

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

Happy Catholic Schools Week! As we journey toward Lent, there are several great resources to share with you in this newsletter.

First of all, Archbishop Sartain will be welcoming all of us to a presentation on *Evangelization: The Vocation of Living a Sacred Story* by Fr. Bill Watson, SJ on February 28th. Please see the attached flyer for more information and registration information. This event will offer insights to support spiritual development across all age groups that is both easily accessible and transformative.

Lent offers us the opportunity to participate in CRS Rice Bowl. The materials this year are filled with learning activities and additional materials can be accessed online.

Last year, our CYO Camps added exciting new adventures and this year will have even more activities. Scholarships and free bus transportation for rural areas of the Archdiocese will be available again this year. Please encourage students to register early for this wonderful summer program!

On Saturday, March 23rd, Archbishop Sartain will be celebrating Mass at St. James Cathedral for our Special Needs community. A reception will follow. Your support in reaching out to our families and promoting this event are deeply appreciated and so important.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be hosting national speakers and formation events on March 8 and 9. Please see the attached brochure for the multiple opportunities to learn more about this wonderful program.

Also enclosed with this issue of our newsletter are several resources for Respect Life, adolescent catechesis and using social media. Free webinars and links to Year of Faith activities are also available for you.

In Christ,

Anne

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

<p>Archdiocesan website for the <i>Year of Faith</i>: www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof</p>
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ANNUAL FAITH FORMATION LUNCHEON

WITH WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER
BY ARCHBISHOP SARTAIN

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2013
Place: Archbishop Brunett Retreat and Faith Formation
Center at the Palisades, Federal Way
Time: 9:00 am - 1:30 pm
Cost: \$25/person (presentation and lunch)
Audience: Priests, Deacons, Catechetical Leaders, Principals,
Religion Teachers, and all those involved in parish
and school ministry

PRESENTER AND TOPIC

Evangelization: The Vocation of Living a Sacred Story

Presented by Fr. William Watson, SJ



Father William Watson is Founder, President, and Executive Director of the Sacred Story Institute. He has spent over thirty years developing Ignatian programs and retreats. In 2011, his provincial missioned him to start a non-profit institute to take what he learned about Ignatian program development and build a project for the Society of Jesus and the Church to bring the time-tested Examination of Conscience of St. Ignatius to as wide an audience as possible.

RSVP to ocff@seattlearch.org or 206-382-4096

by **Thursday, February 21st**

CYO Summer Camps

The Catholic Youth Organization summer camp registration is now open for 2013. As the Church celebrates a Year of Faith we are excited to be exploring how to deepen our relationship with God and how our faith should shine through in our lives. Each week we will integrate this theme into activities and prayers as we explore our faith in action. Our goal is for you to see the direct benefit of the camp experience on the youth of your parish who will come back from camp on fire with their Catholic faith. We are working diligently to ensure a high quality camping experience that is formative and provides for conversion experiences and your partnership is key.

These brochures are for you to send home to all families with youth in your religious education program. We are also working closely with the Office for Catholic Faith Formation to get you specific information relevant to your role in faith formation. Due to feedback last year we are offering free bus service to outlying areas of the Archdiocese to make camp more available to all children in the archdiocese. Last year we awarded over \$90,000 in camp scholarships so please help us to identify those families in your parish that financial assistance will help them send their child to camp. We will be contacting you soon to help your parish get the word out about CYO summer camps and their importance in the faith development of young people.

Together we will be able to make an eternal difference in the families of 1600 youth this summer. Thank you for helping make this a reality.

Megan Raymond
Director of CYO Camp Services
Megan.raymond@seattlearch.org
206-382-4591

From the Missions Office...



FOR LENT, FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT CHANGES LIVES.

This Year of Faith, animate Lent in your parish or school with CRS Rice Bowl!

Congrats - all of our parishes and many of our schools have ordered Rice Bowl materials this year!

How can CRS Rice Bowl strengthen the Lenten journey?

CRS Rice Bowl offers an *experience* that brings Lent into individual and family life and renews parishioners' commitment to opt for the poor, thus helping them broaden their understanding of faith

and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. The faithful spend forty days drawing

closer to God and preparing for the great celebration of Easter through the Catholic Lenten trio:

- **Prayer** –We **pray** for others in the global church. We reflect on what type of person God calls us to be, and we ask for His guidance in living up to our potential.
- **Fasting** –We **fast**, or give things up, as a reminder to remove things in our lives that get in the way of our relationship with God. Fasting also reminds us of those who experience hunger. God calls each of us to care for those who are in need.
- **Giving** –We **give alms** with a spirit of generosity to our brothers and sisters in need, honoring Jesus' call to serve our neighbors. This Lent, through our sacrifices, we can help to empower and transform the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. 75% of donations go to support food security programs overseas. 25% remain in this Archdiocese for anti-hunger efforts through our local grant program.

Why should your parish or school participate in CRS Rice Bowl?

CRS Rice Bowl provides Lenten resources for all ministries and grades 1-12 during the Year of Faith.

