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Annunciation



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A CATECHETICAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND

Offering Franciscan's Catechetical Institute to the Archdiocese of Portland

by Rolando Moreno

"We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard (Acts. 4:20)." Having been transformed and set on fire with love for Christ, one cannot help but give witness to and share the good news. That said, the formation of catechists remains a top priority in the Church today and is the main reason we expanded our partnership with Franciscan University's Online Catechetical Institute (CI).

Having placed this resource in the hands of every parish and school in the Archdiocese, what is our hope in offering this? I'll limit myself to a few main points:

1. To provide formation to lay catechists and volunteers. Often this is hard to offer in a consistent manner at most parishes because of a lack of time and resources. Now there is an easy-to-access program that forms leaders at their own convenience, **and it's free!**
2. Creating a unified catechetical vision in the Archdiocese. Proper formation is crucial in every time and place, including our own. Being formed to think with the heart and mind of the Church is critical. The Catechetical Institute offers a program that not only forms us intellectually but spiritually as well, a rare combination.
3. A great platform to create Archdiocesan catechist certification. It is my hope to begin designing requirements for lay catechist certification. Professional development and accountability are an important need in parish ministry too. One can already receive a certificate of completion of the many tracks the CI has to offer (See Jenelle's story in our Ministry Leader Spotlight).

Like every good resource or tool, we must utilize it for it to be of benefit to us. We are a month in, and we only have 52 parishes and schools taking advantage of their free subscription. If you haven't done so yet please sign up! To access your free account, click [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact me.



What's Coming Up

September 22: "San José: Patrono de las Familias" par Hna Isabel Johnson, SoM, 7pm.
Archpdx Facebook Live



September 30: Amazing Parish Webinar: Join Amazing Parish and Pat Lencioni as they explore the 5 misconceptions of parish leadership at 9:30am, Click [HERE](#) to register.



October 12th: Save the date for a retreat for day ministry leaders at the Fr. Bernard Youth Center in Mount Angel. You are invited to take time to rest with the Lord and your fellow ministry leaders. The day will be offered in English and Spanish. For more information click [HERE](#). Registration is free.

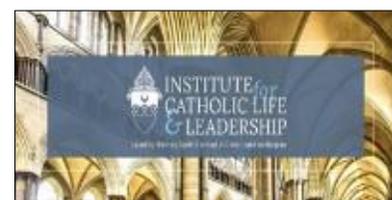


October 13th: Join Fr. Eric Anderson as he speaks on St. Joseph: Terror of Demons, 7pm
Archpdx Facebook Live



Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership

The Institute kicks off a brand-new academic year and a new cohort of students. We are happy to welcome over 40 students in both our English and Spanish programs!! The first course is Foundations of Catholicism taught by Fr. Theodore Lange. Mr. Omar Torres will teach this course in Spanish at the same time. If you are interested or have any questions regarding our program, please don't hesitate to reach out to rmoreno@archpdx.org for more information.



Franciscan University Catechetical Institute

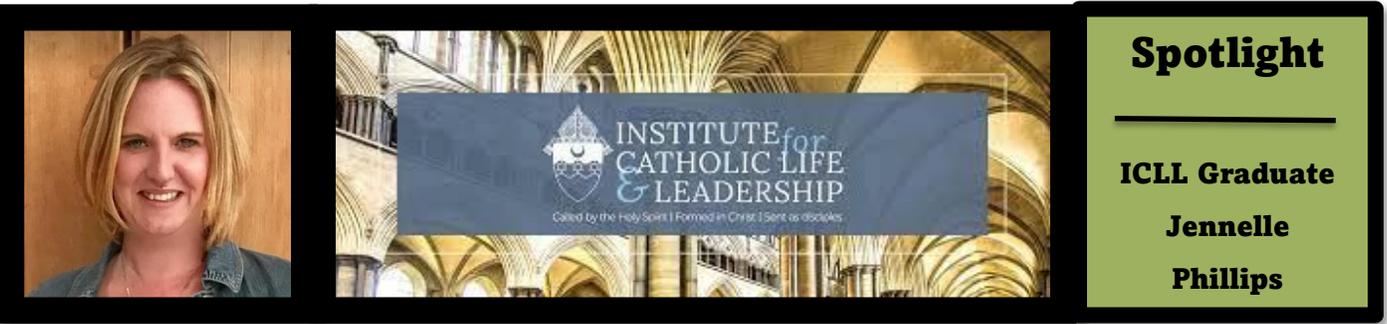
The CI exists to train and support the key catechists in any situation—priests, deacons, parents, or laity, whether professional or volunteer. Through conferences, online workshops, videos, audio, personal mentorship, and a wealth of resources produced by Franciscan University, all involved in the work of catechesis will find new ideas, new approaches, new techniques, and a new confidence to do the work of catechesis. Click [Here](#) to find out how the archdiocese's partnership can benefit you!



