

## From the Religious Education Office

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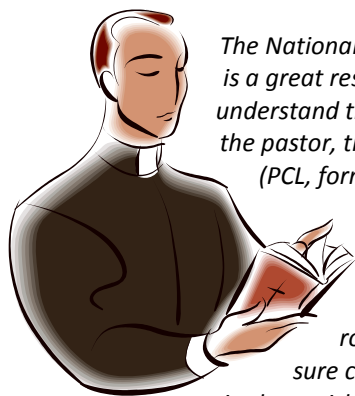


## The National Directory for Catechesis

### Those Who Catechize

### What Does It Say About the Pastor, the Priest, the Seminarian?

by Bryan Reising



*The National Directory for Catechesis (NDC) is a great resource for parishes to understand the role of those who catechize: the pastor, the parish catechetical leader (PCL, formerly called the DRE or CRE), the parents, the catechists, and so on. I will take directly out of the NDC what it says about these various people and their role in catechizing and making sure catechetical formation is effective in the parish, in the Area Faith Community:*

Pastors have specific responsibilities that derive from their particular catechetical role. "All believers have a right to catechesis; all pastors have a duty to provide it" (Catechesi Tradendae, 64). Pastors are the bishops' closest collaborators in ensuring that the goals of the diocesan catechetical mission are achieved.

Attentive to the norms established by the diocesan bishop, the pastor is to take care in a special way:

1. That suitable catechesis is imparted for the celebration of the sacraments
2. That through catechetical instruction imparted for an appropriate period of time children and youth are prepared properly for the first reception of the

Sacraments of Penance and the Most Holy Eucharist and for the Sacrament of Confirmation

3. That having received First Communion [and Confirmation], these children [and youth] are enriched more fully and deeply through catechetical formation
4. That catechetical formation is given also to those who are physically or mentally impeded, insofar as their condition permits;
5. That the faith of youth and adults is strengthened, enlightened, and developed through various means and endeavors.

The pastor should also ensure that:

- Catechesis is emphasized in a way that provides age-appropriate opportunities for adults, youth, and children
- A total parish plan for catechesis is developed and implemented in consultation with the parish pastoral council and parish catechetical leadership
- Catechesis for adults of all ages is a priority – adult formation should be provided in such a way that parishioners would recognize it as the parish's primary catechesis
- Catechesis for youth and young adults is situated within a comprehensive plan for youth ministry in the parish
- Catechists at all levels are well formed and trained for this task
- Catechesis is available for all language groups
- The baptismal catechumenate is a vital component in the organization of catechesis in the parish
- The catechumenate is an essential process in the parish, one that serves as the inspiration of all catechesis

Pastors should also work with parents, school, catechetical personnel, and appropriate boards and commissions in the parish to plan and carry out the catechetical mission in the local parish. The pastor has the primary responsibility to ensure that the catechetical needs, goals, and priorities of the parish are identified, articulated, and met. In parishes with no resident pastor, pastoral administrators have the same obligation.



*These directives for the pastor can be helpful as the pastor along with his staff and really each parishioner realize what needs to be done regarding the evangelizing and catechizing mission of the parish. The pastor as the lead catechist and shepherd of the parish needs to lead the way to ensure these directives do get done so that everyone, from the pre-school student to the elderly adult, get the opportunity for catechetical formation. The NDC has some additional things to say about the priest in general, which includes the pastor, the parochial vicar, the senior associate, and the retired priest.*

Priests share the teaching role of their bishops and are the immediate collaborators with them in the proclamation of the Gospel. The special role in the diocesan catechetical mission that they exercise arises directly from the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which constitutes priests as educators in the faith. Since a priest 'must be the catechist of catechists, forming... a veritable community of disciples of the Lord,' in his preaching and teaching and in the sacramental ministry of the Church, the priest transmits the Gospel of Christ, encourages conversion to him, fosters the life of faith and ongoing formation of faith, and inspires the prayer of the community of faith. They are leaders who offer support for all those involved in catechesis. In his parish, the priest has the responsibility of forming the Christian community and ensuring that the faithful are properly formed and reach true Christian maturity. Priests help to foster the ministry of catechists and assist them in carrying out their responsibilities by collaborating with catechetical leaders to provide catechists with formation and by supporting them, above all by their prayers. The parish priest plays an active role in the catechetical programs and is available to celebrate the sacraments with classes or groups. In addition, the Church expects priests "to neglect nothing with a view to a well-organized and well-oriented catechetical effort."

