Dear Catechetical leaders:

Greetings! If you’re reading this, it probably means that the headlong rush through Easter Vigil/Confirmation/First Communion/last day of RE classes is behind you and you actually have time to catch up on reading your email inbox! Some of you are awaiting pastoral changes (not uncommon at this time of year) and wondering how your ministry might be affected. Or maybe you’re going through changes in your family, health, or personal commitments. Whatever you’re going through, it’s helpful to remember those last words of Jesus before his ascension: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Wherever the Lord is leading you—he’s already there, one step ahead, waiting for you. Go forth in confidence, in the Holy Spirit.

- Sharon K. Perkins, Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Family Life

From the Director:

Most Catholics in the Austin diocese are familiar with the diocesan policy—that all clergy and paid staff, as well as adult volunteers working with youth and vulnerable adults, must meet the requirements of Ethics and Integrity in Ministry. But taking it a step further, it is especially important that all presenters and teachers who work with youth on the subjects of human sexuality and chaste living, are adequately prepared. Therefore, anyone who is teaching a class or giving a presentation on human sexuality and chaste living should have a comprehensive understanding of the Church’s teaching on these subjects as well as an understanding of pastoral ministry. Within the Diocese of Austin, those who seek to teach human sexuality are therefore required to obtain certification through the Diocesan Catechesis on Human Love.

For those who wish to simply facilitate a study or discussion group on the topic of chaste living or Theology of the Body, Catechesis on Human Love certification is not required. Any adult, whether staff or volunteer, with the approval of his or her Pastor, may utilize diocesan-approved resources (usually DVD-based), for which training is available. The trained facilitator of the study group shall act only as a group facilitator and not as a teacher unless given approval from the Diocese to do so.

(continued)
I am, therefore, extremely excited to announce that the training on “YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body” is coming to Austin on Friday, June 9, at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

This training, delivered by Tom McCabe of Ascension Press:

- will help you learn the Theology of the Body and how to facilitate this program.
- will provide the tools to navigate challenging topics, including gender, pornography, and same-sex “marriage.”
- will help you learn what healthy relationships look like and how to live a life of sacrifice and discipleship.

The training will enable you to facilitate this particular program, “YOU,” using the materials provided. Or, if you’ve already been teaching or facilitating a program on Theology of the Body, you absolutely can benefit from this training because it touches on some current moral issues that are going on in our society and provides a good theological and pastoral “refresher.” It’s also a great opportunity to exchange ideas, best practices, and strategies with other facilitators. And, you can earn certification credit!

Participation in this training will allow you to use the acquired credit hours in one of the following areas:

- You will receive 8 hours of credit for the Introduction to Theology of the Body if you are seeking Catechesis on Human Love certification.
- You will receive 8 hours of the Chaste Living component if you are a Catholic school teacher or Catholic school religion teacher working towards Part 2 Catholic Schools Certification.
- You will receive 8 hours of the Chaste Living component if you are a catechist or DRE working towards Level 2 catechetical certification.
- You will receive 4 hours of the Chaste Living component if you are a DRE completing the necessary 4 hours of Theology of the Body towards the DRE certification.
- Or these may also be used as Continuing Education hours.

In an age of “selfies” and egocentrism, we need a program that cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person, and to introduce to this generation the voice of truth. I think we finally discover one that does just that. It is “YOU.”

To register for “YOU,” visit: [http://www.austindiocese.org/offices-ministries/offices/family-life-office](http://www.austindiocese.org/offices-ministries/offices/family-life-office)

**Tom McCabe** is an educator, writer, consultant, and frequent conference speaker with twenty years of experience serving diocesan and parish organizations in the areas of evangelization, catechesis, and strategic planning. Tom has worked extensively within the Catholic Church at many levels, including parishes, Catholic schools, and dioceses. Tom is a diocesan representative with Ascension Press and co-author of *Living a Joy-Filled Marriage*.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (512) 949-2470.

**Dr. Phi Le**

Associate Director for Family Life

[phi-le@austindiocese.org](mailto:phi-le@austindiocese.org)
May 22, 2017: The Practice of Art-Journaling

The Practice of Art Journaling will be at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton on May 22 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Art Journaling is the use of simple art material, written journaling, contemplative gazing and receptive noticing to help respond to prayer and expression. Sr. Marianne Hieb, RSM, D. Min., and Sr. Helen Owens, RN. MSN, D. Min. will lead this retreat and is a member of Lourdes Wellness Spirituality Retreat Team. [Click here to register.]

June 1, 2017: Parables in Luke’s Gospel

The Parables in Luke’s Gospel Retreat will be held at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton on June 1 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The retreat will focus on why Jesus used parables and how we can apply them to our life today. Father Angelo Bertini, retired chaplain from Cedarbrake, will facilitate this day. The cost is $40 and includes lunch. [Click here to register.]

June 9, 2017: Desert Solitude Retreat

The Desert Solitude Retreat being held at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton on June 9-14 is a silent retreat with centering prayer and daily Mass as the focus. Beverly Collin, assistant director, will lead this retreat. This is a wonderful time to come to Cedarbrake and enjoy the quiet. The cost varies. [Click here to register.]

June 16, 2017: Theological Reflection

The Theological Reflection Retreat will be at Cedarbrake on June 16 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This reflection allows us to connect what we experience and believe to the Word of God. This opportunity of reflection will help us understand how the process of seeing, judging and acting can be an instrument for our journey of faith. Gustavo Rodriguez, Associate Director of Catechesis for the Austin diocese, will lead this day. [Click here to register.]

June 23-25, 2017: Regaining Your Balance

Regaining Your Balance Retreat will be at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton from June 23-25. We will explore the themes of “holding on” and “letting go.” What are you holding onto? How do you “let go” of things, troubles, the past, and worries? Presenters, Cindy Isaacson and Sue Fowler have given numerous retreats in the diocese. [Click here to register.]
CATECHETICAL SUNDAY
September 17, 2017

Go to http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/ for the readings, downloadable materials, and links to purchase posters, certificates, and more.

2017 Catechetical Calendar Dates
English & Spanish

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CERTIFICATION CLASSES NOW!
FIRST CLASS BEGINS MONDAY, JUNE 5!

Visit our 2017 webpages to register and view the full class listing for the following programs:

♦ 2017 Summer Certification Program
♦ 2017 Basic Teachings and CAF (English)
♦ 2017 Basic Teachings and CAF (Spanish)

DRE Certification Online Classes: Save-the-dates! Class time: 1-3 p.m.

Working with Volunteers—Part 1: September 5 / Part 2: September 19
Maintaining Professional Balance—Part 1: October 3 / Part 2: October 17
Forming Ministerial Relationships—Part 1: November 14 / Part 2: November 28
Parish Programming & Budgets—Part 1: December 5 / Part 2: December 12

Note: Registration for these will open in the summer prior to classes.

Religious Education Survey

We have received 67 surveys from parishes throughout the diocese. We are needing to reach 100% participation. The information on this survey will help our department better assist the parish programs and determine needs for future grants and funding—so your input is crucial! Please complete the survey online or print and complete the hard copy and email, fax, or mail. If you have questions, please call (512) 949-2542.
La oficina de
Evangelización, Catequesis y Vida Familiar
Diócesis de Austin
los invita a un
Taller de información sobre como incluir a niños con discapacidades en los programas catequéticos de la parroquia.

Sábado, 12 de Agosto del 2017

9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Centro Pastoral de la Diócesis de Austin
6225 Highway 290 East
Austin, TX 78723

Cupo limitado. Es necesario registrarse antes del miércoles, 10 de agosto, para poder reservar su lugar. Llame al (512) 949-2492 o mande un correo electrónico a yolanda-sanchez@austindiocese.org.
Healing the Body of Christ

Diocese of Austin

Second Annual Catholic Women’s Conference

Saturday, Sept. 23, 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Santa Cruz Parish + 1100 Main St., Buda
$40 per person in advance + $50 per person at the door

In a wounded world, women experience their own suffering and acutely feel the pain of others. Christ’s victory over sin and death brings hope and the possibility of reconciliation. Experience a time of restoration for yourself, hear some powerful stories of hope and learn how women today are called and gifted to be unique instruments of healing and reconciliation to Christ’s Body, the Church.

* Featured Guests *

**Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT** was raised in Woodland, Washington and graduated from the University of Nevada-Reno where she played volleyball on a scholarship and majored in Communications. Upon graduation, she joined the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT), a missionary community that serves global areas of deepest apostolic need. She holds a master’s degree in Theology from the Augustine Institute.

Sister Miriam speaks internationally on the topics of: Forgiveness and Mercy, Authentic Love and Conversion, The Healing Power of Christ and The Dignity and Beauty of Woman. Her book titled *Loved As I Am* was released in 2014 from Ave Maria Press. Find her on Twitter: @onegroovynun.

