

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

Welcome to the beginning of another school year! We are now just a few weeks from Catechetical Sunday on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) offers many features for our newsletter and USCCB have multiple resources that can be downloaded to use in our parishes and schools. I hope that you take advantage of many of these wonderful articles for bulletin inserts and/or handouts for your catechists.

On Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering our annual *New PAFF Orientation*. If you are a new catechetical leader or interested in learning more about faith formation resources, please register as soon as possible with the Office of Catholic Faith Formation (OCFF) and review the flyer below for more information.

Our Missions Office also has some new religious education resources for children that work with our Catechetical Sunday theme of “Open the Doors of Faith.” More information for accessing these materials from the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) can be found in this newsletter.

As we draw closer to the conclusion of this *Year of Faith* we are both excited and very grateful that both Cardinal Wuerl and Father Jeremy Driscoll, OSB will be speaking in our Archdiocese. The dates and topics of their presentations are featured below.

Many faith formation leaders are seeking ways to partner more effectively with parents. On Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, renowned Catholic family faith educator, Leif Kehrwald will be offering a presentation at St. Michael Parish in Olympia. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this great program!

Once again, we are grateful to offer a large number of free webinars, video links and news articles featuring information on becoming more effective as religious educators and following Pope Francis as he encourages all of us to celebrate the gift of life and the blessings of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. If you are looking for a new perspective and perhaps a bit of humor, review the 2017 College Mindset List of the latest generation of students starting their undergraduate degrees this fall. I also highly recommend the video featuring the fog entering into San Francisco Bay at the end of the newsletter. It could make a great way to open a prayer service with students of all age groups!

In Christ,

*Anne*

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.

Director of Parish and School Faith Formation

# PAFF Orientation

Pastoral Assistants  
for Faith Formation

*Directors of Religious Education*  
*Parish Catechetical Leaders*

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Rm. 411, Cathedral Place, Chancery Campus (803 Terry Ave.)

All new Pastoral Assistants for Faith Formation, Directors of Religious Education, and Parish Catechetical Leaders are encouraged to attend this unique day designed especially for those new to ministry and/or the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Representatives from the Office of Catholic Faith Formation and other Chancery offices will be in attendance. The day is packed with concrete and practical information to assist you. If you are new to ministry, missed this event in the past, or would like a refresher on catechetical resources and policies, this will be a worthwhile experience!

Register for this event by Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
206-382-4096, [ocff@seattlearch.org](mailto:ocff@seattlearch.org)

**New resources for children helping children:** Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) materials for the 2013-2014 school year will focus on the catechetical theme, "Open the Door of Faith" – a focus chosen by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for the year, starting with Catechetical Sunday (September 15, 2013). Please see the flyer below for additional details from your Missions Office.

# Open the Door to Faith!

**Missionary Childhood Association**  
**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) [RESOURCE GUIDE](#), "Open the Door of Faith" (Acts 14:27), is now available to download for the 2013-2014 school year. Each parish and school should receive a postcard announcing the guide, which offers a closer look at all of the MCA programs and materials:



- A brand new Advent Program, **HOLY BUCKETS**, gathering prayers, acts of service, and sacrifices, and showing – through an interactive website – the difference they make in the Missions!
- An expanded **NATIONAL PRAYER AND PENNY WEEK** (March 16-23, 2014) program, for Lent. It's a "Prayer Movement" for the Missions, with young people taking the lead, and adding their sacrifices to care for God's people in a world of need.
- *It's Our World* **NEWSLETTERS** for Advent and Lent, telling about life for young people in mission countries –and offering grade-specific activities across the curriculum.
- The **MCA World Mission Rosary** comes with a booklet that offers age-appropriate mission reflections for the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries.

Materials are offered free-of-charge for the appropriate grade level (K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8), and also available for high school students, for use in a classroom, religious education and/or youth ministry setting. View the MCA Resource Guide at [www.MCAKids.org](http://www.MCAKids.org).

All MCA programs and materials for the 2013-14 school year – except for the MCA World Mission Rosary (\$5) – are **FREE OF CHARGE**.

## **TO ORDER**

Missionary Childhood Association orders may be placed through your Missions Office by contacting us at: [missionsoffice@seattlearch.org](mailto:missionsoffice@seattlearch.org) or (206) 382-4580 or (800) 869-7028

*"The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life"*  
(From the National Directory for Catechesis, no. 17)

For more information on the Missionary Childhood Association, please visit [www.MCAKids.org](http://www.MCAKids.org).