Materials designed for parishioners of diverse ages are available for the parish religious education program, the school, the liturgy and other committees and more, including:

- prayer resources
- daily reflections based on Catholic social teaching
- weekly reflections
- lesson plans for many ages
- stories of our brothers and sisters who are helped through CRS
- resources for small faith-sharing groups
- activities
- easy meatless recipes from featured countries

Get Involved!

Ready to use resources, in both English and Spanish, are available at www.csricebowl.org.

[Additional resources](#) for use in the Archdiocese of Seattle, including prayers in languages other than English, can be found online at

<http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Missions/Grants/OpRicebowl>.

All materials ordered by your community have arrived at your parish or school. Contact the [Missions Office](#) if you need additional (all free) materials, such as Rice Bowls with the fold-out Spiritual Guide, Educator Guides, DVD, Coordinator Guides, posters, etc.: missionsoffice@seattlearch.org.

Save the Date

Archdiocese of Seattle *Mass for the* *Special Needs Community*

*Archbishop J. Peter Sartain invites us to celebrate a
Mass for our special needs community, including
families, friends and our faith communities.*

"Everyone is welcome!"

Saturday - March 23, 2013

11:00am

St. James Cathedral - Seattle

Reception to follow in the Isaac Orr Conference Center

*"All persons with disabilities have the capacity to proclaim the
Gospel and to be living witnesses to its truth within the community
of faith and offer valuable gifts. Their involvement enriches
every aspect of Church life."*

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005

For more information, please contact:

Erica Cohen Moore - (206) 382-4852 - ericac@seattlearch.org



For Immediate Release

A New YouTube Video about the Effects of Contraception on the Body's Natural Means of Attraction

Seattle, January 7, 2013: My Catholic Faith Press, in collaboration with [Prof. Janet E. Smith](#), launched a new video, "[Attraction 101: How the Pill Affects Your Dating Choices](#)," to highlight scientific studies that prove that contraception undermines a female's natural process for attracting a compatible mate.

Prof. Smith, Consulter to the Pontifical Council on the Family and Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, composed the script for the video that uses scientific evidence to show how chemical contraception negatively impacts relationships. Research suggests that The Pill, which manipulates pheromones, masks women's ability to attract and be attracted to compatible mates. Pheromones are female fertile hormones, a natural and powerful way for women to attract men.



Click on the image to watch the video

"This video uses amusing but informative graphics to explain how contraception negatively impacts male/female attractions. A great use of the new social media!" Smith noted.

My Catholic Faith Press is the publishing arm of MyCatholicFaith.org, a non-profit organization devoted to helping Catholics come alive in faith by encountering the truth and love of God revealed by Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Productions of My Catholic Faith Ministries are in

accord with the Magisterium of the Church and enacted with the permission and support of our Ordinary, the Archbishop of Seattle. .

Dr. Tom Curran, Executive Director
My Catholic Faith Ministries
Phone: 1-866-267-4113
director@MyCatholicFaith.org

My Catholic Faith Ministries
P.O. Box 24886
Federal Way, Washington 98093
888-765-9269

SAVE THE DATES! March 8-9, 2013



Join us as we welcome special guests

Mary Mirrione, National Director,
National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and
Linda Kaiel, National CGS Formation Leader, for the following events:

Friday, March 8 • 5 p.m. (Open to all)
Introduction to National and International CGS Work
St. Michael Parish, Olympia, WA

Saturday, March 9 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Formation Day for Regional CGS Catechists and Assistants
St. Patrick Parish, Tacoma, WA

Saturday, March 9 • 7 p.m. (Open to all)
Introduction to National and International CGS Work
St. Therese Parish, Seattle, WA

More details to follow. Please help support and spread the word about these events.
Contact Kim Ward at 253.383.2783 or kwad@saintpats.org
for more information or to volunteer.

Let the Word of God *Transform Your Parish*

Join Us for a Bible Study "Basic Training" Webinar and See How The Word of God Can Transform Your Parish

Have you ever wanted to start a Bible study program at your parish, but are not sure where to begin? Or have you begun a Bible study program in the past that "fizzled out" over time? If so, consider joining us for this live **Bible Study Basic Training Webinar**, and learn how to lead and facilitate a life-changing Bible study program at your parish.

WHEN: Saturday, February 2nd at 9:30am Eastern Time

[Register Today!](#)

The training begins with an inspirational talk by Thomas Smith. He explains why and how learning the "big picture" of God's plan in Scripture makes the Bible easier to read, understand, and apply to our lives.

Then you will be given step-by-step instructions on running a fruitful and life-changing Bible study at your parish, including: how to build a strong faith formation team, how to create a promotion plan, how to prepare a ministry budget, and more.



"With the suggestions from the Training and some inspiration from the Holy Spirit, we were able to get a number of people excited about Bible study, and now we are bursting at the seams with over a hundred participants!"

—Kelly R., Lombard, IL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Priests, Deacons, DREs, Catechists, Bible Study Leaders, Small Group Facilitators, and anyone involved in RCIA and Adult Faith Formation.

CONTACT:

Corinne Murphy
cmurphy@ascensionpress.com
or call 484-875-4550, ext. 209 [Click here to register.](#)

Click the Video to Learn More About A Quick Journey Through the Bible:



Help Us Get the Word Out

Please consider sharing this information with fellow Bible study enthusiasts:



[Email](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)

About the Presenters:



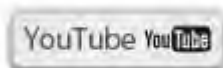
Thomas Smith was a Protestant minister before being received into the Catholic Church in 1996. He previously served as the director of the Denver Catholic Biblical School and the Denver Catechetical School. A repeat guest on EWTN and Catholic radio as well as a sought after parish mission and conference speaker, he is the co-author of *Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come*, a *Great Adventure* study.

[See a video clip of Thomas Smith.](#)



Corinne Murphy holds a business degree in marketing and minor in finance and has more than twenty-five years experience in business development. As a Bible study specialist, she trains and supports Bible study leaders across the country. She is a member of the adult faith formation committee in her parish, and leads a virtue-based program for daughters and mothers. She has led *Great Adventure* Bible studies since 2006 and is a regular volunteer in her community.

For more information on *A Quick Journey Through the Bible* or to receive a **no-risk review pack**, call **1-800-376-0520** [or Click here](#).



Do we have to use Year A for the scrutinies?

I hear that question every year we aren't in the Year A cycle of the Lectionary.

I can understand why some people have these questions. Yet I think the best way we can help the assembly—and their parish leaders—to grow in appreciation of these rites of initiation is to do the rites well and fully, consistently year after year.

[What does the Rite say? Let's take a look.](#)

RCIA resources for your team from TeamRCIA.com



Next Webinar:
Practical,
essential do's
and don'ts for the
scrutinies



Click here
for your
FREE PODCAST

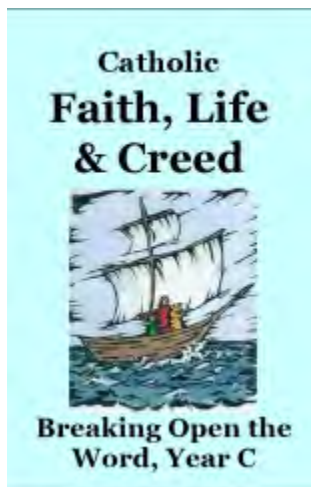
Episode 6:
Readings for the
RCIA scrutinies



Feb. 13 is Ash
Wednesday!



Planning Basics
for the Rite of
Sending and the



Powerful RCIA
dismissal
sessions
~~\$89.28~~ **\$71.42**



The Scrutinies:
An ongoing
process for
completing the

Rite of Election
(Rita Ferrone)

conversion of the
elect (Rita
Ferrone)

Contact TeamRCIA

Nick Wagner:
Nick@TeamRCIA.com

Diana Macalintal:
Diana@TeamRCIA.com

Images:
"ABC" courtesy of luigi diamanti |
FreeDigitalPhoto.net; "crazy loves crazy" by John
D. (Flickr);

***What you're saying about
TeamRCIA:***

"I have just listened to your
podcast, and I am writing to let
you know that your website and
what you do help me a great deal
in being connected and having a
place to go for information as an
RCIA director."

—Priscilla M.

Find more help and support at TeamRCIA.com

Pope Benedict's Prayer Intentions for February



GENERAL - Migrant Families. That migrant families, especially the mothers, may be supported and accompanied in their difficulties.

MISSIONARY - Peace. That the peoples at war and in conflict may lead the way in building a peaceful future.

Confirmation Prep Project



The Partnership on Adolescent Catechesis (PAC), through its National Initiative on Adolescent Catechesis

(NIAC), is proud to announce a partnership with Dr. Michael Carotta, in this Confirmation Prep Project. The project is designed to enhance the experience of Confirmation Prep in eight different ways.

To download a copy of the program flyer please click on [Confirmation PREP Project](#) (<http://tiny.cc/3t3erw>) or visit our website at <http://www.adolescentcatechesis.org/>.

All parishes will 1) "promote discipleship as the expectation for life after confirmation" as an enhancement and choose one or more of the following:

- 2) Recognize and describe the presence and effect of the Holy Spirit
- 3) Evaluate and own one's Catholic identity
- 4) Develop a Spiritual Growth Plan
- 5) Engage in challenging moral and theological reflection
- 6) Gain skills and knowledge to articulate the nature of one's faith, experiences of grace, and grasp of the Tradition
- 7) Complete formational exercises outside of Confirmation sessions
- 8) Experience the parish as a mentoring environment

Transforming Adolescent Catechesis



In order to chart a new course for adolescent catechesis, systemic change is required in the way we think about and engage in adolescent catechesis. Knowing this level of systemic transformation requires a long-term vision rather than a short-term program, the *Partnership on Adolescent Catechesis* (PAC) has carefully crafted a comprehensive process of transformation called the *National Initiative on Adolescent Catechesis* (NIAC). NIAC seeks to:

- create a new paradigm for how the Church forms the faith of young people for discipleship.

