

HORIZON

"From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised" Psalm 113:3

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Diocese of Ogdensburg

www.dioogdensburg.org

Office of Evangelization

www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Director

Phone: 315-393-2920

Fax: 315-394-7401

E-mail: elyng@dioogdensburg.org



Why Catholic?

Happy Easter to you and to all your families. We live in gratitude for we share in the glory of Jesus' Resurrection by our Baptism. As we enter into this Easter Season of fifty (50) days, let us rejoice in the life and grace of Easter glory and reach out to others with our joy and peace.

There are about 200 Small Community Faith Sharing groups that came together this Lent to share their experiences of their prayer life. During this Easter season, the liturgy focuses on how the early Church grew through the prayer of the small communities in the Acts of the Apostles. This is a good time to reflect on the story of the early Church through the experiences of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

Anne Scanlan, RENEW International, has begun to prepare for the Faith Formation Workshop: **Prayer: Many Methods, One Purpose** from May 15-May 20. **All** are invited to attend this workshop on prayer. Please invite them to come. Anne will deepen our experience of the many methods that can be used in our prayer. There are many forms of prayer but not all forms fit every person's relationship with our God. And even though we may have some experience of prayer in our relationship with God, there is always more that we can learn to become more intimate with Him. Jesus said: "Come away and rest awhile"! The Registration for the Workshop will be due on **Friday, May 7**. Advertising, Registration posters for the Workshop and Bulletin Vignettes will be on the Pastoral Documentation and Evangelization websites www.dioogdensburg.org/pastoraldocumentation.



Year for Priests

What a profound celebration the Church of Ogdensburg experienced at the Chrism Mass with former Bishop Robert J. Cunningham and Bishop-elect Terry R. LaValley and so many priests of the Diocese. It was a moving moment when the two banners were unveiled and to see the small banners from each of the parishes and ministries expressing their gratitude to the priests for their presence and service to their parishes. Many thanks to all of you for the time you gave demonstrating your love and respect for your pastor and priests as they serve you in so many ways. We are so blessed with prayerful and holy priests.

All of the Diocese cannot be physically present at the ordination and installation of Bishop-elect Terry LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday, April 30. However, we can be present with Bishop-elect LaValley in thought and in prayer. The ordination and installation will be televised on Channel 10 beginning at 1:30 with the procession into the Cathedral. Continue to pray for Bishop-elect LaValley and for all of his intentions as he prepares for this momentous occasion and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his ministry as Bishop.

The Diocesan Year for Priests will close on the Feast of Corpus Christi at St. Mary's Cathedral on June 6th. Bishop-elect LaValley will be the celebrant for the 11:00 Mass. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the Mass. At 2:30, there will be an outside procession of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Solemn Vespers and Benediction. A light reception will follow. All are invited to attend.

Happily married couples enrich and inspire other married couples. The United States Bishops approved a national pastoral letter on marriage: **Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan**". The Church is concerned about the large decrease over the last 30 years in the number of couples turning to the church for sacramental marriage. There is a rising number of couples who cohabit without marrying, a great increase of the number of children who do not live in intact families with a mother and father, and a distrust of marriage among many young people. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Louisville, KY, Chairperson for the United States Catholic Conference of Bishop's Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage, spoke at a recent priests' convocation in Ohio, encouraging the audience to be leaders in getting newly married couples involved in church activities. Their participation in the life of the Church will have an impact upon their own married Christian life. It was noted at the Conference that young people believe in "the ideal" of marriage, but do not trust it. They have more trust in their vocational careers than in the vocation of marriage. Have young people experienced unconditional love from their own family life? Stable families can begin to talk to their young people about the beauty and value of married life, even the "ups" and "downs" of marriage. Stable couples can talk to young couples contemplating marriage about the importance of praying together, open communication, and willingness to take advice. Providing marriage workshops within the parish helps couples be enriched and encouraged in their lives together. Let us continue to pray for our young married couples and all our families as they strive to reflect the face of Christ for each other and in each other.

Tips for Evangelization

1. Bring a friend or someone away from the Church to the Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service in your parish or near your parish.
2. Be a mentor for new parents. Bring some religious article for the child or children.
3. Read the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season. Share in your small community faith-sharing group how you may build a stronger faith community in your parish or where you work.
4. Ask a friend who has been away from the Church, "What would you need to come back"?
5. Volunteer in Youth or Young Adult ministry activities e.g. Retreat, Dinner for Two, Family Life at Guggenheim, Sports Camp.
6. Offer to volunteer your expertise with emerging technology within the parish or school.
7. Pray with Scripture regularly. Join a Bible Study group in your parish.
8. In times of deployment, send the military person with a ritual or blessing at a Sunday Liturgy. Give a Bible, prayer book or written blessings from the parish community to each military person leaving.

RESOURCES

Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen by Jim Auer covers serious issues in a friendly tone and appropriate manner. Catholic doctrine, practices, and prayers are explained in a way that speaks to teens. There is also an Activity Handbook that could be used with the Handbook (\$4.95) www.liguori.org.

Handbook for Today's Catholic Family (Revised), A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, offers families and pastoral-care providers a resource for Catholic family life. Updated with topical reference citations to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and contains new material for blended and single-parent families (\$5.95) www.liguori.org.

Good News About Sex & Marriage: Answers to your Honest Questions about Catholic Teaching by Christopher West who answers the questions about human sexuality and marriage that he often encounters in the numerous adult audiences he addresses (\$12.99).

Good News About Sex & Marriage Seminar Workbook by Christopher West is intended primarily as a supplement and guide to *Good News About Sex & Marriage* (\$4.95) <http://catalog.americancatholic.org>.

When They Come Home: Ways to welcome returning Catholics by Melanie Rigney and Anna M. Lanave Look covers a snapshot of those away from the Church; tips for preparing parish to welcome returnees; strategies for letting returnees know they are welcomed; outlines a simple program; and more... www.23rdpublications.com. To order: 800-321-0411.

Fostering Leadership Skills in Ministry: A Parish Handbook, Updated Edition by Jean Marie Hiesberger emphasizes how we come to know Jesus as a model leader is a life-time experience. Her book explains how Jesus is the Servant-Leader. The person of the leader, leadership through adult formation, community building, enabling small communities are some of the topics in her book (\$16.95) www.liguori.org.