

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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Diocese of Ogdensburg

www.dioogdensburg.org

Office of Evangelization

www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization

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Why Catholic?

I have received many of your Year III evaluations and they have been forwarded to Sister Eileen Rush. Thank you so very much for your input and suggestions. They will be very helpful to me and to RENEW International.

Sister Eileen Rush, SSJ sends her blessings and prayers to all of you during this Christmas Season and New Year. Sister Veronica Mendez, RCD will present the SCL training sessions. She has been a sister of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine for the past 48 years. Sister Veronica has worked in the ministries of religious education, religious and priestly vocations, and seminary formation, the later at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois. Without a doubt, Sister, will delight you with her wisdom and joy.

All Coordinators and Facilitators are strongly encouraged to attend the Small Community Training. Sister Veronica will share with us tools and methods of how all of us may facilitate our Small Faith Sharing groups. **Please bring your Year IV book** with to the training. RENEW International will have available a limited number of CD's on *Christian Prayer* which contains songs and hymns. The CD is \$13.00 each.

Sister Eileen sent me General Intercessions and Homily Hints and I will forward those to you. I will attach a Newsletter from RENEW that you may use for your Year IV orientation. Bulletin Vignettes will also be attached. All will be posted on www.dioogdensburg.org/PastoralDocumentation/Evangelization.

The training sessions begin January 23-28. The **Registration** for the workshop attendance is due **Friday, January 15, 2010. Advertising Posters and Registration Form** are on www.dioogdensburg.org/PastoralDocumentation/Evangelization.

Below is the schedule for the Workshops:

Small Community Training

Deanery	Location	Date	Time
Jefferson	SSJ Motherhouse, Watertown	1/23/2010	10am-12noon
Lewis	St. Peter's, Lowville	1/24/2010	1-3 pm
St. Lawrence	Trinity Catholic School, Massena	1/25/2010	7-9 pm
Adirondack	St. Agnes School, Lake Placid	1/26/2010	7-9 pm
Clinton	St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh	1/27/2010	1-3 pm; 7-9 pm
Franklin	Holy Family School, Malone	1/28/2010	7-9 pm

Sign-Up Sunday and Prayer Commitment Sunday—January 24, 2010

Sessions 1-6--

February 14-March 21, 2010



Year for Priests

In this Year for Priests your Pope Benedict XVI reminds the bishops and priests to always pray to be the image of Christ for others through love and joy. The Holy Father affirmed that true joy consists in "feeling that our personal and communal existence is visited and filled by a great mystery, the mystery of God's love." Our priests have demonstrated and witnessed their individual and communal love for God's great mystery of love for their people through their teaching and preaching. There are stories still out there to be told about our priests in the North Country who share this great mystery of God's love. I have received some, but

more are needed to be put together at the end of the year to provide the parishes the booklet promised. Please send your stories to me about the love and joy of the particular priest who has touched your life.



Did You Know That?

- The divorce rate has had a modest decline after peaking in the early 1980's.
- People are getting married later in life.
- In a given year nearly half of marriages are a remarriage for at least one spouse

How does the Church help those families who have been divorced?

The Church very much cares for every marriage that takes place in the life of the Church. In Pope Benedict XVI's homily for the Feast of the Holy Family, he stressed the value of marriage. He said that "God is Trinity, He is communion of love, and family is its first and immediate expression". However, the Church realizes that the marriage and family life can often be fractured. The Church of the Diocese of Ogdensburg offers the opportunity for husbands and wives to look at their marriage through *The Matrimonial Tribunal Office of Canonical Affairs*. The major responsibility of the Tribunal is marriage nullity cases. The guidelines used by the Tribunal are the Gospel teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the law of the Catholic Church. Pope Pius XI defined the work of the Tribunal in the words, "To care for the dignity of marriage, to work for the good of persons."

- *The Matrimonial Tribunal Office of Canonical Affairs* from the Diocese of Ogdensburg periodically offers seminars to parishes on Annulment of Marriages. Msgr. Harry K. Snow, MA Theology, JCL, the Judicial Vicar and Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs, is very willing to go the parishes to speak with those families who have concerns of their marriage status.
- Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, Directors of the Office of Family Life, have provided outreach to families who have experienced divorce.

Action Step

- Questions about Annulments can be found on the diocesan website www.dioogdensburg.org/Tribunal. Check out the Link on Questions about Annulments.
- More on annulments can be found on www.dioogdensburg.org/FamilyLife. Go to Ministry to Separated and Divorced and to the Links www.foryourmarriage.org.

Tips for Evangelization

Stages of Evangelization Process in your Parish

Many of the parishes are continuing in the **Why Catholic? Year IV—Christian Prayer** and the other parishes have some form of Adult Faith Formation Program. The most effective means of renewing and deepening our Catholic faith is through the faith-sharing groups established in your parishes. In this New Year we have an opportunity to assess how our faith-sharing groups are doing in the area of evangelization. The **Why Catholic?** process builds in action steps as many other programs do as we. It is in the action step that can be a catalyst for real evangelization within the parish. The PNCEA has an exercise called **Stages in the Evangelization Process**. There are at least seven stages that are rooted in the New Testament and church documents. They are: befriending others, sharing faith stories, sharing the Christ story, inviting a person to conversion, bringing them into community, discipleship, and discipleship's fruitfulness lived out in stewardship.

What stage is your parish experiencing evangelization? How? The explanation of each of these stages is explained in the exercise with some small faith-sharing group reflection and discussion questions. This exercise sheet will be attached to the e-mail as well as finding it on the www.dioogdensburg.org/pastoraldocumentation.

RESOURCES

"Mass Kit"—Steve and Joni Abdalla founded the company called the "Wee Believers Company". Their primary goal was finding tools to help them raise faithful children, and to perhaps parent during Mass. They are convinced that "There is no question that by injecting authentic, positive and relevant examples of living the Catholic faith in toys, books and decorations, children will grow up with a much more grounded sense of what being Catholic is really about". Go to their website www.weebelievers.com to see the **Mass Kit** to use as a teaching tool in the classroom and/or in the home.