Parochial vicars, in giving support to a pastor's catechetical responsibilities, are especially called to:

- Foster a sense of common responsibility for catechesis in the parish and a recognition and appreciation for catechists and their mission
- Ensure that parish catechetical programs are systematic and complete
- Encourage those faithful who have the necessary qualities to be catechists among them
- Integrate catechesis with evangelization and foster the link between catechesis, sacraments, and Liturgy
- Ensure the connection between parish and diocesan catechetical efforts

Priests are absolutely essential contributors to an effective catechetical program. Their zealous leadership is essential to parish catechesis. In order to maintain and enrich their ministry as catechists, priests are to give

careful attention to their own catechetical formation and continue their education and spiritual formation after ordination.

*In addition, it addresses seminarians and their learning about catechesis:*

Frequently, candidates for the priesthood are being given catechetical responsibilities in the parishes in which they serve a pastoral internship. Seminarians need a clear understanding of the nature, goals, and methods of catechesis as well as the roles they will have in the catechetical programs of parishes and institutions to which they will be assigned as priests. They should learn the processes of human growth and development and faith formation so that they will be able to adapt the Gospel message to the age and ability of those they catechize. They should also have an understanding of the catechetical ministry of the Church and training in the organization and supervision of parish catechetical programs. They should be sensitive to the diversity of cultures, and those who are not native-born should have the opportunity to learn the culture of the United States.

*Integrated throughout the NDC, there are other aspects that pastors and priests need to be aware of like home schooling and parish planning. Hopefully the NDC can shed some light on the importance of each of us, our role, and an appreciation for each of our roles to enhance the evangelizing and catechizing efforts of our parishes and AFCs.*



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

**October 20, 2014 Gather at St. Aloysius, Olivia  
9:30 am gather; Meeting 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Presenter: Bishop John LeVoir

Theme: Theology of the Body

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, October 17.

### **Gathers for the 2014-2015 Catechetical Year**

**9:30 am gather; Meeting 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at St.  
Aloysius, Olivia (unless stated otherwise)**

Monday, November 10 – Dcn. Mike McKeown,  
Unbound Ministry

Monday, December 1

**2015**

Monday, January 12

Monday, February 9

Monday, March 16

Monday, April 13 – Curriculum Day, Diocesan Pastoral  
Center, New Ulm

Monday, May 11 – TBA

## Frank Runyeon Christmas Skit

December 3 at 6:30-8 p.m.

St. Raphael, Springfield

Attached is a PR poster for the Frank Runyeon Christmas skit that we will be having in Springfield on December 3 at 6:30 p.m. - it should last until about 8 p.m. with refreshments to follow. The cost is free, but we are having a free will offering to help cover costs for those who wish to help out.

We have limited space so if other parishes are planning on coming have them call me at 507-723-4138 or email [straysfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:straysfaithformation@gmail.com) just to make sure we don't run out of space.

**Katie Prokosch**, Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, St. Raphael Catholic Church 507-723-4138

## 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. So far he has lined up visits with:

- Renville – September
- Litchfield, Milroy and Tracy (pilgrimage to New Ulm), and Lambertson – October
- Morgan and Franklin – November
- Christ the King AFC (Tyler, Lake Benton, Ivanhoe, Wilno) – January

## 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:  
January 17-19, 2015 – New Ulm  
March 21-23, 2015 – Bird Island  
June 27-29, 2015 – Winsted

To sign up, contact: [riverbendtec@gmail.com](mailto:riverbendtec@gmail.com) to receive an application.

