

Dear Catechetical Leaders,

As we draw near to the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, there are several activities coming up that may be of interest to you or your students. First of all, on Wednesday, **June 6th**, we will be having our annual **PAFF Meeting** at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades. We are delighted that Val Jensen and Tom Kendzia will be leading us in prayer and reflection for the day. Please see the attached brochure for registration and more information.

Holy Redeemer parish will be hosting a week long program with the **Dominican Sisters** of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist for grades 4-8 in the Southern Deanery. A description of this event is included below.

The **Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation** will be offered in Seattle from June 16-18. This event is sponsored by LifeLong Faith Associates and was a featured event of this year's annual NCCL conference. Again, please read below for more information.

Once again, I would like to remind you about our plans next year to review the **Archdiocesan K-8 Religious Education Curriculum**. If you are interested in being part of this conversation, please let me know. A more detailed description of this process is attached to this newsletter.

CYO Camps are filling up quickly. Now is the time to get your registration sent to OYYAM <http://seattleoyyam.org/programs/cyo-camp-services/summer-camp!>

Also, now is the time to register for this summer's outstanding opportunity In August to learn more about Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body. **The conference "Living for Others" will be held in August at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center.** Monsignor Brian Bransfield from USCCB will be the main presenter and this is an event highly recommended for all those who teach and catechize middle school and high school students.

Finally, do you know someone who is new to parish faith formation and/or youth ministry? Our **New Ministers Orientation** will be held on September 12th and those participating will receive both a great deal of helpful information as well as a many free books and other resources.

This newsletter also has information from Pope Benedict XVI, a story celebrating the gift of life, website information on Catholic Culture and the Magis Center and much more. May your summer be filled with sunshine and all the joy of the Lord!

Anne

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.

Director of Religious Education/Parish and School Faith Formation

Summer Mission with the Dominican Sisters

Holy Redeemer is very pleased to announce that our community will be hosting the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist this summer. Sister Hyacinth Hayward, OP and Sister Rebecca Gabryel will conduct a week long summer camp on June 18th – 22nd at Holy Redeemer for children in grades 4-8 from parishes across the deanery. The theme for the camp is 'Jesus in the Eucharist', bringing in elements from both the Old Testament and New Testament to illustrate our Jewish roots in the Eucharist, keeping at the very core of the program, the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and Mary the Mother of God. The children will join the sisters each day at 8:30 for daily Mass, followed by catechesis enriched with crafts, games, and other activities, and concludes with lunch and dismissal at 1:00pm. They should bring a sack lunch, water bottle, journal, and Bible. A daily snack will be provided. For more information on the Mission Camp with the Sisters, or to enroll your child/children, please contact Jamie Kohler, Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation, at 885-7780 or jamiekohler@comcast.net. You can also find the registration on the parish website at www.holyredeemervanc.org.

The sisters will also be participating in various activities and discernment events through out the week at various parishes, providing an opportunity to foster and build awareness to vocations to consecrated religious life for young women. A schedule of activities and events will be published and sent to all parishes in the deanery once the details have been confirmed. If you have any questions or would like to assist or participate in the vocational elements of the mission program, please contact Sandy Campanario, Serra Club of Columbia River President, at 521-2157.

We are extremely excited about this wonderful catechetical opportunity for our children, as well as our community, as the sisters provide public witness of the beauty of the Faith lived out in obedience, chastity, and poverty – a great catechetical tool in itself! We feel very fortunate that the sisters have selected our community as a mission site this summer, and we invite all to be apart of this opportunity by welcoming and visiting with the sisters when they are here.

Please contact Jamie or Sandy for more information, or if you would like to assist through volunteering time or treasure, or attend some of the activities with the sisters.

Vision & Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation

For pastors, church staff, and leaders in faith formation across the life span

Goals

- Understand the new context of faith formation and the diverse religious and spiritual needs of all generations
- Understand the emerging vision of 21st century faith formation
- Envision faith formation in the "Age of Networks" and learn how to create a Lifelong Faith Formation Network for the 21st century
- Discover a variety of 21st century approaches and resources for faith formation in the congregation, at home, and online
- Learn how to use the new digital media and web technologies in faith formation
- Develop the skills for curating religious content and experiences for all ages and generations
- Create a faith formation network for their congregation

Topics

1. Contemporary Trends in Religiosity and Practice across the Life Span
2. 21st Century Learning: New Approaches & Technologies
3. The Emerging Role of the Faith Formation Curator
4. Developing an Innovation Mindset
5. Designing a Lifelong Faith Formation Network: Principles & Process
6. A Faith Formation Network at Home: Vibrant Faith @Home
7. Designing a Lifelong Faith Formation Network: Design
8. Designing a Lifelong Faith Formation Network: Digital & Social Media Tools
9. Leadership for Faith Formation in a Networked World

Questions?

