

Blessed Epiphany and Happy New Year!

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

January 2017

Called, Formed, & Sent

The Catechism of the Catholic Church: Pillar 1, Section 2 Jesus Christ, The Only Son of God

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 we continue with Section Two, **Chapter Two**, as we learn about Jesus, the Christ. It continues with:

“The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ: ‘We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’ And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ” (CCC 425). This proclamation, *kerygma*, is central to our mission as a People of God.

It continues to describe the heart of catechesis as being the person of Christ, quoting from St. John Paul II’s *Catechesi Tradendae* (CCC 426, CT 5).

It goes on to say, quoting again from *Catechesi Tradendae* and then, John’s Gospel:

In catechesis “Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God...is taught - everything else is taught with reference to him - and it is Christ alone who teaches - anyone else teaches to the extent that he is Christ’s spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips... Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: ‘My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me’” (CCC 427, CT 6, John 7:16).

So your catechists are ambassadors of Christ, spokespersons of the Son of God. They represent Jesus, who teaches forgiveness, who teaches us how to love, who saves us from sin and death so that we may receive life everlasting with God and all God’s holy ones. Catechists communicate this message through their attitude, actions, and words, just as parents do every day with their children. Both catechists and parents, not only know about Christ, but also know Christ and his words, experience suffering with Christ (CCC 428), and then evangelize and catechize (CCC 429).

In Article 2, it describes the name of “Jesus” as translated from Hebrew as “God saves.” In this name is both his identity and mission (CCC 430).

It goes on to describe his title, Christ, which is the Greek for of the Hebrew word, Messiah, meaning the Anointed One. It goes on to say: "Jesus fulfilled the messianic hope of Israel in his threefold office of priest, prophet and king" (CCC 436).

Regarding the title of Jesus as the Son of God, this title is found throughout the Old Testament to describe angels, the Chosen People, the children of Israel, and their kings, but when Peter answered Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am," he juxtaposed two titles, "The Christ, the Son of the living God." And with these titles together, this described a special Sonship to God the Father, and the only one to have this special relationship because in Jesus we find God made man. Of course, this special relationship was revealed through his Baptism, through his Transfiguration, and through his Resurrection (CCC 441-445).

As mentioned last month, God reveals his name to Moses: "I am Who am." 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). Jesus, himself claims this title because indeed the Father and he are one. As we recite our Creed, we believe he is human and divine, and his divinity is found in this title of Lord. It was common for his disciples to call him, Lord (CCC 446-451).

In Article 3, it addresses the teaching of why the Word became flesh (to save us from sin and death), and describes the Incarnation: "The Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it" (CCC 456-463). And it goes on to teach that Jesus is True God and True Man (CCC 464-478).

The Catechism continues this article with "he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit" by explaining that with the Annunciation, we find the inauguration of the "fullness of time" (CCC 484). The Annunciation brings the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce God's plan for Mary to conceive a son, the eternal Son of God. And it is explained to Mary that this conception is made possible by the Holy Spirit. She, in turn, says, "Yes" to God's will.

The Catechism goes on to teach about the Immaculate Conception that Mary was conceived without sin to prepare her to be the God-bearer. In other words, she was saved at the moment of conception and became "full of grace." She was saved by the Son of God, free from the stain of

original sin, and free from sin her entire life because the Paschal Mystery, God's salvation for us, does transcend time and space even though chronologically this happened afterwards (CCC 490-493).

The Catechism continues with other teachings about Mary including her great "Fiat" -- her yes to God's plan of salvation, her divine motherhood, her virginity, Mary as ever-virgin, and her virginal motherhood as part of God's plan (CCC 494-507).

We will continue with Jesus' life next time as we journey through the *Catechism*. 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, January 9, 2017 ... 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 4 and 5 for our January meeting.

Contact Cindy (507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org) to RSVP by Friday morning, January. 6.

Other Upcoming Gathers:

Monday, February 13 – Olivia

Monday, March 6 – Olivia

Monday, April 3 – Curriculum Day, New Ulm

Monday, May 8 – "Spring Fling" – TBA

Three Evening Gather Opportunities

at the Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls

These are for those who cannot make the daytime

Gathers. (Please RSVP by the Friday before)

Monday evening, January 30 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Monday evening, March 27 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Monday evening, May 1 7:00-8:30 p.m.



Bishop Lucker Lecture 2017

Presenter: Helen Alvaré, former Director of the USCCB Pro-Life Office and now Professor of Law, Teacher of Family Law, Law and Religion, and Property Law at George Mason University

Title: Rise of Sexual Expressionism in the Law and the Decline of the Vulnerable

Description: In the past 50 years especially, the federal government in all its branches has valorized adult sexual expression – divorced from children and indifferent to marriage. While this undermines the wellbeing of all Americans, it strikes women, children, and the poor most dramatically because of their different opportunities, preferences, and constraints. How did this happen and what can we do about it?

When and Where? Thursday, March 23 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls at 7 p.m.

Cor Jesu 2017 - 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.

- **Sat, Jan 7** Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm
- **Sat, Feb 11** St. Andrew, Granite Falls
- **Fri, March 31** St. Clotilde, Green Valley w/ Stations of the Cross!
- **Fri, 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

This is a wonderful opportunity to encounter Christ in the Paschal Mystery and to renew your faith. 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.

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 – North Mankato
 - Sunday, January 22 – Green Valley
 - Wednesday, February 1 – New Ulm
 - Wednesday, February 8 – Benson
 - Wednesday, March 15 – Spicer and Willmar
 - Wednesday, March 29 - Winsted
- I have some openings in the Winter and throughout the Spring; email me or call me!

University of Dayton's VLCCFF

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

We are no longer partners with the University of Dayton's VLCCFF, 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!

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/>

Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

VIRTUS Lessons 5 and 6 were taught in a combined session this fall. A copy of the absent form is to be resubmitted to the diocese listing the make-up session information by February 2, 2017.

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, cblickem@dnu.org.

Assigned Volunteer Training: Annual volunteer training is past due. The good news is 84% of volunteers have completed the training. The not-so-good news is 490 volunteers still need to complete the training. Catechists and program volunteers should NOT be with students if the assigned online training is not complete by this time of the year. The posting has been available over 90 days and the expectation is for it to be completed within 30 days of posting. Catechetical leaders are expected to work closely with their local safe environment coordinators to assist volunteers in completing the training, identifying inactive volunteers to make inactive in the database, and confirming all program volunteers are fully compliant with all safe environment requirements. VIRTUS Location active account lists can be requested of the LSEC and reviewed by the Catechetical Leader—touch base with your LSEC today!

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 preregister 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

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 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 un-precedented HD footage, marvel at the extra-ordinary 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

*Who do you say that Jesus is?
Share with a friend about what you call Jesus
and about your relationship with him.*

