

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
December 13, 2017 Edition

Bad News – No CLADD Retreat for 2018 and Upcoming Lower Leg Amputation Surgery:



The phrase “when it rains it pours” has certainly been my experience this fall regarding trying to program the 2018 CLADD Retreat and my ankle’s failing condition.

CLADD Retreat 2018 – Between issues finding a top notch retreat facilitator that really understands catechetical leaders has been unusually difficult. Two very promising facilitators had to back out due to unforeseen circumstances. Others were not available. Finally the Holiday Inn in Council Bluffs had a wonderful opportunity to book a big function during our time. For us to stay would have required a minimum of 50

participants and that just didn’t seem to be in the cards. We will have a fantastic CLADD Retreat in 2019 with Julianne Stanz to look forward to as well as Joe Paprocki for a ministry formation day in March 2018. I apologize for just not being able to pull it off this year.

Upcoming surgery scheduled the week of January 22, 2018 – The stability of my ankle has deteriorated dramatically since October. Recently I fell and really banged up the bad ankle to the point I have been using the knee scooter again. I am constantly fearful of a bone infection and want some form of normalcy in my life. Considering all this I have decided to have the lower portion of my leg amputated with the eventual placement of a prosthetic. I am hopeful that the surgery will take place at some point the week of January 22, 2018. The recovery will take some time. While I am out, Justin and Sherri will share my duties. I will provide more details when I know more from my surgeon including a timeline. My hope is to join everyone for Joe Paprocki in March. Please keep my family and me in your prayers. Thank you.

**Come See Sr. Maureen
Colleary and I for the Arise
Together in Christ Tour 2018:**

As the Diocese continues to live into the vision cast by the Pope Francis’ vision in *Joy of the Gospel* the Department of



Evangelization and Catechesis is working with RENEW International as we lean into the New Moment. Bishop Pates' has spoken quite a bit at various events about the vision of The New Moment. As I have shared with many people across our diocese, The New Moment is a renewed opportunity for us to reclaim the missionary zeal of the early Church. Although The New Moment isn't a singular program, many colleagues around the country have found the process created by RENEW International to be helpful in the area of parish engagement.

Sr. Maureen Colleary, FSP and I will be touring around the diocese in a series of information meetings that will be held in each region between January 8-11, 2018. An invitation has been sent to each pastor. There you, your pastor, and any parish leaders/volunteers you would like to attend will have the opportunity to learn more about the process and ask questions pertinent to your parish situation. I anticipate these sessions would last between 60 and 90 minutes depending upon the size of the group and the questions you might have. You and your parish are not obligated for anything by being present. Sherri Simmer is working on finalizing the schedule but here is a tentative schedule:

- January 8 – Adult Faith Formation Director's Meeting – Des Moines Region
- January 8 – PM meeting – Christ the King parish (Des Moines) – 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- January 9 – Osceola Region – St. Bernard parish (Osceola) – 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- January 9 – Adair Region – Sherri is working with Fr. Chinna in Atlantic (Daytime)
- January 10 – Portsmouth Region – Sherri is working with Hank Hughes (Daytime)
- January 10 – Red Oak Region – Sherri is working with Fr. Raphael (Evening)
- January 11 – Council Bluffs Region – Sherri is working with Fr. Tom and/or Fr. Siepker (daytime)

Here is the link to the website:

<http://www.renewintl.org/renew/Index.nsf/vPages/ARISELand?OpenDocument>

Sr. Maureen and I anticipate a great time to launch for those who are interested by fall 2018.

Evangelizing Churches ask “What About Christmas?” by Terrie Baldwin (Diocese of Cleveland):



As we begin the season of Advent in our churches, our hearts turn to a season of preparation, as do our churches make preparation for Christmas. This change of liturgical seasons, may bring forth questions for evangelizing churches:

- What can we do now to prepare our church to be welcoming this Christmas?
- How can we encourage people to come to hear the Good News?
- How can we bring the presence of Christ from our parish community to the hearts of everyone both on Christmas and after?

Here are some ideas in answering these questions.

Invitation

- During Advent, use one of the weekend's homilies to include a segment on how we can be a welcoming presence during the holidays. Keith Strohm, from the Catherine of Siena Institute, suggested that a parish community leave the first 1/3 of the church pews open. Have those who are regular attendees walk those who come less frequently to the open section, and then take their seats in the back. While this may sound a little extreme for some, consider what welcoming gesture could be reasonably expected and shared this Advent with the parish community.
- Create a pamphlet or door hanger highlighting this year's Advent programs and activities, as well as confession times, communal reconciliation services, Mass times for Christmas, parish office hours, ways that people could assist those in need, as well as how someone in need can get assistance. Ask volunteers to distribute door hangers in their neighborhoods (be sure to follow ordinances), or share a pamphlet with a friend or neighbor with a personal invitation.

Cluster Partner, Area-wide, County-wide Ideas

- Join together to write a promotional ad of invitation to put in your local paper or online.
- Check into and be present at local Christmas activities.

Gift Giving

- Have greeters or volunteers pass out a small gift at the end of Mass as people are leaving with the statement, "See you next week!" or "See you soon!" Items that could be used include a candy cane, prayer card or an inexpensive inspirational book, DVD, or CD (with a scriptural or pastor message stapled to it).

Prepare for Christmas Masses

- Create a welcoming Christmas pew card including a place for contact information including names, addresses, e-mail address and phone. Ask the question, "How can we help you...develop a relationship with Jesus Christ, pray for you, teach you, assist in getting connected or re-connected to the parish community etc.?" Have prominent labeled boxes or baskets in all exit areas for these to be turned in to.

Promote Future Spiritual Growth Opportunities

- Be sure to include in announcements upcoming parish events and programs that people will want to look forward to in the coming months (or year).
- Create a one page printed piece on upcoming and ongoing programs for people of all ages to get involved in to enrich their spiritual lives, such as adult faith formation programs, children's programs, mission or prayer opportunities, and other spiritually enriching opportunities.
- If you have a program such as Catholics Returning Home, Awakening Faith, or ALPHA, designed to reach out to those who are not always here, be sure to promote it at Christmas. This could be done through the homily, intercession, announcement or a brief after Communion witness.

Parish Website

- Post a [Catholics Come Home](#) commercial on your parish website with an invitation to those who may be away from the faith to feel welcome.
- Be sure to post Mass times and confession schedules at an easy to see location on the front page.
- Include a message from

