

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

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Office of Evangelization

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Evangelization: Mission of the Church

Church: A Family of Faith

The Church has placed a great emphasis on Pope Benedict XVI's endeavor to renew the Church through its efforts of the "New Evangelization" throughout the world. Evangelization is needed throughout the Church, not only in Third World Countries, in the Middle East, in Europe, Latin and South America, but right here at home.

The people we need to evangelize are right here in our Diocese, in our parishes. To evangelize is not our privilege but a command from Jesus "to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to the entire world".

One of the effective ways of *doing* evangelization is through our Small Communities. The United States Bishop's Document *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us* stated that "Small Communities are powerful vehicles for adult faith formation providing opportunities for learning, prayer, mutual support, and the shared experience of Christian living and service to Church and society." RCIA is the one of the perfect models of Small Communities. Many of our parishes formed other Small Christian Communities (SCC) e.g. *Disciples in Mission, Why Catholic?, Lenten Longings*, etc. that are well established and are involved in parish evangelization. Some of these Small Communities have a ministry, an outreach to some particular group that need further mystagogy (those received in the Church, Young Adults, Young Families, non-practicing Catholics, Separated and Divorced, visiting the nursing home, families of newly baptized, First Communion, Confirmation). Is your SCC involved in one of these ministries? What is the **one ministry** in your parish that truly needs attention, support, outreach, etc. How might an Evangelization Team be supportive to these Small Communities?

These are a few questions to ponder to consider how your Small Communities can become more of an effective vehicle for evangelization in your parish:

1. Does your SCC see itself as Church?
2. How does it fit into the total vision of the parish?
3. How can you grow in your sense of belonging to the larger Church? Be specific.

Church Community in Action—

Hospitality--Welcome Table

As visitors/and or newcomers come to your parish, consider a *Welcome Table*. Some items on the table might include:

- Welcome letter from the pastor
- Parish Brochure
- Flyers about summer activities and groups
- Sign Up sheets for summer activities
- Information cards for newcomers with name, address, phone number.

New Evangelization—Shrines and Pilgrimages

There is a special treasure in making a pilgrimage to a shrine near you. Taking the time as a parish family or as a family to journey to a shrine opens a special way to God. These visits to shrines of Jesus and to Mary teaches us how to pray, to open our minds and hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit, how to live our faith, how to grow in our faith, how to remain open to the mystery of God in our lives. Does your parish have a shrine? Who is the shrine dedicated to? Can you take some time to pray there?

Some other **nearby shrines in New York State** are(Google *Catholic Shrines in New York State* for more):

- **National Shrine of the Northern American Martyrs, Auriesville**
- **National Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekawitha, Fonda**
- **Our Lady of Victory Basilica and National Shrine (Story of Father Baker), Lackawana**
- **Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Youngstown** ~Shrine of Blessed Marianne Cope, Syracuse

Some other nearby shrines outside New York State:

- St. Anne's Shrine, Ile Lamont, Vermont
- St. Joseph's Shrine, Montreal, Quebec

O Mary, Star of Evangelization, enlighten us with the radiance of your Son, walk with us in faith, strengthen us in hope, and unite us in love as we strive to become disciples in mission. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.



The Gift of Marriage

One of the main concerns of Pope Benedict XVI and also Bishop Terry R. LaValley is the Family. In a recent address by the Holy Father placed great emphasis on the parent's responsibility to form correct conscience formation. The Holy Father said that the conscience is a sacred place "of dialogue for the search of the truth and the good". This is a life-long process from early infancy throughout adult life. Pope Benedict said that conscious formation "accompanies the whole of life and, in particular, the family environment, which is truly where the profound bases of the personality are laid." "It is by forming consciences that the Church makes her most specific and valuable contribution to society. It is a contribution that begins in the family and is strongly reinforced in the parish."

The Diocese is providing and offering support to families and to all those who teach Gospel values concerning conscience formation, especially on The Theology of the Body from its various Offices and Departments:

The **Office of Family Life** is providing **FAMILY GUGGENHEIM 2011 with the theme "Families of Faith ... Coming Together ... to Strengthen Family Life and Our Church!** The session dates and registration deadlines are:

| Sessions | Registration Dates |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Session 1: August 11 - 14 | August 1 |
| Session 2: August 18 - 21 | August 8 |
| Session 3: October 7 - 9 | September 28 |

The **Christ Event**, sponsored by the Department of Education and supporting Offices of Evangelization, Family Life, Natural Family Planning, Respect Life, will host the Conference on The Theology of the Body. Christopher West will be the speaker at St. Mary's Church, Massena on Friday, September 16. The audience is for the priests, religious, and deacons and their wives. On Saturday, September 17, the Conference will be held for the laity at Sacred Heart Church. More information will be forthcoming concerning registration, etc. All registration for the conference will be done on the diocesan website.

Tips for Evangelization

Hospitality Ministry

1. Assess your current efforts. Do you welcome people at every door at every Mass?
2. Do your greeters see their work as "ministry"? Do they know the scriptural basis for hospitality?
3. Set up a *Welcoming Table*. See above for the details.

A Family Blessing

Going to *Sportscamp* and or to *Guggenheim*, children leave the home for a week. They leave the family to be with another kind of family that nourishes their faith. Parents can bless their children before they leave. **Pray The Sign of the Cross over them or trace it on their foreheads**, acknowledging that God is the source of all the blessings children receive through the parents. Be sure to explain what is being done and why. The child may have questions about the blessing. An explanation to the child may be: God who is the source of all love demonstrates His love for us by sending His Son Jesus. Jesus shows us how to love God and He asks us to do the same in return. In God's goodness, each of us is God's gift of love. He blesses us with His love and goodness. We are to be a gift, a blessing, to God in return.

RESOURCES

Roman Missal Resources

www.usccb.org/romanmissal and www.pastoral.diogdensburg.org. These two websites are excellent for resources for the new changes in your parishes.

Lifting Up Our Hearts, Praying with the Roman Missal, RENEW International will be the suggested resource for faith sharing in the Fall. The cost of the book will be \$6.95 which will include the cost of shipping when ordered from this Office. More information and order forms for parish purchase will be sent out electronically in the **August Horizon Newsletter**. You may review the resource on www.renewintl.org.