

Gatherings

DIOCESE
of
NEW ULM

Offices of
Religious Education
& Youth Ministry

Reflections

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

March 6, 2014

From the Office of Youth Ministry Margaret McHugh

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Don't Waste Lent

I'd like to begin this Lent by making a confession, not a sacramental one, but a confession nonetheless! In the past, I have *wasted* many perfectly good Lenten seasons. One Lent was wasted in feeling sorry for myself. Another was misspent in anger and cynicism. Several more were futile exercises in perfectionism destined to

fail from the start. This Lent will not be wasted because God has given me a renewed sense of appreciation and an entirely different attitude.

In past Lenten seasons, the focus was entirely on ME. I decided what was thought wasted or fruitful. This Lent, I'm willing to let God decide. A few words from our Pope Francis really helped me with this, when he wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel*,

"We may be sure that none of our acts of love for God will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others. No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force. It may be that the Lord uses our sacrifices to shower blessings in another part of the world which we will never visit."

Focus on Jesus

I've gone from an entirely self-centered attitude with what I was going "to do for God" to being a little more Christ-centered. Now I am certain that being connected to Him is what gives each and every Lenten resolution beauty and value.

The key to a holy Lent is looking to Jesus, keeping company with him, loving him, and appreciating all that his love prompted him to do for us.

Free On-line Lenten Resources

This Lent, there are so many wonderful free resources available. Here are just a few:

Fr. Robert Barron is offering a free daily Lenten reflection on his *Word on Fire* Web site. You can sign up for this by visiting www.lentreflections.com.

Fr. Dwight Longnecker is doing a Lenten Bible and study on the Gospel of Mark called "**Read Mark and Learn.**" He'll post a portion of Mark each day along with his commentary. He has a great Web site and weekly newsletter, with excellent Lenten articles on his blogspot www.patheos.com/blogs/standingonmyhead/2014/03/read-mark-and-learn-1.html.

Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception are offering, "**Pausing to Pray: Lenten Reflections for Busy People**" with brief daily reflections including excerpts from the Dairy of St. Faustina. Visit flocknote.com/lent to sign up.

Outside the Box: 66 Things to Give Up or Take Up (in beginner, intermediate and advanced)
http://www.bloglovin.com/frame?post=2361102199&group=0&frame_ty pe=a&blog=4853371&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jYXRRob2xpY2FsblHlY XluY29tLzlwMTQvMDIvbnV0c2lkZS1ib3gtNjYtdGhpbnmdzLXRvLWld pmdUtdXAtd3IuaHRtbA&frame=1&click=0&user=0

Magnificat Lenten Companion reflections for every day of Lent can be downloaded for 99 cents as an e-book. It is also available as an iPhone and iPad app. Check out https://www.magnificat.net/english/boutique_lenten.asp?utm_source=Ash+Wednesday&utm_campaign=Ash+Wednesday&utm_medium=email for the details.

Junior High Festival is May 4 not April 27

It will be held at Marshall Middle School from 1-7 p.m. and Steve Angrisano and Amanda Vernon are the keynotes. You should have received materials – if you need more posters, please let Cindy know, cblickem@dnu.org.

DYC APPLICATIONS due May 14, 2014

The Diocesan Youth Council is open to high school students, grades 10 to 12, in the Diocese of New Ulm. The council's purpose is to help spread the Gospel by sharing Jesus' love, by growing in our faith, and by sharing that faith with others.

Council members attend monthly meetings from August to May, help plan and implement the Senior High Rally and Junior High Festival, participate in a retreat, and help out with the diocesan young men's and young women's summer camps.

If you want to be a part of the council for the 2014-2015 year, please apply fill out an application form by **May 16** and send to Margaret McHugh (1400 6th St N, New Ulm, MN 56073).