Contact John Roberto, Program Coordinator
jroberto@lifelongfaith.com

General Papal Intention for June



That believers may recognize in the Eucharist the living presence of the Risen One who accompanies them in daily life.



Mission Papal Intention for June

That Christians in Europe may rediscover their true identity and participate with greater enthusiasm in the proclamation of the Gospel.

Home Is the First Place to Experience Gratuitous Love

Benedict XVI says the learning that goes on in the family is fundamental for a Christian's later interaction with society. "Culture, volunteering and work constitute a indissoluble trinomial of the daily commitment of the Catholic laity, which intends to give incisive witness to Christ and the Church both in the private sphere and the public sphere of society. The faithful layman takes up a challenge when he involves himself in one or more of these areas and – in cultural service, in acts of solidarity with those in need or in work – promotes human dignity. These three spheres are linked by a common denominator: the gift of self," the Holy Father affirmed.



"Volunteering," the Pontiff continued, "[...] does not so much involve giving things but in giving oneself in concrete assistance to the neediest. Finally, work is not only an instrument for individual prophet but a movement in which we express our abilities by spending ourselves, in a spirit of service, in professional activity. But for you, all of this has a Christian connotation. Your activity must be animated by charity; this means learning to see with the eyes of Christ and giving to the other more than external necessities; it means looking and acting with love in your relationships with those in need."

The Pontiff noted that the family is the first place in which we experience "gratuitous love." "And when that does not happen," he cautioned, "the family is denatured, it enters into crisis. What happens in the family, giving oneself without reserve for the good of the other is a fundamental educational moment for learning how to live as a Christian even in relationship to culture, volunteering and work." Referring to his encyclical "Caritas in Veritate," the Pope recalled that "gratuitousness is not acquired on the market, nor can it be prescribed by law. And yet both the economy and politics need gratuitousness and persons capable of mutual self-giving." The full text of the Pope's remarks can be found at www.zenit.org/article-34817?l=english.

Mary Ann Glendon: U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

On Wednesday, May 23, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced the appointment of Mary Ann Glendon to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).



Glendon is the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University and President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, and former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. She writes and teaches in the fields of human rights, comparative law, constitutional law, and political theory. A devout Catholic, Glendon served two terms as a member of the U.S. President's Council on Bioethics, and represented the Holy See at various conferences including the 1995 U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing, where she headed the Vatican delegation. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1991, the International Academy of Comparative Law, and a past president of the UNESCO-sponsored International Association of Legal Science.

USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan federal body comprised of nine commissioners who are appointed by both Houses of Congress and by the President. With the appointment of Professor Glendon, there remains one vacancy on the Commission; and it is expected that President Obama will fill that last seat with his own nominee.

The Commission is responsible for reviewing the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom internationally and making policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress. USCIRF offers policy recommendations to improve conditions at the critical juncture of foreign policy, national security, and international religious freedom standards.

Facebook reverses course, ends ban on photos of baby born with rare disease



This is the amazing story about Grayson James Walker. His Tennessee parents, Heather and Patrick Walker, knew from 16 weeks onward that Grayson suffered from anencephaly, a rare neural tube disease in which the child is born without parts of the brain and skull. It is invariably fatal and Grayson lived for only eight hours after being born February 15.

But to the couple, Grayson was part of their family whose lives should be remembered and celebrated. Assisted by the non-profit organization, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep," the Walkers were able to have a professional photographer come in to capture the hours they had with their son.

The ugly part of their story came when Heather Walker posted photos on Facebook—some with and some without a cap on Grayson's head. The Daily News reported that at that point Facebook began deleting the pictures. When Heather reposted the photos, Facebook temporarily banned

her from Facebook! “But when hundreds of people shared Grayson’s photos at the Benefit for Gr: (www.facebook.com/pages/Benefit-for-Grayson-James-Walker/247676448648145), Facebook saw the error of its way and posted an apology.

“Upon investigation, we concluded the photo does not violate our guidelines and was removed in error. Facebook is a place where almost a billion people share more than 300 million photos a day. (...) occasionally, we make a mistake and remove a piece of content we shouldn’t have. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience.”

