



Leaven

The Newsletter of the Religious Education Office



Dynamic Lineup Awaits Parish Leadership in 2007-08

Religious Education Office Announces Major Speakers

The Diocese of Joliet Religious Education Office (REO) could not be more pleased to share with you some of the truly outstanding speakers who will be presenting to us in the coming 2007-08 fiscal year. While there will be more leadership and ministry formation offerings provided throughout the year, we want to highlight for you some of the biggest names and biggest “coming attractions” for you to note in your calendar.



**Embracing the Vision:
Leading People to Sacraments**
featuring *Sr. Linda Gaupin*
Wednesday, August 15, 2007
(includes Mass with Bishop Sartain)



“What Makes Us Catholic?”
featuring *Dr. Thomas Groome*
Thursday, October 4, 2007

(also Friday, Oct. 5, CSO Event)



**Pastor and Staff
Leadership Day**
featuring *Mike Patin*
Thursday, January 24, 2008



**C.T.U. Catechetical
Conference**
featuring *Dr. Joseph White*
Friday, April 4, 2008

We will also be working with the Archdiocese of Chicago on their annual Chicago Catechetical Conference in October 2007 at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois, with an impressive line-up of fantastic speakers and presentations.



In addition, our catechetical staff will be presenting and hosting several workshops and events during the 2007-2008 year. Be sure to check the insert in this issue of *Leaven* with our updated calendar with many of these great events.

We invite you to stay tuned for more information on each of these above-mentioned events in the coming months, but you certainly want to **save these dates now**. I'd ask

you to also share this preliminary information with other parish leaders. Each of these events promise to be outstanding opportunities for us to come together to be nourished, informed, and affirmed.

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**JUNE
2007**

UPCOMING CLUSTER MEETINGS

Please attend your local cluster meetings for assistance, support and information. The next meetings will be as follows:

Directors of Adult Faith Formation

June 28, 2007

St. Charles Pastoral Center
12:30 - 2:30 pm

DRE CLUSTERS:

Ford-Iroquois Cluster

October 11, 2007

St. Edmund, Wateska
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Joliet-Will Cluster

September 20, 2007

Immaculate Conception,
Morris, 10 am - 12 pm

Kankakee Cluster

October 11, 2007

St. Paul, Peotone, 1- 3 pm

Northeast

DuPage Cluster

August 16, 2007

St. Walter, Roselle,
10 am - 12 pm

West DuPage Cluster

August 30, 2007

Christ the King, Lombard
9:30 am gather



A Time To Sow

Tom Quinlan
Director



On more than one occasion I have heard Bishop Sartain speak about what it means to be part of the Catholic Church and part of a diocese. He points out the grace in being a part of something bigger than our own parish. Indeed, we are not “congregationalists.” Our ministry may primarily be local, but our vision and our sense of ecclesial ecology must be catholic (universal).

Engaging in regular meetings with other diocesan directors in our state and serving on the board of a national organization has been a great source of insight and a blessing for me. I am able to meet, learn from, and share with a rich variety of talented, enthusiastic and faith-filled people, many of whom minister in settings far different from those here in the Diocese of Joliet. And yet our common mission in serving our one Catholic Church brings us together, giving us a sense of kinship that is quite powerful. Often I find myself leaning on their example and their friendship to give me hope and heart when I am in need of both. I have so much more to give in my role because of these relationships.

The Diocese and Relationships

Over the past Christmas break, I took some time to reflect on the planning process our staff conducted in December. The one thing that stood out in my reflection, that overarched everything else, is the centrality of relationship. All ministry begins and ends in the complex mystery of human relationships. It begins in our relationship to and with Jesus Christ. And, as ministers of the Gospel, that relationship is meant to bear fruit in our relationships to our parishioners and, indeed, to all whom we encounter.

I look at the ways your diocesan Religious Education Office (REO) is involved in building and supporting life-giving relationships with and among catechetical leaders throughout our diocese, and I feel great satisfaction.

However, I also see that there is so much more we could do to establish personal and professional connections within our diocesan system of parishes and ministry roles, and I feel frustrated. I truly sympathize because I, too, am entangled in my own meetings and administrative responsibilities when I would rather be out “in the field” with you, imagining together the great possibilities for future ministry.



