



Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

PCL Connect E-Newsletter
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
September 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)

RSVP Today Breakfast with Friends September PCL Check-in scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15 from 8:30 to 11:30 am:



Our next gathering will be virtual as we welcome John Roberto into our community this Thursday. John is heading a dynamic leadership team to renew and launch the newly transformed [National Community of Catechetical Leaders](#) (NCCL). John has much to share about the work it is taking to renew the mission of NCCL which may mirror some of your pastoral challenges post-pandemic.

John will also share with us:

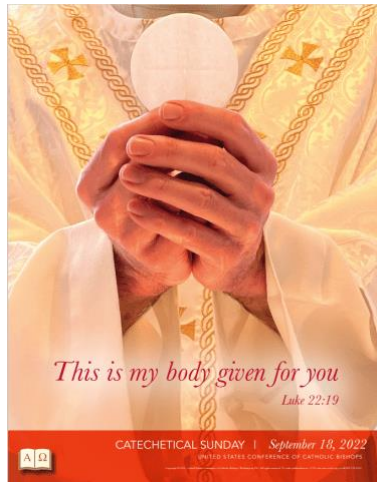
- what is available today through NCCL to help all leaders in lifelong formation in faith and how you can participate,
- a look at the future of NCCL as they move forward,
- an opportunity for you to share with John and the leadership team, your needs from a national organization focused on the ministries of evangelization and catechesis.

Breakout conversations are scheduled for 75 minutes of our morning. You will be able to self-select your breakout rooms from the following options: religious education, youth ministry, adult faith formation/RCIA, family formation/intergenerational, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Questions to get the ball rolling are included on the second page of the agenda.

For those AFF/RCIA leaders who are attending, I hope we can brainstorm how often you would like to have professional formation sessions sponsored by the Diocese and what topics are most important for you. Would you like to have these by ZOOM or perhaps satellite locations east and west with the speaker ZOOMing in? Who would be a resource that you would like to learn more from?

Please register with [Sherri Simmer](#). A copy of the recording will be available, but the opportunity to network with your colleagues on Thursday is well worth joining us in-person. The ZOOM information can be found on the agenda. The session will open at 8:30 am.

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.
- [RCL Benziger](#) includes free downloadable resources such as a resource for adoration of the blessed Sacrament, family prayer, a prayer for children, a classroom prayer, and other items that help your children/teens put themselves into THE story.
- [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.

I Need to Learn How to Engage Parents More Effectively, but where do I begin?



I have spent a great deal of time on the road over the last six weeks and the one theme that has emerged is, **“How do I engage parents once again?”**

Some of the comments I heard are:

- Getting kids to show up is like pulling teeth, especially for the family to go to Mass.
- Young people are leaving the church in droves and I need mom and dad to understand that we need to work together.

- For whatever reason, parents delegate all the teaching to parish leaders. How do I help them realize this is their responsibility and I want to help them?

And here is the hope that I have heard even though most of us aren't always sure what is the next best step:

- I am unsure if I want to pivot completely to family faith formation, but I do recognize that some family formation will help bring families together. What is the best way to begin?
- When I have receptive parents wanting to be more involved in their children's faith life, how do I coach them to share their faith?
- What are some simple ways in which to refine my program with some family formation that is simple, easy to direct, and easy on the budget?

Paul Canavese and his Team at The Pastoral Center have some great resources for you to help equip you to dip your two into family faith formation and/or better ways to engage parents.

- [Why Coach Parents by Bill Huebsch](#) – Downloadable, reproducible, product with a lifetime parish license. – **Free**
- [Planning for Family Catechesis/Coaching](#) – This link will take you a one-stop shop for titles by John Roberto, Sr. Patricia McCormick, Christian Smith, Kathy Hendricks, and others. Prices range from free to \$29.70.
- [Catechetical Resources for Building a Family Formation Platform](#) – Here you will find resources for who family sessions, parent sessions (including take-home resources), and the Growing Up Catholic series.

Items from Disability Ministry:

Who should be a prime focus of the New Evangelization?

Recent surveys show **80% of autistic Christians** (Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox) **do not attend** services in their local church. Father Mark Nolette, a Catholic autistic priest wrote an article, "[From the Anchorite: An open Letter to My Beloved Church](#)" on this very topic. On p45 in chapter 6 of Deaf Diaspora "it is reported that **only 2% of Deaf people in** the entire world are Christians".

In the parable of the Good Shepherd, the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine in search of this one sheep that had no worldly value. Do we do this on our diocese and parishes? To build a community of faith for ALL, check out the [Parish Disability Resources on the Disability Ministry web page](#).

September is suicide prevention month and the 10th is suicide prevention day.

