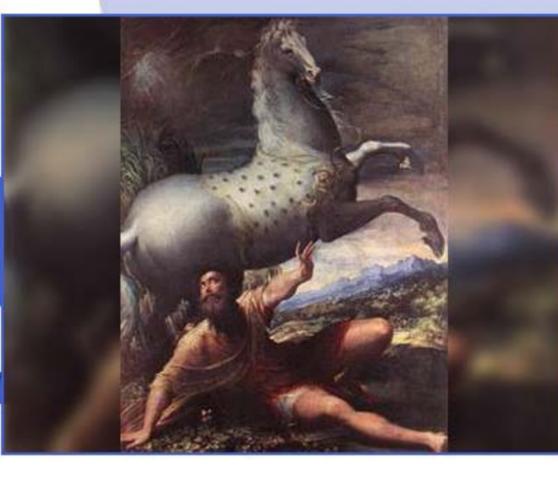


Office for Evangelization & Faith Formation

Deepening faith in Jesus and sharing Him with others

January 2018 Newsletter



Fall Confirmation Prep

As has become our mid-winter tradition we wanted to remind you that next year, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered in both the fall and the spring. It is advisable that all consider planning to have your day of reflection this spring and your family day of service and social closer to the celebration of the Sacrament. Should you have any questions, please contact [Bob Sherwin](#).

Save the Date: Family Fest June 2, 2018

The Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation is experimenting with a new gathering for this coming year. Following Pope Francis' call to form the faith of the entire family, The Office will be sponsoring Family Fest on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Hempfield Park, just off Business 66, Greensburg. We are still working on some major details, but please [click here to see a "Save the Date Ad" for your parish bulletins/parent newsletters/take home announcements](#).

Winter Retreat Registration is Open

All youth of the Diocese in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for the [Diocesan High School Winter Retreat, I Am the Vine, You are the Branches](#), sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation. Come pray, share, learn, and take time to be with God. Join us February 23-25, 2018, at Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant. Register now with your parish youth ministry leader or faith formation office. [To register online click here](#).

Bishop Edward C. Malesic Releases Pastoral Letter on Opioid Crisis; Lesson Plans Released by the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation

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.

To that end the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation is releasing a set of lesson plans that can be used for elementary students, middle school students, or high school students. **It is suggested that these lesson plans can be used in January during a month dedicated to pro-life activities.**

[View the Elementary Lesson Plan here](#).
[View the Middle School and High School Lesson Plan here](#).

They are suitable for parish faith formation programs, Catholic schools, or parish youth ministry programs. Lastly these lesson plans can be used in a large group setting or in grade level classrooms. If you have any questions, please contact [Bob Sherwin](#) or [Christie Smith](#) in the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation.

Trainings And In-Services For 2018

The Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation is proud to announce its Training and In-Service schedule for 2018. More information on registration, speakers, and sponsors will be forthcoming. Please see the note beside the dates to see the equivalency credit you will be given for attending the in-service days. Also, please mark your calendars for these trainings and 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.

- Friday, March 2, 2018 – Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ for Grades 3-5 – Visitation, Mt. Pleasant Equivalency Credit: Christology
- Saturday, March 3, 2018 – Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ for Grades 3-5 – Visitation, Mt. Pleasant Equivalency Credit: Christology

An Evening With Homeschool Families

The Diocese of Greensburg and the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation invites homeschool families from the Diocese to an evening of prayer, faith, spirituality, and fun with Bishop Malesic. Please join us at St. Paul Church in Greensburg on **Friday, March 9th from 6-9 p.m.** The evening will include Stations of the Cross, Mass, and a pot luck dinner and reception with Bishop Malesic.

