

DIocese of NEW ULM



Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

February 4, 2016

From the Religious Education & Adult Faith Formation Office

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TASKS OF CATECHESIS: TEACHING TO PRAY

by Bryan Reising

“Man is in search of God. In the act of creation, God calls every being from nothingness into existence. ‘Crowned with glory and honor,’ man is, after the angels, capable of acknowledging ‘how majestic is the name of the Lord in all the earth.’ Even after losing through his sin his likeness to God, man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence. All religions bear witness to men’s essential search for God.” (CCC 2567)

So begins the section on Prayer in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Prayer is one of the most important components of our faith. It communicates to the God who truly loves us whether it is petition for a personal need or a need for another person, a prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer of adoration, or the many other types of prayer and prayer forms that are used in the Church. It also includes our listening to God who reveals and calls us to his will.

Let us look at the type of prayers that are presented in the Catechism and then we take a look at the Our Father itself.

Blessing and Adoration

Blessings are initiated by God and humans can return to God blessings of our own. The Catechism says that this is a movement, an encounter between God and man.

Adoration is the attitude of giving exaltation and homage to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Silence is the normal means of adoration, but at times, it can be accompanied by songs of praise and thanksgiving. Eucharistic adoration is a type of adoration where the Eucharistic Lord is present.

Prayer of Petition

Prayer of petition is turning toward God and asking God for help knowing that we are indeed finite, indeed limited. The Catechism states that our first petition is asking for forgiveness. It is a prerequisite for both the Eucharist as well as personal prayer. Then the desire for the Kingdom to come, God’s Kingdom of love, is the next thing to ask for. And then all other needs can be petitioned (and are put into perspective).

Prayer of Intercession

Intercession is a type of petition asking on behalf of another. The Catechism states that intercession has the characteristic “of a heart attuned to God’s mercy.” (CCC 2635) The Catechism states that the Christian community intercedes for one another and even those outside their community, even their persecutors.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Of course, the word Eucharist is the ultimate prayer of Thanksgiving. The Catechism states that everything, every event can be an offering of Thanksgiving to our God. It shows that God is the source of our every blessing.

Prayer of Praise

The Catechism states that “Praise is the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God.” (CCC 2639) It is a type of prayer that acknowledges that God is the source of all and God is all glory, all love. Many of the psalms are prayers of praise and the first Christians prayed these psalms or praise often.

Expressions of Prayer

The Catechism mentions three expressions of prayer. First, Vocal Prayer takes believer’s inward prayer and voices it through words and through song. The Catechism states that Vocal Prayer is expressed in groups. Groups can include married couples, friends, family prayer, small Christian communities, and parish-wide prayer opportunities. Second, Meditation is an expressed prayer that is a questing, searching prayer focused on understanding our God and our faith. Sometimes meditation helps when we are focused on a text from Scripture or a holy writing by one of our saints or a work of art or an icon. Third, Contemplation, as St. Teresa of Avila says, is a relational prayer with God, with Jesus. Some elements include intense time with Jesus, a gaze of faith, hearing the Word of God, and a unity with Jesus.

Our Father

Jesus, of course, has an intimate relationship with the Father, and by him sharing this prayer, he invites us to be adopted sons and daughters of the Father, to experience this intimacy with the Father.

Who Art in Heaven

Heaven is not a place, but rather a way of being. It is not a distant place in the cosmos, but a nearness of God’s majesty.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

It is recognition that the Father is holy, and the Father draws us into his loving plan.

Thy Kingdom Come

The Catechism states: the Kingdom “refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God through Christ’s return. But, far from distracting the Church from her mission in this present world, this desire

commits her to it all the more strongly.” (CCC 2818) So, the mission is to bring even closer this Kingdom to all people through the efforts of evangelization, catechesis, acts of mercy, and the Sacraments like, Penance and Reconciliation and especially, the Eucharist.

Thy Will Be Done on Earth As It Is in Heaven

The Father’s desire, his will, is for all to receive salvation and enter the heavenly Kingdom. He wills for all to love one another, yet this is still an invitation, not coercion.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

This acknowledges the Father’s goodness and how we are dependent upon him for sustenance. It expresses our covenant with the Father. Our bread represents food and other material needs as well as spiritual nourishment, especially the Eucharist.

And Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us

This petition helps us to recognize our sinfulness and our need for God’s Mercy. Yet, it also acknowledges the Father’s expectation that we, during our lives, must forgive those who wronged us. But can we do this on our own? The Catechism states: “Only the Spirit by whom we live can make ‘ours’ the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Then the unity of forgiveness becomes possible and we find ourselves ‘forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave’ us.” (CCC 2842)

Lead Us Not into Temptation

The Catechism sheds some light on this portion of the prayer: “It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both ‘do not allow us to enter into temptation’ and ‘do not let us yield to temptation.’” (CCC 2846) So in other words, we are asking God to steer us away from temptation and helping us to be strong when temptations arise.

But Deliver Us from Evil

By the mere fact that words “our” and “us” are used in this prayer, we are not only asking for “myself,” but all of us, the entire Church. And evil is not referring to something abstract, but rather to a person, the Evil One, Satan. This final petition acknowledges that the Evil One does influence the world and the people living in it, and we ask for



deliverance from the Evil One and all that the Evil One inflicts upon us.

Prayer

So prayer is a key component of the Christian life. It builds our communion with God and with each other. Pray daily! Pray for each other as we are privileged to be in relationship with God and participate in his mission!

To find out more about Prayer, read more in the Catechism: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm>

MOMENTS OF MERCY

Integrate the Corporal Works and Spiritual Works of Mercy into your lesson plans this winter and spring. Here is what the Catechism states about the works of mercy and what they are:

“The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.” (CCC 2447)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Gathers for the Year

9:30 gather; 10 a.m. start – 3 p.m.
St. Aloysius Jubilee Center in Olivia
302 S 10th St. (unless otherwise noted)

Monday, February 8 – Olivia

We will continue our journey through the “Parish Catechetical Leader Formation Workbook.” Please RSVP Cindy by Friday morning, February 5: cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233-5325.

Future Gathers:

Monday, March 14 – Olivia

Monday, April 11 – Curriculum Day, New Ulm

Monday, May 9 – TBA – *Bishop LeVoir will present*

Riverbend TEC ... Together Encountering Christ retreats for adults and youth:

- March 5-7, 2016 in New Ulm at Cathedral
 - July 30 - August 1, 2016 in New Ulm at Cathedral
- To sign up, contact: riverbendtec@gmail.com to receive an application.

Parish Visits

Bryan Reising will be on the road again this catechetical starting in September of 2015 for some parish visits (twice a month). He will visit on the day of your Faith Formation. This will run through May of 2016. Please contact him to figure out a date that will work for you or he may contact you for that visit as he lines up his schedule. He will not get to all places during the catechetical year, but he would like to get to all regions and most area faith communities. Keep in mind, that Bryan recognized that this is a very busy day for you. So don't feel you have to give him special treatment. If you have time to meet with him that afternoon, that would be great, but don't feel obligated. He can always meet with you on another day or through a phone call. The main idea for this is to look at what is happening that can benefit other parishes and area faith communities.

What will happen with these visits? The following are some possibilities: an observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction, perhaps an in-service with your catechists, or even a catechetical presentation as a guest catechist for adults, youth, or children.

Keep in mind that this is not an audit, but a visit to observe and be of service. He will have an assessment tool to benefit your catechetical ministry. Discuss with your pastor or pastoral administrator a good time to arrange a visit. Contact Bryan to arrange a date and time: breising@dnu.org or call the Office of Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation, 507-233-5324.

Scheduled Parish Visits:

- September 23 – Holy Cross AFC, New Ulm
- October 14 – Christ the King AFC, Tyler, Ivanhoe
- October 28 – St. Joseph in Lamberton
- December 6 – St. John in Appleton (Micronesian Community), Marshall (Hispanic community)
- December 9 – St. Peter in Canby
- January 13 – St. Edward in Minneota

I have openings for more future visits!

