

NEW EVANGELIZATION NEWSLETTER

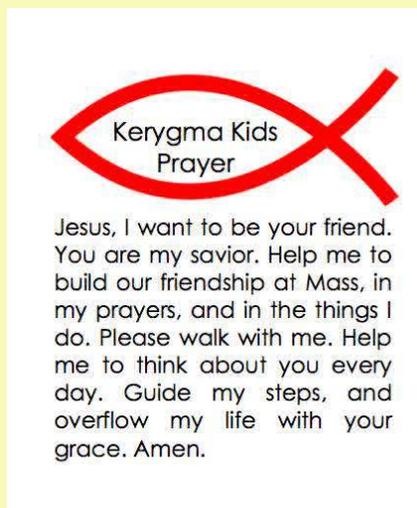
Children at Mass

Dear Friends in Christ,

As a parent of three small children, I often hear from other parents how difficult it can be to attend Mass with young children. If a parish is warm and inviting, parents have positive experiences and want to return. If however, the parish is not welcoming, parents often leave for another parish unfortunately, taking not just their family with them, but also other friends and family members. With Advent and Christmas approaching, this is a time when our parishes will welcome many families that are not regularly practicing their faith and is a wonderful evangelization opportunity for us.

Participating in Mass together as a family, while challenging, can be a positive experience for parents and children. Children have the opportunity to spend time in the presence of Jesus and be formed by the community of faith gathered together to worship Him. They are especially privileged to see the example of their parents at Mass, even with the challenges and distractions that may accompany attending Mass with children. The Archdiocese of Boston has produced a beautiful resource called "Children at Mass" that is both practical and inspiring. You can download the resource by [clicking here](#)

Written by Jennifer Edwards, this prayer entitled the "Kerygma Kids Prayer" is a lovely prayer to help children to grow in faith.



Haven't signed up for our next New Evangelization Meeting? Now is the time! All are welcome to attend the next New Evangelization Network which will take place on November 17th at St. Bernard Parish in Appleton. Our conversation will be more casual this month, evaluating our recent events and planning for the future. All are welcome to attend but an RSVP is required as lunch is provided. Please RSVP to Maria Garcia at mgarcia@gbdioc.org.

Blessings,

Julianne Stanz



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Culture of Parish Leadership:

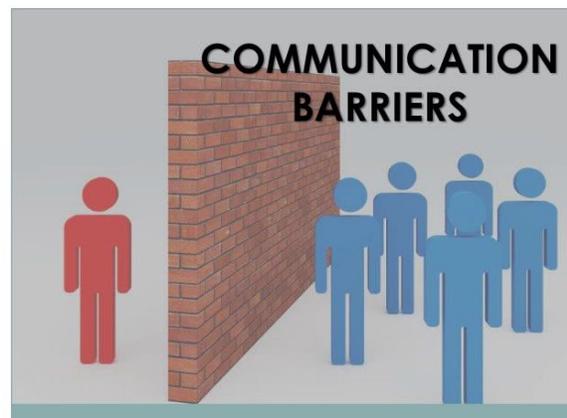
Creating safe places for honest communication

By Joe Tremblay

Communication Crisis

Among my responsibilities as an Adult Faith Formation Coordinator is to not only serve parish leaders throughout the Diocese of Green Bay, but to represent their concerns here at the Curia. Over the last three and a half years of working in the Department of New Evangelization, one concern that has been repeatedly communicated to me by several parish leaders is the absence of a low-risk means of communicating their views about parish mission to their pastoral leaders; this,

as it especially pertains to matters they may disagree on. It is not uncommon for parish leaders to remain silent when speaking honestly about such matters may compromise their job security. This is of particular concern to me because the barriers of communication not only affect the morale of parish staff, but it frustrates the process by which we meet the spiritual and moral needs of the people. Given the spiritual crisis today, resolving this leadership glitch in parish life is an urgent one!



Safe Places

In fact, low Mass attendance and the precipitous drop in sacramental participation -so painfully experienced by the Church in Green Bay over last ten years -cannot be adequately addressed if parish leadership teams e.g. pastoral leaders and parish staff, do not feel safe to openly discuss their views about the direction their parish is headed.

To repeat, what hinders this collaborative process is the absence of a safe place where

pastors and parish leaders can openly discuss their ideas and concerns about parish vision and strategy. Such a process is best fostered in an environment of trust where healthy conflict and disagreement can occur without the fear of parish staff being marginalized or penalized. The question that comes to mind after talking to so many parish leaders is this: Do parish leader teams in the Diocese of Green Bay provide a visible and safe environment for open and honest dialogue to take place?

