



DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- SHOULD WE RETURN TO NORMAL?
- SYNOD ON SYNODALITY
- NCYC UPDATE AND NEW YOUTH MINISTER TRAINING

QUICK LINKS:

SEPTEMBER 2021

FIRE
Fellowship • Inspiration • Resources • Encouragement

Join Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leaders in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester for a time of nourishment, support, and professional development.



NEXT FIRE MEETING

Our next FIRE Meeting will take place on Oct. 14 at Sacred Heart in Waseca. FIRE Meetings are open to all Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Coordinators and Catechists. The topics of the day are "The Family as Primary Catechists," presented by Fr. The Hoang and "Connecting Parish Ministry to Schools," presented by Sr. Strength of Martyrs.

For more information or to register, please see our website [HERE](#).

TOTUS TUUS PARISH REQUESTS

Totus Tuus Parish Registration forms are now being accepted through the end of October. Parishes are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Please see our website [HERE](#) for the Parish Info Packet, Registration Form, and more information regarding Totus Tuus.

Please contact Dana Petricka at dpetricka@dowr.org with any questions.

VIRTUS AND CIRCLE OF GRACE

As a reminder, all catechists and volunteers must complete the VIRTUS safe environment training and a background check. Also, Circle of Grace lessons should be completed and the Circle of Grace Training Report is due to Mary Hamann by the end of December at mhamann@dowr.org. Click [HERE](#) for Virtus Training, Background Check, and Circle of Grace Training Report forms.

SHOULD WE RETURN TO NORMAL?



During this prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, I have heard many times (and find myself uttering) things like, “I can’t wait for things to get back to normal.” But was normal really better?

Not to say that everything we were doing previously wasn't working, but many of us can agree that we've talked for years about what's not working in faith formation and youth ministry but perhaps don't know what to do or how to change.

It doesn't help that parishes have many expectations on faith formation coordinators and youth ministers, and many of us look to the numbers to judge whether or not we are successful at passing on the faith. But does a large faith formation program really equal intentional disciples?

So where do we go from here? How do we truly create Missionary Disciples in all we do at the parish? Perhaps COVID-19 has given us an opportunity to focus more on individuals and smaller groups instead of assuming that all young people in a certain age group or grade are at the same place spiritually. God works in each person's life in a unique and personal way. Let us have courage this year to look more closely at ourselves, our catechists, and our youth and take the time to walk with them personally and communally as disciples on the journey. For more information, visit our FIRE Meeting website [HERE](#).

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

What is a Synod? It's a meeting of bishops from all over the world established by Pope Paul VI in 1965 as a response to the Second Vatican Council's desire to discuss doctrinal or pastoral matters. Synods were also a common occurrence in the church prior to their official institution with the college of bishops. So what is the Synod on Synodality that Pope Francis is instituting in 2021-2023? The Synod on Synodality aims to ensure more diversity within the life of the Church and to ensure that the views of the marginalized are properly represented within the synodal dialogue. How is our diocese participating? Throughout this year, the Diocese of Winona-Rochester will be hosting listening sessions and other opportunities to hear from you. Stay tuned for more information on how to participate in this synod, and more information can be found [HERE](#).



NCYC & NEW YOUTH MINISTER TRAINING

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis on Nov. 18-20, 2021 is now open to individual and parish groups who are not attending with a diocesan group. If you are interested in bringing a group to this year's NCYC, there is still time! There are about 1,000 tickets available until sold out. More information can be found [HERE](#). The organization that brings you NCYC is called the NFCYM (National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry). They are offering a new youth minister training called First Things. If you are interested in participating in First Things, please contact Dana (contact info below) and see [HERE](#) for more information.



Dana Petricka
dpetricka@dowr.org
507-454-4643 ext. 272

