



## Youth Leadership Conference 2007

Paul Mach

Now in its 28th year, the 2007 Diocesan Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), held at Lewis University in Romeoville from July 20-22, hosted approximately 750 young men and women in high school and into college.



Bishop Sartain poses with YLC Participants from St. Mary Parish in Mokena

YLC is the largest annual gathering in the Diocese of Joliet. "See the Lord, Be a New Creation" was this year's theme, and, throughout the three-day event, participants did see the Lord and new creations were formed. YLC was also blessed with two outstanding keynote presenters, **Vince Nims** and **Bob Perron**. Vince Nims, a well-known musician and speaker, also served as the emcee for the weekend's general sessions at Lewis University.

*continued...pg. 4*

PGS  
2-3

Letter from  
the Director

PG 4

World Youth  
Sunday

PG 5

Diocesan  
Youth  
Ministry  
Gatherings

PGS  
6-7

Special  
Needs

PG 8

Upcoming  
Cluster  
Meetings

PG 8

Dr. Thomas  
Groome

PG 9

Catechetical  
Workshops

PGS  
10-11

Media Center  
Resources

PGS  
12-13

Young Adult  
Ministry

PG 14

Catechist  
Certification  
& Formation

PG 15

CIFD Dates

PG 16

Catechetical  
Leadership  
Council

## Theology-on-Tap re-ignites young adults

Paul Jarzembowski

The 2007 Theology-on-Tap season, which ran July 5 to August 5, was the start of something special for young adult Catholics in the Diocese of Joliet.

This annual speaker series, held simultaneously in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet was "re-imagined" this year as the kick-off for a growing outreach to men and women in their twenties, and thirties, which according to statistics, is the most absent generation of people from Catholic pews.

Hundreds of college students, singles, and young engaged and married couples came out for the 56 sessions of Theology-on-Tap in the Joliet Diocese, held at 14 different sites in Will, DuPage, and Kankakee Counties. At each of these programs, speakers engaged young adults in dialogue on issues of faith, relationships, prayer, social justice, careers, Scripture, tradition, and discernment.



Theology-on-Tap was also held for the first time in the Spanish language (at St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville and St. Isidore Parish in Bloomingdale), thanks to the leadership of the Hispanic Ministry Office of the Diocese of Joliet.

*continued...pg. 12*

# A Time to Sow

Tom Quinlan, Director



Do you enjoy watching those adventure travel shows that are often on public television and certain cable channels? Perhaps you're like me, and you put yourself into the action. For a few moments, at least, you're not just watching, you're there, standing at the base of a magnificent waterfall or trekking across a glacier. Earlier this summer I had one of those ethereal, etched-in-the-memory experiences...and it was for real!

At the start of July, I found myself among tundra wildflowers and snowdrifts at Independence Pass in central Colorado. I had planned to do some photographing and move on, but the spontaneous side of me decided to investigate this little trail. And for the next three hours I hiked ridge after ridge, each one higher and more magnificent than the previous. With the encouragement of a fellow I met along the way (there to scout out areas to bow-hunt elk), I made it to a peak, from which I was afforded the view of a lifetime. I was on top of a pile of rocks, on a perfect summer day of warm sun and cool breezes, with the view of a lifetime...a perfect panorama of the Rockies, as far as the eye could see!

As the sun started to drop lower in the west, my new hiking friend moved on, and I was left alone to *try* to take in the exquisite, intoxicating grace of this moment in this place. This wasn't easy, because the experience defied any effort to *capture* it. I stayed for a long time and reveled. Perhaps it is fairer to say that the experience captured *me*! I share this account with you, albeit briefly, for a couple reasons.

For one, it simply begs to be shared. If I could, in some small way, bring you into the grace of that afternoon, I feel almost obligated. I hope the photo from the hike (pictured here) offers you a reason to smile, imagining yourself there, or recall a powerful moment of grace in your own life. Second, in my theological reflection since that afternoon atop the Rockies, I have some simple insights I'd like to share.

In Scripture, you've probably noticed that anytime someone is going up a mountain, a sacred encounter with God is going to happen. From Moses to Elijah to Jesus and the apostles, the mountain is the literary motif for the sacred (this, of course, is present in so many non-Judeo-Christian traditions as well).

You may not be all that interested in hiking high up in a mountain range. And that's okay, because the mountain-top is simply a symbol that represents one place where the human hunger for being with God is satisfied. God wishes that each and every one of us have deep and nourishing personal encounters with him. This is so completely evident in the person of Jesus, "God with us." Personal mountaintop experiences of grace are available to each of us. Sometimes they can be anticipated; often they are magnificent surprises that require us to be open to the unexpected. Some are best experienced alone, and some happen only in and through the presence of others.

Take some time to reflect upon your "mountaintop moments," where you've personally and powerfully encountered the divine in your life. And try to live in a readiness for your next encounter. It may be around the counter, be it in something grand or something seemingly mundane.

My other theological insight that I offer here relates to something we all share in common: **our Sunday Eucharistic liturgy.**



Tom Quinlan atop the mountain on his 2007 trek through the Colorado Rockies.

This summer, I gave a number of talks on the Mass and the Eucharist for young adults throughout the Chicago area. As I told them I was able to see more deeply, in light of my peak experience above Independence Pass, the wisdom of the Second Vatican Council regarding Eucharist. It's really very simple and yet really very profound.

*Lumen Gentium*, Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, calls the Sunday Mass "the source and summit of the whole Christian life". It's easy to understand how it is the *source* of life for us, for the great Sacrament that is Christ himself is most abundantly available to us at Mass, in Word, Eucharist and in the gathered assembly, the Body of Christ.

