



DIOCESE OF FARGO

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The Office of Catholic Education and Formation

COMING IN 2012

✂ **Year of Faith** ✂ **Safe Environment** ✂ **Sacramental Preparation** ✂
✂ **Evangelization & Catechesis** ✂ **Marriage and Family Life** ✂

Following is a summary of the various projects the offices of the Diocese of Fargo's Office of Catholic Education and Formation are currently working on and will roll out in 2012. Pastors, please share this information with your Parish Councils, DREs and other parish staff.

Year of Faith

On October 11, 2011, Pope Benedict announced that a "Year of Faith" will be celebrated in 2012-2013. Throughout the spring of 2012 parishes throughout the Diocese of Fargo will be asked to discuss ideas on how the "Year of Faith" could be celebrated in the Diocese of Fargo, and share these ideas with their local deanery Pastoral Councils, which, in turn, will take them to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. A compiled list of ideas will be sent to every parish, who will then formulate their own unique way in which to mark this year, which begins on October 11, 2012. For more information, see Pope Benedict's *motu proprio* announcing this event at www.vatican.va.

Safe Environment

Training sessions for the following programs will occur at the end of May 2012. The registration form is available online at www.fargodiocese.org/clergy (it was part of the September *Clergy Bulletin*).

Circle of Care

Beginning in the fall of 2012, the "Circle of Care" program will replace the video by Dr. Duckro as the required safe environment training for church workers and volunteers.

Circle of Grace

Beginning in the fall of 2012, the "Circle of Grace" will become the safe environment curriculum which will be required in grades K – 12 of Religious Education programs throughout the diocese. In the spring of 2012 it will be piloted in

the Catholic schools and a few parishes throughout the diocese.

Sacramental Preparation

Based on feedback we have received from priests, DREs, catechists and parents, we are working on providing additional materials to assist in the preparation of our young students for the reception of the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Sacramental Retreats

In January of 2012, we will publish retreats for each of the sacraments which the students in second and third grade will receive. While the requirement that the students participate in a 3 - 5 hour retreat as part of their preparation for the sacrament of Penance, Confirmation or First Eucharist will remain, the retreats we will make available will not be obligatory. They are intended to provide pastors and DREs with ideas on how to conduct such a retreat.

Priest / DRE Checklist

A revised checklist will be published containing all the requirements for preparing our young students for the sacraments. Additional resources will include outlines for parent sessions, a sample pastor's interview, etc.

Parents' Handbooks

The Parents' Handbooks for each of the sacraments will be reviewed. Please send suggestions for changes to Katie Dubas (katie.dubas@fargodiocese.org). (It is not known at this time whether there will be revised editions coming out this summer.)

Booklet for Restored Order of Confirmation

We recognize the need for more resources written for third grade Confirmation. We are working on a booklet to assist in preparing children for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please send ideas and suggestions to Katie Dubas.

Evangelization & Catechesis

“Catholics Come Home” TV Campaign

The “Catholics Come Home” ads will continue to air through January 9, 2012, on a variety of national broadcast and cable television networks, including CBS, NBC, TNT, TBS, USA and Univision. When viewers see a commercial, they are invited to “come home” to their parish, and visit www.CatholicsComeHome.org. Among the many features of this website are resources for non-Catholics, inactive Catholics and practicing Catholics, as well as a directory of parishes. Continue to welcome and pray for parishioners who have responded to the campaign and come home to the Catholic Church.

ECHOES Challenge

Bishop Aquila desires catechetical formation opportunities for adults, especially catechists, to be made available in each parish or parish cluster. *ECHOES* is designed to help form adults, so that they have an appropriate knowledge of the teachings of the Church, and that they learn both the theory and the practice of the principles of how to hand on the faith. The *ECHOES* course is simple to execute. There is no homework for participants. It is led by a trained facilitator (can be a lay person) and the training session is only two hours. Contact Katie Dubas to schedule a training session in 2012.

Maryvale Certificate in Catechesis

We have partnered with the Maryvale Institute to offer a Certificate in Catechesis. **There are only five spots remaining! Deadline to register is January 9th, 2012. The first study day is Saturday, January 14th.** The two-year, part-time, collaborative-learning course is designed to take adults to the next level of competency in catechetics.

The course blends the content of our Faith with the methodology of how to impart the Faith. Homework assignments allow the student to pick their audience (children, teens, RCIA candidates, parents, etc) and are graded in relation to their chosen target audience. It is a very practical and manageable course and has had approval from the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome since 1989. Contact Katie Dubas for questions. Application form available at www.fargodiocese.org/educationformation/evangelization/Catechesis/catechesis.htm.

YOUCAT: Discounted Rate

— and a Limited Time Offer

While supplies last, the new YOUCAT is available from CEF office at the bulk rate of \$13.50 each.

Special Offer: Did your parish order YOUCATs from the diocese recently? We have partnered with Lighthouse Catholic Media to obtain 3 Free Youth downloads for each book purchased. Contact CEF office for details or go to: www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/youth?promoCode=101015 (good for the first 500 uses).

Marriage and Family Life

Year of Marriage

In the roundtable discussions held in the fall of 2011, priests of the diocese were in favor of the idea that we celebrate of a “Year of Marriage”. However, with the upcoming preparation and celebration of the “Year of Faith” we will table the idea for this year.

Pre-Marriage Preparation Inventories

During the early part of 2012, we will continue to transition to the new policies of FOCCUS regarding the scoring of their pre-marriage inventory and certification of facilitators.

A few parishes have begun to use *Fully Engaged*, the new pre-marriage inventory from the St. Cloud Diocese.

For more information, or if a parish or deanery wants to schedule training on either these inventories, please contact Jennie Korsmo at jennie.korsmo@fargodiocese.org or 701-356-7901.