



Called, Formed, & Sent

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

September 2016

The Catechism of the Catholic Church: Historical Background

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.

Catechisms have a long history in the Catholic Church. Even in the Acts of the Apostles it reads: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles..." from Acts 2:42.

Some of the earliest catechisms include *The Didache* or *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (dated to the first century), which St. Athanasius (296/298-373) indicated that it is essential reading, and *The Catechetical Lectures* by St. Cyril of Jerusalem (318-386 AD). St. Augustine (354-430 AD) had a manual on how to catechize.

St. Gregory the Great (540-604) wrote his *Dialogues* as a guide for pastors, parents, and catechists on how to properly hand down the faith.

Also during these times, the printing press was yet to be invented (Johannes Gutenberg, circa 1450), and much of the population was illiterate. So catechesis took place via stories, art, icons, stained glass, architecture, and music. And of course, long homilies were important ways that the masses learned about the Catholic faith.

Missionaries such as St. Boniface (missionary to Germany), St. Augustine of Canterbury (missionary to England), and SS. Cyril and Methodius (missionaries to the Slavic people – Eastern Europe) were great evangelists and catechists to the people they were reaching out to.

In addition, in the Middle Ages, the religious orders, such as the Franciscans and the Dominicans were great catechists and provided catechesis to the people they served.

Martin Luther (1517) and other Protestant reformers, made use of the printing press to spread their message and teachings to many people throughout Europe. The Catholic Church

saw their numbers decline in a number of countries, such as Germany and Sweden.

When the Reformation happened in the 16th Century, the Catholic Church's response was the Council of Trent. And with that Council, a catechism called the **Roman Catechism** was promulgated in 1565. This printing of this catechism helped spread the truths of the faith to the masses as more and more people began to learn to read.

This catechism would be the inspiration for the **Baltimore Catechism** used in the Catholic Church in the United States for the formation of children (from 1885 when it was first published to the 1960s – in which there are some cases where the **Baltimore Catechism** is still being used). This catechism was eventually revised to contain 4 volumes:

1. For children grades 1 through 5
2. For children grades 6-9 (and those preparing for Confirmation)
3. For young people who were confirmed through high school
4. For catechists and adults – an advanced volume

The Second Vatican Council saw renewal in many areas: liturgical, ecumenical, inter-faith relations, a renewed understanding of evangelization as the mission of the Church, a refocus on the catechumenate, canon law, and catechesis (among many more).

With catechesis, it was recommended, that a universal catechism be put together and published when Pope John Paul II, now St. John Paul II, called for a synod of bishops in 1985 on the 20th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council.

The project director for this catechism was Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and future Pope Benedict XVI. He entrusted a former student of his, Fr. Christof Schönborn, the future archbishop of Vienna and cardinal, to be the editorial secretary of this massive work.

This universal catechism called the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** was approved in October of 1992. It was first published in French. The English version was published in 1994 with a revised edition published in 1997.

This is a resource for all of us: catechetical leaders, catechists, parents, and all adults. In fact, many of our catechetical texts are in conformity with 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

- National Day of Prayer to Promote Peace and Unity, **Friday, September 9, 2016** – Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm – 7:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet, 7:15 p.m. Mass – All are welcome, and other parishes and AFCs are encouraged to do the same.
- **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

Fatima Centennial Tour

- **Sunday, October 16** – Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm – 5:00 p.m. Presentation and Rosary Procession, 6:30 p.m. Mass
- **Monday, October 17** – Church of Saint Aloysius Our Lady of Fatima Statue procession at St. Aloysius Church is at 8:30 a.m. The procession is followed by Mass, a talk about the statue, and an opportunity for reconciliation. The statue will be available for veneration until 7:30 in the evening. At 7:00 p.m. the talk will be repeated and there will again be an opportunity for reconciliation.

We are hoping to pray the mysteries of the Rosary throughout the day. We invite any parish that would like to have a representative say a

mystery to do so. Just contact Joan Honzay by September 27 about what time someone would be here to do that (320.523.2030 or stalreligiousedjh@gmail.com).

Faith Formation Day

Saturday, September 24 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Cathedral High School and Leifeld Hall

in New Ulm (evangelization, catechesis, youth ministry, social ministry focus)

It will begin with an 8:00 a.m. liturgy at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

The theme is **Building a Church of Mercy**. The keynotes include:

- **Matt Halbach**, author of the book *Becoming a Parish of Mercy*, Director of St. Joseph Educational Center in the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, and sponsored by Wm. H. Sadlier, Inc.
- **Aida M. Hidalgo**, M.A, Consultant for Our Sunday Visitor. Her workshop is La Praxis Pastoral del Amor y la Misericordia (Pastoral Praxis of the Love and Mercy of God).

In addition, there is a track in Spanish for Hispanics. Other workshops include diocesan staff and practitioners.

For further information, contact Cindy Blickem (507-233-5325) or Bryan Reising (507-233- 5324) or e-mail Cindy at cblickem@dnu.org for information and registration.

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, October 10

We will continue with the *Parish Catechetical Leader Formation Workbook*. Contact Cindy (507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org to RSVP by Friday morning, October 7.

Other Upcoming Gathers:

Monday, November 7 – Olivia
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, September 17** Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm
- **Friday, October 21** St. Mary, Sleepy Eye w/ recitation of Rosary!
- **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 adults. 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 stalreligiousdjh@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.

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

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, Introduction to Catechesis in the next cycle. I still have room for people to sign up for this course! Register soon!

Cycle 7: October 16 – November 19, 2016

(Registration: Aug 31; Closes Oct 12)

A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry

Bible Basics

Catechetical Methodology: Archdiocese for the Military

Services Only

Catholic Beliefs

Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education

Church History 2

Communication and Community

Conscience

Creative Methodologies: ADHD in Parish Life - Pastoral Implications (SN 3)

Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan

Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview (SN 1)

Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church

Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church

Evangelization and Discipleship

Faith and Human Development

Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs (SN 5)

Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith

Formation (AFL 1)

Fundamentals in Deaf Faith Formation Methodologies (SN 2)

Images of Jesus

Introduction to Catechesis

Introduction to Liturgy

Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters

Introduction to Practical Morality

Introduction to Prayer

Introduction to Scripture

Leadership in Ministry

Marianist Studies: Prayer

Marianist Studies: Social Justice

Mary in Scripture and Tradition

New Testament

Old Testament

On Bended Knee

Our Hearts Were Burning

Parish and Social Action

Praying With Children

Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry

Sacraments

Survey of Catholic Doctrine

The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion

The Second Vatican Council: An Overview

Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life

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 for October or 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. 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. Return to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org) by October 1. The form is available on the Safe Environment Catechist Web page if you misplaced your original copy. You may not have your entire catechist positions filled, but additional names and information (position, grade level taught, and e-mail address) can then be sent to Cindy as they become known. 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 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 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 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

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

**How do you use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in your parish?
In your catechetical formation?
In adult faith formation?
What other resources do you use?**