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Message from Gary

Catechesis and the Reception of Holy Communion

This year, I have received various questions about how we receive Holy Communion. When did we start bowing before receiving? I did not do that as a child. During the pandemic, we are not

receiving from the chalice. Do we receive “less”? Are there any rules for Communion or do parishes just do it their own way?

As we strive to invite our people back to Mass, and as we catechize first Communicants and young catechumens, I thought it might be helpful to offer brief responses and a few handy resources.

When did the bow of the head before receiving Communion become part of the ritual? This was introduced in 2011 with the revised edition of the Roman Missal, that is, at the same time the English responses and prayers at Mass were revised. Here is a simple brochure issued by our Office for Worship during that time of renewed catechesis: [Distribution & Reception of Holy Communion and Posture During Mass](#).

Did you know that our walk to Communion itself is important? It is more than just getting ourselves to the front of church. It is a liturgical Procession, demonstrating our unity as the Body of Christ and symbolizing the pilgrim Church. Actually, all our actions during the Communion rite are significant, from processing forward to returning to our place. Here is a [Reflection on the Reception of Holy Communion at Mass](#) that may be helpful in preparing yourself to catechize children and their families.

What about standing or kneeling, receiving in the hand or on the tongue? “The norm established for the Dioceses of the United States of America is that Holy Communion is to be received standing, unless an individual member of the faithful wishes to receive Communion while kneeling. . . The consecrated host may be received either on the tongue or in the hand, at the discretion of each communicant.” Both these directives are from the [General Instruction on the Roman Missal #160](#) and are repeated in other sources.

Our reception of Holy Communion – with the gestures, prayers, postures and song that surround it – is to convey our unity in Christ. We respect differences in practice (within the guidelines, of course). But when we catechize, it is not necessary to teach all the options or exceptions. We are forming for unity and introducing young people to liturgical participation with its common actions. With children in particular, it is usually more effective to present one way of receiving, so they can feel confident in what they do, not be confused, and can feel they belong to one Body in Christ. If you serve a community of families with differing practices, you may have an added challenge as you work with parents, priest, staff and catechists to craft the best way to form children and their families in that same spirit of unity.

If our children do not receive from the chalice, are they receiving less? During the pandemic, we have not been receiving from the common chalice. I have heard some people question this, thinking that children, especially at their first Communion, will be missing something. For some adults who always had the opportunity to receive from the chalice and have heard that “the sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds,” it may have felt like a loss to receive only under the form of bread. If there is discussion about this in your parish, you can remind parishioners that Jesus is fully present – Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity – under the

form of bread alone or under the form of wine alone. This is called the doctrine of concomitance. The US Bishops explain this in the [Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds #15](#).

Finally, **who may receive Holy Communion?** This question often arises at celebrations when people invite relatives and friends, some of whom are not Catholic or not practicing the faith. It might be good to review the explanation from the US Bishops in their [Guidelines for Reception of Communion](#).

Some will say that these details are not the most important part of our catechesis on the Eucharist. I certainly agree that there is much more we have to offer. A personal relationship with Jesus, a sense of belonging, knowledge of the Real Presence, and all other aspects of formation are vital. But the goal of this catechesis is the actual receiving of our Lord in Holy Communion. And the practice of reverently receiving Communion is itself formative.

Blessings as you catechize during these holy seasons.

Upcoming Events in the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis

Celebration of Catholic Scouting

The Celebration of Catholic Scouting will be held on April 23, 2020 at 4:00pm. This event includes Mass (fulfills Sunday obligation), recognition of Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls and Boy Scouts who received religious emblems during the past year, presentation of Catholic awards to adult scouters and volunteers, and supper. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms & medals. Cost: \$8 per individual, up to \$24 per family. For more information, please visit: www.archmil.org/scouts

Family Focus: Ministry with Young Families

Thursday May 5, 2022 (10am-11:30 am)

Explore how to connect with parents of children from baptism to school age. Strategies include baptism follow-up, serving toddler's families, non-gathered connections, pre-school ministry, inviting young families to Mass, and parenting resources.

[Register Now](#)

Come to Me - Help Welcome Your People to Mass

Some of the families you meet may not be coming to Mass. Some have not returned since the pandemic. Some just do not have a family habit. Reach out and invite them.

“Come to Me” is our archdiocesan effort to reach out, invite and welcome people back to Mass. This initiative is inspired by Jesus own invitation, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:28) Be part of this effort to draw people back to Jesus in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Send them to our website:

[Spanish Page – Vengan a mí](#)

[English Page – Come to Me](#)

To help you spread the word, we have postcards, social media posts, and announcements you can customize. Visit: [Come to Me Communication Resources](#)

Devoted Parenting Retreat

Show your support for parents in your parish. Tell them about this retreat specially designed for couples with children. Help them encounter Christ and more deeply appreciate the beautiful gift of sacramental marriage. Featuring Mike and Alicia Hernon of the Messy Family Project and Podcast.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

9AM - 3PM | PEWAUKEE, WI

[Download a flyer](#)

[Info and Registration](#)

