

Evangelization & Mission
Team

PCL Connect E-Newsletter
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
May 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)

Save the Date for May 16 at All Saints Parish in Stuart - Let's Celebrate the 2023-2024 Formation Year:



As we enter into the final weeks of our main formation opportunities, let's spend the time together to celebrate YOU. Our gathering begins at 9:30 am and ends by 1:30 pm. Although the gathering is still being planned here is a little idea to get you excited to join us:

Agenda:

- 9:30 am – gathering with colleagues around a light breakfast
- 10:00 am – welcome and prayer
- 10:15 am - Morning of reflection with local spiritual retreat facilitator, Maureen Hoffmann
- 12:00 pm - A look ahead at the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and the Jubilee focused on “Pilgrims of Hope”.
- 12:30 pm - A delicious catered lunch.

RSVP today to [Sherri Simmer](#). So we have enough food and attendance information for Maureen, please RSVP by May noon on May 13.

Marriage and Family Life Director Transition:



Although an official announcement will be coming, I want to inform you that Adam Storey will transition from his current role in early September to a new role where a majority of his work will be in the tribunal. This move is a major step towards implementing the recommendations from the recent tribunal audit. I appreciate and value the collaboration Adam and I have had over the years, and the brief time over this first year of the Pastoral Reorganization to align our work towards the vision of our new diocesan strategic plan.

Attached is the job description for the director of marriage and family life. Adam's work has been superb, however it is limited by his work as Vice Chancellor and with the Tribunal. This new position will enhance the role in many ways that will support parish outreach throughout the entire family life cycle. I appreciate your assistance in forwarding this information to those you feel might be a good candidate for this position. You can find out more at [this link](#). Applications will be accepted through May 30, 2024.

Catechetical Sunday 2024 Theme and Image:



Catechetical Sunday is scheduled for September 15, 2024. The 2024 Catechetical Sunday Theme is "Lord, when did we see you hungry" "Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento?" (Matthew 25:37/Mateo 25:37)

Accompanying the 2024 theme, this icon of Servant of God Dorothy Day (to the left of this text) has been chosen by the Committee for Evangelization & Catechesis. Use of this icon has been generously granted to us by its iconographer Kelly Latimore. The image is currently being prepared with the theme, date,

and the USCCB logos. The posters, prayers cards, and certificates will be available for download from the USCCB by the middle of May. Stay tuned for more by connecting with the USCCB website for Catechetical Sunday at [this link](#).

For those new to parish formation leadership let me share a little more about why you should advocate with your pastor to celebrate Catechetical Sunday at your Eucharistic celebration on September 15.

Our bishops have asked that each parish not just recognize catechists but to call them forth at the Mass on September 15 to be commissioned for this official ministry of the Church. This is also an important time to recognize the domestic church as well. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is a timer to invite catechists, in fact the entire parish community, to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Why is being a catechist, youth ministry team member, Bible study small group leader, RCIA team member, Catholic School teacher, etc. something that deserves a special day for commissioning?

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "*Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life . . . her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis*" (no. 7). This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

Interim Phase Synodal Synthesis:



Attached is the Synodal Synthesis that has been sent to the USCCB. It is close to five pages in length. The first page highlights the process that helped illuminate this synthesis. This project was received from the Vatican and the USCCB once we returned from Christmas break with the request to have two to three listening sessions to assess perceived movement since the original synodal listening sessions occurred. Since our six diocesan pastoral priorities were the fruit of our initial synodal conversations, they were used to focus the conversations for this interim phase. The short report is written to reflect key themes where those who participated experienced signs of growth, signs of stagnancy, and thoughts on how to enhance encounter, friendship, and communion in our parish communities. I hope you have a chance to see the many ways the faithful are experiencing growth, and not solely focusing on areas they feel we need to be better.

The Invite One Back Initiative:



Invite One Back is an invitation for you and your fellow parishioners to identify which parishioners haven't returned to your parish since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and to invite them back to Mass.

There is a simple process for your pastor, with staff and parish leadership, to discern who will receive the invitations and how best to reach out to them. Once the list is created there is also an opportunity to develop a team of prayer warriors who can pray for each person and family by name.

The toolkits include templates for letters, postcards, and even a phone call campaign. All the resources are available in Spanish and English. There are also training videos available in Spanish and English.

This invitation is all about outreach—sharing what we have received and allowing ourselves to act as vessels for God's love and mercy.

Click here for all resources in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

This item will also appear in the Diocesan Loop e-newsletter as well.

