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Message from Gary

Catechists and Parents

I have heard some people say that we need catechists only because parents are ill-equipped to pass on the faith to their children. I say, No, definitely not.

It is true that some parents are not well-formed themselves or feel unequipped to pass on the faith. So, we have a responsibility to support and help them grow. However, a catechist is not a replacement for what a parent may lack. The catechist is a minister of the Church, serving in a vital role that has existed since the beginnings of Christianity. The catechist serves on behalf of the Christian community, and when working with young people, does so in partnership with parents.

Recent research suggests that young people should have a web of support of at least five adults to keep them connected to the faith (*Sticky Faith*, 2011). There are times when other adults can be there and can speak with kids in ways that a parent might not. A catechist can be a vital part of that web, along with other teachers, coaches, mentors, and relatives.

To put it simply, both parents and catechists are essential in passing on the faith today. At our Archdiocesan Synod, just a few years back, the delegates raised up priorities for our ministries. Among the Formation priorities are these:

- Provide formation opportunities for adults, **especially parents and grandparents**, to help them grow in their faith, to live lives of discipleship, and to be able to pass the Catholic faith on to their children.
- Support and strengthen efforts that provide faith formation training for all Catholic school teachers and **parish catechists**.

Both must be goals in every parish – meaningful engagement of parents and developing well-formed catechists. Together we weave the web of support that is so necessary for making disciples today.

CoWorkers in Transition: Echo Apprentice Catechetical Leaders

Last issue, we listed catechetical leaders who are new to the ministry or serving in new positions. If you missed it, [check here](#).

Among those who are serving in new places are three Echo Apprentices:

Julia Greenwood – St. John the Baptist, Plymouth

Lauren Monaghan – Sheboygan South Catholic Parishes

Anna Stankewitz – Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes

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

Office of Catechesis News

Would you like to lead a G3 Workshop?

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](#).

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.

Upcoming Events

Download the Office of Catechesis Calendar to stay up to date on events.



2019-20 Catechetical Calendar

October 2019	February 2020
10 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP	11 Family Focus Holy Habits 1:00 @ MMCP
29 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP	13 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP
30 Family Focus Baptismal Prep and Follow-up 6:30 @ MMCP	26 Ash Wednesday
November 2019	March 2020
1 All Saints Day - Office Closed	2 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP
8 Family Focus Baptismal Prep and Follow-up 10:00 @ MMCP	24 Family Perspectives Take Two - Families and Scripture 10:00 @ MMCP
19 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP	26 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP
28-29 Thanksgiving - Office Closed	April 2020
December 2019	10 Good Friday - Office Closed
12 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP	12 Easter Day
24-25 Christmas Eve Day - Office Closed	18 Celebration of Catholic Scouting 4:00 @ MMCP
31 New Year's Eve - Office Closed	30 Family Perspectives 9:30 @ MMCP
January 2020	May 2020
1 New Year's Day - Office Closed	12 Finish Line
9 Gigs, Greks and God 9:00 @ Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	25 Memorial Day - Office Closed
21 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCP	
30 Family Perspectives 9:30 @ MMCP	

Updated October 4, 2019

Contact Us	
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Family Focus - Baptismal Prep and Follow-Up

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

MissionInsite Webinars

[MissionInsite](#), the demographics tool that all parishes can have access to, is hosting two webinars for all registered users on its new tools and functionalities. The same webinar is being offered two times: [Tuesday, October 22 from 12 - 1 p.m.](#) and [Thursday, October 24 from 12 - 1 p.m.](#) Click on the date hyperlinks to register.

If you need more basic instructions on using MissionInsite, visit the [webpage](#).

If you are not yet a MissionInsite user, but would like to be, contact [Susan Skibba](#).

From our Friends

It's Okay to Start with You: Taking Care of Yourself

Monday, October 21

Hospitality at 9am - Presentation at 9:30am - Lunch Provided

St. Mary by the Lake

7056 Lakeshore Drive, Racine, WI 53402

Mareda, the association of catechetical leaders in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, presents Julia Hogan, therapist, speaker and author of *It's OK to Start with You* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2018). Ms. Hogan will address how church ministers can and should take care of themselves while caring for others.

Click here for the [flyer](#).

Click here to [register](#).

To join Mareda, [their website](#).

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](#).

Resources

Respect Life Resources

The US Bishops have a new [Respect Life Website](#). They have materials for [October/Respect Life month](#), but there are also ideas for other times of year: [January/Row v Wade](#), [March/Annunciation](#) and [May/Mother's Day](#). Plus you will find a section for [Faith Formation](#).

This week's *Catholic Herald* has a great article, "There are Many Ways to Teach Kids the Value of Life or in the print edition.

The archdiocesan source for Respect Life information is the Office for the Dignity of the Human Person. [Rob Shelledy](#) is the director. The office offers [online pro-life resources](#) and connects all issues related to the dignity of persons – pro-life efforts, justice for immigrants, water security, emergency relief, fair trade and more.

“A Walk through the Mass”

[Office for Worship Newsletter](#) continues the series, “A Walk through the Mass,” by Kim Mandelkow, Director for the Office for Worship. Check out the October issue, as well as previous issues of the monthly Newsletter. Remember: You may publish articles or parts of articles from the newsletter, as long as you cite the source as The Office for Worship Newsletter, Kim Mandelkow, Director for the Office for Worship. If you would like to receive the Newsletter, please contact [Susan Skibba](#).

Get Families Talking about Relationships, Sex, and Safety – A Free Webinar

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 1:00 pm CT

Parents want to have meaningful conversations about important topics, but they don't always know how to do that. By harnessing the power of parental love, we can encourage them to guide their children in matters of life, faith, and morals. Help the families of your parish to have these critical conversations in healthy and effective ways. How can you engage parents in discussions with their children that they would not have on their own? How do we help them to start early, building the small steps of trust children need so that they will discuss important issues with their parents when they reach their teens?

Presented by: Dr. Kathie Amidei and Sister Kieran Sawyer

Moderated by: Jane Angha

[Register for this Free Webinar](#)

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

Youth Minister - St. Thomas Aquinas , *Waterford*

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

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

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

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

Youth Activities Coordinator - St. James, *Mukwonago*

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

Director of Faith Formation - Blessed Savior, *Milwaukee*

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

District Meetings

Waukesha Deaneries

October 17 @ 12:30 pm - St. James - Menomonee Falls

District 6 - Washington County

October 10 @ 9:30 am - St. Boniface - Germantown

District 7 - Dodge County

November 21 @ 12:00 noon - St. Mary - Mayville

Milwaukee SE and SW Deaneries

November 5 @ 12:00 noon - St. Matthias Parish

Contact Us

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