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July 8, 2016

Message from Gary
**Summertime Evangelization**

To invite people into an encounter with Jesus and to teach them to follow in his ways – this is our mission in *any* season. But summer provides special opportunities to reach out to young people and families. Many of our parishes offer vacation Bible school or Catholic kids camp, which can be a great opportunity to reach families who have not been touched by our other programs.

Some parishes offer mission trips or local service camps, which invite young people and adults to encounter Jesus in their encounter with the needy. And the summer months offer opportunities for field trips to a shrine, youth conferences, camping retreats, parish family picnics and youth group cookouts. What a great time to extend a hand of welcome and invitation!

Besides events, summer offers us time to **prepare for outreach in the new program year**. Before things get hectic in fall, take time to pull together names of families or individuals to make a special effort to reach.

Did someone new attend VBS this summer? Did a youth bring friends to the cookout? Was there a family going through trying times? Are there families who have not yet registered for religious ed? And check the parish database... whom have you not seen or heard from in the past year? Make a simple plan now to reach out and invite them to your programs and events in fall.

National research shows that two-thirds of Catholic parents do not enroll their children in religious education or Catholic school. And local stats show an annual decline in overall enrollments here in the archdiocese. It will take bold efforts to reach those far off. But we can begin with simple steps – invitation, follow-up, welcome, and second chances.

And remember to pray, for those waiting for the invitation, and for ourselves.

“Loving God...make us effective and holy witnesses...to go and make disciples of all people, living our faith in word and deed.”

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**Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry News**

**Forming the Catechetical Spirit Facilitator Training**

Wednesday, August 3  
9:00am - 2:30pm  
St. Anthony on the Lake Parish, Pewaukee

If you plan to help facilitate sessions for Forming the Catechetical Spirit, or if you are interested in hosting and facilitating in the future, join us for a day of training. The session will introduce you to this dynamic approach to catechist formation. You will learn the principles of adult formation behind the program, become familiar with the methods and materials, learn how to facilitate a session, and discuss the practical details of preparing for the program.

We offer this at no cost to you. Contact Gary Pokorny, pokornyg@archmil.org or 414-758-2242.

**Biennial Survey of Parish Catechetical Programs**

Our biennial survey of parish catechetical programs in the archdiocese is due today. If you haven’t completed it, please take the time to do so. The surveys are straightforward and most items can be answered from your general knowledge and experience. However, there are several questions that may require checking enrollment and catechist records. We ask that you complete as much as you are able. If you are responsible for only a portion of a program, answer those questions that apply to your area of responsibility. Staff members responsible for other areas may complete their own survey.
Exploring Opportunities and Challenges of Technology in Faith Formation

The Technology in Faith Formation committee is a workgroup of catechetical leaders who discuss the intersection of technology and faith formation, identify key issues, and develop plans for training and policy development.

If you are a DRE or DYM, or if you specialize in technology, and are interested in contributing, please contact Gary Pokorny or Dave Baudry.

Plan for Catechetical Sunday, September 18, 2016

Have you begun preparing for Catechetical Sunday?

This year’s theme is “Prayer: the Faith Prayed,” highlighting one of our core tasks as catechists – to help teach our people to pray with Christ. Catechetical Sunday is a day to draw attention to the role that each member of the Church plays in passing on the faith, and in particular, to affirm the special role of catechists in our parish communities.

Here are four ways to help Catechetical Sunday bear fruit in your parish:

1. Commission your catechists at Sunday Mass
2. Affirm them with a symbol or gift
3. Extend the theme through the year
4. Pray, Study and Reflect on the theme for yourself

How will you recognize and bless your catechists?

A Commissioning Service is available on our website. While it is important to recognize all the people who help pass on the faith, Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to highlight the particular ministry of parish catechists. We recommend that every parish commission or bless their catechists at Sunday Mass. Call them forward, express appreciation, and ask God’s blessing on them as you begin the year.

Will you give a gift or symbol to your catechists?

A simple gift is a token of affirmation and a reminder to each catechist of the importance of their ministry in the parish. Consider giving a prayer journal, a book, a catechist pin, or a specially made symbol. For items related to the theme of Prayer, check these:

- Catechist Certificates, Prayer Cards – USCCB
- Catechist Journal, special lapel pins – JPII Resources

How can the theme of Prayer enrich your family gatherings, youth events, catechist sessions, or adult formation during the year?

The US Bishops offer a variety of ready-made resources, including bulletin inserts, seasonal reflections, in-service sessions, or a family day of prayer. Visit the Catechetical Sunday website.

