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## Message from Gary

### Preparing and Celebrating Catechetical Sunday

Catechetical Sunday is right around the corner, September 15, 2019. It is a day to draw attention to the role that each member of the Church plays in passing on the faith, but in particular, to affirm the **special role of catechists** in our parish communities.



This year's theme is "**Stay with us,**" quoting the words of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Still not recognizing Jesus, they invite him, "Stay with us." In our world where it seems more and more people do not know Jesus yet, or are not affiliated with a faith community, it is that much more important that Catholics be credible and attractive witnesses. That is one of the objectives of solid faith formation.

### **How should we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?**

Here are four ways to help Catechetical Sunday bear fruit in your parish:

1. Commission your catechists at Sunday Mass. [Find the Commissioning Rite](#)
2. Affirm them with a symbol or gift. [Find Pins, journals or certificates](#)
3. Extend the theme through the year. [Learn more from Bishop Barron](#), chair of the Bishops Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis
4. Pray, Study and Reflect on the theme for yourself. [Dig deeper with articles and podcasts.](#)

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

Yes. Having a national day is important, but I bet very few Catholics know that Catechetical Sunday is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of September. If your parish selects a Sunday before or after that week to highlight faith formation, commission catechists, and bless parents and students, then that is your Catechetical Sunday.

### **Where can I get images to use in our publications, or pins for our catechists, or prayer cards?**

Check the [links our our webpage.](#)  
USCCB [provides images.](#)

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## **Office of Catechesis News**

### **New Youth Evangelization Email Coming Soon**

Doug Ulaszek, the new Associate Director for Youth Evangelization will begin sending out separate update emails this month to focus on middle, high school, and confirmation specific information. We encourage anyone who works with middle and high school teens to sign up for these updates. Doug can be contacted at 414-758-2211 or [ulaszekd@archmil.org](mailto:ulaszekd@archmil.org)

## Catechetical Conference - Many thanks!

Thank you to all who attended our Catechetical Conference in August. Special thanks to those who presented workshops or helped with the Conference. There was wonderful energy among the participants as we focused on “Proclaiming Christ, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” and prepared for another year of serving, teaching and accompanying God’s people.

More than 200 took part in the Conference this year, most for both days, some just for one day. Participants included directors of religious education, youth ministers, adult formation leaders, volunteer catechists and others who have a role in passing on the faith. Participants had choices among 22 workshops, with Spanish options on Saturday. There were 20 exhibitors representing religious publishers, archdiocesan offices, youth-serving organizations and other partners in our ministry. Amidst all this activity, there were members of the planning committee and plenty of volunteers who made this an enjoyable and enriching event.

If you would like to be part of planning the next conference, contact [Gary Pokorny](#). It will not be long before we begin planning for 2020.

Please take a moment and complete the **Conference Evaluation Survey**. This will greatly help us plan for next year!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## Request for G3 Workshop Proposals

Gigs, Geeks and God will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Milwaukee. This training day for parish staff and volunteers is aimed at helping parishes understand and integrate technology in their education programs, communications, and parish administration.

The Technology In Faith Formation Committee invites proposals for workshops on topics of interest to religious educators, business managers, youth ministers, clergy, parish council members, teachers and volunteers. For more information regarding presenting or if you are interested in presenting at the 2020 Gigs Geeks and God Conference, please [click here](#).

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## Become a NCCL Member through the Archdiocese

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) promotes catechesis and evangelization in the Church and enhances the ministerial effectiveness of its members. For more information on NCCL Membership visit the [NCCL website](#).

Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) can become NCCL members as part of our Archdiocesan Membership.

- If you serve in a parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, in a catechetical leadership role, you may now enroll as a member and receive all benefits, at a greatly reduced cost.
- PCLs include directors or coordinators of religious education, faith formation, youth ministry, child ministry, evangelization, adult formation, and so on.
- During 2019, membership through the Archdiocese is available for a \$24 contribution to NCCL, instead of the normal membership fee of \$102.

To join NCCL:

1. Register through the Archdiocese by using the link below. Provide contact information and submit.
2. Once your PCL status is verified, you will receive instructions for activating your membership via the NCCL website. It will be on the NCCL webpage that you will pay the \$24 contribution.

