

# Gatherings

DIOCESE  
of NEW ULM  
Offices of Religious  
Education &  
Youth Ministry

# Reflections

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

April 10, 2014

## From the Office of Youth Ministry Margaret McHugh

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### From “Clue” to the Paschal Mystery

As a teenager I remember playing the board game, “Clue” for hours. Time stood still as we raced from room to room in the Victorian mansion, trying to discover who killed who, where, and with what murder weapon. I’m not sure what the fascination was with the game, but now I’ve noticed the teens on the Diocesan Youth Council are similarly taken by the murder mystery, “Mafia,” a group game that can be played anywhere.



So let me tell you where this murder mystery is going... Last Sunday, I sat in a different place in church and was seriously distracted and disturbed during Mass. The body language, gestures, and facial expressions of several attendees in front of me clearly communicated that they had no personal understanding or connection with the Paschal Mystery. They literally did not have a “Clue!” Since we are in the midst of celebrating the *pivotal event* of our faith this month, it struck me as a good topic for this newsletter.

### Paschal Mystery: Not Your Typical Who-Dun-It

We all love a good “who-dun-it” whether it takes place in on a board game, dinner theatre, school auditorium, or cinema. No matter how convoluted and mysterious the story appears at the beginning, we know that all will be revealed in the end. It requires some time to get to know the characters and their possible motives. Before long, the plot develops with all the sinister twists and turns and we’re drawn into the truth of the matter.

The Paschal Mystery, or the central mystery of our faith, is so much more than a murder-mystery-detective story. It’s about a heinous crime and an innocent victim. The camera is on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This non-fiction work contains a hero and heroines, a betrayer, murderers, and robbed cloak-and-dagger figures. Better yet, the story is re-enacted and re-lived each and every time we attend Mass. And the beauty of it all is that each one of us is invited to play a part in the drama.

The word “paschal” is a Latinized version of a Hebrew word, “*pesach*” and refers to the Passover event as told in the book of Exodus. The great Passover was prefigured when our ancestors in faith were delivered from oppression and slavery in Egypt and were enabled to *pass over* the Red Sea into a land of freedom (Exodus 1:1 – 15:21).

### Bridging the Gap

Here’s a great “Clue” on bridging the gap between “back then” and “right now” from the article, “The Paschal Mystery: God’s Wonderful Plan” by Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM, on [americancatholic.org](http://americancatholic.org).

**“The word ‘paschal’ will not add anything to ‘mystery’ if all of the ‘pass over’ moments happened long ago and to someone else! Each of us must be in touch with the ‘pass over’ moments in our own lives: The times God has saved me from... The times God has led me to... The times God has gifted me with... Unless we can fill in the blanks, ‘paschal’ will add little to our understanding of God’s plan.”**

It’s good to stop and reflect on whether or not and where, how and with whom I can discover my life in the reality-show of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is a good time for that...and we still have time! Before we can help our young people understand the Paschal Mystery in all its fullness, we need to be deeply immersed in it ourselves. So, in order to continue your personal reflection, I recommend the article, “The Paschal Mystery in Everyday Life” on the Loyola Press Web site: <http://www.loyolapress.com/the-paschal-mystery-in-everyday-life.htm>. My prayer for all of us is that this Easter will not find us and our young people, “clueless in the pew!”

## Junior High Festival is May 4

You should have received materials – if you need anything, please let Cindy know, [cblickem@dnu.org](mailto: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](mailto:mmchugh@dnu.org).



## 2014-15 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers

Mon, April 28	DRE/YM Gathering - Curriculum Day	9:30 gather; mtg 10am–3pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, May 4	Jr High Festival - <b>Steve Angrisano &amp; Amanda Vernon</b>	1 – 7 pm	Marshall Middle School
Mon, May 12	DRE/YM Gathering - Spring Fling <b>Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas; Theme: Mary</b>	Noon-4:00 pm (11:30 gather) Lunch at noon	Olivia, Max's Grill (see flyer)
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
Mon, Aug 25	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sat, Sept 27	Faith Formation Day – Lori Dalhoff, keynote	9-2:30 (8 am Early Bird Mass)	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Mon, Oct 20	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Sun, Oct 26	Sr High Rally - <b>Baseball Celebrity Mike Sweeney</b>		
Mon, Nov 10	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Dec 1	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Jan 12	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Feb 9	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, March 16	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, April 13	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Mon, May 11	DRE/YM Gathering - Spring Fling	Noon-4:00 pm (11:30 gather)	TBA

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

June 28-30 Winsted, Aug 2-4 New Ulm

**From the  
Religious Education  
Office  
Bryan Reising**

*Director of Religious Education  
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***May each of you have a blessed Lent,  
faith-filled Holy Week,  
and a Happy Easter!***

***Encourage your students, their parents,  
and all adult parishioners to participate  
in the Triduum (Holy Thursday,  
Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil)  
at your parish!***



**The Triduum  
Invite the Whole  
Parish or AFC!**



How many parishioners attend the liturgies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at your parish? Do your parishioners receive adequate kerygma and catechesis on these days? It is after all a commemoration of the Last Supper, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord. We are called to enter into these days called Triduum solemnly, spiritually, and of course with the Easter Vigil, with joy!

