

Dear Catechists,

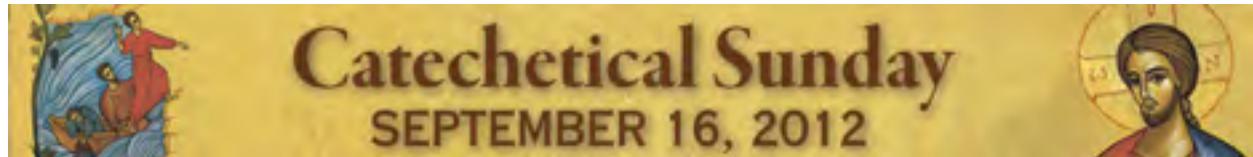
Happy beginning of the new school year! As many of you are aware, Catechetical Sunday is just four weeks away and there are multiple resources that can be downloaded to prepare for the event in your parish or school.

Also included in this week's newsletter are resources from the Missions Office and several inspirational articles about Catholic Olympians, adolescent teaching ideas, Pope Benedict on the gift of music, the US Bishops on our economy and an adult Confirmation textbook. Please scroll through the entire newsletter for some great video clips and to learn about a new film documentary from Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ on "Cosmic Origins." We hope to have several of these resources available for loan from our Library Media Center in the near future!

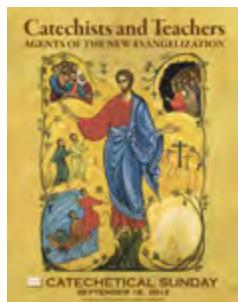
In Christ,

*Anne*

### News from National Conference of Catechetical Leadership



The theme for 2012 Catechetical Sunday is "**Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization.**" The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis has prepared a variety of materials to assist catechists and Catholic school teachers to better understand and embrace Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to be evangelists. The resources will assist parishes in celebrating Catechetical Sunday, not only in September, but also throughout the 2012-2013 year. **These materials are provided free of charge in both English and Spanish.** These resources can be found at [Catechetical Sunday 2012 Resources](http://tiny.cc/m10nfw) (<http://tiny.cc/m10nfw>). **There are less than four weeks until Catechetical Sunday, be sure to order your materials from NCCL.**



We are featuring **Rosa Monique Peña, OP, National Catechetical Consultant for William H. Sadlier, Inc. on the topic [Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization](#).** You can download the PDF at <http://tiny.cc/80bjw> or by simply clicking on the title above. If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/upload/Catechists-and-Teachers-as-Agents-of-the-New-Evangelization-8-10-12.pdf>

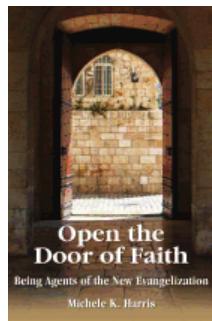
As in past years, NCCL will sell printed copies of prayer cards, family commitment cards, posters, and certificates in English and Spanish. Check the NCCL website [www.NCCL.org](http://www.NCCL.org) for

more information on ordering your Catechetical Sunday materials This year's reflection journal was written by Michele Harris and is entitled ***Open the Door of Faith***. Sample pages are available on the NCCL Homepage

([www.NCCL.org](http://www.NCCL.org)). The 2012 NCCL pin addresses the Trinitarian nature of our faith in its triangular design along with the pages of the Word of God open to the world where the cross of the Word made flesh rises from the Living



Word. The Spirit of God in each of us is the agent of the new evangelization and is ready to go forth as catechist and teacher. Set on an ivory background (not the light blue pictured in the image), the gold cross and white enameled Scripture pages and dove are striking. Help your organization and order your materials from NCCL.



In the meantime, check out the [\*\*Catechetical Sunday 2012 FREE Resources\*\*](#) (<http://tiny.cc/m10nfw>) which include

- Theological Reflection
- Catechist-in-service
- Teaching Aids
- Parish Resources (excellent parish bulletin inserts)

If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechetical-ministry/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/index.cfm>. This week we would also like to highlight three (3) additional resources.

### 1. Bulletin Inserts:

[\*\*\*Adolescent Catechesis: A Catechesis that Engages Youth for Discipleship\*\*\*](#) by Fr. John J. Serio, SDB, Principal, Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, Takoma Park, Maryland. You can download the PDF at <http://tiny.cc/kdkbjw> or by simply clicking on the title above. If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/upload/adolescent-catechesis.pdf>.

### 2. Faith in Action:

These are articles by young adults engaged in the Church's work of evangelization. This week we feature Genevieve Jordan, MA, Theology, Director of Young Adult Ministry for Romero Center Ministries, Camden, New Jersey in an essay entitled [\*\*\*Witness to Christ in Parishes and Schools\*\*\*](#). You can download the PDF at <http://tiny.cc/qmkbjw> or by simply clicking on the title above. If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/upload/Witness-to-Christ-in-Parishes-and-Schools.pdf>

**3. Leadership Institute website:**

Track III - New Evangelization features ten webinars. You can check out all of them at <http://tiny.cc/aaigw> or by clicking on Track III above. If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/leadership-institute/programs-track-3.cfm>. This week we are featuring an in-depth follow-up to our featured Bulletin insert. It is entitled *Reaching Adolescents with the Good News: A Relational Approach to Discipleship* by Michael Theisen, Director of Membership Services for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) in Washington DC. You can listen to this webinar at <http://tiny.cc/i4kbjw>. If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser <https://usccb.adobeconnect.com/ a833422997/p87b49aa64y/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

**Reaching Adolescents with the Good News: A Relational Approach to Discipleship**

**Michael Theisen**

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How does the Church effectively connect, engage, and proclaim the Good News of our Catholic faith with teens today in a manner that moves them toward discipleship?

This presentation will discuss some important principles and strategies to assist parish leaders in apprenticing young people into serving as agents of evangelization.



## New Poverty USA Website Offers Statistics, Stories, Resources To Catholics

Catholics can learn about the state of poverty in the United States and concrete ways they can make a difference at a new website from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The site, [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org), was launched August 15 and offers tools and resources to spread the word about poverty in America. Resources include an interactive poverty map with state and county level poverty statistics, a Poverty Tour video which gives viewers a sense of what it is like to live at the federal poverty line, videos and links to *PovertyUSA*'s social media sites, including [www.facebook.com/povertyusa](http://www.facebook.com/povertyusa).

The website, which is an initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, will feature selected news stories related to the state of poverty in the United States. Also, on the county-level view of poverty statistics, visitors will be able to find examples of local organizations working to alleviate poverty in their communities. Why not test your poverty knowledge with their *Poverty Quiz* at <http://www.povertyusa.org/poverty-resources/quiz/>.

"We are committed to providing educational content related to poverty as well as hopeful examples of what we can do to make the state of poverty better," said Ralph McCloud, national director of CCHD. "We welcome comments regarding the new site or suggestions for future feature articles or guest editorials." Comments and suggestions may be sent to the Justice, Peace and Human Development main email. Those wishing to receive additional resources on a regular basis can sign up for the email newsletter. . . , *Notes for Neighbors*.

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the USCCB and works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. It has a complementary mission of educating on poverty and its causes. This dual pastoral strategy of education for justice and helping people who are poor speak and act for themselves reflects the mandate of the Scriptures and the principles of Catholic social teaching.

*The local CCHD representative for resources for parishes and schools, and for grants to low-income groups, is the **Missions Office** ([www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions)). CCHD support comes from the Build Hope collection each September.*

## **Year of Faith postings on the NCCL Website – Check it out!**

**It's up on the NCCL website and there are NEW postings every week. You can find it under *Resources* on the [Home page](#) or you can simply click [YEAR of FAITH Resources](#).**



**YEAR OF FAITH<sup>2012</sup><sub>2013</sub>**

NCCL will be posting *Year of Faith* plans from parishes and dioceses on the NCCL website. If your committee or Forum has discussed the Year of Faith from an NCCL perspective, or if someone on your committee has plans for the Year of Faith, please email the information to NCCL Board member Joanie McKeown at [jmckNCCL@email.com](mailto:jmckNCCL@email.com). We'll post links to websites, outlines of plans, introductory articles, worksheets, etc., along with a byline crediting you (or your parish, diocese, committee, etc) for the materials you are sharing. By allowing others to see your plans you'll be helping other parish and diocesan catechetical leaders as they develop their local plans so that across the country, in parishes large and small, we'll have vibrant celebrations of the Year of Faith.

**Archdiocese of Seattle Year of Faith page: [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof)**

## **Pro-life walk across America finishes with rally in DC**



Over 40 young people who walked across the U.S. for pro-life service, advocacy and witness held a rally at the U.S. Capitol on Saturday to mark the end of the 18th annual cross-country trek run by the group Crossroads. “Even though the walks are over, we still need to continue on and let the Lord work, to continue that mission of transforming the culture of death into a culture of life,” said Crossroads national director Jim Nolan.

