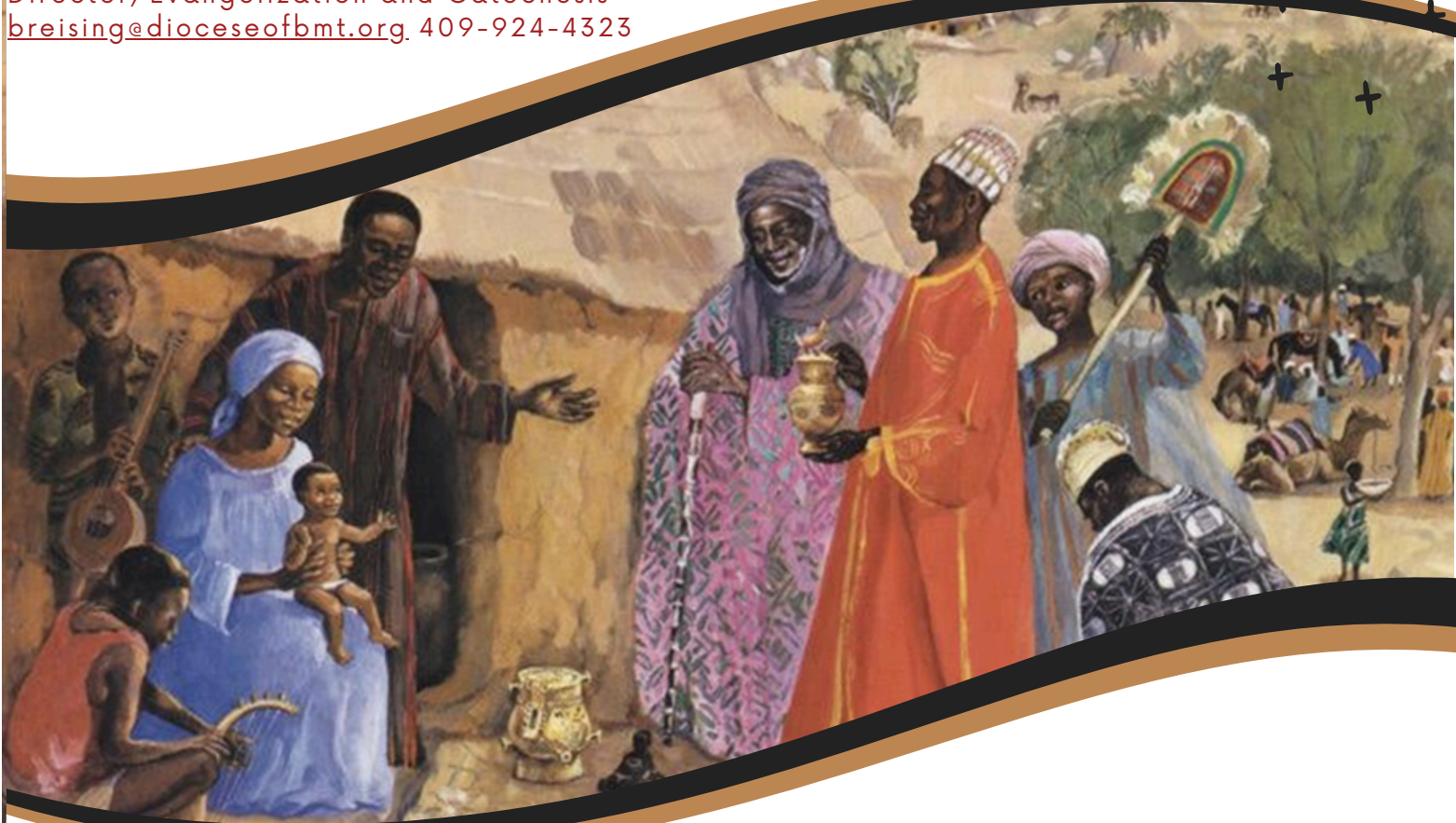


CALLED, FORMED, & SENT *January 2026*

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis
Bryan Reising

Director, Evangelization and Catechesis
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JESUS MAFA. The Three Wise Men, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48399> [retrieved December 8, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

**BLESSINGS DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND HAPPY EPIPHANY FROM BRYAN REISING
AND ALONDRA HERNANDEZ OF THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS!**

**THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL
THE DECREES: BISHOPS, RELIGIOUS LIFE, AND THE TRAINING OF PRIESTS AND THE
DECLARATION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

By Bryan Reising

On October 28, 1965, several decrees and declarations were promulgated. This month we will look at briefly the decrees that were important in the duties of bishops, the formation of religious, and the training of our priests. And we look at the Declaration on Christian Education. For us to know these documents as laity will be important for us to support our own Bishop, Most Rev. David L. Toups, our religious (and those in formation for religious life), our seminarians and priests, parents, catechists, catechetical leaders, and Catholic schools and all those who serve them.

