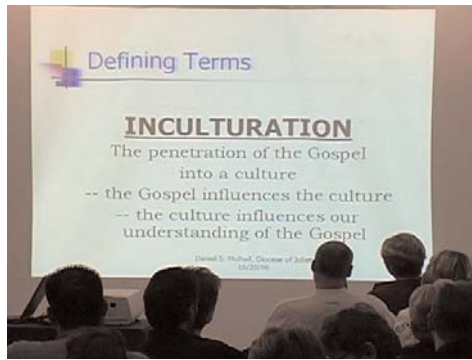




Pastor/Staff Leadership Days

The Religious Education Office, with the gracious hospitality of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, sponsored the annual Pastor Staff Leadership Day on October 20th. Over 250 catechetical leaders from across the diocese gathered to hear the challenge of the National Directory for Catechesis for us to bring our catechetical methodologies into alignment with our current culture. Thanks to all who came! This critical discussion will continue on March 8th (DuPage location) or March 9th (Will location) when Dan Mulhall will return to teach us how to transition from an instruction model to a formation model of catechesis. Registration materials will be available soon and in the January *Leaven*.



Young Adult Ministry Best Practices

Paul Jarzembowski

Using Advent to Evangelize the Next Generation

Connecting the Catholic faith to men and women in their twenties and thirties can be difficult all year round, but for two seasons of the year, that gap between the Church and young adults is a bit easier to bridge.



Advent is one of those two seasons (the other being Lent) when young adults are more open to their spiritual journey and to connecting with a faith community.

Why? Perhaps it's because they can't escape the Christmas rush, or the carols on the radio, or the decorations at the shopping malls (that have been up since Labor Day). Perhaps it's because they're trying to find that perfect gift for mom or dad, or because they are a recently-married young couple carving out new holiday traditions. With all those reminders, men and women in their twenties and thirties seem more aware of the sacredness of the season, and more importantly, the sacredness of their lives.

This Advent is an ideal opportunity to evangelize the next generation.

Young adults are more receptive to an open invitation to worship or a Bible study at the parish during Advent.

(Continued on Page 9)

This Month in Formation Wheel...

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PGS 2-3	Letters from the Director
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UPCOMING CLUSTER MEETINGS

Please attend your local cluster meetings for assistance, support and information. The next meetings will be as follows:

Directors of Adult Faith Formation (DAFF)

November 30, 2006

Afternoon of Reflection,
St. Daniel the Prophet,
Wheaton
12:30-2:30 p.m

Northeast DuPage Cluster

November 16, 2006

Morning of Reflection
St. Peter, Itasca
10:00am

December 14, 2006

Christmas Gathering

West DuPage Cluster

December 7, 2006

Christmas Luncheon, St
John the Baptist, Winfield

Ford-Iroquois Cluster

November 9, 2006

St. Edmund, Wateska
6:30pm

Joliet-Will Cluster

December 14, 2006

Christmas Luncheon
10:00 AM

Kankakee Cluster

February 8, 2007

St. Rose, Kankakee
1 – 3 PM



Tom Quinlan
Director

A Time To Sow



“The days are coming, says the Lord...”

And so begins the First Reading on the First Sunday of Advent this year. The familiar theme of anticipation teases us, encourages us and challenges us throughout the season which carries us to Emmanuel, God with us.

Waiting...anticipating...is a universal human experience. Every human being is on intimate terms with it. And for many it feels like the bane of their existence. When you hear the word waiting what do you think of? Traffic, lines at the supermarket, your turn at the home computer? More than ever we are a people who expects...and demands...it now, if not sooner!

And yet, the experience of waiting can be profound. When we learn how to wait, we are stretched as a person. In fact, maturity has been defined by some as the ability to delay gratification.

There is a distinctive dimension to *Christian* anticipation. In and through our faith, we are called to wait in hope. Be it good news we anticipate or bad, all that we wait for is experienced in an abiding hope whose beginning is established in the Incarnation and is completed in the Paschal Mystery.

In recent months my father, who turned 90 in late October, has been in steady and significant decline. I have had to adjust my expectations downward continually during this period. And I've hated every one of these. If I were writing the script, it would read much differently! But life is, indeed, a series of adjustment, and I am keeping up with the ones needed for my Dad's welfare...if barely.