Let's reflect for a moment upon our Sunday liturgy as a *summit* experience. No one lives at 13,000 feet, certainly not there above Independence Pass. The climate is too inhospitable, the soil much too poor. Such mountain peaks are simply too rarified an environment to remain there. Rather, people live down in the valleys, where crops can grow and life is sustainable. The mountaintop is there as something special, both literally and figuratively, an elevated experience meant to offer beauty and perspective.

On Sundays, as Catholics, we make our pilgrimage of faith and solidarity to the Eucharistic celebration. We journey upwards together and enter into the sublime experience where we, as a community of believers, encounter our God in the great, climactic liturgical act of the Church.

In this pinnacle moment of our week, we gain a 360-degree perspective into our lives. We look back at our week that was, seeing both our successes and our failures in being the presence of Christ in our world. We give glory and celebrate the goodness of our God. We recall the stories that tell of God's victory over sin and death. We allow Christ to feed and refresh us with his Body and Blood. And we take heart knowing that the journey that awaits us in the coming week does not need to be made alone. We have Christ, and we have the Catholic community with and for us, as we go. All this happens while together at our liturgical *summit* of the Mass.

And then, we have the courage to look ahead with confidence and trek back down into the ever-so-challenging valley that is our lives. Having participated in the sacred encounter of the Mass, we are sent forth. We are not meant to stay in that rarified air. Rather, breathing in that air should propel us. We are charged now with fulfilling Christ's mission in the places where we live.

Having been to the peaks above Independence Pass, and having so often been a part of the great prayer of the Church on Sundays, I understand better the connection. The hiker and the student of Scripture can agree. Vatican II had it right in calling the Mass our summit experience. Whether we always grasp it or not, every time we gather as the Body of Christ to celebrate Eucharist, we are invited to stop, rest, and be re-created in God's grace. For a time, we are sitting on the top of the world with our God. And what a magnificent, hopeful vista it offers!

Sincerely,



*Beautiful Independence Pass in the Colorado Rockies. Photo by Tom Quinlan.*

Look for the next Issue of *Leaven*  
**November 5, 2007**

Also keep an eye out for "Coming Soon!" (the bi-monthly e-update of Religious Education events) this October.

# NCYC Last Call



This is the last call for participating in the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Columbus, Ohio, from November 8 to 11, 2007.

Please check the Diocesan Youth Ministry website to find out if there are spots available for the event at: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/ymNCYC.asp>

## Junior High Diocesan Youth Day

Please see the flyer in this issue of *Leaven* about the Junior High Diocesan Youth Day, or check out our website at: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/juniorHighDays.asp>

(continued from pg. 1)

Bishop J. Peter Sartain was also present at YLC this summer, serving as the main celebrant in the Opening Prayer Service which began the weekend, as well as being the principal celebrant for the Sunday Closing Liturgy at the conclusion of the conference. And on the first night of the conference, 34 priests from around the Diocese of Joliet joined us for the Friday evening reconciliation service in the Lewis University Field House.

During the three days, the 750 youth participated in a variety of thought-provoking break-out sessions and workshops on the Lewis University campus, as well as opportunities to connect with others in their grade level. The participants were also given the opportunity to express their gratitude to Frank Giangreggio, former Director of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet, who began YLC in 1979.

Next year's YLC will be held June 27-29, 2008, and that conference's theme is "We Are The Church," so named by the Diocesan Youth Council. If your parish didn't join us this year, please consider bringing your youth and collegiate leaders to the Diocesan YLC experience in the coming years. For more details, check out: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/ylc.asp>



YLC staff members welcome teens into the Field House.

## World Youth Sunday: What's It All About?

Paul Mach

"Discover Jesus Christ, the Way" is the theme for this year's National World Youth Day, which will be celebrated throughout North America on Sunday, October 28, 2007.

You may be wondering things like: "What is this day for?" "What's the difference between this National World Youth Day, the international World Youth Day (on Palm Sunday), and the papal World Youth Day event?"

Here is a quick explanation: Many of you have probably heard of the **International World Youth Day** event, which is a global gathering held every two to three years where young people from all over the world gather with the Pope to celebrate being Catholic. This event was started by Pope John Paul II in 1985 in Rome. Since that time it has been hosted in places such as Denver in 1993, Toronto in 2002, and Germany in 2005. The next gathering will be in Sydney in 2008. On the years that this big event is not held, the Pope celebrates World Youth Day on Palm Sunday at the Vatican each year.

But because the Feast of Palm Sunday is already a big celebration in the United States and Canada, the bishops of North America chose to celebrate World Youth Day in the end of October (usually the Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time). Hence, this is why we have **National World Youth Day** to celebrate youth in parishes throughout North America (and in a special way, in parishes throughout the Diocese of Joliet).

Take a little time during that weekend to recognize the teens in your midst; it will go a long way in discovering the Way: Jesus Christ. For more ideas on how to enhance or celebrate this weekend at your local parish, contact Paul Mach in the Diocesan Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411, ext. 281, or [pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org).

# Diocesan Youth Ministry Gatherings

*Please mark your calendars for these upcoming gatherings open to parish youth ministry coordinators from around the Diocese.*

## September 20, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Romeoville

*A chance to get to know one another better, meet new ministers, and catch up on details you need to know from the summer. Meeting immediately followed at 12:00 p.m. by lunch and Youth Ministry Cluster time in the afternoon. Please try to attend. We will need an RSVP for the lunch count. Call Paul Mach at (815) 727-6411, ext. 281.*

## October 18, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Romeoville

*Discussion of youth liturgies and great prayer experiences with and for teens. Come ready to share some, but also leave with some great new ideas when it comes to prayer and worship with teens.*

## November 15, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Romeoville

*Bob McCarty, Executive Director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) will join us to talk about the changes in youth ministry nationwide. Don't miss this great opportunity for your own growth in ministry.*

## December 13, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Romeoville

*Retreats: how, when, what, and where? We know they work, but can we make them better, stronger, faster? That is the six-million dollar question. Show your dedication by being part of a great discussion on retreat ministry. Don't be a spectator; be prepared to get into the game, from national programs to parish-designed programs.*



