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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](#).

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## 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'

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## 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.



**2019-20 Catechetical Calendar**

<b>December 2019</b>	<b>April 2020</b>
24-25 Christmas Eve/Day - Office Closed	10 Good Friday - Office Closed
31 New Year's Eve - Office Closed	12 Easter Day
<b>January 2020</b>	18 Celebration of Catholic Scouting
1 New Year's Day - Office Closed	4:00 @ MMCP
9 Gigs, Geeks and God	28 Family Perspectives (NEW DATE)
9:00 @ Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	9:00 @ MMCP
21 New Directors Institute	<b>May 2020</b>
9:30 @ MMCP	12 Parish Line
30 Family Perspectives	25 Memorial Day - Office Closed
9:00 @ MMCP	<b>August 2020</b>
<b>February 2020</b>	28-29 Catechetical Conference
11 Family Focus: Holy Habits	
4:00 @ MMCP	
13 New Directors Institute	
9:30 @ MMCP	
26 Ash Wednesday	
<b>March 2020</b>	
3 New Directors Institute	
9:30 @ MMCP	
5 Family Focus:	
We Have a Family Program, Now What?	
10:00 @ MMCP	
24 Family Perspectives Take Two-	
Families and Scripture	
10:00 @ MMCP	
26 New Directors Institute	
9:30 @ MMCP	

Updated December 19, 2019

Contact Us	
<b>Gary Pokorny</b> Director 414-759-2242 <a href="mailto:gpokorny@archdiocese.org">gpokorny@archdiocese.org</a>	<b>Jennifer Murphy</b> Program & Event Coordinator 414-759-2249 <a href="mailto:jmurphy@archdiocese.org">jmurphy@archdiocese.org</a>

## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

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## 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](#)

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### **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](#)

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### **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>**

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### **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**

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## **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](mailto:vocationoffice@sfs.edu) | 414-747-6437 or visit [www.thinkpriest.org/events/](http://www.thinkpriest.org/events/)

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## **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](mailto:ulaszekd@archmil.org)

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## **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.

PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHEAST/SOUTHWEST MILWAUKEE DEANERIES

CATECHIST RECHARGE 2020




SELF CARE EDITION  
Caring for Oneself, Caring For Others

**Saturday, February 22, 2020**  
**9:00am-1:00pm**  
St. Mary by the Lake  
7605 Lakeshore Drive Caledonia, WI

**Keynote Presentation**  
**It's OK to Start with You: Taking Care of You**

Our keynote 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. She also leads workshops and writes on topics related to self-care, relationships and mental health. Her book, *It's OK to Start with You* is all about the power of embracing your authentic self through self-care. She is passionate about empowering individuals to be their most authentic selves. You can find more of her writing online at [juliamariehogan.com](http://juliamariehogan.com).



The morning will also feature several practical break out sessions including...

- Self Care Inventory... Are you caring for yourself? All
- Faith Talk: A Response to Going, Going, Gone MS/HS
- Enhancing Faith Formation with Art MS/HS
- Classroom Management: Engaging the Catechumen K-Confirmation
- Spiritual Direction: What is it and Why we need it K-Confirmation

**This event is FREE for all who attend! Please register today!**

New this year Catechist 'take aways' to care for yourself AND your ministry

Archdiocese of Milwaukee Religious Education Certification Approval

Review these presentations and apply them to your teaching to extend your understanding and familiarity.

2 Clock hours BIA/M Methods  
1 Clock hour BIA/M Theology

**Registration Form** (due February 17th)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish \_\_\_\_\_ I am a \_\_\_\_\_  
(ex: 3rd grade catechist, 1st grade aide, DRE, etc.)

☐ Check here if you will attend both the presentation and lunch  
☐ Check if you are NOT staying for lunch

Turn in registrations to your program director or mail to: **St. Mary by the Lake**  
**Attn: Catechist Recharge**  
**7605 Lakeshore Dr.**  
**Racine, WI 53402**

Or RSVP Online at:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449ACA722A6FB6-catechist>

Questions?? Please contact your program director or call St. Mary by the Lake at 262-639-3616 to speak to Heather Warner.

### 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 diocesan 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.

### Marenda's Annual Bishop's Meeting with Archbishop Jerome Listcki



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](#)

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## **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](http://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](mailto:jgill@racinedominicans.org)

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## **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. Scholarships are available. Look into them here: <https://nccl.org/?s=scholarship>
3. Our own office for Lay Ministry offers grants for continuing formation, including the NCCL Convocation.

### **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!

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### **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 **March 20, 2020**, 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](mailto:colsen@comcenter.com) or 1-800-348-2227.

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## 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.

**CATHOLIC SUMMER VBS**

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

**Growing with the Saints** offers 6 Catholic Kids Camp programs:  
*The Vatican Express, Parachute 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](http://www.growingwiththesaints.com)

**The Pastoral Center** offers 5 Growing Up Catholic VBS programs:  
*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), and the new Peace Lab: Discover God's Way of Peace*  
 Visit: [www.growingupcatholicvbs.com](http://www.growingupcatholicvbs.com)

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

**Liguori Publications** presents **Splash Canyon** in cooperation with Concordia Publishing.  
 Visit: [www.liguorivbs.org](http://www.liguorivbs.org)  
 [Former kits – Mighty Fortress & Barnyard Roundup – may still be purchased from Liguori.]

**Our Sunday Visitor** offers **Rocky Railway VBS** "Jesus' power pulls us through."  
 Produced in cooperation with Group. Visit [vbs.osv.com](http://vbs.osv.com)

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

**Cat.Chat** offers several programs including:  
*Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer, Marvelous Mystery: the Mass comes Alive, Cool Kingdom Party, Birthday Blast – Celebration of Life, Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments, and "Cathletics"* Visit [www.catchat.ca/vacation-bible-school](http://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.  
 February 2020

## 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!

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### 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](mailto:pokornyg@archmil.org)

**Jennifer Murphy**

Program and Event Coordinator

414-758-2240

[murphyjc@archmil.org](mailto:murphyjc@archmil.org)



**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](mailto:murphyjc@archmil.org)*

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Archdiocese of Milwaukee

St. Francis 53235

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