



Leaven

The Newsletter of the
Religious Education Office



Refresh your soul. Ignite your spirit.

Pastor-Staff Leadership Day

Thursday, January 24, 2008
Hickory Ridge Marriott, Lisle

Mike Patin, Guest Presenter

Registration now open for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Stress, anxiety, and burnout are some of the most common issues that parish leaders often face in the Catholic Church today. As we are being asked to “do more with less,” some may be burning their candles on both ends.

On Thursday, January 24, 2008, the Diocese of Joliet wants to help rejuvenate the spirits of pastors and parish staffs with its annual Pastor-Staff Leadership Day.

This year, we are bringing in motivational speaker Mike Patin from Louisiana to refresh our souls. We are also taking this annual program off-site to the Hickory Ridge Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Lisle, to remove us for a short while from the hectic and bustling environment of a parish. In short, this year, it’s all about YOU.

The 2008 Leadership Day format was developed in response to evaluations from past workshops, leadership days, and guest speakers. While catechetical leaders and pastors appreciated the challenge and content of previous years, they were also craving a retreat-like experience where their own soul and spirit were tended to. Bishop J. Peter Sartain has repeatedly emphasized that the most critical gift a teacher or pastoral minister can give in passing on the faith is their own spirituality. And if we are not passionate, energized, and alive with the gospel, what good are we to those we minister? On the eve of the Lenten season, when many parish leaders are busy and overwhelmed by ministry experiences, there is no better time to refresh and re-charge our batteries, and to re-discover the Paschal Mystery within our own life and parish ministry.

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**NOV / DEC
2007**



A Time to Sow

Tom Quinlan, Director

Certainly you know how I'm always encouraging parish catechetical leaders to engage regularly in opportunities for personal and ministerial growth. Ever wonder if the staff of the Diocesan Religious Education Office (REO) practices what it preaches when it comes to ongoing adult faith formation and professional development?

The truth is that we in the REO do make a point of taking advantage of many formation opportunities throughout the year. I am a firm believer that doing so is essential to keeping us fresh, creative, and informed in our service to all of you.

Joyce Donahue, Paul Jarzembowski, Paul Mach, and I took a day in mid-October to do just this. We traveled to Mundelein Seminary for a gathering of lay ecclesial ministers to explore the implications and possibilities that flow from the relatively recent U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*.

It was a good opportunity to spend time with catechetical and pastoral leaders from all over Chicagoland reflecting on the tremendously affirming, and yet challenging, national statement on the nature of lay ecclesial ministry and its future in the Church. If you haven't read the document, I encourage you to find a copy that must be somewhere in your parish and settle in for a good read. After all, the document is about *you*.

A particular treat was hearing from Bishop Gerald Kicanas, who currently serves as the Bishop of Tucson and was instrumental in leading the process that produced *Co-Workers in the Vineyard*. He is a powerful advocate for lay ministry leadership in the country and always a very fine speaker. (Bishop Kicanas previously served in the Archdiocese of Chicago with distinction in many key roles.)

Let me share the four suggestions he offers to catechetical and pastoral leadership as we look to shape the future of the Church:

- Be outspoken in support of all the issues of life.
- Become more attentive to being collaborative in how we minister.
- Learn how to minister effectively and healthily in an often angry and divided Church.
- Rediscover our spiritual core.

Each of these points could be a focus for significant reflection and exploration.

Bishop Kicanas concluded his portion of the day by inviting us to see with the heart of Jesus. Of course, how challenging this can be, even for the best of us, when difficult people and situations keep coming at us!

Bishop Kicanas left us with the insight that the Scriptures call us to be *faithful and bold* in our leadership. If we are only faithful, the Church will come to be perceived as irrelevant. And if we are only bold, we will lose our direction. But if we are both faithful and bold, we will truly be ministering in the tradition of Jesus.

There was plenty going on to keep the staff of the REO at their desks that mid-October day. But we held fast to our commitment to spend the day allowing ourselves to be formed. In the end, we were glad we did.

Look for the next Issue of *Leaven*
Early January 2008

Sincerely,

Tom Quinlan

Working Together with Pastoral Councils

Diocesan Pastoral Council invites Religious Education Office to Fall Meeting and discusses Evangelization and Lifelong Faith Formation

Tom Quinlan

There are two key sources of leadership in parishes: the staff and the parish pastoral council and commission structure.

In a sense, they are the two legs on which a parish stands. As such, it is important that they be in coordinated relationship to one another.

I was delighted a couple months back when the chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (a body of representatives from pastoral council clusters throughout the diocese and other groups) invited the staff of our Religious Education Office (REO) to join the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) for their fall meeting. The DPC had identified evangelization and adult faith formation as a priority area to explore more deeply. So, on October 13, 2007, Joyce Donahue, Paul Jarzembowski, Paul Mach, and I presented the Church's vision for evangelization and lifelong faith formation, a vision that many of you are well familiar with.

Together with the members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, we considered the current culture in which we minister and how critical it is that the Church articulates our faith in

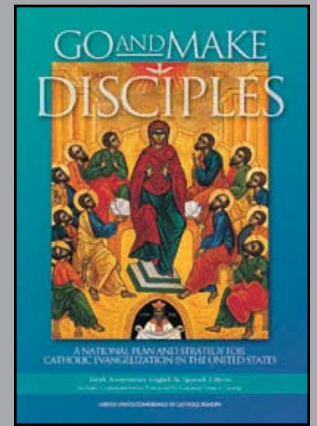
a way that is accessible to people today and shows the profound relevance of the Gospel for our time. We named some of the challenges, as well as the opportunities, present in Catholic ministry today. And we explored some avenues for strengthening the Church with the help of strong catechetical, pastoral and liturgical ministries in our parishes.

“Perhaps the most important encouragement I have is for catechetical leaders in our Diocese to find ways to dialogue with their parish pastoral council and its commissions.”