Catechetical Conference

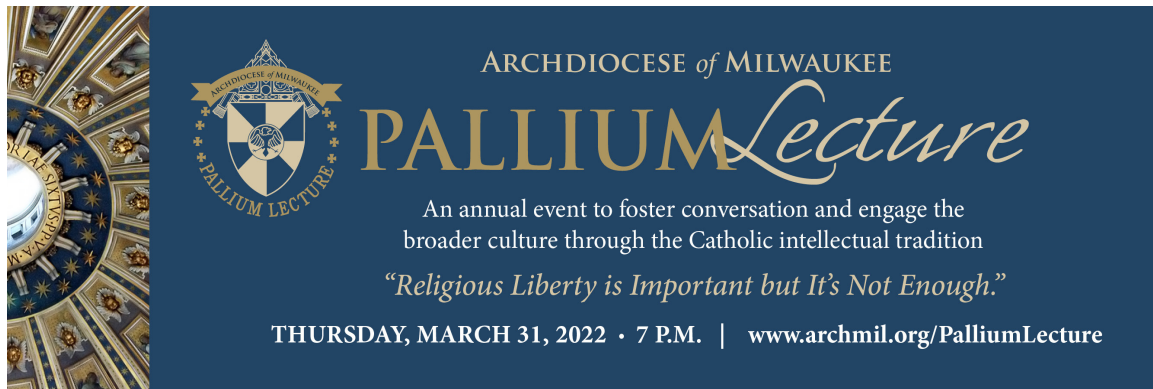
August 25-27, 2022

Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Milwaukee

Save the Date for the 2022 Catechetical Conference. The theme for the conference will be "Lord, to whom shall we go?" Thursday and Friday are intended for catechetical/formation staff.

Saturday is open to parish staff, catechists, small group leaders, and all others who pass on the faith. Please mark your calendar for yourself, your catechists and friends.

Archdiocese News



Virtual Volunteer Management Training

There is still time to register for the second series of **virtual trainings on volunteer coordinating and managing** featuring Jessica Brandt, Volunteer Coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Jessica will be leading three one-hour online sessions:

- Wednesday *March 30* at 11 a.m. Central
- Wednesday, *April 13* at 11 a.m. Central
- Wednesday, *April 27* at 11 a.m. Central

Some of the topics that Jessica will cover include preventing burn out, engagement with middle and high school students, and volunteer program strategies. We will record each one and have it available for viewing afterwards. Online registration is now open! [Register for volunteer management training here.](#)

Presentation on "Catechesis and Policy on Questions Concerning Gender Theory"

Working together to spread the Gospel and to grow God’s kingdom, we are aware that each generation and age presents us with new challenges and new opportunities. This particular time in which we live today presents us with the need and gift of sharing fundamental tenets of a basic Christian anthropology, one that understands each man and woman as made in the image and likeness of God, imbued with dignity, and gifted as male and female.

Unfortunately, this message is becoming increasingly obscured in our culture. It is time that we work together to clearly communicate and catechize the amazing gift of sexuality that God has given to us.

You will find a document entitled “Catechesis and Policy on Questions Concerning Gender Theory” by clicking on this link:

<https://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/attachments/2022GenderTheoryfinal.pdf> .

In order to better study this document and to answer any questions that you might have, Rev. Javier Bustos, S.T.D. will give a one-hour presentation for all Parish Staff Members at 10:00am on April 1, 2022 at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center. We would ask that you take time out of your schedule for this, as we think that we will all benefit by focusing our attention on this needed catechesis.

[Read Full Email from Archbishop ListECKi](#)

[Register for Presentation](#)



Lenten Day of Reconciliation - Tuesday April 5th

On Tuesday, April 5, 2022, area priests will be available for the sacrament of Reconciliation at 13 parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. All are invited to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation by visiting one of the hosting parishes. [Help spread the word.](#)

Safe Environment Week 2022: April 24-30, 2022

Safe Environment Week is a way for us to raise awareness regarding our efforts in our parishes, schools and archdiocese to protect children and youth from abuse and neglect. This is also an opportunity to share with our parishioners and school families resources for them to use within their own families and information on how all of us can create safe environments in our communities and homes. The theme this year is **Safer Parishes. Safer Schools. Safer Families.** A [2022 Safe Environment Week Resource Guide](#) has been created to assist you in planning your parish/school's activities.

Please Note: Remember your parish/school will be asked to briefly describe on the Annual Safe Environment Compliance Documentation how your parish/school observed Safe Environment Week.

Each parish/school is expected to raise awareness during the week of April 24-30, 2022, of how their parish/school and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee work to prevent child abuse and neglect in our parishes, schools, and beyond into our communities, neighborhoods, and homes.

Circle of Grace Grade Level Safe Environment Curriculum Guidelines for

Religious Education Programs

Some parishes had requested additional guidance on how to implement the Circle of Grace curriculum in your Religious Education Programs. The Office of Evangelization & Catechesis and the Safe Environment Office have prepared the below guidelines to assist anyone that is needing additional support in implementing the required Circle of Grace curriculum in their program. Guidelines are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

From Our Friends

Cor Unum: Masters Program and More

Sacred Heart School of Theology offers Cor Unum (One Heart), a graduate program combined with spiritual formation and pastoral skills for your ministry.

