In this Issue.....

March 2, 2018

Message from Gary: 10 Ways to Begin Growing Your Program

Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry News

- 2018 Catechetical Conference Workshop Proposals
- FORMED Free Trial Extended
- Scouting as Youth Ministry
- CYM Basketball
- Newman Connection

Upcoming Events

- Catechetical Calendar
- Family Perspectives
- Reach Out Reach In

Archdiocese News

- Native American Catholic Perspectives
- Wholly of Water and Holy Water

From Our Friends

- Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally
- Evening with the Saints
- All in the Family - Theological, Pastoral, and Catechetical Insights into Sexual Orientation
- Special Needs Resource Fair
- NCCL Conference
- Steubenville on the Lake

Resources

- Three Movies with Faith Connection
- Lenten Resources
- Liturgical Preparation Aid for the Seasons of Lent-Triduum-Easter
- Religious Education and the Sedar
- Catholic Summer VBS
- Publicize your Summer Activities for Catholic Kids

Save the Date

- Finish Line

District Meetings

Message from Gary
10 Ways to begin growing your program

It is not too early to begin your outreach to new families for your programs. You have something valuable to offer to families with children and teens. But you cannot assume that parents are thinking about religious formation for their children, or that they know there is a program in your parish, or how to enroll their child. They need your help. Here are ten simple ideas to get you started.

1. Keep current families engaged. Businesses know that retaining customers costs less than attracting new ones. Serving your current families well is the first key to growing your program.

2. Use internal data. Check your parish database to identify families with children who are not enrolled in your programs. Send invitations this spring.

3. Refresh information on your website and in the bulletin. Look at your program information with the eyes of an outsider or first-time visitor, rather than as someone familiar with what you offer. Is it easy to find? Is it attractive?

4. Share the good news about your programs. Use the parish newsletter, the web, or social media. Parishioners should not only hear about your programs when you are asking for volunteers or holding registration. During the rest of the year, share what the children and youth are doing or experiencing. Tell the story.

5. Develop a Brochure. Design a simple but attractive brochure that can be placed in the church vestibule, included in the new parishioner welcome pack, or passed among neighbors.

6. Recruit parents and youth as ambassadors. If they value their involvement in your program, they may tell others. But it helps to remind them they can spread the word to neighbors or relatives. Let them know the brochure is handy, they can pick one up after class. Encourage a parent to post on social media.

7. Plan an open house. Just like schools do, offer a time after Masses one weekend that parishioners and neighbors can stop by and learn about your programs.

8. Make a brief welcome video for your website. You can give a personal welcome, show some activities, and ask some parents to give a testimony.

9. Use external data. Work with a committee to gather information using Missioninsite, and discuss what you find. Brainstorm new ways to reach out to families in your area.

10. Work with neighboring parishes. If your program does not work for a family, be ready to refer them to another option. And be ready to welcome families who are referred to you from another parish.
Now Accepting Workshop Proposals for Catechetical Conference

Our second annual Catechetical Conference held on August 24-25, 2018 at the Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center in Milwaukee. This conference will offer participants opportunities to grow spiritually and professionally. The conference is intended for catechetical leaders, catechists, and others who pass on the faith.

Dynamic presenters and innovative workshops are crucial to the effectiveness of the conference. We invite you to submit a proposal for workshops. Each workshop will be approximately 60 minutes, which includes time for Q&A.

Workshop proposals are due by March 16, 2018.

FORMED Free Trial Extended

There is still time to explore FORMED.org, a digital resource to support your parish ministries. Augustine Institute has extended our FREE trial period for another month! If your parish has not already subscribed to FORMED, you can take it for a “test drive” for another month, until March 16th. The special discount for parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will also be available until then.