But the Facebook controversy should not overcome the courage and faith that the Walkers displayed. Station KCTV5 ran a beautiful story headlined “Faith helps Mid-South family prepare for newborn’s 8 hours of life.” The story notes that “of course” the Walkers were given “the option to terminate.” But instead they chose to carry Grayson to full term, praying with confidence for strength and guidance. The story ends with a powerful source of encouragement:



“By treating his birth like any other special delivery, the Walkers hope to keep Grayson’s memory alive forever.

“‘Yes, I’m going to cry and I’m probably going to lay in my bed some days, but I have that hope that God has got him in his hands and we’re going to get to meet him again someday,’ said Heather Walker.

“‘You know, my son lived almost eight hours, and he’s already done in eight hours what I could never do in a hundred lifetimes, and that’s awesome,’ said Patrick Walker.”

The full story appears at www.kctv5.com/story/16962767/mid-south-family-celebrates-newborns

Christ Shows Us Who a Father Is and What a True Father Is Like



Benedict XVI says that people today might have difficulty understanding the fatherhood of God, due to the prevalent problem in our culture of a lack of fathers in children's lives. In St. Paul, he explained, we find this expression "Abba, Father", twice: Galatians 4:6 and Romans 8. "Christianity is not a religion of fear but of trust, and of love for the Father who loves us," the Pontiff said, in explaining this term for addressing God.

"Perhaps men today do not perceive the beauty, the grandeur and the profound consolation contained in the word 'father' by which we may address God in prayer, because the father figure today is often not sufficiently present; and this presence is often not adequately positive in daily life," the Pope acknowledged. "A father’s absence, i.e. the problem of a father who is not present

in the child's life, is a great problem of our time; and therefore, it becomes difficult to understand the profound significance of what it means to say that God is a Father to us.

"We can learn from Jesus Himself, and from His filial relationship with God, what being a 'father' truly means, and the true nature of the Father who is in heaven. [...] In the Gospel, Christ shows us who a father is and what a true father is like, so that we may sense what true fatherhood is, and also learn true fatherhood."

Benedict XVI pointed out that the two Pauline passages contain a slight difference: in one, it is the Spirit who cries out "Abba"; in the other, it is we who cry out. "St. Paul wants us to understand that Christian prayer is never, and never occurs in one direction between us and God, it is not only 'our action'; rather, it is the expression of a reciprocal relationship in which God acts first: it is the Holy Spirit who cries out in us, and we are able to cry out because the impulse comes from the Holy Spirit," he proposed.

Secondly, the Pope continued, we understand that "the prayer of the Spirit of Christ in us and ours in Him, is not merely an individual act; rather, it is an act of the entire Church. In prayer our hearts are opened, we enter into communion not only with God, but also with all of God's children, for we are one. When we turn to the Father in our interior room, in silence and recollection, we are never alone. He who speaks with God is not alone. We are in the great prayer of the Church, we are part of a great symphony, which the Christian community scattered in every part of the world and in every time raises to God; certainly, the musicians and the instruments are varied -- and this is an enriching element -- but the melody of praise is one and harmonious.

"Every time, then, that we cry out and say: 'Abba! Father!' it is the Church, the whole communion of people in prayer that supports our invocation and our invocation is the Church's invocation." The full text of the Pope's ongoing catechesis on prayer can be found at www.zenit.org/article-34832?l=english.

Cardinal Wuerl urges young adults to stand up for religious freedom



Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd of young adults, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl encouraged them to pray and stand up for religious freedom. Such freedom is being threatened, he said, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that would force Catholic institutions to provide employee health insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization procedures, all of which are morally opposed by the Catholic Church. "It (the threat to religious liberty) is real. It's not hyperbole," the cardinal said May 22. "It (the HHS mandate) is the most direct challenge to our religious liberty we've ever faced on the federal level. The freedom of religion is part of the DNA of being American."

