

Gatherings

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

Reflections

Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

May 7, 2015

From the Religious Education Office

Bryan Reising

*Director of Religious Education
& Adult Faith Formation*

breising@dnu.org 507-233-5323



The National Directory for Catechesis

THOSE WHO CATECHIZE
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOUNG
ADULTS AND THOSE WHO SERVE THEM

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 serve young adults, particularly at colleges and universities. I will take directly out of the NDC what it says about those who serve young adults, but first let us look at what it says about young adults:

“Some special consideration should be given to young adults. Young adults are persons in their late teens, twenties, and thirties who represent diverse cultural, racial ethnic, educational vocational, social, political, and spiritual backgrounds; they are college and university students, workers, and professionals; they are persons in military service; they are single,

married, and divorced, or widowed; they are with or without children; they are newcomers in search of a better life. Young adults have many gifts to offer the Church: their faith, their hope, their desire to serve, their spiritual hunger, their vitality, their optimism and idealism, their talents and skills. The world also looks with hope to young adults to bring about a better future. Many young adults have vast reservoirs of goodness, generosity, and enthusiasm. They earnestly search for meaning in their lives; they value solidarity with the rest of humanity and seek to commit themselves to the cause of social justice. On the other hand, many young adults have been captivated by consumerism and materialism of the society in which they grew up and have become apathetic and cynical. Young adulthood is sometimes a world of boredom, disillusionment, and indifference to the Church. Nevertheless, Pope John Paul II confidently exhorted the young people of the world, ‘Do not be afraid to go out on the street and into public places like the first apostles, who preached Christ and the good news of salvation in the squares of the cities, towns, and villages. This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is time to preach it from the rooftops.’”

*It is worthwhile looking at this section on young adults as a whole. If you do not have a **National Directory for Catechesis**, this is a must read for any catechetical leader. In its conclusion in this section, the US Bishops names four goals for a comprehensive program of young adult ministry:*

- To connect young adults with Jesus Christ through spiritual formation/direction, religious education/formation, and vocational discernment.
- To connect young adults to the Church through evangelizing outreach, formation of the faith community, and pastoral care.
- To connect young adults with the mission of the Church in the world through forming a Christian conscience, educating and developing leaders for the present and future.

- To connect young adults with a peer community through developing peer leadership and identifying a young adult team for the purpose of forming faith communities of peers.

Further in the NDC, the bishops write about campus ministers and their important role to young adults:

By virtue of their Baptism, all the faithful on school campuses share in the proclamation of the Gospel within the academic community and are called to live exemplary Christian lives. Catholic faculty, staff, and administration have a special opportunity and responsibility to build up the Church on Campus. But the Church also has a presence on campus that is specifically dedicated to give vigorous Christian witness within the academic world and to prepare students to bring the light of the Gospel into ordinary situations of everyday life. That apostolic service is provided by campus ministers.

Campus ministers are professionally trained, are duly appointed by their bishop, and are sent 'to form the faith community so that it can be a genuine sign and instrument of the kingdom.' In order to represent the Church on campus, campus ministry must have an adequate number of personnel. Theologically qualified and professionally competent priests, women and men in consecrated life, and lay persons may serve as campus ministers. Among their tasks are the following functions:

- To form a vibrant community of faith on campus
- To help students to discern the vocation for which God has created them
- To ensure that the sacraments are available to students
- To provide catechetical opportunities, such as Bible study groups
- To educate for the call to service and to create or identify opportunities for such service
- To identify, call forth, and coordinate the diverse gifts of the Spirit within the faith community on campus
- To educate all the baptized to appreciate their own call to service
- To respond, as much as possible, to the individual needs of the students, including their religious, ethnic, and cultural situations
- To recruit Catholic administrators, faculty, staff, and students to assist them in building a community of faith on campus
- To create an environment that encourages initiative and involvement

- To attend to their personal, professional, and spiritual development
- To maintain close relationships with neighboring parishes and the diocese

There is more that the US Bishops write about in this section. I encourage you to read more about both young adults and campus ministry. It is also important for catechetical leaders and youth ministers of AFCs and parishes to make contact with colleges and university campus ministers to inform them of those who are graduating and will be attending their school so these campus ministers can reach out to them, welcome them, include them, and involve them.

For further resources on Young Adult Ministry, contact Kevin Losleben at klosleben@dnu.org or call him at 507-233-5327.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Spring Fling

Mon, May 11 Noon-4 pm
St. Catherine's, Redwood (900 E Flynn St.)
With Kevin Losleben



- 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 Catechetical Concert

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233- 5325) by Friday morning, May 8.

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

Presenter:

Fr. Otto Bettler, OSB

Theme:

The Catholic Faith and Religious Orders and Their Contributions to the Faith



Riverbend TEC

Together Encountering Christ retreats for adults and

youth: June 27-29, 2015 - Winsted
Oct 31 - Nov 2, 2015 - Bird Island
Jan 16-18, 2016 - Winsted
March 5-7, 2016 - New Ulm
July 31 - Aug 2, 2016 - New Ulm

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 & Faith Formation. **Even better, Bishop LeVoir teaches one of the Saturday sessions.**

The following are the dates:

2015

1. Sat, Sept 19 - Introduction to Catholic Philosophy (Dr. Kevin Rickert)
2. Sat, Oct 17 - Salvation History I (Dan Wambeke, MTS)
3. Sat, Nov 7 - Salvation History II (Dan Wambeke, MTS)
4. Sat, Dec 5 - Introduction to Catholic Theology (Sr. Myriam Rose Shaffer, ACJ)

2016

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

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

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!

