

Evangelization

Why Catholic?, a journey through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, completed its fourth year in the Archdiocese. To date, well over 5,000 have participated in these small groups and Adult Faith Formation Workshops.

Inviting Catholics Home, a workshop on compassion and reconciliation was held for lay ministers involved in reaching out to Catholics who have left the Church for some reason or have simply stopped practicing the faith. The program is designed to invite Catholics to return home to their faith. Thirteen parishes have reported offering “come home” type programs.

Lectio Divina, is an ancient method of praying and studying the Scriptures. It serves as an evangelizing experience for those who use it. The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis hosted “Conversing with God in Scripture: A Contemporary Approach To Lectio Divina” presented by Stephen J. Binz at three sites for parishioners and parish staffs with over 100 people in attendance.

Small Church Communities are a significant part of many parishes and provide a vital source for spiritual growth for those who participate. In the fall of 2008 more than 90 small group leaders participated in the Small Christian Communities Faith Formation Day. Additionally, the Small Church Communities Formation Team reaches out to parishes to help with growing and maintaining SCCs. The team provides workshops at parishes to help form core teams, start new small communities, and make sure that the groups stay connected with parish life.

OEC Office Evaluation

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis conducted an evaluation of its services this year. Of the 97 ministerial leaders who responded, here are some of the notable results include:

45% of the respondents have worked in the schools and parishes of the Archdiocese for more than 16 years.

Another 35% have worked in the parishes and schools for at least 8 years.

Some key areas in which Catechetical Leaders feel a need for assistance from the OEC:

- * Improvement of skills with the use of technology for catechesis.
- * Continuing professional development for Catechetical Leaders.
- * Advanced courses for those serving as catechists of adults.

Media Centers

The Media Centers of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati have an extensive assortment of media available and serve as a major provider of video and print resources for schools and parishes. Two years ago, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis reduced the cost of obtaining a Media Contract which has allowed parishes to borrow and use media at a significantly reduced cost.

In this past year:

4,771 DVDs and videos were shown in the schools and parishes of the archdiocese.

67,851 children and adults viewed these materials.

1,286 books were borrowed from the print libraries.

Let Us Be of Assistance to You

Contact your parish/school consultant at one of our area offices for assistance:

<u>Cincinnati</u>	<u>Dayton</u>	<u>Sidney</u>
100 E. Eighth Street Cincinnati, OH 45202 513-421-3131	266 Bainbridge Street Dayton, OH 45402 937-223-4075	119 E. Water Street Sidney, OH 45365 937-498-1192



ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SERVICES REPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI 2008-2009

Every Bishop in the United States is called to establish “a diocesan office...or otherwise assign staff to give the ministry of evangelization proper visibility and attention, as well as provide resources for evangelization to his people.” (Go and Make Disciples, #134)

“The diocesan catechetical office is the means which the Bishop as head of the community and teacher of doctrine utilizes to direct and moderate all the catechetical activities of the diocese.” (General Director for Catechesis, #265)

School and Parish Leadership for Religious Education

Lay persons who devote themselves permanently or temporarily to some special service of the Church are obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly and to carry it out conscientiously, zealously, and diligently.

(Canon law, #231§1)

Spiritual Leadership in Catholic Schools

The Catholic School is a center for evangelization; thus, its catechetical program is essential to its distinctly Catholic identity and character. It is “an active apostolate”. Therefore, the principal of a Catholic school must be a practicing Catholic in good standing who understands and accepts the teachings of the Church and the moral demands of the Gospel.

NDC 54 #9a

Because of their duties in providing for spiritual and catechetical excellence and their critical role of assuring the Catholic identity of the school, Catholic school principals in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are required to acquire and maintain Spiritual Leadership certification.

To this end, all Catholic secondary principals participate every three years in twenty hours of theological coursework, ten hours of spiritual leadership skill development and some area of personal spiritual growth formation.

