



Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

May 5, 2011

From the Religious Education Office

Bryan Reising

*Director of Religious Education &
Adult Faith Formation*

breising@dnu.org 507-233-5323

Maturing Adult Catechesis

by Bryan Reising

“The catechesis of older people takes into account the diversity of their personal, family, and social conditions...It pays particular attention to the maturity of their faith. Many of the elderly come to old age with a strong and vibrant faith. Catechesis for them should help develop an attitude of thanksgiving and hopeful expectation.”
(*National Directory for Catechesis*, 194)

This is true in so many cases when we provide catechetical opportunities for older adults, but we need to recognize that older adults do come to us in a variety of ways as it states in the *General Directory for Catechesis*, 187:

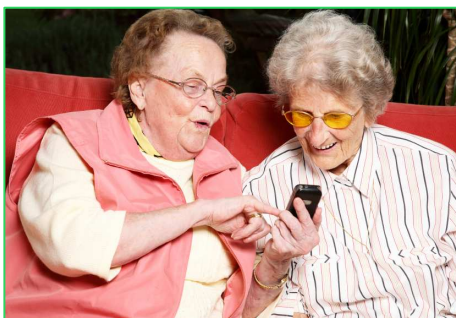
“An aged person may have a rich and solid faith, in which case catechesis, in a certain sense, brings to fulfillment a journey of faith in an attitude of thanksgiving and hopeful expectation. Others live a faith weakened by poor Christian practice. In this case, catechesis becomes a moment of new light and religious experience. Sometimes people reach old age profoundly wounded in body and soul. In these circumstances, catechesis can help them live their condition in an attitude of prayer, forgiveness, and inner peace.”

So we need to recognize that catechetical ministry to those who are older can come and needs to come in many forms and many starting places. We also need to listen to experts in the field who can help us look at various age groups within our current generations.

According to researcher and author, Dr. Richard Johnson, senior adulthood falls into one of three groups:

- Boomers are within the age range of 55-72. They are at a time in life of growth and positive life challenges. They devote themselves more directly to their own interests and gifts.

- Builders are ages 73 and up. People in this age group will notice that physically, they are slowing down. However, many still have minds that are sharp and quick so that they can continue to learn and grow in their faith, as well as contribute their insights and ideas.
- Elders are those who live very long lives and are quite possibly the wisest within our parish communities and families. Many have experienced some form of physical or cognitive slowing down. They may need our extra care that we can give them, but we need their life experiences, their stories, and their wisdom.



Ageing (maturation) is as much a spiritual growth process as it is a psychological and physical growth process. Johnson suggests that successful senior adult ministry includes:

- A shift in thinking, away from a ‘senior group’ mentality and toward a ‘maturing adult ministry’ mentality;
- A focus on every day, real life issues, and to times of personal transition of maturing adults;
- An honor of diversity: of age, stage, personality, ethnicity, and soul.

This is an age group we need to pay attention to because it is the fastest growing age segment in our population. So area faith communities and parishes really need to study this demographic and plan on how to serve them with catechetical ministry. Yes – most things we can do intergenerationally and with adult faith formation in general, but there are times we need to cater specifically to this age group because of their unique needs and their maturity.

To learn more about catechesis for our older adults, go to www.senioradultministry.com. And check the following resources:

Creating a Successful Retirement - Finding Peace and Purpose by Dr. Richard Johnson. “A spiritual thread runs through all the needs of retirees – a thread of pursuing peace and finding purpose. It is this thread that has the power to transform an ordinary retirement into an exceptional journey of discovery. Retirement is perhaps the greatest time for self-discovery.” To read book review [click here](#) and to order this book [click here](#).

Parish Ministry for Maturing Adults - Principles, Plans & Bold Proposals by Dr. Richard Johnson. This resource explains what needs to happen prior to ministering to maturing adults and offers twelve foundational/ key principles for successful parish ministry. To read book review [click here](#) and to order this book [click here](#).

Evangelization & 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 fall.

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 VLCCFF (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 on-line 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.

Remember: Both Lessons One, Two, and their Make-up Sessions should be sent in by now to Margy. If you have not done so, please do this as soon as possible. Remember catechists or teachers who are Virtus trained, have a background check, and have signed Forms A and B are to be the ones allowed to teach the Touching Safety program. Thank you!

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

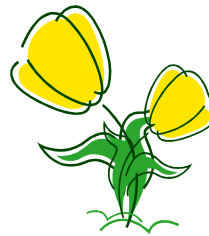
- St. Mary's University of Minnesota: www.smumn.edu/ipm. (They offer MA or a Professional Certificate in Pastoral Ministries or Pastoral Administration; they also offer a Graduate Certificate in Canon Law)
- St. Paul Seminary Graduate Program for Lay People: www.saintpaulseminary.org (this includes an optional online

distance learning degree. Their degrees include an MA in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, and Religious Education).

FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATIONS will take place again in the fall. 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. Times and the place are forthcoming. Take the time to pray about this opportunity. It consists of one Saturday a month, and it begins in September and goes through April and includes an online opportunity in January 2012. The following link will give you further information and a registration form on the Adult faith Formation Page: <http://www.dnu.org/word/adultfaithform.html>

Upcoming Gather for May - Spring Fling



Our **May Gather**, the annual *Spring Fling* is Monday, **May 16, from noon-4:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Clara in Clara City**. Our speaker will be Ann Przybilla and she will speak on the relationship between liturgy and catechesis. She will include an update presentation on the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. Please RSVP Cindy soon: cblickem@dnu.org or 507-233-5325.

Gathers for Next Year

- 2011:** August 29, October 17, November 7—Loyola Press sponsor, December 12.
- 2012:** January 9—Sadlier sponsor, February 6, March 12, April 16—Curriculum Day—sponsored by the diocese, May 21—Annual Spring Fling.

Faith Formation Days in September

Friday, September 23, 2011 (8:45-2:45) at NUACS. The keynote speaker will be Most Rev. John LeVoir, our Bishop, on "Blessed John Paul II's Approach to Catechesis." The focus will be Catholic schools (parish catechists and catechetical leaders can attend this day as well).

Saturday, September 24, 2011 at Willmar, Church of Saint Mary (8:00 early bird Mass; 9:00-2:30). The keynote speaker will be Richard Drabik of the University of Dayton on "Catechesis in a Computer Age: Don't Fear the Server." The focus will be catechists and catechetical leaders (although Catholic school personnel are welcome).

Save the dates! More information is to come!

University of Dayton's VLCCFF

Cycle 4: June 19 - July 23

(Registration: Opens May 3; Closes June 15)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 7\)](#)
- [Digital Catechesis: Web Literacy](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church](#)

- [Evangelization and Discipleship](#)
- [Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 4\)](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 1\)](#)
- [History of Catholic Social Action](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Image of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Education](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Social Justice](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Virtues \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Media, Faith, and Values](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Overview of the GDC & NDC \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Pastoral Approach to Culture](#)
- [Prayer and Worship with Adolescents](#)
- [Roman Missal: Preparing for the New Translation](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)

- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [Vocation to Ministry](#)

For new students for VLCFF:

<http://vlc.udayton.edu/profile/agreement.php>

For returning VLCFF students to register to another course:

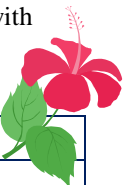
<http://vlc.udayton.edu/register/>

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

Senior adults are the fastest growing segment of our population. What do you do for your senior adults in your parish? Do you have opportunities for their adult faith formation? What have you used for curriculum? Share with Bryan so he can share with others: breising@dnv.org.



Mark Your Calendars

Fri, June 10	DYC Selection Day	1:00-4:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Sun, June 12- Thurs, June 16	Girls Discipleship Camp	Sun 6:00 pm til Thurs 9:00 am	Flandrau Group Camp (New Ulm)
Sun, July 10- Thurs, July 14	Boys Discipleship Camp	Sun 6:00 pm til Thurs 9:00 am	Flandrau Group Camp (New Ulm)
Mon, May 16	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00	Church of St. Clara, Clara City
Aug 14-25	World Youth Day		Madrid, Spain and Lourdes, France

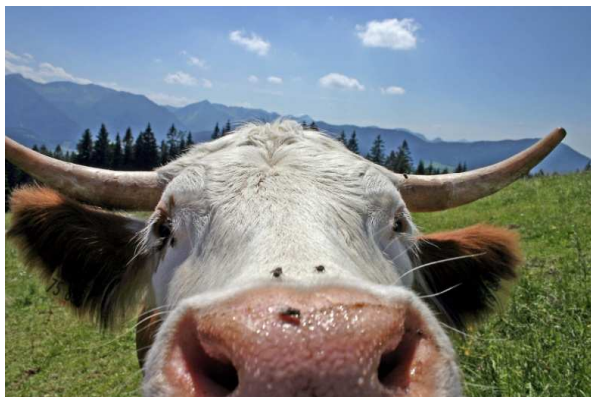
Upcoming 2011-12 Dates

Mon, Aug 29	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Fri, Sept 23	Faith Formation Day (focus: school personnel, all welcome)	8:45 am – 2:45 pm	St. Anthony School, New Ulm
Sat, Sept 24	Faith Formation Day (focus: religious education personnel, all welcome)	8:00 Early Bird Mass 9:00 am – 2:30 pm	St. Mary, Willmar
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	TBA
Mon, Nov 7	DRE/YM Gathering – Loyola Press sponsor	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–Sadlier sponsor	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/>

RB236	June 25-27, 2011		Bird Island, MN
RB237	July 30-August 1 * NOTE CORRECTION		Winsted, MN

From the Youth Ministry Office:
Margaret McHugh
Director of Youth Ministry & Vocation Awareness
mmchugh@dnu.org
507-233-5327



HOLY COW!

