

HORIZON

'From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised' Psalm 113:3

Issue #18 July 2008

Diocese of Ogdensburg
www.dioogdensburg.org

Office of Evangelization
www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Director

Phone: 315-393-2920

Fax: 315-394-7401

E-mail: elyng@dioogdensburg.org

Year of St. Paul

St. Paul – Possessed by Christ Jesus

"I have been crucified with Christ, yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and has given up His life for me" (Galatians 2:20). Paul had come to know that Christ Jesus his Lord had called him by name, that Christ possessed him, and that God had freely bestowed righteousness upon him. Paul had come to know that God saved him. He spent the rest of his life responding to that grace willingly. The same can be said of us. As we journey through this Year of St. Paul, we can reflect on our call to evangelize the world by the way we live within our parish, family, workplace, and community.

- What changed Paul?
- What gift, grace, has been given to you that makes a difference in the life of the Church?
- In what ways can we as a parish community reach out to the inactive Catholics, young adults?
- How can we deepen our Catholic faith and identity so as to hand in it on to future generations?

I often wonder why so many of our Catholics are not practicing their faith when the Church has the fullness of the truth, the rich traditions, the sacraments, the organization, the promise of eternal life. These are challenging times and questions for our Catholic Church today. Like St. Paul, all of us have to reach out, to preach, to teach, and to witness the Catholic faith whether convenient or inconvenient, in or out of season. As St. Paul said: "How beautiful are the feet who bring the Good News!" "Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ" (Romans 10: 15, 17). Pope Benedict XVI stated in his recent Wednesday audience that we "have much to learn from St. Paul". "This is the objective of the Pauline Year," he said, "to learn the faith from him, to learn from him who Christ is, to learn, in the end, the path for an upright life."

The St. Paul Event

The plans continue to move forward for the St. Paul Event on Sunday, September 14. Posters for the parishes are either in your parish or soon will be mailed to you. There are a few left and if you wish to have more, please do not hesitate to let me know. The Diocesan family is looking forward in coming together to celebrate our Catholic faith in the spirit of St. Paul who untiringly proclaimed the Good News. Bishop Cunningham and Bishop Barbarito are eager to greet and to pray with the people of the North Country. Parishes are beginning to respond with their parish numbers. It is difficult at this time to predict how many will attend from your parish but an approximation is very helpful.

Why Catholic?

With the celebration of **The St. Paul Event**, I am hopeful that your Small Community groups will grow. As you set your calendars for the second phase of **Why Catholic?**, I would suggest that you do a **Sign-Up Sunday** for everyone even if they have attended the Lenten Session. This might encourage more to join a group. Some ways that you might invite others to come are:

- Bulletin announcement with specific invitation
- A member of the group invite one other to come to a session
- Put witness stories in the bulletin about the positive response of **Why Catholic?**
- Focus on a particular group in your parish
- Attached will be a booklet-**Home Visitation** that you might use to welcome Catholics back to the Church
- www.catholicscomehome.org is an excellent resource website

International Eucharistic Congress

Bishop Robert Cunningham, Father Douglas Lucia, Father Bryan Stitt and I experienced the joy of being a part of the Body of Christ at the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec. This was a great opportunity for the Church to promote its mission, based on love of God and one another radiating from the Eucharist. In Pope Benedict XVI's homily, he encouraged the study of the Vatican's Council text on the liturgy "**Sacrosanctum Concilium**" "so as to bear witness courageously to the mystery". He also expressed his desire that Christians would come to value Sunday more and more. "May all of you become ever more deeply aware of the importance of the Sunday Eucharist," he said, "because Sunday, the first day of the week, is the day when we honor Christ, the day when we receive the strength to live each day the gift of God," the Holy Father stated. Pope Benedict again encouraged the need to pray for vocations, especially to the priesthood so "that the People of God never lack ministers to give them the Body of Christ." So many parishes have the privilege of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for vocations, for the needs of their parishes, and for World Peace.



