

# Office for Evangelization & Faith Formation

Deepening faith in Jesus and sharing Him with others

October 2017 Newsletter



## Fall Business Meetings

The Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation has scheduled the Fall Business Meetings for the following dates and locations. Please see the schedule below and response dates. All meetings are scheduled for 10-12. [Please RSVP to Tina Moore.](#)

The agenda includes:

- Opening Prayer
- In-service on new certification website
- Family conference
- Youth ministry update
- Sponsorgrams
- Opioid lesson plans
- Evangelization Team
- Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation
- Team Orange
- Closing Prayer

The meetings will take place:

- Thursday, October 12 – St. James, New Alexandria  
Please respond by Monday, October 9
- Tuesday, October 17 – Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg  
Please respond by Friday, October 13

## 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.

[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.

## Evangelization and Prayer for Grades K-2 Trainings And In-Services Scheduled For December 1 & 2

"Lord teach us pray." That is the disciples request of Jesus in Luke 11:1. When it comes to teaching our children in Grades K-2 to pray we sometimes are at a lost and refer back to the memorization of rote prayers. But children should be taught more than the words of prayer they should be taught a prayer life. They should be encouraged to find a place to pray, to talk to God, and to listen for his response. John Collins of William H. Sadlier Inc. will lead a training and in-service on Evangelization and Prayer with children in Grades K-2. At the training he will answer these and other questions about the faith life of our children in these formative years.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Principals, teachers, priests, DRE's, catechists, deacons, parents, and anyone who works with children (Kindergarten to second grade).

WHEN: THERE ARE 2 OPTIONS

[Friday, December 1, 2017](#) [Saturday, December 2, 2017](#)

[9:00 am – 3:00 pm](#) [9:00 am – 3:00 pm](#)

[Check-in 8:30 am](#) [Check-in 8:30 am](#)

WHERE:

St. Barbara Room at St. Barbara Church  
111 Raymaley Road  
Harrison City, PA 15636

COST: [FREE - BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.](#)

CATECHETICAL CREDIT: All who attend the training will receive credit for the required Liturgy and Prayer course in the Diocese of Greensburg's Training and Catechetical Certification Process.

REGISTER:

[Click here to Register for Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> OR Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.](#)

## Join NCCL

Members of the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders are leaders who want the latest information, developments, and resources for enhancing their catechetical leadership. They are networked and connected, motivated lifelong learners, and committed to faith formation for all ages. As a member of NCCL you receive the following resources and benefits:

- **RESOURCES** - Resources for catechists at all age levels
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - An annual national conference to refresh, renew and reinvigorate your ministry
- **ADVOCACY** - Advocacy for catechetical ministry with the USCCB
- **DISCOUNTS** - Discounts on annual conference fee and products
- **ACCESS** - Access to exclusive member content & community on nccl.org
- **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** - Drive the vision of catechesis through a variety of leadership and service opportunities
- **CATECHETICAL LEADER MAGAZINE** - Annual subscription included in membership
- **MEMBER EMAIL** - A regular email with news and updates from the frontiers of catechetical ministry

To join the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders log on to [www.nccl.org](#)

## 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. Finally, [check out our full schedule of certification classes for 2017-18.](#)

- 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

## Save the Date: Family Conference 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 a family conference on Saturday, June 2, 2018. We are still working on some major details, but please let the families and young people of your parish know the date and the following details:

- Bishop Malesic will celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. that day
- Family games, activities, and service areas will be available all day
- There will be activities and games available for children all day
- Jesse Manibussan and Full Armor Band will be there for the keynote presentation and a concert
- And much, much more!

## Fall Sponsor Couple Trainings

New Sponsor Couples should attend the training session on October 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.](#)

## Announcing the 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 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.**

## Afternoon of Reflection for Individuals with Disabilities or Life-Challenging Illnesses

Join us on Sunday, October 29, 2017 from 1 till 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 1001 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Greensburg. It is an awe inspiring day of learning, sharing, and blessings. In the past we have enjoyed the company of persons who are blind, mobility impaired, have developmental disabilities, neurological disorders, behavioral health problems, and people who are deaf or have hearing loss. Being there gives you a sense of belonging, and it gives you a sense that you're not the only one struggling. The Afternoon of Reflection is important because people who have unique disabilities don't often get a chance to participate in spiritual services that deal directly with them. Monsignor Larry Kiniry is moderator. The day will include teachings, fellowship, Mass, and dinner. Registration is \$8.00 per person, of which \$1 will be donated to Heifer International to purchase chickens to help to reduce hunger by providing livestock to families in need around the world. **For reservations, for more information, or to volunteer, please contact Rita Shapiola at 724-537-3851.**

## Growing as a Catechist

Are you looking for a simple, practical, effective and low-cost way to prepare all the catechists, assistants, and parish catechetical leaders in your parish? This booklet is for you! *Growing as a Catechist: A Practical Guide* offers thoughts, inspiration, reflections and practical ideas that catechists can implement today, right now. Order today and give a copy to all catechetical leaders and catechists in your parish. For more information visit [www.ecatechist.com](#).

## 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, November 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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

10/17 Business Meeting at Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg

10/21 Creed

10/21 Sacraments

10/21 Ecclesiology

10/21 Scripture

10/21 Jeremiah Days

10/22 NCYC Send-Off

10/29 Afternoon of Reflection for Individuals with Disabilities or Life-Challenging Illnesses

10/29 Sponsor Couple Training

11/1 Francis Fund Deadline

11/15-19 NCYC 2017 Trip

12/1 Evangelization & Prayer for Grades K-2

12/2 Evangelization & Prayer for Grades K-2

1/20/2018 Catholicism In America

1/20/2018 Church History

1/20/2018 Catholic Social Teaching

[View the 2017-2018 Calendar](#)

[View the](#)