### **Holy Thursday**



This is the day we commemorate the Last Supper – the institution of the Eucharist. In the synoptic gospels, this was the first day of Pesach or Passover. Many Scripture scholars say Jesus enhanced this Pesach to a more universal Pesach where the elements of bread and wine are changed into Jesus' Body and Blood. During the beginning of the Exodus, they slaughtered an unblemished lamb and put the blood on the boundary of the door so that the angel of death would pass over. Jesus is now the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. His blood on the wooden cross would save us from sin and death (Sheol) and lead us to eternal life.

### **Here is Matthew's Gospel account:**

“On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, ‘Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?’ He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain man and tell him,’ The teacher says, ‘My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.’ The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, ‘Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.’ Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, ‘Surely it is not I, Lord?’ He said in reply, ‘He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.’ Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, ‘Surely it is not I, Rabbi?’ He answered, ‘You have said so.’

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.’ Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (Matthew 26:17-30)

Actually, Matthew's account is not the one proclaimed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (even though the first reading from Exodus describes the Passover). The Gospel comes from the Gospel according to John. And in John's account, it is not the Passover for Passover begins on Friday, the next day. Theologically, it makes the connection even stronger that on the day Jesus died, like the Passover lambs slaughtered to save Israel, Jesus saves us.

The focus on the Gospel account is the washing of the feet, serving one another, especially the priest in his role as servant. Some faiths and cultures call this day Maundy Thursday because of the mandate of Jesus to his disciples to serve.

After the Mass, parishes have allotted time for Eucharistic adoration for parishioners.

Some people begin a fast from now (after the Mass of the Last Supper) until after the Easter Vigil – to pray, to reflect upon the passion and death of our Lord, and to keep the holiness of this time. Here is what the US Bishops say about this Paschal Fast:

“If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the ‘paschal fast’ to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.” (US Bishops)

## Good Friday



Good Friday we commemorate the passion and death of our Lord. It is a time for quiet reflection and parishes bring opportunities to the faithful for a communion service and Veneration of the Cross.

There are many parishes that have their liturgy at 3:00 p.m. In addition, there are some evening opportunities as well.

As mentioned, the fast which began on Holy Thursday night continues (one full meal can be taken and two small meals). And the faithful are to abstain

from meat.

The liturgy consists of the following:

- The Liturgy of the Word where the priest(s) and assisting ministers come in silence and makes a full prostration before the altar. Readings from Isaiah and Hebrews are proclaimed. The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of John is read in parts with the assembly participating. Then a series of prayers, *orationes sollemnes*, which are prayers for the Church, the Pope, the clergy and laity of the Church, those preparing for baptism, the unity of Christians, the Jewish people, those who do not believe in Christ, those who do not believe in God, those in public office, those in special need.
- The second portion is the Veneration of the Cross where the crucifix is displayed, and each person comes up to kiss or touch the cross or Christ.
- The third portion of the liturgy is the receiving the Eucharist. Nothing is consecrated on that day, but consecrated hosts, the Body of Christ, from the Mass of the Last Supper can be distributed at the end of this liturgy.

Also parishes offer opportunities for the Stations of the Cross either outside or inside the Church.

## Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday, there is no Mass celebrated until the Easter Vigil at sundown. It is a solemn and prayerful day. Some places like Poland, have a blessing of the foods to be prepared for the Easter meal.

It is encouraged for adults, if they are able, to continue the fast that began on Thursday night after the Mass of the Last Supper. People can break the fast after the Easter Vigil with a celebratory meal.

