

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we move into the Season of Advent, we are blessed with many resources to help us prepare ourselves and others to receive the blessings of God. In particular, Archbishop Sartain recently participated in a USCCB Committee that prepared a document on Sacramental Catechesis. I strongly recommend you download and print this text, which is filled with a great deal of helpful information on pastoral reception of our sacraments.

The Missions Office has two areas of major interest on Discipleship this week. First is an art contest for Grades 7 -12 to promote the efforts of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Second is a series of Year of Faith monthly resources from *JustFaith* that offer teachers a variety of reflections, ideas and practical tools for the upcoming year.

As many of you know, the US Bishops met last week and endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day. They also issued statements on preaching and penance.

As you scroll through this newsletter you will find information about next year's World Youth Day, free webinars, excellent catechetical resources on the New Evangelization from the Knights of Columbus, some terrific video clips and other materials to help us move into Advent.

In Christ,

Anne

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.
Director of Parish and School Faith Formation

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| <p>Archdiocesan website for the <i>Year of Faith</i>: www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof</p> |
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[USCCB link on Sacramental Catechesis](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/sacramental-catechesis.cfm)

www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/sacramental-catechesis.cfm

From the Missions Office...



Be a Disciple! Put Two Feet of Love in Action

A multi-media, cross-discipline, art contest for grades 7-12.

Sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Missions Office (the archdiocesan office for CCHD)

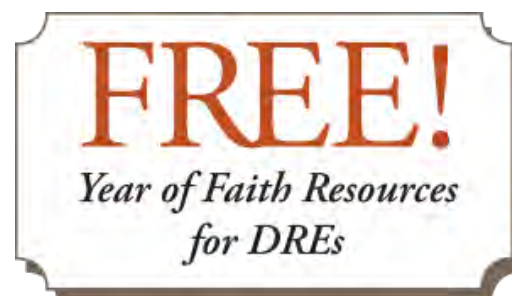
CCHD has exciting news regarding the annual Multi-Media Youth Contest. The Catholic publisher **RCL Benziger is now helping to sponsor the contest**. In addition to the current monetary prizes of \$500, \$375, \$250, and \$50 with matching grants to CCHD groups, the

school or parish of national **winners will now also receive gifts certificates** for publications from RCL Benziger. RCL is also creating a professional traveling exhibit to take national winner entries to various conferences around the United States throughout the year.

Invite youth in your schools and parishes to participate in this year's contest, now through March (local deadline is March 13, 2013). The 2013 theme is "*Be a Disciple! Put Two Feet of Love in Action*"-the contest is a great opportunity to teach about the [new two feet model](#). Educators lead participants through 5 easy steps to learn about U.S. poverty, CCHD's response, and the Two Feet of Love in Action.

The Multi-Media Youth Contest is a tool for schools and parishes to engage young people in creative justice education and the efforts of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to address the root causes of poverty in the United States. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. You can learn more about CCHD at www.usccb.org/cchd. Visit the contest materials now in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). We hope you will participate!

Missions Office/CCHD: www.seattlearchdiocese.org; missionsoffice@seattlearch.org.



www.justfaith.org/YOFDRE

Year of Faith postings on the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)Website – Check it out!



NEW postings every week.

Recently added is a piece from the Diocese of Metuchen on ***Are You a Welcoming Parish?***

Just as we welcome people into our homes for a meal, so we can welcome all people to our parish home. The pastor and staff are not the only ones responsible for creating a welcoming environment. Parishioners in the pews are called to assist in welcoming others to the Eucharistic table and encouraging others to become involved in parish life. Parishioners and visitors, alike, should be invited regularly to create a more joyful and vibrant worship community, brought together and strengthened by the Eucharist. Hospitality is the key to great discipleship!

First, see how welcoming you are... then how welcoming your parish is... then check out the resources at the bottom of the page to increase hospitality and welcome. Check it out at <http://www.yearoffaithmetuchen.org/in-our-parishes/are-you-a-welcoming-parish/> or **you can find the information under *Resources on the Home page* or by simply clicking YEAR of FAITH Resources.** There is a wide variety of ideas from which you can choose.



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. 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.

Sistine Chapel Anniversary

Religion & ETHICS NEWS WEEKLY

the wind pushing his hair back, and he's very determined. He's just created the universe, after all," says art historian Bridget Goodbody. This week's edition of *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly* features a nine (9) minute program at

This year, Michelangelo's masterpiece is 500 years old. "It's such a great painting because you have God very energetic, and



<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/november-16-2012/sistine-chapel-anniversary/13864/>.

US bishops endorse sainthood cause of Catholic Worker's Dorothy Day



The U.S. bishops, on a voice vote, endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day, the co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, who was famously quoted as saying, "Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed so easily."

Cardinal Dolan called Day's journey "Augustinian," saying that "she was the first to admit it: sexual immorality, there was a religious search, there was a pregnancy out of wedlock, and an abortion. Like Saul on the way to Damascus, she was radically changed" and has become "a saint for our time."



"Of all the people we need to reach out to, all the people that are hard to get at, the street people, the ones who are on drugs, the ones who have had abortions, she was one of them," Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick said of Day. "What a tremendous opportunity to say to them you can not only be brought back into society, you can not only be brought back into the church, you can be a saint!" he added.

"She was a very great personal friend to me when I was a young priest," said Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y. "To be able to stand here and say yes to this means a great deal to me." Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, recalled being assigned to Nativity Parish in New York City in the 1970s. "I had the privilege of being in that parish for the last years of her life. ... her final days and suffering" and her 1980 funeral.

The work of the Catholic Worker movement is still active 80 years after Day co-founded the movement with Peter Maurin. There are many Catholic Worker houses in the United States, some in rural areas but more in some of the most desperately poor areas of the nation's biggest cities. They follow the Catholic Worker movement's charism of voluntary poverty, the works of mercy, and working for peace and justice. The Catholic Worker, the newspaper established by Day, is still published regularly, and still charges what it did at its founding: one penny.