Regional Clusters and Relationships

Even while in a short-staffed mode currently, we in the REO are trying to find opportunities to reach out, particularly to those with whom there has been little contact. Our efforts in this regard will continue. But I would like to suggest that each of you can play a role in strengthening our leadership community as well.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

If you are an active participant in the work of regional ministerial networks, which we call clusters, I want to thank and applaud you. Even though you are busy with all the responsibilities attached to your parish ministry, you are taking the time to engage in the giving and receiving that can only occur among peers in catechetical leadership. (How appropriate that some clusters do a gift exchange each Christmas. It is emblematic of what is meant to go on throughout the year.)

Participation in a ministry cluster shows that you understand that “going it alone” is not an option for you as a minister; that you have much to learn and to give; and that you, like Bishop Sartain, have a vision that our work is beyond strictly taking care of our own parish. You understand that the strength and vitality of the Church as a whole is a concern for all of us.

I would like to encourage all those who attend cluster meetings to reach out and invite your neighboring leaders to become part of these regional networks.

Make a special place at the table for those who haven't been part of the group. You may also need to find thoughtful and creative ways to establish or strengthen the ministerial bonds for part-time or volunteer catechetical leaders. Perhaps meetings, every so often, could be held on evenings or weekends, or perhaps the minutes of clusters could be sent to every potential participant in your region, even those who never attend. The ministry is in your hands. I leave it to you to consider how best to be invitational to our ministry peers.

Mentoring and Relationships

Clusters aren't the only way we can be in relationship to one another. I wish to challenge each veteran catechetical leader in our diocese to seek out at least one person to reach out to (perhaps a newer catechetical leader in the parish next door) and establish a mentoring relationship with them. In doing so, you can pass on your wisdom, experience, and support in a way that will likely be greatly valued and helpful.



I was the product of such a relationship. One of the finest DREs in the Chicago Archdiocese took me under her wing when I was just starting out, and it meant so much to me. She helped me to quickly become a far better parish minister because of her generous spirit.

Relationships. In the end, that's what it's all about, isn't it?

Relationships were the backbone of our salvation history as recorded in the Scriptures. Relationships have been the hallmark of the life of the Church as it has spread across the world in two millennia. And so it continues for us, as we strive to hold together the Body of Christ, the universal Catholic Church, and bring a unified message of Christ to our people.

I thank you for all the ways I see you working to build and strengthen relationships in our diocesan catechetical community. I really do appreciate it. This work could never be done solely by a diocesan office. Let's continue to explore ways to be grace for one another and far greater than the merely the sum of our parts.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Quinlan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

(815) 727-6411

Fax (815) 722-7361

website:

www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo

Thomas Quinlan x259
Director
tquinlan@dioceseofjoliet.org

Joyce Donahue x258
Catechetical Associate
*Child Catechesis &
Curriculum, Special Needs,
Adult Faith Resources*
jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org

Nancy Dunn x264
Catechetical Associate
*Catechist Formation and
Special Projects; WFFF
and Catechetical Leadership*
ndunn@dioceseofjoliet.org

Paul Jarzembowski x261
Catechetical Associate
Young Adult Ministry
pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org

Paul Mach x281
Catechetical Associate
Youth Ministry
pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org

Mary Agnes Maloney x257
Receptionist
mmaloney@dioceseofjoliet.org

Jeanne Pirc x267
Media Librarian
jpirc@dioceseofjoliet.org

**LOOKING TO
OUTREACH TO
MORE ADULTS IN
THEIR 20s & 30s?**

**IS YOUR PARISH
YOUNG ADULT
RESPONSIVE ?**

This summer, the Diocese of Joliet is launching **NextGen**, a new assessment process for parishes looking to be more “young adult responsive” as well as for those who are looking to better market themselves to the young adult generation.

The NextGen assessment will give parishes realistic action items and tools for effective young adult outreach.

If you would like more information, contact Paul Jarzembowski at 815-727-6411, ext. 261, or e-mail him at pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org.



Theology-on-Tap launches in July

Paul Jarzembowski



Theology-on-Tap, the annual summer speaker series for women and men in their late teens, twenties, and thirties, begins this July in parishes, colleges, and restaurants around the Diocese of Joliet.

This series is an opportunity for young adults to come together, network over some delicious food and drink, and hear from some really great speakers on how faith and spirituality connect to their everyday life. Theology-on-Tap welcomes everyone, and is even open to 20- and 30-somethings who may have drifted from the Church.

