

September 19, 2011

Dear Parish and School Catechetical Leaders,

As you know, this weekend we celebrated Catechetical Sunday. I pray that the grace of God will continue to fill you with joy and wisdom during this school year.



Below is some information taken from the *National Conference of Catechetical Leadership* and other websites that I hope offer some sources of inspiration and reflection for you and your students.

In Christ,
Anne

As a source of inspiration for living out our call to be catechists, here is Joe Paprocki with **Top Ten Reasons for Being a Catechist:**

10. You'll grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church and deepen your relationship with Jesus.

Children, teens and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus.

8. Children, teens and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to encounter good role models.

7. You've got a lot to share.

6. You'll be provided with excellent resources that provide you with great support.

5. You'll meet new people and become part of a vibrant faith community.

4. You'll be energized.

3. You'll be saving lives.

2. You'll be putting your faith into action.

1. It's the right thing to do.

Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry with Students with Disabilities

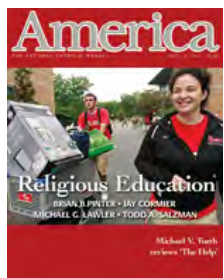


On September 13th, I had an opportunity to listen to this webinar, which provided a myriad of resources for sacramental preparation for children with special needs. The workshop was sponsored by the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities <http://www.ncpd.org/>

Their website provides many valuable tools to help us effectively catechize children with developmental or sensory processing disorders, including autism spectrum diagnoses. I highly recommend

you access this website and check out the rich information it contains!

Student Teachers: What I learned from my class about the faith



In the *America* magazine for September 12th, Jay Cormier shares what he learned from his experience of teaching a section of a nearby Catholic college's required freshman religion seminar. Jay Cormier who teaches communications and humanities at St. Anselm College and edits the homiletics resource *Connections* made some interesting points for all of involved in catechesis. His latest book, [Table Talk: Beginning the Conversation on the Gospel of Mark \(Year B\) \(Biblical Commentaries\)](#) is now available. Here are a few excerpts from his article.

Religion is not so much about believing as it is about belonging. These young adults were not as interested in dogma as in understanding.

I assigned a reflection paper on Luke's Gospel: What parable of Jesus did you find most meaningful? I expected most essays to name the stories about the good Samaritan or the prodigal son, but more than half wrote about Jesus' admonitions on not judging others, verses that barely registered in my consciousness. This generation can teach us a great deal about tolerance and understanding, acceptance and respect.

I also asked the students to design the "perfect" church setting. I steeled myself for demands for cooler art and entertainment. But what the students valued above all else was being welcomed, feeling that they had something valuable to contribute. They also wanted liturgy that engaged them, prayer that enabled them to participate. And they wanted sermons that made sense on Monday morning.

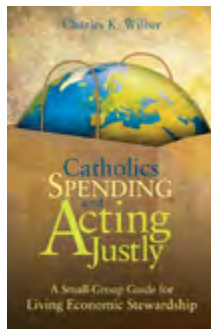
The class gave me a new appreciation for hospitality and the importance of celebrants and ministers to help people become fully engaged participants in prayer.

In addition to the topic *Welcome Before Dogma*, he addressed two other topics:

Being in Love with God – "...we really cannot understand or encounter God until we fall in love. Love calls us beyond ourselves, pulls us out of our self-centered orbit and into the orbit of another. ...The reality is that we have become so used to getting what we want when we want it that we cannot see beyond our own needs to the greater and more desperate needs of others. ...We can encounter God only once we move beyond ourselves."

Revealing the Unseen God – "That is our challenge as a church. M. Craig Barnes put it beautifully in his book [The Pastor as Minor Poet: Texts and Subtexts in the Ministerial Life \(Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies\)](#): whether we are pastors, teachers, ministers or congregants, we are called to point to the God who 'is always present but not usually apparent.' ...The harder challenge is to find good in the midst of evil, to point to God's presence when God seems to be totally absent."