Christus Dominus, the Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, is an important document for our bishops, and really, all of us. In describing the universal role of bishops, they are indeed the successors of the apostles as they exercise the office of teachers and pastors. And the order of bishops is a successor to the college of apostles. It is interesting that their care for souls is for all those within the diocesan boundary, but they also have a care that goes beyond the diocesan boundaries. Every so often, our diocese requests a special collection for a diocese or dioceses that were hit by disaster (like with recent disasters within the dioceses who were devastated storms in the Indonesia and Malasia). This decree gives this directive.

In their diocesan role within the local church, they have special and immediate power which is necessary for their pastoral office, yet remaining one with the Bishop of Rome as Supreme Pontiff, currently Pope Leo XIV. They have a care for their own flock through their sanctifying and governing roles. And not only is their concern with the faithful, but also a special effort is made to reach out to those Catholics we miss and those without a church home, the lost sheep. And they really care for all souls.

One of the principal roles of bishops is to proclaim the Gospel to all. And regarding catechesis, it reads, “There are, first of all, preaching and catechetical instruction, which hold a pride of place.” It goes on to say, “Bishops should be especially concerned about catechetical instruction. Its function is to develop in men a living, explicit, and active faith, enlightened by doctrine. It should be carefully imparted, not only to children and adolescents, but also to young people and adults. In imparting this instruction, the teachers must observe an order and method suited not only to the matter at hand but also to the character, the ability, the age, and the life-style of their audience. This instruction should be based on Holy Scripture, tradition, liturgy, and on the teaching authority and the life of the Church. They should, furthermore, ensure that catechists are adequately prepared for their task, being well-instructed in the doctrine of the Church and possessing a practical and theoretical knowledge of the laws of psychology and of educational method.”

In the section regarding “Those Who Cooperate with the Diocesan Bishop in his Pastoral Task,” they describe his other bishops called auxiliaries (within larger dioceses) and the coadjutor, his diocesan curia, councils, and staff, and also his pastors of parishes and the religious and laity who help pastors with their missionary and pastoral role. This section makes it clear that pastors, with the help of religious and laity, are to care for all souls in the parish territory – not just the registered Catholics. This is a tremendous charge for all of us as evangelizers. Regarding the pastoral role, it includes catechetical instruction, where religious and laity are needed to accomplish this apostolate.

To read more on this amazing document, click the following link:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_christus-dominus_en.html.

The document on the religious, *Perfectae Caritatis*, is a very important decree giving guidance and instruction on renewal, formation and the life of religious men and women. It recognizes the importance of contemplative life, as we see in abbeys and monasteries. It also recognizes the importance of various apostolates that are needed in the world. It focuses on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Regarding evangelization and catechesis, it states: “the missionary spirit must, absolutely, be preserved in religious institutes and must be adapted to modern conditions, in keeping with the character of each, so that preaching of the Gospel to all nations may be more effective.”

Regarding fostering vocations, it states: “Parents should nurture and protect religious vocations in their children by educating them in Christian virtues.”

For more reading on this important document, click on

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_perfectae-caritatis_en.html

Optatum Totius, the Decree on the Training of Priests, shed some light on the retaining of tried and true training through the centuries along with adaptations because of our changed and ever-changing world.

In the beginning of this decree, the fostering of priestly vocations takes on a greater importance, where the seeds of calling are first within the family. As this decree calls it, the family is the first seminary. The parish, too, takes on an important role in involving boys and young men in the life of the parish.

As young men become seminarians, it focused on the importance of spiritual formation and how it is closely associated with doctrinal and pastoral formation. In other words, they are in union with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They experience and live the Paschal Mystery. Spiritual experiences to establish this close relationship with God become a necessary foundation for seminarians.

Regarding catechesis, it shares the following: “Theological subjects should be taught in the light of faith, under the guidance of the magisterium of the Church, in such a way that students will draw pure Catholic teaching from divine revelation, will enter deeply into its meaning, make it the nourishment of their spiritual life, and learn to proclaim, explain, and defend it in their priestly ministry.”

For more on this important decree, click on

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_optatum-totius_en.html

Lastly, we will take a look at Gravissimum Educationis, the Declaration on Christian Education. It first mentions the importance of parents as the primary teachers of their children. It mentions the role of the Church and Catholic schools.

Regarding catechesis, it states: “Catechetical instruction...illuminates and strengthens the faith, develops a life in harmony with the spirit of Christ, stimulates a conscious and fervent participation in the liturgical mystery, and encourages men to take an active part in the apostolate.”

