

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

We are blessed to have a “cornucopia” of upcoming events and available resources to help us more effectively share our Catholic faith with those we serve. On the Archdiocesan level, we have a **Policy Update regarding the Affordable Care Act from Archbishop Sartain**, lesson plans for **fostering vocations** from Fr. Bryan Dolejsi in coordination with USCCB, two presentations by Liturgical scholar, **Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB**, a **Combating Human Trafficking** workshop, new **JustFaith** resources, a free program on **partnering with parents** and the first Annual “**Fun Without Limits**” Day for families with special needs!

We are also excited that the National Catholic Education Association is inaugurating a **Parish Religious Education Week, November 3-9, 2013**. This year’s theme is “Encountering Christ Every Day/Encuentro con Cristo cada dia.” Our Archdiocese will be celebrating this week and hope that you check out the link below for multiple resources and ideas on how you can celebrate catechesis in your parish  
<http://www.ncea.org/membership/parish-religious-education-week-2013>.

This past Saturday, **Pope Francis addressed a gathering of catechists who had made a pilgrimage to the Vatican for the Year of Faith**. He lifted up catechesis as a vocation and guiding others toward Christ through a witness of life. The link to the complete text is:

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/speeches/2013/september/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130927\\_pellegrinaggio-catechisti\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/september/documents/papa-francesco_20130927_pellegrinaggio-catechisti_en.html).

**Archbishop Sartain’s Policy Update** on issues related to the Affordable Care Act is designed to help all of us answer questions that parishioners, parish staff, and others may have. If you have further questions please feel free to contact Sr. Sharon Park at [wscc@thewscc.org](mailto:wscc@thewscc.org).

(see next page)

# MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT



## ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE POLICY UPDATE

Volume 4, Issue 1

Fall 2013

### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT



#### Dear Pastoral Leaders:

The Affordable Care Act is scheduled for implementation Jan. 1, 2014, and enrollment began Oct. 1 of this year. The Catholic bishops of this country have advocated aggressively and

consistently for universal access to health care. After the ACA was signed into law in 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandated by rule the inclusion of all FDA-approved contraceptives (some of which can cause early abortions), as well as female sterilizations, in almost all health plans. This mandate was and is a serious obstacle for the Church. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops opposes this mandate and has requested religious exemptions. Although some church entities like houses of worship were given exemptions and some "accommodations" were made for church-related social agencies,

hospitals and colleges, the situation remains very problematic. While we bishops continue to pursue an acceptable resolution to the issue, I am providing this policy update to clarify some details of this highly complex law and the response parishes may make when our people inquire about the Church's position or need assistance to sign up for health care coverage.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ J. Peter Sartain*

Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain  
Archbishop of Seattle



#### Inside this issue:

Letter on the Affordable Care Act 1

Q&A on the Affordable Care Act 1 & 2

### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT Q&A

#### 1 What is the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (ACA)?

Signed into law by the President in 2010, the goal of the Act, commonly called the Affordable Care Act or ACA, was to improve and increase access to health care coverage, protect consumers, reduce costs, and improve the quality and efficiency of the health care system.

#### 2 When does the ACA take effect?

Health care coverage will begin January 1, 2014. Open enrollment began October 1, 2013.

#### 3 How will the ACA be implemented in Washington State?

Implementation of the ACA is through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, which is responsible for creating an insurance marketplace as a way to offer health benefit options to individuals, families and small businesses. In Washington State, this marketplace is called the Washington "Healthplanfinder." In addition, Medicaid was expanded and is known as Apple Health. Individuals and businesses may still purchase health insurance in the private market, but no public financial assistance is available for private plans.

#### 4 Who is covered by the Medicaid expansion?

The ACA includes federal funding to expand Medicaid to 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). For example, for a family of four, the FPL is \$31,321.56.

#### 5 What is the Healthplanfinder?

The Healthplanfinder is an online tool to find health plans, compare prices and enroll. To help individuals enroll, customer assistance is available in many languages by phone, online or in person.

*The Catholic bishops of this country have advocated aggressively and consistently for universal access to health care.*

*The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops opposes this (HHS) mandate and has requested religious exemptions.*

Continued on next page

## ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE POLICY UPDATE

### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT Q&A *Continued*

*If parishioners have questions, parish leaders may direct them to the Healthplanfinder.*

#### 6 What should parishes do when people have questions or request help finding financial assistance or choosing a plan?

