



CATHOLIC CONNECTION

A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE



Vol. I, No. 2

Winter 2006

parish corner

Through baptism and confirmation the laity have been called to participation in the mission of the church for the sake of its growth and life. Excerpts from Paul VI
Evangelization in the Modern World

Stephen Ministry at St. Bernard

Are you looking for a way to help your parish community grow spiritually? Becoming part of the Stephen Ministry program may be an answer. It has been for St. Bernard.

Stephen Ministry is an ecumenical program based in St. Louis that trains the laity to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in the parish and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. These difficulties may include hospitalization, the death of a loved one, divorce, separation, or any spiritual crisis or life-changing challenge.

Each minister is trained to be a "caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports and encourages," others who would like someone to talk to and listen to them or someone to rely on for emotional and spiritual care. Their role is not to replace the parish priest but to supplement his role.

Our parish community sent four parishioners to a week-long leadership training session. These four returned to train 13 others. Each potential Stephen Minister is a person of faith willing to undergo 50 hours of training, a two year commitment, and on-going supervisory meetings twice a month. After training, the minister is matched with a care receiver. They meet faithfully for about an hour each week as long as there is a need.

To meet the growing demand, the parish is planning another training in March. We also hope to send several Stephen Ministers to the week-long leadership training this summer.

If your parish would like more information about the program, contact Mary Fusting, 502-239-5178.

Submitted by Linda Roalofs, Stephen Leader,
St. Bernard Parish Community

outreach - quick and easy

Parishes are called to be neighborhoods of humanity, places of service, houses of welcome and village fountains. John Paul II Exhortation on the Laity

Your parish is hosting a guest speaker, a yard sale, a choral presentation or a political discussion - the list could go on and on. You've published in the bulletin, the parish newsletter and the RECORD. But, have you considered sending flyers to all the households in your parish neighborhood?

This small gesture places your parish in service to the community and says "all are welcome in this space." The invitation may also land at the door of someone who has been away from the church for awhile or someone unaffiliated with any faith tradition.

The next step is to be prepared for a few new faces at the event by having people at the doors to welcome and others to engage the stranger in conversation. If no one shows, don't be disappointed - keep at it. After all, Christian hospitality is an everyday, all the time attitude.

"Evangelization is the most fundamental of all the ministries. Unless the Gospel has been proclaimed, and unless it has been heard and accepted, every other ministry is futile. Without prior evangelization, catechesis falls on deaf ears, prophecy fails to rouse, the liturgy is spiritless, homiletics finds no echo, spiritual direction has no anchor, the lamp of prayer is extinguished, theology becomes a rational or historical exercise."

The New Testament in the Life of the Church
Fr. Eugene LaVerdiere

Ponderings . . .

What is your reaction to this statement?
surprise? encouragement? excitement? concern?
challenge?

What impact might this statement have on your parish? on you?

the written word

- ↳ Basic Guide to Young Adult Ministry
by John C. Cusick and Katherine F. DeVries
Orbis Books, 2001

For pastors, parish leaders and young adult parish volunteers who want to attract those between 20 and 40 into the active life of the church.

The resource is practical and down to earth in its sharing of strategies and wisdom. The authors detail programs and processes that have been well tested in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Media Center has a copy for preview.

- ↳ From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish
by Robert S. Rivers, CSP. Paulist Press, 2005

Many parishes become so preoccupied with the challenge of maintaining that the larger mission of church, evangelization, is out of sight. This book sets before us the perennial challenge to become Catholic evangelizers and proposes concrete ways to move from maintenance to a mission-oriented parish.

across the desk

- ↳ **I am e₃**
(evangelizing everyday everywhere)

A simple and fun resource that helps share faith stories. It is designed to be used at parish gatherings, committee and staff meetings, sacramental preparation programs, with small Christian communities and much more. The decks contain 24 story cards, each with a different faith account taken from a real-life situation. A user guide is also available.

- ↳ Decks A & B - adults
- ↳ Deck C - teens
- ↳ Deck D - Spanish speaking adults
- ↳ Deck E - young adults

Published by Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 2004. Check out www.iame3.com.

↳ ENVISION

Are you looking for a visioning process to help your parish shift from a stance of maintenance to one of mission?

ENVISION, based on a collaborative, leadership model, is such a process. Grounded in the document *Go and Make Disciples* and accompanied by a CARA developed parish questionnaire, ENVISION leads the entire parish through five phases - organizing, listening, discernment, planning and implementation. The result is a faith community that is Christ centered, mission driven, and living out of a shared vision. For more information visit www.pncea.org or call Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Albany, 812/944-1184 (local call).

↳ A Parish Evangelization Inventory

Developed by our diocese several years ago, this parish tool provides an opportunity to evaluate evangelization efforts. It offers an opportunity to celebrate the ways in which the parish has addressed the Bishops' statement, *Go and Make Disciples* as well as name areas for growth. Call Sue at the number below to receive this free inventory.

on the horizon

Keep your eyes open for this mailing!

The Heart of Multiculturalism

Naming, Claiming and Celebrating our Diversity

Saturday, March 25, 2006

8:30 – 4:00

Hilton Garden Inn, Crittenden Drive

Fr. John Hurley, CSP and Dr. Veronica Morgan-Lee will present and lead us in discussion & discovery.

Registration deadline: March 1

If you have any questions, contact the Office of Multicultural Ministry, 502-636-0296 or omm@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.)