

Superior Catechist



Volume 1 Number 1

Fall 2003

WELCOME to the “*Superior Catechist!*” In an effort to keep you informed of programs, processes and services offered by the Diocese, we are establishing “*Superior Catechist.*” It will be sent to you twice per year; one issue in the fall and one in the spring. It is our intention to affirm you as a catechist, inform you of opportunities for personal growth, share information, trends, and insights that will be helpful to you and your ministry.

Please take a few moments to read the newsletter. We ask that you pass along any information that may be of interest to youth, parents and to others you know.

Many new catechetical resources, including videos and books, are available at the Bishop Hammes Media Center. Please ask your parish DRE, CRE or faith formation director to view our new *Media Catalog* for a closer look. You may also want to check out the Bishop Hammes Center/Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry website for more information: www.chibardun.net/~rcadotte.

We extend our services to you in whatever way possible to help start your year off on a positive note. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you throughout the year, as well as providing you with continued support.

Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to the ministry of catechesis. May God bless your ministry and allow it to bear much fruit.

Christ's Peace,

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Director of Christian Formation

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Re-envisioning Adolescent Catechesis

Roger Cadotte

A conference held at Boston College and co-sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry gathered a total of sixty-five participants from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Scotland. Robert McCarty, Executive Director for the NFCYM began the conference by saying that working with young people is analogous to traveling with a map. Many times we journey into new territory but we do not use the most current maps and lose our way. Likewise, the ministry territory with young people is constantly changing. McCarty says "young people reinvent themselves about every three years," and we need to be sure we are traveling with the most current navigational resources.

This was affirmed by author Leonard Sweet. Sweet believes we are in a time of a new epistemology. He emphasized the fact that we are now living in a digital culture and those born 1962 AC (after computers) are native to the digital world, but those born 1962 BC (before computers) are considered immigrants. Sweet also stated that those who are natives to the digital culture have brains "that are wired differently." They live in a culture that is "image rich" and far less "word based." To incarnate the gospel into this culture our catechesis must be Experiential, Participatory, Image rich, and Connected (EPIC). Simply, catechesis must communicate the gospel in a way that young people find visually stimulating, connected with others and which allows them to actively participate in the catechetical process.

The EPIC process was affirmed by Fr. Virgilio Elizondo, saying that truth is discovered through the medium of the artist. "The divine is communicated through song, poetry and beauty." He emphasized also the importance of providing experiences that allow people to participate in events and rituals that connect their personal

experience with the gospel. Fr. Virgilio illustrated this through a video that depicted the passion and death of Jesus which was reenacted within his community. The film was a powerful portrayal of how a ritual can be a catechizing and evangelizing event when it involves people personally in the experience.

Dorothy Bass, Director of the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith at Valparaiso University continued the emphasis on integrating the gospel with life experience. She shared her experience from a study she conducted with eighteen adults and eighteen youth. The study engaged young people in Christian practices such as prayer, forgiveness, hospitality and keeping sabbath. Bass states that a Christian practice is one which addresses fundamental needs, involves us in God's activities in the world, comes to focus in worship, appears in scripture, is transformative and is a gift not a task.

The final day of the conference was an opportunity for self reflection. Michael Carotta, author and instructor at Boston College led participants in a process of examining their vocation. According to Carotta, one of the critical pieces of the vocational call to lead others is to "sustain our own spirit, to tend our souls." To be effective and creative catechetical ministers in today's fast pace and complex culture it is important to intentionally set aside time to "reflect and evaluate what matters, to "keep sabbath."

Resources

Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens, Edited by Dorothy C. Bass and Don C. Richter, Upper Room Books. Nashville, 2002.

Aqua Church: Essential Leadership Arts for Piloting Your Church in Today's Fluid Culture, Leonard Sweet, Group Publishing.

COMING TO THE DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR . . .

YES! Congress (Youth Engaging Scripture Congress)

Saturday, October 25, 2003 @ WITC in Rice Lake, WI

What is YES!? YES! Is a Catholic teen peer-led bible-sharing group intended to increase bible literacy and foster a practice of scripture-based prayer and service among Catholic youth, using the ancient prayer process of lectio divina.

What is a YES! Congress? YES! Congress is a training session that engages older youth in learning how to facilitate weekly Scripture-sharing groups with their peers and with the support of an adult mentor. (Training sessions are facilitated by staff members from St. Mary's Press.) Youth will receive training and materials for facilitating scripture sharing groups. In addition, there will be weekly ongoing support from St. Mary's Press staff regarding historical context, Catholic identity and scripture interpretation.

Who is YES! Congress for? This one day training (10:00 - 4:00 p.m.) session is intended for high school youth in 11th-12th grades who are interested in leading peer scripture sharing groups and for adults who are willing to act as ongoing mentors for these youth.

Once the 11th - 12th graders are trained to facilitate a peer scripture sharing group, all other high school aged youth are invited to participate in the local/parish YES! groups.

Note: At least one adult mentor must accompany every two/three youth that will be trained.

INTERNATIONAL WORLD YOUTH DAY 2005

August 16-21, 2005

Cologne, Germany

The *Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry* is planning a trip to International World Youth Day to be held in Cologne, Germany in August 2005. At this time we have approximately 18 interested. Our hope is to have at least 25 participants

When: Basic Trip (with no added attractions)
August 14-22, 2005 (includes flight time from East Coast)

Where: Cologne, Germany

Cost: Single: \$2145 — Double: \$1845 — Triple: \$1695

*Above cost includes round trip flight from east coast, lodging, several meals, professional tour escort.

Additional Costs: ~ Approximately \$200 for flight to east coast
~ Passport and Visa Fees (if you don't already have one)
~ WYD and Solidarity fees
~ Baggage handling and hotel tips
~ Foreign & domestic airport tax, fuel increase
~ Tips to escort and driver
~ Several meals
~ Optional tours
~ Other miscellaneous fees
~ Personal spending money

Who: **Young Adults between the ages of 18-35 yrs** (Please note that NO minors will be allowed to attend unless accompanied by their own parent/guardian.)

For more information see the following website: www.youyhineurope.com/wyd2005

Adult Formation

Seven Secrets of Adult Faith Formation

Just four years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*. In this foundational work, the bishops state that “lifelong formation is always needed and must be a priority in the Church’s catechetical ministry.”¹ Many parish and diocesan catechetical leaders recognize the great importance of adult faith formation, but shifting the paradigm from child-centered to lifelong faith development remains a challenge in most parishes. The following are some guiding principles that can assist us in involving more adults in deepening their faith.

Make Faith Formation for Adults a Priority in the Parish

“Effective adult formation ministry connects with and strengthens all the many ministries and activities of the parish—formational, charitable, devotional, social, administrative.”² When adult faith formation becomes an integral part of the parish, all aspects of parish life benefit because adults become more aware of their own roles in the Body of Christ. Adults who are growing in their faith give more, both financially and in terms of time and talent. They place a higher value on spending quality time with fellow parishioners, and they naturally share their faith with others.

Make it Practical and Relevant

To bring people in, we must meet them where they are.³ Consider taking a survey to help determine what sorts of opportunities are of most interest to the adults in your parish.

What topics would people most like to see offered? Would they prefer “mini-courses” of a few weeks at a time or a more regular meeting that lasts throughout the year? What days and times of the week would they prefer? How many potential attendees would come if childcare were provided? Our parish was able to more than triple involvement in adult faith formation in just one year by using the results of such a survey. Once your groups are formed, make sure they include opportunities for faith sharing and discussion of personal experiences as well as instruction. This will help keep sessions practical and “down-to-earth” while simultaneously building community. Different groups may prefer different amounts of structure, and it may be helpful to include all group members when making decisions about meeting format. It’s also wise to take advantage of natural entry points for adult faith formation—times when it’s natural and practical to get people involved. For example, we are presented with an excellent opportunity for adult faith formation when parents are preparing their children to celebrate the sacraments—Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, or Confirmation. Providing opportunities for parents to renew their understanding of the sacraments on an adult level can interest them in continuing to form their faith.

