

*Dear Catechists,*

*As we journey more deeply into Lent, I pray that you are finding time and space to enter into this sacred season of conversion and reconciliation. In this newsletter, we have several resources to help you and those you serve to draw closer to the Lord. I would particularly draw your attention to the Maryknoll Mission House event listed below, the "Marriage Matters to Kids" link and the information about the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, which has a very local connection!*

*Peace and blessings,*

*Anne*

### **Check Out this Archdiocesan Opportunity!**

Lent is a wonderful time to deepen our understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. Please consider attending the Mission Forum at the Maryknoll Mission House on Friday, March 2nd 7:00pm for the film "The Narrow Path: Walking Toward Peace and Nonviolence with John Dear, SJ" (discussion to follow). Mission Forum features speakers and films that uniquely address the challenges of mission, social justice, and proclaiming the Kingdom today. Mission Forum is held at the Maryknoll Mission House in Seattle.

Here's the link (which features lots of wonderful information):

[http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=4wmvzncab&v=001VJlu5GGZPDT7E5W901vYHhb0deHyTqkh3onoFQ\\_f6jrrF7yFJQnCIMBGRK-kO1QQfGwkfMmNo2X7koflGn0MtV\\_kJbA0tv7usWweYwtGPTM-qsBi1tC9yMqO0yZS\\_MctaZugFFRqjswSPSIv1\\_ce0Ix0kiZmnx6LTklKePFK6AdVMssy\\_nDqQZmaK2danjlYwUZpWb-c757dmgfPxqVNCeEeMleZMr1BJrcjEjUayLbCy9ZmmNT0VcgkzuQHvkC9jeEZjEAR4ZXjUnu bvDUha55v35tMBVuD0](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=4wmvzncab&v=001VJlu5GGZPDT7E5W901vYHhb0deHyTqkh3onoFQ_f6jrrF7yFJQnCIMBGRK-kO1QQfGwkfMmNo2X7koflGn0MtV_kJbA0tv7usWweYwtGPTM-qsBi1tC9yMqO0yZS_MctaZugFFRqjswSPSIv1_ce0Ix0kiZmnx6LTklKePFK6AdVMssy_nDqQZmaK2danjlYwUZpWb-c757dmgfPxqVNCeEeMleZMr1BJrcjEjUayLbCy9ZmmNT0VcgkzuQHvkC9jeEZjEAR4ZXjUnu bvDUha55v35tMBVuD0)

As we continue to support the blessings of marriage and how important a long-term commitment of fidelity is for the next generation, please take a look at the following link that **examines how important this relationship is for children.**

<http://www.marriagematterstokids.org/>

### **National Catholic Education Association summer workshop opportunities**

Are you interested in deepening your knowledge in technology, youth sports and/or faith formation? If so, I recommend you check out the following three summer conference opportunities!

View them online at

<<http://NCEA.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xNDkxODE3JnA9MSZlPTc3MzE3NTAyNiZsaT02ODE4NzMy/index.html>> | Send to a friend<%25%25SEND\_TO\_FRIEND%25%25>

[<http://ncea.informz.net/NCEA/data/images/ncea-logo-360x100.gif>]

## **News from the *National Conference of Catechetical Leadership***

### **Kahnawake's Kateri Tekakwitha to be canonized: First Native American Saint**



The Mohawk community of Kahnawake is welcoming the news that Kateri Tekakwitha, known as the “Lily of the Mohawks,” will be named a saint. Tekakwitha, born in 1656 to a Mohawk father and an Algonquin mother, is entombed inside the St. Francis-Xavier Church in Kahnawake. She will be the first Native American saint.

Tekakwitha lived most of her life in what is now upstate New York and converted to Catholicism at the age of 20. She experienced war and pestilence at a young age. In 1666, her village was burned down by French forces. Her mother, father and younger brother died during the 1661-62 smallpox epidemic. Tekakwitha survived, but the disease damaged her eyesight and left her face scarred.