Farming with the Saints:
St. Isidore and St. Maria

Holy cow! Or should I say, “Wholly Farmer!” I just had an up-close and personal encounter with the patron saint of farmers, St. Isidore. And I’m here to report that the man is a saint! Not that this is news to any of you, of course, but I’ve never had the privilege of traveling to his home town, spending time with his family, and getting to know him in quite the same way...So here is his profile:

Hometown: Madrid, Spain
Life Span: 1070-1130
Died on May 15
Patron Saint: St. Isidore of Seville
Married to Maria Torribia
Children: one son, Ian
Feastday in the U.S.: May 15

Patron Saint for the protection of the harvest, of the city of Madrid, farming families, tenant farmers, farm accidents, difficult co-workers, impossible bosses, day laborers, and Catholics trying to get to Sunday Mass

Isidore is an example of a lay saint (not a priest, deacon, or cleric). He was an ordinary, solidly good, hard-working man who had a close relationship with God. He began work as soon as he was old enough and held down only one job his whole life for the same boss: a farm worker on the estate of a large landowner.

Known for his kindness and generosity, especially in defending the poor and sick, he was even better known for his daily prayer. He became holy by doing very ordinary work extraordinarily well. Even during his lifetime, miracles were associated with him.

St. Isidore, though poor, shared all he had with the poor; and one day, when he absolutely nothing left to give, his cupboard was found completely full when another beggar arrived.

-*Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints*,
by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 5.

“Isidore worked the farm of a landowner named Juan de Vargas. Every morning, Isidore would attend Mass at a nearby church. The other laborers complained to Juan that Isidore was always late to work. When his employer confronted him, Isidore replied that he would make good any shortfall. Suspicious, Juan went out one day to see how Isidore was accomplishing all his plowing despite arriving after everyone else. He watched him out in the field, pushing his plow. Near Isidore, another plough pulled by white oxen, was ploughing on its own, with no one to guide it. As Juan ran into the field to observe this strange sight, the second plough and its oxen disappeared. When he asked Isidore who had been helping him, the saint replied simply that he plowed alone and relied on God to help him meet his daily share of the work. Juan knew then that it must have been an angel that guided the second plough.”

Isidore was married to a woman named Maria, who was as devout and faithful as he was. Although they were poor, they were generous to others in need. One day, their small son fell into a deep well. From its depths, Isidore and Maria could hear him crying. They knelt down in prayer, asking God to save their son from drowning. The water in the well began to rise, carrying the boy to the very top of the wellhead. They returned thanks to God for their son’s deliverance.”

- *One Hundred Miracles* by Christopher Calderhead
(Welcome Books, New York, pg. 195)

St. Isidore died some time after his wife; and forty years later, his remains which had simply been buried in dirt grave, were found incorrupt. His body was taken into the Church of St. Andrew and re-interred there; miracles have been countless and celestial music has often been heard at his tomb. He has protected the city of Madrid and Seville, making himself visible occasionally; and the kings of Spain themselves urged his canonization.

-*Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints*,
by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 5.

Isidore’s incorrupt body now lies in the 17th century Basilica of St. Isidore in Madrid, Spain, along with relics of his wife, Maria. You can also visit a little museum of their home just around the corner from the church and see the

well where their son was miraculously saved because of his father's prayers. In the Prado Museum (also in Madrid) there's a beautiful painting entitled, "St. Isidore the Farmer and the Miracle of the Well" by Alonso Cano (1601-1607) depicting that same miracle.

A miraculous spring that Isidore caused to burst up from the ground for his employer, Juan de Vargas, is still producing water today in Madrid. A hermitage was built at the site of the well, and later a church which you can still see today. During the festivities associated with his feast day, the people in Madrid drink water from his well and enjoy rosquillas, a ring shaped pastry.