Joliet Bishops J. Peter Sartain, Joseph Imesch, and Roger Kaffer, as well as Jesuit retreat master Fr. Michael Sparough, noted author and pastor Fr. Patrick Brennan, pop culture expert Sal Solo, motivational speaker and Franciscan friar Johnpaul Cafiero, young adult author and campus minister Claire Noonan, and Catholic recording artist Dr. Jim Papandrea are just a few of the outstanding presenters who will share their stories and experiences this summer at fourteen area sites (see below).

The series lasts for four consecutive weeks immediately following the Independence Day holiday, culminating in the Theology-on-Tap Finale Mass and Picnic with Bishop Sartain, Bishop Kaffer, and Francis Cardinal George at Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Chicago on Sunday, August 5, 2007. The Finale Mass and Picnic is co-hosted by the Diocese of Joliet and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

This year, the Diocese of Joliet is also proud to launch two new initiatives for the Theology-on-Tap schedule: 1) bilingual Hispanic sites for Latino young adults and 2) collegiate sites specifically targeted at young adults age 18 to 25. The Diocese of Joliet Hispanic Affairs and Campus Ministry Office helped to bring about these new and much-needed outreach initiatives.

The schedule listed below includes the sites and nights of all Theology-on-Tap locations in the Diocese of Joliet. Additional speakers, topics, times, and directions can be found online at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/yam/ beginning this summer.

Theology-on-Tap Sites July & August 2007

** all sites are geared to adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married unless otherwise indicated (i.e. collegiate and Hispanic)*

Sundays (July 8, 15, 22, 29)

- St. Matthew Parish, Glendale Heights
- Speaker Site TBA, Darien Area
- St. Jude Parish, Joliet (collegiate)

Mondays (July 9, 16, 23, 30)

- St. Mary Immaculate Parish, Plainfield
- Corpus Christi Parish, Carol Stream (collegiate)
- St. Isidore Parish, Bloomingdale (Hispanic)

Tuesdays (July 10, 17, 24, 31)

- St. Petronille Parish, Glen Ellyn
- St. Walter Parish, Roselle
- Lisieux Pastoral Center, Kankakee
- North Central College, Naperville (collegiate)

Wednesdays (July 11, 18, 25, & Aug. 1)

- St. Anthony Parish, Frankfort
- St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Naperville
- Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Elmhurst (collegiate)

Thursdays (July 5, 12, 19, 26)

- St. Andrew Parish, Romeoville (Hispanic)

Theology-on-Tap speakers, topics, times, directions, and details will soon be available online at www.dioceseofjoliet.org/yam/. For more information about Theology-on-Tap in the Diocese of Joliet, call Paul Jarzembowski at 815-727-6411, x261, or e-mail him at pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Safe Environment... It's been a very good year!

Joyce Donahue

The REO and Catholic Schools Office (CSO) are finishing collection of parish and school reports for instruction conducted this year for children and youth to prevent sexual abuse. Statistics on students enrolled and number trained will be turned in for the report to the Office for Child and Youth Protection in Washington DC. While this is certainly not one of the most pleasant experiences in religious education, the process has gotten easier, thanks to the cooperation and hard work of so many in the Diocese of Joliet.

Because of your commitment, children and youth are safer and better equipped to resist or report sexual predators. You will never know how much you have helped, but like everything we do in faith formation, you can be confident that you have planted seeds, some of which will bear fruit in someone's life.

As you finalize program calendars for next year, please include provisions for annual Safe Environment instruction of children, youth, and parents. For assistance, be sure to visit <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/safeEnvironment.asp>

YOUTH MINISTERS GATHERING



This September, we will begin again with our monthly Diocesan Youth Ministry Meetings. Our first gathering will be Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (and will go through and include lunch). After lunch, meeting space will be provided for the youth ministry clusters to meet. We expect to have many new youth ministers throughout the diocese, and we are looking to make an easy transition for the new people. We invite you to come and get to know some of these new youth ministers, as well as reconnect with others from around the Diocese of Joliet.

Are you concerned about internet safety?

Special Workshop on Internet Safety for all DREs, Principals, Youth Ministers

**Tuesday, September 11, 2007
9:00 a.m. (with lunch following)
Lewis University , Romeoville**

PLUS: SPECIAL AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS AT THE PASTORAL CENTER! Stay for lunch and the afternoon (1:30 to 3:00 p.m.) for some great catechetical workshops on topics including catechist formation, media and internet literacy, customizing safe environment instruction with internet safety, open forums for catechetical leaders, and more. More details coming - check the next issue of Leaven or the REO website (www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/).

