

CALLED, FORMED, & SENT

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FROM THE
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
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The following series will look at those we catechize- inspired by the National Directory for Catechesis. We will begin with the earliest age we can share the faith!

Let the Little Children Come by Bryan Reising

“Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” Matthew 19:14

When my children were still in the womb of my wife, I composed lullabies for each of them. For my youngest daughter, I composed, *Let the Children Come to Jesus* based on this verse from Matthew’s Gospel. Even now at 22, she knows this is her song, her gift from her daddy, a means to pass on the faith. We need to recognize that we need to pass on the faith from the earliest moments a child can hear. Many experts say that babies within the womb begin to hear by the eighth week of pregnancy.

The Early Years (Infancy to 2 Years)

Parents should begin talking and singing to their unborn child at eight weeks, and it should grow from that point on – increasing their vocabulary and concepts of faith. In the early years of a child’s life, it is important to share stories of God’s love and how God will always take care of them. As a baby frequently “falls in love” with their

mom and/or dad, the parent can share who God is and that God is the source of love. Reading stories of faith are extremely important– and reading daily.

Praying as a family, even at an early age, is extremely important to help a child connect with the God who loves all children, all people. One of the things we did with our children at night was a Trinitarian prayer: “Father, thank you for... Jesus, I am sorry for... and Holy Spirit, please help...” Each member of the family would take a turn to thank, ask for forgiveness, and petition. Then we would end it with the traditional Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. It helps a child to know that they can be spontaneous with their prayer, but they should also learn the more traditional prayers as well. Prayer and all of Christian life are celebrated at the Eucharist. Attending Mass as a family can provide an opportunity for many teachable moments with your children. They can learn about the prayers, the readings, the colors of vestments, the various seasons of the liturgical year, the various rituals, and the giving of their treasure to the Church and the poor.



Pre-School Years (3-6 Years)

In recent years, there has been a movement regarding early childhood education. Studies have shown that young children who receive attention and affection are more likely to succeed in education and life. There are five developmental domains where educators (and parents) need to focus: *Social* – creating relationships and interacting, *Physical* – fine and large motor skills, *Intellectual* – making sense of the world around them, *Creative* – discovering talents like art and music to enhance learning, *Emotional* – self-awareness, self-confidence, and coping with feelings.

These five domains can be used to help them experience God and faith as well:

Social – understanding God as the Holy Trinity and looking to the family and the parish as the community centered in Christ

Physical – things like holy water and candles can help the child to touch or see symbols of our faith

Intellectual – understanding God and prayer

Creative – using art or music to learn and to worship

Emotional – experiencing peace, sorrow, love, and joy in relation to the faith.

The following are resources to consider when working with children these ages:

Pre-School Series

- *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
- *Allelu! Growing and Celebrating with Jesus (4, 5)* - Our Sunday Visitor ©2010, 2011, 2012
- *Discovering God* - William H. Sadlier, Inc. ©2000
- *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts (Ages 4 to 6)* Loyola Press, © 2018
- *God Made Everything* - Loyola Press ©2008, 2010
- *I am Special (3, 4, and K)* - Our Sunday Visitor ©2007-2009
- *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies: What the Church Believes and Teaches (Student Handbook) (3, 4)* - Pflaum Publishing Group ©2010, 2018
- *Questions for God* - VirTru Powers ©2007
- *Stories of God's Love (3,4, 5, and K)* - RCL Benziger ©2009, 2011

If you are working with children these ages, you are helping with the Church's mission by letting the little children come to Jesus!

Convocation of Catholic Leaders The Joy of the Gospel in the Diocese of Beaumont

This historic gathering will be August 17 and 18 and now that registration is closed, we have about 440 participants who will gather in Beaumont for this convocation. Catholic Leaders from across the diocese will gather for this convocation and the outcome will be intentional planning for evangelization in our parishes and organizations. It will be very important for each parish and organization to enhance or even begin planning for evangelization, which will include:

- renewal opportunities (retreats, parish missions)
- outreach and ministry to groups considered on the peripheries of our parishes and communities
- further development of the RCIA
- parishes providing processes for returning Catholics
- adult faith formation that will include opportunities for all adults, including small Christian communities and parish-wide events
- more involvement by all adults with ministries within the Church, and charity and justice within society

In future issues, we will hear more about what parishes and other organizations are doing creatively to bring about the joy of the Gospel to more people in our diocese! Please share your plans and your implementation of those plans!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Thursday, August 30 sponsored by the Diocese of Beaumont at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Beaumont
9:00 gather; 9:30 am – 2 pm with lunch

