

Gatherings

DIOCESE
of NEW ULM
Offices of
Religious Education & AFF
Youth & Young Ministry

Reflections

Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

April 9, 2015

From the Religious Education Office

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& Adult Faith Formation*

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The National Directory for Catechesis

THOSE WHO CATECHIZE WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT DEACONS & OTHERS WHO CATECHIZE

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 deacons and others who catechize. I will take directly out of the NDC what it says about these deacons and their role in catechizing in the parish, in the Area Faith Community as well as looking at other ministries:

*"Deacons [also are] to serve the people of God in the ministry of the word in communion with the bishop and his *presbyterium*." (Code of Canon Law, c. 757) In this sense they participate in the Church's catechetical ministry as preachers and teachers. The deacon is called "to read the sacred scripture to the faithful [and] to instruct and exhort people." (Lumen Gentium, 29) The formation of permanent deacons should include studies in theology, Liturgy, Sacred Scripture, catechesis, and communication skills. (cf. Congregation for Catholic Education, *Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons* - USCCB 1998, 9) With proper catechetical training, which includes supervised catechetical*

experience, deacons may serve as especially effective parish and diocesan catechetical leaders.

And on to persons involved with other ministries:

Within a diocese or a parish are many others whose major responsibility is not specifically catechetical in nature, but who nevertheless catechize as part of their overall effort. In fact, an important catechetical dimension is inherent in most aspects of the Church's mission. In addition to the many roles within the Church that are predominantly catechetical, those who are responsible, either on the diocesan or parish level, for evangelization, mission, charitable works, stewardship, peace and justice, Liturgy, youth ministry, young adult ministry, the catechumenate, ministry in higher education, seminary education, communications, ministry for persons with disabilities, family ministry, prison ministry, chaplaincies, and respect life advocates all hand on the Gospel message and contributes significantly to the success of diocesan or parish catechetical endeavors. Frequent communication, cooperation, and collaboration between and among all those involved with the Church's central message of evangelization and catechesis should characterize the efforts of all those committed to proclaim the Gospel message.

There is also a section on Catholic schools in the NDC where they take a closer look at the catechetical of the principal, the Catholic school itself, religion teachers, and teachers in general. This is well worth looking at. The last issue I will look at college and university campus ministers.

*Happy and
Blessed Easter
Everyone!!!*



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Gather – Curriculum Day Monday, April 13, 2015

9:30 gather; meeting 10 am – 12:00 pm, followed by lunch, and then looking at the variety of curriculum until 5:00 pm. There will be stations for pre-school, basal elementary, middle school, high school, sacramental preparation, RCIA, adult faith formation, persons with disabilities, and VBS

Where: Diocesan Pastoral Center
1421 6th St. N, New Ulm, MN 56073

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, April 10.

Spring Fling

Mon, May 11 Noon-4 pm
St. Catherine's, Redwood
with Kevin Losleben

Noon-1 Lunch

1-2 "Truth, Beauty, and
Zombies" - How modern man's longing
for Truth and Beauty is reflected in *The
Walking Dead*.

2-3:45 Catechetical Concert

See attached flyer



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. In 2014-15 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, Rosen
- 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: June 27-29, 2015 – Winsted
To sign up, contact: riverbendtec@gmail.com to receive an application.

Foundations

We will again start Foundations in September 2015. It will be at the new Diocesan Pastoral Center in New Ulm.

Foundations is the diocesan program of basic training in perfective catechesis and theology for paid and volunteer parish staff who are involved in lay ministry.

Potential participants include: volunteer catechists, youth ministers, catechetical leaders of parishes and AFCs, school teachers, small Christian community leaders, head of the domestic churches (moms, dads, guardians), and any personnel (front desk greeters, secretaries, and so on) interested in being a part of the new evangelization.

The group meets one Saturday a month for eight months. The curriculum was developed in cooperation with the Bishop of New Ulm's Office of the New Evangelization and the Office of Adult and Faith Formation. Even better, Bishop LeVoir teaches one of the Saturday sessions.

