

# 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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## Year of St. Paul

The **Year of St. Paul** continues to be celebrated around the Diocese, Country and World with many of its topics about St. Paul, his life, journeys, letters, philosophy and theology. Pope Benedict XVI has been giving a series of catechesis on St. Paul. The Holy Father recently spoke on how St. Paul's missionary journeys continue to show the need for the Gospel to be proclaimed. He said that Paul "dedicated himself to the proclamation of the Gospel without sparing his energy, and facing a series of grave trials, of which he has left us an account in the Second Letter to the Corinthians." "We see a determination that is explained only by a soul truly fascinated by the light of the Gospel, enamored of Christ, a soul sustained by a profound conviction: That it is necessary to take the light of Christ to the world, to proclaim the Gospel to all," Benedict XVI continued, "This I think is what stays with us from this brief account of St. Paul's journeys: to see his passion for the Gospel, and thus intuit the grandeur, the beauty, and even more, the deep need that all of us have of the Gospel." Pope Benedict continued: "Let us pray so that the Lord, who made Paul see his light and hear his word, and who touched his heart profoundly, make us also see his light, so that our hearts will also be touched by his word and so that we too will be able to give today's world, which thirsts for it, the light of the Gospel and the truth of Christ."

May we take to heart the Bishop's Fund theme *From Generation to Generation...Continuing the Journey!* This **Year of St. Paul** is the wonderful opportunity to continue Adult Faith Formation using the Letters of St. Paul! Resources and Activities are listed on the website. I would direct you to search for Paul of Tarsus.url and you will find the Trinity College of Biblical Studies website for Paul of Tarsus with many links to the journeys of St. Paul and many other topics of interest.

## The St. Paul Event

It is with gratitude, we thank Bishop Robert Cunningham, Bishop Gerald Barbarito, the St. Paul Event Committee, all the priests, deacons, religious, and lay people of the North Country for their presence and participation in the **St. Paul Event**. The Event was a huge success. The Cathedral was filled with vibrant people from the North Country who were enthusiastic, swelling the walls with song, praise and prayer. We were reminded that St. Paul's passion to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be our passion and mission. May we continue to go forth to be missionaries of hope with the conviction that we, too, are ambassadors for Christ's sake so that all may share in the glory of God's kingdom.

## Why Catholic?

As the Coordinators of **Why Catholic?** begin to prepare for the Fall sessions to complete sessions 7-12 of *The Celebration of the Christian Mystery*, I was struck with Bishop Cunningham's emphasis in his Bishop's Fund talk that we are a sacramental Church. And so we are. More than ever, there needs to be a deeper understanding of the importance of each of the sacraments, how they are signs of grace, and how they affect the life of the Christian. The sacraments bear fruit in those who receive them with proper dispositions. The sacramental life of the

Church is so important that the focus of the Sunday Liturgy could be the particular sacrament being shared that week. The sacraments for sessions 7-12 are: Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. This suggestion is not only for parishes participating in **Why Catholic?** but for all the parishes. The homily is an opportune time to teach and preach about what Jesus did to feed, heal, forgive, lay hands, etc. and how the Church continues the same actions through the ministry of its priests.

The **Fall Schedule** is as follows:

- **Sign-Up and Prayer Commitment Sunday**
- **Sessions 7-12**
- **Advent Retreat**

**September 27-28, 2008**

**October 12—November 16, 2008**

**December 6-12, 2008**

Recently I saw a news release concerning RENEW International to be shared:

### **Renew programs flourish across U.S., overseas**

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Thirty years ago a Scripture-based renewal program took root in the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., and in that time it has spread throughout the United States and overseas. What was intended to be an archdiocesan program simply called Renew, and today called Renew International, has been used in the vast majority of U.S. dioceses. One might think that something now entering its fourth decade couldn't get away with calling itself Renew, but as Dominican Sister Terry Rickard, executive director, explained, "It's kind of like the church. The documents call for the ongoing renewal of the church. ... We're all renewing ourselves." And, like the leafy tree Renew uses for its logo, it has branched out into areas not considered when it was first started in 1978. Once "classic Renew" -- the original series -- had run its course, Renew officials in Newark set about to tie an updated version to preparations for the third millennium, which led to a Renew for the new century. Now Renew offers, among other programs, **Renew: Spiritual Renewal for the 21st Century**, **Campus Renew**, **Arise Together in Christ**, and **Renew Worldwide** for those living outside the United States.

## 2008 World Synod of Bishops

The Synod of Bishops will meet October 5-26 to reflect on the Word of God through Scripture. The topic of the XII **Ordinary General Assembly** of the Synod is **The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church**. The topic can be best understood in the Person of Jesus Christ, namely, *Jesus Christ in the Life and Mission of the Church*. With this approach, one is led to the discovery that revelation has a Trinitarian dimension. Looking at Scripture in this manner ensures the unity of revelation. "All the words and deeds, recorded in Sacred Scripture by the inspired authors and faithfully guarded in Tradition, come together in the Person of the Lord Jesus, the Word of God". The topics that will be discussed are:

### **Part I: The Mystery of God Who Speaks to Us**

#### **Chapter I**

1. God Who Speaks to Us, the Meaning of the Word of God
2. At the Center, the Mystery of Christ and the Church

#### **Chapter II**

1. The Bible as the Inspired Word of God and Its Truth
2. Interpreting the Bible According to the Faith of the Church

#### **Chapter III**

The Disposition Required to Hear the Word

St. Paul's lament was "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" (1Cor. 9:16). We have a shared responsibility to preach and to proclaim the Gospel to those who have never heard the Gospel, to those who have heard the Gospel but have forgotten the Word and to those who desire to deepen the Gospel in their lives.

### **Part II: The Word of God in the Life of the Church**

#### **Chapter IV: The Word of God Gives Life to the Church**

#### **Chapter V: The Word of God in the Many Services of the Church**

### **Part III: The Word of God in the Mission of the Church**

#### **Chapter VI: Towards a "Wide Access to Sacred Scripture"**

#### **Chapter VII: The Word of God in Serving and Forming the People of God**

#### **Chapter VIII: The Word of God and The Grace of Communion**

#### **Conclusion: The Word of God: Gift to the Church**

## Resources

**US Bishops Urge Prayer for Elections:** The U.S. bishops are inviting Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace ahead of the November elections. The prayer, titled Novena for Faithful Citizenship, is available on the Web site of the U.S. bishops' conference until the Nov. 4 elections. The Novena is part of "the bishops' campaign to help Catholics develop well-formed consciences for addressing political and social questions." It is the hope of the U.S. bishops that Catholics will enter into a prayerful reflection as they prepare to vote. The bishops offer several options for praying the Novena for Faithful Citizenship.

1. The first is to begin on Sept. 2 and pray for nine consecutive Tuesdays, up until the general election.
2. A second option is to begin the novena on any day of the week, whenever people gather, and pray on that day every week.
3. The novena can also be prayed on the nine consecutive days before the election, beginning Oct. 26, or on any nine consecutive days. The bishops add, "Create any combination that works for you and your community -- and feel free to pray the Novena more than once." **On the Net:** <http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org>