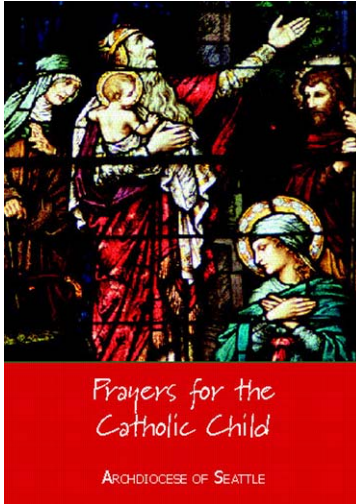


Prayers for the Catholic Child Prayer Book – Revised Edition



"Prayers for the Catholic Child" is a tool for parents to teach the essential prayers of the Catholic faith and a means to keep a record of their children's progress in learning to pray. This book has been designed for parents to reference easily the prayers that children will be taught in grades K-8 during their formal instruction in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. It also includes examples of Blessings from "The Catholic Household of Blessings and Prayer." This prayer book concludes with a brief overview of Catholic doctrine,

including the Precepts of the Faith, the Beatitudes, Commandments, Virtues, Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit, the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, the Seven Capital Sins, and the Four Last Things. It includes the revised prayers from the 3rd Translation of the Roman Missal.

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Prayer books are \$5 each. An invoice will be mailed to you. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

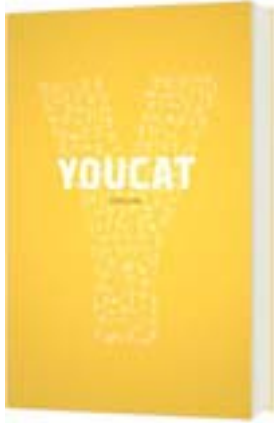
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YOUCAT is short for Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, which will be launched on World Youth Day. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, YOUCAT provides an accessible and contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith, with appealing graphics, Questions-and-Answers format, interesting commentary, definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and quotes from Saints and others in the margins. Of great importance, YOUCAT is keyed to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, so people can go deeper. It explains:

- What Catholics believe and why (doctrine)
- How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments)
- How Catholics are to live (moral life)
- How they should pray (prayer and spirituality)

YOUCAT is published by Ignatius Press and available from Amazon. Each book costs about \$16 and they are recommended as a supplemental catechetical resource for teens in our Catholic schools and parish faith formation programs.

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP AS GUIDING TEACHING IN POLITICAL LIFE



In advance of the 2012 elections, the U.S. bishops reaffirmed their 2007 document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, in this coming election cycle and beyond, as the “continuing teaching of our Bishops’ Conference and our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy.”

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), joined the chairs of nine USCCB committees in offering an Introductory Note to the document. The bishops discussed this action at their June meeting and authorized it at the September meeting of the USCCB Administrative Committee. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* was approved

overwhelmingly by the U.S. bishops in 2007.

“We urge our Catholic pastors and people to continue to use this important statement to help them form their consciences, to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue, and to shape their choices in the coming election in the light of Catholic teaching,” the bishops wrote. “It does not offer a voter’s guide, scorecard of issues or direction on how to vote. It applies Catholic moral principles to a range of important issues and warns against misguided appeals to ‘conscience’ to ignore fundamental moral claims, to reduce Catholic moral concerns to one or two matters, or to justify choices simply to advance partisan, ideological or personal interests.”

It raises six “current and fundamental problems, some involving opposition to intrinsic evils and others raising serious moral questions.” These are: abortion and threats to the lives and dignity of the vulnerable, sick or unwanted; threats to Catholic ministries, including health care, education

and social services, to violate their consciences or stop serving those in need; intensifying efforts to redefine marriage; unemployment, poverty and debt; immigration; and wars, terror and violence, particularly in the Middle East.

The USCCB is launching a new website for Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/. It will offer a wide range of web-based and written materials and tools to assist pastors, parishes, Catholic organizations and individuals. The document with the new Introductory Note will be available in print by the end of October and is already available online: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/Forming-Consciences-for-Faithful-Citizenship-2011.pdf



Read the Dead Sea Scrolls



You no longer have to be a scholar to pore over the ancient texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Thanks to the marvels of technology and an innovative Web project, you can view these scrolls in English translation by hovering your computer cursor over the digital scans of the texts on the website of the [Israel Museum](http://dss.collections.imj.org.il) (<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il>).

