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Office of Catechesis News

Co-Workers in Transition:

Continuing our updates on new directors of religious education or faith formation, we welcome:

- Melinda Diels St. Mary on the Hill, Hubertus Child Minister
- Thaddeus Loduha St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Minister
- Erin Erickson Director of Formation Catholic Community of Waukesha

For all those beginning a new role this year, let us pray, and let us pledge our support and companionship along the way.

If you know of someone new to a position that we have not listed, please let us know. You can find the lists of other transitions in past newsletters.

Publicize your Summer Activities for Catholic Kids

Will your parish be offering a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for young children? Will you have a summer program for teens? Expand your publicity by listing your programs on the archdiocesan website. By listing your program on the archdiocesan website, you get free publicity which means new families may connect with your program and you are contributing to the combined effort of proudly publicizing the many summer opportunities offered by Catholic parishes.

Click here to find instructions on how to post events. Don't forget to tag the event by selecting 'vacation bible school' and/or 'summer youth program'

Become a NCCL Member through the Archdiocese

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) promotes catechesis and evangelization in the Church and enhances the ministerial effectiveness of its members. For more information on NCCL Membership visit the NCCL website.

Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) can become NCCL members as part of our Archdiocesan Membership.

- If you serve in a parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, in a catechetical leadership role, you may now enroll as a member and receive all benefits, at no cost.
- PCLs include directors or coordinators of religious education, faith formation, youth ministry, child ministry, evangelization, adult formation, and so on.

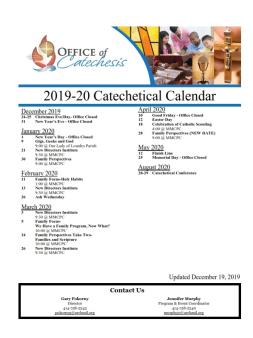
To join NCCL:

- 1. Register through the Archdiocese by using the link below. Provide contact information and submit.
- 2. Once your PCL status is verified, you will receive instructions for activating your membership via the NCCL website.

Register for NCCL Membership

Upcoming Events

Download the Office of Catechesis Calendar to stay up to date on events.



Family Catechesis: Tips from those who have tried!

March 5, 2020 10:00am - 12:00pm Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Milwaukee

You are doing some family catechesis - now what?

Do you presently have some version of Family Catechetical Ministry? A comprehensive family program? A blended model of age specific and intergenerational catechesis? Occasional family gatherings? Or have you thought about involving the whole family but have some trepidation about the time and energy this will take?

Come hear from some of your colleagues as they share strategies and tips from their own varied experiences of family catechesis. Come and learn, share your ideas or ask a questions you have about this important topic of engaging families in faith formation.

To find out more and to register, click here

Family Perspectives

April 28, 2020 (NEW DATE) 9:00am - 2:30pm Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral 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

Submit Current 4th - 7th Grade Student Information by March 31

New and Improved Process

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has a goal for 100% of grade schools and religious education programs to submit current 4th – 7th grade student data by March 31, 2020. Having this accurate information will benefit students, religious education children and families so they can become aware about opportunities regarding Catholic high school summer camps, open houses, shadow days and more.

The process for collecting names has changed to make it easier for you. We are no longer requesting you enter names in the Archmil Names Database. Student information can now be emailed to Dale Klein, archdiocesan information systems specialist, as an export from your student information system or parish management system, or in an Excel or CSV format. However, we need the field columns that you submit to be in this EXACT format, with one column for each piece of 4th-7th grade student data:

- 1. Last name
- 2. First name
- 3. Address
- 4. City
- 5. State
- 6. Zip
- 7. Gender (ONLY use the label boy or girl)
- 8. Grade level
- 9. Parish name or school name
- 10. City of parish or school

Here are some guidelines for submitting student data. (If you have already entered your students into the Names Database this year, there is no need to send us the information again. We will pull your students from the Names Database.)

- 1. If your religious education program maintains student data in a Parish Management System such as ParishSoft, PDS, Realm, Gabriel, etc., please export the data, format it as requested above, and email the Excel or CSV file to Dale Klein.
- 2. If you keep track of your students in an Excel spreadsheet or Google Doc, please make sure it is formatted as requested above and email the Excel or CSV file to Dale Klein.

Resume Writing and Interviewing for Ministry

Let's face it: resume writing for ministry positions and ministry position interviews are just plain HARD. How do I know what questions they might ask, and how to prepare for them? What are they REALLY looking for? What if I don't have all the right qualifications and background, but it's my dream position? What do I tell them about why I'm leaving my current position? How do I write a resume for a ministry position? What's the difference between a resume and a CV?

Attend one of the two upcoming workshops on writing a resume and interviewing for ministry positions! Whether you're seeking a new opportunity - or just want to keep your resume and interview skills up to date - a seasoned veteran - or new in your call to ministry - this workshop is for you.

Both workshops are identical - just join us for whichever location and date work best for you!

