



Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

PCL Connect E-Newsletter  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
April 2023 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)*

**Reminder – Easter Resources for Households of Faith on our Diocesan Website:**



This is a reminder that our Family Digital Resources do not end with Lent on April 8...they continue all the way through the Easter season. You can find all our resources attached to this e-newsletter or you can direct your families to find them at [www.dmdiocese.org/easter2023](http://www.dmdiocese.org/easter2023).

New this year, Kristi created a printable version of the Pentecost Novena. Here is a note that I received regarding our Living Lent resources.

“Thank you for all the work to help me as a single mom share my Catholic faith with my children. It is difficult to take the kids to Church school to learn their faith. I’m divorced and their dad doesn’t like the Church. These resources help me to be the one to teach the faith and help them see how much God loves them.”

I have connected this lady to a local parish and I hope between Father and the DRE, they can take baby steps in helping the family have roots in their faith community.

Please share these resources broadly: through your website, social media, traditional communication methods, the bulletin, and word of mouth.

Anne Marie Cox, Kristi Quinlan, and I would love to hear how your families have connected to our family faith series. Email [me](mailto:me) your stories when you can.

**Holy Spirit Novena to share with your Confirmation Candidates, Sponsors, and Family:**

We're suggesting the full-page format is more helpful if shared digitally, and now we're offering the *booklet* format in case they want to print and gift these handy hardcopies to their Confirmation candidates, families and sponsors.



Just to be clear, this novena is exactly the same as the Pentecost novena except for the title pages and very slight modifications to the first explanations of "novena" to make it better fit this use outside of Pentecost.

For printing: use five copy sheets printed front-and-back and folded for a 5 1/2 x 8 1/2"

booklet. (Recommended printer setting: page sizing "fit" instead of "actual size".)

The documents are also attached to this e-newsletter

### **Follow-up Resources for the March 9 Session with Kelly Mantoan and Scott Caldwell:**



Here is [the link](#) to the PCL Connect/CLADD session titled "I see you. You matter" with presentations by Kelly Mantoan and Scott Caldwell.

Kelly Mantoan discussed the stages of grief many special-needs parents go through and what our role is in accompanying parents, grandparents, children and teens.

Scott Caldwell, program director for Catholic Charities discussed the level of mental health issues family members face today and to help us orient our pastoral presence to meet them where they are at and help point them to professionals who can help with healing.

Here is link to the [Parent Presentation: Better than OK—Finding Joy as Special Needs Parents](#) that was held on the evening of March 9. Please share with families of special needs children in your parish and community.

Attached is a summary sheet for the presentation. It also includes a save the date for an NCPD catechist formation session on Tips and Tools on Disability. It is scheduled on June 10 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm CDT.

For more information, [email Patty Origer](#).

### **Save the Date for Breakfast with Friends September PCL Check-in scheduled for Thursday, April 20 from 9:00 to 11:00 am:**



Our next gathering will be virtual as we welcome April Young from the Emmaus House into our community on April 20. She and Kevin O'Donnell are in conversation on ways in which the Emmaus House can partner with parishes. She would like to take our virtual opportunity to be with you to introduce herself brainstorm about the services Emmaus House can offer and how that intersects with the dreams you have for your parish community.

I will share with everyone the recently unveiled reorganization of the Pastoral Center and have a conversation on how the new team can partner with you in the mission of lifelong formation in faith.

Please register with [Sherri Simmer](#). A copy of the recording will be available, but the opportunity to network with your colleagues on Thursday, April 20 is well worth joining us in-person. The session will open at 8:45 am in case you want to chat with colleagues over your morning choice of beverage.

**Topic: April PCL Connect/CLADD Session**

Time: Apr 20, 2023 08:45 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84764085769?pwd=RlN2TW8rajRWd3FsaVBkSFZzYUQxUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 6408 5769

Passcode: 144277

**Reminder – Franciscan Catechetical Institute Subscription has ended:**



Just a reminder in case you missed the announcement in February, our two year commitment for a diocesan subscription has ended. Contact [me](#) if you are interested in keeping your parish subscription (around \$350 per year) and the Diocese of Des Moines will pay for your first year.

