



DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2007

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007!

The staff of the Diocesan Office of Catechesis wishes you every blessing in the New Year!

“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

DAY OF REFLECTION – FATHER KARL PUNG

The Department of Education and Catechesis offers you the opportunity to reflect on your spiritual life. We strongly encourage all those in parish leadership positions to participate – Principals, Directors of Religious Education, Coordinators of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Pastoral Ministers, Directors of Adult Education, Liturgy Directors, Pastoral Musicians, RCIA Directors, Family Life Directors, and others.

The Day of Reflection will be held on Thursday, February 22nd at Bethany House, DeWitt, with Father Karl Pung as retreat master. Cost: \$40 per participant, which includes morning refreshments and lunch. The day begins at 8 am with breakfast, 9 am Opening Prayer, and 3 pm adjournment. To register, contact Claudia Kaloz (517) 342-2482.

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 / Owassee region, St. John, Davison

IDEAS FOR LENT



With Lent soon approaching (Ash Wednesday is February 21), a number of catechetical leaders have asked about how to promote and encourage praying the Stations of the Cross.

One possibility is to assign each class to one of the stations and ask them to write their own prayer and then pray the stations as a group. There are very many age-appropriate meditations available to serve as a model.

With the youngest grades, having them learn a prayer that they can repeat (“We adore you, O Christ...etc.”) is an effective method. Ask them to look

at the stations and ask what's happening. Middle and high school students can help lead an assembly by passing the processional cross from one station to the next.

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

#8: Creation and Incarnation

Thursday, February 8th, 7-9pm

St. Gerard Church

Presenter: Sharan Egan

Cost: \$7.50

Please pre-register by calling Kathy Warriner at 321-4179

#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

The catechist formation planned for Saturday, February 3, has been **CANCELLED**.

WASHTENAW REGION CATECHIST FORMATION

"February Formation Day" will be held on Saturday, February 10 at St. John the Baptist in Ypsilanti. Catechist formation topics, RCIA topics, small group facilitation training, and Virtus session. Flyer is available:

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/washtenaw_county.pdf

LIVINGSTON REGION

No report.

GENESEE / OWOSSO REGION

Catechist Formation Classes will be held on Saturday, February 10 at Holy Family, 11824 South Saginaw, Grand Blanc. Flyer is available (Genesee / Owosso Region):

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

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

DIOCESAN LITURGY AND MUSIC CONFERENCE



The Diocesan Liturgy and Music Conference is scheduled for February 3, 2006 at St. Patrick Church in Brighton. The conference, "Ever Ancient, Ever New," will feature Father Lawrence Madden, SJ, Director of the Georgetown Center for Liturgy. In addition, there will be workshops for each of our liturgical ministries. Overall, we will aim to foster a respect for the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and their faithful witness to "to our unbroken tradition."

\$25 per person, \$20 per person/five or more from a parish. For more information call (517) 342-2480.

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

DIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE

The Department of Formation and the Office of Evangelization are co-sponsoring the two-day Diocesan Evangelization Conference: *From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish* on Thursday, February 15 (5:30-9:00 p.m.) and Friday, February 16 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) at Saint Mary, 10601 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Pinckney, MI

The speaker, Father Anthony F. Krisak, is a priest of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, ordained in 1975, serves as the Director of Training and Online Services for the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association in Washington, DC. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Counseling at Loyola College in Maryland. He has studied at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and at the Catholic University of America, where he received his doctorate in sacramental theology (S.T.D.). He has experience in pastoral, seminary, and educational settings, and has assisted at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg, MD, since 1989.

For registration questions, or for more information, contact Arlene Woelfel at (517) 342-2510 or email awoelfel@dioceseoflansing.org

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.

An essay contest for the same student population is also offered. First place is awarded \$150.00, second \$100.00, and third is \$50.00. The essays must be postmarked by February 14 and sent to the Office of Life Justice, 300 West Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48933. For essay specifications or 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.

BILL HUEBSCH

TALK AT ST MARY OF GOOD COUNSEL, ADRIAN

“Here Comes Everybody: The Theology, Nuts & Bolts of Whole Community Catechesis” with Bill Huebsch, sponsored by the Lenawee - Hillsdale Vicariate, will be held Thursday, February 1, 2007 at Weber Retreat and Conference Center, 9 am - 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. \$35.00 fee for event includes lunch. Make checks payable to St Mary of Good Counsel Church, 305 Division Street, Adrian, MI 49221.