- Thursday, February 20th Good City Brewing, Milwaukee
- Tuesday, February 25th Brewers Too Cafe and Coffeehouse, Pewaukee

Get More Info and Register

Canon Law and Lay Ministry - Mini Course

Monday February 24th, March 16th, March 30th, April 20th, May 11th at 1:30 to 3:00 pm Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Milwaukee

This year's canon law series will explore how the Code of Canon Law supports lay ministry in the Church. Topics to be covered will include the rights and obligations of the Christian faithful especially of the laity, fundamental equality arising from baptism, understanding of collaboration in ministry especially at the parish level, highlights of Co-workers in the Vineyard, and papal teachings on involvement of laity in the life of the Church. These topics will be covered over five sessions.

There are no exams or homework, other than reading. Register Here

Called and Gifted

In your Baptism and Confirmation you received gifts that our world needs. Do you know yours? As you uncover your gifts, you discover that they are important clues to the particular mission God has for you. These gifts of the Holy Spirit, called charisms, enable you to be a channel of God's love, truth, beauty, mercy, healing, and provision for others. There is no greater joy than living in His power in the blessed intersection of your gifts and the world's need! Join over 100,000 Catholics around the world who have begun to discern their charisms through the Catherine of Sienna Institute's Called & Gifted workshop.

Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 8:00am to 4:00pm

Hosted by St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Mt Pleasant

Registration fee for Called & Gifted is \$40, which covers materials, continental breakfast, and lunch. No one will be denied due to financial circumstances.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required so that we can prepare enough materials and meals.

Please register by March 8 - https://archmil.regfox.com/called-gifted---march-21-2020

Synod Anniversary Event

Saturday, May 30, 2020 – 10 am-5:30 pm Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center

The Synod Anniversary Event will feature a morning keynote by Bishop Donald Hying, an afternoon presentation by Archbishop Listecki, and prayer opportunities, including Pentecost Mass at 4 p.m.

This gathering will mark five years since Archbishop Listecki appointed the Archdiocesan Synod Implementation Commission (ASIC) and began the Synod implementation process. Leaders from across the archdiocese will look back at what the Synod has accomplished in our archdiocese, as well as look forward to the work necessary to continue implementing the Synod priorities in an effective way for our parishes and our people.

Registration is now open

Camp De Sales 2020 | Summer Vocation Camps

Directed by Fr. Luke Strand and Fr. John Burns Young men in high school and middle school are invited to join Fr. Luke, Fr. John, and Milwaukee seminarians for Camp De Sales, an opportunity to encounter God in prayer and community. All camps will be held at St. Francis de Sales Seminary.

High School Vocation Camp:

Sunday, June 21 at 6pm - Wednesday, June 24 at Noon

Middle School Day Camps:

- Saturday, June 20, 9am 3pm
- Thursday, July 23, 9am 3pm
- Tuesday, August 4, 9am 3pm

For more information, or to register your son, please contact the Vocation Office at vocationoffice@sfs.edu | 414-747-6437 or visit www.thinkpriest.org/events/

Totus Tuus Camp - Weeks Still Available

If your parish would like to schedule a week for the Totus Tuus program (a summer "VBS"-style program for K-12 students) in Summer 2020, there are a few spots remaining! Learn more on the Archdiocesan website or by emailing Doug Ulaszek at ulaszekd@archmil.org

Middle & High School Email List - Are you on it?

If you work with middle or high school teens, please make sure you receive updates and support through the new Youth Evangelization email. If you did not receive January's email, sign up here.

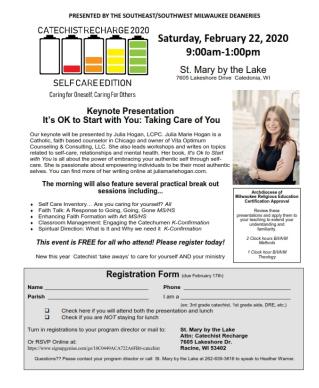
From our Friends

Catechist Recharge 2020

Presented by the Southeast/Southwest Milwaukee Deaneries

February 22, 2020 9:00am - 1:00pm St. Mary on the Lake, Caledonia

The keynote, It's OK to Start with You: **Taking Care of You**, will be presented by Julia Hogan, LCPC. Julia Marie Hogan is a Catholic, faith based counselor in Chicago and owner of Vita Optimum Counseling & Consulting, LLC. The morning will also feature several practical break out sessions including for both child and youth catechists.



Be part of the National Survey on Catechetical Leadership - By February 18!

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) exists to serve the catechetical mission of the Catholic Church in the U.S. It is the national organization of dicoesan directors, parish catechetical leaders, religion publishers, directors of evangelization, and academics. The NCCL community wants to do a better job of serving you. Please take 15 minutes to complete an online survey. Your responses will go directly to a church consulting firm, Meitler, who will collate the results while keeping your individual responses confidential. The data will provide critical information on the current state of catechetical ministry, while assessing hopes and needs of the ministry's leadership.

Begin the survey

The survey, with easy to follow instructions in both Spanish and English, will pop up on your computer. Survey submissions should be completed no later than February 18.

