



CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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August 14, 2019

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 - Any parish ministry leader wishing to participate in these sessions is welcome to be a part of our learning for one or all sessions. Kent Schmitz and/or Kristi Bivens will facilitate the study group. Sessions will be based on content from recent conference speakers and webinars related to our ministry. Each session will include: prayer, video content, reflection, discussion, learning, lunch, fellowship and networking. These sessions are in addition to other workshops listed in our overall [schedule](#). The first session, "Embracing Grace," is based on Ann Garrido's Keynote address to the 2019 NCEA General Session. It was titled, "Embracing Grace in the 21st Century Church," and will be on Tuesday, August 20 at the Pastoral Center in St. Cloud from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be six other meetings at locations across the diocese throughout the year. You can register online at http://cem.stcdio.org/th_event/study-group-embracing-grace/

2) **Monday, August 26 – Tuesday, August 27 – 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, *Christ Is Alive*. The document can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/PopeFrancisCIA> If you would like a book, please contact Kristi or Kent by August 20. The cost is \$12.00 to purchase this document. To register for the retreat, contact Kristi or Kent at the emails or phone number below.

3) Thursday, September 12 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 are unique to the Saint Cloud Diocese. To RSVP, call or email Kristi or Kent.

4) **Sunday, September 15 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 "Stay With Us." 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 Leadership in ministry**. How do we assess our wonderful gifts and share them as faith-filled Catholics in Central Minnesota? We are asking a \$25 fee for each person for each meeting. The first of these meetings is Thursday, October 24th 9AM-3PM at Seven Dolours in Albany. Our topic is Eucharist: "Together in Mission and Ministry."

Part 1. Doug Tooke will be our facilitator. Our Second day is with Ann Garrido on Thursday, April 16th 9AM-3PM at a location to be determined. Ann will be focusing further from the October 24th day on Mission and Ministry Part 2. Our final gathering will be on Friday, May 15th 9am-3pm for our end of year retreat day. Details TBD. These days are open to anyone but geared toward parish leaders, staff, and volunteers.

6) Exciting things are happening for our youth this year. Doug Tooke will be here to help us kick off our 2nd Annual St. Cloud Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC). It will be **October 26-27, 2019 at the Young Life Camp in Detroit Lakes**. Our theme is: "Come to the Table." Registration materials will be available online and mailed out soon.

7) **Emmaus Institute for Ministry Formation: CLASSES ARE FORMING! REGISTER NOW.** The Diocese of St. Cloud is beginning a new initiative to form lay ministers. The Emmaus Institute is an intellectual and ministerial formation program for lay ministers and potential Latino/Hispanic diaconate candidates from the diocese, in partnership with Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. Its purpose is to create well-formed ministers who will serve the mission of the Gospel in their families, parishes and Area Catholic Communities. Whether you are currently serving in volunteer or paid ministry, or have a personal interest in theological formation, Emmaus Institute has a place for you. For more information, visit <http://stcdio.org/emmaus-institute/> or contact Kristi Bivens at 320-258-7642 or kbivens@gw.stcdio.org (English) or Mayuli Bales at 320-529-4614 or mbales@gw.stcdio.org (Spanish.)

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 Sacred Heart Parish in Sauk Rapids on the following Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.: September 21, October 12, November 16 and February 1. Each retreat can host between 50-60 people, so sign up early at <https://tinyurl.com/dioretreat>. This link is for confirmation coordinators rather than for parents or students. We are happy to accept one or sixty 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 \$40.00 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.

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
Associate Director for Adolescent Catechesis/
Youth Ministry



Kristi Bivens
Associate Director for Lay
Leadership Formation