

Gatherings

DIOCESE
of NEW ULM
Offices of
Religious Education &
Youth Ministry

Reflections

Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

February 5, 2015

From the Religious Education Office

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The National Directory for Catechesis

**THOSE WHO CATECHIZE
WHAT DOES IT SAY**

ABOUT YOUTH MINISTERS

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 to aid catechetical formation as effective in the parish, in the Area Faith Community:



A comprehensive youth ministry program, whether it is based in a single parish or represents the cooperative efforts of several parishes, includes the dimension of structured or formal catechesis. Coordinators of youth ministry; therefore, should have theological formation as well as competence and experience as catechists. They should be able to lead and guide young people to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith, in the practice of that faith in light of principles of Christian morality and social justice, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in the development of their spiritual lives. Coordinators of youth

ministry should be practicing Catholics who live the Gospel in all aspects of their lives. They should be models of Christian living for the young people they serve and have the ability to speak credibly about their personal experience of the gift of faith. Within their comprehensive responsibilities, coordinators of youth ministry have specific catechetical responsibilities that should always be fulfilled in collaboration with pastors and parish catechetical leaders.

Training for youth ministry should be as comprehensive as the responsibilities are and should employ all the principles of sound adult faith formation. Adequate training in the Church's mission of evangelization and catechesis in general and youth catechesis in particular should be a minimum requirement for all youth ministers. Dioceses should provide that training for their youth ministers and, if possible, develop certification programs in which all the dimensions of youth ministry can be developed over a period of time. Whether coordinators of youth ministry work full-time or part-time, they should be provided compensation and benefits appropriate to their efforts.

*So, with this excerpt from the National Directory of Catechesis, the NDC, we can see how important the role of the youth ministry is. Youth ministry should be a collaborative effort also with the parents, godparents, sponsors, and other caring adults. And as high school youth are close to graduation, youth ministers can be in communication with these youth about their future plans and be in touch with campus ministers at college or university campuses to share with them about these new incoming freshman so that ministry can continue to grow for these young people. In addition, another great resource for youth ministry by the USCCB is **Renewing the Vision:***

<http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/young-adults/renewing-the-vision.cfm>.

Here you will read about the eight components of Catholic youth ministry.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, February 9, 2015 Gather

9:30 gather; meeting 10 am – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Sr. Candace Fier
Theme: Meeting of the Family in Philadelphia
Where: St. Aloysius Jubilee Center, Olivia
I will also have some VBSes to showcase as well as some religious books to give away - given by someone from Morgan.

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem by Friday morning, February 6, 2015. (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325)

Upcoming Gatherings

9:30 gather; meeting 10 am – 2:30 pm

Mon, March 16 – St. Aloysius Jubilee Center, Olivia
Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas - The Interpretation of Sacred Scripture and *Verbum Domini - Principles for dealing with the interpretation of Scripture in difficult and dark passages. It will also try to answer: What does it mean to read the Scriptures 'in the same Spirit by whom it was written' (DV #12; CCC #111) in light of historical-critical exegesis?*

Mon, April 13 – Curriculum Day, Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Mon, May 11 – Spring Fling - TBA

Bishop Lucker Lecture

Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
The Future of Religious

Liberty in America

with Fr. Raymond De Souza

Father Raymond J. de Souza is a Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Kingston, Ont., where he serves as chaplain for Newman House, the Catholic chaplaincy at Queen's University. Before entering the seminary, he studied economics at Queen's and the University of Cambridge, England, including a year abroad doing research in economic development in the Philippines. In addition to his priestly duties, Fr. de Souza teaches at Queen's, is frequently invited to be a guest speaker, and writes for several publications, both religious and secular.



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.

Parish Visits

Bryan will continue his parish visits throughout the year. Contact Bryan Reising to arrange a date and time - reising@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
- March – Springfield, New Ulm, Ortonville
- April - Watkins

Riverbend TEC

Together Encountering Christ retreats for adults and youth:

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!