- assist parishes and schools across the country in assessing, re-thinking and changing their methods and structures in light of the Initiatives outcomes.

Transforming Adolescent Catechesis is a systematic process, rooted in the teachings of the church and sound research on change management, which seeks to foster effective adolescent catechesis in parishes and schools. To download a copy of the information flyer, go to [Transforming Adolescent Catechesis](http://tiny.cc/223erw) (<http://tiny.cc/223erw>) or visit our website at <http://www.adolescentcatechesis.org/>.

NPR Special Series: Losing Our Religion



From January 14 to January 18, NPR's *Morning Edition* took a long look at the growing number of people who say they do not identify with a religion. You can read a short synopsis on each of the topics at <http://www.npr.org/series/169065270/losing-our-religion>. The topics covered are:

- January 14 - [Losing Our Religion: The Growth Of The 'Nones'](#)
- January 15 - [More Young People Are Moving Away From Religion, But Why?](#)
- January 16 - [After Tragedy, Nonbelievers Find Other Ways To Cope](#)
- January 17 - [On Religion, Some Young People Show Both Doubt And Respect](#)
- January 17 - [Making Marriage Work When Only One Spouse Believes In God](#)
- January 18 - [As Social Issues Drive Young From Church, Leaders Try To Keep Them](#)

Pope Reassigns Responsibility For Seminaries, Religious Instruction



In an administrative move reaffirming his efforts to promote a Catholic revival in the West and greater adherence to traditional church teaching, Pope Benedict XVI has reassigned responsibility among Vatican offices for the religious education of laypeople and future priests. According to two papal decrees released by the Vatican Jan. 25, responsibility for seminaries has shifted from the Congregation for Catholic Education to the Congregation for Clergy, and **responsibility for catechesis has moved from the latter office to the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization**. The pope announced the changes in October, during the world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization, but did not sign the decrees putting them into effect until Jan. 16.

From the Archdiocese of Washington: "Caring for Creation" Calendar



The Archdiocese of Washington has published its annual ["Caring for Creation Calendar" for Lent 2013](http://site.adw.org/2013-lenten-calendar) (<http://site.adw.org/2013-lenten-calendar>). In an e-mail message to the Archdiocesan faithful, Charity and Justice director Tony Bosnick said:

Inspired by Pope Benedict XVI's teaching on Creation and the environment, the archdiocesan Care for Creation Committee offers you a new "Caring for Creation Calendar" for Lent 2013 in the Year of Faith. The calendar offers practical ways you can grow in your understanding of what it means to be a wise steward of God's Creation and to deepen your commitment to practices and attitudes, which promote care for Creation.

Consider giving copies of this Caring for Creation Calendar to others. The calendar is not meant just for those committed to the Church or to the environment. It is for all people who might want to learn more and who want practical tips to help them grow in stewardship of Creation. Most people are likely to be surprised and intrigued by the Church's teaching on Creation and the environment. It is likely to show them the beauty and wonder of the Church's concern for all things which are genuinely human (see Gaudium et Spes, 1).

FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, February 5, 2013



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 ***What Are You Craving in 2013? Five Ways to Restore Sanity and Serenity to Your Relationship with Food*** is offered on Tuesday, February 5 at 3:00 pm EST. You can register at [PDW-02.05.2013](http://tinyurl.com/b5wdvmy) (<http://tinyurl.com/b5wdvmy>).

Professional Development
WEBINAR
SERIES



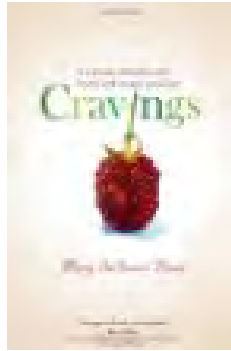
For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

What Are You Craving in 2013? Five Ways to Restore Sanity and Serenity to Your Relationship with Food with Mary DeTurris Poust.

Sign up today. Space is limited!



It's the start of a new year, a time when most of us reflect on our lives and set some goals. But are we approaching our resolutions from the wrong perspective? Maybe dropping ten pounds has less to do with the food we eat and more to do with the messages we play in our heads and the holes waiting to be filled in our hearts.



Based on her latest book from Ave Maria Press, [*Cravings: A Catholic Wrestles with Food, Self-Image, and God*](#), author Mary DeTurris Poust explores the undeniable connection between physical and spiritual nourishment. So often what feels like hunger for food is really a hunger for something much deeper, a craving for the kind of fullness that only God can provide. Food becomes a way to fill the voids, but it never truly satisfies. The result is an endless cycle of weight problems, eating issues, and untapped spiritual potential. Join Mary on a path toward wholeness, and discover a place of balance, peace, and self-acceptance. That's a resolution worth making!

US Bishops Encourage 'Gift of Forgiveness'



The U.S. bishops recently released a statement encouraging Catholics to go to confession, especially during the period of Lent, which will start shortly. The Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation was approved Nov. 13 by the bishops during their annual Fall General Assembly in Baltimore.

"Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Timothy Dolan have both stressed the importance of confession in strengthening our witness during the Year of Faith," said Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:19-23). "What an extraordinary gift!," the pastoral exhortation noted. "He wanted them to become apostles of this forgiveness to others."

"In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called confession, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him," the document continued. The bishops reminded Catholics that they are required to go to confession at least once a year. "The Church also encourages frequent confession in order to grow closer to Christ Jesus and his Body, the Church," they added.



"We bishops and priests are eager to help you if you experience difficulty, hesitation, or uncertainty about approaching the Lord in this sacrament. If you have not received this healing sacrament in a long time, we are ready to welcome you," the exhortation commented. "We pray that through the work of the Holy Spirit, all Catholics—clergy and laity—will respond to the call of the New Evangelization to encounter Christ in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation," the exhortation concluded. The full text of pastoral exhortation can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments/penance/upload/Penance-Statement-ENG.pdf>

Lent in a Year of Faith: How to Proclaim the Gospel with Power-February 12

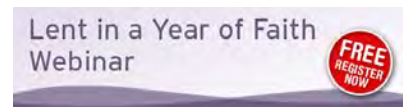
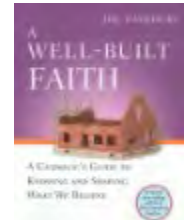
LOYOLA PRESS. | 100 Years of Service
A JESUIT MINISTRY

Loyola Press, A Jesuit Ministry, offers you A Webinar for the New Evangelization that will be facilitated by Joe Paprocki, DMin. Joe is an author, a speaker, and a catechist in the Archdiocese of Chicago with over 30 years of experience in pastoral ministry. Joe Paprocki, national consultant for faith formation at Loyola Press, has written numerous books, including the best-selling [The Catechist's Toolbox: How to Thrive as a Religious Education Teacher](#) and [A Well-Built Faith: A Catholic's Guide to Knowing and Sharing What We Believe](#). He is also the host of the blog [Catechist's Journey](#). This FREE webinar will be offered on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (CST).



Lent is a time for us to renew our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus and to proclaim the Good News to others. This experience is heightened by taking place during a Year of Faith. In this Webinar, Joe Paprocki, DMin, will identify the focus of Lent and how, during this Year of Faith, it presents us with a unique opportunity to learn how to proclaim the Gospel in such a way as to transform lives. **Joe will identify 9 key strategies for proclaiming the Gospel for the New**

Evangelization. You can register for this FREE webinar by going to [Lent with Joe Paprocki](http://tiny.cc/e9b4qw) (<http://tiny.cc/e9b4qw>).



Pope Urges Respect, Honest Dialogue In Social Media Networks Day Message

In his message for the 47th World Communications Day, Pope Benedict XVI continues a theme of offering encouragement for Catholics to engage in new media. Written to highlight the Catholic Church's 2013 World Communications Day, which will be celebrated on May 12 in the United States, the message is titled "Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization."



Social networks are the "new 'agora,'" the pope writes, "an open public square" where "new relationships and forms of community can come into being." As such, they offer new ways for Christians to introduce the faith to others, as long as they are savvy to the medium. "The digital environment is not a parallel or purely virtual world, but is part of the daily experience of many people, especially the young," said Pope Benedict. "Social networks are the result of human interaction, but for their part

they also reshape the dynamics of communication which builds relationships: a considered understanding of this environment is therefore the prerequisite for a significant presence there."

He encourages members of social media networks to consider using more than words in their interaction on the networks. "Effective communication, as in the parables of Jesus, must involve the imagination and the affectivity of those we wish to invite to an encounter with the mystery of God's love," he writes. He also cautions Christians not to get caught up in the rapid and sometimes volatile exchanges that happen within social media networks. "We are called to attentive discernment," he said, especially in digital networks, "where it is easy for heated and divisive voices to be raised and where sensationalism can at times prevail." The entire message is available on the Vatican website at

http://press.catholica.va/news_services/bulletin/news/30352.php?index=30352&po_date=24.01.2013&lang=en#.

Persecution Watch Yearly Report



The Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) this week issued its *Persecution Watch Yearly Report*. It catalogs anti-Christian violence and intimidation in India, for the most part fueled by Hindu radicalism. Their report focuses on evangelicals and Pentecostals and is thus not necessarily a comprehensive overview of the situation for all Christians.

EFI once again expressed alarm over "uninterrupted and increasing hostility against the Christian minority community." For 2012, the group recorded 131 acts of violence against Christians -- one attack every 2.7 days. Incidents included intimidation, harassment, false accusation, arrests and detention, vandalism and assault on churches, and direct physical attacks on individual believers.

2012

The report also notes that many acts of violence and intimidation go unreported, so 131 is almost certainly not a complete total. The full report can be found at <http://www.lapidomedia.com/sites/default/files/downloads/EFI-PersecutionWatchYrlyReport2012.pdf>.

Spiritual Needs Survey: You and Your Parish Are Invited to Participate



Leisa Anslinger (Ideation * Input * Futuristic * Connectedness * Arranger) along with Dobie Moser introduced us to the Engaged and Evangelizing Community with Living Your Strengths by Building Communities of Stewardship and Joy at our annual meeting in Dearborn, Michigan in 2009. Last year, Leisa worked with the DDRE Forum. Now she is about to undertake another project to meet people's spiritual needs. Lisa plans to weave what she learns from this survey into articles, like the ones she writes for *Catechetical Leader*, workshops and web postings. The survey will be open until March 17 and she plans to begin sharing the results after Easter. Read more about this project and how you



can participate. You can find all the information you need including the *Spiritual Needs Survey* at <http://catholiclifeandfaith.net/spiritual-needs-survey>.

Meeting people's spiritual needs is foundational to engaging them in deep and living faith. Yet, as I have talked with parish and diocesan leaders about this in the past few years, this seems a consistent challenge. We know, for instance, that the Mass and our sacramental life are vital to people's spiritual lives. We wonder, however, how to help them grow in appreciation of Christ's sacramental presence in their daily lives. There are many similar connections we think people may be missing, such as participation in faith formation or in service and outreach. All of these elements of our pastoral life are important, as people become more committed disciples, yet many seem to miss the connections. What are the best practices around all of this? How might we learn from each other?

My proposal: As I have thought about this with many pastors and pastoral staff members, I have come to the conclusion that we could all benefit from learning from our members and from each other. Author Al Winseman of the Gallup Organization suggests that we draw people together in focus groups to hear their spiritual needs and learn how we might best meet those needs within our parish communities. I propose that we do this as leaders together, through a survey that parish leaders may share with their members. The survey will ask people to identify the ways in which their spiritual needs are being met, and will give them an opportunity to share their hopes and dreams with us. Every parish that participates will receive a summary of its members' responses, and I will share the best practices and hopes with all at the conclusion of the survey process. You may *download a copy* of the survey via the link to the right.

Share the Survey: *The survey is available via the link to the right.* I invite you to take the survey now, and to share the link with your parishioners through your bulletin or email. You may also give those who do not have internet access the printed survey. I believe we have much to learn from each other, and hope that you will take this opportunity to contribute to the on-going process of building a more engaging Church! The survey is offered in English and Spanish.

If you would like your parish to participate in this spiritual needs survey between now and March 17, *designate a contact person* for your parish. Submit his or her name and email address. If you designate a contact person, I will be able to report back to them a summary of your parishioners' responses.

Spanking Increases Aggression in Children

This is valuable information that you may wish to share at parent meetings as well as during baptismal preparation. Spanking children makes them more aggressive. So says new research out this month by researchers Elizabeth Gershoff (author of [*Understanding Mother-Adolescent Conflict Discussions: Concurrent and Across-Time Predictors From Youth's Dispositions and Parenting*](#)) and Inna Altschul (author of [*Parental involvement and the academic achievement of Mexican American youths*](#)). In a large study of thousands of mothers and children, they gathered information regarding incidence of spanking at age 1, 3 and 5 and children's levels of aggression. Children who were spanked by mothers, as early as 1 year of age, were more aggressive by age 3. Spanking anytime during early childhood, was correlated with aggressive behavior. Levels of maternal warmth otherwise, had no moderating effect. So even warm, caring mothers who spank will see more aggression in their children. [Full Citation at Brains.org Website.](#)



Workers' Rights, Social Justice and the Catholic Church



Whether you support unions or not, is not the critical issue. It is interesting to note that the news reports this week indicated that membership in unions is at the lowest it has been in a long time. A Catholic colleague this week introduced me to Fr. Cletus Kiley who gave the invocation at the 2011 conference of the Sheet Metal Workers In America (SMWIA). Watch and listen to his passionate appeal to workers' rights and social justice at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-VIUIYPqA>.

A Call for a New Social Covenant



Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourner* magazine, writes that “In the past 20 years, the world has witnessed the death of social contracts. We have seen a massive *breakdown in trust* between citizens, their economies, and their governments. In our own country, we can point to years of data painting a bleak picture of the confidence Americans have in any of our traditional institutions.” This is also evident in our own field of ministry as most parish catechetical leaders find themselves as at-will employees without a contract.

At a Saturday session “The Moral Economy: From Social Contract to Social Covenant” at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a document will kick off a year-long global conversation about a new “social covenant” between citizens, governments, and businesses. Wallis writes that “This is really “a call” for worldwide discussion about what *values* are needed to address the many difficult challenges and choices the world is now facing. Inequality, austerity, retrenchment, constraints, mal-distribution, growing conflicts over resources, and extreme poverty all raise questions about our values.”

The introduction to the [covenant](#) says:

The choices made about each issue are determined by the values we hold—the values applied by government, business, civil society, and individuals. Those choices need to be self-conscious—not based on the inertia of accumulated interests. This is not merely a philosophical enterprise; it is an urgent matter that requires moral courage. The stakes are high.

