

## Jennifer Murphy

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## Message from Gary

### Planning for the Fall

As we prepare to launch faith formation programs this year, there is once again some uncertainty about the health situation. On the one hand, many adults are getting vaccinated, so we do not face the same risks as last year. On the other hand, there is a new variation of the virus, a resurgence of infection in many places, and no vaccine yet for children. So we still need to be thoughtful and

intentional about how we bring young people together in-person.

We do not have archdiocesan-wide directives or restrictions for parishes to follow. There are simply too many different situations around the archdiocese. We encourage local decision making. It is still important to exercise appropriate care in planning your programs.

- In general, plan for in-person programs, but remember that conditions may change and require a change in plans in the future.
- It is the expectation that all Catholic parishes will follow their local municipal orders if any are in place.
- Plan in collaboration with your pastor, parish director and other parish leaders. Consistency among various aspects of parish life is helpful.
- Decisions on wearing of facemasks, practicing distancing or other restrictions are up to the pastor, administrator, or parish director.
- There is NO special COVID-19 Consent Form for parents to sign this year.
- Learn what your school district is doing, especially schools attended by families in your program.
- If your parish is associated with a Catholic School, learn about their protocols, and plan early for use of any common rooms and facilities.
- Check with nearby parishes too, so that, if appropriate, there is parish-to-parish consistency.
- It may be helpful to consult with a few trusted parents in your program.
- Continue to maintain cleaning protocols and to provide hand sanitizer.
- Remind parents that, if their child is exhibiting COVID symptoms or is under a quarantine period, they should not participate in parish functions.
- Some people will not be comfortable in a public setting without face coverings or social distancing. We must continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Inform parents what kind of environment and practices they can expect for their children. Even though special consent forms are not used, parents still need information so they can make informed decisions about their child's participation.
- In addition to your health department, the CDC and Wisconsin DHS provide guidance that may be helpful in your situation: [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools - CDC](#) and [COVID-19: K-12 Schools – Wisconsin DHS](#)

## **Growing Your Program Again**

This year offers us a new start. We need to make an effort to bring people back, and to reach new families. Here are some ideas:

- [12 Ways to Increase Enrollment in Your Faith Formation Program](#)

- [10 Ways to Grow Your Program](#) (an article from our pre-pandemic newsletter)

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## **Office of Catechesis News**

### **Preparing and Celebrating Catechetical Sunday 2021**

Catechetical Sunday is just short of one month away – **September 19, 2021**. This year’s theme is “Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed / Una Palabra Tuya Bastará para Sanarme.” These words which we pray at Mass are especially relevant in these times. Our need for healing became so evident this past year. We seek healing individually, as families, as a society, even as church communities. We turn to Jesus, the “Divine Physician,” to beg for healing. But we turn to him in confidence, like the centurion whose words we allude to (Mt 8:8), asking only that Jesus say the word, knowing he can heal beyond our expectations.

This also serves as a reminder that our own ministry must be a healing ministry. The hurts and weakness of our people can be an obstacle to full engagement, learning and growth. They need healing first. Do they find in us, in our gatherings, in our programs, a healing word? Do they encounter the Lord who can strengthen and heal them? As we attend to all the organizational details, the hospitality, and program content, let’s not forget to also be a healing presence to those we encounter.

### **Commissioning of Catechists**

We encourage you to publicly commission and pray for those who will serve as catechists and teachers in the parish community. A commissioning rite, in Spanish or English, is available on our [Catechetical Sunday Page](#).

### **Where can I find Catechetical Sunday resources or gifts?**

On the same [Catechetical Sunday page](#), you can find links other resources such as Prayer Cards or a Poster. Affirm you catechists by giving a Pin, Journal, Prayer Card or Certificate.

### **Can our parish schedule Catechetical Sunday on a different weekend?**

Yes. Having a national day celebrating catechesis is important, but it is not an unmovable liturgical feast. If your parish selects a day before or after to highlight faith formation, commission catechists, and bless parents and students, then that is your Catechetical Sunday.