"I read the Catholic Worker when I was in high school and I've read it ever since," said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago. He recalled meeting Day soon after the 1960 presidential election. "I had just voted for the first time, for John F. Kennedy. I listened to her critique of our economic and political structures. I asked her, 'Do you think it will help having a Catholic in the White House who can fight for social justice?'" "She was very acerbic. She said, 'Young man' -- I was young at that time -- 'young man, I believe Mr. Kennedy has chosen very badly. No serious Catholic would want to be president of the United States.' I didn't agree with her at that time. And I'm not sure I agree with her now."

Dorothy Day has been the focus of a number of biographies. Other books featuring her prayers and writings have been published. In the 1990s, a film biography "[Entertaining Angels: Dorothy Day Story \[VHS\]](#)" starring Moira Kelly and Martin Sheen, made its way to theaters. You can read the complete press release at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1204800.htm>.

Bishops OK first new preaching document in 30 years



The U.S. bishops approved their first new document in 30 years on preaching Nov. 13, the second day of their annual fall general assembly in Baltimore. The document, "Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily," encourages preachers to connect the Sunday homily with people's daily lives.

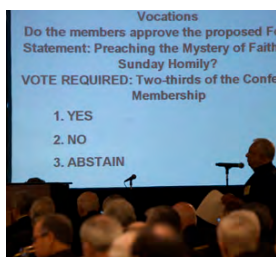
During discussion on the document Nov. 13, the bishops accepted a plea from Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., to include his amendment urging Catholics to make an extra effort to listen to the homilies of foreign-born priests for whom English or Spanish is not their first language. Those priests' speech "may have a heavy accent that the congregation cannot understand," Bishop Ramirez said. "We have many foreign priests coming to work in our dioceses," he added. "Even though it takes an extra effort to understand what they are saying, they have wisdom. They are inspired by the Holy Spirit. ... The people have to make an extra effort to understand their wisdom."

Preaching needs to be done "more effectively in the context of the new evangelization," Archbishop Carlson said. "Our people hunger for better preaching, preaching that would help them rediscover their faith." The document says "The homily is intended to establish a 'dialogue' between the sacred biblical text and the Christian life of the hearer."



"Preachers should be aware, in an appropriate way, of what their people are watching on television, what kind of music they are listening to, which websites they find appealing, and which films they find compelling," it adds. "References to the most popular cultural expressions -- which at times can be surprisingly replete with religious motifs -- can be an effective way to engage the interest of those on the edge of faith."

"Many Catholics, for a variety of reasons, seem either indifferent to or disaffected with the church and her teaching. We know that the general social context in the United States has a strong emphasis on the individual and individual choice, which often eclipses the sense of community or of the common good that is essential to Christian life," the document says. "Sadly, too, we must confess that the sexual abuse crisis has wounded the church, and this scandal has led some Catholics to lose heart and leave the church."



It adds, "The homilist of today must realize that he is addressing a congregation that is more culturally diverse than previously, one that is profoundly affected by the surrounding secular context and, in many instances, inadequately catechized." Before preaching, "the homilist may need to wrestle for a while with the challenging aspects of the biblical Word, searching for ways it could connect to ordinary experience and how it might be proclaimed to the congregation the homilist serves," it says.

Preaching the Mystery of Faith (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/priesthood/priestly-life-and-ministry/upload/Preaching-document-draft-6-0.pdf>) says: "The ultimate goal of proclaiming the Gospel is to lead people into a loving and intimate relationship with the Lord, a relationship that forms the character of their persons and guides them in living out their faith. ... An effective homily would show the faithful just how much the Son of God loved them in taking our human flesh upon himself." The entire press release can be read at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1204784.htm>.

Cardinal Challenges Bishops To Undergo Their Own Conversion, Renewal



Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, challenged his brother bishops to undergo their own conversion and renewal. One characteristic of this renewal is the sacrament of penance, Cardinal Dolan said. "This is the sacrament of the new evangelization, for as Pope Benedict reminds us, 'We cannot speak about the new evangelization without the sincere desire to conversion,'" Cardinal Dolan said during his presidential address.

"I know I risk the criticism -- I can hear it now: 'With all the controversies and urgent matters for the church right now, Dolan spoke of conversion of heart through the sacrament of penance. Can you believe it?' To which I reply, 'You better believe it! First things first!'" Cardinal Dolan said, "We cannot engage culture unless we let him (Jesus) first engage us, we cannot dialogue with others unless we first dialogue with him, and we cannot challenge unless we first allow him to challenge us."

The recently concluded world Synod of Bishops echoed the papal message, Cardinal Dolan said. In the synod's closing message, the bishops declared, "We firmly believe that we must convert ourselves above all to the power of Jesus Christ who alone can make all things new, above all our poor existence. With humility we recognize that the poverty and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples, especially of his ministers, weigh on the very credibility of the mission."

Reconciliation "brings us sacramentally into contact with Jesus, who calls us to conversion of heart, and allows us to answer his invitation to repentance -- a repentance from within that can then transform the world without," Cardinal Dolan said. "What an irony that despite the call of the Second Vatican Council for a renewal of the sacrament of penance, what we got instead was its near disappearance."

Cardinal Dolan said, "The answer to the question 'What's wrong with the world? What's wrong

with the church? is not politics, the economy, secularism, sectarianism, globalization or global warming ... none of these, as significant as they are." He quoted author G.K. Chesterton, who wrote, "The answer to the question 'What's wrong with the world?' is just two words: 'I am.'"

