In this Issue.....

**Message from Gary:** 25 years of the Catechism

**Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry News**
- Newman Connection

**Upcoming Events**
- Catechetical Calendar
- Celebration of Catholic Scouting
- Family Perspectives
- Finish Line
- Reach Out Reach In

**Archdiocese News**
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- St. Francis de Sales Seminary Open House
- De Sales Days Summer Camps
- Summer Institute for Lay Ministry
- Quinceañera Guidelines

**April 6, 2018**

**From Our Friends**
- Two Surveys on lay Ministers
- NCCL/NALM/FCH Conference
- Catechesis of Good Shepherd Training
- Digital Discipleship Boot Camp
- ECHO
- San Damiano Encounter
- Steubenville on the Lake

**Resources**
- Schools, Violence and a Pastoral Response
- Free Resources to use with the mobie - The Miracle Season
- Publicize your Summer Activities for Catholic Kids

**Save the Date**
- 2018 Catechetical Conference
- WDREF State Convention

**District Meetings**

**Message from Gary**

25 Years of the Catechism
During this year marking the 25th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, I’ve shared a few reflections, as have some other catechetical leaders. Here are some final thoughts.

**Timeless or Timely?**
The Catechism of the Catholic Church was intended to present “an organic synthesis of the essential and fundamental contents of Catholic doctrine” (CCC11). But the Catechism also reflects the historical reality of Christian life and seeks to address people in our times. So the Catechism expresses eternal truths, but also contemporary applications. It is responsive to the issues and practices of our day. For example, the section on sacraments teaches foundational principles, but also explains our current, post-Vatican II celebrations of sacraments. The CCC refers to moral issues specific to our time – drunken driving (1737), use of social communications media (2512), attempts to influence genetic inheritance (2275), and atomic, biological and chemical weapons (2314). There are also many references to church documents and the writing of popes from our time.

We already saw how the new CCC was quickly revised by Pope John Paul II and issued in a 2nd edition. This was due both to translation issues and to updated content. But we should not expect a constantly changing text. The nature of a major catechism is to provide a reference point and a stable resource for catechetical teaching and language. Nonetheless, Joseph Heit (DRE at Holy Angels, West Bend) alerted me that catechisms published since 2016 reflect the new translation of the Roman Missal. This is evident in the translation of the Creeds and in passages that cite prayers of the Mass. (Note: the online CCC on the Vatican website is not updated, but the flipbook on the USCCB site is updated.) So, the Catechism is witness to the fact that catechesis – the project of passing on the faith, making disciples, teaching them to know the Lord and walk in his ways, and building up the Body of Christ – is ever old and ever new.

**Using the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

We’ve already seen how the bishops and catechetical publishers use the CCC – providing adaptations or minor catechisms, producing textbooks and catechist manuals, and issuing guidelines for the content of our teaching.

The various adaptations are attractive and useful for particular audiences. YouCat is very accessible to young people. The US Catholic Catechism for Adults has features making it useful for RCIA, for study groups in the parish, and for catechist formation.

But what about the CCC itself? Even though it is addressed first to bishops, “through the bishops, it is addressed to redactors of catechisms, to priests, and to catechists. It will also be useful reading for all other Christian faithful” (12). What kind of use?

First, the CCC can be used in catechist formation. Here in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, it is a primary text along with the Bible in the Forming the Catechetical Spirit program. Participants have found that the CCC need not be an daunting tome, but can be a very useful resource.
Even for catechists who are not able to take part in extensive formation, the CCC should not be an unfamiliar book. Every catechist should recognize what the catechism is, be familiar with its overall structure of 4 pillars (The Faith We Believe, The Faith Celebrated, The Faith Lived, and The Faith Prayed; or Creed, Sacraments, Commandments, Lord’s Prayer), and be able to locate passages relevant to what they are teaching.

The Catechism is also useful for catechetical leaders and clergy. It is a great resource to consult in preparation for teaching. I find that, even when addressing familiar topics, it can be helpful to review what the catechism offers, to recall the language, the essential aspects, and the beauty of the faith I’ll be presenting.

Although it is not recommended that the catechism itself be used as a textbook with young people or parishioners, there is no reason not to share it with someone who may benefit. Of course, we must be ready to provide some guidance or orientation to the book. But there are many who might enjoy diving deeper into the faith with the Catechism.

Finally, the CCC would not be the worst thing to have on your summer reading list.

However we use it, it is important to keep in mind what the Catechism itself reminds us: “The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends” (25).

Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry News

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.

Each parish youth minister or DRE should have received 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 received religious emblems during the past year, presentation of Catholic awards to adult scouters and volunteers, and supper. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms & medals. Cost: $9 per individual, up to $36 per family. For more information, please visit: [www.archmil.org/scouts](http://www.archmil.org/scouts)

### 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

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

 Tues, May 15, 2018
 10am – 3:15 pm
 St. Anne, Pleasant Prairie

Join other DREs, Youth Ministers and Faith Formation Coordinators from across the Archdiocese for a day of workshops, networking, worship that will leave all in attendance REFRESHED For more information, the schedule and workshops, please visit the website. This day is co-sponsored by Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry and Kenosha Area Catechetical Leaders

Register Now

Reach Out, Reach In

July 15-20, 2018

It's not to early 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 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](#).

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**Archdiocese News**

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations | April 22**

Join Pope Francis and the Universal Church in praying for an increase in vocations on Sunday, April 22. For more information and ideas, visit: [https://www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com/](https://www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com/)

**Online Vocation Lessons:**

Please take advantage of the online vocation lessons curriculum for k-12 at [www.vocationlessons.com](http://www.vocationlessons.com). Vocation lessons helps students listen to God’s call for their lives, whether to marriage, the priesthood, or religious life. The teach access code is MilwaukeeVocations414 and the student access code is StJohn414.

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**Saint Francis de Sales Seminary Open House | Sunday, April 29**

You are invited to St. Francis de Sales Seminary’s Open House on Sunday, April 29. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Seminarians will serve as hosts and tour guides as St. Francis de Sales opens the doors to the public from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Your family, friends, confirmation classes and Christian Formation groups are all welcomed!

Please go to [www.sfs.edu](http://www.sfs.edu) for more details.
De Sales Days 2018 | Summer Vocation Camps

Play hard and pray hard this summer with Fr. Luke and Fr. Enrique at our De Sales Days Vocation Camps for high school and middle school aged young men. All camps will be held at St. Francis de Sales Seminary. For more information, or to register your son, please contact Emma Hegarty in the Vocation Office at ehegarty@sfs.edu | 414-747-6431 or visit www.thinkpriest.org/events/

Summer Institute for Lay Ministry

June 5th - 7th
Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee

The second annual Summer Institute for Lay Ministry, held June 5-7, will help you prepare, as a leader, for the Amazing Parish Conference this fall, and for the movement that will take place diocesan-wide following the Conference. As part of this year’s Summer Institute for Lay Ministers, you’ll participate in the Called and Gifted discernment process to help you more fully understand your unique gifts and strengths, and learn how to lead more fully from these gifts. As we prepare for the Amazing parish Conference this fall, we want to affirm you and support you by helping you live more fully out of God’s plan for you and your ministry. We have great speakers lined up for you, along with time for rest, prayer, the chance to network with other lay ministers, and good food. Click here to see the Speaker Lineup, Schedule and Registration.

Quinceañera Guidelines

Archbishop Listecki has issued “Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of Quinceañeras in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.” The celebration of a Quinceañera is an important cultural-faith tradition for young women turning 15 years of age in Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean as well as here in the United States.

The Guidelines include directives for the liturgical celebration and for the young woman’s formation beforehand. Download the Quinceañera Guidelines

From our Friends
Two Surveys on Lay Ministers in the Church

Financial Factors & Lay Ministers in the Catholic Church
Loyola University Chicago's Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage is conducting research on economic and financial factors that impact the changing role of lay ministers in parishes and dioceses. The brief survey is for paid, non-ordained employees, and concludes April 9. To participate: https://form.jotform.com/73406476727161

Hispanic-Latino/as in Lay Ecclesial Ministry
A research student at Catholic Theological Union is collecting data on Latinos’ experience in lay ministry. The survey is for any Hispanic/Latino engaged in church ministry, or involved in study or formation for ministry.

English version of the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LATIN-LEMs-English
Spanish version of the survey: https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/LATIN-LEMs-Espanol

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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1, Part 1 Training
June 11-16, 2018
Christ King Parish, Wauwatosa, WI

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Catholic approach to the religious formation of children, 3-12 years of age, based on the conviction that God and the child are in relationship.
Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa, WI is hosting a two-week summer intensive training course over the next two summers. Part one will be held this summer from June 11th-16th, 2018 at Christ King Parish and Part two dates are TBD. More information can be found on the Christ King Parish website and you can register online here.