Guest Speaker: Robert Hugh Farley

Internationally-known expert on child abuse and highly decorated police detective, Deputy United States Marshall Robert Hugh Farley has spent the last thirty years protecting children from killers, physical abusers, molesters and sexual predators. He has trained tens of thousands of police officers, federal agents, child protection workers, attorneys, medical personnel, and other professionals and conducted hundreds of training seminars. Farley has been a consultant, author, and trainer for the VIRTUS programs since 2003. He uses his extensive experience to evaluate and determine risk factors for youth groups, schools, organizations, agencies, and congregations.

Farley will speak to principals, directors of religious education, and youth ministers, on safe use of computers, cell phone text messaging and the Internet in child sexual exploitation, specific web dangers, the dilemma of online pornography addiction, and strategies for developing an online child safe/teen safe atmosphere. You can read more about Robert Farley at his website: <http://www.roberthughfarley.com/index.html>

The event is sponsored by the Diocese of Joliet Safe Environment Committee, chaired by Chancellor, Sr. Judith Davies, OSF, and by the Religious Education Office and Catholic Schools Office. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Media
Presentations
& Consulting
Available



If you would like to host a workshop or presentation on media literacy, internet spirituality, or finding God in film, television, media, and pop culture, please contact us.

Paul Jarzembowski presents around the country on the intersection of media and faith, and would be glad to offer a program for your parish as well.

He is also available for consulting in regards to using media in ministry and catechesis, and would be happy to set up an appointment.

If you're interested in either opportunity, please contact Paul Jarzembowski at 815-727-6411, ext. 261, or e-mail him at pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Media Center

A Media-Based Summer Retreat

Jeanne Pirc

This summer, pull yourself away from the parish environment and refresh your inner spirit. Walk with Jesus as an ordinary faith-filled, spiritual person. Here are some summer suggestions:

MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PRAYER PSXX0136-0139 DVD)

(great for senior high teens through adult-age viewers)

Try our new DVD series "Meaningful Conversations About Prayer." Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J., Sr. Marlene Halpin, O. P., Sr. Helen Prejean, C.S.J., and Mark Thibodeaux, S.J. share insights and experiences from Catholic tradition in which we are invited to discover we might be praying already (and we didn't even know it!). Topics on this DVD series include: "How and Why We Pray," "Praying with Our Own Words," "Praying with Scripture," and "Praying with the Church's Words." This last DVD is especially good for adult faith formation in that it reminds viewers that the "Our Father" we say at mass each week was originally said by Jesus in the New Testament. Overall, this series shows people that prayer can allow us to see God working in every moment of our lives.

CELEBRATE WHATS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD PSXX0041 (VHS, 24 min.)

DeWitt Jones, motivational trainer and longtime photographer for National Geographic, presents an uplifting and affirming program of reaching one's full potential by focusing on the positive in any situation. Even though Jones does not refer to God, this video is imbued with several core values of Catholic identity: that life and people are essentially good; that life is to be affirmed, embraced and celebrated; by God's grace, we can improve our lives and those of others we serve, thereby bettering the institutions in which we work.

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS PSXX0104 (VHS, 22 min.)

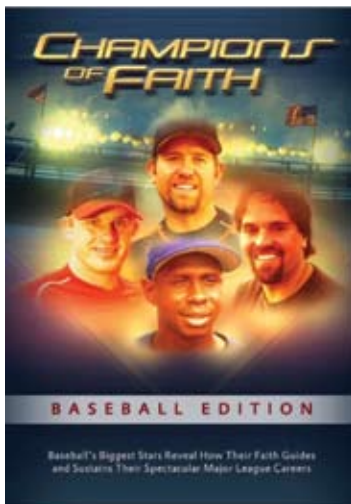
God can be found in every situation in our lives, joyful times as well as painful times. The video is rooted in Ignatian spirituality and challenges the viewer to pay attention to all things in their life because this is God's way of communicating with us and inviting us to experience his love more fully.

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY PSXX0110- PSXX0114 (25m in. ea.)

Mystery, Conversion, Faith, Hope and Love with Father Michael Himes. Spirituality and theology are rich, varied and multidimensional, but for Christians what is foundational? Fr. Michael Himes explores foundational building blocks of life in Christ. It is suggested to start with Mystery.

Set your environment, take a deep breath and let the music and visuals take you on a mini retreat through media this summer. You can find more details on the Media Center web site (www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/mediaservices.asp).

