

# CALLED, FORMED, & SENT

DECEMBER 2025



BLESSED ADVENT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM  
BRYAN REISING AND ALONDRA HERNANDEZ OF  
THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND  
CATECHESIS!

# OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

BRYAN REISING

Director, Evangelization and Catechesis

[BREISING@DIOCESEOFBMT.ORG](mailto:BREISING@DIOCESEOFBMT.ORG) (409)-924-4323

ASSISTANT, EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

ALONDRA HERNANDEZ

[AHERNANDEZ@DIOCESEOFBMT.ORG](mailto:AHERNANDEZ@DIOCESEOFBMT.ORG) (409)924-4320

## The Second Vatican Council

### Third Session

*by Bryan Reising*

Continuing our series on the Second Vatican Council, the third session not only produced its groundbreaking Constitution, *Lumen Gentium*, but also two other documents: *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the Decree on Ecumenism, and *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*, the Decree on the Eastern Catholic Churches.

First, *Unitatis Redintegratio* was Vatican II's response to the growing movement of ecumenism. In this document, the term separated brethren is used for the first time by the Catholic Church in an official document. This is a shift from the harshness toward Christians who were outside the Catholic Church and had no chance of salvation. In this document, it looks at the relationship with the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church (they were of the one Church until the year 1054, when the Great Schism occurred).

In this section, it focuses on a reunion of Christians as one People of God. It is through this document, that efforts of dialogue began regarding various aspects of the faith between the East and the West.

With those ecclesial communities who came from the Protestant Reformation, serious discussions on the impediments to unity were presented, such as apostolic succession, ecclesiology, liturgy, and Mariology. More dialogue with Catholics and these other ecclesial communities increased after the Council as a result.

In *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*, the Decree on the Eastern Catholic Churches, it addresses those churches that have stayed united with the Roman Catholic Church, but has retained their liturgical rites and traditions. The Church reaffirmed these churches as one with the Roman Catholic Church and encouraged to keep their rites and traditions. It also realizes that Eastern Catholic Churches have autonomous powers, such as the patriarch or archbishop can establish eparchies, nominate bishops, and to decide the date of the Solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter.

What are the Eastern Catholic Churches?

### **Alexandrian Liturgical Tradition:**

1. Coptic Catholic (Patriarchate in Cairo, Egypt)
2. Eritrean Catholic Church (Metropolitanate in Asmara, Eritrea)
3. Ethiopian Catholic (Metropolitanate in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

### **Syro-Antiochian or West Syriac Liturgical Tradition:**

4. Maronite Church (Patriarchate in Bkerke, Lebanon)
5. Syriac Catholic Church (Patriarchate in Beirut, Lebanon)
6. Syro-Malankara Catholic Church (major Archiepiscopate in Kochi, Kerala, India)

### **Armenian Liturgical Tradition:**

7. Armenian Catholic Church (Patriarchate in Beirut Lebanon)

### **Chaldean or East Syriac Liturgical Tradition:**

8. Chaldean Catholic Church (Patriarchate in Baghdad, Iraq)
9. Syro-Malabar Catholic Church (Major Archiepiscopate in Ernakulam, India)

## **Constantinopolitan (Byzantine) Liturgical Tradition:**

10. Albanian Catholic Church (Apostolic Administration in Albania)
11. Belarusian Catholic Church (Apostolic Administration)
12. Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church (Eparchy in Sofia, Bulgaria)
13. Byzantine Church of Croatia and Serbia (two Eparchies)
14. Greek, Byzantine Catholic Church (two Apostolic Exarchates in Athens, Greece and Istanbul, Turkey)
15. Hungarian Greek Catholic Church (an Metropolitanate of Hajdúdorog and two Apostolic Exarchates in Miskolc and Nyíregyháza, Hungary)
16. Italo-Albanian Catholic Church (two Eparchies and a Territorial Abbacy in Italy)
17. Macedonian Catholic Church (an Eparchy in Strumica-Skopje, Macedonia)
18. Melkite Greek Catholic Church (Patriarchate in Damascus, Syria)
19. Romanian Church United with Rome (Major Archiepiscopate in Blaj, Romania)
20. Russian Catholic Church (two Apostolic Exarchates, at present with no published hierarchs – present in Russia, China, and diaspora in the Americas, Oceania, Europe, and Asia)
21. Ruthenian Catholic Church (Metropolitanate in Pittsburgh, three eparchies, and an Exarchate in Toronto, Canada)
22. Slovak Catholic Church (Metropolitanate in Prešov, Slovakia and two Eparchies)
23. Ukrainian Catholic Church (Major Archiepiscopate in Kiev, Ukraine with several Archeparchies and Eparchies with presence in Ukraine, Russia, Poland, United States, Canada, and other countries)

Members of these churches can participate in the Eucharist and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Roman Catholic churches and Roman Catholics can participate and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in those churches.