Will you take time to reflect or enrich your own prayer life as you lead others deeper in prayer?

Take time to study. Read up on the Catholic approach to prayer in Part IV of the Catechism. Or check the articles available from the USCCB, including “When You Pray, Open Your App” or “The Ancient Practice of Lectio Divina.” And pray…pray for your parish, your catechists, your families…and listen for God’s voice in prayer.

Upcoming Events
Download the Catechesis & Youth Ministry Office Calendar to stay up to date on events.

Welcome Back Day for DREs and DYMs
Tuesday, August 30, 2016
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center

Please save the date to join us at the Welcome Back Day for DREs and DYMs for a day of re-connecting with your co-workers in the vineyard. More information will be available at a later date.

Forming the Catechetical Spirit - Basic Certification
September - May
St. Anthony on the Lake

The Forming the Catechetical Spirit Basic program will begin on September 10, 2016. This 9 session program will meet from 8:00am - Noon and will feature a variety of topics. The objectives of the program are to: nourish the spirituality of the catechist; acquire foundational knowledge of Catholic teachings and beliefs; and incorporate what is learned into catechetical ministry. Click here for more information

Forming the Catechetical Spirit - Advanced Certification
September - May
St. Mary Catholic Church

The Forming the Catechetical Spirit Advanced program will begin on September 17, 2016. This 9 session program will meet from 8:30am - Noon and will feature a variety of topics. The objectives of the program are to: support ongoing spiritual maturity; expand theological knowledge and understandings; and develop creative and effective catechetical methods. The program fee is $75. Click here for more information

Family Perspectives
October 20, 2016
9:00am - 2:30pm
Cousins Center

Family Perspectives is a comprehensive approach to support your efforts to integrate family ministry in your parish! After you attend the one day workshop to review the latest research and Church teaching on ministering to and engaging families in faith, there will be an individualized follow-up for your parish. Parishes that participate will receive 4 to 6 hours of on-site support to offer guidance and resources to make your family ministry come alive and be more meaningful in your community.
To find out more and to register, click here
Archdiocese News

Year of Mercy Focus for July 2016: give Drink to the Thirsty
Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy to begin on December 8, 2015 and continue through November 20, 2016. Catholics throughout the archdiocese are invited to practice the Works of Mercy throughout this Jubilee Year. For July we focus on the Corporal Work of Mercy: “Give Drink to the Thirsty.” Take these Mercy Actions throughout the month: Donate to Global Partners/Running Waters (www.globalpartnersrunningwaters.org) and the Office for World Mission La Sagrada Familia Water Filtration Project (http://www.archmil.org/parishes/Sagrada-Familia.htm), and practice water conservation at home.

Nazareth Family Day at Holy Hill
July 10, 2016
Basilica of Holy Hill National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians

The annual Nazareth Family Day at Holy Hill will be held on Sunday, July 10th, 2016. The day begins with confessions at 11:30, Mass at 12:30 and a large BBQ with games and outdoor activities all afternoon. Some of the attractions will be bouncy houses, a rock climbing wall, relay races, face painting and more! Click on the flyer for more information.

Archdiocesan World Youth Day Solidarity Mass with Archbishop Listecki
Sunday, July 17
5:30 p.m.
St. Robert Parish

Archbishop Jerome Listecki will celebrate Mass in solidarity with those traveling to Poland for World Youth Day with Pope Francis. Mass will include a special blessing for all pilgrims. Light reception to follow. Get the details!

Children’s Story Time
July 30, 2016
10:30am
Salzmann Library at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary

The Salzmann Library is offering a new event to their patrons at the end of July. On Saturday, July 30th, join them at 10:30am for Children’s Story Time. Marijo will be reading The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane by C.M. Millen. There will be some small activities for the children afterward, with the event lasting approximately 30 minutes.

Archdiocesan Leadership Gathering
September 30 or October 1, 2016
Archbishop Cousins Center

Online registration is now available for the Leadership Gatherings entitled, A
Vision for the Future: Evangelization and the Sunday Mass that will be held from 8:30 am–12:30 pm on Friday, September 30 and repeated on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at the Cousins Center.

You are invited to attend one or the other gathering that will include prayer, a reflection from Archbishop Listecki, keynote presentation, workshops and lunch. The schedule for the day, workshop descriptions and registration information can be found by clicking here. The program will build upon the recently released resource, A Vision for the Future: Evangelization and the Sunday Mass.

