

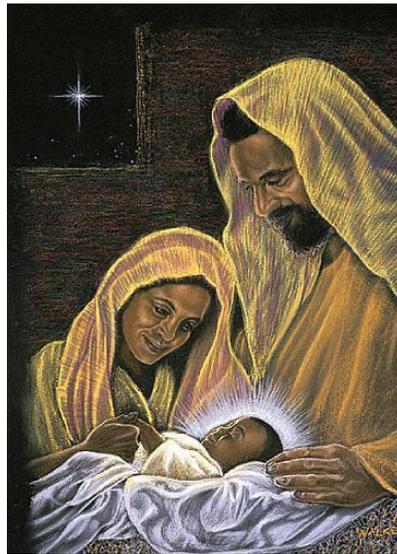
CALLED, FORMED & SENT

DECEMBER 2019



FROM THE
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
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Blessed and Merry Christmas to Each of You!

Thank You All for Your Call and Efforts to Evangelize and Catechize!

**The National Directory for Catechesis
Those Who Catechize
What Does It Say About Youth Ministers and
Those Who Work with Adolescent
Evangelization and Catechesis?
by Bryan Reising**



The National Directory for Catechesis (NDC) is a great resource for parishes to understand the role of those who catechize: the pastor, the parish catechetical leader (PCL, formerly called the DRE or CRE), the parents, the catechists, and so on. I will take directly out of the NDC what it says about these various people and their roles in catechizing to improve catechetical formation in our parishes:

A comprehensive youth ministry program, whether it is based in a single parish or represents the cooperative efforts of several parishes, includes the dimension of structured or formal catechesis. Coordinators of youth ministry; therefore, should have theological formation as well as competence and experience as catechists. They should be able to lead and guide young people to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith, in the practice of that faith in light of principles of Christian morality and social justice, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in the development of their spiritual lives. Coordinators of youth ministry should be practicing Catholics who live the Gospel in all aspects of their lives. They should be models of Christian living for the young people they serve and have the ability to speak credibly about their

personal experience of the gift of faith. Within their comprehensive responsibilities, coordinators of youth ministry have specific catechetical responsibilities that should always be fulfilled in collaboration with pastors and parish catechetical leaders.

Training for youth ministry should be as comprehensive as the responsibilities are and should employ all the principles of sound adult faith formation. Adequate training in the Church's mission of evangelization and catechesis in general and youth catechesis in particular should be a minimum requirement for all youth ministers. Dioceses should provide that training for their youth ministers and, if possible, develop certification programs in which all the dimensions of youth ministry can be developed over a period of time. Whether coordinators of youth ministry work full-time or part-time, they should be provided compensation and benefits appropriate to their efforts.

*So, with this excerpt from the National Directory of Catechesis, the NDC, we can see how important the role of the youth ministry is. Youth ministry should be a collaborative effort also with the parents, godparents, sponsors, and other caring adults. And as high school youth are close to graduation, youth ministers can be in communication with these youth about their future plans and be in touch with campus ministers at college or university campuses to share with them about these new incoming freshman so that ministry can continue to grow for these young people. In addition, another great resource for youth ministry by the USCCB is **Renewing the Vision**: <http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/young-adults/renewing-the-vision.cfm>.*

Here you will read about the eight components of Catholic youth ministry. In addition, the Office of Youth Ministry has more resources to share regarding this important ministry:

<https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/ministry-offices/youth-ministry/>



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gathering

Thursday, January 9, 2019 -- Epiphany Party

We will celebrate Christmas and Epiphany this day and meet at the Parish Center of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bill Gier will give a tour of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica in the morning. We will gather to celebrate and share about Christmas,

Epiphany, and faith traditions. Lunch will be Deacon Larry's Gumbo.

PCL Gatherings for This Catechetical Year

2020: February 20, March 26, April 23, and May 14

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

Parish Visits

Bryan has been on the road for some parish visits. He can visit on the day of your Faith Formation. He can also do visits with pastors and catechetical leaders. Please arrange a time that you can invite him to your parish by contacting him via email: breising@dioceseofbmt.org or calling his office at 409-924-4323. He will not get to all places during the catechetical year, but he would like to get to all regions of the diocese. In addition, Twyla (North, West Vicariates), Sr. Misty (East, South, and Central Vicariates), and Paul are available for parish visits as well. What will happen with these visits? The following are some possibilities: an evaluation of your evangelization efforts and adult catechetical formation, an observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction, perhaps an in-service with your catechists, a presentation to parents, or even a catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children.

Vicariate Meetings

We are scheduling some Vicariate meetings to gather pastors, parish catechetical leaders, and youth ministers to talk about catechetical formation, registration, open registration, and closed registration. We have seen an increase of children and youth (families) registering for catechetical formation in some parishes. We will look at some possible solutions so that all registered parishioners will have the opportunity for catechetical formation and sacramental preparation.



Heart of Faith

These are 2 hour learning sessions that can be presented right in your parish. Contact our office to arrange this opportunity. Topics include Evangelization, Home Visitation Training, Christian Morality, the Sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Sacred Scripture.

