



Evangelization & Mission
Team

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



As we prepare to implement a newly translated Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), let us dedicate the time and energy to renew our understanding and appreciation of the Church's vision for initiation ministry. There are several formation opportunities for clergy and coordinators with team members. **There is no cost for this formation for clergy, coordinators, and team who serve in the Diocese of Des Moines.**

See the attached flyers in English and Spanish for links or use the one below to register for the following sessions. All

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

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

Virtual Open House Meeting - January 23, 2024 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm by Zoom (English only for this session)

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.

Email [John Gaffney](mailto:John.Gaffney@dmoc.org) if you have questions about the OCIA series.

PCL/CLADD Retreat – February 1-2, 2024 with Amy Hoover at the Holiday Inn at the Ameristar in Council Bluffs:



2024 Retreat Theme is **See and Experience the Divine Beyond All Names.**

See the attached flyer for more details and registration links for the retreat and to book a hotel room at the Holiday Inn.

Our time together will include invitations to use images to encounter the Divine including Visio Divina, Ignatian Contemplation and sharing our stories. We will have ample time for personal prayer and reflection. Come and rest, retreat, reconnect, and reground with the God Beyond all Names.

The Emmaus House is our host. Established in 1974, the Emmaus House continues to provide a safe place to recognize and respond to the Spirit in all of life. Amy Hoover is the former director of the Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold with 19 years of experience in spiritual direction. She holds a masters in Christian Spirituality from Creighton and a Spiritual Direction Certificate from the St. Joseph Educational Center. She was previously Director of Adult Faith Formation at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny.

Our retreats are not ministry specific. This is a retreat for disciples, whose ministry calling has brought them into some aspect of lifelong formation in faith. If you desire to take advantage of this retreat gift but funds are an issue, please reach out to me and I can help with scholarships: either for the retreat fee, or the hotel costs, and for some all the fees. Contact [John Gaffney](#) for more information about scholarships or any questions you have about the retreat.

Please register for your room by January 11 and email or mail your registration to the Emmaus House as soon as possible.

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.

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

Connections Group finally underway:



After a long delay, our team will begin contacting parish formation leaders over the next three weeks to begin the discernment process of finding a date and time for your first Connections session.

We apologize for the delay but our structural changes, especially around the areas of the pastoral priorities commission work, took much more time than had been estimated.

Below please find a few reminders about what we are trying to accomplish with your Connections Group.

- This first session can be in-person or virtual and at a time and day that is most convenient for the group to gather. Future gatherings can happen from two times per year up to four times per year based upon the desire of the individual Connections group.
- 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.

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.

Healing and Deliverance Ministry Update:

Recently one of our PCLs brought to my attention a question on if adults who are part of a ministry team involved in healing ministries needed to have Virtus training. Upon investigation I discovered the answer is yes. Attached is the Guidelines and Norms for Healing and Deliverance ministries. I have attached the document to this e-newsletter.

The second paragraph under purpose and scope is clear about who this applies to, "These directives apply to any person within the Diocese of Des Moines assisting with Prayer Ministry for Healing and/or Deliverance in any public, private, liturgical, or non-liturgical setting."

Article 7 on page 5 indicates the requirement for Virtus training for team members. Since this is a dense document and you may have questions about your specific parish ministry, I suggest you contact [Deacon Tom Bradley](#) for guidance.

Items from Disability Ministry:

Resources available for persons who experience a disability & their caregivers



There is a Disability Resources list available on the [Disability Ministry Partner Organization Resources page](#) to assist clergy and parish leaders as they accompany and support persons with disabilities in their parish and surrounding community. Resources available include: disability type, employment, financial and legal, general, government, prenatal diagnosis, sports and

fitness, and veterans.

[Prayer Resources for People with Disabilities](#) are available for caregivers, anxiety/stress, autism, mental health, suicide, inclusion and fostering belonging and sensory Stations of the Cross.

Employing Persons with Disabilities: How we as a church community can help!



Check out this [short video from WHO-13 news](#) about how Easterseals Iowa works with businesses and persons with disabilities to match people's skills and abilities with a job. People with disabilities are an untapped workforce for a business. If your school or church is looking for someone to fill an open position, please contact [Patty Origer](#), Persons with Disability Ministry Coordinitor, so she can connect you with Supported Employment Organizations You can also

reach out if your parishes Knights of Columbus or Women's Guild is interested in learning more about the Putting Faith to Work initiative to help build a referral network to help make potential employment connections.

November is National Family Caregivers Month:



Share information on the monthly [Nourish for Caregivers Support Group event information](#) is available on the Diocese website event page. Contacts are: Deacon Dan Maxcy danm@holyltrinitydm.org or Deacon Jim Houston

pastoralcare@saintpiuschurch.org

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

Diocese of Des Moines Disability Ministry



January Important Dates:

- January 1 – [Mary, Mother of God](#)
- January 2 – [Saint Basil the Great](#)
- January 3 – [Most Holy Name of Jesus](#)

- January 4 – [Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton](#)
- January 5 – [Saint John Neumann](#)
- January 8 – [Saint Angela of Foligno](#)
- January 10 – [Saint Gregory of Nyssa](#)
- January 14 – [Saint Gregory Nazianzen](#)
- January 17 – [Saint Anthony of Egypt](#)
- January 18-25 – [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#)
- January 21 – [Saint Agnes](#)
- January 22 – [Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children](#)
- January 23 – [Saint Marianne Cope](#)
- January 24 – [Saint Francis de Sales](#)
- January 25 – [Conversion of St. Paul](#)
- January 26 – [Saints Titus and Timothy](#)
- January 27 – [Saint Angela Merici](#)
- January 28 – [Saint Thomas Aquinas](#)
- January 31 – [Saint John Bosco](#)

