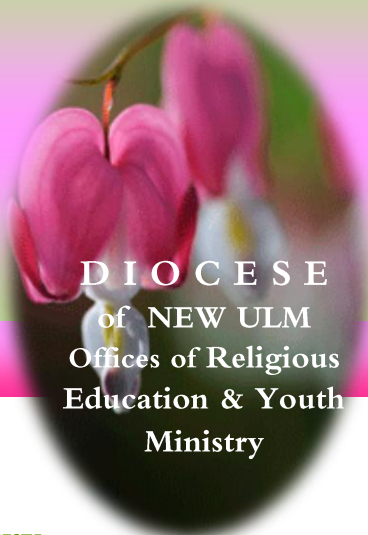


# Gatherings

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:



DIOCESE  
of NEW ULM  
Offices of Religious  
Education & Youth  
Ministry

# Reflections

May 8, 2014

**From the  
Office of Youth Ministry**

**Margaret McHugh**

**Director of Youth Ministry &  
Vocation Awareness**

**mmchugh@dnu.org 507-233-5327**

## May is Mary's Month



**"What the Catholic faith believes about Mary  
is based on what it believes about Christ,  
and what it teaches about Mary illumines in  
turn its faith in Christ."**

***-Catechism of the Catholic Church § 487***

This Spring I've been reviewing brief, youth-friendly videos on faith topics. This month, I'm happy to share the best three minute video I've found on Mary.

**Mary in Three Minutes by Busted Halo:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7AQGyqtoK0>

**I have a copy of the following Marian resources in my Office available to share with you:**

- **Praying the Rosary for Inner Healing** by Fr. Dwight Longenecker, 2008, Our Sunday Visitor. Fr. Dwight Longenecker is a former Anglican minister who became a Catholic priest. This book shows you how to use the Rosary for healing.
- **Meet Mary: Getting to Know the Mother of God** by Mark Miravalle, 2007, Sophia Institute Press
- **Visiting Mary: Her U.S. Shrines and Their Graces** by Julie Dortch Cragon, 2014, Servant Books. More than a travelogue, *Visiting Mary*, encourages devotion to Our Lady and encourages readers to capture her graces in their daily lives. It features a firsthand view of Marian shrines across the United States, explains devotion to Mary based on her various titles, includes pictures of dozens of shrines, and offers a comprehensive list of Marian devotional sites across the country

If you'd like to explore Mariology in greater depth, read **Scriptural Basis for Marian Doctrine and Devotion: Questions and Answers** by Rev. John Hampsch, C.M.F., Queenship Publishing.

**For an excellent, in-depth, live presentation on Mary, come to our May 12 Spring Fling at Max's Grill in Olivia. Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas, Director of the Office of Evangelization will be our presenter.**



## 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\

**Catechetical Sunday 2014 Order Form...** We will only order enough materials to fill the orders submitted by you to Cindy, so please get your orders in by June 25. After that date, you will need to order them from USCCB yourself and you would have to pay the full cost. USCCB Publishing, 3211 4th St NE, Washington DC Ph 800-235-8722 <http://usccb.org/catecheticalsunday/>

Celebrating the Catechetical Year 2014 (English/Spanish Booklet will be available for download from the USCCB Web site).				
Product Code	Title	Qty.	Price Ea	Total Cost
7-425	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Certificate</a>		\$0.50	
7-423	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Family Card</a>		\$4.90	
7-427	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Poster / Bilingual</a>		\$2.50	
7-421	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Prayer Card</a>		\$4.90	
7-426	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Certificate / Spanish</a>		\$0.50	
7-422	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Prayer Card / Spanish</a>		\$4.90	
7-424	<a href="#">Catechetical Sunday - 2013 Family Card / Spanish</a>		\$4.90	

**Return by June 25, 2014**

**Return to: Cindy Blickem, 1400 6th Street N, New Ulm, MN 56073**

**Ph: 507-233-5325 Fax: 507-354-3667 [cblickem@dnu.org](mailto:cblickem@dnu.org)**

Subtotal	\$
Shipping & Handling	\$ 2.00
Total Amount Due	\$

Name	_____	Address	_____
Parish	_____	City, State, Zip	_____
Phone	_____	E-mail	_____
Amount Enclosed:	_____	Please Bill Parish:	_____

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

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
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
Sun, Sept 21	Catechetical Sunday	Theme: Teaching about God's Gift of Forgiveness	
Fri, Sept 26	Faith Formation Day – Lori Dalhoff (school focus)	8:45-2:45 (8:00 coffee & rolls)	New Ulm Area Catholic Schools
Sat, Sept 27	Faith Formation Day – Lori Dalhoff ( catechists & catechetical leaders) <b>SEE ATTACHED FLYER</b>	9-2:30 (8 am Early Bird Mass)	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Sun, Oct 19-Thurs Oct 30	NET Team – avaialbe for parish retreats	Please contact Cindy to schedule	
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  
& Adult Faith Formation

breising@dnu.org  
507-233-5323



## PENTECOST

### The Birth of the Church

This year, Pentecost falls on Sunday, June 8. And since it is summer, what will you do for your parish to make this special day festive? After all, it is a birthday, celebrating the birth of our Church! Let's explore this solemnity and its history, and creative ways to celebrate it culturally!

