

Gatherings

DIOCESE
of NEW ULM

Office of Religious Education
Office of Youth Ministry

Reflections

October 7, 2010

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

From the Religious Education Office

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Basic Catechesis for Children the Primary Grades

of 1st through 3rd

by Bryan Reising

Children from all over our diocese have begun or soon will begin their catechetical year! They already began the routine of regular school days filled with basic subjects of arithmetic, science, reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, physical education, art, music, and other basic subjects. In the same way, their basic education and formation in the faith continues to make them young disciples of Christ needed in our world today. Laying a firm foundation in the faith is at the heart of this basic catechetical formation.



Starting at Home

The US Bishops in their recent document, Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan, point out the importance of starting the faith at home, with the parents giving an example and teaching the faith:

"While all members of the family are called to live out the foundational Christian virtues, fathers and mothers have a special responsibility for fostering these virtues within their children. They are the first to proclaim the faith to their children. They are responsible for nurturing the vocation of each child, showing by example how to live the married life, and taking special care if a child might be called to priesthood or consecrated life. Not only do parents present their children for Baptism, but also, having done so, they become the first evangelizers and

teachers of the faith. They evangelize by teaching their children to pray and by praying with them. They bring their children to Mass and teach them biblical stories. They show them how to obey God's commandments and to live a Christian life of holiness. Catholic schools, religious education programs, and Catholic homeschooling resources can help parents fulfill these responsibilities." (Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan, nos. 69-71, USCCB © 2009).

Faith Formation at the Parish

Like the above quote says, religious education, Catholic schools, and Catholic homeschooling resources can help parents pass on the faith. With religious education or faith formation, it is necessary for catechists and parents to collaborate. It begins by getting to know each other and building relationships. Then opportunities to work collaboratively can naturally happen with the help of catechetical opportunities within the parish's curriculum.



A good curriculum for grades 1 through 3 (and any grade or age) uses a spiral, scope, and sequence. What is a "spiral scope and sequence?" A scope and sequence is an organized framework of learning. The scope represents themes or topics. The sequence represents ideas. The spiral represents that each year we learn about the same themes, topics, and ideas, but only on a deeper, age-appropriate level. With this model of learning, it is conceivable that each person in a given family could be learning the same topic or theme. The older a person is or more experienced a person is with this learning process, the theme goes deeper. This method has been adapted to many faith formation curriculums so that all generations and all cultures within a parish can learn similar topics and themes at the same timeframe.

In addition, a good curriculum balances the learning opportunities with the heart, the head, and the hands.



Heart Knowledge

Regarding the heart, a child needs to encounter a real and living God who loves him or her. This encounter is with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but especially through the God made

man, Jesus Christ, the Son. When a child reaches the age of reason, there are wonderful opportunities for this encounter; for example, when a child prepares for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Christ forgives our sinfulness, our selfishness. And we encounter the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. As a child is preparing for these sacraments, we can prepare them to encounter Christ and experience the love Christ offers everyone.

Head Knowledge

A child, during the grades of 1 through 3, can learn the basics of our faith during this time through reading, art, music, drama, and discussion.

Basic elements of the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer – the pillars of the Catechism can be taught during this time.



Hands Knowledge

The primary goal of catechesis is to have an intimate communion with God as Father, Son, and Spirit: “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your

strength, and with all your mind” (Luke 10:27). The secondary goal is to live out the tenets of our faith in our everyday lives: “love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). We do this by helping those in need; for example, the corporeal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting and helping the sick, giving freedom and comfort to the imprisoned, and burying the dead. There are many opportunities that children and entire families can use their hands to learn and to help at the same time.

It is important that the learning process includes the heart, the head, and the hands so that the child (and anyone) can experience God, learn about God, learn about the important truths of our faith, and learn how to live the faith.

Regarding Curriculum for Children (Grades 1-3), the USCCB has a listing of curriculum that conforms to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It can be found at the following website:

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/document/Currentlist.pdf>

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 website:

<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-Application.pdf>. Please submit your applications soon!