Economic Stewardship: Catholics Spending and Acting Justly



Concern for human dignity is at the core of our Catholic faith. Because human dignity is either protected or harmed by economic policies and practices, there are moral implications to every decision we make about how we spend our money, time, energy, and other precious resources. As St. James says, we must "be doers of the word and not hearers only." Join Professor Charles K. Wilber as he discusses how we can use the observe-judge-act small-group method to be doers of the word within our homes, parishes, neighborhoods, across our nation, and within the global community. To love God is to love our neighbors and they are all around us. You can order [**Catholics Spending and Acting Justly: A Small-Group Guide for Living Economic Stewardship.**](#)

[**Catholics Spending and Acting Justly: A Small-Group Guide for Living Economic Stewardship.**](#)

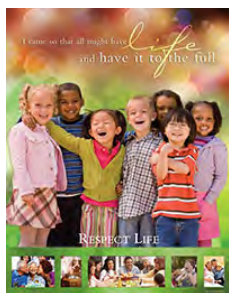
WATCH THE WEBINAR RECORDINGS!

View free recordings of all the past **ave maria press®** Professional Development webinars.

WATCH NOW

There are eighteen different recordings from past years. Check out the titles at <http://tiny.cc/h9p0t>.

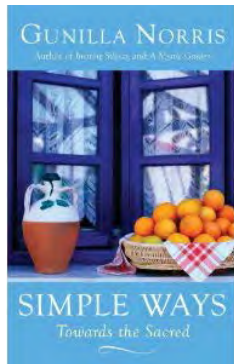
Respect Life Sunday – October 2, 2011



The Respect Life Program begins anew each year on *Respect Life Sunday*, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups and other organizations.

This year's Respect Life Program takes us back to the basics. Eight pamphlets discuss the main attacks on human life and dignity. Click around to find more information, order Respect Life Program packets, single or grouped items, or find clip art, free bulletin inserts and more information for your parish. You can find our more and order at <http://tiny.cc/5dolk>.

[Simple Ways Towards the Sacred](#)



[Being Home](#) is a book of meditations by Gunilla Norris. She touched my heart. She writes “My way has been a householder’s way, opening myself as much as possible to that which is near me in order to experience God’s presence there. It is an undramatic, ordinary path, and it is completely available to anyone...”

The book is divided into four sections concentrating on our bodies, our dwellings, everyday things, and gratitude. Norris points out that even the simplest of things can make us open to love. We can catch glimpses of God all over and then we can experience a oneness that leads to “intense intimacy with God and all of life becomes a prayer.” Why not order and

read [Simple Ways: Towards the Sacred](#).

[Say Something Nice](#)

A few folks at *Improv Everywhere* constructed a custom wooden lectern with a megaphone holster and an attached sign that read: “*Say Something Nice*.” The lectern was placed in public spaces around New York and then left alone. What would happen when passerbys were given the opportunity to amplify their voices to “say something nice”? Watch

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwEYYI-AGWs> and find out.

This
stillspotting nyc.

created by *Improv Everywhere* as part of the Guggenheim Museum exhibition

[Parables of a different sort](#)

The 2 1/2 minute parable of *The Peacock and the Squirrel* should be reminiscent of a parable told by Jesus. Do you think this one contains the same meaning?

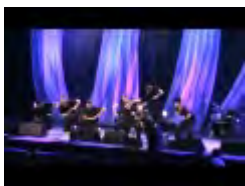
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akcetdJNllo>

This 1:19 minute parable *Martha's Vineyard*, is also very reminiscent of another parable Jesus told. Would you agree/disagree that this contemporary version appears more dramatic and fits better with our contemporary culture?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ou0EPZebfSc>

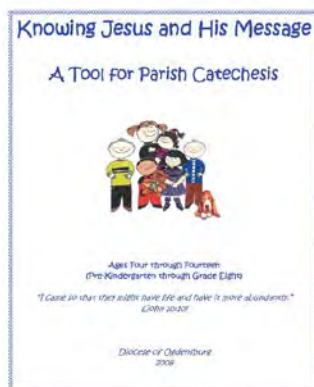
Amazing Human Drama

This is not liturgical dance and it might be termed “Liturgical Gymnastics” though I doubt if it would be used as part of a liturgical service. Nevertheless this video is from the National Fine Arts Festival in Detroit, MI. *The Remnant Omega* from Faith Assembly of God out of Orlando,



Florida won 1st place in Large Human Video Ensemble. Check it out at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8ChUmsB_tM&feature=related

Knowing Jesus and His Message – Conociendo a Jesús y su Mensaje



This is an excellent resource. Immediately following the Learning Session on this resources at the NCCL Conference and Exposition in Atlanta, the NCCL Bookstore sold over twenty (20) copies of the book in English and Spanish.