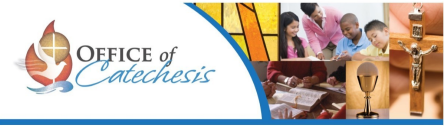
### [Register for NCCL Membership](#)

Note: If you are already a member of NCCL, we will send information about renewing your membership, which will also require the \$24 contribution this year.

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## Upcoming Events

[Download](#) the Catechesis & Youth Ministry Office Calendar to stay up to date on events.



### 2019-20 Catechetical Calendar

<b>September 2019</b>	<b>February 2020</b>
15 Catechetical Sunday	11 Family Forum Holy Habits 1:00 @ MMCPC
17 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	13 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC
<b>October 2019</b>	26 Ash Wednesday
10 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	<b>March 2020</b>
29 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	5 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC
30 Family Focus-Baptismal Prep 6:30 @ MMCPC	24 Family Perspectives Take Two 10:00 @ MMCPC
<b>November 2019</b>	26 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC
1 All Saints Day - Office Closed 9:30 @ MMCPC	<b>April 2020</b>
8 Family Focus-Baptismal Prep 10:00 @ MMCPC	10 Good Friday - Office Closed
19 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	12 Easter Day
28-29 Thanksgiving - Office Closed	18 Celebration of Catholic Scouting 4:00 @ MMCPC
<b>December 2019</b>	30 Family Perspectives 9:00 @ MMCPC
12 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	<b>May 2020</b>
24-25 Christmas Eve Day - Office Closed	12 Funck Line
31 New Year's Eve - Office Closed	25 Memorial Day - Office Closed
<b>January 2020</b>	
1 New Year's Day - Office Closed	
9 Gigs, Grets and God 9:00 @ Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	
21 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	
30 Family Perspectives 9:00 @ MMCPC	

Updated September 5, 2019

<b>Contact Us</b>	
Gary Pokorny Director 414-798-2212 pokorny@archdioc.org	Jennifer Murphy Programs & Event Coordinator 414-798-2249 murphyje@archdioc.org

## New Directors Institute

The New Directors Institute is designed to provide information, support, materials, and resources that will be helpful to a new youth minister or director of faith formation as their ministry unfolds. All directors of religious education, youth ministry and lifelong faith formation who are new or nearly new to ministry, or new to archdiocese are encouraged to join us.

Institute sessions are scheduled every three weeks or so, beginning September 17th. They are held on a Tuesday or Thursday, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm and include lunch. [Visit the New Directors Institute page for more information, session dates, and to register.](#)

## Family Focus - Save the Date

Launching Young Families: How to Make the Most of Baptismal Preparation and Follow-up Sessions will be held: October 30 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm or November 8 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

# Archdiocese News

## Seven Days of Service

As you may know, *Seven Days of Service (September 22-29, 2019)*, which is part of the archdiocesan 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance, will be an opportunity to highlight and invite people to the witness of service in our communities.

Parishes will be asked to extend a blessing to those who be involved in the *Seven Days of Service* during the Masses on September 21-22. Contact Rob Shelledy ([shelledyr@archmil.org](mailto:shelledyr@archmil.org) or 414-758-2286) or Jenni Oliva ([olivaj@archmil.org](mailto:olivaj@archmil.org) or 414-769-3585) if you have any questions.

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## Lay Ministry Programs

Over the last two years, Susan McNeil, the Director of Lay Ministry, has worked with our local institutions of higher education to increase the number of students seeking further education in theology or religious studies. It is the hope that every lay minister/parish employee in the archdiocese will seek to deepen their studies of our Catholic faith, and continue to grow in their pastoral skills. Training and supporting our lay ministers remains an important priority to us as a Church. To that end, Archbishop ListECKI has created two programs to assist Lay Ministers:

- **The Archbishop's Scholars Fund**
- **The Continuing Formation Grant**

If you have any questions, please contact Susan McNeil, Director of Lay Ministry, at [mcneils@archmil.org](mailto:mcneils@archmil.org), or 414-758-2214.

