

Dept. of Evangelization &  
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
December 7, 2016 Edition

**Please Read the Virtus December Article very carefully – this is a growing problem even in our diocese:**



The December Virtus article authored by Sharon Doty highlights a growing problem that is occurring in communities of all sizes across the country: teen and youth offenders.

Although we have not experienced the extent of the issue as reported in Oklahoma earlier this year, we have had minor incidents that could have been much more drastic if it weren't for early intervention by the catechetical leader, volunteers, the families and the pastor.

Our parish religious education and youth ministry programs have done a tremendous job in putting policies and people in place to protect our young people from adults. However, those same policies and people are our best protection in case we have young people who may exhibit signs of inappropriate relationships and practices by teens and preteens.

I recommend that this article would be good to give to your volunteer catechists and youth ministry associates since many do not receive the monthly updates. The intent is not to scare people but to help them be aware. In the cases I mentioned above, this awareness was the key to the best possible pastoral outcome. Thank you for all the hard work you do regarding cultivating a safe environment for our children and teens.

**“Silence” – the Film – A Martin Scorsese film will soon be released:**

Some of our colleagues over at [www.thepastoralcenter.com](http://www.thepastoralcenter.com) were able to attend an early screening of the powerful new film *Silence*, and hear a panel discussion with director Martin Scorsese and some of the cast and crew.



The film, based on Shūsaku Endō's celebrated Japanese novel of the same name, raises deep questions related to faith, loneliness, doubt, suffering, and oppression. The story follows Fr. Sebastian Rodrigues, a seventeenth-century Jesuit priest from Portugal who sneaks into Japan at a time when Christians were brutally persecuted there.

Here are some interesting notes about the film:

- Scorsese, who briefly studied for the priesthood, worked toward this film adaptation for **almost 30 years**.
- **Pope Francis** has read the novel and told Scorsese at a recent Vatican screening that he hopes the film "bears much fruit."
- Actor Andrew Garfield spoke last night about praying through the 30-day **Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius** in preparation for his role as Fr. Rodrigues.
- **Fr. James Martin, S.J.** served as a consultant to the film.
- The film is a top contender for the **Academy Awards**, just making it under the wire to be considered for this year.

The film will be in wide release in January, meaning it should be in Des Moines, Council Bluffs/Omaha and possibly Atlantic or Osceola.

For more information on accompanying products and a preview of the film follow this link: <http://pastoral.center/silence-all>.

### **CLADD Advent Luncheon – December 15 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church:**

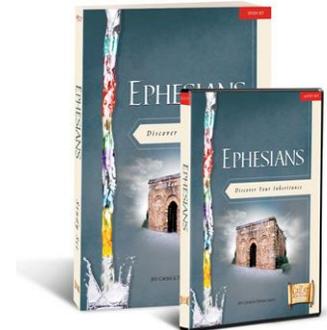


The CLADD Mentoring Group invite you to a festive Advent-Christmas Lunch at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 15. The mentoring team will provide a wonderful lunch and inspire all to sing Christmas Carols. Please bring a dozen or so homemade cookies for a cookie exchange. A flyer is attached. This Friday, December 9 is the last day to RSVP. E-mail Diane at [diane@olih.org](mailto:diane@olih.org).

### **New adult faith formation programs available at Ascension Press:**

Our colleagues at Ascension Press have been burning the midnight oil finishing their new programs for adult formation: *Ephesians*, *Discover Your Inheritance* and *Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*. There is also a new program for teen ministry titled *YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body*.

Many of our colleagues in parish ministry within the diocese are using some of these products very successfully in their Bible Study, Adult Faith Formation and Teen Ministries. For more information about their catalogue follow this link: <https://study.ascensionpress.com/programs>



## **Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) new requirements delayed – what you need to know:**



A federal judge in Texas has delayed the implementation of the sweeping changes that were to take effect December 1, 2016. The Department of Labor can appeal the decision but even this is undecided considering that a Trump Administration may have walked back this executive order anyway.

Experts at the Workforce Institute at Kronos Incorporated shared this, “It remains to be seen whether the FLSA change will ever see the light of day... Organizations that have thoughtfully spent the last several months creating and communicating a plan to mitigate the impact of the proposed changes – whether they are eventually implemented or not – will likely come out ahead.”

The job descriptions created in collaboration between the Diocesan Human Resources Office and Evangelization & Catechesis Department/Diocesan Worship Office are very sound and were created in consultation with the best lay ministry resources around the United States. These job descriptions support your ministry and you as the lay ecclesial minister. Eileen Valdez ([evaldez@dmdiocese.org](mailto:evaldez@dmdiocese.org)) or John Gaffney ([jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org)) would be happy to work with your pastor or business manager in adjusting the verbiage for your parish work.

***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**

