

Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

PCL Connect E-Newsletter  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
August 2022 Edition

*“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)*

**You’re Invited to our Summer Ministry Day on August 23 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm– Bishop Joensen and Exploring the Signs of the Times:**



All Saints parish in Stuart will host our catechetical community on August 23. Our ministry day will begin at 9:00 am with hospitality and a light breakfast. We have a vibrant day being planned by our colleagues from around the Church of southwest Iowa.

Although the agenda is yet to be finalized some elements of the day includes:

- Communal prayer with Bishop

Joensen

- An opportunity to hear from Bishop on the status of Strategic Visioning, Synodality, and pastoral challenges present these days to adults, youth and families.
- An opportunity for Q&A with Bishop Joensen.
- Lunch
- Conversation surrounding mentoring, evangelizing catechesis, and parish renewal.
- An opportunity to network with others in your specific ministry within lifelong formation in faith.

Please RSVP to Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org). A working agenda will be sent under separate cover. Any costs for the day is covered by the Diocese of Des Moines.

I invite you to explore the common themes articulated by the faithful and clergy in our listening sessions over the last year by exploring the [Diocese of Des Moines Synodal Synthesis](#). The report is written to fulfill two goals: 1) to outline what we discovered in our process to regional leadership in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas as well as the USCCB, and 2) to narrate our synodal/visioning journey to clergy, religious and laity who may not have participated in the visioning discussions. The report showcases: our process, how the top ten themes arose, the four

main pastoral challenges the Church of Southwest Iowa needs to lean into, many synodal statistics discovered, and our next steps for the Diocese of Des Moines.

**Strategies for inviting the faithful to serve the parish community as a catechist (from Loyola Press):**

Inviting the faithful to consider a role in nurturing the faith of others is one of the most important roles for a parish catechetical leader. Our colleagues of Loyola Press have helped with some resources in case you still have a few holes in your youth ministry or religious education program.

Years ago I had a colleague who shared with me a process she used. I tried it once in 2002 and it worked so well I repeated it every year. I pass this wonderful wisdom forward for you along with the information shared by Loyola Press.

1. Tell the ‘why’ of your parish process.
2. Let Paula/Pete know how they can help and the impact they will make.
3. Let Paula/Pete know how they themselves will benefit.
4. Let Paula/Pete know what you will provide such as training, resources, etc.

**Recruiting and Retaining Catechists Who Evangelize with GIFTS**

Julianne Stanz knows that finding catechists who are evangelizers and see themselves as such is the key to a faith formation process that forms disciples.

**Catechist Recruitment via Webinar**

Kathleen Butler shares an innovative way to help parents and other parish adults learn about what’s involved in becoming a catechist.

**Recruiting, Nay, Calling and Forming Catechists**

Joe Paprocki reminds catechetical leaders they are not simply recruiting volunteers; they are calling people to a vocation to serve as a catechist.

**Three Dynamic Webinars featuring Tom Quinlan, Ken Ogorek (Archdiocese of Indianapolis), and Dr. Peter Murphy (Diocese of Green Bay) from Franciscan:**



The Catechetical Institute is continuing its FREE 2022 webinar series to support catechists, teachers, and leaders.

**I invite you to register today using the links below and feel free to share it around with others! The trio of webinar topics in August will be:**

**Tuesday, August 2 at 2:00pm** (Eastern Time in the U.S.) – **Evangelizing**

**Families Today: Engaging Parents as Partners in Faith Formation** – Tom Quinlan, Ministry Director, St. Joseph Educational Center of Des Moines.

*Never before has it been as important to engage parents and involve them in the faith development of their children. At the center of this shift is the need to bring parents into meaningful relationship with Jesus and the Church. We will explore both the vision for this and specific pastoral action to help parish faith formation meaningfully impact our households.*

- Click [here](#) to register for tomorrow's webinar.

**Tuesday, August 9 at 2:00pm** (Eastern Time in the U.S.) – **Asleep at the Wheel? Addressing Woke-ism and Cancel Culture in Catechetical Settings** – Ken Ogorek of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

*Those to whom the faith is taught are swimming in Woke Soup, and the culture of death has a powerful ally in Cancel Culture. Evangelization and catechesis acknowledge these realities, equipping folks to navigate the culture of cancellation as well as seeing through the woke-ism that can obscure our vision of wisdom, mercy and moral authority. Join seasoned catechist and diocesan leader Ken Ogorek for a brief treatment of these timely topics — a web session with an eye toward authentic inculturation in our times.*

- Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.

**Tuesday, August 16 at 2:00pm** (Eastern Time in the U.S.) – **Working as a Diocesan Team to Foster Discipleship** – Dr. Peter Murphy and colleagues of the Diocese of Green Bay.

*The idea of working as a diocesan team to foster discipleship may seem daunting but with dedication and perseverance, it is possible to see fruit. This webinar will explore, through the lens of one diocese, some of the challenges to overcome, and some suggestions about how to pursue a team approach, how they are trying to address difficulties they've encountered, as well as some areas of success.*

- Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.

