

EMMISSION

The New Year and Prayer: Yours, Mine and Ours

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Years ago, in the middle of a very relaxed, kitchen conversation about praying amid life's ups and downs, one of my closest friends asked me, "do you really believe in God's agency?" It was the kind of heady, out-of-left-field type of question that you would expect between two friends with the ink still wet on their graduate degrees in theology.

Don't worry. I am not going to try to unpack "God's agency" in these few hundred words. It took the Church a few hundred years, through the early councils of Constantinople, Chalcedon, et al. to wrestle that out.

In fact, I knew that he was really asking a much simpler question. One that we all ask trying to make sense of life's ups and downs, "do you really believe that God hears and answers prayers?"

Yes, I really do believe God hears and answers prayers. Jesus tells me ("whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Mt.21:22), the Church testifies ("If our prayer is resolutely united with that of Jesus, in trust and boldness as children, we obtain all that we ask in his name, even more than any particular thing: the Holy Spirit himself, who contains all gifts." CCC#2741), and I can bear witness to specific times of God's real, tangible presence as I prayed.

And yet, I think there was a second, unspoken dimension to my friend's question, more important than "what's the right answer." He wasn't just looking for an answer to a theological question. He was looking for a fellow pray-er. He seeks, as perhaps we all do, the reassurance of having companions on the journey. The moment when "I believe" becomes "we believe." The realization that when he prays and I pray, we pray.

My hope for this new year is that all of us can embrace in a renewed, passionate way this dimension of prayer – "our" prayer. I would put it this way. As you spend time in prayer – private, liturgical, vocal, silent – take a moment to "look around." Take time to look around, of course physically as we gather as a family at Mass for example, but more, raise your heart and mind to God, be still, and look around and be aware of so many others praying with you and for you.

It is a great grace and a tremendous comfort that, right now, this very moment... someone, somewhere is praying for you! We walk together, serve His people together, and pray together.

As we begin 2019, it is a fitting time to recall the past year and ask for the grace to see and understand how we have been surrounded by the prayers of others. Then we can cast our gaze to the year ahead full of hope and peace resting in the assurance that yes, God hears and answers our prayers.

I am praying for you, your family and friends, and your ministry. Count on it. And, it gets even better. Look around and you will see an entire Church – our family of faith – praying together, for you, for me, for each other right now. - D.J. Florian

Inside This Issue

- 2 [Upcoming Events](#)
- 3 [Faith Formation](#)
- 6 [Worship](#)
- 7 [Youth & Young Adult](#)
- 8 [Family & Marriage](#)
- 9 [Respect Life](#)
- 10 [Hispanic Ministry](#)
- 11 [Prison & Jail Ministry](#)
- 12 [Conferences](#)
- 13 [Formation Opportunities](#)
- 16 [Community Events](#)

upcoming events

January 2019

- 12 “Our Mother’s Love” retreat sponsored by Catholic Committee on Scouting www.grccscouting.org
- 13 **Gifted & Called discernment opportunity** www.grpriests.org
- 17-19 Winter Gathering of Michigan diocesan & parish catechetical leaders, Capuchin Retreat Center
- 17-20 **March for Life**, Washington DC
- 22 **Mass for Life**, Cathedral of Saint Andrew. See [page 9](#) for details

February 2019

- 2 Cherish Marriage Event, Meijer Gardens. cherishmarriage.net
- 2 Souperbowl of Caring. www.souperbowl.org
- 9 **Catechist Formation Day, CSq.**
- 17 **Diocesan Scout Mass**, Cathedral of Saint Andrew www.grccscouting.org

March 2019

- 1-3 Retrouvaille healing weekend. helpourmarriage.org
- 7 Deadline for submissions to the [National Multimedia Youth Art Contest](#). See [page 7](#) for details.
- 9 KEPHA Men’s Conference, West Catholic High School. www.buildingalegacy.org
- 15-17 Marriage Encounter retreat weekend, DeWitt. www.wwme.org
- 16 **Diocesan Women’s Conference**. See [page 12](#) for details.
- 16 Shine Youth Rally, West Catholic High School. See [page 12](#) for details.
- 22-24 Rachel’s Vineyard retreat. www.rachelsvineyard.org

*Items in bold text are diocesan sponsored. CSq. denotes Cathedral Square Center.
Underlined text is a hyperlink to further details.*



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Frequently Asked Questions

The use of the *Roman Ritual*, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA, 1988 United States edition) is mandatory for the initiation of adults and children of catechetical age. *The National Statutes for the Catechumenate* (NSC) are to be observed (See RCIA, Appendix III).

Where pastorally necessary, a local (inter-parish) form of catechetical sessions during the catechumenate may be observed; however, in such cases, each parish should take responsibility for the welcome and pastoral care of members and the celebration of the rites for its community.

