

Spread the Word

A Newsletter of the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis
January, 2009



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Save these dates!

Jan. 20-21 – January Retreat
How Scripture Feeds the Soul
Bob McCarty

February 10 - Regional Meeting

Adolescent Catechesis
Roundtable
February 10-Pastoral Center
February 24-Corning
February 26-Waterloo area
February 26-St. Joseph, Penfield

Feb. 10 - Interministerial
Regional Meeting

March 1, 4, 8: - Rites of Election

Hands of Christ:
March 16, March 18, March 28

May 9 - Run for the Young

May 17 - Jubilee Mass

May 20 - May Day

June 6: Workshops on
Children's Catechumenate

September 26: Mike Patin

November 19-22: NCYC

I hope the Christmas holiday was a time of real blessing for you and that the New Year holds promise and joy for you. Coming back always seems so difficult! Thanks to all of you for your good wishes while I was recovering from a broken elbow. I'm back to work, although I won't be driving for some time!

Just a few notes: I hope many of you have had a chance to promote our evening sessions on chastity with Mary Ronan. These sessions are especially designed for the parents of teens. All kinds of data indicate that parents want to know more about how to promote chastity with their teens. Please make sure to get the word out!

As we move into the spring, I want to remind you that every parish/faith community is expected to offer an opportunity for junior high students to participate in the Praesidium program "Called to Protect" by June of this year. Donna Gray will continue to call to remind people who have not scheduled sessions yet that they should do so. It's particularly important to take care of this because the diocese will be audited in the fall, and this time auditors may elect to visit parishes.

Also, please remember to let Donna know when you have trainings for volunteers scheduled so we can post them on the web!

Look for the next set of DVDs in February. Imagine, next year at this time you will have a complete set of Master Catechist level training sessions on DVD in your parish!

We're hosting three round table discussions for catechetical leaders and youth ministers for input on the adolescent catechesis project. Please try to attend one of them

May winter pass quickly into spring!

Maribeth

Sister Connie's Corner

In conjunction with Project Mark and the second phase of Spirit Alive, audio podcasts of the Gospel of Mark are being posted on the DOR website. One chapter per week, in English and Spanish, will be added continuing through the Lenten season. My thanks goes to Julie Palma and Br. Juan Lozada for their time in creating these recordings.

"**Hebrews**" is the newest program from Little Rock Scripture Study. This Bible study of *The Letter to the Hebrews*, includes seven 18-20 minute video lectures. Also new to the AV Resource Center is "**Pope Benedict XVI: A Love Affair with the Truth**" (56 minutes; *Junior high-adult; Ignatius Press, 2008*), the first in-depth documentary film on the life of the Pope. AV resources are a great way to enhance catechetical sessions. To see what else is available go to the online catalog at www.dor.org, choose Evangelization and Catechesis under Offices and Ministries and then AV Resources/AVLibrary.

Shannon Says

Young adults (and people of all ages!) will often go to the internet when looking for answers to their questions. While the internet can be a great resource, it's not always easy to figure out how accurate or reliable the information is on a particular site. This is especially true for sites claiming to be "Catholic." Take a moment this month and read "Is that 'Catholic' website Catholic?" on the Spirit Alive! website (<http://www.rochesterspiritallive.org/>) to find tips on evaluating websites. Then go exploring online and try out the tips for yourself. You might be surprised with what you find!

On another note, planning for this summer's Theology on Tap in Monroe County has begun. If your parish would like to know more about co-sponsoring this series, please let me know! The Monroe County series will be between ten and twelve weeks long over the summer. Outside of Monroe County we schedule TOTs based on interest at the parish level, not as a part of any set schedule, so let me know if you'd like to give it a try!



Sue's News

Happy New Year! Many blessings for 2009 to everyone! There is a lot to look forward to in Youth Ministry in the coming year.

We started the year off with Information meetings for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), which will be held November 19-22, 2009. If you were not able to attend one of these meetings give me a call and I'll get you the information you will need.

Maribeth Mancini, Pat Fox and I are continuing our plan to develop a curriculum for Adolescent Catechesis in the Diocese of Rochester for Catholic High Schools and Parish Youth Ministry. Several roundtable discussions will be offered in February to get your input. Every parish will need to implement a model of Adolescent Catechesis in September 2010. It is essential that Youth Ministry Leaders' voices be heard at one of these sessions. The first session will be on February 10th at the Pastoral Center after our Regional Meeting with Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders. Bring a brown bag lunch if you plan to stay.

Catholic Scouting and CYO Athletics are active Youth Ministries in our Diocese. Support the young people and volunteers in these programs by attending the Catholic Scouting Awards Ceremony and the Monroe County Basketball Tournament. There are many ways Youth Ministry happens in the parish. These are two great programs we need to support!

Hand of Christ ceremonies will be held:

- ♦ March 16 at St Lawrence Church, Greece, 7:30 pm
- ♦ March 18 at St Joseph Church, Penfield, 7:30 pm
- ♦ March 28 at St Mary our Mother, Horseheads, 10:00 am

Looking ahead

– **September 26-27 – Mike Patin is coming!**

As always it's important to take some time to laugh:

-Women's Luncheon: Each member brings a sandwich. Polly Phillips will give the medication.

-Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING conference: *"The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."*

Mary's Reflections

Welcome to a New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with family and friends.

If you are blessed with the role of RCIA coordinator, please be sure to register your catechumens and candidates for the **Rite of Election in March**. (The online database will close on January 26th.)

Whoever plans the parish liturgies should include the **Rite of Sending** at the Sunday mass on **March 1st**. This is planned out in The Rites, Book I. *As a clarification: if you have only catechumens (unbaptized), use the 'Sending of the Catechumens for Election'. If you have both Candidates (baptized) and Catechumens, use the Combined Rite in Appendix I.*

This Rite of Sending offers the local parish community an opportunity to express its approval of the catechumens, and lets the catechumens be assured of the parish's care and support as they complete their initiation.

"Before the rite of election is celebrated, the catechumens are expected to have undergone a conversion in mind and in action and to have developed a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching as well as a spirit of faith and charity. With deliberate will and an enlightened faith they must have the intention to receive the sacraments of the Church, a resolve they will express publicly in the actual celebration of the rite." (RCIA #120)

How have you adapted these expectations with the children in your process? Please send me your thoughts, and I'll share them with the rest of our parishes.

Keep **June 6th** open on your calendars – we have Catherine Ecker from the Archdiocese of Toronto coming for workshops on the **Children's Catechumentate!**

Jonathan's Journal

I hope you all celebrated a wonderful Advent, Christmas, and New Year! There are many projects happening to tell you about.

First, E&C is offering two workshops to help us deal effectively with on-going change, tension, transition and more. We're calling them "The Moving Compass." The workshops are free! See the flyer on Diocesan Updates or on our Website. I encourage all of you to attend!

Next, we're working hard on the on-line Foundational Catechist Formation tools. These tools are a way for catechists to self-assess their competency in certain Foundational Level formation modules. They can effectively "test out" of the modules by taking the on-line assessments and will present Catechetical Leaders with a completion certificate. This will not only speed up the formation certification process, but it makes it more accessible: they can be completed on any computer with an Internet connection!

Third, we're developing a faith formation evaluation program. We're calling "CAFÉ": Catechetical and Formation Evaluation. This program will use input from many different voices to assess the "state of our programs" for parishes that choose to use the program. This program will be piloted in February 2009 and will be ready to go this summer!

Don't forget: February Interministerial Gathering! (Feb 10)

Have questions or want to find out more? Call me!