



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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Dear Coordinators for Arise, Team Members and Small Group Leaders,

As a new Season of Arise quickly approaches, I want to share with you the plans which are underway to launch a very special **Season 3**, which invites the Church to explore the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church. Season 3 zeroes in on what it means to ‘walk in the Footsteps of Christ’ as we embrace Catholic Social teachings on Charity and justice in today’s world. A central question throughout this Season as we focus on our commitment to action is: How will we show we are Intentional Disciples of Christ?

We are beginning Season 3 with an **Arise Diocesan Convocation**, on Saturday, September 21, at Bishop Carroll Auditorium with presenter Dr. Donald Ascii, a professor from Steubenville University, who will enlighten us on: ***Following Jesus and Transforming the World: The Social dimension of Christian Discipleship.***

The **Convocation** is for all Pastors, Arise Coordinators, Teams, Small Group leaders and will benefit, Catholic School Teachers, DRE’s and Catechists. It is for **anyone** interested in learning more about the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church. Please invite your Team, Small Group Leaders, participants and anyone from the parish who may want to attend. I am hopeful that it will be an enriching experience for anyone who participates. The Convocation will replace the Training sessions for this year. Milissa Else will address the audience at the end of the Convocation to lead us into Season 3. I am attaching an invitation which I hope Arise Coordinators will read at one of the Saturday/Sunday Masses to extend an invitation to all parishioners to attend this event. Please make certain that it appears in the bulletin as well. Please register online for this event by going to www.dioceseaj.org. Click on the Arise Circle which opens the event on the left side.

We also have in place a **Diocesan Mass** to commission again all Coordinators, Team Members, Small Group Leaders as well as anyone participating in Arise who desires to join in the celebration of the Eucharist to kick off Season 3. The Mass this year will be at the **Outdoor Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies** on Sunday evening, **August 18, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.** Anyone attending should **bring a lawn Chair**. We would also like to have anyone planning to attend to sign up online by going to www.dioceseaj.org, click on the Arise circle and this event will show up on the left-hand side of the page. The Mass will be celebrated indoors if the weather is inclement.

This year, we are **recommending materials for Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs** on the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church, which can be downloaded online through the USCCB and CRS Web sites. Using the online materials will eliminate the cost of materials and shipping through Renew International which we used for seasons One and Two

and make lessons available free of charge from the website. The materials are very good, colorful, and have a You Tube presentation available, plus they are free. Those planning to use them just need to go to the website: Catholic Social Teaching-usccb.org and click on Catholic Social Teaching-usccb.org and everything they need is there. They simply will need to download the material.

I am sending you an Order Form for the season 3 booklets, *In the Footsteps of Christ*. The possible recommend beginning dates for Season 3 are the weeks of October 6 or the 13.

Please remember to post the flyers for the convocation and Commissioning Mass as well as pass on this information to your Small Group leaders and participants.

Thank you for your kind attention to all the above. I am hopeful that Season 3, will support our Church in discovering new insights into walking in the Footsteps of Christ. Trust that the Diocesan Team has taken it upon themselves to pray for you each day.

Sincerely in Christ,
Sr. Linda LaMagna CCW
Diocesan Coordinator of Arise