The ministry of the catechumenate is concerned with welcoming people to the sacraments of initiation. It should be kept distinct from parish efforts for reconciling the alienated and for continuing adult enrichment.

For whom is this Rite intended?

The Rite is intended for unbaptized adults and children of catechetical age (over the age of reason).

For whom can the Rite be adapted?

Some of the Rite can be adapted for uncatechized, baptized Christians preparing for full communion with the Catholic Church. The emphasis is on “uncatechized.” The understanding is that these persons were baptized as infants yet never brought up in the faith of their baptism.

Catechesis for baptized candidates should help them come to know and appreciate the grace and power of God that already lives within them through their baptism. Their journey with us is one to full communion not to baptism. (RCIA, Part 11, Chapter 4)

Some of the Rite may also be adapted for baptized, uncatechized Catholics who are seeking to complete their initiation by the celebration of confirmation and first Eucharist. Once again, the emphasis is on

“uncatechized”. These persons were baptized as infants, but never brought up in the faith and thus never received confirmation and first Communion.

Can baptized Catholics who have received first Communion and confirmation and are returning to the Church be a part of the RCIA process?

No. The journey of persons returning to the church is not a journey to baptism. It is a journey to reconciliation. Their experiences of the Church, their questions, and their pastoral needs are different from those of catechumens and candidates and require a different pastoral response on the part of the Church. Programs are available to help parishes work with returning Catholics.

Can baptized Catholics who have received first Communion, but have not received confirmation be a part of the RCIA process?

No. It is proper for a parish to prepare these adults for confirmation and then send them to the cathedral. The Bishop has reserved for himself all adult confirmations (over 18 years of age).

Can unbaptized catechumens and baptized candidates participate in the same catechetical instruction classes?

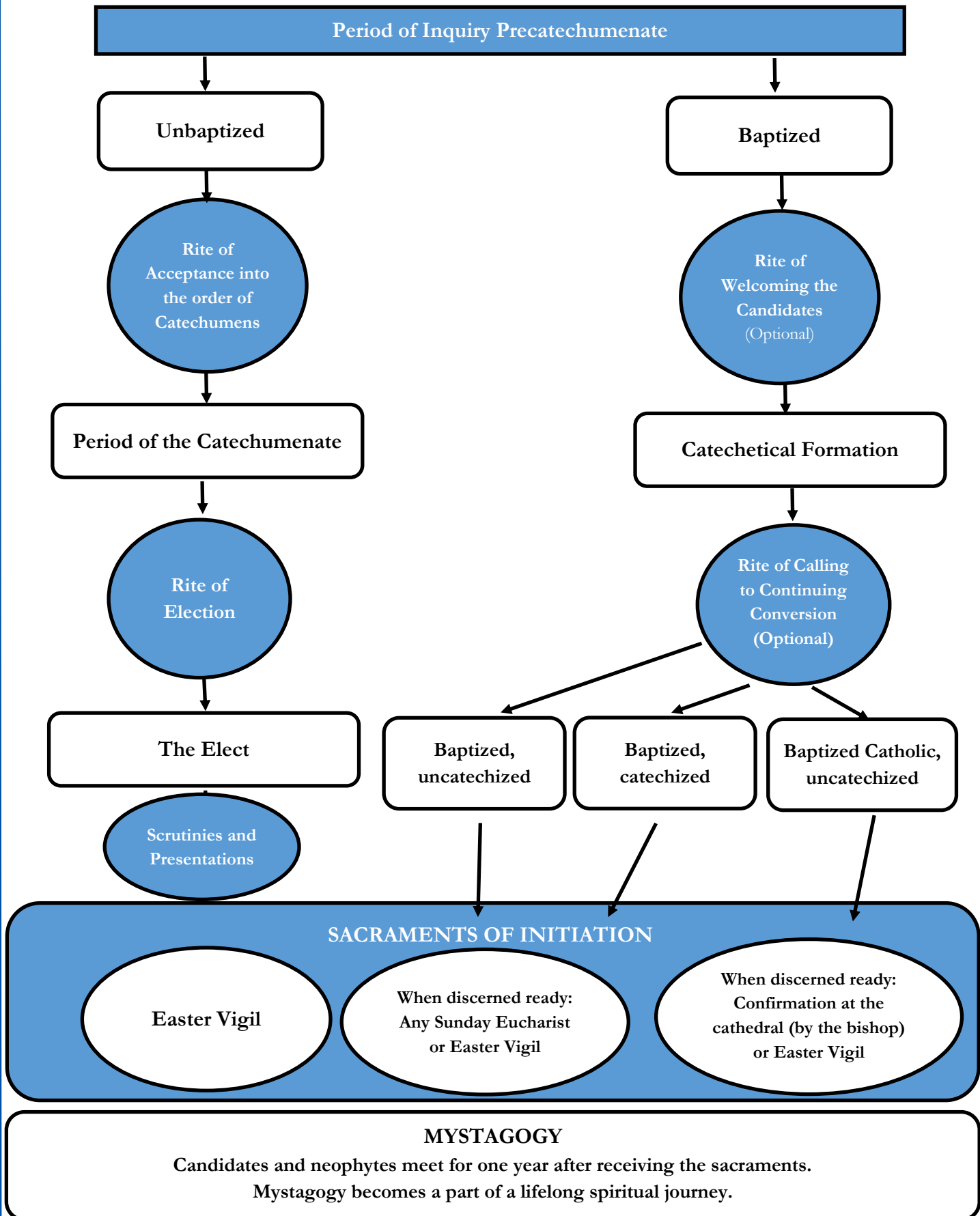
Yes, they may. However, it may require additional explanations due to the difference in prior knowledge. In many of our parishes the unbaptized catechumens and the baptized candidates meet.

