

CALLED, FORMED & SENT

FEBRUARY 2019



FROM THE
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
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***Those We Catechize: Inspired by the National Directory
for Catechesis.***

Time of Transition **Adolescent Catechesis for** **Grades 11th & 12th** *by Bryan Reising*

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each person.

These goals need strategies in order to accomplish this mission. So “Renewing the Vision” looks at some themes of a comprehensive vision: A vision that is developmentally appropriate, family friendly, intergenerational, multicultural, collaborative,

leadership oriented, and that is flexible and has adaptable programming.

In addition, “Renewing the Vision” has some components for a comprehensive ministry: Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, and Prayer and Worship. All of

these components need to be considered when looking at youth ministry. But for the purposes of this article, let’s look at two: Evangelization and Catechesis. Consider this a teaser to read the entire document and use it to plan an effective youth ministry and adolescent catechesis in your parish or Area Faith Community.

Last month we looked at the “Adaption of Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age for Use in Parish and Youth Ministry Programs.” You

may want to read that article again in light of grades 11 and 12. This month, we will look at “Renewing the Vision” as a means to help plan an effective vision for both youth ministry and adolescent catechesis. Grades 11 and 12 are a time of transition: adulthood, college life, responsibilities, and work.

This document can help to create a means or a plan to help these young people as they transition in new and exciting parts of their journey! When we look at young people in these grades, it can be a great time of hope as well as a time of wonderful opportunities.

Renewing the Vision

This document by the US Bishops provides a framework for Catholic youth ministry and how important adolescent catechesis plays a part in that ministry. The following are three goals for this vision:



Evangelization

Regarding evangelization, “Renewing the Vision” says “the starting point for the ministry of evangelization is our recognition of the presence of God already in young people, their experiences, their families, and their

culture. . . through the Incarnation of God in Jesus, Christians are convinced that God is present within and throughout all of creation, and, in a special way, within humanity. Evangelization, therefore, enables young people to uncover and name the experience of a God already active and present in their lives. This provides an openness to the gift of the Good News of Jesus Christ." Therefore, with this presence of God within the lives of these young people, we are able to affirm them and prepare them further to receive the Good News through the person of Jesus Christ!

It further states that "the ministry of evangelization incorporates several essential elements: *witness, outreach, proclamation, invitation, conversion, and discipleship*." We witness to them because they need to see the faith being lived by parents and catechists. Outreach includes reaching out to youth where they are, with the many needs they may have. Proclamation means proclaiming a person, the person and message of Jesus Christ! Invitation includes encountering and having a relationship with Christ, but it also includes invitation to a community of faith and support. Conversion is the response to the proclamation and invitation: to turn way from selfish deeds, sin, and turning toward God and his ways of love. Discipleship deals with the continual learning of the faith and living the faith in daily life.

So what opportunities for evangelization are in our diocese regarding adolescent evangelization?

- **Quest** has had a long history within this diocese and has helped young people to encounter Christ in a deeply spiritual way.
- The **Diocesan Youth Convention** comes every June to do some evangelization experiences for both middle school and high school students.
- In addition, the diocese sponsors **youth camps** for both middle school students and high school students. In the summer.
- Plus, every other year, there is the opportunity for youth to go to **NCYC, the National Catholic Youth Conference**.
- **Check the Office of Youth Ministry [webpage](#)** for further evangelizing opportunities.

Catechesis

What does catechesis do for adolescents? According to "Renewing the Vision," it does the following:
"Helps adolescents *develop* a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian community, and *increase*

their knowledge of the core content of the Catholic faith. The ministry of catechesis also helps young people *enrich* and *expand* their understanding of the Scriptures and the sacred tradition and their application to life today, and to *live* more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, especially through a life of prayer, justice, and loving service. Genuine faith is a total response of the whole person—mind, heart, and will. The ministry of catechesis fosters growth in Catholic faith in all three dimensions—trusting (heart), knowing and believing (mind), and doing (will). The goal should be to have all Catholic youth involved in some program of catechesis."

Regarding the 11th and 12th grades, they also recommend the following themes to be covered (see these in light of the Framework that was in last month's article):

The Profession of Faith

- *Jesus Christ*—discovering the meaning of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and what this means for living in Christ's spirit today.
- *The Mystery of the Trinity*—understanding and experiencing the triune God.
- *Revelation*—understanding the revelation of sacred scripture and sacred tradition.
- *Old Testament*—developing the knowledge and tools to read the Old Testament and to understand its meaning and challenge for us today.
- *The Gospels*—developing the knowledge and tools to read the Gospels and understand their meaning and challenge for us today.
- *Paul and His Letters*—developing the knowledge and tools to read Paul's letters and to understand their meaning and challenge for us today.
- *Faith and Identity*—exploring Catholic beliefs and what it means to live as a Catholic today.

