

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

December 31, 2014 Edition

Winter Catechist In-Service sponsored by the staff at St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines:

An evening of faith formation for catechists will once again be offered on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 by the staff of Saint Francis of Assisi. The evening begins at 7:00 pm and ends at 9:00 pm. There is no charge for this event and is open to all catechetical leaders who wish to offer this for their catechists. Participants are free to choose two of the following workshops:

- Inclusion Ministry Toolkit – Jess Streit, Special Needs Ministry Coordinator
- Celebrating the Sacraments & Holy Days – Mayra C. Moriel de Banuelos, Diocesan Hispanic Ministry Coordinator
- 12 Healing Oils of the Bible – Stacy Halbach, DRE at St. Joseph Church in Des Moines
- Sacred History and Sign: The role of the Mass and miracles in the Plan of God – Mandie DeVries, DRE at All Saints Church in Des Moines
- Advancing in the Art of Accompaniment – Adam Storey, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Director
- Understanding & Supporting the Priestly Roles of Mom and Dad – Dr. Matthew Halbach, St. Joseph Education Center Director
- Using the Ritual Texts for Prayer with Teens – John Gaffney, Diocesan Evangelization & Catechesis Director
- Rapid Fire Resource Session (Three 10 minute talks with Q&A following) – How Mary's Meals Changed our RE Program, More than Rice Bowls: Catholic Relief Services, Listen & Learn – Catholic Media with Iowa Catholic Radio

For more information or to register contact Christen Cota at 515-440-1030, extension 156 or at ccota@saintfrancischurch.org Attached to this e-newsletter you will find a flyer.

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 is in store for you:

- 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.
- The CLADD Retreat is open to current and retired catechetical leaders, youth ministers, adult faith formation directors, and any staff who work in formational ministry. The retreat topic focuses on ministry and the lay minister, not a specific ministry. If you haven't attended in the past please give this a shot...you will not be disappointed.
- Registration is open by contacting Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.

Attached to the E-Newsletter you will find a flyer for the Retreat. You do not want to miss our annual retreat opportunity. Scholarships are available to help offset the cost of the retreat. For more information about the retreat or scholarships, contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org.

Awakenings Retreat has been cancelled for January 31-February 1 at the Saint Thomas More Center:

It is with sadness that we need to cancel our winter Awakenings Retreat due to low numbers of registrations. At one point we had 22 which was awesome, but the few parishes attending will now be attending the Confirmation Retreat and it leaves our numbers at only 3.

We have heard from many of you that you love the retreat but that it is too expensive, prefer a one day retreat rather than an overnight experience or too far of a drive to the Saint Thomas More Center.

Please know that the team and I would love to work with your parish or region(s) to do one locally. As stated before, this drastically reduces the per participant fee and is held on one day rather than overnight. Please let me know if this would be an option that would interest your parish or region. Sean at Christ the King will be holding an Awakenings Retreat in June. For more information, contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org.

Faith Formation, Sacramental Prep and Youth Ministry Fee Schedule to be published for parish staff in January:

We will be e-mailing the results of the 2014 RE and YM audit regarding fees in the middle of next month. However, before we do that please let us know if you **do not** want us to publish your information. We have found that parish staff appreciate this information because it helps them set reasonable fee structures based upon their parish reality and what their neighbors are also charging.

Please contact Sherri Simmer by January 9, 2015 if you **do not** want your fee to be released. You can e-mail Sherri at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.

Prayer to the Madonna by Brian Doyle (from his book *A Book of Uncommon Prayer* – Ave Maria Press):

Yes, sometimes it feels a little odd to be addressing my most heartfelt and searing and thankful and terrified prayers to a woman who was a shy calm Jewish girl of maybe fifteen when a shock of light appeared in your house (kitchen? back bedroom? we've never been clear on that.), and everything changed forever for everyone, but I *know* you are for real, and I *know* you can hear me, and I know this in the core of my soul and bones, and I don't understand how, and I don't care to understand, and there's no way to ever prove or explain what I know, but *you* know, which is why here I am again, this morning, mumbling in your general direction, which is everywhere.

Your mercy, your capacious tenderness, your open ear, the soothe of your voice in me and out there at the same time; I can never explain to anyone how I hear you and feel your gentle hand, but I do, and many times it has sustained and saved me in times of great sadness and fear; so it is that I sit here this morning and am grateful. Thank you for being beyond my sense and apprehension.

- Thank you for saying yes not once thousands of years ago but all day every day in ways far beyond my ken.
 - Thank you for being beyond a name and a body now but alive and vibrant in every moment.
 - Thank you for saving me when I stood at the abyss.
 - Thank you for holding my children in the star-furnace of your love.
 - Thank you for catching my spirit when I crumple and dissolve and my body fades and everything I was is gathered and slathered and shaped anew.
 - Thank you for this moment.
 - Thank you for being in it with me.
- And so: Amen. Amen

Trusted curated sites used for this newsletter include:

- Saint Francis of Assisi Religious Education Department - www.saintfrancischurch.org/YouthFaith/ReligiousEducation.aspx
- Diocese of Des Moines Department of Evangelization & Catechesis - <http://www.dmdiocese.org/faith-formation.cfm>
- Ave Maria Press - <https://www.avemariapress.com/>

