



Evangelization & Mission Team

PCL Connect E-Newsletter
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
 October 2023 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)

Connection Groups – Justin, Jessica, and John to begin setting up this week:



Jessica, Justin, and John G. will begin contacting parish formation leaders over the next two weeks to begin the discernment process of finding a date and time for your first Connections session. This session can be in-person or virtual and at a time and day that is most convenient for the group to gather. These gatherings can happen from two times per year, up to four times per year based upon the desire of the individual Connections

group.

Bishop Joensen’s letter to parish formation leaders is attached to this e-newsletter. As Bishop shared in his September 26 letter, *“We have some big adaptive pastoral challenges to overcome and you are at the forefront of our Diocese’s prospective response...Dynamic conversation among small groups of parish formation leaders sets the foundation to address future changes; it also helps parish leaders reflect upon successes and challenges you find in parish life today.”*

Although there is a place and a desire to be together in larger groups, you have shared with us that the large group format is just not working as much for you. We listened to your feedback. Our hope as we begin this process is to:

- 1) encourage parish collaboration,
- 2) work on common goals and pastoral opportunities found in local formation programming, and
- 3) leverage one parish’s strengths with another’s challenges.

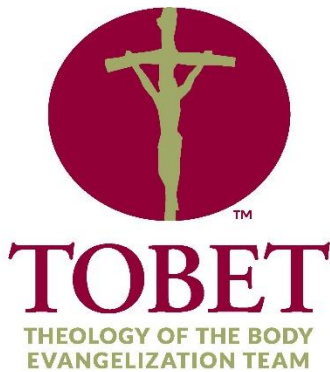
We still plan on connecting up to five times per year in larger gatherings:

- Summer Ministry Enrichment Day the 3rd or 4th Tuesday in August with Bishop Joensen
- Fall workshop (east and west) the second week of November (West is Tuesday morning while East is Thursday morning)

- PCL/CLADD Retreat for Parish Formation Leaders (the first Thursday and Friday in February)
- Spring workshop the second week of March (all day if possible in a central location)
- Closing Year PCL/CLADD Celebration the 3rd Thursday in May

Contact [John Gaffney](#) with questions on Connections and Connections Plus. Once we have made contact and started the scheduling process with Connections, we will begin arranging the Connections Plus mentoring process.

Theology of the Body Workshops Coming to Council Bluffs and Des Moines October 25, 27, and 28:



International Speaker, Author, and Theology of the Body Team President Monica Ashour is coming to the Des Moines Diocese October 25-28 to give various presentations on the Theology of the Body.

On Wednesday, October 25th Monica will be presenting to parents in Council Bluffs, in partnership with Corpus Christi Parish (this event will be bilingual).

On Friday October 26th Monica will be presenting to parents in Des Moines, in partnership with St. Augustin Parish and on Saturday

October 27th Monica will be hosting a full day seminar at Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona.

Flyers for the various events are attached, and sample bulletin inserts are below. If you would like more information or have any questions please contact [Adam Storey](#) at 515-237-5056.

West side bulletin insert:

International speaker, author, and Theology of the Body Team President Monica Ashour will be presenting to parents at St. Albert Catholic School on Wednesday, October 25th from 6:30-7:30 PM. The presentation will explore how to share the Theology of the Body with Tots, Tweens and Teens. The bilingual event is open to all! For more information please contact [Adam Storey](#) at 515-237-5056.

West side bulletin insert in Spanish:

Monica Ashour, Presentadora internacional, autora, y presidenta del equipo de Teología del Cuerpo dará una presentación a los padres de los estudiantes de la Escuela Católica St. Albert el miércoles 25 de octubre de las 6:30pm a las 7:30pm. La presentación ayudará a los padres a compartir la teología del cuerpo con los niños, pre-adolescentes y adolescentes. Es un evento bilingüe y está abierto para todos. Para más información, contacte a [Adam Storey.](#)

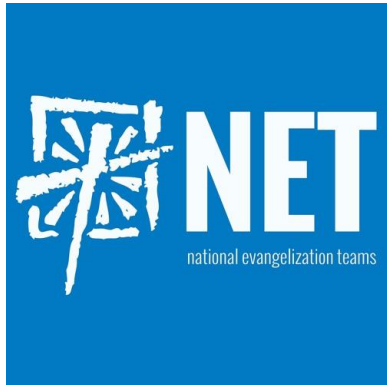
Des Moines region bulletin insert:

International speaker, author, and Theology of the Body Team President Monica Ashour will in Des Moines for two events to share the good news of the Theology of the body. On Friday,

October 27th from 6-8 PM Monica will be offering a parent presentation at St. Augustin Parish. Registration is not required for this event.