The Sacraments of Faith

- *Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and at the Service of Communion*—understanding the sacraments and how they are both personal and ecclesial, evoking a response from each of us.
- *Worship*—developing an understanding and skills for participating in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

The Life of Faith

- *Catholic Morality*—applying Catholic moral teachings to contemporary life situations as one encounters the many complexities in our world.
- *Conscience, Virtue, and Sin*—understanding and uncovering the desire to turn toward God and to do



good and to act in accordance with God's grace, understanding the meaning and impact of sin, and learning to make decisions in accordance with one's rightly formed conscience.

- *Justice and Peace*—understanding that the Catholic faith calls people to work for justice, to pursue peace, and to defend human dignity, and developing skills to act for justice, peace, and human dignity.
- *Lifestyles and Vocation*—discerning how to live the Christian vocation in the world, in the workplace, and in marriage, single life, ministerial priesthood, permanent diaconate, or consecrated life.

Prayer in the Life of Faith

- *Christian Prayer*—understanding and experiencing the variety of Christian prayer traditions and discovering and responding to the Spirit's personal invitation to develop a personal prayer life.

To check out curriculum (for adolescents) that is on the USCCB website that is in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, go to:

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/document/Currentlist.pdf>.

In addition, there are other catechetical opportunities, like *Lifeteen*, that does not have a text, but has materials and means to evangelize and catechize.

Conclusion

Evangelization and catechesis as well as the other components of a comprehensive youth ministry can help juniors and seniors during their time of transition. For example, an evangelization experience can build a rock-solid faith before they enter the world and catechesis can help equip them with formation and knowledge of the faith so that they can do several things: seek out further faith formation and a Catholic worship community on campus or the place they live; help defend the faith as they will be challenged by peers, teachers, and co-workers; and help them to live out the faith and share it with others as they in turn evangelize and catechize others. It is all of our hope that we can prepare these young men and women to be people of faith, hope, and love as they enter their new worlds. "Renewing the Vision" can guide us as we plan ahead for their transitions!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Thursday, February 21 sponsored by Pflaum at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Beaumont. Luisa Negret will

present on "**Liturgy and Faith Formation**, a process that enlightens the lives of children and the whole family".

Other Upcoming PCL Gatherings: March 21 (retreat), April 25 (Curriculum Day), May 16

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.

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's (VLCFF)



Cycle 2: March 10 - April 13, 2019(Registration: Opens Jan 23; Closes Mar 6)

- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology: Archdiocese for the Military Services Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing](#)

- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs \(SN 5\)](#)
- [Fundamentals in Deaf Faith Formation Methodologies \(SN 2\)](#)
- [Galatians](#)
- [History of Catholic Social Action](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Pastoral Care](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Parish as a Learning Community \(AFL 2\)](#)
- [Praying With Children](#)
- [Relational Ministry with Youth](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [The Mass](#)
- [The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through the Lifespan](#)
- [The Study of Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home](#)

Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation

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

Upcoming Protecting God's Children sessions

Date	Time	Location	Facilitator	Contact
Tue. February 5, 2019	6:00 pm	Catholic Pastoral Center, Assembly Hall, Beaumont	Paul Thomas	Joseph: 409-924-4309
Thur. February 21, 2019	6:00 pm	St. Mark, Silsbee	Kathy Watson	Kathy: 409-781-7356
Tue. March 5, 2019	6:00 pm	Catholic Pastoral Center, Assembly Hall, Beaumont	Paul Thomas	Joseph: 409-924-4309

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

Save the Dates

Catholic Advocacy Day 2019

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Leaving Beaumont at 4:00 am

and returning at 8:00 pm

Preparation Training at 5:30 pm on

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at

Catholic Charities; other training dates include Monday, March 4 at a location to be determined

For further information, contact

cwilliams@catholiccharitiesbmt.org

or call 409-924-4400, ext. 4415

Catholic Social Teaching Workshop:

Two Feet of Love:

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Friday, March 29 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 30 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Mass of Anticipation – 5:00 pm

St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church

6825 Gladys Avenue, Bmt. TX 77706

St. Patty Chappelle, SNDdeN,

Executive Director – Pax Christi USA

Called, Formed, & Sent Day (January 26, 2019
at Saint Mary Parish in Fannett) pictures:





