Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

Happy 2017! We hope your Christmas was filled with peace and joy and are looking forward to seeing many of you at our February 9-10 retreat with Dr. Ann Garrido, on Redeeming Conflict!

Our "Essential Concept" this week, is Liturgical Rites: Blessings, Weddings, and Funerals. Even though Valentine's Day may seem a bit into the future, the USCCB website, For Your Marriage, is filled with resources and ideas for supporting couples with living out the blessings of Holy Matrimony. The website includes information on planning for a Catholic wedding, topics to discuss during engagement, and how to work through challenges such as family illness and financial difficulties. If you haven't spent time looking through this treasure trove of information, we highly encourage you to take a look. Also, the Order of Celebrating Matrimony has just been updated, so you might want to check it out as well and connect with our Liturgy Office, which has offered several workshops on this topic.

January 8-14 is National Migration Week. As we consider the Holy Family's need to flee to Egypt, we are called to remember the plight of so many people across the globe who are seeking shelter from war and persecution. In recognition of National Migration Week, all are welcome to attend An Encounter with Dreamers: The People Behind the Statistics on January 9th, at the Chancery. Please see below for details.

Please remember to mark your calendars for the Mass For Life, January 23rd, 2017 I Marcus Pavilion I 9:30 am I St. Martin's in Lacey. Please see the flyer for more information.

In Christ,

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Essential Religious Education Concepts

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-Leading Others to Epiphany (LINK)
Soon we will celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Epiphany, when Jesus is revealed to all the nations as the Son of God. This feast contains so many messages and images that are apropos for catechists.

What's With Catholic Weddings?
Blessing of Holy Water
Catholic Funerals
Resources from the LMC on Liturgical Rites: Weddings, Funerals, and Blessings

*Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers: Revised Edition* (USCCB)
Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers is the perfect resource for parents and children to explore the rich treasury of the Catholic tradition of prayer. Use Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers to: * Learn the by-hearts the essential prayers that every Catholic child and adult need to know by memory * Practice the simple form of the Liturgy of the Hours as a family * Celebrate the feasts and seasons of the Church year in ritual and prayer * Bless the sacramentals that are part of the Catholic tradition like the advent wreath, Christmas crèche, Easter foods, and candles for the home * Lead grace before and after meals * Pray for family members * Bless the home before a move and in times of trouble Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers is the perfect gift for: * Families, especially those with children * Newly-married couples * Young parents in baptismal preparation classes Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers includes prayers and blessings for many of the most important moments in the life of a family pregnancy, a move, marriage, and death.

*Through Death to Life: Preparing to Celebrate the Funeral Mass* (Joseph Champlin)
This comprehensive guide brings together in one place all the official liturgical texts needed for planning a Catholic funeral Mass, providing a practical tool for priests, deacons, and lay pastoral ministers as they help grieving Catholics plan the funeral of a loved one. Families can select the readings and prayers that they find most fitting and record them on an easy-to-follow selection sheet. This sheet is then passed on to the presiding priest or his designate so that he can prepare the liturgy.
Saying “I Do”: What Happens at a Catholic Wedding (DVD, USCCB) This video resource walks you through the Rite of Marriage, whether you're marrying another Catholic, a baptized person who is not Catholic, or someone who is not baptized. It also answers several FAQs about Catholic weddings. Ideal for engaged couples, their families and anyone who is involved in Catholic marriage preparation.

Looking for an archived newsletter? Check this link for all previous editions.

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.

More Epiphany Resources and History of...

Epiphany Resources

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)
South Sound Deanery-Wednesday, January 14th I 9:00-12:00 I St. Columban Church, Yelm.

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**
Saturday, January 28th, 2017 I 10:00am -3:00pm I Isaac Orr Conference Center, Chancery Presenter: Tony Varas, Director of Worship, Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. Click here for more information and to register.