Resources

Textbook and Material Exchange
Does your parish have religion texts and manuals you are no longer using? Offer them to other parishes - for sale or donate them. The Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry has a Textbook & Materials Exchange webpage. To list your materials, email murphyjc@archmil.org with item and contact information.

Looking for materials for your program? Visit the Textbook and Material Exchange. If you see something you can use, contact the offering parish directly.

From our friends . . .

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training
July 25-30, 2016
St. Paul Parish

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a method of faith formation that helps young children grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement with Scripture and the liturgy. Inspired by the Montessori method of education, CGS offers a sacred "hands-on" space called an 'atrium,' in which the children and their catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Catholic faith. Catechist training for Level I (ages 3-6) will be offered July 25th–30th, 2016 at St. Paul Parish, Genesee Depot. Download the flyer for details

Youth Ministry Subscription Discount
Youth Ministry Access (YMA) is a subscription website designed especially for Catholic youth ministry leaders in parishes, schools, retreat centers. . . Because more than 10 parishes in the archdiocese are subscribers, the Center for Ministry Development is offering subscribers within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee 20% off renewals or new subscriptions! Download the flyer for more details.

Are you looking for a professional development opportunity that is practical and affordable?
The Saint Clare Center at Cardinal Stritch University is proposing a Certificate in Catechetical Ministry. This certificate is a wonderful opportunity for directors of religious education and youth ministry, who are interested in lay ecclesial ministry certification but lack a specialized study in Catechetical Ministry or who are looking for a substantial, affordable and practical program to continue learning. This certificate will only be offered if
there are enough students to make it viable. If you are interested in the program or have any questions, please contact Michael Taylor at mvtaylor@stritch.edu.

Save The Date

St. John Bosco Youth Day
October 1, 2016
Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill

Save the Date to attend the 16th St. John Bosco Youth Day. This year’s theme is “Prodigal,” recalling Jesus’ parable of the Father's great mercy...

The Father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” The day-long event promises to be spiritually fruitful, with inspirational speakers, heartfilled prayer and faithful fun, as young Catholics come together to celebrate our Catholic faith. Each year, hundreds of youth from throughout Wisconsin’s five dioceses gather to show their faith in Jesus Christ.

Share this experience with the youth you serve! You can register your group on the Holy Hill website at www.holyhill.com or call Holy Hill at 262-628-1838.

WDREF Biennial Convention
November 9-11, 2016
Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake WI

The 2016 WDREF Biennial Convention - “The Heavens Proclaim God’s Glory,” will be held November 9 – 11, 2016 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake WI. The convention will explore the rich and exciting ways in which the realms of science and faith are intersecting today, and how this interplay informs faith formation in the 21st century. For more information, visit the WDREF website.

2016 National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)
December 1-3, 2016
San Jose, CA

Registration Now Open!! Participants from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee receive a $20 discount on registration because we are an affiliated archdiocese. Be sure to visit the NCCYM website to find out more information and to register. If you are planning to attend NCCYM, let Gary Pokorny know. We can help you network with others from the Archdiocese who will be attending. You might want to get together for a meal there, arrange to share a hotel room, or just want to know who else is going.
NET Ministries
2016-2017 Booking Information
The National Evangelization Team is scheduled to serve Archdiocese Milwaukee December 2 – 4, 2016 and January 17 - February 16, 2017. Click here for information on NET retreats and fees or to schedule a retreat for your parish or school, contact coordinator Debbie Olla at deb.olla@stdominic.net or 414-788-4301.

InterMISSION
January 7, 2017
St. Katherine Drexel
InterMISSION is an evening of relevant Catholic teaching, Eucharistic Adoration, and Praise & Worship. Youth in eighth through twelfth grade are invited to take a break from their hectic schedules and reconnect with Our Lord. InterMISSION is an opportunity for youth to ‘un-busy’ themselves for two hours – to focus on something that’s bigger than them: the church gathered and Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Gigs, Geeks & God
January 19, 2017
Our Lady of Lourdes
This conference on technology, faith formation and parish ministries will feature a keynote speaker, workshops, a “quick fire” session, exhibitors, and ample time for sharing ideas with experts and colleagues.

The word is out...
The Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally is renewed and better than ever!

Join us March 18 & 19, 2017 for a day full of:
• Powerful Worship
• Relevant Breakout Sessions
• Joyful Community
• Grace-filled Sacraments

Get Anchored. Encounter Christ.

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

Contact Us
Gary Pokorny
Director
414-758-2242
Do you have an article, event or district meeting you would like included in the newsletter??
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