For an introduction to FORMED.org and for special discounted pricing, view the introductory Webinar Recording or download the FORMED flyer.
Scouting As Youth Ministry

Have you heard the phrase “Scouting as Youth Ministry”? In parishes or Catholic schools that sponsor scout packs or troops, Catholic scout leaders have a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and skills that help young people live their faith. The religious emblem programs, retreats, prayer, service projects, unit rituals and ceremonies, camping and nature programs -- these are some ways that adult leaders build a spiritual dimension into Scouting. In order to foster this vision of Scouting as Youth Ministry, our archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting sponsors training and Catholic scouting events:

Religious Emblem Counselor Training:
Training for adults interested in becoming Religious Emblems Counselors to help Boy & Venture Scouts working on the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems will be held Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:30 am to noon at the Three Harbors Council-Board Room. For more information contact Mike Moegenburg

Catholic Youth Scout Retreat
Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, grades 5-12 are invited to attend a one-day retreat at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help on March 24, 2018. The retreat is sponsored by the Diocese of Green Bay and Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Committees on Scouting. Join in fun and faith lifting activities, take a rosary walk, learn how to earn the International Catholic Awareness medallion, visit the site of Mary’s apparition. Fulfills the retreat requirement for Ad Altare Dei. Details and registration.

Celebration of Catholic Scouting
The Celebration of Catholic Scouting will be held on April 21, 2018 at 4:00pm. This event includes Mass (fulfills Sunday obligation), recognition of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who received religious emblems during the past year, presentation of Catholic awards to adult scouters and volunteers, and supper.

CYM Basketball
Thanks to the parishes that sponsored CYM Basketball Teams for their teens. Regular season play concluded last week. Standings are available at: www.cymsports.com/standings/
The Post-Season Tournament runs on weekends March 1-11. See www.cymsports.com/ for details.
This season, there were 11 Girls Teams, and 76 Boys Teams, representing 31 parishes:

- Christ King, Wauwatosa
- Holy Family, Whitefish Bay
- St Agnes, Butler
- St Alphonsus, Greendale
- St Anthony, Menomonee Falls
- St John the Evangelist, Greenfield
- St John Vianney, Brookfield
- St Joseph, Big Bend
- St Joseph, Grafton
- St Jude, Wauwatosa
Newman Connection

Keep your graduates connected to the Church when they go to college

Is your parish seeking to improve its post-confirmation ministry with young people? The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is continuing to work with Newman Connection to help connect college-bound seniors with the Catholic campus ministry at their new college or university. It is a very simple process of collecting names of graduating seniors and the college they plan to attend. Submit your list to Newman Connection, a national non-profit. Then Newman Connection will share those names with the campus ministry or Newman Center at the respective university. The campus ministers will be able to reach out to the new freshmen when they arrive on campus. There is no cost for this service, nor is there any need to share personal information about your students.

In early April, each parish youth minister or DRE will receive a packet from Newman Connection with instructions. Please do what you can to help keep our young people connected with the Church in their new environment.

Experience shows that an invitation from a student on campus or a campus minister is way more effective than a call from mom, dad or grandma and grandpa asking the student if they’ve gone to Church this week.

We started this last year, please join in the effort this year. Last year, Catholic high schools and parishes in the archdiocese submitted names and college destinations of more than 1200 graduating seniors! We can increase the connections with your help.

Upcoming Events

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

May 1, 2018
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.

Reach Out, Reach In

July 15-20, 2018

As the cold weather begins to take root, we begin to look forward to the warmness of summer. It may seem far away but now is the
time to start talking with youth about how they are going to spend their summer and encourage them to serve others during their summer break.

We ask you to encourage the youth of your parish to register for Reach Out Reach In.

Reach Out Reach In is a local summer service week for teens aged 15 through 18, who have completed 9th grade and who want to be involved in direct service and social action. The sites, located around the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, include homeless shelters, adult day care, community organizations, meal programs, organic farms, child care and more. The experience includes community, simple living, prayer, and justice education. The cost is reasonable ($240; $255 after April 30th). Scholarships are available.

Note: Youth ministers, due to interest from new parishes, please limit the group sent from your parish to 10 youth. If you have more than 10 youth from your parish who are interested in attending, please feel free to keep a waitlist. After the April 30th deadline, if there is room we will open up the registration to additional youth from those parishes.

More information can be found on the flyer or by visiting our website.

Archdiocese News

Native American Catholic Perspectives

Saturday, March 10, 2018
9:30am - 2:00pm
Cousins Center

You are invited to come learn about the spirituality, faith traditions, key values and gifts Native American Catholics bring to the Church. Led by Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA, Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference and first Native American consultor on the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, this insightful day will serve as an introduction to the context for ministry with Native American Catholics. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. There is no cost involved.

