



Year of Marriage and Family – Recognizing the Sacred in Everyday Life:

Recently I have been aware of some extraordinary videos from various sources that help us as catechetical leaders work with parents and primary caregivers in developing an understanding of the domestic church. Adam Storey, diocesan director for Marriage & Family, mentioned at the September CLADD meetings that one goal of this year is to help families of all types to recognize the sacredness of everyday activities initiated with great love. Below are some videos that I discovered that may not only touch your catechists and youth ministry volunteers, it may be something to forward to parents and others about how to nurture the domestic church.

Video 1: The Domestic Church by NFCYM, NCCL and NCEA

I viewed a short video that is focused on inviting parents and primary caregivers to reflect on their vital role as the domestic church. It is created by the Strong Catholic Families Initiative and supported by NCCL, NCEA and NFCYM which are the national organizations supporting catechetical and evangelization endeavors in the parish, school and home.

The link for the resource is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVhcaEEmDHo&feature=youtu.be>

Video 2: Town Celebrates Holidays Early for a Terminally Ill Child

As I was getting ready for work last Friday I watched the Today Show and there was a story that is sad AND powerful in that it demonstrates God's amazing love working through families coming together to support a family in distress. Make sure you have something handy to dab away the tears.

The link to the resource is:

<http://www.today.com/health/utah-town-celebrates-halloween-christmas-early-boy-terminal-cancer-1D80239814>

Video 3: Special Team Takes the Gold

As a parent you want your children to prosper with opportunities that will help them grow into a well-rounded loving adult. That is no different if your child is born with a disability. This video demonstrates that sports participation can give to others, which isn't winning victories alone but lifting up our brothers and sisters with values that are uncovered and developed in sports teams. This video is inspiring and a good way to see how the domestic church can lead to others being allowed to have opportunities. Our communities are vibrant when everyone is allowed to participate.

The link to the resource is: <http://www.today.com/video/today/56292704#56292704>

All Saint's Day Lesson Plans and other activities for your catechists:

All Saint's Day is quickly coming upon us on November 1. Below are some lesson plans and other activities you can use to provide a little variety into your programming. The link also has activities ranging from prayers, videos, plays and even an activity based upon the song "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Link to All Saints Resource by Loyola Press: <http://www.loyolapress.com/all-saints-day.htm>

Youth Ministry Rally – Unbury Your Treasure – November 15 & 16:

The Diocesan Youth Rally is a fantastic opportunity for teens of the diocese to gather with Bishop Pates and the rest of our young Church to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ and the Church. This day is also planned so that we can team with you and add the element of the larger Universal Church to your parish ministry.

The day is powerful and prayerful and features:

- Keynote by Chris Mueller – *“Chris is a truly gifted speaker. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable of the Catholic faith but the man is funny! He makes me want to learn more about my faith. It's so great to have someone who can make being Catholic cool!”*
– Judy McDonald, Catholic Comedian and Speaker
video link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxZOybzYIeY#t=23>
- Praise and Worship music similar to CYC
- Service opportunity to feed others in poverty
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (high school day only)
- Great Food and Fun
- Mass with Bishop Pates

As you can see the Diocesan Youth Council and our office of youth ministry has put together a dynamic day for you. Cost is only \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 if you want a t-shirt.

Registration is easy by following this link and entering the information about your teens and chaperones. We will bill you later. We will continue to accept registrations but would love to have them by tomorrow, October 30 so that we plan enough food and order the right amount of t-shirts. Register on-line today at: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/youthrally.cfm>

So “Unbury Your Treasure” us as we celebrate our Catholic faith with the young Church of the Diocese of Des Moines.

Thank You AND Let's Get Going Again:

On behalf of my wife and family, thank you for the phone calls, the e-mails, cards and plants that brightened my days while I was in the hospital and recovering from this recent Staph Infection. As you do with the families you serve, each of you made these days brighter and full of hope.

With that said, there are lots of things to do so once I am mobile again, hopefully next week; I will be looking at rescheduling appointments that were postponed. One of the things I especially appreciated last year was the opportunity to come and be present with your communities either during religious education sessions, sacramental preparation sessions or youth ministry opportunities.

Collect Prayer from the solemnity of All Saints:

Let us pray today.

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one Celebration the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

