

| FEBRUARY 2021 |

THE CATECHETICAL LEADER

THE BISHOP HAMMES CENTER | DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR



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YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Thank you to everyone for your patience as we work to figure out how diocesan youth ministry will look for 2021.

- **Totus Tuus:** Contracts have been sent out, please remember to return them with a deposit.
- **Extreme Faith Camp** pre-registration: Coming soon!
- **High School Discipleship Weekend:** Sadly, our speakers had to cancel so we are reworking plans. More details on possible changes coming soon.
- **NCYC:** The diocese has decided not to sponsor a trip in fall 2021. Please see a recent email sent from the office of Catholic Formation for details on this decision. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to consider a parish trip.

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~ ST. CLAUDE DE LA
COLOMBIERE



WHEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FEELS LIKE A RETREAT

*Excerpt taken from The Religion Teacher email post, by Jared Dees,
Posted January 22, 2021. Read the full article here:
<https://mailchi.mp/thereligionteacher/v3yr1agg7d-1758277?e=7a7a310f2a>*

What would retreat-like religious education look like?

Imagine this: Religious Education as a Retreat Experience Students arrive in class and take their seats. They are smiling because their teacher is smiling and talking with them as they arrive.

The lesson isn't boring at all because it doesn't feel like school. The teacher tells stories including some personal stories that make the lesson much more relatable to real life.

Then the kids start the activities. They practice applying what they learn through academically challenging tasks and deeply spiritual meditations. They are given quiet time to reflect on their personal lives and sometimes get to share these experiences with others.

When they pray, it doesn't feel like a chore. It feels like a natural response to the lesson and the reflection. They bring before the Lord the thoughts and feelings that are at the top of their minds and hearts. They pray and mean it.

Class ends before they know it. No one was counting down the time on the clock. On the way home that day, the kids have a conversation in the car with their parents. Moms and dads get a little insight into the lives of their kids and start thinking about their own faith lives as well.

How to Turn this Experience into a Reality

This may seem idealistic, but we all get to experience moments like this at one time or another.

There's no single way to make religious education more like a retreat, but there has to be a balance between content and contemplation, education and encounter, head and heart, etc.

I have suggested using the process I call Lectio Divina Lesson Planning to guide you in preparation for each class. I expanded on the idea in my book, *Christ in the Classroom*.

continued on next page...

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONT.

I focus on just three steps. These are the same three steps that retreat leaders use to plan talks and retreat experiences. I hope you will find them helpful as you plan your lessons this year.

The three-step religious education retreat experience:

- Read
- Reflect
- Respond

[Read the complete article here](#)



RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

2020-21 Theme: Live the Gospel of Life: To Imitate Christ and Follow In His Footsteps

This opportunity is open to all students in grades 5-12 in the Diocese of Superior. Quotes from the essays will be included in the Catholic Herald Newspaper and prizes will be awarded to winning essays chosen by the judging committee. Find more information and a submission form on the [diocesan website](#). Submissions due by March 15th, 2020.

SEEK21 - HOSTED BY FOCUS

February 4-7, 2021

SEEK21 is an opportunity to come together and encounter the beauty of the Faith, the truth of the Church, and the joy, hope, and love of Christ – hosted by our friends at FOCUS! Group registration allows you and up to nine others to be a small group. Come together February 4-7 for an interactive, immersive experience centered on the heart of the Gospel. There will be Mass, prayer, speakers, discussions and more!

[LEARN MORE](#)

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NATIVE AMERICAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

Thanks to a very generous benefactor, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions has established sizable scholarship endowment funds at four universities around the country to help Native American students pursue an education. Further information is available from the admissions offices of each school; please mention the scholarship funds established by the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

[The Catholic University of America \(Washington D.C.\)](#)

[Xavier University of New Orleans](#)

[Heritage University \(Topennish, Washington\)](#)

[Wyoming Catholic College \(Lander, Wyoming\)](#)

VOCATIONS ROSARY CHALLENGE

Called North

Beginning on January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2021, laity, clergy, and religious are encouraged to take up the rosary to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and diaconate. The specific goal for this year will be to pray 1,200 rosaries (100 per month). Progress toward this goal will be tracked by comments made on the Called North Facebook page. Comments are to be made on the pinned post at the top of the page. If you are praying a rosary as a group, one rosary prayed by the number of group members will equal the number of rosaries.

(Ex: 10 people praying 1 rosary together = 10 rosaries)

Throughout the year, updates will be posted on the Called North Facebook page and videos of individuals in formation or living out their vocations will be featured on the page.

If you have any questions about the 2021 Vocations Rosary Challenge, e-mail us at callednorth@gmail.com.

Join us in praying the rosary and asking Our Lady to intercede for us with Her Son in 2021!

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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ESSAY CONTEST

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the anti-poverty/social justice program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, the Diocese has been approved for a \$5,000 grant. In accordance with the grant, your middle school social studies instructors and students are invited to participate in an education initiative that will culminate in an essay contest, providing students an opportunity to bear faithful witness by reflecting on social justice in our local communities.

Please contact Steve Tarnowski at starnowski@catholicdos.org for more information.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREAT

Based on the results of a recent survey, the Men's Retreat that was scheduled for January 16-17, 2021 and the Women's Retreat that was scheduled for February 20-21, 2021 will be postponed until a later date. We are still hopeful that something will be offered later this spring. Thank you all so much for understanding!

ONLINE RESOURCES

The diocese has combined all of the COVID-19 resources in one place including a collection of Masses from around the diocese that are available to live stream as well as Family Faith Formation resources and Adult Resources.

[Link to Diocese of Superior Resources](#)

CONFIRMATION RETREATS

NET Ministries is hosting confirmation retreat weekends at their West St. Paul retreat facility this year. For more information or to register visit: netusa.org/confirmation

This year NET is offering a virtual option as well. Please check out this link for more information about this: netusa.org/virtualretreats/

If your parish will be hosting a Confirmation Retreat this year and are willing to open it up to students from other parishes, please let us know! Thank you so much!

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

- April 20, 2021: "I am a Lifelong Learner" Speaker: Chris Newkirk

All Sessions are held at St. Joseph Parish Center, Hayward and will follow the schedule below:

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Registration, Gathering & Hospitality

10:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sessions

Please see the [Diocesan website](#) for more information and to register

LENT RESOURCES

This year Ash Wednesday is celebrated February 17th. As we all enter into this new season of Lent, we'd encourage you to check out these resources!

- Word On Fire [Lent Reflections](#)
- Dynamic Catholic [Best Lent Ever](#)
- USCCB [Lenten Prayer Resources](#)
- Catholic Cuisine [Lenten Recipes](#)
- NCEA [Lent Resources for Teachers & Families](#)
- Loyal Press [Lent Resources](#)
- Sadlier Religion [Printable Resources](#)