**PAFF Retreat Redeeming Conflict: Fruitful Ways To Minister Together**
February 9-10, 2017 I ABRC @ Palisades I Conflict can be a blessing and a fruitful exchange that arises from living and working together in the diverse world God created. In this retreat, Ann Garrido will offer practical habits for responding to conflict, pair each habit with a spiritual companion from history, and offer questions and prayers for growth. Pricing & registration coming soon!

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**Formation Opportunities**

**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.

**Digital Discipleship Boot Camp**
Do you want a new learning experience? Do you need to gain digital skills? Or perhaps you want to join a network of Digital Disciples so that you will always have access to the best practices in technology for ministry. Please consider Digital Discipleship Boot Camp online training course. Learn more at Digital Discipleship's event page.

**Los Angeles Religious Education Congress**
2017 DATES: February 23, 2017 (Youth Day) & February 24-26, 2017 | Theme: "Embrace Trust" | Held at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California. Register today! To learn more, click [here](#).

**A Parish Built to Last Retreat for Pastors and Faith Formation Directors**
June 30-July 2, 2017 | Led by Fr. Bill Watson, SJ. | ABRC@Palisades, Federal Way | Built to Last is the most fully resourced parish Ignatian program available today. *Forty Weeks and the Whole-Life Confession* help parishes accomplish what Sherry Weddell did in her important book, *Forming Intentional Disciples*, which says it is needed for activating the new evangelization that Popes from St. John Paul II to Francis has been calling individual Catholics and parishes to make a reality. This evangelization retreat will include the theological and spiritual components of *Forty Weeks* and *The Whole-Life Confession* presented by Fr. Watson. It will also include presentations from laity and clergy from Seattle Archdiocesan parishes who have been successfully implementing the both programs in their parishes. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

**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](#).

**Mass & Celebration with our Community with Special Needs**
Saturday, April 1, 2017 | Mass: 11:00 am | St. James Cathedral, Seattle | Reception and Spring Dance to follow Mass at O'Dea High School, Seattle. For more information, contact Erica Cohen Moore 206-382-4852 | [ericac@seattlearch.org](mailto:ericac@seattlearch.org)

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**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.

**Grief Support Meeting (NEW)**
Tuesday, January 10, 2016 | 9:30 am - 2:30 pm | St. Vincent de Paul Church, Federal Way | Mary Hejnal will present on how we can best serve those dealing with loss. We will also spend time talking about why having a faith centered program is so helpful. We will also discuss the best ways to share resources on the new Archdiocesan webpage for Grief Support Ministry found under Pastoral Care-to be coming soon.
St. John the Baptist, Covington (NEW)
**Grief Ministry:** meets every 2nd Weds at 7 PM, providing compassionate and confidential support to parishioners and families who have suffered a loss. Various tools are provided that will help manage the grieving process, fostering hope through faith, prayer, and fellowship, with God's love and grace as our guide. Meetings are open to anyone in the Archdiocese. (Richard: 949.290.8670, Page: 253.569.5326, or Frank: 425.241.9190)

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.

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Archdiocesan News

**OYYAE Website**
Announcing the official launch of oyvaee.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

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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 (Second Week of Christmas): A New Kind of New Year’s Resolution** Freelance writer Effie Caldarola suggests ways and resources to help individuals deepen their spiritual life in 2017 and recommends they keep in mind the phrase "always, we begin again" with the help of God's merciful and boundless compassion.

**National Migration Week (Jan. 8-14, 2017)** For nearly a half century, the
Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

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

RE Congress 2017
RECongress is the largest annual gathering of its kind in the world. The four-day event is held at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center and is sponsored by the Los Angeles Office of Religious Education. Begun in 1968 as an "institute" for religious education (CCD) teachers, RECongress has grown to include people of all vocations and different faiths.
365 Days with Mary App

365 Days with Mary App is designed to accompany you on a year-long spiritual journey to draw closer to Christ with the help of our Blessed Mother. The Rosary, Marian reflections and other prayers will support you on the way.

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 (New dates!!)

Virtual Training Opportunities for Teachers and Catechists (2017)
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.