

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## March

18

Youth Rally, Cathedral,  
Superior

21-22

Life In The Spirit, Marathon  
22

Family Synod Presentation,  
Dobie

23

Principal Meeting, Rice Lake  
24

Chrism Mass, Cathedral,  
Superior

## April

2-4

Holy Triduum

5

Easter Sunday

8

Catholics at the Capitol,  
Madison

10-11

School of Servant  
Leadership, Tony

16

PCL Skype Discussions

23

Professional Development  
Day, Hayward

24-26

High School Discipleship U,  
Crosswoods, Mason

28

Principal Meeting,  
Spooner

30

Principal Meeting,  
Rhineland

## May

14

PCLeadership Day, Tony

## June

7-12

Extreme Faith Camp,  
Rhineland & Mason

12 - August 15

Totus Tuus in Diocesan  
Parishes

  
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR  
Bishop Hammes Center  
315 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Haugen, WI 54841  
715-234-5044

The Catechetical Leader



March 2015

*Just remaining quietly in the presence of God,  
listening to Him, being attentive to Him,  
requires a lot of courage and know-how.*

Thomas Merton



## PARISH CATECHETICAL LEADER SKYPE DISCUSSION NOTES

March 12, 2014

[The document can be found as an attachment to this email.](#)

Next PCL Skype Discussion scheduled for April 16, 2015  
10:00am OR 1:00pm—Register with [mward@catholicdos.org](mailto:mward@catholicdos.org)

## Successful Adult Formation Beyond Bible Study



All parish Catechetical Leaders and others who work with Adult Formation Ministry in the parish are invited to learn more about effective ways to minister to adults. Janet Schaeffler, OP, a national known adult formation speaker and co-author of the leader guide for “Our Hearts Were Burning

Within Us” will be at [St. Anthony Parish in Tony on May 14, 2015](#) to present Successful Adult Formation Beyond Bible Study. She will give us tricks and advice to help us disciple adults within our parish. This event is co-sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor. Katy Maier our representative will be present with samples of formation materials.

[Please see the flyer attached to this email: May 14, 2015 Flyer](#)



**Loyola Press** is pleased to announce a groundbreaking new curriculum designed to help children with autism and other special needs experience their Catholic faith. In keeping with the Holy Father's call for a Church that "knows how to open her arms and welcome everyone," the **Adaptive Finding God Program**—the first complete faith formation curriculum adapted for children with special needs—makes Catholic faith formation available to all children.

The **Adaptive Finding God Program** developed in consultation with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, builds on the proven success of Loyola Press's established Finding God curriculum for grades 1–8, which integrates the themes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church with Scripture, Catholic social teaching, and prayer. Finding God presents the authentic teachings of the Catholic faith in a systematic way that broadens and deepens the children's knowledge of their faith. Adaptive Finding God presents those same teachings distilled in their clearest form, one idea at a time, and presented in creative ways that children with cognitive and other disabilities can learn and take to heart.

- The Order of Mass Floor Puzzle
- Steps to the Eucharist Movement Mats
- Jesus the Teacher Plush Figure
- Family Stick Puppets and Biblical Stick Puppets
- Praying the Rosary Concept Kit

Other tools include foam puzzles; flip books on the Stations of the Cross and the Lord's Prayer; picture cards of saints, good choices/bad choices, and sacramentals; Hail Mary accordion book; instructional cards, storybooks, and a music CD with songs in a range of musical styles.

**Adaptive Finding God** is available for purchase from Loyola Press. Visit [FindingGod.com/Adaptive](http://FindingGod.com/Adaptive) or call 1-800-621-1008 to order. Please feel free to call with any questions you have about **Adaptive Finding God**.



## Reminder: Family Synod Presentation

March 22, 2015

### How Pope Francis Changed Our Life And How He Can Change Yours

Jeff and Alice Heinzen were the only lay couple from the United States to serve as auditors at the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family last October.

**For further insight, see documents  
by Jeff & Alice Heinzen: attached to this email  
Heinzen Synod Testimony and  
November 2014 OSV article**

1:30—3:00 PM  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Dobie

"Love one another as  
I have loved you."



ENCOUNTER is May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> in St. Louis, MO at the St. Charles Convention Center. This is a young adult conference. Individual and group registrations are both available.

<http://encounterstl.com/>

Last year, over five hundred young adults from all over the country came to the Encounter Conference seeking to encounter Christ – and each other! Sign up now!

Join young adults from all over the country at...