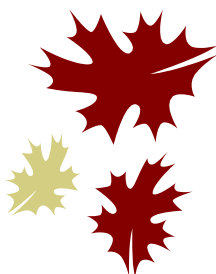
## University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

Be a part of these online learning opportunities! They have certificates for Catechesis, Youth Ministry, Leadership, Adult Faith Formation, Marianist Studies, and Social Justice! Join Bryan for Evangelization and Discipleship or choose from the others!

**Cycle 7: October 26 – November 29, 2014**

**(Registration: Opens September 10; Closes October 22)**

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodologies: Archdiocese for Military Services Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Evangelization and Discipleship](#) (Bryan will facilitate this course)
- [Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 4\)](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Social Justice](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Parish and Social Action](#)
- [Pastoral Approach to Culture](#)
- [Prayer and Worship with Adolescents](#)
- [Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry](#)
- [RCIA](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)



## Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

All Catechist Lists from each parish were due Sept. 16. Please submit your catechist lists. If you do not have all the grades covered, send what you have and then continue to provide the names of new catechists as soon as possible. Please send Margy the lists: name, grade(s) taught, and e-mail address. (A form was sent to each parish to verify, change, delete, and/or add on. 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.

Some catechist lists received have included individuals who have not yet completed any diocesan 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 questions at the end.

Do your Safe Environment training for children and youth during October or the first week of November at the latest. We need to do these at the beginning of the catechetical year rather than later to ensure our children and youth have the tools they need to be safe. Remember we are doing Lessons 1 and 2 this year. These reports are due back to the diocesan Safe Environment Office by November 11, 2014.

The Opt Out form with the information for parents are to be sent to the parents before the children's training. If parents wish to opt out they are to send the opt out form before the lesson takes place and they will then be given the age-appropriate lesson materials for their child(ren).

Remember to use only diocesan forms.

And thank you for keeping our children and youth safe!

## VIRTUS Trainings

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

- Sat, Oct 11 at 9 a.m. – Church of St. Anastasia, Hutchinson
- Tues, Oct 14 at 6:30 pm – Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

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 VLCCF (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 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

Do you meet with the pastor regularly to share what is happening regarding catechesis in the parish? How is your pastor involved with catechesis? A regular catechist? Adult faith formation? Organize evangelization efforts and small Christian communities? RCIA? Confirmation preparation?





**Senior High Rally**  
**Sunday, October 26, 2014 1-7 pm**  
**New Ulm Event Center**  
**301 20th Street S, New Ulm**

Featured Speaker will be **Mike Sweeney**, retired professional baseball player from the Kansas City Royals and now special assistant to the Kansas City Royals. Featured music will be provided by The Thirsting, a Catholic band from Portland, Oregon.

Posters with registration information were sent out. The deadline for signing up for this gathering is October 16 and the cost is \$20 and \$10 for adults. After October 16, the price will go up to \$25 for youth and \$13 for adults.

The following link has the information you will need for the Rally. Please send in your registrations in soon!  
<http://www.dnu.org/word/youth.html>



*M*argaret McHugh, the director of Youth Ministry and Vocation Awareness for the Diocese of New Ulm, has submitted her resignation. Her last day will be Friday, October 10. She has accepted a new job offer in Venice, Florida, which begins October 16. Since the position involves catechesis and youth outreach they are anxious for her to get started and she is sad to be leaving us.