Washington Healthplanfinder has a network of customer support across the state to provide enrollment assistance. In local communities, trained "assistants" are available and can be contacted online at [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org) or toll free at 1-855-923-4633 between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. If parishioners have questions, parish leaders may direct them to the Healthplanfinder.

#### 7 Who will the Healthplanfinder help?

The Healthplanfinder will help citizens and immigrants legally present in Washington State who need health insurance. They may enroll in plans through the Exchange from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014.

#### 8 Will immigrants be covered?

Legal permanent residents or green-card holders who have been in this country for five years are eligible. Some immigrants qualify regardless of how long they've been in this country. Contact the Healthplanfinder for eligibility requirements. Immigrants who entered the U.S. without proper documentation are not eligible for health care coverage.

#### 9 Who must buy insurance?

Uninsured and non-Medicaid-eligible U.S. citizens and legal residents under the age of 65 must buy health insurance to comply with ACA's "individual mandate," or face a tax penalty.

*In implementing the ACA, HHS mandated coverage of contraceptives, sterilizations and abortifacients, which the Church has long held as morally objectionable.*

#### 10 What is the position of the Catholic Church on universal health care?

The Catholic Church has a longstanding position that health care is a basic human right, based on the belief in the dignity of each human person. The Church has consistently supported comprehensive health care reform that leads to health care for all, including the weakest and most vulnerable. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us: *"It is necessary to work with greater commitment at all levels so that the right to health is rendered effective, favoring access to primary health care."*

#### 11 Is there abortion coverage under the ACA?

No federal funds can be used for abortion or abortion services, except in cases of rape or incest, or if the life of the woman is endangered. However, health plans may choose to cover abortions and still receive federal funds. If abortion coverage is included in the plan, some of each enrollee's premium payments will be placed into a separate account to ensure no federal dollars are used.

#### 12 In the ACA did Congress create a rule mandating contraception/sterilization coverage in most health plans?

No, Congress approved a general requirement that health plans cover "preventive services," including preventive services for women. However, Congress directed the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a detailed list of "preventive services." HHS then mandat-

ed under "preventive services" the inclusion of female sterilizations and all FDA-approved contraceptives, including abortifacients (drugs that can cause an early abortion). All health plans must provide coverage for these products and services at no cost, including no deductibles and no co-payments.

#### 13 What is the Catholic Bishops' position on the HHS mandate?

In implementing the ACA, HHS mandated coverage of contraceptives, sterilizations and abortifacients, which the Church has long held as morally objectionable. Although the final rule exempts some church entities, (such as houses of worship and dioceses themselves) church affiliated social agencies, hospitals and colleges are not exempt. Instead, HHS granted an "accommodation" through which those services are still offered to employees by a different route. The bishops oppose the mandate and are pursuing legal and legislative remedies. A serious problem with the "accommodation," for instance, is that it effectively separates churches from the social services and educational institutions they sponsor as essential aspects of their mission as churches. Across the country, many nonprofit and for-profit businesses have filed lawsuits against the mandate based on the exercise of religious freedom. Some, though not all, have won in the courts, but it is anticipated that the issue eventually will be decided by the Supreme Court.

**The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has recently developed a series of lesson plans across age groups to foster vocations with youth in our parishes and schools that Fr. Bryan Dolejsi (Archdiocesan Director of Vocations) would like all of us to explore and implement.** The following link contains these rich resources and activities.

<http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/educators-and-youth-leaders/lesson-plans/index.cfm>

**Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB will be offering presentations in Seattle (St. Benedict Church on October 16<sup>th</sup>) and in Vancouver (St. Joseph Church on October 23<sup>rd</sup>) on “Deepening Our Sense of the Liturgy in the Year of Faith.”** As you will note in the attached flyer, Fr. Driscoll is very well known as both a liturgical scholar and an engaging teacher. We are very fortunate to have him with us later this month for these evening programs.

The link to the flyer is at:

[http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/YOF/4025\\_YoFDriscoll.pdf](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/YOF/4025_YoFDriscoll.pdf)

**The Year of Faith is coming to an end, but the free monthly resources (<http://justfaith.org/YOFRDRE>) from JustFaith Ministries aren't! These resources can be a valuable tool for your ministry.** If you'd like to receive (or continue to receive) free resources from JustFaith Ministries, we invite you to sign up for their monthly email, which is full of resources for spirituality and social ministry. Keep Getting Resources! Sign up here today: [eepurl.com/EGBhv](http://eepurl.com/EGBhv)

**On the morning of October 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Michael Parish in Olympia is hosting Leif Kehrwald, who is well known for his background on family life.** Leif will be offering information on how we can effectively partner with parents – a very important topic. The day is free and I am hoping to see many of you at this event!

