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From: Office of Catechesis <catechesis@archmil.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Jennifer Murphy
Subject: Office of Catechesis Newsletter - September 4, 2020



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Message from Gary

Launching Faith Formation, the Catholic Comeback, and more

As we all make plans for a new year of faith formation, let us pray for wisdom and courage for ourselves, and let us pray for one another as we together face the challenges of making disciples

during this pandemic.

In this issue, we link to various resources that may help you as you continue to navigate the uncertainties and ongoing changes of 2020. There is the Catholic Comeback matrix and a pastoral reflection by Archbishop Listecki. There are links to videos from our summer zoom meetings, and recordings from the Catechetical Conference. There is an invitation to join Mareda, and plenty of links to resources on the archdiocesan website.

May this year of challenges also be a year of blessing. May the Lord guide us, walk with us, and sustain us in our ministries.

Office of Catechesis News

Covid-19 Consent Form

To help give guidance and clarity to parishes, families, and volunteers engaged in catechetical ministry this year, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, in consultation with Catholic Mutual Group, has created the [*COVID-19 Pandemic - Student/Family Statement of Operations, Understanding, and Consent for Religious Education*](#) form. This document seeks to inform all involved in Religious Education of the health risks associated with in-person ministry this year along with expectations for families to maintain the health of the entire Religious Education community.

Any parish resuming in-person Religious Education in Fall 2020 is expected to use this form and obtain signed copies from each family/student participating in Religious Education programs.

To assist you in implementing this form, [recommended procedures and answers to frequently asked questions](#) have been created. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Gary Pokorny](#) or [Doug Ulaszek](#).

Catechetical Conference - Recordings Available

Unable to attend the 4th annual [Catechetical Conference](#) held last week? Interested in viewing the general sessions and workshops? All recordings are now posted. Recordings will be available to watch until September 30th so you can view at your leisure. The cost to access the recordings is **\$15**. [Access Here](#)

Catechetical Sunday

Catechetical Sunday will be September 20, 2020. This year's theme: "I Received from the Lord what I also Handed on to You." The theme focuses on the very nature of catechesis, that is, sharing with others the new life in Christ which we ourselves have received. To be a catechist is not merely to teach religious facts, nor is it to share my personal philosophy and opinions, but to pass on what has been entrusted to me - the gift of faith, a living relationship with Christ, and the means to encounter Jesus in and through the Church.

When St. Paul writes, "I Received from the Lord what I also Handed on to You," he continues by reminding his readers of the central gift of the Eucharist. This year, we too must focus our energies on handing on what we have received, in particular, inviting our families and parishioners to return to the Eucharist

The US Bishops offer [online resources](#) - including articles, podcasts and videos on the theme and on the Eucharist.

Commissioning Catechists? Depending on circumstances, it may not be possible to celebrate a Commissioning as you may have done in the past. But it is still important to offer some form of public recognition of catechists, whether in a newsletter or bulletin, at Mass, in a video, or some other way. Even without a formal commissioning, invite your parishioners or your program families to pray for the catechists. And, of course, you can use Catechetical Sunday as a time to name and recognize the indispensable role of parents in the faith of their own children.

Archdiocese News

Sunday: A Joyful Obligation

After months without the regular celebration of Sunday Mass, and then a summer of gradually returning to Mass while putting precautions in place, it is now time to prepare and invite our people to return to Sunday Mass and to make the Eucharist a regular part of their lives and their family routines. In the coming weeks and months, Archbishop ListECKI will lead us in a joint effort as an archdiocese in this return to Mass and to keeping Sunday as the Lord's Day.

In this video reflection, Archbishop ListECKI reflects on the expiration of the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, which ends on September 14, 2020.

[Archbishop's Reflection](#)

The Catholic Comeback

The Catholic Comeback is the archdiocesan guide for returning to parish operations and ministry. In the form of a matrix, it lists all sorts of parish activities, sacraments, and programs. Last week, Archbishop ListECKI announced the dispensation of the obligation to attend

Sunday Mass would expire on September 14. Based upon that announcement, the decision has been made to move to PHASE 2 of the Catholic Comeback Matrix, also effective September 14. [View the updated matrix](#) - the matrix changes for Phase 2 highlighted in red.

The most significant change in Phase 2 is that attendance restrictions are limited only by the number of people that can be accommodated in church with effective social distancing procedures. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office, the Chancery Office or the Vicar for Clergy for assistance.