While the social covenant call acknowledges the great diversity of global values, it puts forward three that express a consensus across cultures and religions. They are:

- 1) the *dignity of the human person*,
- 2) the importance of *the common good*, which transcends individual interests, and
- 3) the need for *stewardship* of the planet and posterity.

“Together these offer a powerful unifying ideal: Valued individuals, committed to one another, and respectful of future generations.”

Wallis suggests that “Such a covenant promotes human flourishing, happiness, and well-being as social goals, and it elevates the movement from a shareholder model to a *stakeholder* model of corporate governance. Such new social covenants are already being discussed in a variety of settings and countries. The discussion itself will help produce the conversation leading to the results that we need.”

What better conversation could we have for the common good? You can read this entire article at http://go.sojo.net/site/MessageViewer?em_id=24541.0&dlv_id=28221. Jim Wallis had the opportunity to co-author this new social covenant and help lead the Global Action Council on Values, which issued this new call and document. You are invited to [read the New Social Covenant](#) (http://sojo.net/sites/default/files/file_attach/NewSocialCovenant.pdf).

Vatican TED Conference to Consider Global Restrictions on Religion



On April 19, 2013, TEDx – the cutting-edge technology, entertainment and design conference – is coming to the Vatican. The topic of the TEDx conference is "Religious Freedom Today." For more than half a century, the United Nations and numerous international organizations have affirmed the principle of religious freedom. For just as many decades, journalists and human rights groups have reported on persecution of minority faiths, outbreaks of sectarian violence and other pressures on religious individuals and communities in many countries. But until recently, it was difficult to measure levels of religious freedom and religious hostilities in a way that was comparable across all countries.

However, beginning in the year ending in mid-2007, the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life has annually counted and categorized reports of government restrictions on religion and social hostilities involving religion from an extensive number of publicly available sources. According to the Pew Forum study, restrictions on religion have been on the

rise across the world. The share of countries with high or very high restrictions on religious beliefs and practices rose from 29% in the year ending in mid-2007 to 37% in the year ending in mid-2010. Because some of the most restrictive countries are very populous, 75% of the world's approximately 7 billion people live in countries with high government restrictions on religion or high social hostilities involving religion, up from 68% three years earlier.

The Pew Forum's study on religious restrictions scores 197 countries and territories on two indexes:

- The Government Restrictions Index (GRI) measures government laws, policies and actions that restrict religious beliefs or practices. The GRI is comprised of 20 measures of restrictions, including efforts by governments to ban particular faiths, prohibit conversions, limit preaching or give preferential treatment to one or more religious groups.
- The Social Hostilities Index (SHI) measures acts of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations and social groups. This includes mob or sectarian violence, harassment over attire for religious reasons and other religion-related intimidation or abuse. The SHI includes 13 measures of social hostilities.

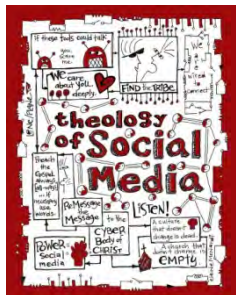
Tune in or come join Dr. Brian J. Grim, Senior Researcher and Director of Cross-National Data at the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, at the TEDx conference on April 19 (<http://www.ted.com/tedx/events/5259>) and get the Pew Forum's latest information on religious restrictions and hostilities affecting the world today. Report Link: <http://www.pewforum.org/Government/Rising-Tide-of-Restrictions-on-Religion.aspx>.



Theology of Social Media

This is a wonderful e-book by Elaine Menardi. It's a FREE eBook to help Catholic ministers explore these questions:

- *How do we get people to care about God?*
- *How do we get them to come back to church?*



Elaine asks: *Why should we use social media to connect with people and get them excited about faith?* Here is what she writes: "We have to reach out to people one by one just like Jesus did and build the relationships. Relationships are key. Social media helps us connect. It's an effective and easy way for us to reach into people's lives to hear about what they experience daily. More importantly, social media is where people of all ages hang out these days." Want to learn more? Go to <http://laneplane.com/> and sign up and you will get the eBook FREE.



Two Brothers Who Can Teach Us (and LeBron James) the Meaning of Love



This inspiring story about the love of two brothers had NBA superstar LeBron James on the verge of tears, as you'll see in the video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_Lax4zFFoA&feature=player_embedded). Very emotional and so good in so many ways. I have written about these two brothers in a previous issue but since then Conner and Cayden who make up Team Long Brothers, were recently named *Sports Illustrated's* 2012 SportsKids of the Year. Cayden, 5, is diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy and can't speak or walk on his own. But, in the summer of 2011, Conner, who was seven at the time, decided to compete in the Nashville Kids Triathlon, pulling his younger brother behind him.

They finished together, in last place, but in the process became role models of what is possible and the power of love. When I think about this family, I think of [Andrew Solomon's phrase of "horizontal identities"](#) and what we would miss as people and a community if we didn't encounter these special people in our daily lives. It's Conner who says it best:

The one thing that makes me really made is when people walk down the road and say... the 'r' word, if you know what that is. I just tell them that like it doesn't matter what it looks like on the outside, it matters what's on the inside. He still has regular feelings like we do. And he understands what you say about him.