I am no longer waiting for Dad to recover. Somewhere along the line, imperceptibly, my sense of anticipation changed. I now wait for him to die. It is a daunting, harsh shift. And yet, ironically, in the bleak, hopelessness of it, I cannot be without hope, the kind of hope that is replete throughout our Season of Advent. It is the hope that winter will not have the final say. A hope that even in our longest of nights, there is a light that shines on and will overcome the darkness...and even make sense somehow of the darkness.

As human beings we often wait in dread. The days march on, robbing us of precious people and graced time together. As disciples in Christ, we wait in hope. The days march on, with each holding its own promise of possibilities, always within the grand matrix of God's providence. Hope allows us the courage to live well in the present, while inviting us to embrace whatever is to come, knowing full well that God somehow is in it all.

As I write this, our office waits for houses to be sold, a grandchild to be born, a father to die...among countless other important and not-so-important things. We do it together, to the degree they can be shared.

We, too, as a staff, offer you our prayers, for an Advent Season that is rich in meaning and generous in time to be still. Let us join together and with the entire Universal Church to willingly and joyfully take an anticipating posture that is antithetical to all the values of today. Waiting is not so bad, even in tough circumstances, when it's immersed in the kind of transforming hope we are accorded in Christ.

So, what will you be waiting for this Advent?



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

I want to thank all of you who were able to come out and participate in our October Pastor-Staff Leadership Day. With the gracious help of the staff at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Naperville, the REO hosted over 250 members of parish staffs for an exploration of the



ministry possibilities that flow from the *National Directory for Catechesis*. It was particularly gratifying to have Bishop Sartain participate fully in the day. (Our welcome ceremony for Bishop Sartain included the Parish Book that each parish was invited to contribute to, as well as the collection of gifts brought forward to represent the various catechetical cluster groups in the diocese.) It was a great day to be a part of the catechetical and broader ministerial community of the Diocese of Joliet! Again, many thanks!

Please join us for the next Leadership Day, which will be held at two locations for your convenience. March 8th will be in DuPage County and March 9th will be in Will County. Registration materials will be available in the January Leaven.



I'd ask your prayers to the Holy Spirit for the upcoming work of the REO prior to Christmas. In anticipation of REO Staff Planning on December 18th-19th, the staff of the REO will participate in a day of dialogue with the Diocesan Religious Education Board on December 7th. It will be a wonderful opportunity for this representative board and the staff to exchange ideas, hopes and concerns as the REO looks to strategically plan for the two years that begin in July, 2007.



Inserted into this issue of Leaven...

- Cathedral Days 2007
- Operation Rice Bowl 2007
- *Fields* Event - Sponsored by Twenty-Third Publications
- Safe Environment Quick Reference and Resource Guide (a response to a DRE cluster request)
- WPFf upcoming formation opportunities

YOUTH MINISTRY CLUSTERS

For more information contact Paul Mach
pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org

Naperville Senior High Youth Ministry Cluster

January 11, 2007
Holy Spirit, Naperville
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Naperville Junior High Youth Ministry Cluster

January 9, 2007
St. Thomas the Apostle, Naperville
10am - Noon

Joliet Cluster Youth Ministry

December 4, 2006
St. Paul, Joliet
3:30pm

January 8, 2007
St. Paul, Joliet
3:30pm

South of the Border Cluster

(Northern DuPage)

*All Meetings Begin at 10am at St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn

December 13, 2006
January 24, 2007

East Will County Cluster

November 20, 2006
St. Anthony, Frankfort
10am

January 24, 2007
St. Anthony, Frankfort
1:30pm

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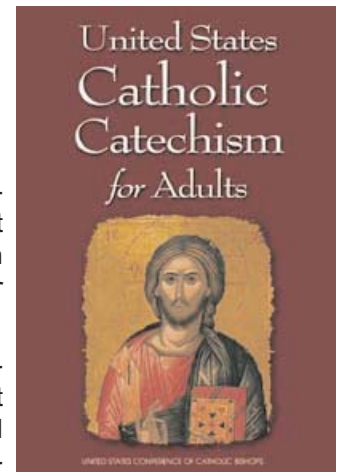
New Adult Catechism

Joyce Donahue

Now that the new *United States Catechism for Adults* is available, catechetical leaders may have some questions on how it is to be used. This resource has great potential as an invitation for adults to go deeper, to explore their relationship with their faith, especially in a communal faith-sharing format.