In the end I think we came to two overarching conclusions: First, that both the universal Church and the bishops of the U.S. have great wisdom in calling us to view all ministries in our parishes through the lens of evangelization. Second, that the conversation conducted that day was only to be the beginning of a long term and far-ranging consideration of how to strengthen Catholic faith in our Diocese with the help of evangelization and catechesis for all ages. I look forward to visiting pastoral council clusters to continue the conversation. And happily, the Diocesan Pastoral Council Assembly, which will occur in March 2008, will be focusing completely on evangelization.

In an effort to help deepen the DPC's understanding of the vision of lifelong faith formation, the Religious Education Office staff produced a summary packet that contains key quotes from Church documents, some practical suggestions for strengthening formation ministry at all age levels, and a listing of beneficial resources. This packet was emailed out to parish catechetical leaders recently. It is also available online at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/resourcepacket.asp. I invite you to read through it and retain it for ongoing reference.

Perhaps the most important encouragement I have is for catechetical leaders in our Diocese to find ways to dialogue with their parish pastoral council and its commissions. Staffs and pastoral councils should be working together to envision a preferred future for each parish. Consider how you, too, can help to foster that kind of healthy staff/council dynamic in your parish. With those two “legs” in sync with one another, the Church will really be able to go somewhere special!



“Certainly, our families, parishes, associations, schools, hospitals, charitable works, and institutions give a powerful witness to the faith. But do they share it? Does their living faith lead to the conversion of minds and hearts to Jesus Christ? Does the fire of the Holy Spirit blaze in them?”

pg. 37 - *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1992, rev. 2002

Want to know more about Mike Patin?



Then log onto his website for a preview of what's coming our way next January.

www.mikepatin.com

Mike has podcasts of past presentations, as well as his tour schedule and his own blog entries.

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There are two options for experiencing the 2008 Pastor-Staff Leadership Day:

Stay the night (Jan. 23 to 24). We have booked rooms at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Hotel at a reduced rate, so you can spend Wednesday night (Jan. 23) away from the parish and begin the next day refreshed and renewed (plus you won't have to sit in traffic the morning of the event).

Come for the day (Jan. 24). Participants can also register for the Leadership Day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program officially begins at 9:30 a.m., but for early risers, we will have exhibitors and breakfast available for the first hour and a half.

The registration form for either option is inserted into this issue of Leaven.

Since no single parish staff member is truly immune from stress, fatigue, and burnout, we are opening this day to all pastoral staff from the parish. We encourage parishes to bring their pastor, associates, pastoral care ministers, catechetical leaders, youth ministry leaders, music and liturgy coordinators, service and justice leaders, business managers, and secretarial staffs, among others. The Diocese encourages parishes to register together for this one-of-a-kind experience.

This is one day you won't want to miss this year. No matter what ministry you lead, this day is just for you.

Meet the 2008 Leadership Day Presenter

A Preview of Mike Patin by Paul Mach

There are some people that you meet that just stand out from that first meeting. Mike Patin is one of those types of people.

I met Mike for the first time in January of 1998, almost ten years ago now. I have come to know Mike in many different facets. He has been the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He takes pride in being a "Cajun." He has a great love for sports and among his favorite teams are the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team, the Chicago Cubs, and the New Orleans Saints.

He is a fine husband, and a loving father to his daughter. He has suffered like others who had to live through Hurricane Katrina. He loves to coach basketball. He survived a heart attack at a young age. He really cares about people. Mike Patin is truly a "man of God."

Whether on stage presenting to thousands of people or in a simple one-on-one conversation, Mike is always the same person. He will energize you, while making you laugh, and at the same time, challenge you to grow as a person without you even realizing it. I have heard it stated that "He is like a Catholic Jeff Foxworthy." In other words: Mike Patin is humorous while getting across a message that is sound in Catholic teaching.

Mike Patin will be great for all of us this coming January as he speaks to us at our 2008 Diocesan Pastor-Staff Leadership Day at the Hickory Ridge Marriott in Lisle. Trust me... you don't want to miss this!



Pastor-Staff Leadership Day 2008

Taking Time to Renew, Inspire, and Prepare

A Preview of the Day by Tom Quinlan

I can't wait for January 24, 2008.

No, not because it's my birthday... though it's close. No, not because I just love the coldest part of winter...though I sort of do.

I can't wait for January 24 because it's a day when I'm going to laugh a lot...and be affirmed...and inspired. And I hope it's a day we'll all be able to share together.

On January 24, 2008, the Diocesan Religious Education Office will be hosting its annual Pastor-Staff Leadership Day in Lisle.

And you are invited!

Actually, I'm hoping you will be able to make it along with many members of your parish staff.

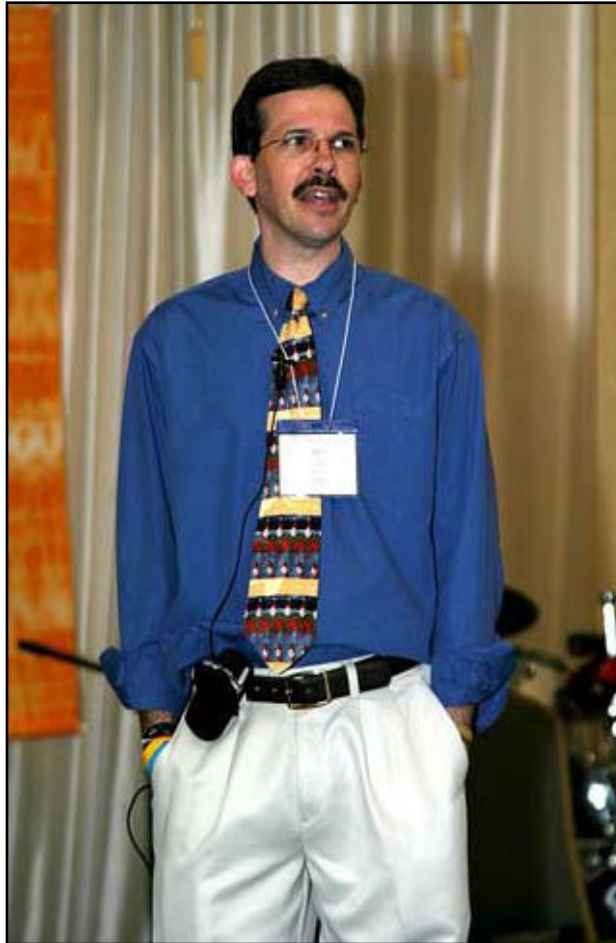
You are going to love the setting at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Lisle. The food will be wonderful. You'll get to see your friends from across the Diocese of Joliet. Our own Bishop J. Peter Sartain will be joining us. There will also be some great exhibit tables showing off the latest wares and resources - just for you.

