

Come Learn with Us!

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and so it is time to extend our invitation to all our DRE/CREs, youth ministers, catechists, aides and anyone involved in religious education and youth ministry in our parishes to join us for our fall 2008 **Catechist Formation Program**. Well formed catechists are crucial for an effective faith formation program, so this year we are offering some quality programs to assist you in developing an excellent catechetical staff.

First of all, we have made a few changes in this year's program. Our catechist formation committee met a number of times this past year to discuss how we could meet your needs and serve you more effectively. For those who need "hands on" methods I would encourage you to attend the *Catechist Enrichment Day* on August 23th at Our Lady of Consolation. For those of you who are veteran catechists and simply want enrichment I would suggest the sessions on *Peace and Justice*, or *The Six Tasks of Catechesis*. For beginners who want a more systematic background I highly recommend the *Echoes of Faith* sessions which are video assisted with a trained facilitator. The Methods sessions are extremely helpful.

We are pleased to announce new set of Theology courses we will offer this fall. **The Emmaus Program** will be the basis of a new catechist formation certification program. The courses will be two hours in length for four weeks at various parish locations around the diocese and taught by qualified, credentialed instructors. Our goal is to require every catechist to complete at least one class in the course of a year so that they become theologically competent to faithfully present the teachings of the Church. The courses are listed on a separate page inside this brochure and will also be listed on our new diocesan web page. Contact Mark Plaiss for registration details at 219-769-9292 ext. 259.

Back by popular demand is our third catechist retreat, *Come to the Water*, at the beautiful Carmelite Monastery in Munster. This event went over so well last year that the North Lake DRE cluster wants to continue the tradition. We have an interesting topic and speaker scheduled for this year. Her name is Kate Ristow and she is a well know consultant, speaker and writer. As an extra bonus you will receive a copy of *Catechist Magazine* to which she is a contributing author. The monastery is a new venue this year so make note of the location and address. We will be back at the Marina next year in 2009. Remember we are limited by space so we will only accept the first 100 catechists to register.

We are also planning classes in Spanish at St. Mary Parish in East Chicago. Adelina Torres will help facilitate these Spanish-speaking sessions which will be held on Saturday mornings starting in September. As soon as these topics are confirmed we will contact our Spanish speaking parishes with the topics, dates and times. They will also be listed on our new diocesan web page.

Finally, our Spring **Catechetical/Liturgical Day** is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2009 at St. Mary Parish in Crown Point. This year's program will again include a special track for music ministers in the Diocese, as well as a variety of workshops and sessions to choose from to improve your catechetical teaching skills.

After celebrating 51 years of faith formation in the Diocese of Gary this past year, let's look to the future and dedicate ourselves to continue the important tradition of quality religious formation. We have much to be thankful for as we move forward, and don't ever forget that you are an important part of that tradition. Thank you and God's blessings for serving the Diocese of Gary in your parish's faith formation ministry.

Pax Christi,

Frank J. Zolvinski
Director of Religious Education
Diocese of Gary

Enrichment Sessions

Catechist Enrichment Day – Accommodating Everyone – Students with Special Needs

This session will address the topic of students with special needs and how to accommodate them in our religious education and Catholic School classrooms. Participants will learn the characteristics of different special needs students and how to accommodate them in your lesson planning. They will learn ways to structure the classroom for optimizing behavioral management and content delivery. Finally participants will experience some “hands on” activities that bring abstract religious concepts to a concrete level. An excellent session for or first time or veteran catechists and teachers. **(Use the special enclosed yellow form to register.** Unit Hours: 4)

Date: Saturday, August 23, 2008

Site: Our Lady of Consolation
Merrillville, IN

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Presenters: Cathy Bordenaro et. al.

Session Number: 201-F08-MV

Catechist Retreat - *Casting your Bread upon the Water*

Back by popular demand we will offer another retreat afternoon of reflection. Our presenter is well known author, speaker and writer, Kate Ristow. She will speak to the theme of *Casting your Bread Upon the Water*. Participants will reflect on their role as a catechist, examine their relationship to Christ, and determine where they need to grow spiritually. The afternoon will conclude with a commissioning prayer service and dinner. Because of the nature of this retreat it will be held at the Grand Hall of the Lost Marsh Golf Course with the beautiful rolling fairways as a pastoral setting. Ideal for first time or veteran catechists who want to grow closer to the Lord and each other. **(This retreat is limited to the first 100 persons who register.)** (Unit Hours: 5)

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2008

Site: The Banquet Room
Carmelite Monastery, Munster

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kate Ristow

Session Number: 501-08-HGC

Beyond Service Hours: A New Look at Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic social teaching has often been called the Church’s “best kept secret.” Many Catholics fail to comprehend the importance and scope of our teaching on social issues, from immigration, the death penalty and the environment to abortion and euthanasia. In this session participants will examine current events and how the Church teaches us to read the signs of the times. Participants will also learn “hands-on” practical ways to teach children and adults alike about Catholic Social teachings through projects and activities. Get ready to participate in small group discussions and share what you and your parish do to promote social justice in your community. (Unit Hours: 3)

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Site: Queen of All Saints School
Michigan City, IN

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Presenter: Stacia Bolakowski

Session Number: 405-F08-MC

Spanish speaking - en Espanol

A number of Spanish sessions are planned to be scheduled for Saturday mornings throughout the year. These will be hosted at St. Mary Church in East Chicago, in collaboration with our Hispanic Ministry Office. When these sessions, topics and dates are confirmed we will work with our Spanish Speaking parishes to inform them. They will also be posted on our Diocesan web page. Stayed tuned.

