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Message from Gary

Co-Workers in Transition

As we launched into this new program year, in some parishes, new directors/coordinators of religious education or faith formation have taken the helm and are putting out into the deep.

Below, we have listed those we know.

For those starting 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.

For all who have begun a new role this year, let us pray, and let us pledge our support and companionship along the way.

Congratulations

Our warm congratulations to Dave Baudry who received National Certification as a Parish Catechetical Leader this summer.

Dave serves as Associate Director of Adult, Child, and Youth Ministry for St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield. He received the certification from the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership and the Alliance for Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers. Dave is the first catechetical leader in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to earn this recognition.

National certification means that a person has been judged by their professional association as having met the spiritual, theological and pastoral standards in their field of ministry. This recognition is attained through a portfolio-based process that allowed Dave to demonstrate the knowledge, spirituality, pastoral skill, and professional competence that he brings to his ministry in the parish. Information at www.lencertification.org.

Congratulations, Dave!

Office of Catechesis News

Co-Workers In Transition

New directors or coordinators of faith formation have begun to serve in parishes around the Archdiocese. Below we have listed those we know. If you know of someone new to a position, please let us know.

- Tom Holschuh, DRE, Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee
- Yolanda Coly, Interim Director of Christian Formation, Blessed Savior, Milwaukee
- Peggy Lanser, Coordinator of Adult and Family Ministry, Catholic Community of Waukesha
- Marguerite Thompson, Dir of Adult Formation & Social Justice, Good Shepherd, Menomonee Falls
- Shelby Miller, Coordinator of Christian Formation, Holy Cross, Bristol
- Andrew Skiff, High School Formation Coordinator, Holy Family, Fond du Lac

- Jessica Herriges, Associate Director of Faith formation and Youth Minister, Holy Trinity and St. Michael, Kewaskum
- Catherine Petrie, DRE, Holyland Parishes, Mt. Calvary
- Maggie Russell, Director of Formation Ministries, Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee
- Deacon Larry Ramsey, Parish Pastoral Coordinator, Sacred Heart Racine
- Jodi Murphy, Youth Minister, Sacred Heart, Horicon
- Taylor Baar, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Anthony on the Lake, Pewaukee
- Rachel Heffron, Associate Director of Student Ministries, St. Charles, Hartland
- Stephanie Heyrman, Catholic Formation Program Assistant, St. Frances Cabrini, West Bend
- Laura Lindemann, Director of Youth Formation, St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg
- Catie Weasler, Director of Child and Family Ministry, St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg
- Dawn Consentino, Youth Activities Coordinator, St. James, Mukwonago
- Beth Roeder, DRE, St. Paul the Apostle, Mt Pleasant
- Betsy Deakin, DRE, St. Robert & Holy Family, Shorewood
- Jon Metz, Adult Faith Formation Minister, St. Sebastian, Milwaukee
- Joe Sheehan, Child Sacraments Coordinator, St. Sebastian, Milwaukee

Added areas of responsibility:

- Heather Schweitzer, added DRE, Our Lady of Mt Carmel, to Youth Minister at St. Therese & Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Kenosha
- Trista Minezes, Child Minister, St. Thomas Aquinas, Waterford added to DRE, St. Clare, Wind Lake
- Liz Kuhn, now serves as Director of Christian Formation, Queen of Apostles, Pewaukee
- Collen Rooney, now serves as Director of Religious Education, St. Louis, Caledonia

Covid-19 Consent Form - Clarification

Previously, we informed you of the *COVID-19 Pandemic - Student/Family Statement of Operations, Understanding, and Consent for Religious Education* form which is to be used in any parish resuming in-person religious education.

Some parish leaders have asked whether a similar form is required for adults. Are signed forms required for catechumens, RCIA candidates, or participants in adult formation? Do we need to obtain a signed form from catechists serving in our program?

No. At this time, there is no requirement to use a form for adult participants or for volunteers. Of course, as with almost everything during this pandemic, the situation is fluid and things could change in the future. But for now, there is no form to use with adults involved in your programs. It is good practice to communicate – to everyone involved in a program – the precautions and practices in place at your parish. Then they know what to expect.