The declaration gives great importance to those children and youth who go to non-Catholic schools and are in need of good priests, religious, and laity who catechize by example and by word. And here, the parent's roles are to be a living example of a follower of Christ, to continue to learn about the faith and to pass on the faith to their children.

In the beginning of the document, it emphasizes the importance of continuing education of adults, and concludes with strong Christian formation in schools of higher learning.

To read more, go to: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_gravissimum-educationis_en.html.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

January 8, 2026 – A Church of Love and Compassion: A Catechetical Journey Through Pope Leo XIV's Vision

This workshop explores the heart of Pope Leo XIV's early teachings—his First Homily, the apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te*, and his Catechist Jubilee Homily—to illuminate his vision of a Church rooted in love, mercy, and closeness to the poor. Led by **Luisa Negret**, who has been offering faith-formation workshops for more than 15 years and passionately follows the teachings of Pope Leo XIV, this session seeks to offer a clear and practical path for bringing the Holy Father's message into everyday catechetical ministry.

Designed for catechists, parish leaders, and educators, participants will learn how to lead through charity, see with the eyes of Christ, and form communities that evangelize through compassion and joyful service. Please RSVP to Alondra Hernandez (ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org) by Tuesday morning, January 6, 2026.

PCL Gatherings 2025-2026

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 or 409-924-4323



OCIA Resources

OCIA Coordinator and Team Meeting

Saturday January 10, 2026 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Our Mother of Mercy, 3390 Sarah St, Beaumont, TX 77705

Please RSVP to Alondra Hernandez (ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org) by Friday morning, January 9, 2026.

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

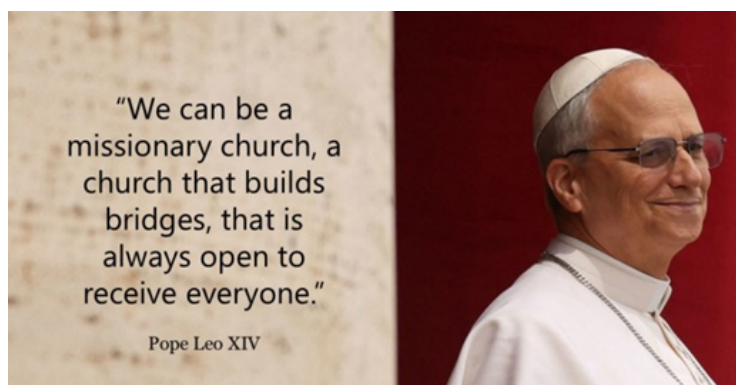
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Liturgical Press have many resources to support the OCIA process and the liturgy: <https://litpress.org/>

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.



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>

Starting Friday, January 2nd, Christ Central Camp will be encouraging all diocesan parishes that would like to book events from August 2026 through June 2027 to book by April 1, 2026. We want to emphasize that dates are limited, and we want the Beaumont Catholics to be serviced first. After April 1st, Christ Central will be releasing available dates to groups outside of the Beaumont diocese.

Date of your event	Priority Window
August 1st, 2026 - June 15th, 2027	January 2nd, 2026 - April 1st, 2027

To view available dates and schedule your event on our calendar, please visit this link: <https://christcentralcamp.org/book-the-camp-1>

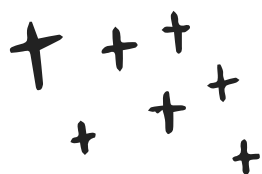
If you have further questions related to camp and bookings, please visit our website at <https://christcentralcamp.org/> or call Jeffery Penning (409-242-1014).

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 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:

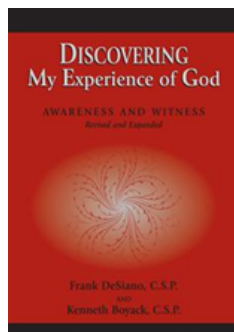
<https://divinerenovation.org/>

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?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).

- 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 or telephone: 409-924-4303

SUPPLY DRIVE!

This is a completely free, family-friendly event. Our only request is that you bring one (*or more*) of the following items, as you are able:

- Baby Wash (*Scent-Free*)
- Baby Lotion (*Scent-Free*)
- Baby Blankets
- Onesies (*boy or girl*) any size up to 6 months
- Diapers for Newborns up to size 3 or 4

All donations will go to area Pregnancy Resource Centers!

ALSO: We will have a SPECIAL GIVEAWAY for the parish/church who brings the largest youth group!

**RALLY FOR
LIFE**

2026 Theme:

**SPEAK UP
FOR LIFE!**

RALLY FOR LIFE

JANUARY 18, 2026 // BEGINS AT 3 PM

CONCLUDES AT 5 PM MASS WITH BISHOP TOUPS

St. Anne Catholic Church | 2715 Calder Ave. Beaumont, TX



**SPEAK UP
FOR LIFE!**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of*
BEAUMONT