Other Upcoming Dates: 2018: September 20, October 18, November 15, 2019: January 3, February 21, March 21, April 25, May 16

Lay Missionary Disciples: Diocesan Formation for Lay Leaders

Starting in the fall, there will be an opportunity for catechists, parish catechetical leaders, youth ministers,

Catholic school teachers, RCIA Team members, those involved with adult faith formation, those involved with stewardship, those involved with evangelization, those involved with liturgy, those involved with social outreach and justice, and other interested adults. It will be called **Lay Missionary Disciples** and it will form the laity, especially those involved with leadership and ministry. It will take place one Saturday a month. It will begin with prayer at 9:00 am and go through about 3:45 pm. It will begin with a retreat experience.

The following is a schedule for our sessions in the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019. Cost is \$120 per person

Kerygma Day of Reflection (September 22, 2018) – St. Francis of Assisi, Orange

Introduction to the Jewish Scriptures (October 20, 2018) – Jerome Cabeen

Torah: Covenant and Law, Prophets

Introduction to the Christian Scriptures (November 17, 2018) – Linda LaCour

Revelation and the Study of Scripture, Gospels, Letters

Introduction to Catholic Theology (December 15, 2018) - Bryan Reising

The Mystery of God, the Trinity, Creation, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit

Prayer and Liturgy (January 19, 2018) – Sr. Misty Garriga, CDP

Ways of Prayer; Liturgy and Ritual; the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours

Sacraments (February 9, 2019) – Bryan Reising

Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Mission

Morality/Catholic Social Teaching (March 9, 2019) – Fr. Shane Baxter and Paul Thomas

Relationship with God; Responsibility to Care of Our Neighbor; Catholic Social Teaching

Laity and Lay Ecclesial Ministry (May 4, 2019) – Bryan Reising

Theology of the Laity, History of Laity and Lay Leaders, Sharing Our Stories

To register for Lay Missionary Disciples, please contact Anna Stone at astone@dioceseofbmt.org or 409-924-4324.

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 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.

University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

Cycle 6: September 2 - October 6, 2018
(Registration: Opens Jul 18; Closes Aug 29)

- [Administration in Ministry](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Collaboration and Community](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs \(SN 5\)](#)
- [Fundamentals in Deaf Faith Formation Methodologies \(SN 2\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)

- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Many Faces of Adult Learners \(AFL 3\)](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Prophets](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [The Mass](#)

edunegan@dioceseofbmt.org

Sr. Esther will be at our August 30, 2108 PCL Gathering to explain and answer questions you may have on Safe Environment Compliance.

An opt-out form called *Keeping Kids Safe* is available in both English and Spanish. This is provided to the parent/guardian who prefers to do their own Safe Environment training of their children. This form must be signed and returned before your training in the fall.

In signing the opt-out form, the parent/guardian is agreeing to train their own child. Use the opt-out form provided by the diocese. Do not change the content of the form. Any opt-out forms signed by the parent/guardian should be turned in to you before the training in the fall.

Any DRE, 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 rectification 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

pjthomas@dioceseofbmt.org

409-924-4315

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

Adult Faith Formation

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

Also, check out the new resource of 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/>

ACTS

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

Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

The deadline to return the reporting forms to the diocese, along with the form noting children's attendance and absence is December 14, 2018. If you have any concerns about the deadline please contact Sr. Esther.

PGC Trainings Protecting God's Children for Adults

Mon. August 20, 2018	5:30 pm	St. Michael, Jasper	Regina Lawrence	Regina: 409-384-1424
Fri. August 24, 2018	6:00 pm	St. Mary, Parish Hall, Cleveland	Bridgette McMillan	Yuri/Cristina: 281-592-2985

Wed. August 29, 2018	6:00 pm	St. Jude, Culotta Hall, Beaumont	Jeanne Fennell	Jeanne: 409-866-9595 x2
Wed. September 5, 2018	6:00 pm	Catholic Pastoral Center, Assembly Hall, Beaumont	Paul Thomas	Joseph: 409-924-4309
Sat. September 8, 2018	9:00 am	Our Lady of Victory, Sour Lake	Paul Thomas	Joseph: 409-924-4309
Tues. September 11, 2018	9:00am	Catholic Pastoral Center, Assembly Hall, Beaumont	Paul Thomas	Joseph 409-924-4309
Mon. September 17, 2018	6:00 pm	St. Francis, Orange	Jonnie Broussard	Jackie 409-882-4453:
Mon. September 24, 2018	6:00 pm	Immaculate Conception-St. Peter, Rose Room, Groves	Mary Simon	Mary: 409-720-8816

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. 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 on the national conference (Orange County, CA: May 19-May 23, 2019), go to www.nccl.us

Parish Catechesis Question

What type of programs do you offer for pre-school children and families with small children?

