

Evangelization & Mission
Team

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

Principles of Initiation Ministry Workshop underway– Space available if you would like to join us:



Our first workshop was held Tuesday evening. The recording and handouts for the session are available on our [course webpage](#). Please scroll to the bottom of the [course webpage](#) to locate these links. The passcode for the recording is noted directly following its link. When prompted, please enter the passcode to view the recording.

The two principles discussed were 1) Initiation takes place in community, and 2) Conversion is at the heart of initiation.

The next session on March 5 at 6:30 pm will cover the principles of 1) catechesis, and 2) liturgical rites. The Adobe Connect classroom will open at 5:30pm CT, with the session beginning at 6:00pm CT.

Contact me if you would like to register for the remaining two digital workshops. Don't forget to register for the in-person workshop. Use [this link](#) to register.

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.

New round of Synodal Listening to occur during Lent:



Please share the attached graphic in your bulletin, on your website or social media platforms, and in your e-newsletters to parishioners.

The Vatican and the USCCB have requested all Dioceses to hold a small number of listening sessions during this interim stage of the worldwide synodal process. Our listening

session plan will build on the initial work that was completed which identified the six pastoral priorities in our strategic vision. See the attached graphic to read about the six pastoral priorities of the Diocese of Des Moines.

Our outreach this lent for the 60 minute session includes:

- A general Zoom session for those wishing to participate on March 11 (6:30 to 7:30 PM) and March 12 (2:30 to 3:30 pm)
- Youth session (in-person) – Jessica Pancho is coordinating sessions
- Young Adult session (in-person) – in progress

The two questions to explore are:

1. Based upon our six Diocesan pastoral priorities, (see attached graphic) where do I see signs of growth? Where do I see stagnancy or the Church falling behind?
2. Our mission is to help each baptized Christian to cultivate connections in Christ through encounter, friendship, and communion. What is needed in your local community to make this Christian vision come alive?

Contact [John Gaffney](#) with questions or if you would like to help with the process.

Apply for a Parish Mission Renewal Grant this season – opened on February 20:



What are those missed pastoral opportunities you would like to provide your parish community but can't due to your budget? Prayerfully consider applying for a Parish Mission Renewal grant this year.

In 2023, Parish Mission Renewal awarded \$10,000 to St. Patrick parish in Perry to revive Hispanic Ministry. Father Litto saw several areas where the parish was missing opportunities towards pastoral outreach and the parish budget wouldn't be able to meet the need. Since being awarded the grant they have begun parent faith formation nights, retreats, launching an RCIA process culturally appropriate for Hispanics, and added to the Sunday experience with a Hispanic choir.

Other grants went to St. Patrick parish in Imogene for over \$5,000 to enhance the Sunday experience as they continue to implement Divine Renovation mission practices, and St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines to develop a pastoral approach to family faith formation.

Find more information at the [Catholic Foundation website](#). The grant portal opened on February 20. There will be grant webinars on March 5, 12, and 18. The deadline for submission is April 26.

Contact [John Gaffney](#) for more information and discuss your proposed project to apply for a Parish Mission Renewal grant.

Family Resources for Lent and Easter:



There has a tremendous response to this year's Living Lent. Keep encouraging parishioners to dive deeper into the Lenten and Holy Weekseason this year with these "Living Lent" resources, including a guide to Lent, activities for families, & weekly conversation starters. The new Lenten short videos our wonderful. All resources can be found at [this link](#).

Alexis Nicholson, working with Kristi Quinlan, have also redesigned and updated Living Easter, with resources for March 31-May 19.

These Easter resources can be found at [this link](#).

Both webpages have many resources for our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters.

Webinars worth registering for:

The Future is Now – Empowering Young People in Parish Renewal from Divine Renovation and Alpha USA

Join Matt Regitz and Huw Warmenhoven in this conversation where they unpack practical insights, explore recent research on engaging the Open Generation, and share real-life stories from parishes. Engaging young people is crucial for a vibrant, mission-driven parish. As a leader, how can you involve and empower the young church in your vision for renewal, and provide opportunities for everyone to encounter God's love? Don't miss this conversation!

