



November 2016

Called, Formed, & Sent

Newsletter for Evangelization and Catechesis
for the Diocese of New Ulm

The land yields its harvest; God, our God, Blesses US. Psalm 67:6 NIV

The Catechism of the Catholic Church: Pillar One, Section One “I Believe – We Believe”

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 One, **Chapter One**, we delve into the background to what we believe. In this section, the *Catechism* states that we humans have an inner desire for God, an emptiness that only God can fill. This quote from the *Catechism* says it well:

“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.” (CCC 27)

It goes on to describe that there are two ways that a person can begin to come to know God –

through the physical world and through the human person.

Regarding the physical world, I personally love to walk each morning, pray, and marvel at the great works of God, like seeing the stars on a cold, crisp morning. Also in my travels, I think of the Creator when I see a vast ocean, a majestic mountain, a beautiful water fall, wildlife active in a forest, and so on. We can find God’s fingerprints in the beauty of his creation from the smallest one celled living organism, to the great constellations in space. Regarding the human person, we seek God deep within our souls, deep within our minds (reason) as we come to know God’s truth, God’s reality, and God’s purpose for us personally.

Yet, it continues to teach that we need the Church to help us to know and understand that truth, for God to be revealed more fully.

And even though we are limited in knowledge and speech, God wants us to speak about him, to all people, no matter what faith tradition they are in, no matter if one is atheist or a nominal believer or a strong believer.

In **Chapter Two**, we begin to learn how God meets the human person. It says:

“Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 50).

This revelation, found within Sacred Scripture, and even in the readings that are heard and psalms that are sung at the Easter Vigil each year, includes the story of creation, the covenant of Noah, the story of Abraham, the story of Moses and how God forms his own people – Israel, and the revelation of God in its fullness through Christ, the Son of God.

It goes on to show the relationship of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

“*Sacred Scripture* is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit. And [Holy] *Tradition* transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits it to the successors of the apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound, and spread it abroad by their preaching.” (CCC 82)

Then the *Catechism* teaches about Sacred Scripture: How Christ is the unique Word of Sacred Scripture, how God is indeed the author of it, and how the Holy Spirit inspires the writers and is the source of true interpretation. Then the *Catechism* reveals the senses of Sacred Scripture or the ways to interpret Sacred Scripture: the literal sense and the spiritual sense, and within the spiritual sense, there are three further senses: the allegorical sense (looking at passages in the Word, even in the Old Testament as it refers to Christ), the moral sense (inspiring us to act righteously, as Christ himself), and the anagogical sense (viewing Sacred Scripture as a way to look at our heavenly goal).

Sacred Scripture was discerned by the Church into what is called the canon of Sacred Scripture: “46 books for the Old Testament (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and 27 for the New.” (CCC 120)

Then in **Chapter Three**, we look at Man’s Response to God, starting with obedience of faith. We first look at Abraham, the father of faith. He listened to the voice of God by leaving his homeland to the land where God wanted him to start a new people, by trusting in God that he and his wife Sarah would have a son to begin a people of many generations, and by obeying God willing to sacrifice his own son, yet God’s messenger was sent to save his son, Isaac.

Then we go on to the woman of faith, Mary, the Mother of God. She is the one who said “Yes” to the will of God, the great fiat, yes to the plan of salvation for all those who believe! “The Church venerates in Mary the purest realization of faith.” (CCC 149)

So with these two models of faith, we come to know that “faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time, and inseparably, it is a *free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed.*” (CCC 150). And as a Christian, faith in Christ, the Son of God, is essential because “we can believe in Jesus Christ because he is himself God, the Word made flesh.” (CCC 151) And to complete the three persons, one God, we believe in the Holy Spirit who helps us to know God and God’s love.

Then it teaches about the characteristics of faith which include: faith as a grace, faith as a human act, faith and understanding, the freedom of faith, the necessity of faith, perseverance of faith, and faith as the beginning of eternal life.

This section concludes by describing the important role of the Church as the Church “bears, nourishes and sustains” (CCC 168) our faith, as it brings forth a language of faith so that we can understand, and despite the many languages and cultures, it proclaims and teaches one faith.

I encourage you to read more in this first section of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The following is the online version of the *Catechism*: <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html>

Upcoming Opportunities



Moments of Mercy

- **Saturday, November 12, 2016** – Closing of the Holy Year Door at the Schoenstatt Shrine – 11:00 a.m. Mass – followed by social and lunch
- **Sunday, November 20, 2016** – Closing of the Holy Year Door at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm – 2:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Confessions available; 3:15 p.m. Benediction and reposition; 3:30 p.m. Mass presided by Bishop John LeVoir and there will again be an opportunity for reconciliation.

