



Jubilee of Mercy Guided Meditation:

Attached please find the Guided Meditation that was prepared by our department for this liturgical year. It is titled, “I desire Mercy, not Sacrifice” and is focused on the theme of mercy and especially the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. On average the meditation takes about 20 minutes from beginning to end. We usually add some introductory comments and instructions beforehand and then do some processing with the group following. Although it is written with some Advent imagery, it can be easily changed to Lent or ordinary time. It can also be used with young adults and adults with some modifications.

Tessa and I are happy to come to your parish and work with your teens, young adults or adults. Please let us know and we can schedule a time. During Advent I have delivered this mediation at Holy Trinity and St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines.

Catholics Come Home Ministers of 1st Impression Workshops:

Training will occur the 2nd week of January to prepare for the Catholics Come Home initiative beginning in early February. Information will be coming out very soon but here is what I have currently:

- Workshops will occur in each region, with two occurring in the Des Moines region
- The dates are either January 12 or 14. I will have a finalized schedule very soon based upon availability of facilitator teams.
- The workshops will begin at 6:30 pm and last for 1 ½ hours.
- The parish teams can be created from a variety of leadership committees and boards but it will be encouraged that staff members attend who interact with families (parish secretaries, DREs, AFF directors, youth ministry, principals, business managers)
- The parish team will be asked to go back and work with groups within the parish to prepare for the Catholics Come Home outreach.

Using Technology for Adult Faith Formation:

Sr. Janet Schaeffler in her monthly GEMS (Great Endeavors Mined & Shared) focuses on changes that have occurred in life because of technology and what that means for those of us who minister to and with adults. It is a great read with context, practical advice and even pastoral compassion by Sr. Janet as we may be saying to ourselves, “I can’t do one more thing.”

To read this update: please follow this link: http://www.janetschaeffler.com/GEMS_59.pdf

Jubilee of Mercy Resources from RCL Benziger:

Attached please find resources Tom Primmer has shared with us from RCL Benziger that can be incorporated into your lesson plans for encountering and sharing Mercy. There are also links that can be helpful for you and your catechists.

Saints for the Year of Mercy: <http://saintsresource.com/saints-for-the-year-of-mercy/>

Christmas Season activities: <http://rclbenziger.com/2015-christmas-season/>

Lectionary Connections: <http://rclblectionary.com/lectionary-for-december-2015/>

Great video website for teens and young adults:

Father Rob Ketcham is a diocesan priest who teaches at Saint John the Baptist High School in New York. The website was created by him for his students. I have shared his videos with many colleagues and all have found them to be well done and very helpful for their ministry with teens and young adults. Take some time and see if the videos can be helpful for issue nights or small group discussion in your groups.

Link: <http://petersboat.net/>

Winter Catechist In-Service at St. Francis parish in West Des Moines – January 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm:

Attached to this e-newsletter e-mail is the winter catechist in-service flyer from Christen at St. Francis of Assisi. If you desire your parish catechists to participate, please contact Christen at ccota@saintfranschurch.org.

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.

Advent Prayer (author unknown)

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan.

Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