Please register by calling (414) 769-3397 or email diaze@archmil.org by March 5th.
Wholly of Water and Holy Water

Lecture in Christian Ethics by Sr. Dawn Nothwehr, OSF, PhD
March 20, 2018  |  6:00 pm vespers |  6:15 pm reception |  7 pm lecture
Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, 3257 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI

40 US states are expected to face some kind of water shortage in the next 10 years. Major threats to the Great Lakes include invasive species, pollution, shoreline development, wetlands depletion, disappearing native species, and water withdrawals. The “right to water” was only recognized as a basic human right by the United Nations in 2010—and the discipline of “water ethics” has only recently been recognized in the academy. Yet, water scarcity and insecurity is one of four major issues of the ecological crisis that Pope Francis highlights in Laudato si. In this lecture, we will reflect on the ethical issues surrounding water, in light of the Christian baptismal calling to act justly and care for creation. Sponsored by the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary Alumni Association

Contact Lisa Brielmaier at 414-747-6463 or newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu to register for the event.

From our Friends

Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally

An event by Arise Milwaukee
March 17 or 18, 2018
Carroll University
Go green this March and celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally. In the "Breastplate of St. Patrick," we pray that Christ may be in all we see and do and even within ourselves. Come and experience the adventure of a life lived with "Christ in me."
Visit www.wicatholicyr.org for more information and to Register.

Evening with the Saints

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 6:00 pm
Cardinal Stritch University
What is "An Evening with the Saints"? It's a fun fundraiser to support the Saint Clare Center in the important work of forming "saints among us" through our lay ministry formation programs. Come enjoy an evening of good friends, heavy appetizers, some samples of beverages associated with various holy men and women -- AND some interesting and inspiring stories about saints, as told by Bishop Jeff Haines, Fr. Tim Kitzke, Fr. Tony Zimmer, and our returning host for the evening, Al McCauley. $50 per person (at least to start - it is a fundraiser, and you may be so inspired by the evening that you decide to make an additional donation) Register online

**All in the Family - Theological, Pastoral, and Catechetical Insights into Sexual Orientation**

Wednesday, April 11, 2018
St. Anthony on the Lake,

9:00am Hospitality/Registration  
9:30am Presentation  
12:00pm Lunch

Let Mareda Know You are Attending

**Special Needs Resource Fair - All our Welcome!**

Saturday, April 21, 2018
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
St. Luke Catholic Church

The Special Resource Fair will have up to 30 organizations providing help and resources for individuals and families with Special Needs of all types for people of all ages. We will have renowned Speakers including: Damian Buchman who will speak on the “Thrill of Victory”; Chad Murphy-Price, “Networking for Success”; and Andrew Gerbitz of Andrew’s Voice & DSAW, “Creating Your Personal Roadmap.” Bebe’s Bistro Food Truck will be with us.
Plan to Attend the NCCL Conference in Chicago

When: May 30- June 2, 2018  
Where: Hyatt Regency O’Hare, Rosemont, IL  

Plan to participate in THE professional development conference for catechetical leaders. The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) brings together experts in evangelization and catechesis from parishes, academic institutions, publishers and resource providers, and diocesan ministry. The gathering offers opportunities for prayer, rejuvenation, formation and networking.

The NCCL Conference is worth attending every year, but in 2018, it will be more accessible than ever. The conference will take place in Rosemont, Illinois, just 143 miles from Fond du Lac, 136 miles from Sheboygan, 94 miles from Waukesha, and 64 miles from downtown Racine. So this conference will be less than 2 ½ hours from anywhere in the archdiocese.

Even better, NCCL is offering a special rate for catechetical leaders from Wisconsin. Check it out at: www.nccl.org/conference2018

---

Steubenville On The Lake

Partnership for Youth will be hosting Steubenville On The Lake at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin on July 20-22 this summer! We have a reputation and history of providing high quality, professionally delivered conferences that encourage young people on their journey to a deeper relationship and love for Christ.