*Be sure to put these dates on your calendar. Diocesan Youth Ministry Gatherings are a great opportunity to share ideas and pray with a support network of fellow youth ministry leaders.*

**For more details about upcoming Youth Ministry events, programs, and meetings throughout the Diocese of Joliet or for any other youth ministry concerns or questions, please contact Paul Mach at the Diocesan Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411, ext. 281, or e-mail him at [pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org).**

## Youth Ministry Cluster Meetings

### September 20, 2007

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center, Romeoville

*Please note: all Youth Ministry Clusters are meeting on September 20, 2007, at 12:30pm following lunch and the morning Diocesan Youth Minister's Gathering.*

### Naperville Junior High

#### October 11, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Naperville

### Naperville Senior High

#### October 11, 2007

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Naperville

### East Will Cluster

#### October 22, 2007

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

St. Anthony Parish, Frankfort

### South of the Border (SOB) Cluster

#### October 24, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Corpus Christi Parish, Carol Stream

*\*The dates are not yet set for other clusters; please check out the Diocesan Youth Ministry website for other dates and changes at: [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/youthministry.asp](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/youthministry.asp)*

# SPECIAL NEEDS MASS

20 Years of  
Celebrating  
Persons with  
Disabilities

Sunday, Sept. 16  
1:00 p.m.  
Holy Family Parish  
600 Brook Forest (Rt. 59)  
Shorewood

Raising consciousness and celebrating the gifts and presence of those with disabilities has been the mission of the Bishop's Mass with Persons with Disabilities for 20 years in the Diocese of Joliet.

Please RSVP to Mary Maloney at (815) 727-6411 or [mmaloney@dioceseof-joliet.org](mailto:mmaloney@dioceseof-joliet.org) if you plan to stay for the luncheon that will follow.

The best entrance for those participants with wheelchairs or walkers is through the parish office entrance near the gym, off the main parking lot, rather than the front door of the church.

We anticipate a great celebration at a wonderful, welcoming and accessible facility and we hope you will join us. If you have questions or need directions, please contact Joyce Donahue at (815) 727-6411, ext. 258, or [jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org)

## Seeing Jesus in Every Single Child

Cindy Birse Swanson  
Special Needs Coordinator  
Holy Spirit Parish, Naperville

Ask any group of children the question, "Who was Jesus?" and you will get a variety of answers: Teacher, Carpenter, Fisherman, Son of God.

Jesus showed himself in many walks of life during his brief time here. He also showed Himself as a strong willed kid when he broke off from Mary and Joseph to teach the elders at the Temple. He allowed Himself unleashed anger when he confronted those gambling and selling in the Temple.

*Jesus is in every one of us.*

Jesus is in the child with autism, who because of the disability may not be able to sit still for the sixty minutes of Mass or who may not be able to shake hands, or repeat the prayers. In fact, other sounds may come out of this child of God that are not part of the Mass.

What if Jesus had autism? Would we "tsk" and groan at the good parents who brought this child to church, and wonder why in the world they brought this unruly kid? These parents bring these children to Mass each week because they believe, even though they have autism, he is still a child of God.

We as a faith community stand for the "right to life." But when we think about that, do we recall the times we sat next to or near a child who could not sit still? Do we really accept what the right to life means for EVERY SINGLE CHILD?

Let's encourage our parishioners to assume the best when they encounter parents of children with disabilities such as autism. Let's encourage them to assume the parents truly love the child, despite the noises and actions at Mass which might seem less than pious. Let's encourage them to assume they want their child to know the love of Jesus Christ.

As a "right to life" Catholic community, we need to extend the love of Jesus to the families who want to share the faith with their children with disabilities. As parishes, we can work together to show the love of Christ to these people as we do all children and families.

As ordained leaders, teachers, catechetical leaders, and lay members of the church, the real test of our beliefs is how we respond to God's loved ones when we are sitting right next to them... even the ones who can't sit still. Let us help our parishes to better understand the issue of "special needs" and the most effective ways of ministering to them.



# Catechesis for Special Needs: Saying “Yes” to God’s Special Children

Joyce Donahue

In my third year as a DRE, a mother, with two sons in tow, came to my office to register for Religious Education. The oldest boy was an average fifth grader. The youngest was obviously different. Peering curiously out from behind coke-bottle lenses, Adam, a new second grader, had Down Syndrome. The mother indicated she had been working with him at home, and now wanted to enroll him for First Communion. I am embarrassed to admit my jaw dropped, and I stammered out something lame like “Oh, I don’t know – I’ll have to let you know... I’ll call you.” I was totally caught by surprise, and a bit scared. It had honestly never occurred to me that I would be asked to accommodate a child with profound disabilities. Our parish did not have any Special Needs curriculum. I remain grateful to the Holy Spirit that we left the door partly open that day.

To make a long story short, I quickly looked up the USCCB *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*. Immediately, I called the mother back to assure her that we would indeed find a way, talked to my second grade catechists, and we went forward.

Adam received Eucharist with his classmates the following spring. His presence in the classroom and the program was a non-stop blessing, and his classmates’ acceptance of him was a delight.

It’s really all in the attitude. Though children and youth with special needs don’t fit into our usual program niches, and it may seem like an imposition when families bring them for faith formation, catechetical leaders should *always* take advantage of opportunities to be the face of Christ --pastoral, accepting, and creative.

Even if parish programs do not normally accommodate children with autism, Aspergers, deafness, or other disabilities, there is always a solution, whether at the local parish, or at one nearby where there are more resources. Parish leaders are called to connect families with resources to make faith formation possible. ALL God’s people have a canonical right to catechesis. We really can’t say “no.”