Living the Liturgical Year

CatholicCulture.org

One of the missions of CatholicCulture.org is to enrich faith. This website

(<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2012-05-24>) has a richness of resources for living the liturgical year. Their greatest resource for this purpose is the collection of materials they have assembled for each and every day of the liturgical year. These include:

- **Identification of feasts** according to both the current and older calendar, so that you can honor the saints you love
- **Saints lives** to inspire and imitate
- **Significance of the day** in both the Season and the general history and culture of the Church
- **Daily collects** and links to the daily readings provided by the USCCB
- **Points for meditation and special prayers** as we move through the various periods of the year
- **Activities recipes** for each day, to help your family live the liturgical year in the domestic Church



Shavuot

Religion & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY

The Jewish holiday of Shavuot began at sundown on Saturday (May 26) and commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. You can [Revisit](http://tiny.cc/3t1wew) (<http://tiny.cc/3t1wew>) a story that *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly* produced last year about Shavuot, filmed at the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue in Washington, DC, and watch more of their interview about the meaning of Shavuot with [Rabbi Shira Stutman](http://tiny.cc/pv1wew) (<http://tiny.cc/pv1wew>), director of community engagement at Sixth & I.

Five Lessons in Human Goodness from “The Hunger Games”



The latest issue of *YES!* magazine features an article by Jeremy Adam Smith about the goodness that appeared in the book/film *Hunger Games*. It originally appeared at the *Greater Good Science Center* where Jeremy is Web Editor. He writes “The plot of the new film sounds cynical. But it reveals a surprising amount about the science of human goodness.” Here are some excerpts from the article. If you care to read the complete piece which includes some video clips from the movie, you can go to <http://tiny.cc/sibuew> . I believe this is a contrast to

many of our popular *reality* shows.

As I watched the film and read the book, I found the story kept reminding me of classic pieces in *Greater Good* about the psychological and biological roots of compassion, empathy, and cooperation. The vision of human beings as fundamentally caring and connected is not merely wishful thinking on the part of Suzanne Collins, the author of the novels on which the movie is based. In fact, it's been tested by a great deal of scientific research. Here are five examples.



1. Killing is against human nature.

Katniss, a skilled hunter and the hero of *The Hunger Games*, is indeed horrified by the prospect of dying—but her worst fears revolve around needing to kill other people. “You know how to kill,” says her friend Gale in the book. “Not people,” she replies, filled with horror at the idea. When she actually does kill a girl named Glimmer, she’s wracked with guilt and throws herself over the body “as if to protect it.”

Research says that Katniss is the rule, not the exception. “The study of killing by military scientists, historians, and psychologists gives us good reason to feel optimistic about human nature, for it reveals that almost all of us are overwhelmingly reluctant to kill a member of our own species, under just about any circumstance,” writes Lt. Col. Dave Grossman in his *Greater Good* essay, [“Hope on the Battlefield.”](http://tiny.cc/j86wew) (<http://tiny.cc/j86wew>).

2. Wealth makes us less compassionate.

The citizens of the Capitol brutally exploit the 12 districts of the country of Panem, giving themselves a very high standard of living while deliberately keeping the rest in a state of abject poverty. The movie and the book take pains to reveal how much this limits their ability to empathize with the less fortunate—a situation confirmed by research, some of which has been generated by the Greater Good Science Center here at UC Berkeley. “In seven separate studies,” writes Yasmin Anwar, “UC Berkeley researchers consistently found that upper-class participants were more likely to lie and cheat when gambling or negotiating, cut people off when driving, and endorse unethical behavior in the workplace.”

3. People are motivated to help others by empathy, not reason or numbers.

“If you really want to stay alive, you get people to like you,” says their drunken, traumatized mentor, Haymitch. It’s the first advice he gives to the heroes, Katniss and Peeta, and a surprising amount of the film’s action revolves around their efforts to win people’s sympathy, which results in “sponsorships” that help them in their most desperate moments. ...if you want to encourage people to take humanitarian action, logic and big numbers don’t help—as every ad copywriter knows, people are most moved to help individuals with compelling personal stories.

4. Power flows from social and emotional intelligence, not strength and viciousness.

Peeta proves particularly adept at manipulating the emotions of the “Hunger Games”

audience. He seldom actually lies to anyone, but he does artfully reveal and conceal his emotions to maximize their impact and win support for their survival. ...In contrast, the characters who rely on brute force and violent prowess find themselves isolated and defeated in the end. It's the most compassionate characters who ultimately triumph. Years of research suggests that empathy and social intelligence are vastly more important to acquiring and exercising power than are force, deception, or terror."

5. Social connection trumps power and independence.

"The upshot of 50 years of happiness research is that the quantity and quality of a person's social connections—friendships, relationships with family members, closeness to neighbors, etc.—is so closely related to well-being and personal happiness the two can practically be equated," writes Christine Carter in her Raising Happiness blog.

