

Religious Education Newsletter • August 27, 2012

Dear Catechists,

As we move into our school year, we have many wonderful electronic resources to share with you. We have local programs for sharing our faith, national web seminars, inspirational stories and Pope Benedict extolling the role of the laity in society. Please do scroll through this newsletter for some videos and several new USCCB articles on catechesis and evangelization.

Remember Catechetical Sunday is just three weeks away. If you are looking for bulleting inserts or prayers to celebrate this special day, please check the free materials from nccl.org

May Christ our Teacher bless you and all those you serve,

Anne

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.

Director of Parish and School Faith Formation

Archdiocese of Seattle Year of Faith page: www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

For Schools and Faith Formation

"The Sacred Art of Story Telling"

CONDUCTED BY
SR. LIZ TIERNAN



Jesus was a storyteller, and he knew the power of stories to touch the minds and hearts of his listeners. All major religions and spiritual traditions make use of good stories to teach major theological concepts.

**In this workshop,
Sr. Liz**

**+will present some principles of good storytelling,
+show how to recognize a good teaching story,
+illustrate the many ways to use stories to enhance a religion class.**

**Contact Sr. Liz at:
(206) 323-5595
liztiernan@aol.com**

DISCIPLINE WORKSHOP

For Schools and Faith Formation

"SURROUNDED BY ANGELS"



**CONDUCTED BY
SR. LIZ TIERNAN, SNDdeN**

Sr. Liz will share techniques on "disciplining from the heart", a method of classroom management which enhances the Christian learning environment for both students and teachers.

TOPICS INCLUDE

+Children as Angels

+The Three "Rs" of Discipline

**+"It Only Takes One":
Stopping Bullying Before it Starts**

**Contact Sr. Liz at:
(206) 323-5595
liztiernan@aol.com**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is adding more and more excellent articles on their Catechesis and Evangelization website. Please check out the following three resources for some great ideas on promoting our Catholic faith!

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechetical-ministry/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/index.cfm>.

1. Bulletin Inserts:

Found It! by Barbara Humphrey McCrabb, MDiv, Assistant Director for Higher Education, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. You can download the PDF at <http://tiny.cc/tp7njw> 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/found-it-mccrabb.pdf>.

2. Faith in Action:

These are articles by young adults engaged in the Church's work of evangelization. This week we feature Katie Muller, MA, Theology, Graduate of Echo Faith Formation Leadership Program, University of Notre Dame, Director of High School Youth Ministry for St. Paul Catholic Church and Middle School Religion Teacher, St. Petersburg, Florida in a first person piece entitled ***All Are Welcome***. You can download the PDF at <http://tiny.cc/7y7njw> 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/all-are-welcome-muller.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 ***An Evangelizing Laity*** by Susan Timoney, STD, Assistant Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington. You can listen to this webinar at <http://tiny.cc/ng8njw>. If neither works, please copy and paste this URL in your web browser

<https://usccb.adobeconnect.com/a833422997/p7t4peq7erv/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

An Evangelizing Laity

The New Evangelization presents both parishes and individual lay Catholics the opportunity to strengthen our identity as evangelizers and to recognize three distinct groups of people with whom we share the Good News. This presentation presents a parish-based vision for the New Evangelization and tools for implementation.



Leadership Institute-2012 September Q&A Live

The first 2012 Leadership Institute Live Question & Answer Session is scheduled for:
September 11, 2012 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. [EDT]

Please click on the link to register:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sept11_LI_QandA

Featured panelists and webinars:

- Very Rev. James A. Wehner, STD "Overview of the Theological Foundations of the New Evangelization"
- Rev. Matthew Williams, M.Div. & Stephen Colella "Go and Make Disciples: The Next Steps"
- Dr. Susan Timoney, STD "An Evangelizing Laity"
- Rev. Eduardo C. Fernández, SJ, STL, STD "Humbly Walking With God's People"
- Facilitator: Michael E. Steier, DMin (USCCB Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis)

All the webinars can be found at the USCCB website under the [Leadership Institute – Track III: The New Evangelization](#)

QUESTIONS: Contact Michael Steier via email at: leadershipinstitute@usccb.org

The Leadership Institute is jointly sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, and the National Catholic Educational Association.

Pope Calls Laity to Responsibility in the Church



Pope Benedict XVI says the laity should be seen as truly "co-responsible" for the Church and not just "collaborators with the clergy. "Co-responsibility requires a change in mentality, particularly with regard to the role of the laity in the Church," the Holy Father said. Laity should be considered "persons truly 'co-responsible' for the being and activity of the Church," he stated.

Hence, he called for a committed laity who are united, each making his own "specific contribution to the Church's mission, in accordance with the ministries and tasks each one has in the life of the Church, and always in cordial communion with the bishops." Recalling that *Lumen Gentium* spoke of the laity-clergy relationship as "familiar," the Pontiff said it is "important to deepen and to live out this spirit of profound communion in the Church, which characterized the early Christian community, as the book of the Acts of the Apostles attests."

"Feel the commitment to work for the Church's mission to be your own," he exhorted, "through prayer, through study, through active participation in ecclesial life, through an attentive and

positive gaze at the world, in the continual search for the signs of the times." Benedict XVI encouraged "serious and daily" ongoing formation, saying the laity are "called to be courageous and credible witnesses in every sphere of society, so that the Gospel might be the light that brings hope in difficult situations, in troubles and in the darkness that men today so often find along the path of life."

"To guide others to an encounter with Christ by announcing his message of salvation with language and ways understandable in our own day marked by rapidly transforming social and cultural advances, is the great challenge of the new evangelization," he added. "[...] At this stage in history, work in the light of the Church's social teaching to become a laboratory of 'globalization of solidarity and charity,' in order to grow with the entire Church in the co-responsibility of offering a future of hope to humanity, by having the courage to make even demanding proposals."

[Paralympian Credits Family, Catholic School For His Success](#)



On Brian Siemann's first day at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence in 2004, Coach Joe McLaughlin invited the young man who required a wheelchair for his mobility to do something he had never before considered. "You're coming out for the track team," McLaughlin recalled telling the then-perplexed student. Paralyzed from the waist down at birth after a hospital accident, Siemann is a quadruplet, and was joined at Notre Dame by his sisters, Maria, Jessica and Amanda. What happened since then is history in the making.

After competing in the 2011 International Paralympic Committee Athletics World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, the Millstone resident has qualified to represent the United States in track and field at the 2012 Paralympic Games, which begin Aug. 29 in London. He is scheduled to compete in at least six races, including the 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 800 meter and the marathon, which is Sept. 9, the final day of the games.

