

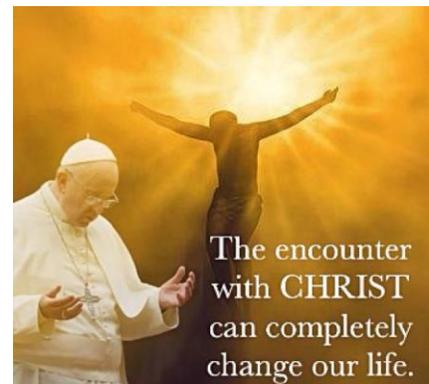
Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
October 31, 2018 Edition

CLADD Sessions for November – Effective Prayer Services for an Encounter with God:

How many times have we experienced group prayer that seems rushed or perfunctory? Sincere, but stale? I have attended far too many meetings and formation sessions where the opening prayer consisted of a quick Hail Mary, a poem, a recorded song, or a canned prayer service where people take turns reading from a sheet of paper. Yes, we prayed. But was it a good prayer? Or was it simply an obligation we rushed through to get down to the real agenda or the real lesson plan?

As a catechist, you are called to lead prayer services. What are some important elements to consider when planning and leading effective prayer services? What qualities are needed to help those participating in the prayer experience to have an encounter with God? How important is the environment, the music, or the space in facilitating a powerful moment with God? Randy Henderson, the youth ministry leader from Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny, and Theresa Romens, catechetical leader at Holy Rosary parish in Glenwood, will share with us their wisdom of praying with and for the faithful. You are guaranteed to go home with two or three new ideas to implement.



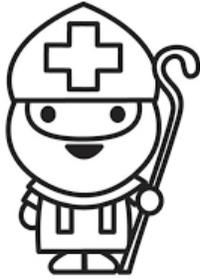
- CLADD West will be held on November 13 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Atlantic. **Register [here](#) by November 9.**
- CLADD East will be held on November 15 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny. **Register [here](#) by November 12.**

Theresa will resource CLADD West and Randy will resource CLADD East. Please register here for this wonderful professional development session that is focused on all ministries found in Lifelong Formation in Faith.

Service Opportunity for Parishes – Spirit of St. Nicholas Collection:

St. Nicholas is known as the patron saint of children and for doing many kind and generous deeds in secret. Staff from Catholic Charities is asking religious education and youth ministry

programs to join in celebration of this wonderful spirit of giving by collecting items for Catholic Charities programs. The donations they provide will generously help:



- a child staying at the Emergency Family Shelter.
- a family in need at the Food Pantry.
- a refugee family who escaped war and violence and is resettling in Iowa.
- a person leaving a home where they are abused.

The staff has included three different collection options (personal hygiene, cleaning or baby) each with its own Scripture passage to help root the need to our faith tradition.

Contact Ken Bresnan at 515-237-5089 or kbresnan@catholiccharitiesdm.org with questions or if you need additional information.

New Resources for Advent from RCL Benziger:

December 2 is the beginning of the season of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year.

Plan ahead to post a new liturgical year calendar, and celebrate its posting with a Prayer for the New Church Year. Mark upcoming solemnities and feasts with special stickers, push pins, or symbols. Take time to review with your class or family the seasons of the liturgical year and their colors, symbols, feasts, and focuses.



Click [here](#) for free 2018 Advent season resources from RCL Benziger including prayer services, catechist ideas, at home ideas for parents, Las Posadas, Our Lady of Guadalupe and the blessing of an Advent Wreath.

Need some time away with Jesus? The Emmaus House is the place for you with A Day in the Desert:



Are you looking for time and space for prayer and reflection, but don't have the time for a long retreat? Are you finding it challenging to hear God's gentle voice in the midst of your busy life? If so, please consider joining your colleagues for "**A Day in the Desert**" at Emmaus House Spirituality Center. ALL ARE WELCOME! (Flyer attached)

Dates

- 11/3/2018 - "*Slowing Down*"
- 12/1/2018 - "*Waiting*"
- 1/5/2019 - "*New Beginnings*"
- 2/2/2019 - "*Stillness*"
- 3/2/2019 - "*Liminal Spaces*"

(come once or come to all 5)

Schedule

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. - arrival at Emmaus House

9:00 to 9:30 a.m. - introduction / group prayer & reflection

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - individual silent prayer & reflection

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. - reconvene as a group to "gather the graces" of the day

Contact Kevin O'Donnell at kjodonne@gmail.com or at 515-282-4839 for more information.

CRS Simulation on the Refugee Crisis:

Last Wednesday Ken Bresnan, from Catholic Charities, and I traveled to St. Patrick parish in Dunlap to provide their youth a simulation on the refugee crisis. The resource is produced by CRS.

The objective is to encourage participants to cooperate, negotiate, share, and to help them understand refugees and empathize with their situation.



Participants are grouped into refugee families. Each group simulates the journey of a refugee family. You could create nine simple stations around the room to represent the journey. We lead participants through nine stages of the story. Each one engages them in making choices. These choices represent some of the real-life dilemmas that many refugees face. Afterward, participants reflect on the choices they've made. The process lasts about one hour.



Please consider booking us for a future formation session. This simulation is as powerful for adults as it is teens. It is fun to go out and do this together with Ken from Catholic Charities. However, if one of us are not available, we can do the evening alone. Contact [me](#) or [Ken Bresnan](#) if you would like to schedule a session or if you have any questions.

No Room at the Inn 2018 – A Benefit for Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter:

All are invited to the annual No Room at the Inn fundraising reception. The evening is filled with festive music, delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and a silent auction set for holiday entertaining and treating yourself! All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. A flyer is attached to this e-newsletter.



Date: Friday, December 7, 2018

Location: Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave., DM

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m

Register, purchase raffle tickets, and learn more at www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/events. Contact Beth Gibbins for more information, to register, or to donate an auction item at 515-237-5078 or bgibbins@catholiccharitiesdm.org.

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