Although the scrolls were written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek on both parchment and animal-skin scrolls, you now have the opportunity to see them without traveling across the oceans. You can read [Introduction](http://tiny.cc/b8rce) (<http://tiny.cc/b8rce>). You can also watch a short video of the [Dead Sea Scrolls Online](http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/dss_video) (http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/dss_video).

מוזיאון ישראל, ירושלים
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A GOOD MARRIAGE GOES A LONG WAY

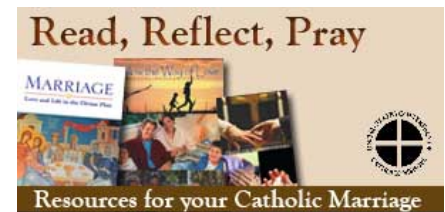


The *For Your Marriage* campaign has launched a new round of television and radio public service announcements with the theme, “A good marriage goes a long way.” The spots feature real married couples answering questions such as “How many people does your marriage touch?” and “What’s the best thing about being married?”

The spots encourage couples to visit the popular and award-winning website www.foryourmarriage.org, as well as www.facebook.com/foryourmarriage and <http://twitter.com/foryourmarriage> for tips to strengthen and improve their marriages. Online resources include regularly updated articles, blogs and a *Daily Marriage Tip*. The first television spot, “Marriage Takes Teamwork,” can be viewed on the website. The radio spots are available for download at <http://foryourmarriage.org/marriage-resources/for-parishes-and-press/multimedia-gallery/>.



“This campaign highlights how the benefits of marriage go beyond the husband and wife, and in fact strengthen all of society, a message often lost in our culture,” said Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the social benefits of marriage, one resource on the *For Your Marriage* website, visit <http://foryourmarriage.org/what-are-the-social-benefits-of-marriage/>.



Prayer Requires "Radical" Act of Trust



Offering a reflection on the Good Shepherd, Benedict XVI underlined the relationship between prayer and "a radical act of trust." The Pope reflected on Psalm 23 during his weekly general audience held in St. Peter's Square. Continuing his series of catecheses on prayer, he noted that "turning to Lord in prayer involves a radical act of trust, in the awareness that one is entrusting oneself to God who is good. For this reason, today I would like to reflect with you on a Psalm that is wholly imbued with trust, in which the psalmist expresses the serene certainty that he is guided and protected, and kept safe from every danger, because the Lord is his shepherd."

The Pontiff began: "'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want': thus begins this beautiful prayer, calling to mind the nomadic environment of sheep-rearing and the experience of a mutual knowledge that is established between the shepherd and the sheep that make up his little flock. The image evokes an atmosphere of confidence, intimacy and tenderness: the shepherd knows his young sheep one by one; he calls them by name and they follow him, because they know him and they trust him. He cares for them; he guards them as precious possessions, ready to defend

them, to assure their well-being, and to establish them in peace. Nothing can be lacking if the shepherd is with them."

Benedict XVI said that if one walks behind the "Good Shepherd," even if he is led through "winding or long the paths" or "spiritually desert regions, waterless and with a sun of scorching rationalism," one can be assured of "traveling along 'right' paths. He who goes with the Lord even into the dark valleys of suffering, of uncertainty and of every human problem feels secure," the Pope added. "You are with me: this is our certainty, this is what sustains us." You can read the full text at www.zenit.org/article-33601?l=english.

How To Minister to Young Catholics – Pope Benedict XVI via Amy Welborn



Shortly after World Youth Day, Amy Welborn wrote a blog on the Knights of Columbus *Headline Bistro* entitled *Pope Benedict's Guide to Youth Ministry*. D. Scott Miller posted the *entire* article on his *Catholic Youth Ministry* blog,

<http://www.dscottmiller.com/2011/09/08/youth-ministry-benedicts-way>;

Something he doesn't do very often. Before listing her five points, Amy introduces her blog with this paragraph,

Anyone interested in the question of how to minister to young Catholics might want to set aside – just for a few minutes – all the expert advice you've bought and paid for over the years and watch and listen to what the Holy Father said during his time with these millions of young people. No charge.