"It is a huge honor to be representing Team USA," Siemann told The Monitor, newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton. "To me, making the team is not only an honor, but also is a testament to the amount of work that has gone into my training since I began racing." He credits his family -- his parents in particular -- for their around-the-clock dedication, especially on the early morning drives to races or late night drives home from extra practices. But it is his Notre Dame family, he said, that helped spark his racing career.

After McLaughlin made the seemingly impossible suggestion to the then-freshman student, the coach teamed up with fellow staff members and an organization, Project Freedom, and together they raised the \$5,000 necessary to purchase Siemann's first racing chair. With his new equipment, Siemann hit the track and trained alongside the rest of the team.

"Coach McLaughlin and I had no idea what we were doing when we first started. I didn't even

know the proper way to push in the racing chair," Siemann confessed, though he said he began to get better each day. "(McLaughlin) didn't see me as a disabled athlete -- he saw me as an athlete with a disability and treated me like he would any of his other athletes."

Despite the rigorous challenge ahead of him, the young athlete knows he has his Notre Dame family rooting for him. "The generous community at Notre Dame provided me with my first racing chair and got me started on this path. Without their support and generosity I would not be where I am today," he said. "When I go to London in a few weeks, I look forward to pushing my hardest and representing the United States knowing that I have the Notre Dame community behind me supporting me in all of my races."

When Paralympian Faces Challenges, She Talks To God



When 16-year-old Paralympian Gemma Rose Foo faces challenges, she talks to God -- and "he sometimes talks back to me, and that calms me down." Foo, a parishioner at Singapore's Church of the Holy Spirit, said her faith has given her the "strength to go ahead and reach for her goals despite the challenges."

"Win or lose, I know that he will be looking out for me as he always does," said Foo, who, with two other teammates, was traveling to London to compete in equestrian events during the Aug. 29-Sept. 9 Paralympics. The student at St. Theresa's Convent School has cerebral palsy, and she will participate in the Para-Equestrian dressage grade 1a. It is believed this is the first time an Asian country is sending a Para-Equestrian team to the games, reported Catholic News, Singapore's archdiocesan newspaper.

"Riding is not just a sport. It is a form of physiotherapy as well, which helped me with my balance and coordination. Competing in the sport has also built my confidence," she said. "My disability mostly affects my legs and the way I walk. I overcome this by not feeling sorry for myself and reminding myself that I am just like anyone else," she said. "Everything (God) does is not without reason; even the fact that he made me this way," she said.

Foo took the past year off school -- "with my school principal's blessings" -- to train for the Paralympics. "Through it all, I still kept my faith, knowing that God will eventually grant my wish to be in the games, and he did," she added.

Foo said she is grateful for the strong support she gets from friends, school and family. "All in all I am blessed and very grateful for all these 'angels' in my life," she said. Al Dizon, Foo's parish religious education teacher, said that although she had missed classes because of her training schedule and competitions, "whenever she is present for class, she lights it up with her participation."

Seed of the Church: Telling the Story of Today's Christian Martyrs



The Institute for Church Life will host the upcoming *Seed of the Church: Telling the Story of Today's Christian Martyrs* conference from **November 4 – 6, 2012**. The event will be held at

McKenna Hall on the Notre Dame campus in South Bend, IN, and is open to the public.

Registration is now live at <http://icl.nd.edu/icl-events/seed-of-the-church/> and is required for all participants. Conference registration is free.



Keynote speakers include His Excellency **Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States**, and **John L. Allen, Jr., Senior Correspondent, *National Catholic Reporter* and Senior Vatican Analyst, CNN**. The gathering intends to raise consciousness inside and outside the Church regarding the widespread persecution of Christians around the world and to explore how the Church has responded and might respond

vigorously and faithfully in the future.



A central objective of this conference is to rectify the lack of acknowledgment of this persecution by the secular media and Western academia and to communicate to the world the extent and character of the persecution. Yet the purpose of the conference goes beyond raising awareness. It is also to explore how the Church can respond to the persecution of Christian believers prayerfully and liturgically, out of the depths of the Church's spiritual theology. In the most profound sense, what does it mean to be in solidarity with brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer violence for their faith

The event is being organized by John C. Cavadini, Ph.D., McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute for Church Life, and Daniel Philpott, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies. A complete list of speakers as well as registration information is available at <http://icl.nd.edu/>. Please contact Jenny Monahan, Assistant Director of the Institute for Church Life, with questions (monahan.27@nd.edu).

FREE Webinar: Jesus the Evangelizer – Thursday, August 30



This year's theme for Catechetical Sunday calls catechists and Catholic school teachers to be "Agents of the New Evangelization." We look to **Jesus, *The Evangelizer***, who provides a model for us and our ministry- in or out of the classroom: His mission is now *our* mission. During this Webinar, Ken Doran will explore practical ways catechists and teachers can go about *that mission!* By the way, *it's an exciting challenge for us all!*

**An attractive Attendance Certificate will be made available after the Webinar.*



Ken Doran
Sadler Consultant

RSVP NOW!

Thursday, August 30, 4 pm & 7 pm ET

Bringing Joy to Everyday Moments



In this short TED talk audition, Kristin Pedemonti urges us to say, Yes! to opportunities for joy. She suggests that seemingly small insignificant acts of sharing joy can be much bigger than we think. Don't forget - always carry bottles of bubbles and your "free hugs" sign with you wherever you go. It's 5½ minutes and you can watch it at

<http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=3368>.

Love is the Answer



Filmmaker Ian Watt (age 17) had an epiphany: today's creatively-oriented young generation could make great things happen by linking artistic talent with change-making movements. This film tells the story of the organization he started to help youth serve the world with art. But it also shows Ian's first experiment in change-making, as he used his filmmaking skills to help bring attention to K.I. Nepal, an organization

dedicated to ending human trafficking of young girls. Watch the fifteen (15) minute film at

<http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=3386>. You can check out their website at

<http://www.loveistheanswer.tv/>.

Mia's Reflections



Hi everyone. I have gigantic big news to share. My Mia Papa told me there is something going on called a lectionary, um no that is not right; a lectionary is the Mass book with the stories about Jesus. Let me think ... I got it, an *Election!* He said an election is when all sorts of peoples who thinks maybe they could be good Leaders of everyone else, throw their hats into the ring.

Well I do not have a hat, but I have given this a lot of thought and I have decided I am throwing my squeaky toy into the ring! I want to run to be a president, or senator, or even a mayor, and you should vote for me because this is why:

I am a good listener. I look right into your eyes when you are talking to me.

What you sees is what you get. I am genuine Mia – no pretendy puppy. If I am glad to see you I will be filled with wiggle waggles, if you are someone who makes me nervousy then I will attach myself to Mia Papa to be safe. If my hip is making an owie for me, you will see the sadly in my eyes. If I am tired, I take a nap and if I have just rolled in some extra special stinky stuff, I will accept my punishment (a bath) bravely.



