



Catechesis Supplement

Catechesis deepens a believer's relationship with Christ and the Church

After the first night of the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) in Indianapolis in July, my husband and I were walking back to our car when we saw a man stare at the multitude of people with orange swag bags coming from Lucas Oil Stadium.



Eventually he stopped a priest walking a few steps ahead of us, recognizable by his Roman collar, and said, "Excuse me, can you tell me what is going on here?" The priest replied that it was the National Eucharistic Congress, and then stopped for a longer conversation

when the man asked, "What does that mean?"

We didn't hear the rest of the priest's explanation, but in this moment, the NEC was already a success in my book. Later, we heard stories of more people who witnessed the congress from the "outside" starting to ask questions about our Catholic faith or being inspired to go back to Mass. What a great moment this was in the movement of the National Eucharistic Revival, and what a great moment for catechesis!

Catechesis is what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the "totality of the Church's efforts to make disciples, to help men believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that, believing, they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the body of Christ" (#4).

It is closely connected with the work of evangelization, the proclamation of the Gospel to bring others to Christ and his Church. In very simplified words: evangelization helps us to start a relationship with Jesus; catechesis helps us to get to know him better.

Evangelization and catechesis go hand in hand in fulfilling the mission of the Church, which is to lead people to a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ. It is something Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, as the chairman of the Committee for Evangelizing Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, emphasizes strongly, even in the organizational structure of his archdiocesan staff.

Some people may think, "I'm already Catholic. I hear the Gospel at Mass, I don't need to be evangelized." But do we not all need to hear—like it was the first time—that Jesus, God who became one of us, is waiting for us to come to him?

Other people may think, "I have all my sacraments and I graduated from catechism class. I don't need catechesis." But you never graduate from getting to know Christ, his teachings and his Church better.

Whether you're at the level of the man outside the NEC or you have a theology degree, catechesis is for everybody! The important thing is to be curious, to ask questions, to be open to learn more about this Jesus who died so that you could know him.

Parish catechetical leaders (PCLs) often hear from adults of all ages after a Bible study or faith formation program, "I never knew this! Why haven't we heard this before? This makes such a difference in how I experience the Mass, how I relate to Jesus, on my view of the Church!"

I hope this does not come as a surprise, but we do want you to know "this," all of what the Church professes and teaches! Because Jesus wants you to know him. Hopefully, the NEC has inspired you, too, to go deeper, to learn more about our faith and maybe even to take others along as a catechist.

We couldn't do catechesis in the archdiocese without our PCLs. Do you think your PCL (or director of religious education) is awesome? Would you like to nominate him or her for an award? The Archbishop Daniel Buechlein Excellence in Catechesis honor has been awarded by the archdiocesan Office of Catechesis since 1996. To nominate someone, please e-mail us at catechesis@archindy.org and let us know in a few brief sentences the reason(s) for your nomination. †

(Ute Eble is director of catechesis for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She can be reached at ueble@archindy.org.) †

'I'm living for God'

A response to a challenge defines the life of archdiocese's new director of catechesis

By John Shaughnessy

When the ultimate challenge came, Ute Eble knew it could change her life forever.

By the time it came in 2018, Eble was already steeped in a life touched by emotional and physical challenges that she had willingly embraced:

Leaving her family and her homeland in Germany after she married her husband Joe, who was stationed there in the U.S. Army.

Striving to be the best mother she could be to their four children.

And adapting to all the moves as a military spouse, in a path that led first to Alabama, then to Hawaii, then to Germany, back to Alabama and again to Hawaii—all before Joe eventually retired from the Army and the family moved to his hometown of Indianapolis.

Still, this challenge was different—a spiritual, life-changing one that came as Eble was pursuing a master's degree in theology.

"During my studies, I had a really great professor for my spirituality class," recalls Eble, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis who became the archdiocese's new director of catechesis in early July. "We talked about discipleship a lot—that discipleship requires that at some point you make a conscious decision to give your life over to Jesus. She challenged us to write about the moment when you made that conscious decision.

"I realized I had never consciously said I want to give my life over to Jesus. I think that's an experience a lot of Catholics have. You grow up Catholic, you do what a good Catholic does, but



Ute and Joe Eble are joined with their children in this family photo, with Annika, and Michael behind their parents and Katja and Joshua next to them. (Submitted photo)

have you really decided consciously, 'I'm going to follow Jesus, I'm going to be a disciple'? That was a big moment for me. I knew that Jesus is real, and he's still present to us. I wanted to respond to that. If I really believe all of this, then I need to make that jump and put that trust in him. So, I did."

Three years later, Eble would especially need Christ's presence during one of the most heartbreaking times of her life.

'I felt God was looking out for me'

When she looks back on her life, the 46-year-old Eble regards her mother as one of the people who

See DIRECTOR, page 10

Franciscan at Home catechetical resource forms 'both mind and heart'

By Natalie Hoefler

The responsibilities of parish catechetical leaders run a wide spectrum. Some teach religion and sacramental preparation classes. Some play a higher-level role, coordinating programs and forming the catechists who offer instruction.

Many do all of the above.

In each case—and for other ministries, too—the "Franciscan at Home" initiative of Franciscan University of Steubenville's Catechetical Institute offers online resources that form "those entrusted with the formation of others in any situation and ministry role," its website states.

The resource offers short, online video workshops in a variety of tracks designed for specific groups—from catechists and catechetical leaders to those in youth, young adult, marriage and other ministries.



This screenshot captures part of the homepage for Franciscan University Catechetical Institute's "Franciscan at Home" online resource for parish and school catechists, directors of religious education and faith formation, ministry leaders, teachers and more.

There are tracks for Catholic schools, forming adults to be received into the full communion of the Church, pastoral accompaniment, parenting and more. (See list on page 10.)

Two tracks are also available in Spanish—Basic Certification for Catechists and a Special Ministries track. A Certification in Leadership and Pastoral Ministry track will be available in Spanish next year.

Following are comments from four parish catechesis leaders in the archdiocese regarding Franciscan at Home, how they use it and the benefits they've seen.

'I'm witnessing and catechizing better'

One of Matthew Fallon's main reasons for using Franciscan at Home to train the catechists at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis is simple: "It's more professional than what I'm able to do."

There are other reasons, too.

"The videos are short, so they don't take a long time," says Fallon, Our Lady of Lourdes' director of religious education. "They have a reverent, spiritual attitude, but also offer practical things to do."

He has received positive feedback from the catechists. One told Fallon the workshops gave her "more of a framework of how I should approach topics and things I can do to make it more engaging for the kids. I'm witnessing and catechizing better."

The workshops help catechists build on the texts the parish uses for religious education classes, says Fallon.

"It helps them put [the material] in a better context," he says. "It makes a better framework of an overall catechetical effort rather than just going page by page and getting bogged down in smaller activities."

Benedictine Sister Karen Durlat uses the tracks in Spanish to train her catechists at St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis.

See FRANCISCAN, page 10

Southern Indiana parish reminds members that angelic help is always present

By Sean Gallagher

Nine parishes across central and southern Indiana have angels as their holy patrons.

Faith communities in Bradford, Brookville, Cannelton, Charlestown, Greenfield and Indianapolis seek the help of St. Michael the Archangel.

St. Gabriel the Archangel is the patron of parishes in Connersville and Indianapolis.

And Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis calls on the aid of all God's angels.

But Catholics of all faith communities across the archdiocese can seek in their daily life of faith the assistance of these unseen creations of God.

The ways in which the faithful at St. Michael Parish in Bradford call upon their angelic patron is a positive example of how that can be done.

After each daily Mass and before each Sunday Mass, the traditional "Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel" is prayed by all worshippers at the New Albany Deanery faith community.

Children who receive first Communion at the parish receive a scapular of St. Michael the Archangel. And teenagers there receive a St. Michael keychain when they pass their driver's test and receive their driver's license.

Father Aaron Pfaff, pastor of St. Michael and of St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown and St. Joseph Parish in Crawford County, spoke about the goals of these practices at the parish in Bradford.

"We want to keep the spiritual life in the forefront of their minds as much as we can," said Father Pfaff. "The spiritual world can be easily overlooked. So, we try to make people aware that we're surrounded by a cloud of witnesses—angels and saints—in the ordinary events of their lives."

He shared how calling on angels for help has made a difference in his own life of faith.

"If my moods shift, if I become dark and dwell on negativity, I oftentimes will cover myself with spiritual protection of the angels and saints," said Father Pfaff. "I'll pray to St. Michael. I'll pray to my guardian angel."

In doing that, though, he always remembers the members of the parishes he serves.

"When I pray to my guardian angel, I'll say two prayers—one over my people and one for myself," Father Pfaff said. "I figure if I'm going through something, they may be going through something as well. So, I always cover them first with the guardian angel prayer."

Deacon John Jacobi, the longtime director of religious education and youth ministry coordinator at St. Michael, reflected that angels "show us God's love, how much God cares for us as the Father. He wants our protection. He wants our good."

"As a father myself, that resonates with me," said Deacon Jacobi, 54, a father of three daughters and grandfather of five. "When my girls were young, every



A statue of St. Michael the Archangel defeating the devil is seen in St. Michael Church in Bradford in the New Albany Deanery. (Submitted photo)

St. Michael the Archangel Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

time they left the house, I just prayed to the angels for their protection. I still pray for them and invoke St. Michael and their guardian angels to watch over them."

Seeking angels to watch over us and help us becomes more of a priority when we grow in our awareness of the presence of the devil and his fallen angels in our world.

The spiritual combat between God's angels and Satan's demons, attested to in Scripture, continues today in the daily lives of all the faithful.

"There's a whole kind of battle going on that we really don't see," said Deacon Jacobi. "It's between angels who want our good and demons who don't want our good. We're affected by that, and we don't really realize that it's happening in a larger sense."

Father Aaron noted that the sensational way that movies and TV shows portray the actions of demons can lead Catholics to think that the devil and his fallen angels are not at work in their lives.

"Hollywood always portrays things so dramatically," Father Pfaff said. "But oftentimes, the devil just likes to pelt us with popcorn and distract us, to keep our attention from anything that's spiritual, anything of God."

Father Pfaff encouraged Catholics across the archdiocese to make it a daily practice to call upon the help of the angels to protect them in the spiritual combat that is happening all around them and in their personal lives.

"Cultivate a living relationship with the angels that are assigned to us," he said. "Give them the authority they



Pictured are a St. Michael the Archangel scapular and a St. Michael keychain. Children receiving first Communion at St. Michael Parish in Bradford are given the scapular, while teenagers there earning a driver's license receive the keychain. (Submitted photo)

need, the prayer power they need, to act for us in our stead to keep the assaults [of demons] at bay.

"Let the angels do their work and help us out to defend us and protect us." †

Vatican declaration affirms that all humans have an 'infinite dignity'

By Sean Gallagher

In their ministry, Church leaders try to help people facing difficult issues.

From catechetical leaders to parish priests, from diocesan bishops to the pope, they invite people to explore how the Gospel can lead them to take a more humane approach to problems weighing them down.

The guidance offered by the Church on such topics as poverty, migration, human trafficking, sexual abuse, gender

dysphoria, abortion and euthanasia is all ultimately rooted in its teachings of the meaning of human dignity.

That is the central message of a declaration issued on April 8 by the Vatican's Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith.

"*Dignitas Infinita*" ("Infinite Dignity") lays out the principles of the Church's teaching on human dignity.

"Every human person possesses an infinite dignity, inalienably grounded in his or her very being, which prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state or situation the person may ever encounter. This principle, which is fully recognizable even by reason alone, underlies the primacy of the human person and the protection of human rights" (#1).

The declaration later explores how various trends in contemporary society, such as those listed above, threaten human dignity and that a renewed affirmation of this dignity can be a way to overcome these threats.

'The core of our self-understanding'

Ken Ogorek, executive director of the archdiocese's Secretariat for Evangelizing Catechesis, said the message of the declaration is important for all Catholics in trying to make efforts where they live to help heal society's problems.

"Misunderstanding the human person is at the root of so much suffering, frankly, self-inflicted and otherwise," Ogorek said. "It's the core topic that relates to so many issues that individuals, families and communities struggle with."

"Whether people are aware of it or not, this affects the daily lives of individuals and families in really substantial ways."

David Bethuram, executive director of the archdiocese's Secretariat for Catholic Charities, has worked with people in need for decades.

He said that, in addition to helping people in need, charitable ministries are also enlightening for those who minister in them.

"Service teaches people in some way about themselves," Bethuram said. "It teaches them about tolerance, what they understand or misunderstand about certain people. They learn about what it means

to be tolerant and patient, maybe even to the level of understanding of the stress that the people that they're serving are under, or their mental capacity."

While the agencies of Catholic Charities in central and southern Indiana do much to help meet the material necessities of people in need, Bethuram said "the most important thing" in helping them is to affirm their dignity by simply giving them personal attention.

"We all have a story," Bethuram said. "And people who are in a situation where they need help try to find a story that people will relate to. The biggest power that we have is to listen to them."

"It's really important to have a welcoming nature in all that we do. We need to welcome people who come in every door of Catholic Charities."