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### **Co-Workers in Transition**

As we launch into a new program year, some new directors/coordinators of faith formation have taken the helm and are putting out into the deep. Below, we have listed those we know. If you are aware of someone new to a position, please let us know.

For those who are beginning in a new role, there is excitement in setting out. There are new

relationships, lots to learn, and a sense that anything is possible. But there can also be challenges and uncertainty. Transition times can be spiritually rich, as the Lord continues to remake us for his service.

Let us pray for all those beginning a new role this year, and let us pledge our support and companionship along the way.

- Susan Bashynski, Director of Religious Education, St. Peter - East Troy
- Michelle Heeren, Director of Child Ministry K-8, KR Catholic Parishes
- Amelia Monserrat Avila, Bilingual Director of Religious Education, St. John Paul II - Milwaukee
- Morgan Frank, Child Formation Minister, St. Sebastian - Milwaukee
- Jacque Kelnhofer, Pastoral Coordinator, St. Margaret Mary - Milwaukee
- Dawn Goodno, Associate Director of Child & Youth Ministry, St. John XXIII - Port Washington
- Tasha Baures, Coordinator for Child, Youth and Family Ministry (Gr 7-8), St. Anthony on the Lake - Pewaukee
- Peter Morello, Coordinator of Lifelong Faith Formation, St Matthias - Milwaukee
- Lauren Monaghan, Co-Director of Christian Formation, Sheboygan South Catholic Parishes
- Jess Panlener, Parish Pastoral Coordinator, Sacred Heart - Racine
- Julianne Elouadih, Youth Evangelization Coordinator, St. Mary - Hales Corners
- Sandi Dhein, Faith Formation Coordinator, Resurrection - St. Lawrence
- Patty McCarthy, Director of Catholic Formation, Lumen Christi - Mequon
- Ann Grunwaldt, Director of Early Childhood and Family Ministry, St. Anthony on the Lake - Pewaukee
- Sarah Amason, Director of Children's Formation, St. Lucy, Racine/St. Sebastian, Sturtevant
- Nancy Boergern, Coordinator of Faith Formation (Gr. 7-11), St. James, Mukwonago/St. Theresa Eagle
- Kelsey Carter, Human Concerns and Faith Formation Coordinator, Holy Family - Fond du Lac
- Lori Kennedy, Associate Director of Christian Formation, St. Alphonsus - Greendale
- Kelly Murphy, Director of Religious Education, St. Francis de Sales - Lake Geneva
- Emily Nolan, Middle School Coordinator, St. Dominic - Brookfield
- Teresa Bettag, Coordinator of Religious Education (Gr. 7-12), St John the Evangelist - Kohler
- Grace Marie Urlakis, Youth Minister, St. Mary of the Hill - Hubertus
- Nicole Sippel, Director of Elementary Religious Education, Our Lady of the Holyland - Mt. Calvary
- Mary Kravchuk, Coordinator of Faith Formation- (Gr. K-6), St. James - Mukwonago/St. Theresa - Eagle
- Jerry Krajewski, Coordinator of Adult Ministry, Divine Mercy - South Milwaukee

- Vevette Hill Nwagbaraocha, Director of Religious Education, All Saints - Milwaukee
- Deacon Joe Senglaub, Director of High School Youth Ministry, St. Paul, Genesee Depot/St. Bruno, Dousman
- Jeff Wenzler, Middle School/High School Ministry Coordinator, Lumen Christi - Mequon
- Mary Beth Clowney, Director of Religious Education, St. Louis - Racine

Changed position / responsibilities within a parish or cluster:

- Ellie Schultz, Director of Religious Education, Tri-Parish (St. Mary, St. Charles, St. Joseph) - Burlington/Lyons
- Rita VanSchyndel, Coordinator of Religious Education, Tri-Parish (St. Mary, St. Charles, St. Joseph) - Burlington/Lyons
- Corinne Dillon, High School Mission trip and Activities Director, KR Catholic Parishes
- Kari Leaf, High School and Young Adult Ministry, KR Catholic Parishes
- Dave Baudry, Director of Adult, Child & Youth Ministry, St. John Vianney - Brookfield
- Janyln Carvalho, Associate Director of Child & Youth Ministry, St. John Vianney – Brookfield
- Jodi Murphy, Director of Religious Education, Sacred Heart, Horicon/St. Matthew, Neosho

