

THE CATECHETICAL LEADER

JULY 2016

GREETINGS FRIENDS AND WELCOME TO A NEW CATECHETICAL AND SCHOOL YEAR!

We are excited for another great catechetical and school year and seeing all of you again at our August leadership days. In our personal families, we are both experiencing changes – John Paul Hurtubise (born January 30, 2016) continues to be an amazing gift to his parents (Chris and his wife Stephanie) and Jake Schoenfuss is heading off to college, the first of the Schoenfuss boys at this stage (mom's a little teary ☺). With these changes in our lives, we feel rejuvenated to further the love of Christ in our support and service to you. Remember, we are here to help you as leaders in your ministries. Please, do not hesitate to contact us.

We would like to send out a special welcome to all new catechetical leaders – DREs, Youth Ministers, Adult Faith Formation Directors and Principals. We strongly encourage you to attend the new leader orientation days coming up later in August. These days are so important in helping get you established in your ministry and will greatly facilitate your transition.

It has been a tumultuous summer for many around the world and in our country—sometimes it seems like every few days there is another tragedy taking place somewhere! As Catholics we know how important it is to pause and pray for the peace and love of our Lord and ask for his guidance and presence in our lives and in our world. His presence among us is so important for our well-being as well as the future of those we serve – adult, teen or child. Please continue to pray for peace, love and renewed faith.

Please continue to have a beautiful and restful summer. May the Lord bless you in all you do!

In Christ's Service,

Peggy and Chris

Peggy M. Schoenfuss *Chris Hurtubise*



QUEENSHIP OF MARY: AUGUST 22

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (Rev. 12:1)

DIocese of Superior
BISHOP HAMMES CENTER
315 WEST 5TH STREET
HAUGEN WI 54841
715.234.5044

CALENDAR

July 25-30

World Youth Day
Krakow, Poland

August 8-13

Catechesis of the Good
Shepherd Training
Solon Springs

August 11-12

New Principal Orientation
Haugen

August 18-19

Principal and SMDP Meeting
Rice Lake

August 25

New Parish Catechetical Leader
Orientation
Haugen

August 26

New Teacher Gathering
Rice Lake

August 30

Parish Catechetical Leader Day
Phillips

August 31

Parish Catechetical Leader Day
Amery

COMING SOON: ADULT FORAMTION DIGITAL RESOURCE PAGE

There are currently many amazing organizations and individuals who have created incredible resources for adult Catholics who would like to explore their faith. The idea of this webpage is to collect these resources in one place. It will focus primarily on digital and virtual resources such as apps, websites, and videos. This resource will be a wonderful opportunity for the adults, parents, and families in your parish to continue leaning about our great faith . We are still in the research phase of the project but are excited to bring it to your attention.



TOTUS TUUS

St. Bridget, River Falls

July 17-22

St. Joseph, Amery

July 24-29

St. John the Baptist, Glenwood City

St. Mary, Tomahawk

July 31-August 5

St. Francis Xavier, Merrill

St. Francis de Sales, Spooner

August 7-12

St. Patrick, Hudson

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary,



Remember to Register your parish for 2017! Forms are included in this mailing.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK



This year Religious Education Week is **November 6-12**. Our theme is taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:17; *Pray Without Ceasing*. We invite your parish to join us in celebrating our Religious Education Programs as we discover how God is calling us to prayer in all aspects of our lives. A packet to help you organize and celebrate this week will be included in the September Catechetical Leader.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

On **September 18, 2016**, please remember to pray for all individuals who will be participating in catechesis this year. Thank you to all catechists and to the families of those involved. The theme for this year is "Prayer: The Faith Prayed".



More information can be found at:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/>

FORMING EFFECTIVE DISCIPLES: QUICK START

***Getting started with Forming Effective Disciples certification requirements is easy.
Just follow the guidelines below.***

Foundational

Foundational certification (or equivalent) is required of everyone.

- Presented either in a gathered group and online.
- Requirements: 7 modules and a retreat.

EOF+ DVD-Based Offerings

- Check with your catechetical leader to see when sessions are being offered.

OR

E3 Online

- Contact your catechetical leader for a "Request for Echoes 3.0 Activation Code."
- Send form to the Diocese
- Receive your code from the Diocese and begin.
- Follow the instructions that will be emailed to you.

Elevated

Elevated certification is required of all catechetical leaders and all school catechists (those in Catholic schools who teach a religion class).

- Requirements: completion of six courses (five required and one elective) from the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) online program.
- Completion of a Service Component.

The Process:

- Complete an "Intent to Begin Elevated" form.
- Send it to the Diocese as directed.
- Review the VLCFF course schedule from UDayton.
- Create a student account.
- Register
- get started.

