

Office for Evangelization & Faith Formation

Deepening faith in Jesus and sharing Him with others

August 2017 Newsletter



Theology Of The Body Trainings And In-Services Scheduled For Sept 21 And 22

St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body is changing lives around the world through its positive portrayal of human sexuality as a good and essential part of love and life. The *Theology of the Body for Teens* brings this exciting teaching into a practical format that teens and preteens will enjoy and understand. Join us for this timely and important training for Religion teachers and catechists, where you will be introduced to the Theology of the Body as it specifically relates to children and teens.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Principals, teachers, priests, DRE's, catechists, deacons, youth ministers, campus ministers, parents, and anyone who works with preteens (sixth to eighth grades) and teens (ninth to twelfth grades).

WHEN: THERE ARE 2 OPTIONS

YOU TRAINING

Thursday, September 21, 2017
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Check-in 8:30 am
Mass (optional) 8:00 am

TOB MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAINING

FRIDAY, September 22, 2017
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Check-in 8:30 am

WHERE:

St. Bruno Church Hall
1715 Poplar St.
Greensburg, PA 15601

COST:

\$40 Includes YOU Leader's Guide or TOBMS Leader's Guide, training materials, continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments.

CATECHETICAL CREDIT:

All who attend the training will receive credit for the required Morality course in the Diocese of Greensburg's Training and Catechetical Certification Process.

REGISTER:

[For the September 21 You Training \(High School\)](#)

[For the September 22 TOB Middle School Training](#)

Catechetical Sunday

This year, the Church will celebrate **Catechetical Sunday on September 17, 2017**. The 2017 theme will be "Living as Missionary Disciples." Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. [Click here for many downloadable resources from the USCCB.](#)

Trainings And In-Services For 2017-18

The Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation is proud to announce its Training and In-Service schedule for the 2017-18 Catechetical Year. More information on registration, speakers, and sponsors will be forthcoming. Please see the note beside each date to see the equivalency credit you will be given for attending the in-services. Additionally, please consider giving your catechists in these grades the day off on these Saturdays to attend these critical in-services, if your formation takes place on Saturday. Finally, later this month we will publish our full schedule of certification classes for 2017-18.

- Friday, December 1 – Evangelization and Prayer for Grades K-2 – St. Barbara, Harrison City – equivalency credit: Liturgy and Prayer
- Saturday, December 2 – Evangelization and Prayer for Grades K-2 – St. Barbara, Harrison City – equivalency credit: Liturgy and Prayer
- Friday, March 2 – Personal relationship with Jesus Christ for Grades 3-5 – Visitation, Mt. Pleasant – equivalency credit: Christology
- Saturday, March 3 – Personal relationship with Jesus Christ for Grades 3-5 – Visitation, Mt. Pleasant – equivalency credit: Christology

Meeting For New Leaders In Evangelization And Faith Formation

We have reached the time of year when the transitions in parish leadership positions in Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and RCIA are beginning to occur. If you have been hired or volunteered to coordinate and lead RCIA, Faith Formation, or Youth Ministry since September 14, 2016, you are invited to our meeting for new leaders in evangelization and faith formation scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at The Pastoral Center in Greensburg. There will be a morning session from 9:30-12:30 or an evening session from 6:30-9:30. To register for this event [email Tina Moore](#) or call 724-552-2583.

Fall Business Meetings

The Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation has scheduled the Fall Business Meetings for the following dates and locations. We will alert you in September to the agenda for the meetings. Please email [Tina Moore](#) and let her know which meeting you will be attending at least one week in advance of the meeting.

- Wednesday, October 4 – 10:00 A.M. – Noon – St. Rita, Connellsville
- Thursday, October 12 – 10:00 A.M. – Noon – St. James, New Alexandria
- Tuesday, October 17 – 10:00 A.M. – Noon – Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg

Bishop Edward C. Malesic Releases Pastoral Letter On Opioid Crisis; Announces Schedule For Listening Sessions And Prayer Services

Addressing the opioid epidemic that killed more than 300 people in the four counties of the Diocese of Greensburg last year, Bishop Edward C. Malesic released a [pastoral letter June 29 that outlines the Catholic Church's local response to the crisis.](#)

In "A Pastoral Letter on the Drug Abuse Crisis: From Death and Despair to Life and Hope," the bishop calls on people in the diocese to take action against the opioid scourge, and he outlines efforts that focus on prayer, education and cooperative efforts with government and social service agencies that are already engaged in the fight against addiction.