- **GOD'S GRANDEUR** PSXX0022 (VHS, 4 min.)
- **HOLY PICTURES - MEDITATION ON STILLNESS AND SILENCE** PSXX0132 (DVD)
- **IN HIS PRESENCE** PSXX0094 (VHS, 55 min.)
- **INTERLUDES IN THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT** PSXX0036 (VHS, 30 min.)
- **LOVE'S AWAKENING** PSXX0039 (VHS, 30 min.)
- **MYSTIC MOMENTS** PSXX0103 (VHS, 16 min.)
- **REFLECTIONS FOR THE SPIRITUAL EXPLORER** PSXX0133 (DVD, 28 min.)
- **THE SEVEN CIRCLES OF PRAYER** PSXX0059 (VHS, 30 min.)
- **VISIONS OF GREGORIAN CHANTS** PSXX0097 (VHS, 45 min.)
- **VOCE** PSXX0095 (VHS, 7 min.)



AVAILABLE NOW!!!

***Champions of Faith:
Baseball Edition***
**New Video on the Intersection
of Baseball & Faith**

This just-released DVD showcases professional baseball players and their experiences with their Catholic faith on and off the field. It's a great way to help Catholics connect their love of sports with a love of faith.

Ozzie Guillen, A.J. Pierzynski, Mark Prior, Juan Pierre, Mike Piazza, Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, Craig Biggio, Mike Sweeney, Sandy Alomar Sr. and Jr., Jack McKeon are just a few of the players, coaches, and managers interviewed and featured on this hi-def video, which also includes music by Grammy Award-winning Christian band Third Day and legendary recording artist Bob Dylan.

John Morales, veteran Chicago television and radio sportscaster and host of Catholic Exchange Today, narrates this unique sports special.

This DVD is great for sports fans of all ages, and works great in any catechetical setting (from little league kids up to baseball-addicted adults). This would also be a great multimedia experience for men's ministries, youth groups, or young adult programs.

Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition is now available through the Diocesan Catechetical Media Center. You can also purchase a few copies for your parish online (and find more info about the videos) at www.ChampionsofFaith.com. To rent the DVD through the Diocese of Joliet, contact Jeanne Pirc in the Media Center at 815-727-6411.

Safe Environment Curriculum Review
for new Catechetical Leaders, or those interested in new resources

August 10, 2007, St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville, 9 a.m.-Noon

New Leaders K-12: If you are new to the diocese, working with grades K-12 (Director of Religious Education, Catholic School Principal, Director of Youth Ministry, etc.), mark your calendar and plan to be at our review day. You will have an opportunity to be introduced to the approved Diocese of Joliet Safe Environment Instruction programs, an important and REQUIRED element in all parish and school programs serving children and youth.

Ongoing Leaders, K-12: This day will be great for those who want to see new instructional options, such as Creating Safe and Sacred Places (St. Mary's Press), a curriculum for safe environment for grades 5 to 8. Stop in and see what's new, especially if you want to replace any part of your curriculum to be more user-friendly for your catechists.

Review of new materials will begin around 11:00 a.m.

As always, you can get answers to questions about safe environment curriculum by visiting <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/safeEnvironment.asp> or by contacting Pam Gean (Catholic Schools Office) pgean@dioceseofjoliet.org, Joyce Donahue (Religious Education, K-5) jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org or Paul Mach (junior high or high school) pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org.

NET TEAM

A few dates in October and March are still open for having the National Evangelization Team (NET) at your parish for a retreat for your youth. Please contact Paul Mach at the REO for more information.

**7TH-8TH
GRADE DAY**

Mark your calendars on Saturday, October 27th for 7th and 8th Grade Youth Day from around 1:00pm to 8:30pm - Prayer, Keynoter, Activities, Mass, Meal and end with a social (that includes a dance). The theme is Discover Jesus Christ - the Way!

**FEEDBACK
REQUESTED:**

We are looking at having a High School Conference/ Rally on Saturday, March 15th from 10am - 5:30pm and possibly also a three hour afternoon event on Sunday, March 16th for 6th-8th graders. Contact Paul Mach at pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org with your thoughts on such an event, both positive and negative.

Bishop Sartain Shares Easter Peace with Diocesan Catechetical Leaders

Nancy Dunn

*Whatever
you do,
do it bravely,
and banish
darkness and
establish light
without
considering
your own
weakness.
Believe there
is nothing
you cannot
master
when you
rely on
Christ
Crucified.*

*St. Catherine
of Sienna*

*(prayer given by
Bishop Sartain
to Catechetical
Leaders at
the Morning of
Reflection)*

It was enriching. It was nourishing. It was a chance to break away and be renewed.

