



DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2007

POPE BENEDICT XVI

MESSAGE FOR LENT 2007



“They shall look on Him whom they have pierced” (Jn 19:37). This is the biblical theme that this year guides our Lenten reflection. Lent is a favorable time to learn to stay with Mary and John, the beloved disciple, close to Him who on the Cross, consummated for all mankind the sacrifice of His life (cf. *Jn 19:25*). With a more fervent participation let us direct our gaze, therefore, in this time of penance and prayer, at Christ crucified who, dying on Calvary, revealed fully for us the love of God.

May Lent be for every Christian a renewed experience of God’s love given to us in Christ, a love that each day we, in turn, must “re-give” to our neighbor, especially to the one who suffers most and is in need. Only in this way will we be able to participate fully in the joy of Easter. May Mary, Mother of Beautiful Love, guide us in this Lenten journey, a journey of authentic conversion to the love of Christ. I wish you, dear brothers and sisters, a fruitful Lenten journey, imparting with affection to all of you, a special Apostolic Blessing.

For Pope Benedict’s entire Lenten Message, see:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/lent/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20061121_lent-2007_en.html

US BISHOPS’ COMMITTEE ON CATECHESIS

The Bishops Committee on Catechesis met last month in Washington at the USCCB. The agenda included the following items:

1. **National Doctrinal Curriculum Framework for High School:** The committee reviewed a new draft of the document, which it wishes to send to bishops and others for consultation this spring. The Committee will revisit the document at its June 16 meeting in Albuquerque prior to applying the finish touches and having it go for a vote at the November general meeting of the bishops.
2. **Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum and Publication Design:** The Committee reviewed a new draft of the document, which is intended for publishers, parents and pastors. If all goes well, the document will be put it on the same timeline as the High School Framework, namely, to the Administrative Board in March for approval to be voted on by the bishops in November 2007
3. **Catechetical Sunday Kit:** The Committee reviewed and approved the copy prepared by staff for the 2007 observance of Catechetical Sunday. It also chose, “The Word of God in Life and Mission of the Church as the theme for 2008. This is the same theme as will be

used for the World Synod of Bishops in Rome that same year.

4. **USCCB Restructuring.** The Committee and its consultants were briefed on the impending changes to the Committee on Catechesis in light of the bishops' decision in November to restructure the Conference. The USCCB reorganization will involve staff reduction and other consolidations. The Committee transition plan calls for the following timetable:

- In November 2007, a chair-elect for the new Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis will be selected by the body of bishops.
- In January 2008, The Committees on Evangelization and World Mission and the Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship go out of existence. The chair of the Committee on Catechesis is asked to appoint bishops from each of these committees to be part of the Committee on Catechesis until November 2008.
- In January 2008, the Ad Hoc committee to Oversee the use of the Catechism becomes the Permanent Subcommittee on the Use of the Catechism, retaining its current chair and members.
- In November 2008, the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis formally comes into existence.

NCCL 71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NCCL will host its 71st annual conference April 22-26, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. This year's conference brings together speakers to address the conference's theme of *Engaging this Catechetical Moment*. We live in especially challenging times, and they call for us to reexamine how we can best to teach the faith today. The Conference is designed to help catechetical leaders do precisely that.

Learning Sessions on hot topics, practically oriented Roundtable sessions, publisher showcases, and the Tech Learning Center will provide an array of learning opportunities for every catechetical leader. A special two-hour session with Dr. Thomas Groome of Boston University on "Hopes and Horizons for Catechesis" will bring the conference to a close.

For information about the conference or to register, go to www.nccl.org. Call Bridgette at 202-884-9753 if you have any questions.

MARCH REGIONAL MEETINGS

The dates and locations for March regional meetings for DRE's, CYM's and Pastoral Ministers are:

- March 8, 9:30 am, Lansing region, St Gerard, Lansing
- March 13, 9:30 am, Jackson region, St. Rita, Clarklake
- March 14, 9:30 am, Livingston / Washtenaw region, 9:30 A.M., St. Patrick, Brighton
- March 15, 9:00 am, Genesee / Owasso region, St. John, Davison

Schedule of the Day:

9:30 am – Introductions and Welcome

9:45 am – Prayer

9:55 am – ParishSoft Presentation

10:05 am – General Session: **Sister Rita Wenzlick, OP**

The Pastoral Planning Process: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going

10:45 am – Break

11:00 am – Harcourt Presentation

11:15 am – General Announcements

11:30 am – Breakout Discussions

12:00 pm – Lunch

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR PARISH OPENINGS

The Office of Catechesis runs a clearinghouse of information for parishes which have openings for the position of Director / Coordinator of Religious Education,. We share the information we receive from parishes with individuals who are looking for positions. We also share the information we receive from individuals with those parishes which are looking for applicants. If your parish, or you as an individual, are considering a change, our offices want to assist in any way that we can. Even though the Diocese does not hire parish ministers, it is expected to give assistance to this process and to review the background and experience of candidates before a DRE, CYM, or Adult Education position is offered.

You can request a copy of the *Diocesan Hiring Guidelines for Parish Catechetical Leaders* that contain leadership models, job descriptions and approaches to developing a job description, background and skills required for positions, interviewing techniques, and a checklist of duties for a search committee. Contact Michael Andrews at mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org with any questions.