<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/DioYthCouncilApplicationForm2014.pdf>

In 2014-15 we will need **10 new members** for the council. Our goal is to have two youth for each of the six regions in the diocese. Even if there are no vacancies on the council for your region at this time, there are three at-large positions, so we encourage you to apply and to go through the process with us on **Friday, June 6 from 1:00–4:00 p.m.** at the Parish of St. Aloysius in Olivia

Discipleship Camps at the Schoenstatt on the Lake Retreat in Sleepy Eye

July 20-24 Guys' Discipleship Camp
6 pm Sun- noon Thurs
July 27-31 Girls' Discipleship Camp
6 pm Sun-Noon Thurs

NET Team

Keep in mind if you want the NET Team to come to your parish this fall. They will be available for 10 retreat days October 20-30. They are booked for Sunday, October 26 and keep in mind they usually have Mondays off. See link for application form.

<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/2014NETTeamRequestForm.pdf>

Senior High Rally ~ Sunday, October 26

Baseball Celebrity Mike Sweeney will be with us!!!

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Margaret McHugh soon, mmchugh@dnu.org.

SUMMIT: A Morning Liturgy Conference

Celebrating 50 Years of Sacrosanctum Concilium, Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

Saturday, March 29, 2014 8:30 AM — Noon

St. Aloysius, Olivia, MN Cost: \$10

What was Vatican II's liturgical reform all about?

Where do we go with this reform today?

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
9:00 Breakfast / Registration
9:30 Conference 1: Themes of SC - Fr. Aaron Johanneck
10:15 Coffee Break
10:30 Conference 2: Implementing SC Today - Sr. Myriam Rose
11:15 Holy Mass with Bishop John LeVoi

Conference 1: Will delve into the text of SC, exploring its main themes and their significance for liturgical theology and renewal. Fr. Aaron Johanneck holds a Licentiate Degree in Sacred Theology, with an emphasis in Liturgical Theology.

Conference 2: Will discuss the implementation of SC in the 50 years since the Council, following its development through John Paul II, VI, and Pope Francis, looking forward to the future! Sr. Myriam Rose is Director of the Office of Worship.

Hosted by the Diocesan Office of Worship ~

To register, contact Sr. Anna: aswanson@dnu.org
507-233-5320

Haunted by God: The Life of Dorothy Day - play with Lisa Wagner-Carollo

Hosted by: Blessed John Paul II Area Faith Community & St. John in Morton & St. Catherine, Redwood Falls

Wed, April 2 - St. Catherine in Redwood Falls 7-8:30 pm

Thurs, April 3 - Holy Trinity in Winsted 7-8:30 pm

These are AFC and Diocese of New Ulm

Social Concerns sponsored events

Save the Date! Faith Formation Days 2014

Saturday, September 27 - focus on catechists & catechetical leaders

9-2:30 (8 am Early Bird Mass)

St. Catherine, Redwood Falls

Friday, September 26 – focus on Catholic schools

Upcoming 2014 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers

Mon, March 17	DRE/YM Gathering - Presenter: Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas will present a lecture on "Repentance, Deliverance, and Healing"	9:30 gathering; meeting 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Sun, May 4	Jr High Festival - Steve Angrisano & Amanda Vernon	1 – 7 pm	Marshall Middle School
Mon, April 28	DRE/YM Gathering - Curriculum Day	9:30 gather; mtg 10am–3pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Mon, May 12	DRE/YM Gathering - Spring Fling	Noon-4:00 pm	TBA
July 20-24	Guys' Discipleship Camp	6 pm Sun-Noon Thurs	Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye
July 27-31	Girls' Discipleship Camp	6 pm Sun-Noon Thurs	Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye
Sat, Sept 27	Faith Formation Day – Lori Dalhoff, keynote	9-2:30 (8 am Early Bird Mass)	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Sun, Oct 26	Senior High Rally - Baseball Celebrity Mike Sweeney!!!		

Check out Riverbend TEC! For more details and an application check out the Web site: <http://riverbendtec.org/>

April 5-7 Bird Island, June 28-30 Winsted, Aug 2-4 New Ulm



Evangelii Gaudium!

