



CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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

August 2, 2018

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. All of this information and more can be found on our website: <http://cem.stcdio.org/>

1) **Study Group Meetings** - These sessions will be led by Kent Schmitz and Kristi Bivens and based on content from the Cultures of Formation Conference that Kent and Bishop Kettler attended in March at Notre Dame. Each session will include: Prayer, Video Content, Reflection, Discussion, Learning, Lunch, Fellowship and Networking. The first session, "The Heart of the Matter: Addressing Young People from a Holistic Perspective," will be on Friday, August 17 at the Pastoral Center in St. Cloud from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be five other meetings at locations across the diocese throughout the year. You can register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TYQX7J7>

2) **Monday, August 27 – Tuesday, August 28 – 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 spend time reflecting on Pope Francis's latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Rejoice and Be Glad*. The document can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y8cogjnt> If you would like a book, please contact Kristi or Kent by August 20. The cost is \$12.00. To register for the retreat, contact Kristi or Kent at the emails or phone number below follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTZB7TW>

3) Thursday, September 6 from 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m., 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 or email Kristi or Kent.

4) **Sunday, September 23 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 "Enlisting Witnesses for Christ." Free resources may be found at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/>

5) We are focusing our **Faith Formation/Youth Ministry meetings on the practicalities of ministry**. What are those little practical things we really need to know but often get missed? Our sessions will include information on First Aid, CPR, emergency planning, classroom management, and working with students with unique needs to just highlight a few. We are asking a \$85 fee for all the meetings October through May for one person. Two people from the same parish/cluster will be \$150 for the year, with \$50 for each additional person. The first of these meetings will be held on Monday, September 24 from 9:30a.m. – 2:00p.m. More information will be sent via email as each meeting gets closer.

6) Exciting things are happening for our youth this year. Jesse Manibusan will be here to help us kick off our First Annual St. Cloud Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC). It will be **October 27-28, 2018 at the Young Life Camp in Detroit Lakes**. And that won't be the only place you will see Jesse that weekend. Watch for more information from us!



CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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

6) Are you interested in attending a national youth ministry conference? The annual **Conference** for the **National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry** (NCCYM) will be held in **Tampa** on December 5-8, 2018. Contact Kent if you are interested in more information.

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.”** The synod will be held this fall, October 3-28, 2018. More information can be found on the Vatican website: <https://tinyurl.com/SynodDoc>.

8) Are you looking for a retreat for your Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the sacrament? **Diocesan Confirmation Retreats** are planned for this school year. They will be at St. Benedict's in Avon on the following Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.: September 29, February 23, and April 27. October 13 is already full. Each retreat can host between 50-60 people, so sign up early at <https://tinyurl.com/dioretreat> to register your students. We are happy to accept 1 or 2 students or as many as we have room for to accommodate parishes. Each parish is requested to bring at least 1 adult leader per 1-8 students. Cost for the retreat is \$45.00 per student and \$15.00 per adult. As always, we are very willing to come to individual parishes or clusters to lead retreats. Contact Kent to schedule one.

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 kbivens@gw.stcdio.org or kschmitz@gw.stcdio.org. We are here for you.

Blessings,

Kent Schmitz
Consultant for Adolescent Catechesis/
Youth Ministry

Kristi Bivens
Associate Director for Lay
Leadership Formation