Katniss would very much like to be totally self-reliant. But she simply isn't, and from a certain perspective, *The Hunger Games* is the story of how she comes to realize the importance of social connection and her interdependence with other people. In the book, when one character tells her she's a survivor, her reply is telling: "But only because someone helped me." Katniss is tough and resourceful, but, in the end, it's her ability to connect with others that saves her.

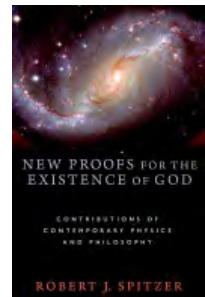
Magis Center of Reason and Faith



MAGIS CENTER
OF REASON AND FAITH

The mission of this website (<http://www.magisreasonfaith.org/>) is to explore and share the close connection between reason and faith as revealed by new discoveries in

physics and philosophy and to explain the consistency between faith, physics and philosophy. There are twelve free videos on a variety of topics under the title of God and Modern Physics, each running about ten (10) minutes. There are a variety of courses for which an enrollment or subscription fee is required but you can also email questions to Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., the Co-Founder and President of the Magis Institute. You can order his most popular book by clicking on [***New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy.***](#)



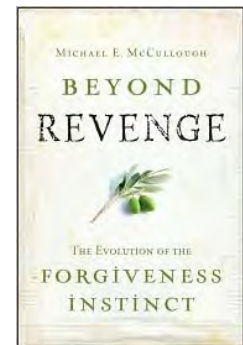
Getting Revenge and Forgiveness



This week's program *On Being* with Krista Tippett offers another way of thinking about revenge and forgiveness. She interviews clinical psychologist Michael McCullough whose research suggests that both are part of the birthright of the human species. Krista writes "I came to understand that revenge was the original 'criminal justice system.' For most of human history, prior to the rule of law, prior to structures of justice that transcend the messiness of human interaction, the threat of retaliation has been a primary tool humans possessed to pursue justice and also to deter cycles of violence."

Michael McCullough's research indicates that "In the brain, the instinct for revenge looks like a 'craving,' a felt need that begs for satiation." Krista points out that "The good news is that Michael McCullough's research is also revealing that forgiveness is hard-wired in us — purposeful and normal. He says that to think of forgiveness as a trait of the weak and the vulnerable reflects a simplistic imagination about evolutionary biology. We tolerate and excuse the deficits and mistakes of those we know and love and work with — and even those we don't love but need to work with — many times each day."

This program heightened my sense of what is at stake in our current world situation as well as our current political situation in this election year. Krista closed her blog with this thought: How intriguing to imagine that we might harness lessons of science towards a more reconciliatory, peaceable future. If you care to listen to the program, please go to <http://being.publicradio.org/programs/2012/revenge-forgiveness/>. If you wish to read Michael's book, you can order it by clicking on [*Beyond Revenge: The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct*](#)



"Journey of Jesus" Is Newest Interactive Adventure

Facebook users can now follow in the footsteps of Jesus, with help from a new on-line game. *Journey of Jesus: The Calling*—the first-ever video game based on the life of Christ—launched on May 15, 2012. The new video game, created by Lightside Games, follows last year's highly successful Old Testament-themed adventure, *Journey of Moses*."

To play the game, Facebook users can simply type "*Journey of Jesus: The Calling*" into the search bar. Registration is simple and free. Players can choose from different paths, explore intricate and intriguing game spaces, search for items and artifacts, and overcome various obstacles.



The game opens with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. Then, on-line gamers travel to Galilee to watch Jesus cleanse the temple and invite Simon and Andrew to follow him. They'll travel with the Master to Cana, where they'll attend a wedding feast and witness Jesus' first miracle. The company plans to add new chapters

and adventures each week, so that more experienced players will continue to find new opportunities for creative play, and for learning about the customs and traditions of the biblical era.

You can read more and watch a video at [Journey of Jesus](http://tiny.cc/iqozew) (<http://tiny.cc/iqozew>).

Chivalry in the Sky, a SpiritClips original



In honor of Memorial Day, SpiritClips is proud to present 'Chivalry in the Sky', a SpiritClips original motion comic. Based on a true story of bravery and compassion, a young WWII pilot is put to the test when his B-17 bomber is singled out by 15 Nazi Fighters. We encourage you to share this film with friends and family to commemorate the brave men and women who have died while safeguarding our nation's freedoms. Go to <http://tiny.cc/bmmxew>.