Gathers

for catechetical leaders and youth ministers

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

St. Aloysius Jubilee Center in Olivia

302 S 10th St. (unless otherwise noted)

Monday, November 7

We will begin looking at the *United States Catechism for Adults* (copies will be available, yet 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. Contact Cindy (507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org) to RSVP by Friday morning, November 4.

Other Upcoming Gathers:

Monday, December 12 – Olivia

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

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, December 3** St. Boniface, Stewart
- **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 263 Nov 19 - 21, 2016 Bird Island

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.

“Living Catholic in a Secular World”

presented by **Maria Cahill**

November 20, 2016 6:45 p.m.

Church of St. Raphael in Springfield

Maria Cahill, former Miss Delaware and advocate for life for all God’s children and for Christian values, is a dedicated Catholic living her faith and spreading a message of life and the love of God.

The Catholic Church and Sexuality

presented by **Nic Davidson**

November 30, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Church of St. Mary in Bird Island

Is your parish looking for an effective way to address sexuality with your 11th and 12th grade students? This presentation is for 11th and 12th grade students and their catechists. Join the Heart of Jesus AFC for an evening **with Nic Davidson** addressing what the Catholic Church teaches about sexuality, homosexuality, and transgender and how we as Christians are to respond to these issues.

Please RSVP to Joan Honzay with an approximate number of attendees at 320-523-2030 or stalreligiousedjh@gmail.com by

November 23. If the group becomes large; event may be moved to the ballroom. A Goodwill Offering will be given for his presentation.

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!

Parish Visits

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

Here is my schedule so far:

- Wednesday, September 7 – Henderson
- Wednesday, September 14 – Milroy
- Wednesday, November 30 – Tracy
- Wednesday, January 4 – Litchfield
- Sunday, January 22 – Green Valley
- Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – New Ulm

I have openings throughout the Fall and Winter; email me or call me!

University of Dayton's VLCFF

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

We are no longer partners with the University of Dayton's VLCFF, 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 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.

➤ 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/>

NIKA - Another online learning opportunity for those in the Diocese of New Ulm

NIKA Catholic Catechetical Institute (NCCI) exists to make Jesus Christ better known and better loved. It offers faith-filled college level continuing education for non-traditional students and adults who are seeking to deepen their faith life. The course aims primarily at personal faith formation (intellectual and spiritual) and secondarily are helpful to those seeking classroom applications. Faith formation is the primary emphasis because the faith-filled person will be more effective in communicating faith and making Christian disciples than the unconvinced technician who has not developed a consistent prayer life. "A theologian is one who prays..." Enjoy continuing education from the convenience of your home. Free online presentations for continuing education as well as mini-courses have begun. For further info, <http://www.nikacatholic.com/>

Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

VIRTUS Lessons 5 and 6 are to be taught in a combined session this fall. Please schedule your VIRTUS Children's Training by early November. 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 is November 10, 2016. The deadline to resubmit the absent form noting those attending a make-up session is February 2, 2017.

Opt out forms: The expectation is that all children are trained in a class held at the local parish/AFC program; however, parents are given the opportunity to opt out their child. Opt out forms are to be provided to the parent/guardian before your training in the fall along with a copy of the Overview and *Teaching Touching Safety Quick Reference Guide*. In signing the Opt Out form, the parent/guardian is agreeing to train their child. You are required to use the Opt Out form provided by the diocese. Do not change the content of the form. Any Opt Out forms signed by

the parent/guardian are turned in to you before the training in the fall. The program director is to personally contact parents choosing to opt-out and confirm they are in understanding as to what has been signed and what the expectation is. Often times, parents believe it is simply a form that needs signed and are not truly intending for their child to be opted out. Verification is necessary. After your initial training takes place, Opt Out forms are not provided to the parent/guardian.

An absent form is also provided by the diocese for reporting and to track those absent. One copy of the absent form is 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: We sent you a catechist roster in August: an excel sheet to record your current catechists. They were to be returned to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org) by October 1. 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. The form is available on the Safe Environment Catechist Web page if you misplaced your original copy. 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

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 have been 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 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 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 pre-register for the sessions during registration or by logging into their existing account at www.virtus.org.



National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

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 - \$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



Adult Faith Formation

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:

Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are important to our faith lives. How do they help you to become people of faith? How do these help your passing on the faith each week?