Tekakwitha practiced her faith despite severe opposition and eventually fled to Kahnawake. While there, she founded a Mohawk community with about a dozen women who practised Christian asceticism. Tekakwitha died in 1680 at age 24, and the process for her canonization began more than a century ago, in 1884. It has been claimed that her scars disappeared upon her death, revealing great beauty, and that many sick people who attended her funeral were healed. It was also said that Tekakwitha appeared to two people in the weeks after she died.

She was declared venerable in 1943. Pope John Paul beatified her in 1980, making her the first Native American to be beatified. You can read more at <http://www.montrealgazette.com/life/Kahnawake+Kateri+Tekakwitha+canonized/6175340/story.html#ixzz1mybopeXv>

### **Sainthood for Filipino Catechist Highlights Evangelization, Role of Laity**



The Vatican announced Saturday that the 17th-century teenage catechist of the Jesuit Mission to the Marianas will be one of seven new saints canonized Oct. 21. This [announcement of the October canonization of Blessed Pedro Calungsod](#) has delighted Filipino Catholics, especially those in the Cebu province, and has driven its archbishop to work for a celebration that would be as meaningful as it is joyful. "Like every Cebuano [person from Cebu], we met the announcement with such rejoicing that we

thought how privileged we are that this new saint is from Cebu and that it happens in our time," said Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu.

Calungsod will become the second Filipino saint after St. Lorenzo Ruiz, an altar server martyred in Japan while serving in a mission there in 1637. Pope John Paul II canonized Ruiz 25 years ago. [Calungsod was born in 1655](#) in what was then the Diocese of Cebu, made up of Panay Island in central Philippines and Mindanao in the south as well as the Ladrone Islands in the Pacific, known today as Guam.

He was reportedly killed in modern-day Guam at the age of 17 while trying to defend a Jesuit priest, now [Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores](#), when natives whose leader rejected Christianity attacked them April 2, 1672. His attacker hit Calungsod with a spear before the saint-to-be's skull was split with a machete. Their bodies were then tied together and thrown into the sea.

From the perspective of the fact that he was a catechist, it is a challenge to evangelization," the CBCP president Palm said, noting that Calungsod would be canonized on [World Mission Sunday](#). "That's an added dimension to why he was canonized," Palma said. "He evangelized. He went out of the country to reach out to other people to proclaim about Christ. He is a layperson, a young boy who joined the priest as a catechist, and of course at that time, because of various reasons, but primarily because of animosity towards the faith, he was martyred."

Palma said Calungsod's life story is relevant to Filipinos and other Catholics today. "The work of [evangelization](#) is everybody's work," Palma said. "For many years, when we think of evangelizing, catechizing or teaching other people about Christ, we say that's the work of the nun or the priest. This is all our work, and that's what makes Pedro Calungsod's canonization at this time more meaningful."

## **Bishop Ricken Offers 10 Things to Remember For Lent**



season.

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers "10 Things to Remember for Lent" as the Church began the season with Ash Wednesday.

1. *Remember the formula.* The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the

2. *It's a time of prayer.* Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

3. *It's a time to fast.* With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

4. *It's a time to work on discipline.* The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

5. *It's about dying to yourself.* The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6. *Don't do too much.* It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

7. *Lent reminds us of our weakness.* Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

8. *Be patient with yourself.* When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

9. *Reach out in charity.* As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

10. *Learn to love like Christ.* Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

For more resources for Lent from USCCB, visit: [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/lent/](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/lent/)

**FREE Professional Development Webinar – THIS Tuesday, February 28**



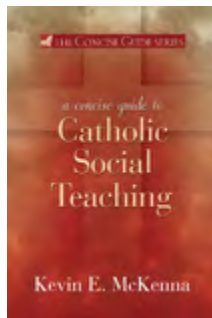
***Ave Maria Press***, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership** and the National Association for Lay Ministry presents a series of free, online workshops on professional development for parish ministers. For a complete listing of

professional development webinars in this series please visit [www.avemariapress.com/webinars](http://www.avemariapress.com/webinars)

