

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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Why Catholic?



Sister Eileen Rush and I were very pleased with the positive response of those who participated last week in the Faith Formation Workshop. Sister Eileen stressed that we live in a world that emphasizes more of the individual and his/her needs out of charity rather than focusing on the needs of the world through justice. Justice and charity demand that we are all created equal in God's eyes and therefore each person deserves respect. And so does God's creation deserve respect and therefore we are stewards of this precious world. Where there is justice, there is peace. If there is no peace, there is no justice. God's peace, His **shalom** is His gift to us. "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." This prayer from St. Francis is a call to all of us to be peacemakers within our parishes, families, and workplaces. We can make a difference by our witness of love, respect, justice, peace. This is true evangelization!



Year of St. Paul

As we draw near to the close of the Year of St. Paul, we would glean much from reading the Acts of the Apostles. The daily Liturgy and the First Reading of the Sunday Liturgy during the season of Easter is from the Acts of the Apostles. The first nine chapters of the Acts focus on the early development of the Church from the resurrection of Jesus to the conversion and baptism of Paul. From chapters 10-28 is the story of the inauguration of the Gentile mission and the mission of Paul to the ends of the earth. It is in these chapters that we encounter Paul as an apostle, a zealous missionary, who came to know the profound love of God through the revelation of the risen Christ. This love sustained him and motivated him throughout his travels and trials. Paul describes his experience of God's love in Romans 8:37-39. Nothing would separate Paul from God's love. What is our experience of the risen Lord and does that experience motivate us in our ministry and call to evangelize where we are?

I will attach to this newsletter: **How to Think Like a "Missionary"**. You might find this helpful with your small community groups.

Feast of Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost is celebrated on May 31. This feast can be considered the "feast day" of all Catholics. Pentecost celebrates our call by the Holy Spirit to witness to our faith. Anointed at our baptism and empowered by the Holy Spirit we, too, are called to "make disciples". On this feast, invite all the parishioners to wear something red at Mass. Is there someone in your parish who can be awarded with a **Pentecost Award**. A **Pentecost Award** is a

way of honoring someone who has been an outstanding evangelizer to the parish by his/her service, faithfulness, enthusiasm, living the faith, sharing the faith, and commitment to the faith. The process for honoring an Evangelizer on Pentecost Sunday: 1) inform the parish 4-5 weeks in advance explaining: What is the Parish Pentecost Award? Why the name "Pentecost Award? How the recipient chosen? 2) Encourage the people to nominate.

Eucharistic Procession



During this Easter season, we read in the Acts of the Apostles how the early Christians came together to hear the Word of God and to break bread together in the celebration of the Eucharist. It was and is in the sharing in the breaking of bread and in the drinking of the cup that our lives are joined to Christ and to one another. As the Body of Christ, the Church, we are all encouraged to come together as a Diocesan Family to be part of the Eucharistic Procession at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, June 14 at 2:00. Solemn Vespers will follow and a reception afterwards. The poster to invite and to promote the Eucharistic Procession is on the Pastoral Documentation/Evangelization website.

Year of the Priest

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a **Year of the Priest** to open with Solemn Vespers at the Vatican on June 19, 2009 on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priest. He will close the celebrations during a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square June 19, 2010. The Holy Father's reason for this declaration is an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests. St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests, will be proclaimed the saint of all the world's priests. To read the biography of the Cure (parish priest) of Ars as St. John Vianney is known as is to read about a simple and humble parish priest who won the hearts of his people in the villages in France. He taught them about God and spent many hours a day hearing and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional. Let us pray for Bishop Robert J. Cunningham who has served his people so well and who celebrates 40 years of priesthood; our priests who celebrate anniversaries of priesthood; and all of our priests in the Diocese who faithfully serve us. Let us continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. The sacramental life of the Church depends upon our priests.

Resources

Essentials for Christian Living, USCCB Publishing. This little book contains truths and prayers of the Catholic Church with space for personal reflection. This book may be helpful for RCIA and Adult Faith Formation groups (\$6.95).

Stories and Prayers by Sister Valerie Schneider www.23rdpublications.com:

~**10 Wise and Wonderful Stories for Children** *Celebrating Holidays and Holy Days*, Sr. Valerie Schneider weaves gospel values with seasonal celebrations. Each lesson includes Suggested Activities that help children integrate the Scripture message with the story and with their lives (\$14.95). **Gospel Scenes for Teens** *23 Guided Prayer Meditations* (\$12.95);

~**Weekly Prayer Services for Teenagers** *Lectionary-Based for the School Year: Years A&B; B&C; C&A* (\$12.95 each)

Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life, William E. May, a theologian at the Pope John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, Washington, DC, begins the book with the major church teaching on bioethics, then discusses why the church holds positions on issues of euthanasia, in vitro fertilization, genetic counseling, assisted suicide, living wills, persistent vegetative state, organ transplants, and more. This new information helps to understand the Vatican's bioethics instruction late last year (\$19.95), www.osv.com.