How long does the process take?

The *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* state that the time spent in the catechumenate proper should be at least one liturgical year. This is so catechumens can experience the elements of one full liturgical year, which is necessary for complete catechesis, and have enough time to apprentice into the community faith and life. (RCIA, 75) Please keep in mind, the process takes as long as is necessary for each individual person to come to conversion.

faith formation

MODEL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



faith formation

National Catechetical Conference

May 20-23

Registration is open to attend the 83rd annual National Conference for Catechetical Leaders. Join members of NCCL, NALM, and FCH in Garden Grove, CA. With four days of intentional focus on the themes of *Longing, Nurturing, Preparing and Commissioned* participants will come away with confidence in leadership, a broader and deeper network, and a revitalization of their ministry.

Special early bird pricing - \$325 - is available until January 15. For detailed information and to register, go to nccl.org/product/2019conference/



Leadership in the Twenty First Century

An excerpt from the Effective Catechetical Leader series, *Catechetical Leadership* by Adrián Alberto Herrera

Catechetical ministry requires a certain level of professionalism that models the style of servant leadership Jesus exudes in the Gospels. Most important, catechetical ministry is not just a job or a profession in the strict sense of the word. Rather, by virtue of the sacrament of baptism, is a sacred calling, a gift from God, who has invited you into this venture of forming disciples for Christ. Therefore, certain competencies, pastoral skills, and abilities are needed to ensure that you become an effective catechetical leader as God desires so that you can empower others to serve and lead as Jesus did.

For reflection:

How do I show professionalism in my catechetical leadership? How am I seeking to grow in my professionalism? Who or what can help me in this area? How do I demonstrate appreciation of and gratitude for my catechists?

For consideration:

The National Conference for Catechetical Leaders (NCCL); the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM); the Federation for Catechesis with Hispanics (FCH); and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) offer opportunities that can enhance your level of professionalism through networking, best practices, and published resources.

For more information on the series go to loyolapress.com/ECL.

Catechist Formation Day

February 9

The Office of Catechesis is offering an opportunity for Catechist Formation at the Cathedral Square Center on Saturday, February 9, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. This will be a great opportunity for you to accompany your catechists on their journey of formation!

The day will cover topics such as:

- Spirituality and Vocation of the Catechist
- Catholics and Scripture – What is the Good News?
- What Catholics Believe – How we enter the Paschal Mystery every day.
- Methodology for the age you catechize - adult, youth, or child – how to develop a lesson on a hard/hot topic.

Our presenter is Barbara Scott, OFS. Barb is a retired theology teacher and campus minister from Grand Rapids Catholic Central. Previously, she was the director of faith formation at St. John Vianney Parish. Barbara has earned a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University and is a Master Catechist through the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Upon completion of attending the catechetical formation day and home assignment, parish catechists may be awarded Diocese of Grand Rapids basic catechist level one certification. Catechists who are already certified or catholic school teachers may apply hours toward their next level of certification.

Cost for the day is \$20. Please register by February 1 by contacting Marianne Verner at (616) 246-0588 or mverner@dioceseofgrandrapids.org.



Lessons from Valentine

Don't go to Mass on Valentine's Day expecting to hear of love and marriage or even St. Valentine. February 14 has new honorees: SS. Cyril and Methodius. Perhaps "new" is misleading, since this changed in 1969. Yet Rome singled out its hometown martyr Valentine for 1500 years, so the switch hasn't widely registered even 50 years later. Why would Rome displace Valentine? The answers pertain to more than just his feast day.

Some say the Church became embarrassed by saints whose existence is doubtful, revoking the sainthood of those without reliable historical records (and whose unreliable records were most miraculous). This is not *completely* mistaken. Some saints' life-stories were written more as narrative faith formation than as history and downgrading their prominence can avert misunderstanding. However, quite importantly, the Church eliminated feast days, not the saints themselves! Americans doubt that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree; they don't doubt his very existence. Similarly, we may be less certain than before about Valentine's miracles and manner of death, but the *Roman Martyrology*, an official catalog of saints, still records the death "of St. Valentine, martyr, in Rome on the Flaminian Way near the Milvian Bridge." Other "downgraded" saints have similarly terse entries.

If they remain saints, why remove their feasts? Because the Lord does not extend the year each time he raises up a new saint. The *Martyrology* organizes saints according to calendar day, and for every saint assigned liturgical commemoration there are multiple entries not receiving the honor (including a second Saint Valentine on February 14!). A few criteria guide these choices. First, not every day can honor saints. We also need space to reflect on *Christ's* life. Overabundant saints' days should

not threaten to overshadow Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter. Having reserved room for those seasons, the Church determines who, among the cloud of witnesses, is most important to recall. To whom are Catholics most devoted? Whose holiness is most famed or provides a most timely example?

These answers vary by region, so the Church mandates some feasts for the whole world *and* leaves days free for nations or dioceses to honor saints cherished locally. Answers also vary from age to age, requiring periodic reconsideration. Is devotion to the Forty Martyrs as fervent as long ago? Should ancient feasts give way to show the modern Church's more global face? Should saints shrouded in mystery outshine those known in great detail? That last point counted against Valentine, especially when card- and candy givers had often forgotten the saint himself. On the bright side, the same dynamic that let Valentine fade from view made room for Therese of Lisieux and Maximilian Kolbe to take the world stage, just as it allowed Americans to celebrate Elizabeth Ann Seton and others of our nation's own. The calendar will, eventually, be updated again. If you truly love Valentine, take heart; he might return by popular demand. But if he doesn't, will you be my Cyril and Methodius?

youth & young adult ministry

Young Adult Leadership Institute Enrollment Open for 2019 Cohort

In collaboration with the Catholic Information Center (CIC), the diocesan Office for Family, Youth and Young Adult ministries will again be offering an interactive formation experience for young adults in their 20-30's who aspire to leadership.

The Young Adult Leadership Institute provides the opportunity, through the lens of the Gospel, to (1) identify (or re-affirm) strengths and gifts, (2) build a broader vision of the call to missionary discipleship, and (3) provide a community of practice.

The overall focus of the curriculum is to foster engagement in Church and the local community; an engagement guided by Church teaching and driven by Gospel values.

One of the starting points is the pastoral letter *Called and Gifted* for the Third Millennium in which U.S. Bishops articulate four calls - to holiness, to community, to mission and ministry, and to adulthood/Christian maturity. The other starting point has been young adults

themselves. A program team of young adults, together with staff, are planning this year's program.

Participants in the Leadership Institute explore and develop a variety of leadership skills including conflict resolution, dialogue, collaboration, intercultural competencies, discernment, and prayer.

The five month program begins and ends with a retreat and will include monthly formation and opportunities to network and socialize with other Catholic leaders in the west Michigan area.

Further information is available at www.catholicinformationcenter.org/leadership.

If you have questions, please contact Mark Mann at (616) 475-1243 or Father Rene Constanza, CSP at (616) 459-7267.

A Time to Heal Racism Multimedia Youth Arts Contest

Each year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers *Creating on the Margins* – a multi-media art contest to help engage young people in learning about the root causes of poverty and the Church's response.

The 2019 contest theme is "A Time to Heal Racism".

Youth in grades 7-12 learn about poverty in the U.S., its causes, Catholic social teaching, and the work of Catholic groups to address poverty. Youth will then work to educate others through creative work of any medium (e.g. video, song, painting, drama, poetry, etc.).

The entries will be judged locally and the top entries will receive a local prize and be sent to the national contest for the final round of judging. The grand prize winner receives \$500 plus a matching grant for a

CCHD funded anti-poverty organization and a trip to a national conference. Second and third place prizes may also be awarded. Last year's national winner, Lana Chalfoun, was from the Diocese of Grand Rapids!

The *Creating on the Margins* contest is sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic, anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic bishops.

Questions may be directed to Maggie Walsh by email mwalsh@ccwestmi.org.

Local entries are due by March 7, 2019. Further details are available at www.usccb.org/youthcontest.

family & marriage ministry

Fortaleciendo Familias en la Fe - Strong Catholic Families National Training | Saturday, February 23

The diocese will be hosting national trainer Katherine Angulo to introduce *Fortaleciendo Familias en la Fe* (FFF). Part of the *Strong Catholic Families* initiative, FFF has been designed for Spanish speaking households.

The training will also include the opportunity for parish leaders that primarily serve English speaking communities to learn about the *Strong Catholic Families* initiative and the possibility of starting the process in your parish.

Parent Session (Part I) | 9 - 11 a.m.