Over 100 catechetical parish staff members attended the Morning of Reflection with Bishop J. Peter Sartain on Thursday, April 12, 2007, just a few short days after Easter Sunday. Bishop Sartain focused our morning together by saying to each of us, "Maybe we need what we are teaching."

He began with a remarkable story of a homily preparation for one particular mass during the last week of school at a parish he served at several years ago. Knowing the excited, jittery state the children would be in that final week, he invited the congregation at mass to join him in repeating a simple prayer: "Jesus, I love you.... Jesus, I love you..." He then asked the children to close their eyes and repeat the meditation over and over. Slowly, the kids began to quiet themselves and a calm Spirit of peace descended on everyone gathered in the church that day.



For a room full of diocesan catechetical leaders in the midst of their own busy and frenzied schedules, this reminder of slowing down with an Easter peace was just what we needed. Like those excited children, we needed to take time that April morning a few weeks ago to let the Spirit descend and "grant us peace."

A few days later, the participants shared with us some of their own thoughts on the day:

"I felt it was a morning to be fed and affirmed. I truly appreciated that the bishop took the time to spend the morning with us and to share thoughts that he obviously lives by."

"The images, reflections and affirmations he shared really touched me and will continue to resonate with me for many months to come."

"Taking what the Bishop had said and then applying it to a group session made a lot of sense to me, allowing us to listen to each other as pastoral leaders and staffs. It helped to build the necessary ministry bridges with one another."

"Bishop Sartain was a gift. He really connected with those of us in formational ministries. He does seem to have the gift of "teaching".

"Our faith takes us where reason cannot go." Many remembered the Bishop sharing this thought with us and holding it deep in their hearts.



The Bishop shared many more of his personal insights, wisdom and experiences and fed all of those who were there. He referenced several books that have inspired and nourished his soul, and graciously shared his bibliography with us. We have included it as an insert in this issue of Leaven. Wherever you read this article, we hope you, too, will get a chance to experience the Easter peace we need so much in our busy, over-crowded world.

Learn How to Help Equip Catechists to Form Adults Special Workshop – June 28, 2007

How do you make Adult Faith Formation a priority in your parish?

Join the Diocesan Association of Adult Faith Formation Directors for a very special event – Preparing Catechists for Adult Faith Formation: A Blueprint for Success featuring guest speaker Jo Rotunno. This is a great workshop for all those who form adults in faith or work with those who do. The program takes place Thursday, June 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm., at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville.



This opportunity is aimed not only at Directors of Adult Faith Formation, but also DREs, Principals, and Youth & Young Adult Ministers, all of whom routinely work with adults such as catechists, teachers, parents, as well as RCIA Coordinators who work with team members and RCIA catechists.

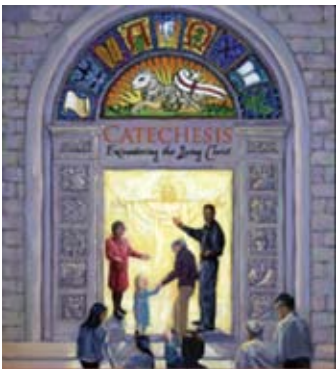
Jo will help us understand elements of effective adult catechesis and how to prepare catechists and facilitators to assist the process of Adult Faith Formation. This workshop will offer a blueprint for forming catechists for this vital work of the parish. You will learn how to prepare catechists and facilitators who can inform, form, and transform adults in their journey of faith.

Jo Rotunno is Director of Creative Development and also oversees the electronic media initiatives of RCL in Allen, Texas. Currently she also serves as the RCL Project Director for the Echoes of Faith® Plus catechist formation project being produced with the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL). She previously held management positions with four religion curriculum publishers, and served as an adult faith formation specialist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Jo speaks on catechetical topics throughout the United States.

After the workshop, if you are interested in networking with others who work in adult faith formation, bring your own brown bag lunch and plan to stay for the regular meeting of the Diocesan Association of Directors of Adult Faith Formation, from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.

To attend the workshop, please RSVP by June 22 to reo@dioceseofjoliet.org, or call Mary Maloney at 815-727-6411. We look forward to seeing you there.

Catechetical Sunday 2007: “Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ”



This year's Catechetical Sunday theme takes a strong cue from the *National Directory for Catechesis* – the definition of catechesis as an encounter with the living Christ.

Developing that theme for the 2007 catechetical year, the United States Bishops' Catechetical Sunday materials focus in on the integral relationship between catechesis and evangelization, as catechists walk with other disciples of Christ in their parish communities.