<http://www.gomadrid.com/fiestas/san-isidro.html>

The miracle that brought St. Isidore to canonization was the miraculous healing of King Phillip III of Spain from a deadly disease in 1615. At the king's request, they actually brought St. Isidore's body from the Church of St. Andrew to the royal bedroom so he could touch the relics and ask for his intercession! Three other Spanish saints, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, and Teresa of Avila were canonized by Pope Gregory XV along with Isidore in 1622.



In church art, St. Isidore is usually shown as an adult man in peasant garb with a pair of white oxen guided by an angel. Other important symbols include a farm cart, a scythe, a sheaf of grain, a farmer's hat, and a spade. He is most often invoked for the protection of harvests.

-from Saints and their Symbols: Recognizing Saints in Art and in Popular Images by Fernando and Gioia Lanzi (2004 by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN)

During my visit to Madrid, I learned some important and little known details connected with the saint. First of all, **Isidore, Maria, and their only son, Ian, were a very rare case of a whole family declared saints by popular acclaim.** Back in the day, it was often enough for a huge popular outcry, (i.e. "Santo Subito!") to unofficially declare a person a saint after their death. When they *officially* went through the canonization process for Isidore and Maria, the focus was more on the saintly *couple* rather than all three members of the family. So, Ian ended up not being included in the list of officially canonized saints although he is still referred to in Madrid as "saint" Ian.

The second unusual fact is that **St. Isidore and Maria Torribia are one of the rare cases of a married couple declared saints.** Since then, and particularly during the pontificate of Blessed John Paul II, other couples have been canonized. So they are *now* not the "only officially canonized couple" but they are one of the few.

In Spanish, St. Isidore the Farmer is referred to as, "San Isidro (san E-C-dro) Labrador." Because of his universal appeal, Isidore is familiar and beloved to Catholics all over the world. He is often chosen as a Confirmation saint by young men in our diocese.



Because he is the patron saint of Madrid, the best and most beautiful images of the saint can be found there. We eventually brought St. Isidore back to our diocese in the form of a small, but attractive statue. We were certain that Bishop LeVoir would welcome him.

Bishop LeVoir and our small group of ten World Youth Day pilgrims traveling to Madrid in August will soon have the opportunity to get to know St. Isidore, just as I did. Don't be surprised if we ALL come back saying, "Holy Cow!" or "Wholly Farmer!" What a wonderful experience!



Diocesan Youth Council Applications

We need six DYC members for the 2011-12 year.

Below are listed the openings:

Region 1	1 position open
Region 2	1 position open
Region 3	1 position open
Region 4	1 position open
Region 5	0 positions open
Region 6	0 positions open
At Large	2 positions open

We have three at large members and they can be applicants from any region. ***If you know of a young person who would be a good candidate, please contact me immediately. The deadline for applications was May 3. See applications on the diocesan Web site:***

<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/DYCregistrationform2011.pdf>

NET Team Visit to our Diocese

Please let us know if you'd like the NET Team to come to your parish or AFC next fall. They will be available for retreats October 21 to November 9. They are booked October 22 and 23 and Monday is their usual day off. For request form click on this Web site:

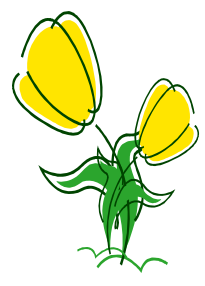
<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/201NETeaRequestForm.pdf>

Spring Fling

for DREs, Youth Ministers

Come be motivated, refreshed, and renewed for another year of ministry!

Monday
May 16, 2011
Noon-4:00
 (lunch included)
Church of St. Clara
Clara City
 414 N Main Street



**“Relationship Between
 Liturgy & Catechesis”**

with an update presentation on the
 Third Edition of the Roman Missal

 with **Ann Przybilla**
 of the **Diocese of New Ulm**

About the Presenter...Ann Przybilla



Ann Przybilla currently serves as the Director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, and the Director of Lay Ministry Formation for the Diocese of New Ulm. Ann completed a B.A. degree in Liturgical Music from the College of Saint Benedict in 1993. Following that, she worked for small and large parishes as organist, music coordinator, and director of liturgy. She completed a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. John's University School of Theology in 2007. Ann has served the Diocese of New Ulm as an interim director of Religious Education. She and her husband Scott and their five children reside in Tracy, MN.

Spring Fling Registration Form

Monday, May 16, 2011 * Noon-4:00 p.m.* Church of St. Clara, Clara City

Parish/AFC, Town(s) _____
 Names _____

Return by: May 6, 2011
Return to: Cindy Blickem
 Catholic Pastoral Center
 1400 6th St. N, New Ulm, MN 56073
 cblickem@dnu.org
 507-507-2966, 233-5325
 Fax: 507-354-3667