

*Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas*

*Called, Formed,  
& Sent*

December 2016

A Newsletter for Evangelization and Catechesis  
for the Diocese of New Ulm

*to each of You and your families and friends!*

## The Catechism of the Catholic Church: Pillar One, Section Two, The Creeds

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of *the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, I will run a series of articles on the Catechism to help us understand its purpose, its contents, and how it is a go-to resource for all Catholics.

The first pillar of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the Profession of Faith. And in Section Two, **Introduction**, we look at the summary of statements of belief called the creed. It begins with: "Whoever says 'I believe' says 'I pledge myself to what we believe.' Communion in faith needs a common language of faith, normative for all and uniting all in the same confession of faith" (CCC 185).

It explains that summaries of belief, creeds, have been with the Church since the Church's beginning. From the very beginning the Church strived to unify Christians with a creed.

Just look at this creedal statement within St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: "For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles" (1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

And since St. Paul received this creed, then it was composed before St. Paul wrote this letter.

It continues to teach about the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

In Section Two, **Chapter One**, we learn about God the Father. Our belief in God, our Father is

foundational in our faith. Here, we learn that God is one, “which has its roots in the divine revelation of the Old Covenant...The Christian faith confesses that God is one in nature, substance and essence” (CCC 200).

Even the Jewish Shema prayer, found in Sacred Scripture, proclaims that God is one (CCC 201; Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

God reveals he has a name, making himself known as a personal God to Israel through Moses. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God proclaims to Moses: “I am Who am.” This is a mysterious name, yet reveals that God is. The people of Israel, out of respect to God, do not say this name, but replaces it with the Hebrew, *Adonai* (in Greek *Kyrios*, and in English, Lord).

God reveals to Moses that he is gracious and merciful. He is a forgiving God. God because he is revealed as “I am Who I Am,” which is thus “He Who Is” means “God is the fullness of Being and of every perfection, without origin and without end” (CCC 213).

With this “He Who Is,” God is Truth and God is Love. Regarding Truth, God is Truth itself because God cannot deceive (CCC 215). Regarding Love, God’s love is revealed throughout the Old Testament and through the Paschal Mystery of his Son. In fact, St. John reveals that God is love.

It goes on to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity, that we believe in one God, yet three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is revealed as a person, as a Father to his Son, Jesus, The Father is revealed by the Son (CCC 238-242) and by the Holy Spirit (CCC 243-248). It teaches that it had to define certain terms like substance, person, hypostasis, and so on in order to form the dogma of the Holy Trinity (249-253). The dogma of the Holy Trinity is a central mystery of our faith (CCC 261).

Then it goes into the Almighty quality of God, the Father as omnipotent. He does whatever he pleases, yet is all merciful and caring (CCC 268-271). It describes the Father as Creator. He is the creator of all, visible and invisible. “The existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through his works, by the light of human reason, even if this knowledge is often obscured and disfigured by error. This is why faith comes to confirm and enlighten reason in the correct understanding of this truth” (CCC 286).

As Creator of heaven and earth, the Father created angels, “purely *spiritual* creatures [who] have intelligence and will.” (CCC 330). And then the Father is also the Creator of the physical cosmos: the stars, the sun, the planets, the earth, water, light, plants, fish, animals, birds, and humans, the summit of God’s creation (CCC 343).

It teaches about Man as made in the image of God, who has a body and soul, male and female as complimentary made for each other, and man and woman in paradise, in perfect harmony and love with God and each other, and harmony with creation. (CCC 355-384) In the next session we learn about the Fall of Man: the fall of angels, the fall of man or original sin, and its consequences (CCC 385-421).

In **Chapter Two**, we begin to learn about the Son, Jesus Christ. The Good News of God sending us his own Son, becoming one of us is a remarkable act of love and mercy for us! As the Catechism points out: “But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5 and CCC 422).



As we draw closer to the Season of Christmas, this is a good place to stop. We will begin next month to continue to learn about Jesus Christ as we journey through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

To read more:

<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html>

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Gathers

*for catechetical leaders and youth ministers*

**9:30 gather; 10 a.m. start until 3 p.m.**

**St. Aloysius Jubilee Center in Olivia**

**302 S 10th St. (unless otherwise noted)**

**Monday, December 12**

We will continue looking at the *United States Catechism for Adults* (if you have this catechism, please bring it). It is also available online through the USCCB. There is Wi-Fi available at the Jubilee Center of St. Aloysius in Olivia. Please read Chapters 2 and 3 for our December meeting. All are welcome to attend – even if you have not read these

chapters or the Introduction and Chapter 1. Contact Cindy (507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org) to RSVP by Friday morning, December 9.

#### Other Upcoming Gathers:

Monday, January 9 – Olivia  
Monday, February 13 – Olivia  
Monday, March 6 – Olivia  
Monday, April 3 – Curriculum Day, New Ulm  
Monday, May 8 – “Spring Fling” – TBA

### Advent Prayer Service

**Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m.  
St. Michael Church, Morgan**

This year’s Advent Day of Reflection will be in Morgan at the Church of St. Michael. It will be Sunday afternoon, December 11 at 4 p.m. Anyone throughout the diocese can come to this special service. Even groups of students or families can come to participate. Bring your baby Jesus from your Nativity crèche to have it blessed by Bishop John LeVoir. Also bring gifts of baby clothes and layettes to be given We Care in Morgan. Cash donations will also be taken to We Care in Morgan. Please be generous!



### Cor Jesu 2016-17 - 7:15 p.m. “Heart of Jesus”

Cor Jesu (pronounced *core yay-zoo*), is an opportunity to encounter our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament during adoration, while singing contemporary songs of praise, hearing a short sermon, and reconciling oneself with God in the Sacrament of Penance. This event will travel around the diocese and is open to all ages, with a specific focus on youth and young adults.

- **Saturday, January 7** Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm
- **Saturday, February 11** St. Andrew, Granite Falls
- **Friday, March 31** St. Clotilde, Green Valley w/ Stations of the Cross!
- **Friday, June 2** Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm | w/ Bishop John M. LeVoir!

*Make a road trip to see Jesus!*

### Riverbend TEC ...

#### Together Encountering Christ

retreats for adults and youth:

RB TEC 264 Jan 14-16, 2017 Marshall  
RB TEC 265 April 1-3, 2017 New Ulm  
RB TEC 266 August 5-7, 2017 Winsted

To sign up, contact: riverbendtec@gmail.com to receive an application.

### Parish Visits

I am continuing my parish visits. I can visit to do catechist trainings, parents sessions, catechetical sessions with youth and adults, visiting class-rooms for all elementary, middle school, and high school grades, visiting an RCIA session, doing an intergenerational session, visiting a small Christian community, and/or a visit with the pastor and/or the catechetical leader.

#### Here is my schedule so far:

- Wednesday, September 7 – Henderson
  - Wednesday, September 14 – Milroy
  - Wednesday, November 23 – Saint Peter
  - Wednesday, November 30 - Tracy
  - Wednesday, December 7 – Granite Falls
  - Wednesday, January 4, 2017 – Litchfield
  - Wednesday, January 11, 2017 – N Mankato
  - Sunday, January 22, 2017 – Green Valley
  - Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – New Ulm
  - Wednesday, February 8, 2017 – Benson
- I have openings throughout the Fall, Winter, and Spring; e-mail me or call me!

### University of Dayton’s VLCCF

#### Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

We are no longer partners with the University of Dayton’s VLCCF, but we will continue to promote it and offer scholarships for these courses. Be a part of these online learning opportunities! This is a great gift, a Christmas gift, for your catechists!

*I will be facilitating the course, Catholic Beliefs in the next cycle. There is room for people to sign up for this course! Register soon!*

#### Cycle 1: January 15 - February 18, 2017 (Registration: Opens Oct 19, 2016; Closes Jan 11)

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Autism in Faith Formation \(SN 4\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology: AMS Version](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)



- Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education
- Christology
- Church History 1
- Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview (SN 1)
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Faith and Human Development
- Images of Jesus
- Introduction to Catechesis
- Introduction to Christian Morality
- Introduction to Liturgy
- Introduction to Practical Morality
- Introduction to Prayer
- Introduction to Scripture
- Marianist Studies: Community
- Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Our Hearts Were Burning
- Parish as a Learning Community (AFL 2)
- RCIA
- Relational Ministry with Youth
- Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling
- Sacraments
- Study of The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- Survey of Catholic Social Teaching
- Vocation to Ministry
- Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists
- **For new students to register for VLCFF:**  
<http://vlc.udayton.edu/profile/agreement.php>
- **For returning VLCFF students to register for another course:**  
<http://vlc.udayton.edu/register/>
- VLCFF has certificates for catechists, for ministry leadership, for youth ministry, for adult faith formation, and social justice. Encourage your catechists to get the Certificate for Catechesis.
- For further information and discussion of further ideas, call 507-233-5324; [breising@dnu.org](mailto:breising@dnu.org).
- Cost for the 3-Week Seminar is \$80 and the five-week course is \$105. Certificates are \$35.
- Scholarships are available: Web site for the Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Fund for scholarships:  
<https://www.dnu.org/rescholarships/>



## Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

**VIRTUS Lessons 5 and 6** were taught in a combined session this fall. The deadline to mail the diocese the completed children's training sheet, the Opt-Out forms, and the children absent listing form for the initial training was November 10. If you have not sent them in, please do so as soon as you can. The deadline to resubmit the absent form noting those attending a make-up session is February 2, 2017.

