Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

We are praying that your Third Week of Advent is truly filled with joy! This week’s "Essential Concept" is Liturgical Symbols and Sacramentals. What a great topic for this time in our liturgical calendar! Click on this link to access a variety of ways we can deepen our experience of this sacred time between now and Epiphany!

We are excited that Fr. Scott Steinkerchner, OP will be co-presenting our February 9-10 retreat with Ann Garrido on “Redeeming Conflict.” He is known as a gifted preacher and also will be leading us with celebrating the sacraments. We should have registration up and running before Christmas!

Please also check out the upcoming events section of this newsletter. If you have any programs you would like us to promote for you, please let us know. We will be delighted to add your activities and share them with the more than 400 people, who receive this information each week!

In Christ,

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.
Director of Religious Education anne.frederick@seattlearch.org

Lisa Hillyard
Library Media Center Manager lisa.hillyard@seattlearch.org

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Essential Religious Education Concepts

Liturgical Symbols & Sacramentals [1179-1199,1667-1679]

The Essential Concepts come from the Table of Contents for the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). They have been re-organized to fit under the Six Tasks of Catechesis. CCC articles numbers associated with each Essential Concept are listed throughout this document. Referencing CCC article numbers is a recommended resource for catechist preparation.
TASK 2- Liturgical Education: Students recognize the presence of Christ and enter into communion with Him through active, full, and conscious participation in the Liturgical celebrations and Sacraments of the Church.

Implementation Ideas for the Classroom:

Religious Education Standards-Essential Concepts Bibliography from the LMC*
*Please note the Library’s Essential Concepts list is a working document, being updated on an ongoing basis.

Online Resources-Links and Videos

Catechist Journey-A New Beginning This Advent (LINK)

Sacramentals

Elements of the Catholic Mass-Sacramental Symbols
Why is there Holy Water at the door of the church?
Resources from the LMC on the Liturgical Symbols & Sacramentals


*What's the Smoke For?* (Johan Van Parys) In *What's the Smoke For?* expert liturgist Johan van Parys offers helpful and engaging answers. Based on church teaching and rooted in sound theology, Johan's responses invite inquiring minds to continue to think about what is happening in the church and to be engaged in learning more about liturgy and the arts.

*Signs of Life: 40 Catholic Customs and their Biblical Roots* (Scott Hahn) Provides a guide to the biblical doctrines and historical traditions that form the basis of forty Catholic beliefs and practices, covering topics such as the Sacraments, guardian angels, and the celebration of Easter and Christmas.

*Understanding Sunday Mass: A Kid's Point of View* (DVD, Anchor Productions) Follow Father Jerry as he gives Amanda and AJ a unique tour of Sunday Mass. Designed to help teach grade school children the meaning of Sunday Mass. Easy to understand and fun to follow along. This DVD text book will help answer questions that many children have when they attend Church. An excellent instructional tool for teachers, the DVD is divided into two
twenty-minute sections keeping student's attention and allowing teachers an opportunity for review. The DVD also offers added chapters that contain the text of all the responses and prayers of the New Roman Missal. The DVD also is perfect for a home educational study guide.

**Learning about Liturgy: Catechesis for Children and their Families**
(Dorothy Kosinski Carola) Here is an easy-to-use program that helps you teach children about the Mass - and catechize the rest of the family at the same time! You get everything you need to complete 17 hour-long sessions for a group of 9- to 12-year-olds: a complete leader's guide, session plans and attractive illustrated family handout masters. Use it as the basis for a year-long catechesis or pick and choose sessions as needed. This is also a terrific program for catechizing your child's choir or a group of altar servers.

*Looking for an archived newsletter? Check this [link](#) for all previous editions.*

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**Library Media Center Resources**

**Resource Lists**

The Library Media Center has several of the materials listed available. Contact the [library](#) to request items. Our [online catalog](#) is also available to search for materials.

**November Check It Out**-Monthly newsletter highlighting new materials added to the Library Catalog each month-find some great Advent resources!

**Epiphany Resources**

**Advent in 60 Seconds (In Lego!)**

**Weekly Advent Reflections for Families from Catholic Relief Services**

**Fr. Mike Schmitz video: Advent: More Than a Chocolate Calendar**

**Daily Advent Reflections from Bishop Barron**

**Advent Jesse Tree Slideshow** from Loyola Press

**Living the Eucharist for Advent and Christmas**

**December Check It Out**-Take this opportunity to learn more about Pope Francis. We celebrate his 80th birthday December 17th.
Upcoming Catechetical Events

Religious Education Standards Deanery Workshops
Contact the Office of Catholic Faith Formation for information, registration, and scheduling a future workshop.