VIRTUS Trainings

10/16/2010	9:30 AM	Wabasso - St. Anne
10/25/2010	6:30 PM	Fairfax - St. Andrew
10/28/2010	7:00 PM	Minneota - St. Edward
10/30/2010	9:00 AM	Manannah - Our Lady
11/11/2010	7:00 PM	Silver Lake - Holy Family
01/18/2011	7:00 PM	Renville - Holy Redeemer
02/21/2011	7:00 PM	New Ulm-NUACS- St. Anthony Elementary Sch
03/10/2011	7:00 PM	Benson - St. Francis
04/05/2011	7:00 PM	Green Valley - St. Clotilde

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 90 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 adults ages 18 or older. 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: Lesson One of Touching Safety Children’s Training is to be done in October or at the very least early November (Lesson 2 is to be done in January). In addition, send your reports to Margy Manderfeld. Thank you!

University of Dayton's VLCCFF

Cycle 7: Oct 24 - Nov 27

(Registration: Opens Sept 1; Closes Oct 14)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: The Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Many Faces of Adults](#)



- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Media Literacy Education](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Letters of Paul](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Leadership](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Social Justice](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [Media, Faith, and Values](#)
- [National Directory for Catechesis](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Overview of the GDC & NDC \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Praying With Children](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Scripture: Introduction](#)
- [Scripture: New Testament](#)
- [Scripture: Old Testament](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)



Upcoming Gather for October

– for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs or DREs) and Youth Ministers

Our next Gather will be Monday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Barn south of Renville and north of Delhi on County Road 6. Joe Roueche of NET Ministries will be our presenter! Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem at 507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org if you plan to attend.

Children's Resources

from the Diocesan Media Library



For Children in Primary Grades 1-3

- *A Child's First Communion*, a video by Liguori Publications, ©1989
- *A Child's First Penance*, a video by Liguori Publications, ©1989
- *A Tour of Our Parish Church*, a video by St. Anthony Messenger Press, ©1996
- *Adventures from the Book of Virtue*, 9 videos by Porchlight Entertainment, ©1996
- *Beginners Bible Series*, 13 videos by Sony Music, c2007
- *First Communion*, a DVD by EWTN, ©2006
- *First Communion: A Family Journey*, a video by Video with Values, ©2003
- *Forgive and Forget*, a video by Colin Pearce Associates Ply Ltd, ©1987
- *Francis, The Knight of Assisi*, a video by CCC, ©1991
- *God's Gift Series*, 3 videos for grades 1-3 by Brown/ROA, ©1997
- *Grandma's Bread*, a video by Franciscan Communications, ©1988

- *In God's Name*, a video by Oblate Media and Communication, ©2000
- *In Toby We Trust*, a video by Britannica, ©1990
- *Integrity "Doing the Right Thing,"* a video by HSH Educational Media Co., ©1990
- *Martin the Cobbler*, a DVD by Billy Budd Films, ©2000
- *Mass for Young Children* a video by Ikonographics, ©1996
- *The Day the Sun Danced*, a video by CCC, ©1988
- *The Legend of the Three Trees*, a video by Tommy Nelson, ©2001
- *Veggie Tales* series videos by Big Idea Productions, Inc., ©2006

For Those Working with Children

- *At Home With the Sacraments: Reconciliation*, a video by Twenty-Third Publications, ©1998
- *Children's Adoration* a video by Children of Hope, ©2002
- *Conversations on Catechesis: Prayer in Catechesis/Religious Education*, a video by CTNA, ©1993
- *Echoes of Faith: Methods for Grades 1 and 2 (and Methods for Grades 3 and 4)*, videos by RCLBenziger and NCCL, ©1987
- *Holiness FamilyStyle*, a video by Fisher Productions, ©2002
- *How to Pray As a Family*, a video by Fisher Productions, ©1993
- *Parenting by Heart Series*, 3 videos by Total TV Network, ©2000
- *Parenting the Elementary Age Child: How to Nurture a Positive Self*, a video by the University of Notre Dame, ©1992
- *Teaching Children in the Church Series, Teaching First through Third Grades*, videos by Group, ©1992
- *Teaching Scripture to Children* a video by Chesapeake, ©1997
- *You're a Better Parent Than You Think!*, a video by Ray Guarendi, ©2002

These and many other resources (DVDs, videos, and audio) can be used by member parishes, schools, and individuals. Check out the media library catalogue at <http://dnu.kdsi.net/search/search.php>

Liturgy Resource

Shared at Faith Formation Day - A way to engage students and family in Sunday readings is to use Loyola Press *Our Sunday Connection* – Web site here for your convenience: <http://www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm>

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. For further information, check out the website: <http://www.nccl.org/>

Parish Catechesis Question

Which curriculum do you use for Grades 1 through 3? What are the advantages to this curriculum?