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! This is a great gift for your catechists!

**Cycle 2: Feb 28 – March 19, 2016 (Seminars Only)
(Registration: Jan 13; Closes Feb 24)**

- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Three Offices](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Virtues for Mission](#)
- [On Bended Knee](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Overview of the GDC and NDC](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)

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. If some of you want a closed course on a particular course, please contact Bryan Reising.

For further information and discussion of further ideas, call 507-233-5324; breising@dnu.org.

Cost for the 3-Week Seminar is \$40 and the five-week course is \$50. Certificates are \$20.

Scholarships are available: Web site for the Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Fund for scholarships:

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/55844033e4b0b4466f11c152/t/55db2f84e4b05c60e8774f35/1440427908543/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-ApplicationFo>

Office for Religious Education, Diocese of New Ulm:

<http://www.dnu.org/religious-education/>

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 a breising@dnu.org if you are interested.

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 aim 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 information <http://www.nikacatholic.com/>

Religious Education Safe Environment VIRTUS

The Safe Environment year is winding down—students have been taught, a make-up-session has been offered and reported, volunteer training has been posted and almost all returning volunteers have completed the annual online training, employees are maintaining their online accounts and all are current through the October posting. We have 59 new users in the database that still need some component met but generally we are close to full compliance. Thank you for your contributions in building awareness in your parish communities and helping to keep kids safe!

A complete list of upcoming diocesan VIRTUS live trainings can continually be found on the diocesan Web site – if you have the need to know, click on the large red button on the Safe Environment main page to view the sessions being offered.

Mohr Catechist Formation Fund... A Gift for You, Your Catechists, Your Youth Team Members, Your 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 VLCFF (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://static1.squarespace.com/static/55844033e4b0b4466f11c152/t/55db2f84e4b05c60e8774f35/1440427908543/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-ApplicationFo>

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/areasofstudy/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: <http://www.stthomas.edu/spssod/graduate/degree/mare/> (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 regional membership to NCCL is only \$75. 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: The Mystery of God Who God Is and Why He Matters

What do we really mean by "God?"

Atheism is on the rise. Skeptical thinkers like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris vigorously attack belief in God as irrational or, even worse, dangerous. The so-called New Atheism has attracted millions of young people thanks to bestselling books such as The God Delusion and God Is Not Great. How should Christians respond? How can we turn the tide of secularism and draw people back to God? In this new six-part film series and study program, Bishop Robert Barron reaches into our rich intellectual tradition to teach us how. Using the insights of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Benedict XVI, he uncovers a clear yet sophisticated understanding of what we mean by "God." Who is God? And why does he matter? Watch this series and you'll not only learn the answers yourself, but also you'll discover how to share them with others – especially those who no longer believe. This film and study program is now ready to be ordered:

<http://mysteryofgod.wordonfire.org/>

Parish Catechesis Question

Share with your catechists how prayer can be more prominent in their lives and the lives of their students. Pray often with catechists, students, and parents!



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

Mon, Feb 8	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sat, Feb 20	Cor Jesu	7-9 pm	St. Andrew, Granite Falls
Sat, Mar 5	Cor Jesu	7-9 pm	St. Eloi, Ghent
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	7-8:30 pm	St. Mary, Sleepy Eye
Mon, April 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, April 24	Junior High Rally	1-6:30 pm	Dassel-Cokato High School
Mon, May 9	PCL/Youth Minister Spring Fling – Bishop LeVoir	Noon – 4 pm	TBA
July 24-28	Young Women's Discipleship Camp	Sun 6 pm – Thurs noon	Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye
Aug 1-5	Young Men's Discipleship Camp	Mon 11 am – Fri 6 pm	Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye

Check out Riverbend TEC! For more details and an application check out the Web site: <http://riverbendtec.org>

Jan 16-18, 2016 - Winsted

March 5-7, 2016 - New Ulm

July 31 - Aug 2, 2016 - New Ulm



From the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office

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HIP AND RELEVANT: TWO VIRTUES OF THE YOUTH MINISTER

Do you know what the image above is called? Do you know what movie the image is from?