Parents will be introduced to practical ways of living their faith as a family; and parish staff and pastors will



be able to experience the program to be replicated in a parish or school setting. The Parent Session will be offered in Spanish, with instantaneous translation available in English.

Parish & School Leaders (Part II) | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Training for parish and school leaders to critically examine the current systems of faith formation, while highlighting a strategic process for fostering an engaged partnership with parents in living and sharing the Catholic faith at home. The Leader Session will be offered in both Spanish and English, and will include lunch.

To register, contact Mariza Mandujano at mmandujano@dioceseofgrandrapids.org.

If you have questions, please contact Mark Mann at (616) 475-1243.

World Marriage Day/National Marriage Week

The annual World Marriage Day will be observed on February 10 this year and National Marriage Week USA is February 7-14. This is an annual opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

World Marriage Day is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. In 1993, Pope St. John Paul II imparted his apostolic blessing on World Marriage Day. For more resources including sample prayer intentions, a Holy Hour prayer service, renewal of vows ceremony and printable prayer cards, visit: wmd.wwme.org.

National Marriage Week USA, launched in 2010, is part of an international event seeking to mobilize individuals, organizations, and businesses in a common

purpose to strengthen marriage in communities and influence the culture. It promotes marriage as a social and cultural benefit leading to greater wealth, health, longevity and happiness. For information and resources, visit: nationalmarriageweekusa.org.

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty. Lastly, during National Marriage Week, parishes are asked to consider promoting Friday, February 8 as a day of prayer and sacrifice for this intention: "May all married couples and all in need of healing rely on God for their strength." More about the Call to Prayer is available at usccb.org/pray.

Other helpful resources can also be found at www.foryourmarriage.org and www.portumatrimonio.org

Upcoming Events and Programs

Click on the dates
for more information

2

FEBRUARY

Cherish
Marriage

1

MARCH

Retrouvaille
Weekend

15

MARCH

Marriage
Encounter

22

MARCH

Rachel's Vineyard
Retreat Weekend

respect life



Mass for Life | January 22

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, our nation will mark the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion in our country.

Bishop Walkowiak encourages all people of the diocese to observe that day as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Join him for Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, January 22 at 7 p.m. to reaffirm our commitment to the Gospel of life and to the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. All are welcome.

Clergy have received an email from the Office of Respect Life Ministry inviting them to concelebrate that evening.

Educational and resource materials are available from the US Bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities to assist parishes in observing the day at www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/.



Nine Days for Life

Since the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision 46 years ago, more than 58 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, and the lives of millions of parents have been

shattered. In prayerful recognition of these lost and broken lives, the U.S. Bishops invite Catholics and others nationwide to participate in nine days of prayer, penance and pilgrimage (Jan. 14-22).

Visit www.9daysforlife.com for details or to receive the daily novena in English and Spanish each day by email, text or through their app.

Traveling to Washington for the March for Life?

Join other members of the Diocese of Grand Rapids at the 5:15 p.m. Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, January 19.

For more information regarding Respect Life, contact Afton Baker at 616-288-0908.





(L to R) Miriam Limón Castro, Roberto O'Farrill Corona, and Monsignor Diego Monroy Ponce presenting the Mission: River of Love during the weeklong celebrations for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Guadalupe Mission: River of Love

From December 8 to 12, three special guests from Mexico City were in our diocese to do a series of presentations on the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

- Monsignor Diego Monroy Ponce, who has served as the rector of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City
- Roberto O'Farrill Corona, well known international presenter on the Catholic faith
- Miriam Limón Castro, expert iconographer of the Guadalupe image.

The Guadalupe Mission had an evangelizing and catechetical purpose: to help many of the Catholic faithful in the diocese understand in more depth the true message that many of Mexico's indigenous people discovered in the tilma of San Juan Diego.



In this tilma, Our Lady of Guadalupe printed her own image as proof for the Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, confirming her appearances to Juan Diego and of her desire for a church to be built in her honor. In this church, she would look with a compassionate gaze and listen to the troubles, miseries and sufferings of all people who would be looking for loving protection.

This event has undoubtedly marked a real collaboration between the Hispanic parishes and pastors of the Diocese of Grand Rapids. We are especially grateful to Hilda Xóchitl Reynoso for her volunteer work throughout this mission and coordinating several of the efforts and to Father Luis García for his unconditional support in planning this event.

prison & jail ministry

Returning Citizens to Our World

Prison and Jail Ministry offered a training for Guiding Returning Citizens to Our World (GROW) volunteers on Tuesday, November 13. GROW is an outreach ministry of the Diocese of Grand Rapids for those returning from incarceration. The training was facilitated by program director, Tricia Worrell and Officer Dan Myers, prisoner re-entry/parole liaison officer for GRPD.

