The apostolic work of the catechist springs from the Sacrament of Baptism through which all believers come to share in the prophetic ministry of Christ and the evangelizing mission of the Church. It is strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. The call to the ministry of catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training. Their commissioning by the Church is a participation in the divine calling to teach as Jesus did. Their personal relationship with Jesus Christ energizes their service to the Church and provides the continuing motivation, vitality, and force of their catechetical activity. Christ invites all catechists to follow him as a teacher of the faith and a witness to the truth of the faith.

Like all the faithful, catechists are called to holiness. Because of their ministry and mission; however, the call to holiness has a particular urgency. The spiritual life of a catechist should be characterized by:
• A love of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and of Christ’s Church, our Holy Father, and God’s holy people
• A coherence and authenticity of life that is characterized by their faithful practice of the faith in a spirit of faith, charity, hope, courage, and joy
• Personal prayer and dedication to the evangelizing mission of the Church
• A missionary zeal by which they are fully convinced of the truth of the Catholic faith and enthusiastically proclaim it
• Active participation in their local parish community, especially by attendance at Sunday Eucharist
• A devotion to Mary, the first disciple and the model of catechists, and to the Most Holy Eucharist, the source of nourishment for catechists

Lay catechists have a special solidarity with those whom they serve. They live in the same world as those they catechize, and share the same demands of living in that world. Their proclamation of the Gospel, their personal testimony, and their living witness to the transcendent values of the Christian life can be particularly effective because they know the ordinary experiences of everyday life so well and are able to incarnate the Gospel in those ordinary circumstances.

Catechists must be attentive to adapt their method of catechesis to the needs of the particular groups they serve. Catechists serve a wide variety of persons, and the message of the Gospel must be proclaimed in such a way that they can understand it, and that it is applied to their life situation. Those who are in need of catechesis include those who do not have the constant presence of a priest; families; adults, young adults, children, and adolescents; those preparing those with special needs; immigrants, migrants, refugees, and people on the move; those in campus ministry programs; Catholic school children; members of movements and associations; those in hospitals and the military; those in prisons. The Church has a serious responsibility to identify the groups in need of specialized catechesis and to provide training and formation for those who respond to the Holy Spirit’s call to be a catechist to these groups.

Catechists are to identify and create suitable conditions, which are necessary for the Christian message to be sought, accepted, and more profoundly investigated for each of the various groups they serve. It is clear that, in order to present the Catholic faith in its fullness and in a way that is attractive to each group, those who catechize need preparation and ongoing formation specific to the conditions of those to whom they proclaim the Gospel message. To this end, catechist formation programs cooperatively developed by parishes and dioceses must ensure that catechists receive assistance in developing their knowledge of the faith and the Gospel message as well as the dimension of savoir-faire, of knowing how to transmit the message, so that it is an act of communication. Faith is the result of the initiative of God’s grace and the cooperation of human freedom. Catechists should humbly acknowledge, with St. Paul, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.”

So, with this excerpt from the National Directory of Catechesis (the NDC) we can see how important the role of the catechist is. We need to form and train them adequately (parish opportunities, diocesan opportunities like our Called, Formed, & Sent Conference, and online opportunities through our partnership with the University of Dayton - VLCFF). We need to foster a relationship of collaboration with parents for those catechists who catechize children and youth, and we need to give them all the support and help they need to be effective evangelizers and catechists.

Catechists can be catalysts for evangelization. We know many families who either send their children/youth to religious education or even Catholic schools, yet they are not to be seen at the Sunday Eucharist. We need to be developing relationships with parents and helping them understand the importance of the Sunday liturgy as well as practicing the faith in the home. Hopefully, with a new emphasis on evangelization in our Church today, we can reach out and invite more, and catechists can be instrumental in this mission.

Upcoming Opportunities

PCL Gathering
Thursday, September 26, 2019 – Cultural Awareness in Catechetical Formation – Jesús Abrego

PCL Gatherings for This Catechetical Year
2019: October 17, November 21
2020: January 9, February 20, March 26, April 23, and May 14

Go to all peoples everywhere & make them My disciples Teach them everything I have told you

Lay Missionary Disciples
Just as we equip those who will be priests (seminarians), those who are in formation and preparation to become deacons, and those who are in
formation to become consecrated religious, there are lay leaders and other laity who need formation as well. There are some laity who are working full-time for parishes and other Church structures, some working part-time for the Church, some volunteering their time in leadership roles for the Church, or even some volunteering as catechists. For them, we have a formation opportunity called **Lay Missionary Disciples**, which will begin this fall.

