

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
November 23, 2016 Edition

Catholic Charities invite you to participate in *The Spirit of St. Nicholas*:



Catholic Charities invite you and your students to participate in a service opportunity called **The Spirit of St. Nicholas**.

Saint Nicholas is known as the patron of children and for doing many kind and generous deeds in secret. We are asking the students in our diocese to join in celebration of this wonderful spirit of giving by donating an item to Catholic Charities. The donations they provide will generously help:

- A child staying at St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter
- An out of work single mom at St. Mary Family Center
- A refugee family who escaped persecution and is resettling in Iowa
- A woman with an infant fleeing a domestic abuse situation.

We are seeking donations of the following items: diapers (size 4, 5, or 6) and baby wipes.

To participate, contact Ken Bresnan at kbresnan@catholiccharitiesdm.org or at 515-237-5089.

Catholic Charities will provide a poster and take-home fliers to help you promote the collection. They will also pick up the collection once it is complete.

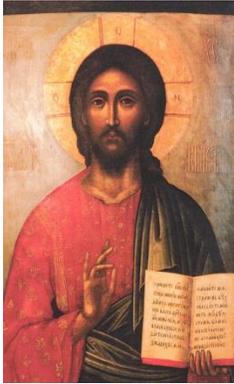
Consider having one of the Catholic Charities staff come to your parish community and present to your group about the works of mercy being done through Catholic Charities in our diocese.

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.



The Rich Soil Catechetical Certificate Program retreat feedback and last call:



Attached please find a copy of the comment card results from both retreats. I hope you are as pleased as I am with the feedback. It shows that our wonderful catechists (which included those from traditional K-8 programs, pre-school programs, sacramental preparation and youth ministry programs) really value formation. The takeaway for me from these two retreat experiences is:

- The tremendous job you do in recruiting outstanding people for the ministry of catechesis
- The insights our catechists have regarding ministry to children and teens,
- How valuable retreat opportunities are for our catechists to experience.

Please know that I am available to resource your parish for a one time retreat or parish workshop for your catechists as part of their ongoing formation. Please just let me know what you would like and when it would be best to schedule the session.

Can I still register for the digital classroom sessions for *The Rich Soil*? YES! However, I also need the registration forms as soon as possible so I can set up the infrastructure and have practice sessions available for all participants in our digital class room. Our first catechetical session is December 6. However, training is available on November 29 and December 1. **Please try and register those participants desiring to take the classes by Monday, November 28.**

A Thanksgiving Prayer:

On behalf of Bishop Pates, Sherri Simmer Tessa Roberts and me, please know of our prayers on your behalf for the blessing you are to the parish and diocesan community. We are blessed to be able to work with such a fine example of dedicated Catholics.



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Written by Sr. Marie Roccapiore, M.P.F.

Lord, it's easy to give thanks to you
for gifts that bring us pleasure,
For beauty that surrounds us now
in ways we cannot measure;

For comforts of a cozy home,
nice food and physical health,
Possession of material
as well as spiritual wealth;

For love of family, relatives,
and the joy that friendships bring,
For words of affirmation true
that encourage us to sing;

For many gifts and privileges
in this great land of the free,
For all in life you bless us with
and all there is yet to be.

But thank you for the crosses, too,
you invite us to embrace,
And lovingly supporting us
with your sacramental grace.

Tho' "thank you" words grow faint at times,
deep down within our being
We remain so very grateful
for life's wonders we are seeing.

For every gift of bounteous love
our hearts and minds now raise,
O Father, Son and Spirit Blest,
this prayer of THANKS AND PRAISE.
Amen.

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

*Pope Francis
The Church of Mercy*