Resources

Greater Than You Think: A Theologian Answers the Atheists About God by Thomas D. Williams, LC, ThD, who teaches theology in Rome answers many questions concerning the recent runaway bestsellers *God Is Not Great* and *The God Delusion* have left Christians feeling defensive but not necessarily equipped to refute the accusations of nonbelievers. The bestsellers have also provoked those who are on the fence about whether God exists, and if so, whether He's good. In his trademark elegant prose, Father Williams provides accessible but intellectually rich answers for both groups. Questions include "Isn't religion just another name for superstition (or magic or myth)?" "If God is all-good and all-powerful, how can evil exist in the world?" and "Hasn't science disproved God's existence?" For believers and those searching for something to believe in, Father Williams offers an easy-to-use resource for building up one's own faith and igniting others' (\$13.99)

www.faithwords.com

More Activities for *The Year of St. Paul*:

Some activities from **To Teach** might be helpful for your Parents, Catholic School principals, teachers, Catechetical Leaders, and catechists for the Year of St. Paul:

- Create a timeline of the key events in St. Paul's life to display in your classroom (try this [website from the Vatican](#) as a source of information; also available [in Spanish](#)). Associate specific Scripture passages from the Book of [Acts](#) and the [Pauline letters](#) with the events on your timeline. Start each week in September by reading the passages on a regular basis throughout the year, inviting students to lead prayer using the Bible passage, or giving them a short quiz on their knowledge of St. Paul and Scripture.
- Include any of the following in your social studies, geography, or history lesson plans for the fall.
 - A map of St. Paul's [travels](#) that highlights the cities to which he sent letters
 - A chronology of [events in the life of St. Paul](#) and the early Church and events in world history in that region
 - Using the history of the development of the Basilica of [St. Paul Outside-the-Walls](#) near Rome, Italy, post pictures of and information on the changes in the Basilica with pictures and facts about what was happening in the world at those times.
- With your students, create a "top ten" list of "How St. Paul Would Tell Us to Act (or Behave)" based on what is in the [letters attributed to St. Paul](#) in the New Testament. Have them work on this in small groups, assigning one letter (or a part of a longer letter) to each group. Or start the entries for the top ten list, but do not complete them. Include the citation from the Bible at the end of the incomplete statement, and use this as a bible quiz to build up skills for looking up passages in the Bible.
- Write a brief note, highlighting your favorite Scripture passage, saying, or parable in the Bible, that you can copy (by hand or with a photocopier) onto special paper and give to each of your students in the fall. Explain why it is your favorite story. Ask them to think about their favorite story and come ready to share their answer with the other students.
- Practice the art of letter writing with your students throughout the coming year, using the [format of the letters in the New Testament](#) as a guide. The letters could be addressed to their parents, the pastor, a friend, a godparent, or even to themselves. For letters to the pastor, you, another teacher, or themselves, help deliver them to the appropriate person. The letters could be about:
 - What they learned in this chapter (or this week) in class and what they want to remember
 - One way that they are going to act differently because of what they learned
 - A word or phrase that they want to memorize because it is special or important to them
- If you will be working with children who are preparing for First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation, schedule the short quotes or reflections in [Essentials for Christian Living](#) as a part of the opening or closing prayer of your religion class. If you can, purchase copies for each of your students so that they can read the texts together.
- [Download \(or listen online to\)](#) an episode of [Personally Speaking with Msgr. Jim Lisante](#) as he invites well-known public figures like Angela Baraquio Grey, Miss America 2001, Tim Conway, or Newt Gingrich to share their faith story. Incorporate these audio clips from the [Catholic Communication Campaign](#) program [Personally Speaking with Msgr. Jim Lisante](#) into your lessons as you teach about evangelization and what [Catholic evangelization](#) means.

For Parents

- Ask your children to answer the question, "Who is [St. Paul](#) and why is he important to us as Catholics?" Encourage them to do research on the Internet, go to the Library, ask teachers and other adults at their school and parish, and read the [introduction to the Letters](#) in the [New American Bible](#). Share your responses during a Sunday meal or some other family dinner.
- Commit your family to a weekly rereading of the [second reading from that Sunday](#). (For information on the [Sunday readings](#), visit the [New American Bible](#) Web site or the [Secretariat for Divine Worship](#).) Include the Scripture passage as part of your prayer before a Sunday meal. As part of your family's reflection, identify an action that St. Paul tells us we should do (e.g., share what we have, treat each other kindly, give food to the poor.) Make it a goal for the coming week to put that action into practice with your family and friends and at home and school.
- Use the short reflections in [Essentials for Christian Living](#) as part of your daily or weekly dinner prayer. Invite one family member to read the prayer or quote, then briefly share your thoughts on why this prayer or quote is important in your life.
- Follow the model of Pope Benedict XVI as an evangelizer and preacher of the Word as you reflect on his words in [Spiritual Thoughts: In the First Year of His Papacy](#). The first in a series of pocket-sized reading and reflection books, Pope Benedict XVI brings us inside his spiritual life and introduces us to the man who is our Holy Father. The books on Mary, the saints, and St. Paul will be available throughout the last half of 2008.
- Introduce your children to Catholic [stewardship](#) as you prepare your donation for [Peter's Pence](#), the national collection that supports the Holy Father's work of building up the life and mission of the Church.