



Gatherings

DIOCESE
of NEW ULM
Office of Religious Education
Office of Youth Ministry

Reflections

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

October 6, 2011

From the Youth Ministry Office:

Margaret McHugh

Director of Youth Ministry & Vocation Awareness

mmchugh@dnu.org

507-233-5327

The Cross and the Crescent



This year all of my *Gatherings-Reflections* articles will be on “The Sign of the Cross.” Last month, I told the story the Battle of the Milvian Bridge and Constantine’s vision, “In this sign, you will conquer!”

This month, I want to share another lesser known piece of Catholic history, the Battle of Lepanto. October 7 is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, or as it was once called, Our Lady of Victory. It celebrates the Christian naval victory at Lepanto against the Ottoman Turks.

Islamic Forces Threaten Europe

The end of the sixteenth century was a difficult time for the Catholic Church in Europe. Christendom was tragically divided between Protestants and Catholics. Violent domestic uprising and religious wars had plagued one country after another and Europe was very vulnerable within and without.

At this extremely delicate moment in history, Islamic forces, specifically the Ottoman Turk, were gaining momentum drawing dangerously closer to Europe. Under the reign of Selim II, the Ottomans began their great assault on the Christian Mediterranean. Not only did they conquer most of the islands, but also the Moors in North Africa felt

they could count on their help. There were still many Moors in Spain and the deadly combination of internal revolt and external attack could ruin Spain and serve as a gateway to Europe.

An Unlikely Hero

As the Turkish fleet moved ever westward in 1570, the Pope sent diplomats to each of the European monarchs urging them to unite against an enemy that could threaten them all. Not one responded except King Phillip of Spain, and even then, not personally because he was very busy with his new American Empire. Instead, he sent his half-brother, Don Juan of Austria, a young man in his twenties, and dozens of ships.

When Don Juan reached Italy he was joined by volunteers from all the Mediterranean countries and he began assembling a fleet in 1571. He managed to get about 208 ships (about eighty less than the Turks) from the Papal States, Spain, and Venice. The assembled naval force came to be known as the Holy League.

Seeking Mary’s Intercession

On an interesting side note, the flagship of the Genoese admiral, Giovanni Andrea Doria, carried a precious painting given by King Phillip of Spain. Phillip had received it from the archbishop of Mexico himself, who had commissioned it as a copy of the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The archbishop of Mexico, hearing the news from Europe of the Turkish offenses and the scramble to organize an effective defense, must have thought of the many miracles associated with the image. He had the copy touched to the original image and sent it to the king telling him to display it on one of the ships of the Holy League, in the hope of victory.

Pope Pius V was also seeking Our Lady’s aid through the recitation of the Rosary. He had asked all of Europe to pray for a successful outcome of the Christian offensive. When the ships left the Sicilian port of Messina on September 16, 1571, every man on board carried a rosary.

As their fleet moved slowly eastward, they stopped briefly in Corfu. The men were outraged by the desecration and destruction the Islamic forces had left behind. News began to reach them of further atrocities done in Cyprus and other places. Town after town had surrendering to the Turks, only to have the Ottomans break their own terms, slaughter the citizens en masse and carry off the remaining women and children as slaves. Without going into a lot of gory details, these last few facts were just the least of the atrocities committed by the Turks.

The Cross and the Crescent

As the two fleets approached each other, it seemed they chose very deliberate battle arrangements based on faith. The Turkish fleet was anchored in the Gulf of Corinth in the shape of a crescent and the Christians in the shape of a cross. Giovanni Andrea Doria's flagship (with the painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe) was exactly in the center of the cross.

The Ottomans had more ships, and in a cruel twist, their ships were powered by Christian galley slaves.



The wind was in the Turks favor and on the morning of October 7 it blew their ships forward against the Christian forces. Then the wind shifted and Don Juan's ships were able to draw close to the enemy. This was needed because sixteenth century naval warfare included hand-to-hand fighting. The sea was red with blood for miles around, but by late afternoon of October 7 it was all over.