(see next page for flyer)

## Vibrant Faith @ Home Plus!

### FREE Workshop for Parish & Congregational Leaders

October 17, 2013, 9:00 — Noon, St. Michael Church, Olympia

Designed to give leaders the needed strategies and tools to empower families and households to grow in faith at home.

#### Who Should Come

Staff, Children's Ministry Team, Small Group Ministry Team, Adult Formation Team, Sunday School Teachers, Council/Vestry, Young Families "Core Team", other interested leaders, ministry leaders and teams from neighboring congregations.

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

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 congregation have access to the faith resources they need and want? We'll look at specific strategies and tools to help.

#### Topic 3: Home / Church Partnership

Explore practical, doable, and effective ways to build connections between congregational 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

**Presenter / Facilitator** **Leif Kehrwald**, Team Leader for Vibrant Faith @ Home, a service of Vibrant Faith Ministries. Living in Portland, OR 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.



**Registration** <http://plusworkshopolympia.eventbrite.com/>

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

Please help us spread the Good News about the first **“Fun Beyond Limits”** gathering on **October 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Monica Parish from 1 - 4 p.m.** This day will be filled with activities and opportunities for our special needs families and we hope to reach out as widely as possible across the Archdiocese. Thus, your help in promoting the event is deeply appreciated.

# **Fun Beyond Limits!**

**For special needs families**  
**OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 1-4PM**



**Games-Costume Contest-Food-Crafts**  
**Hosted by Archdiocese of Seattle**  
**St. Monica Catholic Church**

**St. Monica Catholic Church**  
4301 88th Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Free for all who RSVP, call or email Erica Cohen Moore  
(206) 382-4852  
[ericac@seattlearch.org](mailto:ericac@seattlearch.org)

The remainder of this newsletter includes information from the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), the Vatican website and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as selected online resources from the internet. Pope Francis continues to offer all of us wonderful insights on sharing our faith and I hope you will enjoy some of the video links toward the end of this newsletter.

In Christ,

*Anne*

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.

Director of Religious Education (Parish and School Faith Formation)

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### **Papal Intentions for October**



**GENERAL:** That those feeling so crushed by life that they wish to end it may sense the nearness of God's love.



**MISSION:** That the celebration of World Mission Day may help all Christians realize that we are not only receivers but proclaimers of God's Word.

### **Bringing Christ to the Digital Continent**

The Holy Father focused on three points during his address to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications: the importance of communication for the Church, the internet and the encounter with Christ.

“In the last few decades, the various means of communication have evolved significantly, but the Church’s concern remains the same, taking on new forms and expressions,” the Pope said. “The world of social communications, more and more, has become a “living environment” for many, a web where people communicate with each other, expanding the boundaries of their knowledge and relationships.”



Pope Francis told those gathered that the goal in communications is ultimately to dialogue with today's men and women, who sometimes feel let down by “a Christianity that to them appears sterile.” In today's globalized age, the Holy Father stressed, there is a “growing sense” of isolation, an inability to connect with others that impede people from building meaningful relationships.

The 76 year old Pontiff told the Plenary Assembly that it is crucial to know how to dialogue with others, in the environments created by technology and social networks, “in such a way as to reveal a presence that listens, converses, and encourages.” Do not be afraid to be this presence, expressing your Christian identity as you become citizens of this environment. A Church that follows this path learns how to walk with everybody!”

The challenge in proclaiming the Good News in the digital age, is not a technical one, the Pope said. “We must ask ourselves – and here I come to the third step – are we up to the task of bringing Christ into this area and of bringing others to meet Christ? Are we able to communicate the face of a Church which is 'home' to all?” the Holy Father asked.

“We need to descend into the darkest night without being overcome and disorientated; we need to listen to the dreams, without being seduced; to share their disappointments, without becoming despondent; to sympathize with those whose lives are falling apart, without losing our own strength and identity,” the Holy Father emphasized.

Concluding his address, Pope Francis warned of the temptation within the Church of a “spiritual harassment that leads to a nominal encounter with Christ and not with the Living Person of Christ. To bring about the encounter with Christ in the full knowledge, though, that we ourselves are means of communication, and that the fundamental problem is not the acquisition of the latest technologies, although these are necessary to a valid, contemporary presence.” You can read the full article at [\*\*\*Bringing Christ to the Digital Continent\*\*\*](http://tiny.cc/21zv3w) (<http://tiny.cc/21zv3w>).