1. Teach them who they are.
2. Continually hold up Christ as the answer.
3. Seeking Christ? He gave us the Church so you could find him.
4. The Way of the Christian is the Way of the Cross.
5. Go out to all nations.

You can read her blog, including the references she makes to the Pope's actual speeches at <http://www.headlinebistro.com/en/columnists/welborn/082411.html>.

The New Science of the Teenage Brain



This is one of the best articles I have recently read on the brain. I was reminded of the presentation that was given at our annual conference and exposition in Chicago when the speaker talked about the frontal lobe of the teen brain should be labeled "*Under Construction*". This article, *Beautiful Brains*, in *National Geographic* explains that concept with more details. It helps us understand "Why do



teenagers act the way they do?" While the brain doesn't actually grow much between the 12th and 25th years, "the brain undergoes a massive reorganization."

I encourage you to read this article as it "casts the teen less as a rough draft than as an exquisitely sensitive, highly adaptive creature wired almost perfectly for the job of moving from the safety of home into the complicated world outside." It helps us understand how teens "weigh risk versus reward differently." It also stresses the importance of reward to an adolescent.

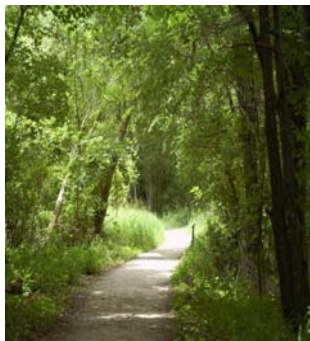
Angels Are Protecting Us, Assures Pope

Benedict XVI affirmed that guardian angels surround human life with "unceasing protection" from its beginning until the hour of death. The Holy Father said: "Dear friends, the Lord is always near and working in human history, and he also accompanies us with the unique presence of his angels, whom the Church venerates today as 'guardians,' that is, ministers of the divine care for every man."



"From the beginning until the hour of death, human life is surrounded by their unceasing protection," he stated. "And the angels are the crown of the august Queen of Victories, the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary." The Pontiff also observed that on this first Sunday of October, Our Lady "receives the fervid plea (...) from the whole world, that evil be defeated and the goodness of God be revealed in its fullness. You can read the full text of his comments at www.zenit.org/article-33579?l=english.

Evangelization Opportunity: *On a Journey Together*



It's been three years in the making, 2 ½ of those years in practice and it culminates this November. And now you and your parish can benefit from the journey of the Diocese of Des Moines. In preparation for the 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Des Moines in November of this year, an evangelization effort called "*On a Journey Together*" was launched in the Fall of 2009. This is a four-part process of evangelization and renewal that invites people to participate in a faith-sharing opportunity. Parishioner gatherings will constitute the beginning and end of each session with five small faith-sharing group gatherings in between. The four themes are:

- Awakening one's relationship with Jesus and finding words to describe it.
- A call to discipleship, or a better understanding of what following Jesus means.
- Living in Christ through the Church and her sacraments
- Becoming Witnesses as the Body of Christ

During the small group gatherings, people examine the Gospels, Church teachings and share experiences as they seek to intensify their faith. Relationships among parishioners involved in the small group gatherings grew stronger as people explored their faith together, said Cheryl Fournier, diocesan Director of Adult Faith Formation and coordinator of this evangelization process. The result was not only growth in faith for individuals, but stronger faith communities, she said. Cheryl is offering these materials to members of NCCL for one dollar a book plus postage.

You can review the materials at <http://www.dmdiocese.org/on-a-journey-together.cfm>. Resources are available in English and Spanish and the Prayer cards are available in Arabic, English, Hmong, Spanish and Vietnamese. You can also contact Cheryl with questions at CFournier@dmdiocese.org or call her office at (515) 237-5006.