The booklet (in both English and Spanish) and accompanying CD provide parish leaders with the tools to celebrate this theme throughout the year. You may order these and other Catechetical Sunday materials (poster, family commitment and catechist prayer cards in English or Spanish, and pins) from the Religious Education Office, using the order form enclosed in this issue.

Logging onto
the protected
areas of the
Religious
Education
Office website?

www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo

There is a new
password for cat-
echetical leaders:
“catechesis”

Please remember
this password so
that you can get
into the web pages
for contracts and
other protected
information. If you
have any ques-
tions, please con-
tact the Religious
Education Office at
(815) 727-6411.

Watch for
the next
issue of
Leaven
in your
mailbox
this August.

Leaven -

The Newsletter of the Religious Education Office
www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo

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Signs of Hope for Today's Church Diocesan Funding Support for Catechetical Initiatives



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The deadline to register for the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is Wednesday, June 27, 2007. After that date, there will be a late fee of \$10.00 until July 6, 2007 (after which no more registrations will be taken). Please plan ahead.

On May 10, 2007, the Grant Committee of the Diocesan Religious Education Board met to determine recommendations for distribution of grant monies that might assist parishes in their catechetical and evangelization ministry efforts.

The recommendations, if approved by the full Board, are to be considered by the Catholic Education Foundation Board, which then disperses the funding in July for use in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The Catholic Education Foundation of the diocese provides funding for two grant opportunities. The Religious Education Grant awards money to catechetical ministry efforts that serve children and youth in the diocese. The Outreach Initiative awards money to efforts in the faith formation and evangelization of adults. Both grant funding programs are designed to provide seed money to encourage innovation and to assist the development of new ministries.

As a member of the discernment group, it is tremendously exciting for me to read all the wonderful proposals that came in this year. Many proposals were submitted and each of them had an aspect that made them worthy for consideration. All the committee members commented on the quality of this year's proposals. Of course, having so many worthy submissions and limited funds to disperse made for some difficult judgments. Parishes participating in this year's grant process will be notified later in June.

With all these new ministry initiatives being designed and established throughout our diocese, I find myself feeling incredibly hopeful.

Often times, we are keenly aware of the limitations in personnel and finances in our Church. And while this is certainly true, you and many of your colleagues in parish leadership are striving to discern and forge new paths to bring the Gospel and Catholic faith alive in and among the people of our diocese. With creativity, courage, and enthusiasm, this local Church continues to labor and risk everything to fulfill Christ's great evangelical command: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Mt. 28:19).

I salute each and every one of you who are looking to "cast the net wider," as Pope John Paul II called for in his pontificate. I thank those of you exploring ways to do our traditional formation ministry with new and greater impact, as the General Directory for Catechesis also calls us to. Whether the world yet knows it, there is a tremendous vitality deep within this holy Church of ours, and against all predictions and odds, with God's grace and direction, we are participating in the dawning of a new Pentecost, one that will transform lives and societies. Let us continue to look to and labor for that new day that Christ is preparing for us all



Ken Ortega, of St. Walter, Roselle, presents a progress report on his parish's project for the 2006-07 Catholic Education Foundation grant at the February 22, 2007 meeting of the Religious Education Board at the Pastoral Center in Romeoville.

Ten Outreach Initiative and nine Religious Education grant proposals were submitted to the Board for consideration for 2007-08.

Programs Funded with Diocesan Grant Money

Nancy Dunn

We spoke in the March/April 2007 issue of *Leaven* of the excellent work Sister Connie is doing at Visitation Parish in Elmhurst using the SPRED Program to address the religious education of children with special needs. This month we feature an evangelization effort lead by Mary Foley, Pastoral Life Coordinator at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish.

Description of Initiative: Supporting Parish Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation Ministries at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Elmhurst, Illinois

This initiative is part of a three year plan focusing on evangelization, which has been identified as the primary goal of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish. One of the goals of the first year was the training of staff and parishioners in ministry leadership, as well as the development of a parish mission focused on evangelization and a three-session Bible Study program.

Funding Provided for Year One of:

- Ministry Leadership Training
- Parish Mission
- Bible Study Sessions

Outcome:

- The parish prepared their pastoral staff and volunteer parish ministry leaders to undertake the foundational projects planned for the next three years.
- The Parish Mission engaged the entire parish community in the joint mission of evangelization.
- The Bible Study program is reaching inactive Catholics and building on their formation in the faith.

