

Gatherings

**DIOCESE
of NEW ULM**
Offices of
**Religious Education & AFF
Youth & Young Ministry**

Reflections

Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

October 8, 2015

From the Religious Education & Adult Faith Formation Office

Bryan Reising

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



COLLABORATION WITH CATECHISTS: IDEAS FOR PARENTS TO PASS ON THE FAITH

by Bryan Reising

Do you and your catechists ever wonder if there is faith happening in the home of the families you serve? Are they praying together? And, are they even eating meals together? Are they going to church every weekend as a family? Do they have family faith traditions?

If you were to survey the parents, and they could remain anonymous, what would be revealed about their sharing the faith with their children? This may be worthwhile to survey them so you know how to approach your parents.

It does take an extra effort, but it may be worth your time and your catechists' time to set up a meeting with each of the parents to help them to know what the Church expects of them, but along with that, we need listen to their ideas and be prepared to give them some further ideas and resources.

Promises Made

Here is what a bride and groom promise at their wedding: "Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?" Each answer: "I will."

Here is what a father and mother promise at the Baptism of their children: "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you

are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?" Parents answer: "We do."

So with these promises made, remind the parents that they are the primary educators of the faith by their actions, by their attitudes, and by their words. And in collaboration with pastors, catechetical leaders, catechists, youth ministers, these parents can make a real difference in the lives of their children. And it is never too late to start to make a difference.



Meals as Holy Moments as a Family

Family meals are very important for communication, for prayer, for building relationships, and for sharing important Gospel values.

Encourage your parents to have family meals often in order to build communion within the family. The meal prayer can be expanded to other prayers, praying for the needs of others, praying the theme of the liturgical season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc.). And conversations about the day and how God has blessed us or sharing struggles so that we can pray for each other – these are important as well.

Teach Us to Pray

Morning prayer, praying during the day, praying in the evening, these are all important to do both individually and together as a family.

Encourage the parents to teach prayers to their children – by memory and by spontaneity. Help them to understand that their prayers teach their children how important their relationship with God is.

Help them to make use of the various wealth of prayers that the Church offers them: Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office), the Rosary, litanies, the daily examen, spiritual



songs, the Divine Mercy prayer, the Prayer for Peace (St. Francis of Assisi), and so on. All of these can be valuable ways to communicate with God and build communion as a family.

Take Them to Church

Remind the families, that is obligatory to attend Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass every week plus Holy Days are obligatory as well. But help them to understand that not only is it mandated by the Church, but also it is a great opportunity to connect with the parish community and worship God. And when we are traveling, say on vacation or visiting family, again take them to Mass. And remember, they are not limited to just Sunday Mass and Holy Days.

Encourage them to go to church on Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Baptismal Days (celebrate these every year), and special feast days. (Do they have a Simon in their family? The Feast of Simon and Jude is on October 28. Their name is not a saint's name? Then choose a patron – like a Confirmation name).

Serve One Another

Serving together as a family can be full of teachable moments. When our children were younger, we would give communion to a few homebound parishioners. And the relationship we made with those people was truly inspirational. They were wisdom figures to us and like surrogate grandparents to our children. I knew families who served as music ministers together at Mass.

And then outside the parish, families can deliver meals to the homebound together; help an elderly or disabled neighbor with mowing, raking, and shoveling snow; making an immigrant family feel welcome, and so many other ways.

Encourage each family to be active with the parish activities together and with acts of charity in society. These are catechetical moments, teachable moments that can inspire and even change people's lives – both parents and children.

And together with catechists, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, and priests, deacons, and religious, parents can be effective in passing on the faith in such a way that there is staying power with what they pass on.