Of foremost importance, we're bringing in **Mike Patin**, one of the most entertaining and genuine presenters I've heard in Catholic circles in a long time. He came to the Diocese for a recent Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) and was just fantastic. And a year ago, he addressed a national gathering of youth ministry leadership and held us all in the palm of his hand. He brings together a profound perspective on Catholic faith and his unique brand of humor to create a joyful and inspirational message.

I'm truly delighted that we are able to bring Mike into the Diocese once again, so that all of you can experience him for yourself. We all need a day to laugh, to have fun together, and to be renewed.

The staff of the Religious Education Office hopes that you can join us for just such a day. What better time than in the heart of winter, just before our Lenten journey begins (Ash Wednesday is less than two weeks after this event). So sign yourself and all your colleagues up now (the registration form has even been enclosed in **Leaven** this month for your convenience).

So take Thursday, January 24, 2008, as a "time out." You so richly deserve it. And by then, you'll probably need it!



Hickory Ridge Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Lisle

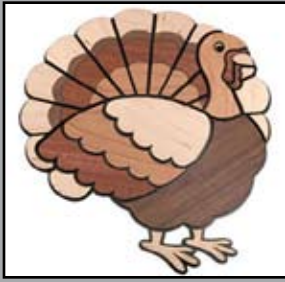
The conference hotel is located at **1195 Summerhill Dr. in Lisle, Illinois.** (just off Rt. 53 in Lisle between Maple and Hobson Roads)

On-site features include a restaurant and bar, fitness center, pool, and sauna. The guest rooms include coffee in room, business center, laundry opportunities, and wireless capabilities, plus the morning newspaper.

Want to avoid the morning commute that day, too?

Consider staying overnight at the Marriott for the Leadership Day. Special rates are available for any Leadership Day participants.

Check out the enclosed registration form for details on how to get these special hotel rates.



November DRE Cluster Meetings

Please attend local cluster meetings for assistance, support, and information. For more on DRE clusters, call Joyce Donahue at (815) 727-6411, x258.

Kankakee-Grundy

November 8, 2007
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Maternity Blessed Virgin
Mary, Bourbonnais

West DuPage

November 8, 2007
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. Raphael Parish
Naperville

Ford-Iroquois

November 8, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
St. Edmund Parish
Watseka

Northeast DuPage

November 15, 2007
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. Philip Parish
Addison

Let's Journey *Into the Fields!* An In-Depth Catechist Formation Program Pilots in the Diocese of Joliet

Tom Quinlan

Nearly two years ago, Bill Huebsch came to the Diocese of Joliet to help roll out *Into the Fields*, an exciting new catechist formation program that he designed. As with anything Bill produces, this formation program is outstanding! It attends holistically to the faith development of catechist, as an adult and as a minister. *Into the Fields* delves deeply into the tradition of our Catholic faith, exploring theology and spirituality within a prayerful small-community dynamic that is led by a facilitator.

The Diocesan Religious Education Office (REO) is pleased to offer a regional pilot of *Into the Fields* starting in January. It is appropriate for catechists serving in all forms of catechetical ministry, from child and youth catechesis to adult formation, RCIA, and evangelization. *Into the Fields* would also be an ideal program for catechetical leaders seeking further systematic theological formation to assist them in their ministry as a coordinator of religious education, youth ministry, adult faith formation, or other.

I encourage you to learn more about this exciting pilot opportunity by looking at the insert information/registration flyer in this issue of *Leaven*. You can also check out *Into the Fields* by going to www.intothefields.org. The site has great information to explore. What makes this particular piloting of *Into the Fields* special is that all you or your catechist pays for are materials. We are covering the cost of the facilitator (Rosie Owens, whom many of you will remember from her time on the REO staff, will be facilitating).

So, if you have a person you are looking to form into a greater ministry leadership position in your parish...or if you have a catechist or two that are hungry for intensive faith formation...or if you are looking to gain greater grasp and integration of Catholic faith...then don't wait. Use the flyer insert today to learn more and to sign up for *Into the Fields*. Space is very limited. If you have any questions, contact me at tquinlan@dioceseofjoliet.org or call me at (815) 727-6411. I would be happy to assist you. Again, this is a tremendous opportunity at a bargain price, so be sure to take advantage!

Into the Fields Pilot Program

Sponsored by the Diocese of Joliet

January - 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2008

February - 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 2008

March - 3/6, 3/27 2008

April - 4/3, 4/17 2008

Each session runs from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

St. Raphael Catholic Parish

1215 Modaff Road, Naperville, Illinois

To register, please complete the registration form (enclosed in this issue of "Leaven" and also available online at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/) and send with payment (\$50 per person) to the Diocese of Joliet Religious Education Office.

A CRITICAL QUESTION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY & ADULT FORMATION

How are your ministry leaders and volunteers being formed in their Catholic faith?

Joyce Donahue

Sadly, many of our parishes' ministry leaders and volunteers in Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Adult Faith Formation are not getting the formation they need. **The Diocese of Joliet can help** by offering many opportunities for catechist formation.

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“Catechist formation...?” Isn’t that phrase just for people who teach religion to children as school teachers and religious education catechists?

While a good number of these parish leaders do participate in formation programs, the potential pool of persons who should be actively engaging in continuing “catechist formation” in most parishes is much greater than those actually participating. Catechesis is defined as “echoing the faith” – and more people do it than just those who “teach” children.

Who in your parish shares faith, leads, or facilitates faith sharing for people of all ages? What about volunteer “group leaders” or facilitators for youth, young adults, and adults? What about RCIA team leaders and members? Scripture study leaders? What about lay persons who work on baptism or marriage preparation teams? Parents who are home schooling their children? How about motivated parents who take an active and informed role in sharing faith with their children – as their children’s primary catechists?