In light of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, Pope Leo XIV, wrote the following Apostolic Letter called < In Unitate Fidei:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost\\_letters/documents/20251123-in-unitate-fidei.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_letters/documents/20251123-in-unitate-fidei.html). It is a very good letter worth reading!



## Jubilee Holy Year Resources

<https://www.usccb.org/jubilee-2025-resources>

### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

#### PCL Gatherings

December 9, 2025 – for those who missed the November 6 PCL Gathering with Claudio Mora of the Pastoral Center of California, he will do a webinar on Tuesday, December 9 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. If you are interested, please RSVP to Alondra Hernandez ([ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org)) by December 8, 2025. This is a great opportunity to get free materials for sacramental preparation for your catechists and those preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist – for both 2nd graders and older children in need of catching up.

December 11, 2025 – a special PCL gathering regarding the Good Works grant (2 pm – 4pm). Please RSVP to Alondra Hernandez ([ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org)) by Wednesday morning, December 10, 2025.

## PCL Gatherings 2025-2026

January 8, 2026 (Pastoral Center)

February 12, 2026 (evening – Nederland)

March 12, 2026 (Holy Family Retreat Center)

April 9, 2026 (afternoon and evening – Holy Family Retreat Center)

May 21, 2026 (Pastoral Center)

### Parish Visits

Bryan is available for parish visits in all our vicariates. Bryan is currently doing visits with catechetical leaders and can visit during your parish catechetical formation or at other times. 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
- OCIA training for your OCIA team

Please contact Bryan Reising via phone or email: [breising@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:breising@dioceseofbmt.org) or 409-924-4323



## OCIA Resources

**Team Initiation** has print resources as well as webinars. They also have a subscription service for members. Check them out: <https://teamininitiation.com/>

The Federation for Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has archived free webinars regarding the new OCIA (not yet promulgated). Check out these webinars in English and Spanish:

<https://fdlc.org/ociawebinars/>

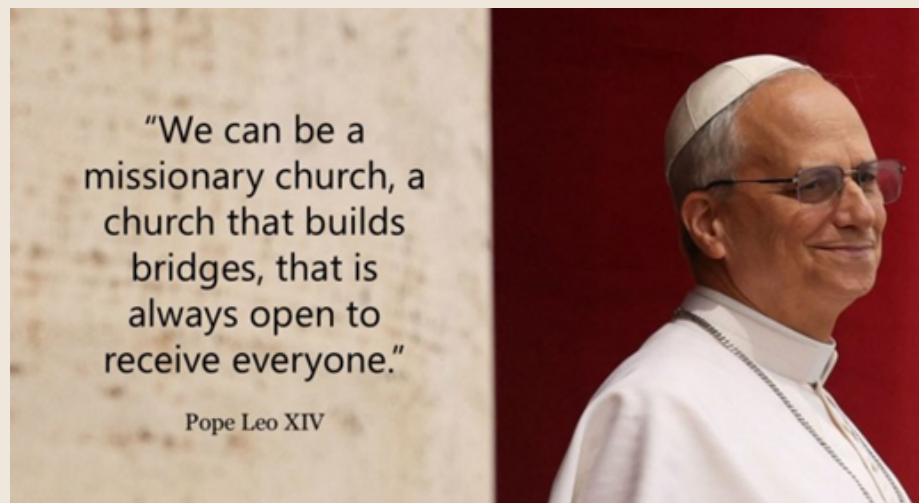
**Liturgical Training Publications** have many resources for the OCIA and liturgy: <https://ltp.org/>; their National Gathering on Christian Initiation will be August 5-6, 2026 at Loyola University in Chicago: <https://ngci.org/home/index>

**Liturgical Press** have many resources to support the OCIA process and the liturgy: <https://litpress.org/>

**Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion** – Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Anthony in Beaumont.

## Evangelization Team Training

Follow-up to the October and November trainings are available to parishes on request.





### **In the Stillness: An Advent Day of Reflection**

“In the midst of the busy, let us be your spiritual calm.” As we journey through the sacred season of Advent, we invite you to pause, reflect, and prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Join us for a peaceful morning of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Spiritual Directors will be Sr. Misty Garriga and Tonya Culver. It will be Saturday, December 6 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Holy Family Retreat Center. There is no fee to attend. To register, click the following:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdw2hlePhK\\_T77VpshjHkJdM3hCVVNm6kxkCGLmrEF3thYuA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdw2hlePhK_T77VpshjHkJdM3hCVVNm6kxkCGLmrEF3thYuA/viewform)

### **“Ready the Way”**

#### **Advent Day of Retreat and Reflection**

This is an opportunity to reflect upon various themes of Advent on this special day. Join us for a time community, faith-building, and reflection! This will be on December 13, 2025 at Holy Family Retreat Center from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM and includes lunch. The cost is \$20. The presenter will be Kathy Watson, PCL at St. Mark Catholic Parish in Silsbee. To register, please contact Kathy Watson at 409-781-7356.