Cycle 2: March 8 – March 28, 2015 (Seminars Only)
(Registration: Jan. 21; Closes March 4)

- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan](#)
- [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](#)

Safe Environment Requirements

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. Please double-check with your local SEC to make sure everyone in your programs is fully up-to-date.

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 within 30 days of being posted to the VIRTUS account.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remind your catechists and volunteers to complete their online training as soon as possible. We have a significant number who have not completed this. This needs to be a priority to have this done as soon as possible. It takes approximately 10 minutes (or less) to do the training and answer the questions at the end.

Urgent – 388 volunteers have not yet completed online training which was assigned August 31, 2014. Many of these are catechists.

MAKE UP SESSIONS:

- February 28, 2015 – Make Up Sessions are to have taken place
- March 1, 2015 – Absentee form return deadline with date of Make Up Session for each student noted

Thank you for your cooperation in fulfilling diocesan requirements to keep our children and youth safe!

VIRTUS Trainings

...Protecting God's Children for Adults

- Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 2 p.m. – Church of St. Peter, Canby
 - Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. – Church of the Holy Redeemer (Carlin Hall), Marshall
 - Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6 p.m. – Parish Center, Holy Rosary, Graceville
- More training may be scheduled soon.

Mohr Catechist Formation Fund...A Gift for You, Catechists, Youth Team Members, Teachers of 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 (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.

Parish Catechesis Question

What are the eight components of youth ministry? (You can find these in *Renewing the Vision* - USCCB) Which three are you strongest with and which ones do you need the most improvement? Explain.



2015 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers

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Mon, Feb 9	CORRECTED - DRE/YM Gathering – S. Candace Fier – Meeting of the Family	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Mon, Feb 9
Mon, March 16	CORRECTED - DRE/YM Gathering – Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas - The Interpretation of Sacred Scripture and Verbum Domini	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Mon, March 16
Mon, April 13	DRE/YM Gathering – Curriculum Day	9:30 gather; mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, Apr 26	Jr High Festival – Keynotes: Trevor Thomson & Leah Darrow	11:30 am – 5:30 pm	GFW Middle School, Fairfax
Mon, May 11	DRE/YM Gathering - Spring Fling	Noon-4:00 pm (11:30 gather)	TBA
July 26-30	Young Women's Discipleship Camp	Sun 6 pm – Thurs noon	Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye
August 3-7	Young Men's Discipleship Camp	Corrected: Mon 11 am – Fri 6 pm	Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye
Check out Riverbend TEC! For more details and an application check out the Web site: http://riverbendtec.org/			
March 21-23, 2015 – Bird Island June 27-29, 2015 – Winsted			

From the Office of Youth Ministry

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Junior High Youth Festival 2015

The Junior High Youth Festival will be Sunday, April 26, 2015, from 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. It will be at GFW Middle School in Fairfax. Featured Speakers include Leah Darrow, former fashion model and Catholic speaker on modesty in dress and chastity, and Trevor Thomson, singer and composer of liturgical music for OCP. Please save the date! More information is forthcoming!

Diocesan Summer Camps 2015

Young Women's Discipleship Camp:
Sun, July 26 (6 pm) – Thurs, July 30 (noon)

Young Men's Discipleship Camp:
Mon, Aug. 3 (11 am) – Fri, Aug 7 (6 pm)

Please save these dates!

NCYC - National Catholic - National Catholic Youth Conference November 19-21, 2015

The probable dates for the New Ulm Diocese trip will be with departure on Wednesday evening, November 18 with return on Sunday, November 22. The first deposit of \$100 is due February 20. This deposit is non-refundable, but transferable to others in your group. Forms will be coming out soon.

We just found out our hotel assignment which is Holiday Inn Indianapolis Carmel, 251 E. Pennsylvania Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46280. Half of our rooms will be: 1) Two bedded rooms to sleep up to 4 people 2) Single bedded rooms with a pullout sleeper sofa to sleep up to 4 people.