Catholic elementary school principals participate in a three-tiered certification process, also involving theology, faith leadership and spiritual formation. Currently, **93** principals/assistant principals in **86** of our **92** Archdiocesan schools hold Principal as Spiritual Leader certification as follows:

29 at Principal Level One (**29** schools)

13 at Principal Level Two (**13** schools)

51 at Principal Level Three (**50** schools)

Parish Catechetical Leadership

The single most critical factor in an effective parish catechetical program is the leadership of a professionally trained parish catechetical leader. Depending on the size and scope of the parish catechetical program, parishes should allocate their resources so that they are able to acquire the services of a competent and qualified catechetical leader or to share those services with another parish. NDC #5

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati certifies professional Parish Catechetical Leaders at two levels:

DRE (Director of Religious Education) and

CRE (Coordinator of Religious Education).

In addition to a Masters/Bachelors degree in theology or religious studies, the professional Catechetical Leader will demonstrate competencies in varied aspects of Personal Spiritual Maturity, Lay Ecclesial Ministry Identity, Pastoral Praxis and Professional Practice. In the **221** parishes of the Archdiocese, there are currently **82** professional certification Catechetical Leaders (**53** DRE level and **29** CRE level).

Certification is also available at a para-professional level as an ARE (Associate of Religious Education). There are currently **38** persons with active ARE certification.

Catechist Formation and Certification

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 diocese must ensure that catechists receive assistance in developing their knowledge of the faith and the Gospel message as well as "the dimension of savior-faire", of knowing how to transmit the message so that it is an act of communication. NDC 54 B #8

Believing that who they are, what they know and how they communicate their faith is critical to effective catechesis, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis provides a process of quality formation and instruction to prepare catechists to echo the Word of God and the teaching of the Church at all levels. This includes pre-schoolers, elementary and secondary students in schools and PSR, families, RCIA and sacramental candidates and many more. Ours is a three-tiered formation leading to certification at the Basic, General and Advanced levels.

Currently in the Archdiocese, **927** teachers in Catholic elementary schools hold certification: **251** Basic; **211** General; **465** Advanced.

311 catechists in parish programs hold these certifications: **124** Basic; **61** General; **126** Advanced.

Certification course work this year included **49** workshops in catechetical methods in which **661** catechists participated. **258** participated in **14** workshops on *Leading Prayer with Students*. There were **79** live theological courses held with **1155** in attendance. **73** catechists completed online courses through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, and **207** participated in the **43** video-assisted courses presented. This brings us to a grand total of **2354** catechists participating in various courses and workshops over the past twelve months.

Certification of Catholic School religion teachers at the secondary level requires a bachelor's degree with a major in theology, religious education or religious studies (minimum 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours in theology). Courses in adolescent psychology and secondary methods are required along with a quarter of student teaching. These teachers must renew their certification every five years with three semester credits or nine CEUs or earn a Master's Degree for permanent certification.

There were **129** religion teachers in the 21 Catholic high school in the Archdiocese during the 2008-09 school year. **120** of those were certified.

Support for the OEC

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus throughout the state of Ohio annually conduct a Matching Funds Campaign. The monies raised help to support the purchase of media and provide for other media related uses for all of the Roman Catholic dioceses within the state. Much of the funding for the Archdiocesan Media Centers and other media related resources and services come from this campaign. In the fall of 2009 the Knights raised over \$12,000 for this purpose.

In 2008-2009:

- \$7326 was spent on the purchase of DVDs and other materials for the Media Centers.
- \$500 was paid to the Southwest Ohio and Neighboring Libraries (SWON) which is the organization that allowed us to have DVDs and videos delivered to Cincinnati area Catholic High Schools where they may be picked up by local Catholic parishes and elementary schools.
- \$3,000 was paid to the University of Dayton's Virtual Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) in order to be a sponsoring diocese. The fee for these online courses for sponsoring dioceses is \$40, while at non-sponsoring dioceses the fee is \$80. Over 100 courses were taken by people from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati during this school year. More than 1,000 people from the Archdiocese have taken courses since the VLCFF went online ten years ago.

Gabrielle Bouscaren Fund

In 1931, Gabrielle Bouscaren introduced the Released Time Program for Religious Education in Cincinnati. To this day, these programs enable students to leave their public schools to participate in religious education.

When Gabrielle died in 1986, she left a bequest to the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. This bequest has allowed the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis to offer grants to those serving in catechetical leadership positions and those teaching religion in Catholic high schools who are furthering their own education in theology and catechesis.