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)

2015

Monday, October 19 - Olivia

Monday, November 16 – Olivia

Sr Candace Fier will present

Monday, December 6 – Olivia

2016

Monday, January 11 – Olivia

Monday, February 8 – Olivia

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:

- January 16-18, 2016 in Winsted at Holy Trinity Catholic Church
 - 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 year 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 recognizes 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 for 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 21 - Lambertton

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 7: October 25 – November 28, 2015 (Registration closes Oct. 21)

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Autism in Faith Formation](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodologies: Archdiocese for 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](#)
- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan](#)
- [Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Ecumenism and Parish Life](#)
- [Evangelization and Discipleship](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs \(SN 5\)](#)
- [Galatians](#)
- [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](#)
- [Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 5\)](#)
- [Many Faces of Adult Learners \(AFL 3\)](#)
- [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. 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.

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 at 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 the 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 courses 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/>

Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL)

Please be reminded the Diocese of New Ulm has learning materials available to check out to area faith communities offering the Early Catholic Family Life program. Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL) is a wonderful program for parents with children 0-5 years old. ECFL is a structured seven session two-hour class patterned after the highly successful and popular Minnesota ECFE program (Early Childhood Family Education). ECFL consists of a parent-child interaction component, a parent discussion time, and children's learning and play time. This program emphasizes the importance of putting faith at the center of family life at the earliest ages. It is an opportunity to discuss faith education with Catholic parents and an opportunity for parents and preschools to have fun learning more about God together. If you do not have parish staff trained to lead the program but want to learn more call one of our offices. To arrange for the checking out of the lesson material bins please contact Cindy Blickem at cblickem@dnu.org

Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

DUE DATES APPROACHING

Thank you for all who sent in their updated VIRTUS rosters checking for catechists and adding new catechist names. If you have not done so, please send them in within the week. Remember to review the list with the Safe Environment Coordinator and then both of you are to sign at the bottom indicating you both agree to the list updates.

Please meet with your Local Safe Environment Coordinator to get any new names reviewed for VIRTUS compliance and for information on getting new volunteers registered in the VIRTUS system. E-mail any new catechist names to skalow@dnu.org indicating if they have been reviewed as being active in the VIRTUS registration system or if you have had them registered as new volunteers.

Send home the Opt-out information to parents the first weeks of class and schedule your Safe Environment training for children and youth for October or no later than November 10, 2015. Remember, lessons are

available to DRE's through your VIRTUS account (Educator tab).

Any catechetical leader, 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 prior to serving. Please double-check with your local SEC to make sure everyone in your programs is fully up-to-date. Your LSEC should be able to run a parish master list for your convenience as needed. If not have the LSEC contact the diocesan office. Detailed information on Safe Environment components is available on the newly launched and updated diocesan Web site.

Annual volunteer training has been posted on 8/24/15. These should have been completed by 9/24/15. If you have catechists or volunteers that have not completed their online training, they are not in compliance and are not allowed to be unsupervised with minors. For those not in compliance, you may want to use a catechist training opportunity to have a tablet or two (iPad or other) for all those returning volunteers with your program that have not yet completed the online training. It can be done on the larger screen smart phones quite easily as well.

Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts to keep our children and youth safe!

VIRTUS Trainings

Protecting God's Children for Adults

- Monday, October 12, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls
- Thursday, October 22, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, NUACS – Cathedral High School in New Ulm

A complete list with the most updated information can be found on the diocesan Web site.

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 VLCCF (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 \$65.00. This is only \$5.42 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 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 you'll discover how to share them with others - especially those who no longer believe. This film and study program are now ready to be ordered: <http://mysteryofgod.wordonfire.org/>

Parish Catechesis Question

Do you have some families who can share their ideas on how they share the faith at home?

Have them write down some of their ideas, some of the ways they pray together, learn together, and serve together.

Perhaps they can share through giving a presentation to other parents.