**An absent form** was also provided by the diocese for reporting and to track those absent. One copy of the absent form was submitted on the November due date and one copy is kept for planning purposes in preparing a required makeup session opportunity. The form is then resubmitted to the diocese listing the make-up session information by February 2, 2017. Children completely home-schooled are not attending classes so there is no expectation of reporting unless it is a sacramental year and they are attending sessions for these purposes. Catechetical Leaders (PCLs/DREs) can access the *Guide for Parents* in English or Spanish by logging into the VIRTUS account; go to the Educators tab, then to Lesson Plans, Step 2: Click here to read or print: *Teaching Touching Safety*.

**Catechist Rosters:** If you have changes with new catechists and volunteers, please submit those new names and information (position, grade level taught, and e-mail address) to Cindy. Any PCL/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. All new users should immediately go online and register at [www.dnu.org/safeenvironment](http://www.dnu.org/safeenvironment)

### The essential requirements are met by registering online.

There are three essential requirements which are a condition of beginning employment or beginning volunteer service:

- 1) Complete the required background checks
- 2) Electronically sign receipt of Policy 13 (March 2016) and the Code of Conduct, complete Form B and submit it to your parish
- 3) Attend a VIRTUS training session. 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.

In addition to the Day-One Essential Three requirements, there are also ongoing online trainings assigned. Online training is to be completed within 30 days of being posted to the VIRTUS account.

Annual training for volunteers will be posted in late August each year (it is late this year because we are working with the company to incorporate the signing of the updated Policy 13). Once the training is posted, communicate with your volunteers to complete the online training as soon as possible. Accurate e-mail addresses are essential for the notification process to be effective. Users should also add [system@virtus.org](mailto:system@virtus.org) to their contact list so the notice is not processed as spam. Some large businesses will filter out e-mails that are sent in large batches such as the VIRTUS reminder e-mail notices.

*Thank you for keeping our children and youth safe!*

### **VIRTUS Trainings...Protecting God's Children for Adults**

An updated listing of training is available on the [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org) Safe Environment Web site (You can view them at the Large Red Button and then back-out before registering). More training will be scheduled soon. Individuals are expected to preregister for the sessions during registration or by logging into their existing pending account at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

### **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership**

Join NCCL and receive *CL (Catechetical Leader) Magazine*, *CL Weekly* every week, discounts on resources, and information on the national conference and regional workshops! The cost of an individual membership to NCCL is only -\$75.00. This is only \$6.25 a month. *Use the Mohr Scholarship Fund for this opportunity!* For further information about membership, check out the Web site: [www.nccl.org](http://www.nccl.org)

## **Adult Faith Formation**

### **The Augustine Institute: Formed**

FORMED.org is a revolutionary online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks, and movies from trusted partners like the Augustine Institute, St. Paul Center, Marian Fathers, Lighthouse Catholic Media, Ignatius Press, and Word on Fire. Catechism and Personal Faith Formation are at the fingertips of every parishioner. Visit [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org) to learn about these resources delivered to you by the Augustine Institute. These are great resources for adult faith formation for parish-wide gatherings as well as small Christian communities.

### **Word on Fire: Catholicism: The Pivotal Players**

Bishop Barron is on a new journey to unlock the truth behind the Catholic Church's most influential people. You'll discover the places where St. Thomas Aquinas lived, learned, and wrote. Visit the countryside where St. Francis gathered a group of friars and revived the Church. See the places where St. Catherine of Siena ministered and prayed. Trek through England to where Bl. John Henry Newman and G.K. Chesterton left their mark and sparked an English Catholic revival. And through unprecedented HD footage, marvel at the extraordinary art of Michelangelo, from his David statue in Florence, to the Pietà at St. Peter's, to the Sistine Chapel. The box set includes six DVDs, one on each of the Pivotal Players. Each episode runs 50-60 minutes. English and Spanish subtitles and audio are included as configurable options.

## **Parish Catechetical Question:**

*Take some time to reflect upon the Nicene Creed. What does it tell us about the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Incarnation? Share why Christmas is meaningful to you. Share with a friend or family member during Advent and the Christmas season.*

