

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
November 30, 2016 Edition

St. Francis of Assisi wins the Loyola Press *Opening Doors* Parish Award - Congratulations:



Congratulations to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church from West Des Moines; this year's winner of the Loyola Press Opening Doors Parish Award. Look at all of the ways this parish has woven in the meaningful participation of parishioners with disabilities.

Three judges, representing the Dioceses of Toledo and Wichita, and the Archdiocese of Detroit, selected St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church after reviewing numerous applications from across the United States. In their review, the judges looked at ways parishes demonstrate a deep commitment to parishioners with disabilities, providing access for full participation in all aspects of parish life: sacramental, catechetical, social, ministerial, and community service.

Judge Marsha Rivas, Coordinator of the Office for Persons with Disabilities in the Diocese of Toledo, noted that: “We judges were amazed with the way inclusionary practices pervade almost every nook and cranny of the parish! We loved the accessibility and hospitality built into every weekend Mass: adjustable ambo, assistive hearing devices, a sensory calming space, disability awareness pew cards and customized picture missals in every pew. We also appreciated the engagement of persons with varying disabilities and ages in active ministry roles. Having accessible and welcoming Lenten Fish Fries with gluten-free options and low-sensory seating really shows how the entire parish embraces their mission of welcoming and engaging all people.”



NCPD Board Chair, Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM, offered these congratulations to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church: “The parish staff and parishioners are a wonderful model of belonging and welcome for all people in their parish family. What I especially admire is their planning process which includes people with disabilities and their family members. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is truly a shining model of what parish ministry can be with persons with disabilities.”



The award will be presented to the pastor and parish community at the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 11 by Dr. Nancy Thompson, NCPD Director of Diocesan Relations. "I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the work and compassion of Fr. Ray McHenry and the staff and parishioners of St. Francis Parish. As the mother of a son with significant disabilities, I know how important it is to have a parish community in which you experience a true sense of belonging and welcome. Of equal value is having the opportunity to offer your gifts back to the parish, which is evident at St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis of Assisi Winter In-Service Update – A Note From Christen Cota:



Christen wanted to let you know that St. Francis of Assisi will not be hosting their annual Winter In-Service on January 4, 2017. In their efforts to encourage catechists to participate in *The Rich Soil Certification Program* they have decided not to offer the January in-service. Christen apologizes to catechetical leaders who may have already advertised this to their catechists.

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.



Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry Training Workshop – January 4 at St. Pius X parish:



The more parishes and dioceses are moving toward a discipleship focused youth ministry model, the more it fits for parishes of all sizes and locations in our diocese.

To learn more about Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry (DFYM) and how your parish can also reap the benefits of many other Midwestern parishes regarding youth ministry, you and your team are invited to an evening workshop. The purpose of the evening is to share the vision of DFYM and guidance on an organic transition with your current ministry model. Attached is the flyer. The workshop is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Pius X parish in Urbandale. For more information and to register, contact Tessa Roberts at troberts@dmdiocese.org. Registration is due by December 1, 2016.

***We are called to enlarge
the horizons of our hearts,
to be surprised by the life
that is presented each day
with its newness.***

**Pope Francis
Advent Message**
November 27, 2016

