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Message from the Director

September Welcome

Around the archdiocese, religious education and youth programs will get underway in the next few weeks.
There are gazillions of details as we prepare to welcome children, teens and parents to another year of faith formation: prepare materials, purchase more textbooks, orient catechists, decorate the building, plan coffee and donuts, compile agendas, print handbooks, and on and on.

In the busyness, let’s not forget that this is also a prime time for outreach. We might wish everyone is pre-registered and all we need to do is begin. But we know there are families who forgot to register, families who just moved in, families who might just accept an invitation from your parish. As you launch your program, consider simple ways to be welcome-ready.

- Decide *it's not too late*. It’s not too late to reach out and, more importantly, it’s not too late for someone new to register.
- Check your messages for their Welcome Quotient. Do your voicemail message, bulletin announcements, and website all shout WELCOME?
- Review procedures, policies and forms. Are there unintended obstacles to the newcomer?
- Follow-up on summer activities. Were there new families at VBS? Invite them. Were there teens at events who are not signed up for your program? Reach out.
- Re-invite families who have not yet registered. Did they ‘disappear’ after first communion? Did they miss the deadline? Try one more time.
- Try new but inexpensive ways to publicize your program. Pin a flyer on the grocery store bulletin board. Reach passing drivers with the roadside church sign. Print door hangers and have a parish group place them on neighborhood doors.
- Ask families to invite families. Spread the word to neighbors, relatives, or child’s friends.
- Pray for those waiting for an invitation.

Blessing on your new year,
Gary

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**Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry News**

**Welcome Back Day Recap**

Welcome Back Day was held on August 30th at the Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center. Thank you to everyone who came and made Welcome Back Day a success! We had over 140 people present at the event. Thank you to RCL Benzinger for sponsoring Johan van Parys as our Keynote Speaker as well as all the exhibitors who came and spent time with us.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR WORKSHOPS
For Gigs Geeks and God Conference – January 19, 2017

Gigs, Geeks and God is a training day for parish staff and volunteers, aimed at helping parishes understand and integrate technology in their education programs, communications, and parish administration. The Conference will be held:

Thursday, January 19, 2017
10:00am - 5:00pm
Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee

The day includes workshops on topics of interest to religious educators, business managers, youth ministers, clergy, parish council members, teachers and volunteers. Dynamic presenters and innovative workshops are crucial to the effectiveness of the day. The Technology In Faith Formation Committee invites proposals for workshops.

For more information regarding presenting or if you are interested in presenting at the 2017 Gigs Geeks and God Conference, please click here.

National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)- Why I Attend
By Maureen Rotramel
This December I will be attending the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) for the fourth time. Why do I keep going back? I usually describe the experience as all the best of NCYC but with adult beverages. This really is one of the few times in my ministry that I take just for me, to nurture my own faith life and development as a Youth Minister while also having the chance to network with other people in ministry from across the country. The prayer experiences are transformative. I get to hear nationally known speakers and artists up close and personal while discovering...
new to me wisdom from some lesser-known presenters. I have the opportunity to visit a new city, and truly visit, without worrying about where everyone else is. And I laugh. A lot! The Youth Ministry Extravaganza is not to be missed! (for a taste of what it’s about, check out this video: https://youtu.be/nZgAWzAGWtI) It’s also easy to convince my husband to come with me since it’s usually in a great location that we might not visit. If you are thinking about going, or have questions about what’s it like, feel free to contact me – I really do love talking about it!

Maureen Rotramel, Director of Youth Ministry, St. John XXIII Parish, maureen@portyouth.org

If you are interested in attending the 2016 National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) held December 1-3, 2016 in San Jose, CA, be sure to visit the NCCYM website to find out more information and to register.

Upcoming Events

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

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

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, Waukesha

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
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, Milwaukee

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 September 2016: Clothe the Naked
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 September we focus on the Corporal Work of Mercy: “Clothe the Naked.” Take these Mercy Actions throughout the month: Donate your used clothes to a homeless shelter, donate new winter clothes to Catholic Charities, and shop at area St. Vincent de Paul Stores.

Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest
The Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest is a multi-disciplinary opportunity for schools, religious education programs, and parishes to engage young people in creative justice education. Youth in grades 7 through 12 learn about poverty in the United States, the efforts to address the root causes of poverty, and the two feet of love in action.

The 2017 theme is: "Being Neighbors In Our Common Home"

The contest is designed for youth in grades seven through twelve (7 - 12) with two grade categories (7 - 9 and 10 - 12). Both individual and team entries are welcome. Categories include literature, visual arts and audio-visual (or a combination of multiple categories). Complete details for each entry type are included in the contest packet, along with summaries of local and national funded programs.

For questions about the contest or to schedule a guest speaker, email Kathy Shine at shinek@archmil.org or phone 414-758-2285.

2017 Youth Rally and Mass for Life
The 2017 Youth Rally and Mass for Life to be held on Friday, January 27, 2017 in Washington D.C. Once again, there are two exciting youth events planned at the Verizon Center and DC Armory on the morning of the National March for Life.

In order to ensure that more groups are able to attend the rally and celebrate as a diocese in one location, tickets must be reserved through your diocese. There are only eight (8) days in which tickets can be requested. Online ticket request registration opens Monday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m. and will remain open until Monday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m. The link to the ticket request registration will be /JohnPaulIICenter/2017-Youth-Rally-Mass-for-Life-Ticket-Request.htm and also available from the John Paul II Center webpage www.johnpaul2center.org/.