Trained GROW volunteers will now welcome returning citizens to their parish communities as needed. They will welcome them by accompanying them to Mass, providing information on appropriate opportunities to become involved in their parish and introduce them to the pastor and parish staff. This outreach effort is important because many men and women being released are looking for a welcoming faith community, but do not know how to begin this process. GROW helps guide people returning from incarceration to a church home and helps meet their spiritual needs.

In addition to guiding returned citizens to a church home, GROW also helps educate parish communities through a panel discussion titled, "Why Welcome All?" This Panel travels to various parishes to educate their community on re-entry. This panel includes a returned citizen, a prison reentry and parole liaison officer and the coordinator for Offenders Success for the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Upcoming Panel discussions:

- Monday, January 14 at 6:30 pm St. Francis de Sales, Norton Shores
- Thursday, January 24 at 6:30 pm St. Mary Magdalen, Kentwood.

Contact the Prison and Jail Ministry office to learn more about starting GROW at your parish by calling (616) 475-1255.

2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Monday, February 11

The Prison and Jail Ministry office will host the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Monday, February 11 at Cathedral Square Center.

Fr. Joachim Lally CSP, program volunteer since 2010, will be the guest speaker. Fr. Lally will speak on the Spirituality of the Mission.



Christmas Drive 2018

Our annual Christmas Drive was once again, extremely successful. We are grateful for the 22 parishes who participated in this drive and helped to collect over 2,500 socks, thousands of travel size toiletries and hundreds of reading glasses. In addition to those items, we received numerous monetary donations which helped purchase Rice Krispy treats, candy canes, rosaries, bookmarks and pencils. During the second week of Advent, we sorted, packaged and distributed these items to six county jails, three juvenile detention centers and six prisons.

We delivered 142 bags to our juvenile detention centers containing bookmarks, candy canes, pencils and numerous travel size hygiene items. In addition, we delivered 205 gift bags to those attending Catholic services in our prisons. These bags included small prayer books, bookmarks, rosaries and rosary pamphlets. In addition, we delivered 2,500 socks and 2,560 Rice Krispy treats to our county jails. Throughout this next year, we will continue to supply our county jails with reading glasses and toiletries as needed.

upcoming conferences

2019 Diocesan Women's Conference

All women, ages 18 and up, are invited to attend the annual diocesan Women's Conference. The conference will be held on **Saturday, March 16**, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Belmont.

The conference cost is \$30 and includes morning hospitality and lunch.

Featured speaker: Colleen Mitchell is a wife, bringer-upper of boys, Gospel adventurer, wannabe saint, author and speaker. She is the author of the award winning *Who Does He Say You Are: Women Transformed by Christ in the Gospels*. Her latest adventure has taken her from the jungle of Costa Rica where she



and her family served as missionaries for six years, to the wilds of a sixth-grade classroom in Indiana, where she is still living her mission to give everyone she meets just a little Jesus.

Visit the Franciscan Media website to hear from conference speaker Colleen Mitchell on "Reflecting the Love of Christ": blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/we-reflect-the-love-of-christ.

Please assist the diocesan office in extending the invitation to attend this conference. Promotional materials and registration information have been sent to parishes.

Registration for the conference is open and available online at www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org.



Catholic Men's Conference March 9

Sponsored by KEPHA, the 14th Annual *Building A Legacy* Catholic Men's Conference is taking place at West Catholic High School on **March 9**, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Speakers this year include:

- Elvis Grbac, record-setting Michigan football quarterback, Super Bowl XXIX Champion, Pro Bowl quarterback and motivational speaker.

- Matt Fradd, prolific author and speaker who rallies men to live boldly and purely in our time.
- Matthew Leonard, Catholic author, speaker, vice president & executive producer at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

The day includes Mass celebrated by Bishop David Walkowiak.

Early registration ends February 22nd and space is limited.

For more information, contact Deacon Jim Thorndill at (616) 292-0422 or go to www.buildingalegacy.org.

Shine! Middle School Rally Saturday, March 16

This diocesan-wide middle school rally is **March 16**, 1-8 p.m. at West Catholic High School (1801 Bristol NW in Grand Rapids).

This year's rally features keynote John MacMullen and music ministry provided by the John Trabbic Band.

Early bird registration through February 6.

Information packets and additional information are available online at shinerally.wordpress.com.

Questions? Contact: admin@shineyouthrally.com.

formation opportunities



Here are highlights of upcoming programs. For a full list of the offerings this season or to register online, go to catholicinformationcenter.org.

