

Gatherings

DIOCESE
of NEW ULM
Offices of
Religious Education &
Youth Ministry

Reflections

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers,

November 6, 2014

From the Religious Education Office

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The National Directory for Catechesis

Those Who Catechize What Does It Say About the Catechetical Leader

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:

The single most critical factor in an effective parish catechetical program is the leadership of a professionally trained parish catechetical leader. Depending on the size and scope of the parish catechetical program, parishes should allocate their resources so that they are able to acquire the services of a competent and qualified catechetical leader (or someone who is in the process of becoming qualified and competent) or to share those services with another parish... Ordinarily, under the direction of the pastor, the main responsibilities of this position are as follows:

- Overall direction of the parish catechetical programs for adults, youth, and children
- Planning, implementation, and evaluation of the parish catechetical program
- Recruitment, formation, on-going development, and evaluation of catechists
- Implementation of diocesan and parish catechetical policies and guidelines, including the areas of catechist certification and supervision and administrative policies related to negligence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment,

and the safety and protection of minors (USCCB Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal, 2003)

- Collaboration with the pastor, other parish ministers, and appropriate committees, boards, and councils
- Assistance in liturgical planning
- Attention to his/her own personal, spiritual, and professional development

Dioceses and parishes should actively seek to identify potential parish catechetical leaders and, with the help of Catholic colleges and universities and organizations, provide them with opportunities to develop the competence and skills necessary for effective leadership and thorough knowledge of the faith. Only fully initiated, practicing Catholics who fully adhere to the Church's teaching in faith and morals and who are models of Christian virtue and courageous witnesses to the Catholic faith should be designated as parish catechetical leaders. Preparation for service as a parish catechetical leader should include advanced studies in theology, Scripture, Liturgy, catechesis and catechetical methodology, education psychology and theory, and administration, as well as practical catechetical experience with adults, youth, and children. A comprehensive knowledge of the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is essential. In accord with diocesan policies, pastors who employ parish catechetical leaders should formulate a clear and specific agreement with them that lists the responsibilities of the position and elements of equitable compensation. Parish catechetical leaders should be full members of the parish pastoral staff and attend all its meetings.

The functions of such positions vary from parish to parish, but parish catechetical leaders are not simply administrators or general pastoral ministers. The need for systematic training and study should not be minimized. They are catechists first. They should continue their personal, spiritual, and professional development and participate in diocesan programs of in-service training and formation, catechetical institutes, conventions, retreats, and accredited programs.

Integrated throughout the NDC, there are other aspects that the parish catechetical leader needs to be aware of like what does it say about parents, catechists, and what does it say about catechetical formation for children, youth, and adults. This important document helps you to understand your role and the whole enterprise of evangelization and catechesis and helps you to better plan for the future.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

November 10, 2014 Gather

9:30 gather; meeting 10 am - 2:30 pm

Presenter: Deacon Mike McKeown
Theme: Unbound Deliverance Ministry
Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233-5325) by Friday morning, November 7.

Gathers for the 2014-2015 Catechetical Year

9:30 gather; meeting 10 am - 2:30 pm

Monday, December 1 – Olivia – When We Lose a Family Member or Friend in Our Parish: The Grieving Process - Sr. Lois Byrne and Tammy Dale, Counselors for Catholic Charities, Diocese of New Ulm

Monday, January 12 – St. Aloysius Jubilee Center, Olivia

Monday, February 9 – St. Aloysius Jubilee Center, Olivia

Monday, March 16 – St. Aloysius Jubilee Center, Olivia

Monday, April 13 – Curriculum Day, New Ulm

Monday, May 11 – TBA

Frank Runyeon Christmas Skit December 3 at 6:30-8 p.m. St. Raphael, Springfield

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

The cost is free, but we are having a free will offering to help cover costs for those who wish to help out.

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

Advent Prayer Service

This is a diocesan tradition! Our Advent Prayer Service this year will be Sunday, December 14 at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted at 2 p.m. Bring your baby Jesus from your Christmas crèche – from your parish and from your home. Most Rev. John LeVoir will give a blessing to each baby Jesus figure. Also bring baby clothes, layettes, and other baby items for local charities and for our mission at San Lucas Toliman. Also, First Choice Pregnancy Services will accept monetary donations. Checks can be made to First Choice Pregnancy Services.



A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

by the USCCB's Household Blessings and Prayers

Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.

We thank you for the beauty
and fullness of the land
and the challenge of the cities.

We thank you for our work and
our rest, for one another,
and for our homes.

We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this
day.

We pray and give thanks through
Jesus Christ Our Lord.

R: Amen.

Parish Visits

Bryan will continue his parish visits for next year. 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.

So far he has lined up visits with:

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

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

To sign up, contact:

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 Study of the Joy of the Gospel or choose from the others!

**Cycle 1: January 18 - February 21, 2015
(Registration: Opens Oct. 29, 2014;
Closes Jan. 14)**

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodologies: Archdiocese for Military Services Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Collaboration and Community](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 7\)](#)

- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Reframing Church](#)
- [Ecumenism and Parish Life](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Introduction to the Sacraments of Initiation](#)
- [Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 5\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Community](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Pastoral Approach to Culture](#)
- [Prophets](#)
- [RCIA](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities](#)
- [Study of the Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [The Second Vatican Council: An Overview](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [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

- Thurs., Nov. 20 at 6:15 p.m. – Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls

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-of-study/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
This Is for All Catechetical Leaders

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.

World Youth Day Interest Indicator

We sent out an interest indicator (Survey Monkey) for World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. It will be July 25-Augus1 with some days before for either extra pilgrimage sites or Days in the Diocese. Please send this in by November 12, 2014.

Senior High Rally
Sunday, October 26, 2014 1-7 pm

We had a very nice turnout – 366 youth and adults at the Senior High Rally. We thank everyone for their participation. We especially thank all the volunteers who helped make this day possible -- **Mike Sweeney**, retired professional baseball player from the Kansas City Royals and now special assistant to the Kansas City Royals, for making the commitment to us since the Kansas City Royals were in the World Series finals. We thank Bishop LeVoi for a wonderful Mass. We thank the Catholic band, The Thirsting for their wonderful music and support of the sound system.

Parish Catechesis Question

According to the NDC, catechetical leaders need to give attention to their personal, spiritual, and professional development. How do you do this for yourself in each of these areas?

2014-15 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers

Mon, Nov 10	DRE/YM Gathering – Dcn. Mike McKeown, Unbound Ministry	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Dec 1	DRE/YM Gathering - When We Lose a Family Member or Friend in Our Parish: The Grieving Process - Sr. Lois Byrne and Tammy Dale, Counselors for Catholic Charities	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Jan 12	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, Feb 9	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, March 16	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Jubilee Center, Olivia
Mon, April 13	DRE/YM Gathering	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 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/>

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



Happy Thanksgiving!