In Rome, Pope Pius had been meeting with his treasurer. Suddenly, he rose, went to the window, and stood gazing intently at the sky. Then, turning, he said, "This is not a moment for business; make haste to thank God, because our fleet this moment has won victory over the Turks." That day was October 7, 1571, and what the pope apparently saw in a vision—for the news could not possibly have reached him otherwise. As for Pope Pius, he gave credit where it was due, declaring October 7 the Feast of Our Lady of Victory; it was later changed to the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know
by Diane Moczar

Senior High Youth Rally...Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011 *11 a.m. to 5 p.m. * Hutchinson SR High School

Speakers: Fr. Leo Patalinghug - "The Cooking Priest" from "Grace Before Meals" and Claire Culwell, Abortion Survivor. You should have received info by mail or e-mail.

NCYC...Reminder that final payments are due September 1. Any questions, contact Margaret McHugh at mmchugh@dnu.org, 507-233-5327 or Cindy Blickem at 507-233-5325, cblickem@dnu.org.



Upcoming 2011-12 Dates

Mon, Oct 17	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Fri, Oct 21 to Wed, Nov 9	NET Team Retreats in the Diocese		Various parishes in diocese
Sun, Oct 23	Senior High Rally	11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Hutchinson Sr High School
Mon, Nov 7	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Wed, Nov 16-Sun, Nov 20	National Catholic Youth Conference-dept early am on Wed, arrive back Sun		Indianapolis, IN
Mon, Dec 12	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Jan 9	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Feb 6	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Mar 12	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Apr 16	DRE/YM Gathering – Curriculum Day	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, Apr 22	Junior High Festival	11:00 am – 5:00 pm	TBA
Mon, May 21	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00 pm	TBA

Check out Riverbend TEC! For more details and an application check out the Web site: <http://riverbendtec.org/>

RB238	October 15-17, 2011	New Ulm, MN
RB239	January 14-16, 2012	Bird Island, MN
RB240	February 18-20, 2012	New Ulm, MN
RB241	March 17-19, 2012	Winsted, MN
RB242	June 23-25, 2012	Bird Island, MN

From the Religious Education Office

Bryan Reising

*Director of Religious Education &
Adult Faith Formation*

breising@dnu.org 507-233-5323



Retreats:

A Time to Renew Your Faith

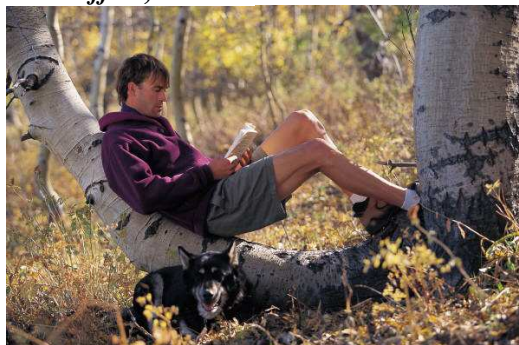
by Bryan Reising

Retreats are opportunities to renew one's faith in God. They come in a variety of settings, variety of methods, and a message of God's love for all. Why make a retreat? Because it is important to reconnect with God and his will for us. Yes, life can be hectic, but that is the very reason to make a retreat. We need a time to quiet ourselves, to slow down, and to listen to what God has in store for us. In addition, a retreat can renew an entire parish or even an entire Area Faith Community. Imagine what this can do for your catechists, your parents, your youth, your families, and all your parishioners! In this article, we will look at a variety of retreats offered in our diocese and nearby and possibilities for retreats in the future.

Ignatian Retreats

Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minn., and King Retreat House in Buffalo, Minn.

The Jesuits have a long history of conducting retreats, especially with Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises Method (Ignatian Retreats). This method can last 30 days, but a local retreat house, Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minn., offers weekend experiences for men of all ages and various cultures. They hold 47 retreats a year and about 65 men participate at each retreat. That means over 3,000 men a year participate in these retreats.



The Spiritual Exercises were developed by Ignatius of Loyola from 1522-1524. They are a series of prayers, meditations, and reflections upon four movements. The first movement includes God's love and mercy and the complex reality of human sin. The second movement includes the life and public ministry of Jesus, his proclamation of the gospel, his sayings and parables, his teachings and his miracles. In the third movement, one experiences Jesus' passion and death. Fourthly, one experiences Jesus' Resurrection, his Ascension, the Gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and Christ's continued life in the world.

Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House provides these themes in a weekend format. Their Web site is:

<http://www.jesuitswisprov.org/demontreville.html>.