Based on the protocol used to evaluate elementary religion series, the book used fifteen standards for Pre-K and K through Grades 7 & 8. Included with the binder is a CD with all the materials available for duplication. This is an ideal help for any elementary catechist regardless of the series you might be using. Check out the following and use the Order Form.

- **PREFACE - Knowing Jesus and His Message** (<http://tiny.cc/nysql>)
- **EXPLANATION - Knowing Jesus and His Message** (<http://tiny.cc/xuvw8>)
- **Standards - Explained** (<http://tiny.cc/65wmc>)
- **Normas y Fundamentos** (<http://tiny.cc/zfrq2>)
- **ORDER FORM - Knowing Jesus and His Message** (<http://tiny.cc/9j0mb>)



Millennial Catholics

U.S. Catholic writer Heather Grennan Gary, in an article titled [Retro-actives](#), suggests that “Millennial Catholics may be young in body, but their souls often seek the spirituality of another era.” You can check it out at <http://www.uscatholic.org/September2011>.

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. Sample Pages available at [Sample Pages:](http://tiny.cc/lcbsa)

[Musings: Become Who You Receive](http://tiny.cc/lcbsa) (<http://tiny.cc/lcbsa>)

Prayer Must Start With a Certainty: God Is Here - Reflection on Psalm 3



Continuing his catechesis series on prayer, Pope Benedict XVI said that "In prayer, there must be a certainty of God's presence." The Holy Father took up Psalm 3 for a reflection on faith in God's presence as the basis of prayer.

The psalm, attributed to David fleeing for his life, presents the psalmist in a "condition of extreme difficulty," as his foes taunt him with the assertion that God is unable to save him.

"This is the great temptation to which the believer is subjected -- the temptation to lose faith, to lose trust in the nearness of God," the Pontiff reflected. "The just man overcomes this ultimate test; he remains steadfast in the faith, in the certainty of the truth and in full confidence in God, and it is precisely in this way that he finds life and truth."

Benedict XVI suggested that in this respect, Psalm 3 has a personal lesson for today: "In so many problems we are tempted to think that perhaps not even God can save me, that he doesn't know me, that perhaps it is not possible for him; the temptation against faith is the enemy's final assault, and this we must resist -- in so doing, we find God and we find life."

The Pope affirmed: "The Lord is help, defense, salvation; as a shield he protects the one who entrusts himself to him, and he raises up his head in a gesture of triumph and of victory. The man is no longer alone, his enemies are not as invincible as they once seemed, because the Lord hears the cry of the oppressed and responds from the place of his presence, from his holy mount. The man cries out in anguish, in danger, and in pain; the man asks for help, and God responds." The Holy Father presented the "interweaving of the human cry and the divine response" as the "dialectic of prayer and the key to reading the whole of salvation history. To cry out means to express faith in the nearness of God and in his readiness to listen. Prayer expresses certainty in a divine presence already experienced and believed in, [a presence] manifested most fully by God's saving response."

"The man praying, even amid danger and battle, can lie tranquilly in an unequivocal attitude of trustful surrender," he said. "His adversaries encamp around him, they beleaguer him, they are many, they rise up against him, they deride him and attempt to make him fall; but he instead lies

down and sleeps in tranquil serenity, assured of the presence of God. And when he awakes, he finds God still beside him, as a guardian who will neither slumber nor sleep (cf. Psalm 121:3-4), who sustains him, who holds his hand, who never abandons him." The full text of his comments can be found at www.zenit.org/article-33377?l=english.

