



— SPRING 2026 —

# Catechetical Newsletter

## A few things you will find in this edition

- On-going formation
- Diocesan Communion Celebration
- Eucharistic Pilgrimage comes to Paterson!
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training
- Diocesan Catechetical Handbook
- Washington DC Pilgrimage

## Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was beatified on November 13, 1938, by Pope Pius XI and canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 7, 1946, making her **the first United States citizen to be canonized**. Her feast day is celebrated on November 13 and she is the patron saint of immigrants.

## Mother Cabrini is the patron saint of the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Her inspiring legacy continues through the work of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an order she founded, which continues to care for the poor and marginalized in many countries worldwide.

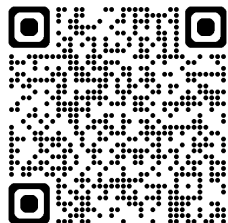
# Intro to Catechesis: Online Option for Catechist Certification

Intro to Catechesis is a 3-part series required for all catechists in the diocese. The program can be completed **at your own pace and at no cost** by taking advantage of our partnership with Franciscan at Home.

This program will provide catechists with the background necessary to be an effective and authentic witness to the faith.

Individual catechists may complete the program on their own or catechetical leaders can use the platform to facilitate groups in their parish.

Workshops are available in **English & Spanish**. Click the link or scan the QR code to begin. **Use St. Paul Inside the Walls as your location.**



## Saints Series: St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 4pm  
Presented by  
Monsignor Anthony Figueiredo

Join us for this free webinar, part of our Saints Series, to reflect on Saint Francis of Assisi. In this series of free webinars, we will explore the lives of different saints and expand our faith through inspiring stories, reflection, and practical application.



### BIBLE STUDY LEADERS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

May 19<sup>th</sup> | 12-4PM EST

Featuring Jeff Cavins, Scott Powell, Colin MacIver, along with experienced Ascension Bible study leaders, this summit is designed to support those who feel called to serve their parish through Bible study leadership.

This isn't just another webinar. It is an opportunity to step away for a few hours, grow in Christ, and be renewed in the call to servant leadership.

Participants will be able to ask questions, interact with other Bible study leaders, and learn more about Ascension's Bible studies and parish resources.

Whether you lead a Bible study in your parish, support those who do, or know someone in your community who would enjoy growing in Scripture and leadership, this afternoon was created with your parish community in mind.



# DEAF HISTORY MONTH



## RELIGIOUS SIGNS FOR FAMILIES

Learn to pray in Sign Language!

- All models are Deaf or CODAs
- Adult and child models for every word/phrase/prayer
- English and Spanish



# DIOCESAN CELEBRATION WITH FIRST COMMUNICANTS



All First Communicants and their families are invited to join Bishop Sweeney for Adoration, Benediction, and catechesis on the Eucharist

**MAY 31, 2026 AT 3:00PM**

Resurrection Parish

651 Millbrook Rd. Randolph, NJ 07869

- Event begins at 3pm, please arrive and be seated by 2:30pm
- **Ask your parish DRE or CRE to register you for this event**
- Refreshments will be served after the event



**Deadline to register is May 29, 2026, but space is limited, and registration may close before the deadline.**



**As the United States of America commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the USCCB joins this celebration by lifting up the contributions of Catholics and the impact of our faith on the history of this country.**

**In a historic moment, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 2026, and invite all parishes to join in this consecration.**

**Click the image to learn more at [USCCB.org](https://www.usccb.org)**



# ONE NATION UNDER GOD

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route

May 24 – July 5, 2026

Presenting Sponsor: **relevant radio**

JUNE 14-15, 2026



In honor of America's 250th year, the 2026 **National Eucharistic Pilgrimage** is journeying through the East Coast to 18 dioceses and coming to the Diocese of Paterson

Special Guests:



Father Rafael Capo  
@fathercapo



Father Heriberto Garcia  
@heribertogarciaar



Father Casey Cole, OFM  
@caseyofm

Event locations and times to be announced.

[LEARN MORE](#)



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route



**Level 1 training is  
coming to our area  
September 2026!**

Click the pamphlet  
or scan the code for  
more information  
and registration.