In 2000, Bill Huebsch established the Whole Community Catechesis Project, aimed at helping parishes and dioceses around the world implement the *General Directory for Catechesis*.

DR SCOTT HAHN

TALK AT ST MARY, WESTPHALIA

Renowned author, lecturer, and theologian Dr. Scott Hahn has delivered numerous talks nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics related to Scripture and the Catholic church. These talks have been effective in helping thousands discover or re-embrace the Catholic Faith.

A former Presbyterian minister, Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he has taught since 1990, and is the founder and director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Dr. Hahn will be speaking at St Mary, Westphalia on Saturday, February 24, 2007. Log on to www.stmarychurch.net or call 989-587-4201 for pre-registration and details.

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 \$30 before Feb. 25, \$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.

SEVEN TIPS TO WORK - LIFE BALANCE

- Don't overbook: Assume that 50 percent of what you planned will actually get done, because things rarely go according to plan.
- Prioritize, prioritize, prioritize: Know what's important and what can wait.
- Learn how to say "No." Refusing to do things that aren't worth your time will open up the door

to doing something worthwhile.

- Organize: Set aside logical systems that others can use to find what they need when they need it.
- Use technology: E-mail, laptops, the right software, and cell phones – when used together – will put you on the same page with everyone else and will ensure that nothing is forgotten.
- ...But don't become overloaded with technology: You have to know when to turn off communications to get other work done.
- Don't obsess over every minute: Time management is never perfect. All you can do is try, and then learn from your mistakes.

ETERNAL REST

Kindly remember in your prayers:

✠ **Margaret (Sheehan) Hartig** (December 25), the mother of Christine Korpela, Religious Education Coordinator for Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grades 6-8 and Information Coordinator for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12, St Martha, Okemos.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2007

1. Lenn Stankiewicz (Mount Zion Pastoral Center, Flushing)
2. Linda Suersko (St Michael, Flushing) – Byzantine Eparchy of Parma
3. Andrew Halfmann (Most Holy Trinity, Fowler)
4. Marie Sheridan (St Agnes, Fowlerville)
5. Tina Smith (St Agnes, Fowlerville)
6. Audrey Burton (St Agnes, Fowlerville)
7. Sandy Corrion (St Joseph, Gaines)
8. Michael Andrews Diocesan Director of Catechesis
9. Carol Behm (St Mark the Evangelist, Goodrich)
10. Merry Oswill (St Michael, Grand Ledge)
11. Sean Lavell (Holy Spirit, Hamburg)
12. Jacalyn Lenhart (St Anthony of Padua, Hillsdale)
13. Donna Griffon (St Augustine, Deerfield Township)
14. Pope Benedict XVI
15. Anne Graham (St John the Baptist, Howell)
16. Deacon Frank Wines (St Joseph, Howell)
17. Angela Czeisperger (Sacred Heart, Hudson)
18. Tony Shaughnessy (Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson)
19. Darlene Peppers-Rodriguez (Sacred Heart Pastoral Center, Jackson)
20. Colleen McCormick-Snyder (St John the Evangelist, Jackson)
21. Bishop Carl F. Mengeling
22. Mark Smith (St Mary Star of the Sea, Jackson)
23. Father Jeffrey Robideau (St Joseph, Jackson)
24. Rev Canon Darius Wyszynski (St Stanislaus Kostka, Jackson)
25. Sue Warner (St Isidore, Laingsburg)
26. Sister Yolanda Figueroa, CFP (Cristo Rey, Lansing)
27. Ann Venno (Holy Cross, Lansing)
28. JoAnn Angers (Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE

When the manager noticed a ladder was stolen from a store, the manager said that further steps would be taken.

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Bulletin bloopers:

- Remember in prayer the many people who are sick of our congregation.
- If you enjoy sinning, the choir is the place for you.

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The difference between ordinary and extra-ordinary is often just simply that little word - extra. (Edward "Bear" Grylls)

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Marriage is a weaving together of families, of two souls with their individual fates and destinies, of time and eternity - everyday life married to the timeless mysteries of the soul. (Saint Thomas More)

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DUE DATE

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

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