Our Human Journey by Paul Jeffrey Thomas

Recently, I made the decision to participate in the National Geographic Project called *Geno 2.0*. Using DNA sequencing, they began the project in 2005 to explore our migration as human beings throughout the world. In order to discover our ancestral journey, migratory paths, and genetic makeup the project focuses only on human migratory patterns older than 500 years old. I thought it would be fascinating to learn where my family came from as they traveled through ancient time.

What I discovered was much more than my own personal story. I discovered that my story is also the human story... and indeed, God's story. As I viewed my results, I found myself moved by the connectedness all people share. Truly, in the context of God's creation, every human person is sacred and our collective experience requires a shared dignity.

There is a spirit of unity that emerges when we realize all of human history began somewhere in east Africa. *Each and every* one of us are ultimately related. We are, without doubt, all children of one God, Creator and Author of Life. Both sacred scripture and science have now arrived at the same conclusion; we are one human family.

Those of us on a journey of faith should already understand this. Most religious traditions have a creation story to explain our origin as being the result of a Divine Source. If we, as Christians, believe humanity was created in the image of God, how can we carry any form of prejudice in our hearts? Our scriptures tell us that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, literally the breath of God. We must contemplate this constantly, asking ourselves how well we live up to this reality.

God is love, dwells within, and challenges us to see all of humanity as family. This is the principle of Catholic Social Teaching called *Solidarity*. Our human journey is a sacred journey, a story that continues to unfold. Each of us contributes to it through the living of our own story. May the Holy Spirit guide our human journey, God's gift of life, so that our contribution will be one of love and mercy.

Sr. Misty Garriga, CDP



My name is Sr. Misty Garriga. I was born and raised in Bridge City, and have now come back to the area after 11 years to minister in the Diocese of Beaumont. During the past seven years, I have been in formation with the Sisters of Divine Providence in San Antonio, TX, and recently

professed perpetual vows with them in May 2018. After graduating from Lamar University in 2001, I taught middle school and high school math in Mauriceville, Bridge City, Round Rock, and San Antonio. The last four years I ministered as a Director of Religious Education at a parish in San Antonio and completed my Master's degree in Spirituality from Oblate School of Theology.

I joined the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis as a multi-parish coordinator this month and am grateful for this opportunity to minister back in my home diocese. I look forward to the journey with all of you in whatever way I can be of service. I will be sending more information to you soon and am hopeful as we continue the mission of Jesus to all those we serve.

In God's Providence,
Sr. Misty Garriga, CDP
mgarriga@dioceseofbmt.org
409-924-4385

Sr. Misty will serve parishes in the Southern, Eastern, and Central Vicariates, especially parishes with new parish catechetical leaders, volunteers, and those who need more organization assistance.

Witnesses for Jesus Christ Catechetical Sunday Theme By Sr. Misty Garriga

Do you know a "none?" I'm not talking about a religious woman from a convent! "Nones" are those who identify as having no religious affiliation, such as atheists or agnostics, and now make up roughly 23% of the U.S. adult population. These "nones" seem to allow the attraction of secular and worldly experiences to influence their lifestyle more than the sacraments, Catholic education, and even strong family influences they received in their young life.

This year's Catechetical Sunday theme of "Witnesses for Jesus Christ" focuses on those who no longer feel they have a place in our Church, and challenges us to have the courage to be a witness to those who need to hear the message and love of Jesus Christ once again in a profound way. This may seem daunting, but we already have a model to follow. Think of how Jesus approached the woman at the well— already knowing the man she was with was not her husband. Or with the woman caught in adultery—asking those who were sinless to cast the first stone. Or even how Jesus approached the disciples on the way to Emmaus— joining the disciples after the Resurrection, listening to their fears and concerns, opening up the Scriptures to them and how it pertained to Christ, and then revealing his identity at the breaking of the bread.

In all of these encounters, Jesus meets the people where they are, is present to their needs and concerns, proclaims his message of love and his Kingdom, and then gently enfolds them with his love and compassion into a path of healing and guidance. How can we do the same? Can we meet others where they are, without judgment, criticism, and superiority? Can we become instruments of Christ's healing presence to them, igniting the flame of faith once again? Yes, we can! Let us ask for the grace to take the first step to be a witness of our own faith, trusting that the Providence of God unfolds moment by moment.

For more information on Catechetical Sunday:

USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/index.cfm>

NCCL: <https://www.nccl.org/product/enlisting-witnesses-catechetical-sunday-pin/>

(with NCCL Membership, you can get \$1 off each pin you purchase for your catechists; NCCL membership for every PCL in our diocese is complementary; sign up today)

Creating a Team with your Catechists

By Twyla Satterthwaite

As we get our calendars together for the year, and recruit our catechists, I would like to suggest a good practice to implement. Periodic staff meetings for your catechists. This is vital to team building and catechist retention. Some of you may already hold these meetings and I encourage you to continue and to ask yourself, "Are my meetings as effective as they can be?"

The most important thing to do when you are recruiting catechetical staff is to let them know that there will be staff meetings periodically throughout the year and that they are expected to attend. These meetings can be held on a weeknight or a weekend, or whenever you determine your staff can meet. In one parish where I worked, we had them once a month, on a given Sunday, after the last morning Mass. We would share a meal and have our meeting. This was a helpful learning and bonding experience in a parish that had multiple class days and times.

Your meeting should aim to accomplish several things: first—continuing education, second—upcoming event information, third—fellowship, fourth—spiritual enrichment, and finally—affirmation.

Education is an important part of every gathering. Never pass up a chance to educate. However, this does not mean you need to present an entire course on a topic at each meeting. A good practice is to choose an item to focus on yearly. Examples include the Mass, the sacraments, the Six Tasks of Catechesis, or the writings of Pope Francis. Each one of these will easily last a year. These are good topics to present and discuss with your catechists. Remember not to lecture, but to use good adult learning methods. When we ask questions, share information, discuss, and reflect, adults learn better.

Fellowship is vital to team building. Spending time together getting to know one another is priceless. You can foster this with the meal you share. You could also use icebreakers or “get-to-know-you” activities or games. In a smaller parish where I worked, we would take turns preparing the meal and then sharing our recipes. Telling stories is also a great way to get to know one another. Start with a question like, “What was your memory of your First Holy Communion?” Sharing our experiences binds us together.

Information sharing is also part of your staff meeting. The parish and education calendars are important to review. What events are coming up, how do we prepare our students for those events? Never assume that your catechists know what an event or church season is! Give them short explanations or articles on the meaning of the event. *Catholic Updates* are great for this. Policy and safe practices are also good to review. Information that you share should be written down for your teachers so that they will remember.

The continual spiritual growth of your catechists is one of your responsibilities. Every meeting should open with a prayer. It is also good to give them information on spiritual opportunities, such as retreats, online prayer sites, and names of good spiritual books you have read. Just be sure what you recommend is interesting and in agreement with Catholic teaching. One good tool is the practice of Breaking Open the Word.

Frequently, this prayer form is used in the RCIA dismissal sessions. Many study and ministry groups use it as well. It is very simple. One person reads a Gospel reading (usually the Sunday reading). Others listen quietly. After a brief pause, each person shares one thing that came to mind or stood out to him or her during the reading. Sometimes people share a feeling or a memory attached to that significant phrase. After all have shared, the leader closes the time with a brief prayer. Any type of prayers or sharing should of course, be kept within the group.

Affirmation is also an important part of your meeting. Congratulating a catechist who has done something well is worth more than you could ever pay them. Point out something clever that one of the catechists has done. I had a primary teacher who had her students make rosaries out of Fruit Loops cereal. After the kids said each prayer, they ate the Fruit Loop and a good time was had by all! Another catechist taught the four marks of the Church by building a model church. Each wall was a mark of the Church and it was covered with pictures of people living out those marks. Teachers are very creative and when they receive praise for their inventiveness, they will continue to create enriched learning experiences. Other catechists will feel empowered to make their classes exciting as well. A little praise goes a long way.

As your year begins, do not forget to schedule staff meetings and to make them interesting! You will be rewarded with a team that enjoys teaching and one that returns year after year.

Twyla Satterthwaite
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A Special Prayer

Holy Mary, our Spiritual Mother
Pray for us

Embrace and hold (name) in your loving arms

Give (name) the comfort, nurturing, and guidance that only a mother can give

Whisper peace and wisdom into (name) heart, mind, and soul

Touch (name) with your loving heart and tenderness

Give (name) the clarity, direction, and confidence that only a mother can give

Remove anything that is not of the Spirit of God

Through the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit

Holy Mary, our Spiritual Mother

Pray for us