Among those serving in new places are three Echo Apprentices:

- Grace Beumler – St. John the Baptist - Plymouth
- Kate Reidel – Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes
- Anja Renkes – Sheboygan South Catholic Parishes

As Apprentice Catechetical Leaders, they serve full-time in faith formation in assigned parishes, under guidance of a mentor, while pursuing graduate studies in theology. Echo is a program of the Notre Dame University working in partnership with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

## Upcoming Events

### **Catechetical Conference**

Registration is now open for the 2021 Catechetical Conference. This year's conference will be held on **Friday, August 27th from 9am - 2:30pm** at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center in Milwaukee. The day will begin with Mass and will include general sessions, workshops as well as important ministry updates.

## **Cost to Attend Conference: \$25**

\*\*\*Register by August 13th and save \$5

More information on the conference can be found on the [Catechetical Conference Webpage](#).

[Register to Attend](#)

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## **New Directors Institute**

The [New Directors Institute](#) is designed to provide information, support and resources to help you as your ministry unfolds. All directors of religious education, youth ministry and faith formation, who are new or nearly new to ministry, or new to archdiocese, are encouraged to join us.

Institute sessions are scheduled twice a month, beginning in September. In-person sessions will be held on the 1st Thursday of the Month from 9:30am – 2:30pm and will include lunch. Virtual sessions will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:30am – 11:00am. There will be a kick off session on August 26th from 9:30am - 1:00pm. More information including session dates and topics can be found on [New Directors Institute page](#). You can also register there as well.

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## **Youth Ministry Training**

Join us on Saturday, August 28 for a day of training, planning, and inspiration before kicking off a new youth ministry year! Whether you use a large group model of ministry, a small group model, or something in between, this day will equip your volunteers to lead your middle and high school teens closer to Christ this coming year. The day will begin at 8am with optional Mass and includes workshop sessions to help you get the most out of your time with your teens. The training day will conclude at 3pm.

The cost for the day is \$15 per person and includes continental breakfast & lunch. [Register Now](#)

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## **Family Perspectives**

We continue to promote engaging family in faith formation programming. Here are list of sessions offered this year to help you engage your families.

### **Friday Oct 29, 2021 & Thursday Jan 27, 2022 (9am - 3pm)**

Initial training day in which participating parish leaders review research and Church teaching on families and faith, assess the effectiveness of current parish ministry; and begin to develop strategies to better engage families.

## **Family Perspectives II – Launching & Strengthening a Family Faith Formation Program**

Tuesday Nov 30, 2021 (10am-2pm)

Practical guidance on beginning or improving a family faith formation program, designing the four key components and integrating them in an effective program.

### **Family Focus: Preparing for the Triduum**

Thursday Jan 6, 2022 (10am-12pm)

Practical workshop to help a parish design a family program to introduce children and parents to the Triduum, the explore the symbols and central teachings of the faith, and to encourage them to attend the Triduum liturgies.

### **Family Focus: Making Intergenerational Sessions Work**

Tuesday Feb 24, 2022 (10am - 11:30am)

Workshop on an essential but challenging component of family faith formation, the intergenerational activity.

### **Family Focus: Scripture and Catholic Families**

Tuesday March 8, 2022 (1pm-2:30pm)

Presentation of familiarizing parents and kids with the Bible, strategies to help them read and encounter the Scriptures, and family-friendly resources.

### **Family Focus: Ministry with Young Families**

Thursday May 5, 2022 (10am-11:30 am)

Explore how to connect with parents of children from baptism to school age. Strategies include baptism follow-up, serving toddler's families, non-gathered connections, pre-school ministry, inviting young families to Mass, and parenting resources.

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## **From Our Friends**



Mareda is the professional association of catechetical leaders in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. If you are a catechetical leader - a parish DRE, youth minister, evangelization minister, adult formation coordinator, director of faith formation, or any other leadership role in making disciples for Christ - then consider joining! As a member-driven organization, Mareda offers opportunities for networking, prayer, and professional development.

