

## **A View from the Crow's Nest - 2018**

From the crow's nest on a ship, you can see both where you have been and where you are going. JBL is like a ship that floats on baptismal waters and visits ports of call through training, workshops and an Annual Gathering of Catechumenate Practitioners. While floating at sea we are working on several projects that I'd like to highlight.

### **Annual Gathering**

We encountered a timing issue with our plans for a July 2018 Gathering in Chicago. We went back to the drawing board with our colleagues at Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission (APLM) and rescheduled for January 9-11, 2019 in Oveido, Florida. The Canterbury Conference center will host *Becoming the Story We Tell (BTS)*. This Gathering is suitable for everyone interested in deepening a parish's connections with the paschal mystery and baptism, not only catechumenate practitioners. In fact, **BTS** may be a fine entry into a fuller catechumenate ministry. *Becoming the Story* is a parish resource You can learn more about *Becoming the Story We Tell* at this website [Becoming the Story We Tell](#). You can register for the January 2019 Gathering here [Register for January Gathering](#).



### **Ecumenical Catechumenate Rites**

A group of liturgical scholars representing Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Roman Catholic practices are hard at work to develop a set of ecumenical rites. These rites have their roots in the liturgical resources that have been in use by various expressions of the Church in North America. The intent is to form an official set of rites that JBL will use in teaching and training the catechumenate process. This set of rites will be accompanied by background information and rationale to inform local adaptations. We hope to have this resource out for review by a team of catechumenate parish practitioners by early fall. The Board plans to adopt the final resource at its January meeting.

### **Seminary Professors Collaborate to Resource and Strengthen JBL**

Board Member, Michael Marchal has invited two groups of seminary professors into conversation about the catechumenate. Each group has been meeting by ZOOM conference call roughly monthly for more than the past year. One group includes faculty on the eastern portion of the US and Canada and one draws from western sites. The Eastern group has focused on catechumenate rites by first thoroughly reviewing the printed rites in use by the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Episcopal Church in the US and the United Methodist Church and the RCIA. This study led into the development of the rites mentioned above. The Western group has focused on the fundamentals of teaching the process as a means to guide JBL's development of video resources and standardized training modules.

### **Congregation Based Training**

Two congregation-based trainings have been held this year and two more will take place in October. JBL continues to hold on-site, congregation-based training experiences as the core model for introducing an equipping parishes in the process. Congregations/diocese/synods may apply to host a training on the JBL website ([journeytobaptism.org](http://journeytobaptism.org)).

### **J-Term or Intermester Seminary Training**

Board Members Larry Ehren and Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero are developing an intensive course for JBL to offer seminaries. The course will include academic study and historical review as well as a fully-immersive training experience for future church leaders.

### **Support Journey to Baptismal Living**

JBL left the individual membership model behind in favor of active support and participation by everyone who has an interest in the adult catechumenate and faithful baptismal living. Here are ways YOU can support and participate in JBL.

**Join** our email list

**Host** a training

**Come** to a Gathering

**Invite** your colleagues

**Add** your congregation to the map.

**Spread** the word – host a table or booth at a local or regional event (We can provide materials)

**Donate** to JBL. We rely on your generosity to continue the work that is underway.

### **Setting Anchor**

As you can see, the JBL ship is not adrift on baptismal waters but firmly anchored to some very exciting projects. Our mission is to lift up catechumenate as faith formation in a journey of lifelong baptismal living. Jump on board or meet us at a port sometime soon. Land Ho!

Bev Piro,

JBL President and Crow's Nest Guide

Fall 2018