

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we move deeper into our Lenten journey, our prayers continue for the upcoming papal election. There are many websites featuring information on this topic. In particular, you might want to check out our Archdiocesan homepage: <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org>, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: <http://www.usccb.org> and/or review the resources from our previous February 19th newsletter that is archived at: <http://www.ocsw.org/site/content.php?r=2084-Religious-Education-Newsletter>.

March is also a month for increasing awareness about developmental and intellectual disabilities. This newsletter contains several articles on this topic and I would also like to remind you about the upcoming Mass for Special Needs Families that Archbishop Sartain will be celebrating on March 23rd at 11 a.m. in St. James Cathedral. For more information visit the Archdiocese of Seattle's home webpage and http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/PastoralCare/3534_SpecialneedsMassflyer1.pdf for a copy of the Mass invitation you can share with families in our parishes and schools.

A new series of high school courses on the meaning and dignity of human life has just been published. Camille Pauley and Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ have launched ***Principles and Choices***, which offers older adolescents compelling reasons to support our Catholic teachings on respect of life. For more information and visit their website: <http://www.principlesandchoices.com/our-books/>.

RCL has a new Religious Education series for elementary students. Please check out the information in this newsletter about *Be My Disciples*.

In Christ,

Anne

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

Archdiocesan website for the *Year of Faith*:

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof

From the Missions Office...

In this Year of Faith, consider using the [JustFaith Ministries'](#) Year of Faith Monthly Resource:

Connect formation and discipleship to your parish's Year of Faith study and activities by downloading JustFaith Ministries free monthly resource. March's resource, *Rediscovering Joy*, highlights the toils of life as we make our way through this world, learning lessons about what it means to live faithfully in the wilderness of our times. It also includes

- Scripture for Pondering
- Prayer Resources
- Year of Faith Actions for March
- Quotes of Note

Sign up here (did we mention it's free?!): <http://www.justfaith.org/YOFDRE/>



TRADITION • INNOVATION • EXPERIENCE • SERVICE

Greetings from RCL Benziger,

Our exciting new **Be My Disciples** school E Book samples are now available.

This series will be available in scalable E Book format as well as in hard copy format.

Please use the links to preview this amazing new series, where students are invited to encounter Jesus just as the early disciples did, to "Come and See."

Be My Disciples incorporates the latest in brain research, while helping students live out our Catholic faith through Disciple Power, and by making a specific faith decision each week to follow Jesus.

Parents are actively engaged as partners in the faith sharing process, and music by Steve Angrisano, as well as a treasure chest of activities, in the books and on our web site, will keep the students and families involved.

The easy to use Teacher Guides help teachers prepare exciting, innovative lessons, and the *Before Moving On* reflection at the end of each lesson, with questions such as "*Which student in my class needs more praise?*" or "*What can I do to make sure everyone is involved in class activities?*" will help teachers each week to become more effective educators.

Please distribute the links to your teachers, so they can preview the books for their specific grade level, and let me know what they think of this new series.

I would be happy to come and give a presentation to you and your faculty, and to provide a price quote.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue

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TRADITION • INNOVATION • EXPERIENCE • SERVICE

GRADE 1

Be My Disciples SE Gr 1

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20761_se_g1_marketing_lr1?mode=window

Be My Disciples TE Gr 1

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20771_te_g1_marketing_lr12?mode=window

GRADE 2

Be My Disciples SE Gr 2

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20762_se_g2_marketing?mode=window

Be My Disciples TE Gr 2

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20772_te_g2_marketing_o?mode=window

GRADE 3

Be My Disciples SE Gr 3

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20763_se_g3_marketing_lr1?mode=window

Be My Disciples TE Gr 3

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20773_te_g3_marketing?mode=window

GRADE 4

Be My Disciples SE Gr 4

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20764_se_g4_marketing?mode=window

Be My Disciples TE Gr 4

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20774_te_g4_marketing_opt_f?mode=window

GRADE 5

Be My Disciples SE Gr 5

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20765_se_g5_marketing_lr1?mode=window

Be My Disciples TE Gr 5

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20775_te_g5_marketing?mode=window

GRADE 6

Be My Disciples SE Gr 6

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20766_se_g6_marketing?mode=window

Be My Disciples TE Gr 6

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20776_te_g6_marketing?mode=window

JR High

BMD Jr High SE Life in Christ

Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20788_lifeinchrist_se_marketing?mode=window

BMD Jr High TE Life in Christ

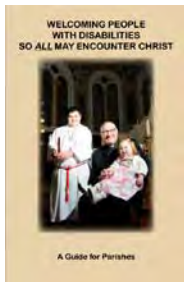
Link: http://issuu.com/rclbenziger/docs/20796_lifeinchrist_te_marketing?mode=window

MARCH: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and Brain Injury Awareness Month



In an NPCD national survey on *The State of Ministry for those with Autism and their Families*, the biggest need that the nearly 500 responding parishes identified was for parish awareness of disability! Don't underestimate the impact your efforts for awareness can have. It can be one of the simplest yet most impacting things you do in your ministry. For more information and ideas, go to <http://www.ncpd.org/node/1288>.

Welcoming People with Disabilities So All May Encounter Christ



The Diocese of Harrisburg is pleased to announce the publication of a guide for parishes, “Welcoming People with Disabilities So All May Encounter Christ”. The guide provides practical information to assist parishes in welcoming and inclusion of persons with disabilities and was written by persons with disabilities and their family members. The guide is available at www.hbgdiocese.org/disabilitiesguide and www.hbgdiocese.org/disabilitiesguide-spanish.

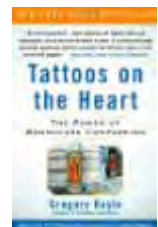
Father Greg Boyle on the Calling of Delight: Gangs, Service, Kinship



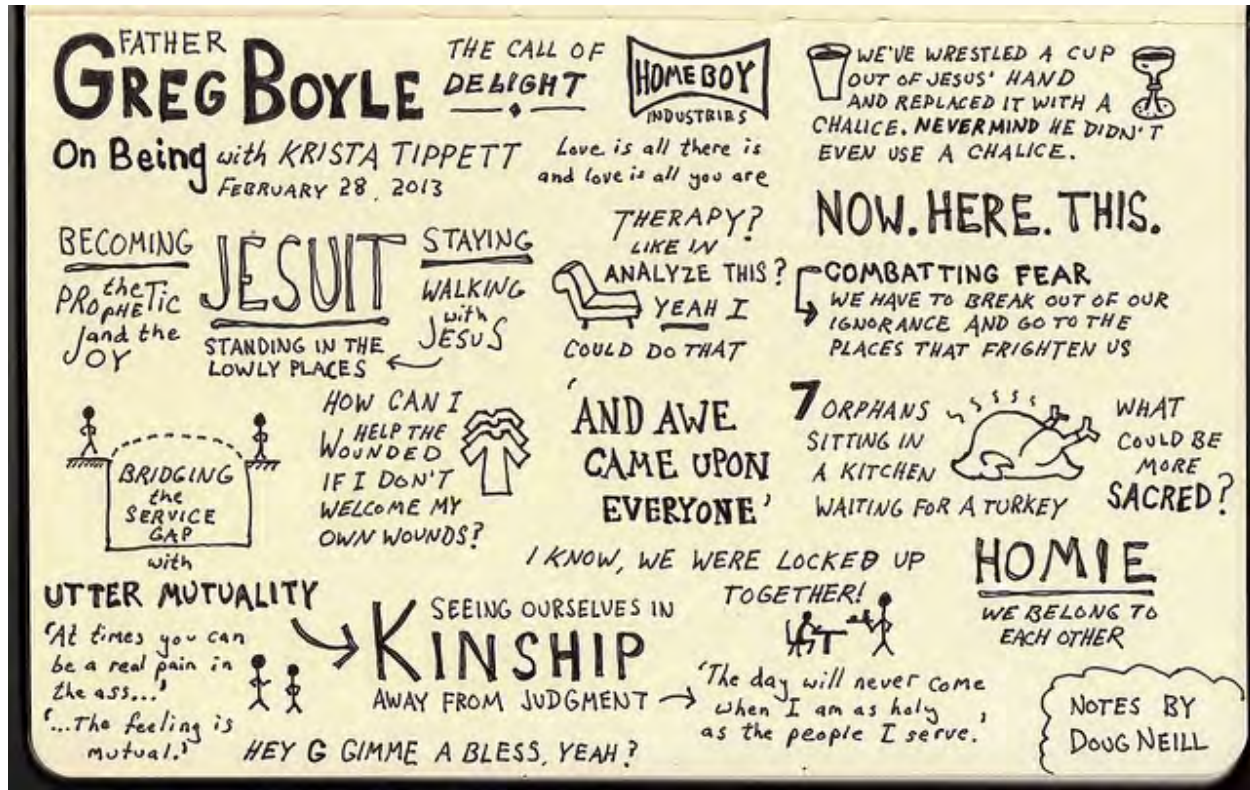
This week's program *On Being* with Krista Tippett features an interview with a Jesuit priest famous for his gang intervention programs in Los Angeles. Fr. Greg Boyle makes winsome connections between service and delight, and compassion and awe. He heads Homeboy Industries, which employs former gang members in a constellation of businesses. This is not work of helping, he says, but of finding kinship. The point of Christian service, as he lives it, is about “our common calling to delight in one another.” Listen to the program at