## **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**Adult Formation  
Level 1, 3-6 year olds**



**Hosted by:**

**ALL SAINTS ACADEMY**

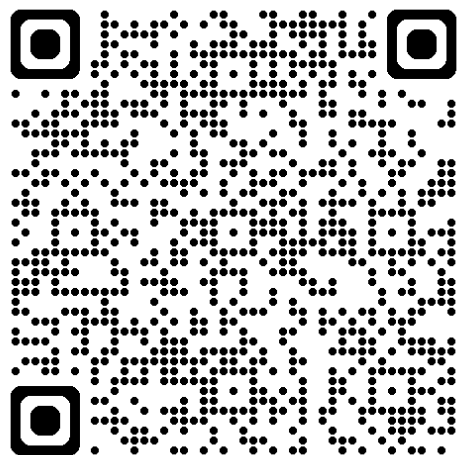
**189 Baldwin Rd**

**Parsippany, New Jersey  
07054**

Contact sister at:

[Smrfma1@yahoo.com](mailto:Smrfma1@yahoo.com)

914-417-0897





Diocese of Paterson

# Diocesan Catechetical Handbook



Policies and guidelines for parish religious education programs

**The new Handbook &  
Compendium are  
available in  
digital format**

Check them out and  
give us your feedback.  
We do not recommend  
printing in case updates  
are made.

## Safe Environment requirements for parish catechetical leaders



- Ensure **all volunteers** over the age of 18 have completed background checks, a code of conduct, and *Virtus* Safe Environment training.
- Present “Empowering God’s Children” to religious education students in grades 1 and 4 every year
- Submit the annual audit to your parish Safe Environment Coordinator or Diocesan Office of Child & Youth Protection

**Note, this is not a comprehensive list of Safe Environment requirements. Please see the full policy at <https://www.chancery.rcdop.org/child-protection>**

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# EXPERIENCE THE "WAY OF BEAUTY"

Every three years, each Diocese in the USA has the graced opportunity to make a scheduled pilgrimage as one Diocesan family with their Bishop to the National Shrine in the nation's capital.

2026 is once again "our year"! Please note the two-day and one-day option.

**Resources and activities will be available in both Spanish and English.**

## MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

### OCTOBER 17, 2026

#### THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Tours of the chapels
- Confessions in Crypt Church
- Catechetical Sessions in English and Spanish
- Divine Mercy (multi-lingual)
- 2:30 p.m. Liturgy w/Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney and priests of the Diocese



#### ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE

- Transportation and Gratuity
  - All day activities at the Shrine
  - Rest stop going - Meal stop on return
  - Depart Washington at 4:15 p.m.
- \$70/person Deadline: Oct. 1, 2026

#### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE OFFICE

Father Michael Rodak, director  
973-827-8030  
pilgrimage@patersondiocese.org

#### OVERNIGHT OPTION - DEPART FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- Friday visit the Museum of the Bible with lunch
- Accommodations at Westin Hotel
- Friday banquet w/Bishop Sweeney
- Saturday Breakfast at hotel
- Transportation and Gratuity

\$325/dbl. occ.    \$395/sgl. occ.  
Call Pilgrimage Office to register.  
Deadline: Sept. 11, 2026

*Register  
Now*



# Forming Leaders in Catechesis

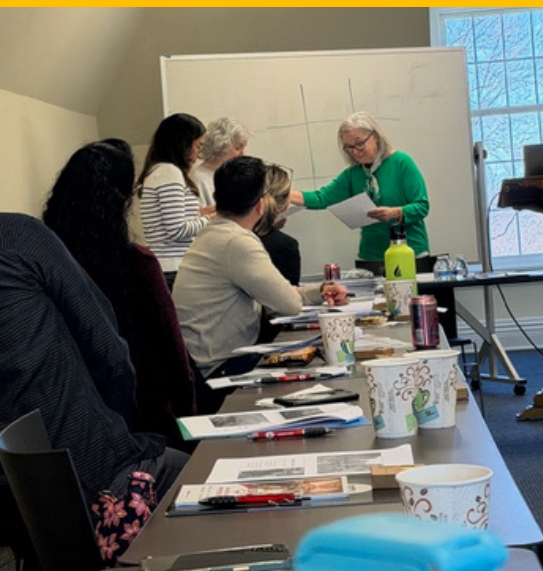
Check out what we have been up to



**Active Learning  
Approaches**  
with  
**Dr. Joseph White**



**The Heart  
of Prayer  
study series**



**SAVE THE DATE**

# **Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul, South Korea**

Trip Date: Aug 1, 2027-Aug 10, 2027



**Join Verso Ministries and the Dioceses of Paterson, Metuchen and Trenton for a life-changing week on pilgrimage. Experience the global Church firsthand amidst the unique and vibrant story of Catholicism in Korea. From remarkable saints, bustling markets, and moving shrines to Mass with the Pope and sleeping under the stars, join millions of Catholic young people in this worldwide encounter and celebration. You'll never experience God, the Church, or your faith the same way again.**