I am kind to everybody. I don'ts necessarily like everybody, like skinny little wiener dogs, or drooly dogs or big, huffy, kitty cats, but I try to be polite. If they give me big bothers, I just move to another part of the room and turn my head to the wall.

I've gots just enough in my life and I want to be your leader so that you can have just enough too. Now days everybody wants too much stuff. Really, how many squeaky toys and doggies biscuits can you enjoy at one time?

I plan for the future. Whenever Mia Papa gives me treaters I hide some. Then if he'd run out I have some saved up, and another thing - I also put a few away for my friend, Graciepoodledog, because if you have extras it's important to share with others.

I might be an old dog but every day I learn new tricks. There is enough puppy in me to know that there are always new things to learn and new ideas to listen to.

I am loyal. Just ask Mia Papa.

I am a good dog because that is the right thing to do. I am not good just to get treats. I do enjoy treats that is true, but I try to be good because God wants me to be good, and not all meany and tricky toward others.

Since I am now an official candidate I understands that I should disclose my income and charitable giving: Well I've got one Mia Papa, one Nanny Lyn, and one Graciepoodledog and her Carol. I have one collar with bling, four leashes, four doggie bowls, 20# of dog food, three bags of treats, eleven doggie toys and one bed.

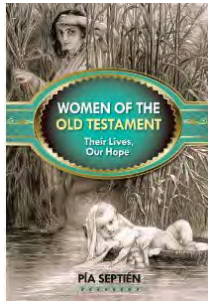
Each year I make a pawnation to the Animal Shelter and the Green Bay Compass [Catholic Newspaper in the Diocese of Green Bay] (I'm a guest columnist you know!)

So I hope you want to follow my platform, "Pray, Play and Live Friendly Like!"

I am Mia Jean Reynebeau and I approve of all of you!



Women of the Old Testament * Women of the New Testament



While this is a two book set, each is sold individually in both English and Spanish. They are not hard reading and refer the reader back to the original source, the Bible. The book is ideal for Bible study as the author Pia Septien offers questions and activities for group discussion as well as practical implications of how one might apply the wisdom of these women to one's life. You can order them in English

[Women of the Old Testament: Their Lives, Our Hope](#) and [Women of the New Testament: Their Lives, Our Hope](#) OR in Spanish [Las Mujeres del Antiguo Testamento: Sus Vidas](#)

[Son Nuestra Esperanza](#) (Spanish Edition) and [Las mujeres del Nuevo Testamento: Sus vidas son nuestra esperanza](#) (Spanish Edition).



Understanding Sunday Mass: **A Kid's Point of View**



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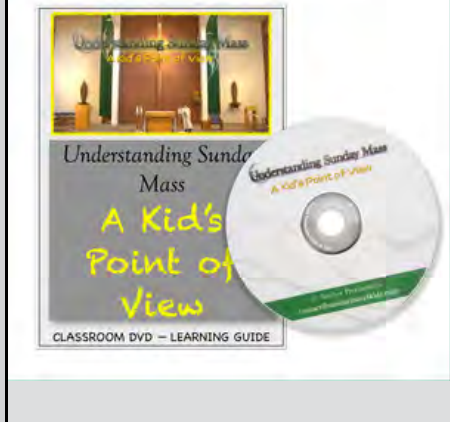
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How Will Your Parish Planning Go This Year?

Free
Webinar



Join us online
Sept 6 at 3:00 pm ET

WILL YOUR PARISH TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES OF FAITH?



Join Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, and Fr. Kenneth Boyack, CSP, as they discuss long-range and short-term issues of parish planning on **Thursday, September 6, at 3:00 pm ET**. Learn what **Living the Eucharist** can bring to your parish. Reflect on how you can generate processes to advance Catholic involvement that helps Catholics see themselves as committed disciples.



Register Now

Why This Webinar?

Pastors and pastoral leaders know that planning has to be near the top of their agenda. Even smaller parishes feel the crush of time and events; our larger, suburban parishes can be overwhelmed by their calendars.

Here's an opportunity to think about parish planning, particularly with reference to the special church-wide opportunities coming in 2012-2013: the Year of Faith and the Synod on the New Evangelization. Here's an opportunity to find out how planning for a parish-wide program like Living the Eucharist can be implemented for Lent 2013. Here's an opportunity to take control of your calendar, instead of letting the calendar control you.

[Register Now!](#)

Paulist Evangelization Ministries
3031 Fourth St., NE Washington, DC 20012 202-832-5022 www.pemdc.org

USCCB LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PROGRAMS - TRACK III

Track III - New Evangelization

An exciting new series of webinars focused on the "New Evangelization". The webinar topics and presenters were approved by the Bishops Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and the Bishop Chair of the Bishops Committee on Catholic Education. Once posted, participants will be able to access the webinars online. Live Q&A sessions with a presenter panel will be held three times during the year.

Webinar Info and Links

- [Overview of the Theological Foundations of the New Evangelization](#)
 - [Go And Make Disciples: The Next Steps](#)
 - [Identifying, engaging and welcoming Inactive Catholics](#)
- [Reaching Adolescents with the Good News: A Relational Approach to Discipleship](#)
 - [An Evangelizing Laity](#)
 - [Humbly Walking With God's People](#)
- [Key Knowledge Attitudes and skills for Evangelization of People from Diverse Cultures](#)
- [Engaging and Inviting Back Those Who Have Simply Slipped Away From Church Life and Sacraments](#)
 - [Using Technology to reach out for Evangelization](#)
- [Taking Stock — Questions to Help Assess and Shape a Parish Faith Community for Its Evangelizing Mission](#)

Track III - Webinars

Overview of the Theological Foundations of the New Evangelization

The concept "evangelization" is as ancient as the Church herself. However it is a concept not familiar to many Catholics, or it is associated with Protestant denominations. Considering the pluralistic challenges to theology and the syncretistic attitude that may be present even among those involved in ministry, evangelization is often reduced to a social call to action or a weakened pastoral activity seen as one among many. Father Wehner's presentation will identify the theological foundations of evangelization that provide the basis for Pope John Paul II's and Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic mandate -- the Church is called to embrace the "new evangelization" as the mission of the Church.



PRESENTER

Very Reverend James A. Wehner, S.T.D

Father Wehner is currently rector/president, Pontifical College Josephinum. After completing seminary studies at the North American College, Father Wehner was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1995. He served as personal secretary to Bishop Donald Wuerl for two years then was assigned to graduate studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University where he earned the doctorate in sacred theology, summa cum laude, specializing in ecclesiology and writing on the new evangelization. He served as Rector of Saint Paul Seminary, Pittsburgh, for six years, Director of Evangelization, Director of Clergy Formation, Director of the Permanent Diaconate, and Vocation Director. He was appointed Pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in 2008. The Holy See's Congregation for Catholic Education appointed Father Wehner the 15th Rector/President of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Spring 2009. Father Wehner recently published *The Evangelization Equation* by Emmaus Publishing.