Because the Diocese of Superior is a partner with UDayton VLCFF, your cost to get started on a course is \$50 (not \$105). Participants should speak with their supervisor about possible reimbursement from the parish.

Complete, detailed information about Forming Effective Disciples catechetical certification is available online at www.catholicdos.org.

Click 'Faith Formation', then 'Forming Effective Disciples'.

CODE OF CONDUCT FORMS REMINDER

The updated versions of the following forms are now required for obtaining a background check:

- A one-page *Code of Conduct* - dated May 2016;
- A one-page *Authorization to Obtain a Background Screening Report* - dated May 2016
- A one-page *Disclosure Regarding Consumer Reports* - dated May

www.catholicdos.org/safe-environment

Contact: Kathy Drinkwine
715-394-0216 • kdrinkwine@catholicdos.org

WDREF CONFERENCE

"The Heavens Proclaim God's Glory"

November 9-11, 2016

Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake WI

For more info visit www.wdref.org



MEET GRACE BUSSE

Grace began working as the Administrative Assistant in the Bishop Hammas Center this Summer.

As a former Totus Tuus team member, she is excited about working for the Diocese in the area of education and formation and about assisting others in their ministry.

Grace lives with her family outside of Barron WI, and she attends Our Lady of Lourdes in Dobie.

Some of her favorite things include chocolate, books, watching movies with friends, fishing, taking walks, baking, spending time with family, and pretty much anything Lord of the Rings related.

It is impossible for her to decide on her favorite saint, but St. Catherine of Siena, St. Dominic, St. Philomena, and St. John Paul are all close contenders for the title.

Her favorite smell is Chrism oil and incense makes her think of angels.



REMEMBER TO REGISTER

There are three upcoming Parish Catechetical Leader Events.

New Parish Catechetical Leader Orientation August 25 at Haugen

Parish Catechetical Leader Day August 30 at Phillips

OR

Parish Catechetical Leader Day August 31 at Amery

To register please email gbusse@catholicdos.org or call 715-234-5044.

Please indicate which location you will be attending.

Agendas for these events will be included in the mailing.

NEW FAITH FORMATION LEADERSHIP

If your parish is currently gaining, or has gained, a new DRE, CRE, Youth Minister or other faith formation leader, please contact Peggy Schoenfuss or Chris Hurtubise at the Bishop Hammas Center. They can offer guidance and support to new individuals as they begin their ministries within your parishes.



RESOURCES ON WEB

Don't forget to access the Diocese of Superior website for a wide range of resources including sacramental preparation and curriculum guidelines, as well as FED documents.



www.catholicdos.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY

We are excited to announce that we are currently investigating how we might serve you in a Hispanic Formation Ministry. To help us as we work toward this goal, please fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to Peggy and Chris at the August PCL Days.

Thank You!

STEPPING UP THE PACE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Continuing from 2016-17, we will broaden our understanding of Strategic Planning through our Strategic Management and Development Program. With this, we are excited to integrate the new Wisconsin Catholic School Accreditation standards which will not only enhance our schools vitality but strengthen our Catholic identity and academic standards.

Important dates for the 2016-2017 School year:

- August 11-12 New Principal Meeting
- August 18-19 Principal and SMDP Meeting
- August 26 New Teacher Meeting
- January 20-February 4 Catholic Schools Week



SUMMIT IS BACK

Several DRE/CRE's within our Diocese are working on re-visioning the SUMMIT organization with Bishop Powers, Peggy Schoenfuss, and Chris Hurtubise. SUMMIT stands for Superior Mutual Ministry Team and we are available to support and mentor you in your role as parish catechetical leaders. On Thursday, September 15 we will begin this new journey with guest speaker Tom Thibodeau from Viterbo University, LaCrosse. His workshop presentation will be on "Rituals and Celebrations". Tom Thibodeau is a very dynamic and spiritually filled speaker. Check out one of his sessions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5ADeMQo8Yk> from time 3:24 – 15:53. It gives a very good 'flavor' of Tom's speaking style.

We, who comprise the new Board, Executive Team, are very excited about the beginning of this journey and can't wait to meet with and serve you better. We look forward to seeing you at the September 15th event. Please watch your snail mail and email for flyers and details. Thanks you for all you do within your parishes.

May the remainder of your summer be blessed.

Kim Palmer (facilitator), Kay Berg (secretary), Adele Svetnicka (WDREF representative), and Gwen Nies (WDREF representative)

THIRSTING FOR GOD: CATHOLIC FORMATION AS NURTURING A DESIRE FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this scripture passage, he proclaimed Jesus to him. As they traveled along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water. What is to prevent my being baptized?" Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and he baptized him. — Acts 8:35-38

Each of the past few years as the Lenten season progressed and the Holy Triduum arrived I have seen a picture on Facebook of a young woman coming up out of the waters of a baptismal font, with a look of passionate, vehement joy. Her reaction to baptism tells us a great deal about her story. She clearly understood the significance of baptism, but she even more importantly she clearly had a profound desire for the sacrament and the supernatural gifts that the sacrament entails.