Walk participants began on the West Coast on May 19. They passed through 40 states, visiting hundreds of churches and standing outside of dozens of abortion clinics where they prayed and offered pro-life counseling. “We’ve been saying for years that America is a pro-life country,” Nolan said. “I can tell you, through all the experiences on all of the walks, it was all very positive.” Crossroads groups received “very little pushback” and an “almost exclusively positive reaction” to their activities.

Ryan recalled that Crossroads aspires to follow Pope John Paul II’s call at World Youth Day 1993 for people to imitate the original apostles and “to help build the culture of life.” Since then, Ryan said, there has been “a big shift” towards the pro-life position among youth. “America is a pro-life,” he said. “The culture of death, even though it seems like it is getting worse, I think is taking its last gasps.”

When it was first founded in 1995, Crossroads only sponsored one walk across the United States. This year, in addition to the four U.S. walks, there are counterparts in Canada, Ireland, and Spain.

## **Catholic Church in England Gearing Up For the Paralympic Games**

The Dockhead Choir, best known as the opening act of the 2012 Olympic opening ceremony, sang again last week in connection with the 2012 Games, this time at a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Paralympics. The mass took place in St George's Cathedral, Southwark. One of the most moving moments of the Olympic opening ceremony was relived as a song of true worship as the Dockhead Choir sang the first verse of Jerusalem live and unaccompanied, dressed in the same attire they wore at the Olympic stadium.



"It will be a slightly different version of Jerusalem on this occasion to that sung at the opening ceremony," stated Canon Alan Maclean, parish priest and canon director. "However, above all the young people and their parents are both delighted and honored to be taking part in this special liturgy. He went on to say that "being a part of the Mass in thanksgiving for the Paralympic Games is equally as great an honor for us all as being the first voices to be heard at the opening of the 30th Olympiad," adding that "singing in worship of God is what the choir does best."

James Parker, Catholic Executive Coordinator for the 2012 Games mentioned that "the key theme the Catholic bishops wish to be heard loud and clear is that 'everybody has a place within the Church. This was the resounding theme of our recent international one-day conference in London on disability, theology and sport, and will continue be our on-going anthem long after the Games have ended and have moved on to Russia and Brazil,'" he said. "We hope that Paralympians both past and present, whether Catholic, Christian, or of any faith and none, will come to hear of the Mass and choose to join the hundreds of others who will be present. We want to celebrate and give thanks to God for the preciousness and potential that lies within each and every life, particularly for how these are manifest within the domain of sport."

The Catholic Bishops' National Advisor on disability matters, Cristina Gangemi, stressed that the upcoming Paralympic Games should be treated with the same enthusiasm as the Olympic Games. "While they are separate games, Paralympians are amazing sports people who have worked hard and have faced the same ups and downs as those who participated in the Olympics. It's just that they engage in events in a different way and utilize apparatuses that have been geared to allow them to practice the sport they are so skilled at," she said.



Speaking on how the Catholic community in particular can engage with the Paralympic Games, Gangemi saw them as an "opportunity for schools to deliberately show the games, to have disability-themed assemblies and to recognize the potential of all human beings within our society." This, she said, "is an opportunity not to be missed. The Paralympics are a unique example of faith in action and a place where all do what they do to the very best of their ability."

### **"Music is the Expression of the Spirit, of The Interior Place of the Person"**



Here is a translation of a few excerpts from the address Benedict XVI gave on Saturday at the conclusion of a concert held in his honor. You can read the full address at <http://www.radiovaticana.org/EN1/Articolo.asp?c=612425> .

With this evening's program you have given us an idea of the multiplicity of the musical creativity and of the breadth of harmony. Music is not a succession of sounds; it is a rhythm and, at the same time, it is cohesion and harmony; it has its structure and its depth.

Music is the expression of the spirit, of the interior place of the person, created for all that is true, good and beautiful. It is no accident that music often accompanies our prayer. It makes our senses and spirit resound when, in prayer, we encounter God.