On Saturday, October 29th from 8:30 am-3 pm Monica will be offering a Theology of the Body Seminar that is open to all at Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona. This event includes lunch, and costs \$25 (scholarships are available upon request). In order to register, and for more information visit dmdiocese.org/TOB2023

NET Ministries Approved by Bishop Joensen for Three Years:



Bishop Joensen has extended a standing invitation to NET Ministries into the Des Moines Diocese for the next three years to conduct youth retreats. As Bishop extended this invitation he shared with NET Leadership that the spiritual formation of our youth is of high priority.

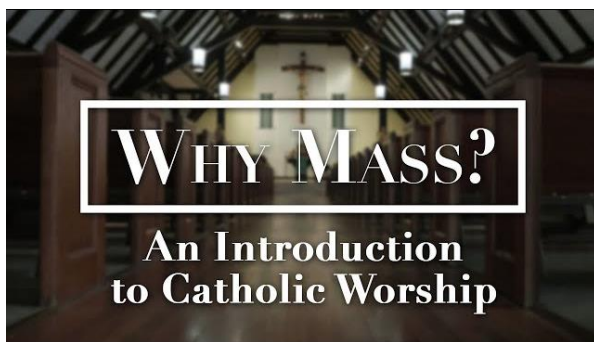
This standing invitation means you needn't vet any retreat team coming from NET with Jason Kurth regarding content. However, you do want to ask the NET representative to send you a letter of compliance that each member of the NET retreat team complies with safe environment screening. This letter should be

kept on file in the parish office.

Follow this link to [NET Ministries](#) regarding retreat information that is available. You can contact NET at 651-450-6833, extension 113 to request hard copies of what is available on the website.

Contact [Jessica Pancho](#) with questions.

Why Mass Facilitation Guides Available:



Attached to this e-newsletter are facilitation guides to accompany the [Why Mass Video Series](#). A team of diocesan and parish staff designed the guides for parish staff who may be facilitating a group or use in RCIA, or for Pete and Paula in the pew at a parish who decides to form a small group, for use as a way of entering into Eucharistic Revival, for Catholic School principals who wish to use this with staff, for parents to use at home with their family, or

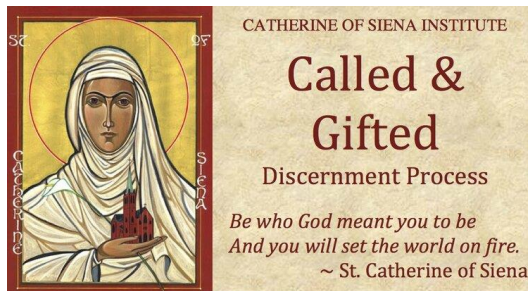
people who just want to use them privately.

Spanish resources are coming soon and will be sent out to everyone in our mailing list as soon as they arrive. We will also have promotional materials you can use and customize to promote the Why Mass video series and the facilitation guides.

Even though the videos are not recorded in Spanish, you can turn on auto-translate on YouTube by clicking on the CC button (for closed captioning) and then click on the gear symbol to the right. Click on the subtitles and auto translate. Select Spanish and your video will have Spanish subtitles.

Future video projects, in fact all future projects coming out of the Evangelization and Mission Team, will have a Spanish component. Please know some legacy resources will not immediately have Spanish language equivalents. We will be working on this throughout this fiscal year.

Called and Gifted Team Training Coming to the Diocese of Des Moines:



Have you registered to be part of the *Called and Gifted* Team Training that will occur on October 12-14, and 20-21? If not, what are you waiting for?

We are looking for you if you have completed the *Called and Gifted* workshop, done your discernment interview, and discerned your charisms.

Register at <https://www.siena.org/des-moines-ia-virtual-team-training>.