From the Youth Ministry Office:

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“Surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...”

—Heb. 12:1



I just finished reading a biography of St. Rose Phillipine Duchesne, a French sister who came to America to start schools for the Native Americans. The Potowami Indians affectionately nicknamed her, “Woman-who-prays-always.” She encouraged the newly-arrived Belgian missionary Jesuits, one of whom later became better known as Fr. Peter John DeSmet, the great pioneering priest of the Rockies. She is quoted as saying,

“Let us **not try to be exacting** with others, but rather **pass over in silence** those thousand little annoyances that tend to embitter us. We know that no one is perfect in this life, and we must put up with the defects of others.”

With over two thousand years of Church history, we are literally surrounded by the wisdom and example of saints from every vocation, nation, and social class. I often think of the Communion of Saints as a huge stadium filled with saints throughout the ages. You and I are on the last leg of a marathon race that finishes in the stadium. When we finally enter the stadium, all these intercessors who have already run the race will be waiting to cheer us on. What

thunderous applause and roaring cheers we will hear as we near the finish line!

My article this month will be nuggets of distilled wisdom from the saints. What follows is my own version of “**Thirty One Days with the Saints.**” By the time Halloween (or All Hallowed Eve) rolls around and All Saints Day arrives on November 1st, you will have filled your mind and surrounded yourself with the strength of a “great cloud of witnesses.” Feel free to quote them and refer to them often as you work with youth, both to inspire yourself, your co-workers, and the youth entrusted to your care.

We are not alone as we run this race!



1

“What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young.”
—St. John Chrysostom

2

“Be great in little things.”
—St. Francis Xavier

3

“It is not enough that you love (the young). They must **know** that you love them.”
—St. John Bosco

4

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to do.”
—Blessed John XXIII

5

“Remember that the Christian life is one of action, not of speech and daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be done well.”
—St. Vincent Pallotti

6

“Peace begins with a smile.”
—Mother Teresa

7

“Spiritual **joy and happiness** is the surest sign of divine grace in the soul.”
-St. Bonaventure

8

“**Gratitude** is what pleases God the most...If you are grateful for what He grants you, you will receive his blessings tenfold.”
-St. Therese of Lisieux

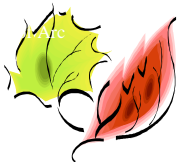
9

“**Act** and God will act.”
-St. Joan of Arc

10

“The **only** way to peace is **Forgiveness.**”

-Pope John Paul II



11

“**Learn** to defend your convictions without hating your adversaries, and love those who think differently from yourselves.”
-Bl. Frederic Ozanam

12

“**Have faith!** Everything will be alright. Faith! Faith!”
-St. Leopold Mandic

13

“We may be excused for *not always being bright*, but **we are not excused** for not being always gracious, yielding, and considerate.”
-St. Francis de Sales

14

“**Cast yourself confidently** into the arms of God. And be very sure that if God wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you the strength to do it.”
-St. Phillip Neri

15

“**Ignorance** of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”
-St. Jerome

16

“Worry is a weakness from which very few of us are entirely free. We must be on guard against this most insidious enemy of our soul’s peace. Instead let us foster confidence in God and **thank Him ahead of time** for whatever he chooses to send us.” -Venerable Solanus Casey

17

“**A tree is known** by its fruit; a person by her deeds.
A good deed is never lost; one who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and one who plants kindness gathers love.”
-St. Basil