Articles on becoming a Disciple

As we begin a new academic year and we get lost in the business of scheduling, meetings and appointments, it's easy to forget to intellectually feed yourself, your staff or your volunteers. These two great articles, one by James C. Pauley [Forming Disciples Who Make Disciples](#) and [On Spiritual Multiplication](#), which is especially geared for youth ministers, would be a fantastic way to encourage and teach those in your circles to be effective evangelizers. Many articles in this Review are available in Spanish as well.





Jennelle Phillip coordinates the Adult Faith Formation Program at St. Cecilia's in Beaverton. A Catholic convert in 2013, she describes herself as dedicated to learning as much about her faith as she possibly can. She is a graduate of the Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership's first cohort and is now journeying through online catechist training with Franciscan's Catechetical Institute and has completed the Catechumenal Ministry (RCIA) Track. We took some moments to discuss her thoughts on both programs now offered through our Archdiocese.

Jennelle, tell me about your decision to learn more about the Catholic faith.

I was at a crossroads in my life. I had just moved out of the office industry sector, I had just had a baby, and I had recently converted. I had, also been volunteering quite a bit at church. I knew I had to decide about where my life was going but needed something to fit with my life. I was in the process of absorbing everything that comes with the faith and meeting new people, but I am an "all-in" type of person. The Institute had the most to offer me: a possible new career and the ability to juggle my family's needs.

What did you encounter at the Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership?

The Institute opened a whole new perception of world history and the Catholic Church's major role in shaping life as we know it. I am not the most scholarly person, but it really provided a big picture of how both my faith, doctrine and theology worked together.

Give us a snapshot of what life looked like for you?

We had in-person classes, reading assignments and a written assignment each month. But in some courses, like moral theology, the subject was so broad that we really had to dig for an answer to some of these questions. For the way I learn, missing a lecture was not an option. I really had to put a priority on scheduling the classes. There was little room for procrastination.

You graduated in 2019 and have just begun at the Catechetical Institute. Tell me why are you continuing?

Theology is just too broad of a subject to be encapsulated in a short program. When I graduated, I was left wanting more. I had enough education to start a new career and a new direction in life, but a lightbulb had gone on in me and I did not want that light to go away entirely. It was nice to have my Saturday's back but there is so much to learn within our faith, I knew I didn't want it to stop.

The courses at Franciscan are a little more personalized as I have a mentor who guides us through to our class goals. I am going for the RCIA Foundational Certification. This is done all online with videos and an assignment. The mentor reviews my assignment and shares some feedback. It is self-directed but I opted to have the mentorship included to help keep me on track.

What is your biggest take away?

I love that Theology has been made freely accessible to all in our archdiocese. There are endless resources to explore within our faith. Our faith needs to be apparent in our lives, we are provided choices every day to get to know Christ better. It comes down to our choice, our free will. We need to freely choose to have God in our lives.





Prayers

for teachers, to be said before classes

Almighty Father, who did send His Only Son,
that through him all men might be saved.

Enable those who teach,
to consecrate their lives,
being themselves led by you,
may lead the children in the paths of everlasting life,
through our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ. Amen.



Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son said
"Suffer the little children to come unto Me":
prosper with your blessing all teachers and grant that,
as the minds of your children are enlightened with knowledge,
so, their hearts may be daily drawn by the Holy Spirit
to the love of You And of your Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



Oh Lord Jesus Christ,
who as a child learned and grew in wisdom:
grant us to learn by your Holy Word,
that we may walk in your ways and daily grow more like You,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
One God world without end. Amen.

