



# CATHOLIC CONNECTION

## A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE



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### parish corner

*God has set each member of the body in the place God wanted it to be...Even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable.*  
(1Cor 12: 18-22)

#### Archdiocesan Faith Clubs

- Where might you get the following answer when asking, "Can you tell me what you understand about the Trinity?" --- "It is like Neapolitan ice cream. There are three distinct flavors; strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla but they are all ice cream."
- Where do you find so many Olympic gold medallists in one place?
- Where can you find the spirit of giving to be so generous and so inclusive?
- Where can you expect your faith to be nurtured while in the midst of a social environment?

It is not unusual that all of this could be found at any given time, in not just one spot but possibly in four locations throughout the city of Louisville.

The faith clubs were originally formed to help meet the needs of young adults with mild disabilities and to make their faith and their faith community visible to them.

Today the approximately 60 members range in age from early 20's to late 40's and are mildly to severely disabled.

In addition to monthly meetings, the four groups gather together three times a year for a Christmas Dinner Dance, a Lenten Retreat, and an end-of-the year celebration.

- Has your parish ever considered becoming a site?
- Do you have parishioners who are disabled and could benefit from a faith based parish group?

- Do you have parishioners who would be willing to facilitate a club?

If your parish would like more information on this opportunity to share faith and socialize on a monthly basis with those who have a deep spirituality and seriousness of prayer, contact the Office of Lifelong Formation and Education, 502-448-8581.

Submitted by Miriam Hixenbaugh, Archdiocesan Consultant for Elementary & Family Catechesis

### outreach - quick and easy

*If you build it, they will come.* (Field of Dreams)

We may have heard others or even ourselves say, "We don't have any of 'those' people in our parish". The word "those" could cover anyone who might cause us to rethink how we do things, anyone who by their very person, challenges the norm.

The "those" in this brief article are persons with disabilities.

Sometimes outreach isn't about programs or brick and mortar. It can be as simple as having parking places near the doors that are reserved, marked, and sufficiently wide.

It can be as simple as having prayer aids in large print and hearing amplification devices available.

It can be as simple as a direct look in the eyes, a conversation, and a friendly smile.

It can be an invitation to serve on a committee, join a group, or attend a parish function.

These inclusive suggestions can help your parish continue to be seen as a space of welcome and acceptance. Your faith community will benefit because the gifts of "those" people are around to witness to the wonder and power of God's love.

## across the desk

### ☞ **Take Five for Faith:** **Daily renewal for busy Catholics**

You may want to take a look at this innovative approach to adult faith formation. *Take Five for Faith* is a series of daily lessons designed to nurture and ground busy adult Catholics in the faith. Each day contains a snippet of the daily scripture, a short relevant message and an easy action step.

What makes this approach unique is that your parish can choose to use it as a bulletin insert or handout, email it to parish groups or individuals, or post it on your parish website.

Reflections are also in Spanish for Sunday, Advent and Lent readings.

To check it out and download a free sample, go to [www.takefiveforfaith.com](http://www.takefiveforfaith.com). Published by TrueQuest Communications, 2004.

☞ **God is Love** - Catholic Update, has published Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical in condensed form. This format is designed to introduce to Catholics the full encyclical, which can be found in Catholic bookstores or online at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

Think creatively around how to share this resource -- as a bulletin insert? In a welcome basket for new neighbors? What creative thoughts surface?

## the written word

### **Ministry Through the Lens of Evangelization**

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops

This collection of major presentations from the 2003 North American Institute for Catholic Evangelization, examines and celebrates the vital link between ministry and discipleship. The diverse panel of contributors includes Cardinal McCarrick, Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, Rev. Donald Senior, Carole Eipers, Bishop Gregory, Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, and others. After each presentation there are reflection questions designed for personal/group discussion. It is an excellent resource for staff members to reflect on their particular ministries through the lens of evangelization.

Order directly from USCCB, Dept. of Evangelization and Outreach, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

"Today's parish is not a place where Catholics come to survive in a largely hostile world. It is a spiritual center that nourishes them and sends them forth to carry out the mission and ministry of the Lord Jesus. The parish is where God's people are gathered and the place from which they are sent!"

From Maintenance to Mission

Robert S. Rivers, CSP

*Ponderings...*

What is your reaction to this statement? Surprise? Encouragement? Concern? Anger? Challenge?

Name and celebrate the ways your parish nourishes and sends forth.

Building on what has already begun, how can you broaden your circle of outreach?

## on the horizon

Goal 1 of Go and Make Disciples charges us to learn to deepen our relationship with Jesus and to learn about our Catholic Christian heritage. For adult learners, a vehicle for both is the **Archdiocese of Louisville Ministry Institute, ALMI**, a comprehensive flexible, and inclusive approach to learning.

Information sessions are at a variety of sites and times, beginning in May and concluding in July. For dates, times, and sites, contact 502-636-0296 ext. 1211 or [ALMI@archlou.org](mailto:ALMI@archlou.org).



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