



CATHOLIC CONNECTION

A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE



Fall 2005

How can we most effectively share the good news of evangelization within our local Church?

This is one of the questions we've pondered and part of the answer evolved into this first quarterly issue of "Catholic Connection: A Parish Evangelization Resource". It will arrive at your parish through the Chancery mailing and, if you wish, email.

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide parish staffs and/or volunteers with information and practical resources: the tools needed to carry out the mission of the church – evangelization. We invite you to use this resource to share the programs, projects and resources that have been helpful in your efforts of "...bringing the good news of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the ...power of the gospel..." (Go and Make Disciples, USCCB) Enjoy and share!

parish corner

"To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith..."
Goal I – Go and Make Disciples, USCCB

↪ **Christ Renews His Parish** begins at Holy Trinity this fall and at St Barnabas this spring.

This effective spiritual renewal process calls together members of the parish - clergy and laity - to experience personal conversion and Christian community in the environment of their own parish. The process enlivens and strengthens personal and communal faith by providing an opportunity to experience a supportive faith community and personal growth in prayer, scripture, and sharing.

For information on the program contact Dinah Tichy at Holy Trinity, 502-897-5207, Angela Higdon at St. Barnabas, 502-459-4251, or call our office, 502-636-0296, ext. 232.

"To invite all people...whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ..."
Goal II – Go and Make Disciples, USCCB

↪ **Alpha** program being used at Incarnation!

Alpha originated in the Church of England and is now being run by churches of many traditions including Roman Catholic.

The course is a ten-week, fifteen-session, practical introduction to Christianity that brings a face to face contact with Jesus. Designed primarily for persons with no church affiliation and new or non-practicing Catholics, it is also a blessing to parishioners seeking renewal in their faith. Small communities are a by-product of the course.

For information, contact Incarnation 502-447-2013 or email www.christlife.org. Our office also has some Information (502-636-0296, ext. 232).

outreach - quick and easy

How does your parish welcome persons who move into your area? Reading the Sunday real estate transfers and sending a letter or postcard of welcome is a simple and effective outreach tool. A sample might be:

Welcome to the Neighborhood! Your neighbors, the Catholic community of _____ welcome you. If you are looking for a place to worship and fellowship, please come and visit us. Mass is held on _____ or just call the parish office. (Provide address, phone and contact person.)

A parish brochure can be included, but it is not necessary. You will need::

- a volunteer to read the real estate transactions and mail information to those who have moved into your area
- a supply of form letters or postcards
- stamps

"Evangelization is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say in order to preach and teach."

Evangelii Nuntiandi, #14

Evangelization is not a program - it is the very marrow of the church. How is our parish intentionally conscious of our mission? How do we call one another to live out this mission?

the written word

Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love

by Daniel Homan, OSB and Lonni Collins Pratt

Today's culture is increasingly hostile and suspicious toward anyone who appears to be different. Our tendency is to shut doors and protect the ones we love. But deep within the heart of Benedictine spirituality lies a remedy to hatred, fear and suspicion - hospitality. Comforting yet challenging, true Benedictine hospitality requires that we welcome the stranger, not only into our homes, but also into our hearts. This easy to read book is about changing attitudes along with actions. It is excellent for small group studies.

Published by Paraclete Press, PO Box 1568 Orleans, MA 02653 – 508-255-4695 or www.paracletepress.com. If you are interested, our office has a copy of a 10-week study guide.

A "Leader's Guide for 13 Study-Group Sessions" by Dorothy Pellegrini and David & Ruth Rupprecht is available from P & R (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company) and also from Amazon.com.

...across the desk

↳ We've received several calls concerning fundamentalism and our response to it.

The July '05 edition of *Scripture from Scratch* has an article, "The Challenge of Fundamentalism" (Eugene LaVerdiere SS) addressing the difference between the fundamentals (Creeds) of the Church and fundamentalism. It is a good read and could provide material for small group discussion. St. Anthony Messenger Press is the publisher.

↳ **Inclusion Awareness Day, Sunday, September 25, 2005**

This is an opportunity to reflect on how your faith community includes persons with disabilities in worship, ministry, community and learning. The material can be used on this day or any day of the year. For a **FREE** workbook, contact our office, 502-636-0296, ext. 232 or email evan@archlou.org.

The program is sponsored by Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors which is part of the National non-profit, Pathways Awareness Foundation. Pathways works with denominations helping them to become more accessible to and inclusive of everyone. www.pathwaysawareness.org.

↳ **Diocesan Perpetual Calendars** -If you are looking for a gift that will inspire and last a lifetime, copies of *We dance in the arms of the great dancer*...Reflections for Daily Living, sell for \$5 each (plus S&H). Contact our office.

on the horizon

↳ **Catholics Returning Home Workshop**

This parish based outreach program is "cheap, easy, and works" says Sally Mews its founder and director. The workshop introduces the six-week series that invites, welcomes and updates Catholics who have been away from the Church.

Saturday, October 8

9:00 – 9:30 - registration

9:30 – 2:30 - workshop

Maloney Center room 1A

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Please bring a brown bag lunch.
Drinks, dessert, and snacks provided.

Books and a video will be available
at workshop rates.

To register complete the form on the flyer that has been sent to each parish in Chancery mailing or contact our office.

↳ **Training a Parish Evangelization Team**

Re-energizing or beginning a parish team? You will want interested persons to attend at least two of the upcoming workshops being offered by the Archdiocesan Ministry Institute – Inculturation, Oct. 1 and Evangelization and Faith Formation, Nov. 5.

Both are on Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Flaget Ctr. The cost of each is \$25.

For additional information or to register contact Meredith White-Zeager, 502-636-0296, ext. 211 or email ALMI@archlou.org.



Catholic Connection is published by the Archdiocesan Communication Center Evangelization Ministry
1200 So. Shelby St., Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 636-0296

Coordinator – Sue Brodfehrer, ext. 232
sbrodfehrer@archlou.org

If you wish to receive this quarterly by email, or have information you would like to share, send notification to ckupper@archlou.org. (*Newsletter is created in Word 97.*)