# ENCOUNTER

STEUBENVILLE YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

**Register now and save!**

**Early bird deadline - March 18**

Registrations starting at \$115

May 29-31 St. Louis, MO

Chris Stefanick, Matt Fradd, Katie Hartfiel, Mary Bielski, Fr. Mike Schmitz & Josh Blakesley

## Theology On Tap Spring Series

Hosted by the Duluth-Superior Young Adults

### March 19th

7:00 PM Drinks, followed by a presentation on:

"Fatherhood" – Fr. Anthony Craig

Dubh Linns Pub

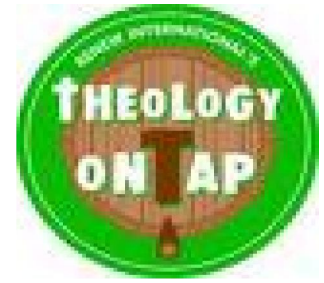
109 W. Superior St., Duluth

### March 26th

7:00 PM Drinks, followed by:

"Grill The Priest"

1419 St. Benedict St., Duluth



This night will be priest panel open for questions from the crowd.  
Come prepared with questions, or just to listen!

## PRAYING, CREATING, SINGING & PLAYING



Our goal at our **Minnesota** God is Good VBS is to help parishes teach children about their rich Catholic faith and to envelop them in Sacred Scripture during vacation bible school in a fun and engaging manner. We invite you to join parishes through out the nation who evangelize and Catechize using our **Imprimatur** approved curricula! For more information or to order today go to [www.godisgoodvbs.com](http://www.godisgoodvbs.com) or call us at 952-290-0483

WHEN YOU PURCHASE AMAZING APOSTLES' CREED  
OR  
JESSE TREE JOURNEY DIRECTOR'S KITS  
YOU RECEIVE (in a sturdy, decorative plastic container):

- ❖ Director's Guide containing planning and preparation steps and assembly lessons
- ❖ Dance DVD, Audio CD
- ❖ Director's Flash Drive containing everything leaders need to enhance their VBS week
- ❖ Art, Game, Prayer, Snack and Role Play Guides
- ❖ Prayer Handout
- ❖ Posters
- ❖ Order forms for Tees and CDs

"THANK YOU FOR THIS CATHOLIC PROGRAM. I WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT AMAZING APOSTLES' CREED VBS. IT WENT VERY WELL AND THE CHILDREN REALLY ENJOYED IT." ~Deb, DRE, North Dakota

***"God is Good, All the Time" at our Catholic Vacation Bible Schools.***



**May 14, 2015**

**9:30 AM — 4:00 PM**

# Successful Adult Formation Beyond Bible Study

For Parish Catechetical Leaders and Others who  
Minister to Adult Formation



**Janet Schaeffler, O.P.** is a Dominican Sister of Adrian, MI. She currently accompanies others on their faith journey through days of reflection, parish missions, workshops and adult faith formation opportunities. She teaches online courses for C21 at Boston College and the Virtual Learning Center for Faith Formation at the University of Dayton. Janet is a member of the NCCL Adult Faith Formation Committee. She has authored hundreds of articles and several publications in catechetical and parish ministry and writes the monthly Gospel reflections for *Take-Out: Family Faith on the Go* and was a team member of authors who wrote the Leader's Guide for *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*.

*St. Anthony de Padua Parish Hall  
N5323 Maple Street  
Tony, Wisconsin 54563*

**Please Register at  
[mward@catholicdos.org](mailto:mward@catholicdos.org)  
- OR - 715-234-5044**

**BY MAY 1**

Sponsored by: The Diocese of Superior Department of Catholic Formation and Our Sunday Visitor. Katy Maier OSV Representative will be present to share resources.



**Our Sunday Visitor**

# Parish Catechetical Leader Skype Discussion Notes

March 12, 2015

## Priorities are changing

- Kids show up but are not actively engaged, their hearts are not in it.
- Families are not showing up to Mass on the weekends. We see them at RE, but not Mass.
  - We need to help them find the beauty in the little things when we do have them at Mass.
  - Programs that offer Mass on Wednesday, families feel it substitutes for weekend Mass.
- Families are looking for excuses not to come to RE. Parents want it easier.
  - Class ends at 5:00 PM so parents say they cannot pick kids up
  - Start at 4:00 PM and finish later so parents can pick up easier
  - Busy families feel good when the Church acknowledges they are busy.
- Families have said, "We are sick and tired of getting so many emails and tired of being asked for donations every week." In one program a calendar is given out at the beginning of the year and parents only get a notification if something changes.
- Parents are more likely to do service.
- Parents say they do not send their children on fun nights because it's "not a teaching night".
- Some children make their First Communion and never return.