Noting that rarely a day goes by without news of a death from a drug overdose, he writes, "One especially deadly expression of the crisis of addiction, which is becoming more and more prevalent in our communities, is the current opioid epidemic."

In the four counties of the diocese — Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland — there were 319 deaths in 2016 directly related to opioid addiction, he says.

"This is a plague that has come into the homes and families of every city, town, and even the rural areas of our diocese," he writes. "It has touched the very hearts and souls of our parishioners in the pews and the people living in our communities; it has affected men and women of every age, profession and state of life. Even more tragic is the reality that every one of those 319 deaths was preventable and did not have to happen."

He said a series of seven Summer Diocesan Drug Education Evenings, which will include a prayer service, will be held around the diocese in the coming weeks.

Dr. Paul Niemiec, Director of Counseling for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, will lead the education component, which will include a presentation about the facts of the crisis, a discussion and questions.

After the presentation, Bishop Malesic, who will attend every session, will lead the prayer service, which will include his comments. The evening will conclude with a light reception.

The schedule of Summer Diocesan Drug Education and Prayer Service Evenings follows.
Wednesday, Aug. 2 — St. Joseph Parish, Uniontown
Thursday, Aug. 3 — Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg
Tuesday, Aug. 8 — St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning
Thursday, Aug. 10 — Mary Queen of Apostles School, Greenwald Site, New Kensington
Wednesday, Aug. 16 — St. Thomas More University Parish, Indiana
Each session begins at 7 p.m.

Nar-Anon Family Group Starting In The Connellsville Catholic Community

Please join us every Wednesday beginning September 6th at St. John the Evangelist, Connellsville Social Hall from 7-8:30pm. Open to the public.

What is Nar-Anon?

Nar-Anon is a twelve step self-help program offering Nar-Anon family and support for families and friends of addicts. The Nar-Anon Family Group is for those who have known a feeling of desperation due to the addiction problem of someone close to them. This includes those who have already lost someone due to an addiction.

Nar-Anon helps families and friends of addicts learn the following:

Addiction is a family disease.

Those closest to the addicts are deeply affected.

Families and friends can also benefit from a recovery program.

Nar-Anon offers tools for coping with these issues:

Isolation from feeling misunderstood by family and friends.

Guilt, shame, and embarrassment brought on by legal consequences of addiction.

Lack of trust and financial uncertainty.

Manipulation and victimization.

Group Meetings will be held every Wednesday beginning September 6th at St. John the Evangelist, Connellsville Social Hall from 7-8:30pm. To join, simply attend a meeting. There are no dues or fees. This group is open to the public. Nar-Anon is a spiritual program, not a religious one. Confidence of anonymity are respected by Nar-Anon members. Members bond and learn through sharing their experience, strength, and hope. Meetings are a safe place to share.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Sampey at the parish office 724-628-6840 ext. 108 or email at [msampey@dioceseofgreensburg.org](#).

Synod 2018 On Young People, The Faith, And Vocational Discernment

Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be focused on the theme of "Youth, Faith, and Vocational Discernment." It will be held in October 2018. "The theme, an expression of the pastoral care of the Church for the young, is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society." [For more information please click here.](#)

In the Diocese of Greensburg we will be holding young adult listening sessions at three separate locations across the Diocese. After refreshments and a brief introduction, the young adults will be separated into small groups by approximate age to discuss the preparatory document questions. Following the small group discussion, they will then be invited to discuss in a large group setting some of the most relevant questions with each other and with Bishop Malesic.

[Register for a listening session](#)

Feast Of The Assumption Mass, Rosary, And Candlelight Procession

Join Bishop Malesic in a special celebration of the Feast of the Assumption during this year which marks the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m. on August 15 in the St. Joseph Chapel located in the Bishop Connare Center and will conclude with a candlelight procession and rosary on the Center's campus. The [Diocesan Heritage Center](#) is hosting this event in coordination with its current exhibit, ["Petals of Love – The Rosary in Art and Faith,"](#) which is running in tandem with the [Fatima centenary celebrations](#). The exhibit will be open prior to and after the evening's events. For more information regarding this unique event or the exhibit itself, please call (724) 552-2505. The event will proceed rain or shine. A full or light dinner before Mass can be arranged by contacting [Jen Venneman](#) at (724) 834-7350. The Bishop Connare Center is located at 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, PA, 15601.

Catholic Engaged Encounter

Catholic Engaged Encounter is an in-depth, private, personal, marriage preparation experience within the context of Catholic faith and values. Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat away with other engaged couples with time alone together to discuss honestly and intensively about their future lives together-- their strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, attitudes about money, sex, children, family, and their role in the church and society.