## Some practical steps to respond to those with special needs:

- Check out the “Special Needs Page” on the Diocesan Religious Education Office (REO) website: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/specialNeeds.asp>  
A *Special Needs Manual* (available online) provides a great list of parishes throughout the Joliet Diocese with programs, many of which take families regionally, or could be a local source of advice.
- Call Joyce Donahue at (815) 727-6411, ext. 258, and she can walk you through important questions to ask the family of special needs children, as well as options and resources to assist with individual cases.
- Purchase (or borrow from the REO) the *Welcome One, Welcome All* binder from the Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (<http://ipi.udayton.edu/nice.htm>), a practical resource for setting up parish catechesis for special needs.
- Above all, commit to never saying “no” to a family of a child or youth with special needs. Instead, ask compassionate and pastoral questions such as: “How...?” “With whom...?” “When...?” and “Where...?”

## Physical Challenge

Does your parish truly welcome persons with disabilities?

Your immediate reaction might be “of course!”

But wait – does the physical layout of your parish make it possible for people with mobility challenges to participate fully in ALL parish activities - catechetical opportunities, liturgical celebrations, ministries, parish meetings and more?

Can people who are deaf or blind participate? Can everyone access the rest-rooms?

When parishes do not provide full accessibility to all areas of parish life, they miss out on the gifts people with disabilities offer the community.

**Call Joyce Donahue at (815) 727-6411, ext. 258, to find out how your parish can help make a difference.**

## UPCOMING CLUSTER MEETINGS

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

### Ford-Iroquois

September 13, 2007  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
St. Edmund Parish  
Watseka

### Joliet-Will

September 20, 2007  
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon  
Immaculate  
Conception, Morris

### Northeast DuPage

September 20, 2007  
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon  
St. Scholastica  
Parish, Woodridge

### Kankakee-Grundy

October 11, 2007  
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon  
St. Paul Parish  
Peotone

### Directors of Adult Faith Formation

October 25, 2007  
12:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Pastoral Center,  
Romeoville

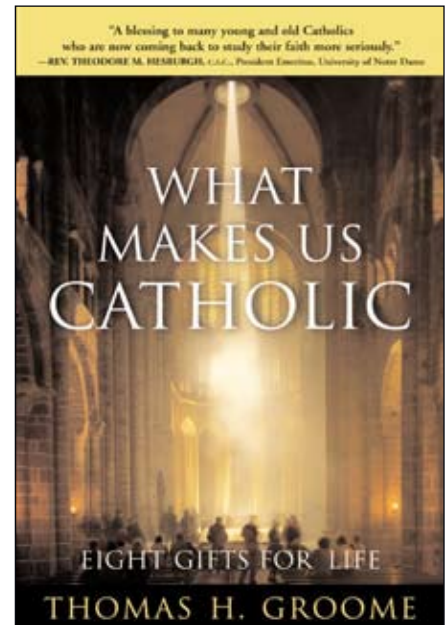
## Catholic Identity: Dr. Thomas Groome to speak on *What Makes Us Catholic*

Joyce Donahue

Considered by many to be one of the leading proponents of “Catholic identity,” Dr. Thomas Groome brings his Irish wit, charm and expertise to the Diocese of Joliet this October for two major presentations: October 4 in Oakbrook Terrace and October 5 in Romeoville (*exact details below*).

His talks will be based on his best selling book and dvd series, *What Makes Us Catholic*. He will discuss characteristics of Catholic faith by sharing wisdom for our outlook on life, pathways for reflection and conversation, and suggestions for spiritual practices:

- *What Stories to Tell?* – mining the rich treasury of Catholic Faith.
- *Who Do We Think We Are?* – recognizing ourselves as people in God’s own image.
- *What’s It All About?* – embracing the sacramentality of life and celebrating the great Sacraments of God’s grace.
- *Are We Made for Each Other?* – becoming Church as the Body of Christ and practicing a social spirituality.
- *What Time Do We Have?* – how we know God over time, for our time, and forever.
- *In What Will We Invest?* – risking the leap of faith to follow the way of Jesus.
- *What Are Our Politics?* – committing to a faith that does justice with love.
- *Who Is Our Neighbor?* – reaching beyond all borders as true Catholics.
- *What Is Our Heart’s Desire?* – caring for our souls with compassion, conversation, celebration, and conversion.



*You can also check out Dr. Groome's book and DVD series from the REO Media Center. Contact Jeanne Pirc at (815) 727-6411.*

### October 4, 2007 - Ascension Parish, Oak Brook Terrace

At Ascension Parish in Oak Brook Terrace, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Dr. Thomas Groome will address Directors of Religious Education, Directors of Youth Ministry, and Directors of Adult Faith Formation from our Diocese (as well as personnel from the Archdiocese of Chicago). Registration is through the event sponsor, Silver Burdett Ginn, by calling them at (888) 877-7824, ext. 8154, or by visiting [www.pearsonlearning.com/whatmakesuscatholic](http://www.pearsonlearning.com/whatmakesuscatholic)

### October 5, 2007 - Lewis University, Romeoville (Teacher Institute)

Dr. Groome will also address Catholic school teachers and principals from around the Diocese on October 5, at their Institute at Lewis University in Romeoville. He will speak from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. At the same event, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Kenneth Doran will speak on *The What, Who, Why and Where of Catholic Identity*, with particular attention to Catholic teachers and schools. Non-school personnel (including catechetical leaders) who want to attend the October 5 event should contact the Catholic Schools Office at 815-838-2181.

## SOME NEWS & NOTES

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### ***New Wine* Graduates**

All catechetical leaders should note that graduates of *New Wine* are receiving *Foundational* and *Advanced* Certification from the Diocesan Religious Education Office, in recognition of the significant formational work they have accomplished. *New Wine* graduates might be valuable assets to the catechetical life of your parish. Consider exploring their interests and gifts with them.

