

## ***“Do This In Memory of Me”***

27 September 2011

Greetings Colleagues in Ministry,

In lieu of a Communiqué this month I am sending this fall update. Please read carefully and highlight the items that are of significance to you or those who share in your catechetical ministry.

At our August professional meeting you received a copy of the diocesan curriculum outcomes. I asked for your feedback at that time and only received a few comments. If you still want to “weigh in” on the curriculum draft please send your suggestions to my by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The committee will re convene to continue to revise the guidelines for the next step in the process.

The **2011-12 Parish Profile** (RE Form -16) is included with this mailing, I would like it completed by November 4<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual accounting of your program’s statistics that will be used to provide information used in our annual Vatican report.

There are still a few DREs who have not yet updated this year’s catechist roster. This is the list I distributed at the DRE Professional meeting this past August. I ask for it every year. The information helps us keep the diocesan data base current regarding basic information and back ground checks. It’s also a good time to review your own data base and keep your catechist’s information up to date.

Our Catechist Certification process continues to grow. This past month I awarded eight more certificates to the catechists at St. John Bosco Parish in Hammond. We had a wonderful evening of reflection, fellowship and prayer. Other certificates went to catechists at St. Peter Parish, La Porte, and Our Lady of Consolation in Merrillville. Having shared that, I want to recognize a number of our DREs who are doing a fine job of implementing our certification program. We are currently looking at adding a third certificate of 30 hours that will be an Advanced Certification of Recognition. I’ll have more details at the January meeting. Congratulations to one and all.

Our Diocesan Ministry Congress is just around the corner. If you, your catechists or other lay ministers have not yet registered go to [www.ministrycongress.org](http://www.ministrycongress.org) and do so. Then sign up for ***Envisioning the Future of Faith Formation in Your Parish*** to be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Holy Spirit Parish. This is one of those “must attend” workshops that will help you plan for the upcoming needs of your parish’s program. If you have never heard John Roberto speak on this topic, it would be well worth your time and money. See the enclosed flyer for details.

The annual **Caps for Kids** campaign will be held again this year by the NWIC. Steve Euvino would love to have your participation again this year, now until December 16. Donations of new or homemade caps, gloves, mittens and scarves for infants, children and adults will be accepted. They will also accept cash donations to help in the purchase of these items which will be distributed by the Societies of St. Vincent de Paul, area soup kitchens,

Catholic Charities, Missionaries of Charity and crisis pregnancy centers. This is an excellent service project so please contact Steve Euvino at 769-9292 ext. 240 or email: [seuvino@dcdgary.org](mailto:seuvino@dcdgary.org). Remember to contact the NWIC to cover any special events or programs taking place in your parish this fall or winter.

A number of years ago we developed Certificate of Transfer (RE Form – 10) to assist DREs who need to verify a child's faith formation progress when a family moves into or out of a parish. This form can be requested by a parish DRE from another parish DRE or from the family who has moved in or out of the parish. The process only works if the DRE makes use of the form. Those of you who use it, I'm sure find it helpful with your record keeping. If you are unfamiliar with the form or not clear on how to use it, please contact me. The form can be accessed on my diocesan web page and I will include it with this mailing as well.

PAREFF membership drive is now in progress. Don't be left out sign up now, contact Joanne White at St. Paul's in Valparaiso for details. The minutes from the last PAREFF leadership meeting are attached.

A 2011-12 Safe Environment Report Form (RE Form – 7) is included with this mailing. When you complete your safety program for your children this year don't forget to send me your report.

Are you ready for the New Roman Missal? I hope your catechists are reviewing the revised parts of the Mass responses, Gloria, Sanctus, Acclamations, etc. with their students. Make sure they have the proper worship aid with the upcoming changes to practice with their children. Sung Mass parts will be introduced on October 15-16<sup>th</sup> and spoken parts will kick in on the first Sunday of Advent November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy this autumn season and the goodness and wonders of God's creation in nature and in one another.

Pax Christi,

Frank J. Zolvinski  
Director of Religious Education



St. John Bosco Catechists receive their certification on September 15, 2011.