

Evangelization & Mission
Team

PCL Connect E-Newsletter
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
February 2024 Edition

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)

Register today – Preparing for the OCIA – Implementing the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults:



Our virtual open house was held on January 23 with leaders of initiation ministry teams including coordinators, priests, and deacons. Attached to this e-newsletter is a document on the joys and struggles with initiation ministry as well as practical options for local pastoral accompaniment. This is an example of what you will experience in our three part virtual workshops on the principals of initiation ministry. Don't miss this opportunity to transform your RCIA ministry. Register today using the links below or also in the

attached flyers.

Spanish - <https://www.catechumeneon.org/event/dms>

English - <https://www.catechumeneon.org/event/dme>

3-Part Virtual Workshop Series on the Principles of Initiation Ministry - February 27, March 5 and 12, 2024 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm by Adobe Connect (There is a Spanish workshop at the same time. Please register with the Spanish link or using the Spanish flyer.)

In-Person Workshop - September 14, 2024 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

An Introduction to the OCIA – The Vision of Christian Initiation Ministry

Location: Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church 106 West 6th St., Atlantic, IA 50022

At the same time and location, this workshop will also be available in Spanish.

Apply for a Parish Mission Renewal Grant this season – portal opens on February 20:

What are those missed pastoral opportunities you would like to provide your parish community but can't due to your budget? Prayerfully consider applying for a Parish Mission Renewal grant this year.



In 2023, Parish Mission Renewal awarded \$10,000 to St. Patrick parish in Perry to revive Hispanic Ministry. Father Litto saw several areas where the parish was missing opportunities towards pastoral outreach and the parish budget wouldn't be able to meet the need. Since being awarded the grant they have begun parent faith formation nights, retreats, launching an RCIA process culturally appropriate for Hispanics, and added to the

Sunday experience with a Hispanic choir.

Other grants went to St. Patrick parish in Imogene for over \$5,000 to enhance the Sunday experience as they continue to implement Divine Renovation mission practices, and St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines to develop a pastoral approach to family faith formation.

Find more information at the [Catholic Foundation website](#). The grant portal opens on February 20. There will be grant webinars on March 5, 12, and 18. The deadline for submission is April 26.

Contact [John Gaffney](#) for more information and discuss your proposed project to apply for a Parish Mission Renewal grant.

Family Resources for Lent:



Encourage parishioners to dive deeper into the Lenten season this year with these "Living Lent" resources, including a guide to Lent, activities for families, & weekly conversation starters. Promo flyers (full-page & quarter-page) are attached. All resources can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/living-lent.

Alexis Nicholson, working with Kristi Quinlan, have redesigned and updated what has been shared in previous years. It is now far easier for you to print or email specific resources in our Living Lent series. Flyers to help you promote Living Lent are attached to this e-

newsletter.

Lent resources to give voice to persons with disabilities and their families:

1. Book: [No Unlikely Saints: A Lenten Pilgrimage with Sacred Company](#).
2. [Stations of the Cross for Persons with Mental Illness and their Families and Friends](#).
3. [Sensory Stations of the Cross](#)
4. [Praying Stations of the Cross for the Suffering, Ill and Disabled](#)
5. [Adapted Faith Formation Lessons for February/Ash Wednesday and Preparation for Lent](#) from NCPD
6. [Inclusive Lenten Activities: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving for Catholic Schools and Faith Formation](#) pdf from NCPD
7. [Guiding Thoughts](#) to help tailor Lent to the demand-anxious neurotype while keeping the intention and integrity of the season

Living Lent resources are in the process of being translated into Spanish and will be sent under separate cover.

New round of Synodal Listening to occur during Lent:



The Vatican and the USCCB have requested all Dioceses to hold a small number of listening sessions during this interim stage of the worldwide synodal process. Our listening session plan will build on the initial work that was completed which identified the six pastoral priorities in our strategic vision. See the attached graphic to read about the six pastoral priorities of the Diocese of Des Moines.

Our outreach this lent for the 90 minute session includes:

- A general Zoom session for those wishing to participate
- Youth session (in-person)
- Young Adult session (in-person)
- Families (Zoom)
- Hispanics (in-person or on Zoom)
- Refugees (In-person)

The two questions to explore are:

1. Based upon our six Diocesan pastoral priorities, (participants will be given a graphic designed by Alexis on our six strategic priorities) where do I see signs of growth? Where do I see stagnancy or the Church falling behind?
2. Our mission is to help each baptized Christian to cultivate connections in Christ through encounter, friendship, and communion. What is needed in your local community to make this Christian vision come alive?

Contact [John Gaffney](#) with questions or if you would like to help with the process.

Items from Disability Ministry:



Hope of Lent: FREE online retreat for persons living with a chronic illness or disability and their caregivers March 13, 2024, 12-3 pm. NCPD and CUSA are cosponsoring a free online retreat, *The Hope of Lent*. This retreat is for persons living with a chronic illness or disability and their caregivers. Others are welcome to attend.

Save the date and [register here](#). Please share the link with your parishioners.

World Day of Sick February 11:

If you are celebrating a Mass for World Day of Sick on February 11, remind the organizers to include references and invitation to those who live with a mental illness to attend and receive the

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. [Resources from Association of Mental Health Ministry are available.](#)

Participate in NCPD Survey related to Persons with Disability:

National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) received Lilly Endowment Inc. monies to conduct a parish survey through [CARA](#). It will be sent out soon to 5,000 parishes across the nation. When you receive the survey please complete as soon as possible to ensure accurate data. Our Diocese will be able to use the results to assist parishes in building communities of belonging for persons with disabilities and their families.

Nourish for Caregivers



Please share the [Diocesan event link](#) at your parish for the support group. Next support group meeting will move to a **new** location St. Pius X in Des Moines on a **new** night of Thursday, Feb 23rd 6:00 pm. Additional

information on the event will be made available on the Diocesan Event page and social media. Contact Deacon Dan Maxcy danm@holyltrinitydm.org for more information.



Contact [Patty Origer](#), 515-237-5073, Coordinator of Persons with Disability Ministry if you have questions or need additional resources.

February Important Dates:

- February 2 – [Presentation of the Lord](#)
- February 2 – [World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life](#)
- February 3 – [Saint Blaise](#)
- February 4 – [International Day of Human Fraternity](#)
- February 5 – [Saint Agatha](#)
- February 6 – [Saint Paul Miki and Companions](#)
- February 8 – [Saint Josephine Bakhita](#)
- February 8 – [International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking](#)
- February 10 – [Saint Scholastica](#)
- February 11 – [Our Lady of Lourdes](#)
- February 11 – [World Day of the Sick](#)
- February 14 – [Saints Cyril and Methodius](#)
- February 17 – [Seven Founders of the Servite Order](#)
- February 20 – [Saints Jacinto and Francisco Marto](#)
- February 21 – [Saint Peter Damian](#)
- February 22 – [Chair of Saint Peter](#)
- February 23 – [Saint Polycarp](#)