### **Catechetical Leader Changes & Updates**

Thanks to all who have contacted the Diocesan Religious Education Office to update information for their parish's catechetical staff. It is of critical importance that this office have accurate and complete contact information. Please remember to communicate any changes to Mary Maloney ([mmaloney@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:mmaloney@dioceseofjoliet.org)). Also send any of your changes that occurred over the summer that may not have been shared with us.

### **Let Us Treat You!**

Ready to begin the fall? We want to treat all catechetical leaders (DREs, Youth & Young Adult Ministers, Adult Faith Formation Directors, Pastoral Associates, among others) to a special day to help give you tools for the months ahead.

As you know from your email invitation, you are welcome to the special Internet Safety workshops (sponsored by VIRTUS) at Lewis University on Tuesday, September 11, 2007. After the morning workshop, all participants are invited to walk over to the St. Charles Borromeo Diocesan Pastoral Center for lunch (open to pastors, principals, and catechetical leaders), followed by an afternoon of specialized workshops to treat you to some great resources for the months ahead.

The staff of the Diocesan Religious Education Office and Yvonne DeBruin will be providing workshops on various topics of interest. These one-hour workshops will be followed by an open bar (an *ice cream sundae* bar, that is...). We'd like to celebrate the start of the academic year with all catechetical leaders of the diocese who can make it.

Please join us if you can! Reservations are needed. Contact the Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411 by September 7, 2007 to reserve your spot. For more details, look on our website at [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/).

### **Chicago Catechetical Conference Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17, 2007**

Stevens Conventions Center, Rosemont, Illinois  
[www.catechesis-chicago.org/CCC/CCC.htm](http://www.catechesis-chicago.org/CCC/CCC.htm)

The Archdiocese of Chicago invites catechetical leaders from the Diocese of Joliet to their annual conference in Rosemont, Illinois. Keynote speakers include: **ValLimar Jansen**, a recording artist, college professor, and leader of worship at conferences across the United States; **Fr. Richard Fragomeni**, a lecturer and associate professor of liturgy and preaching at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; and **Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller** (who will give the Spanish language keynote), Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Chicago Catechetical Conference will feature presentations for catechist certification and ongoing formation and enrichment, as well as exhibitors and publishers, liturgies, and opportunities for networking among catechetical leaders in the Chicagoland area.

## DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEBSITE UPDATE



Remember that the password for entry into the protected site on the Diocesan Religious Education Office website ([www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo)) is *catechesis*.

If you find any difficulty with our website, be sure to contact us. And if you have any suggestions, please get in touch with Paul Jarzembowski ([pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org)) here at the Diocesan Religious Education Office. We are very interested in ongoing feedback on how to produce a more useful and helpful site.

## NEW MEDIA CENTER RESOURCES 2007-2008

Contact Jeanne Pirc at (815) 727-6411 for more information or to rent any of these titles (this list continues on pg. 11)

- *The Fourth Wise Man* (feature film with Martin Sheen)
- *Walking the Bible*
- *Bedbug Bible Gang: Boats of the Bible*
- *Bedbug Bible Gang: Passover Potluck*
- *Bedbug Bible Gang: Pentecost Party*
- *King of Kings* (feature film with Jeffery Hunter)
- *Jesus of Nazareth* (feature film with Robert Powell)
- *Jesus* (feature film with Jeremy Sisto)
- *The Face: Jesus in Art*
- *Fifth Word of Mother Teresa*
- *Footprints of God Series: David and Solomon Expanding the Kingdom*
- *Pope John Paul II* (tv mini-series with Jon Voight)
- *The Gospel of John* (feature film with Henry Ian Cusick)



### We invite you to become a Media Center subscriber today

Jeanne Pirc, Media Librarian

No matter what parish you belong to or what catechetical program you are currently or will be using - the **Diocesan Catechetical Media Center** has resources that compliment your programs, workshops, and events.

The Media Center provides DVD and VHS videos, as well as a library of books, on topics such as prayer, Trinity, sacraments, church history, Jesus, the Beatitudes, social justice, morality, and much, much more. You can also call the Media Center for help getting that perfect five-minute clip you need. We also have feature films, which can be used in part or as a whole for any catechetical setting (children, youth, young adults, adults, etc.). We will work with you on finding how to integrate our favorite movies into ministry and catechesis.

If you or your catechetical ministers work with people who are shy, help them learn in the home with one of the video resources from our library, providing them with a pre-arranged list of things to look for (some materials even come with printed guides to help with this). If you work with adults, we have resources that will entice them to examine their own spiritual journey, their everyday problems at work or home, and even their mental and emotional wellness through the lens of faith.

The Media Center has purchased a number of new DVDs (some of which were only available on VHS previously). We also have a list of great online resources, podcasts, and blogs that work well with the technologically-savvy generations of Catholics today.

In addition to books and video resources, the Media Center rents equipment (such as the latest projectors, sound systems, and more), and provides it at a much more affordable rate than most rental companies.

Take advantage of placing your whole year media order with us this year. Why not let us worry about when you need things? In addition, the two-way shipping offer takes almost all the worry from you. Want to keep your DVD or VHS past the week deadline? Give us a call, and if no one is waiting for it, you can keep it even longer.

Both the book and VHS/DVD libraries are available online for your convenience. Log onto [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/mediacenter](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/mediacenter). If you have any trouble with the online process, please call us at (815) 727-6411 for assistance.

#### How do you subscribe to the Diocesan Media Center?

A registration form is enclosed in this issue of *Leaven* or go online for a downloadable registration form (which you can fax or mail into us).

# From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians

## a great media center resource for adult faith formation

Jeanne Pirc, Media Librarian

One of the new videos in the Media Center this summer, *From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians* (1998), is a refreshing resource for college students, young adults, and for any adult faith formation experiences. This series gives us an overview of the struggle of early Christians to discover who they were and what made them unique.