Respect for Rights of Conscience Act



Congress should support a bill (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) that will close gaps in protection of conscience rights in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), especially in light of the threat to conscience rights posed by a new mandate from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston in a September 7 letter to Congress. "I urge you to support and co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, to help preserve respect in federal law for the freedom to follow the dictates of one's conscience," wrote Cardinal DiNardo, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

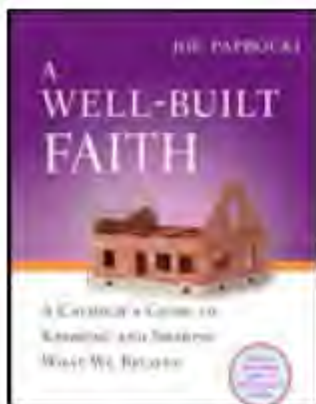
Cardinal DiNardo noted that passage of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act is more urgent now that HHS has mandated that all private insurance plans cover contraceptives and sterilization. The HHS rule has an "incredibly narrow" exemption for religious employers which "protects almost no one," since organizations that employ or serve people of another religion would not qualify.

"For example, a Catholic institution serving the poor and needy would have to fire its non-Catholic staff, refuse life-affirming care to non-Catholic people in need, and devote itself instead to 'the inculcation of religious values' to qualify for the exemption," Cardinal DiNardo wrote. "Individuals, insurers, and the sponsors of non-employee health plans (e.g., student health plans in Catholic schools) would have no exemption at all. This effort to corral religion exclusively into the sanctuaries of houses of worship betrays a complete ignorance of the role of religion in American life, and of Congress's long tradition of far more helpful laws on religious freedom."

"Those who sponsor, purchase and issue health plans should not be forced to violate their deeply held moral and religious convictions in order to take part in the health care system or provide for the needs of their families, their employees or those most in need," Cardinal DiNardo wrote. "To force such an unacceptable choice would be as much a threat to universal access to health care as it is to freedom of conscience." The full text of Cardinal DiNardo's letter is available [here](http://tiny.cc/b7j8gq) (<http://tiny.cc/b7j8gq>)

Deanery Events (see next page)

Submitted by your fellow Catechetical Leaders!



Are you ever questioned about your Catholic faith?

Do you ever wish you had better answers?

Do you have your own questions?

For many adult Catholics, religious formation classes ended at Confirmation, or even earlier.

In this presentation, Joe Paprocki provides a solid yet simple approach to understanding the Catholic faith so that we can confidently and articulately share it with others.

Date: Friday, October 21, 2011

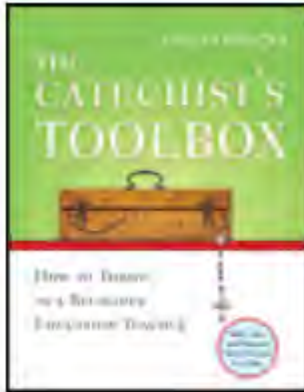
Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: St. Charles Borromeo Church
7112 S 12th St Tacoma

Sponsored by: Pierce County Deanery & Loyola Press

Presenter: Joe Paprocki, D.Min., is National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press in Chicago. He has over 25 years of experience in pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Joe is the author of numerous books on pastoral ministry and catechesis, including the best-selling *The Catechist's Toolbox* and *A Well-Built Faith*. Joe, who earned his master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University's Institute of Pastoral Studies, recently received his doctor of ministry degree from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL. Joe serves as an 8th grade catechist and blogs about the experience at *Catechist's Journey*. He and his wife, Joanne, and their two grown children live in Evergreen Park, IL.

There is no charge for this event.



Professional Development Workshop

For all Catechists involved
With children, youth, adults

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2011
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ~ Lunch included!
Location: St. Charles Borromeo Church
7112 S 12th St Tacoma
Cost: Be our guest!
Registration: Brian at 582-1028
brianguillot@stjbosco.org

Sponsored by: Pierce County Deanery & Loyola Press

Presenter: Joe Paprocki, D.Min., is National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press in Chicago. He has over 25 years of experience in pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Joe is the author of numerous books on pastoral ministry and catechesis, including the best-selling *The Catechist's Toolbox* and *A Well-Built Faith*. Joe, who earned his master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University's Institute of Pastoral Studies, recently received his doctor of ministry degree from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL. Joe serves as an 8th grade catechist and blogs about the experience at *Catechist's Journey*. He and his wife, Joanne, and their two grown children live in Evergreen Park, IL.