# YEAR OF FAITH <sup>2012</sup><sub>2013</sub>

## Speaker Series

### Cardinal Donald Wuerl

“Faith That Transforms Us: Living the Creed”



Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Holy Rosary, Edmonds

RSVP by Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> to 206-382-4096

Coming in October...

### Father Jeremy Driscoll, OSB

“Deepening Our Sense of the Liturgy in the Year of Faith”

October 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Benedict, Seattle

October 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Joseph, Vancouver

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Registration available in mid-September





## **Workshop for Parish Faith Formation Leaders**

Thursday, October 17  
9:30 am – 12 noon  
St. Michael Catholic Church  
(Parish Center Multi-purpose Room)  
1208 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98503

Cost: FREE, but please [register online here](#)

*Designed to give parish and school leaders the needed strategies and tools to empower families and households to grow in faith at home!*

### **Topic 1: Analytics Don't Lie**

Ever send faith stuff home? How do you know it gets used? Based on [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) site analytics we've identified *ten characteristics of a faith-forming activity that will actually get used at home*. Our authors rely on these everyday, and so should you.

### **Topic 2: Using Digital Media to Connect at Home**

Do the families of your parish have access to the faith resources they need and want? We'll look at specific strategies and tools to help.

### **Topic 3: Home / Parish Partnership**

Explore practical, doable, and effective ways to build connections between parish/school programs and family/home life. Extend such programs as Sunday School, children's religious education, youth ministry, adult Bible study and faith formation, Confirmation and other Sacramental preparation, even Sunday worship into the home.

### **Topic 4: Resource Showcase**

- [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) – content rich web site that supports families who are intentional about their faith and religious practice as they raise the next generation of committed Christians.
- [Vibrant Faith @ Home PLUS](#) – our brand new subscription based service that empowers effective partnership between the congregation and the home!

### **Audience**

Pastors, Catechetical Leaders, Youth and Young Adult Ministers, Family Life Coordinators, Adult Formation and RCIA Teams, Catechists, School Principals and all those interested in supporting parents in their mission to form faith-filled children.

### **Presenter / Facilitator**

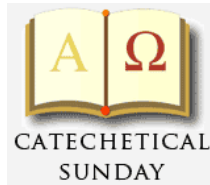


Leif Kehrwald, Team Leader for Vibrant Faith @ Home, a service of Vibrant Faith Ministries. Leif has worked in family ministry and faith formation on the local, regional, and national levels for more than thirty years. Leif has published several books and numerous articles on family life, family ministry, marriage, and youth ministry, including *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible*, to which he served as general editor, published by HarperCollinsPublishers, 2010.

Cost: FREE, but please [register online here](#) (<http://plusworkshopolympia.eventbrite.com>)

Questions? Contact Leif Kehrwald at [lkehrwald@vibrantfaith.org](mailto:lkehrwald@vibrantfaith.org) or 503-351-9889.

## Catechetical Sunday – September 15, 2013



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 15, 2013, and will focus on the theme *Open the Door of Faith*. Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

This week NCCL (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership) features:

Teaching Aid by Alan Schreck, PhD, Professor of Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville. His aid is entitled [Re-examining the Word of the Second Vatican Council \(Hermeneutics of Reform\)](http://tiny.cc/rdrvxw) and can be downloaded from <http://tiny.cc/rdrvxw>.

Parish Resource by Sr. Catherine Dooley, Professor at Dominican University. Her piece, [Catechetical Materials as Faithful Resources for Church Teaching](http://tiny.cc/0m4uxw) would make an excellent parish bulletin insert and can be downloaded at (<http://tiny.cc/0m4uxw>).

Family Resources by Karen Ristau, EdD, Former President, National Catholic Educational Association. Karen's resource is entitled [Catholic Schools: Witness to the Lord: Nurturing the Faith](http://tiny.cc/yxdvxw) and can be downloaded at <http://tiny.cc/yxdvxw>.

Retreat by Thérèse Bermphohl, MA, Director, Office for Family Life, Diocese of Arlington. This Advent/Christmas Retreat [Forming Families as the True Domestic Church](http://tiny.cc/ggevxx) can be downloaded at <http://tiny.cc/ggevxx>.

