

# CALLED, FORMED & SENT

MAY 2019

FROM THE  
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

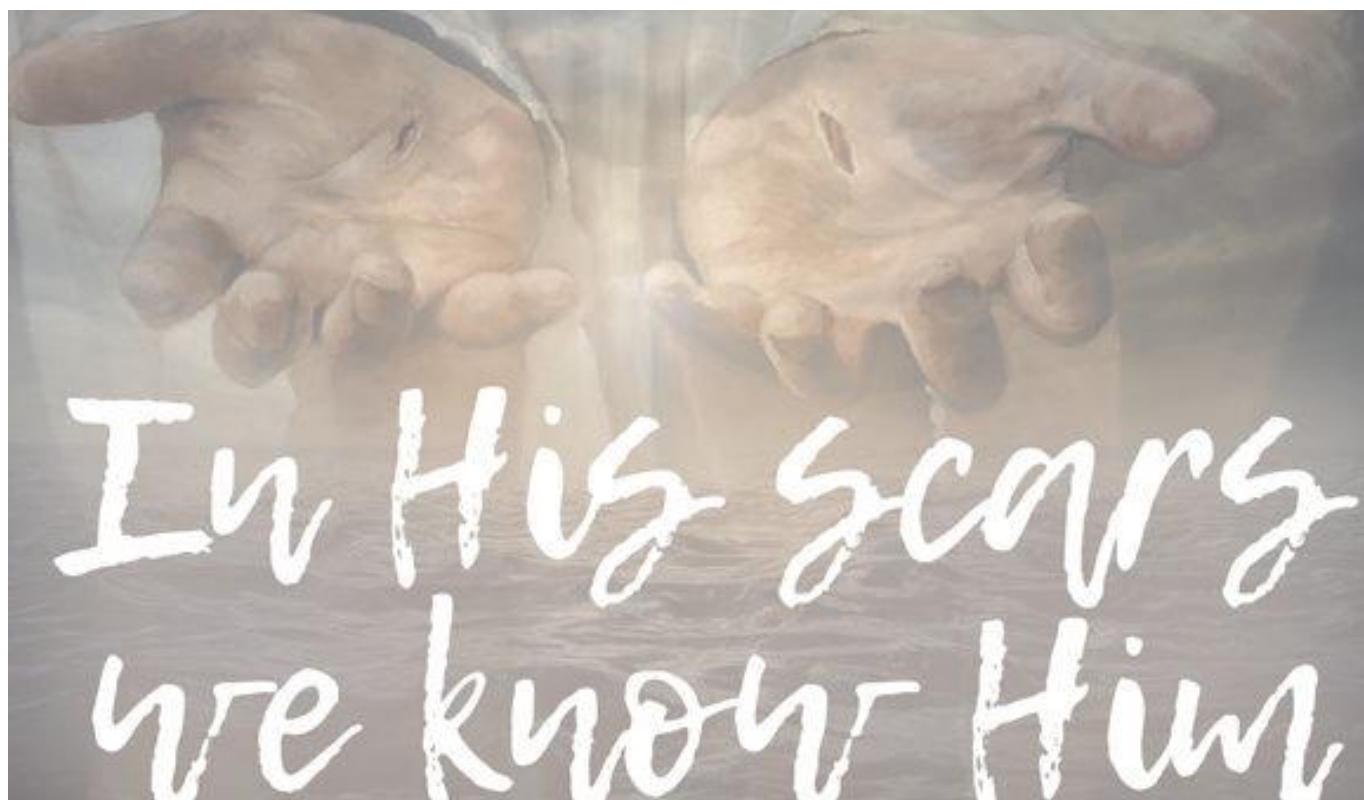
BRYAN REISING

*DIRECTOR, EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS*

*BREISING@DIOCESEOFBMT.ORG*

*409-924-4323*

*MANY BLESSINGS DURING THIS SEASON OF  
RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE!*



## **Maturing Adult Catechesis** *by Bryan Reising*

“The



catechesis of older people takes into account the diversity of their personal, family, and social conditions...It pays particular attention to the maturity of their faith. Many of the elderly come to old age with a strong and vibrant faith. Catechesis for them should help develop an attitude of thanksgiving and hopeful expectation.” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, 194)

This is true in so many cases when we provide catechetical opportunities for older adults, but we need to recognize that older adults do come to us in a variety of ways as it states in the *General Directory for Catechesis*, 187:

“An aged person may have a rich and solid faith, in which case catechesis, in a certain sense, brings to fulfillment a journey of faith in an attitude of thanksgiving and hopeful expectation. Others live a faith weakened by poor Christian practice. In this case, catechesis becomes a moment of new light and religious experience. Sometimes people reach old age profoundly wounded in body and soul. In these circumstances, catechesis can help them live their condition in an attitude of prayer, forgiveness, and inner peace.”

We need to recognize that catechetical ministry to those who are older can come and needs to come in many forms and many starting places. We also need to listen to experts in the field who can help us look at various age groups within our current generations.

According to researcher and author, Dr. Richard Johnson, senior adulthood falls into one of three groups:

- Boomers are within the age range of 58-75. They are at a time in life of growth and positive life challenges. They devote themselves more directly to their own interests and gifts.
- Builders are ages 76 and up. People in this age group will notice that physically, they are slowing down.

