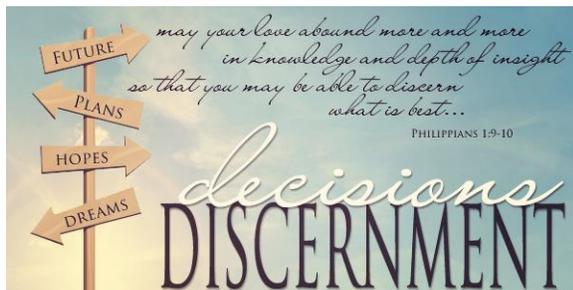


Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

November 9, 2016 Edition

National Vocations Awareness Week – November 6-12:



National Vocations Awareness week is an opportunity for our parish communities to foster a culture of vocations for the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life; to encourage young people to ask the question: "To what vocation in life is God calling me?"

[Top 10 Actions We Can Do to Promote Vocation](#)
(list from the USCCB Office of Vocations)

For everyone in the parish community:

1. ***Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.*** Jesus says in Matthew 9:38 “to beg the master of the harvest to send laborers into the vineyard.” If we want more priests, sisters and brothers, we all need to ask.
2. ***Teach young people how to pray.*** Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said that unless we teach our youth how to pray, they will never hear God calling them into a deeper relationship with Him and into the discipleship of the Church.
3. ***Invite active young adults and teens to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.*** A simple, sincere comment should not be underestimated. An easy way to do this can be remembered by four letters: ICNU. “John, I see in you (ICNU) the qualities that would make a good priest, and I want to encourage you to pray about it.” It is a non-invasive way to encourage openness to a religious vocation.
4. ***Make it attractive.*** Show the priesthood for what it truly is – a call to be a spiritual father to the whole family of faith. Similarly, the consecrated life for a young woman is a call to be united to Christ in a unique way, and to be a spiritual mother to those she encounters in her life and service. The challenge for priests and religious is to be joyful models of their vocations.
5. ***Preach it, brother!*** Vocations must be talked about regularly if a “vocation culture” is

to take root in parishes and homes. This means, first and foremost, the people need to hear about vocations from priests through homilies, prayers of the faithful, and discussions in the classroom. Vocations kept out of sight are out of mind.

For those considering a vocation:

6. ***Practice the faith.*** We all need to be reminded that the whole point of our lives is to grow in a deep, intimate and loving relationship with God. This is the first step for any young person desiring to discern any call in life.

7. ***Enter into the Silence.*** Silence is key to sanity and wholeness. We can only “hear” the voice of God if we are quiet. Take out the ear buds of your iPhone, iPod, and iTunes and listen to God, the great I AM. Young people should try to spend 15 minutes of quiet prayer each day – this is where you can begin to receive clear direction in your lives.

8. ***Be a good disciple.*** Some bishops say, “We do not have a vocation crisis; we have a discipleship crisis.” Young people can become true followers of Jesus Christ by serving those around them. By discovering your call to discipleship, you also discover your particular call within the Church.

9. ***Ask God.*** Ask God what He wants for your life and know He only wants what is good for you. If, in fact, you are called to the priesthood or consecrated life, it will be the path to great joy and contentment.

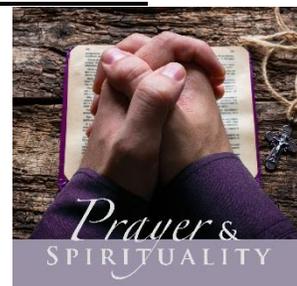
10. In the immortal words of a famous sneaker manufacturer: “***Just do it!***” If you feel that God is inviting you to “try it out,” apply to the seminary or religious order. Remember, the seminary or convent is a place of discernment. You will not be ordained or asked to profess vows for many years, providing ample opportunity to explore the possibility of a call to priesthood or religious life.

More information about National Vocations Awareness Week, including a prayer card, suggested prayers of the faithful and bulletin-ready quotes are available online on the [USSCB website](#) as well as our website [VocationsOnline.org](#).

Our diocese is blessed to have 22 seminarians and many women and men from our diocese in religious communities. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest for many more to say ‘Yes!’ to His Call. For the harvest is plentiful, but the Laborers are few.

Evening of Advent Reflection to be held on December 1 at St. Francis of Assisi:

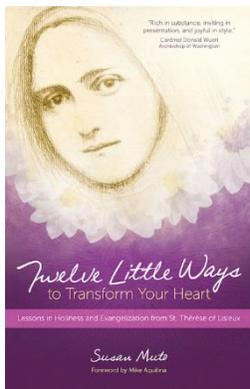
St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Des Moines will be offering an evening of Advent reflection titled, **Prayer & Spirituality: Entering Advent** on Thursday, December, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the parish hall. Experience an evening of learning and prayerful reflection as we prepare to enter the season of Advent. Come discover the “more” of prayer as we look at and discuss:



What is prayer?
How do I pray?
What are the many ways Catholics pray?
Plus...spend some time in quiet reflection in our worship space.

The presenter for the evening will be Cindy Shaw, Director of the Emmaus House. All are welcome! Join us and invite a friend! For details and to register, visit www.saintfrancischurch.org/adultsfaith/events

Exploring “12 Little Ways” to Embrace the Evangelical Mission of the Church – An Ave Maria Press Free Webinar – Nov. 15:



Dr. Susan Muto, author of *Twelve Little Ways to Transform Your Heart*, will draw from in depth study of the life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Dr. Susan Muto will introduce twelve ways to transform the hearts of parish ministers. These ways range from learning to appreciate the richness of the ordinary to trusting divine mercy.

This webinar will explore six lessons that parish ministers can apply to their lives today and introduce six lessons that they share with anyone in their parish who is committed to becoming reanimated followers of Christ in today's world.

The webinar will begin at 2:00 PM CST on November 15, 2016. Follow this link to register for this free webinar: <https://www.avemariapress.com/webinars/parish/>

CLADD Advent Luncheon – December 15 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church:

The CLADD Mentoring Group invite you to a festive Advent-Christmas Lunch at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 15. The mentoring team will provide a wonderful lunch and inspire all to sing Christmas Carols. Please bring a dozen or so homemade cookies for a cookie exchange. A flyer is attached. Please RSVP to Diane at diane@olih.org by December 9.



CLADD West is invited as well but the CLADD Leaders out west are looking at doing a separate function. I hope to have an update next week.

CLADD Sessions in November:



West & East CLADD Sessions - Prayer & Liturgy with Kim Mandelkow, Diocesan Worship Director:

This year's catechetical theme from the USCCB is "Prayer, the Faith Prayed." This year's theme invites all the baptized--especially those of us involved in lifelong formation in faith--to devote themselves to a deeper study and

practice of prayer, for their own spiritual good and for the good of those they serve. We are blessed to have Kim Mandelkow share herself and her ministry with us so as to allow each of us to recognize ourselves as “God’s beloved.”

South CLADD Session – The Evangelization Cycle – What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You with John Gaffney:

How many times do you work on a dynamic parish program for adults and get the same 10 to 20 people who always come to your programs? Although it is nice that they value your efforts why don’t more people attend? A major reason is not understanding the Evangelization Cycle and how you need to know it to successfully evangelize a larger portion of your parish community. Come and find out how to evangelize smarter, not harder.

- CLADD West will be held on November 15 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Atlantic.
- CLADD East will be held on November 17 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny.
- CLADD South will be held on November 10 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Edward Parish in Afton. CLADD South serves primarily the Osceola region of parishes.

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

*Pope Francis
The Church of Mercy*