Taylor Baar, Chair of the Mareda Board, invites you to join. Read his [letter](#).

## **Forming the Catechetical Spirit- BASIC - Starting September 11th**

Forming the Catechetical Spirit is a parish-based program leading to religious education certification. The program provides adult learning experiences in the areas of scripture, theology and catechetical methods, along with opportunities for spiritual formation, networking and community-building.

Holy Cross in Wilmot will be hosting Forming the Catechetical Spirit - Basic Religious Education Certification on the 2nd Saturdays of the Month, starting September 11th. The sessions will be from 8:30 am – 12:30pm except September and May, which will be from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. For more information, visit: [www.formingthecatecheticalspirit.com](http://www.formingthecatecheticalspirit.com). Keep an eye out for additional locations.

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## **Certificate in Catechetical Ministries returns at Cardinal Stritch University**

The St. Clare Center at Cardinal Stritch will once again offer its popular Certificate in Catechetical Ministries. This program is intended specifically for DREs, youth ministers, and other faith formation staff members. The Certificate can be completed in 4 semesters. Classes are held at Cardinal Stritch University on Thursday afternoons. Courses provide participants with a clearer vision and with practical tools that can be used in their ministry. [See Flyer](#) for more information or contact [Michael Taylor](#), Director of the Saint Clare Center.

This is one of two certificates offered by the St. Clare Center's Lay Ministry Institute. The Institute offers non-degree, continuing education courses for Catholics who want to learn more about their faith so that they can serve better in their parishes. In addition to the Certificate in Catechetical Ministries, the Lay Ministry Institute offers a Certificate in Foundations for Ministry. [See Flyer](#)

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## **Resources**

### **Textbook and Material Exchange**

At this time of year, some parishes change resources in their programs, and so have leftovers they would like to pass on to another parish. To help make connections, we will include a section in the next few newsletters where catechetical leaders can briefly post materials (only current resources please). If interested, just contact the individual listed. If you have something to pass on to others, please email [Jennifer](#).

### **Finding God (Loyola Press, 2013 Edition)**

A LOT of catechist manuals and a few workbooks.

Contact: Jeanette Lambrecht, [jlambrecht@stme.church](mailto:jlambrecht@stme.church), 414-964-8780 x128  
St Eugene, Whitefish Bay and St Monica,

### **Encounter Christ for First Reconciliation and First Communion (Our Sunday Visitor)**

Mostly parent guides and a few student workbooks.

Contact: Julie Braun, [jbrown@wbparishes.org](mailto:jbrown@wbparishes.org), 262-338-2366 ext 114

Saint Frances Cabrini and Saint Mary's Immaculate Conception, West Bend

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### **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."

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## **Deanery & District Meetings**

- **Dodge County (District 7)** – Friday, August 27, 3:00pm at Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center (following the conference)
  - **Sheboygan County / SCORE** – Tuesday, August 31 at St. John the Baptist, Plymouth.
  - **Southeast and Southwest Milwaukee County** - Tuesday, September 14, 10am at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Milwaukee.
  - **Washington County (district 6)** - Thursday, September 16, 1:00 pm in the Journey Room, St. Mary's Immaculate Conception, West Bend
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## **Job Openings**

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry** - St. Jerome, Oconomowoc

**Children's Discipleship & Baptism Assistant** - St. Charles, Harland

**Director of Religious Education** - Shepherd of the Hills, Eden

**Director of Religious Education** - St. Matthew, Campbellsport

**Faith Formation Coordinator** - St. Mary, Mayville (St. Theresa & St. Andrew)

**High School Coordinator/Minister - St. Dominic, Brookfield**

**Coordinator of Child and Family Ministry Pre-K - Grade 5 - St. Joseph, Big Bend**

To see all job listings in the Archdiocese,  
visit the **[Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Career Page](#)**.

## 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)



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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](mailto:murphyjc@archmil.org)*



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Archdiocese of Milwaukee

St. Francis 53235

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