Some features which make the Catechism usable are its connection to US culture and accessible language. Because it includes story, teaching, discussion questions, prayer and more, the Adult Catechism is certainly a basis for the catechesis of adults – whether those entering the Church through the RCIA process or with adults who wish to update and enrich their faith.

While the Adult Catechism is certainly a great resource, it can in fact be misused. The PowerPoint on the development and use of this document, found at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/adultFormation.asp> says doctrinal statements should not be memorized without regard for context, that the Catechism should not be read like a novel, (from cover to cover) and that it should not be used as a resource by itself, but within a context that includes the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, regular celebration of the liturgy and participation in Christian life. Check out the PowerPoint for more information on how to use the Adult Catechism in your parish. Please contact Joyce Donahue with any questions.



Cathedral Days 2007

For schools: Thursday, March 15, 2007

For religious education programs: Saturday, March 17

Mark your calendars!
Register early!
Bring your fifth graders!

The Diocese of Joliet is once again sponsoring Cathedral Days for fifth grade students. The day will include a guided tour of the Cathedral, storytelling, songs and a presentation by John Lamperis, Director of Religious Education and Jr. High Youth Minister for St. Peter Church in Geneva. Your students will be involved in the best kind of learning; active, participative and fun! And even better, it includes a pizza lunch!

To bring this day "back to the classroom", you may want to incorporate a lesson plan for the next time you meet with your class. Have your students write a paragraph on what impressed them the most about the Cathedral itself and why or a paragraph on which session they liked best and why or what did they learn that day that they didn't know before? Or you may have some budding artists who could draw a picture of the day, the cathedral, etc. The possibilities are endless!

The Cathedral Day brochure is *inserted* in this issue of *Leaven*. Get your registrations in early. Questions? Please call Nancy Dunn, Catechetical Associate for Catechist Formation and Special Projects at 815/727-6411 x264 or email at ndunn@dioceseofjoliet.org

introducing... the Newest A/V Equipment to the Media Center...

By now, you all have undoubtedly heard about the amazing \$115.00 entry level price for annual Media Center membership. But did you know...this price includes unlimited Audio Visual rentals as well?! It's hard to believe, but it is true! This is not broken, battered, years-old, obsolete gear, either. It is the latest and greatest. Take a look for yourself...



Mitsubishi XL5950 Digital Projector

This high quality, large venue LCD projector pumps out an amazing 5,500 lumens in vivid color at XGA resolutions! It is front or rear projection capable and has lens shift technology along with simple to use zoom and focus controls.

What this means for you is a great picture with awesome colors for large groups, all for just \$115.00 per year! Two are available for rental.

Fender PD-150 and P-80 Portable Sound Systems



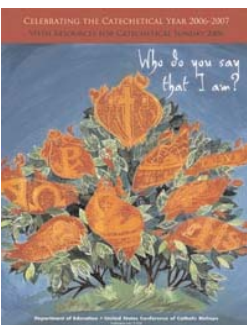
These brand new Fender Sound Systems offer the best value in portability and sound quality. Weighing in at 25 pounds, they are very light, yet provide sufficient sound for groups of 150 people and more! Both contain multiple hookups for microphone(s), VCR/DVD player, and even a

computer! The P-80 is your ideal choice for portable voice sound and the PD-150 is your ideal choice for portable multimedia sound. Check out our Fender P-250 for even larger groups!



