

Dear Catechetical Leaders,

As we draw closer to Holy Week, Catholics across the globe are celebrating the election of Pope Francis I. As Archbishop Sartain stated in his letter congratulating Francis I, “The election of a new pope is a time of joy and excitement for the whole world, the universal church, and individual Catholics — including bishops like me in the Pacific Northwest. Since Pope Francis is a member of the Society of Jesus, his election holds particular excitement for the many Jesuits who serve in the Archdiocese of Seattle, and I congratulate them as well. I have no doubt that Franciscans around the world also rejoice that he has taken the name of their founder, Francis of Assisi, a man called by God in the early 13th century to live the gospel wholeheartedly, clearly and simply.” (http://www.seattlearchediocese.org/Assets/ARCH/3595_Francis03132013.pdf)

This newsletter is filled with information about the new Pope and a variety of ways we can share this Good News with all of those we serve. Also included with this newsletter are some upcoming webinars, opportunity to sign up for the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership Conference and several informative videos and books.

I hope your Lenten season has been blessed and that I get to see many of you at the Mass for Special Needs Families on Saturday, May 23rd at 11 a.m. at St. James Cathedral!

In Christ,

Anne

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

Archdiocesan website for the *Year of Faith*:

www.seattlearchediocese.org/yof

Inaugural Mass of Pope Francis



The Vatican announced that the Mass for the inauguration of the Petrine Ministry will be held March 19th, the feast of St. Joseph, at 9:30 a.m. Rome time. If you intend to watch it live, you will need to get up early. The Tuesday Inaugural Mass will be live streamed at Salt and Light <http://saltandlighttv.org/live/>, 4:30 AM EDT, 1:30 AM EDT



Habemus Papam: Pope Francis' Official Biography

Here is the official biography of Pope Francis, released by the Vatican.



Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who lack an Ordinary of their own rite, was born on 17 December 1936 in Buenos Aires. He studied as and holds a degree as a chemical technician, but then chose the priesthood and entered the seminary of Villa Devoto. On 11 March 1958 he moved to the novitiate of the Company of Jesus where he finished studies in the humanities in Chile. In 1963, on returning to Buenos Aires, he obtained a degree in philosophy at the St. Joseph major seminary of San Miguel.

Between 1964 and 1965 he taught literature and psychology at the Immacolata College in Santa Fe and then in 1966 he taught the same subjects at the University of El Salvador, in Buenos Aires.

From 1967 to 1970 he studied theology at the St. Joseph major seminary of San Miguel where he obtained a degree. On 13 December 1969 he was ordained a priest. From 1970 to 1971 he completed the third probation at Alcala de Henares, Spain, and on 22 April 1973, pronounced his perpetual vows.



He was novice master at Villa Varilari in San Miguel from 1972 to 1973, where he also taught theology. On 31 July 1973 he was elected as Provincial for Argentina, a role he served as for six years.

From 1980 to 1986 he was rector of the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel as well as pastor of the Patriarca San Jose parish in the Diocese of San Miguel. In March of 1986 he went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis. The superiors then sent him to the University of El Salvador and then to Cordoba where he served as a confessor and spiritual director.

On 20 May 1992, John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires. He received episcopal consecration in the Cathedral of Buenos Aires from Cardinal



Antonio Quarracino, Apostolic Nuncio Ubaldo Calabresi, and Bishop Emilio Ognenovich of Mercedes-Lujan on 27 June of that year.

On 3 June 1997 he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires and succeeded Cardinal Antonio Quarracino on 28 February 1998.

He was Adjunct Relator General of the 10th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 2001.

He served as President of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina from 8 November 2005 until 8 November 2011.

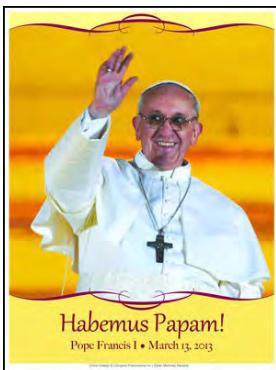
He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Blessed John Paul II in the consistory of 21 February 2001, of the Title of S. Roberto Bellarmino (St. Robert Bellarmine).

