

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

December 3 & 10, 2014 Edition

Special Double Edition including materials from the Disability Workshop

Disability Awareness Workshop helps priests and lay ministers on vibrancy of faith community when disabled persons are invited and integrated:

Dr. Nancy Thompson, Molly Myers (parent of a child with disabilities) and Jess Streit (Disabilities Coordinator at St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Des Moines), presented a powerful morning focused on being aware of the disabled in our midst and what can happen when we invite, include and integrate them into our parish community.

Dr. Thompson presented information on the 1978 Pastoral Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities. Among many powerful moments, Nancy quoted paragraph 33, *“People with disabilities are not looking for pity. They seek to serve the community and to enjoy their full baptismal rights as members of the Church. Our interaction with them can and should be an affirmation of our faith. There can be no separate Church for people with disabilities. We are one flock that follows a single shepherd.”*

This is one of many parts of the 1978 Pastoral Statement that was shared after which Nancy asked us to process at our table three things:

- How does this **A**ffirm us in our ministerial role and responsibilities?
- How are we **C**hallenged by this in our ministerial role and responsibilities?
- How are we **T**ransformed when we include and integrate persons with disabilities into our ministry?

Molly shared with us the story of her family and the isolation she felt when she felt her son Cooper would never be accepted or allowed to participate in her parish community? This story also included a happy ending when she shared the experiences she and her husband had when they found out that Cooper could attend the parish RE and that he would have the resources he needs to encounter his faith.

Jess Streit walked those gathered through the simple process of getting a parish program started: listening to people like Molly and deciding how to put something into action.

Attached are the handouts provided by Nancy. For more information on the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, please visit their website at www.ncpd.org.

A wonderful video is available on YouTube from Pro Infirmis titled “Because Who Is Perfect” about how people with physical disabilities were invited to pose for a mannequin shaped upon their body that will be used in retail store windows. It is very powerful. YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8umFV69fNg>

CCHD Campaign Theme for 2015 – “Do justice, love goodness, walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8):

The Multimedia Youth Contest is a tool for schools and parishes noting how the efforts of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) address the root causes of poverty in the United States.

Through participation in the Contest, youth in grades 7-12 explore the issue of U.S. poverty in the context of their faith and learn about what empowered, low-income persons are doing in their communities to address poverty’s root causes. The contest is designed to be used across disciplines and is evaluated on two components: the creativity of the work, and the essay answers submitted with the work to demonstrate proper understanding of how we are called to respond as disciples of Jesus to people living in poverty in our communities.

Youth work may be any medium—(videos, PowerPoint, short story, painting, poetry, drama, song, or photography). The work must be original and illustrate the annual theme, “Do Justice, Love Goodness, Walk Humbly with God.” (Micah 6:8) The annual national deadline is March 31, 2015. For more information please follow this link: <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/multimedia-youth-contest/upload/jphd-multimedia-youth-contest-packet-diocesan-contacts.pdf>

Attitude of Gratitude Follow-up – “Thank You by Ray Boltz”:

There was a lot of traction with the brief article on nurturing an attitude of gratitude. Here is a link to a video by Ray Boltz titled “Thank You.” Ray is a contemporary Christian singer-songwriter. Although it is not Catholic, the theme of gratitude is universal and the video is well done. Thank You video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFrdJ2V3r7Y>

Joy Story – Learning more about the Nativity by Outside Da Box:

Outside Da Box and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston created a wonderful video and discussion guide about the important role Mary has played in salvation history. It is not only fun, but the discussion session explores Mary and Joseph’s role in Jesus’ life and why the Church venerates her.

Joy Story link: <http://www.vcat.org/creed/january-2013.html>

CLADD Retreat 2015 in Urbandale:

The 2015 Catechetical Leader retreat will be held on February 12-13 in Urbandale at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites. The flyer is almost done but we are still working out a few details. Here is what we know:

- Dr. Tom Neal, former director of the Saint Joseph Educational Center and current professor of Spiritual Theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, is our retreat facilitator. His motto when facilitating retreats is “The Word made fresh.”

- This year's theme is "Echoes of Mercy: Building a Culture of Compassion through Catechetical Ministry."
- The retreat fee will be \$70.00 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. A deluxe breakfast is included at Bennigan's Restaurant for those staying.

The flyer with more information will be sent out by the end of the week or early next week.

Prayer for Families:

Loving God,

In the spirit of the Holy Family,
we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways
be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families
with a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family
widen to embrace all families.

For this we pray.
Amen

Trusted curated sites used for this newsletter include:

- National Catholic Partnership on Disability (www.ncpd.org)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com)
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development (<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/index.cfm>)
- Video Catechism (www.vcat.org)
- Sadlier Religion (www.sadlier.com/religion)