

Superior Catechist



Volume 3 Number 2

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CATECHISTS AS SERVANT LEADERS BY CHRIS NEWKIRK

Jesus gives His life to us as the best example of how to be of humble service to others, how to be servant leaders. It is not only the pastor, or the youth minister, or the director of religious education who is called to be the servant leader; it is all of us through virtue of our Baptism. As catechists, we are called to be of service to others by more clearly articulating and living out the vision of the Gospel. A vision that is uniquely rooted in Christ the teacher.

We are called to listen in an intense and profound way. We listen so that our individual gifts can be discovered. We listen so that we may also call forth the gifts of others. We listen so that we gain the ability to ask the existential questions --- "What is it that really matters? How do we respond to those things that really matter? How can I make a difference? Why should I care if I can make a difference? Where is God in all of this?" We listen so that we can radically change the world as an extension of the vision and mission of Christ.

As catechists and servant leaders, we have the same things available to us that Jesus did --- our words and our presence. If we are fully present to others, then we hear and discover their needs. We discover those things that are eternally true for all people. If we listen and seek the truth, others will begin to trust us.

Trust leads to respect. Respect leads to a desire to emulate another's lifestyle. Servant leadership is about loving others enough and allowing ourselves to be vulnerable enough to be in an intimate relationship with them. So whether we are catechists for children, youth or adults, our lifestyle should be enticing, a constant witness to the presence of God in the world, as well as inviting and engaging others in their own personal relationship with Christ.

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Catechist: Teacher, role model... and leader?

by Joanie McKeown

Multiple choice question:

A catechist is a:

- a) teacher
- b) role model
- c) leader
- d) all of the above



When asked to name the leaders in their parish, most catechists begin with the names of their pastor, DRE/CRE, and pastoral council members. The names that rarely appear on their list are their own. Most catechists will describe themselves as a teacher or role-model, but rarely use the word “leader”.

In the thesaurus, some of the synonyms for “leader” are: organizer, director, guide. From the perspective of those being catechized, the catechesis is all those things (and more!). They look to the catechist as their leader on their faith journey. So does the church!

The answer to the multiple choice question is “all of the above”. Among the qualities that a good leader possesses, the following six are crucial for a catechist.

A good leader must...

Know whom you are leading

What are the ages or grade levels of the group? What level of knowledge does each person currently possess? Where are they on their faith journeys? What learning styles are the most innate in each person? Is each person fully initiated into the Catholic community, or ahead or behind most of the others in the reception of the sacraments of initiation?

Know how to lead them

What vocabulary is appropriate for their ages or knowledge level? Are the sessions instructive and meaningful to the most and the least knowledgeable (and everyone in-between)? What instructional methods work best for the different learning styles? Are you able to draw them into the lesson or activity so that they are active learners and not just passive recipients? When is memorization appropriate and what should they memorize?

Are you incorporating both content (information) and faith experiences, so that they learn about the Catholic religion AND grow in their relationship with God?

Know when to shift gears

Do you know when to trust your lesson plans and not be sidetracked from them? Do you know how to keep distractions from interfering with the lesson or prayer? Do you know how to listen to the inner voice of the Holy Spirit and shift your approach or completely put aside your plans because something more crucial or compelling is happening?

Know what you are leading them towards

Is it your goal to simply “get through the book” or “cover the material”? Is it your goal to increase their knowledge about God and the Catholic faith? Is it your goal to create prayerful experiences? Are you deeply aware that the “what” that you are leading them towards is actually a “Who” – the persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

Know why you are leading them towards that goal

Why is knowledge about Scripture, the sacraments, church history, church doctrine, morality, etc. important? Why is it important to incorporate prayer experiences into your lessons? Why is it your goal to help each person to develop a deeper relationship with God?

Know how to articulate the “what” and the “why”

Can you describe why the knowledge and relationship with God are important to you, personally? Can you explain what the Catholic Church says about the

importance of information, and formation, leading to transformation?

“A leader’s role is to raise people’s aspiration for what they can become and to release their energies so they will try to get there.”

Political analyst David R. Gergen wrote: “A leader’s role is to raise people’s aspiration for what they can become and to release their energies so they will try to get there.” That’s the kind of leader that every catechist should strive to be.

Joanie McKeown is the SUMMIT representative to Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation (WDREF) and the WDREF Representative to the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL).

MENTORING

Sr. Jovita Winkel, CSA

TO BE SURE, THE WORD MENTORING WILL CONJURE UP MANY IDEAS IN ANY INDIVIDUAL'S MIND. For some, there is an implication of walking with another in ministry; for others it could mean, following the direction given by a seasoned leader.

