



DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2021



WE MARCH FOR LIFE.
#WHYWEMARCH

MARCH FOR LIFE

Join Sts. Peter and Paul's from Mankato, MN for the March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. Jan. 20-24. Cost per person is only \$350, which includes airfare to and from D.C., transportation in D.C., admission to the youth rally, meals and board, and activities at the March for Life. Please submit a down payment of \$250 per person by Oct. 23 to reserve your spot. Click [HERE](#) for registration and more information.



VOCATIONS AWARENESS

Do you know a young man who is a junior or senior in high school or older that would make a great candidate for discerning the priesthood? The Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN is hosting a Come and See Weekend on Nov. 5-7. [Vocations Awareness week](#) is also the week of Nov. 7-13. For more information, contact Fr. Jason Kern at jkern@dowr.org.



CAMP SUMMIT 2022 DATES!

Camp Summit Middle School Adventure Camp 2022 is back to two weeks! Registration will open officially in mid January, but for now find a week that works best for your parish from the options below and save the dates!
Week One: July 25-28
Week Two: August 1-4
For more information, visit our website [HERE](#).

RETHINKING FAMILY MINISTRY



One thing we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is Family Ministry is essential to forming youth in their faith and relationship with Jesus. While many parishes in 2020 began to face the hard reality that our youth may not be able to meet in person, (and if they were in person their interactions with each other may be drastically different), we began to really get serious about finding ways to help families build up faith in their homes. Family Ministry seemed to go from a nice thing to offer to a necessity overnight.

Now, we are not completely out of the woods regarding COVID-19, but I've heard from many parishes who are still serious about providing opportunities for families to be the primary catechists for their children. But what does it mean to be your family's primary formator in faith?

It is easy to fall into the pit of "programming" just like in any area of ministry. What we shouldn't be asking is "what program should we give our families to do at home," but rather "how can we encourage families to pray together, attend Mass together, and talk about faith in the home?" A recent study by American Psychologist Christian Smith says families don't necessarily need to teach a faith lesson in the home, but praying with and for their families is essential. Let us pray for ways to encourage and support our families in their Vocation as Domestic Church. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full article by Christian Smith.

LISTENING SESSIONS

Last month I mentioned the Synod on Synodality in this newsletter. This month I would like to highlight an area of the synod that will be happening soon: listening sessions. Pope Francis would like each diocese to conduct listening sessions in their parishes to collect feedback from "all the baptized" in order to "consult the people of God." More information on how these listening sessions will look and when they will start is coming soon. For now, please take some time to personally pray about what matters most to you as a Catholic and what you would like the Vatican to hear from you. Each voice matters! We would also love to hear from parishioners (especially youth), so please pray about who you might like to invite to a listening session. The synod officially opens on Oct. 17 with a Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona at 10:30am, and all are welcome to attend.



SEXUAL IDENTITY TRAINING

As the world around us is constantly changing, the Diocese is requesting all Directors for Faith Formation and/or Youth Ministry to attend a Sexual Identity Training on either Nov. 11 in Mankato or Nov. 12 in Winona from 9am-3:30pm. This is an opportunity to learn more about addressing the questions many of our youth have today regarding their identity as sons and daughters of God. More information will be coming soon to register for this mandatory training, and we will be cancelling our Nov. 11 FIRE Meeting to accommodate. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, Sr. Mara Lester (clinical psychiatrist), and Tom Braun (Diocesan lawyer) will be presenting, and there is no cost to attend. Please contact me with questions, and more information will follow soon.

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