

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

We begin this newsletter congratulating all of our Catholic school teachers and administrators as they celebrate *National Catholic Schools* week.

We also are excited about our upcoming presentation with Dr. Carole Eipers, who will be sharing ideas on how we keep our doors open to evangelizing others. Carole is a very popular speaker, who combines her extensive background in catechetical methods with a delightful sense of humor. **Please join us on February 13<sup>th</sup>!** Registration details are found below.

I also would like to encourage you to promote and participate in the following opportunities:

- CYO Camp Registration is now open. There will be an exciting Lego faith based activity and new opportunities for high school students this year. <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/OYYAE/Camping/default.aspx>
- Leif Kehrwarld, will be presenting strategies on how to build faith in the home on February 28<sup>th</sup> in Kirkland.
- John Michael Talbot will be in concert at St. Charles Borromeo Church on June 24<sup>th</sup> and tickets are on sale now.

This edition of the newsletter is indeed packed with several articles taken from Pope Francis' writings and talks. There is also an abundance of online webinars and videos. I especially recommend "Falling Plates" as a great resource for reconciliation with middle and high school age students and their parents.

Many of our articles come from the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL). There are several books recommended by this source and if you purchase them through their Amazon bookstore, you help support this wonderful organization as well.

Once again, I hope to see many of you on February 13<sup>th</sup>!

With the peace of Christ,

*Anne*

Anne Frederick, Ed.D.

Director of Parish and School Faith Formation

# ANNUAL FAITH FORMATION LUNCHEON

## *Opening the Doors of Evangelization: Exploring Ways to Share the Faith Across Age Groups*

**Speaker: Carole Eipers, D.Min**

Sponsored by William H. Sadlier, Inc.

**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2014  
**Place:** Archbishop Brunett Retreat and Faith Formation  
Center at the Palisades, Federal Way  
**Time:** 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
**Cost:** \$25/person (presentation/lunch), payable at event  
**Audience:** Priests, Deacons, Catechetical Leaders, Principals,  
Religion Teachers, and all those involved in parish  
and school ministry

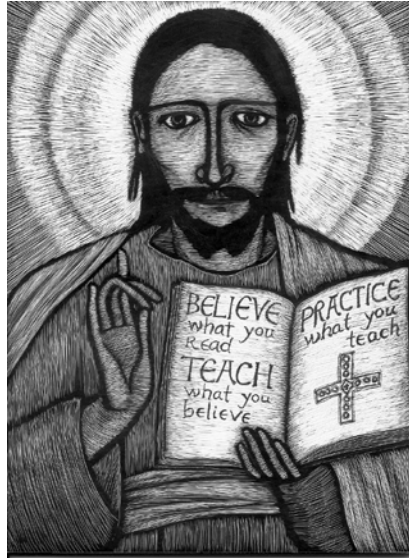


Dr. Carole Eipers is the Director of Catechetics at William H. Sadlier, Inc. and has served in parish and archdiocesan ministries as a Catholic school teacher, Director of Religious Education, Youth Minister, and Pastoral Associate. She is an author of multiple books on catechesis and parent faith formation. Carole is well-known for her humor and skills as a presenter on evangelization, catechesis and related topics, both nationally and internationally.

RSVP to [ocff@seattlearch.org](mailto:ocff@seattlearch.org) or 206-382-4096  
by **Thursday, February 6th**

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE • Office of Catholic Faith Formation  
710 Ninth Avenue • Seattle, WA 98104

# FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH CATECHIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

- ✚ Advent
- ✚ Lent
- ✚ Retreats

## CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

- ✚ Faith Formation for Parish Staff
- ✚ For Competent, Confident, and **Capable** Catechists
  - Certify at least one per grade level
  - Identify & Prepare Next Year's Catechist
- ✚ RCIA team
  - Identify & Prepare Next Year's Team

**SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION** at [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ccp](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ccp)

### *Upcoming Archdiocesan Events*

#### *Liturgy Office Workshops:*

<http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Liturgy/workshops.aspx>



CRS Rice Bowl is sponsoring a webinar on February 13th for catechetical leaders! Mark your calendar and spread the word! Many thanks for your continued support. This webinar will be recorded and information on how to view it in the future will be provided.

<b>February 13 11:00 am – 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Webinar for Religious Educators &amp; Catechists</b>	Religious educators and catechists will have a chance to learn about and share their own ideas for using Rice Bowl resources creatively during Lent in classroom, family, and whole community catechetical settings. <a href="#">Click here to register.</a>
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### *When*

Friday February 28, 2014 at 4:00 PM PST

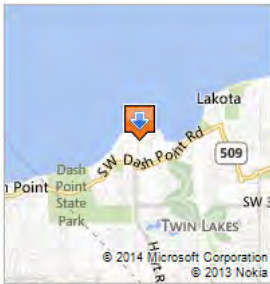
-to-

Sunday March 2, 2014 at 1:00 PM PST

 [Add to Calendar](#)

### *Where*

Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center  
4700 SW Dash Point Road  
Federal Way, WA 98023



[Click HERE for Driving Directions](#)

### *Questions, Please Contact:*

Helen Nguyen, Welcoming Coordinator  
Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center  
(206) 748-7991

[helen.nguyen@seattlearch.org](mailto:helen.nguyen@seattlearch.org)

## *The Joy of the Gospel*

*Living Our Faith in the Workplace and the Community  
A reflection on Pope Francis' "Evangelii Gaudium"*




*Led by: Fr. Lukasz Misko and Deacon Eric Paige*

Inspired by Pope Francis' recent document *Evangelii Gaudium*, this retreat will reveal practical ways to live out our faith with joy in school, at work, at home, and in our communities.


This retreat is especially designed for Catholic young adults, professionals, and homemakers, and has something for everyone. In addition to full-group presentation and prayer times, there will be break-out sessions for adults and young adults.

You can visit the registration page [here](#).

DOWNLOAD  
**Jesus**



FREE Bible  
[www.DownloadJesus.com](http://www.DownloadJesus.com)

A mosaic-style image of Jesus Christ. He has long, wavy brown hair and a beard, and is wearing a crown of thorns. The background is a circular mosaic with a yellow and gold pattern.



## **Workshop for Parish and Congregational Leaders**

Friday, February 28  
9:30 am – 12 noon  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
(Fellowship Hall)  
10021 NE 124<sup>th</sup> St  
Kirkland, WA 98034  
(Seattle Area)

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

*Designed to give 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 congregation 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 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!

### **Audience**

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.

### **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 \(http://plusworkshopseattle.eventbrite.com\)](http://plusworkshopseattle.eventbrite.com)

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

✧ Platinum Selling Christian Music Legend ✧ Best Selling Author

✧ Catholic Evangelist seen on Faith Networks throughout the world!

# JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

## IN CONCERT

### JUNE 24, 2014

### 7:00 PM



## St. Charles Borromeo Church

7112 S. 12th Street, Tacoma, WA

**Tickets: \$35 for Stage Seating - \$20 General Admission**

**ORDER TICKETS / GET EVENT INFO ONLINE:**

**<http://parish.stcharlesb.org/jmt>**

Tickets/Info also available by calling the parish at:

**253-564-5185**



## **Pope Says Internet A 'Gift From God,' Should Be Used For Solidarity**



Like the good Samaritan, who stopped on the road to help a person in need, travelers along today's communication highways should offer support to those they encounter there, Pope Francis said.

"The digital world can be an environment rich in humanity; a network not of wires but of people," he said in his message for World Communications Day. Modern means of communication, especially the Internet, offer "immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity," he said. Because of that, he said, the Internet is "a gift from God."

"Communication at the service of an authentic culture of encounter" is the theme of this year's World Communications Day, which most dioceses will mark June 1, the Sunday before Pentecost. The message, released Jan. 23, was dated Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists.

"Good communication helps us grow closer, to know one another better, and ultimately to grow in unity," the pope said. "The walls which divide us can be broken down only if we are prepared to listen and learn from one another," he said. "A culture of encounter demands that we be ready not only to give, but also to receive." Good communicators must take the time necessary to listen to others and, more than just tolerate, truly accept them, he said.

Pope Francis, in his message, quoted Pope Benedict XVI's 2013 World Communications Day text, which says effective Christian witness is "about our willingness to be available to others 'by patiently and respectfully engaging their questions and their doubts as they advance in their search for the truth and the meaning of human existence'" -- not by "bombarding people with religious messages."

The good Samaritan is a model for how to approach and interact with others on today's digital highways, taking responsibility for the hurt and lost there, the pope said. "Whenever communication is primarily aimed at promoting consumption or manipulating others, we are dealing with a form of violent aggression like that suffered by the man in the parable," beaten by robbers and abandoned on the road," he said.

"There is a danger that certain media so condition our responses that we fail to see our real neighbor," the pope said. Information overload or overexposure to injustices like poverty can make us "so accustomed to these things that they no longer unsettle us." Good communicators bring beauty, goodness and truth to people, something no snappy or sophisticated media strategy can do, he said.

"Personal engagement is the basis of the trustworthiness of a communicator," he said. You can read the text of the pope's [World Communications Day message in English](#). You can read the text of the pope's [World Communications Day message in Spanish](#).

## **Pope's Weekly Catechesis: *Divisions Among Christians Are 'A Scandal,'***



The divisions that exist among Christians are a source of pain and scandal, and damage the credibility and work of spreading the Gospel, Pope Francis said. "Christ's name creates communion and unity, not division. He came to create communion among us, not to divide us!" said Pope Francis.

The pope dedicated his catechesis to the week of prayer's theme, taken from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. As St. Paul reproached the Corinthians for their divisions and rivalries, he asked them, "Is Christ divided?" the pope said. "Christ has certainly not been divided. But we have to recognize with sincerity and with sorrow that our communities continue to live divisions that are a scandal," the pope said.

Christians have two important elements in common: baptism and the cross, he said. However, divisions among Christian communities "weaken the credibility and the effectiveness of our efforts to evangelize, and they risk emptying the cross of its power" and meaning, he said.

"It's beautiful to recognize the grace God bestows upon us and, furthermore, to find in other Christians something which we need, something which we could receive as a gift from our brothers and sisters," he said. Christian unity requires "much prayer, humility, reflection and continual conversion," he said. Let the Lord's name be proclaimed, not to shut people out, but "to open the heart to love which unites and enriches," he said. "Let's pray that the Lord grants unity to Christians, living differences as a richness; seeing the other as a brother to welcome with love." The text of the pope's audience remarks in English is available online at [Wednesday's Catechesis](#).

## **Pope Francis Continues Catechesis on the Sacrament of Baptism**



Continuing his catechesis on the Sacrament of Baptism, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that our Baptism calls us to become "missionary disciples" within the Church. The Holy Father reiterated his imagery of Baptism as an unbroken chain in the transmission of faith. Each baptized Christian, he said, is a link in that chain. "Such is the grace of God and so is our faith, that we should transmit to our children, because they, as adults, can transmit it to their children," the Pope said. "Baptism makes us enter into this People of God that transmits the faith. This is very important. A People of God that walks and transmits faith."

