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## Upcoming Events

### NW Catholic Men's Conference February 27-28, 2015

Please promote our annual men's conference. Featuring Archbishop Sample, with Bishop Cary, Fr. Joseph Levine, Fr. Darrin Connall, Fr. Kumar Udagandla, and more! A pastor's letter and advertising posters were included with the November 16<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Chronicle delivery.

## Info. and Registration

### *Happy New Year – new Training Resources and Blog Site for You!* **2014-15 is a year of preparation – how are we doing?**

For those that have had an opportunity to attend either the [Symposium](#) last August or one of our [Deanery Catechetical Workshops](#) you know that we are in a year of preparation for implementing new [diocesan sacramental guidelines](#) in the 2015-16 ministry year.

That said, we thought it good to provide online access to training videos which also incorporates blog site capabilities. This affords our diocesan community three primary benefits: accessibility for everyone, enhanced communications, and community building dialogue.

Currently we have ten videos organized under the following categories.

- [Evangelization and Catechesis Roadmap](#) (2013-2015): two videos which provides an overview from our past two Evangelization and Catechesis Symposiums on the priorities and initiatives for the Diocese of Baker.
- [Communications and Planning 101](#) (Spring 2014): 4-part series on proactive planning, goals and vision, effective communications, and recruitment.
- [Catechetical Workshops](#) (November 2014): 3-part series from our latest Catechetical Workshop on the new sacramental preparation guidelines.

As we continue our preparation this year we will be adding more training videos in March on planning, communications, and training for the new sacramental preparation guidelines. Please let us know what you think and how we might better serve you in our evangelization and catechesis endeavors – shalom!

### *Catechetical Certification*

A **top priority of Bishop Cary** is to improve competency and consistency in our catechetical and liturgical works in the Diocese of Baker. In support of all those serving in catechetical roles a [catechetical certification program](#) has been launched, beginning with two levels of certification.

The **primary people expected to participate** in this certification program are **parish and school employees (full and part-time) serving in a catechetical role** (e.g. Children's Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation, Youth Ministry, Young Adults, Adults, and RCIA). Volunteer catechists for children, youth and adults are highly encouraged to participate as well.



## RCIA Rite of Election

For all catechumens (un-baptized) and candidates (baptized other than Catholic) who are entering into communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Registrations Due Feb 6!

2/21 – St. Pius X, K-Falls  
2/22 – St. Francis, Bend  
2/28 – St. Mary, Pendleton  
3/1 – St. Francis de Sales  
Cathedral, Baker City

## RCIA Retreat 3/21/15

*Journeying with Christ  
through Holy Week*  
Registration

## Youth Retreats

March 6 – 8, 2015  
ICYC “Consumed”

March 14, 2015  
“Rise Up”

World Youth Day 2016!

*Adult Faith Formation Resource – we guarantee it or we pay!*  
**“We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden.” (Pope Benedict XVI)**

My friends, we live in unprecedented times. Bishop Cary recently summed up our situation as such:

“Twenty centuries ago those teachings took the Mediterranean world by surprise; ancient Roman paganism could not resist the “Good News” that swiftly swept over it. But in 2014 we throw the net of the Gospel into far different seas. To the affluent, technologically sophisticated 21st century, the Gospel seems to be old news that needs no repeating. The hard-blowing winds of secularism and relativism make it hard for us to get a hearing. All too many Catholics shut their ears to Christ’s teachings and cease to walk the saving path of sacramental life.

That is why here in the Diocese of Baker we confidently take up our part in the worldwide task of the New Evangelization.... with varied and readily accessible resources to invite and deepen lifelong conversion to Jesus Christ in his Church.”

In December 2014, five parishes responded to David’s invitation to purchase a **premier life-transforming adult faith formation resource** ([Symbolon](#)) at a 50% discount.

If you missed out on this savings opportunity, fear not! This resource can be purchased at full price and **will pay for itself – we guarantee it!**

How can we guarantee this? Please have the parish pastor, or authorized staff person, **call Barry or David for how to bring [Symbolon](#) to your parish.**

Some might believe that Symbolon is just another Catholicism type production; we assure you this is not the case. This resource does not stop at presenting the beauty of our faith, but goes further by teaching and explaining the faith in some depth. For example, this resource is currently being used by Fr. Maxwell in Hermiston as part of the RCIA. The Symbolon program utilizes many nationally recognized experts to present our faith with precision and relevance to our current times, all of which invites the participant into a life-transforming encounter with Christ and richer experience of his Church.

Symbolon is approved by Bishop Cary and has a distinguished list of notable Catholic endorsements: Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop Charles Chaput, George Weigel and Karl Keating to name a few.