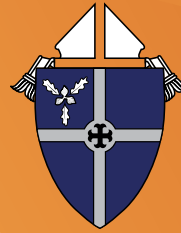


Newsletter



Offices of
Family and
Catechesis

Monthly Newsletter

Beginning this month, the Diocesan Offices of Family Ministry and Catechesis and Youth will be preparing monthly newsletters to be emailed on the first Thursday of the month to Fathers, Deacons, DREs and Catholic Leaders of the Diocese of Bismarck. May this new form of communication serve to strengthen our relationships, increase our collaborative efforts and thus more effectively bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. We thank you for taking the time to peruse the newsletter; do feel free to reach at any time with questions, comments, concerns and/or prayer requests.

Catechesis Fall of 2020

We have begun our school year and faith formation programs amid this time marked by COVID-19. For all directives and guidelines for the 2020-21 year, we encourage you to visit often and become familiar with the Diocesan website, specifically: Bishop Kagan's [General Directives to the Catholic Faithful](#), Bishop Kagan's [Fall Faith Formation Directives](#) and attached [Guidelines](#) from the Office of Catechesis and Youth, and the [Safe Environment Training](#) with edits made for the 2020-21 year. Please contact the Diocese if you have any questions.

Pre-Marriage Seminars, Natural Family Planning Courses and COVID

The pre-marriage seminars have resumed as of June- the teams are practicing social distancing for the married and engaged couples, masks are required, and food is individually served. The couples are being asked to not attend if they are awaiting test results, are considered a close contact or tested positive in the past 14 days.

NFP courses are still being offered, most teachers in the Diocese are offering their course online. This may be confusing for some, as the Diocesan website states "At this time the Diocese of Bismarck does not allow LIVE or LIVE ONLINE courses..." under the Couple to Couple League method. This method has the option for anyone, anywhere, to learn from any teacher anywhere via their LIVE or LIVE ONLINE classes. This is not an option the Diocese allows though. They may learn online, but, as with all Diocesan approved methods, the online course MUST be taught by a Diocesan approved teacher on the list on our website. Please call Amanda at 701-204-7205 if you have additional questions.

Chris Kraft

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September 2020

Traveling Thirst Eucharistic Conference and Diocesan Youth Conference

The Diocesan Offices of Family Ministry and Catechesis and Youth are joining forces to bring the Thirst Eucharistic Conference (Thirst) and Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) to YOU. Going forward, Thirst and the DYC will be a combined, yearly, one-day event that will travel from deanery to deanery in which activities and breakouts for people of all ages will be offered free of charge.

Thirst will no longer be a large three-day event every three years followed by a one-day Men's Thirst and Women's Thirst in the subsequent years. Instead, we plan to have Thirst travel throughout the Diocese from year to year in a single-day format that will include breakouts or "tracks" for people young to seasoned. By this new format, we hope to better partner and collaborate with local Parish leaders so as to best reach out, engage, enrich and evangelize the Catholic Faithful and not yet faithful located throughout the whole Bismarck Diocese.

We plan to start this new format of the conferences in Bismarck/Mandan **October 30, 2021**. We hope to proceed with Thirst 2022 in Dickinson, Thirst 2023 in Williston, Thirst 2024 in Minot and then restart the rotation back in Bismarck/Mandan with Thirst 2025, all being held around the last weekend of October. If you have any questions, concerns, comments or ideas regarding this change feel free to contact Amanda at 701-204-7205 or Chris at 701-204-7208.

Corazon

Corazon is a weekend experience offered to couples in crisis. They are asked to open their hearts to look at what the Sacrament of Marriage is all about. This important ministry is in need of couples who would be willing to lead conversations with the attendees and possibly share their stories and how they have overcome the hurts they have caused each other and moved forward. If you are aware of anyone who would like to join this ministry as a presenting couple, please contact Amanda at 701-204-7205.

SEARCH for Christian Maturity

Given Bishop Kagan's directives, the 2020 Fall Search season will not look as it has traditionally in the past. Instead, there will be single-day Search "re-CONNECTs" which will be filled with the Sacraments, retreat, fellowship, leadership training and worship. The first will be held **Saturday, September 26** at St Joseph's in Dickinson; registration and more info can be found [here](#). Please have youth and young adults register by Friday, September 18 to ensure necessary social distancing is maintained. Future dates include October 17 in Bismarck/Mandan and December 5 in Dickinson. Please contact Dean at 701-471-3403 or Chris at 701-204-7208 with any questions.

Catechetical Sunday, September 20

Sunday, September 20th marks [Catechetical Sunday](#) which is the day set aside by the Church to publicly call forth those designated to serve as catechists to be commissioned for their ministry. This is an especially important opportunity to emphasize the indispensable role of parents who indeed are primary catechists of children. I encourage you to include in your celebration of Catechetical Sunday the Blessing of Parents and Guardians found in the [Rite of the Blessing of Catechists](#). May Catechetical Sunday be for each of us a time to renew our dedication to pass on the gift of faith!