Do You Hear God's Voice in Scripture?



Eric Groth asks if you hear God's voice in Sacred Scripture? THE WORD OF GOD is the May 2012 Video Download of the Month from Outside da Box. Check it out and see if you agree with this description *It's active. It's relevant. It's persistent. Sharper than any two-edged sword. Can you hear it? Are you listening for it...to it?* It runs about 4 ½ minutes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XYeTjFBvGQ>, with Spanish subtitles at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W3NVJ2xkEY&feature=relmfu>.

Seeing

This seven (7) minute video, [Seeing](#), looks at the ordinary with extraordinary eyes.

"The ordinary... is the part of our world where beauty is interlaced in each detail... It's the part of our world that can knock our socks off... but so many of us walk by everyday, never knowing, never caring... But some see..." Check it out at <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=3155>.

This lovely meditation on the blessing of vision -- both metaphorically and explicitly -- was shot on a budget of \$25 (for the prop sunglasses), using a digital SLR and an iPhone.

Wisdom Story

The Master always frowned on anything that seemed sensational. "The divine," he claimed, "is only found in the ordinary."

To a disciple who was attempting forms of asceticism that bordered on the bizarre the Master was heard to say, "Holiness is a mysterious thing: The greater it is, the less it is noticed."

(Source: Tony de Mello, S.J. <http://www.soulwise.net/99adms1.htm>)

I Am With You Always



These are the words of Jesus in next Sunday's Gospel. Irene Zimmerman wrote a poem by the same title that can be an excellent source of reflection on that statement. It is found in her book *Incarnation*, and can be purchased by clicking on [*Incarnation: New and Selected Poems for Spiritual Reflection*](#).

Here is the poem.

I Am With You Always (Matthew 28:20)

I am with you when you're running out of wine
at your child's wedding feast
and you know the shame if it will last forever.
I will be for you the Best Wine of all.

I am with you in your storm-tossed boat
when joy, hope, life seem lost at sea
and you come close to falling overboard.
I will still the storm, restore you to tranquility.

I am with you when you're caught out on a limb –
a social climbing tax collector, treed!
I too will climb a tree and be mocked on it.
I will honor you by coming to your house to eat.

I am with you when your body is so bent
that friendly faces, trees, sky are lost to view
and all you see are feet hurrying by.
I will empower you to stand up straight again.

I am with you when men catch you in adultery
and your death is but a stone's throw away.
I am the Gate to the sheepfold. I will lay
my body down between your enemies and you.

I am with you when you claim you do not know me.
I have prayed that you will overcome despair
and bring the heavy burden of your sin to me.
I have forgiven you ahead of time.

I am with you when your dearest friend and brother
Passes through the dark door of death,
leaving you disconsolate. I know the pain of loss.
I AM the Resurrection and the Life.

A Universal Kiss

Patricia Sánchez who holds a master's degree in literature and religion of the Bible from a joint degree program at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York wrote this reflection on Pentecost and the call for unity. This is part of her reflection. You can read the complete reflection at <http://tiny.cc/t56wew>.

Among the mystics of past ages, it was not uncommon for God's Holy Spirit to be referred to as God's kiss. It could be said that on this feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the grace of being filled with the Spirit and, thereby, of being kissed by God.



As Paul will tell us in his correspondence with the Corinthians, God's kiss enables the one kissed to profess faith in Jesus as Lord. That same Spirit kisses each member of the community and endows them with gifts. These gifts are meant to complement one another and to work in concert for the common gift. The kiss of God who is the Spirit also enables a community of diverse people to maintain an authentic unity among themselves, so that community is perceived as one integral body in Christ. It constitutes both a blessing and a (Illustration by Mark Bartholomew) challenge that we should celebrate this unity on this feast of the Spirit



...The Spirit did not descend solely upon the speakers in such a way that they preached a sermon to an unenlightened crowd. On the contrary, flames as of fire ate their way into the hearts of the listeners as well, and enflamed all present in one common experience of the same Christ.

When the Spirit was sent forth by the risen Christ, all was overturned and set afire. Those who welcomed the Spirit were able to become a life-sharing community from whom love began to overflow. All were fired with the same burning love that drew them irresistibly together. Just as Jesus gathered his own to himself as friends, so the Spirit drew and can continue to draw Christians radically together.

