

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we move toward our Archdiocesan *Celebration of Ministry Day* on May 10<sup>th</sup> and Pentecost on May 12<sup>th</sup>, I hope all of you are enjoying the wonderful weather in the midst of First Communions, Confirmations and the ending of the school year. This week's newsletter is filled with resources from NCCL, including comments from Pope Francis, information about the impact of prayer, video links and free webinars.

Val Keller, PAFF at St. Benedict Parish has alerted us to a great link for receiving a daily tidbit from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. You can sign up for free at <http://www.flocknote.com/catechism>

The Office of Catholic Faith Formation would also like to let you know about two exciting programs that will begin in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about the dignity of women and the Good News of social justice, please check out the links below.

Finally, **June 5<sup>th</sup> is our annual PAFF Conference**. Dr. Joe White, who is a developmental psychologist, catechist and writer for Our Sunday Visitor is our featured speaker. The day will be filled with updates and a richness of catechetical resources. Be on the lookout for registration information that will be coming out soon!

In Christ,

*Anne*

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.

Director of Parish and School Faith Formation



# Facilitator Training

**Faith, friendship, and fun:**  
**Learn how to lead an Endow study group for girls, teens, or women.**

The Seattle Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is pleased to host its first Endow Facilitator Training. This all-day training prepares women to become Endow small group facilitators, equipped to help other women and girls grow in their faith. Endow (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic educational program that brings women together to discover their God-given dignity and to understand their role in humanizing and transforming society.



Sponsored by the  
Seattle  
Archdiocesan  
Council of Catholic  
Women

You are invited to EVENING SOCIAL:  
WINE, WOMEN & the WORD  
June 21 or 22, from 7 to 9pm  
See Flier or website

Choose the date/location best for you!

## North

**Sat. June 22 - 9:00am-4:00pm**

**St. Elizabeth Seton Parish**

2316- 180th St. S.E. Bothell, WA 98012

**-or-**

## South

**Sun. June 23 - 9:00am-4:00pm**

**John Paul II High School**

5608 Pacific Ave. S.E. Lacey, WA 98503

**Training Cost: \$60\***

\*Cost includes all-day training and *Letter to Women* study guide, source document, & binder. Bring a lunch. Beverages provided. Increases to \$70 on June 1, due to higher shipping expense. Talk with your pastor, principal or DRE about becoming a facilitator.

**Limited Scholarships available.**

**Ask Spirituality Chair:** [julia.miller@msn.com](mailto:julia.miller@msn.com) or 253-922-7900

Girls 16 to 18 welcome with parent/guardian. No Childcare available.

**ALL COMPLETING TRAINING ELEGIBLE TO RECEIVE  
COMPLIMENTARY 2013 MEMBERSHIP IN SEATTLE ACCW  
[www.SeattleACCW.org](http://www.SeattleACCW.org)**

To register for this training, please visit website at  
[www.EndowGroups.org/calendar](http://www.EndowGroups.org/calendar)

For Mail Registration form call ENDOW OFFICE: 720-382-5242

Send Payment to: E.N.D.O.W. 6021 So. Syracuse Way #220, Greenwood Village, CO 80111



Missions Office, Archdiocese of Seattle 206-382-4580 [missionsoffice@seattlearch.org](mailto:missionsoffice@seattlearch.org) [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions)

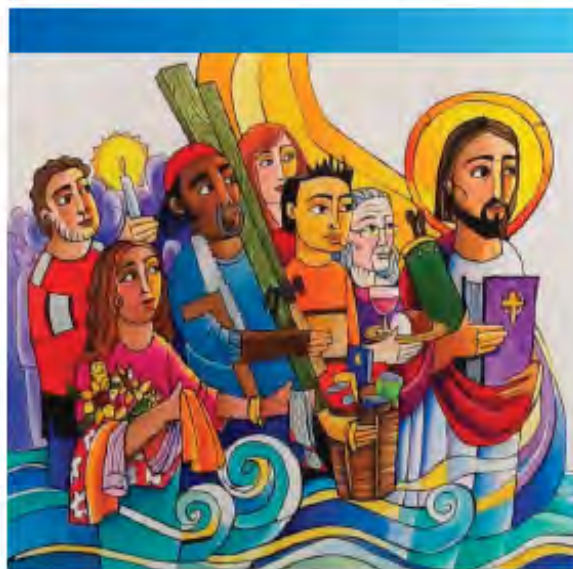
# GoodNews People Program

The *GoodNews* People Program is a dynamic parish-wide program inviting people to new ways of understanding their faith, themselves and the needs of the world around them.

The intent is to familiarize participants with the biblical witness of Jesus, awaken the call to discipleship that resounds within each participant and explore the richness of the Catholic faith to inspire new passion for and engagement in the Church's mission.

## Program Benefits:

- Parishioners will be motivated toward deeper engagement in parish community life.
- Parishioners will engage in a process designed to broaden their sense of discipleship, deepen their prayer life and spirituality, and connect them to the life-giving work that addresses the needs of their neighbors, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.
- Parishioners will participate in a hope-filled and enriching process to explore the message of Christ in order to proclaim Christ anew.
- Parishioners will commit to activities and relationships that offer hope, solidarity and loving care.
- Parishioners will experience a greater sense of belonging by being gathered in a variety of new ways, i.e.: 10 groups of ten could be configured in the following ways with:
  - Intergenerational Groups
  - Young Adults
  - Newly Married
  - Parents with Young Children
  - Working Professionals
  - Active Retired
  - Widows and Widowers
  - New Parishioners
  - *And more*



## Become a Good News Parish!

- Explore and present the heart of the Catholic Church's teaching, experience and witness in response to the gospel call to love God and love our neighbor.
- Tap into and unleash the hope, power and possibilities found in a faithful commitment to be "good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18).
- Empower the parish to be a sign of God's hope-filled presence and activity in the world.

## The Good News People Program includes:

- Fourteen sessions (7 sessions in the fall, 7 in the spring) designed to broaden our awareness of our Catholic faith and the call to be disciples in the world today.
- A framework and tool to promote the "New Evangelization" called for in the Church.
- A complete step-by-step Facilitator guide.
- A companion DVD filmed by an award-winning film maker.
- A companion hymn to be used at liturgies and program sessions.
- A Participant Reader and Journal with reading material, reflections, and space for journaling.
- Promotional materials to create awareness and generate interest in your parish.

## Parish Requirements:

- Recruit 100 adult parishioners (10 groups of 10 people).
- Guarantee support of the pastor and staff.
- Make a financial commitment; Program fee is \$500. (Costs of accompanying texts for facilitators and participants are an additional cost.)
- Participate in an annual evaluation of the process.



P.O. Box 221348  
Louisville, KY 40252

502-429-0865  
Fax 502-429-0897  
[www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org)

## JustFaith Catholic and Good News People

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Good News People and JustFaith Catholic are two programs provided by JustFaith Ministries. This document is an “At-a Glance” look at the similarities and differences between these two major programs.

### Program Similarities:

- Led by facilitators who are members of the group
- Designed for easy implementation
- Small group process
- Dialogue—not just discussion—a critical component
- Educate on the Gospel and Catholic social ministry
- Prayer, reading, reflection, and opportunity to engage with those living in poverty
- Call to action ... using one’s own gifts and lived experiences

### Program Differences:

	Good News People	JustFaith Catholic
<b>Purpose</b>	To communicate faith (scripture), hope (discipleship) and love (serve in the world)	To explore poverty through the lens of Catholic social teaching, specifically the option for and with the poor
<b>Program Focus</b>	Engaged discipleship	Living simply, nonviolently, and in solidarity with the poor
<b>Primary Desired Outcome</b>	To create communities of disciples going forth to be Good News to the world	To affect attitudinal and lifestyle changes that demonstrate a faith-filled commitment to addressing poverty

<b>Program Intent</b>	To encounter the Word of God, Church teaching, and habits that form disciples and to affirm and encourage engagement	To explore the challenges of following Jesus today while examining the realities of poverty from both a systems perspective and individuals' lived experiences
<b>Key Elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer and Reflection</li> <li>• Scripture – Lectio Divina</li> <li>• Good News stories</li> <li>• Discipleship formation</li> <li>• Virtue formation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer and Reflection</li> <li>• Poverty Encounters</li> <li>• Gospel Call to Compassion</li> <li>• Dialogue</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement Level</b>	Formational	Transformational (Engages the mind, body and heart)
<b>Group Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed to be <i>parish wide</i> ...</li> <li>• for 10 groups of 10 per parish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed for 8–15 individuals per group.</li> <li>• Most parishes will have 1, or maybe 2, groups. (Note: A parish can invite parishioners from other parishes to help form a group, too.)</li> </ul>
<b>Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Plenary</li> <li>• 14 sessions: 7 in the fall and 7 in the spring</li> <li>• Immersion experience between the fall and spring sessions</li> <li>• Closing Plenary</li> <li>• Each session is 1½ hrs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Phases: each with 6 sessions and an immersion experience</li> <li>• Periods of transitional, self reflection between each phase</li> <li>• Opening Retreat and closing Commissioning Retreat</li> <li>• Each session is 2 hours</li> <li>• Recommended 3 week discernment period <i>following</i> session twenty four</li> </ul>
<b>Document Delivery</b>	Most of the program material is printed.	Most of the program material is provided electronically (other than the books and videos).

<b>Duration</b>	Designed to be a 1 year process that runs for one to three years, depending on the parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designed for groups to complete the program <i>in the course of one year</i>.</li><li>• Most groups begin in September, but groups can begin at any time of the year.</li></ul>
<b>Costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registration: \$500 each year</li><li>• 1 Book /participant \$20</li><li>• 1 DVD/group \$10</li><li>• Facilitator binder \$15</li><li>• Parish kit \$30</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registration: \$325</li><li>• Set of books/participant: approximately \$130</li><li>• Set of DVDs/ group: approximately \$220</li></ul>

*mw/April 2013*

## **Pope Encourages Confirmation Candidates to "Swim Against the Tide"**



During his homily at the Confirmation Mass in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father offered his reflections on the Sunday readings, speaking first on St. John's vision of "new heavens and a new earth." Saint John's vision, the Pope said, "reminds us that all of us are journeying towards the heavenly Jerusalem, the ultimate newness which awaits us and all reality, the happy day when we will see the Lord's face – that marvelous face, the most beautiful face of the Lord Jesus - and be with him for ever, in his love."

The Pope invited the faithful to see the transformation of the Holy Spirit in our lives as a calling from God to transform the world. By allowing ourselves to be guided by the Spirit, he continued, we "allow God's constant help to make us new men and women, inspired by the love of God which the Holy Spirit bestows on us! How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say: Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person! How beautiful!" the Holy Father exclaimed.

Commenting on the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Pope Francis compared the Church's journey to that of each individual's journey as Christians, which is met with trials and difficulties. Following God to cleanse and free us from sin, he said, "is to set out on a path with many obstacles. But difficulties and trials are part of the path that leads to God's glory, just as they were for Jesus, who was glorified on the cross; we will always encounter them in life! Do not be discouraged! We have the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome these trials!"



The Holy Father then directed his attention to the "confirmandi", those youth who were to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, exhorting them to remain steadfast in the journey of faith. The Pope encouraged the youth to "swim against the tide" with the courage given to them by the Lord. "Pay attention, my young friends," the Holy Father said, "to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage! There are no difficulties, trials or misunderstandings to fear, provided we remain united to God as branches to the vine, provided we do not lose our friendship with him, provided we make ever more room for him in our lives."

## **The Catholic Teenager: A Few Mysteries Solved**



Nineteen Sixty-four is a research blog for the [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate](http://cara.georgetown.edu/) (CARA) [http://cara.georgetown.edu/] at Georgetown University edited by Mark M. Gray. CARA is a non-profit research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church.



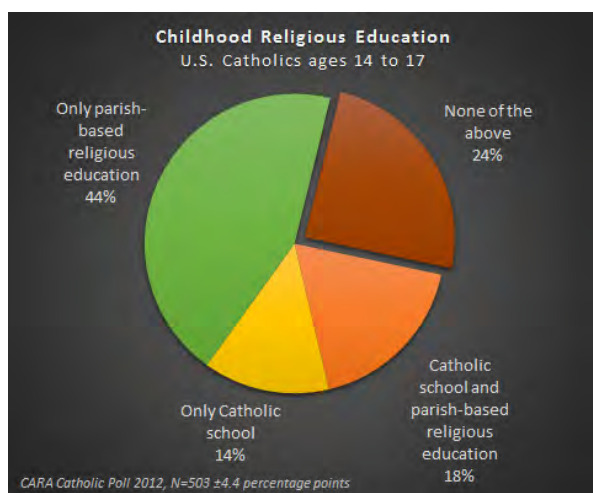
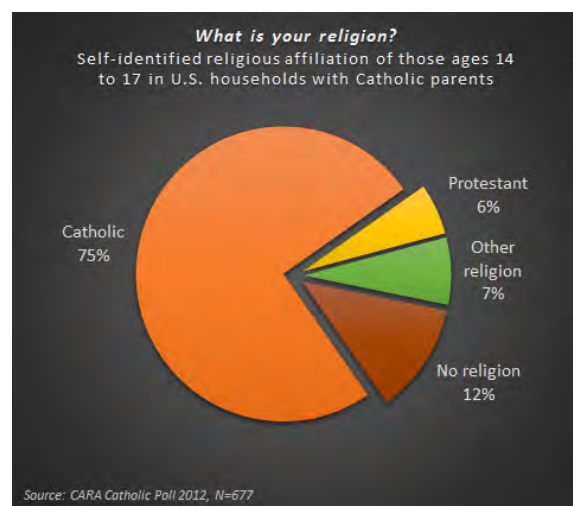
Founded in 1964, CARA has three major dimensions to its mission: to increase the Catholic Church's self understanding; to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers; and to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism.

As a recent [study](#)

(<http://www.pewforum.org/Faith-in-Flux%283%29.aspx>) by the *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life* found, “Almost half of Catholics who are now unaffiliated (48%) left Catholicism before reaching age 18” (...some of them [return](http://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2012/06/reverts-catholics-who-left-and-came.html) [\[http://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2012/06/reverts-catholics-who-left-and-came.html\]](http://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2012/06/reverts-catholics-who-left-and-came.html) to the faith later in life). In

2012, thanks to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) CARA got the chance to interview teens about their religious faith in a national survey. The overall study focused on interest in [vocations](#) (<http://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2012/10/millions-of-never-married-catholics.html>).

A total of 1,609 respondents were interviewed (English and Spanish) in May and June 2012. Of this sample, 677 respondents were ages 14 to 17. Here are a few highlights from their findings. If you are interested in reading more along with several more graphs, please go to <http://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2013/05/the-catholic-teenager-few-mysteries.html>.



Ninety-two percent of the teens with two Catholic parents self-identified their faith as Catholic (Overall, 76% percent of the teens indicated they reside in a household with two Catholic parents). Only 55% of those with one Catholic parent self-identified their faith as Catholic. Thus, some teens may be adopting the affiliation of a non-Catholic parent. It is also the case that as they become more peer-connected they may be attending services or religious programs with friends of other faiths and this may alter their religious identities.

Some are “falling away” from religion generally and losing any affiliation.

Although use of new media and the internet is widespread and frequent among American youth, many Catholic teens do not indicate use of these tools yet to connect with content about their faith. When these teens seek out religious or spiritual content they are still more often looking to traditional media than new media. Television is the most popular choice for this.



## **FREE Professional Development Webinar – THIS Tuesday, May 7, 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 *Parishes, New Media, and the New Evangelization: A Roundtable Discussion*, is offered on Tuesday, May 7 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at (<http://tiny.cc/qggyvw>). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit [www.avemariapress.com/webinars](http://www.avemariapress.com/webinars).



### **Parishes, New Media, and the New Evangelization: A Roundtable Discussion**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT**

In this edition of the *Ave Maria Press Professional Development Webinar Series*, we will host a number of new media and new evangelization experts in a roundtable discussion about how parishes can use digital media to reach new people and connect with their parishioners.

Topics for discussion may include:

- ✚ Social media for beginners
  - ✚ Developing dynamic parish websites
  - ✚ Effectively using Facebook pages
  - ✚ Case studies and examples of parishes effectively using new media
  - ✚ How to use email to reach parishioners
  - ✚ Opportunities in SMS and text messaging

This will be a new and exciting format for the webinar series. Unlike past webinars, the panelists will not create their own slideshow presentations. After some initial questions and a discussion guided by the moderator, the panelists will take questions from the webinar participants on a wide variety of topics. Our panel of experts includes:

- ♦ **Domenico Bettinelli** - Archdiocese of Boston
- ♦ **Jared Dees** (*moderator*) - Ave Maria Press
- ♦ **Josh Simmons** - eCatholic
- ♦ **Ashley Collins** - Peter and Paul Ministries
- ♦ **Lisa Hendey** - CatholicMom.com
- ♦ **Matthew Warner** - Flocknote

## **Bubble Catholics and World Wide Funnel Webs**



Among the many linguistic paradoxes that populate the word-loving mind of Dr. Edward Mulholland, Gregorian Institute at Benedictine College, is “narrow-minded Catholicism.” Since “catholic” means “universal, according to the whole,” it would seem that a mind that is catholic, *ipso facto*, would not be narrow. And yet, he says, “I have encountered a few Catholics in my day who are - here comes another paradox - rather parochial, and not in a good way.” Here are some of his thoughts on Diversity, Disagreement and a Self-Referential Exile. The complete article

can be found at <http://www.thegregorian.org/blog/bubble-catholics-and-world-wide-funnel-webs>.

To spread the Gospel, we will have to break out of our bubbles. Pope Francis has spoken about a Church that doesn't go beyond itself becoming sick and narcissistic. “Self-referential” was a term he used. Sounds like a bubble to me.



Of course, bubbledom is not a modern phenomenon, but in our age there is little reason for such bubbles to exist. Don't we all have easy access to the World Wide Web? ...What is the reason for this entrenched parochialism? We know that the Holy Spirit transcended Babel at Pentecost, why are we so apt to stay put in our Babel-Bubble-onian exile?

How does *Amazon.com* suggest books that I am interested in? How does *Pandora* include artists I have never heard of, whose songs I end up liking? Simple. They track my preferences and, based on them, suggest things that match them. ...far from widening my tastes, it only deepens my niche.

That leads to remarks like this one. “Boy, everything I read seems to say the Church is in a profound crisis.” I don't deny that there aren't many indices pointing in that direction, but it is also true that your computer has picked up on the fact that you read such things, so such articles find their way to you, as if by magic. They are high on your search engine lists.

Years ago, we all got the same news. In about half an hour. These days, we generally get the news we want, from the point of view we want, and we can spend hours delving deeper, without gaining any different perspective on events. This means that, while we may hear a lot about what others say, we don't always know where they are coming from. We dismiss other points of view out of hand.

“Diversity” is a quintessentially modern value. But it doesn't seem to hold much value unless we achieve unity beyond and despite diversity. A gathering of people who agree about nothing is no big whoop. A group of people who are very different and yet reach a consensus around something positively real is worthy of a high-five, if only to prove that our hands were strangely designed to fit together.

This can only happen when we seek out those with points of view we disagree with and find common ground, even if we still disagree on many things. That can't happen in a bubble. If the Church needs more pop in her mission, what needs to pop first are our bubbles.

### **Confessional not a 'dry cleaner,' says Pope**



Pope Francis said the Sacrament of Confession does not work like a dry cleaner but is a moment in which Jesus imparts his peace. “Many times we think that going to confession is like going to the dry cleaner to clean the dirt from our clothes,” he observed. But what really happens is that Jesus “donates to us the peace that only he gives,” he said.

“We are often ashamed to tell the truth, but shame is a true Christian virtue, and even human,” he commented. Pope Francis taught that being ashamed of sins is “not only natural, it’s a virtue that helps prepare us for God’s forgiveness.” He underscored that confession is not “a torture session” and that

God is not waiting “to beat,” but is instead “always waiting for us, with tenderness to forgive.”

The Pope encouraged the congregation to “never masquerade before God.” “He defends us in front of our weaknesses, but you need to stand in front of the Lord with our truth of (being) sinners, with confidence, even with joy, without masquerading,” he remarked. The Holy Father also noted that walking in darkness means being “overly pleased with ourselves and believing that we do not need salvation.”

“We all have darkness in our lives, moments where everything, even our consciousness, is in the dark, but this does not mean we walk in darkness,” said the Pope.

### **Painting Icons**



May 5 is Easter Sunday, or Pascha, for Orthodox Christians. *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly* interviews iconographer Seraphim O’Keefe, who has been painting icons on the white walls of Holy Cross Orthodox Antiochian Orthodox Church in Linthicum, Maryland during Lent. O’Keefe says icons play a role similar to fasting in the Orthodox tradition. Both are ways of finding order and beauty. Painting an icon, he also observes, “is a way of praying.” You can listen to this two minute interview at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/by-topic/iconography/16230/>.

## **Search Institute – FREE Webinar – The Balance of Care and Challenge**



Everyone seems to agree that "relationships matter." But what is it about relationships that matter? Join us for a sneak peek at Search Institute's latest thinking about the developmental relationships that help young people succeed. Search Institute's Senior Fellow Dr. Peter Scales will lead an hour-long, no-cost webinar titled [\*The Balance of Care and Challenge: Why All Kids Need it, and How All Adults Can Provide It.\*](#) In this webinar, parents, parent educators, and other caring adults will discover the importance of developmental relationships in the lives of kids and what you can do to foster these relationships. To find out more information or to register, please go to <http://www.parentfurther.com/webinars/developmental-relationships>.



## **Gifts Persons with Disabilities Bring to Our Church Communities**



The following announcement was featured in the May edition of NCPD E-News.

On May 17 & 18, Dennis McNulty, Director of Catholic Charities Disability Services, Diocese of Cleveland will again appear on the *Living Right with Dr. Ray Show* on EWTN (The Global Catholic Network) at 5:00 a.m. Friday and at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please check your local listing for the exact time. This second episode will also feature Grace Bertolino from the Catholic Blind Community of Cleveland. Dennis & Dr. Ray will discuss persons with disabilities, their ministries, and the gifts that they bring to our Church community and as a result to the society we live in.



## **New Film Shows Dramatic Revival of Omaha Parish**



A new documentary tracks the gripping journey of how a priest and his community – through fidelity to Church tradition and Vatican II – turned a church with dwindling numbers into a thriving parish. “We’re trying to do everything as faithfully as we can, as beautifully as we can, to what the Church has given us,” Father Damien Cook, pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in Omaha.

St. Peter's is “dedicated to the restoration of the sacred,” he said, with Masses sung with Latin and chant, liturgies celebrated both facing the people and facing the altar, altar boys, Eucharistic adoration, evening prayer sung every day, processions, and distribution of Communion at the altar rail. “This is what we should do, if we’re going to be a

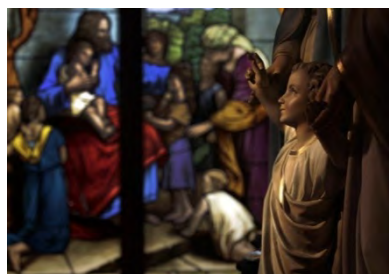


fully faithful church according to Vatican II and the whole tradition of the Church,” said Fr. Cook.

“Where Heaven Meets Earth” is a 30 minute documentary produced by the StoryTel Foundation, which premiered on EWTN on Tuesday, April 30. A DVD of the documentary is also available for pre-order at the foundation's website (<http://www.storytel.org/>). Read more at <http://www.ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/US.php?id=7541>.



## **What the ‘Nones’ Teach Us on the National Day of Prayer**



Elizabeth Drescher, PhD, a lecturer in Religious Studies and Pastoral Ministries at Santa Clara University wrote the *On Faith* piece for the *Washington Post* this week. She wrote about “the growing population of the religiously unaffiliated—the “nones” who comprise twenty percent of the population overall and a third of adults under age 30.” (<http://www.pewforum.org/Unaffiliated/nones-on-the-rise.aspx>)

Here are a few excerpts from the article. If you care to read her complete column, please go to <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-faith/wp/2013/05/02/what-the-nones-teach-us-on-the-national-day-of-prayer/>.

Most nones believe in God or a higher power, and a plurality pray regularly. According to Pew’s research, some [51 percent of those who say their religious affiliation is “nothing in particular”](#) and 19 percent of those who say they are agnostic or atheist pray at least once a month. That’s less than the 88 percent of religiously affiliated Americans who pray at least monthly, but it’s not nothing in an America where institutional religion has been declining for decades.



The majority of nones come from Christian backgrounds, carrying hurt, anger, or boredom with their childhood faith along with fragments of belief, ritual, and everyday spiritual practice that they weave into approaches to meaning-making within which prayer has a continuing significance.

My research shows that prayer stands alone among traditional practices like attending church and reading scripture tracked by pollsters as “spiritually meaningful” for nones. For many nones, prayer offers an openness and flexibility that makes it functional for those who have left the religions of their childhoods but who don’t want to—or can’t—forget them entirely.

A Hawaiian “none” brought up in a widely interreligious extended family—Mormon at home, Methodist at grandma’s, Buddhist among some cousins, native Hawaiian religions among others, said “What works for me is the mix of it. Everyone’s trying to work out what it all means in their own way, but we all sit down to dinner together.”

“I love all of them,” he said, “but never too much. If I get too attached to one thing or another, I let it go for a while. I don’t want to get caught in any one net.” This engagement with a diversity of spiritualities along with an open questioning of any of them characteristic of meaning-making for many nones. Still, he assured me, “I’ll pray with anyone. I’ll kneel down with you. I’ll make an offering at your temple. I’ll celebrate the rains and the harvest. That can’t be bad, right?”

## **The Class of 2013: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood**

A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



April 2013

Mary L. Guttler, Ph.D.  
Carolyn Saunders, M.S.

The median age of men ordained to the priesthood in 2013 is 32, two-thirds are Caucasian, and 26 percent carry educational debt. These figures stand out in *The Class of 2013: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*, the annual national survey of men being ordained priests for U.S. dioceses and religious communities. The study was conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), a Georgetown University-based research center. The entire report can be found at [usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/](http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/).

The report is the 17th annual survey of ordinands commissioned by the Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). About 74 percent of an estimated 500 men to be ordained priests in the United States in 2013 responded to the survey. On average, most of the ordination class were baptized as infants, but nine percent became Catholic later in life. Eight in ten report that both parents are Catholic, and more than a third have a relative who is a priest or religious.



On average, respondents report that they were nearly 17 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. Two in three (67 percent) say they were encouraged to consider a vocation to the priesthood by a parish priest. Others who encouraged them include friends (46 percent), parishioners (38 percent) and mothers (34 percent).



Compared to the U.S. adult Catholic population, men to be ordained are more apt to be of Asian or Pacific Islander background (10 percent), but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino (15 percent). Three in 10 respondents (31 percent) were born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Mexico, Vietnam, Colombia, Poland, the Philippines and Nigeria. In other findings:

- More than half of the Class of 2013 (52 percent) report having more than two siblings, while one in five (20 percent) report having five or more siblings. Ordinands are most likely to be the oldest in their family (40 percent).
- Ordinands of the Class of 2013 have been active in parish ministries. Two-thirds indicated they served as an altar server and about half (47 percent) participated in a parish youth group. One-fifth (20 percent) participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary.

- More than four in 10 of respondents (42 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, which is a rate equal to that for all Catholic adults in the United States. In addition, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (44 percent, compared to seven percent among U.S. Catholic adults).
- Many ordinands specified some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary, most often in education, accounting, finance or insurance. Four percent of ordinands indicated that they had served in the U.S. Armed Forces at some point.

### **FREE Webinar: The Year of Faith: Catholic Devotions & Renewal of Faith**



Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, provides insights about how a life of prayer and participation in worship can deepen faith and help to integrate faith into one's daily life on **Thursday, May 16, 2013, at 3:00 pm EDT.**

To register, please go to <http://tiny.cc/kxgyvw>.

### **Catechetical Leader Pilgrimage to Rome for Year of Faith Day for Catechists**



Lori Dahlhoff and the NCEA Religious Education Department are organizing a delegation of catechetical leaders from across the United States for a pilgrimage to Rome September 23 – 30, 2013. The itinerary includes participating in the International Conference of Catechists and Pilgrimage of Catechists being organized by the Vatican to mark the Year of Faith Day for Catechists. Participants will also practice utilizing digital technologies to engage catechists and leaders to join the pilgrimage virtually. Download a full-color brochure with itinerary, costs, and application from

[www.unitours.com/client/NatlEducationAssnRome.pdf](http://www.unitours.com/client/NatlEducationAssnRome.pdf) or contact Lori at 571-257-1994 or [reled@ncea.org](mailto:reled@ncea.org) to get more details about the professional and ministerial development aspects of the trip. Participation is open to women and men who serve as catechetical leaders in any facet of Catholic parishes, schools, and dioceses across the United States. Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

## **The Unmistakable New Voice of Pope Francis**



*The Church is a mother, not a [babysitter](#). The Church is a "[love story](#)."*

*God is a person, not a mist or a "[God spray](#)."*

*Christians must avoid the "[dark joy](#)" of gossip.*

*And yes, pessimism, cynicism and calumny [are from Satan](#).*

In case anyone managed to miss it, these comments cement the obvious: the world has a new pope. The pope's flair for evocative imagery and unique phrases is something meant to cut across languages. Pope Francis uses vivid, at times unexpected language to challenge, inspire and otherwise get his point across. Often bluntly. Sometimes humorously. Always memorably.

It was evident from the beginning in the now public "[Bergoglio intervention](#)." Given by the Pope Francis' talks are marked not by theological narcissism but by examples of daily life. He [quotes his grandmother](#). He [compares Heaven to getting cataract surgery](#). He addresses [Catholic life at the parish level](#). He cuts across cultural and ideological lines and simultaneously comforts and challenges practically everyone in his path. He does this so deftly that he's even [proved to be a good fit for Twitter](#). It's difficult to imagine someone being more inspirational in 140 characters. Rather than analyze this point to death, here are some highlights:

*Being with Jesus demands that we go out from ourselves, and from living a tired and habitual faith. (March 27)*

*Accept the risen Jesus into your life. Even if you have been far away, take a small step towards him: he awaits you with open arms. (March 31)*

*God loves us. We must not be afraid to love him. The faith is professed with the lips and with the heart, through words and through love. (April 4)*

*Being a Christian is not just about following commandments: it is about letting Christ take possession of our lives and transform them. (April 10)*

*Jesus' ascension into heaven does not mean his absence, but that he is alive among us in a new way, close to each one of us. (April 17)*

*At this time of crisis it is important not to become closed in on oneself, but rather to be open and attentive towards others. (April 25)*

*Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things! (April 26)*



*The Holy Spirit truly transforms us. With our cooperation, he also wants to transform the world we live in. (April 28)*

For a wonderfully complete [round up of memorable quotes from Pope Francis thus far, check out this blog post](http://www.johnthavis.com/a-pope-francis-sampler#.UXaPYjBciXk) from John Thavis (<http://www.johnthavis.com/a-pope-francis-sampler#.UXaPYjBciXk>), former Rome Bureau Chief for Catholic News Service.

## North American Forum on the Catechumenate



In a recent letter from Steven R. Janco, Chair of the Board of Directors of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, he announced that:

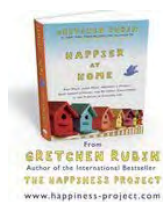
...the Board of Directors has made a commitment to dissolve the North American Forum on the Catechumenate as a not-for-profit organization. The target date is June 30, 2013. Ending operations on date should, hopefully, allow us to wrap up Forum's affairs without having to file for bankruptcy. It is important for you to know that Jim Schellman, Forum's executive director, is in full agreement with the board's decision. The board will be working closely with Jim as we map out the weeks ahead.

As we prepare to wrap up Forum's affairs, the Board is filled with gratitude for an extraordinary 30 years. It is no overstatement to say that Forum and its Team members have given shape, direction, and energy to our experience of Christian initiation in the United States and Canada. The expertise that Forum has provided and fostered since its founding continues to bear fruit through the writing and activities of its Team members, through the ministry of diocesan leaders who cosponsored and promoted Forum institutes, and through many thousands who have taken part in Forum's learning opportunities over the years. Even as we grieve Forum's closing, board members remain confident that Forum Team members, diocesan leaders, and others committed to the full implementation of the RCIA will find new and creative ways to continue the mission that commenced in Estes Park, Colorado, and Calgary, Alberta, 31 years ago.



NCCL extends its prayers and support to Jim Schellman and the Forum's staff members during this difficult time and pledge our continued support of the Forum's commitment "to evangelization and conversion through catechesis, liturgy, discipleship, and mission." The North American Forum has been a longtime partner of NCCL, active at our conference and exposition, and until this latest move, shared equipment and other processes associated with the normal day-to-day operations of running a national organization.

## **Happier At Home**



In her new one-minute video book trailer (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8bR3BjpHUg>), Gretchen Rubin lists “**Ten ways to be happier at home**.” Some of those suggestions are serious, and some are goofy (to her surprise, her suggestion regarding purple has turned out to be fairly controversial). Here’s another list of ways to be happier at home, or at least, they’ve made *her* happier at home.

1. **Get enough sleep** (<http://tiny.cc/5be9vw>).
2. **Embrace good smells** (<http://tiny.cc/gee9vw>). No cost, no calories, no energy, no time—a quick hit of pleasure.
3. **Cultivate a shrine** (<http://tiny.cc/qge9vw>). NCCKL suggests you take this idea and create a shrine to your faith, your beliefs, Catholicism, sacraments...the list is endless.
4. **Accept and expect more from yourself** (<http://tiny.cc/aoe9vw>).
5. **Give warm greetings and farewells** (<http://tiny.cc/xpe9vw>). I was surprised by how much this resolution changed the atmosphere of my home.
6. **Abandon your self-control** (<http://tiny.cc/2ye9vw>). Well, this one really works for my fellow **abstainers, not moderators** (<http://tiny.cc/j0e9vw>). NCCL considers this a good personality disinction.
7. Remember the Sixth Splendid Truth: **The only person you can change is yourself** (<http://tiny.cc/62e9vw>). NCCL suggests you read all eight rather than just skip to #6.

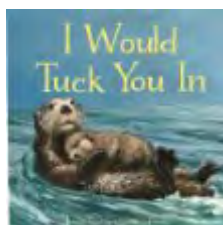
If interested why not purchase ***Happier at Home: Kiss More, Jump More, Abandon a Project, Read Samuel Johnson, and My Other Experiments in the Practice of Everyday Life***.



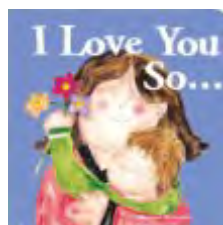
## **Some Suggested Books For Mother's Day**



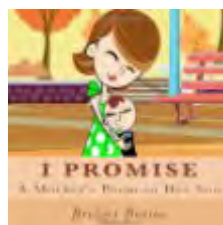
**[Your Mother's Love](#)**  
Niki Alling



**[I Would Tuck You In](#)**  
Sarah Asper-Smith,...



**[I Love You So...](#)**  
Marianne Richmond



**[I Promise](#)**  
Bridget M Batson, ...



**[Wherever You Are](#)**  
Nancy Tillman

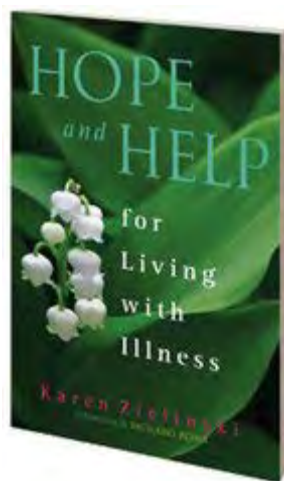
## **Happiness Here?**



This video features the "Happiness Here" street art. On this day the artist, placed seven "Happiness Here" spaces in Washington Square Park. This video simply shows people interaction with the "Happiness Here" interactive street art on that day. While this is only a small sample, it offers a little insight and glimpse at the various interactions people have when encountering a happiness here space. With a simple idea and chalk, street art welcomes people to stand inside "happiness" to "provoke thought about what happiness is."

Take a look at the artist's video profiling people's reactions to being "in happiness." Watch this three (3) minute video at <https://vimeo.com/53760946>

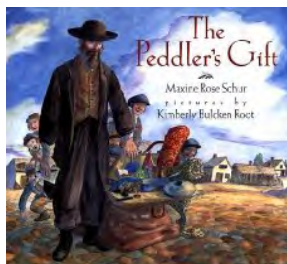
## **Hope and Help for Living With Illness**



Sister Karen J. Zielinski, O.S.F., was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1975, when she was in her early twenties. Over the years, she has taught, served as her community's director of communications, and spoken and written widely about chronic disease and the spirituality of disability and of health. She is currently director of Canticule Studio, a source of creative products focused on spirituality and health.

This is an extraordinary book that can be used for personal reflection as well as used in a support group. While you might wish to share this with your pastoral care person, it also can be of benefit as you work with people who might be caregivers themselves or have a family member suffering from mental illness. Sr. Karen brings together Scripture, personal reflections, and practical issues. If interested, you can purchase [\*Hope and Help for Living With Illness.\*](#)

## **The Peddler's Gift**



*The Peddler's Gift* is the winner of the 1999 Sydney Taylor Award in the category of books for younger readers. This is an annual literary prize awarded by the Association of Jewish Libraries for excellence in children's books with strong Jewish content. The story revolves around the actions of the young boy Leibush who keeps a dreidel, which inadvertently falls to the floor unnoticed, as his own. Later that night, his conscience burns, and he runs to the synagogue hoping to find the peddler Shnook and ask his forgiveness. The kind and generous heart of

the peddler transforms Leibush forever. You can order [The Peddler's Gift](#).

## **Poetry for Monday Morning**

Poet Marie Howe turns us about, forces us to look into the mirror, and maybe just maybe, laugh at ourselves as we slow down with her poem "Hurry". You can listen to her recite the poem herself at <http://www.onbeing.org/blog/beating-the-monday-rush-with-a-poem-hurry/5416>.

### **Hurry**

We stop at the dry cleaners and the grocery store  
and the gas station and the green market and  
Hurry up honey, I say, hurry hurry,  
as she runs along two or three steps behind me  
her blue jacket unzipped and her socks rolled down.  
Where do I want her to hurry to? To her grave?  
To mine? Where one day she might stand all grown?  
Today, when all the errands are finally done, I say to her,  
Honey I'm sorry I keep saying Hurry—  
you walk ahead of me. You be the mother.  
And, Hurry up, she says, over her shoulder, looking  
back at me, laughing. Hurry up now darling, she says,  
hurry, hurry, taking the house keys from my hands.

-Marie Howe