However, many still have minds that are sharp and quick so that they can continue to learn and grow in their faith, as well as contribute their insights and ideas.

- Elders are those who live very long lives and are quite possibly the wisest within our parish communities and families. Many have experienced some form of physical or cognitive slowing down. They may need our extra care that we can give them, but we need their life experiences, their stories, and their wisdom.

Aging (maturation) is as much a spiritual growth process as it is a psychological and physical growth process. Johnson suggests that successful senior adult ministry includes:

- A shift in thinking, away from a ‘senior group’ mentality and toward a ‘maturing adult ministry’ mentality;
- A focus on every day, real life issues, and to times of personal transition of maturing adults;
- An honor of diversity: of age, stage, personality, ethnicity, and soul.

This is an age group we need to pay attention to because it is the fastest growing age segment in our population. Therefore, parishes really need to study this demographic and plan on how to serve them with catechetical ministry. Yes – most things we can do intergenerationally and with adult faith formation in general, but there are times we need to cater specifically to this age group because of their unique needs and their maturity.



To learn more about catechesis for our older adults, go to [www.senioradultministry.com](http://www.senioradultministry.com). And check out the following resources:

***Creating a Successful Retirement - Finding Peace and Purpose*** by Dr. Richard Johnson. “A spiritual thread runs through all the needs of retirees – a thread of pursuing peace and finding purpose. It is this thread that has the power to transform an ordinary retirement into an exceptional journey of discovery. Retirement is perhaps the greatest time for self-discovery.”

***Parish Ministry for Maturing Adults - Principles, Plans & Bold Proposals*** by Dr. Richard Johnson. This resource explains what needs to happen prior to ministering to maturing adults and offers twelve foundational/key principles for successful parish ministry.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### PCL Gatherings

Thursday, May 16, 2019 - Laura Hinton of OSV will present "Great Catechists & Great Curriculum Produces Energized Catholic Kids"

### PCL Gatherings for Next Catechetical Year

2019:

August 22, September 26, October 17, November 21

2020:

January 9, February 20, March 26, April 23, and May 14

### Lay Missionary Disciples

Just as we equip those who will be priests (seminarians), those who are in formation and preparation to become deacons, and those who are in formation to become consecrated religious, there are lay leaders and other laity who need formation as well. There are some laity who are working full-time for parishes and other Church structures, some working part-time for the Church, some volunteering their time in leadership roles for the Church, or even some volunteering as catechists. For them, we have a formation opportunity called **Lay Missionary Disciples**, which will begin this fall.

The following are the dates for this formation:

Saturday, September 28, 2019

- Kerygma Morning of Reflection

Saturday, October 19, 2019

- Old Testament

Saturday, November 16, 2019

- New Testament

Saturday, January 11, 2020

- Prayer and Liturgy

Saturday, February 15, 2020

- Sacraments

Saturday, March 21, 2020

- Morality

Saturday, April 18, 2020

- Catholic Social Teaching

Saturday, May 9, 2020

- Lay Ministry in the Church

The timeframe for these will be 9:00 am to 11:55 am

Below is the link for registration.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lay-missionary-disciples-tickets-61099586508>

### RCIA: Approaches to Evangelization and Catechesis in Unsettled Times

Save the date!

Saturday, August 24, 2019

Diocese of Beaumont

Office of African American Catholic Ministry

Linda Duhon-LaCour, Director

#### Team

Kathleen Dorsey Bellow

Bishop Fernand Cheri, OFM

Brian Reising

### 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](mailto: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, or even a catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children.

### 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 4: June 2 - July 6,  
2019(Registration: Opens May 1; Closes  
May 29)

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology: Archdiocese for the Military Services Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Creative Methodologies: ADHD in Parish Life - Pastoral Implications \(SN 3\)](#)
- [Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 7\)](#)
- [Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview \(SN 1\)](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations for Liturgy](#)
- [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](#)
- [Many Faces of Adult Learners \(AFL 3\)](#)
- [Mercy](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Parish as a Learning Community \(AFL 2\)](#)
- [Pastoral Approach to Culture](#)
- [Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World](#)

- [Sacraments](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Vocation to Ministry](#)

## 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 (parishes can try this resource for free during Lent):**  
<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**



All PCLs are now members of NCCL! Check out the Web site: [www.nccl.org](http://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! For information, go to [www.nccl.org](http://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](mailto:pthomas@dioceseofbmt.org)

409-924-4315

### **Upcoming Protecting God's Children sessions**

#### **Protecting God's Children: 2018 - 2019 Schedule of Sessions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Mon. May 13, 2019	6:00 pm	Lamar University, Catholic Student Center, Beaumont	Kelly de la Rosa	Kelly: 409-924-4360
Wed. May 29, 2019	6:00 pm	St. Jude, Culotta Hall, Beaumont	Jeanne Fennell	Jeanne: 409-866-9595 x2
Mon. June 24, 2019	6:00 pm	Infant Jesus, Religious Education Building, Lumberton	Stacy Keen	Stacy: 409-755-1734 x114

**Remember to abide by all the deadlines for Safe Environment. Thank you!**