Not Just Local

Keep in mind that this is not only a local problem. The crisis in leadership is deeply felt within the universal Church at large. For instance, Fr. James Mallon, author of *Divine Renovation*, travels the world as a speaker. He frequently encounters this crisis of leadership in many dioceses and parishes he visits. This is no anomaly or exception to the rule! Rather, it is argued that these blind spots within the culture of church-leadership are common; not just among clergy but with lay leaders as well.

Self-Awareness

According to Fr. James Mallon, in the *Divine Renovation Guidebook*, providing a safe place for parish staff to make their honest views known- ones that may be disagreeable to the pastoral leader -can get tricky. He says, "Many leaders lack self-awareness in this regard. They think they provide a safe place for constructive disagreement, but they can fool themselves." How, you might ask? Here are just few examples he identified:

- There may be no balance in the leadership team.
- The pastor gathers around himself a group of "YES" people.
- Disagreement with the pastor can have serious consequences for team members.
- The pastor may inadvertently silence any disagreement with a glance or his body language. (Page 28 in the *Divine Renovation Guidebook* by Fr. James Mallon)

Conflict without trust is politics; so the saying goes. Fr. Mallon concluded that "effective teamwork is too often limited by interpersonal politics within church circles." The sad result, too often, is *parish-mission stagnation*. With this, spiritual and human needs of churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike are left unfulfilled.

Offset the Blind Spots

To be sure, there is no such thing as a well-balanced individual; only a well-balanced team. Every single individual suffers from blind spots; including pastoral leaders. However, such blind spots can be offset by a well-balanced team that is willing to share their ideas about how best to connect with people in order to better meet their spiritual needs. But honest discussions can only be carried out when an invitation is clearly offered by the pastoral leader to his or her team members. From this, healthy conflict can occur in environment of trust where, at the end of the day, they can shake hands without harboring resentment.

The Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team is setting out to address this issue in upcoming events. If you have suggestions that might prove helpful in advancing this conversation, please contact me at: jtremblay@gbdioc.org.

Healing Through Listening

Bishop David Ricken once said that the healing of division comes about through listening. And I would add that listening is only possible when pastoral leaders and parish staff can talk to one another in a spirit of charity and candor about the urgent issues facing the Church *without the fear of being penalized!* Is your parish lowering the barriers of communication so as to allow for fruitful discussions? Let's talk about it!

Amoris Laetitia Webinar Series- The Pastoral Response in Accompanying Families in Faith

The Strong Catholic Families National Partnership invites ministry leaders, teachers, parents and clergy to join together with others around the globe in a four-part webinar series focusing on the pastoral implementation of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family, Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love). Four teachers will be speaking to different aspects of a family's faith journey over the next several months. Each month, two live panels will convene to reflect on the master teacher presentation and to discuss the pastoral issues, concerns and effective practices related to that month's theme:

- Theme 3 (November 6- December 7): Assisting Families in Discerning God's Movement presented by Julianne Stanz, Director of New Evangelization, Diocese of Green Bay
- Theme 4 (January 8 - January 25): Engaging for Mission presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington

Register for each panel at: www.strongcatholicfamilies.org/amoriswebinar/

This Strong Catholic Families Webinar Series is presented in partnership by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).



A sneak peek at what November's Impact Brings: Step Back

Does God have a meaningful place in your life? Does your faith guide your daily decisions? Are you sometimes distracted, too busy, or too focused in one area of life to the exclusion of everything (or everyone) else? Are you stressed and tired? Do you spend time with the people you love, and give of yourself in service? Do you use your material and financial resources wisely and share with those in need?

Un poco de lo que incluye Impacto en Noviembre: Un paso atrás

¿Tiene Dios un lugar significativo en tu vida? ¿Tu fe te guía en tus decisiones

diarias? ¿En ocasiones estás distraído, demasiado ocupado, o demasiado centrado en un área de la vida en la que excluyes todo (o a todos) los demás? ¿Estás estresado y cansado? ¿Pasas tiempo con la gente que amas, y das de ti mismo en el servicio? ¿Usas tus recursos materiales y económicos con prudencia y compartes con los necesitados?

What is Impact?

Impact, is a dynamic, monthly resource to form people as disciples and good stewards who share their gifts and faith, making an impact in their lives and the life of the world.

Each month, Impact includes a one-page full color or grayscale PDF resource, which may be used as a bulletin insert, copied and distributed at parish gatherings, and/or used as part of an on-going adult faith formation initiative.

How can I get Impact?

