

# CENTERPEACE 02/15/09 – 03/15/09

*An E-Resource for the Catechists and Catechetical Leaders  
of the Diocese of Pensacola – Tallahassee  
christianformation@ptdiocese.org*



## **Ministry of Initiation: RCIA Groups Celebrate the Rite of Election and Call To Continuing Conversion, 3pm, March 1 at Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, March 8 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**

**The Rite of Election (and Call to Continuing Conversion)** is the liturgical rite celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, by which the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' readiness for the sacraments of initiation. The Rite also recognizes the candidates preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist or reception into full communion of the Catholic Church. Before the rite is celebrated, the catechumens and candidates are expected to have undergone a conversion in mind and in action and to have developed a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching as well as a spirit of faith and charity. (RCIA no.120) A period of Purification and Enlightenment follows Election.

**The Period of Purification and Enlightenment** corresponds to that time known in the Church as Lent and has the character of a time of retreat for the elect who are preparing for Baptism, for the candidates who will complete their initiation or enter the full communion of the Catholic Church, and for the faithful who will commemorate their own Baptism at Easter. The centerpiece of this period of prayerful preparation is the celebration of the Scrutinies. Although the candidates will not be the subject of the

Scrutinies, catechesis for both the elect and the candidates during this period is related to the celebration of the Scrutinies. Throughout this period, the elect and the candidates are invited to join with the whole Church in a deeper practice of works of charity and in the practice of fasting.

The Scrutinies are celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the Lenten season. At the Masses at which the Scrutinies are celebrated, the cycle A readings must be used (RCIA no.146).



### **A Prayer for Sponsors of the RCIA**

God of all ages, you send out your Spirit to touch the hearts of people so that they may believe in You and in Jesus, whom You sent. Look kindly on all catechumens and candidates, as they listen to your voice. Open their hearts to your Spirit and bring to fulfillment the good work you have begun in them. As I reach out to welcome new members into the church, make me an instrument of your love. Teach me to reverence what is holy in others, and to be patient with what I do not understand. Deepen my faith in the gospel, and help me to pass it on by good example. With those who are hesitant or afraid, let me be a source of encouragement. And with those who are weak, let me be a pillar of strength. I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor and pray that you will continue to guide me and sustain me in welcoming new members into your household. I praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Web Site: XT3=Christ in the Third Millennium A Catholic social networking site**

**(This description of the site comes from their promotional materials.)**

"Connect with millions. Share the experience. Build a better world.

Launched at World Youth Day '08, XT3 is the fastest growing social network of its kind, with members throughout the world from over 200 countries. XT3 connects you with people who want to make a difference and helps you build a better world. Everyone is welcome. 'You young people have in a special way the task of witnessing today to the faith; the commitment to bring the Gospel of Christ into the third Christian Millennium, to build a new civilization - a civilization of love, of justice and of peace,' from Pope John Paul II's message to young people at World Youth Day, 1989 Santiago de Compostella) Find discussions, profile pages, global and friends' prayer walls, podcasts, diocesan homepages, events and projects. You can even ask a priest all those burning questions you have... so why not join now?"

## **Forming Catechists: Mission Critical Task!**

**Congratulations to**

**Christina Harvey, catechist for the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More.  
She has earned Level I Catechist Certification.**

**Level I (Basic Level) requires 20 hours of formation. Level II (Intermediate Level) requires 30 additional hours and Level III (Advanced) requires 39 more hours.**

### **Ministries Conference:**

#### **"The Eucharist Sends Us Forth"**

**Date:** Saturday, February 21

**Time:** Registration, 8:15am; Morning Prayer, 8:45am

**Place:** St. Mary Parish, Fort Walton Beach

**Earn catechist certification contact hours in many categories. Catholic School Teachers: this is a great way to fulfill your Level I Certification requirement! Registration form and conference brochure on the Diocesan Web site, [www.ptdiocese.org](http://www.ptdiocese.org).**



## **Lilies from the Field: Good Ideas & Special Events from Our Parishes and Missions**

- (1) In Tallahassee:  
Feb. 18, 7pm, Good Shepherd "Fasting From Our Clutter."  
Feb. 23, 7pm, Good Shepherd "Lent in Your Classroom"  
Register or get more information : [mcneills@ptdiocese.org](mailto:mcneills@ptdiocese.org)
- (2) Sue Marco, youth minister at Christ Our Redeemer/Niceville, has a picture book for special needs youth preparing for Reconciliation. You can reach her at 850/897-2422 or through the parish web site, [www.corcatholic.org](http://www.corcatholic.org).
- (3) Lyn Colello, DRE for St. Rita Parish/Santa Rosa Beach, has a great "Religious Education Catalog." Attractive, comprehensive and geared to today's catalogue shopper! Contact Lyn at 850/267-2558, or at the parish web site [www.saintrita-parish.org](http://www.saintrita-parish.org).

Send us your bright ideas for using the Faith Engaged! Adult faith formation resource: "Eucharist - Source and Summit of Our Faith."

