

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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Why Catholic?



SEPTEMBER RETREAT-YEAR III

These summer days are rapidly moving along and soon we all move into the Fall schedule. The Retreat for Year III will be held from September 18-24 across the Diocese. The Retreat sets the tone to enter into Sessions 7-12 of **Life in Christ: Walking with God**. Father Bruce Nieli, C.S.P. is looking forward to coming to the Diocese and to meet all those who have been involved in the *Why Catholic?* program. **All parishioners are welcome** as part of the diocese's *Why Catholic? Journey through the Catechism*.

Fr. Nieli is an accomplished speaker and evangelization expert who will lead interested parishioners in a retreat experience entitled **Living the Beatitudes**. He will guide the participants to recognize ways to grow in the skill of reaching out to the poor, the lonely, the forgotten. The participants will reflect and share their faith experiences of the gift of faith and life we share in and with Jesus Christ.

Fr. Nieli was ordained a Paulist priest in 1973. He is well known for his leadership in the areas of evangelization and spirituality. He was the Founding Director of the Center for the Spiritual Development of the Archdiocese of New York from 1979-1983 and was a member of the Pastoral Counseling from Iona College and has worked in parishes in New York, Tennessee, and Texas.

According to RENEW International Director, Sr. Theresa Rickard, O.P., parishioners from the diocese will find the retreat experience very rewarding, noting "Fr. Nieli is one of the most dynamic, engaging retreat leaders in the country, offering an opportunity for true spiritual enrichment."

Come and Be Renewed! Bring a friend, or someone who has been away from the Church, your RCIA groups, the newly baptized adults in the parish—**All Are Welcome!** The **Retreat Poster** and **Registration Poster** will be posted on the Pastoral Documentation. Bulletin Vignettes will also be posted on the Pastoral Documentation to promote the Retreat. **Registration for the Retreat** will be **Friday, September 11, 2009**.

Schedule for the Retreat—September 18-24, 2009:

| Place | Retreat | Place | Retreat |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Watertown SSJ Motherhouse | Friday - 9/18/09 7-9pm | Malone Holy Family School | Tuesday—9/22/09 7-9pm |
| Lowville St. Peter's Church Hall | Sunday - 9/20/09 1pm - 3pm | Plattsburgh St. Peter's Emmaus Hall | Wednesday—9/23/09 1-3pm; 7-9pm |
| Massena Trinity Catholic School | Monday - 9/21/09 7-9pm | Lake Placid St. Agnes School | Thursday—9/24/09 7-9pm |

PREPARATION FOR THE FALL-Sessions 7-12—Life in Christ: Walking with God

The **Fall Schedule** is as follows:

Sign-Up and Prayer Commitment Sunday—September 26-27, 2009
Sessions 7-12--October 11—November 15, 2009

You are encouraged to continue with **Sign-Up Sunday and Prayer Commitment Sunday** in hope that someone might be interested in joining a group. Sessions 7-12 focus on the Ten Commandments and would be a wonderful opportunity to delve more deeply in living out our relationship to love God and to love our neighbor. A Poster for **Sign-Up Sunday** will be posted on the Pastoral Documentation.

YEAR IV: CHRISTIAN PRAYER: DEEPENING MY EXPERIENCE

The Diocese will soon be moving into the 4th Year of **Why Catholic?** The focus is on Prayer: **Christian Prayer: Deepening My Experience of God.** In a world that needs prayer, this year is a wonderful opportunity to reflect more deeply our relationship with one another in the presence of a loving God who cares about each of us.

All of our ministries are facing decisions on how we can best continue to hand on the faith to our people. The parishes that are involved in **Why Catholic?** have developed strong small community faith-sharing groups and have made a difference in their practice of the faith. You are strongly encouraged to continue **Why Catholic?**. . . 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. However, this year we were given \$2000.00. In October, I will order the Year IV books in bulk. The cost of the books in bulk will be \$8.50 +shipping providing we have a large order of books from the parishes. The shipping costs will be paid from the SSJ Ministry Grant first, the remainder for any parish that might need support. Again, no parish should feel that they cannot continue in the program because of finances. The gift of our faith is a precious gift to be shared and handed on to future generations.

It is with deep gratitude that I thank you for your generous support and participation in **Why Catholic?** This program has been a consistent process of learning about the Catholic faith through the lens of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** across the Diocese. The fruitfulness of the program is because of your leadership, commitment, conviction, and prayer.



Year for Priests

One of Pope Benedict XVI goals for the *Year for Priests*, is that each priest strive to draw closer to the person of Jesus Christ, for whom he is “*the persona Christi*”. Because the priest belongs to Christ, he is radically at the service of all people. Every priest is the “voice” of the Word of God. The Word of God has been taught, preached, and proclaimed by our priests and shared with us. Very soon, a letter will be sent out to the parishes, parish organizations, schools, religious education programs to reflect on how the voice of a priest has affected the lives of the people. Guidelines and suggestions will be outlined. I hope that these reflections will be bound in a book that will be available to parishes.

Priesthood Sunday is celebrated Sunday, October 25, 2009. Every parish is encouraged to celebrate the joy and service of their priest’s call to holiness and love for their people. A special Sunday Liturgy, and/or a covered dish supper could be planned. Special Intercessions and Bulletin announcements about *Priesthood Sunday* will be forthcoming. An excellent website to prepare for *Priesthood Sunday* is www.priestsunday.org.

Tips for Evangelization

Try to bring someone you know or from your family *back home* to the life of the Church by inviting him/her to:

- an Hour of Adoration in the parish
- a parish picnic
- invite your pastor and/or priest in the parish to your family picnic
- have lunch together to share how his/her presence is missed in the parish
- Sunday Mass
- attend the **Why Catholic? Retreat Living the Beatitudes** in your region in September

Visit a shut-in or elderly person who is unable to attend Mass and bring the parish bulletin.