

Catechetical Congress
October 27th 2007
Frequently Asked Questions

Why a Catechetical Congress?

More than five years ago, the bishop expressed his desire to see catechesis in the diocese improve. The process began with a series of conversations, *On Good Soil*, held in the parishes and schools of the diocese. The results of the local conversations were brought together in regional gatherings and the results became the basis for a diocesan gathering held at St. Mark's High School. Bishop Saltarelli took the results of the conversations and the reports of committees appointed to make recommendations based on the conversation process and wrote the pastoral letter, ***Go and Teach: Facing the Challenges of Catechesis Today***. It was published in September, 2005. Since then, our Office for Religious Education and the parish and school catechetical leaders have been implementing the directions set forth in the pastoral letter. It is now time to take stock, to celebrate and to renew our commitment to excellent catechetical programs in our parishes and schools. The Congress will provide us with that opportunity, therefore, every catechist in our elementary Catholic schools, our parish catechists for adults and children and our catechists of our youth including Catholic high school religion faculties and chaplains are being urged to join us on October 27.

Who is the Congress for?

The principal audience for the Congress are the catechists of adults, youth and children in our parishes and Catholic elementary and high schools. All parents, as the first catechists of their children are invited as well.

Where did the theme, Live Jesus, come from and what does it mean?

The planning committee suggested the theme to the bishop who approved it. Live Jesus is the motto of the Oblates of St. Francis deSales, a religious order that came to the US from France and settled in Wilmington. Today, the Oblate Fathers staff Salesianum High School, Nativity School and St. Anthony Parish. The Oblate Sisters have Mt. Aviat Academy at Childs, Maryland. St. Francis deSales (1567-1622) was the bishop of Geneva. He was a tireless preacher and writer. Among his written works is the classic, *Introduction to the Devout Life*. He wrote, "I have wished above everything else to engrave upon your heart this sacred motto, 'Live Jesus.' Just as Jesus will live within your heart so he will live also in your conduct" (Introduction to the Devout Life, 3,23) All of the recent church documents say that "at the heart of catechesis stands the person of Jesus Christ.. As we develop our relationship with Christ, we want to live as Christ, in service to one another. Catechists share their relationship with Christ, as they "Live Jesus"!

What will the day be like?

The day is advertised as a day to celebrate catechesis and catechists. Over fifty exhibitors have been invited to display their goods and services. The opening session in the morning will include a keynote address by Bishop Rhoades of Harrisburg. Following the opening session, there will be opportunities to participate in various workshops on topics such as: Evangelization and Catechesis; The Family and Catechesis; Live Jesus through Art and Music and Catechesis in the Spanish Speaking Community (offered in Spanish). There will be a continental breakfast, coffee breaks and lunch provided. Music groups from throughout the diocese will perform. In mid afternoon, there will be a celebration of our catechists followed by a closing liturgy with Bishop Saltarelli presiding. The Liturgy will begin at 4:00 PM

What is the Cost?

The registration for the day is \$40 inclusive.

How do I Register?

You can register on line at www.cdow.org Click on the icon for the Congress and it will take you to the page for registration. You can also register by contacting your parish DRE or local religious education contact person or Catholic school principal.

Where is it being held?

The Congress will take place at the Chase Riverfront Center on the Christina River
www.centerontheriverfront.com

Directions: <http://www.centerontheriverfront.com/visitor/directions.html>

How can I get there?

There will be three buses leaving from various parts of the diocese. Buses will leave from Most Blessed Sacrament School, Ocean Pines; SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Easton; and St. Francis deSales, Salisbury. The buses are free, but space is limited (find out how to reserve a place on the bus from your local Congress contact person). There is ample parking in the area for those who wish to drive.

Will I receive Catechist Certification credit for attending the Congress?

You will receive a half credit for attending the Congress. By fulfilling additional requirements posted on the Congress website and returning them to your principal, DRE/CRE you can receive full credit.

How can I prepare myself and others for the Congress?

The Congress website has a number of learning packets that can be used by children, youth and adults to reflect on the theme for the Congress. There are prayers for inclusion in the prayer of the faithful and bulletin announcement. There is a prayer that can be recited by catechists, parents, class groups, etc. for the success of the Congress.