



Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
December 20, 2017 Edition

**Adult Faith Formation Resource Information Meetings Set – January 8-11, 2018:**



RENEW International fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.

RENEW International has over a 30-year record in revitalizing parish life in more than 150 dioceses in the United States, touching the lives of 25 million people through its ministry services.

Sr. Maureen Colleary will be in our diocese from January 8-11 to share with you two powerful processes that RENEW has developed for parish communities. I have communicated to your pastors a few times by e-mail. An invitation was mailed this week to you, pastors, deacons and others involved in adult formation to attend one of the information sessions. We anticipate the sessions will be one hour in duration with light refreshments/lunch provided.

The two products Sr. Maureen will be sharing are:

- **ARISE Together with Christ** – a parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization. that invites people to develop a closer relationship with Christ, deepen their faith, grow in community, and reach out in service to others.

No matter where participants are on their faith journey, they are attracted to the warm sense of welcome provided by the small-group setting, and the opportunities to meet Jesus Christ in scripture and explore faith's connection to daily life.

- **Be My Witness** – a Christ-centered, Spirit-led approach to transforming parishes and forming disciples for the New Evangelization. *Be My Witness* draws its inspiration from *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis' landmark document on evangelization.

*Be My Witness* gets the conversation started in the parish about the single most important topic facing our Church today--evangelization.

It gives parish leaders the process and tools to build an ever-widening circle of conversion and commitment in two integrated phases.

- Phase 1 equips parish staff, leaders, and pastoral councils to lead mission-focused change.
- Phase 2 engages and forms parishioners as missionary disciples, ready to become partners in the New Evangelization.

The dates and places for the RENEW Tour are:

- **January 8** – 12:30 to 2:30 pm at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale (Martha & Mary Room) – Adult Faith Formation Director’s Meeting
- **January 8** – 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Christ the King Church in Des Moines (parish hall) – for the Des Moines Region
- **January 9** – 12:30 to 2:00 pm at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Atlantic (parish hall) – for the Adair Region
- **January 9** – 7:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Bernard Church in Osceola (parish hall) – for the Osceola Region
- **January 10** – 12:30 to 2:00 pm at St. Mary Church in Portsmouth (parish hall) – for the Portsmouth Region
- **January 10** – 7:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Mary Church in Shenandoah (Parish hall) – for the Red Oak Region
- **January 11** – 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Holy Rosary Church in Glenwood (parish hall) – for the Council Bluffs Region

You are not restricted to attend the session that is in your region. If another date and/or time works better please attend that session. For hospitality and printing purposes, please RSVP to Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org) by Friday, January 5, 2018. Thank you.

### **2017 Christmas Gift in Honor of Your Service to Your Parish Community:**

I hope that you have received your Christmas Card from all of us at the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis. This year we have made a donation in your name towards the USCCB Hurricane Relief Fund, especially dedicated to those still recovering from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich says "there's a lot of work to do, a lot of people suffering" after visiting the people of Puerto Rico nearly three months after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. For more information follow this link to a Catholic Extension article on the recovery effort in Puerto Rico:

[https://www.catholicextension.org/stories/three-months-after-hurricane-maria-puerto-rico-still-suffers?utm\\_source=Main+Catholic+Extension+Email+List&utm\\_campaign=13434e8e6f-December+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_200df67734-13434e8e6f-157293061&goal=0\\_200df67734-13434e8e6f-157293061](https://www.catholicextension.org/stories/three-months-after-hurricane-maria-puerto-rico-still-suffers?utm_source=Main+Catholic+Extension+Email+List&utm_campaign=13434e8e6f-December+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_200df67734-13434e8e6f-157293061&goal=0_200df67734-13434e8e6f-157293061)

Thank you for sharing the Good News of the Gospel with the parish families. Merry Christmas.

## **Fanning the Flame – A Retreat Day for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Graders:**



Fanning the Flame is a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship, all oriented towards identifying the movements of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. This day will be very helpful for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders preparing for Confirmation. There is a separate track for sponsors and/or adult chaperones accompanying the teens to help them grow deeper in their faith as well.

**Who:** All 9th & 10th graders (public, private, or home school), their parents, and their parish leaders

**What:** Two day-long retreats happening separately but side-by-side. While the 9th & 10th graders enjoy a day catered to them, the parents and parish leaders who brought them will enjoy a similar day, overlapping during meals and Mass

**When:** Saturday, February 10th & Saturday, September 8th. Each day will begin at 9am, and finish at 7pm.

**Where:** St. Thomas More Center, 6177 Panorama Road, Panora, IA 50216

Registration information is at these links:

[February youth registration here \(\\$40\)!](#)

[February adult registration here \(\\$20\)!](#)

[September youth registration here \(\\$40\)!](#)

[September adult registration here \(\\$20\)!](#)

After registering at the links above, participants will receive an email with further details and instructions. For questions, please contact Justin White, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at [jwhite@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jwhite@dmdiocese.org) or (515) 237-5098.

## **Take 24 – Young Adult Retreats:**

**Repent** and **Believe** in the **Good News** is this year's three-part series of retreats for young adults.

**Repent** will happen in Lent (February 24th-25th), and will focus on the human need for God's healing and renewal. **Believe** will occur in the summer (July 27th-28th), focusing on the impact of belief in God in our daily lives, and finally **Good News** will occur at the beginning of Advent (November 30th-December 1st), and will focus on living our lives in joyful discipleship. While there will be some connection between the three, it is not necessary to



have gone on all three to grow from them—young adults are encouraged to go to as many as they can, even if it ends up only being one of the three.

["Repent" registration here!](#)

["Believe" registration here!](#)

["Good News" registration here!](#)

After registering at the links above, participants will receive an e-mail with further details and instructions. For questions, please contact Justin White, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at [jwhite@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jwhite@dmdiocese.org) or (515) 237-5098.

### **Growing Disciples Publishing Schedule:**

Due to the Christmas and New Year's Holiday, The Growing Disciples Newsletter will not be published on December 27 or January 3. The next edition of the newsletter will be published on January 10. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

