

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
December 6, 2017 Edition

We Dine Together – One Teen on Mission Focuses the Spotlight on Teen Issue:



Many of our youth consider attending a mission at some point in their high school years. What about if youth had an opportunity at entering into mission right in their own school?

Denis Estimon did this at his high school at Boca Raton Community High School in Florida. Estimon is a Haitian immigrant and experienced lunch as one of the most isolating experiences during

his elementary school years. In high school he formed “We Dine Together” with the help of a school mentor.

"At Boca High, if you look at the cafeteria from a bird's eye view, on one side you'll see more isolated kids, and on the other side you'll see the football players," Estimon explained. "I told him it shouldn't be this way. My mentor challenged me to do something about it and that's basically what I did."

Back in August, when the school year started, Estimon tapped three other students from different affinity groups to recruit students to gather every Tuesday in Hernandez's classroom. What started off with just 15 students has now ballooned to more than 80 students weekly.

"Our mission is to build relationships over the table. We try to go out and find those who are ostracized or isolated and bring them into the club."

To watch the CBS News video please use this link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/spreading-the-message-that-nobody-should-have-to-dine-alone/>

Is there a mission that youth in your parish can consider doing in your local high school to, and with, their peers? It needn't be as elaborate as what Denis and his mentor created. However, they also started small and the program has grown significantly. This is a powerful way in which to have youth share the joy of the Gospel with their peers.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Schedule:

Catholic churches in the Diocese of Des Moines will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on or around the feast day of Dec. 12. Bishop Pates will celebrate the midnight Mass Tuesday, Dec. 12 at St. Ambrose Cathedral.

The feast is a significant cultural and religious event for Hispanic people as they honor Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of the Americas.



On the morning of Dec. 9, 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to a Mexican Indian, St. Juan Diego, who was on his way to Mass and catechesis in the Catholic faith. She asked him to go to the local bishop and give him a message to build a temple, identifying herself as Our Lady, the Mother of God. When the bishop did not believe St. Juan Diego's story she asked him to take a sign to show to the bishop. The sign consisted of roses of all colors, which St. Juan Diego carried on his cloak, or 'tilma.' The bishop then believed upon seeing the cloak and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image remains clear today and is displayed in a church in Mexico City.

Celebrations will be at the following parish communities:

- Corpus Christi (Council Bluffs) – December 10 from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm
- Basilica of St. John (Des Moines) – December 11 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Christ the King (Des Moines) December 12 from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Our Lady of the Americas (Des Moines) – December 11 from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm AND December 12 from 12:00 am to 7:30 pm
- St. Anthony (Des Moines – December 11 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- St. Michael (Harlan) – December 11 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- St. Bernard (Osceola) – December 12 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- St. Patrick (Perry) – December 12 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- Sacred Heart (West Des Moines) – December 12 from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Catholic Youth Camp Registration is Open:



Registration for Catholic Youth Camp 2018 opened on November 15th. Please help our colleagues at the Center get the word out to your families. By registering early, it lets families pay over a longer period of time 7 months instead of 4 months) and it allows the children and teens assurance that they have the week they want.

Below is the schedule. If you have any questions contact Paul Tauke or Alex Kautzky at 515-309-1936 or at office@stmcenter.

1. Elementary (short week)	June 6-9		\$225
2. Elementary	June 10-15		\$350
3. Jr. High	June 17-22		\$350
4. Elementary	June 24-29		\$350
5. Regular	July 1-6	SAVE \$75	\$275
6. Elementary	July 8-13		\$350
7. High School	July 15-20		\$350
8. Senior Week	July 22-27		\$350
9. Jr. High	July 29-Aug 3		\$350
10. Regular	Aug 5-10		\$350
11. Elementary (short week)	Aug 12-15		\$225

New Ministry Cohort beginning in 2018 for our Hispanic Brothers and Sisters:

El Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral has been helping the Diocese of Des Moines providing a lay leadership formation Program since 2013. In the first cohort we had 22 participants and in the second one, 27. They received a certificate in Lay Leadership. This program lasts 18 months. The parishes of these participants have already seen fruits of this program, as the Instituto's graduates are assuming significant active roles in their parishes.



Our third cohort begins on January 5 -7, 2018 with a commitment retreat. I am currently recruiting. I ask that you collaborate in assisting us in identifying and recruiting leaders who might benefit from this opportunity. All participants will need to have approval from their pastor in order to be admitted into the program.

The Diocese will pay over 50% of the cost of this program, which costs a little more than \$2,000 per participant. In line with the program for the Archdiocese of Chicago, our diocese is asking that both the participant and the sponsoring parish cover the remainder. We suggest parish sponsorship of \$500 per participant for the entirety of the 18 month program. The participant would also be responsible for \$500, though scholarships will be available.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you have people that could be interested in the program. My cell phone is 515 991-9673 or you can reach me at mmoriel@dmdiocese.org. I can meet with them and give them an information session and an application. Your collaboration and support is appreciated.

Share the Journey Activities & Reflections for Advent – Spotlight on the Holy Family-Migrant Family – A Journey Through Advent:



During Advent to prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming. We pray and reflect individually, with our families and in our faith communities. This year, we celebrate Advent during the *Share the Journey* campaign led by Pope Francis, which calls the Church around the world to reach out to our immigrant and refugee neighbors. As we reflect on how Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into the world in a stable, we remember in a special way families who are on the road around the world looking for shelter—especially during the winter months.

Resources include:

- Activities such as a Las Posadas Toolkit and a “Walk with Mary” idea from the Archdiocese of Washington
- Videos
- Prayers in English and Spanish
- Digital Reflections in English and Spanish
- An opportunity for families to purchase *Share the Journey* socks which helps support Catholic Relief Services’ work with immigrants and refugees.

The Link is <https://www.sharejourney.org/resource-library/advent-toolkit/>