But in order to avail ourselves of the power of the Spirit to make us one, we need to overcome our fears and come out from behind locked doors, as did the first disciples (Gospel, John). We need to remember the gifts that are ours to enjoy and then to disperse them in this world -- the gifts of Jesus' own peace, the ever-present breathing of his Spirit within all of us and the mandate of forgiveness that we are to realize. Some may object that the Pentecostal power of the early church contrasts too sharply with the church as it exists today, and some may argue that this contrast is too sharp to overcome. Nevertheless, despite our weaknesses, sins and lack of

responsiveness to the power and presence of the Spirit, that same Holy Spirit continues to kiss and bless us each and all, thus anointing us for continuing the mission of Jesus.

The following story may be a helpful way to illustrate the capacity of the Spirit for knowing our weaknesses, for loving us in spite of them and for using those same weaknesses to reveal the generous love of God through us. A young wife and mother suffered a severe stroke and was left paralyzed on one side and confined to a wheelchair. Even after she underwent intensive physical therapy, the effects of the stroke were still in evidence, especially in the crooked little grimace that had replaced her once beautiful and gentle smile. In order to show her that his love for her had not changed, her husband knelt down beside her wheelchair and contorted his own mouth in order to fit his lips to hers. "You see," he said, "we still fit!" Like this loving husband, the Holy Spirit, whose presence we celebrate today, shapes its power to our crookedness so that we can be worthy witnesses of God's love and the good news of salvation to all humankind.



Pentecost – a poem

Poem/Liturgy...

Waiting, Waited,

Flame Breather, Life Teaser,
Sweet Essence, Hard Presence,
Pulsing Blood, Sweeping Flood
Storm Force, Water Source,
Deepest Kiss, Draining Bliss,
Motivator, Love Creator,
Hearts Gripped, Conventions Ripped,
Fire Poured, Winds Roar,

Whisper, Whisper,

Blown Upon, Blown Away,
Burning Up, Burning Out,

Baraka, Ruach, Shanti, Shalom,
Life Spirit, Holy Spirit, Spirit.

Mark Berry http://markjberry.blogs.com/way_out_west/2010/05/pentecost-meditation-for-msm-gathering.html

ANNUAL MEETING OF PASTORAL ASSISTANTS FOR FAITH FORMATION, YOUTH MINISTERS, & PARISH STAFF

Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Place: The Archbishop Brunett Retreat and Faith Formation Center at the Palisades, Federal Way
Schedule: 9:00 AM Welcome and Opening Prayer
9:30 AM Presentation
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM OCFF Updates
2:30 PM Wine and Cheese Social by RCL Benziger
3:15 PM End of Day
Cost: Free for 1st parish rep., \$15 for additional attendees
RSVP: 206-382-4096; ocff@seattlearch.org by June 1st

We would like to honor those celebrating a retirement or significant milestone in ministry. Please include this information with your RSVP.

TOPIC AND PRESENTERS

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Presented by ValLimar Jansen and Tom Kendzia
Sponsored by RCL Benziger



Join ValLimar Jansen and Tom Kendzia for this day of discipleship, fellowship, music, and prayer as we gather to imagine what the world would be like if everyone lived as disciples of Jesus.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE • Office of Catholic Faith Formation
710 Ninth Avenue • Seattle, WA 98104

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INFO ON THE WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL

Be My † Disciples

Plant the Seeds of Discipleship!

Wine and Cheese Social

2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Waterview Room

Sponsored by RCL Benziger

Receive a
FREE
Be My Disciples
Tote Bag
for Attending

BeMyDisciples.com



Please RSVP to Joseph Tancioco, Office Administrator
at Joseph.Tancioco@seattlearch.org
by June 1, 2012, if you are attending.

K-8 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The Office of Catholic Faith Formation, in partnership with the Catholic Schools Department, will be reviewing the Archdiocesan K-8 Religious Education Curriculum during the 2012-2013 school year.

At this time, we are seeking Catholic educators who would be interested in working on this project. Particular areas of concern include:

- Updating formatting to resemble more closely the language of Common Core standards
- Curriculum mapping
- Developing summative and formative assessments
- Reviewing articulation of learner benchmarks between grade levels

If you and/or your faculty are interested in participating in this project, please submit your name and contact information to ocff@seattlearch.org by **May 15, 2012**. If you would like more information about the project, please contact Dr. Anne Frederick at anne.frederick@seattlearch.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE
OFFICE OF CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION
710 NINTH AVENUE • SEATTLE, WA 98104



A Program for Catechetical Leadership:
School Teachers, Campus Ministers, and Youth Ministers

Sponsored by The Archdiocese of Seattle

Office of Catholic Faith Formation + The Archbishop Brunett Retreat & Faith Formation Center + Catholic Schools Dept.