## **Pope: Unborn Child Has the Face of the Lord**



“Every unborn child, condemned unjustly to be aborted, has the face of the Lord.” Pope Francis stressed these words during a meeting with hundreds of obstetricians/gynecologists at a conference sponsored by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations. The conference theme was “The New Evangelization, the obstetric practices and the care of mothers.”

The Holy Father began his address explaining that a paradoxical situation exists in today’s medical profession. On one hand, modern medicine has shown progress in finding new cures for diseases. But on the other, the Pope warned, “we also find the danger that the doctor might lose his/her identity as a servant of life.”

“Although by their nature they are at the service of life, health professions are sometimes induced to disregard life itself,” the Pope said. “If you lose the personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of a new life, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away. The acceptance of life strengthens moral fiber and makes people capable of mutual help.” The Pope stressed that the final objective of a doctor is always in the defense and promotion of life.

Continuing his address, the Holy Father appealed to all healthcare professionals, in particularly those in the field of gynecology, which he said are “called to collaborate in the creation of new human lives. “Yours is a unique vocation and mission, which requires study, conscience and

humanity,” he said. “A widespread mentality of profits, the ‘culture of waste’, which now enslaves the hearts and minds of many, has a very high cost: it requires the elimination of human beings, especially if they are physically or socially weaker”.

The Pope told the medical professionals present that every fragile person one encounters is an invitation to recognize the face of Christ, who in his flesh, “experienced the indifference and loneliness that often condemn the poorest, both in the developing world and in affluent societies.” The face of Christ he said can be seen in the unborn children condemned to abortion as well as the elderly and the sick. “You cannot discard them!,” the Pope exclaimed.

Concluding his address, the Holy Father invited the participants to be witnesses in their professions of a culture of life. Your being Catholic entails greater responsibility: first of all to yourself , for the effort to be consistent with the Christian vocation, and then to contemporary culture , to help recognize the transcendent dimension in human life , the imprint of the creative work of God, from the very first moment of her conception.” Christ, he concluded, is counting on them to spread the Gospel of Life. You can read the full text of his talk at [Face of Christ](#).

## **Cardinal Wuerl - Francis in America: A pastoral message the Church needs today**



When I (Cardinal Wuerl) first read the substantive [interview with Pope Francis](#) in America, I was drawn by the pope’s openness, engaging style and repeated call to “go out” and meet people where they are. What is needed, he says, is nearness and proximity to those who are wounded.

This certainly is a theme he has made something of a mantra in his ministry. I also immediately thought of his remarks as a vivid expression of the new evangelization—to present the Gospel in ways “new in ardor, methods and expression” (Blessed John Paul II, Address to the Latin American Episcopal Conference, March 9, 1983). In the interview Pope Francis says, “The proposal of the Gospel must be more simple, profound, radiant. It is from this proposition that the moral consequences then flow.”

... Reading the interview again—because one really must read it multiple times to take in the richness of the Holy Father’s message—I realized it may be a whole new way for the pope to share his thoughts. This is not so much the pope speaking about what we need to know about the Gospel message as it is how to “do” the Gospel message. Again, it is the embodiment of his many invitations to “go out” to people, to build bridges, not walls, and establish a dialogue with all people, even those who do not embrace all of the church’s teachings.

... The third time I read the interview, I focused on a few highly personal elements that really touched me. When the pope spoke about his prayer life, I felt he was actually talking to me. Finding a pattern for prayer—conversation—with God that works in the midst of all the requirements of our pastoral office was so reassuring because it was not abstract. It showed a pastor balancing his personal spiritual life with his ministry. . . . While I recognize this is an interview, not an apostolic exhortation, it is still the voice of the bishop of Rome, the pope, who

is providing such pastoral emphasis. It is a gift. You can read Cardinal Wuerl's full reflections at <http://americamagazine.org/issue/francis-in-america>.

## **Cardinal Dolan Applauds Pope's Interview With Jesuit Journal**



In an interview with *America*, New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan expressed his joy with Pope Francis' interview which was recently published in 16 Jesuit journals around the world. The in-depth interview highlighted the Holy Father's thoughts on the mission of the Church in today's world. Saying that his reaction made him want "to sing out a loud 'Alleluia!',", Cardinal Dolan said that he was "exhilarated" that the Holy Father would have such a personal interview. "All of us take risks in doing this [...] but it's worth the risk," the Cardinal said regarding giving interviews.