Evening Schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Registration
- 6:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- 7:15 p.m. Mass
- 8:15 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Reception (Soup and Bread to be provided, please bring a salad or dessert to share)

[Registration deadline is Wednesday, February 28.](#)

National Marriage Week 2018

As you prepare to celebrate World Marriage Day (Feb. 11) and National Marriage Week USA (Feb. 7-14) with your parishes and ministries, we are happy to share with you the resources made available by the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. Many helpful resources can also be found at [www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org](#). Also don't forget about the websites: [www.foryourmarriage.org](#) and [www.portumatrimonio.org](#)

2017-2018 Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)

Christmas Artwork Contest

Our diocesan participation in last year's contest was overwhelming—we received more than 254 qualifying entries from 9 schools/parishes/faith formation classes. Of the twenty (20) that were selected for submission to the National Office, *TWO of our students were winners again!* Their artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC during Advent 2017 along with twenty-two (22) other national winners. Nationally, there were nearly 15,000 entries last year from 53 dioceses!

The Contest is open to students in grades K-8. However, past years' winners are not eligible to submit an entry. The Mission Office would especially like to encourage all children in those grades to participate. Parish and school Faith Formation children, Home-schooled children, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd participants are all eligible. [Details for this year's Contest are here. Please follow the instructions and guidelines that are on these two \(2\) pages.](#)

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, 2018.

Silver Ring Thing—Catholic Edition March 18 in North Huntingdon

The diocese will sponsor the [Silver Ring Thing—Catholic Edition Sunday, March 18, 6-8 p.m. at Queen of Angels Catholic School, North Huntingdon](#). Students, parents and youth ministers are encouraged to attend this chastity education program. For information, contact your parish youth minister, faith formation leader or Catholic school principal or visit [www.silverringthing.com](#).

Catechesis is not a "Job" by Pope Francis

The Catechist *walks from and with Christ*. They are not persons who set out with their own ideas and tastes, but rather who let themselves be looked at by him, by that gaze that makes the heart burn. The more Jesus occupies the centre of our lives, the more he allows us to come out of ourselves; he de-centres us and he brings us closer to others. This dynamic of love is like the movement of the heart: "systole and diastole"; they concentrate to encounter the Lord and immediately open up, coming out of themselves for love, to bear witness to Jesus and speak of Jesus, to preach Jesus. [Read the entire message here.](#)

Faith and Reason

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, will host the 8th annual Faith and Reason summer program from Sunday, June 10 to Friday, June 15, 2018. Students age 15 and older are invited to apply for admission to the program which introduces young minds to the rich intellectual tradition of the Roman Catholic faith and is designed to prepare students for college-level education. Housing in a college residence hall and three daily meals in the college dining hall are included in the cost (\$495). Limited scholarship funding is available. Further information is available by contacting Dr. Michael Krom at 724-805-2844 or [michael.krom@stvincent.edu](#). Students may register online at [www.stvincent.edu/faithandreason](#)

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 2-4, 2018. 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, February 5th, 2018 at 6pm. For more information contact Mary Ann Newhouse at 724-837-1840, ext 1658.

Contact Us

[Robert Sherwin](#), Managing Director
[Christina Smith](#), Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
[Greg Petrucci](#), Director of Evangelization
[Rich and Leeanne 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

- 1/18-19/2018 March For Life
- 1/20/2018 Catholicism In America
- 1/20/2018 Church History
- 1/20/2018 Catholic Social Teaching
- 2/18/2018 Rite of Election
- 2/23-25/2018 Youth Winter Retreat
- 2/25/2018 Rite of Election
- 3/1/2018 Francis Fund Deadline
- 3/2/2018 Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ for Grades 3-5 In-Service
- 3/3/2018 Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ for Grades 3-5 In-Service
- 3/9/2018 An Evening With Homeschool Families
- 3/18/2018 Silver Ring Thing
- 5/6/2018 Scout Convocation

JUNE 2, 2018

FAMILY FESTIVAL

[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.

Nar-Anon Family Group In The Connellsville Catholic Community

Please join us every Wednesday 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 recovery 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 are held every Wednesday at St. John the Evangelist Social Hall in Connellsville 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](#).

PRAYER FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

Heavenly Father, Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News. Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops