



Diocesan Children's Catechist Coordinator's Office

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Dear friends,

The fall has flown by and the season of Advent is quickly moving us toward Christmas. What a busy first three months. Following is a brief highlight of what has unfolded.

Parish Visits

Rita and I made 60 visits and were able to hear the stories and experiences of the 90 parishes and missions of our diocese. We were greatly blessed to meet with the pastors and catechetical/sacramental prep coordinators of the diocese; as well as, many of the catechists. The purpose of the visits was three-fold:

- First, it was an opportunity for us to meet and to begin to build a relationship with each other. Hopefully, making it easier for the catechist and sacramental prep coordinators, as well as, catechists, to call the Diocesan Children's Catechist Coordinator's (DCCC) office for assistance as needed.
- Second, it was to give the catechist and sacramental prep coordinators an opportunity to share their experiences and concerns of the last while.
- Third, it was to gather information about where we are at with our catechism and sacramental preparation programs; as well as, learn where we are at as a Diocese with the Restoring of the Order of Sacraments.

What was learned has been gathered into a report and shared with the Bishop, who will be using this information to aid in setting the direction the Diocese will take in regards to catechesis and other related areas.

Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators

From November 10-13, I attended the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators (WCCRE) for executive members and diocesan representatives. We worked mainly in two areas:

- 1) Long-term planning for the November 2009 conference
- 2) Evaluation of the *Criteria for Catechesis of Children* for the Born of the Spirit Series (BOSS), which will lead hopefully to an update of the entire program and the *National Pastoral Plan for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults*. Both of these are programs and initiatives of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

WCCRE Conference

It is hoped that a broad delegation from our diocese will be able to attend this bi-yearly conference. The Bishop has indicated that *there will be money available* for a number of individuals who would attend the conference and then make a two-year commitment to the ministry of catechesis both at a local and diocesan level. The description of what that commitment will entail to follow in a future newsletter.

<u>When:</u>	November 12-15, 2009
<u>Where:</u>	Victoria, BC
<u>Topic:</u>	The Word of God
<u>For whom:</u>	All persons involved in catechesis at the various levels.
<u>Format:</u>	It will be a combination presentation and workshop format. The theme for this conference links to the recent Synod in Rome on the Word of God. The main speakers will focus on linking our story to The Story. The workshops will help those in attendance to apply what the main speakers' presentations to their particular ministries (i.e., Children or Youth or Adult or RCIA or Aboriginal or Special Needs).

A subcommittee is in the process of finalizing the format and facilitators for this event. Care is being given to providing options that will interest beginner and professional catechist, as well as the various age levels or forms of catechesis we use.

The planning will be furthered at the next meeting on site in Victoria where we will meet also with the local committee. As information and brochures are ready, I will forward these to you for your information and distribution to others who may be interested.

Evaluation

In January and February of 2009, opportunities will be given to catechists and sacramental prep teachers to gather and share in an evening of evaluation with myself and Bishop Albert Thevenot. The focus of the evaluation will be the Restoration of the Order of the Sacraments of Initiation, watch future newsletters and your parish bulletin for the time and place of the local evaluation evening.

Newsletters

Beginning in January, a monthly newsletter will be published by the DCCC office to encourage, support and keep informed the catechists of the diocese. Watch your mailboxes. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or items to add (local catechetical events, stories, pictures) please do not hesitate to send these into me. They will be used as space is available. As this is a new endeavour for me, all feed back will be greatly appreciated – the aim of course always being to support those who are passing the faith on to our children.

Sad News

Rita Villeneuve who travelled with me this fall to visit so many of you has gone back to teaching for a term. She was sad to go and told me that she greatly enjoyed the meeting everyone this fall. Experience of seeing so much of the diocese. I will greatly miss the companionship.

And remember if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of this with me do not hesitate to call or to drop by for a visit.

Leaving nothing undared for the Kingdom,

Christine G. Taylor, MDiv