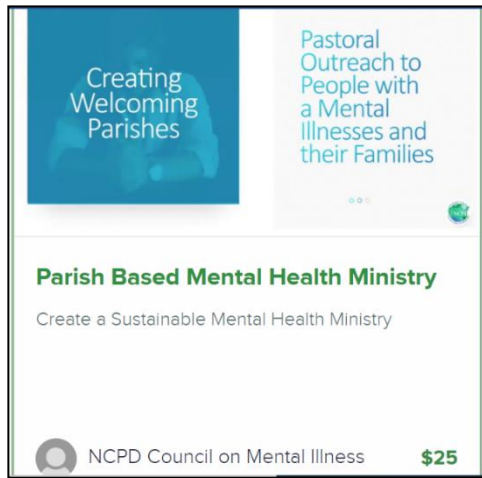


Mindspring Mental Health Alliance provides [free mental health education](#) opportunities to the public through webinars on a wide variety of mental health topics. Webinars are hosted every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12:00pm-1:00pm CST.

All webinars are free and open to the public. Webinars are recorded and emailed to all registrants.

And get the word out in your church and community during September. The **988 Lifeline** is now active across the United States as of July 16, 2022. This new, shorter phone number will make it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services. You can learn more and find media resources to share on social media, electronically or print at [988 Lifeline](#).

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability has released three online courses:



1. **Celebration of the Sacraments for Persons with Disabilities.** Our diocese is an affiliate of NCPD so the cost is \$75 to anyone in our diocese. [Link to register and more information.](#)

2. **Sensory Friendly Mass.** Our diocese is an affiliate of NCPD so the cost is \$25. [Link to register and more information.](#)

3. **Parish based Mental Health Ministry:** Our diocese is an affiliate of NCPD so the cost is \$25. [Additional information](#)

[about the course and link to register](#)

Please contact [Patty Origer](#), 515-274-5073, Coordinator of Persons with Disability Ministry if you have questions or need additional resources www.dmdiocese.org/disabilityministry.

Divine Renovation: From the Trenches :



From the Trenches is a monthly event for parish leaders BY parish leaders. The Divine Renovation USA team covers a variety of topics about how US leaders are moving their parish from maintenance to mission. They share stories from those parishes engaging with the DR Principles and what they are learning in the process. Topics over the last year

included:

- Shaping Parish Culture through Intentional Conversation
- Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail
- From Courses to Conversations
- Unity and Diversity
- Being Spirit-Led but Data-Informed: Setting Goals in Parish Ministry
- Rethinking your Small Groups
- Prioritizing Evangelization in the Parish

Each video is around one hour in length. Perhaps this would be a good networking opportunity with a couple of local leaders watching together and discussing what was heard? Here is [the link](#) to the last twelve months of webinars.

There are also some wonderful downloads that go along with some of the videos

- [Every Conversation Matters](#) handout from Shaping Parish Culture through Intentional Conversation
- [Unity and Diversity](#) handout from Unity and Diversity
- [Setting Goals in Parish Ministry](#) handout from Spirit-Led and Data-Informed
- [Rethinking Parish Small Groups](#) handout from Rethinking Your Parish Small Groups
- [Prioritizing Evangelization](#) handout from the Prioritizing Evangelization in the Parish
- [Integrating RCIA into the Life of the Parish](#) handout from Courses to Conversations
- [Rethinking Sacramental Preparation](#) handout from Courses to Conversations

The next DR USA From the Trenches is scheduled for January 13 at noon. The topic is *Where DO We Go From Here? Creating a Discipleship Pathway in Your Parish. How do you move people from an initial encounter with Christ to maturing, intentional discipleship? This From the Trenches will dive into the practicals of engaging people from conversion to fruitful discipleship.* Use [this link](#) to register for this free webinar.

September Important Dates:

- September 3 – [Saint Gregory the Great](#)
- September 4 – [Saint Rose of Viterbo](#)
- September 5 – [Saint Teresa of Calcutta](#)
- September 8 – [Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- September 9 – [Saint Peter Claver](#)
- September 11 – [Saint Cyprian](#)
- September 13 – [Saint John Chrysostom](#)
- September 14 – [Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)
- September 15 – [Our Lady of Sorrows](#)
- September 17 – [Saint Robert Bellarmine](#)
- September 20 – [Saint Andrew Kim Taegon and Companions](#)
- September 21 – [Saint Matthew](#)
- September 23 – [Saint Pio of Pietrelcina](#)
- September 24 – [Saint John Henry Newman](#)
- September 26 – [Saint Paul VI](#)
- September 27 – [Saint Vincent dePaul](#)

- September 29 – [Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael](#)
- September 30 – [Saint Jerome](#)