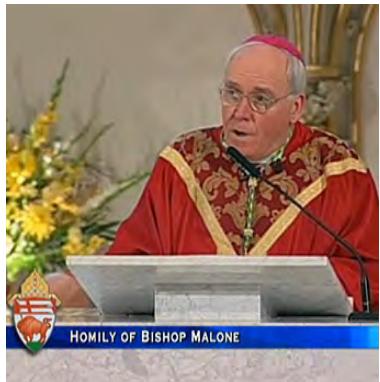
Today, in the liturgy, we remember Saint Clare. In a hymn to the Saint one reads: "From the clarity of God you have received light. You gave it space, it grew in you, and spread in the world; it lightens our hearts.

This is the underlying attitude that fills man and woman with peace: openness to divine claritas, the splendid beauty and vital strength of the Creator, which encourages us and makes us overcome ourselves.

Thus it is only a consequence that the artists, beginning from their profound experience of beauty, commit themselves to the good and offer in turn help and support to the needy. They transmit the good they have received as a gift, and this spreads in the world. And thus the human being grows, becomes transparent and aware of the presence and action of his Creator,.... We have understood that this "Gemeinsam gegen die Kalte" does not respond to an objective that is imposed from outside, but comes from the depth of this music which overcomes the cold that is within us and opens the heart.



## **New Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone Stresses Need For Modern-day Martyrs**



As Bishop Richard J. Malone became the fourteenth Bishop of Buffalo, N.Y. on Aug. 10, he outlined the need for martyrs who will witness to Jesus Christ through “a daily dying to self.” A member of NCCL and its former Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Malone, the former bishop of Portland, Maine, noted that his installation was on the Feast of St. Lawrence – who was martyred by fire – and the day after the Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, the Jewish convert and philosopher Edith Stein who was murdered by the Nazis.

The bishop said in his homily that a martyr is a witness whose discipleship is “so authentic, so deep, so uncompromising, so credible, that he or she is willing, with God’s grace, to give all, to surrender all to Christ, and the truth Christ is revealed.” The martyr is willing to do this “in the face of fear, loss, scorn, misunderstanding, rejection, suffering, even death” in response to “Christ’s love poured out for us on the Cross.”

In his homily, Bishop Malone said that some martyrs’ lives “rise to a dramatic climax,” but most Christians witness through their “persevering commitment to Christ and to the Gospel.” However, this can be attempted only with “profound hope and even, paradoxically, real joy,” the bishop continued. He cited the Mass reading from the Gospel of John in which Jesus said a seed must die to live. “Not to die is to remain fruitless, unproductive, truly dead,” Bishop Malone said.

Bishop Malone stressed the need to reach out to inactive Catholics and to evangelize to transform individuals in Christ. Evangelization, he said, also aims to transform “our increasingly secular culture into a civilization of love and a culture of life.” He noted the need to respect human life, to respect marriage as a union of one man and one woman “open to new life,” to respect religious liberty, and to show compassion to the poor and to immigrants.

“We need the martyrs’ conviction and courage, tenacity and selflessness, and, yes, hope, to stand up in our increasingly relativistic society in defense of these truths and values so threatened in our time,” the bishop exhorted.

## **Virgin Mary ‘Crosses the Finish Line’ with Olympic Gold Runner**



Ethiopian athlete Meseret Defar provided one of the most emotional moments of the London 2012 Summer Olympic Games when she crossed the finish line in the 5000 meter race to win the gold. She then pulled a picture of the Virgin Mary out from under her jersey, showed it to the cameras and held it up to her face in deep prayer.

An Orthodox Christian, Defar entrusted her race to God with the sign of the cross and reached the finish line in 15:04:24, beating her fellow Ethiopian rival Tirunesh Dibaba, who was the favorite to win. A teary-eyed Defar proudly showed the picture of the Virgin Mary with the Baby Jesus that she carried with her for the entire race.

### **Latino Catholic runner makes history at Olympic games**



Forty-four years since the last victory by an American, Leonel “Leo” Manzano won an Olympic silver medal for the U.S. in the 1500-meter race, to the delight of his fellow parishioners at St. Ignatius the Martyr in Austin, Texas. Born in Mexico and raised in the U.S., at five feet tall, Manzano caught the attention of the media first for his height and also for his habit of blessing himself and praying before competing.

During the 1500 meter race on Aug. 7 at London's Olympic stadium, he stayed in second-to-last place for the majority of the event. But in the last 200 meters, Manzano sprinted past the entire group to claim the silver in the race's fastest time ever for an American athlete. Manzano told ESPN that after crossing the finish line he fell down on the track to pray and thank God for the fruits of all his sacrifices and the long hours spent in training and competitions away from his home in Austin.

