

Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

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

**Parish Catechetical Leader’s Summer Ministry Enrichment Day – August 22 – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm:**



Please mark your calendar and join us for this year’s Summer Parish Faith Leader Enrichment Day on August 22 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at All Saints parish in Stuart.

We are pleased that Bishop Joensen will be on hand for prayer and a vibrant discussion on why and how our parish communities can move towards Evangelizing Catechesis. A light breakfast and lunch is included. See the attached agenda for more details on the day.

Our day together will consist of:

- Communal prayer with Bishop Joensen
- An opportunity to hear from Bishop and a panel discussion on the five essentials of an evangelizing catechesis: it is inviting, it is Good News, it is personal, it is attractive, and it is true.
- Q&A is included with Bishop Joensen and during the panel discussion
- Lunch
- Exploring the Why Mass website and Eucharistic Revival resources
- Updates on Leadership Formation opportunities for 2023-2024.

One part of the agenda with Bishop Joensen is to recognize our colleagues who are celebrating significant years of service within lifelong formation in faith. Our colleagues to be recognized include:

Five Years of Service

- Jason Feeney (Christ the King parish, Des Moines)
- Andrea Fisher (St. Mary/Holy Cross parish, Elkhart)
- Rita Laughlin (St. Patrick parish, Imogene)
- Mary Sankey (Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart parish, Ankeny)

Ten Years

- Jill Gerling (All Saints parish, Stuart)

## Twenty-Five Years

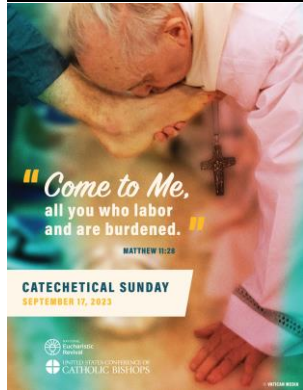
- John Gaffney (Diocese of Des Moines)
- Julie Williamson (Saints Peter and Paul parish, Atlantic)

## Forty Years

- Kathy Ecklin (St. Patrick parish, Lenox)

Please RSVP to Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org). All costs for the day is covered by the Diocese of Des Moines.

## **Catechetical Sunday is September 17, 2023:**



This year's theme is "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened" (Matthew 11:28) "Vengan a Mí, todos los que están cansados y cargados" (Mateo 11;28)

This year's theme reminds us of the invitation we receive from the Lord Jesus to follow Him and the promise that He doesn't want to add to our burdens; he wants to lighten them.

Catechetical Sunday is a great opportunity for all Catholics to rededicate themselves to the mission of passing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith. Those who the parish community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry at Mass during the weekend of September 16 and 17.

Below are resources to help you and your community celebrate.

- The [USCCB](#) includes free downloadable resources as well as resources to purchase including posters, prayer cards, certificates, and a beautiful commissioning service to use at Mass or outside of Mass.

## **Mass for Quinceañeras:**

Bishop Joensen will be offering a Mass for Quinceañeras on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm at St. Ambrose Cathedral.



If you do wish to participate, we are asking that you also register for the Quinceañera Retreat that will be held at the St. Thomas More Center on August 25 and 26.

Please contact Jessica Pancho at 515-237-5051 or at [jhernandez@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jhernandez@dmdiocese.org) if you would like to register your Quinceañera.

## **Ideas for Recruiting and Retaining Catechists from Loyola Press:**

Recruiting and forming catechists is a key responsibility for catechetical leaders. Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz remind us to call people with the gifts that enable them to apprentice others into the faith, and then give them the tools and training they need to succeed in their vocation.

In this informational piece, Julianne Stanz knows that finding catechists who are evangelizers are key to a faith formation process that forms disciples. You can find her wisdom at [this link](#).

Joe offers reminds us that catechists are not simply volunteers they are people who are leaning into their baptismal calling to serve as a catechist. You can find his wisdom at [this link](#). He also tackles the question on if we need a different kind of catechist for family faith formation at [this link](#).

### **Eucharistic Revival Resources:**

Paulette Chapman has curated a list of resources to help you lean into the parish year of Eucharistic Revival. This list will continue to grow and soon will be found on our Diocesan resources page on the website.

#### **Videos**

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/worship/why-mass>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/mass-and-liturgy/living-the-mass-webinar/> Webinar based on book by Paprocki and Grassi: *Living the Mass: How One Hour a Week Can Change Your Life*

#### **Collections of Resources**

<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org> is the website for the national project, and it explains the effort and offers resources for parishes.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass> is an area of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website devoted to “Rediscovering the Mass.” Here you will find explanations of the parts of the Mass, Real Presence, the liturgical calendar, and links to Church documents related to liturgy, among other resources.

<https://pastoral.center/planning-for-eucharistic-revival> is a free downloadable toolkit which offers ideas and suggests low cost resources to help parishes plan for the parish phase of the Eucharistic renewal. It’s a good introduction to the many resources The Pastoral Center offers on this topic.

<https://www.intergenerationalfaith.com/catholic-sacraments.html> This suite of resources dealing with the seven sacraments includes a section on Eucharist. Please note that the home activities at the top of the page are also a rich resource. The little section below the home activities, labeled “Additional Sacrament Learning Activities,” links to a download with extensive additional resources and links, including many about the Eucharist.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/sacraments/eucharist/deepening-understanding-of-the-eucharist/> Includes Pop-up Catechesis series “A Walk Through the Mass,” as well as activities for children, articles, etc.