**Kathleen Beckman** is the President and co-founder of the Foundation for Priests (www.foundationforpriests.org), an international apostolate of prayer and catechesis for the holiness of priests and spiritual motherhood/fatherhood. For 25 years she served the church as a Catholic evangelist, writer, retreat director, and assisted priests in the ministry of deliverance and exorcism. Often featured on EWTN, she is the author of several books from Sophia Institute Press: *Praying for Priests: A Mission for the New Evangelization*, *God’s Healing Mercy: Finding Your Path to Forgiveness, Peace and Joy* and her newest, *When Women Pray: Eleven Catholic Women on the Power of Prayer*.

A wife, mother and grandmother, Kathleen and her husband learned the power of forgiveness following the murder of a family member, find more at www.kathleenbecknar.com.

The day includes Mass with Bishop Daniel Garcia, surprise guest testimonials, confession, eucharistic adoration, intercessory prayer teams, great women’s fellowship and Catholic books and gifts for purchase. Bring your friends!

Please pray for the success of our conference.

Last year’s conference sold out quickly—reserve your seat today at www.austindiocese.org/womens-conference.
WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
Principal, teachers, priests, DRE’s, catechists, deacons, youth ministers, campus ministers, parents, and anyone who works with teens in ninth to twelfth grades.

WHEN:
Friday, June 9, 2017
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Check-in from: 9:00 AM

WHERE:
Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center
St. John Paul II Conference Room
6225 Highway 290 E | Austin, TX 78723

COST:
$40 Includes training handouts and YOU Leader’s Guide, continental breakfast, and lunch.

REGISTRATION:
http://www.austindiocese.org/offices-ministries/offices/family-life-office
Please register by May 26, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Dr. Phi Le
Phone: (512) 949-2470
Email: phi-le@austindiocese.org

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS FOR A NEW GENERATION

The world is a challenging place for teens. It has become increasingly difficult for parents and educators to help them discover the truth about their bodies, sexuality, and unique call to love.

In an age of “selfies,” YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body cuts through the noise with an authentic view of the human person.

YOU introduces teens to the truth that life is not all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

Join us for this important training, where you will be introduced to the Theology of the Body as it relates to teens.

- Teens will learn the Theology of the Body and how to live in authentic freedom, love, and happiness.
- YOU provides the tools to navigate teens through challenging topics, including gender, pornography, and same-sex “marriage.”
- Teens will learn what healthy relationships look like and how to live a life of sacrifice and discipleship.

Sponsored by: Diocese of Austin

ABOUT TOM MCCABE

Tom McCabe is an educator, writer, consultant, and frequent conference speaker with twenty years of experience serving diocesan and parish organizations in the areas of evangelization, catechesis, and strategic planning. Tom has worked extensively within the Catholic Church at many levels, including parishes, Catholic schools, and dioceses. Tom is a diocesan representative with Ascension Press and co-author of Living a Joy-Filled Marriage.

REGISTER NOW: http://www.austindiocese.org/offices-ministries/offices/family-life-office
Using Catholic Digital Media to Step Up Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation in Your Parish

“We already know that Catholics are no less or more likely than Americans in general to use new technology to access digital or online media. The Church’s biggest challenge is to encourage U.S. Catholics to use these devices to connect with their faith more frequently.”

Catholic New Media Use in the United States, 2012
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)

Whether you’re a pastor, deacon or parish catechetical leader—you’re invited to attend this FREE workshop featuring representatives from two of today’s industry leaders in the production and distribution of Catholic digital programming!

Thursday, June 8, 2017
Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center, St. John Paul II Meeting Room
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

Co-sponsored by:
Augustine Institute/Lighthouse Catholic Media
Ascension Press
Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, Diocese of Austin

RSVP at www.austindiocese.org/catholic-digital-media
(for schedule and details see flier reverse)
Morning Workshop – 9:30 a.m. - noon

9:00 a.m.    Doors open, time for registration, coffee, and browsing publications from Lighthouse Catholic Media with Dianne Barbosa.

9:30 a.m.    Program by Jim Knowles, Augustine Institute

- Overview of the FORMED platform, content areas, and Leader’s materials
- How to use digital content in a parish, especially in small groups
- Use of analytics – who in the parish is accessing what and for how long?
- Spanish language content on FORMED and “what’s to come”
- Questions, answers and sharing of best practices

Jim Knowles is the Manager for Diocesan Partnerships for FORMED of the Augustine Institute in Denver. With over 25 years of experience working with Catholic and Christian Publishers from Ascension Press, St. Mary’s Press, RCL Benziger and Group, Jim also brings his vast experience in parish, Archdiocesan and National Youth Ministry. He’s been married for 35 years with two married children and one grandson.

