

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
December 17 & 24, 2014 Edition

Special Double Edition for Final weeks of Advent & Christmas

18 Creative Resources to inspire Catechists from Twenty-Third Publications:

Our colleagues at Twenty-Third Publications have put together a grouping of resources that can be very helpful for your catechists as you enter into the second half of the catechetical year. The resources range from catechist essentials (for newer catechists) and lots of different resources for children/teens and adults. Some of the titles include:

- essential Catechist bookshelf topics such as Catechist 101, Spirituality of the Catechist and a Catechist's guide to planning/teaching sessions
- Sacraments - activity books for First Communion and Reconciliation
- Enriching faith activity books focused on prayer as well as activities for service
- Saint's learning centers
- Books on arts & crafts as well as one that has over 30 creative classroom projects using crafts, lessons and prayers
- Lectionary activities for children 4-7 for every Sunday in a 3 year cycle (there is also one for children ages 7-12)
- Middle school prayer services
- Parish guides to using social media and one for incorporating multiple intelligences into faith formation
- Group reading guide to Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*

To find out more about these resources go to the following Twenty Third Publications link:

<http://store.pastoralplanning.com/clreiteca.html>

International Migrants Day:

On December 18, we commemorate International Migrants Day. The Justice for Immigrants Campaign has developed a series of resources that discuss a wide range of topics related to immigration. These educational tools include basic information, sample bulletin inserts, Q&As, tips for pastors and catechists, a fact sheet debunking commonly held myths about immigration, and resources for starting a post card campaign.

For more information follow the link to Justice for Immigrants: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parish-kit.shtml>

On-line Retreat Opportunity - What is Ministry?:

Check out the Catholics on Call annual online retreat. In this seven-part series, Moderator Steve Bevans, S.V.D., discusses what ministry is and what ministers are about. Get started with the retreat "Reflecting on Ministry." Catholics on Call is a program of the Catholic Theological Union.

For more information or participate follow this link: <http://www.catholicsoncall.org/online-retreats>

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. Attached please find the flyer. 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.

Prayer for Families from Pope Francis (Feast of the Holy Family 2013):

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the
family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.
For this we pray.

Amen

Trusted curated sites used for this newsletter include:

- Twenty Third Publications (www.23rdpublications.com)
- USCCB Justice for Immigrants (www.justiceforimmigrants.org)
- Catholics On-Call from Catholic Theological Union (www.catholicsoncall.org)