In the past year and a half, SUMMIT has had an Ad Hoc Mentoring Committee. In its initial stages, the committee has presented sessions at the Fall Catechist Workshops. These presentations were centered on a very broad overview on Mission and Ministry, Role of DRE, CRE, Youth Minister and Parish connections for the role, as well as other related topics.

The impetus for beginning such a committee came from a recognition that many DRE's, CRE's, and Youth Ministers "just fell into the job", had no previous training, or just simply needed some type of direction or guidance. Mentoring is meant to be the process by which a person is supported and empowered in the ministerial role they enjoy as professional leaders. Mentoring is meant to bring the leader to a high degree of fulfillment in ministry. It is a process that frees the individual from having to figure out the content and process of their role. It enables the minister to move forward in a way that enhances the minister in his or her role. Additionally, and, hopefully, the mentoring process will enliven persons in

their spirituality and in their ministerial call. All of this can only be accomplished by the competency of the mentor. The mentor's concept of mission and ministry, ability to distinguish between vision leadership and maintenance leadership, spirituality and a solid theological base for the overall view of the catechetical leadership role will make the mentoring process a life-giving experience.



The committee developed a survey which was sent in December to DRE's, CRE's, and Youth Ministers. Respondents were asked their opinion on: need for mentoring, topic suggestions and presenters for workshops. Willingness and availability of mentors is also being surveyed. The results of this survey will determine the committee's next steps. The on-going development of the committee's tasks, aided by support of SUMMIT and its members and direction from diocesan leadership will make the mentoring process a reality in parishes' catechetical role.

Sr. Jovita Winkel, CSA was the 2005 recipient of the Fr. Harold Dodge Award for Excellence in the Ministry of Catechesis at the Fall Teacher-Catechist Institute in Rice Lake.

SUMMIT (Superior Mutual Ministries Team) is an organization begun in 1982 which is dedicated to the support and advancement of all parish catechetical leaders in the Diocese of Superior. Anyone who works in a leadership role in catechesis within a parish is eligible for membership.

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

Videos available from the Diocese of Superior Media Center. Please contact your designated resource person to order.

We recommend that you preview videos before showing.

Ages (listed before © date) recommended for, ps=preschool, p=primary, i=intermediate, jh=jr high, sh=senior high, a=adult

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

C.S. Lewis

0928 THE LION, THE WITCH, & THE

WARDROBE Animated 95 Min p,i
1985

Live 90 Min/Video jh,sh,a 1988-90:

2439-40 THE LION, THE WITCH, &

THE WARDROBE

2441 PRINCE CASPIAN

2442 VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

2443-4 SILVER CHAIR

BOOK OF VIRTUES

PBS Kids

Animated 30 Min p,i 1996-1998

2136 DETERMINATION

2137 HONOR

2138 CITIZENSHIP

2139 DILIGENCE

2140 MODERATION

2141 HONESTY

2142 WORK

2143 COURAGE

2144 FRIENDSHIP

2145 SELF-DISCIPLINE

2146 COMPASSION

2147 RESPONSIBILITY

2148 GENEROSITY

2604 CHARITY

2605 FAITH

2606 GRATITUDE

2607 INTEGRITY

2608 LEADERSHIP

2609 LOYALTY

2610 PATIENCE

2611 RESPECT

2612 SELFLESSNESS

2613 TRUSTWORTHINESS

2614 WISDOM

ANIMATED HERO CLASSICS

Nest Entertainment

30 Minutes p,i 1991-1997

2477 MACCABEES

2478 MARCO POLO

2479 JOAN OF ARC

2480 CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

2481 GALILEO

2482 LEONARDO DAVINCI

2483 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

2484 MARIE CURIE

2485 POCAHONTAS

2486 WILLIAM BRADFORD: THE

FIRST THANKSGIVING

2487 GEORGE WASHINGTON

2488 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

2489 ABRAHAM LINCOLN

2490 HARRIET TUBMAN

2491 WRIGHT BROTHERS, THE

2492 HELEN KELLER

2493 ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

2494 LOUIS PASTEUR

2495 THOMAS EDISON

SAFE CHILD

5 segments of 4-20 Min ps,p 1994

2660 IMPLEMENTATION & TRAINING

2661 IT'S YOUR BODY, K

2662 STRANGERS AREN'T BAD,

THEY'RE JUST STRANGERS, K

2663 SPEAK UP FOR YOURSELF, 1

2664 THE CHOICE IS YOURS, 2

2665 BEING YOUR OWN BEST

FRIEND, 3

SACRAMENTS

Gaynell Cronin 12-14 Min i,jh 2002

2335 BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

2336 EUCCHARIST - WE FEED

2337 RECONCILIATION

2338 MARRIAGE & HOLY ORDERS

2339 ANOINTING OF THE SICK

REAL LIFE TEENS

19-24 Minutes jh,sh 2001

2318 ALCOHOL

2319 DRUGS

2320 SMOKING

2321 PEER PRESSURE

2322 BILL OF RIGHTS AT SCHOOL

2323 WEAPONS & VIOLENCE

2324 TEENS AND THE LAW

2325 RACIAL TENSION ON CAMPUS

2326 BULLIES & HARASSMENT

IN SEARCH OF CHARACTER

30 Minutes jh,sh 1999

2265 TRUSTWORTHINESS

2266 RESPECT

2267 RESPONSIBILITY

2268 FAIRNESS

2269 CARING

2270 CITIZENSHIP

2271 HONESTY

2272 COURAGE

2273 DILIGENCE

2274 INTEGRITY

CHILDREN OF THE EARTH

Maryknoll

14 Min x 2prts i,jh,sh,a 1996-2004

2624 AFRICA CLOSE-UP

2625 ASIA CLOSE-UP

2626 ASIA CLOSE-UP

2627 CARIBBEAN CLOSE-UP

2628 CENTRAL AMERICA

2629 CUBA CLOSE-UP

2630 MEXICO CLOSE-UP

2631 NATIVE AMERICAN

2632 SOUTH AFRICA CLOSE-UP

2633 SOUTH AMERICA

~ PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE ~

www.catholicdos.org

Click on the Bishop Hammes Center link



University of Dayton Experience

by Chris Gall

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN

difficult to get all of our catechists together at the same time for some adult faith formation. It isn't that our catechists don't have a desire to grow in their faith, many just can't find the time!

So we were very pleased to learn that some of our Catholic universities were offering courses online. Not wanting to recommend something I didn't know much about I decided to give online learning a trial run. While I haven't taken any courses through Notre Dame's online STEP program I have already completed three courses through the University of Dayton and I enjoyed every one of them. Dayton offers basic, intermediate and advanced courses so you can pick your comfort level and topic of interest. The format is easy to follow with required reading, reflections and discussion board postings.

There are required weekly assignments so you need to be able to set aside time each week for the coursework. The more advanced the coursework the more reading there is involved so if you don't have a lot of spare time you may want to stick with the basics. All three courses that I took (Ecumenism, Mary in the Scriptures, and Church and Communications) promoted a lot of discussion about the current state of the Catholic Church. I gathered up a lot of new and creative ideas on how to proclaim the Gospel as a catechist. I

especially enjoyed being in dialogue with people from around the world; people with a wide variety of spiritualities and gifts; people with differing viewpoints; people in a number of different parish ministries, clergy, lay and religious; all part of our one holy Catholic Church. I know a number of our catechists are currently enrolled in various classes through Dayton. Pat Yates, a first year catechist, had this to say: "I found the course "Catholic Beliefs" to be very informative [and stimulating]. The ability to chat with other participants made it more than worthwhile. I highly recommend it." So give it a try. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.



Chris Gall is coordinator of faith formation and youth ministry at St. Peter the Fisherman parish in Eagle River.



The Diocese of Superior is proud to support the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) of the University of Dayton.

What does it cost?

Currently, the fee for courses is \$80. The fee for seminars is \$60. However, the Diocese of Superior will share the cost with those who successfully complete their courses and seminars. Successful participants will be reimbursed \$40 for courses and \$30 for seminars upon completion of appropriate paperwork which is available from Kathy Drinkwine at the Department of Christian Formation (715-392-2937 x116 or kdrinkwine@catholicdos.org).

How do I learn more about VLCFF?

Check out the website at www.udayton.edu/~vlc. For further information, you may want to contact Richard Lyons at the Department of Christian Formation by phone 715-392-2937 x103, fax 715-392-2015, email rlyons@catholicdos.org, or mail PO Box 969, Superior, Wisconsin 54880.



Catechists as Servant Leaders *(continued from page 1)*

In our personal quest to become servant leaders, to be more like Jesus, we are sure to experience adversity, conflict, a sense of being an outsider at times, and a variety of resistance. Recognize that a lifestyle embodied by servant leadership characteristics (listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment to the growth of others, building community and so on) requires discipline and mentoring. We keep vigilant to the call of the Gospel, but we do it as a *community* of believers. Together, attempting to meet the needs of the common good.