The Joy of the Gospel, Part 4 **Pope Francis' New Apostolic Exhortation** *by Bryan Reising*

This is the last installment of this apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis. The following are some excerpts, some gems I found in reading this document. Let us continue to explore this apostolic exhortation:

On Spirit-filled evangelizers

“Spirit-filled evangelizers mean evangelizers fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Spirit made the apostles go forth from themselves and turned them into heralds of God’s wondrous deeds, capable of speaking to each person in his or her own language. The Holy Spirit also grants the courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel with boldness (*parrhesia*) in every time and place, even when it meets with opposition. Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty. Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God’s presence...

...Spirit-filled evangelization is not the same as a set of tasks dutifully carried out despite one’s own personal inclinations and wishes. How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervor, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love, and attraction! Yet I realize that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts. A spirit-filled evangelization is one guided by the Holy Spirit, for he is the soul of the Church called to proclaim the Gospel. Before offering some spiritual motivations and suggestions, I once more invoke the Holy Spirit. I implore him to come and renew the Church, to stir and impel her to go forth boldly to evangelize all peoples.” (EG, 259-261)



On the personal encounter with Christ

“The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking

him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence. Standing before him with open hearts, letting him look at us, we see that gaze of love which Nathaniel glimpsed on the day when Jesus said to him: ‘I saw you under the fig tree’ (*Jn*1:48). How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence! How much good it does us when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share his new life! What then happens is that ‘we speak of what we have seen and heard’ (*1 Jn* 1:3).

The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages, and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others.” (EG, 264)

On the spiritual savior of being a people

“The word of God also invites us to recognize that we are a people: ‘Once you were no people but now you are God’s people’ (*1 Pet* 2:10). To be evangelizers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people’s lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people. When we stand before Jesus crucified, we see the depth of his love which exalts and sustains us, but at the same time, unless we are blind, we begin to realize that Jesus’ gaze, burning with love, expands to embrace all his people. We realize once more that he wants to make use of us to draw closer to his beloved people. He takes us from the midst of his people and he sends us to his people; without this sense of belonging we cannot understand our deepest identity.” (EG, 268)

“Jesus himself is the model of this method of evangelization which brings us to the very heart of his people. How good it is for us to contemplate the closeness which he shows to everyone! If he speaks to someone, he looks into their eyes with deep love and concern: ‘Jesus, looking upon him, loved him’ (*Mk* 10:21). We see how accessible he is, as he draws near the blind man (cf. *Mk* 10:46-52) and eats and drinks with sinners (cf. *Mk* 2:16) without worrying about being thought a glutton and a drunkard himself (cf. *Mt* 11:19). We see his sensitivity in allowing a sinful woman to anoint his feet (cf. *Lk* 7:36-50) and in receiving Nicodemus by night (cf. *Jn* 3:1-15). Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is nothing else than the culmination of the way he lived his entire life. Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep; arm in arm with others, we are committed to building a new world. But we do so not from a sense of obligation, not as a burdensome duty, but as the result of a personal decision which brings us joy and gives meaning to our lives.” (EG, 269)

“It is true that in our dealings with the world, we are told to give reasons for our hope, but not as an enemy who critiques and condemns. We are told quite clearly: ‘do so with gentleness and reverence’ (*1 Pet 3:15*) and ‘if possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all’ (*Rom 12:18*). We are also told to overcome ‘evil with good’ (*Rom 12:21*) and to ‘work for the good of all’ (*Gal 6:10*). Far from trying to appear better than others, we should ‘in humility count others better’ than ourselves (*Phil 2:3*). The Lord’s apostles themselves enjoyed ‘favor with all the people’ (*Acts 2:47; 4:21, 33; 5:13*). Clearly Jesus does not want us to be grandees who look down upon others, but men and women of the people. This is not an idea of the Pope, or one pastoral option among others; they are injunctions contained in the word of God which is so clear, direct, and convincing that they need no interpretations which might diminish their power to challenge us. Let us live them *sine glossa*, without commentaries. By so doing we will know the missionary joy of sharing life with God’s faithful people as we strive to light a fire in the heart of the world” (EG, 271)