Any and all of these people can benefit from ongoing formation. Our diocesan certification program is a way to let us help guide that formation. “Catechist certification” should not be seen as an end in itself, but a way to guide catechists, ministry leaders, volunteers, and teams to engage in balanced formation.

For more information on catechist or ministry leader formation, please see our diocesan program, *In Service to the Master*. This has been recently updated to be even more user-friendly. You can get a copy of the revised edition at your local cluster meeting or by calling the Diocesan Religious Education Office to ask for it to be sent to you. You can also learn more at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/catechistcertandform.asp> or by contacting Joyce Donahue jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org 815-727-6411, ext. 258.



December DRE Cluster Meetings

Please attend local cluster meetings for assistance, support, and information. For more on DRE clusters, call Joyce Donahue at (815) 727-6411, x258.

West DuPage

December 6, 2007
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. John the Baptist
Parish, Winfield

Joliet-Will

December 13, 2007
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Location TBA

Northeast DuPage

December 13, 2007
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. Petronille Parish
Glen Ellyn

Directors of Adult Faith Formation

January 10, 2008
Time & Location TBA



*“Catholic identity” expert Dr. Thomas Groome shares his enthusiasm for the Catholic Faith with approximately a thousand principals, teachers, and other catechetical leaders at the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Catechetical Day on Friday, October 5, 2007, at Lewis University in Romeoville. Groome, author of *What Makes Us Catholic*, spoke on essential attitudes and outlooks that are identifiably Catholic, frequently relating anecdotes about his own life experience. Groome also spoke to about three hundred catechetical leaders from the Joliet Diocese and the Chicago Archdiocese on Thursday, October 4, 2007, at Ascension Parish in Oakbrook Terrace. His appearance at both events was sponsored by RCL/Benziger.*

Upcoming Youth Ministry Clusters

For the up-to-date schedule of clusters, log onto: www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/ymClusters.asp

Naperville Jr. High YM Cluster

November 15, 2007
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Pastoral Center,
Romeoville

Naperville Sr. High YM Cluster

November 15, 2007
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Pastoral Center,
Romeoville

South of the Border (SOB)

December 5, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Immaculate Conception
Parish, Elmhurst

Joliet Cluster

December 3, 2007
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
St. Paul Parish, Joliet

Southeast DuPage (CWNN)

December 6, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Holy Trinity Parish
Westmont

Diocesan Youth Ministry Gatherings

Open to all Directors of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Joliet

November Meeting

November 15, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Special Guest: Dr. Bob McCarty
Pastoral Center, Romeoville

December Meeting

December 13, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Special Topic: Youth Retreats
Pastoral Center, Romeoville

November's featured speaker for our monthly Diocesan Youth Ministry Gathering will be Dr. Bob McCarty, Executive Director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). Dr. McCarty has his B.S. in sociology and theology from St. Joseph's University and his M.A. in religious education from LaSalle University. He received his doctorate of ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana in May 1998.

Bob has been in professional youth ministry since 1973, serving in parish, diocesan, and community programs. Prior to coming to the NFCYM, Bob ministered in the Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He continues to author resources for Catholic youth ministry and to provide training programs and presentations on ministry issues internationally. Bob and his wife Maggie also do volunteer youth ministry at their parish, St. Francis of Assisi in Fulton, Maryland.

Take advantage to visit with someone like Bob, who is on the cutting edge of Catholic Youth Ministry today.

For more about this or other gatherings, please call Paul Mach at (815) 727-6411, x261, or email pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org.



Update on 2008 Youth Leadership Conference (YLC)

"WE ARE THE CHURCH" is the theme for the next Diocese of Joliet Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), which will take place at Lewis University in Romeoville, from Friday, June 27, to Sunday, June 29, 2008.

Some new things for next year's event are that financial aid will be available (a form will be up on the youth ministry website soon). In addition, all participating parishes will be making their own banners (instructions for the banners will also be up on the website). Finally, with the cooperation of the Diocesan Young Adult and Campus Ministry offices, there will be a new "College YLC Experience" that will run concurrently with the regular high school program, open to any college students age 18 to 23. .

Priests are needed for individual confessions as part of our YLC reconciliation service on Friday night, June 27, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. Please contact Paul Mach at (815) 727-6411, ext. 281, or pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org if any priests are available to help.

Check out the YLC website for the latest news: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/ylc.asp>

Changes in Faith Formation Textbook Publishing

Joyce Donahue

As you may have recently heard or read, RCL (*Faith First*), Silver Burdett Ginn Religion (*Blest Are We*) and Benziger (*Christ Jesus the Way*) have been acquired by the parent company of CFM Religion Publishing Group based in Cincinnati, OH. The new company name is RCL/Benziger. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about this:

Who do I contact for resources for my textbook series?

Until January 1, 2008, for any of these three text series or related products, contact:

- * Ray Marchi: rmarchi@rclbenziger.com or 708-287-6600
- * Peter Caragiulo: pcaragiulo@rclbenziger.com or 773-615-7850
- * RCL/Benziger Main Office: 877-275-4725

After January 1, 2008, there may be more specific territory adjustments between the two of them. The local representatives for Benziger have been terminated.

Will my textbooks continue to be available?

Yes (for the immediate future). All three series will continue to be published until the parent company determines market viability of each. Since *Pearson Education* continues to publish school texts under the *Silver Burdett Ginn* imprint, the name of *Silver Burdett Ginn Religion* will be discontinued in the next year.

I heard that CFM is a non-Catholic company. Will that affect texts?

No matter what decisions regarding product lines CFM makes in the future, all faith formation text series for children and youth must continue to pass the protocol review of the USCCB Committee for the Catechism. Also, because one member of CFM management is a former employee of Harcourt Religion, there is indeed a Catholic connection.

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events

Mark your calendars now!