PAFF Deanery Meetings
Religious Education Standards and Touching Safety Training (Register here)
North Seattle Deanery-Wednesday, December 14th I 11:00-2:00 I Blessed Sacrament, Seattle

An Encounter with "Dreamers": The People Behind the Statistics
Monday, January 9, 2017 I 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm I Chancery Bldg., 910 Marion St. I January 8-14, 2017 is National Migration Week of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB): Creating a Culture of Encounter. The evening will begin with opening remarks by Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo providing the USCCB's perspective and will be followed by a brief video on this topic. The video will be followed by a panel conversation with fellow Catholic "Dreamers" from our area moderated by Michael Ramos. At the end of the panel discussion, we will have a Q&A session to collectively explore ways of responding to Pope Francis' and the U.S. Bishops' call to foster a culture of encounter. For more information, contact Joe Cotton: joe.cotton@seattlearch.org or 206-382-4847.

Mass For Life
Monday, January 23rd, 2017 I 9:30 am I Marcus Pavilion, Saint Martin's University, Lacey Due to limited parking, all are encouraged to use buses or carpool. Directions to campus and parking are available online. For Mass details: Liturgy Office, 206-382-4878. For parking and other questions: ocff@seattlearch.org For planning purposes, please view this letter from the Liturgy Office asking for some attendee information. Please pass it on to those who plan on attending this event.

Christifideles Program
The Christifideles program offers graduate formation in Theology & Ministry [Seattle U's School of Theology & Ministry, University of Portland's MAPM Program, University of Dallas' School of Theology & Ministry] partnered with formation & Archdiocesan certification for Lay Ecclesial Ministers. Recruitment is now taking place for the 2017-2018 academic year. Please contact the Office of Catholic Faith Formation, 206-382-4096; ocff@seattlearch.org.

Liturgy Workshop Opportunities
Spread the word about these liturgical workshops, events and formation opportunities from the Liturgy Office. Please see the Liturgy Office Workshop & Events page for more information.

The Rocks and Stones will Start to Sing
Formation Opportunities

Venerate Relics of Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina Kowalska
The Liturgy Office can coordinate the scheduling of those parishes who wish to arrange for the relics of St. John Paul and St. Faustina to be conveyed to the parish for veneration by the faithful. You may reach the Liturgy Office at 206.654.4652 or by e-mail at andrew.casad@seattlearch.org in order to reserve the relics for your parish, campus ministry, or faith community. For more information regarding the process, click here.

Foundations of Our Catholic Faith - CCP Program
This program includes Scripture, Theology, Catechetics, and Church History to support the Church's mission to evangelize. FOUNDATIONS...provides an opportunity to hear the Gospel message, understand the Church's teachings, and grow in the fullness of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. For class schedules, registration and more, visit the CCP webpage.

2016-2017 Retreat Calendar
There are many opportunities for retreats at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades. Please take a look at the retreat schedule and see what great retreats are coming up! To learn more about the Retreat Center, click here.

Grief Support Ministry
Listed in this section are some upcoming events and resources that are occurring in the specified parishes related to grief support. As new events and resources become available, they will be added to this section. Please let us know if there are related events happening around the Archdiocese that should be shared here.

St. Michael Church, Olympia
Bridge of Hope Grief Support Ministry- 8-week group meetings where those who are grieving come together to pray, learn and share with each other.

Catholic Support Groups- A list of support groups available at St. Michael Parish. Several groups are available such as cancer support and infant loss support.

St. James Cathedral
Grief Support Group- A new 6-week grief support group facilitated by St. James Cathedral staff-Nancy Granger, Suzanne Lee, and Rosanne Michaels.

Archdiocesan News

OYYAE Website
Announcing the official launch of oyyae.org, their new online home! Feedback is welcome and encouraged! Please let us know how we can improve this new home, as well as serve you better.

NW Catholic App
The NW Catholic App is now available! Download it for Apple or Android.

NW Catholic Movie & Book Reviews
Check NW Catholic for the latest reviews on books and movies

MyUSCCB

This Week in Ministry provides timely content every week formatted for use in a variety of ways: parish bulletins, websites, E-newsletters, social media and more.

Featured This Week (Third Week of Advent): Surprised by New Life at Advent Freelance writer Effie Caldarola reflects on her experiences volunteering at a pregnancy support center and on the aspects of anticipation, hope, and mystery that the season of Advent and pregnancy have in common.

Advent Joy for Imperfect Christians As we mark Gaudete Sunday, David Gibson reflects on how Advent helps us look ahead expectantly, pointing us away from despair and toward the joy that accompanies the Lord's coming.

