25 Years of the Catechism – Part 4
In this reflection on the Catechism of the Catholic Church after 25 years, we turn to some of the ways in which the Catechism has had an impact on our ministries. Of course, the book itself has served as a resource for study, teaching, writing and prayer. But the purpose of a major catechism is to be an instrument of renewal in catechesis. What are some of the other ways in which this is accomplished?

Following the publication of the CCC, the US Bishops set out a plan that included three notable initiatives.

1. In the area of children’s catechesis, the bishops instituted a process for reviewing new textbooks before they go to print, and verifying that they are “in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.” You will, of course, see this statement printed on the front of every approved religion textbook. The USCCB also publishes a “Conformity List” of resources approved to date.

2. In the area of high school level catechesis, the bishops also use a conformity protocol for textbooks. However they also published “Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.” This document outlines content for particular courses for the years of high school. An “Adaptation…For Use in Parish and Youth Ministry Programs” provided a more flexible version of the framework for the varied contexts in which parishes and other organizations offer formation for teens. But in both versions, the focus is on Jesus Christ. Materials must support our efforts to help young people encounter Jesus, to learn to be his disciples in their daily lives, and to become more intimately bound to him in the Church.

3. In the area of adult formation, particularly the formation of young adults and those new to the Catholic faith, the bishops developed the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, a “minor catechism” as we saw in the last column, and an aid in the ministry of inviting young adults into a more conscious, active, living faith in Jesus Christ.

These particular efforts may appear to be aimed at shaping published materials. But the principles that guide the development of resources are ultimately intended to guide the formation of people. The focus on encountering Christ in the Church, attending to the fullness of faith (faith professed, celebrated, lived and prayed), and walking as disciples and witnesses of Christ – these are to be embodied not only in print, but in the lives of catechists and all Catholics. The bishops themselves remind us: “No catechetical materials, resources or tools – no matter how excellent – can replace the catechist” (NCD p279). We’ll take a look at the Catechism in catechist formation next time.

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**Guest Column**

*Mary Sue Reutebuch*

*Director of Christian Formation: Family and Youth Programs*

*St. Joan of Arc and St. Catherine of Alexandria*

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**Thanks to Pandora!**
I was getting ready to pay my VISA bill and noticed my Pandora account had been renewed for the year. I was pleased this was in place and my service would not be interrupted. It was at that moment I realized I should take the same approach regarding Christian Formation registration. There is no reason to have families or youth reregister each year; once enrolled, it is ongoing unless they alert me otherwise. This approach took flight this year and has worked beautifully. Our families were thrilled they did not need to fill out forms again, one less thing to think about. This new process has saved hours of time and resources. At the beginning of summer, I send out the new calendar, fee statement and a short form to fill out if any personal information had changed. We are able to order books, line up Catechists, etc. early on and well prepared for the fall. If you have questions and might want to try this, feel free to contact me at mreutebuch@scsjcluster.org.

Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry News

Confirmation Reminders

Confirmation season is here! Here are few reminders that will hopefully assist you when planning for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- The Liturgy Planning Guide draft MUST be forwarded to the Office of Worship three weeks prior to the Confirmation and before the final printing of the Order of Worship. The Worship Office will review the guide and will notify your office with approval or recommendations. If Bishop Haines or Bishop Schuerman will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, please use Auxiliary Bishop Liturgy Planning Guide. If Archbishop Listecki will be the presider, please use AB Conf Liturgy Planning Guide. The planning guide can be found on our website.
- The Confirmation letters MUST be received thirty days prior to the Confirmation date. They should be mailed to the Archbishop Cousins Center to the attention of the Bishop who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Please list the candidates in the Order of Worship as they will be presented for Confirmation (ex., if listed alphabetically, they should be presented alphabetically; if listed by section, present them by section).
- On the name cards list the given name of the candidate first then the Confirmation name.
- The sponsor should clearly say only the name by which the person is being confirmed. No extra greeting or introduction should be used.
- Incense is discouraged because it interferes with the scent of Chrism.
- Photographs are permitted, but please NO flash so not to interfere with the celebration.

