

Archdiocese of Detroit

Department of Evangelization, Catechesis & Schools Newsletter



313.596.7306

February 9, 2011

faithformation@aod.org

Scheduling your priorities or prioritizing your schedule?

In Luke's Gospel, we are presented with the story of the centurion and his belief that Jesus could do great things. His belief and faith in Jesus does not go un-noticed. Luke tells us that, "Jesus showed amazement on hearing this, and turned to the crowd which was following Him to say, "I tell you, I have never found so much faith among the Israelites" (Lk 7:9).

Jesus praises the centurion, while simultaneously calling the "other" believers to task. Reflecting on this Gospel story, are we the centurion, the Israelites, or do we alternate between the two?

As Baptized Christians - as Baptized Catholic Christians - our faith and trust in Jesus should permeate our lives. It should be our way of life - a life of faith. A faith that seeks to grow in love of God and of our neighbor.

In Baptism, we are called to embrace this faith. As we grow physically and developmentally, we are also called to grow in our Faith knowledge and accept increasing levels of responsibility as sons and daughters of God. Every Sunday, we profess and re-affirm this faith. Every Easter, we renew our baptismal promises.

Still, we struggle to walk, to talk, to live by faith. As St. Paul says, "That good which I would do, I do not do..." (Rom. 7:19). The good news, however, is that we are not alone! Jesus has left us a Church - a Church made up of our brothers and sisters in Christ - and Christ Jesus Himself as our head. These brothers and sisters in Christ, through their various gifts and talents, can assist us in our faith journey. Sometimes we are assisted formally, via the Church's ministers and Sacramental life. Other times, we are assisted informally, via words of encouragement and prayers, or different forms of outreach and service.

There is something for everyone. We have the resources and means to be people of deep faith, daily growing in our relationship with Christ. Nevertheless, sometimes we also need assistance in developing a plan and prioritizing how and what our faith focus should be.

I would like to point to a few areas where prioritizing is taking place - just to make you aware of these opportunities that are available to offer "form": to your faith journey; opportunities to revitalize you on your faith journey; opportunities to reflect on your own faith priorities; and, opportunities for you to possibly stretch yourself and grow alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ.



The impetus for this comes from your requests to discuss various topics in our newsletter(s). This will be done, when possible, within the context of stated Archdiocesan, national, and universal Church priorities. The **Archdiocese has identified 7 major areas of focus or priorities**. The **USCCB also has 5 priorities**, and our **Holy Father gives us 2 monthly priorities in the form of prayer intentions**, in which he calls us to pray and focus, at least spiritually on **2 areas of concern** - a general intention and a mission focused intention. This information is listed on page 2. We will be presenting these areas to you, as well as the regular offerings of best practices, ministerial resources, and various happenings within the Archdiocese and the Church at large.

Let us pray for one another - especially when we are acting like the Israelites, but wanting to be like the centurion - so that our schedules and our priorities may be a reflection of our baptismal promises, as we together seek to Share Christ in and through the Church.

In Christ, *Dr. Margie Crooks*, Director
Department of Evangelization, Catechesis, & Schools

Archdiocese of Detroit
Together in Faith II - Priorities:

1. Youth & Young Adults,
2. Evangelization & Catechesis,
3. Christian Service Outreach,
4. Formation of Lay Leaders,
5. Parish Stewardship and Administration,
6. Catholic Schools,
7. City of Detroit.



<http://www.aodonline.org/AODOnline/Together+In+Faith+12019/Overview.htm>

USCCB
Priorities through 2011:

1. Strengthening marriage,
2. Faith formation focused on sacramental practice,
3. Recognition of cultural diversity with a special emphasis on Hispanic ministry in the spirit of Encuentro 2000
4. Life and dignity of the human person
5. Priestly and religious vocations

<http://www.usccb.org/priorities/goals.shtml>



Holy Father's February Prayer Intentions

His general intention is: "That all may respect the family and recognize it for its unmatched contribution to the advancement of society."

The Pontiff's apostolic intention for this month is: "That Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ in serving those who suffer from disease in those mission territories where the fight against disease is most urgent."

In conjunction with the Parish Planning of Together in Faith II, School Planning is also occurring.

A major area of focus has been to develop a strategic plan for Catholic Schools within the Archdiocese, in which the Catholic school community is seen as part of the larger ecclesial community, not just a separate entity providing a service to our children. In addition to being seen as part of the larger ecclesial community, our Catholic schools must be healthy – in body, mind, and spirit. As a result, within the Catholic school strategic plan, four major goals have come to the forefront:

1. Our Catholic schools are to have a strong Catholic identity which will imbue the whole of the Catholic school culture;
2. Our Catholic schools will be centers of academic excellence;
3. Our Catholic schools will strive to be accessible to any Catholic child within the Archdiocese of Detroit who wishes to receive a Catholic school education; and
4. Our Catholic schools must have a realistic and strategic financial plan which seeks to be free of debt and operating loss, while still providing a strong, faith-filled, affordable Catholic education.