For women to experience these Spiritual Exercises, King Retreat House in Buffalo offers this experience: http://www.jesuitpartners.org/site/PageServer?pagename=News_TC_Ignatian_Silent_Womens_Retreat

Cursillo

Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló, the founder of the Cursillo Movement, was born in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Through the inspiration of Pope Pius VII and others, he developed the first Cursillo de la Cristianidad (little course in Christianity) in August of 1944. Since then, millions have participated in this retreat and it has spread across the globe. Here in Minnesota, you can experience this retreat in the Twin Cities. For further information, see <http://www.tc-cursillo.org/>.

TEC

The first "Teens Encounter Christ" weekend was October 9-11 in 1965 in the Sisters of Mercy Hospital in Battle Creek, Mich. The founders were Fr. Matthew Fedewa and Dorothy Gereke. The theme of TEC weekends is based on the Paschal Mystery.

Here in the Diocese of New Ulm, TEC is rendered Together Encountering Christ where adolescents and adults can experience this weekend together. Here it is called Riverbend TEC. Upcoming TEC weekends include: October 15-17, 2011, January 14-16, 2012, February 18-20, 2012, March 17-19, 2012, and June 23-25, 2012, and for further information, see <http://www.riverbendtec.org/>.

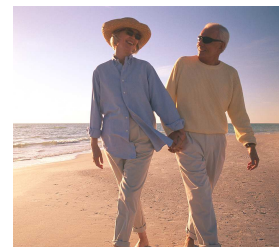
Life in the Spirit Seminar

This is a weekend retreat began within the Charismatic Renewal. Its focus is God's love, God's saving action through Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as the Gift from

God. Within the Diocese of New Ulm, these retreats are offered periodically. See <http://www.dnu.org/worship/renew.html> for further information.

Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter weekends are designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together ... a time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations ... and to do so openly and honestly in a face to face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have



chosen to live with for the rest of their life. For further information and dates:

<http://www.wmesection8.org/cgi-bin/wwme-weekends.cgi>

In addition, the Office of Family Life has some opportunities for engaged couples and other events. See <http://www.dnu.org/service/social.html>

Christ Renews Our Parish

Christ Renews His Parish is a copyrighted parish renewal process that has existed since 1969 and is recommended by the renewal office of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It has been used as the primary instrument of personal and parish renewal in over 883 parishes in 32 states and 84 Catholic dioceses. For local parishes in Minnesota: <http://www.stmcatholicchurch.org/faith-formation/> or <http://sthenrycatholic.info/this-week>

SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization)

SINE (see' nay) is a missionary and pastoral plan for parishes, a plan for evangelization and catechesis. It includes a period of preparation (social outreach and missionary outreach as well as intense preparation), a retreat based on the Paschal Mystery and the *kerygma* (the Gospel message), follow-up which includes adult faith formation and community experiences, and involvement with the church and society. Materials and training are in Spanish and English. For further information contact Raúl Navarro MC at the SINE National Office, 225 Northwind Dr., El Paso, Texas 79912, Phone: 915-581-9372 / Fax 915-581-7189 and e-mail: raulh_navarro@yahoo.com. Locally, ask Bryan Reising about this process at the Diocesan Office for Adult Faith Formation.

Light of the World

Light of the World is a powerful *evangelization process*. Answering the call of John Paul II for a "new evangelization," LOTW provides a dynamic vehicle for spreading the Good News and bringing souls (closer) to Christ. The LOTW Process reaches out to all—from the beginning "seeker" to those well along their faith journey. As LOTW evangelizes, it also empowers each evangelized person to evangelize others. It includes a retreat with follow-up opportunities. For further information, see <http://lotwem.org/home/>.

Living in Christ Retreats

"Living in Christ" retreats have been implemented in many parishes throughout the country. It is held on a Thursday evening with a meal, a Friday evening with a meal, and a Saturday morning concluding with Mass, lunch, and a ministry fair (which can be

left up for the weekend masses). The theme is the Paschal Mystery of Dying in Christ and Living in Christ. For further information, Order the Handbook for Success in Whole Community Catechesis from Twenty-Third Publications. See the following Web site: <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/haforsuinwhc.html>.