For information on the *Student/Family Statement and Consent Form*, visit the [Covid-19 Consent Form page](#). You will find the form in both English & Spanish, procedures, and FAQs. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Gary Pokorny](#) or [Doug Ulaszek](#).

Upcoming Events

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. Attached is a flyer with dates and description of the program.

For this year, we will meet virtually, using Zoom, at least through Fall 2020. We will begin on Thursday, October 15th. [See Schedule](#). Sessions are scheduled every two weeks on alternating Tuesday and Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

You can registration online at: <https://archmil.regfox.com/ndi2021>

There is no cost to participate. We will provide the Zoom link and other information after you register.

Archdiocese News

See You at Mass

To assist parishes with encouraging people to return to Mass in person, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has created a series of video clips of personal testimonies on the joys and necessities of attending Mass in person. All of the videos are short and invitational and are meant to be shared on social media, parish websites, or in e-newsletters.

[See You at Mass Videos](#)

The Catholic Comeback - Phase 2 & Advent & Christmas Matrix

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. On

September 14, the dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass expired. At that time we also moved to PHASE 2 of the Catholic Comeback Matrix. [View the updated matrix](#) - the matrix changes for Phase 2 highlighted in red.

In addition, an updated Catholic Comeback [Matrix for Advent and Christmas](#) has been prepared to assist staff in planning Advent & Christmas Celebrations.

Missionary Discipleship Institute Virtual Impact Sessions

The Missionary Discipleship Institute will be meeting virtually this month on October 29th 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:

- **Sharing the Great Story: Practical Ways to Tell the Good News with Pete Burds**
- **Cultivating a Heart for the Lost, Least, Last, and Lonely with Margaret Rhody**
- **Cultivating a Home of Discipleship with Doug Ulaszek**

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

Love Begins Here

In Summer 2021, the Archdiocese will be launching a new youth service opportunity called Love Begins Here. We will host 4 local service weeks throughout the Archdiocese modeled on the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta and the Missionaries of Charity. Parish registration is open now. Learn more at <https://www.archmil.org/LBH> and sign your parish teens up at <https://archmil.regfox.com/love-begins-here-2021-parish-registration>

Totus Tuus

The Archdiocese will also re-launch Totus Tuus in 2021. Totus Tuus is a week-long parish youth mission (similar to vacation bible school) centered around the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of course, FUN. Parish sign-ups will begin on October 22. Learn more at <https://www.archmil.org/totustuus>

Anti-Racism Formation Resources

In their June 2, 2020 statement, the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops asked the parishes to engage in formation and activities designed to address racism. We realize that many parishes have been

doing this for years and many are already engaged. In order to enhance those activities and encourage more, we have pulled together this [short list of available resources](#). We realize that there are many resources available.

In addition, there will be a "lunch and learn" webinar on anti-racism formation on Tuesday **November 3 at noon**. (Details to Follow). November 3 is St. Martin de Porres feast day. Yes, we realize this is also election day, so we will be recording it so people may listen as their own convenience. November is Black History Month so another reason for this date. Our main presenters will be Fessahaye Mebrahtu, Director of Black Catholic & Ethnic Ministries and Anne Haines Executive Director of UrbanInitiativeMKE.

From our Friends

CORE Program

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](#)

Metanoia: A Story about God

On October 7th at 7pm, join the Saint Clare Center's virtual community by attending this online mini-retreat will look at conversion and metanoia through a Franciscan lens. Br. Michael Joseph will offer his personal story of conversion and how he found kinship with Francis of Assisi as a model of allowing God to transform his life. This will be an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our own journeys of ongoing conversion. Br. Michael Joseph Groark is a Capuchin Franciscan friar who is the director of vocations for the Midwest Capuchin province.

This retreat is part of our Upper Zoom series. You can register at www.stitch.edu/UpperZoom.

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.

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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

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