



The Professional



A TIME TO SOW

from
Tom Quinlan,
Director

Protection of Minors: Accepting the Challenges, Seeing the Possibilities

Have there been times when all the policies and procedures relating to our diocesan protection of minors initiative have felt like an unpleasant interruption to your catechetical ministry work? Like an extra layer of bureaucratic burden, when there are already plenty of other such layers in your ministry?

I suspect that for many of us, both on the diocesan level, working to develop appropriate measures, and on the parish level, striving to carry out these measures, there have been moments of frustration and resentment. A lot of policies, procedures and expectations have landed on our ministry in the last couple of years. And a lot of it isn't loaded with the warm-and-fuzzies of imparting the *good news* of Christ. Telling a potential catechist that you need to check her criminal record isn't fun. Repeatedly hearing or talking about the tragedy of child sexual abuse is difficult.

This whole situation is a challenge that none of us sought out. It has come to us because of the clergy sexual abuse scandal. The scandal is a tragic facet of our Church's recent history, one producing suffering on many levels. And today, parish catechetical leadership across the nation is impacted with the responsibility to add curriculum components and thoroughly check catechists' backgrounds.

It has been gratifying to perceive how well our community of leaders has adjusted to the various components of the protection of minors initiative. Overall, the implementation of criminal checks, *Protecting God's Children*, and other pieces went remarkably well last year. It is a testament to our parish leadership.

As we now begin to educate parents and children on the topic of sexual abuse of minors, new challenges arise. It is my hope and expectation that the *Talking About Touching* curriculum, as one piece of this, will prove to be well conceived and effective. Certainly, I know that you will do all that you can to implement it in good faith.

I want to encourage you in two respects this year:

1. To view our protection of minors efforts, not so much a response to the clergy scandal but rather as a national effort of the Catholic Church to help current and future minors to be safe from this sexual abuse.

The Church made a promise in Dallas in 2002 to, among other things, address this issue aggressively and conscientiously. While there have been some bumps along the way, the USCCB continues to mandate the Office for Child and Youth Protection to keep dioceses faithful to that promise. As arduous as this has been for our diocese, we can be proud to know that our Church is moving forward with its commitment to be forever more a part of the solution and not part of the problem. What a privilege that we are a part of an effort that may help our youth stay safe and some of our adults heal!

(continued on next page)

World Youth Day Pictures

Now available on
<http://dioceseofjoliet.org>

2. Strive to incorporate, in a positive and holistic manner, all protection of minors curriculum into the broader context of Catholic faith formation.

Central to all Catholic thought and teaching is the concept of *human dignity*. Understood in its fullness, dignity of the human person is a radical and, sadly, countercultural stance. Its implications for how we are to live are profound. Sound catechesis must address this core value repeatedly and in various ways. Its centrality in catechesis cannot be overstated.

Sexual abuse, indeed, all forms of abuse, are by their very nature an attack on the dignity of a person...actually, on all of us who live in human and Christian solidarity with one another. It is sin that defaces what God has made and dispels the hope and joy in which God has called us to live. It is an affront to the Gospel!

It is our responsibility to frame all our safety efforts with catechists, parents and youth within the context of Catholic teaching on the dignity of the human person. Repeatedly revisiting core Church teaching on human dignity allows us to help our people to locate the cautions, the don'ts and the rules in a most positive and beautiful light.

We can help our adults, child and youth embrace the goodness with which we are created. We can show how in Christ our sinful humanity has been redeemed and our original dignity restored. We can consider all the ways social justice is a value we are all called to foster. We can explore the various ways in which life and human dignity are threatened and challenge our communities to work for their protection.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin's *seamless garment* is a way of articulating a consistent ethic of life for all people and at all times. It is rooted in the recognition of the nature of the human person.

Catholic moral teaching, including in the area of human sexuality, flows from this extraordinarily positive vision of the goodness and worth of the person. Human sexuality is an intrinsic gift for all, a source of generativity in so many ways. And its fullness of expression, properly ordered by God within marriage, is a sacramental sign of love and source for life.