To learn more about MyUSCCB and to sign up for this helpful resource, visit the USCCB website for more information.

NCCL-Catechetical Update
The National Conference of Catechetical Leaders publishes a weekly newsletter following the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

A 4-Day Journey through Transformational Encounters...
Monday, May 22 - Contemplation - Personal Transformation
Tuesday, May 23 - Imagination - Prophetic Communal Transformation
Wednesday, May 24 - Vision - Articulating a Catechetical Future
Thursday, May 25 - Missionary - Leadership for the World

Learn more about the Transformative Leadership theme for #NCCL2017 here.

Webinar Series on Amoris Laetitia
The four Catholic organizations comprising the Strong Catholic Families national partnership (NFCYM, NCEA, NCCL and NACFLM) are collaborating together this fall/winter to host a free four-part webinar series for pastoral and ministry leaders and teachers on Amoris Laetitia entitled The Pastoral Response in Accompanying Families in Faith. Our goal is to inspire leaders to come up with authentic pastoral responses to Amoris Laetitia, and to engage them in accompanying families in bringing home the faith.

To learn more about this organization and view their resources, visit the website.

Featured Websites

Garaventa Center
The ongoing vision at the Garaventa Center for Catholic Intellectual Life & American Culture is to entice people from all walks of life to come together and collaborate in novel and compelling ways to shed light and explore grace in this bruised, blessed world. Weekly podcasts are a wonderful feature of this group.

Liturgy Training Publications
Virtual Training Opportunities for Teachers and Catechists (2016)
Designed specifically for teachers and catechists, this series invites all those who work with children to engage in formation and training throughout the year.

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intentions on Video
Apostleship of Prayer receives monthly prayer intentions from the Pope and urges Christians throughout the world to unite in prayer for those intentions. Each month Pope Francis will film his monthly prayer intention and it will be distributed on social media. Check back for a new video on the next month’s prayer intention.

Word On Fire Show

A weekly podcast from Bishop Robert Barron on faith and culture. Each week, the Word On Fire Show will release a new episode featuring Bishop Barron and our Content Director, Brandon Vogt. To learn more information and find out how to subscribe (iPhone, Android, PC, etc.) to this great resource, click here!

Catholic Publishers

Loyola Press
Our Sunday Visitor
Sadlier
RCL Benziger
Ignatius Press
St. Mary's Press
Ave Maria Press
Ascension Press
Lighthouse Catholic Media

Helpful Links

NFCYM-Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth
A collaborative effort by four national Catholic organizations to help church leaders envision how the Catholic Church can more effectively partner with parents to help bring home the faith.

21st Century Catholic Evangelization
Serving Catholic leaders in their ministry of evangelization with curated knowledge, approaches, strategies, and resources to reach out to those who have never heard the gospel proclaimed, to re-engage those who have lost a living faith in their daily lives, and to engage those who are faithful and need to be renewed with increased catechesis.

Catechist Journey
Sharing the Journey of Teaching the Catholic Faith. Joe Paprocki's blog that features practical tips and resources on sharing the gift of the Catholic faith.

eCatechist
eCatechist.com is a blog from Dan Pierson, that provides ideas, inspiration, and learning
resources for catechists, parish catechetical leaders, and parents.

**TeamRCIA**
TeamRCIA.com is a free online resource for Catholic parishes and dioceses that want to form Christians for life. Offers a variety of online and in-person training for church ministers and volunteers, through webinars, e-mail courses, downloads, discussion forums, and training events led by experts in the field of initiation ministry.

**Teaching Catholic Kids**
Teaching Catholic Kids is a valuable tool for parents, teachers and catechists. Free downloadable activities and teacher resources are updated each month and made available from the best of Our Sunday Visitor books, workbooks and writers.

**Vibrant Faith at Home**
Vibrant Faith @ Home supports Christian leaders and families who are intentional about their faith and religious practice as they raise the next generation of committed Christians.

**Word On Fire**
Word on Fire Catholic Ministries is a nonprofit global media apostolate that supports the work of Father Robert Barron and reaches millions of people to draw them into or back to the Catholic faith. Word on Fire is evangelical; it proclaims Jesus Christ as the source of conversion and new life. Word on Fire is Catholic; it utilizes the tremendous resources of the Roman Catholic tradition-art, architecture, poetry, philosophy, theology, and the lives of the saints- in order to explain and interpret the event of Jesus Christ.

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**Stay Connected**

Archdiocese of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Office of Catholic Faith Formation
206-382-4096/ocff@seattlearch.org
Library Media Center
206-382-4883/library@seattlearch.org