Catholic Church's Communications Day To Focus On Silence

The new theme for the Catholic Church's World Social Communications Day is "Silence and Word: Path of Evangelization." The Pontifical Council for Social Communications stated that silence is not simply "an antidote to the constant and unstoppable flow of information" characteristic of modern society; rather, it is necessary for the integration of that information.



The event's focus on silence is needed in light of the "extraordinarily varied nature" of modern communications. "Silence, precisely because it favors habits of discernment and reflection, can in fact be seen primarily as a means of welcoming the word," the council said. Silence and communication are complementary and can be key factors in "the new evangelization."

World Communications Day is celebrated in most countries on the Sunday before Pentecost. In 2012, it will fall on May 20. The papal message for the event is traditionally published on Jan. 24, the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, patron of writers.

This year's theme was "Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age." Pope Benedict XVI's 2011 message (<http://tiny.cc/i6sh0>) called for a Christian presence on social networking sites. He said that new technologies are "giving birth to a new way learning and thinking, with unprecedented opportunities for establishing relationships and building fellowship." While he warned about the dangers of creating a "parallel existence" and falsifying one's online persona, he said the wise use of technologies can help satisfy "the desire for meaning, truth and unity."

The Preciousness and Joy of a Whole Number



Last week, Fr. Ron Rolheiser reflected on the Gospel story of the woman who had ten coins. He stressed the importance of wholeness and the importance of being reconciled. I found his thoughts and questions worth considering. Here is part of what he wrote, if you wish to read his

entire column, you can find it on his website <http://www.ronrolheiser.com> for 2011-10-03.

.... In her culture, nine was not a whole number; ten was a whole number. Both the woman's anxiety on losing the coin and her joy in finding it have little to do with the value of the coin. They have to do with the value of wholeness. A certain wholeness in her life had been fractured and only by finding the coin could it be restored. In essence, this is the parable:

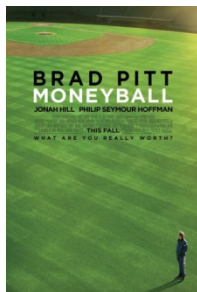
A woman had ten children and these constituted her family. With nine of them, she had a good relationship, but one of her daughters was alienated from her and from the family. Everyone else came regularly to the family table, but this one daughter did not. The woman couldn't find rest in that situation; she needed her alienated daughter to rejoin them. She tried every means to reconcile with her daughter and, one day, in a miracle of miracles, it worked. Her daughter reconciled with her and came back to the family.

The family was whole again, everyone was back at table. The woman was overjoyed, withdrew her modest savings from the bank, and threw a lavish party to celebrate the great grace that her family was whole again.

.... Who is not at table with us? Who no longer goes to church with us? Who feels uncomfortable worshipping with us? Who will no longer join us in a conversation over morality or politics?

And, most importantly, are we comfortable with the fact that so many people can no longer join us at our family, Eucharistic, moral, or political tables?

Moneyball Viewer Changes the Way to Hire a Five Tool Youth Minister

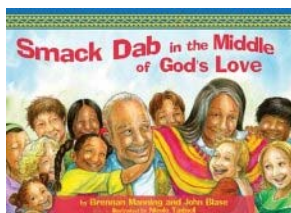


D, Scott Miller, in his *Catholic Youth Ministry Blog*, writes an interesting critique of what to look for when hiring a youth minister. And it all comes about after he watches Brad Pitt in the movie *Moneyball*. He makes fun of the [five youth ministry stereotypes](#) and based on the stats from the NSYR and other sources, he “re-configures the five tools that are necessary for future youth ministry players.” You can read the complete blog and watch a trailer at

<http://www.catholicymblog.com/2011/09/26/changing-the-game>.



Smack Dab in the Middle of God's Love

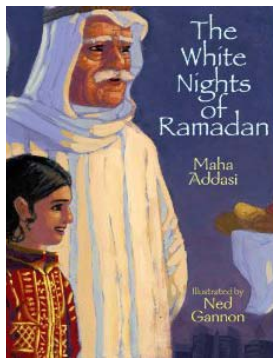


I thoroughly enjoyed this book because it is so much fun to accentuate the phrase, “Smack-dab in the middle.” The story is about a couple, Willie Juan and Ana, who couldn't have children of their own. One day, when gathered together enjoying a beautiful evening and Ana's most

delicious sopapillas, Willie Juan asks this most curious question, "Little friends, what is one thing you think Abba will ask you someday when you are in heaven?"