The Pope drew on his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, saying that through our Baptism, we are called to be "agents of evangelization." As such, "the new evangelization calls for the personal involvement" of all who are baptized. Through this calling, the People of God are both disciples and missionaries. "All of us in the Church are disciples, and we are so always, for our whole life; and we are all missionaries, each one in the place the Lord has assigned to him," he said.

The Holy Father went on to explain the mystical and missionary dimension of the Christian vocation which are rooted in Baptism. As a community of believers, we are called to share the experience of the love of God to others. “No one,” the Pope said, “is saved on their own. The communal dimension is not just a ‘frame,’ a ‘garnish,’ but an integral part of Christian life, of witness and of evangelization. Christian faith is born and lives in the Church and, in Baptism, families and parishes celebrate the incorporation of a new member of Christ in His Body which is the Church.”

Concluding his catechesis, Pope Francis noted the example of the 17th century Christian community of Japan, who despite suffering enormous persecution, endured in their faith. The Holy Father said the grace of their Baptism allowed them to survive.

“This is great: the People of God transmits faith, baptized their children and goes forward. And they maintained, though in secret, a strong community spirit, because Baptism made them become one body in Christ: they were isolated and hidden, but always members of the People of God, members of the Church. We can learn so much from this story!” the Pope exclaimed. The complete text can be read at [\*The Fruits of Baptism\*](#).

### **Pope: Better To Eat Humble Pie Than Let Anger Harden The Heart**

A heart hardened by anger and resentment is worse than eating humble pie and reaching out to enemies to seek peace, Pope Francis said. "Worse than trying to build a bridge (of understanding) with an adversary is to let the heart swell with rancor toward him," he said Jan. 24 during his early morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives. Holding onto one's hatred and anger, instead of taking the first step toward peace, only renders people "isolated in this bitter broth of our resentment," he said, according to Vatican Radio.



When someone is wronged or faces an enemy, one option might be retaliation or revenge, Pope Francis said. But the Christian response is to choose the path of dialogue, he said, which requires humility, meekness and becoming all things to all people. One thing the Bible doesn't mention is that "to do all this, you need to swallow a lot of 'toads,'" that is, the bitter pill of humiliation, he said. "But we have to do it because that's how peace is made -- with humility, humiliation, always trying to see the face of God in the other," he said. Taking the first step toward dialogue and stooping low to begin building a bridge of understanding is not easy, he said

### **Vatican Radio Welcomes First Intern With Down Syndrome**



For the past two weeks, Vatican Radio has had a new member in its team: Michael Gannon, 33, has Down Syndrome, but this has not prevented him from becoming a published author, going to university, acting, or working as a radio journalist – among other achievements. The first person with Down Syndrome to intern at

Vatican Radio, Michael has made the most of his time working at the radio station of the Pope.

The opportunity to work for Vatican Radio came about two years ago when Michael and his mother were attending an event in Rome organized in part by the AIPD (Associazione Italiana Persone Down), entitled: “My Opinion, My Vote.” Michael asked Lovett if Vatican Radio had ever employed an intern with Down Syndrome. When the director of the English program said they had not, Michael offered to become the first.

A student of the National University of Ireland in Maynooth, the Kildare native has an impressive resume in the area of communications. He has written a book entitled *Straight Up, No Sugar*, and is in the process of writing a second book. He is also an “ambassador” for Down Syndrome Ireland. “People with Down Syndrome have a normal life,” he said. “They have family. They have friends. They can go out, have fun, socialize. You can be your own self.”

For those who might be daunted by some of his achievements, Michael said in no uncertain terms: people should “stop looking at Down Syndrome, and see the person.”



## **20 Things the Poor Really Do Every Day**



There has been a lot of conversation about the poor and the wealthy. In fact the first part of this month included statement about what the wealthy do and what the poor do. Ben Irwin, however, chooses to take the discussion out of the opinion realm and “To balance the picture a bit, ...take a fact-based look at 20 things the poor do on a daily basis.” Irwin concludes his blog with the statement, “These are the real habits of the poor, those with whom Jesus identifies most closely.” This is a great discussion starter for social justice groups. The twenty items are listed here but if you want the actual data verifying his statements, please go to [20 Things the Poor Really Do Every Day](#).

1. Search for affordable housing.
2. Try to make \$133 worth of food last a whole month.
3. Subsist on poor quality food.
4. Skip a meal.
5. Work longer and harder than most of us.
6. Go to bed 3 hours before their first job starts.
7. Try to avoid getting beat up by someone they love.
8. Put themselves in harm’s way, only to be kicked to the streets afterward.
9. Pay more than their fair share of taxes.
10. Fall further behind.
11. Raise kids who will be poor.
12. Vote less.
13. When they do vote... vote pretty much the same as the rest of us.
14. Live with chronic pain.
15. Live shorter lives.

16. Use drugs and alcohol pretty much the same as (or less than) everyone else.
17. Receive less in subsidized benefits than corporations.
18. Get themselves off welfare as soon as possible.
19. Have about the same number of children as everyone else.
20. Accomplish one single goal: stay alive.

## **The Imperative for Wholeness Inside Christ**



For the week of Christian Unity, Fr. Ron Rolheiser writes a powerful column with some penetrating questions. Here are a few excerpts from his column including a re-thinking of the woman with the lost coin. If intrigued and willing to examine the issue of why we need to work harder at ecumenism, you can read the January 19<sup>th</sup> column at <http://www.ronrolheiser.com/>.

For more than a thousand years, Christians have not had the joy of being one family around Christ. Although there were already tensions within the earliest Christian communities, it was not until the year 1054 that there was a formal split so as to, in effect, establish two formal Christian communities, the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church in the West. Then, with the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century, there was a further split within the Western Church and Christianity fragmented still further. Today there are more than a hundred Christian denominations, many of them, sadly, not on friendly terms with each other.