He was a member of the:

- Congregations for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; for the Clergy; and for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life;
- Pontifical Council for the Family; and
- Pontifical Commission for Latin America.



We Have a Pope!



LPi is making bulletin covers and a biography (in English or Spanish) available to help your parish celebrate the selection of Pope Francis I. These files are available for you to download and use in your bulletin, or any other parish documents. You can find them in the Sunday search for March 24 and 31 on [Art & Media Portal](#), or you can use the keyword **Pope Francis I**.

If you know others who may be interested in using these files but are not current LPi partners, they can receive access to [Art & Media Portal](#) for 90 days by clicking the **Register** button on the log-in page and putting **POPEFR** in the ChurchID field.

USCCB President Congratulates Newly Elected Pope



Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), congratulates the newly elected pope, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina. "Pope Francis stands as the figure of unity for all Catholics wherever they reside. The bishops of the United States and the people of our 195 dioceses offer prayers for our new leader and promise allegiance to him," Cardinal Dolan said. "Intense prayer from all around the world surrounded the election of Pope Francis. The bishops of the United States thank God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the inspired choice of the College of Cardinals."

Full text of the statement follows:

Statement on the election of Pope Francis
Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York
President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
March 13, 2013



The election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who has taken the name Francis, marks a great milestone in our church. As successor to Peter, our first pope, Pope Francis stands as the figure of unity for all Catholics wherever they reside. The bishops of the United States and the people of our 195 dioceses offer prayers for our new leader and promise allegiance to him. Intense prayer from all around the world surrounded the election of Pope Francis. The bishops of the United States thank God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the inspired choice of the College of Cardinals.

With joy in our hearts, we declare "Ad Multos Annos!" (For many years!)
Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

U.S. cardinals describe Pope Francis as ideal choice for modern times

Two U.S. cardinals described Pope Francis as an ideal choice to lead the church in the modern world. "He is the perfect choice for this moment in the church," said Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl March 14.



Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told reporters March 13 that the pope met all of the cardinals' qualifications. He said they wanted to "choose the right man" who would be "a man of God, a man of good pastoral governance, with a sense of the



church universal and a good communicator." "He fills those bills," he said.

He also said the pope's nationality is a plus. "Where he comes from is gravy, and we got a lot of good gravy with a man coming now from Latin America. You talk about a booster shot to the church in the Americas. This is going to be a real blessing."

The cardinals noted that the pope has a style that will appeal to many Catholics. Cardinal Wuerl said the pope's style reflects the church's emphasis on new evangelization, "inviting people to take a look again at the church's Gospel message."

"His invitation is not just by words but by personal witness," he added, pointing out that the new pope, former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, had been "an active presence" among Catholics in his archdiocese, often making parish visits and attending church events. "He does this as pastor of souls," he added, pointing out that this will "be a hallmark of his pontificate."

Both U.S cardinals said the pope's style was particularly obvious in the way he greeted the massive crowd assembled in St. Peter's Square when he was first announced. Cardinal Dolan said it was "magnificent" when the pope asked everyone in the square to pray in silence for him and the whole square was completely hushed. He also loved how the pope led everyone in praying the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, saying that was similar to something a father, a good teacher or a good catechist would do.

He said another aspect of the pope's personality was revealed right before the pope was supposed to appear to the crowds. Many people inside the apostolic palace wanted to speak with him first, but the pope had heard that it had been raining and said he should go to the balcony first because he didn't want to keep the people waiting. "That's a very spontaneously, gracious remark to make," the cardinal told reporters at the Pontifical North American College.

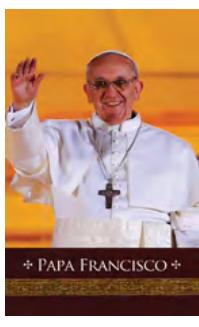
Cardinal Wuerl appreciated that the pope immediately greeted the crowd by saying good evening in Italian, which he said "pushed aside all formality." He noted that Pope Francis has "firmness in faith and gentleness in dealing with people." "Isn't that what we look for in a bishop?" he said.

The cardinal said he worked with Cardinal Bergoglio on a synod council and found the then-cardinal to be "mild mannered, soft spoken and clear in thought." He said he enjoyed working with him because of his "great clarity" and also the pastoral experience he brought to discussions. He said the former archbishop of Buenos Aires had not been afraid to speak up on issues defending the church's "counter-cultural message."

He also said it was significant that the pope chose the name Francis, pointing out that St. Francis was "not a mild retiring person. He was demanding of himself and others ... but he did it in such a way that you couldn't help but love him."



New Prayer Cards for Pope Francis



An inspiring prayer for the Holy Father.

Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, was elected the 266th pope and took the name Francis. This prayer is for the strength and support of Pope Francis and his ministry as the newly elected Holy Father of the parishioners of the Catholic Church. These cards can be purchased from USCCB at

http://www.usccbublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=7-129&utm_source=Pope+Francis+cards+%26+New+Titles+%2C+Special+March+2013+Issue&utm_campaign=3%2F2013+Papam+cards&utm_medium=email

Pope Francis



[Managing editor Kim Lawton, of *Religion & Ethics News Weekly*, reports from Rome on the selection of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, the first pope from Latin America, as the successor to Pope](#)

[Benedict XVI and reaction to his selection from Vatican observers and other Catholics.](#) You can watch/read this 7 1/2 minute interview at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/march-15-2013/pope-francis-i/15218/>.

You can also watch their five (5) minute discussion with [Rev. James Martin](#) about how Pope Francis's Jesuit background may inform his papacy and the changes the new pope may bring to the Catholic Church at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/march-15-2013/father-james-martin-on-the-new-pope/15239/>. They also have a one (1) minute piece on Saint Francis at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/march-15-2013/saint-francis-of-assisi/15220/>.

Father Martin was also interviewed on The Daily Beast. To access that interview, please go to <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/03/14/a-prominent-jesuit-talks-about-the-order-s-first-pope.html>.



Pope Francis – Why the Name



This is a 4 1/2 minute report from NPR's Sylvia Poggioli relates to the Saturday press conference at the Vatican on March 16. Check it out at <http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=174487068&m=174481675>.

The Lifelong Faith Journal is now a FREE Service!

Good News! We are now providing all issues of the Lifelong Faith Journal as a FREE SERVICE - new issues and back issues. We want every congregation, and individual faith formation leaders and students, to have access to the Lifelong Faith Journal. We will continue to produce the quarterly Journal with the same great content we have provided for the past six years - the best thinking and practice in faith formation across the whole life span. Each issue will continue to focus on a particular aspect of lifelong faith formation and include major articles by national experts, book reviews, and practical strategies and program models.

To access all copies of the Lifelong Faith Journal go to:
www.LifelongFaith.com.

Everyone on the Lifelong Faith mailing list will get notices when the new issues are available. Feel free to forward this email to your colleagues so that they know about the Journal and can join the [Lifelong Faith Mailing List](http://www.LifelongFaith.com).

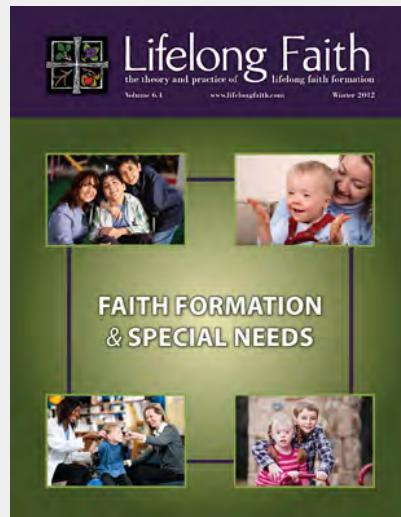
Thank you!

John Roberto, Editor

jroberto@lifelongfaith.com

The New Winter 2012 Issue Is Now Available

"Faith Formation & People with Special Needs"



The Winter 2012 issue of Lifelong Faith on the theme of "Faith Formation & People with Special Needs" presents theological and theoretical reflections on faith formation with people with special needs, as well as practical suggestions for ministry and learning.

1. Educating Toward Full Inclusion in the Body of Christ: People with Disabilities Being Full Members of the Church - Brett Webb-Mitchell
2. A Vision of a Post-Disability Ministry Church - Brett Webb-Mitchell

3. Welcoming All: Intergenerational Faith Formation for People with Disabilities - Sharon Urbaniak
4. There Are No Barriers To God's Love - Mark I. Pinsky
5. Affirming Presence: Spiritual Life and Friendship with Adolescents with Developmental Disabilities - Benjamin T. Conner
6. Faith Formation Resources

Download the New Issue for Free!

NACMP Conference 2013



Catechetical Leaders!

Have you noticed that media resources for our ministry have evolved from the filmstrip to other exciting, but sometimes daunting, media? We have too! That's why we stick together for support as we move further into the role of curating solid resources through evolving media/technology.

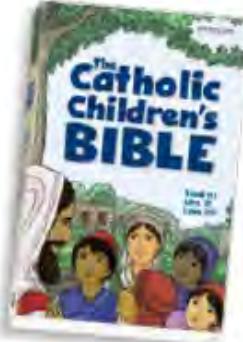
If you are coming to NCCL, plan on arriving early enough to join the National Association of Catechetical Media Professionals' day with Diane Lampitt, speaking on "Kindling for the Fire of Faith: Curating for Catechesis!" at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 19. No charge for NCCL members. Or better yet, come to both conferences! More information to join the NACMP hubbub is at <http://www.nacmp.org/index.php/conference>. Also, feel free to stay for Sunday afternoon when Diane leads us in reflection using different media/technology.



Finally, plan on poking your head into NACMP's Monday afternoon brainstorming session as we work to develop a new way of supporting media and technology for the catechetical ministry, facilitated by Lori Dahlhoff. So, if you have a forum or other meeting Monday afternoon, take out 17 minutes as a group to pop in and engage in our planning. Your group may want to be a node of media/technology nodes!

Finally! It's Here!

The Complete Catholic Children's Bible Created Just for Them!



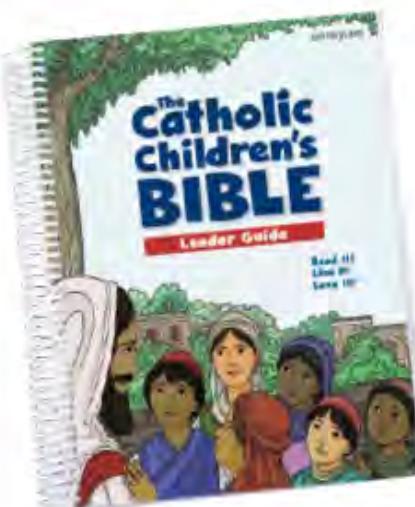
- ▶ Children will know and understand God's saving plan revealed through **125 featured story spreads** highlighting key Bible passages.
- ▶ **Vibrant illustrations and borders** immediately engage children and allow them to dive in to Scripture and become immersed in the stories.
- ▶ **Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It!** sections help bring God's Word to life for the youngest of readers.

- ▶ **Unique navigational features** designed specifically for early readers help children easily locate passages and stories.
- ▶ **Intentional design elements** such as fonts built for early readers, increased line spacing, bold vocabulary words, colorized text, minimal hyphenation, and simple column dividers help make this a Bible children can read on their own.



Order Yours Today!
Call 800-533-8095 smp.org

Join Our Community! The image shows four small, colorful icons representing social media platforms: Facebook (blue), Twitter (light blue), YouTube (red), and Pinterest (pink).

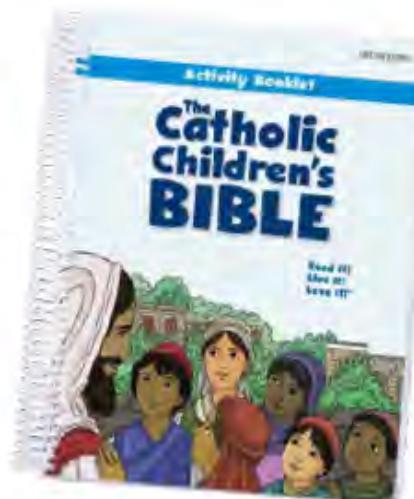


The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide is the perfect tool to help **lead young children to a deeper understanding of Scripture**

- ▶ Fun and engaging prayers and activities for major feasts and seasons of the liturgical year are provided to **familiarize young children with the traditions of their Catholic faith**
- ▶ Class room exercises and reproducible handouts are provided to **help children learn how to navigate *The Catholic Children's Bible* using its unique color coding**
- ▶ Simple strategies are given for **bringing Scripture home to families** and incorporating messages into daily life
- ▶ A correlation of featured stories to **help children as they prepare for Sacraments**

The Catholic Children's Bible Activity Booklet introduces children to Scripture, **reinforces** the Scripture message, and helps children **incorporate** that message into their everyday lives.

- ▶ The activities in this booklet are designed to be used with *The Catholic Children's Bible* and encourage the children to look up and read the Scripture passage to complete the activity and to help **create a life long passion for Scripture**
- ▶ Focusing on the 40 featured stories in *The Catholic Children's Bible*, the Activity Booklet offers two levels of activities for each story: Level One for younger children and Level Two for older children. This enables teachers and catechists to have **greater flexibility in creating lesson plans**.
- ▶ Each activity page offers a special feature called "Seek and Find" which poses a search question to help **engage children in the Bible and to springboard into further discussion** about the Scripture story



Order Yours Today!
Call 800-533-8095 smp.org

Join Our Community!

FREE Professional Development Webinar—Thursday, March 21, 2013



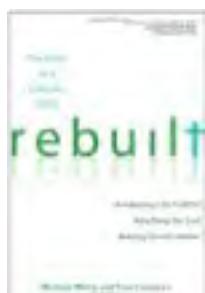
Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership**, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar **Rebuilt: Introducing Positive Change into Your Parish**, is offered on Thursday, March 21 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.



Thursday, March 21, 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.

It's Here! REGISTER ON-LINE - \$319 is available until EASTER SUNDAY



Not only is the registration brochure available for download but you can register for the conference on-line. **If you already have "Saved Me a Place", then complete your registration on-line as well.** It will save you the time from emailing or faxing page 5 of the registration brochure to the

NCCL Office. Now that registration is on-line, *Save Me a Place* is no longer being accepted for registration.

It's an exciting schedule. Please go to www.NCCL.us and Download the 2013 Conference Brochure. Give one to a friend. **Post it on your FaceBook page.** Encourage others to register. Why not Tweet about the conference to your friends and colleagues.



March for Marriage



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.

Annual Collection Supports Holy Sites and Communities Living in the Region



In a letter sent to Bishops around the world, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, made an appeal for the Good Friday Collection in support of the Holy Land. The people of the Holy Land, along with their pastors he said, "live the mystery of Christ, Crucified and Risen for the salvation of mankind."

The Holy Land, he said, "is the silent witness and living custodian, thanks to the Latin communities of the Patriarchal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Franciscan Custody, as also to the Melkite, Maronite, Syrian, Armenian, Copt and Chaldean faithful active there". You can read the complete letter at http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/cardinal-sandri-s-letter-to-catholic-pastors-regarding-good-friday-collection?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch.

EARTH DAY 2013 - Screen Sun Come Up



In celebration of the 2012 Feast of St. Francis, the Coalition sponsored a nation-wide screening of the Academy Award-nominated film *Sun Come Up*. This film depicts some of the world's first climate change refugees, inhabitants of the Carteret Islands in the South Pacific, who have begun relocation efforts to a larger island with the help of the local Catholic diocese.

In preparation for Earth Day (April 22), the Coalition has published revised editions of the [Sun Come Up Education Kit](#) and [Facilitator's Guides](#) for colleges, parishes, and youth groups. Using these guides, as well as the bulletin inserts, flyers, and other promotional material, you are encouraged to schedule a screening of *Sun Come Up* in celebration of Earth Day.



Risking Song: The Power of Singing Together



Donald Schell talks about singing together. It is, he says, a foundational dialogue, like that the mother-child dialogue. And the thing that is so powerful about singing face to face is that something actually happens between us -- literally in the space between us -- that makes not only communication possible but makes us possible. It isn't just our eyes, it's our whole presence. Being engaged together in a common hearing brings something into being.

Donald's work with *All Saints Company*, an organization dedicated to working with churches and communal groups to encourage and teach what he called "paperless singing," singing without the mediation of hymnbooks or scores, "by heart." If you care to listen to Donald "talk about how much he was learning with each workshop he gave around the country" you can read the interview at <http://www.conversations.org/story.php?sid=329>.

God's Gift of Forgiveness



This bulletin insert includes our bishop's 'Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation' and in addition, a guide on 'How to Go to Confession' on the reverse side. This exhortation was approved by the bishops in response to Pope Benedict XVI's New Evangelization efforts. May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure, heal your sins, help you grow in holiness, and reward you with eternal life. Go in peace. -Rite of Penance, no. 93. Available for purchase from the USCCB at http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=7-412&utm_source=Pope+Francis+cards+%26+New+Titles+%2C+Special+March+2013+Issue&utm_campaign=3%2F2013+Papam+cards&utm_medium=email.

An Empathy Video That Asks You To Stand in Someone Else's Shoes



Titled "Empathy," this video was presented by the health care organization's CEO Toby Cosgrove at his annual State of the Clinic address on February 27, 2013. This video speaks to each person's complexity, the stories that go unsaid but float just beneath the surface.

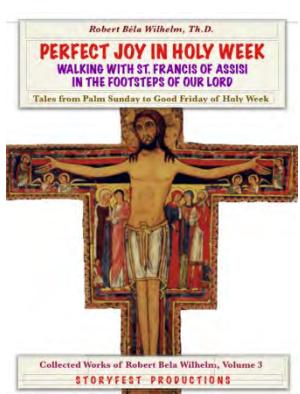
In the end, it's about human connection. When we relate to those around us by understanding their back stories and their circumstances, we improve the way we work, the way we live, the way we take care of one another, the way we relate going forward and, as Martin Luther King Jr. would say, building the "beloved community" that edifies us all. Check it out at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDDWvj_q-08.

Inclusion



This video was created by fifth grader Cameron Burgess. Entitled "That's What Inclusion Means to Me", this video is her way of telling us what inclusion really means to her. You can watch it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y74xmAW7wRA&feature=youtu.be>

Saint Francis – Perfect Joy in Holy Week



This is a gift from Robert Béla Wilhelm, Th.D. - School of Sacred Storytelling. These stories are available for free download until Holy Saturday, March 30. After that, they will be removed, so if you are interested, don't hesitate, act now and start your download at <http://www.sacredstorytelling.org/blog/a-daily-storybook-for-holy.html>.

Rather than send you Easter greetings, I decided to send you a gift for Holy Week. It is a collection of stories for each day of Holy Week from the life of St. Francis of Assisi. And this Holy Week, our new pope, Pope Francis, will be celebrating the sacred mysteries in Rome. As a Catholic I am hopeful and heartened by the arrival of this modern day Francis... and eager to share these stories of the first Francis with you.

"Peace and All Good" was how Francis of Assisi greeted people. And so do I greet you, be you Christian or Jew, Muslim or Buddhist, Seeker or Doubter. And please pass this gift on to others. It is my gift to you and yours. –

Gifts of Faith Collection

SERRV now offers a beautiful online selection of fairly traded, handcrafted spiritual gifts! Unique and meaningful gifts for special occasions. www.crsfairtrade.org/spiritualgifts

From first communions to confirmations and weddings, the collection has something for everyone, including embroidered stoles, wall crosses and religious jewelry. Plus every purchase means our partners at SERRV make an additional contribution to the Fair Trade Fund, which translates to fair trade grants for our low-income brothers and sisters around the world.



Copper Wire Cross, Chile, \$10.00

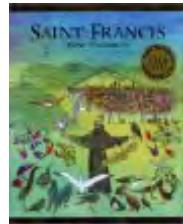
Children's Books on Saint Francis of Assisi

Here are several of my favorite children's books on Saint Francis of Assisi. All can be ordered through the NCCL Amazon Bookstore. Simply click on the title or the picture of the book itself.



[Saint Francis of Assisi](#)

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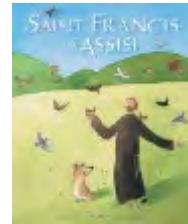
[Saint Francis](#)

Brian Wildsmith



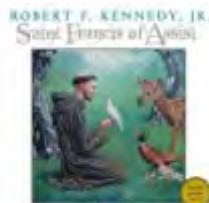
[Francis](#)

Tomie DePaola



[Saint Francis of Assisi](#)

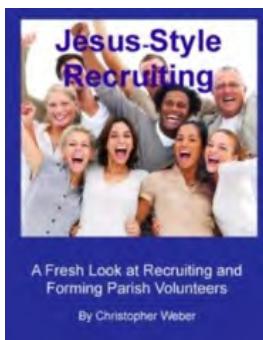
Joyce Denham, Elen...



[Saint Francis of Assisi](#)

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Attention NCCL Members: Buy a Book and Help NCCL



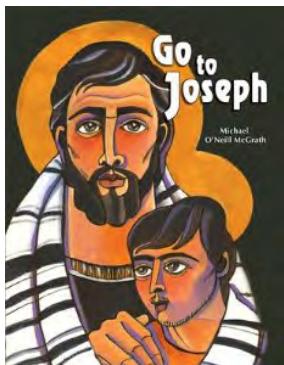
Support NCCL *and* enjoy Chris Weber's highly acclaimed book, *Jesus-Style Recruiting*

Visual Dynamics Publishing will donate \$4.00 to NCCL for every *Jesus-Style Recruiting* book purchased at \$9.95, plus shipping until April 30th, 2013.



Just go the www.vdpublishing.net and click on NCCL OFFER.

Go to Joseph

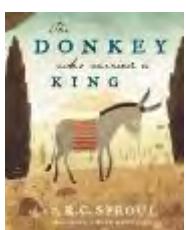


I freely disclose that I like the work of Brother Michael O'Neill McGrath. This is his latest book. St. Joseph has been an inspiration to many and is perhaps one of the most beloved saints among Catholics today.

Mickey employs sixteen different authors to bring you twenty chapters exploring different aspects of St. Joseph's life as husband, father, craftsman, traveler, guide, and much more. Brother Mickey himself also describes each painting, explaining how St. Joseph inspired him to create these beautiful images.

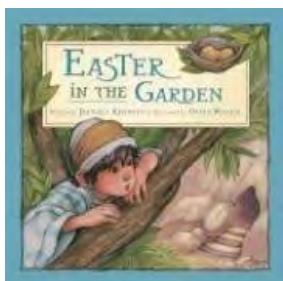
You can order [Go to Joseph](#).

The Donkey Who Carried a King



This is not just a story about the significance of the donkey in the Triumphal Entry, it is a moral lesson based on Matthew 20:28, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Although the story hangs on the events of Jesus' Passion, burial and resurrection, the main part of it is entirely fictional. Several questions are included at the end of the book; questions that are designed to help parents guide their children down the theological path that leads to eternal life. You can order [The Donkey Who Carried a King](#)

Easter In The Garden

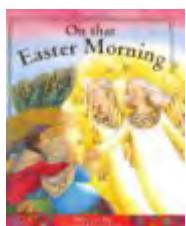


This book is a re-telling of the Easter story through the eyes of a child. The child, Micah, also happens to be watching some eggs in a bird nest. After seeing their friend Jesus being taken away, his mother tells him what happened and that Jesus is dead. Several days later as he is checking on the eggs, he hears someone say that Jesus is alive and right on cue, "Micah saw a tiny beak poking out of the shell. The egg was beginning to hatch! 'Jesus is alive little bird!'" Micah whispered. "You don't have to hide! It's safe to come out of your shell now because Jesus is alive!"

You can order [Easter In The Garden](#).

On That Easter Morning

This review by K. Childs sums up my thoughts as well. You can order [On That Easter Morning](#).



Starting with Palm Sunday, it goes on to tell of Jesus driving out the money changers, washing the feet of his disciples, sharing the Last Supper with them, and then of his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. We read of the trial that convicted Jesus, the crucifixion, and then of his body being laid in a tomb by those who loved him. The gentle joy of Easter morning, that builds more and more as the good news is spread, is depicted in soft colors, and art that has delightful elements of both realistic and folk art. This story is nicely done, a lovely way to enjoy the Easter story. I love the ending sentiment: "The dark power of death was defeated. God's own love lit the world on that Easter morning."