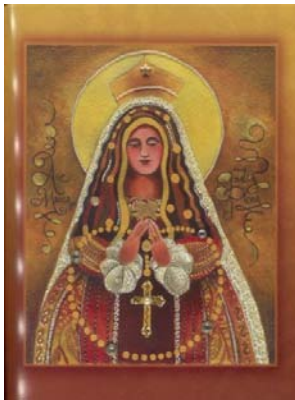


FAITH FORMATION ONLINE RESOURCES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PARISH CATECHISTS

October 4, 2010

Religious Education Resources from NCCL

October is Rosary Month – October 7 – *Our Lady of the Rosary*



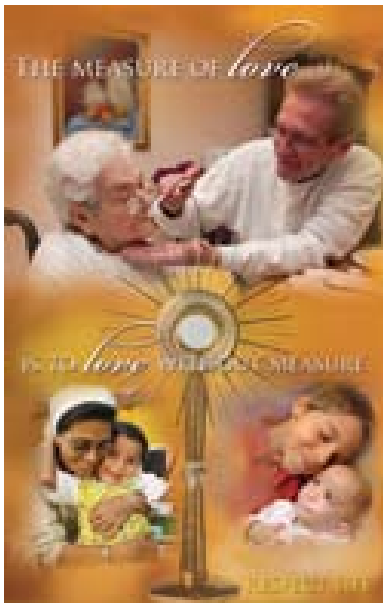
The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of *Our Lady of the Rosary* is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

This picture of *Our Lady of the Rosary* is by Brother Michael McGrath and can be found in his book, *Blessed Art Thou*. Click on the book to order your copy or click [Blessed Art Thou](#).



October - Respect Life Month

The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure



In a statement to mark Respect Life Month, October 2010, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston addressed direct threats to human life and called Catholics to “constantly witness to the inestimable worth and dignity of each human life through a loving concern for the good of others.” He also encouraged participation in the Pope Benedict’s “unprecedented request” for Catholics throughout the world to observe a “[Vigil for All Nascent Human Life](#)” (<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/papalvigil>) on Saturday, November 27, at the start of Advent.

“The loss of even one child, and the pain experienced by the child’s mother and father in the aftermath of abortion, should impel us to redouble our efforts to end legal abortion,” Cardinal DiNardo said. He stressed the need “to ensure that every pregnant woman has whatever help she needs to turn away from this heartbreaking choice.” He highlighted Project Rachel, the

Church's healing ministry to women and men hurting after abortion, and called the ministry "a reflection of God's love and mercy and His constant offer of forgiveness and healing."

Begun in 1972, the Respect Life Program stresses the value and dignity of human life. It is observed in the 195 Catholic dioceses in the United States. This year's theme is "*The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure.*" The full statement may be found online at www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/10dinardo-stmt.pdf

PLAN AHEAD – World Priest Day – October 31, 2010



World Priest Day is sponsored by [Worldwide Marriage Encounter](http://www.wvme.org). (<http://www.wvme.org>) and World Priest Day is now celebrated concurrently with [Serra Club's](http://www.serraus.org) (<http://www.serraus.org>) Priesthood Sunday.

Click here for the [2010 WPD Celebration Starter Kit](http://wpd.wvme.org/downloads/2010StarterKit_english.pdf) (http://wpd.wvme.org/downloads/2010StarterKit_english.pdf) (PDF, 372KB) All the materials are also available in Spanish (<http://wpd.wvme.org/spanish>). There are lots of ideas on their

website.

We ♥ Our Priests!

Recent Updates on the Roman Missal



It is important that you continue to update yourself on the new information that keeps being placed on the USCCB website dedicated to the Introduction of the New Roman Missal (<http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal>).



[BECOME ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT IN CHRIST](#) is a multi-media catechetical resource on the liturgy. To prepare for the implementation of the new edition of the Roman Missal, this DVD provides formation and instruction about not only the new texts but about the nature and purpose of the liturgy, the history of the Mass, and detailed lessons on the various parts of the Mass.

Read Sample Final Texts

The [Roman Missal Web site](#) includes samples texts of the Order of the Mass

10 Things Science Says Will Make You Happy

YES! magazine loves lists and here is one of their latest lists. The ten (10) things, supported by research, are

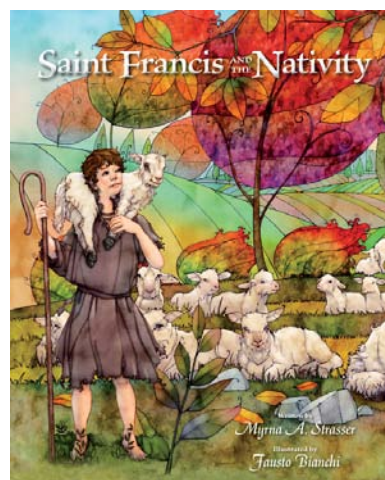
1. Savor Everyday Moments
2. Avoid Comparisons
3. Put Money Low on the List
4. Have Meaningful Goals
5. Take Initiative at Work
6. Make Friends, Treasure Family
7. Smile Even When You Don't Feel Like
8. Say Thank You Like You Mean It
9. Get Out and Exercise
10. Give it Away, Give it Away Now!

If you want to read more, go to http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/sustainable-happiness/10-things-science-says-will-make-you?utm_source=augsep10&utm_medium=yesemail&utm_campaign=10ThingsHappy or order the poster, go to http://store.yesmagazine.org/other-products/happiness-poster?utm_source=augsep10&utm_medium=yesemail&utm_campaign=poster10Things



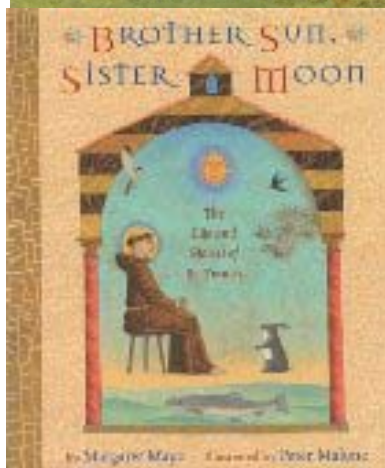
NEW RESOURCES FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Saint Francis and the Nativity



This book is more for Christmas than the Feast of Saint Francis, but it is stunning. The colors are so rich and vivid. Had it been in print and available I would have purchased it on the spot.

This beautifully illustrated premier Christmas book tells the story of St. Francis and the first Christmas pageant. Where did the tradition of displaying a manger scene come from? Find out in *Saint Francis and the Nativity*, an engaging story that weaves together the history of the first nativity with the fictional story of Mario, a young shepherd boy, who helps Saint Francis of Assisi find a way to visually display the true meaning of Christmas. You can get it (ISBN-13: 978-0310708902) at [Saint Francis and the Nativity](#).

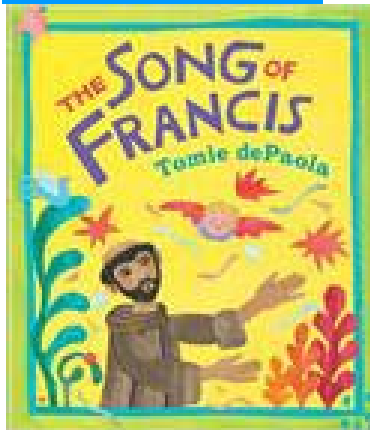


Brother Sun, Sister Moon: The Life and Stories of Saint Francis

A highly readable and aesthetically appealing portrait of St. Francis of Assisi. Eleven chapters subtly suggest a distinction between life and legend. Mayo begins with biography and proceeds with the well-known stories of how Francis tamed a wolf, talked to the birds, and organized the first living creche. These are followed by lesser-known tales, a simplified version of The Canticle of Brother Sun, information about the canonization, and the 1997 earthquake that destroyed much of the Basilica of San Francesco. Malone's paintings combine elements from illuminated manuscripts and frescoes by Giotto with invented, playful cameos united through scale, palette, and subject. The overall effect is of an enactment of a medieval mystery play, with the saint, his family, and followers as central characters. The sun and the moon also appear, at times as heavenly bodies, or as costumed actors or musicians, depending on the scene.

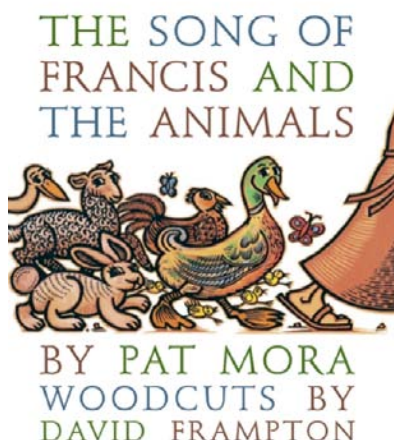
The only image that disrupts the flow is the procession to the first nativity. Other sources place the scene in a cave. Here it is a church—one that looks like a modern structure. The brief bits of dialogue are similar to those found in other biographies; Mayo does offer some information on sources, including an allusion to Francis's own writings, but direct documentation is not provided. The art creates a medieval setting quite effectively; the generous use of white space between the relatively simple sentences makes the content accessible to a range of readers. Consider this one even if you have other titles about this popular saint (ISBN-13: 978-0316564663). You have the opportunity to purchase this book at [Brother Sun, Sister Moon: The Life and Stories of St. Francis.](#)

[The Song of Francis](#)



Venerable author-illustrator dePaola has written about St. Francis before, in *Francis: The Poor Man of Assisi* (1982). This book is for a younger audience, and its purpose isn't to give information about the man but rather to give a sense of him, particularly his love of life and his affinity for God's creatures. Although nowhere does the book allude to the "Canticle of the Sun," Francis' ode to the natural world, this seems to be the basis for the book; Francis sings about Brother Sun and Sister Moon and invites the birds to "come and bless the Lord, because the Lord loves you." The collage art, which has both charm and power, uses marker-colored papers to make birds, trees, and a bevy of curly-haired angels. In one exhilarating two-page spread, angels and birds intermingle, flying through the sky, as the brown-froked Francis seems to lead them in song (ISBN-10: 039925210X). You can order [The Song of Francis](#).

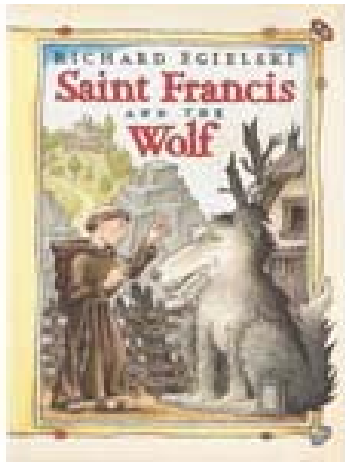
[The Song of Saint Francis and the Animals](#)



Mora's narrative about the Saint and his tender relationships with wild creatures is more poetry than story. The lyrical text describes how Francis speaks with birds, tames a wolf that threatens the people of Gubbio, and re-creates the manger scene with the help of villagers, lambs, an ox, and a donkey. Throughout, the animals sing and call back to him. Some Italian

phrases are included, with a translation at the front of the book. The variety of species that populate Frampton's vibrant, detailed two-page woodcuts will delight youngsters. The animals are full of character and personality and emphasize Francis's belief in their gentleness. The fierce wolf turns into a fawning supplicant and a falcon shelters the sleeping man with spread wings. Francis's compassion for a worm shows children an example of having respect for even the lowliest of creatures (ISBN-13: 978-0802852533). You can order [The Song Of Francis And The Animals](#).

Saint Francis and the Wolf

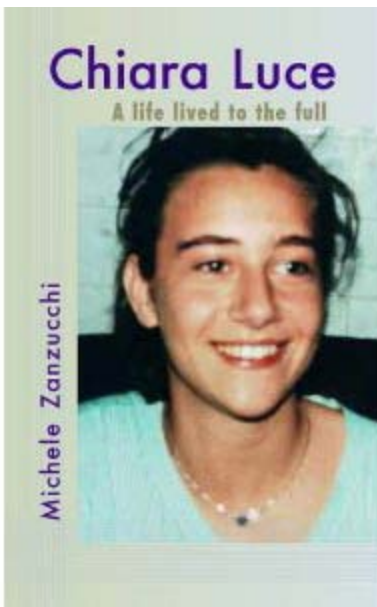


Long before Doctor Dolittle came along, Saint Francis of Assisi was known to have a special talent for soothing even the most savage beast. In this sharp and lively picture book, Egielski recreates the oft-told tale of the friar's taming of a wicked wolf that terrorized the Italian town of Gubbio in the 13th century. Knights, armies, and a threatening-looking war machine have all failed to put a stop to his terrible behavior. Only St. Francis, who can speak the wolf's language, is able to find a workable compromise for the creature and the town. The expressive cartoon art is done in Egielski's characteristic style and is full of child appeal. The warm bright colors of the townspeople's garb mixed with Francis's earth tones create a visually pleasing design; touches of humor (such as the wolf picking its teeth with a

knight's spear) keep the tone light even when the story mentions frightening topics. Egielski summarizes St. Francis's life in a couple of paragraphs, concentrating primarily on his ability to communicate with animals and his message that every man, woman, and child should love all God's creatures that walk on the earth, fly in the sky, and swim in the sea (ISBN-10: 0066238706). Click to order [Saint Francis and the Wolf](#).

Modern Teen to Be Beatified – Chiara Luce Bedano

She is called "a saint of our times" by the local bishop in Italy who knew her personally. He sees this 18-year-old, who died after a three-year struggle with bone cancer, as a guiding light ("Luce") especially for young people. Asked if she talked about spirituality with her high school friends, she said, "Talking about God doesn't count for much. I have to give Him."



Saturday, in the shrine of Divine Love in Rome, Chiara was beatified in a ceremony presided over by Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, in representation of Benedict XVI. Cancer took her life at age eighteen. She was a member of the Focolare Movement, founded in Italy by Chicca Lubich in 1943.

Chicca recalled how Chiara wished to prepare her own funeral: the songs of the Mass, the dress and hairdo: Everything was for her a celebration. The friend recalled, "She told me she wanted to be buried in a white dress, as a bride that goes to meet Jesus."

Chiara made one last exhortation to her mother: "When you dress me, you must repeat three times: Now Chiara is seeing Jesus." Chiara also asked that the cornea of her eyes be donated to two youths. She died on Oct. 7, 1990. Her last words to her mother were: "Be happy because I'm happy."

Chiara Luce's recognized miracle was the healing of a little boy dying from meningitis last year. You can read her story in the book "[Chiara Luce: A Life Lived to the Full](#)"

(ISBN-13: 978-0904287981) by Michele Zanzucchi. You can also find out more at her website <http://www.chiaralucebadano.it/index.php?lang=en>.

NOTICE FOR HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION TEACHERS:

Professional Webinar Development Series

Applying the Bishops' High School Curriculum to Parish Programs

Tuesday, October 12, 2010
3:00 p.m. EDT

In partnership with the National Association for Lay Ministry and the National Conference for Catechetical Leaders, Ave Maria Press presents a series of free live webinars on professional development for Catholic ministers. In October, join Mike Amodei, author of *Catholic Essentials: An Overview of the Faith*, as he explores the new curriculum framework for Catholic parish youth-ministry programs.



Incorporating catechesis in a successful parish religious education or youth-ministry program for high school teens is at once a challenging and exciting endeavor. The challenge is to present essential content. The excitement is the ability to do so in a way that is flexible and diverse while incorporating elements like sacramental catechesis, spirituality, retreats, prayer, and works of charity. The USCCB's Adaptation of a Curriculum Framework offers an outline of catechetical topics. This session explores ways to incorporate those topics into parish programs based on a trimester model that allows for comprehensive and flexible coverage to serve the varied and demanding schedules of both teens and adults.

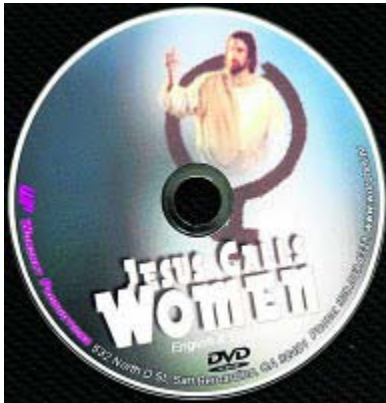
Register for the event here (<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/542647001>)

Jesus Calls Woman



If you are looking for new vocation resources, consider the *National Coalition for Church Vocations* ([http://www.nccv-vocations.org/New-Items c 81.html](http://www.nccv-vocations.org/New-Items_c_81.html))

This DVD, *Jesus Calls Women*, contains interviews eighteen sisters who reflect on: discernment, the vows, challenges, prayer, joys, community, stages of formation, God, Jesus, spirituality, charism and commitment. These are real life stories of women from nine religious orders who reflect cultural diversity and have/are choosing to respond to the call to the consecrated life as sisters today. It is a contemporary and reflective resource and can be used in a variety of ways and settings. NCCL Board member and PCL had this to say about the resource.



vocation.

This video provides helpful information about living the vocation of religious life. Through personal conversation one learns about discernment, vows, prayer, community and free choice while living in community. Women of varying ages, from different communities and personal backgrounds share their joys and challenges of living this special call and ministry. This video would be helpful to students who would like to know more about what it means to live a Consecrated Life and for young women who might be interested in pursuing God's call in this

English & Spanish are on one DVD! 30 minutes, 12-page user-friendly study guide (overview, suggested uses, reflection & discussion questions, prayer service, discernment tips, prayer, resources, etc.) Junior high – young adults. You can watch a video clip on *YouTube* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Uxv4AddYOE>