

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we begin our approach into Advent, I hope you have an opportunity to share Archbishop Sartain's new book, *An Advent Pilgrimage: Preparing Our Hearts for Jesus* with those you serve in faith formation. I also suggest you check out the great resources for this wonderful season at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm>

The attached newsletter contains several articles on effective tips for teaching our faith as well as more information on parent engagement, comments by Pope Francis, some Thanksgiving resources and a call for knitters and crocheters on behalf of children in remote Alaska.

Please check out the following list of exciting events and mark your calendars now!

- **Webinars**

- [Building a Better Disciple](#) from Diocese of Springfield, IL
- **December 6th Catholic Parent Revival.** More information can be found at www.catholicparentrevival.org

- **Conferences and Archdiocesan Programs**

- **November 15th Mental Health Training** sponsored by Archdiocesan Office for Pastoral Care (see below)
- **December 9th TechnoMinisters in the 21 1/4th Century** sponsored by OYYAE https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1z_DsM26GsDCZ4CcVmF917pFKyog1ziJ1-UgBce8awTk/viewform (please note this is a new date).
- **February 19, 2015 Annual Pastor/Faith Formation Leader Luncheon and evening presentations with Dr. Andrew Lichtenwalner from USCCB** (new date)
- **March 5th Engaging Parents – Forming Family Faith** – Isaac Orr
- **March 7-8 Mission Education Training** sponsored by Maryknoll and Archdiocesan Mission Office (see below)
- **March 12-15 LA Religious Education Conference registration is now open!** Sign up for more information at www.RECongress.org/optin.htm
- **April 25th – Life is Changed Not Ended – Finding Joy in the Church's Funeral Rites** – Holyrood Cemetery
- **May 1st – Pentecost: A Celebration of Ministry** – Fr. John Hurley, CSP
- **June 17-24 Guatemala Immersion Trip** sponsored by Maryknoll and Archdiocesan Mission Office (see below)
- **September 22-27 – World Meeting of Families** - Philadelphia

In Christ,

Anne

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.
Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education

Archdiocese of Seattle

Mental Health Training

WHEN

November 15th
9pm – 4pm

WHERE

Archdiocese of Seattle

Isaac Orr Conference Room

910 Marion St., Seattle, WA 98104

Keynote Speaker –

Fr. Patrick Howell, SJ

Overcoming Stigma: a biblical revolution

Father Howell will explore the multiple ways that Jesus addressed and overcame stigma, a sign of disgrace, by healing and welcoming people with illness back into the worshipping community. Mental illness, despite centuries of learning, is still perceived as a character flaw or a sign of weakness rather than a disease of the brain.

OTHER SPEAKERS:

Sr. Joyce Cox, B.V.M.

Positive relationships providing patient understanding and support are crucial. These can be invaluable in the struggle with depression

Deacon Jim Decker

A pastoral response to mental illness

NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness

TO RSVP:

Please contact

Erica Cohen Moore at 206-382-4852 or
ericac@seattlearch.org

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Marriage/Family Life Speaker: Dr. Andrew Lichtenwalner, USCCB Executive Director of the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, will give two presentations on **Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015**. He will be talking on the **"Family and the New Evangelization"** during the morning at Isaac Orr and in the evening he will talk on **"The Mystery and Vocation of the Family"** at St. Monica Parish, Mercer Island.

The flyer with complete details can be downloaded from the [OCFF Events page](#).

The final report of the **Vatican Extraordinary Synod on the Family** is now available View it at: <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2014/10/18/0770/03044.html>

Mission Education Training Program: Going Forth in Joy to Share the Good News

Mission is our baptismal call to share God's love.

As Pope Francis says, we do this "above all" with "the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked" (Evangelii Gaudium, 48). Catholic educators lay the foundations that enable this mission of love without exceptions to be passed on to the next generation.

Our Mission Education Training Program provides teachers and ministers development practical tools and strategies to:

- Identify as missionaries and mission educators
- Discover and relate the Mission Story in Scripture
- Form students/school communities as evangelizing communities rooted in Gospel values
- Engage students in relationship and service to the world around them, locally and globally, in accordance with Church teaching and best practice

Upcoming Programs in the Archdiocese of Seattle:

March 7-8, 2014 ([Learn more and register](#))

Limited accommodations available for commuters at the Maryknoll Mission Education House in Seattle.