Called and Gifted

"Called and Gifted" is a retreat/workshop that helps the participants discern their gifts and how to use them for service to the Church and society. For further information, see the following Web site: <http://www.siena.org/Workshops.htm>



Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation Designates

If your area faith community or parish already has a designate for Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation, please e-mail Cindy to confirm who it is. If you currently do not have a designate, contact the pastor about appointing someone and forward that name to Cindy: cblickem@dnu.org. We are hoping to have some great opportunities and resources for both evangelization and adult faith formation, hopefully starting this Spring.

Mohr Catechist Formation Fund A Gift for You, Catechists, Youth Team Members, Teachers of the Religion

This scholarship fund is a great gift for your catechists, teachers, youth ministry team, and many of you! You can receive scholarships for Faith Formation Day and other catechist formation opportunities, opportunities outside the diocese like the NCCL Conference, online courses through the University of Dayton's VLCFF (Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation), and even some college courses on faith formation. An application is on our Web site: <http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-Application.pdf>. Please submit your applications soon!

VIRTUS

All Catechists are required to:

1. Have a background check before beginning to volunteer;
2. Sign Forms A & B of the diocesan sexual misconduct policy before beginning to volunteer;
3. Attend VIRTUS training within 60 days of beginning to volunteer;
4. Do the online training as assigned. This is to be done as soon as possible – communicate this with

your catechists, volunteers, and youth ministry adult team.

The VIRTUS training is for ages 16 or older. An individual must be 18 to serve alone in a ministry with minors. If you have a question about VIRTUS, please contact Margy Manderfeld at **507-233-5305**. Please do not contact VIRTUS directly unless you need a password.

The following are some VIRTUS trainings scheduled for volunteers and employees:

10/15/2011 9:00 AM Canby - St. Peter
11/10/2011 6:30 PM Granite Falls - St. Andrew

Remember: Send in your lists of all your catechists to Cindy soon! Also schedule Lessons Three and Four for October or early November.

This year we offer VIRTUS Lessons 3 and 4 in a combined session this fall. Please schedule your Children's Training for October or early November (deadline for the report to be sent to the Safe Environment Office is November 30, 2011). In addition, schedule make up sessions (deadline for make-up sessions reports to be turned into the Safe Environment Office by March 1, 2012).

Remember, Opt Out Forms are accepted (and signed by the parent) before your training in the fall. After that initial training, Opt Out Forms are not provided to the parents. Please be sure to provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the Parent Handbook as required by the Charter so that they can train their child at home. To access the Parent Handbook in English or Spanish, log on to our VIRTUS account, go to the Educators tab, then to Lesson Plans, Step 2: Click here to read or print *Teaching Touching Safety*.

Please send a list of catechists with their e-mail address to Cindy Blickem (cblickem@dnu.org) as soon as possible.

The Safe Environment Office can have a head start on all the catechists and other volunteers to ensure they are in the system and have had their initial training, their background check, and signed forms A and B of the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy. And any new DRE, youth minister, catechist, adults helping with youth ministry, or other volunteers need to have a background check before they volunteer, sign Forms A and B of the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy within 30 days of beginning to volunteer, and sign up for a VIRTUS training within 60 days of beginning to volunteer. After that (and for veteran volunteers), they are to do online training as assigned. This online training is to be completed within 30 days of receiving an e-mail notice from VIRTUS regarding this training. Communicate with your volunteers to get the online training done as soon as possible. It takes approximately 10 minutes (or less) to do the training and answer the question at the end. Thank you for keeping our children and youth safe!

Interested in a Masters in Theology, Religious Education, Pastoral Ministry, Parish Administration, or Canon Law?

- St. Mary's University of Minnesota: www.smumn.edu/ipm. (They offer MA or a Professional Certificate in Pastoral Ministries or Pastoral Administration; they also offer a Graduate Certificate in Canon Law)
- St. Paul Seminary Graduate Program for Lay People: www.saintpaulseminary.org (this includes an optional online distance learning degree. Their degrees include an MA in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, and Religious Education).

FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATIONS has begun! This has been a wonderful opportunity for catechists, catechetical leaders, and any interested adult to learn more about theology and various aspects of our faith so that you may become more equipped in the ministry of catechesis. Faculty is from St. Mary's University in Winona and diocesan staff. It will be at St. Anastasia's Parish in Hutchinson. Take the time to pray about this opportunity. It consists of one Saturday a month, and the next session is October 15 and goes through April and includes a user friendly online opportunity in January 2012. The following link will give you further information, a registration form and scholarship opportunities on the Adult Faith Formation Page: <http://www.dnu.org/word/adultfaithform.html>. If you missed the first session and you are interested in registering, contact Bryan Reising about this opportunity.