Go And Make Disciples: The Next Steps

It has been thirty-six years since Pope Paul VI promulgated his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, and nineteen years since the National Conference of Catholic Bishops published *Go and Make Disciples*, and we have to ask ourselves, “what difference have these documents made for the Catholic Church in the United States?” Business as usual is not working! The Holy Father has once again called the Church to a New Evangelization, beckoning us to renewed “missionary dynamism” which will forge new pathways to bring our post-modern world into a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ and His Church. This workshop will equip us with a new lens by which we can understand, teach and live the New Evangelization in our various complimentary ministries.



PRESENTER

Rev. Matthew M. Williams, B.S., M. Div

Fr. Matt Williams is the Director of the Office for New Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults (ONE). He was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ for the Archdiocese of Boston in May of 2003. In 2006 he was asked by Cardinal Seán O'Malley to chair a committee for the faith formation of youth and young adults. The findings of this committee became the groundwork for the creation of the Office for the New Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults. In January of 2008, Cardinal Seán commissioned the ONE office and appointed Fr. Matt as the first director.

Fr. Matt has been involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for more than ten years. He is a founding member of Lift Ministries (www.Liftedhigher.com), a monthly intergenerational gathering where participants encounter the Lord through the Eucharist, His Word, Praise and Worship, and the gathered community. Fr. Matt is also a weekly Co-Host on the Archdiocese of Boston's "The Good Catholic Life" radio show (www.TheGoodCatholicLife.com).

Fr. Matt has a great passion to preach the Gospel, especially to youth and young adults; helping them to relate the Gospel to their daily lives.

He was born and raised in Braintree, MA and attended Sacred Heart Parish, where his parents and sister continue to worship. Fr. Matt graduated from Xaverian Brothers H.S. in 1992, and Stonehill College (1997) where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration with a focus on accounting. In 1997 he entered St. John's Seminary and began his preparation for the priesthood.

AND



Stephen Colella

He is Assistant Director of the Office for New Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults for the Archdiocese of Boston. He has been married for 15 years to his wife Kari who also works at the Archdiocese as the Coordinator of Marriage Ministries. Together they present on a variety of topics for various audiences. In 2009 they were invited by the Pontifical Council for the Laity to present on marriage at the 10th International Youth Forum in Rome.

Stephen has worked for the Archdiocese of Boston for over 12 years, including two years as the Annual Catholic Appeal Manager in the Development Office.

Stephen has a B.A. in Philosophy and Ethics from the University of Southern California, an M.A. in Theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and has taken courses towards an M.B.A. from St. Joseph's College. Stephen is also a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and, together with his wife, serves as the local Boston representative.

Identifying, engaging and welcoming Inactive Catholics

The presentation by Fr. Frank describes the broad cultural issues behind people who do not regularly practice their faith, and talks about three specific segments--young adults, young married people, and older alienated Catholics--giving ways to listen to their concerns, involve them, and build bridges between them and the church. The presentation will help all nuance their ideas about "inactive Catholics."

[Webinar*](#) | [Feedback](#) * © 2012 Rev. Frank DeSiano, CSP. Used with permission

PRESENTER

Rev. Frank DeSiano, CSP

Father was ordained a Paulist Priest in 1972 and since has served in many parts of the United States, including as pastor in

downtown New York and Chicago. He earned a D. Min. from Boston University, completing his thesis on “Parish Based Evangelization,” in 1990. He served as President of the Paulist Fathers, a consultant to the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization, and now is President of Paulist Evangelization Ministries, an apostolic arm of the Paulist Fathers. His is a noted speaker and preacher and has written many books and articles. Among the most recent are “Why Not Consider Becoming a Catholic?” and “Mission America: Challenges and Opportunities for Catholics Today.”(NCCHM).

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

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.

[Webinar*](#) | [Feedback](#) * © 2012 Michael Theisen. Used with permission



PRESENTER

Michael Theisen

He has been engaged in adolescent catechesis and youth ministry for over 25 years, authoring more than fifteen books and numerous articles. His experience extends from volunteer roles and staff positions at the parish, diocesan and national levels. He is a frequent speaker and trainer throughout the U.S. Michael is the Director of Membership Services for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) in Washington DC and is extensively involved in both the Partnership for Adolescent Catechesis, and the Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth national initiatives. Michael resides with his family in Rochester, NY.

An Evangelizing Laity

The New Evangelization presents both parishes and individual lay Catholics the opportunity to strengthen our identity as evangelizers and to recognize three distinct groups of people with whom we share the Good News. This presentation presents a parish-based vision for the New Evangelization and tools for implementation.

[Webinar*](#) | [Feedback](#) * © 2012 Susan Timoney, STD. Used with permission



PRESENTER

Susan Timoney, STD

Susan is Assistant Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington. She earned her doctorate in theology and at the Angelicum University in Rome where she specialized in Theology and Catholic Spirituality.

Formerly she served as Vice President for Education Parish Service (EPS), a Scripture and Theology program for Adult Catholics based in Washington D.C.

Susan is an adjunct faculty member in the School of Theology at Catholic University and works with the Air Force Chaplain's Office in leadership training for Catholic communities on military bases. She lectures widely on issues related to evangelization and parish life. Susan is married and lives with her husband in Washington D.C.

Humbly Walking With God's People

Expanding about the evangelizing leader's need to be self-aware, ingenious, loving, and heroic, so as to help spark the cultivation of these virtues in others, this presentation reflects on each of these attributes as they relate to the spiritual life of the minister, especially within intercultural settings. Various pastoral examples provide a way of sharing how concretely these virtues are lived in service to others, afford an opportunity to examine oneself in light of them, and model some pedagogical tools such as the use of images, Sacred Scripture, background texts, self-reflective points to consider, and even a quiz!



PRESENTER

Eduardo C. Fernández, SJ

He teaches pastoral theology and missiology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union. A native of El Paso, Texas, he earned a Masters in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is past president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS). His ministerial experience includes high school and university teaching, parish and campus ministry, and retreat work. Along with his many articles, he has also authored *La Cosecha: Harvesting Contemporary United States Hispanic Theology (1972-1998)* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2000), now in Spanish translation, and also co-authored, with James Empeur, SJ, *La Vida Sacra: Contemporary Hispanic Sacramental Theology* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006). His two latest books are *Mexican American Catholics* (Paulist Press, 2007), awarded a 2008 Catholic Press Association Book Award in the category of pastoral ministry, and *Culture-Sensitive Ministry: Helpful Strategies for Pastoral Ministers* (Paulist Press, 2010) with Kenneth McGuire, CSP and Anne Hansen. In 2011 he was also awarded the ACHTUS Virgilio Elizondo Award for “for distinguished achievement in theology, in keeping with the mission of the Academy.”

