



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
November 12, 2014 Edition

Decision Point (from Dynamic Catholic) has a great new app for iPhone and Android:

Although Decision Point is not on our list of approved curriculum as a stand-alone resource for Confirmation, they have excellent resources for you to use with your regular program. A new resource just launched is their App for iPhone and Android which is awesome.

In the App, which is a free download, you receive:

- Videos for each of the sessions. There are twelve sessions with five subsections in each major session.
- Each session also includes a digital copy of the workbook and leader's guide.

Take some time to look at this resource that you can provide to families and students even if they aren't in Confirmation sessions. I think you too will be impressed.

Diocesan Religious Education Audit update:

We are trying to finalize the religious education audit for 2014. Thank you for those parishes that have completed the audit. For those who have not e-mailed or mailed the audit information, please do so this week.

At the Diocese we use the data for:

- Seeing where resources need to be allocated so that parishes have what they need for good formational programming.
- It helps us with another layer of information regarding safe environment. God forbid we ever have an issue at a parish during religious education or youth ministry, but this information is helpful for us because of the accessibility of the data in case we need to coordinate with law enforcement.
- To continue to enhance our data files so that we can coordinate with the Pastoral Center Administration Department on any changes in volunteer staffing and if we have current Virtus and Background check information. Please that it is optional if you would like to include your catechist/youth ministry volunteer e-mails and phone numbers.

Thank you for helping us wrap this up for 2014.

Disability Awareness Workshop Scheduled for December 4:

Please join us for a session whose goal is to open our eyes to the vibrancy and gift that is freely given by those sisters and brothers with disability. Through presentations and facilitated dialogue, we hope that your parish staff will begin a process that leads your parish community to the next best step of inviting, including and integrating people with disabilities in the full life of the community: especially our Sunday Eucharist.

When: Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (hospitality begins at 9:00 am with program at 9:30 am)

Where: All Saints Catholic Church (Worship Space) in Stuart

Who to invite: All Parish staff: business manager, parish secretary, DRE, youth minister, liturgists/musicians, deacons, School Principal, adult faith formation directors, and others you feel will benefit from this workshop

Workshop Facilitators for the Day:

- Dr. Nancy Thompson , Program Director for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD)
- Jess Streit, Coordinator of Special Needs Ministry at Saint Francis of Assisi Church
- Contributions also given by Kyle Lechtenberg, John Gaffney, Ken Bresnan and parents of a child with disability.

Register today with Sherri Simmer at simmer@dmdiocese.org or at 515-237-5058. Please let us know the number attending from your parish..

Five Ways to Motivate Catechists (and keep them happy) by Lisa Mladnich:

RTJ's Creative Catechist had a wonderful article on keeping catechists motivated throughout the year. I also think this is a wonderful article to consider as we have catechist/youth ministry associate formation sessions or recruiting new volunteers.

Lisa considers the following 5 areas to ensure your communication (whether during a formation session or an invitation to volunteer) is engaging and motivational.

1. Give a personal witness
2. Lay a spiritual and intellectual foundation
3. Catechize attendees
4. Provide practical tips and resources
5. Rely on God

To read the full article follow the link below:

<http://www.rtscreativecatechist.com/articles/toolbox/tips/2014/11-07/five-ways-to-motivate-catechists>

Prayer in Gratitude:

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us. Amen.

(Source is Msgr. Michael Buckley, *The Catholic Prayer Book*)

The Cross
conveys all of the negative strength
of evil
as well as
all of the omnipotent gentleness
of God's mercy.

September 14, 2014
Angelus of Pope Francis