### Pentecost as Shavout, A Jewish Feast

Pentecost (pentikostó) is the Greek name for fiftieth representing the fiftieth day after the feast of Pesach or Passover. Shavout is the Hebrew name meaning week, otherwise called the Feast of Weeks. What does it commemorate? First, it commemorates the gift of the Law, the Torah, at Mt. Sinai. And it is called the Festival of Weeks because during the 50 days from Passover, they are counting the weeks to this celebration. It also celebrates the first harvest, the first fruits.

### Pentecost in the New Testament

So Jews from various places made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem on this feast, to offer their first fruits to God (fruits and grain). So when the apostles and disciples of Jesus met in the upper room, this was the day many pilgrims came from various parts of the known world



to come with their grain and some first fruits to Jerusalem. So after the apostles and followers received the Gift of the Holy Spirit, Peter had an audience of Jews from all over the known world. Thus, the seeds of Christianity were planted in various countries. These first Christians were Jewish Christians. And this Pentecost

event became known as the birthday of the Church, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit became a sacrament. It is the second Sacrament of Initiation called Confirmation.

It is not known exactly when Pentecost started to be celebrated on a regular basis, but Luke, of course, mentions the first Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles. But even before that writing, Paul mentions it in his first letter to the Corinthians:

"I shall come to you after I pass through Macedonia (for I am going to pass through Macedonia), and perhaps I shall stay or even

spend the winter with you, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go. For I do not wish to see you now just in passing, but I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. I shall stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, because a door has opened for me wide and productive for work, but there are many opponents." (1 Corinthians 16: 5-9)

### Pentecost in the Early Church

St. Irenaeus (130-202) wrote about this feast of Pentecost found on some fragments of his writings. It was mentioned in *Epistola Apostolorum* (a letter from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church) in the 2nd century. In the 3rd century it was mentioned by Origen (184/185 – 253/254), a theologian and leader of the catechetical school in Alexandria, and by Tertullian (160 – c. 225 AD), a priest and writer from Carthage. In Tertullian's *On Baptism*, it seems to be a well established feast. According to the Apostolic Constitutions (written between 375 and 380 AD), Pentecost lasted one week in the Eastern Church.

### Pentecost in Various Cultures

In Italy, in several places, rose pedals are dropped from the ceiling of some churches to represent the tongues of fire during Pentecost.

In Germany, birch trees are decorated with large wreaths (*Pfingstbaumpflanzen*) in parts of the state of Lower Saxony. Birch trees are just coming into leaf at this time of year and symbolize the fertile spring and summer seasons. And wreaths (*Pfingstenkranz*) are erected in two squares in the town of Oelde in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.



In Poland, Pentecost is also referred to as the "Green Holiday," as some houses in Poland are decorated with green branches to symbolize God blessing these families and homes. Another tradition is a procession to farms and fields to bless newly planted crops.

In the United Kingdom, there is a tradition of wearing white because its connection with Baptism. Thus, it is also called Whit Sunday.

In the United States and other places, many people wear red in commemoration of the tongues of fire.

Many Catholics pray a Pentecost novena in preparation of this solemnity. And many parishes honor the neophytes (newly Baptized) and those who were confirmed in the past year. Even in some dioceses, the bishop celebrates Pentecost Mass with the neophytes.



Wear Red for Pentecost

### Pentecost Today

Invite your parishioners to renew their faith on this day, to rediscover some of their traditions, and to challenge all, from the newly confirmed to families to the elderly to live their faith and proclaim their faith explicitly everyday! Make this



day special! After all, it is the birthday of us, the Church!

# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

## Spring Fling for DRES, Youth Ministers

Mon, May 12 ~ 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

lunch will be at 12 noon  
Max's grill in Olivia

## May—The Month of Mother Mary

With Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas  
Office of the New Evangelization  
Diocese of New Ulm



- 11:30 Gather
- Noon-1 Lunch
- 1-1:45 The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen
- 2-2:45 The Many Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 3-3:45 The Rosary and Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, May 9.

## Gathers for Next Catechetical Year

### 2014

Monday, August 25 – Diocesan Pastoral Center  
Monday, October 20 (Bishop LeVoir – Speaker) – Olivia  
Monday, November 10 – Olivia  
Monday, December 1 – Olivia

### 2015

Monday, January 12 – Olivia  
Monday, February 9 – Olivia  
Monday, March 16 – Olivia  
Monday, April 13 – Curriculum Day, New Ulm  
Monday, May 11 – TBA

## Parish Visits

Bryan will continue his parish visits for next year. 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

## 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 4: June 1 – July 5, 2014

(Registration: Opens April 30; Closes May 28)

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodologies: Archdiocese for Military Services Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Communication and Community](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 1\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Many Faces of Adult Learners \(AFL 3\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Leadership](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Social Justice](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World](#)
- [Prayer and Worship with Adolescents](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [Vocation to Ministry](#)



## Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

Most of you have turned in your reports and your volunteers are in compliance! Thank you!

There are still a few that need to turn in the reports for the MakeUp sessions and need to remind volunteers what is required of them. Please make sure you turn these in as soon as possible.

**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.**

**And thank you for keeping our children and youth safe!**

### **VIRTUS Trainings**

#### **...Protecting God's Children for Adults**

Mon, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. – Church of St. Mary, Willmar  
Mon, June 2 1:30 pm – Catholic Pastoral Center, New Ulm

**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>

### **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 and 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.**

### **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).

### **Parish Catechesis Question**

This summer, will you encourage catechists to take online courses related to their ministry through the University of Dayton’s VLCFF? Remind them they can use the Mohr Catechist Formation Scholarship.