University of Dayton (VLCFF)

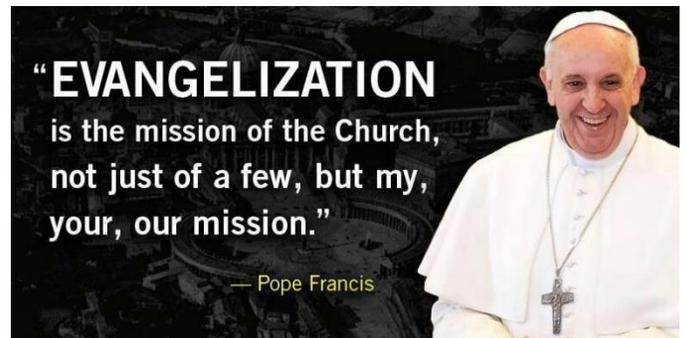


Cycle 1: January 12 - February 15, 2020
(Registration: Opens October 30, 2019; Closes January 8, 2020)

- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching \(SJ\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.1 \(Catechesis is...\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Christology](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Emotional Intelligence and its Impact on Faith Formation](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations for Liturgy](#)
- [Fundamentals in Deaf Faith Formation Methodologies \(SN 2\)](#)
- [Gaudete Et Exsultate \(Apostolic Exhortation - Rejoice and Be Glad - Call to Holiness\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)

- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [Ministering in Times of Scandals and Divisions](#)
- [Music in Liturgy](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament \(Bryan will facilitate this in section B\)](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Parish and Social Action \(SJ\)](#)
- [Planning Youth Ministry Events](#)
- [Praying With Children](#)
- [RCIA](#)
- [Reflections on Faith and Finance](#)
- [Relational Ministry with Youth \(YM\)](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [The Mass](#)
- [Veteran and Military Family Outreach](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation



Word on Fire: Bishop Robert Barron adult faith formation series - <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

Check out this resource from Word on Fire Engage: <https://engage.wordonfire.org/about>

Formed.org is a subscription service by parish that includes adult faith formation offerings, movies, and podcasts, and eBooks: <https://formed.org/>

JustFaith is a small group process to learn about Catholic Social Teaching: <https://justfaith.org/>

RENEW International has a host of resources for renewal and adult catechetical formation: <http://www.renewintl.org/>

SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization) is a plan for the new evangelization for parishes that offer renewal experiences, small Christian communities, neighborhood based ministries, and home visitation: <https://sinecentral.org/>

Paulist Evangelization Ministries offers many resources for small groups, parish renewal, a process for returning Catholics, and outreach: <https://www.pemdc.org/>

Catholic Returning Home is a process for returning Catholics: <http://www.catholicsreturninghome.org/>



Adoration • Community • Theology • Service

To find out about upcoming ACTS Retreat and Activities: <https://beaumontacts.org/>

Interested in a Bachelors or Masters in Theology



St. Thomas University in Houston:
<https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Undergraduate/Theology/Index.aqf>.

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership



The next NCCL Convocation will be in Dubuque, Iowa. Check the NCCL website for further information about this exciting conference! And all PCLs are now members of NCCL! Check out the Web site: www.nccl.org. Contact our office to learn how you can be a member of NCCL compliments of the Diocese of Beaumont if you are not a member yet! Keep in mind, they do have an additional \$24 stewardship fee. For information, go to www.nccl.org

Safe Environment Compliance Reminders



Any PCL, youth minister, catechist, adults helping with youth ministry, or anyone who may be in a ministry with minors is required to be in total compliance with safe environment requirements. To be in compliance, one must have attended in person a Protecting God's Children (PGC) session. After 5 years from the initial training participation, a recertification is required. This can be done either through the diocesan website online module, or by attending another in person PGC session. If you have any questions regarding Safe Environment Training, you may contact the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator through the following information: Paul J Thomas
pthomas@dioceseofbmt.org 409-924-4315

Belonging

By

Paul J Thomas

In *Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis expresses a very heartfelt desire for our church to exemplify the mercy of God. He cautions us about becoming a community closed in on itself with a “country club” attitude of who should belong.

The fact is, authentic Christianity can only exist if we are challenged to move beyond preconceived notions and judgements about the worthiness of others. None of us are worthy of the mercy of God. Yet, as St. John writes, God is unconditional love whose mercy endures forever.

If God is so willing to share this amazing grace with us, are we not also called to be this image of God to one another? Pope Francis implores us to have an attitude of non-judgement and accompaniment in order to welcome all to our table.

Who among us does not have some brokenness that we are working through? Yet despite this, each of us also has amazing gifts that God has given us. Many years ago, my spiritual director told me that one sin does not define a person. We can meet a person where they are and welcome the gifts they can bring to our community.

Community is where authentic Christianity is lived. This is where each of us can find strength in the collective consciousness of Christ in our midst. Every human being has a need to be loved and valued. This

experience of belonging should be one of the hallmarks of our Catholic communities.

In his book *Growing An Engaged Church*, Albert L. Winseman writes about *the Four Stages of Belonging*:

“Being a member of a parish is not the same as having a sense of belonging. There is actually a process that people go through as they develop a sense of belonging. Here are the four questions they ask themselves during the process.

- 1) **What do I get?** In this stage people look at what the parish can do for them. They may have personal or spiritual needs.
- 2) **What do I give?** In this stage people grow in their encounter with Christ in their parish and begin to seek opportunities to use their gifts and talents.
- 3) **Do I belong?** In this stage people seek assurance that they do, in fact, belong and that their gifts and talents will be appreciated.
- 4) **How can we grow?** In this stage people see themselves as members of the Body of Christ and seek opportunities to work together to build the kingdom of God in their parishes and in the broader community.”

Let us contemplate these stages and consider how we can do a better job looking into the heart of each other. As the song says, “All Are Welcome” in this place.

Protecting God’s Children Information

There are no sessions scheduled until after January 1st, 2020.

Please remember to abide by all the deadlines for Safe Environment. The audit reports for Safe Environment Training are due to Sr. Esther no later than Wednesday, December 18, 2019. For any questions or concerns regarding your ability to meet this deadline, please contact Sr. Esther directly at 409-924-4304.

Thank you!