Directions to:
St. Madeleine Sophie
 4400 130th Place SE
 Bellevue, WA 98006

FROM I-90 WESTBOUND

Take Exit 1: follow signs for 150th Ave SE turnoff
 Head south onto 150th Ave SE past Eastgate Plaza
 and up the hill (about 1 mile)
 Turn right onto Newport Way
 Proceed approximately 1 mile
 Turn left onto 130th PL SE
 Take the first left into the church driveway.

FROM 405 SOUTHBOUND

Take Exit 10: Coal Creek Parkway/Factoria
 Turn left onto Coal Creek Parkway
 Proceed approximately 1 mile
 Turn left onto Factoria Blvd SE
 Turn right onto Newport Way
 Take the first right onto 129th PL SE
 Take the 3rd right into the church driveway.



If you need help with directions please contact

Jo David

Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation
 St. Madeleine Sophie Parish
 Email: jo@stmalesophie.org
 Phone: 425-747-6770 ext. 124

Childcare is available for the day and must
 be reserved by turning in the registration form by
 Sept 30th.

October 8, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:

9:00 a.m. Arrival and Sign-in
 9:15 a.m. Welcome, Opening Prayer
 9:30 a.m. **Morning Keynote**
*The Art of Celebrating
 the Mass*

11:05 a.m. **Session I** (choose one)

12:00 p.m. **Fiesta Lunch** provided

1:00 p.m. **Session II** (choose one)

2:00 p.m. **Commissioning Prayer**

2:45 p.m. **Evaluation and Dismissal**

Who: Catechists for Preschool/Elementary
 Age Children, Children's Liturgy of the Word
 Catechists, Rite of Christian Initiation
 Team members, Catholic School Teachers,
 and Sacramental Preparation Catechists.
**Parents or anyone interested in sharing
 the Gospel with children or youth.**

Why: To inspire and provide resources
 to Catechists in their ministry.



**WORK OF
 THE PEOPLE**

Catechist

Day of Enrichment

October 8, 2011

9:00 AM to 3:00PM



at St. Madeleine Sophie

*Sponsored by
 The Parishes and
 Pastoral Asss. for Faith Formation
 of The Eastside Deanery*

REGISTRATION FORM

Return to: your parish Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation (PAFF) in the Parish Office

RETURN BY FRIDAY October 5, 2011

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Session I:

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE

- ☐ "We're doing WHAT?"
☐ "Mass Class"

Session II:

"Toolbox for Classroom Management"

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE

- ☐ Preschool
☐ Primary
☐ Intermediate (4th grade+)
☐ Las clases en español

- ☐ Check if you will be using child care during the workshop:

Child Name / Age: _____

Child Name / Age: _____

Child Name / Age: _____

The Eastside Deanery is pleased to present this day of enrichment for all of our catechists!

MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS: TONY VARAS

THE ART OF CELEBRATING THE MASS: *What's changing-What's not*



Heard the hype about the coming changes, but not the particulars? Tony Varas, Associate Director of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Office will present this year's keynote. He'll give a brief explanation of why a change is happening and what will be different. Finally, Tony will offer a reflection on how this moment offers a unique opportunity to explore the art of celebrating the Mass.

ROTATION WORKSHOPS

INCLUDE:

Session I: (Pick ONE)

Option I "We're doing WHAT: Conversations about the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal

Join us for a lively discussion about translation methods, favorite phrases, and the mind of Rome. Claudia Petursson, presenter.

Presented by **Claudia Petursson**, the PAFF at Holy Family in Kirkland. She holds a Master of Divinity from Seattle U. In her studies, Claudia focused on doctrinal history and the development of thought. She looks forward to the conversation!

Option II "Mass Class: An in-depth look at the Mass and its parts."

Can you identify the Collect prayer at Mass? (it has nothing to do with passing the basket!) Are you familiar with the Jewish roots of some of our prayers at Mass? If you want an adult-level

refresher on the Mass and also to come away with a few ideas for how to share your love for the Mass with your students, this is the workshop for you.

Presented by **Mimi Arima**, the PAFF at Mary, Queen of Peace, in Sammamish. Mimi is a "double domer" who studied theology and pastoral ministry at the Univ. of Notre Dame (BA, MDiv). She has ministered in the Archdiocese of Seattle for over 10 years.

Session II:

"Catechist's Toolbox"

An entertaining, hands-on session full of attention grabbing, faith-infused activities. Catechists will also have the chance to break out by level and collaborate with other catechists so they may take back ideas to their own classrooms.