When he is in Austin, Manzano attends Mass at St. Ignatius the Martyr Parish, where he gave a motivational talk to children at the local Catholic school last April. Father Bill Wack, the pastor of St. Ignatius, told CNA that the local Catholic community “is proud of Leo – not only because he won a medal but also because he talks about his Faith and gives credit to God for his achievements. “We are anxious to welcome him back home.”

Manzano told USA Today that during the race he “felt like I was 10th or 11th. I knew I was in the back. I just kept praying, saying, 'Heavenly Father, help me. Push me. Give me the strength to keep going.'” “My kick has always been there,” he added. “Ever since I was maybe 12 years old, I've had this major gift from God. I guess sometimes it's just been kind of overlooked.”

### **U.S. Bishops Cite Terrible Human Costs of Broken Economy**



People of faith stand with people who've been left behind and should seek economic renewal that makes workers and their families a central concern, according to the annual Labor Day Statement from the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "Millions of Americans suffer from unemployment, underemployment or are living in poverty as their basic needs too often go unmet. This represents a serious economic and moral

failure for our nation," wrote the committee's chairman, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, California, in the statement, *Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life*.

Bishop Blaire cited the 12 million Americans officially unemployed, the millions more who are underemployed or who have given up looking for work, 10 million "working poor" families, and 46 million people, including 16 million children, living in poverty as a sign of a broken economy. He cited the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who said poverty often "results from a violation of the dignity of human work," either because of a lack of job opportunities or because, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it."

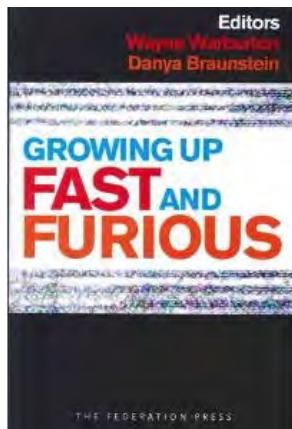
According to Bishop Blaire, the "terrible human costs" of a broken economy include workers being exploited or mistreated, stagnant or falling wages, and stress on families. As a result, "many employees struggle for just wages, a safe workplace, and a voice in the economy, but they cannot purchase the goods they make, stay in the hotels they clean, or eat the food they harvest, prepare, or serve."



"An economy that allows this exploitation and abuse demands our attention and action," wrote Bishop Blaire. He noted that the bishops work to provide hope and help to exploited workers through programs such as the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, but said that "everyone and every institution" in society—businesses, government, unions and private institutions—should collaborate to support workers and create an economy "that serves the person rather than the other way around."

"This Labor Day, millions of working people and their families have urgent and compelling needs," Bishop Blaire concluded. "I ask you to join me in a special prayer for them and all workers, especially those without a job struggling to live in dignity. May God guide our nation in creating a more just economy that truly honors the dignity of work and the rights of workers." The full 2012 Labor Day statement can be found online in English at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2012.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2012.cfm) and in Spanish at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/declaracion-del-dia-del-trabajo-2012.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/declaracion-del-dia-del-trabajo-2012.cfm).

### **Fast and Furious: Growing up in a Media Saturated World**



Violence, video games, and sex: what effect does it have on children and adolescents? The latest contribution to this debate comes in a book recently published in Australia. *Growing Up Fast & Furious*, is a collection of essays edited by Wayne Warburton and Danya Braunstein.

In his contribution Warburton, Deputy Director of the Children and Families Research Center at Macquarie University (Sydney), noted that in the United States children aged 8-18 are exposed to an average of

almost 11 hours of media each day. Children in other countries might not reach this level, but they are not far behind, he added.

In recent years media is not only more portable but it is also easier for children to access it in multiple places within and outside the home. This means it is increasingly difficult for parents to monitor their children's media consumption, Warburton observed. Looking at the research Warburton commented that media is a powerful teacher, for both good and bad, and the effects can be both short and long-term.

John P. Murray, who has been researching children's social development for almost 40 years in the United States in a number of academic positions, looked into the matter of the effects of media violence. Some decades ago studies clearly demonstrate that the viewing of violence and aggressive behaviour are clearly related, but they do not establish a cause and effect relationship. More recent studies do, however, lead to the conclusion that viewing violence does affect the attitudes and behaviour of viewers, he said.

