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Message from Gary

New Date for “The Finish Line”

Our **Finish Line** virtual event will now take place on **Thursday, May 20**, and not on the date formerly published. See event and registration information below. I was going to title this paragraph “Moving the Finish Line,” but that calls to mind the surprise and unfairness of having to keep running a race beyond expectations. We are not extending your year or adding to the workload, but we do apologize for the inconvenience of this change. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen conflict, we needed to shift the date. But we will still have Steve Angrisano to present and inspire, and our Finish Line team to lead the day. Join us!

Planning for Summer, especially VBS

You may be looking ahead to summer, but wondering ‘what programs can we hold’ and ‘what do we need to do to keep participants safe?’ Be assured, you may definitely offer summer programs like Vacation Bible School at your parish.

To assist in your preparation, we offer [Guidelines for Summer Programming in Parishes](#). This includes VBS or a Catholic kids camp, as well as mission trips, and other youth activities. The Guidelines address safety protocols, facilities, food and drink, offsite events, overnights, and transportation.

Focusing on programs for children, here are a few highlights:

- Capacity limit for programs and activities is determined by the ability of participants and staff to maintain social distance.
- Hold activities outdoors when possible, and ensure proper ventilation indoors.
- You will see the familiar precautions, including wearing masks indoors, social distancing, thorough cleaning and sanitizing, and individually packaged food or drink.
- There will be an updated COVID Consent Form for your use, for parents to sign.
- All staff and participants are required to follow all COVID protocols for every activity, no matter their vaccination status or if they previously had COVID.

Read the actual [Guidelines](#) for specifics, and for information on mission trips and overnights.

Here are a couple of other resources that may be helpful if you are just beginning to plan VBS:

- [List of Catholic VBS Programs](#) from several publishers
- [How to Lead VBS, even in a year with Covid-19](#), a FREE resource from The Pastoral Center (not us, but the business/ministry by that name)

Office of Catechesis News

Retiring DREs & YMs Information Request

As the formation year comes to close, we know that some DREs & YMs will be retiring. We would like to collect the names of those retiring so that we may acknowledge them and their accomplishments. If you or someone you know is retiring, please email [Jennifer Murphy](#) with their name, current parish, current position and total years of service in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Share your Registration Form and/or Job Description with Us

We are developing a model Registration Form for Faith Formation. Sometimes parishes ask for guidance on updating their registration process, wondering what sort of information is important when parents are registering children for faith formation. If you think you have a fairly good registration form, please send to us. We are mostly interested in the types of information, the data fields, the questions you ask, the permissions, and so on. Format or the means of collection (electronic or paper) is not important.

We are also interested in samples of job descriptions. It has been many years since we reviewed actual samples. We offer an archdiocesan model on the website, but sometimes parishes are looking for language beyond the model. Job descriptions vary greatly from parish to parish. But if you have a job description you are willing to share, please send. . . We are interested in the overall description, specific responsibilities, work relationships, skills/knowledge/abilities required, and so on.

Please send Forms and Descriptions to [Jennifer Murphy](#).

Holy Habits Challenge

If you have been using the Holy Habits materials during the pandemic, we would like to know. Please inform us using this simple [form](#). Feel free to include any comments about your experience.

If you are not yet familiar with the Holy Habits Challenge, the materials and instructions are available, free-of-charge, on our [Holy Habits webpage](#). The Holy Habits Challenge is a wonderful means of introducing families to some of the basic Catholic habits that come to us

from the traditions and piety of the Church. All the materials are free to download and print for use in your parish.

Upcoming Events

Finish Line

When: Thursday May 20, 2021 **(NEW DATE)**

9:30am - 2:30pm

Where: Virtually from your home, office or somewhere you can disconnect

This year has been like no other year so, of course, this Finish Line will also be like no other year's Finish Line. It seems like an oxymoron to say that a gathering will be held Virtually in a place you can disconnect. However, they can exist together and we hope that you will give yourself permission to disconnect from everything else swirling about your day and enter into this virtual end-of-year gathering.

Our presenter for the day will be **Steve Angrisano** who is a composer, musician and national speaker. In addition to the talks given by **Steve Angrisano**, the day will include uplifting music and time away from your computer for reflection, relaxation and prayer. We hope that you will truly invest in yourself and allow yourself the space to reflect on the past year, relax & be present to the now and begin to prepare for the coming year.

There is no cost to you to attend, but please register. You must register by **May 10th** to receive your Finish Line Activities Packet in the mail prior to the day. [Register Now](#)

Archdiocese News

Teen Mission Opportunity - Love Begins Here

If your parish is looking for a local mission opportunity for middle or high school teens, there is still an opportunity to join Love Begins Here, launching this summer through the Archdiocese. Learn more at archmil.org/LBH or contact Doug Ulaszek at ulaszekd@archmil.org.

- June 22-25, Holy Trinity - Kewaskum (Middle School)
- June 27-July 2, St. Elizabeth - Kenosha (High School)
- July 5-9, St. Thomas Aquinas - Waterford (High School)

- July 11-16, St. Mary - Menomonee Falls (High School)
 - July 18-23, Holy Family - Fond du Lac (High School)
-

Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults

Parishes with adult confirmation formation programs who wish to have their members participate in the Pentecost Sunday Adult Confirmation Celebration on May 23, 2021 at 3:30pm **MUST** register online **BEFORE Monday, May 17, 2021**. The Adult Confirmation Celebration will take place at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Reserved places for confirmands and their sponsors is determined according to the order in which requests are received. [Sign Up](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Mandelkow, oremus@archmil.org, at 414-769-3349.