Prayer Card (Downloadable) – This [Catechist's Prayer](http://tiny.cc/i2dvxx) can also be downloaded at <http://tiny.cc/i2dvxx>.

You can download the complete list of [FREE Resources](http://tiny.cc/263uxw) which can also be found at <http://tiny.cc/263uxw>. Be sure to order your Catechetical Sunday materials from NCCL ([www.NCCL.org](http://www.NCCL.org)).

Theological reflection by Dr. Harry J. Dudley, Assistant Director for Certification of Ecclesial Ministry, Secretariat of Catholic Education, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. His theological reflection is entitled [Enter the Narrow Gate](http://tiny.cc/jc4uxw) (<http://tiny.cc/jc4uxw>).

Piece to Share with Your Pastor (For Clergy) by Rev. Kris Stubna, Rector, St. Paul Cathedral, Diocese of Pittsburgh. His piece is entitled [The Proclamation of the Risen Christ](http://tiny.cc/hd5uxw) and can be downloaded at <http://tiny.cc/hd5uxw>.



Teaching Aid by by Petroc Willey, BD, STL, PhD, PhD (Lateran), Dean of Research, Maryvale Institute in England, Consultor to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. The title of his piece is [\*\*The Catechism: A Symphony of Faith\*\*](http://tiny.cc/y9bvxxw) and can be downloaded from <http://tiny.cc/y9bvxxw>.

Parish Resource by Rev. John W. Crossin, OSFS, Executive Director, Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This piece, [\*\*Conversations in the Courtyard of the Gentiles: Learning from Interchurch and interfaith Dialogue\*\*](http://tiny.cc/zj5uxw), would also make an excellent parish bulletin insert and can be downloaded at <http://tiny.cc/zj5uxw>.

You can download the complete list of [\*\*FREE Resources\*\*](http://tiny.cc/263uxw) which can also be found at <http://tiny.cc/263uxw>. Be sure to order your Catechetical Sunday materials from NCCL ([www.NCCL.org](http://www.NCCL.org)).

## **Technology Safety Through the Eyes of Faith**



As the new school year begins, check out this resource from the USCCB on ensuring children's safety in our digital world. The website <https://faithandsafety.org/> was designed to be as simple and practical as possible. It's intended to be a starting point for parents of faith who may not know where to turn, what to do, or just need some quick information and practical guidance.

In the *Resources for Families*, we are reminded that all safety begins at home. The habits you exhibit about technology use in your home will be the same habits your children learn. You are invited to ask yourself what you consider appropriate or inappropriate uses of technology and then compare that with how you might be acting. There is a wealth of information available to help parents deal with the Internet, social networks, computers, mobile, and gaming devices.



## **Pope Asks People to Consider What They Desire Most**



Yearning and loving give people the strength to move forward and overcome obstacles, but Christians must ask themselves what really is their hearts' desire, Pope Francis said. "All of us have a desire," the pope said. "Pity the person who doesn't have a desire. Desire moves us forward, toward the horizon, and for us Christians that horizon is an encounter with Jesus, who is our life, our joy, our happiness."

Addressing thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, the pope asked them to think about what Jesus said to his disciples in the Gospel of Luke: "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Do you have a heart that desires or a closed heart, a sleeping heart, an anesthetized heart?" the pope asked. "And what, for you, is the most important, most precious thing, that which attracts your heart like a magnet?"

Many people would respond that their family is the most important thing, he said. That's good, but "what is the force that holds your family together? It's love, and the one who sows love in our hearts is God."

Pope Francis told the crowd that God's love gives meaning to all the daily tasks in a Christian's life, and it is what helps people face trials. "To move forward in life with love, with that love that the Lord has sown in our hearts, with the love of God -- that is a true treasure," he said.

### **Parents Must Teach Children to Defend Life, Says Pope**



Respect for human life from conception until natural death is something parents must teach their children, Pope Francis has said. "Parents are called to pass on to their children the awareness that life must always be defended," Pope Francis wrote in a message to people joining in the Brazilian Catholic Church's celebration of Family Week.

The Pope returned to his condemnation of the "throwaway culture", something he spoke against several times during his visit to Brazil for World Youth Day in July. He had said that modern cultures tend to treat even human lives as disposable, pointing to the way people, societies and even governments tend to treat both the young and the old.