More details about the following Youth Ministry events will be featured in the January 2008 edition of *Leaven*

Cathedral Days

Thurs., February 28 and Sat. March 1, 2008
St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet

This is a diocesan experience for fifth graders

Diocesan Senior High Youth Day

Sat., March 15, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location for this event to be announced

Junior High X-treme JAM

Sun., March 16, 2008
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Location for this event to be announced

For more details on Youth Ministry events, contact Paul Mach in the Youth Ministry Office at (815) 721-6411, x281, or email pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Chicago Catechetical Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17, 2007

Encountering the Living Christ/Encontrando al Cristo Vivo

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Illinois
www.catechesis-chicago.org/CCC/CCC.htm

- Offerings for elementary, youth, and adult levels of ministry
- Workshops and sessions in English, Spanish, and Polish
- Prayer and liturgy (including Taize prayer Friday afternoon and closing Mass Saturday afternoon, both with Francis Cardinal George)
- Eucharistic chapel and labyrinth walking meditation
- Catechist certification classes in four curriculum areas
- Friday Keynote: recording artist Vallimar Jansen
- Saturday Keynote (English): Fr. Richard Fragomeni
- Saturday Keynote (Spanish): Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller

The Chicago Catechetical Conference is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry (OFCYM), and supported by the Diocese of Joliet Religious Education Office (REO). For more information or to register, please visit the website above, or call the Chicago OFCYM at (312) 243-3700.



**Naperville
Parish Sponsors
Conference on
Disabilities**

**Congregational
Inclusion**

*From the Liturgical
Table to the Church
Picnic Table*

January 12, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Holy Spirit Catholic
Community**

Naperville, Illinois

Persons with special needs are deeply a part of our faith communities. They are our family members, and fellow members of the Body of Christ. As such, they should be welcome in all aspects of parish life. Now there is an event to inspire and educate the local church on how to meet the challenge to make this a reality.

Leaders and ministers from all denominations are welcome to attend.

See the enclosed flyer for more details, or contact Cindi Swanson at 630-922-0081, ext. 27, or email her at inclusion@holyspiritnaperville.org



Catholic Life in Gilman, Illinois

Log onto www.ournewchurch.com and click on the "photos" link on the top bar to see photos featuring the multi-cultural faith community of Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilman and the process of building their new church. The building accommodates both Immaculate Conception community and the former mission community of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Onarga. For those who have not visited the southern counties of the Joliet Diocese, this is a great window into parish life in our rural areas. This is also a great way to use technology to share parish experiences from one end of our diocese to the other.

Photo above taken from www.ournewchurch.com.

Whole Parish Faith Formation Updates

For more information, contact Tom Quinlan at (815) 727-6411.

Generations of Faith Consultations Available

The Center for Ministry Development (CMD), which provided Generations of Faith trainings in our diocese, is offering the opportunity to participate in monthly conference calls with staff of CMD and parish leaders involved with intergenerational ministry from across the nation. Some calls are for those who have been doing whole parish faith formation for a while. Some calls are for those looking to begin such ministry in their parish. Go to www.generationsoffaith.org for more information on how to participate in future consultation conference calls. Except for any long distance charge that might be incurred, participation is free. If your parish is doing whole parish formation or considering it, try taking advantage of this excellent opportunity!

Do You Have Any Changes or New People?

We are trying to keep the Diocesan "Whole Parish Faith Formation" database updated and accurate. If your parish has any changes or new people working on this ministry this year, please email Mary Maloney (mmaloney@dioceseofjoliet.org) of any of those changes; this way, we can check who should be on the list to receive emails that relate to intergenerational ministry. Parishes may have multiple people on this list if they wish.



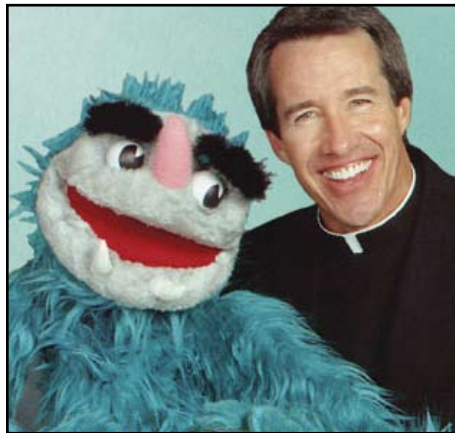
Big AI Live: Gospel Values for Children

A Review by Jeanne Pirc

Harcourt has a big hit with *Big AI Live: Gospel Values for Children* starring Fr. Joseph Kemp ("Fr. Joe"), whose gentle and direct presentation to young children brings God's message alive.

Have you got four to seven minutes to get an important point across to young children? If so, then *Big AI Live* is an excellent resource for school classrooms, religious education sessions, inter-generational programs, or even the RCIA.

One of Fr. Joe's unique gifts is reinforcing the value of children, the special attention to their daily concerns, and the importance of their opinion, which all-in-all, is the beginning of their own spiritual journey. The character "Big AI" is Fr. Joe's puppet, and their unique relationship allows children to feel more comfortable talking about these issues, not to mention the fact that the friendly "Big AI" always offers up the prayer experience in their videos.



Three DVD's, with ten segments each, starts with a Gospel message, followed by a question that kids can easily relate to. Fr. Joe talks to the kids about the issue, asks his big blue puppet friend "AI" how it makes him feel, and a prayer is offered at the close of each episode. You can find the 30 total segments in more detail online at: www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/mediacenter.asp.

(Big AI Live is available in the Media Center in three volumes: CVCX0538 Vol.1; CVCX0539 Vol. 2, and CVCX0540 Vol. 3. A study guide is included with the DVDs)

Two New Media Center Sections Added

We have re-organized the large "Feature Film" section of the Diocesan Catechetical Media Center. We have two new categories that we hope will help you: "Biblical Themes" and "Religious Figures." General movies will still be available in the "Feature Film" category.

The "Biblical Themes" section will include Hollywood movies about events from the Scriptures (i.e., *The Ten Commandments*, *The Passion of the Christ*, etc.). The "Religious Figures" section includes secular films about church leaders, church history, or other religious characters (i.e. *The Agony and The Ecstasy*, *Gandhi*, *Joshua*, etc.).