"Most of all," Cardinal Dolan added, "we work at giving our people good examples of humble, repentant pastors, aware of our personal and corporate sins, constantly responding to the call of Jesus to interior conversion." He said, "We need the sacrament of penance because we are profoundly sorry for our faults, failures and our sins, serious obstacles to the new evangelization. But then we stand forgiven, resolute to return to the work entrusted to us -- as evangelizers of the Gospel of mercy."

Cardinal Dolan said the work of the USCCB in the coming year would include "reflections on re-embracing Friday as a particular day of penance, including the possible reinstitution of abstinence on all Fridays of the year, not just during Lent."

"Our pastoral plan offers numerous resources for catechesis on the sacrament of penance, and the manifold graces that come to us from the frequent use of confession," he said. Next June, he added, the U.S. bishops will have a special assembly to pray and reflect on their mission, including "our witness to personal conversion in Jesus Christ" and to the new evangelization.

Bishops approve exhortation encouraging greater use of penance



The U.S. bishops Nov. 13 overwhelmingly approved an exhortation encouraging Catholics to take advantage of the sacrament of penance, also known as reconciliation. The text was prepared by the bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, chaired by Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis.

The exhortation quotes from the Gospel of John after Jesus arose and told the Apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." In so doing, the exhortation says, Jesus was

"proclaiming that all the suffering he had just endured was in order to make available the gifts of salvation and forgiveness." It adds, "In the sacrament of penance and reconciliation, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him. In this sacrament, he prepares us to receive him with a lively faith, earnest hope, and sacrificial love in the Eucharist. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we repent, let go of any pattern of sin, grow in the life of virtue and witness to a joyful conversion."

Bishop Ricken, in remarks Nov. 12, said the document was prepared so that it "might assist in the conversion of hearts for Jesus Christ, which is at the heart of evangelization." The exhortation tries to ease the fears of Catholics who have not gone to confession for some time. "We bishops and priests are eager to help you if you experience difficulty, hesitation, or uncertainty about approaching the Lord in this sacrament," it says. "If you have not received this healing sacrament in a long time, we are



ready to welcome you. We, whom Christ has ordained to minister this forgiveness in his name, are also approaching this sacrament, as both penitents and ministers, during Lent. We want to offer ourselves to you as forgiven sinners seeking to serve in the Lord's name."

The exhortation reminds Catholics that "Pope Benedict XVI has said, 'The new evangelization ... begins in the confessional!'" One change in the text of the exhortation as proposed will be the inclusion of a reminder to Catholics -- still to be written -- that they are obliged to go to confession at least once a year. Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., complained that such language did not appear in the exhortation and that a bid to include it had been rejected by the committee. Without such language, "it becomes a bit of a vague statement," Archbishop Sheehan said. "Catholics shouldn't have to go to the website to find out such basic things about our Catholic faith."

Bishop Ricken replied it was the committee's intent to make the exhortation "invitational" in nature. "We didn't want it to be seen as 'You're invited, but you have to come.'" But, with the objection raised by Archbishop Sheehan and other bishops, he said he would take the exhortation back to the committee to find a way to incorporate details of the once -a-year requirement into it. The exhortation would be made public in time to allow for dioceses to prepare for Lent 2013 and to offer the sacrament at times that are "convenient and plentiful," according to a background document on the exhortation.

Two videos from DAEC: Fr. Robert Barron & Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki

✠ **Fr. Robert Barron: Proclaiming Christ to a Secular Culture**
<http://vimeo.com/53215253>

John Paul II said the New Evangelization is new in ardor, new in expression, and new in method. This talk discusses this indispensable work of the Church.



✠ **Bishop Thomas John Paprocki: "The only thing preventing us from living faith fully and sharing faith freely is sin."**
<http://vimeo.com/53215255>

Bishop Paprocki looks at ways the Evil One seeks to obstruct our efforts to live virtuously and deflect us towards the path of vice. He then explores the means the Church offers to overcome these obstacles.



Pope Benedict XVI: Bear Witness to God's Love



Pope Benedict XVI called on the youth of the world to participate in next year's 28th World Youth Day which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The theme for the international event is "Go and make disciples of all nations!" (cf. Mt. 28, 19).

The Holy Father began his letter inviting the youth to look upon the

statue of Christ the Redeemer in Brazil as a *symbol for us*.

"Christ's open arms are a sign of his willingness to embrace all those who come to him, and his heart represents his immense love for everyone and for each of you. Let yourselves be drawn to Christ! Experience this encounter along with all the other young people who will converge on Rio for the next World Youth Day! Accept Christ's love and you will be the witnesses so needed by our world," the Pope's message stated.



Recalling the theme of next year's World Youth Day, Pope Benedict stated that Christ's call to go make disciples remains today as urgent as ever. The Supreme Pontiff expressed his happiness that the youth of the world are involved "in this missionary outreach."



Pope Benedict emphasized the contributions of the evangelization made by youth in the history of the Church. One such example, the Holy Father continued, was the life of Blessed José de Anchieta, a Spanish Jesuit missionary who went to Brazil in the 16th century before he was twenty years old. The Pope added that among the youth in today's world, there are those who are devoted to the mission of the Church, as evidenced by the previous World Youth Day held in Madrid. "I saw a wonderful testimony of this at World Youth Day in Madrid, particularly at the meeting with volunteers," the Holy Father recalled.

"Many young people today seriously question whether life is something good, and have a hard time finding their way. More generally, however, young people look at the difficulties of our world and ask themselves: is there anything I can do? The light of faith illumines this darkness. It helps us to understand that every human life is priceless because each of us is the fruit of God's love." The 85 year old Pontiff said that while advances in technology have allowed for "unprecedented possibilities" to interact with people, it can only nourish if it is "founded on love rather than materialism."

Love, the Pope stated in his message, "is the only thing that can fill hearts and bring people together. God is love. When we forget God, we lose hope and become unable to love others. That is why it is so necessary to testify to God's presence so that others can experience it. The salvation of humanity depends on this, as well as the salvation of each of us."