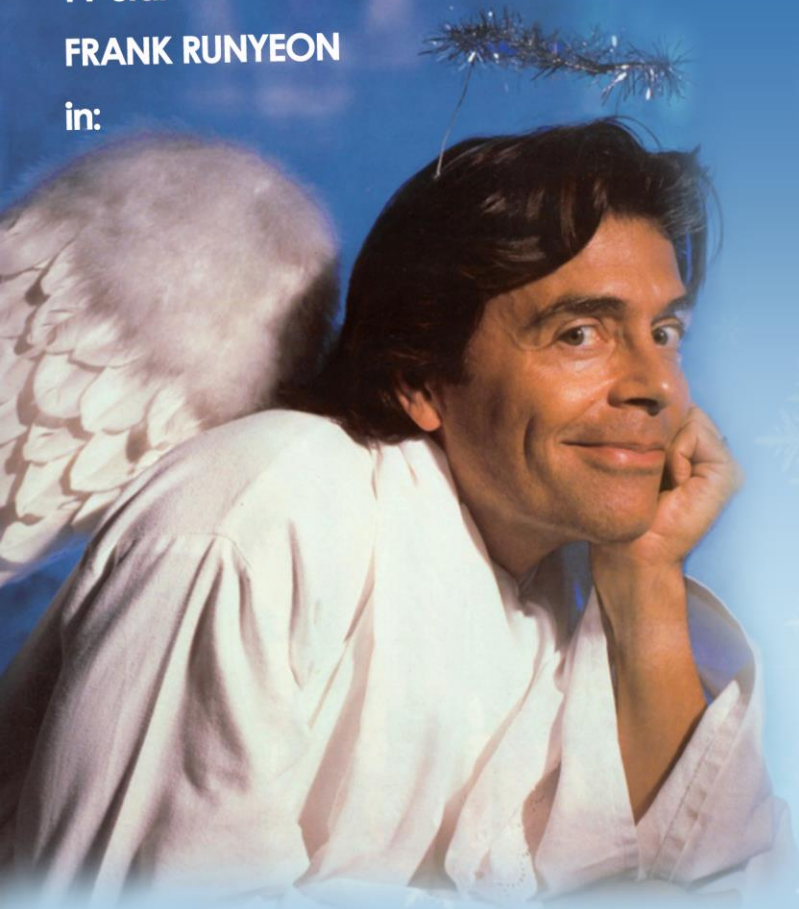
Bryan Reising, diocesan Director of Religious Education and Faith Formation, along with assistance from Cindy Blickem, will help coordinate the NET Team visit in October, the Rally, and coordinate the DYC help at the Rally.

2014-15 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers			
Sun, Oct 19-Thurs Oct 30	NET Team in diocese for parish retreats		
Mon, Oct 20	DRE/YM Gathering – Bishop John M. LeVoir	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Sun, Oct 26	Sr High Rally - <b>Baseball Celebrity Mike Sweeney &amp; the Catholic band – The Thirsting</b>	1:00-7:00 p.m.	Event Center, New Ulm 301 20th St. S
Mon, Nov 10	DRE/YM Gathering – Bishop John M. LeVoir – Theology of the Body	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 3 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Dec 1	DRE/YM Gathering - Dcn. Mike McKeown, Unbound Ministry	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
<b>Check out Riverbend TEC!</b> For more details and an application check out the Web site: <a href="http://riverbendtec.org/">http://riverbendtec.org/</a>			
Oct 11-13, 2014 – Bird Island    Jan 17-19, 2015 – New Ulm    March 21-23, 2015 – Bird Island    June 27-29, 2015 – Winsted			

TV Star

FRANK RUNYEON

in:



# THE 3<sup>1/2</sup> STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

**“REMARKABLE!”**

PEOPLE MAGAZINE

**“INSPIRING!”**

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**“THE CHILDREN WERE  
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Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time:

From the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem,  
from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of

*the Christmas Angel himself!*

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm**  
**At Springfield High School Theater**  
Hosted by St. Raphael Church  
Free Will Offering

For more information:  
507-723-4138

**FRANK RUNYEON** has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the last 20 years... opposite Meg Ryan on AS THE WORLD TURNS, on SANTA BARBARA, FALCON CREST, GENERAL HOSPITAL, LA LAW and MELROSE PLACE. He is also an honors graduate of General Theological Seminary and Princeton University.