Date: TBA - Fall 2008 - Saturdays

Site: St. Mary Church
East Chicago, IN

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Presenter: Adelina Torres

The Six Tasks of Catechesis

This session will explore the various ways we are called to become a dynamic and effective catechists by using the six fundamental tasks in the ministry of catechesis. Participants will learn how to incorporate these six tasks: knowledge of the faith, liturgical education, moral formation, teaching to pray, education for community life, and missionary activity. Participants will receive a free copy of OSV's *Catechist Companion to the National Catechetical Directory*. (Unit hours:2)

Date: Sunday, September 28, 2008

Site: St. James the Less
Highland, IN

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Presenter: Frank J. Zolvinski

Session Number: 407-F08-Hgl

Beyond Service Hours: A New Look at Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic social teaching has often been called the Church's "best kept secret." Many Catholics fail to comprehend the importance and scope of our teaching on social issues, from immigration, the death penalty and the environment to abortion and euthanasia. In this session participants will examine current events and how the Church teaches us to read the signs of the times. Participants will also learn "hands on" practical ways to teach children and adults alike about Catholic Social teachings through projects and activities. Get ready to participate in small group discussions and share what you and your parish do to promote social justice in your community. (Unit Hours: 2)

Dates: October 7, 2008

Site: St. Mary
Crown Point, IN

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Presenter: Stacia Bolakowski

Session Number: 408-F08-CP

Classroom Management

Every catechist knows the feeling of a class being out of control or up for grabs. Our best efforts at lesson planning and creative learning experiences seem to fail or go right out the window. Regaining control may not be as difficult as you think if you use a few well tried techniques and principles. In this session you will learn the secrets to successful management of student behavior and how to create a climate for successful learning. It may not be as difficult as you think. Ideal for first time catechists or veteran teachers of faith formation. (Unit Hours : 2)

Date : October 9. 2008-07-15

Site : St. John Bosco
Hammond, IN

Time : 6:30 – 8 :30 p.m.

Presenter : Tom Puplava

Session Number : 409-F08-HMD

Echoes of Faith Sessions

Getting Started as a Catechist

Every new catechist needs a basic level of understanding to be an effective communicator of the Gospel and Catholic teaching. This session will include creating the physical environment for catechesis to take place, shaping a social environment in which faith can be nurtured, using creative activities in learning, developing successful lesson plans, managing positive behavior, and helping learners to pray. A must session for first time catechists. (Unit Hours: 2)

Dates: September 9, 2008

Site: St. Francis Xavier
Lake Station, IN

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Facilitator: La Verne Papich

Session Number: EGS-F08-LS

The Role of the Catechist

This session is an excellent “follow up” to *Getting Started as a Catechist*. Every new catechist would benefit from this class. It will include: story telling in religious education, the quality of the catechist as teacher and companion, the importance of leading prayer in the catechetical setting, the role of the catechist as a witness for justice. Another “must” session for the first time or veteran catechist. (Unit Hours: 2)

Date: September 16, 2008
Site: St. Francis Xavier
Lake Station, IN

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Facilitator: La Verne Papich
Session Number: ERC-F08-LS

The Person of the Catechist

Another great *Echoes of Faith* session for first time catechists in our four part series. This session will include: The vocation of the catechist, the role of the catechist in the Church’s ministry, the qualities of a catechist as expressed in contemporary Church documents, and the importance of the catechist’s continual growth and understanding of the catechetical ministry. (Unit Hours: 2)

Date: September 23, 2008
Site: St. Francis Xavier
Lake Station, IN

Time: 6:00 -8:00 p.m.
Facilitator: La Verne Papich
Session Number: EPC-F08-LS

Introduction to the Learner

Another “must” session for every new catechist in need of formation. This class will cover significant aspects of the catechetical instruction. This includes: The nature of learning; the relationship of religion to science; principles of developmental theory; the process of human knowing; moral decision making; faith development theory; and the journey of faith. (Unit Hours: 2)

Date: September 30, 2008
Site: St. Francis Xavier
Lake Station, IN

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Facilitator: La Verne Papich
Session Number: EIL-F08-LS