The Holy Father concluded his message, calling on the youth of the world to take the call to evangelize in their hearts and to bear witness to the love of Christ. "Be a new generation of missionaries, impelled by love and openness to all! Follow the example of the Church's great missionaries like Saint Francis Xavier and so many others," Pope Benedict said. For the full text of Pope Benedict's Message to Young People, go to: <http://www.zenit.org/article-35979?l=english>

FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, November 27



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership**, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online

workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar ***The Emerging Models Project: Key Pastoral Implications*** is offered on Tuesday, November 27 at 3:00 pm EST. You can register at **PDW-11.27.2012**

(<http://tiny.cc/yli6lw>). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

Professional Development
WEBINAR
SERIES



The Emerging Models Project: Key Pastoral Implications

Presented by Neil A. Parent, Director of Emerging Models Pastoral Leadership

Major findings and implications of the three-year, phase two, "Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership" project will be the subject of a concluding symposium this fall. This webinar will summarize the key findings and implications that emanate from the seminar and the project's extensive research into various aspects of parish life and pastoral leadership.



A "Faith Scroll" to Share the Love of God with the Whole World



In just over a month since the opening of the Year of Faith, pilgrims who visit the tomb of Peter will have the occasion to share with the universal Church their thoughts on the Christian faith and their prayer intentions. Inaugurated for this purpose was a "Faith Scroll", a paper scroll similar to those in use in ancient times, mounted on a lectern designed by architect Isabella Mancini. You can watch a 1½ minute news video at

<http://www.romereports.com/palio/faith-scroll-what-does-faith-mean-to-you-english-8269.html>.

"We called it 'Faith Scroll,' because we were inspired by the ancient Hebrew tradition to preserve the Word and Revelation in a biblical scroll," said Father Caesar Atuire, administrator delegate of the *Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi* (ORP). "Addressed essentially to all those who will go to the 'Faith Scroll', the cardinal explained are: 'What is your faith and what do you think of your personal faith?' The ORP's administrator delegate added that the thoughts and phrases written on the Scroll will be 'shared on social networks,' while 'once a month a Holy Mass will be celebrated for the faithful's prayer intentions which will be left on the 'Faith Scroll.'" The office

will feature clips on YouTube so that people can see the moment when Mass is being celebrated for their intentions.

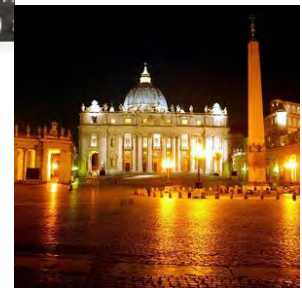
Cardinal Farina officially inaugurated the "Faith Scroll," writing the following sentence: "Faith is my daily encounter with Jesus, in which I find my identity and, responding to his call of love, witness the proclamation." The second thought, written by Archbishop Fisichella, bears the following words: "In front of the many questions harbored in the heart of every person on the meaning of their life, faith is presented as the ultimate and definitive answer because it makes one find the face of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

The "Faith Scroll" attempts to represent a "participation in everyone's faith" and a way of "sharing with so many other pilgrims" that which makes tangible for us what it means to be the Church of Jesus Christ spread throughout the whole world," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization. Hence, he concluded, the instrument just inaugurated will be able to help the faithful to "live the faith more intensely and in a universal way." Those entries that the Pilgrim Office deems the most inspiring will be posted on a blog associated with it, www.jospers.travel. Fr. Atuire hopes this will "create a mini community whereby we really share our experience of faith."

Knights of Columbus: Catechetical Resources for the New Evangelization



The 17 part series is a response to Pope Benedict's challenge to rediscover "the beauty and contemporary relevance of faith." The series will show that the new evangelization is not a *new* Christian message but rather a new presentation of the joy of the gospel in all its transforming power. This series joins several other series that have been produced by the Knights and can be found at <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/cis/index.html>.



The first five pamphlets are now available in print and as a PDF. The series will also be translated into French and Spanish. The titles of the first five are:

- ❖ ***What is the New Evangelization?*** by Michelle K. Borrás
<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis401.pdf>



- ❖ *“I Believe in You”: The Question of God in the Modern World* by Thomas J. Hurley & Michelle K. Borras <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis402.pdf>
- ❖ *A God Who is Threefold Love* by Michelle K. Borras <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis404.pdf>
- ❖ *The Beauty of Holiness: Sacred Art and the New Evangelization* by Jem Sullivan <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis418.pdf>
- ❖ *Technology and the New Evangelization: Criteria for Discernment* by Fr. Jonah Lynch FSCB & Michelle K. Borras <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis419.pdf>



Interactive Connections 2013 – 4th Annual Conference



4th INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIVE CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

Casting the NET: Evangelizing in our Digital World

January 28 – 31, 2013
The Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World
Room Reservations – special conference rate –
\$111 per night – 800-327-0363



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bishop Jason Gordon, Bishop of the Dioceses of Bridgetown, Barbados, Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines
“How do we Evangelize in a digital culture-civilization?”

National leaders will share invaluable technology resources for 21st Century innovation in your parish and school catechetical ministries through topics of:

- Digital Discipleship Boot camp – Let’s Start with Ten Tools
- Social Networking for creating, collaborating and communicating communities

- Freeing the Inner Leader: How Interconnectivity Changes the World
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) into the Parish Setting
- and more ...

IC 2013 co-locates with the Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) in order to benefit from over 200 learning sessions featuring current and emerging technologies, as well as best practices developed through research and experience. The FETC Expo showcases over 300 vendors offering new ideas as well as contacts for resources.

Two CEUs from the University of Dayton are included in the registration.

Visit www.intconnect.org or contact Sr. Caroline Cervený at c.cervený@verizon.net or 727-744-4684

Alive Enough? Reflecting on Our Technology with Sherry Turkle



I first heard of Sherry Turkle in the late 1980's while pursuing my doctorate. She asked great questions then and she is still asking great questions. This is a fascinating interview conducted by Krista Tippett in *On Being*. “We can lead examined lives with our technology. Each of us, in our everyday interactions, chooses between letting technology shape us and shaping it towards human purposes, even towards honoring what we hold dear.” Sherry Turkle, director of the [MIT Initiative on Technology and Self](http://www.mit.edu/initiative-on-technology-and-self/), is full of usable ideas — from how to declare email bankruptcy to teaching our children the rewards of solitude. You can listen to the program at <http://www.onbeing.org/program/alive-enough-reflecting-our-technology/63>.

You can purchase Sherry Turkle's new book [*Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other.*](#)

From Research to Recognition: Can babies teach school kids not to bully?



Katie Hearn, left, holds baby Raya Larson as Roots of Empathy instructor Jenn O'Brien, second from left in purple, speaks at Thorncliffe Park Public School in Toronto on Dec. 14, 2011. The Roots of Empathy is the country's oldest and biggest anti-bullying program.

Teacher Raya patrols a group of giggly kindergarten students, looking each so deeply in the eye that many squirm and bashfully reach for her toes. Her father carries her in his arms. Raya is not quite five months old. She's teaching them about being kind and how to talk about their feelings so that later, they don't terrorize each other.

Teacher Raya, as they call her, is a “volunteer” with Roots of Empathy, the country's oldest and largest anti-bullying program. It's such a simple concept: if kids learn to empathize with babies — the most vulnerable humans — then their antennae for kindness will be turned on. Put another way, once they learn to worry about a baby's feelings, they'll start to worry about everyone's.



Since kindergarten teacher Mary Gordon launched it 16 years ago, the program's effects have been analyzed by dozens of academics. Most of them conclude the program fosters “pro-social behavior” and dampens aggression. A Manitoba study published earlier this year concluded the program cut student fights in half immediately and continued to “promote optimal social contact” three years later.

Two groups of scientists — one at York University and the other at the University of Washington in Seattle — are now studying whether the program's effect can be scanned in students' brains. It's one thing to legislate against bullying, as Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has done with his Safe Schools Act. It's quite another to stop kids from tormenting each other in the first place.



Raya reminds me of something else about babies: they are brazen. Her little head turns from her toy to look deeply into one set of eyes after another. Babies haven't learned to avoid other people's glares. And, like RCMP dogs at the baggage carousel, they smell vulnerability. O'Brien tells a story. Last year, she visited a Grade 5 class with a little baby. The kids were older — not all of them could fit around the green blanket. So month after month, they took turns. One boy didn't want to come closer. “The first time, he sat with his arms crossed and his face turned away, sending a clear message he didn't want to be part of this,” says O'Brien. “As we went on, he got

warmer, so by visit seven, the baby on the blanket waved at him and he waved back. “The baby made him part of the program,” she says. “That’s the magic.” You can read more about *Roots of Empathy* at <http://www.rootsofempathy.org/> or watch an introductory video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIgLGt4hZuY>.

Kid Saves Grandma’s Home From Foreclosure



This is the perfect story for Thanksgiving. Steve Hartman tells the story of a 12-year-old boy named Noah who raised enough money to keep his grandmother from going into foreclosure.

You can watch the news program at <http://www.coolestone.com/media/4823/Kid-Saves-Grandma's-Home-From-Foreclosure/>.

Hallelujah Chorus flashmobs are back and spreading worldwide



It all started at Macy's in Philadelphia -- 650 people bursting into Handel's famed oratorio to the astonishment of shoppers. Now YouTube has scores of variations from Canada, Scotland, Ireland and all across America -- enjoyed by tens of millions. Check it out at http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Home-Page-News-and-Views/Hallelujah-flash-mobs-spread-worldwide.aspx?source=NEWSLETTER&nlsource=38&ppc=&utm_campaign=Prayer&utm_source=NL&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_term=google.

FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, December 4



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership**, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online

workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar ***Bereavement Ministry: Giving Voice to our Grief and Suffering*** is offered on Tuesday, December 4 at 3:00 pm EST. You can register at [PDW-12.04.2012 \(http://tiny.cc/fkj6lw\)](http://tiny.cc/fkj6lw). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

Professional Development
WEBINAR
SERIES



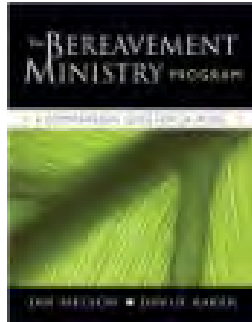
The Emerging Models Project: Key Pastoral Implications



Presented by David Aaker and Jan Nelson, authors of [***The Bereavement Ministry Program: A Comprehensive Guide for Churches***](#)



In this webinar, authors David Aaker and Jan Nelson will help participants give voice to those who suffer, as well as those who care for the suffering. How do we give voice to ambiguous losses, for example, when we lose our job, become ill, or are deployed?



Violence arises when we don't know what to do with our suffering. When we give voice to people's grief and suffering, the violence to self and others is reduced.

Join David and Jan as they walk ministers through the process of giving voice to grief and suffering.

Over the River and Through the Woods



I had no idea this poem had so many verses but I was also intrigued with what I found out about the other. Lydia Maria Child (1802--1880) was an activist and writer of novels, pamphlets, and works for children. She often used her writing to advocate for slaves, women, and Native Americans. Lydia Maria Child was born in Medford, Massachusetts, where her grandfather's house, which she celebrates in her poem, still stands. I am not offering this as a book with spiritual values but the illustrations are reminiscent of Currier and Ives, and evoke a rural snowy day in the 1800's.