Violent video games was the topic of an essay by Warburton and Craig A. Anderson, a professor of psychology at Iowa State University. Video games can enhance the lives of children and adolescents they said, but exposure to anti-social and violent video games increases the likelihood of a range of negative outcomes, they warned.

Video games, they noted, can improve visual and spatial skills and can also be a valuable instrument in teaching children. They can also lead to less desirable outcomes, such as addiction to video games, attention deficit, and increased aggression. Spending more hours playing video games is linked to poorer school performance and research has shown that excessive exposure to violence leads to desensitisation to violence and a decrease in empathy.

This is not to claim that media violence is the sole or even the most important source of violent behavior, the authors cautioned. Other factors, such as a violent home environment, are, however, hard to deal with while media violence can be controlled more readily.

Cyber-bullying was an issue examined by Ed Donnerstein in his essay. Donnerstein, a professor of communication at the University of Arizona, said that various surveys in different countries indicate that between 15 to 35% of teens report being bullied online. Moreover, 10 to 20% admit to bullying others. The place where a child was considered to be most secure, at home, has now become a place where they can be a victim, he noted. Moreover, because of the anonymity of the aggressor and the permanence in cyberspace of the material the effects can be harsher than bullying in person.

Louise Newman, a professor of developmental psychology at Melbourne's Monash University, examined the subject of sexualization. There is an increasing body of evidence pointing to the potential harm of the sexualization of children, particularly those of primary school age, she said. "Of particular concern is the way in which sexualization impacts on self-development," Newman commented. This has led to worries about the relationship between media representations of the ideal body and the self-esteem of girls. "The representations of girls and women as sexual objects and boys and men as sexual predators are ubiquitous and particularly reinforced in some media and music sub-cultures," she added.

Alan Hayes and Carole Jean, both from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, commented that the exposure of children to violent, sexualized, or exploitative material is at odds with the aspiration to be a child-friendly society. A culture that engenders exploitation and desensitisation leads to what they termed “the democratization of dysfunction.”

While there is still much to learn about the impact of the media on children the jury is not out they affirmed and there is solid evidence of the ill effects of a media diet rich in violence and sexualized material. What is also clear, they said, is that there is a gap that needs to be closed between knowledge and action. While it is certainly true that individuals need to make appropriate choices society does have a collective responsibility that cannot be overlooked, they concluded. If you want to know more, you can order [\*Growing Up Fast & Furious\*](#).

## Priest's New Film Says Physics Help Prove Existence of God



A new film by philosopher, priest and producer Father Robert Spitzer aims to integrate faith and reason by making the claim that God's existence can be proved through scientific evidence. “We thought the whole story wasn't being told in the media about the evidence for God from physics,” said the Jesuit priest. “We're utterly convinced that the evidence from physics shows the existence of God and certainly does not take away from it.”

The 49-minute documentary, titled “*Cosmic Origins*,” features eight physicists who discuss the big bang theory, theories of modern physics, and eventually discuss the need for a creator. In choosing the physicists for the film, Fr. Spitzer made sure that every scientist was “absolutely top in their field, world class, they had to be a Nobel prize winner, a Templeton prize winner, or come from Harvard or Cambridge or from the top ranks of NASA.” The scientists “come pretty much out of the closet,” and affirm that it is impossible for the universe to be random and without purpose, he said.

In the film, after discussing the Big Bang theory and affirming it scientifically, the physicists say there still must be a beginning or cause of the universe, even with theories of modern physics. “When the universe was nothing, it could not have moved itself from nothing, something else had to do it, and that something else was a transcendent creator,” Fr. Spitzer said. He claims that this creator would have to exist outside space and time because before the Big Bang, nothing existed, including space and time.



The film is available in two versions, the original documentary, and a Catholic version with additional features that help foster a deeper Catholic and philosophical understanding, the producer and Jesuit priest pointed out. When asked if Catholics really need proof of God's existence, Fr. Spitzer discussed three different ways people process information.

“You have the analytical, the people who are high feelers, and the people who are high decision makers,” he said. “The high feelers do not really need this.” He gave the example of people who are feelings-focused being able to see beauty in nature and know God exists without proof. Fr.

Spitzer is not one of those people, he said, and along with other scientists, philosophers and lawyers, he needs more explanation.

“It doesn’t mean you necessarily need proof, what it means is that you need evidence so that you can have some kind of independent extrinsic verification of God because, of course, your intuition is not going to push you over the line. This is about 35 percent of our population.” His film aims to reach this group who do not consider the possibility of God’s existence without scientific explanation.