If people could race with people that can't walk or talk or can have any kind of autism, it might open eyes of people that don't really care about it. And, maybe, the people that don't care in the past will care in the future and actually do it with somebody.



Video That Will Change Your Life. I Have No Words Left



This is a great video is of hope, inspiration, giving, helping each other, the kindness of humankind, and it's just plain BEAUTIFUL! This is a living example of the prayer of Saint Francis and proof that kindness begets more kindness. It is the best 4 ½ minutes I have seen in a long time. If you give a little love, you get a little love for you. Go to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HB12TVtI>

Miss Connie's Last Day



This is another short film (5:20 min) from *Spirit Clips*. Whether you're raising a child, nurturing a community, or helping a mentee realize his dream, mothering requires kindness and compassion, an investment in someone other than yourself. This film is about a retiring preschool teacher who receives a surprise from her students. Watch it at

http://www.hallmarkspiritclips.com/films/missconnie?utm_source=012713ffree&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=missconnie.

"A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops." - Henry Adams



Rev. Lillian Daniel on “Spiritual But Not Religious”



In her new book *When “Spiritual But Not Religious” Is Not Enough*, this Congregational minister, Rev. Lillian Daniel, takes aim at critics who she says paint religion with too broad a brush and whose spirituality she describes as "make-it-up-yourself." Interviewed on *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, Daniel recommends instead a mature religious faith that is "practiced in community over time, grounded in tradition and centered in worship.

Daniel can be quite strong when addressing the writers and others who, she says, have blamed the church for many of the world's biggest problems. She ridicules people she says try to make up their own God and their own forms of worship. You catch a glimpse of her style as evidenced in this comment.



Often some shallow combination of exercise and caffeine, coffee shops as spiritual community, hikes as pilgrimages, *The New York Times* as sacred text, and sunsets—don't ever forget the sunsets. These people are always informing you that they find God in the sunsets. Well, excuse me, as if people who go to church didn't see God in a sunset. You know, my take is that any idiot can find God in the sunset. What is remarkable is finding God in the context of flawed human community, and a tradition bigger than you are with people who may not reflect God back to you in your own image.



Part of the nature of religion, so much beat up on in our society, part of the nature of religion is that it delivers a message that is like sandpaper against the culture of narcissism. It is not all about you and, no, you cannot make it up. The beauty of a long tradition is that it is bigger than anything we can do by ourselves.

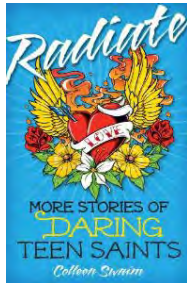
You can read/listen to the interview at [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](http://tiny.cc/oc2irw) (<http://tiny.cc/oc2irw>). The following excerpt is from [*When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church*](#). You can order by clicking on the title or the book itself.

I'm not against gratitude, any more than I am against finding God in a sunset or a child's eyes. Those are all good things, along with puppies, rainbows, great vacations, and birthdays. But here's the thing—none of that constitutes a religion, and I actually believe, contrary to popular wisdom, that in an age of spiritual people who are not religious, we need religion, and its dearest expression to this particular religious Christian person, the church.

I remember a family new to our church, whose grade-school-age kids had only a year of Sunday school under their belts. In the middle of what was his second Christmas pageant rehearsal ever, the little boy cried out in total exasperation, "Do you mean to tell me that we are doing exactly the same story we did last year?"

Today that youngster is grown up and has been blessed by the repetition that gives his chaotic days meaning. In a world that demands that everything be a one-time-only original production, the church remains a place to remember that there is a someone much better than we are at original creations.

[**RADIATE: More Stories of Daring Teen Saints**](#)



This is the second book by Colleen Swain on teen saints and I wish I had seen this last week because it begins with Saint Agnes whose feast day was a week ago on Monday. Like [*Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints*](#), her first book, Colleen again introduces us to some young people one cannot help but admire. In this day and age when we look for heroes, this book offers us examples of people, who in their youth, exhibit a strong sense of faith and commitment. Each of the ten stories also makes a catechetical connection. If interested, you can order [*Radiate: More Stories of Daring Teen Saints*](#).

Anima Christi: A Mystical Prayer



This past week Friar Jack Wintz, OFM, in his *Friar Jack's E-spirations*, wrote about a “prayer touches us on a profound level. The words are most sacred and, with the Spirit’s help, they can lead us into an immediate union with Christ.”

The *Anima Christi* (*Soul of Christ*) has been attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), but historians say that the prayer predates Ignatius by as much as a century-and-a-half. Also, a long tradition tells us that it was a favorite prayer of his. In many cases, in fact, it served as the opening prayer of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius.



Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds, hide me.
Let me never be separated from you.
From the malignant enemy, defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me,
And bid me come to you,
That with your saints I may praise you
Forever and ever. Amen.