Ideally, we can find ways to tackle the protection of minors curriculum that is more than simply a stand-alone component, unrelated to the rest of the faith curriculum for our people. *Talking About Touching* (and other materials that may be used) is entirely consistent with the wonderfully positive vision of Christ and the Church on who we are and how we are to treat one another. It will best be taught within the broader context of the Catholic moral thought, which can never permit abuse and degradation of the person.

In closing, I encourage you to find ways to form your catechists and ministers so that they have a fuller understanding of what the Church teaches regarding human dignity and the protection of human rights. Having this will help them impart Catholic moral vision with greater precision and effectiveness.

As our academic year begins, please accept my warmest best wishes and my deepest gratitude for all you do to bring the Gospel alive in your parish. May God bless you richly for your commitment to our catechetical ministry. I look forward to being with you and having the Religious Education Office serve you in the coming weeks and months.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

In the U.S., many of our parishes are quite large and, consequently, may exhibit anonymity more than community. In such settings, it is often difficult for effective evangelization to take place. A possible solution is to restructure the parish as a community of communities. In such a vision and structure, Catholics gather in small groups determined by neighborhood, family, needs, interests, or a common ministry in order to pray, read Scripture and share.

Authentic community is vital to effective evangelization. It nurtures believers. If Catholics experience community on a smaller scale, they may form and experience more of a community when they gather for parish liturgies on the weekend.

Cardinal Bernardin, 'Evangelizing the Active Catholic', *Pentecost '87 Supplement, A National Satellite Celebration of Catholic Evangelization*, 17.

In response to the Vatican II call for the activation of the laity, pastors initially gave close male friends token chores such as counting the weekend collection and keeping the finances of the parishes, eventually the first parish councils emerged. These generally consisted of men the pastor knew well and trusted, the council was low profile and informal, mostly giving advise to the pastor on financial and administrative issues. These early councils were neither given nor felt responsible for the spiritual life of the parish. In many parishes, as these councils grew, a committee structure developed which was functional rather than life giving to its members and the parish at large. In the past several years it has been in vogue for parish councils to change their name from parish council to parish pastoral council. This name change implies a new sense of pastoring, shepherding or caring for the parish, a more visionary council responsible for much more than the administration of the parish. Some parish pastoral councils have taken this vision a step further by becoming a ministerial community. A parish pastoral council as a ministerial community is community centered, prayerful and concerned with the spiritual life of not only the parish as a whole but of each member of the community.

The development of a ministerial community begins with the gathering of approximately 8 –12 people who share a common ministry, i.e., Parish Pastoral Council, the Liturgy committee, the Religious Education Board, etc. Rather than gathering periodically to solely attend to the business at hand, the group meets regularly to prayer, read Scripture, reflect, share faith, and answer a call to action. Ministerial communities often center their prayer on the readings for the upcoming Sunday, encouraging the use of the Lectionary and preparation for the weekend Liturgy.

The move from a council/committee structure to a community based ministry helps members grow personally and spiritually as they seek to answer the call to evangelization by actively living out their mission through the support of a community. For information on or support of ministerial communities, **contact Rosie Owens.**

Evangelization Tid-Bits

'For the disciple of Christ to evangelize is an obligation of love'

-John Paul II

CATECHETICAL LEADERSHIP

Contract Renewal Materials for 05-06

Please complete the materials and send a copy to the Religious Education Office, attention Catechetical Associate of Leadership & Formation. These materials can be accessed on the REO website. From the REO homepage, select For Parish Staff, then Parish Catechetical Leader Website and enter the password "vision". If you have any questions, please contact Helen Johnson at hjohnson@dioceseofjoliet.org or 815/727-6411 ext 261.

Formation Opportunities are close to home!!!

The Institute of Pastoral Studies of Loyola University Chicago at Romeoville will be offering 2 courses at St. Charles Pastoral Center this fall:

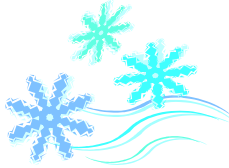
- *Moral Theology & Catholic Social Teaching with Mary Elsbernd*
(Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 15, & 29, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3)
- *The Gospel of Mark with Paula Hiebert*
(Sept. 10 & 24, Oct. 8 & 22, Nov. 5, and Dec. 10)

Don't miss the **Leadership Day/Pastor & Staff Workshop/ Luncheon** on **Sept. 30, 2005** at St. Mary Immaculate Parish, Plainfield; register today!