***Catholic Social Teaching and Living the Gospel Today***

In 1998, the US Catholic Bishops identified seven major themes around which we can explore the vast body of the Church's social teaching. In the years since, they continue to urge all Catholics to study and embrace these teachings. How have some individuals, groups, and parishes made practicable these teachings in order to live the Gospel today? Join **Fr. Kevin McKenna** as he explores the answer to this question and more in the latest Professional Development Webinar from Ave Maria Press on

**Tuesday, February 28 at 3:00 p.m. E.S.T.**



**Fr. Kevin E. McKenna** is pastor of the Cathedral Community in Rochester, New York. He is past president of the Canon Law Society of America and former chancellor and canonical consultant for the Diocese of Rochester. He is author of numerous articles and books, including [\*A Concise Guide to Canon Law; A Practical Handbook for Pastoral Ministers\*](#) and [\*A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching \(Concise Guide Series\)\*](#).

**SIGN UP!**

## **Six Ways to Evangelize This Lent – Five Left**



On the USCCB website, an introduction to this section states “ During Lent, after your friends and coworkers express curiosity about Catholic customs and symbolism, use these moments and opportunities to evangelize.” You can find the complete evangelizing answers at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/lent/ideas-for-evangelization-during-lent.cfm>. Here is an excerpt from the site. These are great for the bulletin.

### **Abstinence:**

*So why aren't you eating pepperoni pizza on Friday?*

You love pepperoni pizza. You eat it all the time. Suddenly, you can't have it on Fridays?! What could possibly be going on? It must be that Catholic thing, again. Absolutely! On Fridays during Lent, we particularly remember the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. In memory of this great sacrifice, we continue the tradition of penance and sacrifice – abstaining from meat on Fridays is an outward manifestation of an interior reality: the conversion of our hearts. ...It's a little thing to give him in the face of his ultimate sacrifice, but what a grace that our God accepts and loves little gifts!

### **External Sacrifice:**

*So why exactly are you not eating candy for the next month?*

This is a very popular penance during Lent, and the questions about it are just as popular. Heaven forbid you should avoid the cake at the birthday party! You LOVE cake! But it's Lent – a time for penance and sacrifice. Christ has said, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Giving up something we enjoy strengthens our love for Christ and our resilience against temptation. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his Lenten address of 2009, “Through fasting and praying, we allow [Christ] to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God.”

### **External Sacrifice vs. Internal Conversion:**

*I don't get it --- All you do is give up candy?*

Now, here is an interesting question. External sacrifices are the most obvious kind, so sometimes it does look like all we do is avoid chocolate. However, if you look closer, you'll realize that fasting and abstinence have always gone hand in hand with two of their best friends: prayer and almsgiving. Interior conversion is where prayer and almsgiving come into play. In almsgiving, we show mercy and generosity to others, giving them a chance to experience the blessings we have. In prayer, we are communicating with God, asking him to bless and perfect our fasting and almsgiving: "... prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit" (CCC no. 2565



**Palm Sunday and Symbolism:**

*Why are you carrying around tree branches?*

Sometimes, one of the hardest things to explain as a Catholic is our attachment to symbolism. Palm Sunday is a great example of that. We come home from Mass holding palm branches, and we tuck them behind a crucifix or next to the picture of the Last Supper. To anyone who does not know our faith, it looks as though we stuck a few weeds on the wall... imagine their questions! The truth behind this tradition, however, goes to the story of Palm Sunday.... We celebrate this feast and carry palm branches home with us to commemorate the great humility of Our Lord, who loved us so much that he chose the cross for our salvation.