The following are the dates:

2015:

1. Saturday, September 19 - Introduction to Catholic Philosophy (Dr. Kevin Rickert)
2. Saturday, October 17 - Salvation History I (Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas)
3. Saturday, November 7 - Salvation History II (Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas)
4. Saturday, December 5 - Introduction to Catholic Theology - Sr. Myriam Rose Shaffer, ACJ

2016:

5. Saturday, January 23 - Theology of Sacraments (Bryan Reising, MA)
6. Saturday, February 27 - Theology of the Catholic Church (Bishop John M. LeVoir)
7. Saturday, March 19 - Morality and Social Teaching (Sr. Candace Fier)
8. Saturday, April 16 - Lay Ministry and Spirituality (Bryan Reising, MA)

To sign up, contact Paulette Kral for registration at pkral@dnu.org.

Save the Date!



Faith Formation Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015

for catechists, PCLs, any interested adults
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (8 a.m. early bird Mass)

St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
with Father Otto Betler, OSB

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 9)

- [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 PCL, 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

...Protecting God's Children for Adults

(More training may be scheduled soon.)

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-ApplicationForm.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.

Parish Catechesis Question

Share looking at your Area Faith Community or parish...
How do some of the other ministries contribute to catechetical formation? Some of them include the deacons, those involved with liturgy and music, family life, social concerns, the RCIA, and so on.

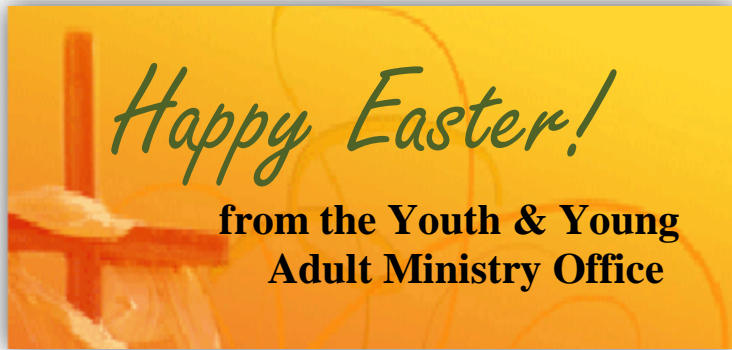


2015 - 2016 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders (DREs) and Youth Ministers

Mon, April 13	PCL/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	PCL/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
Sat, Sept 26	Faith Formation day – PCLs, youth ministers, catechists	9-2:30 (8 am early bird Mass)	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Wed, Oct 7	Children's Holy Field Trip	10:30 am	Cathedral, New Ulm
Mon, Oct 19	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, Oct 25	Senior High School Rally	TBA	TBA
Mon, Nov 16	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Nov 18-22	NCYC – National Catholic Youth Conference		Indianapolis, Indiana
Mon, Dec 7	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, Dec 13	Advent Prayer Service with Bishop LeVoir	2 pm	St. Edward, Minneota
Mon, Jan 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, Feb 8	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, March 7	Bishop Lucker Lecture	7 pm	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Mon, March 14	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Thurs, March 17	Chrism Mass	TBA	TBA
Mon, April 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, April 26	Junior High Festival	TBA	TBA
Mon, May 9	PCL/Youth Minister Spring Fling	Noon – 4 pm	TBA

Check out Riverbend TEC! For more details and an application check out the Web site: <http://riverbendtec.org>

June 27-29, 2015 – Winsted



Kevin Losleben

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**SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE
OF THE PEOPLE:
MISSIONARIES IN A NEW WORLD**

China has an interesting relationship with Christianity. For quite a while, China was largely untouched by the Faith because the Gospel wasn't an easy sell to the Chinese; Christianity was a "Western" idea and the Chinese were very proud of their own intellectual achievements. Nestorian Christians (a heretical sect), monks, and missionaries following the Silk Road had all attempted to evangelize them, but nothing ever seemed to stick.



In the late 16th Century, however, Jesuit missionaries entered China and started to make progress in evangelizing the Chinese. Servant of God, Fr. Matteo Ricci, is most notable amongst these missionaries. He and his companions knew the Chinese

attitude toward Christianity: skeptical, reluctant, and sometimes hostile. Because of this, they realized that if they came across as missionaries, their success at spreading the Gospel would be limited. So, when meeting people for the first time, they would often say they were there because they "liked the country and wanted to serve God there."