When asked for the reactions of the U.S. bishops, Cardinal Dolan, who serves as the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), stated that the bishops applauded the Pope's words. The Holy Father's emphasis on the new evangelization, he said, is also a top priority of the U.S. Bishops. "If the church is perceived as crabby, nagging, hung-up on a few 'pet peeves,' or judgmental, as unjust and inaccurate as that perception might be, we can't evangelize very well," Cardinal Dolan said. "What Pope Francis has done is popped the blister of that perception, and we bishops cheer him on. We are about a yes, not about a no."

While the Holy Father's interview gave hope to many who have felt at times marginalized by the Church, others were caught off guard with his words. Cardinal Dolan told *America* magazine that both sides of the argument are missing something *or rather, someone*. "Pope Francis is probably frustrated that all the attention is on him, his interview, his statements. He wants the attention on Jesus," the Cardinal said. "If we emphasize Jesus, His Person, teaching, salvation, invitation, death and resurrection, everything else works out."

Concluding the interview, the Cardinal of New York, said that the Holy Father's words regarding discernment and the presence of God in one's life moved him, especially when it comes to facing tough decisions within his Archdiocese. "Where is [God] as I decide to merge a parish? Where is He as I mull over the budget? Where is He as I worry about dwindling Mass attendance. Pope Francis claims He's there! In all those neuralgic areas where we think He's sleeping...No. He's there. I better discern that presence and that direction," Cardinal Dolan said. For *America* Magazine's interview with Cardinal Dolan, go to: <http://americamagazine.org/content/all-things/cardinal-dolan-frankly-speaking>.

## **Pope's Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees**

The president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, Cardinal Antonio Maria Veglio presented Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The event will be celebrated on January 19th, 2014 and will reflect on the theme: "Migrants and Refugees: Towards a better world."



Migration, the Cardinal said, "is an invitation aimed at the development of all humanity, including each person with his or her own spiritual and cultural potential". If we accept that culture is an entirety of spiritual, existential and intellectual aspects that distinguish a society, including also ways of life, fundamental rights, value systems, traditions and beliefs, then it will be possible to confirm that the whole of human existence is permeated by attitudes of encounter and welcome,"

Archbishop Kalathiparambil, the secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, highlighted focused on the plight of migrants in today's world where millions still

find themselves living in refugee camps. Many, he also settling in more urban areas where it can be more difficult to "identify and help."

"On the one hand, this is about ensuring a limit to human suffering, and on the other, to protecting and promoting a dignified life, at the same time offering adequate structures, stability and hope for the future. It must be said that there has been an increase in international minimum standards, for instance in relation to availability of food, shelter, education, healthcare, detention and repatriation. Besides, these international standards are of a qualitative nature and are therefore universal and applicable in any context."



"The migrant emerges as a person and as a citizen with rights and duties and, first as a beneficiary of works of Christian charity, the migrant becomes a subject of evangelization, agent of God's providential plan for the edifying encounter between peoples and the diffusion of the Gospel," Fr. Bentoglio said. For the full text of the Holy Father's message, go to:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-francis-message-for-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees>

## **USCCB: Begin Consideration of Immigration Reform Legislation**



Invoking Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, released September 24, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, called upon members of the U.S. House of Representatives to begin consideration of comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

In a message, released in advance of the January 19, 2014, World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis called for a

"change in attitude" toward migrants and refugees around the world, moving away from attitudes of "defensiveness and fear, indifference and fear," typical of a "throwaway culture." "Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity," the Holy Father wrote.

Archbishop Gomez echoed the Holy Father's remarks, stating that the current situation in the United States undermines the human rights and dignity of migrants. "Migrants have few rights in our economic system," Archbishop Gomez said. "They are working for low wages in our

restaurants and fields; our factories, gardens, homes and hotels. And these men and women have no security against sickness, disability or old age — and no protections against being exploited in the workplace."

Calling on the House of Representatives to correct this situation, Archbishop Gomez added, "I urge our leaders in the House of Representatives to debate and pass a bill that gives these undocumented men and women a path to citizenship and full membership in our society." Pope Francis' statement can be found at [www.news.va/en/news/popes-message-for-word-day-of-migrants-and-refugee](http://www.news.va/en/news/popes-message-for-word-day-of-migrants-and-refugee).

