



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Parish Life Office

Christian Initiation

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MEMO

TO: Directors and Coordinators of RCIA
FROM: Jeanne Thompson, Ministerial Coordinator
RE: Catholic Life Day of Prayer, Neophyte Mass Date and State of Pennsylvania and Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Clearances,
DATE: October 3, 2016

Catholic Life Day of Prayer: Please make every effort to attend this bi-annual day of reflection. The day of prayer will reflect Pope Francis' challenge to fulfill the goal of the Extraordinary Jubilee. "I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective. It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the *corporal and spiritual works of mercy*. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these *corporal works of mercy*:" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis, 11 April, 2015, #3, #15). If you need more registration booklets please call the office.

Liturgical Calendar:

The correct date for the annual Neophyte Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Mark is April 29, 2017 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, at 5:00 PM. The prior schedule was not conclusive.

State of Pennsylvania and Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Clearances:

All members of parish RCIA Teams are also to complete the requirements for the Diocese of Altoona Youth Protection program and the State of Pennsylvania mandated Reporting Training. This policy was implemented at the same time as the parish catechists, DRE's and Coordinators for Religious Education programs and Sacrament Preparation team members in 2014. Parish employees and volunteers need to be in compliance for the present and anticipated presence of children and youth in the RCIA Process. If there are groups meeting elsewhere than at the parish it becomes even more important. It is vital for people to know what to report and to whom they should report to. Training is for all ministries and does not have to be repeated (but renewed as needed). If they were acquired for employment, copies are accepted as well as those from approved programs for community and civic organizations. Approval must come from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Youth Protection Office.

Please contact my office if you need lists and clarification of the clearances, necessary forms, and on-line training sites. Every parish and campus ministry office should have an updated list of team members and copies of their clearances and certificates of completion on file. A list should be sent to my office before sending another copy to the Office of Youth Protection c/o Mrs. Colleen Krug, 927 South Logan Blvd, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Colleen has been very willing to assist people and has helped my office with records of the data base entries.