It was a genius response, really. Right from the get-go, the Chinese didn't see them as foreigners coming to impose a foreign religion on them, but just as fellow China-loving countrymen. The missionaries, therefore, were not a threat. The Chinese let down their guard.

And Your Point Is...?

One may be asking at this point: "Why the history lesson? What's the point?" The point is that the situation the Jesuits faced in China was very similar to the situation we face in modern day America. People (and particularly young people) are leery of Christianity; to them, the Good News is old news. On top of this, a very evangelical atheism has turned unbelief into a fad, making people question God's existence more or less because it's *en vogue*. And even for those who do believe, there is an equally fashionable animosity towards religion (the "Why I Love Jesus, But Hate Religion" viral video comes to mind). In both cases, the Jesuits in 16th Century China and those of us in youth ministry share a common goal: we're missionaries in hostile territory.

Great Walls and the Human Heart

The Chinese, like anyone who has ever lived, had built great walls (pardon the pun) that acted as barriers to accepting the Gospel. These people had heard about Jesus before, yet wanted nothing to do with him. Despite this, the Jesuits successfully converted thousands to Christianity. So how did they do it?

Over the course of the next few issues, we'll look at how Fr. Matteo Ricci and his missionaries effectively spread the Gospel in China and how these tactics directly apply to the youth of modern day America.

Remember, behind each great wall is a human heart that longs for Truth, goodness, love, and beauty.



Junior High Festival is April 26

You should have received materials – if you need anything, please let Cindy know, cblickem@dnu.org.

DYC applications due May 16

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 grow in love of Jesus Christ, to become disciples of him, and to live more fully in the life of the Church.

Council members attend monthly meetings from August to May, help plan and implement the Senior High Rally and Junior High Festival, and participate in an annual retreat.

If you know of any youth who want to be a part of the council for the 2015-2016 year, please have them

fill out an application form by **May 16** and send it to Kevin Losleben (1421 6th St N, New Ulm, MN 56073). **Please note – this link has a corrected copy – Previous application had selection day listed as May of 2016!!**
<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/DioYthCouncilApplicationForm2015-16.pdf>

In 2015-16 we will need **five 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 is one at-large position open, so we encourage youth to apply and to go through the process with us on **Friday, June 5 from 1:00–4:00 p.m.** at St. Aloysius in Olivia.

Young Men's and Young Women's Discipleship Camps

Young Women's Discipleship Camp

Dates: July 26-30
Theme: Beauty ever ancient, ever new
Location: Schoenstatt-on-the-Lake, Sleepy Eye
Director: Sr. Mary Joseph, ACJ
App. due date: July 3

Young Men's Discipleship Camp

Dates: August 3-7
Theme: Deus vult! (God wills it!)
Location: Schoenstatt-on-the-Lake, Sleepy Eye
Director: Kevin Losleben
App. due date: July 10

If you know of any young people who would enjoy camp, please encourage them to apply! Discipleship camps are a great way to boost a young person's faith and give them the tools necessary to be a good disciple of Jesus. Applications can be found under the Youth Ministry tab at www.dnu.org.

NET Team

Keep in mind if you want the NET Team to come to your parish this fall. They will be available for **eight** retreat days October 16-24. They are booked for Sunday, October 25 and keep in mind they usually have Mondays off. See link for application form: <http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/2015-16NETTeamRequestForm.pdf>

Senior High Rally ~ Sun, October 25

John Angotti– a Catholic musician – will be performing! **If you are interested in hosting**, please contact Kevin Losleben: klosleben@dnu.org or 507-233-5327

National Catholic Youth Conference November 19-21, 2015

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.

Young Women's Discipleship Camp
Sun, July 26 (6 pm) – Thurs, July 30 (noon)
Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye

Beauty
ever ancient, ever new

God wills it!
DEUS VULT!

Young Men's Discipleship Camp
Mon, Aug 3 (11 am) – Fri, Aug 7 (6 pm)
Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye

Spring Fling

for DRES, Youth Ministers

Monday May 11, 2015
St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls
900 E Flynn Street

Catechetical Concert

Schedule

- 11:30 Gather
Noon-1 Lunch
1-2 "Truth, Beauty, and Zombies"
How modern man's longing for Truth and Beauty is reflected in *The Walking Dead*.
2-3:45 Concert



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Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of New Ulm

Sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Religious Education & AFF