The next weekend in Greensburg is September 22-24, 2017. For more information please contact George & Pat Ziringer (724-335-4966) [ziringer@comcast.net](#), or [www.engagedencounter.org](#)

Natural Family Planning

[The key to successful NFP use is cooperation and communication between husband and wife.](#)

[CM-BBT is a sympto-thermal medical model of Natural Family Planning.](#) There are one-time instruction sessions held on Monday evenings or Saturday mornings at the Catholic Charities' main office in downtown Greensburg. The next scheduled CM-BBT Instruction Session is scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 6pm. For more information contact Mary Ann Newhouse at 724-837-1840, ext 1658.

Contact Us

[Robert Sherwin](#), Managing Director
[Christina Smith](#), Director, Youth/Young Adult Ministry and Adult Initiation

[Greg Petrucci](#), Director of Evangelization

[Rich and Leeanna Ryba](#), Marriage Preparation & Enrichment Trainers

[Father E. George Saletrik](#), Chaplain, Catholic Committee on Scouting

[Jackie Mignogna](#), Secretary

[Tina Moore](#), Secretary

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Upcoming Events in the Diocese

8/8 Drug Education & Prayer Service at St. Mary, Kittanning

8/10 Drug Education & Prayer Service at MQA School, New Kensington

8/14 Natural Family Planning

8/15 Feast Of The Assumption Mass, Rosary, & Candlelight Procession at St. Joseph Chapel at The Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg

8/16 Drug Education & Prayer Service at St. Thomas More University Parish, Indiana

8/27 Sponsor Couple Training

9/1 Deadline for Francis Fund Applications

9/5 Synod On Young People, The Faith, And Vocational Discernment Listening Session

9/6 Start of Nar-Anon Family Group in Connellsville

9/7 Synod On Young People, The Faith, And Vocational Discernment Listening Session

9/13 New Leaders Meeting

9/21 Theology Of The Body YOU Training for High School – St. Bruno, Greensburg

9/22 Theology Of The Body Training for Middle School - St. Bruno, Greensburg

9/22-24 Scout Retreatoree

9/30 NET Retreat

10/1 NET Retreat

10/4 Business Meeting at St. Rita, Connellsville

10/12 Business Meeting at St. James, New Alexandria

10/17 Business Meeting at Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg

10/21 Jeremiah Days

10/22 NCYC Send-Off

10/29 Sponsor Couple Training

View the 2017-2018 Calendar

Calendar For 2017-2018

[Click here to view the 2017-18 calendar for the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation.](#)

We are excited about this year's calendar as we have added some new and exciting events. On June 2, 2018 we will be sponsoring the first ever Family Conference for the Diocese of Greensburg. More details will be forthcoming on this new and exciting family-friendly community event.

Evangelization And Faith Formation Conference

We have been asked by several people the date of this year's Evangelization and Faith Formation Conference. Well, the answer to that question is that this year there will not be an Evangelization and Faith Formation Conference.

Instead join the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation on Saturday, June 2, 2018 for our first ever diocesan sponsored Family Conference. A committee has been formed to plan for this event. We will have several keynote speakers, including Jesse Manibussan, a house band, games and activities, plenty of food, and Bishop Malesic will be the celebrant and homilist at the Mass. We are looking for businesses across the diocese to assist us as sponsors, as well as organizations across the diocese to operate food booths and food trucks. More information and details will be forthcoming this catechetical year. We hope that every parish across the diocese will be well-represented at this community celebration of the family.

CGS Level II Formation Course Offered At Saint John Neumann – Part One: August 22-27, 2017

Mary Heinrich, recognized formation leader formed in all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Membership Coordinator for The National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be leading this course. Barbara Matera is a recognized Level I formation leader and chairs the Board of Trustees for the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. [Please click here for more details pertaining to the course.](#)

Fall Sponsor Couple Trainings

New Sponsor Couples should attend one training session, August 27th or October 29th. This training will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center Office Building. The address is 723 E. Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. Park around the back of the building and look for signs showing where to park and where to enter the building. We will start at 1pm and go to around 4:15, which also includes a light lunch. Each person must have a copy of the handbook, *For Better and For Ever*. To order the book, go to the website [www.marriagepreparation.com](#). To register, or for more information, call Rich and Leeanna Ryba at 724-289-8748 or 412-951-9522. [Or email Tina Moore.](#)

Fatima Prayer

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.