

Mission Connections: Special Catechetical Leaders Edition

Youth Connecting in Mission

Mission Office, Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud
11—8th Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-1100

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<http://mission.stcdio.org>

Get up! Minister! Serve!

Here we are, half-way through our joyous 50 days! This Easter season is one of **movement**. Jesus refused to sit idle in the grave. The early disciples were told to go out and share what the angel said, their experience on the way to Emmaus, etc. We spend these weeks celebrating confirmations—in which the gifts of the Spirit are strengthened in us for service—and first Eucharists—recognizing the beauty of the Mass, the very meaning of which is “to be sent” and which closes with the words “go forth.” And each Sunday we renew our baptismal promises as we are sprinkled anew with the water of our salvation, serving as a great reminder to us of this importance of movement.

Being baptized into a community calls us to participation and service to that community. Being baptized into a universal church calls us to participation and service to that broader community as well:

“One reality we encounter through the sacraments is Christ’s presence in the Church community, his Body. This recognition of Christ’s presence in the community should lead to a stronger awareness of being sent on mission to engage in love-inspired action in the world.” (US Bishops’ document on Baptism).

Baptism and the sacraments call us to something bigger, call us to see Christ and grace and community and healing and GOD’s presence *everywhere!* And how do we find “everywhere?” We **move!**

I was very struck by this idea of movement recently, when I read an article on mission education, in which Nancy Keith, a children’s minister, said this:

“In the average Christian church, we train people from a very

early age to sit still. After 20 to 25 years of this process, we then turn around and tell them, ‘Get up! Minister! Serve!’

Children who learn to sit still in church will sit still when they’re adults, but children who learn to serve will continue to do so into adulthood.”

As a mother of young children (who coincidentally can’t seem to sit still in church), I found this a powerful reminder. If our church is meant to move, to go forth, to seek and participate and serve the everywhere, the everyone, then it becomes all the more important for us to encourage this “movement” from a young age. It is reaffirming of the work we do as a diocese (the work many of you have done along side us throughout this past school and faith formation year!) to educate and animate towards mission—for all ages!

So please allow me to say “Thank you!” to those who included mission education in your ministry this year! And for all of us, as we wind down this year and begin looking to our summer—another season of *movement*, when many families are on the go more so than usual—may I encourage us ever more to think about the ways that our examples, words and activities might encourage movement outside of ourselves, into our communities, and to all the world. It can be simple steps—perhaps an extra stop to visit a shrine on your family vacation, a service project as part of your community’s VBS, a World Mission Rosary prayer and pizza night for youth, or a look into the diocesan *Encuentro* event coming this fall (or all of the above!). But whatever step you take, do take one. Let us all think of way that we—and those learning from us—can “Get up! Minister! Serve!”

It’s the season for movement!

Don't Forget:



May 13: World Fair Trade Day

May 14: Happy Mothers Day!

May 29: Mission Office closed; happy Memorial Day!

June 13: Fr. Bob McCahill, Maryknoll missionary in Bangladesh, giving a talk at Christ Church Newman Center in St. Cloud at 6:30pm

Aug 13: Rural Life Celebration



Give it a Try!

Try incorporating these resources and activities into your home & ministry.



Mission Education Resources & Ideas:

If you’re still looking for a VBS program, try Heifer International’s “Animal Crackers” program, a fun way for children to see themselves as part of the global family and how people can live in harmony with God’s creation! Just visit: www.heifer.org/resources/faith/animal-crackers/index.html

Though we’ve mentioned these candles before, human trafficking continues to be an unfortunate reality, with 21 million victims—meaning more slaves than

Prosperity candles (an ethical trade coop) help the women who make them escape horrible situations, while raising awareness of the issue. Visit www.prosperitycandle.com/products/crs-human-trafficking-candle You can also get them custom-printed as gifts or wedding favors (www.prosperitycandle.com/pages/wedding-favors). With Fair Trade Day and Mother’s Day this weekend and the wedding season upon us, definitely check these out and make a difference while giving this year!



Another powerful resource and activity is the “How Many Slaves Work for Me?” survey: <http://slaveryfootprint.org> Let’s make human trafficking move—moving on out!

Words of Wisdom: “Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

any other time in history! But