“When we live out a spirituality of drawing nearer to others and seeking their welfare, our hearts are opened wide to the Lord’s greatest and most beautiful gifts. Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge the other, we grow in the light of faith and knowledge of God. If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then, we must constantly be missionaries. The work of evangelization enriches the mind and the heart; it opens up spiritual horizons; it makes us more and more sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and it takes us beyond our limited spiritual constructs. A committed missionary knows the joy of being a spring which spills over and refreshes others. Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary.” (EG, 272)

On the mysterious working of the risen Christ and his Spirit

“Christ’s resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference, and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit.” (EG, 276)

“Keeping our missionary fervor alive calls for firm trust in the Holy Spirit, for it is he who ‘helps us in our weakness’ (*Rom 8:26*). But this generous trust has to be nourished, and so we need to invoke the Spirit constantly. He can heal whatever causes us to flag in the missionary endeavor. It is true that this trust in the unseen can cause us to feel disoriented: it is like being plunged into the deep and not knowing what we will find. I myself have frequently experienced this. Yet there is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting him enlighten, guide, and direct us, leading us wherever he wills. The Holy Spirit knows well

what is needed in every time and place. This is what it means to be mysteriously fruitful!” (EG, 280)

On the missionary power of intercessory prayer

“One form of prayer moves us particularly to take up the task of evangelization and to seek the good of others: it is the prayer of intercession. Let us peer for a moment into the heart of Saint Paul, to see what his prayer was like. It was full of people: ‘...I constantly pray with you in every one of my prayers for all of you... because I hold you in my heart’ (*Phil 1:4, 7*). Here we see that intercessory prayer does not divert us from true contemplation, since authentic contemplation always has a place for others. (EG, 281)

“This attitude becomes a prayer of gratitude to God for others. ‘First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you’ (*Rom 1:8*). It is constant thankfulness: ‘I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus’ (*1 Cor 1:4*); ‘I thank my God in all my remembrance of you’ (*Phil 1:3*). Far from being suspicious, negative, and despairing, it is a spiritual gaze born of deep faith which acknowledges what God is doing in the lives of others. At the same time, it is the gratitude which flows from a heart attentive to others. When evangelizers rise from prayer, their hearts are more open; freed of self-absorption, they are desirous of doing good and sharing their lives with others.” (EG, 282)



On Mary

“With the Holy Spirit, Mary is always present in the midst of the people. She joined the disciples in praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:14*) and thus made possible the missionary outburst which took place at Pentecost. She is the Mother of the Church which evangelizes, and without her we could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelization.” (EG, 284)



“On the cross, when Jesus endured in his own flesh the dramatic encounter of the sin of the world and God’s mercy, he could feel at his feet the consoling presence of his mother and his friend. At that crucial moment, before fully accomplishing the work which his Father had entrusted to him, Jesus said to Mary: ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to his beloved friend: ‘Here is your mother’ (*Jn 19:26-27*). These words of the dying Jesus are not chiefly the expression of his devotion and concern for his mother; rather, they are a revelatory formula which manifests the mystery of a special saving mission. Jesus left us his mother to be our mother. Only after doing so did Jesus know that ‘all was now finished’ (*Jn 19:28*). At the foot of the cross, at the supreme hour of the new creation, Christ led us to Mary. He brought us to her because he did not want us to journey without a mother, and our people read in this maternal image all the mysteries of the Gospel. The Lord did not want to leave the Church without this icon of womanhood. Mary, who brought him into the world with great faith, also accompanies ‘the rest of her offspring, those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus’

(Rev 12:17). The close connection between Mary, the Church, and each member of the faithful, based on the fact that each in his or her own way brings forth Christ, has been beautifully expressed by Blessed Isaac of Stella: ‘In the inspired Scriptures, what is said in a universal sense of the virgin mother, the Church, is understood in an individual sense of the Virgin Mary... In a way, every Christian is also believed to be a bride of God’s word, a mother of Christ, his daughter and sister, at once virginal and fruitful... Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary’s womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church’s faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul.’” (EG, 285)

Pope Francis goes on to share how Mary is the Star of Evangelization and concludes with an intercessory prayer to Mary.