Social Media & Digital Communication Policy

The [Social Media & Digital Communication Policy](#) went into effect on July 1, 2020. All clergy, employees, and safe environment certified volunteers will need to review and acknowledge this policy. Please continue to remind any of your clergy, employees, and volunteers that have not yet gone into CMG Connect to complete the acknowledgement. Instruction sheets on how to complete the acknowledgement in CMG Connect are found on the [Social Media & Digital Communication Policy](#) webpage.

From our Friends

Mareda

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 and professional development.

Denise Murre, Chair of the Marda Board invites you to join Mareda. Read her [letter](#).

HOPE ARISING – A NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Friday, September 18, 2020 at 7pm
Sharon Lynne Center for the Arts - Gerlach/Haack Outdoor Theater
3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045

This is a Family Event - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Eucharistic Adoration - Led by Fr. Enrique Hernandez

Praise and worship music - By Paul Vogrinc and the Arise Worship Band
Outdoors, spread out on lawn, socially distant. Face masks optional outdoors. In the event of poor weather, the event will be moved indoors. Social distancing and face masks will be required indoors. Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. Water is allowed. Please no carry-ins. [Learn More](#)

Resources

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."

The Holy Habits Challenge

This may be the year to introduce your parish families to the Holy Habits Challenge. Each month, you can introduce families to one fundamental Catholic practice. The goal is to instill daily routines that revolve around prayer, the virtues, and the works of mercy so that the average Catholic can deepen his or her relationship with Christ and with the Church.

All the materials are available, free-of-charge, on the [Holy Habits Challenge page](#). How do you use these materials? Download the [Coordinator's Manual](#).

View a [brief video introduction](#) by the author of the Holy Habits Challenge, Fr. Nathan Reesman

Catechetical Resources During the Pandemic

We will continue to update our [Catechetical Resources During the Coronavirus Pandemic page](#) with additional resources as they are developed.

Youth Ministry Resources

The Office of Youth Evangelization has created a [Planning for Fall 2020 page](#) to be a place for updates, ideas, and suggestions for how to engage youth during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Grade Specific Curriculum in this challenging year

During this year when many of our normal routines are disrupted and we are busy re-inventing faith formation, it is good to return to the basic goals of catechesis for children. For this, our [Archdiocesan Grade-Specific Religious Education Curriculum](#) is a handy resource.

The Curriculum lists learning expectations for grades 4K through 8th. It is available in Spanish and English. Expectations for each grade are listed on two pages each, making it easy to provide as a handout to parents or catechist. Learning expectations are divided into four areas corresponding to the pillars of the Catechism, followed by a list of characteristics of the child at that grade level. The characteristics remind a catechist or parent of the development and capacity of the child, which shapes what and how the child will learn and appropriate the faith. The four pillars, as in the Catechism, demonstrate that catechesis includes knowing Jesus Christ, encountering Christ in the liturgy, living as a disciple of Christ, and praying with/in Christ.

This can be a useful instrument to share with parents and with your catechists, to remind them just what we are aiming at in our formation programs and in the formation that takes place within the family. For parents, it's best to share the particular pages for the grade(s) in which they have children.

What's new in the 2018 Edition of the Curriculum?

For any readers who have not looked at the curriculum in recent years, it was completely updated and re-formatted in 2018. The old version (2004) had each grade on a single page, with content arranged in four quadrants, around a central "characteristics of the student" list. With this revision, each grade takes two pages (larger font), and is arranged simply as a list with four subdivisions, and the characteristics listed at the end. The content is not radically different, but it has been thoroughly reviewed and updated. There is a more intentional tracking from year to year. That is, concepts normally do not appear in one year then disappear again. Instead, many topics will be introduced in one grade, then be developed in subsequent grades. The former document was less consistent in this regard. Second, verbs were carefully reviewed and sometimes revised to indicate an age-appropriate level of learning and to show progression of learning over the years. Hence, there are differences between being introduced to a concept, being familiar with or memorizing it, and understanding the concept.

Navigating 2020 Follow Up

During the summer, we held various zoom gatherings as followup to the Navigating 2020 program in June. We recorded several of these. These recordings along with any handouts available by visiting: <https://www.archmil.org/Navigating2020/Follow-up-to-Navigating-2020.htm>. You will find the recordings/handouts by scrolling down to the Office of Catechesis Section.

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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



This email was sent by: Office of Catechesis

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

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