Final Exam College Care Packages

Evangelization to College Students



If you want to connect with college-age young adults away on campus, consider organizing Final Exam Care Packages at your parish this month, to be sent out in early December (or try again in April 2008 for spring exams).

It's simple. It's easy. It's effective evangelization.

For more ideas or for resources, care package suggestions, or for details about connecting with collegiate young adults, contact Paul Jarzembowski at (815) 727-6411, x261, or email pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org today.

Seven Different Types of Young Adult Catholics

(as described in Mike Hayes' *Googling God*)

1. Eclipsed

Secular; inactive with church except holidays, weddings, or funerals

2. Private

Don't like to talk much about their faith life; also commonly known as 'spiritual, not religious.'

3. Ecumenical

Open to a variety of spiritual traditions; common among couples in inter-faith marriages.

4. Evangelical

Apologetic, orthodox, or traditional Catholics; very open about their faith; many also enjoy praise and worship experiences.

5. Sacramental

Devotional; participate regularly in prayer, liturgy, or Eucharistic adoration.

6. Prophetic

Engaged in social action, justice, missions, charity, or marches/campaigns.

7. Communal

Hungry for peer groups, community, and experiences where they can meet others who share their Catholic faith.

* **special note:** young adults often belong to more than one category.

A High Speed Connection to God

New resource explains ways to understand and minister to the next generation of Catholics

Paul Jarzembowski

In today's world, people need things fast... "google fast."

When we want to find out something right away, we usually get on our computers and open up 'google.com' and search for it. Some people call it 'instant gratification,' but whatever it's called, this is how many people, especially young adults, get their answers.

In the new book *Googling God: The Religious Landscape of People in their 20s and 30s*, author Mike Hayes gives us some great advice on how dioceses, parishes, and clusters can evangelize and outreach to the younger generations of this new 'google world.'

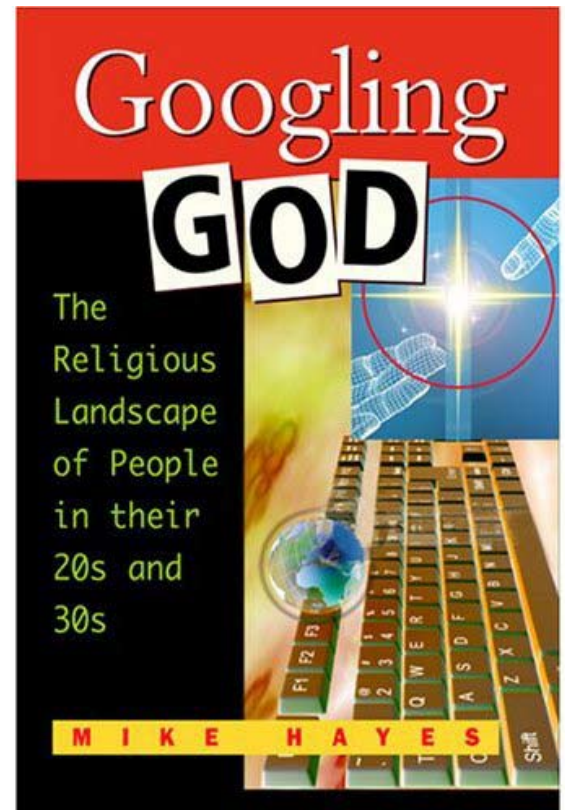
The first step, according to Hayes, is to understand that not all 'young adults' look alike. Instead of lumping 'young adults' into one category, he encourages us to break them down between at least two generations: "Generation X" (those born from 1964

to 1979, many of whom are now in their thirties and early forties) and the "Millennial Generation" (those born after 1980, many of whom are now in their late teens and twenties). He then breaks down the young adult Catholics of both these generations even further: Using research done by other colleagues, he lays out at least seven different types of spiritualities of young adult Catholics (see sidebar).

The next step is to talk with young adults directly. In the book, Hayes interviews twelve men and women age 22 to 39 (six in each of the two generations) and shares his conversations with us, to give us a glimpse of their spiritual needs and perspectives. What this reminds us all is that, in order to effectively minister and outreach to young adults, we need to engage them, allowing them to speak and share their stories.

The final step is to look at some great tools and resources, to see what's working elsewhere and to creatively work together (ideally, amongst a cluster of parishes) to evangelize and connect with all young adults, not just those sitting in the pews. In addition, using technology and media is invaluable in this 'google world' we now live in. This is the language that young adults speak, and *Googling God* reminds us that, in order to be relevant to the lives of Generation X and the Millennials, parishes and dioceses must be willing to adapt in this new century.

Googling God is a book that should be in the shelves of anyone who wants to better connect with young adults, whether they be college students, singles, engaged or married couples, or new parents, with all types of spiritualities and life experiences.



Honk If You Love Jesus

Judy Glander, Special Guest Writer from St. James Parish, Glen Ellyn

How many of you have observed those beautiful, yet pesty creations of God called Canadian geese? Their loud honking can be heard in the late hours of the night as they fly by. We as catechetical leaders can learn a lesson from these habits of flocking birds.

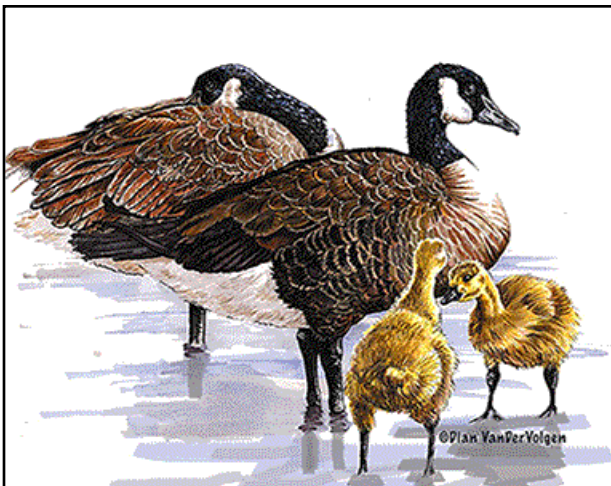
Do you know why geese fly in a “V” formation? This provides “uplift” for the birds that follow. As catechetical leaders, we empower one another by working as a team; we encourage teamwork and share ideas, frustrations, joys, and enthusiasm to help others succeed. Encouragement, accountability, and affirmation are essential qualities of the teaching style of Jesus we want to model for our catechists. In turn, they will model these qualities for the children, teens, adults, and families to whom they minister.

