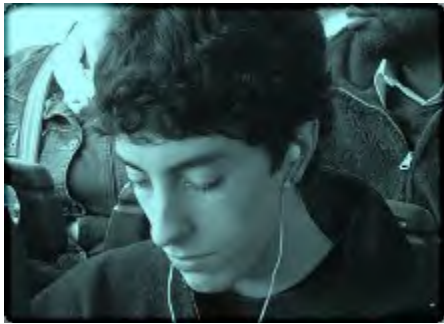


## Religious Education Newsletter

### October 3, 2011

Happy October! As we enter this month that celebrates the gift of life and praying the rosary, below are several items available for download to include with your classroom and faith formation programs.

Also, for those of you finding it difficult to fit in prayer, the attached link will take you to a wonderful podcast from **pray-as-you-go** <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/>  
I hope you take a moment to try it out. It is a great way to wake up and begin your day with 12 minutes of inspirational music and a reflection on the daily Gospel based on Ignatian spirituality.



### OCTOBER – Respect Life Month



The 2011-2012 Respect Life Program features eight pamphlets in a series called Life Matters. Each presents convincing support for the teachings of the Catholic Church on major pro-life issues, with facts and reasoning drawn from science, history, law, sociology, and other secular sources. All 8 pamphlets are available in English and Spanish. Each pamphlet is accessible as a pdf for a bulletin insert. The value of these pamphlets/Bulletin Inserts goes beyond their use on *Respect Life* Sunday or even *Respect Life* month. The eight topics are:

**Life Matters: Abortion** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* \_Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *The Death Penalty*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *Persons with Disabilities*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *Reproductive Technologies*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *Embryo Research*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *Love and Marriage*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *To the End of Our Days*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

**Life Matters: *Contraception*** - PDF: [English](#) / [Español](#) \* Bulletin Inserts: [English](#) / [Español](#)

## Question of the Week

For the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 9, 2011)

“Some ignored the invitation and went away.... Go out...and invite to the feast whomever you find.” Who has invited you to the feast? Have you ever ignored the invitation? Ever made excuses why you didn’t celebrate the banquet of love at Mass? Who have you invited to the feast? More importantly, whom have you not invited? What do you think the wedding garment represents? Have you ever come to the fest “without a wedding garment”?

## NCCL News

### General Papal Intention for October



That the terminally ill may be supported by their faith in God and the love of their brothers and sisters.

### Mission Papal Intention for October



That the celebration of World Mission Day may foster in the People of God a passion for evangelization with the willingness to support the missions with prayer and economic aid for the poorest Churches.

## BISHOPS' FACEBOOK PAGE HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 4 FEAST OF FRANCIS

To mark the feast of the animal-loving saint, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) posted photos of pets submitted by USCCB Facebook fans as well as a blessing of the animals prayer from the USCCB's *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. Background music on the site is songwriter Marty Haugen's "Canticle of the Sun," also known as "Praise of the Creatures." The original hymn is ascribed to St. Francis, the 13th century friar and preacher and one of the most popular saints in Christianity.

Animal lovers can bless their pets using the prayer which asks God: "Reach out with your right hand and grant that these animals may serve our needs and that your bounty in the resources of this life may move us to seek more confidently the goal of eternal life."

## Gather In My Name Event highlighting the Roman Missal Third Edition



Sadlier announces a new *Gather In My Name* event, called **The Eucharist: Highlighting the Roman Missal, Third Edition** is now live in English at [www.gatherinmyname.com](http://www.gatherinmyname.com). This downloadable PowerPoint is easy to implement and can be used as an intergenerational parish event; a class or catechetical session; a session for catechists and other ministerial groups; an enrichment sessions for adults; and an event for parents of children in sacramental preparation or catechetical programs.



It designed to help participants learn about the Eucharist as a memorial, a meal, and a sacrifice and review the changes in the Mass as presented in *The Roman Missal, Third Edition*. One particularly handy feature is a PDF is the downloadable "Event Packet" which includes a handout that details all the changes in the Mass – citing the old and the new text for each part of the Mass. Best of all, Sadlier offers you this parish intergenerational program for *free*.