Keeping in mind that Christ did not seek power, but rather justice and equality, we recognize that as catechists we don't always have or need all of the answers or the control so to speak. We seek the wisdom, cooperation and giftedness of others. When we do this, we add new and more fulfilling dimensions to any catechetical process. Our obedience to the Gospel compels us to be in tune with the Father's will. Servant leadership sometimes allows us to quietly support. But sometimes it requires that we are willing to be publicly noticed for our faith and Christian values. In today's self-centered-world-environment, our young people need the voice and example of Christ to be heard and seen more prominently than those things that tempt us away from the common good.

As catechists and servant leaders, we are responsible then for creating a life of sustainability in Christ. We are called to teach and empower others toward Christian values, qualities, skills, and insights. We lovingly serve others and invite them on a journey with us to becoming whole and holy.

*Chris Newkirk is Assistant Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
at the Bishop Hammes Center, Haugen, WI*

SUPERIOR CATECHIST CALENDAR

YES! CONGRESS (Youth Engaging Scripture)

February 11, 2006 St. Mary Parish, Tomahawk
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

SUMMIT (Superior Mutual Ministry Team)

February 21, 2006 @ St. Joseph, Shell Lake
May 16, 2006 @ St. Peter, Cameron
Contact Diana Maki @ 715-356-2171 x3

GENERATIONS OF FAITH WORKSHOP

February 22, 2006 @ St. Peter Parish, Cameron
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

PARISH CATECHETICAL WEEK

February 22 – 28, 2006
Contact Roger Cadotte or
Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

YOUTH MINISTRY STUDIES PROGRAM

March 11–12, 2006 – *Evangelization/Catechesis*
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

ECCLESIOLOGY II: Models of the Church

March 18-19, 2006 Instructor: Rev. John Gerritts
Our Lady of the Lake, Ashland
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

SCRIPTURE V: The Gospel of Luke

April 1-2, 2006 @ St. Anthony Parish, Park Falls
Instructor: Dr. Steve Ostovich
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CATECHETICAL LEADERSHIP

April 30 – May 4, 2006 Rosemont, IL
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY III:

Spiritualities in the Life of the Church
May 6-7, 2006 Instructor: Ms. Patricia Pintens
Nativity of Our Lord, Rhinelander
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

SCOUT RECOGNITION DAY

May 13, 2006
Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

PASTORAL THEOLOGY IV:

Church Management
June 3-4, 2006 @ St. Joseph Parish, Hayward
Instructor: Rev. Dennis Mullen
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

YOUTH LEADER CONFERENCE

June 19 – 23, 2006
St. Bede's Monastery, Eau Claire, WI
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

SCRIPTURE II: Intro to Old Testament

July 8-9, 2006 @ St. Joseph Parish, Osceola
Instructor: Dr. Stanley Birnbaum
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

LEADERSHIP DAYS

August 22 & 24, 2006 Location TBA
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

WDREF CONVENTION

November 9-10, 2006
Olympia Resort & Convention Center
Oconomowoc, WI Further information will be
available at www.wdref.org

SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY I: History of the Sacraments

November 11-12, 2006 @ St. Joseph Parish, Osceola
Instructor: Dr. Stanley Birnbaum
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

NCCYM (National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry) November 30-December 3, 2006

Las Vegas, Nevada Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715- 234-5044

PASTORAL THEOLOGY III: Listening Techniques

December 9-10, 2006 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Dobie
Instructor: Rev. Dennis Mullen
Contact Tim Kuehn @ 715-392-2937 ext. 117

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)

November 8-11, 2007 Columbus, Ohio
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

WORLD YOUTH DAY (Australia)

July 15-20, 2008
Contact Chris or Roger @ 715-234-5044

*Diocese of Superior
Ministry of Catechesis Certification*



Handing On The Faith 2006

A Weekend Catechetical Workshop

August 12 & 13, 2006

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Rice Lake, Wisconsin

The Department of Christian Formation of the Diocese of Superior is pleased to present a formational opportunity for catechists and Catholic school teachers. This two-day workshop offers opportunities for both those seeking Basic certification and those seeking certification beyond the Basic level.

Basic Track participants will be able to earn up to 15 points toward certification – five in Theology, five in Methods, and five in Spirituality. Topics include *Traditions of Prayer, Principles of Catholic Morality, Reflecting on Ministry as a Catechist, Communities of Faith through History*, and more.

Participants in the *Beyond Basic Track* will be able to add up to 15 points in Methods toward certification. Topics include *Servant Leadership for the New Millennium, Creation, Humanity & the Environment: A Christian Catholic Perspective, Strategies for Adult Formation, Caring for Catechists*, and more.