Questions? Please contact Samantha El-Azem at elazems@christkingparish.org.

Digital Discipleship Boot Camp

Digital Discipleship Boot Camp (DDBC) is a guided course of study that will help you understand how web-based technology and social media can be applied in ministry settings. It is an opportunity for catechetical leaders and ministers at all levels to learn the basics of faith-based educational technology and new media.

This is your opportunity to gain the needed skills to be a Digital Disciple. DDBC is an online course and is structured as a series of eight modules that are normally scheduled weekly with additional time for participants completing Capstone Projects. The course begins on Tuesday, June 12th.

For those who register from our diocese, a 20% discount is available to you. Just use this CODE as you register: SUM18. For additional information about DDBC and to register, go to: https://ddbcformation.org/

ECHO - Theology of the Body Camp

ECHO (an apostolate of Dumb Ox Ministries) is a summer camp/retreat for young people rooted in teachings of St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body hosted by the Archdiocese of Chicago. ECHO dives into, unpacks, and processes the themes of prayer, our identity, and our mission to love. We are all created to be in personal relationship with God, and each of us are created as a unique, unrepeatable man or woman with a vocation to love like God. For more information, visit the Archdiocese of Chicago's website.

San Damiano Encounter

This summer, Cardinal Stritch University will once again offer its faith-based leadership
program for high school students called the *San Damiano Encounter*. The program blends theological content, leadership development, service learning, and an emphasis on mission and vocation, inviting participants to “Deepen your faith; Become yourself; Heal the World.”

The San Damiano Encounter will take place **June 24 – 29, 2018**. There is space for 24 high school students (finishing 10th, 11th, or 12th grade). Because the program is funded through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, there is no cost to participate.

Do you know a high school student who wants to grow in faith and develop as a leader? Download the flyer and pass it on.

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**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! Get a group of high-school-aged teens together and join us for this dynamic Catholic youth conference. Encounter Christ in the Sacraments and hear talks from speakers such as Matt Fradd, Father John Parks, and more!

Watch a video about the conferences. Visit [http://www.partnershipforyouth.org/steubenville-otl/](http://www.partnershipforyouth.org/steubenville-otl/) for more information. Volunteers 18 and up can also be a part of this amazing experience. Email local Event Coordinator, Melissa Stancato for any questions about the conference.

Can't make Steubenville on the Lake, there is also Steubenville Rochester and Steubenville St. Paul. Visit [www.partnershipforyouth.org](http://www.partnershipforyouth.org) to learn more!”

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**Resources**

**Schools, Violence, and a Pastoral Response**

[https://sg-mktg.com/MTUyMzA1MDUzNXxRSnptMmt0azUwMXFMV1YzQnZCeFpTRUxMVGNOWxJTVzFyV2FxYmZmS2k2N3BMcnl5Wmh5STR0Y29kNnhWaji8kQ](https://sg-mktg.com/MTUyMzA1MDUzNXxRSnptMmt0azUwMXFMV1YzQnZCeFpTRUxMVGNOWxJTVzFyV2FxYmZmS2k2N3BMcnl5Wmh5STR0Y29kNnhWaji8kQ)
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.

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

Free Resources to use with the movie The Miracle Season - In Theatres Now

The upcoming movie, The Miracle Season, tells the story of the impact of a young believer in Christ on her teammates. After the tragic death of star volleyball player Caroline "Line" Found, who had come to know Christ through a campus ministry, a team of dispirited high school girls must band together under the guidance of their tough-love coach in hopes of winning the championship. See the Trailer for The Miracle Season

Knowing that this film will be seen by many young volleyball players, and other teens, The Catholic Sports Ministry Network created two FREE resources for use by coaches, youth ministers, and anyone who works with teens.

Parish Minister Guide
2-session team-building mini-retreat

Coach Devotional
10-day devotional for coaches based on movie themes
In addition, Interline offers resources and 7 movie clips you can use with your group:

Sign-up for Access to Movie Clips

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'.

https://sg-mktg.com/MTUyMzA1MDUzNXxRSnptMmtoazUwMXFMV1YzQnZCeFpTRUxMVGNQXzJiVzFyV2FxYmZmS2k2N3BMcnfWmh5STR0Y29kNnhWajBvakQ
Save the Date

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.

WDREF State Convention:

Monday, November 5th-Tuesday, November 6th
Stevens Point

Building Blocks of Discipleship with Jared Dees, Author and thereligionteacher.com creator

Registration Details Coming Soon

District Meetings

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

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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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