

# HORIZON

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

*Issue #19 August 2008*

Diocese of Ogdensburg  
[www.dioogdensburg.org](http://www.dioogdensburg.org)

Office of Evangelization  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization)

*Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Director*

Phone: 315-393-2920

Fax: 315-394-7401

E-mail: [elyng@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:elyng@dioogdensburg.org)

## Year of St. Paul

We are not far from celebrating *The St. Paul Event* at St. Mary's Cathedral. This will be a renewal of our faith, our community as Church. I am struck with St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians found in 2Corinthians 3: 1-3 when he said: "You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all men; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we, the People of God of the North Country, can come together with love to pray with Bishop Robert Cunningham and Bishop Gerald Barbarito, to build up the life of the Church. Both Bishops eagerly await the presence of their people coming to St. Mary's to rejoice in this Year of St. Paul. It was St. Paul's hope and dream that the life of the Church would continue to grow in faith and in unity. St. Paul's passionate love for the community of each of the churches that he preached to, was the same passionate love that he had for the whole Church, the Church of Jesus Christ. We come together to pray for Church unity, conversion of hearts, and for those who are away from the life of the Church. Come and be with us to celebrate the gift and grace of our faith.

## The St. Paul Event

*The St. Paul Event* falls on the **Solemn Feast of the Triumph of the Cross**. **Red** is the liturgical color of the day. Those attending the Event are encouraged to wear **red**. The priests and deacons are asked to come vested in albs and **red stoles**. Each person who attends will receive a Good News New Testament as a memento gift from the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of the Diocese. We are truly grateful for their financial contribution to make this gift available for this joyous occasion. We are also grateful for the pastors and parishioners support for the presence of your people at this Event. This Event would not have moved forward without the support of the Committee Members and Friends of the Diocese: Msgr. John Murphy for overseeing the Event; Rev. Terry LaValley, Rector of the Cathedral and his staff; Rev. Scott Seymour, Director of the Diocesan Choir and Music, Ernie Hadley and Marie-Claire working with Fr. Scott; Fr. Timothy Canaan for the design of the banners and ambiance; Fr. Douglas Lucia for the Liturgical Rubrics for Solemn Vespers and Liturgical Ministers; Fr. Bryan Stitt for the composition of the Vocation Prayer; Sister Teresa LaBrake and her Committee as Social Committee Director; Mary Steenberge, Bulletin Vignettes; Mary Lou Kilian and her staff for the publicity in the **North Country Catholic** and area media; the secretarial staff: Vicky Woodward, Bessie Flanders, Dianna Shaver, Gidget Kimble; Alexander J. Marceau for the design of *The St. Paul Event Logo*; Stubbs Printing for the parish posters; Roethels for the Banner at St. Mary's Cathedral. It is our prayer that the Catholic Church of the North Country will flourish and be strengthened to continue to pass on the faith from this generation to the next generation.

# Why Catholic?

As leaders and ministers in the life of the Church today, the involvement in day to day ministry is always a challenge that is graced with the power of the Holy Spirit to continue to bring the Gospel message to our people in the parishes. Adult Faith Formation in the life of the Church today is ever a more important direction for handing on the faith today.

Soon the Fall sessions will begin again for the second phase of the **Sacraments** with Sessions 7-12. I understand that some small community groups have already completed the sessions from the Spring and Summer session; and that some community groups may not come together for this session. There may be some who would like to join another group or begin a new group.

I also understand that as the program continues the energy might begin to wane for several reasons. However, I am hopeful that your belief in having small faith communities sharing their faith, however small, will be like the mustard seed that will be serving as a catalyst for greater and deeper growth in their faith.

I would like to see young families, single young adults, young parents preparing with children preparing for Baptism, First Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation be involved in *Why Catholic?* sessions. What a wonderful way for the parents to not only share their faith, but to learn it and to pass it on to their children. Confirmation students could use the book on **The Sacraments** for sharing their faith and preparation for the Sacrament.

Unfortunately, as in present years, the Bishop's Fund is not able to commit financial support in the form of a Grant to the parishes to help defray the *Why Catholic?* parish assessment (\$1800) and cost of books for the Year III program. If any parish has difficulty with this agreed assessment cost for the parish, RENEW International will accept a negotiated agreement so that the important mission of **Why Catholic?** may continue to its completion. RENEW International has agreed that the negotiation may be made through the Office of Evangelization.

The **Sisters of St. Joseph Ministry Grant** is available again this year through the Office of Evangelization. In October, I will request the number of books for Year III: *Life in Christ: Walking with Christ* in October. Ordering the books in bulk will be \$8.50 per book + free shipping. The shipping costs will be paid from the SSJ Ministry Grant. The remainder of the monies will be used to support a parish who requests financial support. No parish should feel that they cannot continue in the program because of finances. The gift of handing on our faith is a free gift to us by God and should be offered freely as St. Paul tells us.

The **Fall Schedule is as follows:**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • <b>Sign-Up and Prayer Commitment Sunday</b> | <b>September 27-28, 2008</b>        |
| • <b>Sessions 7-12</b>                        | <b>October 12—November 16, 2008</b> |
| • <b>Advent Retreat</b>                       | <b>December 6-12, 2008</b>          |

I would strongly encourage **Sign-Up Sunday and Prayer Commitment Sunday** to pray for the success *Why Catholic?*. I will attach a poster that you may use to advertize for the Fall Session. **Bulletin Vignettes** will also be attached for your bulletins.

If I can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

## Resources

### The Year of St. Paul Resources

**Paul-Contending for the Faith (DVD)**, Stephen Ray takes the viewer on the road with St. Paul through Israel, Syria, Turkey, Greece and Italy. You'll better understand the life, ministry, and sufferings of Paul the Apostle. There is a comprehensive study guide included. It is filmed on location as part of "[The Footprints of God](#)" series. 90 mins. This can be ordered online from the Catholic Company [www.catholiccompany.com](http://www.catholiccompany.com) (29.95).

**The Year of St. Paul Pamphlet-pkg. of 50 (\$14.95) and prayer cards (\$9.95) pkg. of 50** can be ordered from Our Sunday Visitor [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com) .

**Saint Paul – Comicolor Saints**, Virginia Helen Richards, FSP & D. Thomas Halpin, FSP, for Kids will love this comic-book-style coloring and activity book. Action-packed pages include some of the most exciting adventures of Saint Paul. Activity pages and cut-out trading cards add hours of extra fun! Ideal for ages 6–8 can be ordered from [www.catholiccompany.com](http://www.catholiccompany.com) (\$2.95).

**Adventures of the Apostle Paul DVD** This engaging, animated program introduces children ages eight and above to the incredible life and work of the Apostle Paul. Take a look back about 1,960 years and accompany the Apostle Paul on his travels. For him and his friends, events are often life-threatening in Damascus, Philippi, on the Mediterranean Sea and on the island of Malta. Yet even in these dangerous situations, Paul knows that God will never leave him. To understand how the early church survived, spread, and grew after the ascension of Jesus, it is necessary to become familiar with the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. Here is a superb way to introduce children to the early church, the spread of the Gospel after the time of Jesus on this earth, and the crucial role played by Paul as the greatest missionary who ever lived. Three 9-minute animated segments: **Struck Blind!** - Paul shares how it all began (Acts 7-9). **Imprisoned at Philippi** - Paul and Silas who are en route (Acts 16). **Shipwrecked at Malta** - Paul as a prisoner makes it to Rome (Acts 27-28) [www.catholiccompany.com](http://www.catholiccompany.com) (\$14.95).