The video series begins with a good look at the message of Christ and the accompanying political climate leading to Jesus' death. However, the majority of the series shows us the Jewish followers of Jesus (empowered with a new paradigm shift of their traditional Jewish faith) as they spread their master's teachings in new and innovative ways, aided by some new converts including Paul of Tarsus. We see the writing of the Gospels, the emergence of moral and dogmatic teachings, and full recognition within the Roman Empire that had persecuted them for so long.

*From Jesus to Christ* gives us a snapshot of the tension during the fight for Christian identity in those first centuries after Jesus and gives a historical look at the writing of the Gospels and the formation of our shared Christian beliefs.

For parishioners, students, or young adults asking the question, "What does it take to be a Christian?" this video series will give them a historical answer of how the *first* Christians answered that challenge. We recommend that catechetical leaders use this video as an opportunity to teach people that being Christian meant more than just going to Mass in the first three centuries, and that much of our faith was built on the struggles, deaths, and dialogue of believers committed to the revolutionary message of Jesus of Nazareth.



### **Some practical suggestions for *From Jesus to Christ*:**

Use this series over a period of sessions, and after each segment of the video, leaders can facilitate a great discussion where questions can emerge about the relevance of Church history and the Christian story. Questions that would be useful while watching *From Jesus to Christ* include:

- What is it about Jesus' original message that is worth fighting for today?
- Would you lay down your life for what Jesus proclaimed? Why?
- What is it about Jesus' words in the Gospels that would compel us today to do what the first Christians did?
- Why did it take three centuries for the early Christians to finally find their identity and purpose in the world, or to be recognized by the Roman Empire?
- How does the Christianity of the twenty-first century compare to the Christianity of the first through fourth centuries? What's the same, and what's so different?

**If you want to rent this video or if you're curious about how to best use this series in your ministry or classroom setting, please contact Jeanne Pirc in the Diocesan Catechetical Media Center at (815) 727-6411 or email [jpirc@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jpirc@dioceseofjoliet.org).**

(continued from pg. 10)

- *Catholic Basics for Kids* (four programs)
- *What is Bible, Sacrament, Church and Tour of Parish Church?* (one dvd)
- *Mass for Children - Young People - and Why Do We Go To Mass on Sunday?* (one dvd)
- *Grandma's Bread* (in both English and Spanish)
- *Cross of Christ* with Fr. Ron Rolheiser
- *Pillars of Faith* (set of four programs)
- *Lenten Journey*
- *Bible Classics from Nest* (animated series, set of six)
- *The Bible According to Hollywood*
- *With God in Russia* with Fr. Walter Ciszak
- *Greatest Story Ever Told* (feature film with Max Von Sydow)
- *From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians* (VHS, four tapes)
- *Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition*
- *The Unknown Jesus* (VHS, two tapes)
- *Jesus the Way: Path of Christian Discipleship* with Tom Zanzig (media kit)

## The Alternative World Youth Day Experience

for college students,  
high school youth,  
and young adults



Can't afford to go to Sydney, Australia, for the international World Youth Day event with the Pope?

Then, we've got an "alternative experience" just for you.

**July 19-20, 2008**

**Diocese of Joliet  
Pastoral Center  
Romeoville**

(simultaneous with the WYD events in Sydney, Australia)

**Want to help us plan this event?**

Look at the column to the right for details on upcoming planning meetings.

(continued from pg. 1)

In addition, four sites (North Central College in Naperville, Corpus Christi Parish in Carol Stream, Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst, and St. Jude Parish in Joliet) were targeted towards college students and young adults age 18 to 25, in an effort to build more intentional outreach to young men and women away at universities or who recently graduated from college.

In the southeast DuPage area, four parishes (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and Our Lady of Peace Parish in Darien, Christ the Servant Parish in Woodridge, and St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove) collaborated jointly on a Theology-on-Tap series held at Home Run Inn Pizzeria in Darien. Due to their synergy and cooperation, this turned out to be one of the most successful Theology-on-Tap sites this summer.

"We're all searching for something in our lives," said Mick Ruddle, Pastoral Associate and one of the Theology-on-Tap coordinators at St. Matthew Parish in Glendale Heights. "Theology-On-Tap gives you a place to look. I pray that even more young adults take advantage of this great program next year."

In addition to these, six other parishes hosted the summer speaker series for singles and young couples in their 20s and 30s including St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield, St. Petronille Parish in Glen Ellyn, St. Walter Parish in Roselle, St. Anthony Parish in Frankfort, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville, and the Lisiuex Pastoral Center in Kankakee, which hosted Theology-on-Tap for the first time in over a decade.



Young adults converse with Bishop Sartain at the Theology-on-Tap Finale Celebration at Francis Cardinal George's Residence in Chicago

On Sunday, August 5, over 500 young adults converged on Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago to conclude the Theology-on-Tap season in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet. Francis Cardinal George and Bishop Sartain concelebrated the Mass, along with Bishop Kaffer and eleven priests from the Chicago and Joliet dioceses.

After the Mass, the young adults traveled north to Cardinal George's residence for lawn party and picnic dinner hosted by the Cardinal himself. He and Bishop Sartain talked for several hours with young adults who came from as far north as Milwaukee and as far south as Kankakee.

"There's still more to come, though," said Denise Rose, 34, of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Darien. "We're looking forward to all the great things coming this fall, especially the opportunities to keep in touch with other people my age."

To follow on the enthusiasm generated by Theology-on-Tap and the Finale Mass & Picnic, the Diocese of Joliet Young Adult Ministry is planning diocesan-wide events over the next several months (see next page), as well as working with parishes and regions to develop and enhance young adult programming in different areas throughout the diocese.