Get a group of high-school-aged teens together and join us this summer at Steubenville On The Lake. The general conference page is http://www.partnershipforyouth.org/steubenville-otl if you’d like to see what SOTL is all about. Email local Event Coordinator, Melissa Stancato for any questions about the conference. Melissa@PartnershipForYouth.org

---

Resources

Three movies with a faith connection will be coming to theaters in March and
April

Power in My Hands - premieres
Power in My Hands is a story of hope and the power of prayer. It will premiere here in Milwaukee on April 12, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Miller High Life Theatre. There will be a free concert at 6:30pm with Anna Nuzzo. The cast of the movie includes Archbishop Listecki, Lydia Lococo, Deacon Henry Reyes – all with a local connection – and other speakers and ordinary Catholics from around the country. Visit the Power in My Hands website for more information on the premiere and to buy tickets.

Paul: Apostle of Christ - in theatres March 23 (just before Holy Week)
This is the story of two men – Paul, of course, and Luke, who risks his life to visit Paul in a Roman prison, and then sets out to write about the beginnings of the church. “Together, they struggle against a determined emperor and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spread their message to the world.” The movie is rated PG-13 for some violent content and disturbing images. This movie is from ODB Films and Sony Affirm. You may have known ODB Films as “Outside Da Box,” a source for creative youth ministry films. For trailer, ticket information, group sales, and other resources, visit http://www.paulmovie.com/

The Miracle Season - In Theatres April 13
After the tragic death of star volleyball player Caroline "Line" Found, a team of dispirited high school girls must band together under the guidance of their tough-love coach in hopes of winning the state championship. Based on the true story of Iowa City high school volleyball player Caroline Found's tragic death and her team’s next season. Movie is Rated PG. Pre-release reviews do not say whether the movie will show much of Caroline’s Christian faith, or that of her teammates. But be ready for an inspiring come-back sports film.

Lenten Resources
This season of Lent is such a fertile time to introduce young people to practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the coming weeks, parish programs will:

- Offer opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross
  [https://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Stations-of-the-Cross-Online.pdf](https://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/Stations-of-the-Cross-Online.pdf)
- Participate in Penance and Reconciliation,
  [https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Links/Penance.htm](https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Links/Penance.htm) preparing with an Examination of Conscience
  [https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Links/Lent.htm](https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Links/Lent.htm)
- Instruct children and families on the rules for fast and abstinence and the tradition of sacrificing by “giving up something for Lent”
• Offer families CRS Rice Bowls [https://www.archmil.org/offices/social-justice/CRS-Rice-Bowl.htm] or other means of giving to the needy.

If you are looking for more resources, check our Lent page [https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Links/Lent.htm] If you have favorite online Lenten resources we should consider, email murphyjc@archmil.org.

May the Lord strengthen us through our Lenten practice that we may become worthy to celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord.

Liturgical Preparation Aid for the Seasons of Lent-Triduum-Easter

As Lent approaches, you may be involved in preparing a communal Reconciliation Service, or catechizing families about the Triduum, or preparing a prayer aid for Lent. Our Office for Worship is offering a Liturgical Preparation Aid for the Seasons of Lent-Triduum-Easter 2018 prepared by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions in both English & Spanish. It includes lists of readings for the various occasions, music suggestions and more.

Religious Education and the Seder

As we look ahead to Lent and Holy Week, our parishes are planning opportunities for prayer and formation. Some parishes seek to educate parishioners on the Jewish roots of our own faith by teaching about or even hosting a Seder Meal, the ritual meal that Jews celebrate to mark Passover. This may be done with good intentions, but we must also be careful about what and how we teach. Learn more about Seder Meals & the Church’s Guidelines.

CATHOLIC SUMMER VBS

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 programs.

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'.

Save the Date

District Meetings

**District 9 (SCORE)**
March 6 @ 10:00am
St. John the Baptist - Plymouth

**District 15/16 High School**
March 14 @ 9:30am
St. Matthews
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
pokornyg@archmil.org

Jennifer Murphy
Program and Event Coordinator
414-758-2240
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

This email was sent by: Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
St. Francis 53235
Visit our website | Unsubscribe