ST. ANTHONY CATHEDRAL BASILICA PRESENTS:

## THE VIGIL PROJECT

# WAY OF THE STAR

A one-night Advent mission experience of  
Scripture, music, art, and Eucharistic encounter



SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025 // 6:30 PM

ST. ANTHONY CATHEDRAL BASILICA  
700 JEFFERSON STREET, BEAUMONT, TX 77701

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE (409) 833-6433  
CO-SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESAN CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

## 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 Gerard Parigi at 409-924-4436.

**Hospitality Center (Catholic Charities) in Port Arthur** Contact Christina Vara Green at 409-924-4406. She will take both individuals and groups.

**Elijah's Place (Catholic Charities) – Beaumont** – Helping children, youth, and families as they grieve a loss of a loved one – Contact Randy Fertitta at 409-924-4433.

**Some Other Place – Beaumont** – Morning food preparation is needed (Monday through Saturday). Contact Chris Robertson at 409-832-7976.

**Regional Catholic Charities Center (Winnie):** 409-296-2898

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (Raywood):** 936-587-4246

**Nehemiah's Vision – Beaumont** – helping to repair homes – 409-498-4200

**Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County:** <https://beaumont Habitat.org/>

**Habitat for Humanity of Polk County:** <https://www.habitat.org/tx/livingston/hfh-polk-county-texas>

**Habitat for Humanity of Baytown:** <http://www.baytownhabitat.org>

# University of Dayton (VLCFF)



**Cycle 1: January 19 - February 22, 2026 (Registration: Opens October 29, 2025; Closes January 14, 2026)**

- **Basics of Catechist Formation 1.1: Catechesis is... (Sem)**
- **Bible Basics**
- **Catechetical Methodology - AMS**
- **Catholic Beliefs**
- **Christology**
- **Chronic Illness: Mental Illness, Grief, Trauma Support and Counselling**
- **Church and Communication**
- **Church History 1**
- **Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview**
- **Discernment in Practical Morality**
- **Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church**
- **Faith and Human Development**
- **History of Catholic Social Action**
- **Images of Jesus**
- **Introduction to Christian Morality**
- **Introduction to Liturgy**
- **Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters**

- Introduction to Prayer
- Introduction to Scripture
- Many Faces of Adult Learners
- Music in Liturgy
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Old Testament Literature and Theology
- Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry (YM)
- Roman Catholic Catechesis for Faith Formation
- Sacraments
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- This Land is Home to Me: The Cry of Appalachia
- Who is Mary of Nazareth, and Why Should We Care? (MS)
- 

Ciclo 1: 19 de enero - 22 de febrero de 2026 (Inscripción: Abre el 29 de octubre de 2025; Cierra el 14 de enero de 2026)

- Antiguo Testamento
- Caminos para conocer el Directorio para la Catequesis
- Catequesis para la Formación en la Fe
- Comunicación y Comunidad
- Cristología: Imágenes de Jesús
- Currículo del Idioma Español para el Ministerio Litúrgico
- Fundamentos de la Fe
- Introducción a la Espiritualidad Cristiana
- Introducción a la Liturgia
- La Alegría del Evangelio
- La Fraternidad desde el Evangelio
- Los Básicos de la Biblia
- Los Profetas
- Metodología Catequética
- Pastoral Migratoria - Ecología
- Sacramentos

## 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 have catechist certifications in English and Spanish.

**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/>

**Great Catholic Parishes** assist good parishes to become great parishes:

<https://greatcatholicparishes.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:

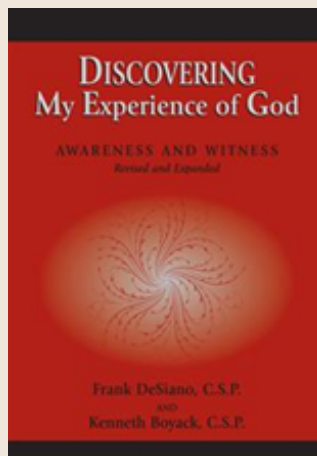
<https://divinerenovation.org/>

**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>

## Great Resource for Sharing Your Faith! Discovering My Experience of God



Now revised, this is a simple, yet deeply effective series of reflective and written exercises that leads readers to a greater awareness of God's daily presence. It is designed especially to help Catholics to know, affirm, and share their stories of faith. It can be used in a retreat format or an afternoon format. To order:

<https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/3-265-2/discovering-my-experience-of-god-revised-edition.aspx>

## Sharing the Faith in the Home

Resources for parents so that they can share the faith to their children and in turn, teach them to share the faith are the following:

“52 Simple Ways to Talk to Your Kids about Faith” by Jim Campbell:

<https://store.loyolapress.com/52-simple-ways-to-talk-with-your-kids-about-faith>

“Raising Faith-filled Kids” by Tom McGrath: <https://store.loyolapress.com/raising-faith-filled-kids>

“Building a Firm Foundation” by Marylynn Wesson:

[https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/building-a-firm-foundation-an-invitation-to-parents-of-children-preparing-for-sacraments?](https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/building-a-firm-foundation-an-invitation-to-parents-of-children-preparing-for-sacraments?ga_ref_list_id=undefinedga_ref_list_name=Search%20Results)

[ga\\_ref\\_list\\_id=undefinedga\\_ref\\_list\\_name=Search%20Results](https://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com/product/building-a-firm-foundation-an-invitation-to-parents-of-children-preparing-for-sacraments?ga_ref_list_id=undefinedga_ref_list_name=Search%20Results)

•“Feeding Your Family’s Soul” by Donna-Marie O’Boyle:

<https://pastoral.center/feeding-your-familys-soul-dvd>

“Celebrating Holy Days and Feast Days Year Round” by Patricia Mathson:

<https://twentythirdpublications.com/products/celebrating-holy-days-and-feast-days-year-round-over-150-faith-filled-activities-and-prayers-for-kids>

## 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/>**



## Professional Organization for PCLs, Parish Evangelization Directors, and Diocesan Leadership

For decades, catechetical leaders have joined together in prayer to support one another in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus in the U.S. Now more than ever, the Spirit calls us together as a community of catechetical leaders to creatively address the new challenges and opportunities facing the ministries of evangelization and catechesis in today's world.

The mission of the **National Community of Catechetical Leaders** is to promote the ministries of evangelization and catechesis in the U.S. Catholic Church by fostering a community of leaders who proclaim and teach the Word of Jesus Christ through the witness of accompaniment, education, and formation in the Catholic faith.

As a member of NCCL, you will have access to services, resources, and events to support you in your catechetical ministry through our new NCCL Catholic website ([www.ncclcatholic.org](http://www.ncclcatholic.org)).

- A weekly menu of feature **Articles**, catechetical innovations, and trends and research reports
- A monthly free **Webinar** on catechetical ministry today
- A **Vision** section focusing on the Directory for Catechesis with video presentations, articles, and tools to bring the Directory alive in your setting
- Reports on effective **Practices** in faith formation with all ages
- Reports of **Research** and **Trends** and their impact on evangelization and catechesis
- A **Library** with videos from past conferences, Catechetical Leader magazine, and more
- An **Events** page to keep you updated on conferences, workshops, and gatherings
- **Regional and national gatherings of catechetical leaders**

We invite you to become part of this mission by becoming a member of this community that shares the same joys and challenges you face. Because we want everyone to get the support they need, **there are no membership fees!** If you have not joined yet, [click here to join NCCL](#).

# Safe Environment

## Volunteers and Employees

\*\*\*NO INDIVIDUAL may be hired, put into a position (including but not limited to parish catechetical leaders, catechists, catechist's aids, and other adult helpers and parish ministers), or begin volunteer work until all components of Safe Environment compliance have been fully completed. This includes clearance of a background check, acknowledgement of diocesan policies, and successful completion of the Protecting God's Children training. Be sure to visit <https://virtusonline.org> to complete the requirements before volunteering or being employed.

For those whose training certification has expired (every 5 years) and/or background screening needs renewing (every 7 years), must also be completed within five days of expiration or they should be suspended from service until requirements have been met.

## Empowering God's Children

All parishes are reminded that children and youth participating in parish catechetical formation and sacramental preparation (all grade levels) are required to complete the VIRTUS "Empowering God's Children" **Lesson 2** for the 2025–2026 catechetical year.

- **Lesson Access:** Available on the VIRTUS website under the Educator tab. Lessons are age-appropriate and include videos.
- **Completion Deadline:** October 2025 or soon after.
- **Reporting:** Each parish should submit reports through the VIRTUS website shortly after completion.

Additionally, the VIRTUS website offers a helpful **Diocese of Beaumont webinar by Pat O'Neal**, located under the Webinar section in the left-hand menu.

For questions regarding Safe Environment, please contact the Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, Heather Ripley via email: [hripley@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:hripley@dioceseofbmt.org) or telephone: 409-924-4303.