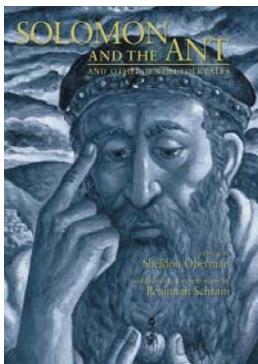
As the group discusses the question, all come to the wonderful realization that Abba loves each of us, and we are all smack-dab in the middle of His love. "Abba loves you so much and wants you to enjoy his gifts every day. Gifts like Ana's absolute best, most delicious sopapillas. And the hummingbirds and burros. And abuelas." The book explains "how big, how great, and how deep the Father's love is for His children." As Willie Juan, shares, "we are all smack-dab in the middle of Abba's love...a love big enough to hold us all." If interested, click here to order [**Smack Dab in the Middle of God's Love.**](#)

[**The White Nights of Ramadan**](#)



If you are looking for a children's book to explain an aspect of Ramadan known as *Girgian*, then *The White Nights of Ramadan* is the book for you. It's the story of a young girl, now old enough to fast from sunrise to sunset with the grown-ups, tells how her family celebrates Girgian: the traditions; the special clothing, foods, and crafts; and the meaning of the holiday—"spending time with family and sharing with those less fortunate." Readers will be able to make connections with our Halloween but also recognize the gift of sharing that is a part of this tradition. The customs of the Arabian Gulf region during the fasting month of Ramadan are beautifully narrated and illustrated. You can order [**The White Nights of Ramadan**](#)

[**Solomon And the Ant: And Other Jewish Folktales**](#)



I found this to be a very useful collection of 44 folktales ranging from legends involving the ethical dilemmas of King Solomon to stories of the Prophet Elijah to wisdom tales of ancient rabbis to universal stories given a Jewish slant and selections from near-modern times. The explanatory introductory notes are very helpful, while the endnotes about culture and sources are very helpful for storytellers..

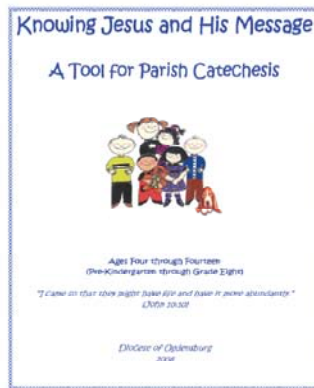
The book ends with a glossary and comprehensive bibliography of approximately one hundred folklore collections. You can order [**Solomon And the Ant: And Other Jewish Folktales.**](#)

[**Autumn Leaves – Roger Williams is Born to Eternal Life**](#)

Roger Williams passed away and the song that made him popular was *Autumn Leaves*. In celebration of the season and in memory of a great pianist, why not listen to him play *Autumn Leaves* and watch the beautiful fall colors in

the video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG1rMzSf3Ek>).

Knowing Jesus and His Message – Conociendo a Jesús y su Mensaje



This is an excellent resource. Immediately following the Learning Session on this resources at the NCCL Conference and Exposition in Atlanta, the NCCL Bookstore sold over twenty (20) copies of the book in English and Spanish.



Based on the protocol used to evaluate elementary religion series, the book used fifteen standards for Pre-K and K through Grades 7 & 8. Included with the binder is a CD with all the materials available for duplication. This is an ideal help for any elementary catechist regardless of the series you might be using. Check out the following and use the Order Form.

- **PREFACE - Knowing Jesus and His Message** (<http://tiny.cc/nysql>)
- **EXPLANATION - Knowing Jesus and His Message** (<http://tiny.cc/xuvw8>)
- **Standards - Explained** (<http://tiny.cc/65wmc>)
- **Normas y Fundamentos** (<http://tiny.cc/zfrg2>)
- **ORDER FORM - Knowing Jesus and His Message** (<http://tiny.cc/9j0mb>)