You can see more and purchase [***Over the River and Through the Wood: The New England Boy's Song About Thanksgiving Day.***](#)

GREAT Advent Tradition



The following post by Gina Lustig was found on Dan Burke's Blog in the *National Catholic Register* entitled *O Radiant Dawn - Preparing for Advent* ([http://www.ncregister.com/blog/dan-burke/o-radiant-dawn-preparing-for-](http://www.ncregister.com/blog/dan-burke/o-radiant-dawn-preparing-for-advent#ixzz2CDIn7UfY)

[advent#ixzz2CDIn7UfY](http://www.ncregister.com/blog/dan-burke/o-radiant-dawn-preparing-for-advent#ixzz2CDIn7UfY)). While I have traditionally given my godchildren a Christmas book each year and while my sister-in-law puts the Christmas books away each year, only to appear in December, Gina's suggestion about wrapping each of the books and leaving them out for only 24 hours was one of the best ideas I have heard in ages and one that is definitely worth sharing.



In our home it has been a tradition for us to turn out all the lights, except for the lights around our nativity scene and walk through our house with lit candles singing a nativity

song for Jesus. We finish with our prayers kneeling in front of the creche and then end by reading a Christmas book to the kids. I wrap 25 Christmas books up each year (I have collected them over time) and the kids open one each night which we then read together as a family. The children are permitted to read that book as much as they want for 24 hours, until the next book is opened, but then the book is put away until next year. This makes the stories “new” each year and yet “familiar” to them. Each year my husband and I then choose one book for each child and write a special message inside the cover and that book becomes theirs to share with their children (someday) I just wanted to share our tradition with all of you because it has helped us to really stay close to our Lord during the busy Advent season. God Bless!

Advent Storybook: 24 Stories to Share Before Christmas



If you are looking for a book with a short story that can be read to children in preparation for Christmas, then this is one of my favorite books. Each of the stories are only a page long. If you are looking for The Christmas Story, this is not it, but a beautiful parallel, in that the main character is going to visit the Christ child and each day is a part of his journey. There are lessons of love, giving, and even not judging books by their covers. You can order [Advent Storybook: 24 Stories to Share Before Christmas](#).

The Jesse Tree



If you are going to use the Jesse tree, then I believe this book is essential; if for no other reason than the illustrations. In her foreword, McCaughrean explains that a "Jesse tree" is a teaching device named for one of Jesus' ancestors, and the pictures gracing its branches symbolize 24 traditional Advent stories--from Adam and Eve's fall from grace to the Nativity. Mr. Butterfield, the old woodcarver tells the story of each carving represented in an insightful and theologically sound and at the same time simple manner.

You can purchase [The Jesse Tree](#).

Small Mercies: Glimpses of God in Everyday Life



This is an excerpt from Nancy Jo Sullivan's book. It captures the essence of Thanksgiving and friendship. If you enjoy this piece, you might consider ordering [Small Mercies: Glimpses of God in Everyday Life](#).

After my third child was born, I rarely cooked a homemade meal. While caring for a baby and two toddlers, my days revolved around feedings, trips to the park, and massive amounts of laundry. I often ate what the kids ate: bologna cut into squares, Goldfish crackers, and apple slices.

One afternoon, while my kids were napping, I heard a knock at my front door. It was Marion, my old college roommate. Wearing a baseball cap and an oversized sweatshirt, she carried a kettle of homemade soup. "Are you hungry for lunch?" she asked. Earlier that morning, Marion's husband had taken her kids to the zoo. Now she had the whole afternoon free. I was so happy I could barely contain myself. "C'mon in," I told her.



For the next hour, we sat at my kitchen table, eating, laughing, and reminiscing about our past. As my kids slept peacefully, I savored each mouthful of soup. "This tastes so good," I said. I closed my eyes to taste the seasoned broth, the barley, and the warm veggies. "Thank you for coming," I kept saying.

Over two decades later, I know why I remember that afternoon. Yes, Marion had lovingly prepared that soup just for me. But she had also given me something more precious, the gift of her friendship.

Jesus does the same thing for us. Each day, he joins us at the kitchen table of our heart. With great joy, he shares the food of his friendship. As we savor his presence, we are invited to take a break from our busy lives. While resting in him, we can close our eyes and say, "Thank you for coming!"

Libraries: Cathedrals of Our Souls



This is a quote from a piece that was previously published in *The Times of London*, and is included in Caitlin Moran's new book, *Moranthology*. I believe some of it could be applied to the church as a sanctuary space. It might even offer support for a parish library. If nothing else, it offers a reason for us book lovers to give thanks for public libraries. The entire piece can be read at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/caitlin-moran/libraries-cathedrals-of-our-souls_b_2103362.html.

"A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination.

On a cold, rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen, instead. A human with a brain and a heart and a desire to be uplifted, rather than a customer with a credit card and an inchoate 'need' for 'stuff.' A mall—the shops—are places where your money makes the wealthy wealthier. But a library is where the wealthy's taxes pay for you to become a little more extraordinary, instead. A satisfying reversal. A balancing of the power."

Pope establishes pontifical Latin Academy



Pope Benedict XVI has established the "Pontifical Academy of Latinity" to promote the study of the Latin language and culture, and not just within the Catholic Church. For more than 1,000 years, the Catholic Church has been the custodian and promoter of Latin "both in the theological and liturgical spheres as well as in the area of the formation and transmission of knowledge," the pope wrote Nov. 10 in the document establishing the Latin academy.

"From Pentecost, the church has spoken and prayed in all the languages of humanity," the pope wrote, but the early Christian communities relied heavily on Latin and Greek language and culture to proclaim and explain the newness of the Christian Gospel. The new academy, he said, should promote the study of Latin, particularly in Catholic schools, universities and seminaries, helping young generations learn Latin, "including through the use of modern means of communications."

Pope Benedict said that as studies in the general field of humanities expand, it is surprising how superficial Latin studies have become, even for seminarians and priests. But serious studies of theology, liturgy, the church fathers and canon law require knowledge of Latin because most of the basic sources in all those fields were written in Latin. "There is an urgent need to support a commitment to a greater knowledge and more competent use of the Latin language, both in the church and in the wider world of culture," the pope said. The complete article can be found at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1204748.htm>.



www.catholicartworks.com/index.html

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Digital Discipleship: Transforming Ministry Through Technology

Advent Videos

November 7, 2012

How will you use videos during this Advent season? I just checked the Digital Catechesis Video library and I discovered at least 10 Advent videos. Here's a sampling of three of the videos in the digital library:

Christ is Coming – This 5 minute advent meditation focuses on the coming of Christ into our world- not just as a child in a stable but as the bringer of justice and freedom.

Advent Conspiracy 2010 – This film uses popular Old Testament Scriptures juxtaposed with modern music and nativity silhouettes to help the audience to see Jesus in their hectic holiday lives.

Advent in Two Minutes – Check out Busted Halo's two-minute video that describes why we celebrate Advent and wait to celebrate Christmas.

I love this wonderful digital age that we live in. There are some wonderful resources that are FREE that we could use for our Advent Ministry. How? Here are three(3) suggestions:



1. For the first week of Advent, and every week after that, add an Advent Video Link to your Facebook page/wall and add a reflective comment with a question.

2. Engage in an Advent sharing with your friends. For example: If you “Tweet”, using 140 characters, tweet an Advent message related to the video and include the link. Normally, Twitter will shorten the link. If it does not, you can go to <http://bit.ly> – to shorten your URL. Here’s an example: Wondering why we celebrate Advent! (Link) Why do you do Advent?
3. Using your iPad or iPhone with an LCD projector or TV connection, show one of the videos as a prayerful reflection before your class or adult meeting. Remember to practice before your session to make sure that all is working. Remember that you’ll need an audio connection.

For those who are not members of [Digital Catechesis](#), you are invited to join (It’s FREE). If you are a member, and you discover other Advent videos that you would recommend to us, please come and add them to our Digital Library.

If you like these suggestions, please click the “Like” button. We’d also like to hear your suggestions for using Advent videos. Do add your comments in the “comment” section of this blog.

Advent Blessings!

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**Knowing content is not sufficient
for RCIA...according to the pope**

Prayer in time of storms

For all those being affected by Hurricane Sandy right now, we are with you in prayer. Together, let us pray for the safety of all there, especially

When Pope Benedict XVI announced the Year of Faith, which began on October 11, 2012, he said, "We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope" (Porta fidei, 9).



The pope says that "knowing the content to be believed is not sufficient unless the heart, the authentic sacred space within the person, is opened by grace" (10).

Too often, our first question is what do I have to know, or what do the catechumens have to know. Instead, our first question ought to be, "In whom do I have to believe?"

The pope inaugurated the Year of Faith on the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. That was not by accident. For the church today, the Second Vatican Council is the lens through which we have to understand our faith.

If we do not understand what the council was about, we are not living up to our responsibility as catechists to know our own faith, and therefore we will falter at being able to teach the faith to the catechumens.

To read more about Pope Benedict's call for us to renew our faith, [click here](#).

Photo by Surachai, FreeDigitalPhotos.net

New e-resource for teen RCIA

Teens in the RCIA: A Journey of Conversion (PDF)

Rita Burns
Senseman

Do you feel like you are flying by the seat of your pants when it comes to teens in the RCIA? Not sure where they belong: in adult RCIA or children's RCIA?



those most vulnerable—the homeless
and the sick—and pray too for
all first-responders and good
Samaritans. Together, we
remember:

God is our refuge
and strength,
An ever-present help
in times of trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
Though the earth
should change,
Though the mountains shake
in the heart
of the sea,
Though its waters roar and
foam,
And the mountains tremble at
its surging.
Be still and know
that I am God!
The Lord of hosts
is with us...
The God of Jacob
is our refuge.

Psalms 46: 1-3, 10, 11

Kudos

"I have been directing parish directors and coordinators to TeamRCIA for some time now. I hope some are taking advantage of this website and valuable, excellent resources."

—Jeanne Thompson,
Diocese of Altoona-
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Featured Resource

Wondering how teens fit in with youth ministry, confirmation preparation, and RCIA all at the same time?

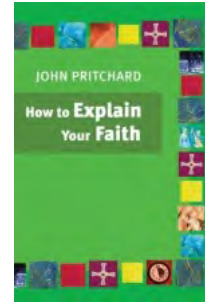
Well, now a new e-resource, ***Teens in the RCIA: A Journey of Conversion***, will answer your questions as to how teens fit in the RCIA and yet still stay connected with teens in the parish.

This e-resource will give you six step-by-step pathways for making your RCIA with teens effective, organized, and connected to other vital ministries in your parish.

Teens in the RCIA: A Journey of Conversion will give you the following:

- **A Discernment Guide** — The first step in initiation ministry with teens is to discern the formational needs of the individual adolescent. You are going to learn how to do exactly that with this practical guide for doing discernment with teens and their parents.
- **Pathways for Initiation** — Based upon the needs of the teen and the organizational structure of your parish, you will discover several possible pathways for your teens.
 - The pathways for younger teens (13-14 yrs.)
 - An intergenerational approach that includes families and sponsors
 - An approach that parallels junior high religious education
 - The pathways for older teens (15-17 yrs.)
 - A pathway through the parish's youth ministry
 - A pathway connected to the adult catechumenate
 - A pathway that parallels confirmation preparation
 - A combined pathway for older and younger teens together in the catechumenate

- **The Role of Peer Companions** — No



How to Explain Your Faith John Pritchard

Why is it that when Christians are asked to explain their faith they are often left speechless? True, there is much about faith that defies description and explanation.

