



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of PORTLAND
Office of Lifelong Faith Formation



OLFF Newsletter--October 2022

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Monthly Leader Learning Sessions



The Office of Lifelong Faith Formation (OLFF) is offering monthly leader learning sessions (see schedule below) which aim to help catechetical and youth ministry leaders develop the skills of being, knowing, and artistry through three simple movements modeled in the Road to Emmaus scripture story.

- **Listen:** What are you discussing as you walk along? (Prayer, Introductions & Prompt Question about Local Experiences)
- **Learn:** Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures (Delving into Scripture, Tradition, Teaching & Best Practices)
- **Lead:** they recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them (Conversation, Questions & Application)

To accommodate a range of different schedules OLFF will host an afternoon session from 1-2pm and an evening session from 6:30-7:30pm on the fourth Monday of each month. The evening sessions in October and December will have an emphasis on youth ministry though all leaders are welcome to attend.

[Click](#) to see a full listing of topics and dates for 2022-2023.

Parish Leader Days November 4 & 5



Two more Regional Parish Leader days remain. These parish leader days are a part of the Diocesan phase of the National Eucharistic Revival. The focus will be the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastors/administrators are encouraged to invite staff and local leaders to participate in one of these days:

- **Friday, November 4 at St. Martha Church in Kennebunk**
- **Saturday, November 5 at St. Athanasius Church in Rumford**

Each day will cover the same content and take place from 10am-1:30pm including lunch.

Up to 8 leaders from each parish can attend for free. At the discretion of the local pastor/administrator additional leaders from a parish may participate if space is available and at a cost of \$25/person. Talk with your pastor about extending invitations to appropriate people in your parish.

[Click](#) to register for one of the two remaining parish leader days.

Circle of Grace (Annual Safe Environment Training for Young People)



Out of concern for all God's people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, The Archdiocese of Omaha developed a safe environment education program for children and young people in 2005. This program is called **Circle of Grace** and it is updated every 5 years. Since 2017, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland has been licensed to use the **Circle of Grace** education program in Maine. All parishes and Catholic schools are mandated to lead annual lessons for children, teens, and families who are enrolled in faith formation.

We recommend that parishes roll the **Circle of Grace** lessons into the annual calendar as a way of communicating that **Circle of Grace** is an essential part of the parish curriculum; it is also recommended that Circle of Grace lessons be completed after leaders and catechists have had a few months to get to know group participants and their families (Nov-Dec). Parishes and Catholic schools must submit an annual digital parish report to Bob McDermott at the diocesan Protecting God's Children Office no later than **Feb 1st, 2023**.

The annual digital parish form is found on the PGC page of the diocesan website: [Circle of Grace Annual Parish Form | Diocese of Portland \(portlanddiocese.org\)](https://portlanddiocese.org/circle-of-grace-annual-parish-form)

To learn more about Circle of Grace (Archdiocese of Omaha NE): [Circle of Grace - Archdiocese of Omaha \(archomaha.org\)](https://archomaha.org/circle-of-grace)

For further assistance, please reach out to Georgette Dionne as your primary diocesan support for implementing this vital aspect of being safe and sacred communities for one another.

Tel: (207)-321-7886

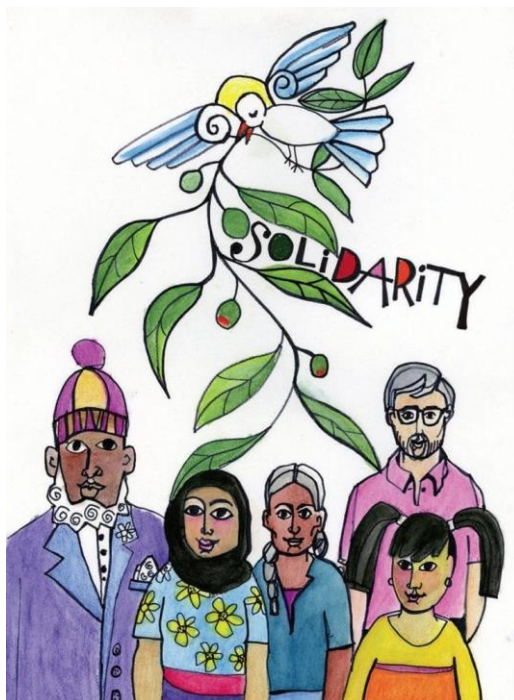
Georgette.dionne@portlanddiocese.org

LFFA Meeting Highlights: Catholic Social Teaching

On October 13 LFFA gathered together to participate in a presentation/conversation about Catholic Social Teaching facilitated by Bill Wood and Frank Daggett of Catholic Charities and Suzanne Lafreniere. The presentation had three different movements:

- **Catholic Social Teaching is sacramental**
- **Catholic Social Teaching is practical**
- **Catholic Social Teaching is experiential**

"Each of the Sacraments orients us towards the fruit of Catholic Social Teaching which is service and charity," stated Frank Daggett. In the prayers for the Sacrament of Confirmation we hear themes of charity, discipleship, and the building of the Kingdom of God being stressed. During Holy Orders we hear the themes of altar, Word, and charity. In the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, the couple is



called to be witnesses of God's charity to those who are in need of kindness. Even the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick draws us to charity as we pray for God's blessing over those who care for the sick, and we pray that those who are sick will recover so they can continue to serve others. This common thread of charity is what Catholic Social Teaching is all about. It calls us to evaluate how we have loved the least of these through our actions and how we have failed to love the least of these through our actions.

Bill Wood spoke about some of the many programs that Catholic Charities and parishes across the state of Maine have collaborated on. The most common program were the clothing/baby item/hygiene product donation drives. Some lesser-known programs that Catholic Charities has been involved in in the past include Jolly gifts, Eco-Joy, refugee programs, and art projects. [Click](#) for more information on these and other programs run by Catholic Charities. "What Catholic Social Teaching comes down to is how we are in relationship with others. How do we approach and encounter them? How do we deal with the last, left, lonely, left behind, and the seemingly unloveable," challenged Bill.

Suzanne wrapped up the presentation by sharing an experience of service that changed her life and the words from a mentor that made her see poverty in a whole new way. Her mentor said "poverty isn't just a lack of resources, it's also a lack of choice and agency." And that has stuck with her all these years. "Children have an innate sense of justice, use that to your advantage," stated Suzanne. She suggested having the children in faith formation write to an elected official and/or having an elected official come and talk or read to your faith formation class. "Do something, and when you do something make sure you allow time in the schedule to reflect, discuss and pray afterwards," said Suzanne. We want the seed that has been sown through service to be watered and nurtured by the Son so that it can bear great fruit, and the way to do that is through taking the time to reflect and pray about your experiences. It all leads back to one another. The Church points us towards service, and service should point us to the Church.

To get involved with Catholic Charities contact.....

If you are in Aroostook County contact **Chip Beckwith** at jobeckwith@ccmaine.org

If you are in a county from Somerset to Washington contact **Ed French** at efrench@ccmaine.org

If you are in between Fryeburg and Rockland contact **Bill Wood** at bwood@ccmaine.org

If you are in York or Cumberland County contact **Frank Daggett** at fdaggett@ccmaine.org

If you want to know more about what's going on in the legislature or if you would like a hardcopy of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship contact.....

Suzanne Lafreniere at suzanne.lafreniere@portlanddiocese.org

Next LFFA Meeting: November 10



LFFA is excited to have Msgr. Caron with us on November 10 to talk to us about Celebrating the Sacraments. We look forward to learning from his insight and knowledge that he has gained from years of preparing others to receive the sacraments. If you have questions about how to prepare others for the Sacraments this would be a wonderful presentation to attend.

ABIDE Middle School Youth Retreat



The ABIDE Middle School Youth Retreat will be held in two locations in Maine in November.

- **November 19th at Holy Martyrs Church in Falmouth from 12pm-5pm**
- **November 20th at St. Mary of the Visitation in Houlton from 10am-3pm**

The day of reflection is designed to explore how we can enhance our relationship with Christ and others. Through games, activities, witnesses, prayer and liturgy participants will come to understand what it means to ABIDE in Christ and how to do so.

The deadline to register for this event is by **noon on November 15.**

To register, fill out the form at the following link for each youth and adult attending: <https://forms.office.com/r/ERcZm40E1U>

[Click](#) to find the release forms, image consent form and flyer

Got questions? Contact Shawn Gregory at shawn.gregory@portlanddiocese.org

Schedule a free Language of Compassion Presentation



"Neither do I condemn you." These were the words Jesus spoke to the women caught in adultery, words full of compassion, love, and forgiveness. Many men and women who have experienced or been involved in an abortion carry guilt, shame, sorrow, anger and a variety of other emotions. They long to hear the words of compassion, love, and forgiveness from those whom they choose to hear their story. The Diocesan Project Rachel ministry offers a 2-hour workshop entitled "Language of Compassion" to help understand the perspective of those who are post-abortive and to learn how to become effective agents of healing and hope. To learn more or to schedule an in-person (and at no cost to you) presentation at your local parish please contact Hannah Gonneville at Hannah.gonneville@portlanddiocese.org

Christmas Card Contest

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Time to get your imagination going and your Christmas cards ready. The annual Christmas card contest hosted by the Office of Development within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland is underway! Artists from K-12 are encouraged to create their own Christmas card based off of the following prompts:

"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger (Lk 2:7)."

"The angel said to them I proclaim to you good news of great joy (Lk 2:10)."

"For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born (Lk 2:11)."

"You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger (Lk 2:12)."

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace (Lk 2:14)."



Artwork must be turned in by 4:30pm on October 28th in order to be considered for judging. No late submissions will be accepted. For more information see the application form below.



The Diocese of Portland: Christmas Card Art Contest for Catholic Schools and Faith Formation Students

The Diocese of Portland is seeking a cover art design for the 2022 Christmas Card. Any student affiliated with a Catholic parish or school in the Diocese of Portland may enter. Artwork provided by students will be judged by a committee and each of the four winners' designs will be used on the cover of the 2022 Christmas card. One winner will be selected from each of the following grade groups; K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The winners' name will be printed on the back of the card and the winners and their families will be invited to a reception with Bishop Deeley.

Contest rules:

- This contest is open to any child affiliated with a Catholic school or parish in the Diocese of Portland.
Artwork must be approximately 8-1/2" x 11" in size - do not fold artwork; do not include a mat or border.
Artwork must reflect one of the following Scripture passages.
'She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.' (Luke 2:7)
'The angel said to them, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy." (Luke 2:10)
'For today in the city of David, a savior has been born.' (Luke 2:11)
'You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' (Luke 2:12)
'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace.' (Luke 2:14)
Artwork should not be mechanically or electronically generated - no clip art or photography, etc.
Artwork must be an original creation of the child.
Artwork must be on white or similar light-colored paper.
Artwork should be in color - markers, crayon, colored pencils, paint, etc.
Artwork should be two-dimensional - no glitter, feathers, sparkles, etc.
Child's name should be neatly printed lightly IN PENCIL on the back of the artwork. Name should not appear on the front of the artwork.
The included entry form, signed by a parent, or guardian, must be enclosed with the artwork.
Artwork must be turned in or mailed to the Diocese of Portland, 510 Ocean Ave., Portland, ME 04103 by 4:30 p.m. October 28, 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Only one entry per child.

JUDGING: All entries will be judged by a panel of Catholic leaders in faith who will evaluate each entry on its creativity, artistic skill, and scripture accuracy. Judging will take place the week of November 1st and the winner will be notified by November 30, 2022. Judges have the right to disqualify any entry that does not follow these guidelines. The decision of the judges is final.

The Diocese of Portland is not responsible for loss or damage to entries. The Dioceses reserves the exclusive right to authorize the reproduction of all entries in any form and to photograph the winning designs without compensation to the entrants. The Diocese has the right to use the winners' names for promotional materials.



Diocese of Portland 2022 Christmas Card Art Contest Entry Form



Artist's Name: _____

Artist's Age: _____

Artist's Grade: _____

Artist's School/Parish: _____

Title of Artwork: _____

Medium used: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Art Teacher's Name (optional): _____

I hereby certify that the artwork submitted is my original artwork.

Artist's Signature/Date: _____

Parent's Signature/Date: _____

Artwork must be turned in or mailed to: Diocese of Portland, 510 Ocean Ave., Portland, ME 04103 no later than 4:30 p.m., October 30, 2022.



Fruits from the Vineyard



As the topic for LFFA centered around Catholic Social Teaching I sat down with Kim Suttie, Pastoral Life Coordinator of Corpus Christi parish, to talk about the parish's involvement in a social justice outreach.