Do you know that geese rotate the lead when they get tired? Amazing as it may seem, even birds suffer from burnout. Quoting from Proverbs 11:25, “Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” This is so true. At this time of the year as a catechetical leader, we get pumped by the enthusiasm of new recruits, and this leads to so many good things happening for the good of the parish community. New and returning catechists are ripe with ideas and love, ready for harvesting. Experienced catechists mentor new ones with ideas about managing groups, crafty ideas, prayer activities, and faith-sharing techniques. As a catechetical leader, we do our best to affirm and encourage this kind of teamwork. It is most affirming for the leader, too, watching and hearing the growth of the whole “crop” of catechists we have for a new year.

Do you know that the honking you hear of the geese in flight is actually a sign of support for the lead bird? Sarah Summer, in her book, *Leadership Above the Line*, discusses how encouragement from one another increases accomplishments. We must be ready to cheer for one another, accept one another, celebrate, and congratulate one another’s “good stuff.” As catechetical leaders, we have the resources available to affirm our team’s and God’s efforts in our ministry.

Do you know that geese help their wounded? We must never leave a teammate floundering. All obstacles can be overcome with time, energy, and prayer. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit is ours for the asking, seeking, and knocking. Whether situations are directed to our ministry or personal challenges, we can overcome together.

Do you know that geese fly and stay together? Time spent together, whether in study, enrichment, prayer, or celebration, promotes positive outcomes. The opportunity for the catechetical leader to minister to their team, and in turn those team members ministering to others provides the fresh field of seeds that will bring the Word to life... *real life*.



As catechetical leaders, we are challenged to provide time for gathering catechists together and in small groups to monitor their development and enrich their faith journeys. Catechists are challenged to participate in these activities. So when you see a bumper sticker that says, “Honk, If You Love Jesus,” remember the flock of geese that causes you to pause for their crossing the road or that causes you to wake from slumber at night or in the early morn. God teaches us how to live a happy life.

National Ministry Summit

“Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership”

April 20-23, 2008
Orlando, Florida

Rosen Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
(International Drive)

Catholic bishops, priests, deacons, lay ministers, church personnel administrators, and pastoral councils from all over the United States will come together for this historic conference on the future of the American church.

If you are involved in any form of pastoral leadership in your parish (paid or volunteer), you are invited to Orlando this spring.

For more details

Please contact Paul Jarzembowski in the Diocese of Joliet Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411, x261, or log onto the Summit website:

emergingmodels.org/summit

A SAMPLING OF ADVENT RESOURCES IN PRINT

An Advent Sourcebook.

Compiled by Thomas
O’Gorman, Liturgical
Training Publications,
Chicago.

Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers.

USCCB Revised
Edition, 2007. Send
home to families the
“Blessing of an Advent
Wreath” and “Blessing
of a Christmas Tree.”

Sacred Space for Advent and the Christmas Season.

Ave Maria Press.
Daily prayers from
the website [www.
sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie) from the
Jesuit Communication
Centre, Ireland.

The Essential Advent and Christmas Handbook.

Redemptorist Pastoral
Publication, Liguori
Press, Missouri.

Media Center Classics for the Holiday Season

Jeanne Pirc

The Advent and Christmas seasons are perfect opportunities to use the great wealth of resources that the Catechetical Media Center has in store. A guide to all our videos and dvd’s is inserted into this month’s Leaven, but feel free to use the online Media Catalog (www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/mediacenter.asp), and check under “Liturgical Advent/Christmas” for lots of possible resources to make your holiday programs memorable and fun. Here are a few quick suggestions from the library:

STAR OVER BETHLEHEM

From the Annunciation in Nazareth to the Nativity in Bethlehem, we take a trip to the Biblical sights and get a look at how the rites and ancient traditions and chants have been passed on today to complete the Christmas story. (LLSA0112, 30 min., MJSA)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

Fr. Michael Himes uses theology and spirituality to bring the Advent and Christmas season into focus for any liturgical year. (LLSA0126-30, 22-28 min. each, SA)

CROSS OF CHRIST

Done in two segments of 50 minutes each, Ron Rolheiser, OMI, discusses how the cross has become the ultimate symbol of love in the world. It is central to Christianity in that we are to forgive our enemies. As such, it is the single most revolutionary moral event that has happened on this planet. And, like all deep things in life, the Cross is largely a mystery. It reveals God’s unconditional love and vulnerability; as a teaching and an invitation to discipleship; God suffers with us. The Cross calls us beyond ourselves, our own agenda, our own life without resentment. (PSXX0143, 100 min., Adults)

HISTORY CHANNEL SPECIALS: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Roger Moore does a nice job as host to this A&E special that focuses on the Holy Family’s travels through Egypt and the world at the time of Jesus’ birth. Now considered sacred sites, we tour the Church of the Nativity and see the route Mary, Joseph, and Jesus traveled. We learn of Constantine’s mother, Queen Helena, and her attempts to save these historical places and pieces. Special mention of the “Milk Grotto” and learn of the Star of Bethlehem and the Magi who followed that Star. (LLSA0116, 118 min., MJSA – the first tape, at 50 minutes, focuses on the Christmas sites)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SPIRITUAL EXPLORER

*Delightful seasonal reflections: **With You Always:** 6 Min – “Mary Did You Know” performed by Kenny Rogers and Wynonna Judd with reflective images that bring the song to life and focus on. Advent and Mary. **How Beautiful:** 6 Min – “How Beautiful” by Twila Paris with images of Eucharist, serving, welcoming, healing, and life. **Mystic Moment:** 13 Min. A Thomas Merton quote sets the mood for a virtual walk through a forest on a beautiful fall day with music. The piece emphasizes God’s beauty and presence. A good prayer and discussion starter, with moving seasonal reflections. (DVD-PSXX0133, 28 min., JSA).*