...Oneness was close to the heart of Jesus. He wants all his children at the same table, ...Hence the parable might recast this way:

A woman had ten children. With nine of them, she had a good relationship, but one of her daughters was alienated. Her nine other children came regularly to the family table, but this daughter did not. The woman could not rest in that situation; she needed her alienated daughter to rejoin them. She tried every means to reconcile with her daughter and, one day, miracle of miracles, it worked. Her daughter came back to the family. Her family was whole again, everyone was back at table. The woman was overjoyed, withdrew her modest savings from the bank, and threw a lavish party to celebrate that wholeness.

...Thus we are meant to ask ourselves uncomfortable questions: Who no longer goes to church with us? Who feels uncomfortable worshipping with us? Are we comfortable that so many people can no longer join us in our church?

## **Pope Francis' Prayer To The Holy Family**



(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis invited the faithful to join him spiritually in prayer for the upcoming Concistory and for the next Synod of Bishops which will focus on the theme of the Family.

### **PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again  
experience violence, rejection and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may the approaching Synod of Bishops  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.

## **Digital Discipleship Boot Camp – Now Available Completely ONLINE**



Digital Discipleship Boot Camp sessions are now available. The full training is all ONLINE! To learn more about the training, visit <http://ddbcformation.org>. Our next session begins on February 4, 2014. Here's what participants say about DDBC:

No matter what obstacles get thrown in your way during this course, even if your parish is not at this point, stick with it and get the knowledge for yourself and the future of your ministry. Not to mention the future of the Faith. (*Kim Adamson, Parish Catechetical Leader, San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Island, Florida*)

When we are not afraid to learn new things the whole world is open to us. So don't be afraid to ask questions and to learn new ways of thinking. Plus this class is fun and the webinars are a nice length. So no excuse like Nike says "Just Do It!" (*Phil Coit, Director of Faith Formation, St. Thomas AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, New Port Richey, Florida*)

This is the BEST learning experience I have had in a LONG time! No matter how experienced...or inexperienced...you are navigating on the digital continent-you are going to learn a lot. Don't get overwhelmed...just start with those ideas presented that really grab you...conquer the ones you like best. Then use what you learned every day. It gets easier if you use your new skills as much as possible. (*Amy Barber, Youth Minister, Queen of Peace Parish, Gainesville, Florida*)

Come and visit 21 Inspiring Messages from those who have completed DDBC - <http://www.slideshare.net/ccerven/21-inspiring-messages>.

"We have a great program with coaches who will walk with you." If you are unable to participate now, plan for the summer program that begins in early June. Questions – contact Caroline Cerven, SSJ-TOSF ([c.cerven@verizon.net](mailto:c.cerven@verizon.net)) or Claudia McIvor ([cmcivor@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cmcivor@tampabay.rr.com)).

### **Adult Faith Formation Online Forum**

What are your hopes for AFF for 2014? What is your parish or diocese planning for adult formation for Lent?

New on the NCCL website is an Online Forum for Adult Faith Formation. Click on the Adult Faith Formation tab, then click on **Adult Faith Formation ONLINE Forum** or [click HERE](#) to see threads of conversations about topics related to Adult Faith Formation. Respond to already created conversations or create your own topic.

Recent topics include "Lenten Plans" and "Hopes for AFF for 2014." You may subscribe to receive email notifications of new postings. This promises to be a great way of sharing ideas and asking questions of colleagues with regard to adult faith formation. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Teresa Burns [tburnszoo@hotmail.com](mailto:tburnszoo@hotmail.com), one of the NCCL AFF Committee animators.

## **Technology and New Media For Those Working in Hispanic Ministry**



The *Forum on Catechesis with Hispanics* (FCH) requests your support to assist Patricia Jiménez, D.Min (Candidate) who has been asked to co-author an essay on Hispanic Ministry and Technology and New Media. In order to do so, she needs your help in understanding how those involved in Hispanic Ministry and Theology are currently using technology and new media. If you are responsible for catechesis with Hispanics, please consider the invitation to participate in the survey. She feels “this survey will help us to better understand how Hispanic Ministers are using technology and New Media.”

You are asked to complete the survey by February 28, 2014. Depending on your answers, the anonymous survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. Those who complete the survey will be entered to win a special Our Lady of Guadalupe Mug and T-shirt. To take the survey in English click here <http://svy.mk/1aQ3FDM> To take the survey in Spanish click here <http://svy.mk/1jGzIvC>

## **A Different Take On 'Threats To Family Life'**



Writing for *U.S. Catholic*, Kevin Clarke writes that “A growing work-life imbalance is pushing some parents over the edge.” Clarke feels that if the bishops really want to have an impact on family life then “they need to look at the issues that are really tearing it down. Most of them are economic or related to deeply misguided federal public investment and social spending priorities and tax structures.”

In two-parent households with children in the United States, both parents hold down full-time jobs 70 percent of the time, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Public expenditures geared to support families, including child care and early childhood education, fall at the bottom of comparative spending among other advanced states, and in the United States most of that support takes the form of tax breaks, not “hard” support like government-sponsored child care.

This is the environment in which we call for parent meetings, sacramental preparation programs for families, and participation in classes about nurturing the faith of their child(ren). It is a challenge for them and for us. Let’s make sure we don’t waste their time and offer them a program that deepens their own spirituality. You can read more at: [\*Threats to Family Life\*](#).