## **Conscience Protection in Health Care Seen as 'Must-Pass' Legislation**



In a September 26 letter to the House and Senate, Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston and Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, chair the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, respectively said "Preserving religious freedom and the right of conscience for all who take part in our health care system" is an increasingly grave concern as Congress considers "must-pass" legislation in the days ahead.

"Protection for conscience rights in health care is of especially great importance to the Catholic Church, which daily contributes to the welfare of U.S. society through schools, social services, hospitals and assisted living facilities," wrote Cardinal O'Malley and Archbishop Lori. "These institutions, which have been part of the Church's ministry since the earliest days of our country, arose from religious convictions. They should not be told by government to abandon or compromise those convictions in order to continue serving their own employees or the neediest Americans. Nor should individual Catholics or others be told they cannot legally purchase or provide health coverage unless they violate their conscience."

Cardinal O'Malley and Archbishop Lori identified the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) preventive services mandate, which requires virtually all employers to include female sterilization and all drugs and devices approved by the FDA as contraceptives in their employee health care plans, as a particular threat. "The mandate includes drugs and devices that can act against a human life after fertilization, implicating our moral teaching on abortion as well as contraception," they wrote.



"We make our plea as religious leaders who strongly support universal access to health care," they added. "Such access is threatened by Congress's continued failure to protect the right of conscience. Those who help provide health care, and those who need such care for themselves and their families, should not be forced to choose between preserving their religious and moral integrity and participating in our health care system." Full text of the letter is available online at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/upload/omalley-lori-letter-to-house-2013-09-26.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/upload/omalley-lori-letter-to-house-2013-09-26.pdf)

## **Bishops' Worship Committee Reflects On 50 Years of Liturgical Reform**

The U.S. Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship is marking the fiftieth anniversary of Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, with a reflection on the liturgical reform of the last half century. The Committee published its statement, "Stewards of the Tradition – Fifty Years After Sacrosanctum Concilium" ([www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/stewards-of-the-tradition.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/stewards-of-the-tradition.cfm)) on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) after the document was approved by the USCCB Administrative Committee at its Sept. 10-11 meeting in Washington.



The USCCB committee praised people who work in liturgical ministry and especially the liturgical leadership in the U.S. "Without your continued cooperation and self-sacrificing ministry, the implementation of the reformed liturgical rites after Vatican II, which have proven to be such a grace for the Church, could never have been undertaken" it said. Among the words of thanksgiving, affirmation and encouragement, the Committee noted the importance of participation by the laity at Mass.

"The Liturgy always has been and always will be about our taking part, our experiencing again and again, through rites and prayers the central events of our redemption and sanctification in Jesus Christ...We commend the great strides that have been taken to invite such engagement over the past 50 years: catechesis on the Liturgy that has shaped the role of the liturgical assembly, the service of the faithful in a great variety of liturgical ministries, and the devotion of so many to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist," the Committee said.

"Liturgical song has a preeminent place" in celebrating the Liturgy, the committee said. "Not only is it a means of active participation, but it is another source of beauty that can lift hearts and inspire worship." The Committee added, however, that "To rely on the music of a single genre or style for the celebration of the Liturgy is to diminish the breadth and depth of our liturgical heritage and to risk the exclusion of the legitimate contributions of particular cultures and composers."

The document is available on line and is divided into seven sections Here is the **Table of Contents**

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7. [\*\*Conclusion\*\*](#)

## **Biblical-Era Town Discovered Along Sea of Galilee**



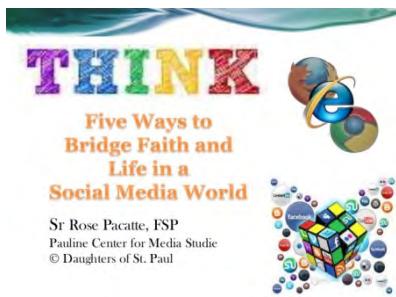
A town dating back more than 2,000 years has been discovered on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee, in Israel's Ginosar valley.

The ancient town may be Dalmanutha (also spelled Dalmanoutha), described in the Gospel of Mark as the place Jesus sailed to after miraculously feeding 4,000 people by multiplying a few fish and loaves of bread, said Ken Dark, of

the University of Reading in the U.K., whose team discovered the town during a field survey.