18

“**Gentleness is not weakness** when it draws its source from the heart of Jesus and flows like honey from the mouth of the lion. This is what we must bring into our ways of governing, moderate structures and words of gentleness. But we must insist that people continue to grow.”
-St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

19

“Heaven is **full** of converted sinners of all kinds, and there is **room for more.**”
-St. Joseph Cafasso

20

“**Gaze upon Christ.** Consider him. Contemplate him and desire to imitate him.”
-St. Clare of Assisi

21

“**God does not insist** or desire that we should mourn in agony of heart; rather, it is his wish that out of love for him we should **rejoice with laughter** in our soul.”
-St. John Climacus

22

“**Actions** speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.”
-St. Anthony of Padua

23

“**When night comes**, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed,

just take everything exactly as it is,

put it in God’s hands, and leave it with him. Then you will be able to rest in him—really rest—and start the next day as a new life.”
-St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

24

“**Preach the Gospel always.** If necessary, use words.”
-St. Francis of Assisi

25

“**God did not tell us** to follow him because he needed our help, but because he knew that loving him would make us whole.”
-St. Irenaeus

26

“The **greater and more persistent** your confidence in God, the more abundantly you will receive all that you ask.”
-St. Albert the Great

27

“**Adversity** shows what the spirit of a person is made of.”
-St. Alphonsus Ligouri

28

“**Never lie down to sleep** without having first examined your conscience on the way you have spent the day and without first turning your thoughts to God.”
-St. Pio of Pietrelcina

29

“**Jesus is honey** in the mouth, music in the ear, and a shout of joy in the heart.”
-St. Bernard of Clairvaux

30

“**Fight** all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love.

Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause.”
-St. John of Kanty

31

“**We are all** children of God...servants, farm workers, peasants, the poor, the diseased, suffering... you are all co-heirs to the Kingdom. In you is an immortal soul that was made in God’s image...you are more precious in God’s eyes than all the riches on earth. Know that dignity!”
- St. Eugene de Mazenod



World Youth Day Madrid 2011: Diocesan Pilgrimage August 12-23

I’ve heard from a number of interested youth and adult chaperones from all over the diocese. As you know, we are working with Bursch Travel in Hutchinson for our diocesan pilgrimage. The dates are August 12-23, 2011. The pilgrimage will include a visit to Fatima and Avila.

Please contact Margaret McHugh if you are interested. We’ll be sending out a separate mailing with the itinerary and cost.

Pre-Rally Concert: October 24, 2010

Audrey Assad will be offering a pre-event concert *before* the Senior High Rally on October 24. Her concert will run from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Willmar Senior High School. *Please come early* and enjoy her music ministry as she sings songs from her first solo album, “*The House You’re Building.*”

Senior High Rally October 24 from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

The Rally itself will be held from 1:00-7:00 p.m. with Tony Melendez and the Toe Jam Band as the keynote. Cecilia Schwartz and Christopher Temple will lead a Dance break-out session while Dr. Monica Breaux will address a separate break-out for chaperones and parents on “Raising Healthy Teens.” Our own Diocesan Youth Council has been working hard on the planning and organization of the day. NET Team #3 will spend the day with us, mingling, encouraging, and offering a skit or two. Sunday Mass with Bishop LeVoir will be at 3:00 p.m. The day will conclude with a dance from 6:00-7:00 p.m.



Mark Your Calendars for 2010-2011

Mon, Oct 18	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Sun, Oct 24	Senior High Rally Gr 9-12	1:00-7:00 pm	Willmar Public High School
Mon, Nov 15	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Dec 6	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Jan 10	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Feb 7	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Mar 7	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Apr 11	DRE/YM Gathering (Curriculum Day)	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, Apr 10	Junior High Festival	11:00 am-5:00 pm	Hutchinson?
Mon, May 16	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00	TBA

Check out the dates for the Summer Camps!

Sun, June 12- Thurs June 16	Girls Discipleship Camp	Sun 4:00 pm til Thurs 11:00 am	Flandrau Group Camp (New Ulm)
Sun, July 10- Thurs July 14	Boys Discipleship Camp	Sun 4:00 pm til Thurs 11:00 am	Flandrau Group Camp (New Ulm)