2015 Guatemala Immersion: for Teachers, Catechists, and Youth Ministers

Every day, our neighbors from Central America make the perilous journey into the United States. Discover Christ in our Guatemalan brothers and sisters, deepening your faith and enlivening your ministry through encounter with their hopes, joys, and struggles. Meet and learn from the lay and religious missionaries walking with them, and discern how you can invite your own community into a spirit of encounter with our sisters and brothers on the margins.

June 17-24, 2015

Immersion Program Includes:

- Professional and ministerial development before, during, and after travel
 - Accompaniment by a Maryknoll Mission Education professional
- Encounter and relationship building with individuals, families, and communities in Guatemala City, Quetzaltenango, Quiche, and San Marcos
- Visits to Maryknoll programs and partner programs working with youth, women, education, integral health, community development, and pastoral support
 - Orientation to social, political, and economic realities
 - Daily reflections and faith formation activities
 - Ongoing support and consultation

Estimated costs and travel particulars:

- Room, meals, and in-country transportation: \$575
- Participants are responsible for air travel to and from Guatemala City (estimated \$800)
- Passport Required (visa not required)

APPLY NOW

Scholarships available from the Missions Office of the Archdiocese. Accepted applicants will learn more.

FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

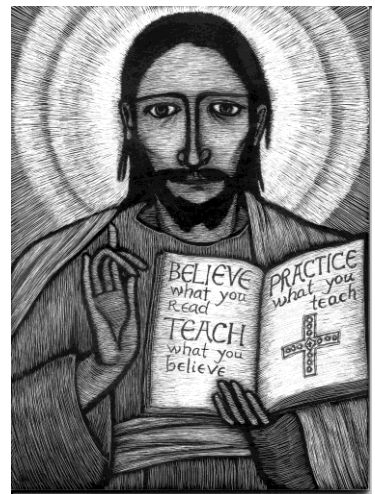
Adult Faith Formation

- ✚ Advent
- ✚ Lent
- ✚ Retreats

Catechist Certification

- ✚ Faith Formation for Parish Staff
- ✚ For Competent, Confident, and **Capable** Catechists
 - Certify at least one per grade level
 - Identify & Prepare Next Year's Catechist
- ✚ RCIA team
 - Identify & Prepare Next Year's Team

Schedule and Registration at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ccp



Pope's November Intentions



Every month, the Pope asks Christians all around the world to pray together for two specific intentions.

Pope Francis asks Christians to pray in November so that “all who suffer loneliness may experience the closeness of God and the support of others.” His missionary intention for the month is “that young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.”

Photo – Communio

Spiritual Life Is Like Breathing

Pope Francis says the spiritual life is like breathing, comparing prayer to inhaling and mission to exhaling. Without both, he says, the Christian cannot live.

Pope Francis Quote: The sacraments are not decorations in life.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/october/documents/papa-francesco_20131026_pellegrinaggio-famiglie.html

“The sacraments are not decorations in life – what a beautiful marriage, what a beautiful ceremony, what a beautiful banquet... But that is not the sacrament of marriage. That is a decoration! Grace is not given to decorate life but rather to make us strong in life, giving us courage to go forwards!”

Pope Tells Disabled Athletes They Give “Message of Encouragement”

Pope Francis told a group of disabled athletes that their disabilities are in fact a “message of encouragement” and an invitation to commit ourselves to do good together, surmounting the barriers we find around us, including those within ourselves. Reiterating a message he's given on other occasions, the Pope spoke of sports as something that promotes relationships among those who come from different cultures and environments. Sport “helps us to live by accepting differences, to make of these a precious occasion of mutual enrichment and discovery. Above all, sport becomes a precious occasion to recognize one another as brothers and sisters on the way, to foster the culture of inclusion and to reject the disposable culture,” he said.

The Pope continued: “God the Father ... knows everything. He knows us better than anyone else, and He looks at us with confidence, He loves us as we are, but He makes us grow in keeping with what we can become. Thus, in your effort for sport without barriers, for a world without excluded persons, you are never alone! God Our Father is with you!”