March 21 at 3:00 pm CT – Register for this free webinar at [this link](#).

Items from Disability Ministry:

RESPITE Waiver Event Consent PDF Fillable Form:

For parishes that are considering accompanying families with children with disabilities by providing a “respite night” for parents/caregivers to have break, attached is a **Respite Waiver Event Consent pdf fillable form** that can be used at parishes. And remember we do have funding available for a parish to host an event and organization tools such as registration forms, training of volunteer materials, etc. to help you get organize for the event. Contact Patty Origer, poriger@dmdiocese.org for additional resources.

Financial Assistance Available for Disability Ministry at YOUR Parish:

Generous donors have helped us start a Disability Ministry Foundation to assist parishes financially in providing accommodations and opportunities for belonging for people with disabilities and their families and caregivers in our faith communities. [Application form for the Rothermel Foundation grant](#).

Possibly ideas include:

- Purchase assisted listening technology, large print missals, and sensory tools for use during Mass or faith formation, etc.
- Host a respite night to give a break to caregivers and need funds for activities, food, programming, etc.
- Materials for faith sharing group for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Start a Nourish for Caregivers Support Group.

April Lunch and Learn tips and tools for Disability - Survey link included:



Tips and Tools on Disability
for Catechists

Lunch and Learn sessions from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability webinar course Tips and Tools on Disability will be coming in April. Please complete this [survey](#) of dates/times that work for you.

The course is designed specifically for faith formation leaders, catechists, and anyone working with children with disabilities. The training provides practical insights, adaptable teaching techniques, and essential tools to create a supportive and inclusive

environment for learners with disabilities. Learn how to tailor lesson plans, nurture social and emotional well-being, and guide learners through sacramental preparation, ensuring that every individual's faith journey is embraced and celebrated. Each session will last around 20 to 40 minutes with discussion.



Sensory Friendly—Inclusive Family Masses:

Everyone is welcome in the parishes of the Diocese of Des Moines. However, there are a number of individuals with developmental disabilities, such as autism, that don't feel comfortable attending their "typical" parish mass for different reasons. Parishes hosting Sensory Friendly – Inclusive Family Masses (SFM) are going “the extra mile” to ensure that individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers feel welcome, valued, appreciated, and supported. All are welcome to attend these masses - and it is an opportunity for the parish community to be supportive and demonstrate its concern. A [sensory friendly mass resource](#) is available to get you started. Contact Patty Origer, Persons with Disability Ministry Coordinator, for further assistance in getting one started at your parish.

Nourish for Caregivers



Please share the [Diocesan event link](#) at your parish for the next support group session. It will be at Holy Trinity parish media center on March 27 at 6:00 pm. Additional information on the event will be made available on the Diocesan Event

page and social media. Contact Deacon Dan Maxcy danm@holytrinitydm.org for more information.

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

March Important Dates:

- March 3 – [Saint Katherine Drexel](#)
- March 7 – [Saints Perpetua and Felicity](#)
- March 9 – [Saint Frances of Rome](#)
- March 10 – [Saint Dominic Savio](#)
- March 14 – [Saint Maximilian](#)
- March 15 – [Saint Louise de Marillac](#)
- March 17 – [St. Patrick](#)
- March 18 – [Saint Cyril of Jerusalem](#)
- March 19 – [St. Joseph](#)
- March 22 – [Chrism Mass](#)
- March 24 – [Saint Oscar Romero](#)
- March 24 – [Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion](#)
- March 25 – [Annunciation of the Lord](#)
- March 28 – [Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper](#)
- March 29 – [Good Friday of the Lord's Passion](#)
- March 30 – [Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter](#)
- March 31 – [Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord](#)