcoming CLADD Sessions in November – Cultivating Retreat Moments in Catechetical Ministry:

This month’s session is excellent for everyone in any phase of lifelong formation in faith ministry!

Everyone we work with, including our volunteers and especially ourselves, need to intentionally create a sacred space for you to stop, go within and connect with God, so you can place all that’s heavy on your heart into God’s loving hands. The session will help us



explore these moments and how to incorporate more of them within our programming.

Our facilitator will be Cindy Shaw who is a spiritual director, retreat facilitator and Co-Director of The Emmaus House – a retreat center in Des Moines.

- CLADD West will be held on November 7 beginning at 9:00 am at Saint Patrick parish in Neola.
- CLADD East will be held on November 9 beginning at 9:00 am at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny.
- CLADD South will be held on November 9 beginning at 6:00 pm at St. Edward parish in Afton.

DCYC 2017 Very Successful – Thank You for your support:



On behalf of Justin White, our diocesan director for Youth & Young Adult ministry, thank you for your support and the spiritual strength of your young people in your parishes who attended DCYC 2017 at the Iowa Events Center.

Having watched Justin, who began his work at the Diocese on June 1, 2017, take ownership and collaborate with so many people to take our Diocesan Youth Conference to the next level was inspiring to Sherri Simmer and me.

Without the support of our pastors, volunteers, and especially you and your youth, this event would not be possible. Justin will be sending a variety of surveys (youth leaders, youth, those who staffed the booths, chaperones and priests for confession.) Your input will help us make DCYC 2018 even better.

DCYC 2018 is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2018 at the Iowa Events Center.