In his message for Family Week, he said parents have a responsibility to fight that disposable culture by teaching their children that human life, "from the womb," is a gift from God. New life ensures the future of humanity, he said, while older people, especially grandparents, "are the living memory of a people and transmit the wisdom of life."

The Pope also charged married Catholic couples and their children with the task of recognizing they must be "the most convincing heralds" of the beauty and grace of Christian marriage.



## Reasons to “Save Me a Place”



A peek inside the NCCL 2014 Annual Conference plans. The 2014 Annual Conference Planning Committee is hard at work lining up the speakers for the general sessions for 2014. Here are some of the plans:

**Monday:** *Energizing the church* - keynote by Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*.

**PCL Forum:** *Being and forming better disciple-teachers and servant-leaders* – Jared Dees, author of *31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator*.

**Tuesday:** *The call to evangelize – 3 perspectives: Intercultural* – TBA. *Technology* – Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Assistant Professor and Faculty Coordinator for Distance Learning Systems, Loyola Institute for Ministry.

*Young adults* – Fr. Paul Marshall, SM, educator at St. Louis School.

**Wednesday:** *The catechumenal model as inspiration for all catechesis* - Mary Birmingham, author of *Year - Round Catechumenate*, and Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey, Curriculum Design & Adult Catechesis Coordinator, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives.

**Thursday:** *Taking Steps Forward* – Tom Corcoran, co-author of *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter* and Chris Wesley, Director of Student Ministry at Church of the Nativity, upon which the book is based.

Don't delay. The 78th Annual NCCL Conference and Exposition is May 19-22, 2014 in St. Louis at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel. Discounted early pre-registration for NCCL members and all Catechetical Leaders from the conference host city! [Click here to Register online](#) or [Click here to download the registration form](#).

## Sadlier Offers a FREE Webinar on *Vocation of the Catechist* – THIS WEEK



Join the Rev. Michael A. Carrano on Tuesday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m. EDT for this Sadlier Webinar *Echoers of the Word: The Vocation of the Catechist*. Click here to register for this Webinar <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/273734038>.

The vocation of the catechist stems from Sacred Scripture and the words of Jesus. As a catechist, one is called to “echo” the life, teachings and ministry of Jesus. With that responsibility comes the need to be spiritually connected to Christ and to “teach as Jesus did.” The presentation will look at the spiritual and practical aspects of the call to be a catechetical witness of the Gospel.

Attendees will have the option to request a Certificate of Attendance.

Rev. Michael A. Carrano was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn in 1970. During the course of his forty- three years, he has been a parish priest; Principal of a Catholic School; Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis and College Campus Ministry; Director of Religious Education; Pastor; and is an Adjunct Instructor at St. Francis College, Brooklyn.



### **Pope Francis: 'Faith and Violence Are Incompatible'**



The Holy Father reflected on the words of Christ in last Sunday's Gospel that he said needed to be explained "so that they are not misunderstood." The Gospel of Luke recounted Jesus telling his disciples: "Did you think that I came to bring peace to the earth? No, I say to you, I came to bring division" (Luke 12:51).

"What does this mean? It means that the faith is not something decorative, ornamental; living the faith is not decorating life with a little religion, as if life were a pie and faith like the whipped cream that you use to decorate it," the Pope explained. "No, faith is not this. Faith entails choosing God as the basic criterion for life, and God is not empty, God is not neutral, God is always positive, God is love, and love is positive!"

The Pope continued saying that it is not Christ who intends to divide men against each other, rather the choice to follow Jesus may divide us "even from the closest bonds." "Following Jesus means rejecting evil, egoism, and choosing the good, truth, justice, even when that requires sacrifice and renunciation of our own interests," the Holy Father said. "And, yes, this divides."

The Holy Father also reminded the faithful that the Gospel in no way authorizes the use of force in spreading the faith, saying that the true force of Christians "is the force of truth and love" "Faith and violence are incompatible! Faith and violence are incompatible!", he exclaimed. "But faith and strength go together. The Christian is not violent, but he strong. And with what strength? That of meekness, the force of meekness, the force of love."

