

CALLED, FORMED, & SENT

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Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

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The New Directory for Catechesis

By Bryan Reising

This will be a series to look at the new Directory for Catechesis. We will read, discover, and learn about the directives the Church gives us regarding evangelization and catechesis within our parishes and diocese.

Part Three – Catechesis in Particular Churches, Chapter Ten Catechesis in the Face of Contemporary Cultural Scenarios. In the third section of this chapter, **Catechesis in Social Contexts**, it first mentions the topic of “Catechesis and the Scientific Mentality.” Here it observes that some who are deeply in scientific fields “wonder how scientific knowledge can be reconciled with the reality of faith.” Yet, the very questions of science, like origin of the universe, the beginnings of the human person on earth, the laws that govern nature, and so on can be answered with both faith and science in a compatible way.

With this knowledge, the catechist can be more versed on this compatibility and articulate the faith in the landscape of science, especially if they serve as a catechist for adolescents and adults.

In the next part of this third section, the topic covered is “Catechesis and Digital Culture.” Here it states, “the introduction of digital tools and their use on a massive scale has caused profound and complex changes on many levels with cultural, social, and psychological consequences that are not quite entirely evident.” Here we need to recognize that more and more children and youth are dealing with stress and trauma from the overuse of their electronic devices or the entry into the dark web (and this does not include the trauma suffered by young people and others because of the pandemic we are in the midst of).

We also need to recognize that the digital world is “changing language, shaping mentalities, and restructuring value hierarchies.”

With this technology, it is also creating opportunities for “dialogue, encounter and exchange between persons as well as access to information and knowledge.”

We as catechists need to be aware of the cautions for these mediums as well as the opportunities to share the Gospel in this new way and to foster community.

This directory covers several areas within this section on the digital, but it includes *Proclamation and catechesis in the digital era*. Here we see the opportunities to utilize the tools of technology to enhance our passing on the faith. Of course, we have seen an increase of these tools to pass on the faith through video meetings and online catechetical formation platforms during this pandemic.

This section then covers the topic of “Catechesis and Some Questions of Bioethics,” which can be helpful for those learning about some of the issues within our moral Teachings. “The main issues dealt with by bioethics refer to the beginning of life (status of the human embryo, medically assisted procreation...), to the end (definition of death, euthanasia, palliative care...), to health experimentation (genetic engineering, biotechnology...)” As parishioners make decisions in life related to these, as those in the medical field who are parishioners who do research or who are practitioners make moral choices in implementing research and care, the Church’s Teachings in these areas are extremely important.

The next topic this section covers is “Catechesis and the Integrity of the Person.” Here it covers the important Teaching of the life and dignity of the human person. All persons, no matter the race, culture, religion, country, gender, age, ability or disability, or language, deserve the utmost respect for their life and their dignity.

Other topics that this section covers include “Catechesis and Environmental Engagement,” “Catechesis and the Option for the Poor,” “Catechesis and Social Engagement,” and “Catechesis and the Work Environment.” These topics are worth reading as well.

We will continue our journey into this directory in the months to come. In March, we will continue this series by looking at chapter ten, “Catechesis at the Service of the Inculturation of the Faith.” To purchase this

important directory, a must for all PCLs, the USCCB is selling this book at the following link:

<https://store.usccb.org/directory-for-catechesis-p/7-669.htm>

COVID-19

We are still monitoring all nine counties within our diocese. We will continue to inform you on any changes in protocol.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Join us for our next PCL Gathering, on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at the Catholic Pastoral Center “Chancery” (and we will keep you up-to-date regarding any changes due to COVID). Pflaum will be the sponsor. This gathering will begin at 9:30 am and continue through 1:00 pm with lunch provided at noon. Our speaker will be Luisa Negret of Pflaum. She will present and lead a discussion regarding how to “Engage, Evangelize, and Empower Parents.” The ideas shared will become valuable to you and your catechists. I know many of you do have a family based catechesis or have incorporated family activities with your catechetical formation at your parish. You would be a valuable participant in this gathering. And really, all PCLs can gain from this presentation and discussion. Please RSVP to Twyla Satterthwaite: tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org

Synod on Synodality



This is a special worldwide synod that will begin in each diocese throughout the world. A synod is a listening process of the Church that calls for widespread input from Catholics. Special questions, which can help facilitate this synod, can be found at this website: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/210907a.html> (the questions can be found in numbers 26 and 30). You may share your answers, reflections, observations, and concerns to the following email: lookingforward@dioceseofbmt.org. Share this with your parishioners! Thank you!