<http://www.onbeing.org/>. You can purchase Father Boyle's book, [*Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*](#).

Trent Gilliss, senior editor of *On Being*, wrote these comments on his blog.



A priest well-known in certain circles for his gang intervention programs in Los Angeles, [Fr. Boyle talks about things like kinship and service](#) in the fullest sense — that we are all brothers and sisters who teach and learn from each other. As a Christian, he says the point of service is about finding kinship and “our common calling to delight in one another.” [Doug Neill's](#) sketchnotes pick up on this idea in our podcast of ["The Calling of Delight"](#): *"The day will never come when I am as holy as the people I serve."*



Sit down with these sketchnotes while listening to this show. See what you hear differently as you peruse these visual notes.

Christian Leaders Urge Protection of Poor People As Sequestration Begins



A Circle of Protection:

A Statement on Why We Need to
Protect Programs for the Poor

Nearly 100 national Christian leaders released a letter February 25, to President Obama and the leaders of Congress "affirming the government's responsibility concerning poor people." The letter further stated "Assuring government's obligation to advance the common good, ensure fairness, and defend the most vulnerable is good religion and good politics." The letter was sent on behalf of the ecumenical "Circle of Protection" coalition.

"We appreciate that President Obama has kept his promise to the Circle of Protection to protect the poor, and that Republicans and Democrats agreed to shield many core programs benefiting people living in or near poverty from the sequestration cuts," wrote the leaders. "The focus of our nation's budget negotiations should not be about which politicians win or lose, but about whether our budget decisions reflect our values. We will ask our churches to pray as you continue to work together on the budget."

Signers of the letter included representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), National Association of Evangelicals, Bread for the World, the United Church of Christ, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Reformed Church, the Wesleyan Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church and several Orthodox Churches. More information is available online: www.circleofprotection.us.

Benedict XVI to be Known as Emeritus in Retirement



Pope Benedict XVI will keep the name Benedict XVI and become the Roman pontiff emeritus or pope emeritus, the Vatican announced on Tuesday, putting an end to days of speculation on how the pope will be addressed once he ceases to be the leader of the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics on Thursday.

Benedict, the first pope to resign voluntarily in six centuries, will dress in a simple white cassock, forgoing the mozzetta, the elbow-length cape worn by some Catholic clergymen, the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, told reporters at a news briefing. And he will no longer wear the red shoes typically worn by popes, symbolizing the blood of the martyrs, Father Lombardi said, opting instead for a more quotidian brown. "Mexicans will be happy to know that the pope very much appreciated the shoes" he received as a gift last year in León, Mexico, he added. "He finds them very comfortable."

Father Lombardi said the pope had decided on his couture in consultation with other Vatican officials. Benedict will also stop using the so-called fisherman's ring to seal documents. It will be destroyed by the cardinal camerlengo, the acting head of state of Vatican City during the "sede vacante," the canon law term used when the papacy is vacant.

U.S. Catholics: Key Data from Pew Research

PewResearchCenter In the coming weeks, approximately 115 cardinals, including 11 from the United States, will gather to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI. How do U.S. Catholics view the church, and what do they want from the next pope? Here are some of the Pew Research Center's key findings about the U.S. Catholic

population on these and other questions. Go to <http://www.pewresearch.org/2013/02/25/u-s-catholics-key-data-from-pew-research/>.

March for Marriage



WASHINGTON D.C.

These are excerpts from a letter from Bishop Kevin Rhoades and Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone to all bishops in support of the *March for Marriage* in Washington, DC on March 26. Information about the march has appeared in a previous issue of *CL Weekly*. With the direction of your bishop and diocesan offices, your promotion and encouragement for events that build a culture of marriage and the family is most appreciated.

As you may be aware, several organizations have come together to sponsor a **March for Marriage** which is scheduled to be held on **March 26, 2013** in Washington, D.C. This event is being planned strategically for the first day when the U. S. Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments on the cases that could determine the future of marriage, as the union of one man and one woman, in our nation.

