



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

**Parish Life Office:
Christian Initiation
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MEMO

TO: Directors and Coordinators of RCIA: Clergy, Religious and Lay

FROM: Jeanne Thompson, Ministerial Coordinator for Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

RE: Catechumenate Team Ministry Course, Catholic Life Day of Prayer

DATE: September 16, 2016

Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Catechumenate Team Ministry Course,

It would be good for parishes with new RCIA Team Members, and veteran members who need updating or want to delve more into the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, to attend the **Catechumenate Team Ministry Course**. It is necessary for the class to have a minimum of eight participants for the course to be held and at this time we are at five. We have extended the RSVP registration date to Tuesday, September 20, 2016.

Course sessions are on Thursday evenings at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Administration Center, Building B, 933 South Logan Blvd, Hollidaysburg from 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. The fee is \$75.00 for all books and supplies. The fee is \$60.00 for adults who already own a Study Edition of the Rite book. (Please bring your Rite book to class.)

Please call Marybeth Heinze at 814-814-361-2000 or Jeanne Thompson 814-317-2672 if you have any parishioner(s) in the Christian Initiation ministry who have decided to enter into this adult, catechetical formation course. Since Thursday September 22 is the first session, registration forms can be completed the evening of the 22nd. People registering that evening should come by 6:00 PM.

Parish Visits

I am always available to come to individual parishes as needed for questions and conversations with parish teams. You can reach me at 814-317-2672 or by email at jthompson@dioceseaj.org.

Catholic Life Day of Prayer

The bi-annual Catholic Life Day of Prayer being held during the Year of Mercy on Saturday, October 22nd in the Bertshci Center at Mount Aloysius College, is a prayerful opportunity for Catholics to share with others from various parishes in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. As part of the day there will a “showcasing” of parishes, schools, and diocesan and local, national and international community service involvement. We are inviting all parish and school groups and organizations to “showcase” their community service experiences and efforts by making a tri-fold display board that will be placed on tables in the gathering space of the Bertshci Center. You may include brochures with your display.

Please contact Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672, or jthompson@dioceseaj.org; or Dotty Caminiti, Parish Life Office at 814-693-9605, Ext 2647 or dcaminiti@dioceseaj.org, by October 10 if you will need table space. Displays should be no larger than five feet (half a large table.) Everyone who has a display should try to stay for the day of prayer to be at your table to offer information and answer any questions people may have. Information for set-up times will be available by October 10. Displays should be ready by 8:00 AM as many people do come early.

The day begins at 9:00 AM with the Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer, Bishop Mark as Presider, and continue with coffee/tea and juice, breakfast items and exhibit time. During the day there will be two keynote presentations by Sr. Janet Ruffing, R.S.M. currently a professor at Yale University, Connecticut; lunch; round table discussions with personal focus on living the Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy; large group reflection time led by Sr. Janet. *Witnesses of Mercy*, (Men, women, youth and young adults), will share stories of faith and conversion that are the result of living the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

You should have received promotional materials and registration brochures by this time. Please pass on the information to all schools, religious education catechists, and staffs, and especially your parishioners. Additional brochures can be obtained by calling the contact numbers listed above.