

# 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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## Happy New Year

A blessed New Year to all of you! The Church's prayer is for world peace in this world of economic turmoil. Pope Benedict XVI's message for the World Day of Peace is "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace". In the Holy Father's message, he offers a variety of ways to eradicate poverty e.g. being attentive of the complex phenomenon of globalization, the relationship between disarmament and development, etc. He states that "if the poor are to be given priority, then there has to be enough room for an *ethical approach to economics* on the part of those active in the international market, an *ethical approach to politics* on the part of those in public office, and an *ethical approach to participation* capable of harnessing the contributions of civil society at local and international levels. As a civil society and as Catholic Christians, we have a responsibility to create a positive relationship with the markets so that all people poor and rich may live in a balance of having enough food, an adequate home, and being able to provide the basic necessities of life. As a Christian community, we are called to look for creative ways of "giving from one's surplus" and to be willing to a "change of life-styles, of models of production and consumption, and of the established structures of power which today govern societies". Jesus preached: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 5:2). The way to build peace is to fight poverty.

## Why Catholic?

The Church continues to grow as we share our Catholic faith in small communities of faith. Building small faith communities is one of the most effective means of evangelization today. Bishop Cunningham continues to support the Adult Faith Formation program of **Why Catholic?** across the Diocese. The Diocese begins the third year of **Why Catholic?** as a process which invites readers and participants to a mature faith by nourishing and strengthening the people of God in their calling and identity as a people of faith. There has been a positive response among the participants of experiencing a more lively faith and participating in their parish and local communities. The focus of the Third Year: *Living with Christ: Walking with God* is to explain the moral teachings of the Catholic faith through the Beatitudes, Virtues, Conscience Formation, etc.

There will be a **Small Community Training** session from February 7-12. Posters and Schedule will be attached to this letter. **Registration for the Small Community Training is Friday, January 30, 2009.** Sister Eileen Rush, SSJ, RENEW International will facilitate the training session. She is asking that all seasoned Small Community Leaders and new Small Community Leaders to attend this session. It is important to invite new Small Community Leaders to join **Why Catholic?** Often the unknown or fear prevent many from becoming a Small Community Leader. Small Community Leaders are:

- People who encourage participation and sharing of the faith.
- People who encourage the spiritual growth of the community.
- People who move the community to some form of action within the parish and/or local community.
- Community builders who create a climate of hospitality and trust among all the participants.

To recruit new Small Community Leaders, look for women and men with the qualities on which good ministry is built. Potential facilitators should be:

- Perceived as faithful parishioners.
- Respected and admired by others.
- Good listeners.
- Organized, responsible, and competent to complete tasks.
- Aware of their limitations and willing to seek help
- Able to work well in a group and put others at ease.

- Genuinely concerned and understanding of others.
- Able to bring out the ideas and gifts of others.
- Willing and able to commit time and energy required.

Facilitating a **Why Catholic?** Small Community Faith Sharing group is a ministry of the Word. In all ministries of the Church, God gives the Holy Spirit to encourage and support us, to give us all we need to do the work to which we are called. God builds on the desires, temperaments, and talents of individuals to do this work.

Sister Eileen emphasis for the training will be to help strengthen the facilitator's role within the group, to present strategies of how to facilitate the content, to enhance the environment for faith sharing and prayer, and ways to invite new members to join. All Small Community Leaders **are to bring their new book with them to the training.** It would be helpful to also bring the **Small Community Leader Guide.**

#### The schedule for the Small Community Leader Training:

<i>Deanery/Location</i>		<i>Date and Time</i>			
<i>Jefferson:</i>	Watertown	IHC, Intermediate	Saturday	2/7/09	10:00 a.m.-12 noon
<i>Lewis:</i>	Lowville	St. Peter's Church Hall	Sunday	2/8/09	1:00-3:00 p.m.
<i>St. Lawrence:</i>	Massena	Trinity Catholic School	Monday	2/9/09	7:00-9:00 p.m.
<i>Franklin:</i>	Malone	Holy Family School	Tuesday	2/10/09	7:00-9:00 p.m.
<i>Clinton:</i>	Plattsburgh	St. Peter's Emmaus Hall	Wednesday	2/11/09	1:30-3:30 p.m.; 7:00-9:00 p.m.
<i>Adirondack</i>	Lake Placid	St. Agnes School	Thursday	2/12/09	7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Sign-Up Sunday** 2/1/09 or 2/8/09  
**Sessions 1-6:** 2/22/09 to 3/29/09

## Year of St. Paul

Bishop Robert Cunningham has designated the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul celebrated on Sunday, January 25, 2009 and the feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus, Monday, January 26, 2009 as days of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The story of St. Paul's conversion as told in the Acts of the Apostles supports our own journey of faith conversion. Sts. Timothy and Titus were commissioned by St. Paul to preach the faith, to defend it, and to protect the faith so that it may be handed on with fidelity and consistency. A plenary indulgence may be obtained on each of these days providing all the requirements are fulfilled. The Liturgical Celebrations in the following parishes are as follows:

- **St. Paul's Church, Black River:** January 25: Mass 11:00 a.m.; Holy Hour with Evening Prayer 4:00 p.m.  
January 26: Mass 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- **St. Paul's Church, South Colton:** January 25: Mass 8:00 a.m.  
(The Church will be open both days for prayer from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)  
January 26: Mass 6:00 p.m.
- **St. Paul's Church, Blue Mountain Lake:** January 25 and 26: 11:00 a.m.
- **St. Paul's Church, Bloomingdale:** January 24: Mass 4:00 p.m., Confessions available  
(The Church will be open for prayer each pilgrimage day from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
- **All Saints Church, Mineville:** January 25: Mass 10:00 a.m.  
January 26: Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg** January 24/25: Mass 4:00 p.m. (Sat.), 8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.  
January 26: Mass 7:00 p.m.

(The Plenary Indulgence may be obtained any day of the Year of St. Paul at St. Mary's Cathedral.)

## Resources

**Online Advent Retreat,** Fr. Roger McGuinness, shares his reflections on "The Life, The Teaching, Prayer & Spirituality of St. Paul" found on [www.dioogdensburg.org](http://www.dioogdensburg.org).

**Letters of St. Paul,** Paul Wauck translates the letters of St. Paul from the Greek text to engage readers in a spiritual journey with St. Paul. A reflection guide and prayer section is included (\$7.95) [www.albhouse.org](http://www.albhouse.org).