We are grateful for this opportunity to express support for the Marriage March and to encourage participation in this event. We realize that the march will occur during the solemn days of Holy Week, but we ask that you consider promoting this event in your diocese and parishes and encourage participation where possible.

The march will be a significant opportunity to promote and defend marriage and the good of our nation, to pray for our Supreme Court justices, and to stand in solidarity with people of good will. It also complements well the bishops' Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty that was approved last November (www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty). This is a decisive time for marriage in our country. We are deeply grateful for any support you can offer for this march.

The websites promoting this event are available at <http://www.marriagemarch.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/MarchForMarriage>. As we understand, more detailed information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks, and updates will be posted on the websites. The Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth will be promoting this event through the website and social media.



None of the Above: The Rise of the Religiously Unaffiliated. Who Are They? - “Religion is important. Being spiritual is important. What’s not as important is to join and to go every week,” says Kellen McClure, one of the fast-rising number of Americans who describe their religion as “nothing in particular” or “none of the above” when surveyed by opinion researchers. Watch the first of our three-part series on the rise of the religiously unaffiliated and who they are



(<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/october-12-2012/none-of-the-above-who-are-they/13386/>). Originally broadcast October 12, 2012. Watch an extended interview about the "nones" with Greg Smith, senior researcher at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/by-date/october-12-2012-greg-smith-extended-interview/13445/>) .



Walking the Country as a Spiritual Quest



This is an interesting piece that offers another insight into those who speak about being spiritual but not necessarily religious. Here are the opening paragraphs of this article. If you find them interesting, you can read the full article at http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/03/sunday-review/walking-the-land-as-a-spiritual-quest.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130303.

Ken Iglunas, who is 29 years old, arrived at the Gulf Coast town of Port Arthur, Tex., last month after hiking 1,700 miles from Alberta, Canada, crossing through the American heartland. On his arrival, he met a big-hearted Texan who knew of him from reading his blog and generously offered him dinner at his home and a place to stay for the night. “To walk across this country is to fall in love with mankind,” Mr. Iglunas said.

He’s one of a growing number of pilgrims who are lacing up boots and sneakers to walk across America. While their treks may not have the religious underpinnings of pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, Mecca, Jerusalem or the current Kumbh Mela gathering in India, which ends on March 10, they are nevertheless acts of faith and quests for existential meaning.

FREE Professional Development Webinar—Tuesday, March 19, 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 ***Rebuilt: Introducing Positive Change into Your Parish***, is offered on Tuesday, March 9 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at [PDW-03.19.2013 \(http://tinyurl.com/a9gdrb5\)](http://tinyurl.com/a9gdrb5). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

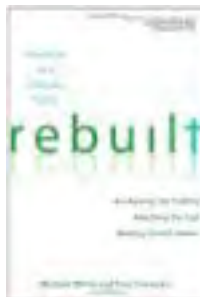
Professional Development
WEBINAR
SERIES



Wednesday, March 20, 2013 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

SIGN UP!

Many parishes are struggling to maintain membership, regain relevance, and grow momentum. Numbers are declining and the influence the Church has on the people in the pews is declining as well. In this webinar, Father Michael White and Tom Corcoran, pastor and pastoral associate of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland and authors of the new book,



Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter, share their experience of frustration with the decline of the Church's influence in their parish and what they did to change consumer Catholics into contributing ones.

In this webinar, you will learn three simple steps you can take to help transform your parish from a church with a consumer focus to one that reaches out to the community and grows disciples within.

Steps to Take:

1. Change your focus to who is not in the pews.
2. Define the "Lost" Person in your area
3. Challenge "Church People" to make the Church accessible to the lost.

The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Symposium-Report Five (5)



This is the fifth week that I am going to address the special report entitled *The Role and Reality of Parish Business Managers and Parish Finance Council Members*. Recommendations for parish Business Managers included the following two items:

- Certification of parish business managers, similar to the certification of parochial school principals, should be enacted in each diocese. This will include requirements for continuing education.
- Dioceses should afford parish business managers the opportunity for spiritual formation (e.g., retreats) and networking with other parish business managers.

Recommendations for Parish Finance Councils included:

- Accessible and flexible programs, using distance learning platforms, should be developed to educate finance council members on the basic functional areas over which they will offer consultation and provide oversight. These need to be tailored to meet the time constraints of busy professionals
- Dioceses need to provide training on diocesan-specific policies, again in an accessible and flexible format that respects the time constraints faced by many finance council members
- Opportunities for spiritual renewal and formation should be made available to finance council members on a regular basis.