Neil Parent, Executive Director of National Conference of Catechetical Leaders will be featured along with a great lunch. More information and registration is available on line at the REO homepage.
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo>



Winter Retreat with **Lee Nagel** sponsored by Benziger Publishers. Mark your calendars and plan now to spend a morning in reflection on either **Friday, January 20, 2006** at St. Charles Pastoral Center or **Saturday, January 21, 2006** in the Kankakee area. The program is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 12 noon.



Spring in Chicago is a wonderful time of the year and attending the **annual meeting for the National**

Conference of Catechetical Leaders will also offer you a wonderful experience. You will be eligible for a special rate of \$199.00 for the week, since you minister in the hosting province of Illinois. Mark your calendars today (**April 30 to May 4, 2006**) and begin making plans. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with catechetical leaders from across the United States & Canada!



CATECHIST INFORMATION



Catechist Initial Formation Days

The following dates have been scheduled:

- Saturday, September 10, 2005
Christ the King, Lombard
- Saturday, September 17, 2005
Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst
- Saturday, September 24, 2005
Corpus Christi, Carol Stream
- Saturday, October 1, 2005

- St. Charles Pastoral Center,
Romeoville
- Saturday, October 15, 2005
St. Dominic, Bolingbrook
- Saturday, January 14, 2006
St. Charles Pastoral Center,
Romeoville

Registration materials are enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Johnson, Catechetical Associate for Leadership & Formation 815-727-6411 ext 261 or hjohnson@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Catechist Institute sponsored by the Joliet – Will DRE Cluster

Catechists and Catechetical Leaders are cordially invited to attend this institute on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at the Holiday Inn – Bolingbrook. Registration Fee - \$10.00 per person. See enclosed flyer.

CHILD CATECHESIS

An Invitation to Contemplative Prayer By Susan Tutaj (St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn)

Can you imagine thirty 4th graders continuing to sit with their God even though the lunch bell has rung and voices as well as lockers can be heard from the hallway? 7th graders requesting another prayer opportunity because it was an "awesome experience"?

Contemplative prayer is simply sitting in the presence of God. I start many of my presentations on prayer with the song: *There is a Longing* by Anne Quigley (OCP) "There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us..." When we dare to quiet ourselves and put everything else aside, God will reveal what we need to know.

During the past two years, Sr. Clarita Schumacher and I were gifted with the opportunity to attend the Loyola Prayer Class, sponsored by Loyola Press. We were challenged to enrich our own prayer life as well as to work with children and adults. It was

quite a journey that will impact our lives for many years to come.

I learned many things but I was always amazed at the openness of all those I invited into prayer, that there was never a “failure” and I discovered that both children and adults long for quiet. I believe that if we as Directors, catechists, and teachers spent more time with those we minister in deepening their relationship with God that it would bear fruit that we couldn’t even imagine. Anyone who gets to know their God will be drawn to that relationship for the rest of their life. Inviting people into a relationship with the sacred would be the most important lessons that you ever taught!

Contemplative prayer is not new. It was the preferred prayer of our early Church, of the mystics, some of our greatest Saints and the prayer of many monastic communities. If your cluster, church or school would like us to facilitate a workshop, please feel to contact us: Clarita Schumacher at St. Dominic in Bolingbrook: 630-739-5703 x23 or Susan Tutaj at St. Petronille: 630-858-3796 X4109. We would prefer to meet with your group more than once, if that is possible. Presentations can vary from 1 hour to all day to meet your needs.

Safe Environment Instruction/Touching Safety Updates



If you were not able to be present on August 12 at the Q & A meeting, please note the following in addition to information and resources already posted on the diocesan web page at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/protecting.asp :

- ❖ If you have not yet ordered a kit for *Talking About Touching* and have not been exempted because of local public school compliance, please contact Joyce Donahue at the REO immediately (815-727-6411.)