409-924-4323 and tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org or 318-840-7785 to arrange a time to visit your parish.

Volunteer Opportunities for Service Hours and Apprenticeship

Southeast Texas Food Bank - Beaumont The website to help volunteer: <https://setxfoodbank.org/get-involved/>
Market to Hope (Catholic Charities) in Beaumont The need for volunteers has increased recently. Contact Chris Robertson: 409-924-4419
Hospitality Center (Catholic Charities) in Port Arthur Contact Christina Vara Green at 409-924-4406
Some Other Place – Beaumont – Morning food preparation is needed (Monday through Saturday). Phone: 409-832-7976.

Special Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity for Service Hours and Apprenticeship

Encounter Catholic – Mardi Gras in Beaumont – We need people or groups of people from parishes or other organizations to help at the Encounter Catholic booth (held at the Great Lawn of the Event Center in Beaumont) February 24 through February 27, 2022. We need help Thursday evening, February 24, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Friday evening, February 25, from 6:00 pm to midnight, Saturday, February 26, from 12:00 pm to midnight, and Sunday, February 27, from noon to 8:00 pm. You may sign up whenever you are available, even if it is for a few hours. Contact Bryan at 409-924-4323 to sign up.

University of Dayton (VLCFF)



Cycle 2: March 7 - April 10, 2022 (Registration: Opens January 19; Closes March 2)

- [Administration in Ministry](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.1 \(Catechesis is...\) \(Sem\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.2 \(Vocation of the Catechist\) \(Sem\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Bioethical Issues, Including Care for the Aging and Support for Families \(SN\)](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology – AMS Military Only](#)



FULLNESS OF TRUTH

Why Go to Mass?

Grasping the Source of Your Salvation!

St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church
6825 Gladys Ave, Beaumont, TX 77706

March 11-12, 2022

General Admission Pass - \$55 | Virtual General Admission Pass - \$55

Family Pass - \$150 | Priority Seraphim Pass - \$110
Youth Pass - \$20 | Clergy/Religious Admission Pass - FREE



Bishop David Toups
Dr. David Anders
Dr. Michael Barber

For tickets, schedule and more information, call 877.218.7884 or visit FullnessOfTruth.org

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-go-to-mass-grasping-the-source-of-your-salvation-beaumont-tx-tickets-170192228537>.

Parish Visits

Parish visits have resumed with all precautionary protocols. Twyla (North, West, South Vicariates) and Bryan (Central and East Vicariates) are available for parish visits. Bryan and Twyla are currently doing visits with catechetical leaders and can visit during your parish catechetical formation. Bryan can also visit with pastors as well. What will happen at these parish visits? The following are some possibilities:

- Evaluation of your evangelization efforts
- Evaluation of your adult catechetical formation
- Observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction
- An in-service with your catechists
- A presentation to parents
- A catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children
- RCIA training for your RCIA team

Please contact Bryan Reising or Twyla Satterthwaite via phone or email: breising@dioceseofbmt.org or

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020: A General Overview \(Sem\)](#)
- [Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview \(SN 1\)](#)
- [Discovering Integral Ecology in Laudato Si'](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Reframing Church](#)
- [Evangelization and Discipleship](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Galatians](#)
- [History of Catholic Social Action \(SJ\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Pastoral Care](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Introduction to the Sacraments of Initiation](#)
- [Liturgical Books](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Permanent Deacons: Discerning a Call to Holy Orders](#)
- [Planning Youth Ministry Events \(YM\)](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Standing up for the Dignity of all Human Life: A Pastoral Letter on Capital Punishment in Florida](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion](#)
- [Understanding Culture in Ministry: Building Bridges](#)

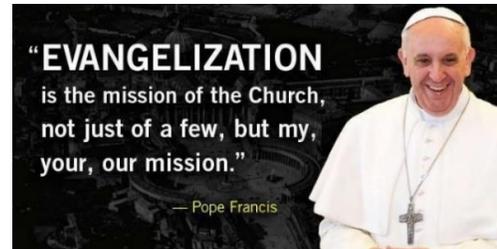
USCCB Resources and Formation



<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis>

Come to this website for great resources and formation opportunities for PCLs!

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/>. They are offering discounts for parishes in our diocese currently and even have catechist certifications in English and Spanish. Please mention that you are from the Diocese of Beaumont to get the discount.