## How we can draw families and youth to our sessions?

- Use "Together with Jesus" (Pflaum) with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade parents
- Use little experiences to help move and reach parents – plant small seeds.
- Give families a reason to be at Mass
  - Have children sing at weekend Mass
  - Recognize Confirmants and First Communicants at weekend Mass
  - Have families "serve" monthly at the Mass – greeters, altar servers, etc.
- Much of what has to change is internal - which we cannot change – but unfortunately we try to fix things by changing the external and therefore compromise our programs.
- Ashland is looking at a "coffee shop" format for youth using Ascension Press. It was suggested that the "Biblical Walk with Mary" is very powerful too.
- Peggy suggested Mass with muffins which Rice Lake hosts every Thursday morning before school. Students also have a holy hour for adoration once a week they have a scheduled to adore at. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is also a very powerful program for teens.
- It was suggested to have a teaching at the coffee shop for parents after they drop off children. Then they can't have an excuse that there is no parking.
- One program took students to the movies: *Heaven Is Real* and *When the Game Stands Tall*.
- One program has monthly fun nights. This is an attempt to try to be encouraging of youth to spend time with other Catholic youth.
- Eagle River has meal as part of their budget. Catechists and CCW donate and general parishioners help.
- Another program has family pot luck meals throughout the year.
- Parents waiting to be asked, they won't sign up. You need to be specific on what you need help with. Thank you's are very important. If you get parents involved, they become more engaged.
- One program has a night where the students and parents play sports, local and parish Trivia.
- Reconciliation is offered once a year but only one parish offers Mass for children and youth during their class times around certain special days – All Saints Day, Ash Wednesday. When classes are "cancelled" so the families can go to Mass, families do not attend Mass. They see this as a "free" night.

## Further Discussion

- The questions was asked, “What curriculum is everyone using for grades 1-8?”
  - *Call to Faith*
  - *Be My Disciple*; teachers do not care a lot for it; Diana loves it, but teachers are not using all the resources
  - *Alive in Christ*
  - *We Believe*, Sadlier – kids love it; repetitive but works very well
  - Loyola is more conservative, heavy on Theology
  - Pflaum *Together In Jesus*; *Weeklies* – for Children’s Liturgy of the Word; easy concepts; Parents like it, the new format is much nicer with more theology
  - Peggy recommends keeping K-8 series, make sure there is a flow, consistency
- Set up something so teachers can collaborate more - New Richmond plans to do this more next year.
- Evaluate the program at the end of year with kids and parents.
  - DRE found that kids will tell you what you want to hear.
  - It is easier to gage student likes and dislikes by observing and having conversation – in a relaxed setting
- There are behavior issues so people do not want to be catechist. It was suggested to remove misbehaviors from the classrooms. Send child out when misbehaving and DRE handles it. The biggest behavior issues are talking and meds wearing off at Religious Ed. Catechists need to break up the lessons. You can have all “the stuff” to help teachers out but they don’t use it. Catechists need to know that it’s okay to have expectations and rules. It teaches life skills. DRE needs to monitor when teachers let the classes set the rules because if they are not strict enough there will have misbehavior. If they are too strict there will be resistance.

# NEXT SKYPE DISCUSSION

April 16

10:00 AM OR

1:00 PM

(TIME REALLY FLIES DURING OUR 1 HOUR DISCUSSIONS)

Let Marilyn Ward ([mward@catholicdos.org](mailto:mward@catholicdos.org)) know which time slot you’re interested in!

This past summer, our youngest son married his best friend. As they became husband and wife, the congregation witnessed their mutual desire to become a sincere gift of self to each other. They radiated a pleasure and joy that comes from the most fundamental human passion; love. As we watched them complete their vows, we prayed that their commitment to will the good of the other would weather the dying and rising moments ahead of them.

After the wedding was over, we wanted to share a story with them about a hike that we had taken in Denali National Park a few years ago. That experience illuminated the teachings of the Catholic Church that marriage is as a mission of love built on the foundation of mutual sacrifice.

Those of you who are familiar with this amazing park in the Alaskan wilderness know that day hikers watch informational videos before they begin. You are told how to enter and leave the park via the hiker's bus. You learn what to do if you encounter a grizzly in the meadow and how to navigate the glacier tributaries that braid themselves into raging rivers. The videos are meant to snap you into the reality that Denali is a wild place to take a stroll.

Based on the ominous warnings, we opted to start our trek on a dried river bed rather than in a meadow. The first stage of the hike was exciting. The open river beds allowed us to see for miles in all directions. We walked from one breathtaking vista to another content and confident in our ability to complete the journey.

A couple of hours into the tour we began to notice that the tiny glacier streams were knitting themselves together rapidly just as the videos had warned. In a matter of miles, we were no longer able to jump over the river and were forced to choose one side or the other. Sadly, we chose the side that quickly narrowed as the river bent closer and closer to a steep embankment. Panic set in when it became clear that the river (now raging) had seamed itself to a rocky grade. With no walkable path before us, our only choice was to climb up the incline.

We both struggled to find foot and hand holds that would allow us upward progress. The slope was a ramp of gravel and small boulders. For every two steps up, we slid back one. Neither of us had planned on this type of exertion. We climbed and grumbled about "the other" person's poor planning and how it resulted in this predicament.