- ❖ Reporting for Religious Education Programs will be by June 15, 2006 – at which time parishes will report how many children enrolled and how many received instruction, and how many parents received instruction. (Please note: schools ONLY are to report how many parents received the parent brochure by September 5.)
- ❖ Instruction of children and parents may be scheduled according to however it is most convenient for the parish or school. A parent meeting is recommended.
- ❖ The materials may be presented in large group settings, but it is recommended that discussions be among smaller groupings so that students will be comfortable.
- ❖ An individual folder for each catechist is to be kept in locked files, containing background check, Protecting God’s Children certification, as well as other items, like the Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter, and catechist certification records. This was first stated in the March 2003, policy manual, *Faith Formation in the Diocese of Joliet*.
- ❖ Sr. Mary Frances Seeley, diocesan Victim Services Coordinator can assist parishes with handling child victims who may come forward. See reporting flow-chart on website listed above for more information on how to handle these situations.

For more information about any of these issues, contact **Joyce Donahue** at **815-727-6411**.

Cluster Meeting Information

Please consider attending your local cluster meeting for information and to connect with others ministering in your area. Upcoming meetings:

- **Joliet-Will DRE/CRE Cluster:** 10a.m., September 15, Immaculate Conception, Morris
- **Kankakee-Grundy DRE/CRE Cluster:** 1 p.m., September 8, St. Joseph, Manteno
- **Parish YM Cluster:** 10 a.m., September 15, St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville
- **DAFF Meeting** - 12:00 Noon, October 27, SCPC, Romeoville
- **Ford-Iroquois DRE/CRE Cluster** - 6:30 p.m., September 8, St. Edmund, Watseka
- **Northeast Dupage DRE Cluster** - 10 a.m., October 15, Our Lady of Peace, Darien

- **Special Needs Cluster** - TBA
- **West Dupage DRE Cluster** - 10 a.m., October 13, St. Michael, Wheaton

MEDIA

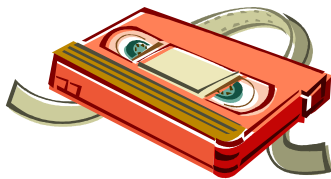
Media Center Membership

Not interested in paying rental fees every time you rent equipment? The Media Center has an unlimited equipment rental membership available for just \$300.00 annually. And there is much, much more than projectors. Other available equipment



includes portable sound systems, VCRs, DVD players, projection screens, microphones (corded and wireless), digital cameras – video and still, and professional grade “walkie-talkies.” The Media Center provides projector rentals for \$50.00 (in some cases \$25.00) per rental period – not per day! There are 6 projectors available – four portable and two “large venue” projectors. Plus, there are now two laptop computers available for rental!

You can view the Media Center collection online at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo (click the link for Media Center). You will also find the Member Services Booklet online that describes the membership options and ordering forms. Enclosed in this issue of the Professional is a list of the latest additions to the video center. Take a look to see how the Media Center is able to support your catechetical ministry through videos, books, or equipment. Contact **Brian Topping** with any questions or for more information.



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

The revised Special Needs Manual, replacing the 2000 manual “*Open Wide the Door*,” is now complete and available on the website at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/specialNeeds.asp> and click on the link “Special Needs Manual”.

We express many thanks to **Ed Jahnke** for his hours of hard work completing this revision. We know it was a labor of love, and we are grateful he was able to leave us this parting gift before he ended his ministry with us.

Please publicize in your parish the workshop on October 15 at St. Petronille Glen Ellyn Parish Center called “*Reason to Dream: Planning Positive and Possible Futures for Children with Disabilities*” (flier is enclosed in this mailing).

The workshop, which will take place from 9:30-3:00 will feature presenters Nancy Brown and Cindi Swanson of Pathfinder Consulting Services. For more information, call **Adele Lessmeister** at **630-469-0404, Ext. 2107**.

Upcoming Special Needs Conferences

Sept 21 - Practical Effective Interactive Strategies Asperger Syndrome, Non-Verbal Learning Disorder, and High-Functioning Autism - Downers Grove. Sponsored by HEALTHEducation Network. (800) 839 – 4584 or www.health-ed.com.

September 25-27 - Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (NICE) - Irene, SD. For information, call NICE office at 1-888-532-3389, or **Joyce Donahue** at (815)-727-6411 for a copy of the brochure.