Presented by Msgr. Brian Bransfield

Associate General Secretary, USCCB

Other presenters include Fr. Tom Vandenberg, Jim Thomas & Sr. Kieran Sawyer, SSND

The program will demonstrate the unity of the Church's teachings on Social Justice, the Beatitudes, and Sexual Morality: all presentations will emphasize Living For Others (self-giving love) as the key to happiness and personal fulfillment. Central to all presentations will be Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* and the way it animates social and sexual morality.

Participants are encouraged to read *Morality: The Catholic View* by Servais Pinckaers, OP, and learn how his theology helped underpin catechesis, especially the third pillar of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Another book participants might benefit from reading is *The Human Person: According to John Paul II* by Msgr. Brian Bransfield.

Special opportunity will be given for practical application of the teachings of the theology of the body, including scenarios, group discussion and collaboration, and methods for integration of the theology of the body into school and parish curriculum.

This program is designed for the leadership in secondary schools and will be useful to Youth Ministers and Junior High religious leaders charged with moral formation. Others interested in Catholic moral and social teaching are also welcome to participate.

Attendance at this event qualifies for 12 Washington State Clock Hours for Catholic School Teachers. Please sign-in and complete the necessary paperwork at the event to receive credit.

Register online TODAY! www.seattlearchdiocese.org/palisades

Schedule

Sunday, Aug. 12:

4:00 pm Guest Rooms Available
5:00 Registration
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Opening Presentation
9:00 Night Prayer and Social

Monday & Tuesday, Aug. 13-14:

8:00 am Morning Prayer and Breakfast
9:00 Presentations
12:00 pm Lunch
2:00 Presentation
4:00 Mass (Monday only)
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Group Discussion
9:00 Night Prayer and Social

Wednesday, Aug. 15:

8:00 am Morning Prayer and Breakfast
Pack & Clear Bed Rooms
9:00 Presentations/Closing Prayer
11:30 Departure

**The Archbishop Brunett
Retreat & Faith Formation Center**

at the Palisades
4700 SW Dash Point Road
Federal Way WA 98023
from Seattle 206-748-7991
from Tacoma 253-927-9621
toll free 800-330-7622

Website & Registration:
www.seattlearchdiocese.org/palisades

Presented by

Msgr. Brian Bransfield

Msgr. Brian Bransfield is the executive director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis and is the Assistant General Secretary for the USCCB. Msgr. Bransfield studied moral theology with a specialty in marriage and family at The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome and Washington, DC where he received his licentiate in Sacred Theology in 2003, and doctorate in Moral Theology with a specialization in the theology of Marriage and Family in 2005.



Registration Form

Living for Others

Theology of the Body, Catholic Social & Moral Teaching
August 12-15, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School/Parish/City: _____

I am: ☐ Grade School Teacher; ☐ High School Teacher; ☐ Campus Minister; ☐ Principal ☐ Parish Staff

Describe your catechetical background: _____

Signature of Pastor/Principal: _____

Fees (per person): \$325 single ☐
\$310 double ☐
\$275 commuter ☐

Enclosed is my payment:

Check ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ _____
Payment Method Card Number Exp Date

I require special assistance ☐ ADA Room ☐ 1st floor room only ☐ Vegetarian meals

Other special needs (Please specify) _____

Checks payable to "The Palisades"

Mail to: The Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center, 4700 SW Dash Point Road #100, Federal Way WA 98023

Or Register Online TODAY! www.seattlearchdiocese.org/palisades

Registration deadline: July 30, 2012

new ministers orientation

Pastoral Assistants
for Faith Formation

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

young adult ministers

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

The Palisades, Federal Way

All new Pastoral Assistants for Faith Formation, Coordinators of Youth Ministry, and Young Adult Ministers are encouraged to attend this unique day designed especially for those new to ministry and/or the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Representatives from the Office of Catholic Faith Formation, Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and other Chancery offices will be in attendance. The day is packed with concrete and practical information to assist you in beginning your ministry in the Archdiocese of Seattle. If you are new to ministry or the Archdiocese you won't want to miss it!

To register for this event:
206-382-4096, ocff@seattlearch.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION • OFFICE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

710 Ninth Avenue • Seattle, WA 98104

ocff@seattlearch.org • oyyam@seattlearch.org