## U.S. BISHOPS ESTABLISH NEW AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



The U.S. bishops have established a new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty to address growing concerns over the erosion of freedom of religion in America. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), established the ad hoc committee after consulting with the USCCB Administrative Committee during the Committee's September 13-14 meeting in Washington. The Administrative Committee meets three times a year and conducts the work of the bishops' conference between plenary sessions. He announced formation of the ad hoc committee in a September 29 letter to the U.S. bishops (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/upload/dolan-letter-on-religious-liberty.pdf>).

In a letter to bishops to announce the ad hoc committee, Archbishop Dolan said religious freedom "in its many and varied applications for Christians and people of faith, is now increasingly and in unprecedented ways under assault in America." The Archbishop listed six religious liberty concerns arising just since June:

- Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations that would mandate the coverage of contraception (including abortifacients) and sterilization in all private health insurance plans, which could coerce church employers to sponsor and pay for services they oppose. The new rules do not protect insurers or individuals with religious or moral objections to the mandate.
- An HHS requirement that USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services provide the "full range of reproductive services"—meaning abortion and contraception—to trafficking victims and unaccompanied minors in its cooperative agreements and government contracts. The position mirrors the position urged by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in the ongoing lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of MRS's contracts as a violation of religious liberty.
- Catholic Relief Services' concern that US Agency for International Development, under the Department of State, is increasingly requiring condom distribution in HIV prevention programs, as well as requiring contraception within international relief and development programs.
- The Justice Department's attack on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), presenting DOMA's support for traditional marriage as bigotry. In July, the Department started filing briefs actively attacking DOMA's constitutionality, claiming that supporters of the law could only have been motivated by bias and prejudice. "If the label of 'bigot' sticks to us—especially in court—because of our teaching on marriage, we'll have church-state conflicts for years to come as a result," Archbishop Dolan said.
- The Justice Department's recent attack on the critically important "ministerial exception," a constitutional doctrine accepted by every court of appeals in the country that leaves to churches (not government) the power to make employment decisions

concerning persons working in a ministerial capacity. In a case to be heard this term in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Department attacked the very existence of the exception.

- New York State's new law redefining marriage, with only a very narrow religious exemption. Already, county clerks face legal action for refusing to participate in same-sex unions, and gay rights advocates are publicly emphasizing how little religious freedom protection people and groups will enjoy under the new law.

## **Power of One**

Sunday, October 2 marked both the United Nations' International Day of Non-Violence and the birthday of one of its biggest proponents: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. [The Power of One](http://www.oneearth.org) (<http://www.oneearth.org>) paid tribute to the concept and the man in 1:42 minute black and white video entitled "Power of One." It honors the values and practice of the nonviolent civil actions that changed a nation -- and indeed, the world. And encourages all to "care for the environment in your own backyard," quite appropriate with the feast of Saint Francis this Tuesday.

## **Yom Kippur**



Yom Kippur begins Friday evening, October 7th. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the anniversary of the day Moshe brought down from Mount Sinai the second set of Ten Commandments. This signified that the Almighty forgave the Jewish people for the transgression of the Golden Calf. For all times this day was decreed to be a day of forgiveness for our mistakes. However, this refers to transgressions against the Almighty.

Transgressions against our fellow human being require us to correct our mistakes and seek forgiveness. If one took from another person, it is not enough to regret and ask the Almighty for forgiveness; first, one must return what was taken and ask for forgiveness from the person and then ask for forgiveness from the Almighty. You can read the entire article as it appeared on *Shabbat Shalom Weekly* at <http://www.aish.com/tp/ss/ssw/130629138.html>.



Rabbi Avraham Bukspan shared an insight into Yom Kippur -- The Day of Atonement. "Atonement" is a conjunctive of "At One-ment" -- of reconnecting, strengthening the relationship with the Almighty, the reconciliation of the Almighty with each of us. Yom Kippur is our opportunity to reunite our spiritual essence -- our soul -- with the Almighty.

