



CALLED, FORMED, & SENT

February 2026

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

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The Second Vatican Council

Nostra Aetate:

Declaration on the Relation of the Church
to Non-Christian Religions

& Dei Verbum:

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine
Revelation

by Bryan Reising



Another declaration was promulgated on October 28, 1965, namely, Nostra Aetate. This was an important declaration regarding our Church's relationship and respect with non-Christian religions. A Catholic world view is one that engages with all cultures, all world views, and all faith traditions including non-Christian religions. As it says in this document,

"she [the Church] reflects at the outset on

what men have in common and what tends to promote fellowship among them."

This document upholds the truths found in various world religions. It mentions by name, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. It acknowledges other faith traditions as well as they in their own way have doctrines, moral precepts, and sacred rites.

It does point out the history of turmoil between Islam and Christianity, but challenges both to move forward with mutual understanding and unite in peace.

Regarding Judaism, there is a great appreciation to where Christianity has its roots: the patriarchs of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with Moses and the people he led to freedom, and with the prophets. This document has encouraged dialogue that discusses the Scriptures and theological topics that are held with common bonds. It also stresses that Jews in general – then, throughout history, now, and in the future – are not to be blamed for the death of Christ and the Church reproves every form of persecution and anti-Semitism of Jewish people.

To read more, click the following link:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html

On November 18, 1965, another constitution was promulgated, namely **Dei Verbum**. This is the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation.



It is a short and very readable constitution focused on Sacred Scripture, but also highlighting Tradition as well. Together they make up the Ministry of the Word.

Regarding handing on the faith, it says the following: "Now what was handed on by the Apostles includes everything which contributes toward the holiness of life and increase in faith of the peoples of God; and so the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes." Dei Verbum, 8.

Regarding catechesis, it states: "By the same word of Scripture the ministry of the word also, that is, pastoral preaching, catechetics, and all Christian instruction, in which the liturgical homily must hold the foremost place, is nourished in a healthy way and flourishes in a holy way. Therefore, all the clergy

must hold fast to the Sacred Scriptures through diligent sacred reading and careful study, especially the priests of Christ and others, such as deacons and catechists who are legitimately active in the ministry of the word." Dei Verbum, 24 & 25

In this constitution, it has the following chapter themes: Revelation Itself, Handing on Divine Revelation, Sacred Scripture – Its Inspiration and Divine Interpretation, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church.

This constitution encourages all the faith to read, study, and pray the Scriptures so that they come to know Christ more intimately. Dei Verbum, 25

To read more, click the following link:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PCL Gatherings

February 12, 2026 – St. Charles Borromeo– starting with a meal at 6:00pm and then the presentation will begin at 6:30pm

Please RSVP to Alondra Hernandez (ahernandez@dioceseofbmt.org) by Tuesday morning, February 10, 2026.

Karen Bruskewicz is the Director of Faith Formation for Catholic Brain, and has worked in education and ministry within the Catholic Church for 30 years as a Director of Faith Formation, Catholic School teacher, Youth Minister, College Campus Minister, and Adult Enrichment Coordinator, both at the parish and diocesan levels. For 8 years, she has been using the wide range of resources provided through Catholic Brain to develop a family model to Faith Formation, bringing parents into the full Faith Formation experience with their children. She looks forward to sharing with us the many ways that Catholic Brain can provide parishes the tools they need to accomplish this as well.

"Catechizing Families in a Digital World"

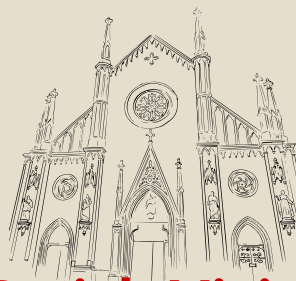
The digital world we live in evokes new challenges in catechizing students, parents, and families. This session addresses many of those challenges, and offers practical ways, as well as engaging resources, to help meet them. Keeping the Mass as the center of formation, while equipping and engaging parents and their children to Love the the Mass, Learn the Faith, and Live the Faith - "Love It. Learn It. Live It."

