

# HORIZON

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

Issue #13 February 2008

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## Lent: A Call to Repentance

Lent is the season for conversion, an exodus, that leads us “out of ourselves” to turn towards the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pope Benedict XVI says: “The purpose of Lent is to keep alive in our consciousness and our life the fact that *being* a Christian can only take the form of *becoming* a Christian ever anew; that it is not an event now over and done with but a process requiring constant practice”. The constant practice of conversion and repentance during Lent is fasting, prayer, almsgiving.

At the Rite of Election, Sunday, February 9, Bishop Robert Cunningham will welcome many catechumens and candidates who will pledge their commitment to become full members of the Catholic Church. At the Easter Vigil, these catechumens and candidates will make their Profession of Faith and will receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

The people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have again responded magnanimously to *Why Catholic?* Over 350 facilitators have been trained for the small community groups to begin Year II: *The Celebration of the Christian Mystery: The Sacraments*. There are approximately 3000 participants in the program. This kind of response cannot happen without the support of the pastors, planning teams, facilitators, and the many participants in the Small Community Groups. **Thank you** for the work and enthusiasm that has been generated throughout the diocese. Let us continue to pray for each other during this Lenten season. This is a time to invite those away from the Catholic Church to come to a *Why Catholic?* session. The celebration of the Sacraments within the lives of the Catholic community builds up the Body of Christ. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts God's people and to stir into flame to proclaim the Gospel message to those we encounter in our daily lives.

## Why Catholic?--Faith Formation Workshop II

The next phase of *Why Catholic?* will be **The Faith Formation Workshop**. The workshops will take place across the diocese during the week of April 5-10. The focus of the workshop is: **Christ's Presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today**. The focus of the workshop is to break open the depth and meaning of the Eucharistic Prayers in the Mass. This is an afternoon or evening of reflection for **everyone in your parish**. **You are encouraged to come and bring a friend. More information will be forthcoming.** Please note some revisions of dates and places in the listing of the workshops at the end of the newsletter.

## The St. Paul Event

Be sure to mark your calendars for this wonderful event to celebrate *The Year of St. Paul*. Plans for *The St. Paul Event* are well underway to be celebrated on Sunday, September 14 at a Solemn Vespers at 4:00 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral. We are so happy to hear that Bishop Gerald Barbaritio will be the homilist for this special occasion. The Steering Committee has begun to unfold some of the plans for the Event:

- Fr. Douglas Lucia, Director of Liturgy, will plan the Solemn Vespers for the *Feast of the Triumph of the Cross*. Fr. Scott Seymour will select the music and direct the diocesan choir.
- Ernie Hadley, Director of Music of St. Mary's Cathedral and Marie-Claire D'Arcy, former Director of Music at the Cathedral will be pianists and organists at the celebration.
- Refreshments on the St. Mary's Cathedral grounds will follow Vespers. Sister Teresa LaBrake, Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's Cathedral, and the Cathedral Social Committee will coordinate the refreshments.
- Mary Lou Kilian, Editor of the North Country Catholic and Sister Mary Eamon will begin weekly articles called "The St. Paul's Corner".
- Mary Steenberge will prepare parish bulletin vignettes on the life and themes of St. Paul.

St. Paul's greatest desire was to know Jesus Christ. Nothing else mattered to him but to proclaim the person of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Paul experienced the power of Jesus' resurrection and he wanted to share in His sufferings by being conformed to His death. This is our goal that as the Diocesan family of God, we come to know, to love, and to hope in the power and glory of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ in this great event of celebrating the Year of St. Paul through "*The St. Paul Event*".

### *Faith Formation Workshop (April 5-10, 2008)* Please note date changes)

<b>Jefferson</b>	IHC Intermediate School, Watertown	April 5	10:00-12:00 pm
<b>Lewis</b>	St. Peter's Church Hall, Lowville	April 6	1:00-3:00 pm
<b>Clinton</b>	St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh	April 7	1:30-3:30 pm 7:00-9:00 pm
<b>Franklin</b>	Holy Family School, Malone	April 8	7:00-9:00 pm
<b>Essex</b>	St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga	April 9	7:00-9:00 pm
<b>St. Lawrence</b>	Trinity Catholic School, Massena	April 10	7:00-9:00 pm

\*Adirondack Deanery to be rescheduled

## Public Policy

The recent document "**Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**" by the United States Bishops' Conference is a helpful document in guiding the Catholic voters in the upcoming election. A recent issue of **Crux** highlighted portions of the document with questions:

- **Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?**
- **Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?**
- **How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?**
- **What Does the Church Say about Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?**

The complete document can be found [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo gave a presentation to Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland titled "The Sanctity of Human Life from Conception to Natural Death". The presentation was part of the Loyola Alive Seamless Garment Series. It can be found in its entirety on [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org) under January 25, 2008 listings.

## Parish Resources

**Daily Reflections for Lent 2008: Walk with Jesus** by Alfred McBride, O. Praem. who provides practical guidance for beginning this walk and continuing it throughout the year (\$1.95) [www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org).

**A Lenten Journey with Father Michael Himes**, Fisher Productions, is a four-part DVD series that draws insights from the Lenten Sunday liturgical readings. These readings reflect on the implications of our baptismal faith, and are especially suited for those preparing for Baptism, for prayer and study groups, and for Lenten adult education classes. The four programs are: *I: What is Temptation Really?* *II. Danger and Desire*; *III: God Sees into the Heart*; *IV: Endless Possibilities* (\$29.95). **Free leader's guide is available on** [www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org).