Key Knowledge Attitudes and skills for Evangelization of People from Diverse Cultures

The evangelization of today’s diverse and often deeply secular cultures is the challenge that the Synod on the New Evangelization will tackle in October 2012. Everyone who teaches on behalf of the Church requires appropriate attitudes, knowledge and skills in intercultural situations in order to competently engage today’s cultural pluralism and secularism. Jesuit Father Allan Deck will lead us through a discussion of the recent Guidelines for Intercultural Competence endorsed by the USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity. He will unpack each guideline and place it in the context of parish, school and Catholic organization come.

COMING SOON: Webinar | [Feedback](#)



PRESENTER

Rev. Allan Deck, S.J., STD

Father Allan Figueroa Deck currently serves as Cassasa Chair of Catholic Social Values at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He served as Executive Director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A native of California, Father Deck has earned doctoral degrees in Theology and Latin American Studies. He has been on the faculties of the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and Loyola Marymount University. Father Deck has also served as administrator of a barrio church and Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Orange. He is the author or editor of five books and more than 40 articles on Hispanic ministry, faith and culture, spirituality and Catholic social teaching. He was a co-founder and first president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS) and served as first president of the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM).

Engaging and Inviting Back Those Who Have Simply Slipped Away From Church Life and Sacraments

Over fifty-five percent of Catholics rarely or never attend Mass or attend a few times a year. The presentation will address some of the reasons for the dramatic decline in Mass attendance, and then offer various strategies and approaches that will assist parishes and dioceses to invite and welcome Catholics whose faith is currently not nourished by the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

[Webinar](#) | [Feedback](#) * © 2012 Rev. Kenneth Boyack, CSP. Used with permissions.

PRESENTER

Rev. Kenneth Boyack, C.S.P

Father was ordained for the Paulist Fathers in 1979 and currently serves as the Vice President of Paulist Evangelization Ministries, www.PEMDC.org. He received an M.A. in Theology and a D.Min. from The Catholic University of America. The author or editor of seventeen books, including *Awakening Faith: Reconnecting with Your Catholic Faith* (co-authored with

Religious Education Newsletter • August 27, 2012

Rev. Frank DeSiano, CSP, Fr. Boyack is the general coordinator for Living the Eucharist, a new Lenten spiritual renewal program for the whole parish.

Using Technology to reach out for Evangelization

The new digital culture offers the Church a vast panorama of opportunities to reach, connect and inspire people to come to know Jesus. This digital culture is already woven into the fabric of a new civilization that is transforming how people think and what they think about today. We have a golden opportunity to innovatively bring the beauty of faith into concert with searching hearts and minds of the 21st century. This session explores creative opportunities and possibilities for parish and diocesan ministry.

COMING SOON: Webinar | [Feedback](#)

PRESENTER

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski MSHS, D.Min

Sister is a member of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart (Towson, MD). Zukowski has been involved with distance education for over 40 years. She began with Cable TV in 1971 and continued to advance into radio, satellite communication, multimedia, computer technologies and now the Internet and ISDN conferencing and courses. Her current work in this area is the new Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation online courses in English and Spanish. She has served as visiting professor and Board Member at Crec Avex (Lyon, France). She is co-director of the Caribbean School of Catholic Communications (Trinidad / Tobago, West Indies). She served as the past World President for the International Catholic Association for Radio and Television known as UNDA from 1994-2002 and in 1998 and 2001 Chairperson for the Unda/OCIC Planning Committees for the World Congresses in Prague (1994) (Czech Republic), Montreal (1998- Canada) and Rome (2001- Rome,Italy). She was a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (Vatican) 1994-2002.

She is the Director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (1978- present) and Professor in the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Dayton (a Catholic / Marianist University). Awards include the Lackner Award, recognition by NCEA as one of the influential Catholic Educators in the 20th century, the President's Medallion for Lifetime Achievement in Communications awarded by the National Catholic Association of Communicators, the NCCL Technology Award for her lifetime contribution for the advancement of new communication technology and catechesis. She has also received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal from Pope John Paul II in Rome, the Distinguished Communicators Award from the Salesian Guild, the Honorary Prize of Julian Kulenty from the National Catholic Film Association Conference. She has published several books including her most recent publication (2007) *Communicatio Socialis: The Challenge of Theology and Ministry in the Church* published by Kassel University (Germany).

She gives workshops, seminars and lectures around the world. She serves as an international consultant on transformational leadership, dialogue distance online learning, organizational strategic planning to Church, education and non-profit organizations, as well as, media education with special emphasis on religion and film. Currently she is a working

with the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference for Social Communications exploring new avenues for the use of the Internet for ministry serving as a consultant to FABC-BISCOM. Currently Zukowski is engaged in research and the design of prototypes for interactive e- learning for Catholic education, adult faith, lay ecclesial leadership and catechist formation. Her current research is to identify the Best Practices for Applying Educational Technology in Catholic education.

Taking Stock — Questions to Help Assess and Shape a Parish Faith Community for Its Evangelizing Mission

Description to come.

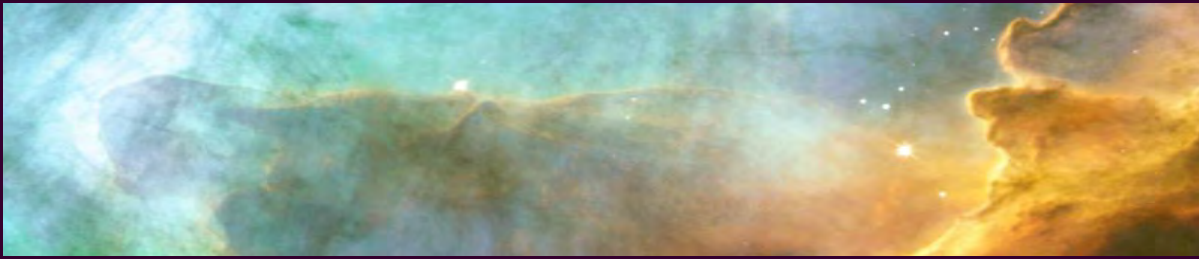
COMING SOON: Webinar | [Feedback](#)



PRESENTER

Leland Nagel

Lee has held a variety of positions on both the diocesan and university level. He is the former Director of Education for the Diocese of Green Bay. Lee is completing his dissertation at the Alliant International University in San Diego, California for his doctorate in Leadership and Human Behavior, currently he is the Executive Director of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership. His messages are motivational and inspirational. A faith-filled storyteller, Lee Nagel is an educator by profession and a catechist by vocation, a teacher by trade and an evangelist by Baptism.