Since 2002, \$68,861 has been awarded to 134 catechetical leaders and teachers for an average grant of \$513.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

In 2009, **132** children and **404** adults were baptized in Archdiocesan parishes at celebrations of the Easter Vigil. An additional **35** children and **559** adults were received into the Catholic Church, bringing the number to **1130** (167 children and 963 adults) celebrating Confirmation and First Communion at the Vigil. Another **91** candidates were received into the Church at other times during the year. Comparing the total of **1221** with last year's numbers, we saw an increase of **121** new members over 2008.

Initiatory catechesis, being comprehensive and systematic, cannot be reduced to the circumstantial or the occasional. As it is formative for the Christian life, it comprises but surpasses mere instruction. Being essential, it looks to what is "common" for the Christian; without entering into disputed questions nor transforming itself into a form of theological investigation. Being initiatory, it incorporates into the community, which lives, celebrates and bears witness to the faith. It fulfills at once, initiatory, educational and instructional functions. GDC #69

In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, RCIA is the joint responsibility of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and the Office of Worship. In particular, these offices respond to the formation needs of catechetical ministers and RCIA team members by offering workshops and training opportunities. During the 2008-09 year, attendance at some of these events was as follows:

"RCIA in the Parish" seminar - **53**

"Celebrating the Rites" workshop - **45**

"Preparing the Rites" workshop - **21**

"Advanced Issues" workshop in Cincinnati - **95** participants

"Advanced Issues" workshop in Northern region - **18** participants

"Introduction to RCIA" course - **26** participants

NCEA ACRE

NCEA ACRE - THE ASSESSMENT OF CATECHESIS/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION is designed to assist in the evaluation of catechetical/religious education programs in Catholic schools and parishes. As an integrated assessment tool, NCEA ACRE provides faith knowledge questions (cognitive domain) and questions related to religious beliefs, attitudes, practices and perception (affective domain). NCEA ACRE has been mandatory in the schools and parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati since 2003-2004.

In 2008-2009:

- * 9149 students completed the assessment in archdiocesan Catholic schools.
- * 3263 students completed the assessment in archdiocesan parish schools of religion.
- * Grade 12 students in Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese scored 3.3% higher than the national Faith Knowledge average for Catholic high schools.
- * Students in grades 5 & 8 in Catholic schools scored 2.7% and 2.4% higher than the national average for Catholic schools in the Faith Knowledge section.
- * Scores of students in grades 5, 8, 9, 11 & 12 in parish religious education programs ranged from .7% below the national averages to 4.5% above the national averages for parish programs.

Adult Faith Formation

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis also did some research about the adult faith formation efforts in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Among the 125 respondents to a survey, some of the more significant results are:

Many people said that adult faith formation (AFF) has become more integrated into the other ministerial endeavors in the parish. In fact,

41% of the respondents said that AFF has been increasingly integrated into other ministries; 44% said that the integration of AFF into other ministries has stayed the same; 1% said that it has decreased

73% of the respondents said that the amount of programming for adults has increased. 74% also said that the quality of the AFF programming has increased.

Despite some significant growth in the parish adult faith formation efforts, some ministers have indicated there is still a lack of interest on the part of many adults; some parishes claim to have a lack of funds for AFF and there is a lack of capable catechists of adults.

Charis Teacher Retreat

The Charis Teacher Retreat was held for the first time, February 18-20, 2009. This retreat is designed especially for young adults in their 20s and 30s who are newer Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Charis Teacher Retreat provided time for the participants to reflect on their lives, faith, relationships and service with the intention of emboldening them in their faith so as to help them develop an understanding of discipleship among their students. The retreat is based on the Ignatian model developed by the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus and was led by a team of several educators from Catholic schools and Fr. Kyle Schnippel, the Director of the Vocations Office. Thirty teachers participated and several others remained on a waiting list. The teachers who took part in the retreat had an overwhelmingly positive response to the experience.

Graded Course of Study For Religion

The *Graded Course of Study for Early Childhood and Elementary Catechetical Programs* was revised during the 2008-2009 school year and is available at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis web site: www.catholiccincinnati.org/oec.

The Graded Course of Study contains the official content for systematic catechesis for students from age three through grade 8. Again based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, most learning objectives have a direct reference to the Catechism listed in parentheses after the objective. The format has been significantly improved for ease of use.