# Beyond the Tap: Life after Theology-on-Tap

Paul Jarzembowski

"We think we're spinning our wheels when we work very hard but seem to get nowhere," said Bishop J. Peter Sartain in his homily at Theology-on-Tap Finale Mass at Holy Name Cathedral on Sunday, August 5, 2007.



Home Run Inn in Darien is one of the Theology-on-Tap sites looking to go "beyond the tap" and host more events this year.

"If we are not growing rich in what matters to God, we're just, well, spinning our wheels... Jesus reminds us that everything is vanity, unless we first set our hearts on what pertains to heaven, unless we grow rich in what matters to God."

To the young men and women in the pews that Sunday, Bishop Sartain was naming something real for them: they spend each and every day trying to make a decent wage while also trying to raise their credibility in their careers, adding more and more to their resume and bank account – but still feeling like something's missing.

This fall, the Young Adult Ministry is building on the enthusiasm and direction begun at Theology-on-Tap by developing several initiatives and activities for young adults across the Diocese of Joliet. These initiatives offer young adults a chance to fill in that void and to start "spinning their wheels," as Bishop Sartain put it, toward God.

The Diocese of Joliet is asking all parishes and campuses to help spread the word and invite the young professionals, college students, singles, and young couples they know to these programs including:

### **Rock the Word: Monthly Candlelight "Lectio Divinia" for Young Adults**

Second Thursdays (beginning Thurs., September 13, 2007) – 7:00 p.m.  
Loretto Convent, 1600 Somerset Lane, Wheaton

### **Naperville Y.A.C.H.T. Club (Young Adult Catholics Hanging Together)**

#### **Monthly Dinner & Speaker Night for Young Adults**

Third Tuesdays (beginning Tues., September 18, 2007) – 7:00 p.m.  
Mullen's Bar & Grill, Warrenville Rd. & Naper Blvd., Lisle

### **Sacred Fun: Young Adult Weekend Retreat**

Friday through Sunday, September 21 to 23, 2007  
Cenacle Retreat House, Batavia & Butterfield Rds., Warrenville

In addition to this, an Advent Day of Prayer (Dec. 1), a Young Couples Conference (Jan. 12), sports leagues, mission trips, speaker nights, and service projects are being developed. A Young Adult Ministry Advisory Commission was established this spring to work with the Religious Education Office on creating and implementing these new initiatives.

For more information about these and other upcoming Young Adult Ministry programs, please contact Paul Jarzembowski at the Diocesan Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411, ext. 261, or e-mail him at [pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org).

**Daytime Kick-Off  
"Alternative WYD"  
Planning Meeting**

**Thursday,  
Sept. 20, 2007**

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Diocesan Pastoral  
Center, Romeoville

(for full-time parish staff members, youth and young adult ministers; this meeting takes place immediately after the Youth Ministry cluster meetings to make it convenient for DYMs)

**Nighttime Kick-Off  
"Alternative WYD"  
Planning Meeting**

**Thursday,  
Sept. 20, 2007**

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Diocesan Pastoral  
Center, Romeoville

(for youth, campus, and young adult leaders coming from work or home; light snacks will be on hand)

*For more info about the "Alternative WYD Experience," contact Paul Jarzembowski at (815) 727-6411, x261, or email [pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org).*

## Catechist Initial Formation Days

For more details,  
contact Joyce  
Donahue at (815)  
727-6411, ext. 258,  
or e-mail [jdonahue@  
dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org).

**Saturday, Sept. 8**  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
St. Martin of Tours  
Kankakee

**Sunday, Sept. 16**  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
St. Michael Parish  
Wheaton

**Friday, Sept. 21**  
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Christ the Servant  
Parish  
Woodridge

**Saturday, Sept. 29**  
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
St. Raphael Parish  
Naperville

**Saturday, Oct. 13**  
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
St. Mary Immaculate  
Plainfield

**Saturday, Nov. 3**  
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph Parish  
Downers Grove

## Don't Forget Catechist Certification!

Joyce Donahue

A reminder – it is the call of every catechist and teacher-catechist working with children, youth or adults in the diocese to engage in continuing faith formation which enriches and supports their ministry and their own Catholic spirituality. The Diocese of Joliet Catechist Certification Program, **In Service to the Master**, is a great tool to assist catechists to pursue a plan for ongoing lifelong faith formation. Over the next few months, watch for in-service opportunities at your local and regional cluster meetings to help you understand how our program works.

The first step for a new (or nearly new) catechist is to attend the Catechist Initial Certification Day (CIFD) normally sponsored by the Diocesan Religious Education Office (REO). In accordance with the guidelines from the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the CIFD experience is primarily a retreat day, designed to awaken the spirituality of catechists, then equip them to share the Good News with those they catechize.

Who can benefit from Catechist Certification?

- Religious Education catechists
- Catholic school teachers
- Youth Ministry team members and group leaders
- Young Adult Ministry leaders
- RCIA catechists
- Adult Education group facilitators and leaders
- Marriage prep and Baptism prep team members

Catechist certification is for **anyone** who takes a leadership role in sharing faith and helping other people share faith.

Upcoming CIFD dates and registration forms are available on the Diocesan Religious Education Office web page at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/catechistcertandform.asp>. For questions about Catechist Certification, please contact Joyce Donahue at [jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org) or (815) 727-6411, ext. 258.

### Catechist Formation and Certification: A High Diocesan Priority

Tom Quinlan

Bishop Sartain has expressed to me his valuing of catechist ongoing formation that leads to certification for all catechists, be they in ministry to children (religious education and Catholic school), youth or adults. With this in mind, I encourage you to continue this year to build momentum among your catechists toward achieving certification through the diocesan certification program, **In Service to the Master**.

Parishes were previously provided copies of the program binder for **In Service to the Master**. Click the button on the Diocesan Religious Education Office website ([www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo)) that reads "Catechist Formation and Certification" for all the information that pertains to this. Please feel free to contact Joyce Donahue at [jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org) to answer additional questions.