You're probably thinking...just \$115.00 to have access to these great resources? But, wait, there's more! These are just the latest additions to an already great lineup of audio/visual gear, such as eight types of projectors, six different size projection screens, two laptop computers, digital cameras, tripods, and the list goes on. Act now and receive unlimited access to the catechetical media library, boasting over 10,000 book and video titles to support your ministry! Offers like this don't last forever, just for the fiscal year, so call now! Don't delay, call today! Contact Brian Topping

Bishops Committee Revises Catechetical Sunday Themes



The 2006 Catechetical Theme "*Who Do You Say That I Am,*" as provided in the Catechetical Sunday materials from the USCCB, will continue to be developed at the local level throughout 2006-07. However, because the focus of the day is on catechesis and the role of catechists, starting in 2007, the theme will be taken from one of the Church's catechetical documents and selected no more than a year in advance to allow the theme to reflect better current issues within the wider Church, such as the recently completed Year of the Eucharist.

Previously announced themes for Catechetical Sunday 2007 (Seek the Lost) and 2008 (Summon the Laborers), will not be used. The new theme for Catechetical Sunday 2007 is "*Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ*". The theme for 2008 will be chosen in January 2007.

Liturgy and RCIA Workshops of Interest to Catechists



❖ **February 2, 2007**
Liturgy & Catechesis: How do We Make it Summit and Source?
– Stephen Hale, CFC, St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville
9am - 1pm

❖ **February 10, 2007**
The Role of Team & Catechist
Gael Gensler, OSF, St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville
9am - 1pm

For a registration form, go to
<http://www.dioceseofjoli-et.org/JOBInserts/2006-10/LiturgyCatechumenat eSeries.pdf>
(if you have difficulties please call the REO so we can fax you a copy)

For more information contact the Office for Divine Worship at 815-838-7098

VLCFF Cycle 1:
Jan. 7 - Feb. 10

(Registration:
Opens Oct. 17;
Closes Jan. 3)

Advance

Ecclesiology 1

Catholic Beliefs

Church and
Communication

Church History 1

Conscience

Evangelization and
Discipleship

Introduction to
Catechesis

National Directory for
Catechesis

On Bended Knee

Our Hearts Were
Burning

Overview of the GDC
& NDC

Sacraments

Poverty in America
and Around the World

Survey of Catholic
Doctrine

Scripture: New
Testament

Scripture: Old
Testament

Scripture: Introduction



The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation



The Joliet Diocese is giving us a wonderful opportunity for continuing education through the University of Dayton. If learning at your own pace, if “going to class” when you feel like it or when it fits into your busy schedule is appealing to you, then perhaps taking an on-line course as part of the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation would be an experience that you would enjoy. Hear what a Catechetical Leader in our Diocese has to say about her experience with the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation:

“My personal experience with the process has been a very positive one. I just finished the seminar – Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us- and truthfully I was sorry to see it end. The Message Board was perhaps the most enjoyed feature. This was an opportunity to discuss challenges, questions, or issues with our other “classmates”. Although we never met in person, by the end of the course, I felt as if I wanted to be able to continue to keep in touch with them. I had unanswered questions: What changes occurred in their parish as a result of their having taken the course? How did their thoughts about Adult Faith Formation change in relationship to their own involvement at the parish level? Did they effect a change in reaching out to all levels of Catholics in their community?

Who could benefit from this opportunity? Catechists, staff members, and anyone in the parish who feels the need for additional information about their Catholic faith should benefit. There are courses offered on three levels (beginner, intermediate, and advanced), so there should be something for everyone. I encourage you to do whatever you can to continue to make people aware of this additional opportunity for life-long learning.”

Registration now in progress!

**-Beverly Murphy
St. Anthony, Frankfort**

If you would like to share your personal experience with VLCFF or have any questions regarding their programs, please contact Nancy Dunn, Catechetical Associate for Catechist Formation at ndunn@dioceseofjoliet.org or phone at (815) 727-6411.

Give yourself the gift of faith formation! The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is an Internet distance-learning program developed to support catechist and adult faith formation in the Church. Courses became available to the Diocese of Joliet in July 2006. The VLCFF is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (IPI) of the University of Dayton - a Catholic Marianist Institution.

As a partner diocese, we can offer participants a reduced cost of \$40 per course, rather than the non-partner cost of \$80. A remarkable value for value for an excellent resource!

The benefits of distance learning include:

- flexible scheduling
- no travel to an off site location
- diversity in course offerings
- as well as the added benefit of the diversity of your study group; you can study with folks from across the country and other parts of the world!