"Our focus on social justice is threefold. We (Corpus Christi Parish) really wanted to have a presence in our community, stepping in wherever there is a need," said Kim. We also wanted our parishioners to be engaged in their community and to encounter others that they may not have encountered on their own. Social justice projects have been a perfect vehicle for allowing our parishioners to go beyond the four walls of the Church and to actually be the hands and feet of Christ. And lastly, as much as we want our presence to have an impact, we want our absence to have an effect on the community. We want people to notice and to

feel that there is something missing if we were no longer a part of the community," stated Kim.

When asked about the variety of projects that Corpus Christi parish has done Kim enthusiastically shared "well let's see we've collaborated with food pantries before, we've worked with Catholic Charities before to do clothing and kitchen donation drives, we've done e-waste donation drives, a sneaker drive, a toiletries drive, Jolly Gifts and this year we plan on having a hat and mitten drive. We usually try to do at least two projects a year."

"My favorite project has to be the sneaker drive," exclaimed Kim. I remember going on a mission to try and find size 14 red slippers for a teen, which were quite the challenge to find. All the work and time spent in shoe stores was worth it when a child came into the office excitedly shouting "this is the best day ever" as he hurriedly pulled off his old, worn shoes and put on his new shoes. "That really put a smile on my face," said Kim.

"This social justice outreach has really opened our eyes to how much need is out there. It has also opened my eyes to just how much little things can impact people, and it's those little things that we take for granted. It's also allowed me to see the generosity of our parishioners. They are just remarkable-- often bringing in bags and bags of toys each toy costing \$10 or more, or bringing toys more expensive than the \$10 limit for Jolly Gifts. It has made such an impact in our community. I had a mother who was able to give her children new toys for Christmas, instead of wrapping and regifting old toys. It's stories like these that make me feel good and help me to know that we are truly having an impact on our community.

As parting advice to those who want to start or revitalize their social justice outreach, Kim suggested the following:

"First pick a group that you'd like to work with. Consider what need/cause is going to get you up early in the morning? Where is there a need in your community. Once you have taken the time to evaluate that and have pinpointed where there is a need, I would suggest checking with Catholic Charities to see if they already have a program that helps to alleviate that need. The folks at Catholic Charities are real go-getters and make it easy to organize. They do a majority of the work from crafting bulletin inserts to delivering the barrels right to your parish. Also involve different age groups in the organization and leadership of the project. We recently did a food drive where we let the 4th and 5th graders do everything from promoting it at Mass, to collecting canned goods, to unloading the canned goods at the food pantry. It doesn't have to all fall on the shoulders of the parish leader. After all we all are called to a preferential option for the poor. We are all called to serve others," remarked Kim.

A big thank you to Kim Suttie, Fr. Daniel Baillargeon and the staff of Corpus Christi for sharing their passion for social justice and their projects with us.

Inspiration



I (Hannah) saw an Instagram reel the other day of a mom talking about how her child often fights sleep and how her child wants to grow taller. The mom said to her child something along the lines of "the

growth you desire can be achieved if you learn to rest." The mom then went on to explain that the same could be said of the spiritual life. We tend to think that the biggest growth happens when we are like Martha, but actually the Lord is asking us to sit at His feet and rest, and to learn and listen to Him like Mary did. Jesus even says to Martha that Mary has chosen the better part. This isn't to say that work, doing and experiencing things aren't a way that we can grow, because He can use anything. But it is to say that rest should be a priority in our lives.

How often do you rest? Could the reason you are or are not growing in your faith be due to how much/how little you are resting? Take some time today to rest in the presence of God.

Prayer

Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Holy Eucharist,
receive my homage and tribute of adoration,
which I here bring, prostrate at the throne of thy glory.
May you ever be revered and adored by all
creatures;
may the raising of hands, bending of knees,
prostrations of body, practiced in our devotions;
may the prayers, vows, and sacrifices of thy servants,
be ever agreeable and acceptable to thee.
May the angels in Heaven ever adore thee,
and may the hearts of all the faithful,
especially that of the Most Blessed Virgin,
ever breathe out in thy honor a most sweet odor and
perfume of love, esteem, and respect.
Sweet Jesus! Receive this act of adoration
May it be acceptable in thy sight from my hands.



Amen!

Taken from: [Prayer of Adoration of Jesus | Diocese of Portland \(portlanddiocese.org\)](https://portlanddiocese.org)