Topics

Archdiocese of Detroit Articles	2
University of Notre Dame Flyer	3
Roman Missal (continued)	4
Frequently Asked Questions	4
Renewing the Vision	5
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training	5
Eucharist Parent Meetings	6
AOD Saturday Evangelization Sessions	7

Therefore, the whole of the Archdiocese shares in the work of re-founding Catholic schools so that our children are given a formational opportunity to know Christ, love Christ, and share Christ with others. Formation within Catholic Education includes drawing the family, the parish communities, and the educators deeper into the life of the Church, so that their encounter with Christ may be one of profound and lasting meaning that compels them to go out in service to others.

To share Christ in and through the Church.



University of Notre Dame Hesburgh Lecture Series Presents "Who Will Save Catholic Schools"



"Questions and problems continue to challenge us, and given the excellence of today's faculty, it is a true blessing to have them stimulate and provoke thoughtful dialogue in your communities."

-Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President Emeritus

Since 1986, the Hesburgh Lecture Series has brought a taste of Notre Dame's academic excellence to alumni and their local communities. The lectures, hosted by Notre Dame alumni clubs, have perpetuated the example of President Emeritus Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., as a lifelong learner.

Thursday, March 31, 2011
7:00 pm
Marian High School Auditorium

7225 Lahser Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

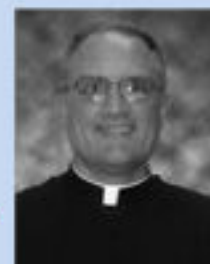
Free of charge - All are welcome! Sweets and refreshments will be available after the lecture.

RSVP to Paul Cusick at pjcusick@yahoo.com or 734-395-2079

Sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Detroit

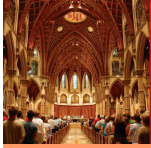
Who Will Save Catholic Schools?

Presented by Rev. Ronald J. Nuzzi,
Ph.D., Senior Director, ACE
Leadership Program



A nationwide effort is underway to help revitalize Catholic schools, led by Notre Dame's ACE programs. Catholic schools are successful in many academic areas, but struggle often with enrollment, finances, and broader community, parish, and civic support. The challenges facing Catholic education are many, but the plans for the next 10 years help address the pressing issues, with Notre Dame leading the way.

To share Christ in and through the Church.



Welcoming the **ROMAN MISSAL** THIRD EDITION *Deepen, Nurture, Celebrate*

As we prepare to receive the New Roman Missal it is important for all of us to engage in reflection and new learning about the meaning and purpose of the liturgy. **Bulletin inserts** are offered to parishes as a means to encourage learning and discussion on the various parts of the Mass. These and other resources for the New Roman Missal can be found at:

www.aodonline.org/romanmissal

The fourth of these is printed below:

Why will the new translation sound different?

The English translation of the Roman Missal that we have been using since 1973 has been less formal and more conversational in style. This style was very valuable in helping the people to hear and understand the prayers and to take their proper role in the celebration of the Eucharist, but some of the precision and nuance of the original Latin was lost.



The new translation will use a more formal language and be closer to the language, grammar, and syntax of the Latin *editio typica*. It is important to remember the liturgical principle that has been recognized since the 5th century, namely, that “the law of prayer is the law of belief.” The Church is always concerned that the words we use in our prayer accurately reflect what we really believe. The new translation will more accurately speak to what we believe as a Church.

Frequently Asked Questions about Catholic Marriage

The Church teaches that marriage is a sacrament?

The sacraments make Christ present in our midst. Like the other sacraments, marriage is not just for the good of individuals or the couple, but for the community as a whole. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament. The Old Testament prophets saw the marriage of a man and woman as a symbol of the covenant relationship between God and His people. The permanent and exclusive union between husband and wife mirrors the mutual commitment between God and his people. The Letter to the Ephesians says that this union is a symbol of the relationship between Christ and the Church.



Why does a Catholic wedding have to take place in a church?

For Catholics, marriage is not just a social or family event, but a church event. For this reason, the Church prefers that marriages between Catholics, or between Catholics and other Christians, be celebrated in the parish church of one of the spouses. Only the local bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place.

See other commonly asked questions about Catholic marriage at the USCCB Marriage and Family web site:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/laity/marriage/marriagefaqs.shtml>



To share Christ in and through the Church.

Renewing the Vision:

Framework for Comprehensive Youth Ministry

Excerpts taken from the USCCB website and the "Renewing the Vision" document.

Components of a Comprehensive Youth Ministry

Continued...