## **FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, September 10, 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

*Open the Doors: Seven Approaches to an Encounter with Christ* is offered on Tuesday, September 10 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at [PDW - 09-10-2013](http://tiny.cc/g1vv0w) (<http://tiny.cc/g1vv0w>). 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



### ***Open the Doors: Seven Approaches to an Encounter with Christ*** **Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT**

In the spirit of this year's Catechetical Sunday theme "*Open the Doors of Faith*," Lee Nagel, Executive Director for the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, will share the seven key elements in creating an environment that engages those present and facilitates an encounter with the Risen Christ.

These elements include:

1. Preparedness: Open Your Mind to What God is Offering; Then Stop, Look, and Listen
2. Balance: Ritual and Novelty, Comfort and Challenge, Safety and Risk
3. Prime the Pump, Make Connections, Engage the Senses, Activate Learning Styles
4. Seven-Minute Chunks with Catholic Service Announcements
5. Quiet Moments for Reflection
6. Review
7. Go Forth Blessed



All registered participants will receive practical pointers and useful techniques that are immediately applicable to any environment.

## **Pope Francis' Ecclesiology Rooted in the Emmaus story**



Jesuit Fr. Thomas Reese offers his analysis of the Pope's July 22-29 visit to Brazil. He writes that "Pope Francis' homilies and addresses had a simplicity and directness that inspired the faithful with confidence in God's love, hope for reform and love of neighbor, especially the poor." He goes on to note that "two of his speeches went beyond pastoral exhortations to lay out his vision and agenda for the church -- his [July 27 address to the](#)

[Brazilian bishops](#) and his [address the next day to the episcopal council of CELAM](#), the Latin



American conference of bishops. Here are some excerpts from his analysis. Yoju can read the entire piece at <http://ncronline.org/news/spirituality/pope-francis-ecclesiology-rooted-emmaus-story>.

Where does Francis want to lead the church? What does he want the bishops to do?

**Church as reconciler:** In his address to the Brazilian bishops, Francis retells the story of the Madonna of Aparecida as a parable of the Latin American church. Tired fishermen, who have experienced failure in a dilapidated boat with old, torn nets, find a broken statue that must be mended. "In Aparecida, from the beginning, God's message was one of restoring what was broken, reuniting what had been divided," Francis explained. "Walls, chasms, differences which still exist today are destined to disappear. The church cannot neglect this lesson: She is called to be a means of reconciliation."

**Church of the heart:** For Francis, faith enters the church through the heart of the poor, not through the heads of intellectuals. Francis confessed that "perhaps we have reduced our way of speaking about mystery to rational explanations, but for ordinary people the mystery enters through the heart." This leads him to understand the missionary role of the church not as winning an argument but as offering something beautiful. "Only the beauty of God can attract. God's way is through enticement, allure," he told the bishops. "He reawakens in us a desire to call our neighbors in order to make known his beauty. Mission is born precisely from this divine allure, by this amazement born of encounter."

**A church with a simple message:** Francis concluded, "The results of our pastoral work do not depend on a wealth of resources, but on the creativity of love." He argued that the message should be kept simple. "At times we lose people because they don't understand what we are saying, because we have forgotten the language of simplicity and import an intellectualism foreign to our people." This church does not obsess over whether Jesus is "one in being" or "consubstantial" with the Father. Rather, it presents Jesus as the compassion of God.

Preview our [Peace & Justice special section](#). You won't find this content online, so [subscribe today!](#)

**Church of Emmaus:** Using the Gospel story of Emmaus, Francis talked to the bishops about people who have left the church because they "now think that the church -- their Jerusalem -- can no longer offer them anything meaningful and important." He does not blame the culture, he does not harangue against relativism, consumerism and other "isms"; rather, he calls for self-examination by the bishops.

Perhaps the church appeared too weak, perhaps too distant from their needs, perhaps too poor to respond to their concerns, perhaps too cold, perhaps too caught up with itself, perhaps a prisoner of its own rigid formulas, perhaps the world seems to have made the church a relic of the past, unfit for new questions; perhaps the church could speak to people in their infancy but not to those come of age.

Faced with this Emmaus situation, what does Francis suggest?

## [The Wisdom of Tenderness: Jean Vanier on Lived Compassion, L'Arche, and Becoming Human](#)



Considered by some to be a living saint, Jean Vanier created L'Arche, a model of community for people with mental disabilities that celebrates power in smallness and light in the darkness of human existence. The French Canadian philosopher and Catholic social innovator speaks about his understanding of humanity and God that has been shaped by Aristotle, Mother Teresa, and people who would once have been locked away from society. Watch this episode of *On Being* with Krista Tippett at [Jean Vanier on the Wisdom of Tenderness](http://tiny.cc/zw8d2w) (<http://tiny.cc/zw8d2w>).