Bryan Reising will be facilitator for the course on RCIA. Those involved with the RCIA, you can sign up.

Cycle 4: May 31 – July 4, 2015

(Registration: April 15; Closes May 27)

- [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 1](#)
- [Communication and Community](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 7\)](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Galatians](#)
- [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: Leadership](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Social Justice](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Parish as a Learning Community \(AFL 2\)](#)
- [Pastoral Approach to Culture](#)
- [Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World](#)
- [Prayer and Worship with Adolescents](#)
- [RCIA](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [Vocation to Ministry](#)

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.

Safe Environment Requirements

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All pastors were notified in early April of catechists and volunteers that needed to complete any assigned online training that was assigned prior to April 10 or had other outstanding compliance requirements (background check or Live VIRTUS training) outstanding at that point in time. Since that date a new quarterly training has been posted for employees to complete. This is the last quarterly training for this audit period (July 1 through June 30) and all employees should have it completed by May 23.

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 individual's VIRTUS account. ONE email notice is automatically generated by VIRTUS.

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

VIRTUS Trainings

...Protecting God's Children for Adults

- Saturday, May 9 at 1 p.m. –
Church of St. Joseph, Rosen
- Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. -
Church of Our Lady, Manannah
Address: 57482 CSAH 3 [Grove City]
- Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.
(in Spanish) – Church of St. Mary, Willmar
- Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. – Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye
- Friday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. - Church of the Holy Trinity, Winsted

Check online at www.dnu.org for additional trainings added after the publication of this newsletter.

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 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 (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

How do you reach out, welcome, and include your young adults in your parish or AFC?



For seniors in high school, how do you help them continue their faith journey as some of them go off to college or university?

How do you help other seniors as they stick around and work or go to community college or trade school?



Kevin Losleben

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



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

Last issue, we were introduced to Fr. Matteo Ricci and his Jesuit missionaries in 16th Century China. Remember that the Chinese had been preached to before and were difficult to evangelize for this reason. Additionally, the Chinese were very proud of their own intellectual tradition, which came from Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism.

1 Peter 3:15

Posing basically as tourists, the missionaries tried hard not to openly threaten the Chinese people’s way of life. They knew that the moment they started to act like “missionaries,” they would be labeled as such and the seeds they were attempting to sow would not take root. Nonetheless, the missionaries were no less “missionary” than the ones who preceded them, but their tactics were different.

As the Chinese started to become accustomed to the Jesuits, the Jesuits started to learn more and more about Chinese culture. During this time – the Ming Dynasty – the Chinese were undergoing a bit of a Renaissance. Science, art, and religion were all flourishing and the Jesuits capitalized on this by becoming a prominent voice in the intellectual circle of society. This was truly remarkable, considering the timidity with which the Chinese approached any foreign culture that seemed to encroach upon their own.

But this feat was only accomplished for one reason: to win souls for Jesus Christ. The Jesuits knew that in order to win the *heart* of the Chinese, they would

have to win the *mind*. In other words, intellectualism was the “language” of the Chinese. So, once the people trusted the missionaries, they would begin to get to know *them*. The Jesuits would invite the Chinese into their homes, where the Chinese would see Catholic artwork: crucifixes, images of the Sacred and Immaculate Heart, statues of Saints, etc.

This would then cause something to happen within the *hearts* of the Chinese people. The “Great Wall” that needed to be torn down was that of intellectual pride. Once that was torn down, the heart was exposed, and upon entering the house of a Jesuit, the Chinese person would ask: Who is that? The Jesuit would respond: That is Jesus Christ. And so the seed was sown.

1 Peter 3:15: “but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense of anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.”

The “Language” of the Youth

Whereas the Chinese people in the 16th Century spoke a language of the mind (intellectualism), the people of today speak a language of the heart (the need for love). The odd part about this language, however, is that it poses as a language of the mind. I brought up in an earlier issue “evangelical atheism,” which is essentially an atheism that really has no legitimate argument, but largely comes from a place of hurt and longing. Many people nowadays, whether they believe in God or not, think this way: with their hearts and not their minds.

So, our first *modus operandi* should be to approach our youth with the understanding that most of them are skeptical of not only religion, but also *us*. We are the face of religion to them, just as the Jesuit missionaries



were the face of Christianity to the Chinese. Youth, especially, want real relationships. We must offer them that. Care about who they are, what their interests are, who their friends are, what they do in their free time. Because if we care, and we represent Christianity to them, then we can lead them to a truly lasting relationship with someone who cares even more about them than we do: Jesus Christ.



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 11:00–4:00 p.m.** at St. Aloysius in Olivia.

Young Men's and Young Women's Discipleship Camps

Young Women's Discipleship Camp 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 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

We have a location: Marshall! Thank you in advance to those who will help the event become a success!

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.



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

Mon, May 11	PCL/YM Gathering – Spring Fling	Noon-4:00 pm (11:30 gather)	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Fri, June 5	DYC Selection Day	11 am – 4 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
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
ed, 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 6	Advent Prayer Service with Bishop LeVoi	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

Jan 16-18, 2016 - Winsted

July 31 - Aug 2, 2016 - New Ulm

Oct 31 - Nov 2, 2015 - Bird Island

March 5-7, 2016 - New Ulm