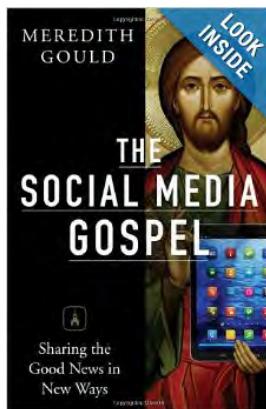
The Sea of Galilee boat is the most famous artifact that we can now associate with this newly discovered town. It dates back to either the first century B.C. or A.D. Although the boat was uncovered in 1986 the discovery of the town means we now know it was found on the ancient town's shoreline. You can read more at [\*\*\*Biblical Era Town Discovered\*\*\*](http://tiny.cc/w4zv3w) (<http://tiny.cc/w4zv3w>).

## **T.H.I.N.K. Five ways to bridge faith and social media**



Sr. Rose Pacatte Shares her PowerPoint: *T.H.I.N.K. Five ways to bridge faith and social media* on Slideshare. Our world is completely wired and often we cannot see the real connections that seem invisible. And it's not only young people who spend hours using social media every day, but more and more grown-ups are joining social media sites for a variety of motives. Even the Pope tweets. In this presentation I explore questions about social media, faith and education and share two frameworks for evaluating how students, teachers, and others create content and

consume it. The T.H.I.N.K. strategy is easy to learn, apply and share with even young children. You can check it out at [\*\*\*T.H.I.N.K.\*\*\*](http://tiny.cc/azev3w) (<http://tiny.cc/azev3w>).



This book is one of the resources used by Sr. Rose for her Slideshare presentation. Click on the link below for a YouTube video of the technology prayer, "Christ has no online presence but yours..."

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GAf9h4-A\\_U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GAf9h4-A_U)

**FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, October 8, 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 *Msgr. Stephen Rossetti's Thoughts on the Priesthood Today* is offered on

Tuesday, October 8 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at [PDW-10-08-2013](#)

(<http://tiny.cc/jg682w>). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit [www.avemariapress.com/webinars](http://www.avemariapress.com/webinars).



### ***Msgr. Stephen Rossetti's Thoughts on the Priesthood Today***

**Presented by: Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti,  
Tuesday, October 8, 2013 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT**

In this webinar, Msgr. Stephen Rossetti will talk about the challenges of ministering as a priest today in this increasingly secular culture. He will talk about the specific demands this secular culture makes upon the priests and how to stand up and prosper under the stresses and pressures the culture imposes.



His new book, [\*Letters to My Brothers: Words of Hope and Challenge for Priests\*](#), is a series of personal letters to his brother priests, a kind of personal conversation between him and his brothers on the state of the priesthood with all its joys and problems.



Join Msgr. Rossetti, leading expert on the state of the priesthood in the United States and the CEO of Saint Luke Institute, in this presentation and discussion about what it means to be a priest today. This webinar and his book are both realistic yet upbeat and inspiring reflections on what it means to be a priest today.

This presentation is co-sponsored by SLIconnect ([www.sliconnect.org](http://www.sliconnect.org)), the education resource of Saint Luke Institute. You can order [\*Letters to My Brothers: Words of Hope and Challenge for Priests\*](#) along with his other books [\*Born of the Eucharist: A Spirituality for Priests\*](#) and [\*The Joy of Priesthood\*](#) at the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

***Did you miss the webinars last week?***

# Recordings now available!



## Living the Eucharist: A Ministry That Gets Results!

Presented by Fr. Kenneth Boyack, CSP and Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP



This webinar will highlight how Living the Eucharist implements the New Evangelization. Topics include: Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation, The Sacrament of Charity, as the inspiration for this ministry; how the small groups for adults and teens, the Lenten devotional booklet, the Family Activity Booklet, the bulletin inserts, and the prayer campaign create transformative encounters with Christ; and the impressive evaluation results. [View the recording.](#)

**Register for a repeat of this webinar on Wednesday, October 16 at 1pm ET**

## Best Practices for Implementing Living the Eucharist in

## Your Parish

Presented by Fr. Kenneth Boyack, CSP



This webinar covers topics such as the role of the pastor and parish staff, best practices for Parish Leadership Teams, training small group leaders, ways to get maximum parish participation, using your parish website, adapting this ministry in different size parishes, and implementing Living the Eucharist in Years 2 and 3. [View the recording](#).



### Parish Starter Kit

**\$20 off - Final price \$49.95**

**Use Promo Code: Lent2014**

**Expires: October 15, 2013**

**Order Today!**

**The Forging of Courage**

The following essay by Mary Courtwright of Cleveland, Ohio was aired on the September 27, 2013 edition of *The Bob Edwards Show* on NPR. Here is the opening paragraph. If you care to read/listen to the complete essay, please go to <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/23137/>.