The following are the dates for this formation:

Saturday, September 28, 2019
- Kerygma Morning of Reflection

Saturday, October 19, 2019
- Old Testament

Saturday, November 16, 2019
- New Testament

Saturday, January 11, 2020
- Prayer and Liturgy

Saturday, February 15, 2020
- Sacraments

Saturday, March 21, 2020
- Morality

Saturday, April 18, 2020
- Catholic Social Teaching

Saturday, May 2, 2020
- Lay Ministry in the Church

The timeframe for these will be 9:00 am to 11:55 am

Please register through Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lay-missionary-disciples-tickets-61099586508

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**Catholic Women’s Conference**

Friday, October 11, 2019 and Saturday, October 12, 2019 at St. Francis of Assisi in Orange. Invite the women of your parish! Speakers are Sr. Michaela Martinez, OP and Sr. Marie Hannah, OP of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia of Nashville. Further information can be found: https://www.stfrancisorangetx.org/images/bulletins/bulletin072819.pdf

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**Called, Formed, & Sent Conference**

**SAVE the DATE: November 2, 2019**

“Abide with Us”

Save the Date! It will be November 2, 2019 – All Souls’ Day at St. Pius X Parish in Beaumont. Featured speakers include Sr. Pat McCormack, IHM, speaker and writer on parent involvement with faith formation and the faith, and Peter Ductram, Director of Lay Ministry Formation for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Presentations will be in English and Spanish.

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**Parish Visits**

Bryan has been on the road for some parish visits. He can visit on the day of your Faith Formation. He can also do visits with pastors and catechetical leaders. Please arrange a time that you can invite him to your parish by contacting him via email: breising@dioceseofbmt.org or calling his office at 409-924-4323. He will not get to all places during the catechetical year, but he would like to get to all regions of the diocese. In addition, Twyla (North, West Vicariates), Sr. Misty (East, South, and Central Vicariates), and Paul are available for parish visits as well.

What will happen with these visits? The following are some possibilities: an evaluation of your evangelization efforts and adult catechetical formation, an observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction, perhaps an in-service with your catechists, a presentation to parents, or even a catechetical presentation – guest catechist for adults, youth, or children.
Heart of Faith

These are 2 hour learning sessions that can be presented right in your parish. Contact our office to arrange this opportunity. Topics include Evangelization, Home Visitation Training, Christian Morality, the Sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Sacred Scripture.

Confirmation Preparation for Adults
For the 2019-2020 Confirmation preparation schedule, please go to https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/ministry-offices/office-of-evangelization-and-catechesis/ and click on the “Eventbrite registration for Confirmation classes” button. This lists all the possible locations/dates (we added one session for the fall starting in October). Once they pick a location to attend Confirmation preparation, have them register for each of the 9 sessions. In addition, people who want to register for Confirmation preparation must also click on the “Required pre-registration Adult Confirmation form” button and fill out and return that form prior to week 1 of Confirmation Preparation. Thank you!

University of Dayton (VLCFF)

Virtual Learning Community
For Faith Formation

Cycle 6: September 8 - October 12, 2019(Registration: Opens July 24; Closes September 4)

- A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry
- Administration in Ministry
- Bible Basics
- Catechetical Methodology: Archdiocese for the Military Services Only
- Catholic Beliefs
- Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education
- Church History 1
- Collaboration and Community
- Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview (SN 1)
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church
- Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing
- Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 4)
- Faith and Human Development
- Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs (SN 5)
- Images of Jesus
- Introduction to Catechesis (Bryan Reising will facilitate this course)
- Introduction to Christian Morality
- Introduction to Practical Morality
- Introduction to Prayer
- Introduction to Scripture
- Islam
- Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 5)
- Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility
- Ministering in Times of Scandals and Divisions
- Music in Liturgy
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Parish and Social Action
- Pastoral Letter: Blessed are the Merciful
- Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry
- Prophets
- Sacraments
- Study of The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- The Mass

Cycle 7: October 27 - November 30, 2019(Registration: Opens September 11; Closes October 23)

