

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
December 2, 2015 Edition

Jubilee of Mercy Bookmarks coming soon:

The Diocese of Des Moines will be creating two sets of book marks for you to distribute to the children and teens of your parish. These bookmarks will be available without cost to your parish or your program. Currently Anne Marie Cox from the Diocesan Communications Office is working with a potential donor who is considering underwriting the entire project. More to come as we have information. From what I understand the bookmarks will be written in a variety of languages.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors:

With this Jubilee of Mercy, the Diocese of Des Moines has established 8 Holy Door sites. They are:

- Adair Region: St. Patrick in Bayard
- Council Bluffs Region, St. Patrick in Council Bluffs
- Des Moines Region, St. Ambrose Cathedral, Basilica of St. John and Our Lady of the Americas
- Osceola Region, Holy Spirit in Creston
- Portsmouth Region, St. Joseph in Earling
- Red Oak Region, St. Patrick in Imogene

Currently materials are being prepared for pilgrims who seek the Holy Door sites. We are also currently working with each of these parish leadership teams to determine when the Holy Doors will be open.

One idea that the Steering Committee has floated is a “Passport of Mercy” which could be given to families of all types in your parish communities who may want to make trips to each of the Holy Door sites in our diocese. There would be a stamp for each site to be used in the passport. Once all sites have been stamped, the diocese will provide something age appropriate for the pilgrim. More to come...

Another idea we are currently working on is “Shrine and Dine.” We are locating local restaurants close the Holy Door Shrine where pilgrims could enjoy a wonderful meal following their visit to the shrine. Let me know if you have any local restaurant suggestions close to the different shrines. For example, I was thinking about the Drake Diner as an option close to the Basilica. Send your suggestions to John at [jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org).

Jubilee of Mercy – Catholics Come Home Ministers of 1<sup>st</sup> Impression Train the Trainer Sessions coming in January:

Mark your calendars for a train the trainer sessions in early January to prepare for the Catholics Come Home outreach beginning this Lent. We are currently working out the dates and the logistics but our hope is that this will happen the week of January 11, 2016.

During these sessions are desired outcomes for the parish participants will include:

- Gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of Catholic evangelization
- Understand who you are as an inviting and welcoming parish
- Take the training provided and hold sessions in your parish within one or two weeks with volunteers (week of January 18 or 25)

It is our hope that each parish will begin today to discern one or two people from your parish who will be the key person to be the hospitality trainer, who then will bring the information and resources back to the parish. For more information or assistance please contact John Gaffney at [jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org) or by calling 515-237-5026.

Jubilee of Mercy Adult Faith Sharing Series by Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services has just developed a new series for adults and young adults titled *Live Mercy*. The series is designed to form, inspire, and prepare communities to show Christ's compassionate love to people around the world. The series has three components that can be used throughout the entire year in small group faith-sharing sessions:

- Live Mercy: Feed the Hungry – Link to resources is: [https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/live-mercy-feed-the-hungry\\_1.pdf](https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/live-mercy-feed-the-hungry_1.pdf)
- Live Mercy in the Marketplace – Link to resource is: <https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/live-mercy-in-the-marketplace.pdf>
- Live Mercy for the Common Good (currently being developed)

These sessions are very well done and have been developed by CRS to have people within your parish community experience the healing joy of divine mercy and to be vessels of God's mercy for others.

I recommend that you look at this series and see if there are small group leaders who you can train with the resource to lead a vibrant group. Since there are three, it would be very achievable to have all of them throughout the Jubilee of Mercy.

Works of Mercy: Prayers and Activities by Loyola Press:

Our good friends at Loyola Press have an excellent series that incorporates the works of mercy into the lives of middle school and high school youth. It is a free resource and you can have your middle school and high school catechists/youth ministry volunteers receive the downloads. I have attached a copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> download so you can see what you will receive if you provide your name and e-mail. To sign-up for the monthly downloads follow this link:

<http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2015/06/works-of-mercy-prayers-and-activities-free-resource-packet/>

Free Webinar by Ave Maria Press – *The Holy Spirit: Power for Your Life and Ministry*:

Father Dave Pivonka, T.O.R. will share with us a dynamic presentation reminding us of the need to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and especially in our ministry. Many times we get caught up so much in logistics and handling issues as they present themselves, we may forget about our need to be touched daily by the love of the Holy Spirit. Father Pivonka, a popular preacher who is very charismatic, will discuss what it looks like to live a life in relationship with the Holy Spirit. This webinar is scheduled for December 8 at 2:00 pm CST.

Registration Link:

[https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8069444848851811330?utm\\_source=bronto&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=Sign+Up+Today!&utm\\_content=Live+Webinar+on+the+Holy+Spirit+and+Ministry+&utm\\_campaign=Webinar+-+Pivonka+Invite+-+PMR+%5BClaire%5D](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8069444848851811330?utm_source=bronto&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Sign+Up+Today!&utm_content=Live+Webinar+on+the+Holy+Spirit+and+Ministry+&utm_campaign=Webinar+-+Pivonka+Invite+-+PMR+%5BClaire%5D)

CLADD Retreat 2016 in Council Bluffs:

The 2016 Catechetical Leader retreat will be held on February 11-12 in Council Bluffs at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites at Ameristar <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/council-bluffs/cbfrb/hoteldetail>. The retreat team is currently working out a few details. Here is what we know:

- Cindy Shaw, co-director for the Emmaus House Retreat Center in Des Moines, is our retreat facilitator.
- This year's theme is will be a continuation from last year as we dig deeper into God's mercy.
- It appears that the retreat fee will be similar to last year and includes materials along with wonderful meals (dinner and lunch along with afternoon and morning snacks)
- For those staying at the Holiday Inn and Suites, the room charge is \$104.95 (plus taxes) for an executive king room or a double queen room. Breakfast is included for those staying at the hotel.

The flyer with more information will be sent soon. Thank you to Patsy Carlson and Jenifer Parsons who is working with Cindy on developing a prayerful and powerful retreat experience for you.

A Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath (Loyola Press):

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe.

You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.

As we light the candles of this wreath  
may its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son  
so that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen