

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we enter into our third week of the Easter season, we have multiple resources on catechesis, autism awareness, simple and effective ways to celebrate Resurrection kindness as well as updates about our new Pope Francis. I also would like to remind you about some important events from our Archdiocesan offices:

- CYO Camp Registration is underway. Now is the time to make sure our parents have reserved a week for their youth to participate in this wonderful program!
- *JustFaith* Ministries continues to offer free monthly resources with rich ideas for celebrating our Year of Faith. Please see the attached link below.
- Family Life Ministers – Lisa Tinsley is hosting a special event on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Also, for those of you searching to fill ministry openings, Boston University has recently sent the Office of Catholic Faith Formation a compilation of resumes of students completing their graduate programs in theology and pastoral ministry. Please contact the office if you would like more information.

May God's grace and joy continue to bless your Easter season,

*Anne*

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

**Archdiocesan website for the *Year of Faith*:**

**[www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof)**



The April Year of Faith Resource, *Transforming Grace*, from JustFaith Ministries is now available, and **FREE!** It includes ...

- Transforming Grace
- Scripture for Pondering
- Prayer Resources
- Year of Faith Actions for April
- Quotes of Note

Sign up now to begin receiving your **free** Year of Faith resources:

<http://justfaith.org/YOFDRE/> Connect formation and discipleship to your parish's Year of Faith study and activities. This monthly downloadable resource provides reflections, ideas, inspiration, and practical tools. From [JustFaith Ministries](http://justfaith.org/).



Dear Fellow Parish Ministers,

The **National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers** invites you to join the most innovative group of Family Ministers dedicated to bettering the world we live in through their work & service to God & the Catholic Church. The National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) prides itself on staying up to date on the local and national issues facing our families today. NACFLM provides training, monthly professional development conference calls and Annual Conferences around the nation with a myriad of workshops and keynote speakers, all to deepen your faith, family relationships and understanding of this work we have at hand.

As the representative for NACFLM for the Northwest, I would ask you to please go to the website at <http://nacflm.org/> and check NACFLM out for yourself. You can join on-line for a minimal annual fee. Keep yourself informed regularly of upcoming events, national speakers and family life issues.

If you are interested in learning more about NACFLM, **I invite you to a Luncheon meeting on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 30525 8<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003.** We have also invited **Mary Beth Celio, Director of Research for the Archdiocese to speak** to us about the **Alarming Trends & Challenges of Marriage & Family Life in the Catholic Church Today.** Lunch will be provided and we will discuss how we can strengthen our families and explore the opportunities to learn more nationally through NACFLM. Please register by calling 253-839-2320 ext 232. There is a \$25 fee to cover expenses.

\*\*\* NACFLM is endorsed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the John Paul II Institute.

I look forward to meeting you.

*Lisa Tinsley*  
*Director of Family Ministry*  
*St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church*  
253-839-2320 ext 232  
[ltinsley@stvincentparish.org](mailto:ltinsley@stvincentparish.org)  
[www.stvincentparish.org](http://www.stvincentparish.org)

## NCCL and The Catechesis in Preaching Initiative



The U.S. Catholic bishops have published a new document on preaching, *Preaching the Mystery of Faith: the Sunday Homily* (January, 2013). The focus of the document is this: the heart of Sunday preaching is to foster an encounter with God. Former Pope Benedict stated in his Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* (#46), “Given the importance of the word of God, the quality of homilies needs to be improved.” This new writing signals a tipping point: the American bishops recognize that preaching matters and that we need help.

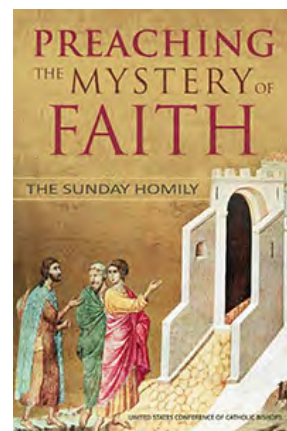
### **What does this mean for catechetical leaders?**

Catechesis means to echo the gospel: in John Paul II’s Apostolic Exhortation *Catechesi Tradendae* (#5), the core of catechesis is to put “people... in communion... with Jesus Christ.” The homily builds upon this foundation of echoing: “The homily takes up again the journey of faith put forward by catechesis, and brings it to its natural fulfillment” (CT #48). Sunday preaching and catechesis therefore need to work together for the transmission of the Christian faith. Ideally, preachers and catechists also work together.

### **Looking for data upon which to build effective catechetical preaching**

The new USCCB document advocates for a greater emphasis on catechesis in preaching. As we begin to implement this teaching, we have to clarify: what *is* catechetical preaching? Parallel to the fifty-year catechetical effort that has asked, “What does effective catechesis look like?” will be the upcoming homiletical effort to envision, “What should effective catechetical preaching look like?” Both at the national level and in the parish, catechetical leaders need to be a part of this conversation.

As a result, **The Center for Preaching, Evangelization, and Prayer** is collaborating with the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) in the *Catechesis in Preaching Initiative*, beginning with a survey, focus groups and interviews at the annual NCCL conference in Cleveland, in May of 2013. Following the conference, the survey will be available to the membership online. The voice of catechetical experience is invaluable as a source of input at this dawn of catechetical preaching.



## Request from the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Dear Diocesan and Parish Directors of Catechesis,

We request your assistance in gathering data from you and the catechists in your diocese and parishes regarding the **USCCB Conformity List**. The information will be helpful to a discussion we are having related to the present Conformity List and how it can be most

effectively used in the future. Your assistance in forwarding this to the appropriate catechists in your diocese, your colleagues and anyone you believe should weigh in on this topic is greatly appreciated. The survey is also being sent to Catholic School Principals and personnel.

In Christ,  
Peter Murphy

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Survey participant,

We have created a brief survey (3-6 minutes) that will help us assess the use of catechetical texts and the conformity review list published on the USCCB website. Your responses will assist the U.S. Bishops to better address various catechetical needs in both Catholic schools and religious education programs throughout the country. It is our hope that this survey helps us better serve you and to meet your needs. The Conformity Review List can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/evangelization-and-catechesis/subcommittee-on-catechism/upload/Current-Conformity-List.pdf>.



We value your feedback, and hope you can take a few minutes to complete this. Please click the link below to begin. The survey will be open until April 30, 2013.

[Click here](#)

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sr. John Mary Fleming OP	and	Peter J. Murphy, D.Min
Executive Director		Executive Director
Secretariat of Catholic Education		Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis
202 541 3009		USCCB

**Having trouble with the link?**

Copy and paste the address listed below into your browser:

[http://www.cvent.com/d/DdUsXvSDgUuFrGyiQ3p\\_3g/qnq8/P2?](http://www.cvent.com/d/DdUsXvSDgUuFrGyiQ3p_3g/qnq8/P2?)

**Using the Parish Web Site to Power Adult Faith Formation**



A recording of this webinar, sponsored by the NCCL Adult Faith Formation Committee, is now available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEQeqtQgALw>. The webinar assists parish catechetical leaders in strengthening their web site and other online platforms as an "engine" for adult faith formation. It demonstrates the necessity of a modern, user-friendly web site and specific strategies for creating and maintaining a strong adult faith formation presence on a parish web site.

You can also access additional resources and notes at <http://www.jonathansullivan.com/2013/04/webinar-notes-using-the-parish-web-site-to-power-adult-faith-formation/>. 573 people registered for this webinar, sponsored by the NCCL Adult Faith Formation Committee. Kudos to Jonathan Sullivan whose presentation is well worth sharing with your colleagues in ministry!



### **Webinar gratuito: El Ministerio de Reconciliación de Jesús**



William H. Sadlier, Inc. está ofreciendo un seminario gratuito el Miércoles, 17 de abril 2013, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT. Será presentado por Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, director adjunto del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia.

#### Descripción:



¿Cómo logró Pedro la reconciliación después de haber negado a Jesús tres veces? ¿Cómo Pedro y los demás discípulos pudieron recobrar la confianza para proclamar la Buena Nueva de Jesús Resucitado? Este Webinar muestra como Jesús les enseña a sus discípulos un modelo de reconciliación que los prepara a perdonarse unos a otros y a predicar el Evangelio con confianza. El modelo de reconciliación de Jesús sigue el proceso de un encuentro personal, la creación de un ambiente de confianza y seguridad, la oportunidad de reconectar Jesús y su misión y la decisión renovada de proclamar el Evangelio a todas la naciones.

Para registrarse, por favor visite <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/823963638>

### **FREE Webinar: Jesus' Ministry of Reconciliation: Getting Ready for Pentecost**



William H. Sadlier, Inc. is offering a free webinar **this Thursday, April 18, 2013, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT**. It is entitled *Jesus' Ministry of Reconciliation: Getting Ready for Pentecost*. It will be presented by Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Assistant Director of the

Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church

#### Here is the description:

How did Peter experience reconciliation after denying knowing Jesus three times? How did he and the other disciples regain the confidence to proclaim the Good News of the Risen Christ? This webinar presentation illustrates how Jesus teaches his disciples a model of reconciliation that empowers them to forgive one another and to preach the Gospel with confidence. Jesus's model of reconciliation follows a process of reaching-out, creating a place for safety and trust, and reconnecting with





Jesus, so they may be ready bring the Good News of Christ to the nations.

To register, please go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/856230574>.

## Vatican Message for World Autism Day



Here are excerpts from the message of the president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, marking the 6th World Autism Awareness Day. If you are interested in reading the complete text, please go to <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/vatican-message-for-today-s-world-autism-day--2>.

Autism: this is a word that still generates fear today even though in very many cultures which traditionally excluded handicaps the ‘diversely able’ have begun to be accepted socially, and many of the prejudices that have surrounded people with disabilities and even their parents have begun to be dismantled. To define someone as autistic seems automatically to involve a negative judgment about those who are afflicted by it, and, implicitly, a sentence involving a definitive distancing from society. On the other hand, the person concerned seems to be unable to communicate in a productive way with other people, at times as though shut up in a ‘glass bell’, in his or her impenetrable, but for us wonderful, interior universe.

This is a ‘typical and stereotyped’ image of the autistic child which requires profound revision. Ever since her birth, as a guiding theme, the Church has always expressed her care for this aspect of medicine through practical testimonies at a universal level. Above all else, this is witness to Love beyond stigma, that social stigma that isolates a sick person and makes him or her feel an extraneous body. I am referring to that sense of loneliness that is often narrated within modern society but which becomes even more present in modern health care which is perfect in its ‘technical aspects’ but increasingly deprived of, and not attentive to, that affective dimension which should, instead, be the defining aspect of every therapeutic act or pathway.



...Dear brothers and sisters, setting oneself to listen must necessarily be accompanied by an authentic fraternal solidarity. There should never fail to be global care for the ‘frail’ person, as a person with autism can be: this takes concrete form with that sense of nearness that every worker, each according to his or her role, must know how to transmit to the sick person and his or her family, not making that person feel a number but making real the situation of a shared journey that is made up of deeds, of attitudes and of words – perhaps not dramatic ones but ones that suggest a daily life that is nearer to normality.

The Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, during the Year of Faith, wishes to share with people who suffer because of autism the hope and certainty that adherence to Love enables us to recognise the Risen Christ every time that he makes himself our neighbour on the journey of life. Let what John Paul II, in whose intercession we trust and the eighth anniversary of whose return to the house of the Father we remember specifically today, be a reference point for us: 'The quality of life in a community is measured largely by its commitment to assist the weaker and needier members with respect for their dignity as men and women. The world of rights cannot only be the prerogative of the healthy. People with disabilities must also be enabled to participate in social life as far as they can, and helped to fulfil all their physical, psychological and spiritual potential. Only by recognizing the rights of its weakest members can a society claim to be founded on law and justice' (John Paul II, Message on the Occasion of the International Symposium on the Dignity and Rights of the Mentally Disabled Person, 7-9 January 2004, n. 3).



### **From the NCPD April E-News: *Autism and Faith* DVD**



#### **Carol Ruddel, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Diocese of Salt Lake City**

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Autism Council of Utah has produced a DVD, *Autism and Faith*, designed as a tool to increase the communication

process and foster stronger support for families in various religious congregations. Leaders representing Utah's faith communities join parents to describe the needs of individuals with autism and their families in

several faiths. Bishop John Wester, of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, is one of the leaders in the DVD. The video is viewable at Sahara Cares, a non-profit Utah foundation provided the support to film and produce this excellent resource for all faith communities. [Click Here](#) to see video. This 30 minute DVD can start the communication process in your parish. NCCL highly recommends it. You can't help but be moved when you listen to these parents share their stories. Just commit to listening to the first 2 ½ minutes.

Don't forget, May is Mental Health Awareness Month.



### **"Understanding Is Key" Public Service Announcement**



Thanks to Sharon Urbaniak, Associate Director in the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation and responsible for the Ministry to People with Disabilities, for sharing this public service announcement created by Daybreak Production through the generosity of the Vincent and Harriet Palisano Foundation on Autism. A mother of 4 children with Autism explains how



Understanding is Key as everyone has something positive to give to the world. By understanding people's differences, the results can be life changing. Watch the video at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFP0Dv2Va8g&list=FLyvpvW0OJk1QmuQEVq5tghw>

This public service announcement along with another, **Words Hurt**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ej99ZLm1HA&list=FLyvpvW0OJk1QmuQEVq5tghw&index=6>

were part of a **Disabilities Awareness:**

**Welcoming Our Differences DVD** that was recently sent to each US

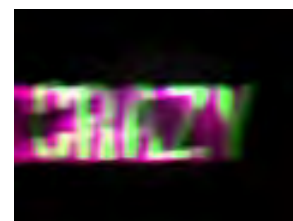
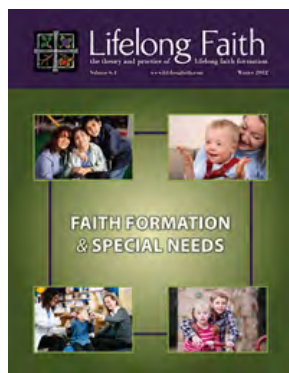
Bishop. The DVD featured a 12 minute awareness clip where church

leaders and people with disabilities shared their

stories and a 15 minute clip on becoming a

parish advocate. Diocesan Offices can check with your bishop about

sharing his copy.



Sharon also had an article published in the free online Lifelong Faith

Journal <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/lifelong-faith-journal.html>

featuring Special Needs focusing on the God's Family program,

***Welcoming All: Intergenerational Faith Formation for People with***

***Disabilities***. Sharon was awarded the NCCL 2012 New Wineskins

Award.

from the *Spiritual & Practice* website, Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat show us some ways we can practice resurrection in our daily lives. Check it out at

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/days/features.php?id=10963>. It includes a review from

the book ***Christ for All People: Celebrating a World of Christian Art*** edited by Ron O'Grady.

- Give your full attention to whatever you are doing, and you'll recognize the constant renewal of life all around you.
- Walk the path of beauty and notice the spiritual radiance in people, places, and growing things — more signs of rebirth.
- Leave the past to God's mercy. Leave the future to God's discretion. Living in the present moment, the only time when God brings forth new life, is a way of affirming your belief in resurrection.
- Whenever you with compassion open your heart, mind, and soul to the pain of the world, you help bring suffering beings back into the land of the living.
- When you cultivate the art of making connections, the walls of separation come crashing down and new life can spring up out of the rubble.
- When you regularly pray for others as part of your devotional activities, you are practicing resurrection.
- Enthusiasm is the mark of a life-giver. When you can laugh and sing and relish life, you are practicing resurrection.



- Faith enables us to live with confidence amidst doubt and paradox. When you can trust in your relationship with God, all kinds of leaps and rebirths are possible.
- Every time you forgive someone, another resurrection is in the making.
- Every time you accept God's grace in your life and see it in the world around you, your own resurrection is in the making.
- Practice gratitude and you are slaying the death-dealing forces of boredom, despair, and taking-things-for granted.
- Bring hope to someone in despair, bring healing to those in conflict, and you are contributing to the ongoing resurrection.
- When you can welcome guests and alien ideas with graciousness, you are participating in a new world of hospitality.
- When you give full rein to your imagination, you are opening the gates of creativity so resurrection can come in.
- When you add even a small portion of joy to the lives of those around you, you bring resurrection into your community.
- Your work for justice, freedom, and equality sets the stage for resurrection. When you feed the hungry and stand up for the oppressed, you are a life-giver.
- Your little acts of kindness tenderize the world, add to the fund of good will, and set the table for resurrection.
- Listen to others, the universe, and your inner voice, and you'll be privy to resurrections when they happen.
- Love God, love your neighbor, and love your new life as marks of the resurrection.
- Find meaning in your experiences and speak the truth to power, and you help put death in its place.
- Nurture yourself — eat right, exercise, get plenty of rest — and you are helping God resurrect your body.
- When you stay open to all people and situations, you affirm your belief that all things can be made new.
- Every peace treaty that you sign with someone who is your enemy or opponent is a sign of resurrection.
- Sometimes you feel refreshed by the simplest things — laughter, games, play. This, too, is resurrection.
- Other times it is the thrill of the quest\ that spurs you on to be all you were meant to be as a person reborn.
- When you practice reverence for life, you can't help but notice all the little resurrections going on all around you, the continual process of creation on Earth.
- Practicing resurrection also means having confidence that God can make something out of your selfishness, anger, greed, hatred, and any of your other shadow qualities.
- Find a place where you can regularly practice silence; it will rejuvenate your soul.
- Spiritual teachers can point you on the path of resurrection, showing you texts and mentors to jump-start your journey.
- Welcome changes — big and small — in your experience and signal your receptivity to transformation and resurrection.
- Work together with those who are trying to make the world a more just and decent place. This unity practice is a mark of the resurrection.

- Pay attention to visions and visionaries as likely conduits of resurrection for yourself and your community.
- Every time you bring to life another's sense of wonder and affirm that you are all standing on holy ground, you practice resurrection.
- By respecting the mystery of God, human nature, and the natural world, you bear witness to the ineffable nature of renewal and rebirth.
- By giving voice to your yearning, and acting upon your desire to feel the closeness of God, you invite resurrection into your life.
- By accepting your identity as a child of God and your mission as a copartner with the Holy One in the unfolding drama of the universe, you embody the resurrection principle.
- Practice resurrection with zeal. Be aroused by life and cherish every moment as a gift from the One Who Renews us day by day.

### **Pope: If We Can Resist Gossip, We Make Big Step Forward**

Pope Francis said one way to make a step forward in developing the new life of baptism is by rejecting the temptation to gossip. "The first Christian community is a timeless model for the Christian community of today, because they were of one heart and one soul, through the Holy Spirit who had brought them into a 'new life,'" the Pontiff said, as reported by Vatican Radio.



In his homily Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel passage that recounts the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, who did not immediately grasp how a man can be "born again." Through the Holy Spirit, the Pope said, we are born into the new life we have received in Baptism. However, he added, this is a life that has to be developed; it does not come automatically.

"We have to do all we can to ensure that our life develops into new life," the Pope said, acknowledging that this can be "a laborious journey," but reminding that it depends chiefly on the Holy Spirit, as well as our ability to be "open to his breath." And this, the Pope pointed out, is exactly what happened to the early Christians. They had "new life," which was expressed in their living with one heart and one soul. They had, he said, "that unity, that unanimity, that harmony of feeling of love, mutual love."

Francis said that this needs to be rediscovered today, observing, for example, that the aspect of "meekness in the community," is a somewhat forgotten virtue. Meekness is stigmatized, it has "many enemies," the first of which is gossip. "When we prefer to gossip, gossip about others, criticize others -- these are everyday things that happen to everyone, including me -- these are the temptations of the evil one who does not want the Spirit to come to us and bring about peace and meekness in the Christian community."

"These struggles always exist," the Pope warned, "in the parish, in the family, in the neighborhood, among friends." But it is the Spirit who brings us into new life, making us meek and charitable. The Holy Father then outlined the correct behavior for a Christian.

First, "do not judge anyone" because "the only Judge is the Lord." Then "keep quiet" and if you have something to say, say it to the people involved, to those "who can remedy the situation," but

"not to the entire neighborhood." "If, by the grace of the Holy Spirit," concluded Pope Francis, "we succeed in never gossiping, it will be a great step forward" and "will do us all good."

## **Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly**

Here are three items by *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly* you might find helpful.



**Churches and Domestic Violence:** "Priests generally do not talk about it. And most dioceses in the United States have no services, or very limited services, for victims of domestic violence," says Father Charles Dahm, who is leading a campaign in Chicago to change that.

Read/Listen to the 11 minute interview at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-12-2013/churches-and-domestic-violence/15846/>

**Medical Ministry:** In upstate New York, orthopedic surgeon Joseph Dutkowski specializes in treating severely disabled patients. He is motivated, he says, by his Catholic faith. You can read/listen to this witness at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-12-2013/medical-ministry/15867/>.



**Twitter's Outreach to Religious Leaders:** Once the social network



discovered the popularity of religious leaders on Twitter, the company actively began working with religious communities and hired Claire Diaz-Ortiz to lead social innovation. Last year, she worked with the Vatican to get the pope on Twitter. Watch this six minute interview with her at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/by-topic/claire-diaz-ortiz-twitters-outreach-to-religious-leaders/15813/>. The full 27 minute extended interview is available at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-5-2013/full-episode/15791/>. You can also listen to her on YouTube

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP9FyY9BFM8>) about her new book [\*Twitter for Good: Change the World One Tweet at a Time\*](#).



## **Vatican Official Urges Use of Technology to Proclaim Gospel**



The president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, encouraged Catholics to make bold use of new technologies in the work of evangelization.

During the second International Seminar on Communications in the Church taking place in Santiago, Chile, Archbishop Celli used statistics and graphics to show the evolution of the use of the social networks by different generations, underscoring their strong impact on young people.

In his address entitled, “Communications and the Second Vatican Council: Can a Council held 50 years ago still be current?” Archbishop Celli recalled that the last pontificates have highlighted the challenges raised by the new technologies.

“The new technologies are part of the Church's very mission. The last pontiffs help us to understand that the vocation of social communications in the Church means presenting the truth about man,” he said. Read more at <http://www.ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/Americas.php?id=7432#ixzz2QSMIP8Zm>

## **FREE Professional Development Webinar—April 23, 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 *Cultivating Contemplation in Your Parish through Photography*, is offered on Tuesday, April 23 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at [PDW-04.23.2013](http://tiny.cc/a84jvw) (<http://tiny.cc/a84jvw>). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit [www.avemariapress.com/webinars](http://www.avemariapress.com/webinars).

Professional Development  
**WEBINAR**  
SERIES



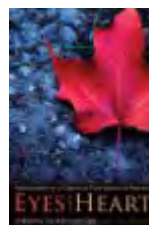
### **Cultivating Contemplation in Your Parish through Photography**

**Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT**



Join Christine Valters Paintner, PhD, the online Abbess of [www.AbbeyoftheArts.com](http://www.AbbeyoftheArts.com), as we explore the gifts and possibilities photography can offer parish communities. The lens of the camera will be our guide in learning how to engage folks in contemplative practices of prayer and new ways of seeing the world around them. Christine's special love is bringing together the gifts of monastic tradition with the power of the expressive arts, and offering tools and practices to cultivate one's inner monk and artist. Christine Valters

Paintner is the author of [\*Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Christian Contemplative Practice\*](#), [\*The Artist's Rule: Nurturing Your Creative Soul with Monastic Wisdom\*](#), and [\*Water, Wind, Earth & Fire\*](#):





*The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements.*

**Pacem in Terris – Fifty Year Anniversary of Pope John XXIII Encyclical**



Thursday 11th of April 2013 marked a half a century since Blessed John XXIII published his encyclical 'Pacem in Terris'. This encyclical, which as the Latin title indicates focuses on peace on earth, called for social and international peace. With this document which can be perceived as John XXIII's last testament, published as it was only a couple of months before his death, he broke new ground. In fact he addressed it is not as tradition dictated to the hierarchy, clergy and Catholic faithful

but – to all men of good will... Catholic University of America held a three day international symposium commemorating this document entitled PEACEBUILDING 2013: PACEM IN TERRIS AT 50. Talks will be posted within the next two weeks.

**Pope Appoints Eight Cardinals “To Study a Project of Revision”**



Pope Francis has announced the establishment of a group of eight cardinals with the sweeping remit "to advise him in the government of the universal church and to study a plan for revising the Apostolic Constitution on the Roman Curia, '*Pastor Bonus*.'" The group's first meeting is set for Oct. 1-3, and meanwhile, the pope will be in regular contact with the cardinals individually.

Said to have been inspired by "a suggestion that emerged during the General Congregations preceding the Conclave," as relayed in the move's formal notice, the membership of the group is:

- Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, president of the Governorate of Vatican City State;
- Cardinal Francisco Javier Errázuriz Ossa, archbishop emeritus of Santiago de Chile;
- Cardinal Oswald Gracias, archbishop of Bombay;
- Cardinal Reinhard Marx, archbishop of Munich and Friesing;
- Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, archbishop of Kinshasa;
- Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley OFM Cap, archbishop of Boston;
- Cardinal George Pell, archbishop of Sydney;
- Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB, archbishop of Tegucigalpa, in the role of coordinator;
- and Bishop Marcello Semeraro of Albano, Italy, who'll serve as the group's secretary.

## **'Shepherd in combat boots' awarded Medal of Honor for Korean service**



Sixty-two years after his death as a prisoner of war in Korea, Fr Emil Kapaun returned to the front pages today as the Kansas-born chaplain was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama. Fr. Kapaun was a Catholic Korean War chaplain who selflessly pulled wounded men from enemy fire and helped his fellow prisoners of war keep a sense of hope.

Adding to what was already a poignant tribute, the White House selected an image of Obama holding the stole the Army captain wore to celebrate a makeshift Easter Mass during his captivity as its Photo of the Day (above). The stole was brought by Kapaun's family, who met with the Commander-in-Chief in the Oval Office prior to the East Room conferral ceremony. The President's remarks can be read at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/04/11/remarks-president-presentation-medal-honor-chaplain-emil-j-kapaun-us-arm>.

The culmination of a half-century campaign by his comrades – many of whom credit the priest with saving their lives – with Kapaun's Medal of Honor, the native of Pilsen, Kansas (population 40) becomes the fifth Catholic chaplain, but the first since Vietnam, to receive the military's supreme recognition for "conspicuous gallantry," joining Fathers Joseph O'Callaghan SJ, Vincent Capodanno, Charles Watters and Angelo Litecky. You can read the full press release at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1301651.htm>.

## **Pope Francis: Back to “Ferula” (the crosier with crucifix)**



At Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran on April 8, Pope Francis carried a crosier that most people associate with Blessed John Paul II.

As a matter of fact, though, [Pope Paul VI commissioned the work](#) from Italian sculptor Lello Scorzelli in 1963, and used it for the first time Dec. 8, 1965, at the official closing of the Second Vatican Council. Formally known as a “ferula” in Italian, the pastoral staff was unusual not only because it was rough-hewn and silvery, but because the cross included a corpus. Popes John Paul I, John Paul II and Benedict XVI later used it.

In 1990, Scorzelli made Blessed John Paul a second cross, similar in design, but lighter. The office of the papal master of ceremonies said the crosier used by Pope Francis last night was the original made for Pope Paul.

Almost exactly five years ago — Palm Sunday 2008 – Pope Benedict began using a pastoral staff topped with a cross, not a crucifix. The golden crosier had been a gift to Blessed Pius IX in 1877 to mark the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop. In November 2009, Pope Benedict was given a new crosier, based on the same design, which he used at liturgies until his retirement.

## **The Art of Family Prayer**



The Family That Prays  
Together Stays Together™

In this month's issue of the Knights of Columbus magazine, *Columbia*, Robert Alzapiedi, chief administrative officer of Holy Cross Family Ministries ([www.HCFM.org](http://www.HCFM.org)) writes how the practice of family prayer helps your home to grow in faith, peace and joy. Here are several excerpts from his article. You can read the complete article at [http://www.kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/2013\\_04\\_family\\_prayer.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/2013_04_family_prayer.html).

"The family that prays together stays together." Popularized in the 1950s by Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, a Knight of Columbus, this famous slogan is still relevant and applicable today. ...If we are not praying with our families, it is often a case of not knowing where and how to begin, or not having the tools and materials to lead our families in prayer. Fathers can be very private about praying, particularly as we share our weaknesses and concerns with God.



...If you and your family are new to praying together, keep it simple and start small. It may simply be starting with "grace" on those evenings that you do have a family meal together or a short discussion after the mealtime blessing, asking family members to share how God has been working in their lives.



(Ed Nute Photography)

...However you pray now or decide to pray in the future, each experience of family prayer unites the family and strengthens the ties to each other and to God. For newcomers to family prayer, I think you will find it much easier than you expected and much more fulfilling than you could have imagined.

## **Vatican Office Looks at Challenges Facing Couples From Different Faiths**



### **Pontificium Consilium pro Familia**

Catholics need to know that marrying someone from a different Christian community or, even more so, from a different religion will create extra challenges in their marriage, but church leaders also must learn how to help people in mixed marriages meet those challenges, a Vatican official said.

"We can express a positive judgment only when the conditions are met for a family life where the values and purposes of marriage are respected, and where a common faith in God helps the spouses to weave together an authentic communion of life and love," said Bishop Jean Laffitte. The press release can be found at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1301632.htm> and the website for the Pontifical Council for the Family can be accessed at <http://www.familia.va/>.

## Celebrate Earth Day - Monday, April 22



In his inaugural homily, Pope Francis calls us to be protectors of creation. To heed his call, we need to be informed and reflect on the signs of the times. Climate change can seem like a remote problem for our leaders, but the fact is that it's already impacting real people, animals, and beloved places. These Faces of Climate Change are multiplying every day. Fortunately, other Faces of Climate Change are multiplying too: those stepping up to do something about it. For more information, go to <http://www.earthday.org/2013/>.

## 42 Small Acts of Kindness that Will Make You an Everyday Hero

Brad Aronson offers 42 good deeds and small acts of kindness that can help you feel amazing. He begins with the question *How great is it that our small acts of kindness can make someone else's entire day?* Some of these are new ideas that I haven't seen online before. Others aren't as original, but a reminder certainly never hurts.



1. Take 5 seconds to support a young person's dream. Amy is an awesome 11-year-old who has a great attitude and is battling cancer. She's hoping to meet Taylor Swift by getting Facebook likes. What better way to spend 10 seconds than to click to her Facebook page and like it (<http://www.facebook.com/HelpAmyMeetTaylorSwift>) !

2. Create a holiday to celebrate someone you love. I have "Mia Appreciation Day" for my wife. Your appreciation day can be as simple as declaring the date of the holiday and writing a note of thanks each year to read out loud on that day. You can also invent your own fun or crazy family holiday (<http://www.bradaronson.com/family-traditions/>).

3. Put 50–100 paper hearts or smiley faces in a box. On each cutout write something that is special about your lover or a good friend. Give her the box and tell her to pull out a heart or smiley face anytime she gets lonely or wants a pick me up.

4. Find opportunities to give compliments. It costs nothing, takes no time, and could make someone's entire day. Don't just think it. Say it.

5. Your compliment could be something silly, yet endearing. Here's a post from *Pinterest*.



"Upon entering the Magic Kingdom, one of the security guards said to Alli 'Excuse me Princess, can I have your autograph.' I could see that the book was filled with children's scribbles as the guard asked the same question of many little Princesses. Alli could not get over the fact that



the guard thought she was a real princess.” *From Pinterest.*

6. Take five minutes to send “happy mail” (postal or email) to sick children who are fighting serious illnesses and want to receive mail (<http://www.hugsandhope.org/>). When you get to the home page, click “enter” and then click to the “getting started” page.

7. On Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, remember any friends who have lost a parent the previous year, and check in with them. Those will be tough days.

8. Collect soda can tabs to donate to Ronald McDonald House (<http://rmhc.org/how-you-can-help/pop-tab-collections/>) for sick children and their families. The charity gets paid for these.

9. Put a surprise note or sketch in with your spouse’s or kid’s lunch.

10. When it’s summer and hot, give out cold Gatorades to your mail carrier and garbage men.

11. Cook an extra portion of dinner (or dessert) for someone who needs it. Aid for Friends (<http://www.aidforfriends.org/index.cfm>) is a Philadelphia area nonprofit that delivers about 500,000 meals yearly to people in need. It started with one woman’s small acts of kindness. She made an extra meal each night to give to someone who needed it.

12. After a wedding or party donate all of the flowers to a nursing home. If you want to see the impact, personally deliver a flower to each resident. You could also bring the flowers to a hospital and ask the receptionist to distribute them to patients who could use them.

13. Tell someone the truth.

14. Say “thank you” to someone who made a difference. .  
. . Send a card to people who dedicate their lives to helping us – soldiers, police officers, fire fighters and teachers to name a few.

A student at Mango Elementary gave the police officer patrolling her school this note after the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Write a letter to a deployed or wounded member of the military through Operation Gratitude (<http://www.operationgratitude.com/get-involved/write-letters/>). Soldiers say that’s the most meaningful part of care packages they receive.



Send thanks to military members through military Facebook pages ([https://www.facebook.com/USMilitary?sk=app\\_103926973053781](https://www.facebook.com/USMilitary?sk=app_103926973053781)).



It's never too late to say "thanks." I sent a note 7 years after someone had helped me, and she told me it made her feel terrific. I'm glad I got over my embarrassment at how much time had passed and finally send it.

15. There are so many ways to make people feel great by sending letters: Send a crazy letter or postcard to make someone laugh. My nieces love mail so much, that my wife and I regularly send them postcards, stickers and anything we find for that matter, and it makes their day.

Send a letter just to "let you know how much I care about you." How wonderful would it be to get that?

Cut out an article and send it to someone. "I thought about you when I saw this..." or "this reminds me of..." My grandmother always did this, and it made me feel great. For other ideas from my grandma see: Grandma's Great Advice on Sex, How to Be a Better Person, The Perils of Tight Underwear and more.

Take a cute photo of someone you love and mail or email it to them.

16. Keep an extra umbrella at work, so you can lend it out when it rains.



17. If you're a business, leverage what you do every day to do good.

Plaza Cleaners in Portland, OR posted this sign.

Rotation Records in Norristown, PA heard about an 11-year old battling Cancer whose dream is to be a singer. They offered her an opportunity to have a recording session and red carpet party at their studios, which was a huge hit.

18. Sometimes we shy away from people when we know they're having a rough time. We assume we should wait for them to approach us, so we're not intruding. Instead, ask them how they're doing. If they don't want to talk, they'll say they're "fine." Many people will be relieved to have someone to talk to. If you don't ask, they might never mention anything to you. They might not want to burden you with their problems.

19. Listen. Don't interrupt. Something I learned from my wife is that people don't always want us to suggest a solution. They just want us to listen. We underestimate how important and comforting it is to be listened to.

20. If you see someone who looks lost and might need help with directions, don't wait for him to ask you for help.

21. Do something special that you know your significant other will appreciate – like when my wife surprised me with chocolate chip pancakes for breakfast. The little things matter. For more related to the



little things, see [How a Frosty Strengthened My Marriage](http://www.bradaronson.com/how-a-frosty-strengthened-my-marriage/) (<http://www.bradaronson.com/how-a-frosty-strengthened-my-marriage/>).

22. Photograph tourists. See a person or a couple trying to take a photo of themselves? Offer to take it for them.

23. Stop at a kid's lemonade stand and buy a drink.

24. Leave a big tip.

25. Help great people get recognized. When you see someone being amazing, tell her parent, her spouse, her friends, and so on. When you get great service tell the person who helped you. Then, tell a manager. Go to the corporate web site and submit an email. Write a positive online review of a business you like. It makes a difference. Our mason and electrician said that over 50% of their business comes from online reviews.

26. Encourage someone to pursue her dreams.

27. Donate your stuff. Instead of saving things in case you need them in 10 years, consider giving stuff to someone who needs it now. Here is a list of where to donate clothes, furniture, old phones, inkjet cartridges, children's clothes and books, appliances, electronics, cars, eyeglasses and more (<http://www.bradaronson.com/where-to-donate/>).

28. Everyone is important. Learn the names of your office security guard, the person at the front desk and other people you see every day. Greet them by name. Also say "hello" to strangers and smile. So easy, yet it makes people smile.



29. In the middle of December, contribute to Operation Santa Claus. Go to the Post Office, snag one of the letters to Santa, and fulfill a wish for someone who needs help buying gifts (<http://operationlettertosanta.com/>).

30. Cheer up a friend who needs it with a surprise visit or lunch.

31. Loan money to a third world entrepreneur through Kiva (<http://www.kiva.org/start>). These tiny investments change the lives of the families who receive them, and 99% of the loans are paid back.



32. Invite someone to dinner – especially at the holidays, when it is difficult for some people to be alone.

33. Make a helpful introduction.

34. Call your parents. Hi Mom and Dad! :-)

35. Buy a small gift for someone. Just because.

36. Share a great book you've read.

37. Don't ignore the next homeless person you see. Buy him food. Enjoy his smile when you give it to him.

38. Let another car merge in front of you, or stop to let a pedestrian cross the street.
39. Hold the elevator.
40. If you print an Internet coupon before going to a store, print a few extras to give to other customers.
41. Call someone you love. Tell him you love him.
42. Allow someone to help you. Let her enjoy performing an act of kindness.

### **Why the Most Powerful Thing in the World is a Seed**



*The Sower and the Seed* is the parable of catechesis. It is the story that is used in the Introduction to the *General Directory for Catechesis*. Janisse Ray celebrates the local, organic food movement but fears we're forgetting something elemental: the seeds. According to Ray, what is happening with our seeds is not pretty. Ninety-four percent of vintage open-pollinated fruit and vegetable varieties have vanished over the last century. I share a few excerpts from this article because I think it enhances our understanding of how powerful this metaphor was not only in the time of Jesus but today as well. If interested you can read the rest of Abby Quillen's article in the latest issue of *YES! magazine* at

[http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/how-cooperatives-are-driving-the-new-economy/why-the-most-powerful-thing-in-the-world-is-a-seed?utm\\_source=apr13yn&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=mrMostPowerfulThingSeed](http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/how-cooperatives-are-driving-the-new-economy/why-the-most-powerful-thing-in-the-world-is-a-seed?utm_source=apr13yn&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mrMostPowerfulThingSeed) or you might decide to purchase her book *[The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food](#)*.

Seeds, it turns out, don't just grow plants—they build stories, heritage, and history, which tend to be shared every time seeds pass from hand to hand. So it's fitting that Ray, an accomplished nature writer and activist, shares some of her own story in *The Seed Underground*. When she was just a child, Ray got her first heirloom seeds from her grandmother—Jack beans, which resembled eyeballs. At 12 she set a brush fire trying to clear land for a garden. At 22 she joined Seed Savers Exchange.



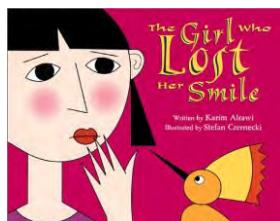
...Ray outlines the basics of seed saving in *The Seed Underground*, but it is not a how-to book. It's a call to action, which often reads like a lyrical love letter to the land and to varieties of squash and peas most of us have never tasted. It's also a love letter to us, Ray's readers. "Even though I may not know you, I have fallen in love with you, you who understand that a relationship to the land is powerful," she writes.



The truth is, Janisse Ray is on a mission to turn you into a quiet, under-the-radar revolutionary, and if you read [\*The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food\*](#), she just might succeed. At the very least, you will look at seeds—tiny, but vital to our survival — differently.

“A seed makes itself. A seed doesn’t need a geneticist or hybridist or publicist or matchmaker. But it needs help,” she writes. “Sometimes it needs a moth or a wasp or a gust of wind. Sometimes it needs a farm and it needs a farmer. It needs a garden and a gardener. It needs you.”

### **The Girl Who Lost Her Smile**



The message of this book is simple and is found in this line, “Jehan saw that its beauty had always been there. It had just been waiting for her to uncover it.” This is an important lesson to learn because it also contains my feelings about prayer. God always answers and the answer is usually right in front of us but sometimes it takes us awhile to see it. You can order [\*The Girl Who Lost Her Smile\*](#).

### **THE CREED in Scripture**



This is the latest book in the *Lectio Divina Bible Study* series. Stephen J. Binz has received strong acclaim from a wide variety of bishops, professors, theologians and other Catholic writers. This book like many of his others is designed for individual reflection along with small group work. There are 30 lessons which fall into six topics that become the theme for the small group sessions. I was pleased with his treatment of “consubstantial” and believe adults will find this work very helpful in their study of our beliefs, especially as Stephen connects these beliefs to Scripture and Tradition. You can order [\*Lectio Divina Bible Study: The Creed in Scripture \(Lectio Divina Bible Studies\)\*](#).

### **Spiritual Navigation: Book Explains Key Tool for Growing in Christian Perfection**



A recently published book by Daniel Burke, an author and executive director of the American weekly newspaper, the National Catholic Register, he offers advice on *How can I grow in prayer and virtue? What is the best way to overcome my temptations and defects?* The book, "[\*Navigating the Interior Life: Spiritual Direction and the Journey to God\*](#)," with the assistance of Father John Bartunek, LC, deals with the topic of spiritual direction.

In the preface to the book Burke described how, after his conversion and entry

into the Catholic Church, he greatly benefitted from having a spiritual director, but that at first he struggled to understand the role of a spiritual director and how best to utilize his help. He wrote the book because, as he described, "Finally, I believe that, outside of the sacraments, there is no greater or more important tool available to help us nurture our relationship with God and to grow in grace than spiritual direction."

Spiritual direction, he explained, is a way in which we can come to better know, love and follow Christ, through the help of someone who guides us. "The main focus of spiritual direction is union with God," he affirmed. This happens by discovering God's presence in our souls and following his will and developing a love for God and our neighbor.

The last part of the book provides a series of guides, questionnaires, and check lists to help people identify their spiritual state and what are their main defects and strong points in their spiritual life. One of the chapters has the heading "Navigation on a Narrow Path," which, nevertheless, is not as difficult as it might sound if only we follow the signposts that God leaves for us.

In concluding Burke lamented the fact that very often people limit themselves to the observance of an external piety, without developing "a loving relationship with Christ in this life that opens the soul in ways far beyond what it could ever imagine." You can read the full review by Father John Flynn, LC at [http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/spiritual-navigation?utm\\_campaign=dailyhtml&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dispatch](http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/spiritual-navigation?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch). You can order the book [\*Navigating the Interior Life: Spiritual Direction and the Journey to God\*](#).

## **Jim Wallis on Serving the Common Good**

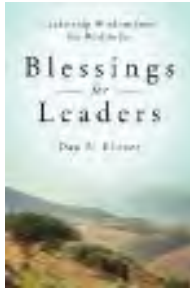


This week *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly* interviews Jim Wallis. In a new book called "On God's Side," this social activist, evangelical, preacher, and editor of *Sojourners* magazine advocates solving the country's problems by serving the common good. You can watch/listen/read the interview at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-5-2013/jim-wallis-on-serving-the-common-good/15753/>. If interested, you can also order [\*On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good\*](#)





## **Blessings for Leaders**



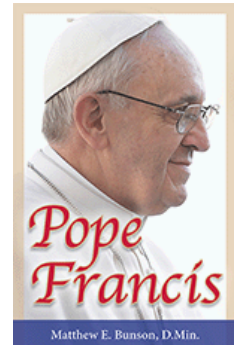
By tying together the Beatitudes and core leadership components, Dan shows us that leadership can not only strengthen our faith but help us improve as leaders. He convincingly argues that the Beatitudes are "leadership wisdom," not a guide for everyday life, like the Ten Commandments.

Each of these Beatitudes, along with Ebener's insightful commentary, represents a piece of the truth of what it means to be a Christian leader. The integration of spiritual insights with demonstrated skills is a rich and rare blend of theory and practice. You can order [\*\*\*Blessings for Leaders: Leadership Wisdom from the Beatitudes.\*\*\*](#)

## **Pope Francis: A Biography**

When the curtains were drawn and our new Holy Father stepped out into view of the 150,000 people waiting in St. Peter's Square, it was a humble and gentle man from Argentina who greeted them, not in triumph, but with a gentle wave.

He's a pope of "firsts" - the first Jesuit pope, the first pope from the Americas, and the first to choose the name of Italy's most famous saint.



- He is the son of an immigrant railway worker, and sibling of four.
- He was an active, social young man who trained to be a chemist before pursuing a religious vocation.
- He is a Jesuit priest and beloved spiritual director who even as archbishop of Buenos Aires was referred to as Father Jorge.
- He is an outspoken leader who experienced firsthand the challenges of a society ravaged by war, economic despair and cultural unrest.

Pope Francis is still new to us, but in this biography you will get to know the man who became pope: A street priest at heart with a deep love for people and a pastor's touch. He teaches in word and deed the truths of the Church and God's merciful love.

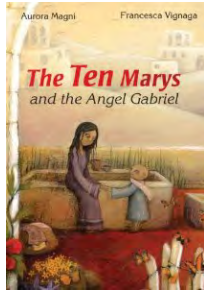
Examine Pope Francis the man - his background, his ideas, his mission, and his challenges and opportunities as our new pope - including 16 pages of full color photos from Pope Francis' past and present. You can order [\*\*\*Pope Francis.\*\*\*](#)



An anthropologist proposed a game to the kids in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told the kids that who ever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he told them to run they all took each others hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they had run like that as one could have had all the fruits for himself they said: "UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

"UBUNTU" in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are"

## **The Ten Mary's and the Angel Gabriel**



Gabriel, a little angel with a big assignment, goes to Nazareth without the map that will lead him to Mary's home to announce that she will become the mother of God. Since he had a desire to sightsee and he didn't want to scare her, so he came as a little boy and "would use his wings and halo only at the end if they were necessary." He meets Bartholomew who sends him off to ten different Mary's. It becomes quite obvious how Gabriel's perceptions of where he will find Mary changes and how he encounters the true Mary, just like Jesus meets the woman at the well. You will absolutely love the art work as well as the ending. You can order [\*The Ten Marys: And the Angel Gabriel\*](#).

## **April: National Poetry Month – T. S. Eliot "Little Gidding"**

Two lines (and all parts in-between) from this T. S. Eliot poem are the title used by Eileen Burke-Sullivan for her TED Style talk on Tuesday. See the context in her title "*To 'Know the Place for the First Time ... When ... the Fire and the Rose are One.'*"

### **Little Gidding**

*We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.  
Through the unknown, unremembered gate  
When the last of earth left to discover  
Is that which was the beginning;  
At the source of the longest river  
The voice of the hidden waterfall  
And the children in the apple-tree  
Not known, because not looked for  
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness  
Between two waves of the sea.  
Quick now, here, now, always—  
A condition of complete simplicity  
(Costing not less than everything)  
And all shall be well and  
All manner of thing shall be well  
When the tongues of flame are in-folded  
Into the crowned knot of fire  
And the fire and the rose are one.*

-T. S. Eliot