Ask Fr. Spitzer

Fr. Spitzer Live, Part I

A special column based on the live chat launching our Reason Series forum

[Click here for more information on the curriculum.](#)

David: I am trying to develop an explanation for the location of Heaven, primarily for children. I am leery of "Heaven is all around us," because of the new-age misappropriation of the concept. How would you address it?

Fr. Spitzer: Heaven is not all around us in the sense of a physical reality - indeed, Heaven is not a physical reality at all. It is within a different metaphysical (beyond physics) order; like a different thought in the mind of God. Evidently God can connect his thought of the physical universe with his thought of Heaven (or his thought of purgatory for that matter), and so we can say that heaven is as close to us as God is, but it is not around us as a physical reality.

Peter: Please describe in a nutshell why the Lonerganian proof of the existence of God is not tautological, i.e. intelligibility proves reality, which in turn is defined as intelligibility, which in turn proves reality, and so on...

Fr. Spitzer: Actually the Lonerganian proof does not prove reality from intelligibility. The general structure of the proof is as follows:

If reality (the totality of everything that is) is completely intelligible, then God (an unrestricted intelligible which is an unrestricted act of understanding) exists. But reality is completely intelligible, therefore God exists.



Welcome to the *Ask Fr. Spitzer* column, a bi-weekly service of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith, the web's premier source of intellectual evangelization.

www.magisreasonfaith.org

Notice that reality is not defined in terms of intelligibility, but rather that Lonergan must prove that reality is in fact completely intelligible (which he does in chapter 19 of *Insight*, and which I summarize in chapter four of *New Proofs*). After proving that reality is completely intelligible, Lonergan must show that complete intelligibility implies the existence of an unrestricted intelligible, and that an unrestricted intelligible cannot be merely material, but must be purely, transparently, mentative (a transmaterial act of thinking).

Philip: *I was thinking about Jesus' Ascension and Mary's Assumption. It's said Heaven is outside the universe. But how could Jesus and the others get there? Wouldn't they have to be faster than light to get to the edge of the universe? What about their bodies? Thank you.*

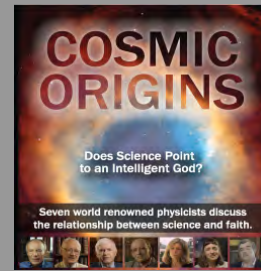
Fr. Spitzer: It really is not a matter of getting, as it were, to the edge of the universe. Indeed the universe does not have a conventional boundary *per se*, anyway. It is a matter of moving from the domain of physical reality (our universe) to the domain of metaphysical reality (such as heaven which is another "thought" in the mind of God). Therefore, God is moving Jesus, His son, or Mary, from the domain of this physical universe (which is a thought in his mind) to another thought in His mind (heaven). This is not done at any speed (such as the speed of light) because speed in this sense is a physical reality. God can instantaneously move anyone from this physical world to the domain of heaven by simply thinking them from one domain to the next.

Bear: *I watch you on EWTN. A priest friend of mine died yesterday. His name is Fr. Michael Hansen. You may want to pray for him. I love your shows.*

Fr. Spitzer: I will pray for Fr. Hansen today and at my Mass tomorrow. Thank you so much for your request and comments.

John: *If the most distant light source we can detect is at a distance of 13.7 billion light years away, then if we assume two different light sources 180 degrees from each other on a plane with earth in the center of the line between those two light sources, it is correct or incorrect to assume that the two light sources would have been 27.4 billion light years apart from each other 13.7 billion years ago? If that is correct, would we have to increase the age of the universe to account for both the expansion of the universe and the formation of the stars/galaxies which are the source of that light?*

Fr. Spitzer: Actually we do not detect any object that is 13.7 billion light years from us, the simple reason being that if we could we would literally be looking at the Big Bang itself. As a matter of fact, we cannot even penetrate the original plasma that arose out of the Big Bang, and will probably not be able to do so in the future. So, we will probably be stuck with looking at the universe as 50 million years old at the very youngest. Your ingenious question however has one little difficulty. As one goes back throughout the universe - as Einstein put it - light curves in conformity with the space time



The Magis Documentary

Cosmic Origins

Seven world renowned physicists discuss the relationship between science and faith. [Click here](#) to view the *Cosmic Origins* Trailer.

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High School Curriculum

The Reason Series: What Science Says About God

The Reason Series is a five part comprehensive, age-

continuum. Thus Einstein predicted we would be looking at the universe when it was completely collapsed into a point, which would mean that there would not be two sides to look at in the universe, but ironically, only one point. Great question.

Lawrence: *If you accept man evolved from other hominids, and all life shares common ancestry, does that conflict with the book of Genesis?! (i.e., no original sin, no Jesus to come and save us, etc?)*

Fr. Spitzer: I do accept that the human body (and even the human brain) could have evolved from other hominids, but I also believe that every human being has an individual soul which can survive bodily death, and that this is what makes human beings uniquely human.

By the way, there is terrific evidence for this "soul" in near-death experiences ([here is a great article from the free God Encyclopedia on our website](#)). Now, back to your question.

If a human being is not completely the product of biophysical evolution, then it does not contradict the book of Genesis. Human beings are exceedingly exceptional creatures, both in their self-consciousness, transcendental awareness, and even their individuality. This allows for plenty of opportunity for original sin and of course, redemption by Jesus Christ.

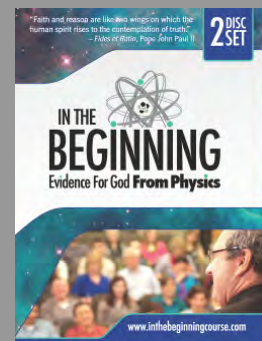
Anne: *I'm looking to understand more about the concept of time - is it that time is a physical entity which permits a single entity to exist in states that would otherwise be contradictory? Your cat alive/dead example comes to mind - how does one distinguish the concepts of beginning and ending? How does one define the sequential concepts of before and after when describing time?*

Fr. Spitzer: Time is in fact a physical reality. It is called a "non-contemporaneous continuum." Let us begin with space - which is a contemporaneous continuum - that is the spatial continuum exists without regard to earlier and later. Thus I can have a cat here now and a dog there now. "Here" and "there" can be in the same now. Time, conversely, is not a contemporaneous continuum, but a non-contemporaneous one, and this is much more difficult for us to conceive of because we don't know how a continuum, which has, as it were, an earlier part and a later part, can exist. We want to make existence into a dimensionless instant.

