



Vol. III, No. 4
Pentecost, 2008

CATHOLIC CONNECTION

A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE

"The Church exists in order to evangelize." Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Paul VI



CHRIST OUR HOPE!

What are we called to do now?

CHRIST OUR HOPE! What a wonderful time for our Church when Pope Benedict XVI was in the United States. What a wonderful time for us to continue his message, "Christ our Hope!"

As our bus traveled toward Yankee Stadium, I thought about diversity and unity—the diversity of the people on the bus and the unity of our purpose as we anticipated the Papal Mass.

Upon arriving at Yankee Stadium, my thoughts turned to how 60,000 people of diverse cultures and ethnicities came together to celebrate what we share in unity, the celebration of the Mass.

A significant memory for me was when Pope Benedict XVI said, "Peace be with you," and in thunderous unity 60,000 people responded, "and also with you."

What are we called to do now? Evangelization is about (1) personal renewal and formation for Catholics, (2) proclamation and witness of the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to all people, and (3) the transformation of society.

What do you think of our archdiocese having a "Christ our Hope" evangelization summit? The definition of summit: a conference of the highest level officials. In God's eye, that's all of us!!

If we have a summit, we can share ideas about how parishes can include the message of evangelization in all they do, brainstorm ideas for reaching inactive Catholics and collaborate on ideas for welcoming. As always, any other ideas, suggestions, comments or concerns would be welcome.

E-mail me at: sschuhmann@archlou.org and let me know if you are interested. It could be scheduled for sometime in the fall of 2008.

Wouldn't it be awesome if 100 of you who read this newsletter responded positively by e-mail to the idea of a summit this fall? Together we could continue the enthusiasm of our archdiocese's bicentennial celebration and the Papal message, "Christ our Hope."



Parish Corner

PENTECOST CONTINUES

What I love about the church is that there are so many ways to be inspired. St. Jude inspires my uncle. For a friend, it is her image of the Holy Family. And for me, it is the Holy Spirit that I turn to for inspiration and most often in prayer.

On my desk is this quote from St. Francis de Sales: *"At the first Pentecost, why did fiery tongues settle upon the Apostles? To indicate that the purpose of announcing the Gospel was to inflame hearts."*

Paragraph 7 of the USCCB's plan for Catholic Evangelization, "Go and Make Disciples," inspires us with these words: **"We all have – and are – stories of faith, for through the Spirit, the Gospel of Jesus Christ takes hold of us in the proclamation of his Word, and Jesus touches us in the celebration of his sacraments. When this genuinely happens, we are all set ablaze by his love."**

Paragraph 8 continues, **"We can understand evangelization in light of these stories of faith: namely, how we have been changed by the power of Christ's word and sacraments and how we have an essential role in sharing that faith through our daily lives as believers. Looked at this way, evangelization is what we are all about! Being involved in the story of salvation is what faith is all about! Evangelization is the essential mission of the Church."**

Pentecost continues when we share stories of faith. Encourage others to share their story. Perhaps you could ask people in your parish what their story of faith is and, with permission, put their story in your parish bulletin.

Please share this message:

Save the date to celebrate!
Archdiocese of Louisville Bicentennial
Sunday, June 29 - 2:30

Mass and Concert
Louisville Slugger Field



All are welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Best wishes to all those who have completed the ALMI Discipleship Program, which focuses on the spiritual and faith formation of participants while providing an intentional process for gift discernment and theological reflection to help develop ways to live out one's faith.

Please consider recommending someone from your parish for this program, which will begin in August. E-mail almi@archlou.org or call 502-448-8581 for more information.



Food for thought:

The Archdiocese of Louisville is recognized in the book published by Paulist Press by Robert S. Rivers, CSP, *From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish*. The following quote is found on page 123:

"Welcoming is the very first object listed under Goal II (*Go and Make Disciples*, USCCB). A wonderful restatement of this objective comes from a parish in the Archdiocese of Louisville: **'May no one visiting our parish for the first time ever leave as a stranger.'** This motto echoes the New Testament understanding of friendship (*philoxenia*) as 'making the stranger a friend,' and it provides a vivid image of what a truly welcoming parish can achieve."

Way to go Archdiocese of Louisville!!!

A prayer with Pope Benedict XVI

The following prayer was taken from the July 2007 issue of "The Word Among Us." Perhaps you would like to add it to your favorite prayer list.

Dear Lord,

We pray for all of us, for every citizen in every country and every group within our countries: that we would seek what is best for our societies, always preferring the common good before any selfish interests.

We also pray for all of us who are engaged in evangelization. We pray that we would constantly be aware of our missionary duty and call, so that every Christian would help to share the gospel of Christ with others.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

A Great Website! www.pncea.org

Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Associated provides this wonderful website with information, opportunities for on-line classes, and links to other good Catholic websites.



Catholic Connection is published by
The Archdiocesan Communication Center,
Evangelization Ministry
1200 South Shelby St., Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 636-0296, ext. 1264

Coordinator of Evangelization – Sharon Schuhmann
sschuhmann@archlou.org.

If you wish to receive this quarterly by email, or have information you would like to share, e-mail Sharon at sschuhmann@archlou.org.