New Process for Reporting Grade Level Safe Environment Lesson Verification

The Safe Environment Office recently sent out updates which included the New Process for Reporting Grade Level Safe Environment Lesson Verification. This year we will be changing the process for parishes and schools to report their Safe Environment Grade Level Curriculum lessons for their religious education programs and schools. In the past, parish religious education programs completed the safe environment lesson verification online via survey monkey.

Beginning with this current year, we are requiring Safe Environment Coordinators in parishes and schools to enter their safe environment lesson documentation directly into CMG Connect under *Children Data*. This is able to be done as the annual safe environment lessons are completed and will assist with having the information entered both with what lesson was taught and the number of children receiving training, opting out, or absent. This information should be entered in for each grade level in a religious education program or school for Safe Environment lessons taught between July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021.

For more information on the New Process for Reporting Grade Level Safe Environment Lesson Verification as well as Annual Safe Environment Week Resource Guide, please [Safe Environment Office Email](#) for more information regarding both topics.

Year of St. Joseph Prayer Cards

Archbishop ListECKi has commissioned the design of a prayer card for the Year of St. Joseph. He desires that all parishes within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee distribute the prayer card to

encourage parishioners to pray to St. Joseph. There is a plenary indulgence for praying to St. Joseph during this year, which is explained in part on the card. Additional prayer and study resources about St. Joseph may be found at archmil.org/St-Joseph. Each parish received a box with 250 cards in it. [Additional Cards](#) can be ordered at no cost.

"Living the Gift of Sunday"

"Living the Gift of Sunday" is a book commissioned and designed by Archbishop ListECKI, and contains 10 weeks of reflections on Sunday, and suggestions on how to live out the great gift given to us in our everyday lives. It is available in both English and Spanish. Your parish may have already distributed these to parishioners. But if you would like additional copies, please order copies here: <https://archmil.regfox.com/gift-of-sunday-easter-booklet>

If you have questions, contact Rosalita Villa (villar@archmil.org or 414-758-2217)

From Our Friends

InterGenerate & Children's Spirituality Conference Online

You are invited to attend a special online experience that brings together InterGenerate Conference with the Children's Spirituality Summit. This joint conference will be held May 24-26, 2021. The conference will be held via Zoom and will feature keynote address, workshops, paper presentations, kindred group discussion and more.

Please note that this is not a Catholic event, but an ecumenical conference, featuring speakers from "a broad range of Christian traditions." But it is unique in its focus on children's spirituality. For more information and to register, visit: [InterGenerate Conference Website](#) or the [Children's Spirituality Summit Website](#).

2021 National Gathering on Christian Initiation™ Summer Virtual Workshops

The NGCI Summer Virtual Workshops™ will explore the theoretical and practical aspects of initiation ministry. Through the interactive Adobe Connect platform, participants will break open the vision of the RCIA as it is adapted for use with children of catechetical age, as well as have opportunities to gather for prayer, a virtual happy hour, and optional free pre-sessions.

The Summer Virtual Workshops™ theme will be Implementing the RCIA Adapted for Children and they will take place on **August 4-5** for the English-language event, and **August 6-7** for the Spanish language event. This year's event will be virtual, so join us from the comfort of your own home or office. Registration fee is \$65. Seats are limited, so make sure to [register](#) today.

Resources

Digital Trends Bulletin

Technology has become an increasingly large portion of our interaction and communication within our schools and parishes over the last year. Technology can be a powerful tool but brings with it many new avenues for interactions, information, and behaviors that can be concerning.

The Safe Environment Office recognizes that technology is changing how adults and children may create a digital environment that could place a child in a vulnerable position to be exploited or exposed to unsafe interactions or situations. They have tried to expand their opportunities to learn from information available in webinars, situations reported, and other sources of information to provide school and parish staff with some information to stay current with the trends that children and youth are engaging in online and on social media. [The March 2021 Digital Trends Bulletin](#) is to assist in equipping adults with the information and indicators of concern regarding current technology and how it is being used. Please feel free to share this information with anyone that you feel will find this information helpful.

Formation Resources

Discover free-of-charge resources to supplement or enhance your lessons. Videos, lesson plans and other resources have been vetted by our review team, and are listed by general topic and by age group. Visit: <https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Technology/Formation-Resources.htm>

Do you have a favorite resource to share? Send us your suggestions under "Submit a Resource."

Job Openings

[Director of Catholic Formation - Lumen Christi, Mequon](#)

[Religious Education Coordinator - St. Lawrence, Hartford](#)

[Bilingual Director of Religious Education - St. John Paul II, Milwaukee](#)

Youth Evangelization Coordinator - St. Mary, Hales Corners

Director of Religious Education/RCIC & Youth Ministry - St. Peter, East Troy

Director of Christian Formation K-Adult - Sheboygan South Parishes

Associate Director of Christian Formation - St. Alphonsus, Greendale

Pastoral Coordinator - St. Margaret Mary, Milwaukee

Director of Religious Education - St. Francis de Sales, Lake Geneva

Student Minister - St. Dominic, Brookfield

Coordinator of Lifelong Formation - St. Matthias, Milwaukee

Director of Evangelization - Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee

Associate Director of Child & Youth Ministry - St. John XXIII, Port Washington

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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