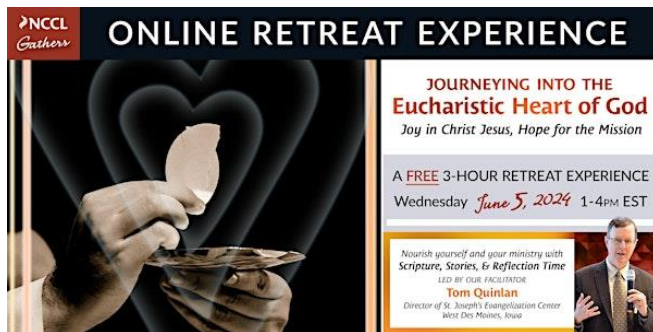
Parish Listening Sessions Executive Summary:



Many of our pastors and some in parish leadership spent time with a member of our Evangelization and Mission Team, Anne Marie Cox, or Jason Kurth to

share a little bit about the parish community. Although we were hoping to connect with 90% of our pastors and their parish leadership, we did achieve 85% this first go around. Learning more about what is going well, the challenges and missed opportunities has had a significant impact on our work here at the Pastoral Center. Our budget plan for FY 2025 was impacted by what was shared. It was a privilege to also be with members of parish pastoral councils, finance committees, trustees, and staff. The attached executive summary captures what we heard and what we will be attentive to as we move forward partnering with pastors and their leadership on what is needed to help strengthen parish initiatives. Beginning on page 4 you will see some of the parishes we discovered had possible best practices that could be helpful if that is an area of challenge in your parish community. This is not an exhaustive list at all. We found bright spot examples in every parish we visited with. We look forward to being with everyone again this fall to continue the conversation.

Free digital retreat from NCCL – June 5 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm:



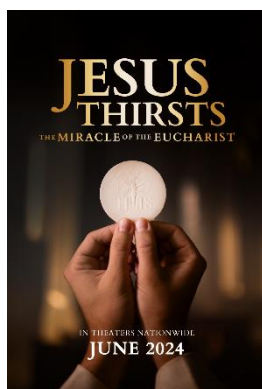
Journeying into the Eucharistic Heart of God: Joy in Christ Jesus, Hope for the Mission retreat led by Tom Quinlan from the Saint Joseph Evangelization Center is a free offering from our colleagues at the National Community of Catechetical Leaders.

What is the retreat about? The road for us as disciple-ministers is filled with many challenges. But also much grace. Let us gather to explore the movement of God in our lives. We will consider how Jesus invites you to deeper intimacy. With the help of story and theological reflection, quiet time and sharing, we'll call upon the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts for what lies ahead on this great and mysterious journey of ours. Receive this brief retreat as a gift of time to be nourished...for yourself and also for your ministry.

Here is [a link](#) to a video message from Tom about the retreat.

Use [this link](#) to register for the free retreat.

New movie coming soon – *Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist*:



Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist, embarks on a global journey to rediscover and revive the transformative power of the Eucharist. Engaging in dialogue with notable Catholic figures, the film explores the biblical origins of the Eucharist and shares personal stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed by the Blessed Sacrament.

Releasing in Des Moines metro at the Cinemark Theaters and at the AMC Council Bluffs 17 on June 4, 5 (English) and June 6 (Spanish). The movie will be shown at 4:00 and 7:00 pm.

You also may want to inquire at the local theater about special pricing to reserve a screening for your group or to work with a few parishes in your areas for a special event. You would be surprised how affordable this is.

Items from Disability Ministry:

Adaptive Vacation Bible School resources from NCPD:



As you gear up to plan for VBS please share with staff and Vacation Bible School volunteers adaptive resources to make your parish a place of welcoming and belonging for all attend VBS. Resource attachments include:

- Adaptions for VBS Power Point slides
- VBS Tips and Tools for Adaptation
- Registration form Questions Additional Information for VBS

Resources to welcome and support persons with mental health challenges at Mass:



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministry has developed [Worship and Liturgy Resources](#) for parishes to help break down the stigma associated with mental health challenges by affirming during public worship services the important role that the Church has in ministering to people with mental health challenges.

Include prayers for persons with mental health challenges, their families and caregivers in your Prayers of the Faithful this month or hold a prayer service!

Resources for this are available at [Prayer resources for People with Disabilities](#), prayer services and resources such as prayer cards (free) that could be shared from the [Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministry Prayer Resource page](#).

Dioocese of Des Moines Disability Ministry



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

May Important Dates:

- May 1 – [Saint Joseph the Worker](#)
- May 2 – [Saint Athanasius](#)
- May 3 – [Saints Philip and James](#)
- May 5 – [Saint Hilary of Arles](#)
- May 10 – [Saint Damien of Moloka'i](#)
- May 12 – [Ascension](#) (celebrated – actual day is May 9)
- May 13 – [Our Lady of Fatima](#)
- May 15 – [Saint Isidore the Farmer](#)
- May 16 – [Saint Margaret of Cortona](#)
- May 19 - [Pentecost](#)

- May 20 – [Saint Bernardine of Siena](#)
- May 24 – [Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi](#)
- May 25 – [Saint Bede the Venerable](#)
- May 26 – [Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity](#) and [Saint Philip Neri](#)
- May 30 – [Saint Joan of Arc](#)
- May 31 – [Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)