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.

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
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 warmth 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.

https://sg-mktg.com/MTUyMTIzMzc5NXxNSTZwS3NidERMeIxaFFqT19ENVhyQ2wzc2xaR254UjTVjJNdzJCRDVZY1JKzZVY1WpPSiIvOVNyUdd… 5/12
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

Please Update Your Middle School Students In Archmil.org

A growing number of Catholic high school applications come from students who do not attend a Catholic elementary school. This is made possible by those parishes who have helped by entering the names and address of their fifth through eighth grade students, who are in their religious education programs, into the names database on archmil.org. By collecting this information in one central database, the Catholic high schools are able to send information to the parents of middle school students letting them know about their school. If you have not done so yet, we ask that you add/update names and addresses of next year's fifth through eighth grade students are entered into the archmil.org Names system.

If you are not sure how to add or edit a record in the Names system, just follow the instructions found here. Our goal is to have all names entered by March 31. Our Catholic high schools are sincerely grateful for your help in compiling these lists.

Circle of Grace – Children and Youth Curriculum

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Safe Environment Office, is implementing the Circle of Grace K4 – grade 12 child and youth curriculum, for safe environment education. As a result, the Safe Environment Office will be training principals, curriculum directors and instructional leaders for their schools and parishes. This training will be for anyone in the school or religious education program who is in charge of the curriculum.

Training will take place on Monday, April 23, 2018. Individuals can register for either a morning or afternoon session. Registration will close on April 16th. Please use this link to register.

Adult Confirmation
Adult Confirmation will be celebrated 2:00 PM on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. **Mandatory rehearsal** for confirmands and sponsors will take place at the Cathedral on Friday, May 18, 2018, at 7:00 PM. **ALL CONFIRMANDS AND SPONSORS MUST ATTEND.**

Parishes with adult confirmation formation programs who wish to have their members participate in this May 20, 2018 liturgy will need to **register online**. You will receive a confirmation email. **Please register your confirmands and sponsors no later than Monday, May 7 – earlier is always better.**

Because space at the Cathedral is limited, reserved places for confirmands and their sponsors will be determined according to the order in which requests are received.

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### From our Friends

**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

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**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/NALM 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. Join members of NCCL, FCH and NALM for a collaborative conference experience! 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](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

Schools, Violence, and a Pastoral Response

With school shootings in the news, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has issued a statement on school safety. Along with the statement they offer a wealth of links to online resources, including information on talking with children in the aftermath of violence, active shooter preparedness, what parishes can do to help those with mental illness, and developing a safety plan. Download the [NCEA Statement on School Safety](http://www.nceaglobal.org/school-safety).

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a “Backgrounder” on a Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence.

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.

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.
3/19/2018

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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Save the Date

**SAVE the DATE**

The Finish Line - an End of Year Gathering for all DREs and DYMs

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” – 2Tim 4:7

Tuesday, May 15th

9:30am – 3:15pm

St. Anne Catholic Church

Pleasant Prairie, WI

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2018 Catechetical Conference

August 24-25, 2018

Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, Milwaukee

The Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry will be hosting the 2018 Catechetical Conference in August this year. The conference will offer presentations for catechists, catechetical leaders, and others who pass on the faith. The theme this year will be Accompanying God's People with Joy. Please mark your calendar for yourself, your catechists and friends.

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District Meetings

**District 15/16 High School**

https://sg-mktg.com/MTUyMTIzMzc5NXxNSTZwS3NidERMeIxaFFqT19ENVhyQ2wzc2xaR254UjJTjNydzJCRDVZY1JKZVFVYWpPSiBvOVNYUDd… 11/12
March 14 @ 9:30am
St. Matthews

District 9 (SCORE)
April 3 @ 10:00am
Blessed Trinity - Sheboygan Falls

District 7
April 12 @ 12:00pm
St. Mary - Mayville

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

Contact Us

Gary Pokorny
Director
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pokornyg@archmil.org

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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

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