The Diocese of Green Bay offers Impact to you at no cost. Impact will be distributed in the following ways:

- Parish Pages
- Department newsletters

Follow these links to download materials each month!

- **Impact - English:** <http://www.catholiclifeandfaith.net/subscription-resources-english/>

PASSWORD: **Subscribe4Impact**

- **Impacto - Spanish:** <http://www.catholiclifeandfaith.net/subscription-resources-spanish/>

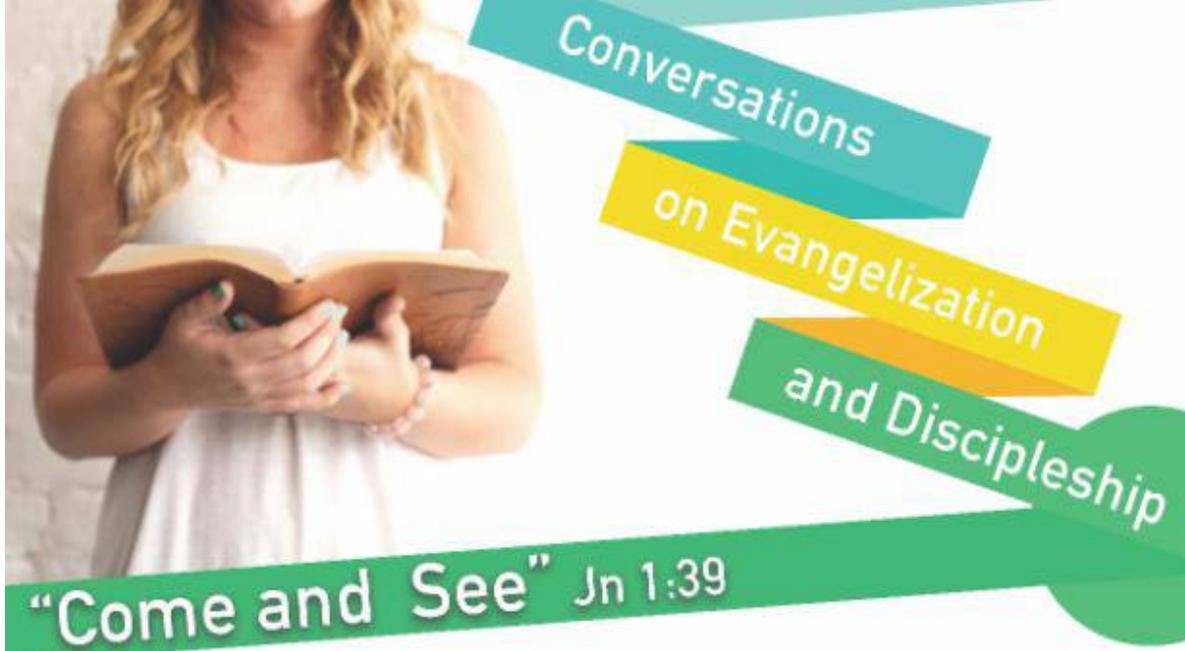
PASSWORD: **Impactosubscriber**

- **General Information:** <http://www.catholiclifeandfaith.net/impact/>

CLICK HERE FOR THIS MONTH'S COPY OF IMPACT

[November Impact](#)

[Impacto para el mes de Noviembre](#)



Conversations

on Evangelization

and Discipleship

“Come and See” Jn 1:39

All are invited to a series of discussion regarding the ways to awaken and reawaken the faith of those who are not practicing their faith, those who are distant from the Catholic Church, and those who are practicing their faith but wish to go deeper. Join with other **disciples on the way** from around the Diocese to support one another.

- May 12** **The Jesus Story** 9:30-12:30pm
 (St. Paul, Combined Locks) How do we speak about Jesus and Rediscovering Jesus? Facilitator: Fr. Dennis Ryan
- Jul 21** **Story of Faith** 9:30-12:30pm
 (St. Pius X, Appleton) How do we share faith stories and listen to the faith stories of others? Facilitator: Kristin Bird
- Sep 15** **Missionary Outreach** 9:30-12:30pm
 (Sacred Heart, Appleton) What is our beginning point? Where are our touch points? Facilitator: Fr. Peter Mitchell
- Nov 17** **Coffee & Conversation** 9:30-12:30pm
 (St. Bernard, Appleton)
- Jan 19** **Encounter Experience** 8:00-2:00pm
 (St. Bernard, Appleton) The Kerygma: Enigma day-long retreat. Mass at 8:00am. Presentations begin at 9:30am.
- Mar 16** **Spiritual Self Care** 9:30-12:15pm
 (St. Thomas More, Appleton) Facilitator: Fr. Maximos Davies.
- May 18** **Discipleship Check-In** 9:30-12:15pm
 (Silver Lake College) Looking at your parish culture & re-aligning your discipleship efforts. Followed by picnic.