Calling Knitters and Crocheters on behalf of children in remote Alaska

Sr. Dorothy Giloley, SSJ, Diocesan Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Fairbanks, facilitates the sending of hand knitted/crocheted sweaters, caps and scarves to children in remote villages of her diocese. Matching hats and scarves (popular among older children), sweaters and baby items are welcome in infant through size 12 for children. No mittens are needed as they become soggy in the wet weather. For specific questions, email Sr. Dorothy, dorothy@cbna.org. Packages may be mailed to Sr. Dorothy at: The Chancery, 1316 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith – How Am I Supposed to Pray?



This short video by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, talks about ways to pray. It is part of a web series produced for the Year of Faith. They are great as discussion starters for teens or adults and could be used in in-services, RCIA sessions, parent sessions, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpfcBsqlXGE>

Free Online Reproducible Activities for Thanksgiving

A Thanksgiving Puzzle: A cut and color activity for preschoolers

A Thanksgiving Prayer: Color the letters of the prayer and the pictures of things for which you are grateful, for grades K-1

Pilgrims and Prayer: Fill in the blanks and complete the crossword puzzle, for grades 2-3

A Circle of Family and Friends for Thanksgiving: Create a centerpiece with names of people for whom you are thankful, for grades 4-6

They're all available at PGW Online. [Click here](#) to register if you haven't already. It's free!

Unpacking Adolescent Catechesis on Parent Engagement

The Partnership for Adolescent Catechesis is offering focused dialogue guides on topics of interest to those who are involved in the faith formation of adolescents. These easy to use guides are designed to stimulate conversation among colleagues on critical questions, issues and strategies encountered by those involved in the formation of young people. The first guide centers on [engaging parents](#) in the faith formation process. Please download and use it at your next onsite or online gathering of colleagues or with your catechists as a way of continued formation and reflection on this important and critical task. Use #ACunPAC to post your thoughts and reflections so others can stay connected with emerging insights.



Online Course on Evangelii Gaudium Directed at US Hispanic Catholics

http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/online-course-on-evangelii-gaudium-directed-at-hispanic-catholics-in-us?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch

The first course for the Americas about Evangelii Gaudium begins in November. While the course is directed to the Americas' Hispanic community, special importance is given to the USA Latin community of parishes. The organizers are encouraging American pastors and pastoral agents to invite leaders and members of their parishes to participate in the course. This is a joint initiative of

the Latin American Bishops Council (CELAM) and Latin American Center of Social Evangelization (CLADES) for the Americas. View a video presentation in Spanish: <http://youtu.be/oVLHNPuT4Ms>

The online course is directed to social, political, pastoral representatives and the public in general who are interested in discovering the new keys of social transformation to which Pope Francis' document contributes. Questions considered in the course include: How to reach everyone, without exception or exclusions. What does it mean to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary?

The course takes place on Saturdays, November 8, 15, and 22 and December 6 and 13. Each sessions is 10:00 a.m. – noon Eastern Time. The cost is \$40 with a 50% discount for groups of 10.

Catholic Parent Revival



Parents, grandparents and guardians from across the country are invited to join together either onsite or online December 6, 11:00 am-5:00 pm CST, at the Lila Cockrell Theatre in San Antonio for the Catholic Parent Revival (CPR) – a day designed to revive their faith and celebrate their vocation as they help their families grow in faith. With national presenters and performers like Steve and Jenni Angrisano, Mark Hart, Archbishop

Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Roy Petitfils, Noelle Garcia and John Angotti, attendees will be treated to a day of inspiring stories, moving music, and meaningful prayer that is guaranteed to breathe new life into the role that faith takes within their home, the domestic church. For more information and registration links, go to: www.catholicparentrevival.org. *The Catholic Parent Revival is part of the **Strong Catholic Families initiative** presented in partnership with NFCYM, NCCL, NACFLM, and NCEA.*

Make the few minutes before students arrive prayerful and productive.

By the Religion Teacher - Jared Dees

What can you do in those last few minutes before students walk in the door? Here are seven ideas I shared on The Religion Teacher Facebook page last week that I thought you might like:

1. Say a prayer. I like "Come, Holy Spirit." best. You can ask for the intercession of your classroom saint or ask for God's help about a specific **intention for the day**.
2. **Prepare students' desks.** You'll save lots of time and wasted energy organizing their desks for them (worksheets passed out, crafts passed out, books on desks, bell work ready to go, etc.)
3. Pick one student to get to know before class. Ask them questions about their weekend, their day, or how things are going in general. (*This was day 10 of 31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator.*)

4. Visualize how the lesson is going to go. Review your lesson plan, but focus on how you will execute it. (*This was day 30 of 31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator.*)

5. **Stand in the** hall with a smile. Harry Wong was always big on this. Welcome the students at the door with a smile and a handshake. I tend to be running around getting things set up, but I can definitely see the value in starting the class off right with a smile. I'm sure it sets the tone for a much more positive **class atmosphere**.