At the Easter Vigil, this Mass begins with the lighting of the Paschal Candle from the Easter fire. Then the priest or deacon chants, "Christ Our Light" as he processes in with the Paschal Candle and others light their own individual candles. Then up to seven readings from the Old Testament are proclaimed. Then the lights come on, the bells are rung, and the Gloria is sung. The reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans is proclaimed. Then the Alleluia is sung and the Gospel

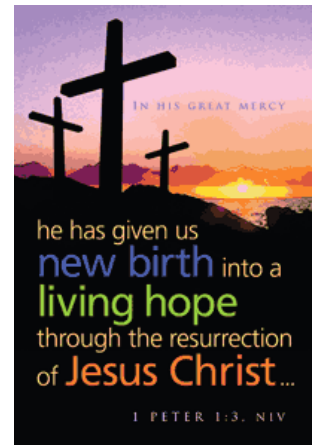
story of the Resurrection is proclaimed. Mark, Matthew, or Luke's account of the Resurrection is proclaimed – depending what Cycle we are in. And this is the central idea why these Gospels were formed in the first place – even the letters of Paul were written. Jesus rose from the dead, conquered sin and death, and rose to life. Jesus brought us salvation from sin and its consequences. Jesus is Lord, the Risen Lord!

Next the holy water in the baptismal font or pool is blessed. And any elect (former catechumens) are then baptized by pouring or immersion. Then they and those who were already baptized will receive Confirmation. And of course, later on during the Mass, they will receive the Eucharist to complete the Sacraments of Initiation.

Some parishes have a celebration after the Mass for the newly baptized and those who entered into full communion (those who were already baptized). Some who enter into full communion could have come in the Church on another Sunday, if they were ready for Confirmation and the Eucharist. But even for them, it would be appropriate to participate in the Easter Vigil and the celebration afterwards.

And since the readings are different on Sunday morning, everyone is welcome to participate in that liturgy as well!

If you start the invitations now, I believe you will have a full house by the time of the Easter Vigil. Make sure you have some time for students and their parents to talk about the experience of the Triduum. And hopefully, these new people will come back next year to experience the Triduum again!



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Gather

**Mon., April 28 ~ 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**beginning at 9:30 for coffee, light breakfast and gathering at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, New Ulm**

Curriculum Day—sponsored by the diocese. Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblcikem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, April 25.

### Future Gatherings

Mon, May 12 - Spring Fling at Max's Grill in Olivia, 11:30 am- 4:00 pm, lunch served at 12 noon) – presentation by Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas; Theme: Mary. **See attached flyer.**

### Next Year's Gatherings

August 25, October 20, November 10, December 1, January 12, February 9, March 16, April 13, May 11

## 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:

April: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm  
May: Open

Contact Bryan Reising to arrange a date and time.  
[breising@dnu.org](mailto: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](mailto:breising@dnu.org) if you are interested.

## Riverbend TEC

**Together Encountering Christ** retreats for adults and youth:

June 28-30	Winsted
August 2-4	New Ulm

## Those of You Who Participated in Foundations, But Not the Second Year, We Invite You!

Together in Mission (formerly Together in Communion) will be at Holy Redeemer Parish in their Roncalli Room on the following Saturdays next Catechetical Year:

- Sept. 20, 2014- Catholic Faith Tradition “Vatican II and Breathing with Both Lungs of the Church” Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas, Office of the New Evangelization, DNU
- Oct. 18, 2014 - Philosophy and Theology “Scholasticism Without the Armor: Saint Thomas for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” Prof. Kevin Rickert, Saint Mary's University
- Nov. 22, 2014 - Biblical Anthropology “On Man and Woman: Genesis and the Theology of the Body” Most Rev. John M. LeVoir, Bishop of New Ulm

- Dec. 6, 2014 - Sacraments “Christian Liturgy: The Wedding Feast of the Lamb in the Book of Revelation” Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas
- Jan. 24, 2015 - Moral Theology I “Call to Holiness and Principles of *Veritatis Splendor*” Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM, Director, Office of Marriage and Family, DNU
- Feb. 21, 2015 - Moral Theology II “Catholic Social Teaching and the Dignity of Labor” Deacon Tim Dolan, Director, Office of Social Concerns, DNU
- Mar. 21, 2015 - Prayer & Spirituality “Church Doctors of Spirituality and Our Mission in Christ (Priest, Prophet, and King)” Sr. Myriam Rose, ACJ, Director, Office of Worship, DNU
- Apr. 18, 2015 - Mission and Ministry “The Parish and Systematic Integral New Evangelization” Bryan Reising, M.A., Director, Office of Adult Faith Formation, DNU

Unifying text for the course includes Fr. Richard Hogan's and Bishop LeVoir's *Covenant of Love*

To register, contact Paulette Kral at [pkral@dnu.org](mailto:pkral@dnu.org) or 507-359-2966.

## 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](#)

## 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, This includes VBS volunteers and chaperones for summer events:

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

Saturday, April 26 at 9 a.m. – Holy Trinity High School, Winsted

More training may be scheduled soon...

### Mohr Catechist Formation Fund

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

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 VLCFF (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](http://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](http://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](http://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

What do you like about your curriculum? Or what are you looking for in a curriculum? Perhaps share that at our next Gather!

## 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*