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson has reflected much



Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, holds up a copy of the dicastery's declaration "*Dignitas Infinita*" ("Infinite Dignity") on human dignity during an April 8 news conference at the Vatican press office. (CNS photo/Pablo Esparza)



Walking to their hotel after the closing Mass for the National Catholic Youth Conference on Nov. 23, 2019, in Indianapolis, young people pray over a homeless man after stopping to offer him water and snacks. (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

on human dignity in leading the Church in central and southern Indiana. About six months after he began his leadership of the archdiocese, he issued "We Are One in Christ," a pastoral letter on the Christian understanding of the human person and how that is at the root of solutions to challenges facing society today.

"Our human dignity, being created in the image of God, is at the core of our entire self-understanding, as well as the whole foundation and stability of society, of the community and the family," Archbishop Thompson said in a recent interview with *The Criterion*. "If we don't have our own sense of meaning and purpose in an understanding of ourselves as created in the image of God and that we have this inherent dignity, how are we ever going to appreciate that in another person?"

Human dignity revealed in Christ

Although "*Dignitas Infinita*" emphasizes from the start that human dignity can be affirmed from reason alone, it goes on to say that it is strengthened by the witness of Christ.

"By uniting himself with every human being through his incarnation, Jesus Christ confirmed that each person possesses an immeasurable dignity simply by belonging to the human community; moreover, he affirmed that this dignity can never be lost" (#19).

Ogorek noted that this teaching in the declaration is rooted in the Second Vatican Council's "Pastoral

Constitution on the Church in the Modern World," which states that "Christ ... fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear" (#22).

Being open to relating to Christ as a disciple, Ogorek said, can bear fruit in the lives of individuals and their relationships with others.

"You see that the dignity of our Lord is in many ways your dignity, too—and the dignity of all God's children," Ogorek said. "Living your disciple relationship with Jesus in full communion with his body, the Church, puts you on a trajectory of solidarity with each of God's beloved daughters and sons—the infinitely dignified heirs of our heavenly Father's kingdom."

Archbishop Thompson looked to the way Christ responded to the humiliation, abuse and torture he endured in his passion and death as a poignant expression of a dignity that could not be stripped from him—or anyone else.

"Here is someone whom the powers of this world had tried to strip everything of, and yet, to the very end, he never lost sight of his dignity and his relationship to God," Archbishop Thompson said. "That's why we look to Christ. In whatever we encounter and endure in this life, no matter what takes us down or breaks us down, no matter what happens, Christ reminds us that the world can't take away the ultimate core of our dignity."

'Our focus is on what we're for'

The final section of the declaration explores how various trends in contemporary society pose threats to human dignity. They include poverty, war, violence against women, the marginalization of people with

disabilities, gender theory and sex change.

At times, it points out that the Church's teaching on human dignity runs counter to views gaining in popularity in the broader culture, such as transgenderism.

"The document doesn't shy away from challenges and difficulties in the realities of today," Archbishop Thompson said. "But, in the midst of all of that, it reaffirms that the dignity of every person should never be lost, no matter what the issue. We always speak the truth in charity."

In its conclusion, the declaration states that "respect for the dignity of each person is the indispensable basis for the existence of any society that claims to be founded on just law and not on the force of power. Acknowledging human dignity forms the basis for upholding fundamental human rights" (#64).

While noting that the declaration reaffirms the Church's opposition to practices, such as surrogacy, which are widely accepted in secular society, Archbishop Thompson noted that the document should ultimately be viewed by what it affirms.

"Our focus is not what we're against," he said. "Our focus is on what we're for. We're for the dignity of the human being as beloved children of God, created in the image of God with inherent dignity and meaning and purpose, to be defended and protected. That's what we're for." †

Study guide on Vatican document on human dignity available online

The archdiocesan Office of Catechesis has developed a study, reflection and discussion guide for "*Dignitas Infinita*" ("Infinite Dignity"), a declaration of the Vatican's Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith issued on April 8. The document explains the Church's teaching on human dignity and applies it to several trends in contemporary society.

Ken Ogorek, executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Evangelizing Catechesis, said that the guide is intended for use by both individuals and groups.

"We want leaders of parishes, schools and agencies to invite individuals to consider reading and prayerfully reflecting on the document," Ogorek said. "And if that flows into some sort of group setting, which would be great, that's encouraged as well."

The guide, which is currently available in English and Spanish, can be accessed at archindy.org/catechesis/dignitatis-infinita.html. This webpage also includes links to other resources, including the Vatican declaration in English and Spanish and Archbishop Charles C. Thompson's pastoral letter "We Are One in Christ." †

DIRECTOR

continued from page 7

influenced her Catholic faith the most. And her mother continued to display the depth of her faith as she dealt with cancer.

By November of 2021, her mother knew the chemotherapy wasn't working and she started talking about hospice.

In the midst of her mother's struggle with cancer, Eble decided to fly from Indianapolis to the Black Forest community in Germany where her mother lived. She arrived on Nov. 12, surprising her mom on her 71st birthday.

"No one in Germany knew I was coming," Eble recalls. "At that time, we knew she wouldn't live that much longer, but we didn't think it was imminent. I stayed a week with her. We said goodbye to each other just in case.

"Five days after I returned to Indianapolis, she passed away. People told me she was hanging on because 'she wanted to say goodbye to you, and it must have meant a lot to her that she had the chance.'"

As emotion fills Eble, she says, "That was one of the moments where I felt God was looking out for me. To see her suffer and not be angry about it and to be able to give her hope in the midst of all of that, I couldn't have done that without his friendship. It was still hard, but it helped me."

She then shares another emotional moment involving her mother that connects to her four years—2020-24—as the director of religious education at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

"I always tell the second graders I prepare for first Communion that when Jesus comes to you in the Eucharist, it's like he's hugging you from the inside," Eble says.

"After my mom died, one time I went to Mass, and

I received the Eucharist. I went back to my pew and knelt down, and I just had this image of Jesus hugging me with one arm and hugging my mom with the other arm. It's just meant so much to me going forward."

'It was such a witness to the faith'

That's the hope that Eble has for everyone in the archdiocese; that's the motivation that drives her as the archdiocese's director of catechesis—that people turn their lives over to Christ, embracing that he is still present for them.

While describing her relationship with Christ as "a friendship," she adds, "I try to be a better friend because I know he's a great friend. I love going to Mass. I pray every day and still feel it's not enough. The realization that God is interested in me personally and he watches over me personally is sinking in a lot more."

So is the inspiration she received by participating in the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July, when more than 50,000 Catholics from across the country gathered together for five days to celebrate their belief of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist.

"It was so great seeing exactly what the congress was meant to be," she says. "Walking to the car after the first night, I saw people on the street ask people from the congress, 'What's this all about?' It was such a witness to the faith in our city that it touched people who would have never been in contact with Catholics. And it touched people who fell away from the Catholic faith.

"If we take this seriously, we should expect that a lot more people will want to become Catholic. We should prepare our parish catechetical leaders that more people will want to become Catholic. I'm just confident the graces God gave us will work in that way."

'I'm living for God'

She has seen God's graces unfold in her own life.

She recalls how she grew up Catholic yet faded from

her faith in college until she met her husband Joe, who led her back to the Church, the Mass and the Eucharist.

She recalls how their pre-Cana marriage preparation classes made her embrace her Catholic faith on an adult level, leading her to want to learn more about it.

She also talks about how she helped and guided people when she was a religious education coordinator at military chapels, offering pastoral care as the families dealt with frequent moves and the challenges of separation when someone was deployed.

And she mentions how her role as the mother of their four children—ranging in age from 10 to 17—has also led her to grow in her faith.

"Sometimes that's a challenge because at the end of the day you want to go home and be done with work," she says. "But you have your own four kids to teach them about God. They keep me humble, and they make me understand what life is like for other families.

"For example, we hear a lot about the mental health of young people, that there's a growing anxiety. I wouldn't have understood what that means until seeing my own kids going through school and seeing what their experiences are. It helps me to be more empathetic—and that sometimes we need a different approach to teaching the faith because of what the kids are going through. Having to 'walk the walk' helps me a lot."

The walk of her faith journey always leads back to that point when she had to respond to the challenge of turning her life over to Jesus.

"God exists, so why wouldn't we worship God and follow Jesus, the Son of God, the way he wants us to follow him?" she asks. "For me, it gave me purpose and confidence, and it just makes life better. I'm living for God. He's not going to let me go wrong.

"I want to put that challenge out to other people. I want everybody to be a disciple. I want everybody to follow Jesus. And that's what I'm striving for." †

FRANCISCAN

continued from page 7

"I adapt sometimes, but I basically use the videos and handouts for catechist formation," she says. "It's an easier way for me to offer formation classes for catechists and gives me something to start with."

Sister Karen notes that some of the videos are in Spanish while others are English versions dubbed over in Spanish.