We hope that as many people as possible will attend the Special Needs Mass on **Sunday, October 9**, 1 pm at St. Paul the Apostle in Joliet. It is important for us to gather to celebrate a church where all are truly welcome, and to pray for a society in which barriers will no longer keep persons with special needs from living lives that fulfill the promise of God's gifts in them. See the enclosed flier and please publicize this in your parish.

If you wish to help with this Mass or if you have questions about special needs, please contact **Joyce Donahue** at **(815) 727-6411**.

YOUTH MINISTRY

September Monthly Meeting

Please join us for our first meeting of directors and coordinators of youth ministry for the new fiscal year. The meeting will be on September 15, 2005 beginning with fellowship at 9:30am and prayer at 10am. The main topic for this meeting is to discuss our programs and what needs you have with Paul Mach, the new Catechetical Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.



World Youth Day opening mass in Cologne Germany
August, 2005
More pictures from Germany are available on
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/>

EVENT INFORMATION

- From October 16th to November 3rd the Diocese of Joliet will be hosting the National Evangelistic Team (NET) Ministries. NET Ministries: Is a group of twelve young adults who have given a year of their life to travel around the United States providing retreats. We are lucky to be blessed by these fine young people in our diocese. Many of the dates are already spoken for, but we do have a few days still open. Please consider welcoming NET Ministries to your parish. For booking or more information please contact Paul Mach.
- The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will take place in Atlanta in the end of October 27-30, 2005. Some have signed up at the deadline set early of August 1st, but with so many working on WYD at the beginning of August, the deadline was missed. It is not to late! Get your deposits in by August 26th or at least contact Paul Mach as soon as possible.
- Next course for Certificate Program in Youth Ministry is scheduled for September 24-25 on Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth through Prayer and Worship at Loyola University. Contact Paul Mach for more information.
- Paul Mach can be contacted at (815) 727-6411 ext 281 by phone or pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org by e-mail.

OTHER AGENCY EVENTS

- **Office of Ministry Formation Workshops**
St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center
9:00a.m. –3:00 p.m.
Cost is 35\$ per person incl. Lunch.
Call (815) 834 – 4003 to register
- **Spirituality of Power**
Helen Cahil, O.P., D. Min. - Presenter
Thursday September 2, 2005
- **Recruiting and Managing Volunteers**
Peggy Kozy, M.A. – Presenter
Saturday September 17, 2005

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 10, 2005 Catechist Initial formation Day, Christ the King, Lombard: contact Helen Johnson
- September 15, 2005 Parish YM Meeting, SCPC: contact Paul Mach
- September 17, 2005 Catechist Initial formation Day, Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst: contact Helen Johnson
- September 18, 2005 **CATECHETICAL SUNDAY**
- September 22, 2005 REO Board, SCPC: contact Tom Quinlan
- September 24, 2005 Catechist Initial formation Day, Corpus Christi, Carol Stream: contact Helen Johnson
- September 30, 2005 Pastor-Staff Leadership Day**, St Mary Immaculate, Plainfield: contact Helen Johnson
- October 1, 2005 Catechist Initial formation Day, SCPC: contact Helen Johnson
- October 9, 2005 Special Needs Mass, St Paul, Joliet: contact Joyce Donahue
- October 15, 2005 Catechist Initial formation Day, St Dominic, Bolingbrook: contact Helen Johnson
- October 20, 2005 Parish YM Meeting, SCPC: contact Paul Mach
- October 27, 2005 REO Board, SCPC: contact Tom Quinlan
- November 17, 2005 Parish YM Meeting, SCPC, 10am-noon contact Paul Mach
- December 1, 2005 Adult Faith Association Retreat/Reflection Day, location TBA: contact Rosie Owens
- December 1, 2005 REO Board Meeting, SCPC, 10am-noon: contact Tom Quinlan
- December 8, 2005 Parish YM Meeting, SCPC, 10am-noon: contact Paul Mach

~ BULLETIN BOARD ~

Catechetical Sunday - September 18, 2005

Joliet – Will Cluster In-Service Day –
October 22, 2005 Holiday Inn, Bolingbrook

JAFF meeting - November 3, 2005
SCPC

NCEA Conference – April 18-21, 2006
New Orleans, LA

NCCL Annual Meeting – April 30 – May 4,
2006 Chicago, IL

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