The New Evangelization Network meets every two months to support, affirm, and network as ministers who are grappling with the issues of discipleship and evangelization.



Lunch is provided by the Dept. of New Evangelization and there is no charge for any of the events. **Please RSVP** to Maria Garcia at mgarcia@gbdio.org or call (920) 272-8276. Contact Julianne Stanz with any questions at jstanz@gbdio.org or call (920) 272-8270.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE FOR 2016-17



NOVEMBER- 2016

Why Loved Ones Leave the Church

St. Joseph Parish- Wautoma
Monday, November 14, 2016
6:30-8:00pm

Doing It All

St. Raphael Parish- Oshkosh
Monday, November 14, 2016
6:30-8:00pm

The New Evangelization and Social Media

St. Peter the Fisherman Parish- Two Rivers
Wednesday, November 16, 2016
6:00-7:30pm

DECEMBER- 2016

Why Loved Ones Leave the Church

St. Mary Parish- Omro
Monday, December 5, 2016
6:30-8:00pm

The New Evangelization and Social Media

Holy Family Parish- Brillion
Monday, December 5, 2016
6:30-8:00pm

The Jewish and Early Christian Roots of the Mass

St. Pius X Parish- Appleton
Tuesday, December 6, 2016
6:30-8:00pm

Genesis: The First Soap Opera

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Friday, December 9, 2016
9:50-11:00am

[Download](#) the general listing of adult faith formation programs

Thank you!

UWGB Catholic Campus Ministry and Newman Club



What Next? Finding Answers with Faith



During the Fall retreat at Camp Tekawitha twenty students from UWGB and UWO were able to **Connect** and share with others yearning to reflect on the changes taking place in their lives. **Encounter** ways in which God is ever present in those moments of uncertainty. **Grow** to find a deeper and more grace-filled understanding of how one's faith in God is active in our journey of transition.

"This retreat seemed to come at the perfect time for all of us-no matter who we are, we're all in transition and need the support of the community and faith." -Heather

"Personally I was able to take a step back and reflect on a number of things that have changed recently, forcing transitions in my own life. Being removed from situations can make it much easier to deal with them. From the retreat, I was able to gain a perspective and peace regarding these changes by listening to the experiences and insights changed. I also took away a renewed sense of faith and a real sense of a catholic community that I didn't realize was important to me as a college student. I'm truly grateful for finding more young adults with similar values." - James

"This retreat seemed to come at the perfect time for all of us-no matter who we are, we're all in transition and need the support of the community and faith." -Sarah

Join us for Tuesday Mass
11:45 am Student Union 103 Room

Sister Laura Zelten, OSF
Catholic Campus Ministry UWGB
lzelten@gbdioc.org

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

My nephew Peter and his family are moving to Australia in a few weeks and my very large family is happy for them and so sad at the same time. They sold their house, have packed up and are saying good-bye to friends and helping their young family look ahead to all the adventure they will have in Adelaide.

I was texting back and forth with him last week and he said he was going to miss our big family Thanksgiving feast. It is usually crazy chaos and lots of fun. He said, " I will miss the food, the fun, but mostly, he said, I finally made it to the adult table and we are leaving! Not fair!"

It made me think back to when I made it to the adult table. It doesn't happen by a certain date or accomplishment - you sort of just end up there and then hold tight to that seat - it's the best one in the house. That's where all the conversation happens, the minutes run into hours. The dishes are washed and put away - but the adult table keeps on reminiscing, dreaming, laughing, arguing and taking care of the business of family all with a cup of coffee and a fork in hand.

Who will be at your table this Thanksgiving? Who will you invite into conversation, story and laughter? There are bound to be some young adults who are longing to be at that adult table - make some room , pull up a chair or two and bring them into the magical world where they believe only brilliant conversation happens, world problems are solved and the most fun is had! It really is the place we learn who we are as family, what we hold true and what we value. It is the very holy place we pass on our traditions and our faith. May your Thanksgiving celebrations be filled with family, faith and joy!



Peace,
Jane



**Sponsored by the Department of New Evangelization.
Funded by the Bishop's Appeal.**



**If you have any questions or comments, please contact:
Department of New Evangelization
newevangelization@gbdioc.org
(920)272-8276**

The Department of New Evangelization Inspires and Equips Parishes to Form
Disciples in the New Evangelization of Our Lord, Jesus Christ through the
transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