To find out more about the Youth Rally and Mass for Life, visit www.facebook.com/youthrallyandmassforlife or www.youthrallyandmassforlife.org.
Please contact Rob Shelledy with any questions regarding this procedure.

**From our friends . . .**

**Saint Clare Center offers new Certificate in Catechetical Ministry**

The Saint Clare Center of Cardinal Stritch University is now offering a Certificate in Catechetical Ministry that will help child ministers and youth ministers meet the requirements for lay ecclesial minister certification. The program is an affordable non-degree program that extends over two years.

**There is still time to sign up for the first course, “Faith and Human Development,” which begins on September 15.** And if this semester doesn't work for you, you can still join the program in spring. More information is available here. If you have questions, please call Michael Taylor at the Saint Clare Center at 414-410-4353.

**Survival Skills for Youth Ministry**

If you minister to youth, then this cohort is for you! Sponsored by Inspirio Youth Ministries, Inc. and the Marquette University Institute for Catholic Leadership, Survival Skills for Youth Ministry is for those who work with youth and are looking to grow in their faith, understanding of theology, methodology and wish for a community of support and learning.

There are monthly meetings from 1-4PM at Marquette University Zilber Hall. Topics for each gathering will be tailored to the group. The goal is to provide youth ministers a respite and renewal to increase their effectiveness and longevity in youth ministry. In addition, each participant will have a mentor or coach with whom they will meet monthly to assist them to grow in their skills.

The total cost to participants is $625 with a 50% deposit to participate and 50% due in January 2017. To register or to find more information https://inspirioyouth.org/event/ymcohort/ or call 262-966-1800.

**St. John Bosco Youth Day**

October 1, 2016

Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill

This year’s theme is “Prodigal,” recalling Jesus’ parable of the Father’s great mercy . . .” The day-long event promises to be spiritually fruitful, with inspirational and relevant speakers such as Justin Fatica, Jackie Farancios Angel, and Sarah Swafford, heartfilled prayer, beautiful surroundings 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. The day will close with mass at 4:30pm with Archbishop Listecki.

Share this experience with the youth you serve! For more information and to register your group, visit the Holy Hill website or call Holy Hill at 262-628-1838. Pre-Registration is Required.

**WCLA Fall Conference**

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Catholic Library Association will hold its one-day conference on Friday, October 7, 2016, in the Wisconsin Dells. Participants include librarians from Catholic elementary and high schools, and parish library
For information, download *Kaleidoscope*, the newsletter of the WCLA: [http://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Kaleidoscope-Spring2016.pdf](http://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Kaleidoscope-Spring2016.pdf)

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**Receiving, Sharing and Living Mercy through the eyes of Jesus and Pope Francis with Rich Harter**  
Monday, October 10, 2016 at 9:00am  
St. Dominic’s, Brookfield

Hospitality/Registration at 9:00 am  
Presentation at 9:30am  
Lunch at 12:15pm  
Sponsored by: Sadlier

For more information and to register visit [Mareda’s Website](http://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Kaleidoscope-Spring2016.pdf)

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**Youth Ministry Subscription Discount & Webinar**

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!

Take a tour of Youth Ministry Access and see what it offers. [Sign up](http://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Kaleidoscope-Spring2016.pdf) for the webinar on Thursday, September 22 at 1pm.

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**Resources**

**Catholics Care. Catholics Vote.**

Elections are a time for debate and decisions about the leaders, policies, and values that will guide our nation. The bishop’s Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship gives pastoral guidance to help Catholics exercise their political responsibility in light of our faith. This teaching document integrates new policy developments in the U.S. as well as new papal teachings, including those of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. Faithful Citizenship is not a voter’s guide or a scorecard of issues. It doesn’t offer direction on how to vote, tell Catholics who to vote for, or offer guidance on which candidate or party best reflects the Church’s moral framework. Instead, it shares Church teaching to help assess political platforms, campaigns, and some of the important issues that face our communities and world today. [Click here](http://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Kaleidoscope-Spring2016.pdf) to learn more.
about faithful citizenship or to attend the Faithful Citizenship sessions here in the Archdiocese.

**Valiant, a magazine for young men and Radiant magazine for young women**
Radiant is a modern magazine covering traditional topics of the Catholic faith and applying them to the lives of young Catholic women who are searching, learning and living out their unique calling.

The new Valiant magazine is in its first issue with stories of Catholic men in varied walks of life sharing their stories of striving to be better men and faithful followers of Christ. These thick, “coffee table-like” magazines for Catholic teens are published annually. Rose Rea, the founder, wants to make these easily available to youth ministers: Valiant is $5/issue now and however many Valiants are ordered, the youth minister receives that many Radiant’s for free as well.

Visit [www.be-radiant.com](http://www.be-radiant.com) or [www.be-valiant.net](http://www.be-valiant.net) or email rose@be-radiant.com.

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**Save The Date**

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

[Registration](https://629896.content.nlgrid.com/wf/webmail?rp=ZTI1bGQzTnNaWF1wWlhlKZmFXUTZJVEi6TkJN4MWMymYnlyYmxxT2pJMU5qtTBmUWV5SnVaWGR6Y... 8/9)

Registration is now open for 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](https://629896.content.nlgrid.com/wf/webmail?rp=ZTI1bGQzTnNaWF1wWlhlKZmFXUTZJVEi6TkJN4MWMymYnlyYmxxT2pJMU5qtTBmUWV5SnVaWGR6Y... 8/9).

**Gigs, Geeks & God**
January 19, 2017
Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee

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.

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**September District Meetings**

**District 15/16**
September 15 @ 9:30am
St. Matthias, Milwaukee

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