



CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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June 23, 2023

Friends in Ministry,

As Catholic Education Ministries continues to plan for the coming year and forward we would like to invite you to our events. Enclosed you will find a brochure that categorizes our offerings for the 2023-2024 academic year, as well as a printed table of those same events. Many of you have multiple roles in your parish(es) and we wanted to make the schedules as easy as possible for each of you. There are some new opportunities and some returning opportunities. Brief descriptions of each of the opportunities are provided here:

- **DRE/YM Gatherings** – These gatherings will be held in parishes throughout the diocese and will include networking, learning on a topic, and prayer experiences. This is a great time to find new resources, connect with others in ministry, and learn from one another. Some of these events have multiple options for the same topics (within a few days of each other). The first of these gatherings will be on July 10 at St. John the Baptist in Collegetown.
- **Catechist Gatherings** – These gatherings are specifically designed for catechists, but are open for anyone in catechetical ministry. Located around the diocese, Directors of Faith Formation are welcome to encourage catechists to attend a session at a nearby parish. Topics addressed at these gatherings will include classroom management, recognizing one's gifts, gaining respect, and more. Please consider sharing these dates with your catechists to use a nearby session for additional catechist training.
- **RCIA Leader Gatherings** – There are four sessions with three different topics scheduled for leaders and teams working with RCIA. The topics include: July 19 - Inquiry, Rites of Welcome/Acceptance, Catechumenate; January sessions (11 or 19) - Rites of Election/Sending, Catechumenate, Scrutinies; April 15 - Mystagogy and evaluation. Join Christine Pinto (Associate Director for Faith Formation) and Sr. Jeanne Wiest, O.P. (Director of Worship) for insights and practical ways to walk the journey of faith.
- **Emmaus Institute** – Emmaus Institute for Ministry Formation is a formational program that helps those in ministry learn the theology and skills to feel more confident in their ministries. Classes occur one weekend a month on the campus of Saint John's University.
- **Emmaus Institute: Foundations for Youth Ministry** – Occurring one Saturday a month on the campus of Saint John's University, this program offers concrete skills and education for those in Youth Ministry positions or those who want to work with their Youth Ministry Director. We are very excited to offer this opportunity beginning this fall.
- **Diocesan Youth Council** - The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) is made up of youth in grades 9-12 from a variety of parishes from across the diocese. These youth meet 5-6 times annually. The DYC helps plan and assist in the implementation of diocesan sponsored youth ministry events. These events are primarily, but not exclusive to, the High School Youth Rally, the Middle School Youth Rally, and Castaway.

- **Diocesan Confirmation Retreats** – Participating in a retreat is one of the guidelines for Confirmation in the Diocese of Saint Cloud. With that in mind, Kent Schmitz, Associate Director for Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis, has developed and will lead four confirmation retreats at Sacred Heart Church in Sauk Rapids. Parish leaders can register using the link on our website.
- **Young Adult Ministry Team** – These gatherings are for ministers to young adults to build the young adult programming in the diocese. There is a team of young adults working together to create opportunities to move forward. Anyone interested in Young Adult Ministry is welcome to attend the meetings.
- **30 Minutes of Prayer on Zoom** – Jesus reminds us of the need to pray, but as leaders we are often in charge of leading prayer rather than allowing prayer to transform us as ministers. Every other Monday, starting September 11, we will be offering a short time for prayer via Zoom for anyone in parish ministry who would like to start their week off with Jesus. Lasting no longer than 30 minutes, this time together will be led by one of the Catholic Education Ministries staff. Following our prayer time, staff will be available to answer any questions. Join us as your schedule allows.

Mark Your Calendars!

10/28/2023 - Young Adult Day with Steve Angrisano – More information to come.

10/29/2023 – High School Youth Rally at Lake Geneva Christian Center

1/27-28/2024 – Middle School Lock-In – More information to come.

2/11/2024 – Family Rally – Designed for families, and will include Mass with the Bishop, this event will take place at Sacred Heart Church in Sauk Rapids.

3/22-24/2024 – Castaway Retreat – this retreat is for high school youth and will take place at Castaway Camp in Detroit Lakes, MN.

As you can see, the happenings are numerous. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. If you have questions, please reach out to any of our staff:

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