Both tracks allow participants to attend both Saturday and Sunday, Saturday only, or Sunday only.

*Funded in part by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Committee on Home Missions*

more information →

Basic Level Track

	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
9:15 a.m.	<i>Principles of Catholic Morality</i> THEOLOGY Fr. Dennis Mullen or <i>Traditions of Prayer</i> SPIRITUALITY Sr. Marla Lang, FSPA	<i>Reflecting on Ministry as a Catechist</i> SPIRITUALITY Sr. Bonnie Alho, OSM & Rose Schullo or <i>Communities of Faith through History</i> THEOLOGY Joanie McKeown
12:25 p.m.	Sessions listed above will be repeated so that all participants in this track may attend both workshops.	
3:00 p.m.	CHOOSE ONE: <i>Bringing Scripture Alive in the Classroom</i> METHODS Janette Gil de Lamadrid <i>Social Justice and Catechesis</i> METHODS Deacon Michael Cullen & Abbie Daigle <i>First Reconciliation and First Eucharist</i> METHODS Jennifer Neeser <i>Implementing Intergenerational Catechesis</i> METHODS Greg Gostomski	CHOOSE ONE: <i>Beatitudes and Commandments</i> METHODS Phyllis Schlagel <i>Catechesis and the Internet</i> METHODS Richard Lyons <i>Film Theological Reflection</i> METHODS Roger Cadotte <i>Safe Environment: What Works and What Doesn't</i> METHODS Chris Newkirk

Beyond Basic Track

	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
9:15 a.m.	<i>Caring for Catechists</i> METHODS Jackie Witter	<i>Servant Leadership for the New Millennium</i> METHODS Chris Newkirk
12:25 p.m.	<i>Creation, Humanity & the Environment: A Christian Catholic Perspective</i> METHODS Doris Murphy	<i>Strategies for Adult Formation</i> METHODS Richard Lyons
3:00 p.m.	CHOOSE ONE: <i>Bringing Scripture Alive in the Classroom</i> METHODS Janette Gil de Lamadrid <i>Social Justice and Catechesis</i> METHODS Deacon Michael Cullen & Abbie Daigle <i>First Reconciliation and First Eucharist</i> METHODS Jennifer Neeser <i>Implementing Intergenerational Catechesis</i> METHODS Greg Gostomski	CHOOSE ONE: <i>Beatitudes and Commandments</i> METHODS Phyllis Schlagel <i>Catechesis and the Internet</i> METHODS Richard Lyons <i>Film Theological Reflection</i> METHODS Roger Cadotte <i>Safe Environment: What Works and What Doesn't</i> METHODS Chris Newkirk

Daily Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Orientation
- 9:15 a.m. Session One
- 11:40 a.m. Lunch (included)
- 12:25 p.m. Session Two
- 3:00 p.m. Session Three
- 5:25 p.m. Adjournment/Evaluation
- 7:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes
- Saturday Dobie

Fees

\$25 Both days \$15 One day

Registration

There are four ways to register for this event:

- Mail the completed registration form and fee to
Richard Lyons
Department of Christian Formation
PO Box 969
Superior, WI 54880
- Call Kathy Drinkwine at 715.392.2937 x116
- Fax completed form to 715.392.2015
- Email rlyons@catholicdos.org or
kdrinkwine@catholicdos.org

Site and Lodging Information

- This event will be held on the campus of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The campus is located at 1900 College Drive, Rice Lake.
- Participants are responsible for their own lodging and dinner. Continental breakfast and lunch is provided as part of the conference.
- Area lodging information may be obtained by accessing www.rice-lake.com or contacting Kathy Drinkwine at 715.392.2937 x116, fax 715.392.2015, or email kdrinkwine@catholicdos.org.

Registrations and fees must be received by Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

Registration Form

Name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Address (street, city, zip): _____

Email address: _____

Serves at (parish or school, name and city): _____

I will be attending (check one): Saturday & Sunday Saturday only Sunday only
Fee \$25 Fee \$15 Fee \$15

I will be participating in (check one): Basic Track Beyond Basic Track

My choice for the 3:00 p.m. session on Saturday is _____

My choice for the 3:00 p.m. session on Sunday is _____

Please list any special dietary needs: _____

- (Check one): My registration fee of \$ _____ is enclosed.
 My registration fee of \$ _____ will be sent by my parish/school.
 Please bill my registration fee of \$ _____ to my parish/school.

ONLY ONE PARTICIPANT PER FORM PLEASE. DUPLICATE FORM AS NEEDED. THANK YOU.