



Office of Faith Formation

Pastoral Center
Diocese of Amarillo

Newsletter

March, 2015



*Lent is a time of Blessing
for the people of God*

*Catechists
Journey together in Lent*

*Dear Catechists,
A Blessed Lenten Season!*

It seems that the Lenten Season has come rather quickly and that we are in the midst of teaching our students about the love Jesus has for each person. Pope Francis is an example living in the light of Jesus and proclaims:

“Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a “time of grace” (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. ‘We love because he first has loved us’ (1 Jn 4:19). He is not aloof from us. **Each one of us has a place in his heart.** He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (**something God the Father never does**): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure... Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don’t think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalization of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.”

The paragraph above is taken from the reflection given by Pope Francis on Lent. It is a reminder of what we are to do as Christians, if we wish to follow Jesus during this special time. We are encouraged to remember that we belong to a universal family and that God the Father has sent His Son to redeem us. Lent is a time of living in the “presence” of Jesus and manifesting that “presence” with those with whom we live, work and serve. We are compelled to share with our students the many graces we receive because we believe that Jesus died not only for us but for the people in the entire world. Therefore, the poor, sick, lonely, broken hearted, and the less fortunate...are our brothers and sisters! During this time of Lent, let us ask the Father for insight to know and to reach out to those suffering around us. How do we do this? Perhaps it is a kind word, a sharing of how God has touched our lives, praying for those in need and maybe giving food to the local food pantry during these cold winter days. Let us pray for the gift of “giving” to a brother or sister in need. No doubt, many times the “giver” receives more than the one to whom we have “given”! May Jesus, the Way, lead us on this journey of faith and love. To this end—we pray. God bless you. *Sister Janet, OSMD*

Annual Faith Formation Conference—Saturday, August 1, 2015

Please circle your calendar. The Conference will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral. More information and registration forms will be available soon. The registration fee is \$15.00 and includes lunch, handouts, snacks and coffee breaks. All parish leaders are welcome!

Reminder

Important dates: Course attendance—Sacraments of Initiation

Preparations for the Sacraments in the parishes

Diocesan Adult Confirmation Retreat—March 28, St. Mary's Cathedral

Chrism Mass—March 31—St. Mary's Cathedral

Diocesan Adult Confirmation—April 11—St. Laurence Church

DRE Meeting with Bishop Patrick Zurek—June 6—St. Mary's Cathedral



Pope Francis Plans to Visit the United States of America

Let us remember to pray for Pope Francis as he prepares to visit our country during the week of September 22-28, 2015. Surely, this is a special event for Catholics and all who welcome him. His messages to the Families, Bishops, Priests, Religious, Laity, Congress and other important groups will be a time of grace and blessings. Remember to pray for his good health and safety.



Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week—January, 2015

This conference was a real success. Thanks to all parish catechists and leaders who attended. The Keynote speakers and workshop presenters, prayer services, food and hospitality were great signs of Amarillo's welcome! And the snow was a little added bonus!!!

A question: What are the requirements of a sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation?

Sponsor:

- *must have completed the sixteenth year and be sufficiently mature for the responsibility;
- *be a Catholic who has been confirmed, has already received First Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with faith and the role to be undertaken;
- *may not be one of the candidate's parent;
- *if married, they should have been married in the Church, attend Sunday Mass, regularly and receive Holy Communion;
- *not be prohibited by Canon Law from exercising the role of sponsor.

(Canon Law: 893 and 874)



Registration Form for Faith Formation Basic Course— Spring, 2015

Course: Sacraments of Initiation — for Catechists

Diocese of Amarillo



Course: Place and Date

Deanery:	Parish:	Presenter:	Date:	Time:
East	St. Vincent de Paul, Pampa	Rev. Francisco Perez	Feb. 7	9:30am — 12:30pm
North	Sts. Peter and Paul, Dumas	Rev. Ricardo Zanetti (Spanish)	Feb. 14	9:30am — 12:30pm
		Sister Katherine Dorsey (English)	Feb. 14	9:30am — 12:30pm
South	St. Anthony, Hereford	Rev. Ken Keller	Mar. 21	9:30am — 12:30am
Central	St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo	Mr. Kelsey Matchen	Mar. 21	9:30am — 12:30pm

Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which divine life is dispensed to us.

CCC-1131

Detach and mail to: Sister Janet Abbacchi, P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, TX 79117-5644

Registration for the Course: Sacraments of Initiation There is no charge for the course.

Please print

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

Parish _____ City _____

What grade do you teach in Faith Formation at your parish? _____

Please circle where you will attend the course: Amarillo, Dumas, Hereford, Pampa