<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com> is a website related to the one listed above, featuring content curated by (and much of it created by) Joe Paprocki as he lives into his

lifelong vocation as a catechist. Included here are all the Pop-up Catechesis video series, including one called “Living the Mass the Other Six Days of the Week,” and other resources for teaching about the Mass and the Eucharist. Free downloadable activities are being added, including:

- <https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2023/07/people-and-things-at-mass-matching-game/>
- <https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2018/12/downloadable-worksheet-find-the-signs-and-symbols-in-your-church/>
- <https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2023/05/parts-of-the-mass-word-puzzles/>
- <https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2022/11/eucharist-quotes-journal/>
- <https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2023/04/what-eucharistic-hymns-teach/>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/sacraments/eucharist/first-eucharist-preparation/> features First Eucharist resources, including some supplemental to their curriculum

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/sacraments/eucharist/group-discussion-resources/> shares small group resources for adults and teens

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/sacraments/eucharist/eucharistic-adoration/>

is Loyola’s resources for adoration, including prayer cards, video, etc.

<https://go.sadlier.com/religion/eucharistic-revival-activity-kit> is a set of worksheet-type resources, available in Spanish and English, from Sadlier Religion’s catechetical downloads collection.

### **Miscellaneous**

Pastoral Liturgy magazine is a great resource for your parish to subscribe to. You can find lots of content from past issues at <http://pastoralliturgy.org/index.php>.

<https://www.praytellblog.com/#> is a website which promotes “the ongoing renewal of the liturgy and its transformative effect in the life of the Church and the world.” Its archives contain over ten years’ worth of articles, homilies, reflections, etc. by some of today’s leading scholars and practitioners of liturgy.

### **Second Annual Corpus Christi procession information:**

Date: August 19


Mass: 9:00 AM at the Grotto, St. Anthony's

Procession: 10:00 AM to St. Ambrose Cathedral

Lunch Served at Pastoral Center 🍴

Enjoy a delicious lunch after the procession!

Transportation back to St. Anthony's provided.

Let Us Know You're Coming!   
Registration not necessary but appreciated.  
Scan the QR code to register.  
Your RSVP helps us plan for the event.

Come together in faith, love, and hope!  
All are welcome to this grace-filled gathering.



### **Diocesan Approved Catechetical Texts, Series, and methodologies – updated August 4, 2023:**



Attached to this e-newsletter please find the most recent edition of our Diocesan approved text, series, and methodologies list. Please print this list and keep it handy for future reference. **You must contact the [Director of Evangelization and Mission](#) if you want to use a series, text, or methodology as a primary form of catechesis for children and teens.** The director will begin a review of the requested text, series, or methodology if approved by the bishop.

John Gaffney has begun a conformity review of the new Family Faith Formation curriculum from [Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries](#) out of Orange California. So far the review is very favorable, however he has yet to complete the review. Contact [John Gaffney](#) if you would like to know more about this process.

### **Items from Disability Ministry:**

#### **Tools and Training Materials for Including Diverse Learners in Catholic Faith Formation:**



Youth Ministry: Welcome Back!

You are invited to check out the [Catechist Leader Resource page for Disability Ministry](#).

There is some great materials to help educate staff and volunteers about modifying materials and spaces to be accessible to all.

If a family has someone with more complex accommodation needs, there are also great tools and curriculum programming options.

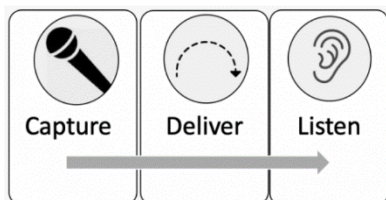
For Youth Group Leaders there is a section to help begin those discussions on mental health to help teens with anxiety, stress and/or depression. Starting conversations about mental health is key in reducing stigma and increasing the likelihood that people will seek mental health care when they need it. These discussions and programs can help open channels of communication between young people and their peers, their parents and the church.

### **Praying with Pope Francis for People with Mental Illness 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month:**



The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (CMHM) partners with the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#) and [Click to Pray to offer a Monthly Day of Prayer for Mental Health](#). Each 2nd Monday of the month the CMHM offers prayers and a blog post, connected to the Pope's monthly prayer intention. You may pray with us via the Click to Pray app or the [Click to Pray](#) website.

### **Promote the Meaningful Participation in Church with Assistive Listening Systems (ALS):**



An informational resource with vendors is included in the attachments to assist parish leaders considering an ALS system. For more detailed information and additional resources on ALS and advocacy organizations to learn about hearing loss and ALS is available on [Disability Ministry Parish Resource](#) page under Assistive Listening Systems section.

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



### **August Important Dates:**

- August 1 – [Saint Alphonsus Ligouri](#)
- August 4 – [Saint John Vianney](#)
- August 5 – [Dedication of Saint Mary Major Basilica](#)
- August 6 – [Transfiguration of the Lord](#)
- August 8 – [Saint Dominic](#)
- August 9 – [Saint Teresa Benedicata of the Cross](#)
- August 10 – [Saint Lawrence](#)
- August 11 – [Saint Clare of Assisi](#)
- August 12 – [Saint Jane Frances de Chantal](#)
- August 14 – [Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe](#)
- August 15 – [Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- August 20 – [Saint Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- August 22 – [Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- August 27 – [Saint Monica](#)
- August 28 – [Saint Augustine of Hippo](#)
- August 29 – [Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist](#)
- August 31 – [Saints Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus](#)