Finally, the issue of parish accountability and transparency will take on greater importance in the parish of the future. To meet these challenges, the following are recommended

- Parishioners should be provided the opportunity to view and comment on the parish budget while it is still in its draft form and before it is finalized, with the understanding that the final say belongs to the pastor
- Routine parish financial statements, such as a comparison between budgeted and actual expenditures and revenues, should be made available to all parishioners on a regular, preferably quarterly, basis.

You can read the full 70 page report at [The Role and Reality of Parish Business Managers and Parish Finance Council Members](http://tiny.cc/pfvdtw) (<http://tiny.cc/pfvdtw>)

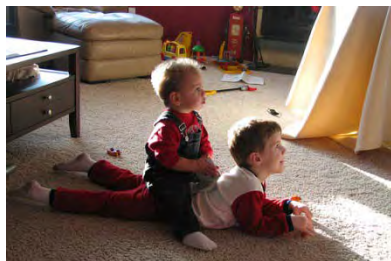
Sum of Their Parts



NCPD Board Chair Emeritus, Stephen Mikochik pens a criticism of the drafted organ donation policy and the procedure by which it came about. Read this article in the new forum by Human Life International, *Truth and Charity*. Click here for the article.

<http://www.truthandcharityforum.org/the-sum-of-their-parts/>

What TV kids watch can be as important as *how much*



Those of you who attended the 2006 NCCL Conference in Chicago may well remember the presentation by Dr. David Walsh on the effects of television on children's behavior. We watched a film clip of pre-school students and their behavior after watching *Ninja Turtles* and after watching *Barney*. This article affirms what we saw. Here are some of the opening lines.

In one of the largest studies yet to examine how TV affects children's development, researchers report that six months after families reduced 3- to 5-year-olds' exposure to aggressive or violent shows and increased enriching and educational TV, kids demonstrated significantly improved behavior compared with those whose media diet was unchanged.

Improvements (less aggression, more empathy and helpfulness) persisted at 12 months, says the study of 565 families, in today's *Pediatrics*.

You can read the complete column at http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/LIFE/usaedition/2013-02-18-Modifying-what-kids-watch-on-TV-can-improve-behavior_ST_U.htm. A full text of the *Pediatrics* article can be downloaded at

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/3/431.full.pdf+html>. The National Institute on Media and the Family, founded by Dr. Walsh, closed down at the end of 2009. All of NIMF's award-winning programs, including *Say Yes to No*, *Switch*, *through-U*, and *MediaWise.org* are available through *Search Institute*, where they will live on and continue helping families make positive, values-based decisions about technology and media (<http://www.search-institute.org/nimf>).



Be Not Afraid (BNA) North Carolina Program Director Tracy Winsor



The following piece was found in the March issue of the *NCPD E-News*. Here is a link for a great article published this month in the Diocese of Raleigh magazine. Featuring two Be Not Afraid (BNA) families, this article provides insight on the experience of parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis as well as the scope of

[READ MORE](#)



support offered by peer services like BNA. The story begins on page 16. Feature stories such as this one can play an important role both in recruiting potential peer ministers and in generating parent referrals.

The Kindness of Beasts



This is an interesting article on morality and one that animal lovers will relish. It is published in *Aeon*, a new digital magazine of ideas and culture, publishing an original essay every weekday. The 3700 word article by Mark Rowlands suggests that “humans have no monopoly on moral behaviour.” You can read the article at

<http://www.aeonmagazine.com/being-human/mark-rowlands-animal-morality/>. Here are his opening paragraphs:

When I became a father for the first time, at the ripe old age of 44, various historical contingencies saw to it that my nascent son would be sharing his home with two senescent canines. There was Nina, an endearing though occasionally ferocious German shepherd/Malamute cross. And there was Tess, a wolf-dog mix who, though gentle, had some rather highly developed predatory instincts. So, I was a little concerned about how the co-sharing arrangements were going to work. As things turned out, I needn't have worried.

During the year or so that their old lives overlapped with that of my son, I was alternately touched, shocked, amazed, and dumbfounded by the kindness and patience they exhibited towards him. They would follow him from room to room, everywhere he went in the house, and lie down next to him while he slept. Crawled on, dribbled on, kicked, elbowed and kneed: these occurrences were all treated with a resigned fatalism. The fingers in the eye they received on a daily basis would be shrugged off with an almost Zen-like calm. In many respects, they were better parents than me. If my son so much as squeaked during the night, I would instantly feel two cold noses pressed in my face: get up, you negligent father — your son needs you.