Looking for Jesus through Mary and Joseph

*"The Nativity Story" movie review by Paul Jarzembowski (Spiritual Popcorn)
Used with permission from www.spiritualpopcorn.blogspot.com*

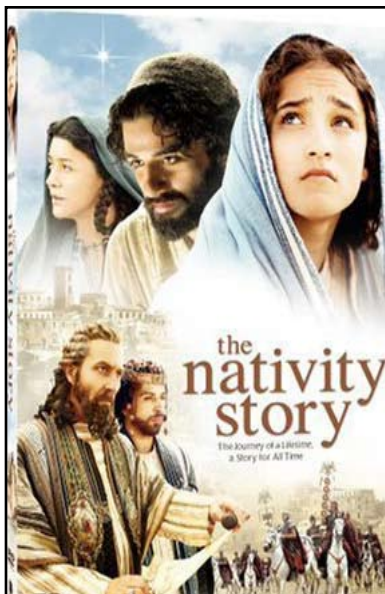
Poor St. Joseph. In many nativity scenes, and even in the pages of Scripture, Joseph is almost forgotten. His role is usually a supporting character, an "also-ran" to the Christmas story. But in ***The Nativity Story*** (2006), St. Joseph finally gets his due.

This heart-warming film gives us a look at the familiar Christmas story through the lens of the two characters at its core, Mary and Joseph.



The line that sums up the struggle that Joseph faces is his comment to Mary on the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, when he realizes this child will be special: "I wonder if I can teach him anything." Poor St. Joseph, still worrying about his discarded status even before we get to the manger. This is the struggle for many of us, whether we're parents or not. We wonder if we can ever be teachers, mentors, or guides to anyone. I hear many young adult parents worry about how they can pass on anything when they themselves are still learning. The film, however, gives us hope.

When we see Joseph accepting a wife who could be stoned for adultery, we wonder if Jesus learned from him how to love the sinners and marginalized. When we see Joseph angry at the money changers and Temple merchants in Jerusalem, we wonder if Jesus learned from him how this Temple is supposed to be a "house of prayer." When we see Joseph and Mary helped by a good shepherd on their way to Bethlehem, we wonder if Jesus learned from them this model of selfless, compassionate leadership.



As the Scriptures say, "The child Jesus grew up before Joseph and Mary and became strong, filled with wisdom and knowledge, and the favor of the Lord was upon them." (Luke 2:40). We can see from this passage that Jesus learned how to do all the things we love about him from his own parents. It's a perspective that shows us the value of relationships with family, with mentors, with role models, and with parents.

This film gives all of us hope, and a challenge, that we are called to be like the original Holy Family, using the experiences and lessons from our own lives to pass onto others, whether they be our children or the people in our day-to-day lives. Sure, it's human to worry that we're not "knowledgeable enough" to pass on anything, but God still wants us to be His messengers of hope. ***The Nativity Story*** shows that God calls you and I to use our flawed, human, but wonderful life experiences to help, teach, and guide others each and every day.

ADVENT RESOURCES ONLINE

www.cyberfaith.com

Click on Liturgical Year to go to a special page with an explanation of the year and links to printable activities for Grades K-6.

www.faithfirst.com

Scroll down and click on "Living the Liturgical Year" for general resources and information and then on Advent for specific links to seasonal information.

<http://loyolabooks.com/advent/AdventResources.html>

Loyola Press resources that includes free online retreat in English and Spanish, an online Advent calendar, articles and activities, and a special social justice section with links to Catholic Charities.

<http://www.webelieve.com/gather.cfm?page=advent>

Gather in My Name intergenerational event resources from Sadlier.

www.bustedhalo.com

Daily reflections and articles; great for young adults, inactive Catholics, and those who are "spiritual, but not religious."

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Preparing for Incarnation: Celebrating Advent in the Parish

Joyce Donahue

Advent - the annual challenge to make the season relevant and accessible in a world that is already celebrating Christmas before Halloween. For people raised in our American culture of instant gratification, how do you explain the value of waiting? If that "theme" is irrelevant or difficult, what else is there?

One solution is to help people of all ages to see what they are preparing for by meditating on the meanings of incarnation – both Christ becoming human flesh and the ways that we become the Body of Christ.



Using the liturgical principal of *Lex orandi, lex credendi* (translated loosely, "we pray that which we believe"), we can find clues to the meaning of Incarnation in the Mass texts of the Christmas Season. Take a look at a few excerpts from the Sacramentary:

By our communion with God made man, may we become more like him who joins our lives to yours... (Christmas, Mass at Midnight – Prayer over the Gifts) This describes what St. Augustine called becoming what we eat in the Eucharist.

We rejoice in the birth of our Savior. May we share his life completely by living as he has taught. (Christmas, Mass at Midnight – Prayer after Communion) This one is a reminder that the appropriate response to the gift of Christ's incarnation is action.

We are filled with the new light by the coming of your Word among us. May the light of faith shine in our words and actions. (Christmas, Mass at Dawn, Opening Prayer) Here is yet another reminder to live the life of Christ – to be his hands and feet on earth.

Your eternal Word has taken upon himself our human weakness, giving our mortal nature immortal value... (Christmas, Preface III) This statement carries a powerful message: Jesus became human like us to show us that it is OK to be human – and to show us how to be human in an even better way now that we share in his immortality.

Use these and other prayers of Christmas as focus points for Advent preparation – for prayer at parish meetings, for family reflection, for homily reflections, for adult faith sharing. Only when we understand fully what we are getting ready for, can we be ready to receive Christ. Only then can we be the people who are truly ready – and "Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming" (Opening Prayer First Sunday of Advent)

A list of Advent and Christmas resources can be found on the sides of pages 14 and 15 inside this edition of *Leaven*; several Advent videos and DVDs from the Diocesan Media Center are also featured on pages 14 and 15 (as well as a pull-out guide to the Advent and Christmas videos inserted into this issue).