



CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES

305 Seventh Ave. N. • Suite 201 • St. Cloud, MN • 56303 • 320-251-0111 • fax: 320-251-0259

August 1, 2017

Dear parish catechetical and youth ministry leader,

Welcome to the new catechetical year! We are excited for another year of growth in faith and leadership. There are several opportunities this year for networking and on-going formation; see the enclosed schedule for the year. We would like to highlight a few that are coming up.

1) **Wednesday, August 30 - Thursday, August 31 – Beginning of the Year Retreat** – All parish catechetical and youth ministry leaders are invited to join us for a beginning of the year retreat at Castaway Club. At this gathering we will walk through the Preparatory document being used for the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. A link to the document will be sent to you via email as well as a link to a survey for young people ages 16-29. To register, email Kschmitz@gw.stcdio.org or bkresky@gw.stcdio.org. See enclosed flyer for more details.

2) **Thursday, September 7 from 9:30am-2:00pm, St. Cloud Pastoral Center - New Catechetical Leader Day** – Are you (or someone you know) new to the position? This orientation day is meant to help those new to their position become familiar with the events, meetings, expectations, procedures, and staff that is unique to the Saint Cloud Diocese. To RSVP, call Brenda or Kent at 320-251-0111 or email bkresky@gw.stcdio.org or kschmitz@gw.stcdio.org.

3) **Sunday, September 17 is Catechetical Sunday.** On this day in parishes across the nation those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role each person plays in witnessing the Gospel and handing on the faith to others. The theme this year is “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Free resources may be found at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/>

4) We are focusing our **Faith Formation/Youth Ministry meetings on practical ideas animating the Joy of the Gospel.** You will see a paragraphs that connect the meeting topics to this document as we live as missionary disciples in our ministry. We are asking a \$80 fee for all the meetings October through May. The first of these meetings will be held on Monday, October 30 from 9:30a.m. – 2:00p.m. More information will be sent via email as each meeting gets closer.

5) We are excited about our two-day **Encuentro-Diocesan Ministry Day** event on September 24-25. The theme “Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God’s Love” taken from the document, *The Joy of the Gospel* will help guide our conference and year. Christina Lamas, the Executive Director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, as the keynote and discussion facilitator for Encuentro and Bishop Frank Caggiano, from the diocese of Bridgeport, as the keynoter for DMD among many others. For more information and to register visit dmd-encuentro.stcdio.org.

6) Are you interested in attending a national catechetical conference? The annual **Conference** for National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) will be held **in Chicago** on May 30-June 2, 2018. There is some grant money available to the first ten people interested in attending. Contact Brenda Kresky bkresky@gw.stcdio.org or 320-251-0111 if you are interested in more information.



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7) Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the **Synod of Bishops** to be focused on the theme of “**Youth, Faith, and Vocational Discernment.**” There are many things occurring in preparation for the Synod: 1) Each diocese is being asked to provide a summary in response to questions at the end of the preparatory document, 2) There is an online survey that young people between the ages 16-29 are invited to partake <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718>, 3) A National Dialogue is taking place. This vision of this initiative is an energized and unified Church committed to forming and engaging youth and young adults as missionary disciples. For more information, visit <http://www.nationaldialogue.info>

8) **Online Basic Catechist Training.** Once a month, dates yet to be determined, we will have a forum for catechists across our diocese to reflect and grow in their ministry, basing the discussion on *Growing as a Catechist: A Practical Guide* by Dan Pierson and Susan Stark. The cost for the training is \$10, which includes the book. For more information, contact Brenda bkresky@gw.stcdio.org.

9) In July, a delegation from our diocese attended the recent Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America. Videos of the plenary sessions and other parts of the Convocation are now available online at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/get-involved/meetings-and-events/convocation-2017/convocation-2017-live-stream.cfm>. Click on the Playlist Player icon to see the list of videos. A few of particular note that are available:

- Dr. Hosffman Ospino, an associate professor of theology and religious education at Boston College, speaks about the landscape of the Catholic Church in the U.S: <https://youtu.be/c5Ag1ZppXXw?list=PLpTzvCOJa7DCIAPQHoeQVv3skscx37UGo> (Start video at the 17:45 mark.)
- Patrick Lencioni, best-selling author and founder of The Amazing Parish, speaks about equipping evangelizers for success: <https://youtu.be/TMiUI3V6VqU?list=PLpTzvCOJa7DCIAPQHoeQVv3skscx37UGo> (Start video at 12:20 mark.)
- Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, founder of Word on Fire, speaks about the obstacles and opportunities to effective evangelization today: <https://youtu.be/KM42kVKaEZw?list=PLpTzvCOJa7DCIAPQHoeQVv3skscx37UGo> (Start video at 12:10 mark)

May this catechetical year bring the wonderful encounter of Christ's love to you and those you serve. If we can be of any assistance during the year please call 320-251-0111 or email bkresky@gw.stcdio.org or kschmitz@gw.stcdio.org. We are here for you.

Blessings,

Brenda Kresky
Consultant for Faith Formation

Kent Schmitz
Consultant for Adolescent Catechesis/ Youth Ministry