The cost is \$50 per participant or \$20 if you completed *Called and Gifted* before 2019. The Diocese of Des Moines is investing in this wonderful formation process so we can offer more parish Called and Gifted workshops to help Christians discern the presence of charisms in their lives. Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to give them power both to represent Christ and to be a channel of God's goodness for people.

For more information contact [Faye Akers](#), [Vivian Day](#), or [Patty Mayer](#).

Sacramental Record Keeping Handbook Zoom check-in:

Father Trevor Chicoine realizes some of our parish formation staff members are recording sacramental information in the books. Two Zoom sessions have been scheduled on October 12 to answer questions you have about the new Sacramental Records handbook that parishes should have received within the last week to ten days. The ZOOM meeting information is below.

Check In

You are most welcome to attend.

Please email your questions or areas where you need further clarity to Father Trevor at tchicoine@dmdiocese.org before October 9. A save the date reminder poster is attached to this email. There is no need to register. Our hope is that any questions you have, or clarity you need, will be addressed in upcoming ZOOM check-ins on October 12.

Below is the links to the two ZOOM sessions scheduled on October 12 for this project on the Sacramental Records Handbook:

- Topic: Sacramental Records Handbook Check-in
Time: Oct 12, 2023 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89674500635?pwd=czRzdzB0bDA4b1UraThiQ3NKTXNrUT09>

Meeting ID: 896 7450 0635

Passcode: 857373

- Topic: Sacramental Records Handbook Check-in
Time: Oct 12, 2023 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81213415250?pwd=dE5jUzc4OWFqdMjRRIJQS3R6ZDFQZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 1341 5250

Passcode: 001734

Update on Grace Pauley (daughter of Rhonda Buck):



Thank you for all the prayers coming to Grace, Rhonda, her family and friends. Although things are very slowly trending in the right direction in many parts of Grace's recovery, many of the imaging technology such as CT and MRI haven't yet provided answers to medical issues Grace is facing.

Many of you have requested how to stay in touch and help out during this long road to recovery. There is a Facebook Page for Grace titled Grace Strong which Rhonda and others keep updated regularly. Friends of the family have also started a GoFundMe campaign. It is almost halfway to their \$15,000 goal for Grace and her family. You can find the campaign at [this link](#).

Items from Disability Ministry:

Calling all Catechetical and Parish Ministry Leaders (FREE) Virtual training

NCPD wants to meet virtually with parish ministry leaders to share your joys and challenges in making the church a home for all. Learn about Disability Ministry resources and ways to create a culture of belonging that benefits the entire faith community. October 11 from 1-2:30 pm CST English and from 7-9:30 pm CST in Spanish. [Register here](#).

Tips and Tools Training for Faith Formation Leaders & Catechists



This [course](#) includes a recording of a webinar training that provides great tools and possible videos you could utilize for supporting and training your catechists. Patty Origer highly recommends all Faith Formation Leaders to look at this course for ideas to share with Catechists or you could use parts of it for a training tool for your catechists. Topics covered include classroom management, multi-sensory lesson planning, music and movement, social and emotional

health, social narratives and sacramental preparation. You can receive a 15% discount of the \$50 fee for the course by registering with this code: **AFF2024**

Diocese of Des Moines Disability Ministry



Please contact **Patty Origer**, Coordinator of Persons with Disability Ministry if you have questions or need additional resources.

October Important Dates:

- October 1 – [Respect Life Month](#), [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#), and [Pregnancy and Infant Loss Month](#)
- October 1 – [Saint Thérèse of Lisieux](#)
- October 2 – [Memorial of the Guardian Angels](#)
- October 4 – [Saint Francis of Assisi](#)
- October 5 – [Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska](#)
- October 7 – [Our Lady of the Rosary](#)
- October 11 – [Saint Pope John XXIII](#)
- October 13 – [Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher](#)
- October 14 – [Blessed Carlo Acutis](#)
- October 15 – [Saint Teresa of Avila](#)
- October 16 – [Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque](#)
- October 17 – [Saint Ignatius of Antioch](#)
- October 18 – [Saint Luke](#)
- October 19 – [Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brébeuf, and companions](#)
- October 22 – [Saint Pope John Paul II](#)
- October 23 – [Saint John of Capistrano](#)
- October 26 – [Saint Peter of Alcantara](#)
- October 28 – [Saints Simon and Jude](#)