

# 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](http://www.dioogdensburg.org)

Office of Evangelization

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## Evangelization: Mission of the Church

The month of June is dedicated in honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart of Jesus is ablaze with His infinite and incredible love for each of us. We serve others with a heart like Jesus' heart, a servant's heart of love. The heart of Jesus looks to each of us to continue His mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

In Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Portugal, he spoke to the people the importance of evangelization as being a countercultural activity. He denounced what he called a "silence of the faith" in the attacks on religious values. We as Catholics must speak about the religious values of our Catholic faith and not be ashamed of our faith. Materialism, secularism, and humanism that excludes God is spreading.

The dignity of the human person at every stage of life must be protected, especially the unborn. Each of us has been created to show God to His people. We show God in His gift of His Son Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness of the love of the Father by His death and resurrection. St. Paul, the great evangelizer, preached knowing Christ Jesus as Lord. When we come to know the Lord, there is life. Preaching and living the Gospel will bring its persecutions and torments from those who scorn the Catholic Church. Jesus promised that He would be with the Church until the end of time. His gift of the Holy Spirit continues to guide and to protect the Church. The Holy Spirit unites and preserves the Church, gives it strength to persevere in the truth of the Gospel, and receives the authority for the proclamation and the apostolic ministry.

By our Baptism, we are all called to evangelization. Pope Benedict stated in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* "that evangelization needs Christians with arms raised to God in a gesture of prayer, Christians moved by the awareness that the conversion of the world to Christ is not done by us, but is given." We are all missionaries sent out to the whole world, to make disciples.

During the summer months, we can witness our faith by:

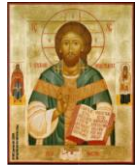
- Spiritual reading of Pope Benedict XVI encyclicals: *Deus Caritas Est* and *Caritas in Veritate* [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).
- Reading the United States Bishops position of Health Care Reform and other national issues [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).
- Enrolling on the New York State Catholic Bishops **Take Action** to understand the political and social issues of New York State [www.nyscatholicconference.org](http://www.nyscatholicconference.org).
- Speaking about your Catholic faith when questioned or confronted with an issue about the Church and its position.
- Praying the Rosary for the conversion of the Church and the world.
- Making a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the needs of the world and of the Church.
- Encouraging someone away from the Church to go to Sunday Mass.
- Going to Mass together as a family.

*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.*



## Why Catholic?

There was a very positive response to the Faith Formation Workshop on **Prayer: Many Methods: One Purpose** presented by Anne Scanlan. Many of the faith sharing groups will not be meeting again until the Fall session when Sessions 7-12 will be completed on Prayer. However, the summer might be a good time to practice one of the methods that Anne presented. Using the Gospel reading from the Sunday Liturgies gives you the material to read, to reflect, to pray, and to contemplate. I have about 50 booklets left from the Workshop if anyone would like a copy for your own personal use. E-mail me your mailing address and I will be happy to send you a copy or copies of the booklet.



## Year for Priests

The Holy Father recently spoke in his recent audience in St. Peter's Square about the last essential task of the priest to govern, to guide with the authority of Christ. This authority is not his own. The authority of the priest receives this authority from the power of the sacrament of Holy Orders for the service of the Church. With the mission to teach and to sanctify, the priest preaches and teaches the truth of the Gospel and the Traditions of the Church from its Apostolic Tradition in the name of Jesus Christ. It is Christ who guides, protects, and corrects the Church because of Christ's love for the Church. The priest's ministry of governing is for the ultimate good of each person. It is the expression of the constant presence and care of the Good Shepherd. The priest's own commitment to obedience to follow the lead of Jesus Christ as Shepherd is expressed in pastoral charity and justice. His mission of governing is not an easy one in a culture that expresses individualism and egoism. Let us continue to pray for our Holy Father, bishops, and priests to continue to take care of all the sheep of the flock entrusted to them.