In addition to the many course opportunities available in English, VLCFF also offers courses and website support in Spanish. Specialized webinars for Catholic School board members and a Social Justice Certificate Program are also offered. The **Cycle 1** courses are listed to the left. For more information, please visit our website www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo and click on the University of Dayton Online link.

Note: VLCFF courses can be applied toward Catechist Certification.

REO CALENDAR

November 17-Dec.1,
2006

NET Ministries in Joliet
Contact: Paul Mach

November 30, 2006

RE Board Meeting
SCPC, Romeoville
10am-Noon
Contact: Tom Quinlan

December 13, 2006

Morning of Reflection for
Catechetical Support Staffs
SCPC, Romeoville
9:30am - Noon
Contact: Nancy Dunn

December 21, 2006

YM Gathering
SCPC, Romeoville
10am-Noon
Contact: Paul Mach

December 25, 2006-

January 1, 2007

REO is CLOSED
Happy Holidays!

January 15, 2007

REO is CLOSED
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 18, 2007

Youth Ministry Retreat
Location TBA; 9:30am-
2:30pm
Contact: Paul Mach

January 20, 2007

Catechist Initial Formation Day
SCPC; Romeoville
9am-1pm
Contact: Nancy Dunn

January 25, 2007

RE Board Meeting
SCPC, Romeoville
10am - Noon
Contact: Tom Quinlan

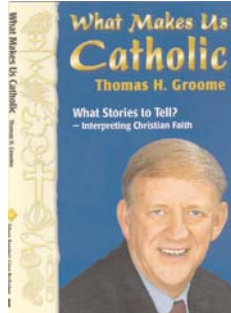
January 27- 28, 2007

YM Certificate Program
Loyola University
Contact: Paul Mach



Review: *What Makes Us Catholic* By Thomas H. Groome

(Silver Burdette Ginn Religion)



Joyce Donahue

The guru of Catholic Identity is back, with a series of talks on 9 DVD's to help adults understand what it means to be Catholic. Based in part on Groome's book: *What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life*, this series can be useful as stand-alone general adult faith formation, for RCIA, catechist formation, as the adult component of intergenerational formation, or for small group or individual study.

Honoring the value of adult experience and affirming the relation of experience to faith, the program (based on Groome's method of "shared Christian praxis") focuses on "Bringing life to Faith and bringing Faith to life." Each unit consists of an opening life-question, an invitation for reflection and sharing, followed by a review of how Catholic faith responds to that life theme, allowing time for questions, reflection and more sharing. The program ends with suggestions for spiritual practices to sustain this aspect of Catholic identity, followed by prayer or ritual.

As always with any recorded or printed resource, when used as part of catechesis for RCIA, the role of team members is essential to invite candidates and catechumens into the discussion by modeling and encouraging faith sharing.

Assets:

- The series is easy to use -- it is self-contained and requires minimal facilitation.
- High quality content and methodology
- Presenter is enthusiastic -- has a poetical, rhetorical style
- Visually engaging
- Catechism - centered

Concerns:

- Presenter occasionally uses ecclesial language that may need more definition for some adults
- Lack of a Spanish language version at this time

For more information: <http://sbgcatalog.pearson.com> - click on Whole Community Catechesis, then on the link at the bottom for *What Makes Us Catholic*.

Networking for Evangelization – Try PNCEA's Online Forums!



Looking for great ideas, other points of view, or just want to learn how catechetical leaders around the country are doing evangelization? Sign up to participate in the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA) online forums. These events use interactive computer software to bring you right into the room, virtually, to participate in an hour-long seminar, allowing you to view a PowerPoint presentation and hear the speaker's presentation over your telephone line, along the ability to participate in Q & A sessions, online polls, and more. Seminars are recorded for later viewing; once you join, you have access to recorded events.

Past presentations have been on evangelization initiatives, returning Catholics and young adult Catholics. Some sessions are primarily sharing, while some are geared specifically to diocesan ministers. However, the variety of offerings guarantees there will be something of interest to almost anyone. You can visit www.pncea.org or www.pncea.webex.com for more information.