Freedom to Love: A Gospel Guide to Moral Decision-Making

Tuesdays, January 15 & 22 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.
with John Graveline, Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation
\$10 donation requested | live streamed

Encore Institute: Sharing Wisdom and Spirituality after 55

Music, Memory and Alzheimer's Disease
Tuesday, January 15 | 10 - 11:30 a.m.
with music therapist Emily Smith
Cost: \$15, includes lunch | Registration required

Engaging Contemporary Prophetic Art

Thursday, January 24 | 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
with artist John August Swanson
\$10 donation requested

Special Guest Speaker:

Father Mark-David Janus, CSP Your One Wild and Precious Life

Monday, January 28 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.
with Fr. Mark-David Janus, CSP, PhD
\$10 donation requested | Please preregister

Encore Institute:

Sharing Wisdom and Spirituality after 55 Heaven and the Afterlife

Wednesday, February 6 | 10 - 11:30 a.m.
with Sister Mary Kay Oosdyke, OP
Cost: \$15, includes lunch | Registration required
This event will be live streamed

Holy Brew for 20s and 30s

Discussions on the Holy Spirit

Thursday, February 7 | 6:30 - 8 p.m.
with Father René Constanza, CSP,
Father Michael Hennessy, CSP,
Sister Maria Serra Garcia, FSE
Please preregister | 7 Monks Taproom
A Spiritual Journey through Central America
Wednesday, February 13 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.
with Father Bill Edens, CSP
\$10 donation requested

El ciclo C y el evangelio de San Lucas

Miércoles, 9 y 16 de enero | 7 a 8:30 de la noche
Facilitada por el Padre Luis Garcia

De aquí y de allá: Navegando do Mundos

Martes, 19 de febrero | 7 a 8:30 de la noche
Facilitada por el Padre René Constanza, CSP



Lakeshore Academy for the New Evangelization

Winter Intensives and Spring Classes

Three-week winter intensives begin the week of January 7:

- Introduction to Pilgrimage
- Introduction to the Bible
- Treasures of the Mass
- Who Is the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Seven-week spring classes begin the week of February 4:

- The New Testament Story
- Catholic Liturgy and Worship
- 7 Sacraments, 7 Priests, 7 Weeks

You can sign up for intensives and classes at lanecatholic.org or in person on the first class night.

LANE is a school of adult discipleship that proclaims the Gospel to all people and empowers our regional Catholic community to live out Christ's mission. Classes focus on five major themes of the Catholic faith: Bible, Doctrine, Prayer and Liturgy, Social Teaching, and Pilgrimage. The LANE Leadership Series hosts dynamic speakers from West Michigan and beyond. Classes and speakers are hosted at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Holland.

formation opportunities

Contemplation

Contemplation Formation Series for Women

A spiritual formation series for women serving in paid staff positions in Catholic parishes of the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Using a model of contemplative prayer and listening, Contemplation takes its inspiration from the USCCB document *Co-Workers in the Vineyard* and the writings of Edith Stein and Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

Spend time contemplating, through the Holy Spirit, your unique wisdom that is being called forth to serve the gathered community of women and to deepen your ministry.

Meditate and reflect on the wisdom of Catholic women who have echoed courage, strength, wisdom and humility throughout history.

You will experience:

- A Christ centered community of women
- Listening to God from the heart
- Recognizing an interior movement of the Spirit
- Being present in the moment
- Serving with joy from within

The series will take place from 1- 3 p.m. on the third Tuesdays of the month: March 19, April 16, and May 21; and

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on the third Thursdays of the month: March 21, April 18, and May 23 at the Dominican Center at Marywood. Participants choose one day of the month to attend.

Diocesan Catechist Certification hours: 2 in Spirituality per session (6 total)

Facilitator: Cami Mann, OFS, BA, Spiritual Director

Cost: \$125 for three session series or \$50 if paying at time of each session

Register by calling or texting Cami at (616) 450-1897 or email cmann1897@gmail.com.

Join the Virtual Learning Community at University of Dayton

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is an internet distance-learning program offered in partnership with the diocese. Anyone in our diocese can take a VLCFF course. Cost is \$50/five-week course and \$30/three-week seminar.

Registration for Cycle 2 opens January 23 through March 6. The full list of all courses offered is available at vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/#cycle_2_2019_English.

La lista de cursos ofrecidos en español para lo ciclo 1 aparecen en la página web; clic en la esquina superior derecha, “en Español”.

For more information, go to: vlcff.udayton.edu





Aquinas College continues to partner with the Diocese to offer those associated with the Diocese extraordinary reductions off normal tuition rates.

There are three ways adults (generally 23 and over) who are associated with the Diocese can access a 50% tuition reduction.

The Donnelly Scholarship - for part-time and full-time parish, school and Diocesan employees - provides a 50% tuition scholarship for any number of classes at the undergraduate or graduate level.

- To earn a degree or take any number of classes for personal or professional development.
- Once received, it can be used for up to seven years or until graduation, whichever occurs sooner, as long as one remains an employee.
- In the last number of years, over 40 employees received over \$101,000.00 in tuition assistance through this scholarship program.
- Applications for those working in the schools are available in the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools. Those who work in parishes and Diocesan employees can contact Sr. Barbara Cline, FSE at (616) 551-4742.

The Certificate in Theological Studies

All students in the Theological Certificate program receive a fee waiver of 50% for a limited time as an encouragement for enrollment in this six-course program.

- The Certificate was designed over 15 years ago at the request of the Diocese and is for lay people engaged in ministry and those who want to further their theological education and deepen their understanding of the Faith.
- The six courses in Theological Studies meet the credit requirements for "Master Catechist" certification by the Diocese.
- Information, including the brochure, course information, application and more, is available at aquinas.edu/theology.

Diocesan Parish Volunteer Program

Church personnel who are volunteers may apply to receive a 50% tuition scholarship to take Theology courses.

- This program encourages parish volunteers to continue to grow in their faith and share their education with fellow parishioners.
- Information is available by calling Aquinas at (616)632-2871.

Program of Study

Aquinas currently offers the following programs for Continuing Education (This is the name of Aquinas' undergraduate program for adults.)

There are over 60 areas of study offered *during the day*.

Majors offered in the *evening* format include:

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Psychology
- Theology

We also offer two dual majors - Accounting/Business Administration and Business Administration/Communication.

The Preparing Racially-Diverse Educators (PREP) program is now available.

- Tuition and books are fully-funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- The Donnelly Scholarship is not applicable due to the 100% funding by the Foundation.
- Further details about this relatively new program are available at <https://www.aquinas.edu/education/preparing-racially-diverse-educators-program-prep>

Aquinas also offers graduate-level programs:

- Master of Management
- Master in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (with an optional pastoral counseling concentration)
- Master in the Art of Teaching
- Master in Education with Initial Secondary Certification

Further information about Aquinas' programs is available at www.aquinas.edu/admissions and at www.aquinas.edu/academics.

community events

There is a new Adults Singles ministry in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, **St. Raphael's Singles!** - a friendship and fellowship group for adults age 40+ who are divorced, widowed, or have never been married. The first meeting will be at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on January 18, 7-9 p.m. There will be more information about the group and time for cards, games and conversation. Light refreshments will be provided. Contact group leaders at straphaelssingles1@gmail.com for directions, location and news of future events. RSVPs are appreciated but not required.

January
18

January
24

The annual **St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture** will be held January 24 at 7 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom at Aquinas College. The speaker is Rev. Thomas McDermott, OP, who will be speaking on St. Catherine of Siena.

Soup's on for All! Monday, January 28 at the B.O.B. located on 20 Monroe Avenue., NW, Enjoy warm soup, live entertainment and a chance to help feed the hungry. This event raises more than \$100,000 annually for the food and pantry programs of God's Kitchen. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Guests can visit each of the five floors to sample soups, breads and desserts donated by area restaurants. Each guest receives a hand-painted bowl, a reminder of the hunger that is a reality every day in our community. Tickets are \$50 in advance, or \$60 at the door. To purchase tickets, visit soupsonforall.org.

January
28

February
22-23

Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference at Our Lady of Consolation in Rockford. This conference presents the Five Keys to spiritual freedom as taught by Neal Lozano in Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance. Participants not only receive teaching on each of the Five Keys to freedom, but also have the opportunity to pray through each one. Live Free! Go to register at: olcparishrockford.com/unbound the cost is \$35 before February 1 and \$55 at the door. Free for clergy and religious. Co-sponsored by St. Stephen Parish.

REBOOT! With Chris Stefanick Wednesday, February 27, 7-9:30 p.m. Learn how to apply the Gospel to your life - in practical, livable ways. This regional event will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 6390 Belmont Ave. NE. Cost: \$22. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Jackie at (616) 361-5126, ext. 210 or visit assumptionbvm.com.

February
27

March
21-23

St. Gerard parish in Lansing is hosting **Cross & Light**, an international critically acclaimed musical and multi-sensory experience of Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, for six performances running March 21-23. This is the only Broadway caliber show of Christ's Passion to Pentecost in the Catholic Church today! It is not only theologically approved; it has a proven track record of changing lives! Group Tickets are discounted 10% for 20 or more people crossandlight.com/stgerard. (Regular ticket price is \$25)



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS
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Grand Rapids, MI 49503 - 4501
www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org

The Envision is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Office of Pastoral Services in the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Articles are accepted for submission on the 15th of the month prior to printing date.

For more information, call (616) 243-0491 or email pastoralservices@dioceseofgrandrapids.org



Click on the image to learn more

National Migration Week | January 6-12

Good and gracious God,
We pray for all people who are migrating particularly those who are forced from their homes or separated from their families because of threats of violence and persecution. We ask that you protect and keep them safe.

Although we come from different countries, and have our origins in different cultures, we were all created by you, and are made in your image, and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity that is deserving of respect.

Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable, and to welcome those who are on the move into our homes and into our hearts.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.