Finally, the Diocesan Religious Education Office staff would be most happy to come out and provide cluster and regional trainings to assist in the continuing implementation of catechist certification in your parish. Just let us know of your interest. Call us today at (815) 727-6411.

## Knights of Columbus Anniversary

The Knights of Columbus are marking 125 years as a Catholic fraternal benefit society this year. Founded in 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is a remarkably generous organization, giving \$139 million and a collective 64 million hours of volunteer service to charitable causes in 2005.



The Knights of Columbus have a positive impact on the life of the Church throughout the Diocese of Joliet. In particular, they have been long supportive of diocesan efforts to support in the faith formation of Catholics with special needs. Please join with the Diocesan Religious Education Office in thanking these wonderful men among us who, collectively as Knights of Columbus, make such a tremendous difference!

## Congratulations to the Viatorians

In early August, the Clerics of St. Viator, sometimes referred to as the Viatorian Order, reached two important anniversaries. The order of priests and brothers marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. And the Province of Chicago (which includes the Diocese of Joliet) celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. The Viatorians, as with so many religious orders of men and women, have a long and prominent history of service to this diocese. The order has been extremely generous in its commitment to this local Church, particularly in Kankakee County.

The Clerics of St. Viator name *catechesis* as one of its priorities as a religious order. Throughout the history of the diocese, the Viatorians have lived out and continue to live out their passion for catechetical ministry. On behalf of the broader catechetical community in the diocese, the Diocesan Religious Education Office wishes to extend congratulations and deep thanks to the Viatorians for their holy and graced ministry!

## Joliet Cluster In-Service Day

Sat., October 20, 2007  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
St. Francis of Assisi  
Parish, Bolingbrook

Keynote Address:  
“Heralds of the Good  
News: Becoming the  
Best You Can Be” with  
Saundra Kennedy

Cost: \$10.00 each

*For more information,  
contact Theresa Palicka  
at (630) 759-7588, ext.  
109. Sponsored by the  
Joliet-Will Religious  
Education Cluster*

## Catechist In-Service Workshops

Tues., Jan. 22, 2008,  
Kathy Drennan

Tues., Feb. 26, 2008,  
Marie Neis

Thurs., March 6, 2008  
Catherine Fry

Mon., March 10, 2008  
Susan Tutaj &  
Polly Rausch

All the above are held  
at St. Petronille Parish in  
Glen Ellyn, each one at  
7:30 p.m. that night.

Cost: \$5.00 each per  
workshop (register by  
one day prior to event)

*Sponsored by Northeast  
DuPage Religious  
Education Cluster and  
St. Petronille Parish.  
For more details, call  
(630) 858-3796, x4000.*



**Sacramental Catechesis Day focuses on the Rite stuff!**

*A jointly-sponsored day (Diocesan Religious Education Office and Harcourt Publishing) on sacramental catechesis, “Embracing the Vision: Leading People to Sacraments,” was held at St. Scholastica Parish in Woodridge on Wed., August 15, 2007.*

*By all accounts, it was a wonderfully successful formation event for catechetical leaders and other parish staff. The day began with Bishop Sartain celebrating Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption. Sr. Linda Gaupin (pictured above), a national leader in liturgical and sacramental formation hailing from the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, was the presenter that day.*

*With her humor and engaging style, Sr. Linda invited the 145 participants present that day to imagine the possibilities for building parish ministry so that it is more intentional, cohesive and rooted in the core of Catholic identity, our sacraments. She focused on preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist, but the implications from the vision that the Church sets forth in its documents extends fully to all parish formation. Later this fall, Sr. Linda’s book on this catechetical vision and implementation program, including useful parish handout materials, will be released. It will be a valuable resource for parishes.*

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## Bishop Sartain meets with Leadership Council

*Tom Quinlan*

The June meeting of the Diocesan Religious Education Board had only one agenda item on it: to spend time in conversation about catechesis with Bishop J. Peter Sartain.

The meeting turned out to be a wonderful opportunity to hear from the bishop on his values and hopes for our ministry and to discuss topics of interest from Board members. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to receive Bishop Sartain's official approval of changing the name of the Religious Education Board to the "Catechetical Leadership Council," which the Board felt better expressed its vital role as an advisory body to the Diocese of Joliet Religious Education Office (REO).



In his initial comments, Bishop Sartain spoke of his affinity for catechesis and appreciation for the role of the catechist. He affirmed the importance of lay ministry and stressed the essential nature of ongoing support for and formation of lay leaders. Bishop named the mission of evangelization as the context in which we perform our tasks as catechetical leaders. He pointed out the great need for forming today's adults in faith, noting the need for remedial catechesis of adult Catholics who may not be as well formed in Catholic faith as we might hope. He spoke of the need to provide effective sacramental formation for parents and all adults. He also commented that adults learn in a variety of ways, and that parishes ought to be sensitive to this dynamic.

The relationship between professional lay leaders and parishioners seeking to serve in their parish's ministry is to be carefully fostered. He stressed the value of collaboration in such relationships, seeing ourselves and one another as instruments of God's grace.



*The Catechetical Leadership Council meets in August at the Diocesan Pastoral Center to discuss current projects and catechetical initiatives.*

Particular areas of catechetical ministry were brought to the bishop for his perspective. He remarked what an important challenge rural and small town parishes face as populations grow and longtime parishioners try to welcome new people and new perspectives. Likewise, Bishop Sartain spoke of the gifts and challenges that come to parishes that have a large multicultural and immigrant population.

Bishop Sartain stressed the importance of making sure that our people truly grasp that which makes us Catholic. He named the Eucharist as being at the heart of our catholicity. And Bishop framed all catechetical ministry, as he has on numerous occasions, within the centrality of the person of Jesus, whom we must know first and then share with others.