2015 - 2016 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders (DREs) and Youth Ministers

Mon, Oct 19	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, Oct 25	Senior High School Rally – Leah Darrow, Keynote	1:00-7:30 pm	Marshall Middle School, Marshall
Mon, Nov 16	PCL/YM Gathering – Sr. Candace Fier	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Nov 18-22	NCYC – National Catholic Youth Conference		Indianapolis, Indiana
Sun, Dec 6	Advent Prayer Service with Bishop LeVoir	2 pm	St. Edward, Minneota
Mon, Dec 7	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, Jan 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, Feb 8	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
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	TBA	TBA
Mon, April 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, April 24	Junior High Festival	TBA	TBA
Mon, May 9	PCL/Youth Minister Spring Fling	Noon – 4 pm	TBA

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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THE NEW DNU.ORG/YOUTH

I am often asked questions about certain events the Diocese of New Ulm is sponsoring for youth. They usually fall into a category I would describe as “basic details:” dates, times, costs, age, etc.

While I love the conversations that usually take place when these questions are called in or e-mailed, sometimes one just needs a quick reference resource to gather information on particular events. DNU.org/youth is set up for this purpose in particular, so I thought it would be good to introduce you to the new DNU.org/youth and it’s many functions (one of which being the finding of “basic details”).

Basic Details

If you’re looking for the “basic details” of events, there are a couple of ways to find them. The first (and most obvious) way to do this is to click on the particular event you would like information for. For instance, if you want to know where the Senior High Youth Rally is going to be held, then click on the “Youth Rallies” image link. Another way to find this information is to scroll through the “Upcoming Youth & Young Adult Events” calendar at the top of the page. Click on the event you are interested in. These are updated fairly regularly.

In addition to basic information, promotional materials can be downloaded from the Web site as well.

Resources

Other than being a resource in and of itself, DNU.org/youth will be adding a “Resources” section which will provide a variety of useful information.

For one, you will be able to use the “Resources” page as a reference to find information on various youth programs (Chosen, YDisciple, LifeTeen, etc.). Secondly, this page will also offer practical articles, activity ideas, and helpful Web sites with similar information.

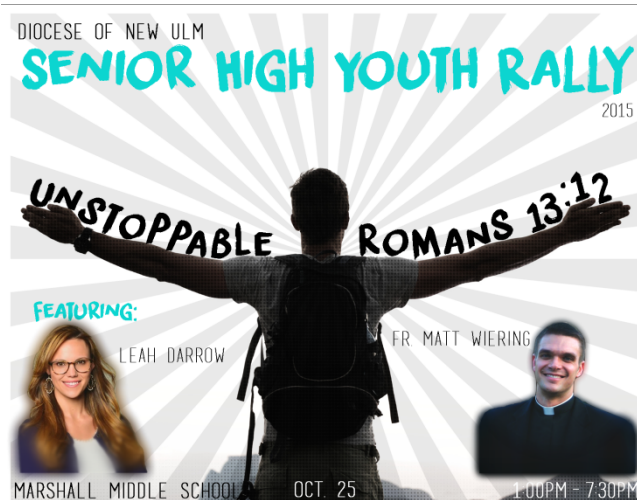
The Blog

The blog at DNU.org/youth is a new feature which gives you weekly updates from the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Right now on the blog, you can find an introduction to the traveling NET team and information on Bishop LeVoir joining us at World Youth Day. There is also some information on why we chose the theme “Unstoppable” for our Senior High Youth Rally.

Feedback

Perhaps the greatest advantage of the new Web site is that the possibilities are virtually (pardon the pun) endless. Online registration is a very real possibility and so is online video conferencing. But it really depends on what the need of the people is. If you have some ideas that you think would be well received, please let me (or Bryan, for matters pertaining to his office) know and we will see what we can do!

“Unstoppable” 2015 Sr. High Youth Rally Marshall - October 25



Start promoting! The more the merrier! Publicity packets were mailed out.

A friendly reminder that lunch is not provided, so be sure to eat before you arrive. Supper will be provided, however.

National Catholic Youth Conference November 19-21, 2015

- There are still a number of final payments not made. Just a reminder that all payments need to be made by October 30.
- If someone cannot go, and there is a substitution, this would be an additional \$20 after September 30.

World Youth Day 2016 Krakow, Poland

Exciting news: Bishop LeVoir is going to World Youth Day 2016! He will join the Diocese of New Ulm 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 dnu.org/youth.