**Observing Good Friday vs. Opening Day:**

*So, why can't you go to the baseball opener on Friday?*

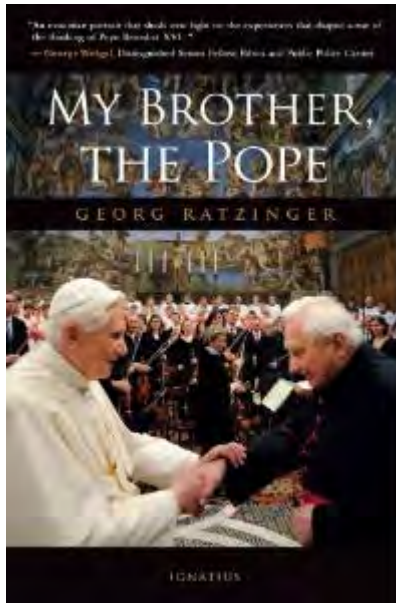
This year, several major league baseball teams will hold "opening day" celebrations on Good Friday with games starting at 3:05 p.m. While everyone else is heading to the stands, eager for hot dogs and home runs, all those Catholics are walking quietly towards churches. Why?? Because at three o'clock on a Friday, on a hillside called Calvary, the Savior of the world took his last breath. All for love of us. ...On Good Friday, we spend our afternoon walking with Christ to Calvary, immersed in his love and mercy... and that beats any baseball game, any time.

**Tutu's God of Surprises**

Krista Tippett had a lively and engaging interview with Desmond Tutu on her program, On Being. Desmond Tutu says that despite all the evil and suffering in the world, human beings are "remarkable things" who are "made for goodness." Ms. Tippett explores how his understanding of God and humanity has unfolded in the course of his life. The program can be downloaded or listed to at <http://being.publicradio.org/programs/2012/tutu-god-of-surprises/>.

## My Brother the Pope

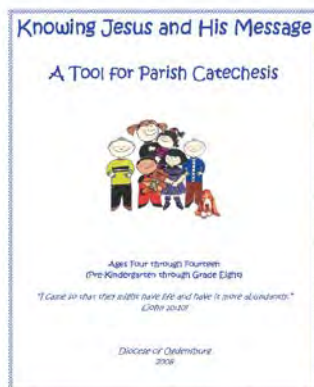
Those interested in knowing more about the early life of Benedict XVI will not be disappointed in his brother Georg's writing about the close friendship that has united these two brothers for more than 80 years. [My Brother, the Pope](#) is available for purchase on March 1<sup>st</sup> at our NCCL



Amazon Bookstore. Here is an excerpt from *Chapter IX, The Pope*:

Of course, he was still the same old Joseph, and he still is today. The working of the Holy Spirit is limited to his official activity, but as a human being he has not changed. He does not stand on ceremony, does not try to be pretentious. He presents himself as who he is and does not want to slip into a role or wear a mask, as others may do. When Peter Seewald, for instance, describes him as a “charismatic pope” with a great influence on the world, then I must say he quite certainly does not exercise that influence consciously. Perhaps it is, after all, the influence of the Holy Spirit that lends him a certain charisma at his public appearances. Otherwise, he is now as before the kindly, friendly, and modest man he always was, quite unaffected and cordial.

## [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) (<http://tiny.cc/nysql>)
- [EXPLANATION - Knowing Jesus and His Message](http://tiny.cc/xuvw8) (<http://tiny.cc/xuvw8>)
- [Standards - Explained](http://tiny.cc/65wmc) (<http://tiny.cc/65wmc>)
- [Normas y Fundamentos](http://tiny.cc/zfrg2) (<http://tiny.cc/zfrg2>)



- **ORDER FORM - *Knowing Jesus and His Message*** (<http://tiny.cc/9j0mb>)

### **Looking For A Good Book?**

Stop by the [NCCL Bookstore](#). Purchasing books, CDs, DVDs, and other products on *Amazon* through the [NCCL Bookstore](#) (<http://astore.amazon.com/natioconfefer-20>) helps support this valuable online ministry.

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