Presented by **Jennie Caldwell** PAFF at Holy Innocents in Duval, WA. Jennie was the 2009 Catechist Day of Enrichment key-note speaker.

As catechists in our parishes, you continue the call of Jesus to bring the children to him. In religious education, faith formation or Liturgy of the Word for Children it is the catechist who is the voice, the hands and the gentle words of Christ to our children encouraging their faith and understanding.

This is a worthy ministry—from those who work with preschoolers through the elementary age children—which assists parents in their promise made at baptism to raise their children in the faith and teachings of the Catholic Church. Just as you feed the spirit of these children, you too need to be fed, nurtured and encouraged in what you do. Take this opportunity to learn and to share what you know with others who have taken on these ministries.

The Pastoral Assistance for Faith Formation/DRE's of the parishes which make up the North Seattle Deanery are working together to present this morning, and look forward to the opportunity to meet you!

DIRECTIONS to "OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH"

Our Lady of Fatima Parish is located in the heart of Magnolia in the block bounded by West Dravus Street on the north, West Barrett Street on the South, 32nd Avenue West on the west, and 34th Avenue West on the east. Private family homes border 32nd & 34th Avenues West. Our Lady of Fatima Church, School, and Parish Offices from the center of the block.

Our Lady of Fatima
3218 W Barrett St.
Seattle, WA . 98199
206-352-4586
oFatima.org

GATHERING FOR PARISH
CATECHISTS"

" DO THIS IN
REMEMBRANCE
OF ME....."
(1 COR 11:24)

Saturday, October 8th, 2011
9:00am-12:00pm

SORTED AND FOURCORNED

Retreat for all Parish Catechists

Sponsored by the North Seattle

Catechetical Deanery at

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

3218 W Barrett St.
Seattle, WA 98199

MORNING SCHEDULE

8:45: Welcome (Coffee & Pastry)

9:00-9:15: Opening Prayer

9:15-10:05: "New Roman Missal"

The changes and tools for teaching these changes in the classroom.

Fr. Steve Sallis, St. Benedict's

10:05- 10:15: Break

10:15-10:35: Session 1

(workshops) 10:40-11:00: Session 2 (workshops)

11:15- 12:00pm:

"Nurturing the Family in Faith"

Dr. Anne Frederick

*Director of Religious Ed/
Archdiocese of Seattle*

The morning will offer opportunities for catechists to gather with one another from parishes throughout north Seattle, in presentations and workshops designed to provide update and ideas to assist you in your ministry.

SESSION WORKSHOPS

1A: Creative Ways to use Scripture and Prayer with

Children: Anne Merklin, St. John the Evangelist Church.

Children learn best when engaged. Learn creative ways to introduce Scriptures and Prayer into the classroom for K-5th grades. Learning creative ways to help children be open to God's presence in the Scriptures and Prayer.

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1B: Setting the table: Val Keller, PA for Faith Formation, St. Benedict Parish

The weekday dinner table looked different from the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter or Birthday dinner table. So setting the prayer table for our sessions looks different in Advent and Lent than Ordinary Time. Sharing of practical ideas—for setting and using the table for prayer—including color and symbols, the Liturgical Year—seasons, feasts, saints and Sundays for all ages of learners—children through Adults and even in our own homes will be discussed.

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2A: Art Activities: Luanne Johnson, St. Bridget Church

Ideas to help you plan and use creative, hands-on learning activities as part of your teaching. When children create, they share in God's creating. From drawing, bible stories to community service projects.

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2B: Music in the classroom: Incorporating music with guidelines to help select music for all ages with worship, instruments to make, and scripture. Making it engaging and fun.

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Registration Form

Please print all information legibly. Thank you!

Name: _____

Parish: _____

Phone/cell: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate your choice of workshop for each session:

Session 1: A _____ B _____ (10:15-10:35AM)

Session 2: A _____ B _____ (10:40-11:00AM)

Please return this form to:

Luanne Johnson

St. Bridget Church

4900 NE 50th St.—(206)-523-8787

Seattle, WA 98105

Or email: Luanne@stbridgetchurch.org

(Registration should be received by October 1)