Or to read the entire document, go to:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.pdf

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Gather

Mon., March 17 ~ 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

beginning at 9:30 for coffee, light breakfast, & gathering at the Jubilee Center, St. Aloysius Church, Olivia

Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas will present a lecture on “Repentance, Deliverance, and Healing” with a special connection on Deliverance Ministries during a Lenten Day of Reflection

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblcikem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, March 14.

Future Gathers

Mon, April 28 Curriculum Day—sponsored by the diocese (Pastoral Center, New Ulm)

Mon, May 12 Spring Fling (location and time TBA)

“Salvation History: Realizing the Domestic Church” ~ Half-Day Bible Study/Retreat

Focus: Parents and other Lay Ministers of the Diocese of New Ulm

Purpose: Bible training and familiarity with *Lumen gentium* #10-12; hand-on faith

Date: Saturday or Sunday of parish’s choosing (schedule can be adjusted)

Presented by: Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas, a visiting assistant professor with Benedictine College, teaches for Saint Meinrad Seminary Diaconate Formation Program, and is Director of the New Evangelization Office for the Diocese of New Ulm.

Contact Paulette Kral pkral@dnu.org to set the above day of reflection (or a modified schedule) or call 507-359-2966.

Requires joint organization, promotion, and set-up by leaders of the sponsoring parish. Promotion needs at least three Sunday announcements, three parish bulletin runs, and opportunity for pre-registration.

Parish Visits... Bryan Reising has been on the road since September for some parish visits (twice a month) and will continue to do this through May. He can visit on the day of your Faith Formation. Please contact him to figure out a date that will work for you or he may contact you for that visit as he lines up his schedule. He will not get to all places during the catechetical year, but he would like to get to all regions and most area faith communities.

Keep in mind, that Bryan recognizes that this is a very busy day for you. So don’t feel you have to give him special treatment. If you have time to meet with him that afternoon, great, but don’t feel obligated. He can always meet with you on another day or through a phone call. The main idea for this is to look at what is happening that can benefit other parishes and area faith communities.

What will happen with these visits? The following are some possibilities: an observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction, perhaps an in-service with your catechists, or even a catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children. Keep in mind that this is not an audit, but a visit to observe and be of service.

Dates planned: March: Gibbon
April: Watkins
May: Open

Contact Bryan Reising to arrange a date and time. breising@dnu.org or call the Office for Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation, 507-233-5324.

Catechetical Planning

For those who are catechetical leaders, Bryan Reising can provide a closed course on “Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan.” Other catechetical leaders who have taken this three-week seminar found it very helpful in looking at all aspects of planning for catechesis for their AFC or parish. Please contact Bryan at breising@dnu.org if you are interested.

Riverbend TEC...

Together Encountering Christ retreats for adults and youth:

April 5-7	Bird Island
June 28-30	Winsted
August 2-4	New Ulm

University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

Be a part of these online learning opportunities! They have certificates for Catechesis, Youth Ministry, Leadership, Adult Faith Formation, Marianist Studies, and Social Justice!

Cycle 3: April 27 – May 17, 2014 (Seminars Only)
(Registration: Opens March 5; Closes April 23)

- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan](#)
- [Family Life Education](#)
- [Marianist Prayer Circle \(Reserved\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Three Offices](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Virtues for Mission](#)
- [On Bended Knee](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Overview of the GDC & NDC](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)

Bishop Lucker Lecture

Monday, March 10, 2014 - 7 p.m.

at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls



Our presenter will be **Dr. Barbara Elliott**, president and founder of the Center for Cultural Renewal in Houston, Texas. She is a college professor, former International television correspondent for PBS in Europe, and former Deputy Special Assistant to President Reagan, Office of Public Liaison (responsible for economic briefings for business leaders), and much more.