Is that not ultimately the goal of Catholic formation?

Catechesis is not primarily an academic like history or algebra; rather, it is fundamentally a relational pursuit. Its aim is developing theological understanding in order to cultivate a desire for Christ and communion with Him in the sacraments.

There are many ways of gauging whether or not our catechesis is bearing fruit, but none strikes to the heart of the matter more than asking, are the participants drawing closer to Christ in the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

By this measure, St. Philip is a great exemplar for us. In Acts chapter eight, when the Ethiopian official asks him for catechesis, the outcome is a burning desire for baptism and the sacraments: “What is to prevent my being baptized?” The instruction led to conversion – applying the Gospel to his own life – and ultimately to communion.

Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches; just as the vines are totally dependent on the sap that flows from the vine, so it is with us and the sacraments. The sacraments are the life blood that not only keeps us alive, but they also help us to thrive and to bear much fruit. It is folly to think that we can survive, let-alone thrive by any other means.

If fostering this desire is our goal, how do we go about accomplishing it?

Here are a few ideas to get us started:

1. **Teach by experience:** We must teach by experience just as much as we do by classroom education — if not more! How many of our formation students come to Mass on Sundays? At many parishes the numbers are quite small. If we want them to come to Mass, we have to show them why it’s worth coming: it’s fulfilling, rewarding and filled with grace, life and joy. When teaching the sacraments to youth, adults and RCIA participants let’s create opportunities to experience the liturgies of all the sacraments and other rites: Baptisms, Confirmations, Mass, Adoration, funerals, ordinations, weddings, anointings, etc.
2. **Be a living witness to the Sacraments:** Those leading our formation programs must lead by example. In order to help others desire the life-giving water of the sacraments, we have to show how much we desire it, rely upon it and find fulfilment in it. Let us, as leaders, commit to running to Christ in the Eucharist and in Reconciliation as often as possible. We must show our craving for Christ by receiving the Bread of Life like we depend on it. We must rely on the Eucharist like the manna in the desert that it is and by also running back to our merciful Father in confession as often as we go astray.
3. **Invite catechists and parents to also be living witnesses:** As Catechetical Leaders we have a bevy of great opportunities to do this work. However, we cannot do it alone. To effectively lead the people in our formation classes – be they youth, young adults or adults – we have to rely on other key members of the Body of Christ, especially our catechists, youth ministry teams, RCIA teams and the parents of our youth. We cannot take for granted that these people know what remarkable gifts we have in the sacraments. Let us be creative in facilitating opportunities for these people to encounter Christ in the sacraments, too, and empower them to be living witnesses.



Vicente Juan Masip c. 1560

CONTINUING WITH THE “OLD” AND IN WITH THE “NEW”

2015-2016 PCL Days Summary

During the 2015-2016 catechetical year, we covered a lot of new and exciting information. In August of 2015, we shared with you some excerpts from Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century: Engaging All Ages and Generations written by John Roberto, founder of Lifelong Faith Associates. Some key excerpts shared were:

- “Faith Formation is contextual – the models, approaches, resources and technologies we use are suited to particular eras... it relies on the surrounding ecology for support and reinforcement.” (5)
- “We are seeing the emergence of a ten-decade life-span, a five-generation society, an ethnically diverse society and church, ten family forms and the decline of marriage. How well is faith formation designed to address this new diversity?” (8)
- Loose knit networks of people are overtaking more tight-knit groups as the most prevalent relationship structure
- 87% of American adults use the Internet
- 68% of adults connect to the Internet with mobile devices
- 20% of all Americans do not affiliate with any religion
- 38% of adults qualify as “post-Christian” and the younger the generation, the more post-Christians
- One of the most religiously involved demographic group is married couples with children
- During adolescent years, 29% of teens are already unaffiliated with another 31% minimally engaged (60%)
- Churches are losing more young people between childhood and adolescence than between adolescence and the young adult years (11-24)
- Faith Formation should...
 - * Be a process not a program
 - * Be designed around the life tasks, needs, interests and spiritual journeys of individuals and families across the whole life span
 - * Provide a variety of learning experiences that can engage the whole person in learning
 - * Provide a variety of experiences, programs, activities, resources and social connections
 - * Incorporate various learning environments, in online spaces and physical places
 - * Incorporate formal and informal learning (63-65)
 - * Curriculum should be holistic, comprehensive and balanced, systematic, lifelong, contextual, digitally enabled, connected, and multi-platform (84)

