

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
December 21, 2016 Edition

Health Update – Thanks for the Prayers and Support:



Last week I found myself in the hospital after a small cut in my foot became infected with e-coli. It is very rare, so of course I contracted it. For those of you who know my history, the infection was in my left foot, not the right foot, which has been an issue for the last 11 years.

Thanks to the doctors and other medical staff I am on the road to recovery. They performed a small surgery to remove the infected area and once they diagnosed the type of infection, have prescribed antibiotics to kill the bacteria. They also gave me a handy wound vac to speed the healing

of the area they cut away. Thank you for your continued prayers and support during my time away last week.

CLADD Retreat with Sr. Joyce Rupp – February 9-10 in Urbandale – Save the Date:

Sherri and I are working hard on the final touches for the CLADD Retreat for February 2017. Sr. Joyce Rupp, O.S.M. will be our retreat facilitator and the topic is **“Gestating Grace: Growing in Faith in Difficult Times.”**

This year’s conference returns to the Holiday Inn in Urbandale. Thanks to their partnership the cost is similar to that of last year:

- \$105.95 for an executive king or double queen room (cost is halved if you find a roommate)
- Retreat fee is \$75.00 and \$80.00 which covers the cost for the meals and snacks
- Room reservations will need to be made before January 20, 2017 to ensure the special pricing for CLADD
- Sr. Joyce’s facilitator fee is covered by the Diocese as part of our ongoing commitment to the catechetical leaders of the diocese, reducing the retreat cost for you.



Sr. Joyce Rupp is in such high demand we are blessed to have her as our retreat facilitator. Because her ministry attracts many people, we have only 45 spots available for this retreat and it is limited to those who are listed in the CLADD Directory as well as retired catechetical leaders. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Sherri Simmer to guarantee your spot. Your CLADD Leadership team encourages everyone to consider staying at the hotel throughout the retreat to allow yourself time to be away from the world. We also try and have a wonderful bonding opportunity on Thursday evening.

Catholic Extension Works of Mercy Broadcast – Episode 8 *The Works of Mercy*:



Catholic Extension has created another beautiful video that can be used in a variety of formation settings include youth ministry and RCIA. The video is about 28 minutes in direction.

This month's video highlights Stories that highlight the Church's corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Featured ministries include visiting the imprisoned in Louisiana and feeding and clothing the poor in the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky. Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, and bishops from

mission dioceses reflect on the topic of mercy.

Video link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcGHP665kL8&feature=youtu.be>

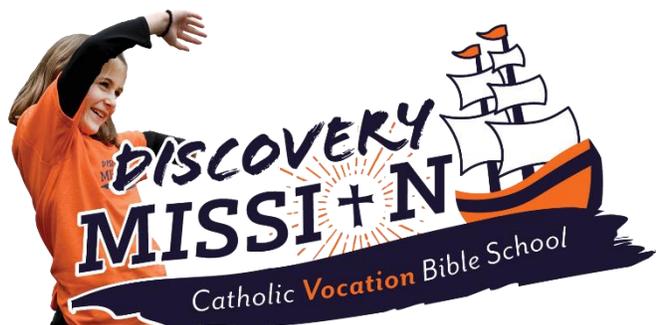
Questions that you could use with your formation group could include:

- Is compassion and mercy the same thing or are they different? Why or why not?
- How did those on the bus give hope to the inmates? How was hope returned to them following their visit?
- What does it mean to you to understand Sr. Helen Prejean's imagery of the two arms of outreach: one to the inmates and one to the victims of violence?
- How can the church help enhance healing opportunities, especially for those who have committed offences against one's neighbor?
- What does it mean to you that for healing to begin oftentimes means to begin with yourself?

Vianney Vocations & God is Good VBS Team up for "Vocation Bible School:

Our colleagues at God is Good VBS and Vianney Vocations have teamed together to create a new type of Vacation Bible School: one focused on vocations. It is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 12.

The main message is to help the children discover their mission in life – God's plan



for them. The cost of the program is \$229.00 for a week of ½ day programming. For more information follow this link: www.vocationbibleschool.com or contact Julia and Eric Johnson at julia@godisgoodvbs.com.

CLADD Sessions in January 2017:

West & East CLADD Sessions – A New Way Forward: Talking About What Matters with Tom Green:



Organizations pay a deep price for ignoring the elephants in the room. Our January session helps us as part of parish leadership to speak openly in hope to better achieve our ministry and parish goals. This session will be an interactive morning of learning certain practices and putting them into action. Our session will not only enhance our work relationships but our personal relationships as well.

Our facilitator for the morning is Tom Green who is the president of the Discussables Group. He has over 20 years of experience training, coaching and studying leaders toward better organizational and personal results.

Tom is also the husband of Mary Green who was our friend, colleague and mentor in catechetical leadership. Mary entered eternal life on July 4, 2014.

- CLADD West is scheduled for January 17, 2017 at St. Patrick parish in Missouri Valley
- CLADD East is scheduled for January 19, 2017 at All Saints parish in Stuart

Merry Christmas from the staff at the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis:

On behalf of Bishop Pates, Sherri, Tessa and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. We feel honored to partner with such dedicated lay ecclesial ministers throughout the diocese. Throughout the Jubilee of Mercy we have been in awe of the many ways in which you have shared and helped form others in the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy.

Furthermore, we continue to be overwhelmed by the dedication and faith of those you partner with in the parish regarding lifelong formation in faith.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the evangelization mission of the Catholic Church.

Because of the holidays we will resume publication of the *Growing Disciples E-Newsletter* on January 11, 2017.



***We are called to enlarge
the horizons of our hearts,
to be surprised by the life
that is presented each day
with its newness.***

**Pope Francis
Advent Message**
November 27, 2016