Yet in a world that increasingly doubts the need for organized religion, it is important for Christians to have straightforward and respectful answers to questions such as "Is Christianity for those who can't get a life?" and "What use is a dying God?" and "What's the use of praying?"

In *How to Explain Your Faith*, Pritchard helps us explore these challenging questions and many more. In a style that is simple without being simplistic or sugar-coated, practical without being preachy or pious, Pritchard takes readers to the heart of the matter of Christian faith.

[Add to Cart](#)

Price: ~~\$11.95~~ \$11.35

RCIA Resources

matter what the ages of the adolescents or the pathway they take, the role of peer companions is essential in the RCIA. Learn how to incorporate the baptized peer companions into whichever RCIA pathway you choose.

- **The Liturgical Rites** — Use these parish-tested best practices for celebrating the liturgical rites of the RCIA with teens. In particular, this piece will give you concrete steps for preparing teens for the rites and for including their teen companions in the rites too.

If you've been flying by the seat of your pants, it's time to land on solid ground. ***Teens in the RCIA: A Journey of Conversion*** is the perfect resource to give you a sure footing in the catechumenate process with teens.

Order it now and start leading your teens on the most important journey of their lives.

Add to Cart

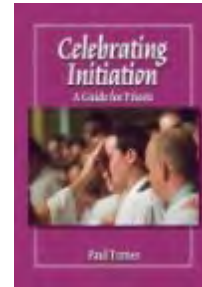
Price: ~~\$22.95~~ \$19.99
(Includes permission to copy within your parish)

Photo by chiesADlbeinasco, Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Webinar: Year of Faith — A Catechetical Vision

Pope Benedict XVI challenges every believer "to rediscover the content of the faith that is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed, and to reflect on the act of faith" so that we might be credible witnesses (Porta fidei, 9).

The pope also says



Celebrating Initiation: A Guide for Priests

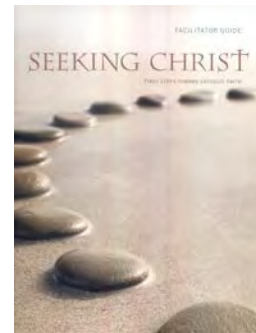
Paul Turner

This new book leads priests through 26 rites of initiation, including all of the various rites of the RCIA, adaptations for already baptized candidates, the various infant baptismal rites, confirmation of a person in danger of death, and parish celebrations of First Communion. [Click for more info.](#)

Add to Cart

Price: ~~\$24.95~~ \$23.70

Precatechumenate



Seeking Christ Parish Preview Pack
Paulist Evangelization Ministries

Seeking Christ is a set of precatechumenal resources to help orient inquirers to the Catholic Church. The Parish Preview Pack includes the

that to make a credible profession of faith, we need conviction, confidence, and hope.

This webinar will give you a deeper understanding of the goals and actions of the teaching authorities of the post-Vatican II Church.

Specifically, we will discuss:

- The complimentary but distinct roles of directories and catechisms in faith formation
- The two key documents that provide the fulcrum for today's faith formation efforts
- The four central components of Christian life that make up all faith formation
- The most successful example of post-Vatican II faith formation in action
- The U.S. bishops' plan for implementing a parish-wide renewal process

Join us for this webinar to renew your own sense of joy and enthusiasm for the important task of teaching the faith in this Year of Faith.

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Time: 2:00p to 3:00p Eastern Daylight Time / 11:00a to 12:00p Pacific Daylight Time

Presenters: Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal

Registration:

\$15.00 for individual registration

\$37.50 total for your whole parish team of three or more people

Individual Registration

Group (3+) Registration

Photo by Giuseppe Zeta, Flickr, CC BY 2.0



Faith at Home for the Year of Faith

A simple, powerful faith sharing process for your Catholic families

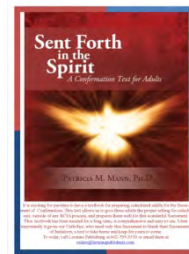
We all know that parents are the primary catechists of a Christian

Seeking Christ DVD, Inquirer's Booklet, and Facilitator Guide, allowing parish leaders to review the materials and plan to use this resource in the parish. [Click for more info.](#)

Add to Cart

Price: ~~\$34.95~~ **\$33.20**

Resource for adult confirmation



Sent Forth in the Spirit

Patricia M. Mann

This text helps you prepare adults for confirmation outside of the RCIA process.

To order, call Leonine Publishing at 602-795-3539 or email them at orders@leoninepublishers.com

If you enjoy this...



...then Share the Love.

home. But how can we support them in their role so they can successfully lead their family in faith?

Faith at Home for the Year of Faith is a resource that answers your prayers.

Faith at Home for the Year of Faith is a simple reflection process *based on the Sunday readings* that any adult or older teen can lead with no preparation or training.

Benefits

If your families spend 30 minutes a week with **Faith at Home for the Year of Faith**, they will:

- Come to a deeper level of intimacy with Jesus
- Grow in their love of Scripture
- Participate more actively in the Sunday liturgy
- Strengthen their ties with the parish community
- Learn to love those most in need in our neighborhoods

Faith at Home for the Year of Faith is perfect for all families who want to grow in their faith.

It is especially useful for families with children who are preparing for

- baptism,
- confirmation,
- or Eucharist (first Communion).

Free sample

Faith at Home for the Year of Faith comes to you as double-sided, full-color , hardcopy pages that you can send home to your families.

[Click here to download a free PDF copy](#) of the November Sundays to see for yourself how simple and powerful this faith sharing process is.

Price:

(25 double-sided, full-color handouts for each Sunday)

December 2012 (5 Sundays) \$38.99

January 2013 (4 Sundays) \$30.99

February 2013 (4 Sundays) \$30.99

Please [forward](#) this newsletter to a colleague!

Contact TeamRCIA

[Nick Wagner](#)
[Diana Macalintal](#)

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