Cor Unum
How can you heal a fractured world?
What is God asking of you at this point in your life? What's next?
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology's Cor Unum (One Heart) Master of Arts pathway is much more than just a degree!

What makes Cor Unum unique?
Meets: Monday evenings & 2nd Saturday
Classroom: Cohort of 12-14 lay students from a wide range of backgrounds, both Church workers and non-professionals, forming an intentional community of learning.
Focus: Two years, together with your cohort.
Master of Arts degree concentration: Systemic Theology
Focus: Academic theology combined with a mission to knowledge and heal a fractured world.
Enrichment: Developing spiritual growth and pastoral skills with retreats, Mass, Sacraments, Adoration, and communal prayer.

Take the next step!
Learn more: [Download our e-book](#)
Admissions are open! Contact us in person, by email or Zoom Meet & Greet.
Contact: Maria Mayo at 414-658-8054 or marym@shst.edu

www.shst.edu | 414-425-8300
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An apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

SACRED HEART
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YOUR SEMINARY: Specialized formation for a universal Church

Moving Forward
in the Spirit

Becoming a
Synodal Church

NALM Annual Conference

May 31 - June 2
Virtual Gathering

Synod
2021
2023

Resources

Formation Resources

Discover free-of-charge resources to supplement or enhance your lessons. Videos, lesson plans and other resources have been vetted by our review team, and are listed by general topic and by age group. Visit: <https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Technology/Formation-Resources.htm>

Do you have a favorite resource to share? Send us your suggestions under "Submit a Resource."

Catholic Summer VBS/Camp

During the cool months of the year, parishes are planning activities for the warmest months – summer Vacation Bible School or Catholic Camps. There are several publishers who offer Catholic programs or Catholic supplements to their VBS programs. Click on the image to see a listing of Catholic programs.

CATHOLIC SUMMER VBS

During the cool months of the year, parishes are planning activities for the summer months – Vacation Bible School or Catholic Kids Camps. Several publishers offer Catholic programs or Catholic supplements to their VBS programs. Here are a few:

Growing with the Saints offers 6 Catholic Kids Camp programs:
The Vatican Express, Parashute with the Angels, Set Sail with the Trinity, Parade Around the Our Father, Around the World in 5 Days, and Tracking Mary. Visit www.growingwiththesaints.com

The Pastoral Center offers 4 Growing Up Catholic VBS programs:
Growing Up Catholic Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed (new); Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus; Message Received: Hearing God's Call; Earthkeepers: Adventures for Creation Care Kids (Inspired by Laudato Si) Visit: www.growingupcatholicvbs.com

God is Good VBS offers 3 programs, including:
 St. Luke the Evangelist, Jesse Tree Journey, & Discovery Mission (in collaboration with Vianney Vocations below). Visit: www.godisgoodvbs.com

Liguori Publications presents **Splash Canyon** in cooperation with Concordia Publishing. Visit: www.liguorivbs.com

Our Sunday Visitor offers **Roar VBS** "Life is Wild – God is good." Produced in cooperation with Group. Visit vbs.osv.com

Vianney Vocations offers **Discovery Mission Vacation Bible School** (yes, VOCATION Bible School) Visit: www.vocationbibleschool.com

Glenmary Home Missioners offers 2 mission oriented VBS programs for ages 4-12. *Missionaries in Our Own Land* and *Caring Close to Home* Visit: www.glenmary.org/mission-ed/

Cat.Chat offers several programs including:
Rational Ride on the Wings of Prayer, Cool Kingdom Party, Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments, and "Catholicity" Visit www.catchat.ca/vacation-bible-school

This listing is not an endorsement of particular programs but is provided as a convenience to help you evaluate various options.

District Meetings

Washington County

April 21 @ 1:00 pm

St. Mary Immaculate Conception, West Bend

Dodge County

April 21 @ 9:00 am

St. John - Rubicon

SCORE – Shebouyan County

April 5 @ 10:00am

Ss. Cyril & Methodius - Shebouyan

Milwaukee County SW/SE

April 19 @ 10:30am

Mother of Perpetual help – West Allis

*** To have your district meetings included in the newsletter, please send your meeting information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

Job Openings

Director of Child and Family Ministry - Gesu, Milwaukee

Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation- South Shore Cluster, Milwaukee

Youth Minister, Grade 6-12 - St. Paul, Genessee Depot

Family Ministry Director - St. Mary, Kenosha

Director - Youth and Young Adult Ministry - St. Alphonsus, New Munster

Director of Child Faith Formation - Our Lady of the Lakes, Random Lakes

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry - St. Alphonsus, Greendale

High School Minister - St. Dominic, Brookfield

Director of Adult Formation - St. Pius X - Wauwatosa

To see all job listings in the Archdiocese,
visit the [Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Career Page](#).

Contact Us

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This ministry is supported by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

Do you have an article, event or district meeting you would like included in the newsletter???

Please send information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

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