

Gatherings

DIOCESE
of NEW ULM
Offices of
Religious Education &
Youth Ministry

Reflections

Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

March 5, 2015

From the Religious Education Office

Bryan Reising

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The National Directory for Catechesis

THOSE WHO CATECHIZE WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT WOMEN AND MEN IN CONSECRATED LIFE

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.

This month, we will take a look at those who have dedicated their lives to the consecrated life – which Pope Francis has dedicated this year to. 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:



By virtue of their vocation, those in consecrated life catechize by the witness of their consecration and by their apostolic work. Women and men religious offer a public witness to their singular commitment to the mission of the Church in their consecrated life. This witness strengthens the catechetical mission immeasurably. The catechesis offered by consecrated persons come within the context of lives lived with extraordinary dedication to

community life and an uncommon commitment to the Beatitudes. As a result, their catechesis has a distinctive character.

While the Church is blessed with many lay women and men who contribute effectively in the work of catechesis, the contributions of those in consecrated life are unique and cannot be supplied by either priests or laity. Those contributions derive from their profession of the evangelical counsels and the special charisms of their particular communities.

Some religious institutes for men and women were founded for the specific purpose of providing catechetical formation to children, young people, and adults. Throughout the history of the Church, many men and women religious have committed themselves to the catechetical ministry. The history of catechesis in the United States is a chronicle of the critical leadership and dedication of men and women religious in the Church's catechetical mission.

To continue this leadership and dedication, Pope John Paul II has asked that "religious communities dedicate as much as possible of what ability and means they have to the specific work of catechesis. With appropriate training, women and men in consecrated life are particularly suited to serve as parish or diocesan catechetical leaders.

So, with this excerpt from the National Directory of Catechesis, the NDC, we can see how important the roles of those in consecrated life. They offer their witness, their charisms, and their leadership. And they help young people understand the aspect of discernment and discerning one's vocation.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, March 16, 2015 Gather

9:30 gather; meeting 10 am – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas

Theme: 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?

Where: St. Aloysius Jubilee Center, Olivia

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, March 13.

Upcoming Gathers - Mondays

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

April 13 – Curriculum Day, Pastoral Center, New Ulm

May 11 – Spring Fling - TBA

Bishop Lucker Lecture

Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls

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.



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
- March – Springfield, New Ulm, Ortonville
- April – Watkins

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: 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 3: April 12 – May 16, 2015

(Registration: Opens March 11; Closes April 8)

- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodologies: Archdiocese for Military Services Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Christology](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Pilgrim church](#)
- [Evangelization and Discipleship](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 1\)](#)
- [History of Catholic Social Action](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Pastoral Care](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Leadership in Ministry](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Founders](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)



- [Praying with Children](#)
- [Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry](#)
- [Relational Ministry with Youth](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through the Lifespan](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)

Safe Environment Requirements

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

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.

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

VIRTUS Trainings (More training may be scheduled soon.)

...Protecting God's Children for Adults

- Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m. – Church of St. Mary, Bird Island
- Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. – Church of the Holy Redeemer (Carlin Hall), Marshall

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

Share a story how women or men religious were important to your faith formation. Do you invite those dedicated to the consecrated life to your faith formation to talk about religious vocations?





From the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office

Kevin Losleben

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
klosleben@dnu.org 507-233-5327



Peace of Christ to you all!
 My name is Kevin Losleben and I am the new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. I live in Sleepy Eye with my wife (Mary Kate) and two children (Joseph, 17 months; and Maria, 1 month). I am

originally from Brooklyn Park, Minn., and graduated from Winona State University in 2010. My wife and I then moved to Sleepy Eye where I taught English and Theology at St. Mary's Catholic School, along with religious education at the parish level. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you to bring our youth and young adults closer to Jesus Christ!

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!

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!

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 was due February 20. This deposit is non-refundable, but transferable to others in your group. Forms were sent to participating parishes and are due May 14 along with the second payment.



2015 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers

Mon, March 16	CORRECTED - DRE/YM Gathering – Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas - <i>The Interpretation of Sacred Scripture and Verbum Domini</i>	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