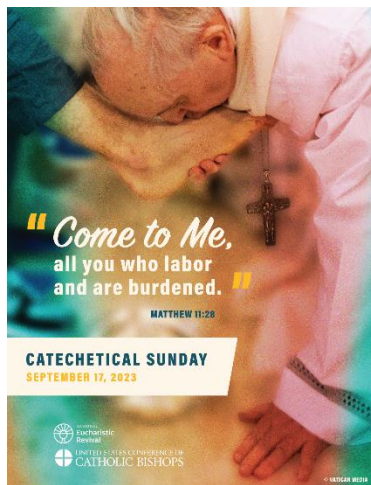


Evangelization & Mission
Team

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

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.

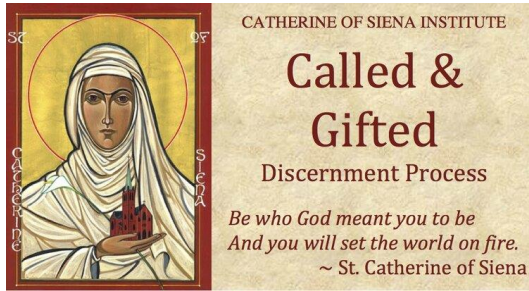
Attached to this e-newsletter are graphics you can use in your digital platforms and e-newsletters to parents. There are ten graphics all together (5 in English and 5 in Spanish). The graphics include one for the entire community of those who form others in our faith, youth ministry, parents, adult formation/RCIA, and Catholic School teachers and staff.

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.

Joe Paprocki from Loyola Press has a wonderful article utilizing Catechetical Sunday to spotlight the role of invitation in Evangelizing Catechesis. Not only is this perfect based upon our year's theme on Evangelizing Catechesis, but it is a practice that works overtime in almost all parishes. You will find a copy of the article attached in this e-newsletter.

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



The Diocese of Des Moines has invested in training to create a team to facilitate the *Called & Gifted* discernment process in parishes around our Diocese. It takes at least four trained persons on a team for fruitful implementation. By having trained facilitators in our Diocese greatly reduces down the cost to bring this wonderful discernment process to parishes around the Diocese. Please register today if

you have completed the *Called & Gifted* workshop, the discernment interview, and discerned your charisms. An informational flyer is attached.

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

What is *Called & Gifted* (taken from the Siena Institute website)

The *Called & Gifted* Discernment Process has been used since 1993 by over 200,000 lay, ordained, and religious Catholics and other Christians around the world. It is designed 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. All three parts of the process are necessary for discovering where you are gifted.

Part One is the Called and Gifted workshop, which lays the foundation for the beginning of discernment. During the initial Called & Gifted workshop series the participants will take the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory.

Part Two is the one hour gifts interview, an invaluable part of the process.

Part Three helps you begin discernment in the real world. It will teach you how to:

- develop charism experiments,
- evaluate your results, and
- identify ways you learned to control life as a child that get in the way of using your charisms as an adult.

Need a facility to hold a retreat offsite? – What about the Saint Thomas More Center – home of Catholic Youth Camp:



The Saint Thomas More Center is not just for children and teens during the summer. They host retreats and events from September to May. The Center, located on Lake Panorama, provides a safe and welcoming environment for youth and retreat leaders to gather together youth or young adults to seek Jesus.

The staff at the Saint Thomas More Center will work with you to tailor your needs with what they are able to offer. Use [this link](#) for more information or contact Jason Anderson at 515-309-1936. Whether it is confirmation, leadership, or professional retreats the team has you covered. Bring a retreat facilitator with you and hold your own spiritual retreat.

Upcoming Conferences in youth ministry and catechetical leadership:



2024 Exchange from that National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM): NFCYM's EXCHANGE is a national gathering bringing together Catholic youth ministry leaders, ministry professionals, volunteers, and supporters.

Exchange is an opportunity to create and deepen your connections, expand your knowledge and skills, and find personal and professional support through powerful prayer experiences and moments of joy.

2024 Exchange will take place February 5-7, 2024 in Dallas, Texas. Registration opens October 1. For more information, click on [this link](#).

L.A. Religious Education Congress 2024:

The 2024 themes is *Be Loved!* and the Congress runs from February 16-16 in Anaheim, California.

There are so many pathways for connection and professional development at the LA Congress. There is something for those in religious education, youth ministry, adult formation and spirituality, as well as amazing keynotes and wonderful liturgies. For more information use [this link](#). Registrations open in the late fall.

Items from Disability Ministry:

September Deaf Awareness Month and Suicide Prevention Month/Day on the 10th:



- Include Intercessions/Petitions at Mass for the Deaf Community and for Suicide Prevention and persons with mental illness. Examples found on the [Disability Ministry Prayer website page](#) such as:
 - [Intercessions/Petitions for Mental Health and Homilies on Mental Health and Illness](#) from the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministry [ACMHM](#).
 - [Deaf Awareness Month Prayers of the Faithful](#) from National Catholic Partnership on Disability [NCPD](#)
- Mental Health Resources on the [Parish Disability Resources](#) website for parishes to share including free Prayer cards for Patron Saints of Mental Illness, Pew Card for Mental Illness or host a prayers service and pray for those with mental illness.

- [Suicide & 988 Crisis Lifeline Toolkit](#) and materials available from SAMHSA. Materials include wallet cards to promote the suicide crisis lifeline, magnets, stickers, posters, notecards, etc.

Dementia Friendly One-Hour Information Session on September 19 at 7:00 pm:



Attached is a flyer to post at your church, on your website, in your bulletin or on social media to promote a one-hour information session to become a *Dementia Friend* to learn about living with dementia and the simple things you can do to support someone living with dementia. St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Norwalk is hosting it.

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

Diocese of Des Moines Disability Ministry



September Important Dates:

- September 1 – [Saint Gregory the Great](#)
- September 4 – [Saint Rose of Viterbo](#)
- September 5 – [Saint Teresa of Calcutta](#)
- September 7 – [Blessed Frederic Ozanam](#) (St. Vincent de Paul Society founder)
- September 8 – [Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- September 13 – [Saint John Chrysostom](#)
- September 14 – [Exaltation of the Cross](#)
- September 15 – [Our Lady of Sorrows](#)
- September 17 – [Saint Robert Bellarmine](#)
- September 21 – [Saint Matthew](#)
- September 23 – [Saint Pio of Pietrelcina](#)
- September 24 – [Saint John Henry Newman](#)
- September 26 – [Saint Paul VI](#)
- September 29 – [Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael](#) (Archangels)
- September 30 – [Saint Jerome](#)

