

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
October 26, 2016 Edition

Look for your religious education/youth ministry program survey next week:



It is that time of the year to take a few moments and complete the 2016-2017 Religious Education/Youth Ministry Program Survey. This survey is very important because it not only helps us regarding programming at the diocese, it is also connected to our Safe Environment processes.

As in the past you will receive your survey with the information we had the last time we sent it out. Please update the information and return it to Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.

Included in the survey is information about your fees. Please include this information. If you do not want it shared in a report to your colleagues (we do not share to the public), please let us know and we will keep that information confidential.

Thank you in advance for quickly completing the survey and returning it Sherri.

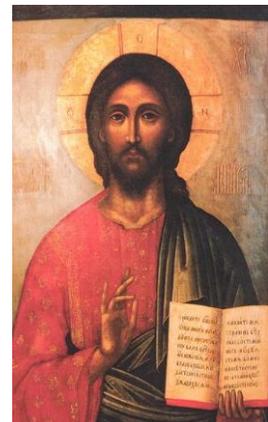
Why should I seek to be a certified catechist or youth ministry volunteer – The Rich Soil Catechist Certification Process:

What is the purpose of catechist formation?

The formation of the catechist and youth ministry volunteer has a three-fold purpose:

1. to provide for the catechist's own spiritual growth;
2. to increase the theological knowledge out of which one catechizes, and
3. to expand skills in teaching methods through study and practice.

Since God is the source and enabler of all catechesis, prayer is an integral part of the catechist's formation.



Why was *The Rich Soil Catechist Certification Process* created? The Catechist Formation Program was developed to assist the catechist as the one who receives and responds to the call of Jesus Christ to share the light of faith with others. This is the basis of our first year together. To be effective in this work, the catechist must understand, love, live and proclaim the Christian message with conviction and enthusiasm. The proclamation of this message by the catechist in the context of the parish community leads our children and youth to a deepening of faith, a greater participation in worship and a more dedicated Christian service.

Catechetical certification is a gift you can give those who are entering ministry with children and teens. The gift of encounters with God is an amazing opportunity for all of us. Just as the parents in your programs entrust you to make room for these encounters in your program, I hope that the catechists you help register for *The Rich Soil* will find in this program.

I appreciate your help with registrations but we can always take more. Our retreats will be held in Council Bluffs (on November 12) and Des Moines (on November 19.) Please take time and visit with your newest catechists, those who began in the last three years, about participation. Let me know if you have any questions.

The Mercy Summit planned for October 29 – A Morning of Reflection for those engaged in social outreach to others:



“In the spirit of the Jubilee of Mercy, all of us are called to realize how indifference can manifest itself in our lives and to work concretely to improve the world around us, beginning with our families, neighbors and places of employment.”

Pope Francis
December 8, 2015

The Mercy Summit is scheduled Saturday, October 29 at St. Pius X parish from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. I am hoping you can help me spread the word, especially to those ministry volunteers who provide Mercy to so many:

- those who help and plan funeral dinner hospitality,
- those who help feeding the homeless,
- taking meals to families who have loved ones in hospice or hospitals,
- those who help build homes for others or furnish homes for those who have newly arrived in our country.

This morning is for them AND for you. I know you are busy but perhaps you need some time away to pause and reflect on your discipleship in the social mission of the Church. Speakers and facilitators for the day include:

- Word of welcome and thanks by Bishop Pates
- Keynote by Cindy Shaw, co-director of the Emmaus House

- Breakout session facilitators include: Joan McCleish (director of nursing at Mercy College of Health Sciences), Chris Coleman (city councilman for Des Moines), Maggie DeWitte (Director of Iowans for Life), and Fr. David Polich.

71 percent of those submitting comment cards rated the program excellent. Some of the comments of the day included:

- This morning was informative and heart provoking.
- Time well spent.
- Powerful sharing and discussion in groups...was very helpful
- Small group session helped me see so many faces of God.
- The whole morning was amazing.

To RSVP for the morning contact me at 515-237-5026 or register online at <http://www.dmdiocese.org/jubilee.cfm>

Candle Safety Reminder:

The information below was supplied to us by Catholic Mutual. There are some wise suggestions to utilize when you or you catechists are using candles in their prayer services.

Candle related fires are also a cause of church fires every year. That risk typically increases as we approach the Christmas season with increased use of candles at our parish communities. The following guidelines should be followed.

- If votive candle stands are used, noncombustible material such as tile, stone, marble, or granite should be in place beneath the candle lighting/burning area.
- If candle stands are positioned over carpet, provide a fire resistant mat or Plexiglas sheet under the stands to reduce fire risk.
- Keep candles away from combustible items such as linens, runners, or curtains. Even flowers placed too close to a flame can ignite when they become dry.
- Provide a noncombustible container filled with sand to extinguish and place matches or lighting sticks.
- Discourage the use of candles in schools and all offices. The only exception should be for religious/prayer purposes in a classroom, but extinguish the candle immediately when concluded.

*Today I ask you,
in the name of Christ and the
Church, never tire of being
merciful."*

*Pope Francis
The Church of Mercy*

