

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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Lent

“We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). In this Cycle B series of the Lenten activities found on the website, we are reminded to look at the beautiful stain-glassed windows within our parish churches. These windows tell the story of our Catholic faith. Jesus Christ, Mary, the apostles and the saints are role models for us and encourage us with God’s grace to walk with Christ during this Lenten season. Lent is also an opportunity as a community of faith to encourage those away from the Church to reconnect with their faith by inviting them to the parish mission, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross or to an Adult Faith Formation study group, e.g. Scripture study, **Why Catholic?** session. As we journey together as the family of God, may we like St. Paul come to know Jesus crucified and risen from the dead.

Why Catholic?

There were 200 Coordinators and Facilitators who recently attended the Small Community Leader training session. It was an excellent training sessions on moral decision making and conscience formation. The diagram for moral decision making found in the booklets may be a wonderful tool to use with the small community groups.

Some of the parishes have sent in their number of groups and participants. If you have not, I would greatly appreciate it.

The **Faith Formation Workshop: Gospel Values for the 21st Century** will be held from April 20-26. The workshop will explore biblical justice as a way of connecting faith to everyday life. It will focus on right relationships and review Catholic social teaching. The participants will practice the **Social Inquiry Process: Observe, Judge, Act** model of Christian decision-making. In our society today, we need to prayerfully and morally know and understand the many issues that face our world today. **Anyone** and **Everyone** is invited to attend the workshop in your area. Attached will be the posters and flyers for the Workshop. **Registration** for the Workshop will be **Friday, April 3**.

Faith Formation Workshop

<u>City:</u>	<u>Place:</u>	<u>Day and Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
Massena	Trinity Catholic School	Monday – 4/20/09	7 - 9pm
Lake Placid	St. Agnes School	Tuesday – 4/21/09	7 - 9pm
Plattsburgh	St. Peter’s Emmaus Hall	Wednesday – 4/22/09	1:30 - 3:30pm; 7 - 9pm
Malone	Holy Family School	Thursday – 4/23/09	7 - 9pm
Watertown	IHC-Intermediate	Saturday – 4/25/09	10am – 12 noon
Lowville	St. Peter’s Church Hall	Sunday – 4/26/09	1pm-3pm

Year of St. Paul

The Letters of St. Paul offer us a wealth of reflection during the season of Lent. St. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ continues to reach out to us with His love and desires to be united with us. He said that sin destroyed our unity with God, but God wants us to be reconciled to Him. At the heart of our reconciliation to God is the death of Jesus on the Cross. St. Paul learned the truth of Christ's death making us right with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the Holy Spirit helps us also to understand the power and glory of the death of Jesus Christ. Taking to heart the great truths that St. Paul taught us we can become a new creation in Christ. When Pope Benedict XVI opened the Year of St. Paul, he wanted all of us to recall the great truths of our faith, to be imitators of Christ, to believe, to live and to rejoice in the gift of our redemption in Christ. Some Scripture passages to reflect: Romans 5: 1, 6-9; Romans 8:20; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-58; 2 Corinthians 5:12; Colossians 1:18. There is an excellent devotional resource called: **St. Paul Guides us Through Lent to Easter** from the website of the Holy Name Province, Franciscan Friars <http://www.hnp.org/fmu/devotional-resources.cfm> It is a pdf file that you may use and it is also found in the February 10 issue of the **North Country Catholic**.

Outreach For Inactive Catholics

Soon there will be media clip on our website called "Awaken Your Faith". I would like to thank Ian Fawcett, IT and Jim Lundy, Director for Youth Ministry, for their fine work. A podcast session will also be on the website soon. During this season of Lent, we continue to pray for those who feel unconnected with the faith. It is always the work of the Holy Spirit that moves people back to Church. But often it is a person who tries to encourage someone to come back to the Church to recognize that God is the One who is calling him/her back to the Church.

Facing the Economic Crisis

Every person that we meet today is facing some sort of economic crisis in their family and job. As a Catholic community, we do not need to struggle alone. As the Body of Christ, a community of brothers and sisters, we can reach out to someone in our neighborhood, in our work, in our parish community to help in some way e.g. bringing dinner, sharing our time with a listening ear and heart, gift certificate to a grocery store, prayer lines, etc. This is a time that we do not leave someone alone in this struggle. This is where we meet Christ in the other which helps increase his/her own dignity as a human person. This is truly the Church come alive with the presence of Christ. We share in the divine activity of Christ, the action of Jesus Himself continued in His body, the Church.

Resources

Catholic CD of the Month: Lighthouse Catholic Media: Some of the parishes are engaged in providing CD's for their parishioners who want to learn more about their faith or who are struggling with their faith. This would be a wonderful opportunity for the pastors to have an evening of dialogue with those who are listening to these speakers and who may have questions. You will find more information from www.lighthousecatholicmedia.com.

Welcome the People! by Jim Smith offers an uncomplicated process for action and renewed faith as well as an abundance of ways to gather and nourish adult Catholics (\$12.95) www.23rdpublications.com.

26 Creative Celebrations for All Generations by Sr. M. Valerie Schneider, SND focuses on the gospels which include reflections, interactive prayers, points for pondering, creative ways to respond to the gospel message, and optional activities for families. This is an excellent resource for parishes and faith formation programs (\$14.95) www.23rdpublications.com.

When the Moon Slips Away by Melannie Svoboda, SND takes the most ordinary things, e.g. nature, and turns them into beautiful meditations using thought-provoking quotations, questions for personal reflection and communal sharing, followed by short prayer (\$12.95) www.23rdpublications.com.

Journey Into the Bible is offering a Bible Study program designed for small groups called the **Letters of St. Paul** (\$4.95) www.liguori.org or 1-800-325-9521.

Saint Paul: His Life and Teachings by William J. Parker, C.Ss.R. has a 24-page pamphlet that helps the reader understand why St. Paul's life still touches ours two millennia later (\$1.00) www.liguori.org.