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## From our Friends

### WDREF Retreat

The Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation (WDREF) is offering a retreat for catechetical leaders this fall. This is a great opportunity for spiritual refreshment and camaraderie with co-workers from around the state.

WDREF Retreat

November 3-5, 2019

“Discipleship: Blessed, Broken & Shared”

St. Anthony Spirituality Center

300 E. 4th Street

Marathon, WI

[INFORMATION & REGISTRATION FORM](#)

## C.O.R.E Program (Certification Of Religious Educators)

Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:00am - 3:45pm  
Sacred Heart Parish, Horicon

Sponsored by the Dodge County Christian Formation Ministers, CORE will feature two presentations: "Gamification" Using Game Elements in Learning Environments; and Making Ordinary Time Extraordinary!

3 Hours, Methods; Basic/Intermediate/Maintenance for each presentation  
Optional: 1 Clock Hour, Methods for Extending Your Portfolio  
For more information and to register, [download the brochure](#).

### Certificate in Catechetical Ministry

Would you like substantive professional development related to your ministry? Are you interested in sharing ideas regularly with a community of colleagues?

The Saint Clare Center's **Certificate in Catechetical Ministry** is designed specifically for DREs, youth ministers, and other faith formation staff members. Classes are held at Cardinal Stritch University on Thursday afternoons. The curriculum focuses on the theory and methods of catechesis and on leadership of faith formation programs. It provides participants with a clearer vision and with practical tools that can be used in their ministry.

In addition, completion of the four semester program will help prepare graduates to apply for national certification as a youth minister or catechetical leader. Fall Classes start September 5th. Learn more at [www.stitch.edu/SaintClareCenter](http://www.stitch.edu/SaintClareCenter) or contact Michael Taylor at [mvtaylor@stitch.edu](mailto:mvtaylor@stitch.edu).

## Resources

### Archdiocese of Milwaukee 175th Anniversary Patch

Here's a great way to get kids connected with our Archdiocese's history. Archdiocese of Milwaukee is offering a patch commemorating our 175th Anniversary. Patch can be earned by young people in grades 1st - 12th by completing the activities that help them learn about the history of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This is a great activity for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups, classes, families or any young Catholics. Adults who assist youth with requirements and activities are eligible to earn the patch as well. When requirements are complete, patches are purchased online through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. [Learn more about the 175th Anniversary patch and download activities.](#)

Looking for other 175th Anniversary resources, visit the [Archdiocese's 175th Website Page](#).

## Save the Date



### **Gigs, Geeks & God**

January 9, 2020

Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee

This conference on technology, faith formation and parish ministries will feature a keynote speaker, workshops, exhibitors, and ample time for sharing ideas with experts and colleagues.

## Job Openings

**Associate Youth Minister** - St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg

**Director of Child and Family Ministry** - St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg

**Child Ministry Coordinator** - St. Eugene, Fox Point

**Youth Activities Coordinator** - St. James, Mukwonago

**Director of Formation** - St. Mary-Waukesha

**Elementary Formation Coordinator**- Holy Family, Fond du Lac

**Religious Education Director** - St. Martin of Tours-Franklin, Milwaukee

**Director of Formation & Evangelization** - St. Gabriel, Hubertus

**Director of Faith Formation** - Blessed Savior, Milwaukee

**Pastoral Associate/Director of Religious Education** - St. Lucy, Racine

**Director of Faith Formation and Pastoral Associate** - St. Luke, Brookfield

**Youth Minister** - St. Thomas Aquinas, Waterford



\*\*\* To have your job openings included in the newsletter,  
please send information with a link to: [catechesis@archmil.org](mailto:catechesis@archmil.org)

## **District Meetings**

### **Waukesha Deaneries**

September 5 @ 1:30 pm - St. John Vianney - Brookfield

### **District 7**

September 19 @ 1:00 pm - St. Katharine Drexel - Beaver Dam

## **Contact Us**

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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: [catechesis@archmil.org](mailto:catechesis@archmil.org)*

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Archdiocese of Milwaukee

St. Francis 53235

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