Her topic will be: **“White-Hot Faith Transforming the Culture”**

What kind of faith topples empires and frees captives? Radically changes the lives of former drug addicts, homeless people, and prisoners? Ignites a new vision for the creative arts rooted in eternal verities? Transforms the way businesses are run? Restores fragmented communities by linking the “down and outers” to the “up and outers?” Only the white-hot power of the Holy Spirit is capable of transforming a culture from top to bottom to make it genuinely good. Come to hear when profound change has swept through the culture with God's power unleashed, and learn where white-hot faith is at work today. Dr. Barbara J. Elliott draws on her experience in The White House, as a correspondent in Europe as the Berlin Wall fell, serving in the inner-cities of America, and in teaching the historical and theological roots of the True, the Good, and the Beautiful, to bring an inspiring vision of cultural transformation.

Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

The deadline to turn in the form from any make-up sessions was **March 1, 2014**.

If you have any changes with your Catechists Lists (new catechists), please send Cindy those changes: **name, grade(s) taught, and e-mail address. Thank you!** Any DRE, youth minister, catechist, adults helping with youth ministry, or anyone who may be in a ministry with minors is required to be in total compliance with safe environment requirements:

The four areas of compliance [a condition of employment or volunteer service] are:

- 1) Have a background check before beginning employment or volunteer service.
- 2) Sign forms A & B of the 2007 diocesan sexual misconduct policy before beginning employment or volunteer service.
- 3) Attend a VIRTUS training session before beginning employment or volunteer service. If there is a serious reason that prevents attendance prior to employment or volunteer service, a grace period of 60 days is allowed, but this only pertains to long term ministries lasting a school or catechetical year.
- 4) Each individual is to complete online training as assigned.

Regarding the online training, it is to be completed within 30 days of being posted to the VIRTUS account. Communicate with your volunteers to complete the online training as soon as possible. It takes approximately 10 minutes (or less) to do the training and answer the question at the end.

Remember to abide by all the deadlines for Safe Environment. Thank you! And thank you for keeping our children and youth safe!

VIRTUS Trainings

...Protecting God's Children for Adults

Sunday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. – Education Center, Cokato (north side of U.S. Highway 12 between Dassel & Cokato)

More training may be scheduled soon...

Mohr Catechist Formation Fund

A Gift for You, Catechists, Youth Team Members, Teachers of the Religion

- T This scholarship fund is a great gift for your catechists, teachers, youth ministry team, and many of you! You can receive scholarships for Faith Formation Day and other catechist formation opportunities, opportunities outside the diocese, online courses through the University of Dayton's VLCCFF (Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation), and even some college courses on faith formation. Please submit your applications soon! An application is on our Web site: <http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-Application.pdf>

Interested in a Bachelors or Masters in Theology, Religious Education, Pastoral Ministry, Parish Administration, or Canon Law?

- **St. Mary's University of Minnesota:** <http://www.smumn.edu/undergraduate-home/areas-ofstudy/theology/theology>. (They offer BA in Theology, Religious Education, Pastoral and Youth Ministry; they also offer a Graduate Certificate in Canon Law)
- **St. Paul Seminary Graduate Program for Lay People:** www.saintpaulseminary.org (this includes an optional online distance learning degree Their degrees include an MA in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, and Religious Education).

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

Join NCCL and receive *CL (Catechetical Leader) Magazine*, CL Weekly from Lee Nagel every Monday, discounts on resources, and information on the national conference and regional workshops! The cost of an individual membership to NCCL is only \$60.00. This is only \$5.00 a month. *Use the Mohr Scholarship Fund for this opportunity!* For further information about membership, check out the Web site: www.nccl.org.

Conference speakers include Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples* and Tom Corcoran, co-author of *Rebuilt* – about a parish going from maintenance to mission.

For information on the national conference (St. Louis, MO: May 18-22, 2014), go to www.nccl.us. *Perhaps a group of parish catechetical leaders can go on a road trip! Let me know if you are interested!*

Parish Catechesis Question

Now that you read excerpts of Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, dream of how your parish can be and how your parish's efforts to evangelize and catechize all will be different. I encourage you to read the entire document and share your dreams with each other (you can send them to me, and I can compile them in the next *Gatherings Reflections*).

