

Called, Formed, & Sent

December 2021



Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Bryan Reising

Director, Evangelization and Catechesis

breising@dioceseofbmt.org

409-924-4323

Twyla Satterthwaite and Bryan Reising

Multi-Parish Coordinators

Department of Evangelization and Catechesis

Many Blessings During this Advent Season and Merry Christmas!

From Bryan and Twyla, the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis

Christmas Carols

by Bryan Reising

From Edward Shippen Barnes' arrangement of the traditional French carol, *Angels We Have Heard on High* to Philipp Nicolai's [*Wie schön leuchtet der*](#)

[*Morgenstern*](#) (How Lovely Shines the Morning Star), the Christmas carol is a tradition known the world over.

Historians say that the first known Christmas carol was a carol written and composed by St. Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan in the 4th century. It is called, *Veni redemptor gentium*. Another early Church Christmas carol is *Corde natus ex Parentis* (*Of the Father's Love*

Begotten) by the Spanish poet Prudentius (died in the year 413). This carol is still sung in some churches today.

In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Christmas sequence was developed by St. Bernard of Clairvaux which has rhymed verses that were chanted.

In the 12th century, a monk from Paris, Adam of St. Victor began to develop carols from popular songs, which is a little closer to the traditional Christmas carol we know today.

In the 13th century, Germany, France, and Italy led the way in having Christmas carols in their respective languages. Some historians claim that St. Francis of Assisi, who began the tradition of the nativity (live nativities), began also the tradition of Christmas carols in the language of the people.

In England, Christmas carols in English first appeared in 1426. John Awdlay, a poet and priest, compiled 25 Christmas carols (caroles of Cristemas) which were sung by wassailers or carolers as they sung in neighborhoods of the villages of Shropshire, a county in western England. These carols were known as communal songs, and they did not sing these in the liturgical celebration of Christmas.

Increased popularity of Christmas carols happened after the Protestant Reformation, where Christmas carols appeared in liturgical and religious services.

One of the most popular Christmas carols, *Silent Night* or *Stille Nacht*, was written by Fr. Joseph Mohr and composed by the Franz Gruber, and first performed for the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria, in 1818. It was accompanied by the guitar, and it is reminiscent of Austrian folk songs. It has gained popularity through the years, and it has been translated in over 140 languages.



Stille Nacht Chapel in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria

Another popular Christmas Carol, “Minuit chrétiens!” by Placide Cappeau, lyricist and poet, and Adophe Adam, a Jewish composer, became a popular recorded song by many artists such as Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Josh Groban, and Lauren Daigle. It was translated into English, “O Holy Night” in 1855. It was first played on the organ and sung at the Catholic collegiate church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste and Saint-Jean-l’Evangéliste in southern France in the small town of Roquemaure in 1847.

Today, both Catholics and other Christians incorporate Christmas carols of many different cultures with a religious theme within their Christmas liturgies and services.

Those Christmas carols and songs without a religious theme like *Deck the Halls*, *White Christmas*, *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, *Jingle Bells*, and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* are sung at family celebrations, concerts, and outdoor caroling events.

COVID-19

We are still monitoring all nine counties within our diocese. We will keep you up-to-date soon on changes in protocol.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

Join us for our next PCL Gathering, on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) Curriculum Division will be the sponsor. This gathering will start with lunch at 12:00 pm and last until 3 pm. Our speaker will be José Hernandez-Aguirre of Our Sunday Visitor.

Synod on Synodality Listening Session

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. On Thursday evening, 6:30 pm, December 2, 2021, there will be a special Listening Session at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica with Bishop Toups. In addition, special questions, which can help facilitate this Listening Session, can be found at this website:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/210907a.html>

(and the questions can be found in numbers 26 and 30).

In addition, you may share your answers, reflections, observations, and concerns to the following email:

lookingforward@dioceseofbmt.org. Share this with your parishioners! Thank you!

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 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.

University of Dayton (VLCFF)

Cycle 1: January 17 - February 19, 2022 (Registration: Opens October 13, 2021; Closes January 12, 2022)

- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching \(SJ\)](#)
- [Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar 1.1 \(Catechesis is...\) \(Sem\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catechetical Methodology – AMS Military Only](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education \(Sem\)](#)
- [Christology](#)

- [Church History 1](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020 \(5-week course\)](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis 2020: A General Overview \(Sem\)](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing \(Sem\)](#)
- [Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Faith Formation \(Sem\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 5\)](#)
- [Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act \(Sem\)](#)
- [Music in Liturgy](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [On the Call to Holiness \(Gaudete Et Exsultate\)](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Sem\)](#)
- [Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry \(YM\)](#)
- [RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [The Mass](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

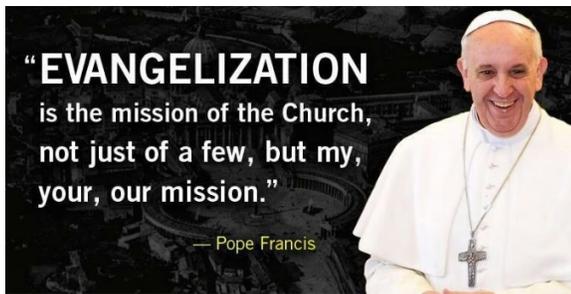
USCCB Resources and Formation



<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/>

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

Become a member of In Word and Witness, a national organization for PCLs, diocesan leadership, those involved in evangelization and RCIA, and others! They have a free membership and a paid membership. The paid membership is only \$75 a year and has extra benefits. For information on those benefits and how to register as a free or paid member, go to <https://inwordandwitness.org/membership/>

Effective Parish Catechetical Leader

We have been offering a virtual study on the **Effective Parish Catechetical Leader** series by Loyola Press for over two years and it has been very successful. This series is designed to be a practical tool for PCLs to use in their ministry. The PCLs who have participated in the study recommend it to everyone.

Kerri Bartee PCL at St. Joseph the Worker in Dayton says, "This series is a great tool for any PCL and use the app too...it's very helpful. I'll keep this series of books around always!"

Susan Dengler PCL at St. Elizabeth in Port Arthur has said, "I hesitated to commit to the chapters to read for each week, but I am so glad I decided to attend. The chapters are very relatable to my daily life."

This series is especially helpful for new PCLs such as Dora Cortez, PCL at Holy Trinity, Mt. Belvieu. She expressed, "These books challenge me to think outside the box. They are very innovative and thought provoking. Our discussions have opened up new ways for me to minister."

During this virtual study we discuss the points in the chapter and reflect on how they pertain to our individual ministries. Another benefit is that we share with other PCLs what is happening in our ministry. This networking enhances each of our parishes and ministries. Consider joining us as we begin a new book, **"All God's People**, in January. We meet for an hour on Wednesdays at 10 am.

To participate fully in this study you will need:

1. A copy of the book found at Loyolapress.com
2. A commitment to meet for 10 weeks or do the makeup work
3. Read the chapter being discussed **BEFORE** we meet
4. Do suggested activity during the week

Email Twyla at Tsatterthwaite@dioceseofbmt.org to register or for more information.

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.