Events are announced by PNCEA via email. You may get on this email list by contacting Sr. Susan Wolf, SND, at susan.wolf@pncea.org. Once you have signed up for a specific event, you will receive instructions for downloading the easy-to-use WebEx Viewer software. There are training presentations to help you learn to use it. For more information or assistance, contact Joyce Donahue or Paul Jarzembowski at (815)727-6411.

(Young Adult Ministry continued from front page)

Since time seems limited and the pace seems overly rushed between Thanksgiving and Christmas, this is a great time to let young adults know that our faith can be that place they long to retreat to, or the quiet moment or two to get away from the hustle of the holidays.

And during Christmas masses, when the pews are filled with inactive Catholics, challenge active parishioners to invite any young adult standing in the aisle to sit with you and your family (or even give up your seat for them). That touch of hospitality to an inactive young adult in an overly crowded church might be the peace of Christ they need to begin their journey back to God and the Church.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt. 11:28).

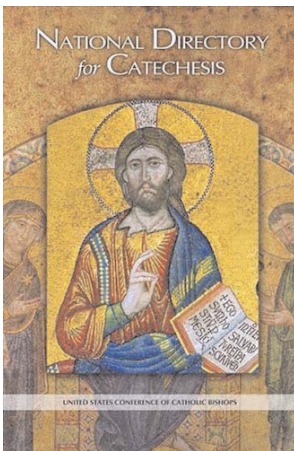
This image of Christ, and of the Church, is just what young adults want during November and December. Christ looks to his parishes and parish leaders to be like him, welcoming the stranger and offering rest to the overworked.

This holiday season is the ideal time to evangelize by connecting the craving of young adults with the treasures of the Catholic tradition.



Resources for Catechesis ~ Textbooks and More

Joyce Donahue



What a great statement – and how true! The *National Directory for Catechesis* begins its closing sections by affirming the ministry of catechists as the greatest catechetical resource: “The service of catechists to God and to the Church is truly irreplaceable. No catechetical materials, resources or tools – no matter how excellent—can replace the catechist.” (Chapter 10. p. 279) Catechesis, since by its very nature it is bringing people into contact with Christ, is relational and personal. The person delivering catechesis is the primary vehicle of that delivery.

That being said, however, the *NDC* also affirms the power of good tools and resources, when well-used. The basic and traditional resources are, of course Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, local catechisms, such as the new Catechism for Adults, textbooks, and instructional materials.

However, in our technological age, we now have available a broad range of electronic and media-related resources for catechesis, print media, videos and DVD’s, CD’s and more, plus computer-related media, such as the internet, distance-learning materials and interactive software programs. These media provide not just information, but real and virtual experiences, which can be used as effective ways of evangelization.

Media-based instruments of catechesis are to be used by those trained to use them as contemporary means to communicate the Gospel message. The *NDC* suggests the only limit to how these are used in the service of catechesis is “the imagination of contemporary evangelists and catechists.” (p. 291)

Clearly, this message brings us full-circle to the earlier parts of the *NDC* which dealt with the relationship between the effectiveness of catechesis and the catechist’s ability to understand and use the instruments of the culture of those to be catechized. We have no hope of reaching people if we cannot communicate with them using the cultural language with which they are familiar.

This concludes our series on the *National Directory for Catechesis*. We urge you to read, re-read, and mark up your copy – and to keep considering how you will use this visionary document to enrich and re-develop your catechetical ministry.

Young Adult Ministry

Resources & Events
Ways to invite young adults to connect with their faith.



Advent 2006 – Online Advent Reflections for Young Adults – Sponsored by Busted Halo & Paulist Young Adult Ministries – log onto www.bustedhalo.com.



December 9, 2006

Advent Day of Prayer for Young Adults – Sponsored by Charis Ministries – St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Parish, Lincoln Park, Chicago – log onto www.charisministries.org to register.



December 12, 2006

I&M Canal Y.A.C.H.T. Club Dinner & Speaker Night (Young Addult Catholics Hanging Together) – White Fence Farm, 11700 Joliet Rd., Lemont – log onto www.yamchicago.org/yam-yachtclub.htm for more information.