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 (resources and training in Spanish and English):

<https://sinecentral.org/>

Paulist Evangelization Ministries offers many resources for small groups, parish renewal, a process for returning Catholics (**Awakening Faith**), and outreach:

<https://www.pemdc.org/>

Amazing Parish assists parishes to maximize their efforts for evangelization and pastoral care:

<https://amazingparish.org/>

Catholic Returning Home is a process for returning Catholics: <http://www.catholicsreturninghome.org/>
Divine Renovation is a process of renewal with small Christian communities as follow-up: <https://divinerenovation.org/>
Rebuilt is a process of thinking differently about your parishes to increase opportunities of deepening parishioners' faith, belong to small Christian communities, and involving them in parish life: <https://www.rebuiltparish.com/>
Alpha for Catholics is a 10-week renewal process for parishes: <https://alphausa.org/catholic>

ACTS

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

Interested in a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Theology or Catechesis?

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

Catholic University of America (online Masters in Catechesis):
<https://trs.catholic.edu/academics/online/mcat-catechesis/index.html>

Loyola University Chicago (online bilingual MA in Pastoral Studies, online MA in Pastoral Studies with a focus on Religious Education, or an online Certificate in Religious Education):
<https://www.luc.edu/ips/>

Xavier University of New Orleans – Institute for Black Catholic Studies: <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs>

Mexican American Catholic College (MACC):
<https://maccsa.org/>

In Word and Witness Professional Organization for PCLs, Evangelization Directors, and Diocesan Leadership

In Word and Witness will be making some changes and new directions this year. They are no longer taking memberships, but their website is still active and more information about these new directions will be forthcoming. Here is their website:
<https://inwordandwitness.org/membership/>

Out and About

by Twyla Satterthwaite

I am always impressed with the creativity of all the PCLs that I visit and especially during COVID. Each of you have had to adapt, readapt and adapt again. Yet all of you have kept on trying and not given up on your programs nor your families. I thought I would start sharing some of the creative things that are happening in our diocese due to your efforts. I believe the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things during this time thanks to your work.

Patty Lucas the PCL at Immaculate Conception in Liberty had a procession during her Faith Formation sessions on December 8th. All of her students and families processed around the block in the darkness with battery candles while singing songs about Mary. Father Paul met them at the door of the church where they processed in to celebrate Mass. Parents were so impressed that they requested she repeat this event yearly.



Amanda Schuster at Our Lady of Victory in Sour Lake has discovered a really neat website that has great Catholic Crafts, Catholic Icing — Catholic Crafts and More for Kids. This year for Advent, the younger children made color sheets with an advent wreath. Each week they “lit” a candle by gluing a yellow cotton ball on the candle. She also had some students

make a picture of Mary the Mother of the Church. They did a color sheet of Mary with a white envelope glued in between her arms. The children decorated the “church” and then put stick people of themselves in the church.



Dora Cortez's program at Holy Trinity in Mt. Belvieu is done in a vacation bible school style. Students move from one activity area to another. They have prayer, play, snacks, craft activities and of course teaching time. The kids are bringing their friends with them because they are having so much fun. Unfortunately they have been hard hit by COVID. They were not able to return to in person classes after the holidays. She and her volunteers created packets with the Pflaum handout, a craft they would have done and a prayer that is food for their soul. One little guy who had COVID was so excited to get to his craft he had to get out of bed to work on it.



I hope to share more of what is happening in the parishes in the coming newsletters. You each are a gift to our diocese. "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith." Galatians 6:9-10

Safe Environment

In the near future, we will be moving our background check process fully online with Virtus, our Safe Environment vendor. In the meantime, in-person PGC training sessions remain suspended, and the current levels of training are detailed below.

There are currently three levels of training for adults.

1. Initial Online Training (5-year expiration)
2. Initial Online Recertification (5-year expiration)
3. Keeping the Promise Alive (second recertification)

For people who need to complete the initial training or the initial recertification, direct them to <https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/safe-environment/> and make sure they choose the correct menu button; either "Protecting God's Children Initial Training" or "Virtus Recertification." The button for "Virtus Recertification" only applies to the initial online recertification training. It **does not** apply to Keeping the Promise Alive (KPA) training. For those who need to complete KPA, they should receive an email sent to the email address used to create their Virtus Account once KPA recertification is necessary.

Please note: the procedure described above only applies to those who do not currently have a Virtus account. If you need the initial recertification and you already have a Virtus account, the link to recertify will be sent directly to your email.

Direct any PGC related questions to Joseph Blakeley at jblakeley@dioceseofbmt.org or 409-924-4309.