Eventually, the terrain changed over to grass with willow shrubs and blueberry bushes. The meadow was easier to climb but it posed a huge threat; grizzly bears. Each of us reacted differently to the frustration of the climb and the possibility of meeting man eating wild animals. My husband took on a cavalier attitude and began to make light of the situation while I became increasingly more intense and nervous. He wanted to sit down and strategize on how to proceed while all I wanted to do was run away.

Thankfully, my husband would not let me leave. Instead, he assured me that we were a good team with the ability to find our way to safety. His calm confidence renewed mine and reminded me that we would be better off staying the course as a couple.



Sometime during the next hour, we finally heard the sound of a bus slowly making its way down the road. Though we were still unsure of its exact location, we could tell that it was closer than we had anticipated. We hastened our climb despite our exhaustion and found the bus *together*.

This is what I wanted to share with our newlyweds. Just like our Denali adventure, marriage is a mission of love that requires great effort and sacrifice from both spouses. It is impossible for two people to become one without sacrifice because marriage is a “we” not a “me” experience. Spouses are not meant to have it their way or to ensure that their beloved always gets what they want. Rather, marriage is the school of common union – communion – where a husband and wife learn *to exist mutually one for the other*.<sup>i</sup>

Thirty four years of marriage and one perilous hike in Denali have taught us that marriage calls you to go beyond the “feel good” mentality that is so pervasive today. Focusing on a greater good than you own whims is downright challenging. But, if you take up the cross and open yourself to giving more than you ever imagined possible, you will grow closer to one another and ultimately to God. And that is where the real joy of marriage is found.

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<sup>i</sup> Saint Pope John Paul II, On the Dignity and Vocation of Women (Mulieris Dignitatem), no. 7.

## **“Marriage, a Life Journey of Authentic Love”**

*By Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Alice Heinzen, Diocese of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, United States of America*

My husband and I have asked ourselves this question: “How did our parents live their lives as a married couple that has led us to where we are today as faith-filled married Catholics?”

In our reflection we realized that the witness of our parents, revealed in their daily actions God’s plan for marriage and family life. I have fond memories of participating in neighborhood Corpus Christi processions and my father leaving early for work to attend daily Mass. During the month of May, I remember our family praying the rosary. I remember the frequent tender kisses my parents readily gave each other. We knelt beside our beds each night in prayer to ask for protection and blessings on our family. Every Sunday, we attended Mass as a family, then went from Church to visit our relatives. To all this we can add our mothers who reminded us to always love our siblings, to use our best manners with others, and to save our pennies to help those less fortunate. Our homes were schools of love and virtue and our parents were the primary educators.

Our parents bore faithful witness to the joy and beauty of God’s plan for love and life. Unfortunately, not only in our evaluation of current culture, but also due to our pastoral experience, we know that many young people do not see the witness of married love that we experienced. So many youth grow up in homes broken by divorce or with no experience of married parents due to out-of-wedlock pregnancies. We have entered, as some social scientists have described, the age of the diminished family structure. This is more than a crisis. To quote Saint John Paul II, “[T]he role of parents as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it.” Sociological research testifies to this problem and information in the *Instrumentum Laboris* confirms it. Children raised without the blessing of married parents, who have created a home animated by love and faith, will likely struggle to trust in God and their neighbors. How can they create life-long marriages?

Our diocese in the United States is not unlike those around the world. We have seen the number of marriages decline each year and the rate of cohabitation increase. We have seen a steady drop in the number of baptisms. We have watched our youth fall prey to the confusion of a hedonistic culture. We know countless divorced adults who have joined other faith communities because they do not feel welcomed in the Catholic Church. And, our hearts ache for single parents who struggle to care for their children. Like you, we strive to find simpler, more effective ways, to better share the blessings of God's plan for marriage and family.

The *Instrumentum* documents pastoral programs that attempt to address the negative issues impacting marriage and family life. Sadly, these efforts are not meeting the magnitude of the cultural challenges facing us today. We must develop more robust and creative methods to share the fundamental truth that marriage is a divine gift from God, rather than merely a man-made institution. This will require us to examine the methods by which we teach our children about the nature of human sexuality and the vocation of marriage. When speaking of the call by God to serve, marriage should be included in all programs designed to explore vocations. And, it should compel us to ask how we provide for the aftercare of marriage that can help couples deepen their relationship. We therefore see the issue before us not as a crisis of truth, but rather as a crisis of methodology. How do we as a Church, effectively share what we know to be true in practical, simple and convincing ways, so that all men and women are challenged and supported to live life-long marriages and build homes that reflect the domestic Church?

In all of our pastoral planning, we must remember that “nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37). Solutions to the identified crisis can be found. This Synod has the ability to provide aid to husbands, wives and families. Let us open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit so that God's will may be accomplished.