

# 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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## Why Catholic?



**Retreat III**—Fr. Bruce Nieli, CSP was deeply impressed with the spirit of the people of the North Country who attended the Retreat sessions recently held within the Regions across the Diocese. The attendance was doubled from the last Retreat experience. Thank you to the Pastors, Coordinators and Facilitators who invited their friends. We had 341 who enthusiastically responded to the enthusiasm and zeal of Fr. Nieli. He sends his gratitude along with his prayers that we continue to build small communities within our parishes. What a vital way to build the Kingdom of God.

**Parishes Kick-Off Why Catholic?**—The Coordinators of **Why Catholic?** have begun to organize the Small Community faith sharing groups as they begin the second half of Year III on *Life with Christ: Walking with God*. Some parishes are requesting more books for their groups. If you have any extra books, please let me know and I can pass that information on to them.

### *Number of Participants, Sisters of St. Joseph Grants and Clearing House for "Material Pickup"*

- Please send me the **number of groups and participants** in your fall session after your sessions have begun.
- Once again, this Office will become the **clearing house for the purchase** of your **Year IV books**. In order for the books to be here at a reasonable time, the order must be in to me by **Friday, October 30**. I recommend that you order only the number you expect. The cost of your books will be \$8.50 per book if there are a sufficient number of books ordered. If you wish to order the Bulletins or Leader Books, you may include this in the order. The **Purchase Order** will be posted on the **Pastoral Documentation**.
- The **Sisters of St. Joseph Grant** will again be available to parishes who need support to continue **Why Catholic?** in their parishes. The Grant is not as large as it was last year. Therefore there is a limited amount of money available to you. **Please**, if you have such a need, make your request known on your parish stationery. This Office will make every effort to meet your needs in some way. It is very important that we continue this form of Adult Education in our parishes.



## Year for Priests

People from across the Diocese are beginning to send their stories of their fond memories of the priests who have touched their lives. They are wonderful stories of friendship, presence, prayer and support. Please send your stories to me of your favorite memories of the priests who have impacted your life.

Priesthood Sunday is October 25. It is an opportunity to pray for our priests, in praising God for their courage and their generosity. How is your parish honoring your pastor on this special Sunday? Send him a card and thank him for his vocation. Offer to help him with a job or task around the parish. Invite him over to bless your house. Have him stay for dinner. Shake his hand after Mass and thank him for his vocation. It is important to reaffirm the importance of the priesthood of Jesus Christ and its central place in the life of our Church.

The October Vignettes for Year for Priests is already on the Pastoral Documentation as well as the Suggested Intercessions and Blessings for Priests.

Loyola Press website offers many activities and resources on the Year for Priests. Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs might find this website helpful in planning activities for your pastor in your parish [www.loyolapress.com/a-year-for-priests.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/a-year-for-priests.htm)

## *Tips for Evangelization*

**Reaching Out to Parishioners in Your Parish** One way of reaching out to your parishioners in your parish is through the telephone. I share with you a sample script of how you might use the telephone as a means of evangelization.

### **Phone Contact Program – Script**

“Good evening. I am (name of caller) of (name of parish). This telephone call is part of the Church’s effort to keep in regular contact with all the members of (name of parish).

(Name of pastor) has asked me to extend to you and your family his best wishes.

As you may already know, Father spends a considerable amount of time each day praying for the people of the parish. Some people ask him to pray for sick or deceased friends and relatives. Others ask him to pray for the safety of the armed services. Still others ask for prayers for success in employment or in school.

Father was wondering if you had anything you would like him to pray for at this time. If nothing comes to mind right now and you think of something later on just call (name of pastor) at (telephone number).

Thank you for your time and consideration. May God bless you and have a great day!”

### *How Do We Evangelize? It is through*

- **The Power of the Holy Spirit** makes evangelization happen. By the gift of our Baptism, we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to receive the Gospel of Jesus and to the power to proclaim it.
- **The Witness of Our Lives** shaped by Gospel values is lived in such a way that our Catholic faith is taken seriously. Those we work and live with experience the joy and enthusiasm of our Catholic faith. We celebrate our faith around the table of the Eucharist and we reach out to those in need.
- **Sharing Our Faith** with those who have no church community or who have been away from the Church. We share how God has been active in our lives and how He continues to strengthen our faith in our daily lives.

## **RESOURCES**

**Practical Evangelization Resources for Every Parish** [www.pncea.org/store](http://www.pncea.org/store)

**From Maintenance to Mission: New Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish** by Rev. Robert S. Rivers, CSP presents a compelling vision of Catholic evangelization based on the belief that evangelization holds the key to the future of the Church. He outlines some strategic thinking to help parishes implement the great vision to which we have been called. The book challenges the parish members to become Catholic evangelizers and proposes concrete ways to move from maintenance to mission-oriented parishes (\$22.95).

**Yes, I Can Believe: Discovering the Treasure of the Catholic Faith** by Rev. Frank DeSiano, CSP sets forth, in seven easy-to-read sections, a way to discover the treasure of the Catholic faith. This would be a good resource for RCIA inquirers and adults wanting to deepen their faith (Revised edition 2005-\$6.95).

**Invitation: The Search for God, Self and Church**, New Third Edition, by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem is perfect for RCIA and adult formation classes using question and answer format on the Catholic faith (\$13.95).

**Awakening Faith: Reconnecting with Your Catholic Faith** is a conversation-based, small-group process that helps inactive Catholics reconnect with the Church. It provides six basic topics and four supplemental (Optional) topics that the group explores through short, accessible essays and discussion questions (Parish Review Pack \$59.95)

**Handbook for Today’s Catholic** is created to help a person grow in an understanding of the Catholic faith, this book is divided into four sections:

- beliefs: doctrines, Church, sacraments, etc.
- practices: commandments and laws, confession, corporal and spiritual works of mercy, liturgical seasons, etc.
- prayers: creeds, traditional and scriptural prayers, etc.
- living the faith in the spirit of Vatican II: sacred scripture, call to ministry, liturgy and worship.

(\$3.95)