Methods for Grades 1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8

These four session will provide catechetical methods for catechists teaching in primary, intermediate, middle and jr. high levels of religious education. Each session will cover: human development characteristics; developmental faith needs; strategies for introducing scripture and sacred tradition; the relevance of activities to faith development; appropriate prayer forms; and inclusion of children with special needs. (Unit Hours: 2)

Date: October 7, 2008 Grades 1-2
Date: October 14, 2008 Grades 3-4
Date: October 21, 2008 Grades 5-6
Date: October 28, 2008 Grades 7-8
Site: St. Francis Xavier
Lake Station, IN

Session Number
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EM1-2-F08-LS
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EM3-4-F08-LS
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EM5-6-F08-LS
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EM7-8-F08-LS
Facilitator: La Verne Papich
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Register with your parish DRE/Youth Minister for these sessions or sign up individually. For more information contact the Office of Religious Education, 769-9292 ext. 230 or email fzolvins@dcgary.org.

The Prodigal Son- Experiencing God's Unconditional Love

Presenter: Dr. Michael Hryniuk, Theologian, writer, speaker
Saturday, Sept. 13, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Fee: \$15.00 for pre registered)
St. Mary, Otis, 101 West Church, Otis, IN 46391
To register call: Renuka at 219-733-2966

Course Locations

St. Mary (Otis)
101 North Church Street
Westville, IN 46391-9556
Contact: Mary Ann Groszek (219) 929-6593

St. Mary Church
822 West 144th Street
Hammond, IN 46327
Contact: Adeline Torres (219) 397-2125

Our Lady of Consolation
8308 Taft Street
Merrillville, IN 46410
Contact: Carole Sluce (219) 614-8619

St. Mary (Crown Point)
321 East Joliet Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
Contact: Marian Weeks (219)-663-0676

Carmelite Monastery
1628 Ridge Road
Munster, Indiana, 56321
Contact: Marilyn Baron (219) 916-3822

St. James the Less
9640 Kennedy Avenue
Highland, IN 46322
Contact: Emily Watroba (219)-924-4222

St. Francis Xavier
2453 Putnam Street
Lake Station, IN 46405
Contact: La Verne Papich (219) 962-4507

Queen of All Saints
606 South Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
Contact: Kathy Moskovich (219)-878-9348 ext. 114

St. John Bosco School
1231 171st Place
Hammond, IN 46324
Contact: Vickie Blackwood (219) 951-8935

Catechist Formation Presenters

The *Office of Religious Education* is proud to present the facilitators for the fall 2008 sessions

Bordenaro, Sue, Special Education Teacher, Archdiocese of Chicago

Bolakowski, Stacia, Director of Faith Formation, Sacred Heart, Wanatah, Andean High School Teacher

Drzewiecki, Monica, Former Coordinator of the G.I.F. Program, catechist at St. Michael, Schererville

Hoffman, Pat, Parish DRE and consultant for RCL/Benziger, Silver Burdett Ginn Publisher

Papich, La Verne, Director of Faith Formation, St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station, IN

Puplava, Tom, Office of Catholic Schools, Retired Principal, St. John the Baptist, Whiting, IN

Ristow, Kate, Consultant for RCL/Benziger, Silver Burdett Ginn and Catechist Magazine

Torres, Adeline, Director of the Hispanic Ministry Office, Diocese of Gary, Ecos de Fe Trainer

Zolvinski, Frank J., Director of Religious Education, Diocese of Gary

	201-F08-MV	Accommodating Everyone	Our Lady of Consolation	August 23	\$15.00		
	EGS-F08-LS	Getting Started As A Catechist	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	September 9	\$15.00		
	ERC-F08-LS	The Role of the Catechist	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	September 16	\$15.00		
	501-08-HM	Catechist Retreat Casting Your Bread upon the Water	Carmelite Monastery Munster	September 21	\$20.00		
	405-F08-MC	Beyond Service Hours, Catholic Social Teaching	Queen of All Saints, Michigan City	September 23	\$15.00		
	EPC-08-LS	The Person of the Catechist	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	September 23	\$15.00		
	407-F08-Hgl	The Six Tasks of Catechesis	St. James, Highland	September 28	\$15.00		
	EIL-08-LS	Introduction to the Learner	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	September 30	\$15.00		
	408-F08-CP	Beyond Service Hours, Catholic Social Teaching	St. Mary, Crown Point	October 7	\$15.00		
	EM1-2-F08-LS	Methods for Grades 1-2	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	October 7	\$15.00		
	409-F08-HMD	Classroom Management	St. John Bosco Hammond	October 9	\$15.00		
	EM3-4-F08-LS	Methods for Grades 3-4	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	October 14	\$15.00		
	EM-5-6-F08-LS	Methods for Grades 5-6	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	October 21	\$15.00		
	EM-7-8-F08-LS	Methods for Grades 7-8	St. Francis Xavier, Lake Station	October 28	\$15.00		

Please print or type all sections of this form. Include payment with a check payable to the **Diocese of Gary**
Send or fax to: 219-738-9034
Office of Religious Education, 9292 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410

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