



Office of Faith Formation

Pastoral Center
Diocese of Amarillo

Newsletter

August, 2015



*A New Year in
Faith Formation - Blessings and Peace*

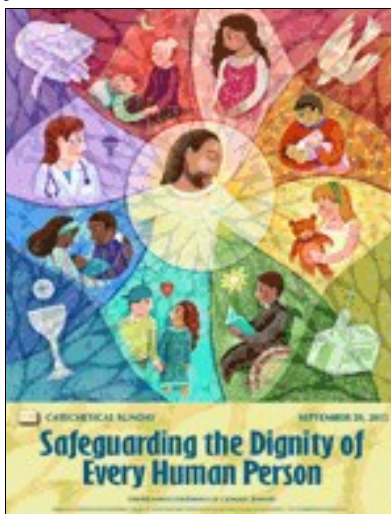
*Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015
Safeguarding the Dignity of
Every Human Person*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis is pleased to announce the release of the 2015 Catechetical Sunday materials focused on the theme: “**Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person.**” Catechetical Sunday, which is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in September in parishes across the United States, falls this year on the week-end of September 20, 2015, the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This year’s theme reminds us that rests in the biblical teaching (Gen 1:26-27) that we are made in God’s image and likeness. It also reminds us that we may need to actively support and protect others from all sorts of harm, cherishing human life from the moment of conception to a natural death.

As in past years, a variety of materials have been prepared to assist pastors, parish catechists, Catholic school teachers and the faithful in celebrating Catechetical Sunday, not only in September, 2015, but also throughout the 2015-2016 year. These materials are provided free of charge. USCCB Publishing will also sell printed copies of prayer cards, family commitment cards, posters, and certificates in English and Spanish.



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I pray with you that we may be vigilant in affirming and nurturing our God-given human dignity in spite of every challenge. Let us use the coming year to reflect on how the Bible, and in particular the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, provide the spiritual and moral foundations for our Christian life. And let us eagerly join with the whole Church in thanksgiving and personal witness to the joy of living the Gospel day by day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair,
Chairman of Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

Safe Environment Month — October, 2015

DREs and Catechists, please make sure that the children in your classes receive the proper training during the suggested time. It is important that we work together for the safety of all children entrusted to our care. All the material for each grade level is found on the Diocesan Website—Diocese of Amarillo under the heading of “Safe Environment”. Your cooperation is gratefully appreciated. If you have questions, please phone Molly Villegas, Safe Environment Office:

Reminder

Important dates: Course attendance—Sacraments of Healing. The schedule can be located in this newsletter.

- *Annual Faith Formation Report due —October 31, 2015
- *Rite of Election—February 14, 2016, St. Mary’s Cathedral, 2:30pm
- *Diocesan Adult Confirmation Retreat—March 19, 2016, St. Mary’s Cathedral, 10:00am —5:00pm, including Mass with Bishop Zurek at 4:00pm
- *Chrism Mass—March 22, 2016, —St. Mary’s Cathedral, 7:00pm
- *Diocesan Adult Confirmation Mass—April 2, 2016, St. Laurence Church, 10:00am

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.



Pope Francis proclaims a Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016

More information will be forthcoming as the year progresses. In the meanwhile, you can locate information on the Vatican website and the Bishops’ website.—uscbb.org

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)

Dear Catechists,

August 1, 2015—**The Annual Faith Formation Conference was a blessed and profitable experience for all who attended.** The two keynote speakers gave us much food for thought as we approach another Year in Faith Formation. The topics were so well developed and presented so that we had a great deal of information that could be used for this up-coming year. Learning about “multi-sensory methodology” was certainly a way for us to look at how we prepare for the children we are going to teach. Of course, this involves preparation, planning, and creating a lesson plan that will guide us through the time that we are with the children. Working with our classes is definitely a way to evangelize and share the love of Jesus.

Perhaps, the following suggestions will be of assistance to you as you prepare for your class.

What is the aim of the lesson?
How will I introduce the lesson?

Suggestions:

1. Human Experience -
How will I present this lesson?
Ideas: through discussion, guided reflection, role playing or another activity involving the students in the learning.
2. Message
The effective catechist will use various methods.
Ideas: through story telling, lecture, Scripture reading, drama or audiovisuals.
3. Discovery
The students exhibit how they are learning.
Ideas: through questions and answers, personal sharing, imaging, or reflection exercises.
4. Response
The students show their appreciation of the lesson.
Ideas: prayer, music, writing, art projects, service, celebration or creating a symbol.

Notice: The above is only a method you might want to consider. A similar pattern is usually found in the teachers’ manuals. The manuals that are published for religion textbooks (approved by the Bishops of the United States) have many good materials to enhance the lessons.

Thank you for all you do for the children with whom you are willing to share the ways of building a relationship with Jesus. **This is our goal — to know Jesus as our Brother!**

If I can be of assistance, please give me a call. God bless you.

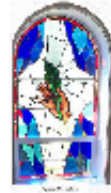
Sister Janet Abbacchi, SSND
Coordinator of Faith Formation
806-383-2243

**Come Holy Spirit fill
our Hearts with your
Love!**



Registration Form for Faith Formation Basic Course—Fall, 2015

Make plans to attend the Course and receive your certificate of attendance:



Sacraments of Healing

Basic Courses for Catechists—Diocese of Amarillo — Faith Formation Program

Course: Sacraments of Healing—Fall, 2015

Deanery:	Parish:	Presenter:	Date:	Time:
East	St. Vincent de Paul, Pampa	Rev. Christopher Schwind	Sept. 26	9:30am — 12:30pm
Central	St. Hyacinth, Amarillo	Rev. John Dalton	Oct. 17	9:30am — 12:30pm
North	Sts. Peter and Paul, Dumas	Rev. Gabriel Garcia (Span.)	Oct. 24	9:30am— 12:30pm
North	Sts. Peter and Paul, Dumas	Msgr. Michael Colwell (Eng)	Oct. 24	9:30am— 12:30pm
South	San Jose, Hereford	Rev. Ken Keller	Nov. 7	9:30am — 12:30pm

May each catechist take advantage of this on-going Faith Formation opportunity.

“The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.” (CCC #1421)

Registration for the Course: Sacraments of Healing

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

Notice: If you have any questions about this information, please call your DRE or Sister Janet or Pastoral Center: 1 806-383-2243 ext 113 or 116 — jabbacchi@dioama.org

East Deanery—Change in presenter. Father Schwind will not be with us on Sept. 26, because of his new assignment as pastor. Sister Janet will present the course. Thank you and God bless you. Please register for the course.