## NEW DEPORTATION POLICY APPLAUDED



Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, applauded the recent announcement by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that prosecutorial discretion would be exercised on "low-priority" deportation cases. "We urge your expeditious implementation of this proposal, as vulnerable immigrants who are 'low-priority' remain at imminent risk of deportation," Archbishop Gomez said in a September 29 letter to Secretary Janet Napolitano.

Archbishop Gomez laid out, from the perspective of the U.S. bishops, those categories of immigrants who should receive stays of deportation and qualify for work authorization, as outlined in the DHS announcement. These groups include members of families, as currently defined under federal immigration law; children and individuals who were brought to the United States at a young age and who would benefit from the DREAM Act; other vulnerable immigrants and those who had lived in the United States for years and built equities in their communities. He also asked for protection for "clergy and religious" who serve in faith communities across the nation. You can read the full letter at <http://www.usccb.org/news/2011/11-182.cfm>.

## Collaboration Is Risky. Now, Get on with It.



After watching her eighth grade son work on a school project in collaboration with a fellow student, Whitney Johnson made the following observations about how we can "lay the groundwork for trust so that when we need to collaborate we can quickly slip into a workable partnership" You can read the full blog at <http://blogs.hbr.org/johnson/2011/06/collaboration-is-risky-now-get.html>

**1. Start with simple exchanges where the cost of betrayal is low.** In the workplace, start simply. Share an idea. Ask for advice on a subject about which you know relatively little. Observe what happens. By starting with one-off transactions, we can gauge, at a very low cost, whether a potential collaborator will treat what we bring to the table, and what we don't, with respect.

**2. Remember that our collaborators are competent.** Once we've worked on a few limited scope projects and hammered out the rules of engagement, it's important to give authority to our collaborators. If we find we're micromanaging, maybe we didn't pick our partners as well as we thought, but maybe we're going on the offensive because we feel vulnerable. We picked these partners because we believed we could trust them, and when we micromanage, we're saying loud and clear "I don't trust you."

**3. Don't take advantage of our collaborators' deficiencies.** If we choose to work with someone because they can do what we can't, the almost certain corollary is that we will do something well that they don't. It may be enticing, nonetheless, to begin to poke at our collaborator's lack of knowledge in an area. But "the art of being wise," said William James, "Is the art of knowing what to overlook."

**4. Give others their due, and expect yours in return.** If we are collaborating in the context of work, cash payment is merely the baseline. If we really want to engender trust, we will [give our collaborators credit](http://tiny.cc/hgl51) (<http://tiny.cc/hgl51>) for their contribution, acknowledging their solid execution, and especially their ideas. If rendered in public, and [behind their back](http://tiny.cc/kladc) (<http://tiny.cc/kladc>), even better.

While barriers to collaboration are manifold, the underlying deterrent is lack of trust. When we're willing to do the work of finding collaborators with whom we can entrust both our expertise, and lack thereof, we can create something much grander than we could have on our own — the reward will be more than worth the risk.

## Unemployed – A Continuing Sorrow



The spiritual resources are minimal but Alice Noe suggested a resource in both English and Spanish that may be helpful as it uses the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary.

The pamphlet in English is called *Employment Rosary – An Intercession on Behalf of the Jobless and Underemployed* and can be previewed at [https://catalog.osv.com/PDFs%5CP1144\\_web.pdf](https://catalog.osv.com/PDFs%5CP1144_web.pdf),

The one in Spanish is *Rosario por los Desempleados* and can be previewed at [https://catalog.osv.com/PDFs%5CP1145\\_web.pdf](https://catalog.osv.com/PDFs%5CP1145_web.pdf).

## Using Drones Outside Combat Zones

The moral debate continues and *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly* offers contrasting views on this question.



