In this Issue.....

Message from the Office - Merry Christmas

Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry
News

- National Catholic Youth Conference Recap
- First Reconciliation Certificates, part 2

Upcoming Events

- Catechetical Calendar
- Gigs, Geeks & God
- Family Perspectives
- Ministry with Gen Z and their Families
- Reach Out Reach In

Archdiocese News

- Rite of Election Sign Up
- MissionInsite Training

From Our Friends

- Catholic Curriculum Available for the Movie, The Star
- Catechist Enrichment Night
- "Forming the Catechetical Spirit - BASIC"
- Talk: Following Christ

Resources

- Advent Resources
- Whispers in the Pew

Save The Date

- Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally

District Meetings
Blessings on you and your ministry during this Advent and Christmas Season!

From the Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry

Gary & Jennifer

Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry News

National Catholic Youth Conference

This past November, The Archdiocese of Milwaukee sent a delegation of 202 to the 2017 National Catholic Youth Conference. There were 157 teens, 44 youth ministers/volunteer chaperones, and 1 priests. They represented 16 parishes and one Catholic high school. They have returned - full of energy, memories, and faith - ready to bring their enthusiasm for the faith into their friendships, families, work, service, and parish involvement.

A huge thank you goes out to the coordinators, core team and all the group leaders. Without them, this ministry would not the success it is.

NCYC will be held November 21-23, 2019. To learn more about NCYC, read the article in the Catholic Herald, view the article and video that Catholic News Service or ask anyone who attended this year.
First Reconciliation Certificates, part 2

In the last issue of our newsletter, we included a brief article cautioning parishes not to issue sacramental certificates for reception of First Reconciliation. The article raised some questions and a need for additional comment.

In the article, we included a short instruction from Chancellor Barbara Anne Cusack:

Any documentation for the sacrament of First Reconciliation is to be a temporary record of preparation for the sacrament. Permanent records are not to be maintained and certificates are not issued for First Reconciliation. The reason certificates are not issued is related to the seal of confession. While a person may enter the reconciliation room, the only person who could testify that he offered absolution is the priest confessor; he is forbidden from revealing not only the contents of any confession but also the fact that the sacrament was received by any individual.

One parish asked whether they may use a certificate which states that the child has completed preparation for the sacrament, rather than stating that the child has received the sacrament. Yes, that would be permitted. As an example, Pflaum Publishing Group has the following wording on their First Reconciliation certificate:

“(Name) completed preparation to receive God’s pardon and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation”

Such a certificate is in accord with the instruction above and would be permissible.

Upcoming Events

Download the Catechesis & Youth Ministry Office Calendar to stay up to date on events.
Gigs, Geeks & God

January 11, 2018
9:30am - 5:00pm
Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee

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

Early Bird Special: $25 (Ends December 21st)

Register Now

Family Perspectives

February 1, 2018
9:00am - 2:30pm
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center,
Milwaukee
Family Perspectives is a comprehensive approach to support your efforts to integrate family ministry in your parish! After you attend the one day workshop to review the latest research and Church teaching on ministering to and engaging families in faith, there will be an individualized follow-up for your parish. Parishes that participate will receive 4 to 6 hours of on-site support to offer guidance and resources to make your family ministry come alive and be more meaningful in your community. To find out more and to register, click here.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Center for Ministry Development is excited to announce our new workshops series for 2018!

**Thursday, February 22, 2018**
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

The Center for Ministry Development will host a day-long workshop titled **Family Perspectives: Pathway to Engaging Families in Faith**. The workshop is designed to support your efforts to integrate family ministry in your parish. After the workshop, you will receive 4 to 6 hours of on-site follow-up to offer guidance and resources to make your family ministry come alive and be more meaningful in your community.

**Ministry with Gen Z and Their Families**

February 22, 2018
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, Milwaukee

The Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry will be hosting the Center for Ministry Development’s Ministry with Gen Z and Their Families Workshop in February. This workshop will share the research about Gen Z youth and their families along with effective ways for parishes to engage youth and their families. We will include practical ideas and starting points within these topics as we explore the ministry implications for youth ministry, catechesis, sacramental preparation, and parish life. See flyer for more information.

Click here to register online for the Ministry with Gen Z Workshop!
Reach Out, Reach In  
July 15-20, 2018

As the cold weather begins to take root, we begin to look forward to the warmness of summer. It may seem far away but now is the time to start talking with youth about how they are going to spend their summer and encourage them to serve others during their summer break.

We ask you to encourage the youth of your parish to register for **Reach Out Reach In**.

*Reach Out Reach In* is a local summer service week for teens aged 15 through 18, who have completed 9th grade and who want to be involved in direct service and social action. The sites, located around the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, include homeless shelters, adult day care, community organizations, meal programs, organic farms, child care and more. The experience includes community, simple living, prayer, and justice education. The cost is reasonable ($240; $255 after April 30th). Scholarships are available.

**Note:** Youth ministers, due to interest from new parishes, please limit the group sent from your parish to 10 youth. If you have more than 10 youth from your parish who are interested in attending, please feel free to keep a waitlist. After the April 30th deadline, if there is room we will open up the registration to additional youth from those parishes.