Young Adult Ministry programs are open to men and women in college and in their twenties and thirties - single, engaged, and married. For more information about resources and programs for young adults in the Joliet Diocese, contact Paul Jarzembowski at (815) 727-6411, ext. 261, or pjarzembowski@diocese-ofjoliet.org.



Formation Wheel

IN SERVICE TO THE MASTER CATECHIST CERTIFICATION IN THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Nancy Dunn

The Catechist Certification Program in our Diocese is still in its infancy, having just passed the two year mark since its introduction. I will take the opportunity over the next several months to suggest resources and methods that can be used to meet the requirements toward certification. *Catechetical Leaders are encouraged to read this important information and copy it for distribution to their catechists.*



To review briefly, there are three levels of certification: *Foundational* which requires 36 hours of faith formation, *Advanced* which requires 24 hours of faith formation and *Ongoing* which requires 18 additional hours over a three year period. Within each Certification, the total hours required is further broken down into the three dimensions identified in the *GDC*; being, knowing and doing.

In the coming months, the two other dimensions will be highlighted and suggestions given for resources that may help you work through the process toward your certification. In this issue, we will begin with the "being" dimension.

Being...The Faithful Disciple

The "being" dimension focuses on the personal spiritual life of the catechist. It reminds catechists that they have received and responded to a call to ministry that came from our Lord. It doesn't matter how or why you think you find yourself in the role of a catechist; the reality is that you did answer His call! The dimension of "being" focuses on you!

- Your personal faith journey – how did you get here?
- Exploring the vocation, role and qualities of catechist in the Church's ministry –you are an integral part of a much bigger picture!

Resources

Catechist Initial Formation Day (4 hours)

There is one CIFD date remaining: **January 20, 2007** at the St. Charles Borromeo Center in Romeoville. Please see your Catechetical Leader for registration information.

Video Training

The following titles are a sample of the videos that are available to rent from the REO Media Center. Videos may be part of a series and can be shown as a series, or as a workshop itself. Be creative! Perhaps you can have a grade-level leader or catechist show the video in their home for colleagues or share it at a scheduled parish or school team meeting or in-service. Videos may come with a study guide to ensure that the concepts have been clearly explained and are well understood.

What Is Faith? - PSXX0099 VHS; Kathleen Chesto
Foundations of Christianity (series name); Fr. Michael Himes
Seeds of Promise, Seeds of Faith (series name); RCL



Please check the website for a detailed description. Contact Jeanne Pirc, Media Librarian at (815) 727-6411 x267 or at jpirc@dioceseofjoliet.org for rental information and availability.

Office for Ministry Formation Workshops--General Ministry Formation Workshops

Many workshops are open to staff and volunteers from any ministry and the general audience. Please go to the Diocese of Joliet website for the Office of Ministry formation at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/omf/events.asp. There are many excellent faith formation workshops being offered by the Diocese that can apply toward catechist certification. Bring a friend!

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CATECHIST RECORD OF FORMATION

Name: _____

A. For formal presentations please complete the following:
 Workshop Title: _____
 Presentation(s): _____
 Location: _____
 Date of Event: _____

B. For independent study please complete the following:
 Topic Title: _____
 Materials: (book, article, video, etc) _____
 Author: _____

C. Number of Hours: Being _____ Knowing _____ Savoir-Faire _____

Please reflect on the following questions below. You may use both sides of this sheet or attach additional sheets, if necessary. **Then return this form to your parish Catechetical Leader.**

1. What value did this formational opportunity provide for you personally?

2. How will you integrate this knowledge into your catechetical ministry?

Catechist Signature: _____ Date: _____

Responses to the video guides, workshops, and other formation efforts should be recorded on the Catechist Record of Formation (shown on the left) that should be submitted to the Catechetical Leader who will post the hour(s).

NOTE: A catechist must complete the Catechist Record of Formation form for each formation opportunity they have completed and submit that form to their Catechetical Leader. The form can be found in your *In Service to the Master* binder.

