
Parishes embrace "Discovering Christ" program; new series to begin in Spring

PThis past fall close to 250 people across the diocese participated in the inaugural Discovering Christ series sponsored by the diocesan Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Initiation. St. Margaret Parish, Otsego and St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo each had 50 participants and Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg, welcomed an impressive 120 people in the program.

Discovering Christ is a catechetical program that consists of seven weekly sessions and a retreat day. Each session includes four components: a simple dinner, prayer time, a teaching and a small group discussion. According to Deacon Kurt Lucas who conducts some of the teaching portion at the program the teachings convey "the good news of what God has done in and through Jesus Christ." The topics are as follows:

- What is the meaning of life?
- Why does Jesus matter?
- What does Jesus Want us to know?
- Why do I need a savior?
- Why is the resurrection important for us?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit and You
- New life in the spirit: Being a Catholic
- Disciple Believing and Belonging:
- Why we need the church

"In the 30 plus years I've been involved in parish ministry, I have not see such a large and sustained attendance (over seven weeks!) of people at an adult faith formation program — over 100 people each week," says Fr. Joe McCormack, pastor, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg. "I think this points to the hunger that people in our pews have for that core piece of our Catholic faith — deepening our relationship with Christ.

"While there might be lots of healthy discussion — even debate — today about elements of our Catholic Church and its teachings and practices, the essence of it all is clearly Jesus Christ and his life's impact on us. And no matter how frail, weak or sinful that we are, Christ's love is always there for us. 'Discovering Christ' nurtured that core aspect of our faith."

This Spring sessions will be scheduled in the Eastern, Southeast and Lakeshore deaneries. For more information contact: Deacon Kurt Lucas, ECI Office, 269-903-0183; klucas@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Joy

Deacon Kurt Lucas, Associate Director, Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Initiation, presents to a packed house during the Discovering Christ series held at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg.