## **2017 List**



Each August since 1998, Beloit College has released the *Beloit College Mindset List*, providing a look at the cultural touchstones that shape the lives of students entering college this fall. Prepared by Beloit's former Public Affairs Director Ron Nief and Keefer Professor of the Humanities Tom McBride, the list was originally created as a reminder to faculty to be aware of dated references. It quickly became an internationally monitored catalog of the changing worldview of each new college generation.

Mindset List websites at <http://themindsetlist.com/> and <http://www.beloit.edu/mindset/>, as well as the [Mediasite](#) webcast and their [Facebook Page](#) receive more than a million visits annually. You can also order their book [The Mindset Lists of American History: From Typewriters to Text Messages, What Ten Generations of Americans Think Is Normal](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.



I find this list to be extremely helpful because what is true for college freshmen would be true for every student in our faith formation programs or religion classes. It is a good dose of reality when thinking about examples one might be using or even terminology that is different.

When the Class of 2017 arrives on campus this fall, these digital natives will already be well-connected to each other. They are more likely to have borrowed money for college than their Boomer parents were, and while their parents foresee four years of school, the students are pretty sure it will be longer than that. Members of this year's first year class, most of them born in 1995, will search for the academic majors reported to lead to good-paying jobs, and most of them will take a few courses taught at a distant university by a professor they will never meet.

The use of smart phones in class may indicate they are reading the assignment they should have read last night, or they may be recording every minute of their college

experience...or they may be texting the person next to them. If they are admirers of Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, they may wonder whether a college degree is all it's cracked up to be, even as their dreams are tempered by the reality that tech geniuses come along about as often as Halley's Comet, which they will not glimpse until they reach what we currently consider "retirement age."

Though they have never had the chicken pox, they are glad to have access to health insurance for a few more years. They will study hard, learn a good deal more, teach their professors quite a lot, and realize eventually that they will soon be in power. After all, by the time they hit their thirties, four out of ten voters will be of their generation. Whatever their employers may think of them, politicians will be paying close attention.

### **The Mindset List for the Class of 2017**

For this generation of entering college students, born in 1995, Dean Martin, Mickey Mantle, and Jerry Garcia have always been dead.

1. Eminem and LL Cool J could show up at parents' weekend.
2. They are the sharing generation, having shown tendencies to share everything, including possessions, no matter how personal
3. GM means food that is Genetically Modified.
4. As they started to crawl, so did the news across the bottom of the television screen.
5. "Dude" has never had a negative tone.
6. As their parents held them as infants, they may have wondered whether it was the baby or Windows 95 that had them more excited.
7. As kids they may well have seen Chicken Run but probably never got chicken pox.
8. Having a chat has seldom involved talking.
9. Gaga has never been baby talk.
10. They could always get rid of their outdated toys on eBay.
11. They have known only two presidents.
12. Their TV screens keep getting smaller as their parents' screens grow ever larger.
13. PayPal has replaced a pen pal as a best friend on line.
14. Rites of passage have more to do with having their own cell phone and Skype accounts than with getting a driver's license and car
15. The U.S. has always been trying to figure out which side to back in Middle East conflicts.
16. A tablet is no longer something you take in the morning.
17. Threatening to shut down the government during Federal budget negotiations has always been an anticipated tactic.
18. Growing up with the family dog, one of them has worn an electronic collar, while the other has toted an electronic lifeline.
19. Plasma has never been just a bodily fluid.
20. The Pentagon and Congress have always been shocked, absolutely shocked, by reports of sexual harassment and assault in the military.
21. Spray paint has never been legally sold in Chicago.



22. Captain Janeway has always taken the USS Voyager where no woman or man has ever gone before.
23. While they've grown up with a World Trade Organization, they have never known an Interstate Commerce Commission
24. Courts have always been ordering computer network wiretaps.
25. Planes have never landed at Stapleton Airport in Denver.
26. Jurassic Park has always had rides and snack bars, not free-range triceratops and velociraptors.
27. Thanks to Megan's Law and Amber Alerts, parents have always had community support in keeping children safe
28. With GPS, they have never needed directions to get someplace, just an address.
29. Java has never been just a cup of coffee.
30. Americans and Russians have always cooperated better in orbit than on earth.
31. Olympic fever has always erupted every two years.
32. Their parents have always bemoaned the passing of precocious little Calvin and sarcastic stuffy Hobbes.
33. In their first 18 years, they have watched the rise and fall of Tiger Woods and Alex Rodriquez.
34. Yahoo has always been looking over its shoulder for the rise of "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle."
35. Congress has always been burdened by the requirement that they comply with the anti-discrimination and safety laws they passed for everybody else to follow.
36. The U.S. has always imposed economic sanctions against Iran.
37. The Celestine Prophecy has always been bringing forth a new age of spiritual insights.
38. Smokers in California have always been searching for their special areas, which have been harder to find each year.
39. They aren't surprised to learn that the position of Top Spook at the CIA is a equal opportunity post.
40. They have never attended a concert in a smoke-filled arena.
41. As they slept safely in their cribs, the Oklahoma City bomber and the Unabomber were doing their deadly work.
42. There has never been a national maximum speed on U.S. highways.
43. Don Shula has always been a fine steak house.
44. Their favorite feature films have always been largely, if not totally, computer generated.
45. They have never really needed to go to their friend's house so they could study together.
46. They have never seen the Bruins at Boston Garden, the Trailblazers at Memorial Coliseum, the Supersonics in Key Arena, or the Canucks at the Pacific Coliseum.
47. Dayton, Ohio, has always been critical to international peace accords.
48. Kevin Bacon has always maintained six degrees of separation in the cinematic universe.
49. They may have been introduced to video games with a new Sony PlayStation left in their cribs by their moms.

50. A Wiki has always been a cooperative web application rather than a shuttle bus in Hawaii.
51. The Canadian Football League Stallions have always sung Alouette in Montreal after bidding adieu to Baltimore.
52. They have always been able to plug into USB ports
53. Olestra has always had consumers worried about side effects
54. Washington, D.C., tour buses have never been able to drive in front of the White House.
55. Being selected by Oprah's Book Club has always read "success."
56. There has never been a Barings Bank in England.
57. Their parents' car CD player is soooooo ancient and embarrassing
58. New York's Times Square has always had a splash of the Magic Kingdom in it.
59. Bill Maher has always been politically incorrect.
60. They have always known that there are "five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes" in a year.

### **Burrito Boyz – A Father Teaches His Son**

A group of teens known as the "Burrito Boyz" has made and delivered more than 33,000 breakfast burritos to San Diego's homeless. But it took a mentor to inspire them. Let's call him Burrito Dad.



Michael Johnson grew somewhat alarmed at son Alec's gizmo-packed Christmas list two years ago, so he decided to impart some perspective. According to Yahoo, he and wife Mehrnaz thought feeding the homeless might do the trick. Thus, the family and Alec's friend Luke Trolinger set about wrapping 54 egg-and-cheese burritos one Sunday in November and handed them out.

More than 130 Sundays later, their nonprofit [Hunger 2 Help](#) is rolling in good will. It has grown to seven Burrito Boyz and other volunteers, all of whom help make hundreds of tortilla-wrapped meals. They operate out of Johnson's business, Long Island Mike's Pizza, and distribute the food to a neighborhood in need.

"Anything can happen if you take the first step," the dad told Yahoo. "I'm shocked at what's happened with this little project. Now there's a major impact." The father has the kids working with assembly-line precision. "We have somebody scoop the eggs, have somebody ... on the cheese," he explained to NBC San Diego in 2011. "And then folders, we put in a pan and then we put it right in the oven."

He reminds the crew to make eye contact and get to know their customers. "We ask for so much, and they ask for so little," Trolinger told CBS in the segment below. "They get just a burrito and they're so happy."

Johnson also noticed changes in son Alec from the get-go of their burrito mission. "My son looked to me as a young man that day," he told CBS. But to the area's homeless, Alec is one of

the Boyz. “They’ve got the most beautiful hearts,” burrito recipient Jazzmine Sharp told the Union-Tribune. You can watch a two (2) minute video from CBS.

## **The Blessings of Religion: Why Faith Is Positive for Society**



Father John Flynn, LC writes that events in Egypt may well raise concerns again about the role of religion in society. While extremism or violence in the name of religion is certainly deplorable, overall religion is a positive influence. This was made clear in a book published late last year by Rodney Stark, a former professor of sociology and author of numerous books on Christianity’s impact on society.