Lunch at noon
Provided courtesy of diocesan Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Family Life

Afternoon Workshop – 1-3:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m.    Program by Tom McCabe, Ascension Press

- Overview of Ascension Press DVD-based and digital platform programming
- Getting started: the nuts and bolts of planning and implementing a parish program for adults and teens, using digital media
- Enhancing the small group experience without replacing it
- Creative uses of free online resources for Catholic evangelization
- Questions, answers, and sharing of best practices

Tom McCabe is an educator, writer, consultant and frequent conference speaker with 20 years of experience serving diocesan and parish organizations in the areas of evangelization, catechesis and strategic planning. Tom has worked extensively within the Catholic Church at many levels, including parishes, Catholic schools and dioceses. Tom is a diocesan representative with Ascension Press and co-author of Living a Joy-Filled Marriage.
Save the Date!

June 5, 2017  Summer Certification Courses begin at Diocesan Pastoral Center

June 8, 2017  Augustine Institute / Lighthouse Catholic Media and Ascension Press at Diocesan Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

June 9, 2017  Ascension Press Training for “YOU” (Theology of the Body for Teens) at Diocesan Pastoral Center

August 16, 2017  Virtual Catechetical Leaders Meet & Greet for New DREs

September 14, 2107  Virtual Catechetical Leaders Meet & Greet for New DREs

September 23, 2017  Diocesan Women’s Conference at Santa Cruz, Buda

October 9, 2017  “Made in the Image of God”—Sacramental Formation for Persons with Special Needs, at Diocesan Pastoral Center

October 23, 2017  Catechists Workshop with Dr. Joseph White at the Pastoral Center—Involving Parents, Engaging Families

November 6, 2017  Catechists Workshop with Dr. Joseph White at the Pastoral Center—Keeping Kids’ Attention

Deanery Meetings

**Austin North/Georgetown/RR:**
- Thursday, September 21, 10 a.m.
  Santa Rosa de Lima, Andice
- Thursday, November 9, 10 a.m.
  St. Vincent de Paul, Austin
- Thursday, March 8, 10 a.m.
  St. William, Round Rock
- Thursday, May 10, 10 a.m.
  St. Patrick, Hutto

**Austin South & Central:**
- Tuesday, July 11, 10 a.m.
  Location pending

**Waco Deanery:**
- Thursday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.
  St. Francis, Waco

**Temple/Killeen:**
- Thursday, June 15, 4:30 p.m.
  St. Mary, Temple
- Thursday, August 17, 4:30 p.m.
  St. Mary, Temple

**Bastrop/Lockhart Deanery:**
- May 26 Meeting
  POSTPONED
- June 9, 6:45 p.m.
  Ascension, Bastrop

**San Marcos Deanery:**
- Thursday, May 18, 10 a.m.
  St. Mary, Wimberley
- Thursday, June 22, 10 a.m.
  St. Mary, Wimberley

**Brenham/La Grange Deanery & Bryan/College Station:**
- Monday, August 7, 10 a.m.
  St. Anthony, Bryan

**Marble Falls/Lampasas:**
- Friday, September 15, 10 a.m.
  St. Paul, Horseshoe Bay
Thinking ahead...

Catechetical Leaders’ Virtual Meet & Greet

Are you a brand new DRE getting started? Do you have questions and not sure who to call? Have you spoken to the diocesan staff of Evangelization, Catechesis & Family Life? Are you feeling overwhelmed and don’t know where to start?

“YES”?

Join us for an online Meet & Greet!
August 16 from 1-2:30 p.m. & September 14 from 10-11:30 a.m.

♦ Introductions & Welcome
♦ Staff contact information
♦ How can we support you?
♦ Roles of each ECFL staff member
♦ Who are we and how can we help?
♦ Opportunities for questions
♦ General overview

Who should participate?
Newly hired DREs and Coordinators

How can all DREs help? If you know of a new DRE in your deanery, encourage them to participate and forward their contact information to Carolyn Martinez at (512) 949-2461 or carolyn-martinez@austindiocese.org so that we can reach out to them and make sure they are on our list serve.

Questions? Contact Carolyn.
Save the date for now and we will begin taking RSVPs in July.