We hope you will join us for these three upcoming events this August, and we look forward to walking with you on this journey!

**Creed and Christian Beliefs Free Resources added to the Intergenerational and Family Online Learning Program:**



In the early 2000s John Roberto worked with his colleagues Mariette Martineau, Leif Kehrwald, and Joan Weber to develop a model of intergenerational learning that could be used for all ages (intergenerational) and family faith formation. These older resources are now being offered for free to parish leaders.

They also worked together to create dozens of intergenerational learning programs on a variety of

faith themes for churches to use in intergenerational and family faith formation programming. These newly revised programs are now available for free on the [Intergenerational Faith website](#).

All churches have permission to download, print, and adapt the materials for their use. Permission is given to use these materials in print and digital formats (websites, newsletters, social media) for educational purposes only. The learning session comes in a PDF and a Word file; handouts are in Word files. Use the Word files to adapt the materials for your use. These resources support Catholic theology and the tasks of catechesis. Some of the resources found at Lifelong Faith may need editing for stronger Catholic content but most are ready to launch immediately.

The latest update to the free family-intergenerational learning programs are six sessions on the Creed and Christian Beliefs. This program includes:

- We Believe in God
- We Believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God
- We Believe in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus
- We Believe in the Holy Spirit
- We Believe in the Church
- We Believe in the Communion Saints

Already online are the following programs:

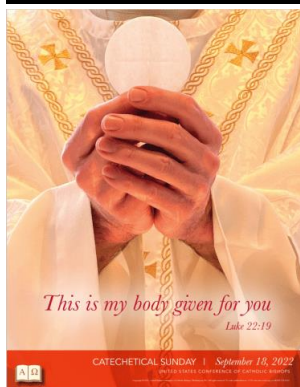
- Jesus and Discipleship (6 sessions)
- Christian Prayer (6 sessions)
- Christian Practices (Caring for the Body, Celebrating Life, Discernment, Eating Well, and Forgiveness)

Coming Soon:

- Christian Practices (additional sessions)
- Moral Living (6 sessions)
- Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation (6 sessions)
- Catholic Sacraments (6 sessions)

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact John Roberto at [jroberto@lifelongfaith.com](mailto:jroberto@lifelongfaith.com).

### **September 18, 2022 is Catechetical Sunday:**



Catechetical Sunday is a great opportunity for all Catholics to rededicate themselves to the mission of passing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith. The theme is: *“This is my body given for you”* Those who the parish community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

Below are resources to help you and your community celebrate:



- The [USCCB](#) includes free downloadable resources as well as resources to purchase. Articles and video resources will be coming soon.
- [Bayard Faith Resources](#) – Provides a catechetical pack for \$15.00 which includes a liturgical calendar and planning guide.
- [Loyola Press](#) resources includes 3 minute retreat for catechists, Catechetical Sunday prayer card, catechist tips, planning and activities and so much more.
- [Sadlier Religion resources](#) – Includes a great deal of information about Catechetical Sunday, defining who are catechists, the theme, and a Catechetical Sunday Kit with a faith fact sheet, activities, ways to celebrate Catechetical Sunday and a catechist prayer card.

**What I did this summer – Divine Renovation Conference 2022:**



A group of twenty-three colleagues from the Diocese of Des Moines attended the Divine Renovation Conference in Dallas from July 18-20, 2022. This group included Bishop Joensen with parish volunteers, staff and clergy from around the Diocese.

We were called to attend because Catholics across the Church of southwest Iowa want their parishes to come alive. We had experienced pastors, staff, and volunteers who found new life and vibrancy by pivoting into parish renewal with Divine Renovation.



The gathering in July had people from all over the world, some of whom were not Roman Catholic, to be inspired, connected, and equipped to move from maintenance mode to mission.

I along with many others left with more questions than answers: **but they are the right questions.** You will hear more about parish renewal and Divine



Renovation throughout our catechetical year.

[Divine Renovation Conference USA 2022 Video](#)

(look for Bishop Joensen)

**August Important Dates:**

- August 1 – [Saint Alphonsus Ligouri](#)
- August 4 – [Saint John Vianney](#)
- August 5 – [Dedication of Saint Mary Major Basilica](#)
- August 6 – [Transfiguration of the Lord](#)
- August 8 – [Saint Dominic](#)
- August 9 – [Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross](#)
- August 11 – [Saint Clare of Assisi](#)
- August 12 – [Saint Jane Frances de Chantal](#)
- August 14 – [Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe](#)
- August 15 – [Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- August 20 – [Saint Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- August 21 – [Saint Pius X](#)
- August 22 – [Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- August 23 – [Saint Rose of Lima](#)
- August 27 – [Saint Monica](#)
- August 28 – [Saint Augustine of Hippo](#)
- August 29 – [Matrydom of Saint John the Baptist](#)