In his book, [\*America's Blessings: How Religion Benefits Everyone, Including Atheists\*](#) Stark insists that all the claims he makes for the positive impact of religion are backed up by reliable research. There is a substantial body of evidence that social behavior is greatly influenced by religion, said Stark. He put at 247 the number of studies published between 1944 and 2010 that found a positive effect of religion on reducing crime, deviance and delinquency.

One survey found that young people who never attend a church are about four times as likely to have been picked up by the police compared to those do go to church. The positive impact of religion holds for both whites and African Americans and across the varying levels of education and income. Honesty, drug and alcohol use and regular attendance at school are other social behaviors positively affected by the level of religious participation.

The more religious a student is, he added, the better the performance at school and the higher the achievement scores obtained. While some have argued that the correlation between religion and educational success is due to higher income levels, this is disproved, Stark argued, by the results showing that the religious effect on schools achievement holds even more strongly for African American and Hispanic students. Religious parents, he concluded, “are better parents, who raise better-behaved and better-educated children.”

All of the world’s major religions, he commented, stress the importance of generosity, and surveys show that all around the world people who are religiously active are more generous to others.



## **How 365 Thank You Notes Changed My Life**

One might argue that this would be an appropriate message for Thanksgiving but, it is an important story for any day of our lives and might be a good attitude for any of us to adopt.



At just 52 years old, and after having lost nearly everything, John Kralik found himself in a desperate search --a search for just one thing for which he might feel thankful. His search led him to a walk along a mountain road, where his mind sifted through the details of all of his most recent troubles. It was then that John realized, that he should find gratitude for all that he had, instead of focusing so much on all that he had lost. It was in this moment, that John resolved to find opportunities for sharing his gratitude with others each day. Read how a simple act of writing daily thank you notes, led to a most brilliant life change

You can read the complete article at <http://www.dailygood.org/story/511/a-grateful-heart-john-kralik/>

## **7 Billion Others**



There is nothing particular about this video that makes it religious or spiritual but it does remind us that we are citizens of the world and that the Roman CATHOLIC Church is open to all peoples of this world. This video helps us to see the different faces that belong to the body of Christ. If interested in watching this ten (10) minute video, then click on <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=4061>. Here is a short description of the piece.

We share this planet with seven billion others. What is our relationship with them? Are we a single unity? Do we belong to one of many tribal divisions? Are we individuals in a planet full of individuality? There is, of course, no single answer to these fundamental questions. Our sense of identity and diversity depends on context. But the way we conceive of our place among the people of the world has profound social, environmental, political, and ethical implications.

The [Good Planet Foundation](http://www.goodplanetfoundation.org/) asked people from all over the world a series of standard questions about the things they value. The survey examines their hopes, dreams, fears, and grounding principles. In bearing witness to the answers, the project allows us to explore the depth of our human commonality against the superficial visual and linguistic signs of difference. These sound-bites provide points of connection between ourselves and others.

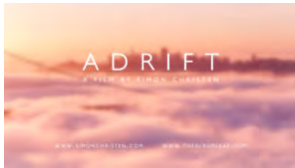
## **Speed Painter David Garibaldi Creates an Image of Jesus**



This is an incredible five (5) minute video of speed painter David Garibaldi creating an image that is very moving and blessed. It's hard to see what it is until almost the end.

Watch it now at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3KwpmVHRpw>. There is also a shorter 2 minute video available as well.

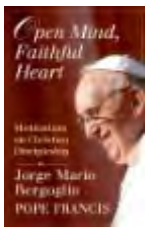
## **Shared Video of the Fog Rolling In and Out Of San Francisco Bay**



This is a beautiful time-lapse video by Simon Christen of fog rolling into (and out of) San Francisco that was shared on the blog *People for Others* by Paul Brian Campbell, SJ. It can be a lovely invitation to prayer.

Watch it at <http://vimeo.com/69445362>

## **Open Mind, Faithful Heart: Meditations on Christian Discipleship**



In these profound texts Cardinal Bergoglio draws on the Gospels and the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius to explain how all Christians are called to follow Jesus in the struggle to make God's reign a reality on earth. You can order [\*Open Mind, Faithful Heart: Meditations on Christian Discipleship\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.