For further information, please call Dr. Mary Foley at 630/279-5700.

Sr. Linda Gaupin Coming in August: Don't Miss It!

Tom Quinlan



With the generous help of Harcourt Publishing, we have been able to secure Sr. Linda Gaupin for Wednesday, August 15, 2007. This workshop will provide a whole new context for doing sacramental preparation that is rooted in the total parish community and promotes the formative power of liturgical prayer. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have her leading expertise offered to us!

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge you not to miss this exciting event. For anyone in parish leadership involved with sacramental catechesis (which means all of us, certainly including adult faith formation), this will be a fun, rich and eye-opening experience. Unless you are on your once-in-a-lifetime dream European vacation, please

join us.

In January 2007, I had the opportunity to attend Sr. Linda Gaupin's truncated workshop on sacramental catechesis at a national conference on whole parish faith formation. Sr. Linda showed why she is a well-respected, national figure in this important area of faith formation a subject that I consider incredibly important on our current catechetical landscape. The ninety minutes of that workshop flew by. I laughed out loud, learned so much about the topic, and left with a Spirit-filled energy to find ways to share what I had experienced.

In addition, just to make this day even more special, our own **Bishop J. Peter Sartain** will be celebrating Mass with us before the day begins. What a wonderful way to begin this great day which also happens to be the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. I hope to see all of you there this August. See the insert for more information.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE



On the Diocese of Joliet Youth Ministry website (www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/youthministry.asp), you can find dates for Confirmation and retreat dates for parishes around the diocese. We are happy to post this information in an effort to help any families that have conflicts with your own dates.

When you have your retreat dates for the coming year, please e-mail them into Paul Mach at pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org. Send parish, contact, retreat dates and times, location, cost to other parishes, and if it open to other parishes.

We hope to have a listening session with Confirmation Coordinators this coming fall.

REO CALENDAR

(Updates are made regularly on the REO website:
www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo)

June 28, 2007

DAFF Meeting
SCPC, 12:30 - 2pm
Contact: Tom Quinlan

July 5- August 1, 2007

Theology on Tap
Various Locations
(see p. 4) Contact:
Paul Jarzembowski

July 20-22, 2007

YLC- Lewis University
Contact: Paul Mach

August 3, 2007

New Catechetical Leader
Orientation, Time TBA
Contact: Nancy Dunn

August 5, 2007

Theology on Tap
Finale Mass - Contact:
Paul Jarzembowski

August 8, 2007

Teacher-Catechist Initial
Formation Day
SCPC 8 am-Noon
Contact: Joyce Donahue

August 10, 2007

Safe Environment New
Staff Orientation & New
Materials Review
SCPC 9 am-Noon
Contact: Joyce Donahue

August 15, 2007

Sr. Linda Gaupin
Workshop on
Sacramental Catechesis
SCPC, Time TBA
Contact: Nancy Dunn

August 23, 2007

RE Board, 10am-Noon
DAFF Meeting,
Noon-2:30 pm

NEW FEATURE BELOW!

A bulletin board for events of interest from other organizations around the diocese

BULLETIN BOARD

NEW WINE

Catechetical Leaders,
Catechists, Parish
Members

NEW WINE Ministry
Formation classes (through
the Diocesan Ministry
Formation Office) can be
applied to the Diocese of
Joliet Catechist Certification
Program. For more info, visit
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/omf/newwine.asp>.
More NEW WINE groups
are forming in the Eastern
DuPage and the Kankakee
areas. If interested, please
contact Yvonne DeBruin at
(815) 834-4001 or email
minform@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Catechist Initial Formation Day Update

We have added a date
in August!

St. Thomas the Apostle,
Naperville, Illinois
Saturday, August 18, 2007
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please see the REO web-
site for the complete sched-
ule - http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/catechist_certandform.asp

The Called & Gifted Workshop St. Isidore Parish, Bloomington

June 15, 2007
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
June 16, 2007
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Discover more deeply your
identity in Christ and explore
ways in which He has gifted
you to live in the world.
For more information, go to
www.stisidoreparish.org or
call 630/529-3045. Hours
can be applied toward
Diocese of Joliet Catechist
Certification.

Joliet-Will Catechist Institute

October 20, 2007
St.

Charles Borromeo
Pastoral Center
(Sponsored by Sadlier)

More information
and registration flyer
available soon.

Contact:
Theresa Palicka
at 630-759-5788
or Joyce Donahue
at jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org