Next issue: *The Knowing Dimension*

KEY VALUES OF WHOLE PARISH FAITH FORMATION (WPFF)



Brian Topping

There are many names for what we, as catechetical leaders, do. Simply put, we form people in faith. There are many ways to do this, many models, many methodologies. Each one is based on a specific set of values. If you think about the classroom instruction model, you can begin to imagine what values were in place driving its creation.

Whole Parish Faith Formation or WPFF is the name the REO has given those models that form people in faith with the whole community gathered at the same time. Examples of popular models include Generations of Faith and Whole Community Catechesis. The purpose of this article is to discuss the values underlying the Whole Parish Faith Formation approach to catechesis in an effort to dispel some of the misinformation about it.

It is important to note that instruction is just as much a part of this model as it is in the classroom model. In WPFF, think of instruction as an anchor for the rest of the learning process. The learning process in WPFF is very different than traditional models because it is built upon the values discussed below. The WPFF model embraces the following values:



1. Lifelong WPFF recognizes first and foremost that faith formation is a life-long process. It is not an age group-specific program with a definitive enrollment and exit time. While most catechetical leaders agree whole-heartedly with the value of lifelong faith formation, many traditional models do not have a high success rate in retaining learners at each, next programmatic age-level of formation beyond eighth grade.



2. Intergenerational As a lifelong process, WPFF values all learners at every stage of the life cycle and the relationships that form between them. In a culture where multiple generations of family typically do not live in the same location, these intergenerational relationships are extremely important to the learning process and thus, highly valued.

This value also emphasizes the critical importance of forming adults in their faith. By including adults of all ages in the learning process, WPFF actively seeks to engage adults in continuing faith formation. The working assumption is that adults more fully formed in their faith will be better equipped to pass that faith on to the younger generations.

Finally, this value recognizes the diverse set of circumstances facing people today. Using a term such as households to describe those who participate reinforces that all are welcome, from the traditional family, to the senior citizen, to the single young adult, etc.

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3. Gathered This learning process relies on having the faith community gathered at the same time to experience the same formation, as opposed to separating the age groups across the year for independent learning. Learning with the community that worships together is an extremely high value in WPFF, and could not happen in the same way if age groups always met for independent learning. In parishes where space will not allow the entire faith community to gather at one time, multiple gathering times should be offered, similar in concept to a parish having multiple worship times to accommodate a large number of their parishioners.



4. Core Curriculum Imagine having the ability to teach all of the learners in a parish the same concepts at the same time. This is the value of a Core Curriculum. When the intergenerational faith community of lifelong learners is gathered together as a learning community, they learn and grow in faith together. The topic for a given week or month is THE catechetical topic for the faith community. Parish leadership can count on that as they develop programming in other areas. Examples of this might be the priests incorporating this topic in their homilies, age-specific bible studies focusing on that topic in scripture, and all meetings beginning with prayer related to that topic.



5. Participation WPFF seeks to help form the faithful in such a way that they will be better able to participate in the life of their faith community. Through growing in understanding about the topic, by forming relationships with other people, and sharing faith in new ways, the participants of the learning sessions will be better prepared to participate in the faith life of the parish. Not only will they understand what is going on in their faith communities more fully, they will be able to experience it with people they have built faith relationships with.



6. Whole Parish WPFF is the primary catechetical program for the entire parish. No ministries run programs that conflict with it and every ministry participates in it. Deviation from this value, however slight, undermines the success of WPFF. In fact, not adhering to this value is why so many parishes have experienced difficulty implementing the Generations of Faith approach. It truly requires a paradigm shift in the parish.



7. Value Added Doing a WPFF model does not preclude the possibility of other age-group specific ministries or programming. These simply “spin off” of the WPFF dynamic. The key is that ministries do not recreate what WPFF has already done, but enhance it. Think of these ministries as ways for parishioners to live out what they are learning in WPFF.

Each of the values named above work together to create the WPFF model. If a parish embraced one or two of these values (which many do), it would not automatically translate into a WPFF model. Just like the classroom instructional methodology was created to serve a specific set of values, so was WPFF. Understanding the purpose of each of these values and seeing how they inter-relate with one another is the first step of assessing whether or not a WPFF model might be the right approach for your parish. The next issue will explore, “Why Make the Switch?”