It is a great platform but just didn't quite enough usage that we had hoped. Thanks for all who utilized it, even for catching up on a subject you needed to learn more about. We had around 40 colleagues who received their certification through the Franciscan Catechetical Institute and up to around 200 who took at least one class.

**Items from Disability Ministry:**



**APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH. We are all called to build communities of belonging for ALL of God's children.**

- [Three simples and meaningful ways for Parishes to promote Autism Awareness in April...and beyond.](#)
- [National Catholic Partnership on Disability—Autism Appreciation Month with Andrew Bennett:](#) Andrew Bennett's

experience living with autism positions him in a unique role in his quest to define, come to terms with, and live out his vocation as a Catholic man.

- [An Open Letter to My Beloved Church](#) by Fr. Mark Nolette who is an autistic Catholic priest. In his article he shares the statistic that 80% of autistic Christians do not attend services in their local church. Using his logical brain, he asks “Shouldn’t this group be a prime focus of the New Evangelization! The harvest is indeed rich. Where are the laborers?”
- [Father Matthew Schneider](#) is another openly autistic priest diagnosed with autism after his first year of ministry when he failed to read the emotions on kids’ faces as a school chaplain. Check out his testimony, resources and book “God Loves the Autistic Mind: Prayer Guide for Those on the Spectrum and Those who Love Us”.
- Father Schneider has a [Sensory-Friendly Mass Directory](#) on his website. Would love to have parishes in our diocese start hosting a normal weekend mass with sensory accommodations and be the first from Iowa to be listed on it! Please contact Patty Origer for resources and assistance in how you can easily make a regularly scheduled weekend Mass sensory friendly.
- Autism Consecrated:
  - [We interrupt this Lent](#): Which has thoughts on nothing we have ever heard about lent has been developed with the neurodiverse individuals in mind.
  - [PDA & Lent](#): Here are a few guiding thoughts to help tailor Lent to the demand-anxious neurotypes while keeping the intention and integrity of the season.

## NOURISH FOR CAREGIVERS



Next monthly support group meeting is Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Holy Trinity parish in Des Moines. See attachment for additional details and share in your parishes. All caregivers are welcome.

Financial assistance is available from the Diocese if another parish or group of parishes wants to get our next Nourish for Caregivers group started in our diocese. Please contact [Patty Origer](#) for details of how to get started.

## RESOURCES FOR PERSONS WITH LOW VISION AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED THAT YOUR PARISH CAN PROVIDE AT CHURCH OR USE AT HOME



Have you heard of the **Xavier Society for the Blind?**

<https://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org/> This is a catholic organization that has been around since 1900 whose mission is to provide the Word of God, and the best of Roman Catholic teaching and literature, spiritual and inspirational material to blind or visually impaired persons of any faith in whatever format best meets their needs **at no charge**. To order resources or need more information please contact Client Services Coordinator Saul Buchalter at 212-473-7800 or e-mail [clientservices@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org](mailto:clientservices@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org). Resources available in

English and Spanish.

**Examples of resources they provide include:**

- The Missalette for Mass every Sunday and on special Feast Days in an accessible format is available. We provide *Propers of the Sunday Mass* in hard copy braille as well as downloadable in audio, large print, and electronic BRF (braille ready file). People can use these to lector or just follow along at Mass.
- Audio books will play in the talking book machines provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS).
- **For braille readers many titles are available in BRF (braille ready file).**
- If you are a Spanish braille reader, the Sunday readings are available in BRF (braille ready file). And they are working hard to making books available in Spanish.
- Attached are four attachments of mp3 files and flyers to share these wonderful resources in your parish. They are in English and Spanish!!

Please contact **Patty Origer**, Coordinator of Persons with Disability Ministry if you have questions or need additional resources.

Diocese of Des Moines Disability Ministry



### April Important Dates:

- April 6 – [Holy Thursday \(Readings\)](#)
- April 7 – [Good Friday of the Lord's Passion \(Readings\)](#)
- April 8 – [Easter Vigil \(readings\)](#)
- April 9 – [Easter \(Readings\)](#)
- April 16 – [Divine Mercy Sunday \(Readings\)](#)
- April 16 – [St. Bernadette Soubirous](#)
- April 19 – [St. Gianna Beretta Molla](#)
- April 21 – [St Anselm](#)
- April 25 – [Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist](#)
- April 29 – [Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena](#)

