

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Christian Formation & Catholic Schools

Diocese of Ogdensburg

August 2011

A Message from Sister Ellen Rose . . .

Have you marked your calendar for *Celebrate Christ 2011*? This year we are fortunate to have world renowned author and theologian Christopher West for our two day diocesan event. While many have heard the “whats” of Catholic teaching on sexuality, few have heard the “whys.” Christopher will offer reflections based on blessed Pope John Paul’s Theology of the Body.

Theology of the Body is the working title John Paul II gave to 129 talks he delivered between September 1979 and November 1984. It is a biblical reflection on the meaning of human embodiment as male and female. It leads to an understanding of the union of man and woman to the union of Christ and the Church, and from there into the eternal union of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Through philosophical reflection, humor and references to current culture, Christopher’s presentations will demonstrate how the Church’s teaching on marriage and sexuality make sense and correspond with the deepest longings of the human heart. Whether married, single or celibate, the workshops are for anyone, 18 years or older, who is searching for the ultimate meaning of life.

The presentation on Friday, September 16, is for priests, deacons, their spouses and religious. It will be held at St. Mary’s Church in Massena. The day begins at 10:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. The schedule for the day is posted on the diocesan website. Priests who wish to concelebrate the Liturgy with Bishop LaValley are asked to bring their alb and stole.

The presentation on Saturday, September 17, is designed especially for the laity. It will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. The day begins at 8:45 am and concludes at 3:45 pm. The schedule for Saturday, which includes the celebration of the Liturgy with Bishop LaValley, is also posted on the diocesan website. The *Sharing of the Light of Faith Award* will be presented on September 17. Catechists who have completed certification requirements for the *Growth in Faith Program* will also be recognized at that time.

It is very important that registrations be received by August 31. Christopher wishes every participant to have a booklet which follows the outline of his presentations. In order to procure these booklets and provide lunch for the participants we need the number of participants by August 31. COR Productions, which sponsors Christopher, has posted the event on Christopher’s website. This is generating interest from those outside our diocesan boundaries who wish to attend the event, so it is important to register early! Seats are limited. The \$30 registration fee includes lunch and the booklet.

Registration forms for both days are posted on the diocesan website. Click on www.dioogdensburg.org/cf/west.index.html or the Christopher West Theology of the Body link at the bottom of the homepage. Registration forms and information about the event may also be obtained by contacting the Christian Formation Regional Offices: Ogdensburg, jgrizzuto@dioogdensburg.org; (315) 393-2920; Watertown, sbachmann@dioogdensburg.org; (315) 782- 3629; Plattsburgh, apage@dioogdensburg.org; (518-563-2022).

I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to hear Christopher and learn more about the Theology of the Body. *Celebrate Christ 2011* promises to be a special time to reflect on the contemporary understanding of human love.

Christopher West



Theology of the Body