Make it Multifaceted⁴

A parish plan for adult faith formation will touch more lives if it includes opportunities for adults to grow in their faith. Some examples are parent-child retreats; printed resources for personal or family spirituality; parish service projects; and consultation with the pastor, liturgist, or liturgy committee on

enhancing the educational aspects of the Mass. An excellent discussion of various formats and approaches is found in NCCL's recent publication, *Nurturing Adult Faith: A Manual for Parish Leaders*.⁵

Make it a Team Effort

There's an old saying that DRE stands for "does really everything!" If we are to provide diverse and quality experiences for the adults of our parish, we cannot and should not try to do it alone. Consider forming a small committee of individuals who are interested in adult formation. Members of your parish who may have a background in adult education (such as university or community college professors), persons with graduate degrees, individuals with theology backgrounds, and community leaders can be valuable resources. With the right tools, such individuals can easily facilitate discussion groups for adults. *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us* provides detailed descriptions of the composition and activities of an effective adult faith formation team.⁶

Make the Parish your Curriculum⁷

Place adult faith formation opportunities within the context of parish life. As much as possible, coordinate your faith formation experiences with other events in the parish, such as ministry fairs, stewardship campaigns, service projects, or sacramental celebrations. An ideal time to have a session on social justice, for example, is in the middle of a major social outreach project, while the logical time to talk about the sacrament of Confirmation may be when the parish is about to celebrate the Confirmation of its youth. Of course, these events are all most logically coordinated around the calendar of the liturgical year, which unites Catholic Christians throughout the world. This principle is at the heart of some successful intergenerational approaches such as the Center for Ministry Development's *Generations of Faith*.

Make it Known

People can't get involved unless they know what's happening. Be sure to use all means available to let others know about new adult faith formation opportunities. The church bulletin, announcements during Mass, flyers sent home in children's classes, posted signs, and website announcements can all be effective means of getting the word out.

Make it Christ-centered

"At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father."⁸ The aim of our catechetical ministry, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is to put people in communion with him.⁹ The U.S. bishops describe adult faith as "clearly and explicitly rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus lived in the Christian community."¹⁰ It is Christ himself who calls us to continuing conversion, who brings us together as parts of his Body and forms us in love.

Joseph D. White, Ph.D., is director of faith formation at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, College Station, TX.

Notes:

1. *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us*, p.2.
 2. *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us*, p.26.
 3. *Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community* (ACCC), no. 56.
 4. *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us*, pp. 34-38.
 5. *Nurturing Adult Faith: A Manual for Parish Leaders*, edited by Kristina Krimm, Jane A. Pierron, and David M. Riley (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, 2003).
 6. *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us*, pp. 48-50.
 7. *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us*, p. 41.
 8. *Catechesi Tradendae*, no. 5.
 9. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 426.
 10. *Our Hearts were Burning Within Us*, p. 18.
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RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR

- *Area ministry support groups
- *Solitude and Sharing Days
- *Presentations/Workshops
- *Renewal Evenings
- *Adult Enrichment
- *Retreat Days

The staff of Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center is willing to dialogue with you in response to your need/mission. Programs are adaptable to your setting. Fees are negotiable.

**Marywood Franciscan
Spirituality Center**

**3560 Hwy 51 North
Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin 54568
(8 miles north of Woodruff)**

**Outreach Coordinator:
Sr. Marla Lang (715) 385-2330**

MLang@frontiernet.net

Fax: (715) 385-9118

Marywood Mission

We are sent as Jesus was sent to manifest God's love in the world particularly in Northern Wisconsin. We express our identity as ecclesial people who are rooted in Scripture, the Eucharist and the Franciscan Spirit.