## **The Seven Enemies of Evangelization**



Tim Drake is the New Evangelization coordinator for a cluster of parishes in central Minnesota. He has discovered “there are some common foes that prevent us from sharing our faith with

others. Here are seven of the most common enemies of evangelization.” Excerpts follow. If you care to read the entire article, please go to [\*The Seven Enemies of Evangelization\*](#).

### **Fear**

Many of us do not evangelize because we are afraid. We’re afraid that we don’t know how. We’re afraid we might fail. We’re afraid that we don’t have all the answers, and we’re afraid of rejection. In his new book, [\*How to Share Your Faith with Anyone: A Practical Manual of Catholic Evangelization\*](#), Barber says that only three things are necessary to overcome our fear of evangelization — “devotion to our Lord, especially in the Blessed Sacrament; devotion to His Most Blessed Mother; and unfailing loyalty to His Vicar on Earth, our Holy Father, the Pope.”



### **Busyness**

It is truly incredible how full we fill our lives, with work and activities from the moment we rise until the moment we fall exhausted into our beds at night. While eating at a restaurant not that long ago, a stranger at a nearby table struck up a conversation with me. In the course of the conversation, he asked me about my work. That naturally led to a conversation about Christ, and during that conversation he ended up sharing some personal information about a tragedy that had hit their family. Through that conversation, I was able to identify some spiritual needs the family had and was able to relate that to the family’s parish priest.

### **Secularism**

We human beings have the tendency to have an inordinate attachment to created things, whether its technology, entertainment, food or drink, or many other things. The increasing secularization of culture and the loss of the sacred make evangelization more difficult, but not impossible. We must place God first and put all other things in their proper place. Then we can evangelize. When possible, use the very themes you find in modern films or music as a basis for talking about spiritual themes. There are often myriad ways to do this. Find ways to use media and the new technologies to share the faith.

### **Poor relationships**

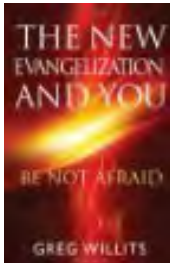
Evangelization happens relationally — usually one-on-one. To be able to share your faith with another person, you need to be in relationship with them, so that your words or actions or example will have meaning. Several weeks ago, I had a conversation with an elderly woman. She revealed some struggles she was facing and some bitter feelings she had. I suggested that she might consider taking that to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. She wondered how a priest could help her.

### **Lack of prayer**

How can we share Christ if we do not know him, or if we aren’t spending time with him ourselves? Evangelization begins with our own conversion through prayer and the

sacraments. “We cannot engage culture unless we let Him first engage us; we cannot dialogue with others unless we first dialogue with Him; we cannot challenge unless we first let Him challenge us,” Cardinal Timothy Dolan told the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a 2012 address.

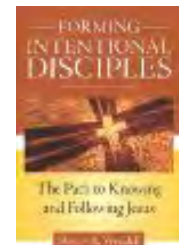
### **Pride**



Believe it or not, evangelizing doesn't necessarily mean having all the answers. Don't be afraid to say, “I don't know.” It demonstrates humility. “God doesn't take the qualified and make them worthy. He takes the unworthy and makes them qualified,” writes Greg Willits in [\*The New Evangelization and You: Be Not Afraid\*](#). Sincerity and honesty demonstrate to the inquirer that while you may not have everything about the faith figured out, you still believe. You have faith.

### **Selfishness**

Finally, another important aspect of evangelization is setting aside your own selfishness and needs and by practicing careful listening. In her very helpful book [\*Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus\*](#), author Sherry Weddell says: “There is no way of knowing what a particular person's journey has truly been and where the person is now until we earn the right to hear his or her story and then listen carefully and prayerfully.”



## **New Vatican Document Looks at Religion and Violence**



**VIS**

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**Vatican Information Service**

The International Theological Commission has published a new document clarifying that Christian belief is not only inherently incompatible with the incitement to violence, but that calls for violence are the religion's greatest corruption. The new document, published so far only in Italian on Jan. 16, will soon be made available in other languages. The title is “*God, the Trinity, and the Unity of Humanity: Christian Monotheism and its Opposition to Violence*”. It is the fruit of a five year study by the commission.

“Our reflection takes the form of a reasoned testimony, not an apologetic argument,” says a summary of the text, published Jan. 16 by the Vatican. “The Christian faith, in fact, sees the incitement of violence in the name of God as the greatest corruption of religion.” Christianity, it added, “reaches this conviction from the revelation of God's own life, which is brought to us by Jesus Christ” and says that the Church “is well aware that witnessing to this faith demands a

permanent readiness for conversion: which also implies a certain parrhesia, a courageous frankness in self-criticism.”

The document has five chapters: ‘Suspensions Regarding Monotheism’, ‘God’s Initiative in the Human Journey’, ‘God Who Saves us from Violence’, ‘Faith Faced with the Full Force of Reason’, and ‘The Children of God Scattered and Gathered’. The text was approved by Cardinal Gerhard Müller, the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The Italian version of the document can be viewed online at [www.laciviltacattolica.it](http://www.laciviltacattolica.it). There is a Vatican [summary](#) of the document available in English.

### **Pope Francis' Message for 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations**



On 11 May 2014, the 4th Sunday of Easter, the Church will celebrate the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The theme this year is "Vocations, Witness to the Truth."

You can read the full text of [Listen and Follow Jesus](#), Pope Francis' message, sent for the occasion to bishops, priests, consecrated and lay faithful throughout the world.

### **Looking For Ways To Make Marriages Stronger?**

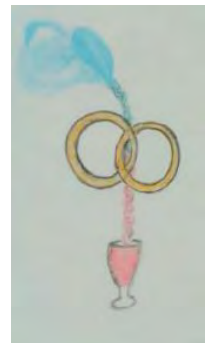


Join Karee Santos of Can We Cana? in an online marriage enrichment retreat this February 3, 4, 10 & 11. Perfect for individuals, couples, and catechists. The retreat offers sound theology combined with practical tips geared at helping today's married couples. Mid-day and evening sessions are offered for your convenience. To register, [click here](#). Topics, dates, and times are as follows.

**I. Life-giving Unity: Becoming One with Your Spouse and Your Children.** The marital relationship is the bedrock of any family, and unity between spouses strengthens the whole family. Learn how families can communicate better, pray more together, and grow closer to God together. **Monday, Feb. 3, at 12:30-1:30 pm EST or Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7:30-8:30 pm EST.**

**II. Holy Stewards: Making the Most of Your Time and Your Money.** We all struggle to find enough time for work, family, and God. Maintaining a good balance is difficult, but not impossible. Explore useful ways to make the most of what you have. **Monday, Feb. 10, at 12:30-1:30 pm EST or Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 7:30-8:30 pm EST.**

For more info, visit the Can We Cana? marriage support blog at <http://canwecana.blogspot.com> or email Karee with questions at [santoskaree@gmail.com](mailto:santoskaree@gmail.com).



## **Pro-life Movie: Gimme Shelter**

Pro-life champion Kathy DiFiore has had a life filled with redemption and hope. A suburban wife and mother, she escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself homeless and on the street. She focused on saying the prayer of St. Francis and eventually was able to reclaim her life. DiFiore went on to found Several Sources Shelters, which provides a home and safety net for pregnant women. Her life is the inspiration behind the gritty pro-life movie "Gimme Shelter," which is in theaters today.

"The remarkable narrative of "Gimme Shelter" expresses a powerful reality and the heroic love of a mother for her unborn child," said Bishop Ignacio Carrasco de Paula. "Exploring the hard questions regarding the meaning of life, family, love and suffering, our heroine, 'Apple,' fights against all odds and finds hope in the kindness of some key people, including a hospital chaplain who expresses the true nature of a priestly soul of service, guidance, and the deep Love of God for every single man, woman and child from the moment of conception. Out of rejection shines the courageous beauty of a mother's love, and out of tragedy, shines hope!"

Forced to flee her abusive mother (Rosario Dawson), and turned away by her Wall Street father (Brendan Fraser), "Apple Bailey" (Vanessa Hudgens) finds herself on a desperate and isolated journey of survival. In the depths of despair, she meets a compassionate priest (James Earl Jones), who ultimately leads her to redemption and unprecedented support in a suburban shelter for homeless teenagers. With gained confidence, and the warmth of her new home, Apple breaks from her inhibiting past, embracing the future with clarity and hope.

To prepare for her role, Hudgens lived for weeks in the Several Sources pregnancy shelter. For info on the movie, go to [Gimme Shelter](#). Watch the [trailer](#).

## **Life, Death and Love of a Savior**



A short film about life, death & love of a savior.  
Written, Shot, and Edited by [Strong Films](#)  
Music by La Liberté (<http://lalibertemusic.com/>)  
Strategy and Produced by Howard Crutsinger  
(<http://twitter.com/howardcrut>)

Watch [Falling Plates](#).

## **I Can Tell That We Are Going To Be Friends**

All children are special gifts from the Lord. Through sign language, these deaf children show us what friendship is all about. Watch the video [We Are Going to Be Friends](#).

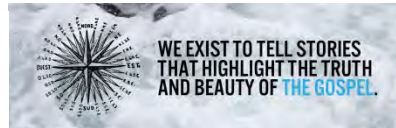


## **Son of God To Be Released on February 28, 2014**



On February 28, 2014, the film "Son of God" will be released by the makers of "The Bible" series, Roma Downey and Mark Burnett. "Son of God" is the story of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is a beautiful 2 hour and 15 minute feature film showing the miracles and the mission, His death and the beauty and hope of His resurrection. The trailer can be viewed [www.sonofgodmovie.com](http://www.sonofgodmovie.com).

## **Arbella Studios**



This [company](#) has a unique mission. They do music narratives and documentaries.

We believe that [stories shape cultures, nations, and lives](#).

We believe that film communicates a story with [unique authority and authenticity](#).

We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is [the most significant story in the history of the world](#).

You can catch a glimpse of their work by watching a trailer of one of their documentaries, [The Drop Box](#).



## **International Day of Persons with Disabilities: *The 1000 miles of Luca***



syndrome.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was December 3, 2013 and the theme was "Break Barriers, Open Doors: for an inclusive society and development for all." Pablo Poncini is the CEO of TBWA Buenos Aires. He's married to Gabriela, and they have two daughters, Renata and Sofia, and a boy, Luca. Luca is 13 years old and he was born with Down

A well known advertising figure in Argentina, Pablo was asked to work on a campaign about the inclusion of people with disabilities. After trying to write simple ads, he decided to go further and tell a more complete and personal story of his relationship with Luca. The two of them embarked on a road trip, in a classic car, on the road made famous by the Argentinian Mille Miglia car rally. Watch [The 1000 Miles of Luca](#).

## **Camden Priest – Fr. Michael Doyle**



*Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly* features a story on Father Michael Doyle, who feels crime and poverty in Camden, New Jersey are worse today than when he first arrived there 39 years

ago. But through his church's ministry of feeding, housing, and educating the poor, Father Doyle sees hope for what the FBI considers the most dangerous city in America. "We're working against the odds, but I think God is on our side," he says. You can read/watch [Fr. Michael Doyle](#).

### **No Problem: Turning the Next Corner in Your Spiritual Life**



James Martin, S.J. describes the book as "Gentle, wise, and sensible advice from an experienced spiritual guide to help you find God in all that you do, and in all that you are--and will be." Robert Wicks presents twenty lessons, three doorways, and thirty daily exercises. Donald Cozzens says "This is spiritual writing at its best--firmly grounded in the wisdom figures of the past and present and psychologically informed with the best of holistic thinking." You can purchase Robert Wicks' latest book [No Problem: Turning the Next Corner in Your Spiritual Life](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

### **The Romance of Religion: Fighting for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty**



A favorite accusation of non-believers is that Christianity is a mish mash of ancient myths warmed up and served again. The fairy tales of incarnate gods, virgin births and dying and rising gods are simply re-framed in Christianity. Is Christianity merely paganism warmed up? Is Christianity a fairy tale or a myth? These are the questions Father Dwight Longenecker addresses in his latest book.

C. S. Lewis discussed the topic with his friend J.R.R. Tolkien. Both men were brilliant scholars--Lewis a professor of English literature and Tolkien a philologist. Both were lovers of ancient folklore, myth and legend. They understood that myth, legend and fantasy stories operate in a profound way within the human imagination. As the hero goes on a quest to slay the dragon, rescue the fair maiden and find the treasure we go on that journey with him. A transaction takes place in which our heart and mind are shared with the hero's and a spiritual and psychological transformation occurs.

The Catholic Tolkien asked Lewis (who was then still an atheist) why he was so attracted to the myths and legends of the ancient world, but when he met the same sort of story in the gospels he rejected them. Tolkien explained that the stories of the Bible work on us just like other myths except they really happened. Eventually Lewis came to accept the existence of God, then finally the Christian faith. His understanding of how the Christian story works "as a myth that really happened" changed his life and opened the door for him to become one of the world's greatest Christian writers.

Too often the Catholic faith has been reduced to a set of rules, regulations or dogmas. The rules, regulations and dogmas are important, but they are the map for the adventure.

They are not the adventure itself. A new understanding of the importance of myth and fairy tales will help believers see the quest to follow Christ in a new and exciting way. Far from being dusty old tales of ancient times, as the popularity of C.S.Lewis and J.R.R.Tolkien proves, myth and fantasy stories remind us that in hearing the call to follow Christ we embark on the greatest adventure of all.

You can purchase [\*The Romance of Religion: Fighting for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

### **Music as Theology: What Music Says about the Word**



“Born of my missionary call to evangelization, the book seeks to ask the question of why music seems to be such a helpful bridge for many people to faith, and to seek a theological response and indeed paradigm to help us ‘comprehend’ that fact,” said author Louise Heaney. Passing on our faith to others in a time of such rapid change means that communicating centuries of our heritage and traditions to others is more difficult in today’s society. “The difficulty in contemporary western culture is not just that people don’t understand God, the Word of God; they don’t seem to understand themselves or the world either,” Heaney observed

Encountering Christ transforms ourselves and our way of interacting with the world around us. “This book suggests that music can be an important means of entering into and nurturing this transformed embodied Christian life,” Heaney affirmed. Music is one way in which we can seek to reach out to God and to come in contact with him, just as Thomas wanted to touch the body of the risen Christ, she concluded. You can purchase [\*Music as Theology: What Music Says about the Word \(Princeton Theological Monograph\)\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

### **The App Generation**



In a new book, Howard Gardner (known for his work on multiple intelligences) and his co-author Kate Davis “look at how different generations view the mobile app technology. They looked closely at the changes between the generations. It’s a complex mosaic, and in that mosaic we find both good and bad effects.” It may be helpful to know that the author’s research “suggests that most of today’s young people seek traditional qualities in their online relationships: empathy, trust, reciprocity, and self-disclosure.” If you are looking to start a conversation, this is a good departure point. You can order

[\*The App Generation: How Today’s Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, and Imagination in a Digital World\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

## Prayers for Life



The book is a journey from conception onward and Mary Ann Kuharski focuses us on life as it is grounded in prayer. It has much to offer all of us.

You can purchase [\*Prayers for Life: Forty Daily Devotions\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

## **Saint Francis, Pope Francis: A Common Vision**

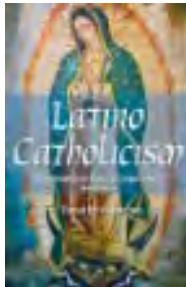
The author Gina Loehr theorizes that the Holy Father's "decision to align himself with St. Francis therefore implies a desire to keep himself and his authority rooted in Christ. In this book, Loehr examines five loves that characterized St. Francis's relationship with Christ:



- Love of the Church
- Love of the Cross
- Love of peace
- Love of the poor
- Love of humility

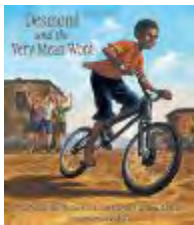
You can order [\*Saint Francis, Pope Francis: A Common Vision\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

## Latino Catholicism



Several years ago the author, Timothy Matovina, executive director for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame released [\*Latino Catholicism: Transformation in America's Largest Church\*](#). In this abridged version, he "offers the most in-depth examination to date of the significant ways the U.S. Catholic Church, its evolving Latino majority, and the American culture are mutually transforming one another." You can order [\*Latino Catholicism \(Abridged version\): Transformation in America's Largest Church \(Hispanic Ministries\)\*](#) or [\*Catolicismo Latino: La transformación de la Iglesia en Estados Unidos \(Versión abreviada\) \(Spanish Edition\)\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

## Desmond and the Very Mean Word



This is a wonderful book to discuss forgiveness. The story is about Desmond Tutu's real-life experience as a boy grappling with racial hatred against him and his own anger against bigots. This is one of my favorite lines from the book and one that would welcome discussion.