“*Cosmic Origins*” is available on the NCCL Amazon Bookstore at [http://www.amazon.com/Cosmic-Origins--/dp/B008YMHBJO/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1345435591&sr=1-7&keywords=cosmic+origins+dvd](http://www.amazon.com/Cosmic-Origins--/dp/B008YMHBJO/ref=sr_1_7?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1345435591&sr=1-7&keywords=cosmic+origins+dvd). You can watch a movie trailer at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP\\_dgLE0-q8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP_dgLE0-q8). A parish screening program is also available for purchase on the “Cosmic Origins” website, [www.cosmicoriginsfilm.com](http://www.cosmicoriginsfilm.com).

## **15 Things You Should Give Up To Be Happy**

--by Dana Saviuc, [Original Story](http://www.originalstory.com), May 10, 2012

Dana Savic believes there are “15 things which, if you give up on them, will make your life a lot easier and much, much happier. We hold on to so many things that cause us a great deal of pain, stress and suffering – and instead of letting them all go, instead of allowing ourselves to be stress free and happy – we cling on to them.” Here they are and if you care to read the description of them, please go to <http://www.purposefairy.com/3308/15-things-you-should-give-up-in-order-to-be-happy/>.

1. Give up your need to always be right
2. Give up your need for control
3. Give up on blame
4. Give up your self-defeating self-talk
5. Give up your limiting beliefs
6. Give up complaining
7. Give up the luxury of criticism
8. Give up your need to impress others
9. Give up your resistance to change
10. Give up labels
11. Give up on your fears
12. Give up your excuses
13. Give up the past
14. Give up attachment
15. Give up living your life to other people’s expectations



## **Flying Over America**



This runs about 5 ½ minutes and offers you a view of the United States that is often breath-taking. If you didn't get out on the river this summer or didn't leave your own backyard, take these few moments to enjoy the wonders of God's creation and our testament to co-creation. Yessian Music has taken flight yet again...this time over America, in its latest installation in Shenzhen, China via Super 78 and directed by Brent Young. Watch

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=KcuDdPo0WZk](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=KcuDdPo0WZk)



## **Deck of Cards – My Bible, My Calendar, My Almanac**



I am sure you heard the story of the soldier who prayed with his deck of cards but may never heard it told by a magician. It's worth the three (3) minutes, plus it's a tribute to the women and men who are fighting for our country.

Check it out at <http://www.ask.com/videos/watch-video/soldiers-deck-of-cards/KMu3KTrwm4wiskt1aQ9KiA?o=undefined&l=dis&ver=11&domain=ask.com> .

## **When I Read the Bible...**



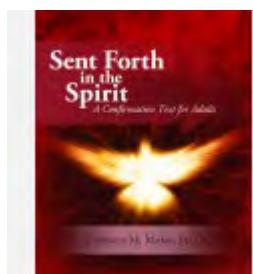
Erik Groth asks “What impact does the Bible have in your life?” *WHEN I READ THE BIBLE*...is the August 2012 Video Download of the Month from Outside da Box. Check it out at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrGDWwlm3aU> or <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/1392d642628f2b98> It's only 2 ½ minutes.

## **How Great Thou Art**

LOTS of detailed technology went into this. And the song itself is beautiful. So, turn up your volume, maximize your screen, click on the link below, then sit back and enjoy! [http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=dxCRIF0m79w&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=dxCRIF0m79w&feature=related)

And I would agree about the technology and even the harmony but at the time I was reading an article about our faith being communal and this made me wonder. See if you have the same reaction. You can listen to this four minute version of the song at [http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=dxCRIF0m79w&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=dxCRIF0m79w&feature=related)

## ***Send Forth in the Spirit – Recommended by Mary Jo Waggoner***



This is a textbook which allows us to give these adults the proper setting for catechesis, outside of any RCIA process. This text prepares them well for this wonderful Sacrament and has been needed for a long time. It is comprehensive, easy to use, and more importantly it gives our Catholics, who need only this Sacrament to finish their Sacraments of Initiation, a text to take home and keep for years to come.

The textbook is published by [Leonine Publishing](http://www.leoninepublishing.com) and is available by calling them at 602-795-3539 or emailing them at [orders@leoninepublishers.com](mailto:orders@leoninepublishers.com). Leonine is offering a significant discount for your orders.