Mareda's Annual Bishop's Meeting with Archbishop Jerome Listecki

Mareda will be hosting their Annual Bishop's Meeting on March 10, 2020 at Lumen Christi in Mequon.

After the general meeting, all are invited to stay for a conversation about preparing parents for the baptism of their child. Even if you are not directly responsible for the preparation of families, you are encouraged to be part of this consultation, not only for your own professional development.

Schedule:

9am - Hospitality 9:30am - Archbishop Talk 11am - General Meeting 12pm - Lunch / Consultation on Baptism

Register Now

Tolton-From Slave to Priest

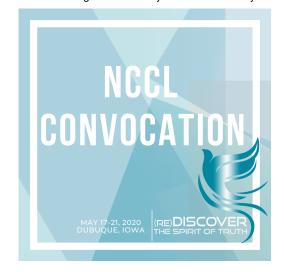
Tolton-From Slave to Priest, the remarkable story of America's first black Catholic clergy person, is a powerful multi-media live presentation by St. Luke Productions, filled with music, drama and inspiring performances bringing a message of hope and healing for the wounds that plague our culture. Born into slavery, Augustus escaped to freedom with his mother and three siblings, attended seminary in Rome, as no US seminary would accept him, and was sent back into the hostile environment of his own hometown of Quincy, Illinois. Here, and later in Chicago, his sermons and presence drew people of all races to his parish. Today, his cause for canonization is moving forward quickly.

Performances at the Siena Center auditorium, 5637 Erie St., Racine, Sunday, March 1 at 4 PM and Monday, March 2 at 2 and 6:30 PM. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. Seating is limited. Reserve your seats at www.racinedominicans.org/dcjr. Sponsored by the Dominican Center for Justice Resources, Racine Dominican Sisters, Racine Interfaith Coalition, Racine Police Department and Public Library, Racine Vocational Ministry, Siena Retreat Center and University of Wisconsin-Parkside. For more information, contact Jim Gill at Siena Retreat Center, 262-898-2581 or jgill@racinedominicans.org

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Convocation

Plan to attend THE professional development conference for catechetical leaders - just across the river!

MAY 17-21, 2020 GRAND RIVER CENTER Dubuque, Iowa



For details, visit https://nccl.org/convocation/

Registration is now open: https://nccl.org/product/nccl-2020-annual-convocation/

Just a 2 ½ to 3 ½ hour drive from anywhere in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Handling the Cost

- 1. NCCL offers a discounted rate for participants from the area, including participants from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Check it out.
- 2. Scholarhsips are available. Look into them here: https://nccl.org/?s=scholarship
- 3. Our own office for Lay Minsitry offers grants for continuing formation, including the NCCL Convoation.

Funds are available to help you attend NCCL

The Office for Lay Ministry offers financial support for continuing formation. Parish employees, who serve at least 20 hours a week, are eligible for up to \$500 annually in continuing formation funds! Funds may be used for registration, lodging and transportation. More information may be found here: https://www.archmil.org/Lay-Ministry/Continuing-Formation-Grant.htm.

Consider attending the NCCL conference!

The Fund Board is meeting toward the end of February, so get your applications in soon!

Christ is Alive! – Essay Contest for Grades 3-8

The Communication Center, a distributor of Catholic religious education materials, announces its first annual Christ is Alive! Essay Contest. The goal? To give students a chance to proclaim the Good News that Christ is Alive and to use what they are learning in class to do so! The contest is open to students in grades 3 through 8 enrolled in parish religious education or a Catholic school.

To participate, students simply need to describe a moment when they felt close to God. Entries should be just one page and are due <u>March 20, 2020</u>, so you have plenty of time to organize something for your students.

If one of your students wins:

- The student gets \$100 and a Bible
- His or her class gets \$100 for a celebration
- His or her catechist gets \$100 and a \$100 credit on our website, comcenter.com
- Your parish gets \$200 and a \$200 credit at comcenter.com

To learn about the contest, visit https://www.comcenter.com/christisalive/ or contact Chris Olsen, colsen@comcenter.com or 1-800-348-2227.

Resources

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. It is good to see that 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.



Save the Date

Celebration of Lay Ministry - Tuesday, June 3, 2019

11:00 AM - Mass

12:15 PM – Lunch and Program

Watch for more information in late March!

Catechetical Conference -

August 28-29, 2020

Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Milwaukee.

Save the Date for the 2020 Catechetical Conference. The theme for the conference will be: Encounter Christ. This conference will offer presentations for catechists, catechetical leaders, and others who pass on the faith. Please mark your calendar for yourself, your catechists and friends.

Job Openings

Associate Director of Christian Formation - St. Alphonsus, Greendale

Youth Activities Coordinator - St. James / St. Elizabeth, Mukwonago

Director of Child and Family Ministry - St. Francis Borgia, Cederburg

Contact Us

Gary Pokorny Director 414-758-2242

pokornyg@archmil.org

Jennifer Murphy

Program and Event Coordinator 414-758-2240

murphyjc@archmil.org



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Do you have am article, event or district meeting you would like included in the newsletter??? Please send information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

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