- Bible Basics
- Catechetical Methodology: Archdiocese for the Military Services Only
- Catholic Beliefs
- Catholic Identity and Culture
- Church History 2
- Conscience
- Creative Methodologies: ADHD in Parish Life - Pastoral Implications (SN 3)
- Emotional Intelligence and its Impact on Faith Formation
Evangelization and Discipleship
Faith and Human Development
Foundations for Liturgy
Images of Jesus
Introduction to Catechesis (Bryan Reising will facilitate this course)
Introduction to Practical Morality
Introduction to Prayer
Introduction to Scripture
Leadership in Ministry
Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 5)
Marianist Studies: Prayer
Mary in Scripture and Tradition
Mercy
Ministering in Times of Scandals and Divisions
New Testament
Old Testament
Our Hearts Were Burning
Pastoral Letter: Go Forth! I am with You Always
Planning Youth Ministry Events
Praying With Children
Reflections on Faith and Finance
Relational Ministry with Youth
Sacraments
Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 6)
Survey of Catholic Doctrine
The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion
Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life
Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists

Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation

Check out this resource from Word on Fire Engage (parishes can try this resource for free during Lent): https://engage.wordonfire.org/about

Formed.org is a subscription service by parish that includes adult faith formation offerings, movies, and podcasts, and eBooks: https://formed.org/

JustFaith is a small group process to learn about Catholic Social Teaching: https://justfaith.org/

RENEW International has a host of resources for renewal and adult catechetical formation: http://www.renewintl.org/

SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization) is a plan for the new evangelization for parishes that offer renewal experiences, small Christian communities, neighborhood based ministries, and home visitation: https://sinecentral.org/

Paulist Evangelization Ministries offers many resources for small groups, parish renewal, a process for returning Catholics, and outreach: https://www.pemdc.org/

Catholic Returning Home is a process for returning Catholics: http://www.catholicsreturninghome.org/

ACTS

Adoration, Community, Theology, Service

To find out about upcoming ACTS Retreat and Activities: https://beaumontacts.org/

Interested in a Bachelors or Masters in Theology

St. Thomas University in Houston: https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Undergraduate/Theology/Index.aqf
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

The next NCCL Convocation will be in Dubuque, Iowa. Check the NCCL website for further information about this exciting conference! And all PCLs are now members of NCCL! Check out the Web site: www.nccl.org. Contact our office to learn how you can be a member of NCCL compliments of the Diocese of Beaumont if you are not a member yet! Keep in mind, they do have an additional $24 stewardship fee. For information, go to www.nccl.org

Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

Any PCL, youth minister, catechist, adults helping with youth ministry, or anyone who may be in a ministry with minors is required to be in total compliance with safe environment requirements. To be in compliance, one must have attended in person a Protecting God’s Children (PGC) session. After 5 years from the initial training participation, a recertification is required. This can be done either through the diocesan website online module, or by attending another in person PGC session.

If you have any questions regarding Safe Environment Training, you may contact the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator through the following information:  
Paul J Thomas  
pthomas@dioceseofbmt.org 409-924-4315

Upcoming Protecting God’s Children Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. September 9, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Infant Jesus, Religious Education Building, Lumberton</td>
<td>Stacy Keen</td>
<td>Stacy: 409-755-1734 x 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. September 13, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Mary, Parish Hall, Cleveland</td>
<td>Flavia Avalos</td>
<td>Vanessa: 281-592-2985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. September 15, 2019</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Mary, Fannett</td>
<td>Debbie Peltier</td>
<td>Debbie: 409-781-1810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. September 16, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Francis, Orange</td>
<td>Jackie Spears</td>
<td>Jackie 409-882-4453:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. September 30, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Mark, Silsbee</td>
<td>Kathy Watson</td>
<td>Kathy: 409-781-7356</td>
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Protegiendo los Niños de Dios: 2019-2020 Sesiones en Espanol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fecha</th>
<th>Tiempo</th>
<th>Localización</th>
<th>Facilitador</th>
<th>Contacto</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lunes (Mon), 9 de septiembre 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>San Francisco, Orange</td>
<td>Jesus Abrego</td>
<td>Jackie: 409-924-4308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lunes (Mon), 23 de septiembre 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>San Jose, Port Arthur</td>
<td>Jesus Abrego</td>
<td>Jackie: 409-924-4308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jueves (Thur), 26 de septiembre 2019</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Nuestra Señora de la Luz, Anahuac</td>
<td>Jesus Abrego</td>
<td>Jackie: 409-924-4308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember to abide by all the deadlines for Safe Environment. Thank you!