The Diocese will celebrate the close of the Year for Priests on the Feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Cathedral. Msgr. John Murphy will celebrate the 11:00 Mass followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Procession of the Blessed Sacrament led by Bishop Terry LaValley will begin at 2:30 followed by light refreshments. Let us show our gratitude for our priests by coming to the *Cathedral* to pray for them.

## The Gift of Marriage



Many marriages will be taking place during the summer months. Questions such as: "How can I be a support to the couple? What will the wedding gift be?" The best gift, of course, is your presence. Before the wedding, pray for the couple's blessed marriage. Guests to the wedding want to give a gift. There are many on-line registries that offer gifts, but why not a spiritual gift:

- A Bible, perhaps with a stand so that it can be displayed in the home
- A tasteful piece of religious art, such as a Crucifix or an icon of the marriage feast at Cana
- A passage from one of the [wedding readings](#), mounted, framed and with the wedding date
- A copy of [Household Blessings and Prayers](#) or a book about the spirituality of Christian marriage. See [Book Reviews](#) for suggestions.
- A gift certificate to a religious goods store near the couple's home
- (taken from [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org))

Families are encouraged to attend the Family Guggenheim: *Family to Family Ministry* August 12-15; August 17-19; or October 8-11. The Registration Form can be found on [www.dioogdensburg.org/FamilyLife](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/FamilyLife).

# Tips for Evangelization

## **Summer time can offer many opportunities to be evangelizers:**

1. As a family or with your faith-sharing group, visit one of the shrines near you:
  - The Shrine of the North American Martyrs, Auriesville, N.Y.
  - St. Joseph's Shrine, Montreal
  - St. Ann de Beaupre Shrine, Quebec City
  - Cape de Madeleine, Three Rivers, Quebec
  - St. Ann's Shrine, Isle Lamotte, Vermont
2. Read the life of Brother Andre Bessette who will be canonized in October by Pope Benedict XVI.
3. There will be summer visitors in the parish. Welcome them a brochure of the parish.
4. Sponsor a movie night with discussion. Suggested book: [Lights Camera...FAITH!: A Movie Lover's Guide to Scripture](#). Fifty-two movies are featured in the book complete with discussion questions and prayers.
5. Make sure all the hotels in the area have your schedule of Masses.
6. Assist vacationing families to know the location and times of Masses around the country by putting this website in the bulletin and on your parish home page: [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).
7. Offer *Vacation Bible School for Adults*.
8. Invite parishioners to bring bulletins home from areas they visit (it will encourage them to attend Mass) Give a reward for the bulletin from the farthest point.

## **Fifteen Tips for a Happier Life**

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
3. When you say, "I love you," mean it.
4. When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.
5. Never laugh at anyone's dream. People who don't have dreams don't have much.
6. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
7. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
8. Don't judge people by their relatives.
9. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"
10. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
11. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
12. Remember the three R's: **R**espect for self; **R**espect for others; and **R**esponsibility for all your actions.
13. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
14. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
15. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.

## RESOURCES

### **Resources to Reach Out to Younger Adults**

1. **Article:** [How do we attract the younger generations?](#) [read article](#)
2. **Book:** [After the Baby Boomers](#) by Robert Wuthnow--Unmarried young adults with no children have a lower rate of church attendance than those who are married with children. (*After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty- and Thirty-Somethings are Shaping the Future of American Religion*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.)
3. [Offer a blessing for all young people with a drivers license](#). Ask them to attend a specific Sunday Mass. Give them a religious medal for the car. Prayer could be something like: "God of all protection, we place all of these young people in your care. We rejoice with them in their accomplishment, and challenge them to live up to this responsibility. Bless all of their comings and goings. May no harm come to them or to anyone else on the road. May they be open to the Holy Spirit who will give them the wisdom and prudence needed to make good and mature choices. We ask this through Jesus, your Son. Amen." Conclude with refreshments. (Added suggestion: request their cell number for text messaging and send them weekly "hello's" from the parish.)