PCL Gatherings 2025-2026

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

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

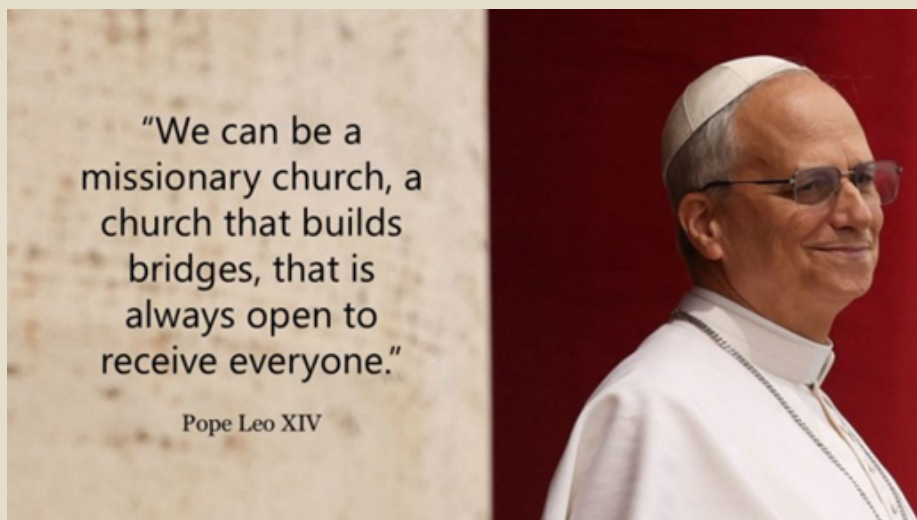
The Federation for Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has archived free webinars regarding the new OCIA (not yet promulgated). Check out these webinars in English and Spanish: <https://fdlc.org/ociawebinars/>

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>

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://beaumonthabitat.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 2: March 9 – March 29, 2026 (3-week e-seminars only)(Registration: Opens January 21, 2026; Closes March 5, 2026)

- [Angels in the Bible](#)
- [Catholic Identity and Culture \(Sem\)](#)
- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan \(Sem\)](#)
- [Directory for Catechesis: A General Overview and Reflection](#)
- [Ecclesiology: A Theological, Historical and Pastoral Summary \(Sem\)](#)
- [Images of Mary \(Sem\)](#)
- [Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act \(Sem\)](#)
- [On Bended Knee \(Sem\)](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Sem\)](#)
- [Praying with Creative Arts: Poetry](#)
- [Romero: Pastor, Prophet, Martyr and Saint \(Sem\)](#)
- [Spirituality of the Missionary Disciple \(Sem\)](#)

- Summary of Catholic Social Teaching (Sem)
- The Role of Missionary Discipleship in Evangelizing Catechesis
- Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life (Sem)

Ciclo 2: 9 de marzo - 29 de marzo de 2026 (solo seminarios electrónicos de 3 semanas)(Inscripción: Abre el 21 de enero de 2026; Cierra el 5 de marzo de 2026)

- Desarrollo Humano y Espiritualidad
- Ecclesiology: Un Resumen Teológico, Histórico y Pastoral
- Introducción a la Biblia
- Introducción a la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia
- Introducción a la Pastoral Misionera
- Introducción a la Revelación Cristiana
- Introducción al Liderazgo para el Ministerio
- La Espiritualidad del Discípulo Misionero
- María, Madre de la Iglesia
- Oscar Romero: Sacerdote, Profeta, Mártir y Santo
- Reflexión Teológica

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:

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):

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:

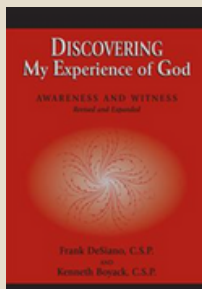
<https://divinerenovation.org/>

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>

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· "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-%20Sciences/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



Save the Date: Safe Environment Boundaries Presentation

Please mark your calendar for an important Safe Environment training presentation with Dr. Paul Ashton on Friday, February 6, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the St. Jude Family Life Center.

Dr. Ashton will be speaking on Safe Environment Boundaries, offering essential guidance and practical insight for maintaining healthy, appropriate, and professional boundaries within our parish and school communities. This presentation is required and highly encouraged for all persons involved with Safe Environment at the parishes and schools, including all ministry leaders.

More details regarding registration and lunch arrangements will be shared as the date approaches. Please plan to attend this important formation opportunity that supports the safety and well-being of everyone in our community.

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**