The Ministry of Catechesis:

- Integrates knowledge of the Catholic faith with the development of practical skills for living the Catholic faith in today's world while providing developmentally appropriate content geared towards young and older adolescents.
- Utilizes the life experience of adolescents, fostering a shared dialogue between the life of the adolescent and the wisdom of the Catholic faith.
- Engages adolescents in the learning process by incorporating a variety of learning methods and activities to learn important religious concepts of the Scriptures and Catholic faith, as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Involves group participation and provides for real-life application of learning in an environment that is characterized by warmth, trust, acceptance, and care, so that young people can hear and respond to God's call, inviting young people to explore the possibility of a call to ministry.
- Promotes family faith development through parish and school programs by providing parent education programs and resources, by incorporating a family perspective in catechetical programming, and by providing parent-adolescent and intergenerational catechetical programming;
- Recognizes and celebrates multicultural diversity from the rich heritage of various cultures.
- Incorporates a variety of programs (parish, school, small-group, home-based, activities, one-on-one, mentoring, and independent or self-directed programs or activities).

Please reference: www.usccb.org/laity/youth/renewingpart3catechesis.shtml, for further information on developing a catechetical curriculum for younger and older adolescents. (to be continued...)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training

Level Two (Ages 6-9)

Catechist Formation Course



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, "hands-on" environment for children called an *atrium*, in which both the children and the catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in the Scriptures and Liturgy.

There are three levels of training for those interested in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: **Level 1**-for children ages 3-6; **Level 2**-for ages 6-9 and **Level 3**-for ages 9-12. Each level involves approximately 100 hrs. of meditations, presentations, and album page assistance. It also includes some observation time in an atrium. At the end of this course, the participants will receive certification for **Level 2** from the **National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**.

www.cgsusa.org

Where: St. Mary Catholic Church

127 N. Monroe St.
Monroe, MI

Part I— July 7-15, 2011

(9:00am-4:00pm)

(Except for Sunday, July 10)

Cost: Tuition for the entire **Level II** course is **\$500, first payment \$200 due: July 7, 2011**
(Lunch and snacks will be provided.)

- **Part II will be offered June, 2012**

For more information please contact:

Sr. Nancy Ayotte, IHM
734.240.8234 or

navotte@ihmsisters.org

To share Christ in and through the Church.

Eucharist Parent Meetings

Parent meetings are great opportunities for evangelization. A good parent meeting can both inspire participants and engage them in the community. A bad parent meeting, however, can have the opposite effect. Many parishes at this time are meeting with parents in preparation for First Eucharist. This is a great opportunity to provide tools that will help parents and children grow to a mature understanding of the Eucharist. Here are some points to consider in preparing this gathering:

- Create a welcoming environment and offer hospitality, if the gathering space allows
- Allocate a significant amount of time for a deeper reflection on the Sacrament itself. Break open John 6 to see the Scriptural basis for our understanding of the Eucharist.
- Contrast this with what we don't believe (i.e., that the bread and wine are mere symbols of Christ's body and blood).
- Bring in a speaker who can *inspire a love of the Eucharist* and can *bear witness* to its transforming power.
- Provide additional reading sources for a more in-depth reflection on the Eucharist.
- Allow time for Q & A.
- Prepare handouts for all key dates and procedures to minimize the time allotted to the housekeeping portion of the meeting.
- Encourage parents to join a Bible study or a women's or men's fellowship group.
- Encourage the practice of Eucharistic adoration.
- Offer hospitality and create a welcoming environment.

"I am really shaken when I begin to realize that in the palm of my hand is the One True God who rules the world..." (Tadeusz Dajczer, *Mystery of Faith*). What a privilege it is to help the faithful come to a deeper appreciation of the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

Anita Houghton





Where the Rubber Meets the Road


Practical Strategies for Everyday Evangelization

Who: Anyone who loves Christ!
When: Saturdays , 10 AM - 12 PM
Where: Sacred Heart Major Seminary
2701 W. Chicago, Detroit, MI 48206

If you have found yourself saying,
“I already know why we should share our faith, but how do I?”,
then this is the series for you. These sessions will use talks, activities,
testimonies and real-life strategies to give you the tools you need to
Share Christ in and Through the Church.

- Feb. 19 *Salvation on the Clock:* Being a Witness at Work
- Mar. 19 *Getting Spiritual:* Spiritual Ministry and Evangelization
- Apr. 16 *Sweet Music:* The Power of Music and Conversion
- May 7 *Speak Their Language:* Reaching Out to Young People

For more information, call 313-237-5832



If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter emailed directly to you, please contact faithformation@aod.org to be added to our distribution list.

"The Church is missionary by nature and her principal task is evangelization, which aims to proclaim and to witness to Christ and to promote his Gospel of peace and love in every environment and culture."
Pope Benedict XVI

Ministries within the Department of Evangelization, Catechesis, & Schools:

- Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
- Ministerial Certification
- Marriage, Family Life, & Pro-Life
- Cultural Ministries (Black & Hispanic)
- Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministries
- Office of Catholic Schools
- Health, Athletics & Physical Safety
- Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)