Benedictine Sister
Karen Durliat

Still, she says, Franciscan at Home is "a good resource for people who like to learn on their own, online. You can go at your own pace, and there are a lot of options for how to use it in different ways—anyone in the parish can use it."

'Designed to form both mind and heart'

Fallon takes advantage of that latter fact by promoting videos in the parish bulletin.

"There are workshops with different points of interest—for parents, for teachers, for people who want to have an ability to defend their faith when people ask them about it," he says.

"I tell parents, 'Your kids are getting sacraments and will probably be talking about this—here's something you can use to know more and talk about it wisely and help them further their understanding.'"

While serving in various catechetical roles at St. Augustine and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes in Jeffersonville, Tim Seman used Franciscan at Home videos to form parents at the same time their children were attending Sunday school class.



Tim Seman

"We took a one-hour workshop and broke it into seven 8- to 10-minute pieces," says Seman, who now serves as director of evangelization and adult faith formation at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. "We got through the seven segments in seven weeks, with discussion based on what they watched."

He has also used Franciscan at Home's evangelization track both in Jeffersonville and at St. Simon to engage with parish evangelization groups.

Whichever of the tracks is used, Seman calls the content "top notch."

He can say that with authority: "I worked for [the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute] while I was in grad school, so I was involved while they were making" the Franciscan at Home material.

"The content is accessible, understandable. The

workshops are designed in a way that's meant to help you teach others. And what makes it unique is it's designed to form both mind and heart."

'You really can't find anything better'

The content can also be used as professional development for leaders of parish catechesis and faith formation.

"I've primarily used [Franciscan at Home] to form myself," Seman admits. His evolving role at the Jeffersonville parishes ran the gamut—from teaching Sunday school classes, to forming catechists, to adult faith formation and many roles in between.

"That was my first full-time job working in a parish," he says. "The wide variety of different workshops formed me in principles and how to approach those ministries."

No specific programs are promoted in the workshops. Rather, says Seman, the content focuses on "certain principles that allowed me to be creative and think outside the box and evaluate what we're currently doing and see how I can make it better and more fruitful.

"I still go back to evangelize myself and see how I can be a better minister."

Quanah Jeffries lauds Franciscan at Home as "the best online professional development resource I've found" for his role as director of faith formation and evangelization at Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.

Some workshops involve a video followed by questions to answer, he says. Others require "an action step before going on to the next workshop. It demands more of me than I think is typical. I like that."

But the workshops are still manageable, says Jeffries, with videos "not that long, maybe 7 minutes, maybe 20. There might be some little thing you read, and I mean little, all right there on the webpage.

"For my own professional development, I'm very happy with the results."

And at \$400 for an annual subscription, Franciscan at Home is "a great deal," Jeffries notes.

The Franciscan at Home website notes that parishes with a school are considered one entity—one subscription provides unlimited content access across the board.

Subscriptions are also \$400 for elementary schools and high schools that run independently from a parish.

The value for the price can't be beat, says Seman: "The workshops for each track are so formative that you really can't find anything else better, outside of going for a degree."

(For more information on Franciscan at Home, go to franciscanathome.com. To view a list and description of tracks and workshops offered in each, go to franciscanathome.com/tracks-and-workshops. To register your parish and/or school, go to tinyurl.com/FAHArchIndy and click on "I am a representative of a parish or a school, and I would like to register my institution." If cost is a barrier, contact the archdiocesan Office of Catechesis at catechesis@archindy.org.) †

'Franciscan at Home' tracks

Following is a list of current and future tracks offered by Franciscan University Catechetical Institute's "Franciscan at Home" online resource. Each track includes video workshops and other materials.

English:

- Catechist
- Four Pillars of the Catechism
- Parish Catechetical Leader
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adults
- Catholic Schools
- Ministry of Parenting
- Pastoral Accompaniment
- First Proclamation and Evangelization
- Ongoing Diaconal Formation
- Eucharistic Renewal
- Catechumenal Ministry
- Marriage Renewal Ministry
- Educating in Christ

Español:

- Especializaciones Ministeriales* (Specialty Ministries)
- Certificación en el Liderazgo y Ministerio Pastoral* (Certification for Leadership and Pastoral Ministries)

Tracks in development:

- Antiquum Ministerium*
- Diocesan Officials
- Culture of Life
- Priestly Renewal
- Music Ministry
- Certificación Básica Para Catequistas* in Español (Basic Certification for Catechists)

For a list of workshops associated with each current track, go to franciscanathome.com/tracks-and-workshops. †