

# Office for Evangelization & Faith Formation

Deepening faith in Jesus and sharing Him with others

January 2017 Newsletter



## 2017 Youth/Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral

As you know any person older than 7<sup>th</sup> Grade who has been baptized Catholic and is seeking to be Confirmed this year is to be Confirmed at the Cathedral by Bishop Malesic on **Sunday, June 4, 2017**. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade is the normative age for the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Greensburg during the 2016-17 school year.

There are only two exceptions to this norm. The first involves a baptized Catholic who has been an apostate from the Catholic faith and is being readmitted into communion with the Church. The second involves a person who has without fault been instructed in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion. Only in these circumstances may a presbyter validly Confirm a baptized Catholic without delegation from the diocesan Bishop. If you think you are encountering one of these two circumstances, please contact the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation for verification.

Please complete this form and return it via email attachment to Tina Moore by Wednesday, January 4, 2017. At this time we are requesting the number of candidates from your parish. The names of the candidates are not needed at this time. If your number changes as we move closer to June 4, please notify Tina by email. Final numbers will not be required until late April.

## March For Life

Our annual March For Life Pilgrimage, slated for January 26-27, 2017, is open to youth in ninth through twelfth grade and their adult chaperones. Registration is now open. We have 52 spots. Once the spots are full, registration will close. If you are paying by check, the check must be in our office to secure the spot. Please register as you receive them from students to ensure a spot. This bus fills every year. We will be attending the evening rally in Arlington and the morning rally in DC at the Verizon Center. Registration and info is here.

## NCYC

NCYC 2017, with the theme Called, will take place in Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 16 through Nov. 18, 2017. The diocesan contingent will depart Nov. 15, 2017. NCYC registration is now open. Deadline to register and guarantee a spot is January 2nd. Information is available here. On January 3, we will begin a waiting list that will be dependent on space available on the buses and at the hotel. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about taking a group to NCYC. If you only have one student interested in attending, please do not turn them down. We can link them up to another group or please consider joining them! One student and One adult makes one group! We can attach you to another group so that the chaperone ratio is ok.

## Winter Youth Retreat - Fulfilled

The Winter Retreat is scheduled for February 24-26<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open later this week. The cost is \$125 per person. This registration is eligible for Francis Fund scholarship, but students must apply by the January 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. The Francis Fund application can be found here. Youth in grades 9-12 are eligible to attend.

## 2016-17 Catechetical Training and Catechetical Certification Schedule

The schedule of Catechetical Training and Catechetical Certification classes is available here with a link to registration. Additionally, Orientation, Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Liturgy, Ecclesiology, and Scripture can be taken online through the Echoes of Faith program. To purchase a license for the Echoes of Faith online courses please contact Tina.

## RCIA Unwrapped

When I was kid, Christmas morning was amazing. My brothers and I would race down the stairs to see what was waiting for us under the tree. After furiously ripping through the packaging, our faces would light with joy over each toy.

And more often than not, after an hour or so of playing with our new treasures, we would leave them aside and begin to build forts and tunnels out of the boxes they had come in.

30-plus-year veteran of the toy industry, Chris Byrne, has a key criterion he and his team use when evaluating toys: **repeat play**. Of the thousands of toys they review, the ones that get top marks are those that children actually play with over and over again.

[Learn more](#)

## The 2016-2017 Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Christmas Artwork Contest

Our diocesan participation in last year's contest was overwhelming—we received more than 430 entries from 19 schools/parishes/faith formation classes. Of the twelve (12) that were selected for submission to the National Office, *TWO of our students were winners!* Their artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC during Advent 2016 along with twenty-two (22) other national winners. Nationally, there were over 10,000 entries last year!

The Contest is open to students in grades K-8. Details for this year's Contest can be found here. Please follow the instructions and guidelines that are on the first two (2) pages; kindly disregard pages 3-7. Please mail all entries to: MCA Artwork Contest, Diocese of Greensburg, 723 E. Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. All entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2017.

## 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 February 10-12, 2017. For more information please contact George & Pat Ziringer (724-335-4966), ziringer@comcast.net, or [www.engagedencounter.org](http://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 Sessions are scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2017 at 6pm and Monday, February 6, 2017 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

[1/16/2017 Scripture](#)

[1/21/2017 Ecclesiology](#)

[1/24/2017 & 1/31/2017 Scripture](#)

[1/26-27/2017 March For Life](#)

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## Epiphany Prayer Service For Children

**Needs:** You will need a Leader, 3 young people to serve as the Wise Men, and 3 boxes that can be wrapped to present at the Crib  
**Place:** At the Manger Scene in the Church or Faith Formation Center  
**Song:** We Three Kings

**Leader:** The Wise Men journeyed for many miles, leaving behind all they held dear and facing unknown dangers and hardships, in faith that their journey would lead to a revelation, and the opportunity to bestow their gifts on one called to great things. We too, as Christians, are called to take a journey and face unknown dangers. We pray we too may have faith that in our journeying we will draw closer to the revelation of God in our Lord Jesus Christ, and may offer our gifts to be used in his service.

**Sing We Three Kings, as the first Wise Man presents his gift at the Manger.**

**All:** O Lord Jesus, we offer you our gifts and talents the things we are good at, the ways in which we can help others, our joy and our laughter. Help us to praise you in our sunlit days, and every day to follow you, the one who drew children to you. Amen.

**Sing We Three Kings, as the second Wise Man presents his gift at the Manger.**

**All:** O Lord Jesus, we offer you our hopes and dreams, what we are and what we'd like to be. Make us aware of your presence in our lives and fill us with your grace. Amen.

**Sing We Three Kings, as the third Wise Man presents his gift at the Manger.**

**All:** O Lord Jesus, we offer you our hurts and failures, our tears and sadness, the things we do wrong and the things we can't do right. Help us and heal us as you have healed so many in your life on earth and thereafter. Amen.

**Sing We Three Kings, as all three Wise Men stand at the Manger.**

**All:** O Lord Jesus, we meet you here at the crib, we marvel at your being born in weakness, as we also have been born, Give us the strength and the love to follow you through all the seasons of your earthly life, that we may come at last to the heavenly kingdom, where all will be made perfect, and we shall know as we are known. Amen.

**Sing We Three Kings, as all three Wise Men leave the Manger.**

**Leader:** May you be blessed in your times of joy and success, May you be blessed in your times of dreaming and striving, May you be blessed in your times of sadness and failure. And may you feel the strength, love and support of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit surrounding you and sustaining you wherever you may go. Amen.

*Courtesy Church News Ireland*