A very important French philosopher (Henri Bergson) tried to resolve this dilemma and finally came up with the thought that time (a non-contemporaneous continuum) had to be grounded in a mind-like reality (which he called "elementary consciousness" and "elementary memory.") In this way, this mind-like reality could hold in existence the earlier part of the continuum while allowing for the emergence of the later part of the continuum. This would prevent time from being reduced to a single dimensionless instant.

appropriate program designed to empower teachers to effortlessly provide students the evidence they need to be more certain about a transcendent super-intelligent creative power - God.

[For more information or to order click here.](#)



Adult Education

In the Beginning: Evidence for God from Physics

There is no contradiction between faith and reason. This encouraging truth is the bedrock for *In the Beginning: Evidence For God From Physics*. Ideal for the inquiring mind, this two-disc DVD set features four presentations by Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J.,

It certainly takes care of the need we have for noncontemporaneous separation to prevent contradictions in history (such as the cat both alive and dead at the same time). If Bergson is correct in suggesting that a mind-like reality is necessary to hold together the earlier and later part of the non-contemporaneous continuum, then it does imply the existence of some kind of mind in our universe, which further implies the possible involvement of God.

Alford North Whitehead has a similar approach to time in his subject-superject relationship. You may want to look at Bergson's book, *Duration and Simultaneity*, and Whitehead's book, *Process and Reality*. Thanks for the great question.

If you enjoyed this column, please feel free to share it with your friends. Reproduction on websites and blogs is also encouraged, so long as it remains unedited and includes a link to our website, www.magisreasonfaith.org.

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Ph.D.

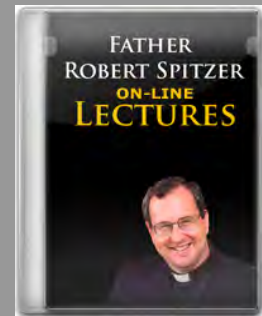
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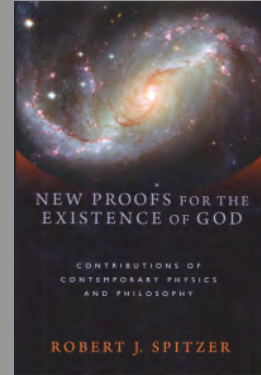
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Effective RCIA training, when and where you want



Children's RCIA Catechist Online Training Course Builds Your Confidence

We recently received this e-mail, which is just one of many similar messages:

"I have been working with children in the RCIA process for eight years and have never had any kind of workshop or training in this area. I am looking for insights on how to reach our ten children in the RCIA this year."

Many children's RCIA catechists are working hard to bring children to deeper faith in Jesus. But often, they have never

Kudos

"You cannot know how much help your website is to those of us 'in the trenches'! The articles and resources are very practical and not only help us to improve our initiation process, but gather us into a community where we feel the support and prayers of others. God bless!!"

—Mary Britanak,

Seaside Park, NJ

Free training resources for the Rite of Acceptance

Video Tip

been given the training and support they need to succeed as much as they'd like to.

But what if? What if there were a simple, straightforward way to access the exact training you needed for this ministry—training that didn't require you to get on an airplane, spend money on a hotel, and be away from your family and job?

Rita Burns Senseman provides exactly that and delivers it online so you can do the training whenever and wherever you want!

And *this* kind of resource won't just gather dust on a shelf because it will change you and how you do the RCIA with children!

Register by Sept. 4 to get a 30% discount!

You can see all the details about this interactive, 10-week course by [clicking here](#). But here is the most important thing you need to know. If you **register for the course by 11:59 pm PDT, Tuesday, September 4, 2012**, you will get 30% off the full price of the course.

If you are an RCIA catechist for children—or know someone who is—you are going to want to know more about this opportunity. [Click here](#) to learn more about this **special training program**.

Have all your children's sessions planned for the entire year!



the year!

Friends on the Way gives you the confidence to know you are providing a complete catechesis for child catechumens, because it is linked to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and flows from the Sunday Scriptures and because you'll have a dismissal and catechetical session ready for every Sunday of



How do you know if your inquirers are ready to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance? The RCIA gives us some clear guidelines to help us discern. [Discover what they are in this brief video.](#)

Other articles on the Rite of Acceptance

[The six deadly sins committed during the Rite of Acceptance](#)

[Singing the Rite of Acceptance](#)

[When to schedule the Rite of Acceptance](#)

[Is your cross big enough?](#)

[Why catechumens shouldn't ask for faith](#)

RCIA Resources

Here's what one parish said about *Friends on the Way*:

"Our team felt limited in our ability to effectively nurture our child catechumens until we found *Friends on the Way*. It is beautifully and practically put together. We are excited to incorporate this wonderful resource into our initiation process. What a natural way to involve families entering into this process!"

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And you don't need to search high and low for lesson plans and teaching aids. With *Friends on the Way*, you have at your fingertips an engaging dismissal session and a conversion-centered catechetical session for every Sunday of the liturgical year.

Here is another parish's experience:

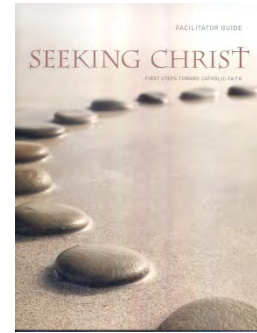
"Thank you for *Friends on the Way*. It is such a wonderful resource for RCIA for children. Until now, finding an adequate resource has been such a challenge. What a gift you have brought to my ministry."

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We promise you are going to love *Friends on the Way*. But if for some reason you don't, just tell us. We'll refund your money, no questions asked. Try our starter pack of three months for just \$36.00. Or, save more money over the long run, and order the complete liturgical year. (Once you have a complete set, you can use it again in subsequent liturgical cycles; no need to repurchase.)

Free sample

[Click here to get a free sample session of *Friends on the Way* to order now.](#)



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Paulist Evangelization
Ministries

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- *Seeking Christ* DVD
- Inquirer's Booklet
- Facilitator Guide

allowing parish leaders to review the materials and plan to use this resource in the parish. [Click for more info.](#)

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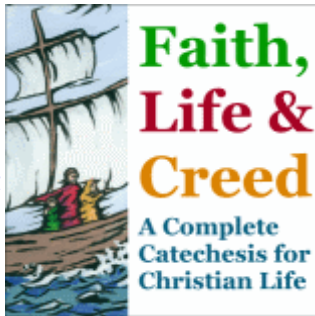
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"But once they see *Faith, Life & Creed*, they are sold. I have gotten a number of new team members this way."

— Marty Lucas, Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan



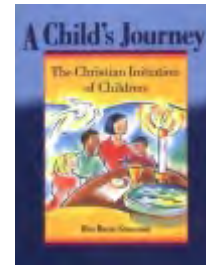
Everything the busy catechist needs is included right in the material.