Upcoming Gather for October

- **Monday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Center for Youth Ministry.** Our speaker will be John Urlaub of Catholic Mutual speaking about events and insurance issues. If you have any questions that you'd like answered, please send them to Bryan Reising at breising@dnu.org and he could forward them to John. Please RSVP Cindy soon if you can make it: cblickem@dnu.org.
- **November's Gather will be Monday, November 7** at the Center for Youth Ministry.

From NCCL

Even though Catechetical Sunday is over, NCCL has a couple of items that you may be interested in:

1. **Musings: Becoming Who You Receive**
This book is ideal for adult faith formation and can be a great benefit in RCIA, for catechists, and parents. Besides offering a reflection on the Sunday gospel, this book offers a question with lines for the reader to share some musings. It also includes six pages on key changes in the language of the people's response in the new *Revised Roman Missal, Third*

Edition. Rather than simply focus on the change of language, the book offers an excerpt from a story that contains a deeper understanding of the meaning associated with the change of words. This is an exclusive NCCL product.

2. **Do This in Memory of ME**

This distinctive one-inch lapel pin is composed of a high-shine gold chalice with a white enamel host positioned on top. It is surrounded by the phrase, “Do this in Memory of ME.” This pin, which carries the words of the catechetical theme for this year, is ideal for Catechetical Sunday and a reminder to all catechists of their role to present lifelong catechesis for the Eucharist. It is also an excellent insignia for Eucharistic ministers as well as a gift for children receiving their First Eucharist. This is an exclusive NCCL product.

To see these materials, go to <http://tiny.cc/nsio5>; to order these go to: <http://tiny.cc/wu17m>

Upcoming Opportunities

First Choice Pregnancy Services First Annual Banquet...

Come to a very special banquet to support life! Come to First Choice Pregnancy Services First Annual Banquet! It will be Friday, October 14 at the Eagles Club in Sleepy Eye. Social Hour is at 6:00 p.m. and dinner begins at 7:00. The featured speaker is a representative from MCCL (Minnesota Citizens for Life). Entertainment will be provided by the Goedtke Family. Cost is \$20 a ticket! A great opportunity for your adults and your youth to support life! Contact Linda Harper-Reising 507-359-9800 or Bryan Reising 507-233-5324 for tickets! See First Choice on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=252831718066128>.

In-services by Vicki Thorn - Wed, Nov 16, 2011

- 8:30 - 12:30 Post Abortion Aftermath and Healing St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye
(Presentation to professionals and other adults)
- 2:15 - 3:15 "What They Didn't Tell You in Sex Ed" St. Mary's H.S. in Sleepy Eye
(Presentation to Sleepy Eye & New Ulm Catholic School 9 - 12 grades)
- 7:00 - 8:00 "What They Didn't Tell You in Sex Ed" St. Catherine's in Redwood Falls
(Presentation to diocesan RE students, 9th - 12th grades and their parents)

University of Dayton's VLCCF: Cycle 1: Jan 8 - Feb 11 (Registration: Opens Sept 27; Closes Jan 4, 2012)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Christology](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Communication and Community](#)
- [Conscience](#)

- [Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan](#)
- [Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 7\)](#)
- [Digital Catechesis: Web Literacy](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Reframing Church](#)
- [Ecumenism](#)
- [Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 4\)](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 1\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Community](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Education](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [On Bended Knee \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Roman Missal](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of Catechists](#)



National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

The cost of an individual membership to NCCL is only \$60.00. This is only \$5.00 a month. Receive CL (Catechetical Leader) Magazine, CL Weekly from Lee Nagel every Monday, discounts on resources, and information on the national conference and regional workshops! *Use the Mohr Scholarship Fund for this opportunity!* For further information, check out the Web site: www.nccl.org. For information on the national conference, go to www.nccl.us. Check out this NCCL Conference promo: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpP8NvJlwBE>.

Parish Catechesis Question

When was the last time you made a retreat? Have you considered a renewal process for your parish and Area Faith Community? Share your ideas with Bryan so he can share with others: breising@dnu.org.