(Warning: the following statements are meant to be sarcastic)

If you are able to answer the former question, but not the latter, you are likely a youth who is savvy with Facebook (although, increasingly, less and less youth use Facebook). If you are able to answer the latter question, but not the former, you are probably an un-

hip and out of touch adult who has little to no chance reaching the youth of today.

For those cool kids out there who were able to answer both: good job! You're obviously a well-equipped youth leader! You know that the image above is called a "meme" and there are tons of them out there for various occasions, inside jokes, pop culture references, and anything else you'd like to make a snarky statement for.

I bring this up because recently I visited lifeteen.com to check out their annual things-to-give-up-for-Lent article (<http://lifeteen.com/blog/102-things-really-give-lent/>). Reading through it, I realized immediately that someone could read that list and have no idea what the majority of the things either *are* or *are referencing*. In many ways, it is more than just a list of things to "give up" for Lent; it is a list of current youth culture references.

I'm not criticizing it. I'm just making an observation. The list is legitimate. But it makes one wonder, "Is it necessary to know these things in order to be an effective youth leader?" I'm not going to give an answer, because the fact of the matter is that those of us who work with youth are a pretty diverse group of people. I will make another observation to throw in my two cents on the topic, though.

Hip and relevant vs. wise and timeless

Growing up, it seemed that there were essentially two kinds of teachers: those young ones who were always "relating" to the students and were thus popular, and those older and much wiser ones, who were equally as popular. (Yes, there was a third kind of teacher, who may or may not have fallen into the category of the elementary school music teacher that publicly humiliated me for not singing loud enough during a choir rehearsal in Fourth Grade... *sigh*).

There are different shades of both teachers, but I could definitely name one from each category in no time flat. I remember noticing the influence both teachers had on the students they taught. In many ways, these teachers were all things to all students. They reached them all.

We can apply the same observation to the work of evangelizing the youth. St. Paul says it best in his first letter to the Corinthians:

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I became as one under the law—though not being myself under the law—that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law—not being without law toward God but under the law of Christ—that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.** I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

I'll say nothing more other than these words (particularly the bolded ones), are words that often I reflect on. They are words that every Catholic should live by. Our primary motivation in everything we do should be to bring souls to Jesus Christ.

Junior High Rally

April 24, 2016

Dassel-Cokato High School

Promotional materials have been sent out. Post them in noticeable places and INVITE YOUTH! For more information visit www.dnu.org/youth-rallies.

Cor Jesu

February 20 - St. Andrew's, Granite Falls

March 5 - St. Eloi's, Ghent

Cor Jesu means “Heart of Jesus” in Latin. This is a free event for youth and young adults consisting of a Holy Hour with contemporary praise music, confessions,

and a reception afterwards. Bring your whole youth group! Both events begin at 7:00 p.m.

World Youth Day

Jul 20, 2016 - Aug 01, 2016

Krakow, Poland

PRICE REDUCTION: The cost of the trip has now been reduced to \$3,599! Sign up now!

Join the Diocese of New Ulm and Bishop LeVoir on their pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland, to visit Pope Francis. Items on the itinerary include a visit to Pope St. John Paul II's hometown, childhood vacation destination, Auschwitz, Jasna Gora monastery in the mountains, and many other exciting spots.

This trip is particularly designed for young adults, so if you know of any young adults please recommend to them to come to World Youth Day 2016. More information can be found at www.dnu.org/youth

Discipleship Camps

Young Women's: July 24-28, 2016


Young Men's: August 1-5, 2016

Schoenstatt-on-the-Lake, Sleepy Eye

Be sure to check out the promo videos at

<http://www.dnu.org/young-womens-discipleship-camp> and <http://www.dnu.org/young-mens-discipleship-camp>.

Flyers and registration materials/instructions will be out shortly.



For God so lo **V** ed the world
th **A** t he gave his
on **L** y
b **E** gotten
So **N**
tha **T** whoever
be **I** eves
i **N** him should not perish
but hav **E** everlasting life
(John 3:16, NKJV)

