

# HORIZON

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

Issue #25 February 2009

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)

## The Sacredness of "Ordinary Time"

Christmas decorations are put away. Green vestments are worn for Sunday Liturgies for the Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year. The Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark as we continue in the Cycle B of the Church Year. The daily readings of the Liturgy are from the Letter to the Hebrews and from the Gospel of Mark. It will not be long before we enter into the season of Lent which is not so "ordinary" in our call to more prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. So what is so **sacred** about Ordinary Time? Every day, we experience getting up, eating our breakfast, going to work, coming home, being with our family, and then going to bed. The readings from the Sunday Liturgies and the daily readings remind us of we who we are and how God is with us in our day to day events. With the grace of God, every moment, word, action, and situation is made holy—sacred by how we connect the ordinariness of life with the extra-ordinariness of God's presence among us and within us. It is in and with Christ that we are transformed more and more to be like Him. As St. Paul reminds us, we "put on the mind of Christ". In this Ordinary Time, let us learn to think and act like Jesus from our own minds and hearts. He who dwells within us is there to help us understand that the ordinary things of life are His gifts to us. We thank Him and give praise.

## Why Catholic?

We are midway in the **Why Catholic?** process of coming to know, to learn, to share our Catholic faith. *Life in Christ: Walking with God* is the title given to this year's topic in **Why Catholic?** The focus is on the third pillar of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* **Life in Christ**. After much reflection and sharing on the Creed and the Sacraments, this next topic becomes ever more important as to how we live the Christian life. In the kind of culture we live in today, there is a need to understand more fully the Catholic moral teaching of the Church. As St. Paul so often tells us in his Letters, "Now is the time; now is the day of salvation!" Now is the time to invite and to encourage more to come to the Small Community groups to explore and to apply the various elements and principles, and foundations of Christian morality by addressing the dignity of the human person, the human community, and God's salvation through God's law and grace in the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments. The **Bulletin Vignettes** for February 7-March 29 are on the Pastoral Documentation. **The Faith Bits for Families** for Sessions 1-6 are also on the Pastoral Documentation.

## Year of St. Paul

Pope Benedict XVI has set aside his Wednesday audiences to reflect on the life of St. Paul, his world and environment, his life, and his theology. In his most recent reflection "On Christ as Head", he emphasizes that the letters of Colossians and Ephesians reveals to us that Christ loves us immeasurably. Therefore, Christ is above any hostile power so that if we remain near Him, there is nothing to fear. The Holy Father's reflections on St. Paul are found on <http://www.zenit.org/english/>. This link is also on [www.dioogdensburg.org/HelpfulLinks](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/HelpfulLinks). A series of six reflections on St. Paul during Lent can be found on [www.dioogdensburg.org/PastoralDocumentation](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/PastoralDocumentation).

# Outreach For Inactive Catholics

The **Awakening Faith Program** from the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association is now in my hands if you wish to use any of the suggested ideas and strategies. This program is only a tool to aid in reaching out to those who like to return to the sacraments and life in the Church. You may other resources and ways to reach them. Often, these people do not know how or know what to do to come back to the Church. They know they are missing something very important in their lives. One of the goals and objectives of this Office during Lent is to do some kind of media **Come Home** outreach in the Watertown and Plattsburgh areas. As we move into the Lenten season, this is the time to pray for them, to make a visit, to ask parishioners to invite someone they know to a parish event, to send a parish flyer to those not registered in your parish, or to call them on the phone. The Holy Spirit is actively at work in each of the hearts who are away from the Church at this time. You can use the prayer cards sent to you at Christmas time during Lent. The prayer is: **A Prayer For Catholics Reaching Out**

Gracious God, we praise you for the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit.  
Make our endeavors fruitful, and, in the power of your Spirit,  
give us enduring love for all your children; joy and peace  
as we invite inactive Catholics to return;  
patience and kindness in our conversations;  
generosity and gentleness as we share your abundant love;  
and faithfulness as we continue your mission.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Resources

### Further Resources for: Why Catholic? Year III: Life in Christ: Walking with God

“**Dignitas Personae**” (The Dignity of a Person”) was issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on December 12, 2008. The document updates “**Donum Vitae**” (The Gift of Life) which rejected in vitro fertilization, human cloning, surrogate motherhood and nontherapeutic experiments with human embryos. The new instruction expanded on those teachings or presented new ones: *Stem-cell research, the Morning-After Pill and other Anti-Implantation Methods, Gene Therapy, Embryo Manipulation and “Adoption”, Freezing of Human Eggs; Human-animal Hybrid Cloning*. A short review of each of these topics can be found in **Crux of the News**, December 15, 2008 issue. The full document can be found on [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). This document might be helpful for the **Why Catholic?** sessions: **Life in Christ: Walking with God**.

“**Spiritual Freedom: God’s Life-Changing Gift**” by Father Dave Pivonka TOR defines the true nature of freedom and gives the readers the practical tools needed to achieve the conversion, healing and restoration that God has for each one of us. The book has Scripture, teaching, stories, humor and questions for reflection [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org) (\$12.99).

“**Pathways to Community: Four Weeks on Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance** by Bishop Robert F. Morneau offers a way to help readers to focus on their relationships to others and to the larger society by offering a month worth of daily reflections on prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. The framework for each week is a song, meditations by poets, philosophers, theologians, and closes with a question and short prayer [www.newcitypress.com](http://www.newcitypress.com) (\$8.95).

### Other Resources

**Spiritual Thoughts Series: Pope Benedict XVI: St. Paul** are reflections by the Holy Father from his own prayer, homilies, addresses, General Audiences, etc. [www.usccbpublishing.org](http://www.usccbpublishing.org) (\$6.95).

**Reader’s Journal for the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults** is a tool that may be used for RCIA, Why Catholic? groups, Adult Faith Formation groups, individuals who wish to spend some time reflecting more deeply the contents within the Adult Catechism [www.usccbpublishing.org](http://www.usccbpublishing.org).

**The Gospels Simply Explained** by Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv. offers a way to enhance personal or group Bible study as readers learn the cultural and theological background of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John [www.catholicbookpublishing.com](http://www.catholicbookpublishing.com) (\$8.95).

**Holy Simplicity: The Little Way of Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Therese of Lisieux**” by Joel Schorm focuses on seeing God in every moment of their lives. They started small and stayed small, even though their works and heroism have earned them as holy people and worldwide acclaim [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org) (\$12.99).