Marywood seeks to provide opportunities for

- *faith development*
- *respect for the earth*
- *personal growth*
- *ecumenism*
- *holistic living*
- *spiritual journeying*
- *fostering understanding*
- *appreciation of various cultures in the environment of the Northwoods of Wisconsin*

Sessions available are

- I. Church Life
- II. Scripture
- III. Sacraments
- IV. Spirituality and World Religions
- V. Personal Growth
- VI. Prayer
- VII. Earth Spirituality



CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

Programs offered by Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center may be applicable to Catechesis Certification clock hours. Catechists are responsible for documentation as described in Ministry Catechesis Certification Handbook, Diocese of Superior. Contact Richard Lyons (715)392-2937, ext. 103 or e-mail: rlyons@catholicdos.org for further information.

Superior Catechist Calendar

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

September 21, 2003

Contact Bishop Hammes Center @
715-234-5044

FALL CATECHIST/TEACHER INSTITUTE

October 8, 2003

Rice Lake

Contact Phyllis Schlagel @ 715-392-1042

CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY STUDIES PROGRAM - PASTORAL CARE

October 18-19, 2003

Location: St. Joseph Convent, Stevens Point

Contact Roger Cadotte@ 715-234-5044

YES! CONGRESS

October 25, 2003

Rice Lake, WITC

Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY STUDIES PROGRAM - PRAYER & WORSHIP

January 10 - 11, 2004

Location: St. Joseph Convent, Stevens Point

Contact Roger Cadotte@ 715-234-5044

CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY STUDIES PROGRAM - JUSTICE & SERVICE

March 6 - 7, 2004

Location: St. Joseph Convent, Stevens Point

Contact Roger Cadotte@ 715-234-5044

YOUTH RALLY 2004

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Presenter: APEX

Location: TBA

Contact Bishop Hammes Center @
715-234-5044

SCOUT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

May 16, 2004

Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith

Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

AGAPE TEC RETREAT SCHEDULE



#177 Nov. 28-30, 2003

St. Joseph School and Parish
Rice Lake, WI

#178 Dec. 27-29, 2003

St. Bridget's School and Parish
River Falls, WI

#179 March 5-7, 2004

Rhineland Catholic Central and
Immaculate Conception Parish
Rhineland, WI

#180 April 30, May 1-2, 2004

St. Anthony de Padua School and Parish
Park Falls, WI

#181 June 25-27, 2004

St. Patrick School and Parish
Hudson, WI

#182 Late July or early August, 2004

Date and location to be announced.

INTERNATIONAL WORLD

YOUTH DAY 2005

August 16-21, 2005

Cologne, Germany

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Diocesan Catechetical Week

This year the Diocese of Superior will celebrate *Parish Catechetical Week* to highlight parish religious education programs in a special way. Mark your calendars for **February 18-24, 2004**.

Planning has begun to develop a resource packet for local parishes to use during this special week to assist in the celebration. Watch the next "*Superior Catechist*" for more information.



Diocesan Youth Rally

The Annual Diocesan Youth Rally is held each Spring the Saturday following Easter. The day includes a national presenter who provides youth friendly and creative catechesis, messages of inspiration, as well as faith formation activities.

A highlight of the day is celebrating a Eucharistic liturgy with Bishop Raphael Fliss as the presider. The 2004 Youth Rally is scheduled for **April 17, 2004**. The location and presenter are yet to be determined. (Check the next "*Superior Catechist*" for further details.

Scouting News

The 11th Annual Diocesan Scout Recognition Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, May 16, 2004** and will be hosted by Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Ladysmith for this year while Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior is under renovation. Bishop Fliss will be presenting the recipients with their awards.

There are three new Religious Recognition Awards available beginning August 2003. We thank those of you who continue to help promote *Religious Recognition Awards*, *Scouting* and other forms of youth ministry. Your efforts are appreciated.