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- [Faith, Life & Creed](#) is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and on all the foundational documents of the church. Catechists never have to worry that they might be missing something important.
- This is completely field-tested! It has been in weekly use for years in parish settings just like yours, and it works!
- The Doctrinal Sessions of [Faith, Life & Creed](#) have just been granted an imprimatur, and we've given them a new, clean redesign.

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Summer Marathon Videos



A Child's Journey; The Christian Initiation of Children

Rita Burns Senseman
This book is written in a gentle, encouraging tone that gives the inexperienced RCIA catechist complete confidence to provide the best possible formation process for the child catechumens. If you are doing children's RCIA, you have to get this book. [Click for more info.](#)

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Price: ~~\$19.99~~ \$18.99



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"Thank you for these videos. They provided clear and concise explanations on topics most on our minds, and I especially benefited from the practical ideas that I can implement right now."

—Laurita Miller, Big Pine Key, Florida

You can purchase single topics or get the entire set of each year.

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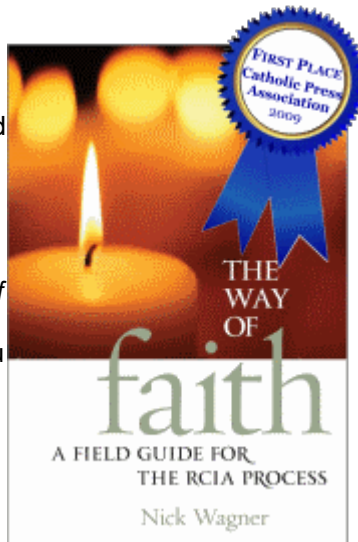
Team Training Resources

The Way of Faith: A Field Guide for the RCIA Process

Nick Wagner

You can gain 30 years of valuable experience in catechumenate ministry in the time it takes you to read this book.

Whether you are a veteran catechumenate minister or just starting out, *The Way of Faith: A Field Guide for the RCIA Process* provides you with reliable, practical guidance to help you start and sustain the catechumenate in your parish. [Click here for more](#)



Jerry Galipeau

Inspired by the principle that one learns how to be a Christian by doing what Christians do, *Apprenticed to Christ* provides catechists with ideas and resources for the “apprenticeship” of catechumens, candidates, and others participating in parish religious formation. [Click for more info.](#)

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Why Go to Mass?

Nick Wagner

If you or someone you know is wondering why going to Sunday Mass matters, this is the perfect resource. It's a thought-provoking and very positive guide that describes how worship as a parish community strengthens our faith and our sense of

[information.](#)

"The Way of Faith: A Field Guide for the RCIA Process is a gold mine for parish leaders and all involved in this most important ministry."

— Edith Prendergast, RSC, Director Religious Education, Archdiocese Los Angeles

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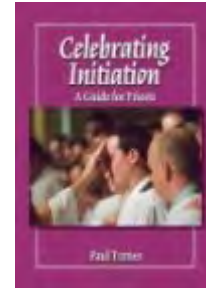
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A Guide for Priests***

Paul Turner

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--Tom, from Illinois

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Offer the busy parents in your parish help in establishing habits of faith at home with these **Flyers for Busy Parents.** [Click here to see this popular series of reproducible e-Resources.](#) They are very affordable and come with permission to make all the copies you need for the families you serve.

podcast with those who help you to plan and implement faith formation with the busy parents in your parish!

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or call toll free, 8 -4, M -F at 855.332.3303.

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Simply place an order of \$25 or more of parent coaching e-Resources (from our [Parent Coaching Center here](#)) by **October 1** and we will send you a FREE copy of Get Ready! Get Set! automatically.



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Explore **Growing Up Catholic** by clicking [here](#). Growing Up Catholic is sacramental preparation with coaching built in to

all the lessons and materials. Available in English and Spanish, Growing Up Catholic truly is sacramental preparation that lasts a lifetime!

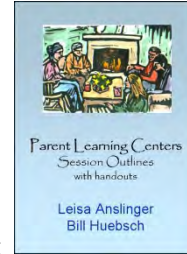
[Click here](#) to view the child, parent, and catechist's pages for one of the lessons of Growing Up Catholic.



Crecer en la fe Católica

Formación sacramental que dura toda una vida!
al entrenar a los padres a educar a sus hijos

Turn children's class time into parent learning time, or gather everyone for a few special moments each year with **Parent Learning Centers**.



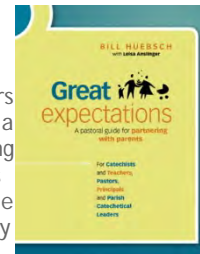
We have developed 11 gathering outlines that include everything you'll need to help parents bring faith into their home each day. [See the topics and order the outlines here.](#)



Get Ready! Get Set! Start planning now to coach the parents of your First Communicants through this

engaging retreat and rehearsal, including plans for a tour of the Church and walk-through of the Mass. [Click here to learn more about Get Ready! Get Set.](#)

Learn more about coaching parents and meet with others to put together a plan for coaching through all ages and stages of the life of the family with Great



Expectations: a pastoral guide for partnering with parents. [You can find Great Expectations here](#), including details on a great discount when you buy for your team.



It's More Than Chapter and Verse . . .

[Discover Why on August 23](#)



Catholic Speakers Online

Debunking the 'I Don't Know Scripture' Myth

[Dr. Kristina DeNeve](#)

[Thursday, Aug 23, 2012, 3:00 pm ET](#)

Dr. Kristina DeNeve, Evangelization and Welcoming Director for the Diocese of Green Bay, will work with participants to challenge common misperceptions about the use of Scripture for evangelization. As lectionary-based worshippers, do Catholics know Scripture better than we realize? How might we empower Catholics to feel more comfortable and confident being evangelizers, using our current grasp of Scripture?



[Register Now](#)

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3031 Fourth St., NE Washington, DC 20012 202-832-5022 www.pemdc.org



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Topics

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Parenting Treasures: Practical Ways for Parents to Share Faith at Home

Jim Merhaut

One-hour live webinar: \$25

[Click Here](#) for more information and/or to register.

October 24 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Presenters

Click on any of the presenters to view a brief bio.



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Cheryl Tholcke

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November 6 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Engaging Families in Service

Jane Angha

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December 4 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Sharing Faith Messages with Youth that Stick

Tom East

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January 16 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Evangelizing Today's Young Adults

Joan Weber

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February 12 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Planning Youth Retreats that Transform Lives

Tom East

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Jane Angha



Tom East



Jim Merhaut



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March 6 - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Lifelong Faith Formation Across the Four Settings

Joan Weber

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Center for Ministry Development

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