Armed drones launched the Sept. 30 air strike in Yemen that killed Anwar al-Awlaki, the American radical cleric who tried to recruit Muslims to help al-Qaeda's terrorist efforts. US officials had considered him one of the most dangerous threats to American security. President Obama said al-Awlaki "repeatedly called on individuals in the United States and around the globe to kill innocent men, women, and children to advance a murderous agenda." The mission, Obama added, showed that Al-Qaeda and its allies will find "no safe haven anywhere in the world." But some ethicists are raising questions about whether the killing violated international

law. University of Notre Dame international law professor Mary Ellen O’Connell released a statement calling the strike an illegal mission. “Derogation from the fundamental right to life is permissible only in battle zones or to save a human life immediately. The killing of Anwar al-Awlaki did not occur in these circumstances,” she said. In an interview with managing editor Kim Lawton earlier this year, O’Connell discussed her ethical concerns about the increased use of drones for targeted killings outside official combat zones. Lawton also talked with retired Lt. General David Deptula, who oversaw the US Air Force’s drone program from 2006 until 2010. He said remotely piloted aircraft allow the US a greater measure of accuracy in the new realities of the war against terror.

Watch excerpts from both interviews at <http://tiny.cc/of2nv>.

### **Life Lessons in an Eighth Grade Reading List**



Mark Gerson, who writes about politics, religion, foreign policy and global health and development in a twice-a-week column and on the PostPartisan blog, reflected on two books most of us have read; *Lord of the Flies* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I not only appreciated his insights but I was pleased

with his conclusion.

Scout discovers that the neighbor she feared and mocked has given her pennies, gum and a medal — and then saved her from murder. “Atticus was right,” Scout says of her father. “One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them.”

This is easy to dismiss as sentiment and sugar water. It is, in fact, the answer to everything — to racism and bullying and genocide, and the daily abuse we inflict on each other. Do to others as you’d have them do to you. Don’t judge so you won’t be judged. Walk in the other guy’s shoes for a while. It is the only effective response to the Beast who is constantly reborn.

This is the hope that unites parents and teachers: not that human nature can be changed but that moral education is possible. That a 13-year-old, like many who came before, might glimpse real courage in imaginary lives. That the end of innocence might be the start of sympathy. That even junior high can include a little grace.

At the end of “[\*To Kill a Mockingbird\*](#)” Scout says, “Nothin’s real scary except in books.” It isn’t true. A lot that is human is scary. But the answers are found on the reading list.

It may be worth asking about the reading list of the eighth graders in your parish to see what connections you might make during faith formation. After all, moral education is one of the aspects of catechesis. You can read Mark’s blog at <http://tiny.cc/vfdgy>.

## Runner Carries Competitor Half a Mile



When Andover High School cross-country runner Josh Ripley heard the screams of Lakeville South runner Mark Paulauskas, Josh knew he needed to help. While other competitors in the Applejack Invite in Lakeville ran by, Josh stopped to see what was wrong.

In the first mile of a 2-mile junior varsity race held Sept. 16, Josh found Mark holding his ankle and bleeding profusely. Worried that Mark had punctured his Achilles heel, Josh carried the wounded runner for a half a mile to get him to his coach and parents. After making sure Mark was in good hands, Josh jumped back into the race.

It turns out Mark had been “spiked,” meaning he was stepped on or came in

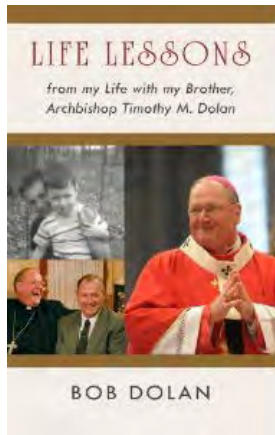
contact with pointed metal spikes some runners wear on their shoes to get better traction. Mark was taken to a hospital where he received more than 20 stitches and is in a brace/boot to immobilize the area so the stitches do not pop out.

Josh, a junior at Andover High School, said stopping to help the injured runner was “just natural instinct. I didn’t think about my race, I knew I needed to stop and help him,” Josh said. “It was something I would expect my other teammates to do. I’m nothing special; I was just in the right place at the right time.”

