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Office of Catechesis News

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.

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. You can find the form, procedures, answers to FAQs in both English & Spanish on a [Covid-19 Consent Form page](#). 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 month? 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](#)

Archdiocese News

See You at Mass

We are now in the period of returning to Mass and inviting others to return. The dispensation has ended. Now is our opportunity to invite, to teach, to use social media, and to both gently and firmly call our communities back to the Eucharist. The Archdiocese will provide ongoing messages and resources to help. Below are the videos.

"We become sons and daughters of the same God when we share one bread, and hopefully soon, one cup. We look forward to seeing you at Mass this weekend:

[See You at Mass Video](#)

[See You at Mass: The Source of Our Strength](#)

Missionary Discipleship Institute Virtual Impact Sessions

The Missionary Discipleship Institute will be meeting virtually this month on September 24th at 7pm with three amazing impact sessions that will help participants dive deeper into the practicals of how to evangelize and be on mission as a disciple of Jesus. These are great sessions for you and your leaders! Choose from:

- Anatomy of a Catholic Disciple with Doug Ulaszek
- Evangelization Essentials with Pete Burds
- Cultivating a Heart for the Lost, Least, Last, and Lonely with Margaret Rhody

[Find out more information and register here.](#)

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.

Continuing Formation for Lay Ministers Application Deadline October 1

A few years ago, Archbishop ListECKI established a Continuing Formation for Lay Ministry Fund. This Fund provides parish employees (pastoral, administrative, service and maintenance) who work at least 20 hours per week with the opportunity to receive up to \$500 each fiscal year for continuing education courses, seminars, conferences, workshops or retreats. Please note that this fund does not have the capacity to support undergraduate, graduate or certificate studies. The Continuing Formation for Lay Ministry Fund Board meets quarterly to review applications. Our next application deadline is **Thursday, October 1, 2020**.

For more information on Continuing Formation funds, as well as the application, please visit: <https://www.archmil.org/Office-for-Lay-Ministry/Continuing-Formation-Lay-Ministers.htm>. Please don't hesitate to contact Susan McNeil at mcneils@archmil.org or 414-758-2214 with questions.

From our Friends

Become a member of Mareda today!

Each year, Mareda provides programs that will help you in your ministry, your own spirituality, and offer you a bit of social time with other ministers. Anyone involved with catechetical ministry is invited to become a member. Register online at mareda.org by September 22 to receive 1/2 off your membership fee.

Read a [welcome letter](#) from the chair of the Mareda Board, Denise Murre.

Hope is a Muscle – Join Us on September 22

Join us for a virtual presentation by Mike Patin and Dr. Kathie Amidei on September 22 at 2:00pm. Their presentation, Hope is a Muscle, will help us look at the logistics, emotions, and

realities of our lives and consider the importance of perspective. Then, they will talk about how hope is a muscle we can “flex” moving forward. Register at [mareda.org](https://www.mareda.org).

Catechist Formation

The Dodge County Christian Formation Directors offer the CORE Program for catechists, and annual catechist formation event to help catechists build their knowledge, share their faith, and pursue religious education certification.

Saturday, October 17, 2020

9:00am-12:45pm

St. Katharine Drexel Parish 408 S. Spring St. Beaver Dam

Title: “I Received from the Lord what I also Handed on to You.”

Using this theme for Catechetical Sunday, and beginning with this passage in St. Paul, participants will have a hands-on exploration of the New Testament, exploring the central teaching and the core sacramental encounter of our faith. Presenter: Gary Pokorny

[Download the Flyer](#)

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.

Fall 2020 Resource Page

The Office of Youth Evangelization has put together a [Planning for Fall 2020 page](#) with resources, ideas, and encouragement as we all forge ahead this year. We try to add updates as they become available.

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.

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.

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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

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