More information can be found on the [flyer](https://sg-mktg.com/MTUxMzM3NjEwOHw5MTdwYjJfZ1TzaVVwQ3IwcDJfYTYU5dG1tVzNPNDVF3AyNEh4ZEVLMHpRWmpVa2l1UUUlYzdJO) or by visiting our [website](https://sg-mktg.com/MTUxMzM3NjEwOHw5MTdwYjJfZ1TzaVVwQ3IwcDJfYTYU5dG1tVzNPNDVF3AyNEh4ZEVLMHpRWmpVa2l1UUUlYzdJO).

---

**Archdiocese News**

**Rite of Election Sign Up**

Rite of Election for Catechumens and Candidates in parishes will be held the 1st and 2nd Sundays in Lent: Sunday, 18 February, 2018 at 1:30 PM and on Sunday, 25 February, 2018 at 1:30 and 3:30 PM at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. All registrations must be done [online](https://sg-mktg.com/MTUxMzM3NjEwOHw5MTdwYjJfZ1TzaVVwQ3IwcDJfYTYU5dG1tVzNPNDVF3AyNEh4ZEVLMHpRWmpVa2l1UUUlYzdJO). The registration deadline is Monday, January 29.

---

**MissionInsite Training**

https://sg-mktg.com/MTUxMzM3NjEwOHw5MTdwYjJfZ1TzaVVwQ3IwcDJfYTYU5dG1tVzNPNDVF3AyNEh4ZEVLMHpRWmpVa2l1UUUlYzdJO
Did you know that there is a Catholic Family Curriculum for the new Animated Movie, The Star?

NCCL, in collaboration with the FCH has created a family catholic curriculum for Sony’s animated movie The Star, which was released on November 17th.

These family lessons offer catechetical and pastoral leaders, and families, new and varied ways to explore the Christmas story. Six themes were extracted from the movie, The Star, to encourage faith sharing and compiled into one curriculum. The themes include “The Christmas Story,” “Divine Providence”, “Friendship”, “Prayer”, “Las Posadas”, and “Vocation.” Each theme includes four sections: PRAYER, LEARN, REFLECT and ACT.

The movie is heartwarming and hopeful, and will be loved by audiences for years to come. Help spread some Christmas cheer! Go see The Star and then explore our Catholic faith through the curriculum provided by this NCCL/FCH/Sony collaboration. Bear witness to the greatest story ever told... Jesus Christ is born.

All lessons are on the movie’s website and on nccl.org in both English and Spanish.

Catechist Enrichment Night
February 2 or 3, 2018
9:00am - 12:30pm
Cousins Center

Core user teams from parishes can choose either Friday, February 2, 2017 or Saturday, February 3, 2018, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, at the Cousins Center to attend further training in MissionInsite – the Archdiocesan demographic and marketing site. The workshop is designed for current “core users” as well as teams from new parishes. It is recommended that every parish should have a team of 2 or 3 people who will be able to generate reports and maps for each parish or multi-parish community. Register Now

From our Friends
Thursday, January 18
6:00pm - 8:15pm

Scripture: What’s in it for Catechists & Children of God with Fr. Joe Juknialis

As a catechist you are often asked to use Scripture as a way to relate it to your life and the lives of children, teens and adults. Join us January 18th and interact with other catechists as Fr. Joe presents the process of putting together a message from Scripture and applying it to your faith and the lives of those you catechize!

Forming the Catechetical Spirit-BASIC - Starting January 20th

St. Kilian Parish will be hosting Forming the Catechetical Spirit - Basic Religious Education Certification on the 3rd Saturday of the Month, starting January 20th. The sessions will be from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon except January and November which will be from 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Anyone interested should fill out the application and submit to Dennis Vlasak.

Talk: Following Christ

Katie Prejean McGrady

St. Thomas Aquinas in Waterford is hosting Katie Prejean McGrady on Sunday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m. All High School students are welcome! The event is free, but free will
donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the speaker. Katie's talk is Following Christ: Easier said than done, but Always worth it. If you plan on bringing a group of student, please RSVP to Joy Hearden by February 1st. For more information please contact: Joy Hearden at hearden@tds.net or 262-514-3175

Resources

Advent Resources

Advent is almost here. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ’s second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord’s birth on Christmas. As you enter into this season, please visit our Advent Resource page for blessings, both general and catechist resources, online advent calendars, Whole-Community Catechesis for Advent ideas and more.

Whispers in the Pew

Whispers in the Pew is a booklet containing articles for parents attending mass with their kids. The articles were written by Grace Urbanski and previously featured in the Family Section of the Catholic Herald and have now been compiled into a booklet, along with activities and further suggestions for how parents can help understand, connect and celebrate Mass with their children.
Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally

An event by Arise Milwaukee
March 17 or 18, 2018
Carroll University
Go green this March and celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally. In the "Breastplate of St. Patrick," we pray that Christ may be in all we see and do and even within ourselves. Come and experience the adventure of a life lived with "Christ in me." Visit www.wicatholicyr.org for more information.

District Meetings

**District 10**
December 19 @ 9:00am
Divine Savior – Fredonia

**District 15/16 - High School**
January 4 @ 10:00am
St. Romans - Milwaukee

**District 9 (SCORE)**
January 30 @ 10:00am
St. Dominic - Sheboygan

*** To have your district meetings included in the newsletter, please send your meeting information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

Contact Us

Gary Pokorny
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 & Youth Ministry
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
St. Francis 53235

Visit our website | Unsubscribe