Catechist Training Opportunities

REGISTRATION FORMS:

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/index.html

JACKSON REGION CATECHIST FORMATION

Saturday, February 17, 2007 JCMS, Jackson

8:00 Registration and Check-in

8:15 Morning Prayer

8:30 – 10:30

Topic # 5 – Managing Student Behavior

Topic # 6 – What Is Faith

Topic #21- Moral Development/Conscience Formation

10:45-12:45

Topic # 7 – The Mystery of the Triune God

Topic # 8 – Creation and Incarnation

Topic # 22-Catechesis and Social Justice

LANSING REGION CATECHIST FORMATION

#22: Catechesis and Social Justice

Wednesday, March 7th, 7-9pm

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Presenter: Sr. Mary Kastens, OP

Cost: \$7.50

Please pre-register by calling JoAnn Angers at 393-3033

HILLSDALE- LENEWEE REGION CATECHIST FORMATION

No report

WASHTENAW REGION CATECHIST FORMATION

No report

LIVINGSTON REGION

No report

GENESEE / OWOSSO REGION

No report

CATHOLIC STUDENT LEGISLATIVE DAY and ESSAY CONTEST

Catholic Student Legislative Day will be held on March 6, in Madonna Hall of the Diocesan Center. The Legislative Day is open to all high school students at the junior level and homeschoolers aged 16-18 years. The day will involve two speakers with much involvement in the political process, some activities relevant to political life, and a visit to the State Capitol. The day begins at 8:30 am and closes at 1:45 pm. The \$10 fee includes breakfast and a pizza lunch. To register for this event call (517) 342-2469 or email rhoipkemier@dioceseoflansing.org

FAITH MAGAZINE

FATHER CHARLES IRVIN SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

This year's question is:

Tell us a personal story illustrating how being a part of a parish community has impacted your own faith journey.

There will be one winning essay this year - no delineation among entries from schools or parishes. Entries should be approximately 1100 - 1200 words and MUST be submitted through a teacher, pastor, or DRE / CYM. The due date is April 20.

This year's award is a check for \$1,000. For detailed information, please contact Elizabeth Martin Solsburg, Editorial Director, FAITH Publishing Service, (517) 342-2594.

CHRISTOPHER WEST

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Many think they understand what the Church teaches about the body and the relationship between man and woman. However, the deeper reasons-the WHY of these teachings-are often not well understood. The human body is meant to be a sign of God's own life and love in the world. The Diocese of Gary proudly welcomes Christopher West as he presents an introduction to John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* for a *Created & Redeemed Seminar*, March 9 & 10, 2007, at Avalon Manor, 3550 E. US Hwy 30, Merrillville, Indiana. The seminar is open to anyone 16 or over, especially young adults, single or married, who wish to find out more about how the Church encourages healthy human sexuality! Join Christopher West for a thought provoking presentation that will enrich your understanding of human sexuality and the spiritual power it contains. Cost is \$35 Feb. 25 & after (student discount available). For more information, and to register, visit www.cwestinindiana.com or contact Rosanne at 219-696-1308. Perhaps groups from a particular parish or a cluster of parishes could car-pool to the event.

ETERNAL REST

Kindly remember in your prayers:

✠ **Paul D. Armstrong** (February 17), the son of Jack Armstrong, Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis, Christian Initiation, and Adult Formation at Saint Jude, DeWitt.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2007

1. Nancy Poff (Resurrection, Lansing)
2. Chouong Thanh Nguen (St Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing)
3. Julie Smith (St Casimir, Lansing)
4. Sharan Egan (St Gerard, Lansing)
5. Pete Fiero (St Gerard, Lansing)
6. Rt Rev Lawrence Gosselin (*St Joseph, Lansing*) – *Melkite Diocese of Newton*
7. Sister Mary Kastens, OP (St Mary Cathedral, Lansing)
8. Patricia Droste (St Therese, Lansing)
9. Denise Clark (Ss Cornelius and Cyprian, Leslie)
10. Patrice Sommers (St Mary, Manchester)
11. Linda Loveland (St Mary of the Lake, Manitou Beach)
12. Denise Sibrt (St Mary of the Lake, Manitou Beach)
13. Rose Robertson (St James, Mason)
14. Janice Penschoff (Our Lady of Fatima, Michigan Center)
15. Barbara Fike (Immaculate Conception, Milan)
16. Daneen DeHate (Good Shepherd, Montrose)
17. Darla Edington (St Mary, Morrice)
18. Shawn Slattery (St Mary, Mount Morris)
19. Pope Benedict XVI
20. Sister Patricia Newhouse (St Martha, Okemos)
21. Christine Korpela (St Martha, Okemos)
22. Grace Guzowski (St Francis Xavier, Otisville)
23. Michelle Bisson (Holy Family, Ovid)
24. Sharon Hardenbergh (St Joseph, Owosso)
25. Gina Moskal (St Paul, Owosso)
26. Bishop Carl F. Mengeling
27. Angela Garcia (St Mary, Pinckney)
28. Michelle Parker (St Joseph, St Johns)
29. Peggy Greca (St Andrew, Saline)
30. Carol Washbish (St Andrew, Saline)
31. Sister Jane Anthony, OP (St Mary, Queen of Angels, Swartz Creek)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE

One Sunday, a parishioner stood in church. "I have good news and bad news," announced the parishioner.

"The good news," the parishioner said, "is that we have enough money to pay for our new building. The bad news? It's still in your pockets."

* * *

I took my 6-year-old granddaughter Celeste to a restaurant. When the waitress asked what dressing I wanted on my salad, I said: "blue cheese."
The waitress then asked Celeste if she wanted the same.
"What other colors do you have?" asked Celeste.

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A closed mouth gathers no foot.

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DUE DATE

Submissions for the next e-Newsletter are due MARCH 12th.

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