6. Turn on some music. Set the mood for the class (reflective, exciting, focused, etc.) with some appropriate music. They will ask you about it if you don't normally play music. That makes it a nice "hook" for the lesson because you help them make connections with the **lesson of the day**.

7. **Review** your personal goals. Do you have goals for yourself? What are you trying to improve about the way you teach? Set some goals if you don't have them and review the areas you are trying to improve right before students walk in.

To get more ideas like [these, keep visiting](#) The [Religion Teacher](#) or follow The Religion Teacher on Facebook.

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Connecting with Christ: Fostering Relationships in Catechesis

November 6, 2014

Approaches/Techniques

This post is by Eric Gurash. Eric is a former radio personality and 17-year convert to the Catholic faith who holds a B.Th from Newman Theological College in Edmonton, AB. He has been involved in full-time parish ministry for more than a decade. He is a certified spiritual director as well as a popular speaker, retreat leader, and storyteller. Eric has recently entered into formation for the permanent diaconate. Eric and his wife live with their two dogs in Regina, SK, Canada.

Social media is a part of everyday life. According to the [Pew Research Internet Project](#), 74% of adults who are online report using social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Twitter. More interestingly, the data show that people who use Facebook get more support from their social ties and are half as likely to be socially isolated as the average American. The data also show that social networking sites such as Facebook revive dormant relationships.

In many ways, social networking sites simply copy what Christians have been doing since the beginning: creating networks (communities) where people can connect with one another. The Gospels were first communicated and lived in networks of small

Christian communities. It was within that context that people discovered the risen Lord. The Church became the place where you were known, where your struggles were understood and supported, and, if you were not present, where you were missed.

Most people who have left the Church didn't do so because of grave scandal or differences in ideology. Rather, they gradually drifted away and no one really noticed. There was no social network that kept them connected to the Body of Christ. Small, family-based groups present an opportunity to connect people to the Church, creating a space where Christ is encountered personally, intimately, and consistently.

Catechists can provide an important service by building a "social network" that helps people remain connected to the Church. Here are some tips for building a small, family-based group that will make a difference in people's lives:

- **Hospitality.** Catechists can make sure that every individual and family who walks in the door is acknowledged and made to feel not only welcomed, but that their presence truly matters.
- **Names.** Make sure that everybody knows one another's names. It may take a little bit of effort, but learning people's names is a great way to make people feel welcome. There are a host of games and activities that can be a lot of fun to help families learn everyone's names.
- **Prayer.** Many families may feel they have no one to share serious issues with. Families need a space where they can share their desires, struggles, and fears. Prayers of intercession are a perfect way for families to help one another. Consider inviting families to take a few moments to share their prayer needs with their small groups, and invite everyone to pray for these needs at least once in the coming week.
- **MIAs.** Hospitality requires that we reach out to those who are "missing in action." Check in with families who do not show up and let them know they were missed. Perhaps they are facing a challenge and could use your support and encouragement. Find out what their prayer needs are for the week and tell them that your group will include them in their prayers.

As catechists, our role is not merely to teach, but to facilitate an encounter with Christ. Small family groups provide an excellent opportunity to introduce parents and children to the incarnate Christ who knows our hearts and trials, our joys and challenges and walks with us through it all.

The 21st Century Catholic Evangelization Update

New Blog Articles

www.21stcenturycatholic-evangelization.org/evangelization-blog.

- **Teaching Authentic, Real-Life Faith** - Joyce Donahue
- **Inspiring a Parish Community to Reach Out** - Terri Baldwin

Fall Update

The Fall 2014 Update of the 21st Century Catholic Evangelization website has new articles and resources for 21st Century Catholic Evangelization to assist you in deepening your understanding & practice of evangelization. We have identified the new resources at the beginning of each webpage to make it easier to find them. You will find new research studies in the **Religious Trends** section; new articles in the **Catholic Evangelization** and **Practices & Approaches** sections; new evangelization **Resources**, and new **Leadership Formation** resources.