Josh’s coach, Scott Clark said what Josh did says a lot about him as an individual. “Clearly Josh is a compassionate and caring person,” Clark said. “We consistently talk about being a team and caring about how each person on the team does. Cross country is filled with quality athletes at each school. It is always gratifying to see it exhibited in such a way as Josh did.”

The original story can be read at <http://tiny.cc/y10ut>.

## **Fathers for Good Features an Interview with Bob Dolan about His Brother**



### **Life Lessons, From My Life with My Brother**

**Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan** “is full of down-to-earth anecdotes of growing up in Ballwin, Missouri, and makes numerous references to food, drink and the Catholic faith. The book was written by Bob Dolan, 54 years old, married to his wife, Beth, for 27 years and they have two daughters. The “final chapter changes pace a bit, with younger brother Bob sitting down with big Tim at the Archbishop’s Residence and asking him the “big questions” about the meaning of life and the hope of eternity.” You can read the full interview at <http://tiny.cc/3tcft> and order the book **Life Lessons, From My Life with My Brother Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan**

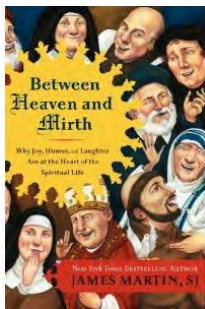


## **Laughter: A Serious Business**

In an article in *The Independent* by Roger Dobson, he writes “Laughing is a serious business, according to researchers, who say it can help in conditions as diverse as diabetes and eczema, heart disease and asthma. It can boost the immune system and help fight infections....” If you didn’t get your exercise today, you still have a chance to burn some calories since “...15 minutes of laughter can burn up 40 calories, while 10 minutes of belly laughter has a considerable analgesic effect on people with chronic pain.”

Dobson lists nine specific benefits of laughter. You can read the full article at <http://tiny.cc/s978p> or consider James Martin’s new book **Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life?**

## **Tomorrow’s the Big Day: Between Heaven and Mirth**



Tomorrow James Martin’s new book, *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life* will be released.

We are called to be a people of joy. Why not be one of the first to read **Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life?**

## Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave



This is an inspirational story but the illustrations are breathtaking. When you describe the creator has making us from the dirt, there is as much magic in the illustrations that accompany this text:

*Dave's hands, buried  
in the mounded mud,  
pulled out the shape of a jar.*

It's a remarkable story [Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave](#) .

## A Good Deed

Inspired by a true story of how a simple act of kindness can have a lifelong impact, this five (5) minute film from SpiritClips is very moving. The description ends with this quote. “Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.” - Princess Diana. Check it out at <http://tiny.cc/fq04x>.

## Holy Water – “It’s so epic!”

When a ‘voice from above’ asks a teenage boy why he blesses himself with holy water as he enters the chapel in his local parish, the teen responds, “Isn’t that what you are supposed to do when you enter a church?” The ‘voice’ then takes him on a journey into his past and future to see exactly what this water means to him. *HOLY WATER* is the September 2011 Video Download of the Month from Eric Groth at [Outside da Box](http://www.outsidedabox.com) (<http://www.outsidedabox.com>). Check it out and consider joining OutsidedaBoxNFP at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OutsidedaBoxNFP>. And the video is even available with Spanish subtitles <http://tiny.cc/jxanz>.



## **Fashion Photographer Brings Nuns to Film**



A former fashion and beauty photographer, Michael Luke Davies, and Mother Xavier McMonagle, the mother-general of the Tyburn Nuns, have released a 90-minute documentary on the life of Benedictine contemplatives. "Tyburn Convent Gloria Deo" brings viewers within the cloisters of the order's nine monasteries, starting with the motherhouse in England, and ranging through Oceania and South America.