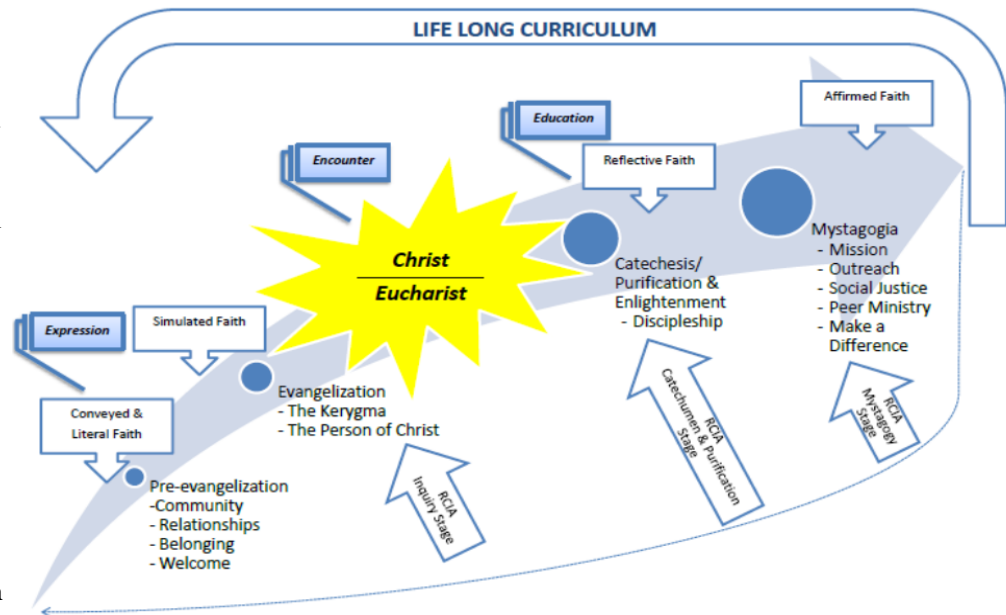
During this presentation we also broke open the document “Discipleship from Age to Age” that was written several years ago by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference. In opening this document we discussed what faith formation looks like in our diocese and what the possibilities are for this new century.

During our October PCL Days, we reviewed many points brought up at our August gathering and began to work on a life-long curriculum for our diocese. We discussed the things we learned from the August gathering and continued our discovering of faith formation in today’s culture with information about the levels of faith development – conveyed faith → literal faith → simulated faith → reflective faith → affirmed faith. We integrated these items into our “starburst” that we’ve been adding to for the past four years.

An important part of our life-long faith formation discussion was the review of the tasks of catechesis for all areas of human development – children, youth and adults. The National Directory of Catechesis summarizes them all:

- Promote knowledge of the faith.
- Promote knowledge of the meaning of the liturgy and sacraments.
- Promote moral formation in Jesus Christ.
- Teach Christians how to pray with Christ.
- Prepare Christians to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.
- Promote the missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

During our February and March PCL Days we added to our “starburst” the concepts of Expression, Encounter, Education. We discussed various age levels and how we teach expression, encounter and education in each of these levels. Our intent is to take this information and slowly work on creating a life-long curriculum for our diocese. This process will take some time, so be patient as we work through these concepts, ideas and new formats.



What's on the Horizon in 2016-2017 and Beyond?

Starting with the 2016-2017 catechetical year, the Department of Catholic Formation for the Diocese of Superior will be conducting sessions that provide a spiritual encounter for our leadership and also professional development that will lead to a diocesan certification as a trained parish catechetical leader. This three year process will include the leadership of the parishes completing the Forming Effective Disciples Elevated Level in addition to three sessions each year specifically geared toward the job responsibilities of a parish catechetical leader (DRE, CRE, YM, etc.) as laid out in the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers. In order to obtain this certification, all sessions must be attended and elevated level must be completed. As we work through these requirements and lay out the process, we will in-service the catechetical leaders at our parish leadership days. The current drafted outline of topics for the next three years is:

2016-2017

Spiritual Theme: The Thirst

Formation Themes: Understanding Catechesis, Developing a Parish Program, and Forming Ministerial Relationships

2017-2018

Spiritual Theme: Fanning the Flame

Formation Themes: Building Community, Keeping Records and Budgets, and Maintaining Professional Balance

2018-2019

Spiritual Theme: The Fruits of Prayer

Formation Themes: Recruiting and Training Volunteer Catechists, Communicating Effectively and Catechizing for a Just World

We look forward to many lively discussions and rich comradery at our parish catechetical leadership days this coming catechetical year. Please find time to network with your colleagues throughout the diocese – it is life changing and faith inspiring!