Kindness and patience seem to have a clear moral dimension. They are forms of what we might call ‘concern’ — emotional states that have as their focus the wellbeing of another

— and concern for the welfare of others lies at the heart of morality. If Nina and Tess were concerned for the welfare of my son then, perhaps, they were acting morally: their behaviour had, at least in part, a moral motivation. And so, in those foggy, sleepless nights of early fatherhood, a puzzle was born inside of me, one that has been gnawing away at me ever since. If there is one thing on which most philosophers and scientists have always been in agreement it is the subject of human moral exceptionalism: humans, and humans alone, are capable of acting morally.

The Bible Series is HERE - 3.3.13!



The American Bible Society has entered the promotion for *The Bible* and has suggested a host of actions you might take. Start by watching it yourself. The epic miniseries *The Bible* premieres **8-10 pm March 3, 2013** on History Channel,

and continues for 2 hours on each Sunday night in March. Producers Roma Downey (star of *Touched By An Angel*) and Mark Burnett (producer of *The Voice*, *The Apprentice* and *Survivor*) make the Scriptures come alive for a whole new generation. Breathtaking in scope and scale, and endorsed by major faith leaders, *The Bible* features powerful performances, exotic locales and dazzling visual effects that breathe spectacular life into the dramatic tales of faith and courage from Genesis through Revelation. Visit www.BibleSeriesResources.com for free Bible images, movie clips, and resources.



April: Autism Awareness Month in Parishes & Dioceses



This link catholicswithautism.org leads to many resources for pastoral and catechetical staffs. Most resources can also be used to support those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We are grateful to NCPD and their March E-News for sharing this information.

Students Stand Up for Mental Health



Adolescence is hard enough without the extra challenges of depression and anxiety. Often a simple act of reaching out to show you understand can give someone hope. This amazing short film shows the powerful effects that can occur when students, parents and administration step up and stand up for those who need an extra boost. Check it out at

<http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=3535>.

An Astounding Act of High School Sportsmanship



A special needs student from a Texas high school, Mitchell Marcus, scored a basket in the final game of the season after a player from the opposing team gave up the ball. Mitchell is the team manager for the Coronado Thunderbirds and an avid basketball fan. So with 90 seconds left in the last game of the season, Coach Peter Morales put Marcus into the game. "Mitchell's a great shot," his mother Amy said. "He took his first shot and missed. It hit the rim. You just hear the whole crowd sighing. It went out of bounds and Franklin got it. We all knew that he wasn't going to have his chance." Then, Jonathon Montanez, a senior at rival Franklin High School and a member of the opposing team, down by 10 points, tossed Marcus the ball. Read the full story and watch the video at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/26/mitchell-marcus-special-needs-teen-basketball-game_n_2766354.html?utm_hp_ref=good-news.

Bullying: To This Day Project - Shane Koyczan



Shane Koyczan "To This Day" <http://www.tothisdayproject.com>. Help this message have a far reaching and long lasting effect in confronting bullying. Please share generously. Shane sends out one new poem each month via email. You might like to join. <http://www.shanekoyczan.com>.

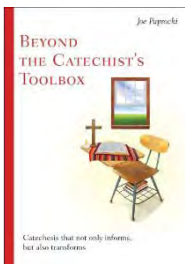


What Would You Do? Helping the Homeless



An actor is staged as a homeless man who is given twenty dollars to purchase lunch at a local restaurant. The bartender (also an actor) is instructed to be unkind to the homeless man to try to gain a reaction from innocent customers. Segment after segment, I think you will be amazed by the ways people react to this dialogue between the homeless man and the bartender. Certainly look closely at the last example in the video clip. This man will inspire you and make you think, based on his own actions toward the homeless man. Check it out at <http://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/video/helping-homeless-17241998>.

Beyond the Catechist's Toolbox



Anyone who has been a catechist will appreciate this book. If you are a person who wonders how to use the outline of a Mass as the outline for a transformative religion class, this is worth the read. Those of you, who love the liturgy and believe that it often *works* despite us, will find the opportunities this book presents to resonate with your beliefs. You can order [*Beyond the Catechist's Toolbox: Catechesis That Not Only Informs, but Transforms.*](#)