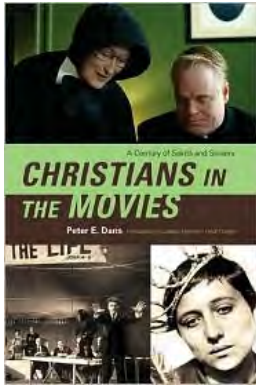
"I was moved to tears many times by the beauty of what I was filming," Davies said. "For me, it exceeded my expectations of what I could film. It was an incredible experience I shall never forget for the rest of my life. The things I have seen and the moments I have shared with these beautiful religious people I will keep with me forever."

The Tyburn Nuns, Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre are an order of cloistered contemplative Benedictine nuns. The order was established in 1903 near Marble Arch, London. It is thus at the site where dozens of English martyrs were killed during the Protestant Reformation. The aim of the congregation is to glorify the Most Blessed Trinity, finding practical expression in daily Mass, the choral celebration of the Divine Office, perpetual adoration, and in daily prayer for the Holy Father, the Church, the country and for the entire human family.

Thirteen pictures from the film can be viewed at [Tyburn Convent Gloria Deo](http://tiny.cc/wpdfz) (<http://tiny.cc/wpdfz>). One reviewer described the experience of watching the film as "The best way I can think of is to say it brings the romance of orthodoxy to the screen." You can read a review of the film at <http://tiny.cc/5lcgb> as well as an interview with Mother at <http://tiny.cc/19er7>.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in films that give the viewer a window on monastic life. In 2005, [\*Into Great Silence \(Two-Disc Set\)\*](#) brought the daily life of the Carthusian Order to the big screen, then last year, the Carmelites were the subject of the documentary [\*No Greater Love: A Unique Portrait of the Carmelite Nuns\*](#) and [\*Of Gods and Men \(Two-Disc Blu-ray/DVD Combo\)\*](#), the story of Trappist monks in the Atlas Mountains, won the Grand Prize at Cannes. Copies of the DVD, *Tyburn Convent Gloria Deo* will soon be available for purchase through Catholic bookshops.

## Two New Films at Movie Theaters



Joe Pichirallo, a film producer and chair of the undergraduate film department at New York University believes that these movies are “a reflection of our times; it’s a scary period, people are looking for meaning in spirituality, Everybody’s struggling with how to find meaning in life in this postmodern era, especially when existence is so glum.” Peter E. Dans, author of “[\*Christians in the Movies: A Century of Saints and Sinners\*](#) ([\*Sheed & Ward Books\*](#)),” added that these films “are an attempt to see how we can live this life, which is not often easy, and faith often gets us through.”

In the new film “The Way,” Martin Sheen stars as a father who travels to Europe to pick up the body of his son, who died in an accident while on a pilgrimage to the shrine at Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Grief-stricken, the father, a non-practicing Catholic, decides to undertake the pilgrimage himself, scattering his son’s ashes along the journey. And while he’s trekking, the man comes to appreciate bigger, spiritual issues. In other words “The Way,” opening Friday, is Christian in the best sense of the term. But “there’s no in-your-face . . . presentation of the Gospel,” says Mark Moring, who writes about film for Christianity Today. “It’s show, don’t tell. It shows a man who is



honest with his struggles, and who finds redemption on his journey.” Watch the 2 ½ minute trailer at <http://theway-themovie.com>



[Courageous](#) which opened last week shows how police officers turn to religion to deal with the pressures of their job. This is a film by the explicitly Christian filmmaker, Sherwood Pictures, an arm of the Georgia-based Sherwood Baptist Church. This is the group that released [\*Fireproof\*](#).“ You can watch the trailer for [Courageous](#) at <http://www.courageousthemovie.com/themovie>.

## E.ggtimer.com Tool



Thanks to Jared Dees at [The Religion Teacher](http://www.thereligionteacher.com) (<http://www.thereligionteacher.com>) who reminds us that “If you give yourself a time deadline, you are much more likely to focus and hustle to get things done on time.” Here is what he had to say about this website. “I really like this tool. It allows you to create an alarm clock for yourself in your web browser. Go to the [homepage](#), or just add an amount of time at the end of the URL. For example, type into your web browser ‘e.ggtimer.com/30minutes’ and it will start counting down!”