I believe that courage is forged as one endures the fires of life and chooses to face the flames—even when no one is looking. As a child, I thought courage was an innate quality, passed down from parents or found within the solitude of church. I was taught to make responsible decisions and to treat others fairly, but no one told me that the most difficult choices are those that take place quietly in my own heart. It is easy to do the right thing when you have an audience, others from whom to derive judgment and receive praise. But when I found myself alone and pregnant at 19 years old, and solely bore the responsibility to choose my path, I began to discover what “courage” really meant.

It was a quiet moment spent in deep meditation that I knew what my decision would be. The message was clear: the child within me needed to be born and was more important than any discomfort, fear, or loneliness I might face. The decision to keep the child took courage, but not nearly as much as the long road ahead would demand.

## **This Baby Was Supposed to Be Aborted**



Claire Culwell's biological mother attempted to abort her and her twin while they were still in the womb. The twin perished, but Claire survived.

Two weeks later, her mother gave birth... and Claire's miraculous story began. You can watch the video at [This Baby](http://tiny.cc/3iy43w) (<http://tiny.cc/3iy43w>).

## **Caring for Each Other**



Trenton and Lindsay Cochran are best friends, brother and sister, support and inspiration. 10-year old Lindsay, who suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy, has been in a wheelchair since she was 2. Trenton understands deeply that his life would have been very different if he didn't have a disabled younger sister. Not only is this mature 12-year old a helper and protector, he is an advocate and ambassador for kids with disabilities. "I

would take a bullet for her," he says, as his grateful sister looks on. Watch this three (3) minute video at <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=4065#sthash.ZqGtoHf.dpuf>.

## **Video from an Eagle's Wing**



It's an incredible minute-thirty video of mountains, solitude, and restored vision of nature's majesty in the Chamonix valley of France's Mer de Glace. Just amazing! I have no idea how they filmed this from an eagle's view. Check it out at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3QrhdfLCO8&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3QrhdfLCO8&feature=player_embedded).

## **Fast Food Worker Stood Up For Blind Customer, Gets National Praise**



Here is a reason for family/classroom discussion, role playing and "What Would You Do?" moral situations. A 19-year-old Dairy Queen employee served more than ice cream at his Hopkins, Minnesota store recently: He stood up for a blind man after his twenty dollar bill, dropped on the ground, was scooped up by a sighted customer who refused to give it back. A typed letter of commendation now hangs on the wall of the DQ shop after a third customer saw the whole scene unfold and couldn't believe how manager Joey Prusak had handled the situation - going above and beyond what anyone could expect. Watch it at [Doing What's Right](http://tiny.cc/cbxy3w) (<http://tiny.cc/cbxy3w>).

## **Breakdancer With Genetic Disorder Inspires Special Needs Children**



LazyLegz, otherwise known as Luca Patuelli, was born with arthrogryposis (multiplex congenita). He's an amazing dancer, but he always needs crutches. What is more amazing is how he gets kids with special needs to dance. His attitude that anyone can dance is not only remarkable but it works. I was deeply touched by his commitment and his style in dealing with these children with special needs. You can watch the video at [Ill Disabilities](http://tiny.cc/e0wy3w) (<http://tiny.cc/e0wy3w>).

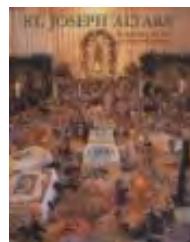
## **Listen to Your Blessed Mother: Mary's Words in Scripture**

You are probably wondering how someone can write a book on the words of a person whose recorded words are very few but let me assure you that Gary Zimak digs deep to provide



insightful reflections and real-life application. He spends five chapters on the Magnificat, three covering the Annunciation, two for the Finding in the Temple, two on the Marriage at Cana, and five drawing lessons from Mary's other (silent) appearances in the gospels and Acts. You can order [Listen to Your Blessed Mother: Mary's Words in Scripture](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

## **St. Joseph Altars**



Although this book is seen from the celebrations in New Orleans, it still captures the story of the St Joseph Altar with the prayers and rituals of the occasion. This book not only gives you ideas of how to do your first St. Joseph Altar, but it also gives you original recipes to make and put on the altar. From St Joseph Bread to St Joseph sawdust to top the traditional pasta dish served with a hard boiled egg, it's all here to make your first altar a success. It's not too early to begin planning for March 19<sup>th</sup>. You can order [St. Joseph Altars](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.