Father Trevor sighed. "That is the problem, Desmond. You will get them back, and they will get you back, and soon our whole world will be filled with nothing but 'getting back.'"

You can order [\*Desmond and the Very Mean Word\*](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.

## **The Gospel Sketched for Kids**



Lee Nagel from NCCL was very moved by *The King Jesus Story*. Lee did a little research about the author, Ben Irwin and his blog, [30/July/2012 blog](#). Here is part of what Ben wrote along with the *The King Jesus Story* he is turning into a children's book.

As Scot McKnight writes in his book [\*The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited\*](#)

*The gospel is the Story of Jesus as the completion of the Story of Israel as found in the Scriptures, and that gospel story formed and framed the culture of the earliest Christians.*



I believe it should form and frame ours, too.



The gospel sketched in Scot's book is the one I want to share with my daughter, Elizabeth, someday. What I wrote below was an attempt to translate it into simplified (hopefully not simplistic), kid-friendly version. Someday, when my daughter is ready, we'll sit down and read this together. (In the meantime, any suggestions or feedback would be welcome, especially if you've interacted with Scot's book.)

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## **The King Jesus Story**

It all began with God.

God made everything you can see.  
(And even some things you can't see!)

God made the world to be his home.  
Then God made the very first people  
so he could share his home with them.

God gave them a beautiful garden to live in.  
He gave them a job to do:  
take care of God's good world;  
rule it well on his behalf.  
But they didn't.

They didn't like doing things God's way  
and not theirs.  
So they took what wasn't theirs,  
and tried to rule the world their own way.  
They tried to be God.

So the very first people  
had to leave the garden.  
They had to leave God's presence.

Without God,  
they began to die.  
But God never gave up on his people.  
He still loved them.  
He promised to fix the world  
so he could share it with them again.

But it wouldn't be easy.  
Everyone who's ever lived,  
from the very first people  
all the way to you and me,  
have gone the same way.

We've all taken what isn't ours.  
We've all tried to do things our way.  
We've all tried to be little gods.

Things kept getting worse.  
But God had a plan.

God chose a man named Abraham.  
He gave Abraham children,  
and grandchildren,  
and great-grandchildren.  
God turned Abraham into a great nation  
and called it "Israel."

God made Israel his chosen people.  
They would help him fix the world.

God went with Israel  
everywhere they went.  
When they were slaves in another country,  
God remembered them.  
When they were treated badly,  
God rescued them.

God gave Israel a home.  
He gave them a job to do:  
show the world what it's like  
to be God's people.

God gave Israel priests  
to teach them how to love God.

He gave them laws  
to teach them how to love each other.

God told his people,  
“If you follow me,  
you’ll have a good life.  
You’ll get to help me fix the world.”

But Israel didn’t listen.

God’s people didn’t want God  
telling them how to live.  
They wanted to do things their way,  
just like the very first people — just like all of us.

God’s people didn’t want God  
to be their king.  
They wanted a king of their own,  
a person just like them.

So God gave Israel a king.  
Then another king.  
And another.  
Some were good. Some were bad.

Mostly, the kings did whatever they wanted.  
They took what wasn’t theirs.  
They ruled Israel for themselves, not God.  
They tried to be little gods.

So God sent prophets  
to tell the kings and their people  
that there is only one true King;  
there is only one true God.

But the kings and their people wouldn’t listen.  
So they had to leave their home.  
Other nations came and conquered Israel  
and carried God’s people off by force.

Israel lost everything.  
Then there was silence.

Years went by.  
No one heard from God anymore.

Until . . .

something new happened.  
God sent someone:  
a person just like us, yet different.  
Someone who could rule the world  
the way God wanted.

God sent Jesus,  
his chosen one,  
to rescue Israel  
and fix the world.

Jesus did good wherever he went.  
He healed the sick.  
He fed the hungry.  
He rescued people from all sorts of problems.

Jesus did everything God wanted,  
but it wasn't what God's people wanted.

They didn't want Jesus to be their king.  
They didn't want the kind of kingdom he would bring.

So one day, some powerful people decided  
they'd better put a stop to Jesus  
before he took their power away.

So they arrested Jesus.  
They stripped him naked.  
They nailed him to a cross  
and watched him die.

Jesus didn't fight back.  
He didn't raise a sword;  
he didn't even raise a finger.

And so the powerful people  
thought they had won.  
They thought they had beaten  
God's chosen one.

But there was something they didn't understand.  
They didn't know that Jesus died  
not because he had to,  
but because he chose to.

They didn't know that they,  
like all of us, deserved to die  
for all the times we've gone our way  
and ruined God's good world.

They didn't know a servant's death  
was the only way to live.  
They didn't know a servant's cross  
was the only crown worth having.

The one true King had come  
and given his life for the world.  
But they didn't even know.  
No one did.

But then God —  
the one who made the world,  
rescued Israel,  
and sent Jesus —  
raised him from the dead.

Lots of people saw him alive  
before he went back to God.

But Jesus didn't just rise from the dead.  
He defeated death,  
so it wouldn't have power over us any longer.

God gave us the King we needed,  
a King who loves, forgives,  
and changes everyone who comes to him.

This King gave us a job to do:  
love each other with all we've got.  
Because that's how we show others  
what it's like to be loved by God.

That's how we show others  
what kind of King we serve.

For now, the world is still broken,  
still waiting to be fixed.  
But someday, our King is coming back  
to rescue us and share his home with us again.

Never again  
will anyone take what isn't theirs.  
Never again  
will anyone ruin God's good world.

God will live with us,  
and we will rule the world for him.  
Forever.