### **Bearer of Joy and Sharer of Grief**

**Workshop for Bereavement Counselors, Parish Ministers  
and Those Interested in Bereavement Ministry**

**Saturday, March 7, 2009**

**Pastoral Center**

**8:45 am - 12 noon**

**Jack Keller, PhD - Clinical Psychologist**

**Topics:**

- Dealing with the individual's grief and pain
- Dealing with the unique issues associated with the loss of a child

**Cost: \$10 includes Continental Breakfast**

**Contact Family Life at the Pastoral Center for more information  
or to register.**

**"Your Word Is A Light Unto My Path."** Break open the Word at your next parish meeting. Personally spend 15 minutes a day with the Word. Here are some possible reflection questions for February 15 through March 29.

- February 15 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time                      Mark 1:40-45  
Lepers were excluded from Jewish communities. Can you see a reason to exclude someone from our Christian community?
- February 22 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time                      Mark 2:1-12  
When have the members of your faith community carried you to Jesus?
- March 1      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent                                      Mark 1:12-15  
Desert travelers need water. Where will you find water for your desert journey this Lent?
- March 8      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent                                      Mark 9:2-10  
Name a "mountain top experience" in your life. How did it change your life, if indeed it did?
- March 15     3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, John 2:13-35; 1<sup>st</sup> Scrutiny (Cycle A)  
What would it take for you to be able to say about yourself, "Zeal for Your House will consume me"?
- March 22     4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, John 3:14-21; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny (Cycle A)  
Do you see yourself in Nicodemus? How so?
- March 29     5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, John 12: 20-33; 3<sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny (Cycle A)  
In light of this Gospel, what does the quotation "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain," mean to you?

**Looking for ideas about Lenten Fasting? Look no further than the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Among the 20 ideas listed are:**

- Gestures of reconciliation
- Concern for the poor
- Admission of faults to one's brethren
- Examination of conscience
- Spiritual direction
- Acceptance of suffering
- Endurance of persecution for the sake of righteousness
- Praying the Liturgy of the Hours
- Pilgrimages

## **Developing a Diocesan Curriculum for Faith Formation**

A diocesan curriculum for faith formation for children in pre-school through eighth grade is in the developmental stages. In this process many things must be taken into consideration.

First, the tasks of catechesis must be taken into account. The National Directory for Catechesis (USCCB 1995) lists these tasks as:

- ◆ Catechesis promotes knowledge of the faith
- ◆ Catechesis promotes a knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments
- ◆ Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.
- ◆ Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.
- ◆ Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

“These six tasks of catechesis constitute a unified whole by which catechesis seeks to achieve its objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ. All these tasks are necessary in order to attain the full development of the Christian faith. Each task, from its own perspective, realizes the object of catechesis, and all the tasks are interdependent. . . . To accomplish these tasks, catechesis depends on the ‘transmission of the Gospel message and experience of the Christian life.’

Secondly, the human capacity for comprehension, understanding and application must be considered. As the person grows as a human being, so does the person grow in faith and knowledge and understanding of their faith.

“Curricula should be properly sequenced, presenting essential truths in a manner appropriate to the abilities of the age group. Whether a curriculum’s content is sufficiently comprehensive is determined by judging the curriculum as a whole. As the ability to understand develops, more important truths should be reinforced and treated in greater depth. Religious learning should relate to the child’s general experience of learning.” (Sharing the Light of Faith: National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States, 1979)

This process of developing a curriculum is the work of many people throughout the diocese especially the parish catechetical leaders. As the process develops, more information will be shared.

## Reflections on a New Pentecost from the Synod of Bishops on The Word (excerpted by permission from ZENIT, a Catholic news service)

The world Synod of Bishops celebrated in Rome in October was an opportunity to "experience that in the Church there is Pentecost also today," says Benedict XVI.

In the synod, he said, "pastors from all over the world gathered around the Word of God, which had been raised up in their midst; around the Word of God, whose great manifestation is found in sacred Scripture."

This Pentecost experience, the Holy Father suggested, had two senses: On one hand, "the Church speaks in many tongues, since all the great languages of the world are represented in it." But there is also a deeper meaning, he continued: "In [the Church] the multiple forms of the experience of God and the world, the richness of cultures, are present. And only thus does the amplitude of human experience appear, and from that, the amplitude of the Word of God."

Nevertheless, the Pontiff said that the synod fathers also "understood that Pentecost is still 'on the way,' is still incomplete: There are a multitude of tongues that still await the Word of God contained in the Bible."

Benedict XVI suggested that the most important element of the synod was "rediscovering something that in day-to-day life we take for granted: the fact that God speaks, that God responds to our questions, the fact that he, though in human words, speaks in person and we can hear him and, in hearing him, learn to know and understand him."

The Word of God, he continued, "directs itself to each one of us, speaks to the heart of each one."

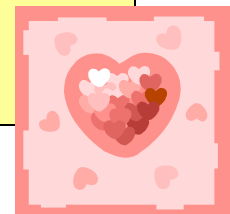
The Pope added: "We have realized again that -- precisely because the Word is so personal -- we can understand it in the correct and total way only in the 'we' of the community instituted by God: always remaining aware that we can never exhaust it entirely; that it has something new to say to every generation."

### **A Legend of St. Valentine and His Feast!**

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Whatever the legends - we send this Valentine to all of you with deep respect and affection for all that you do for God and his people.

**Sr. Margaret Kuntz, ASCJ  
and Staff**



# Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

## *Safe Environment Newsletter*

**Volume I**

**Issue I**

### **Diocesan Requirements for Compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children**

*All Employees of the Diocese and Diocesan Entities  
and  
All Support Volunteers Working with Children, Youth,  
Elderly and Vulnerable Adults*

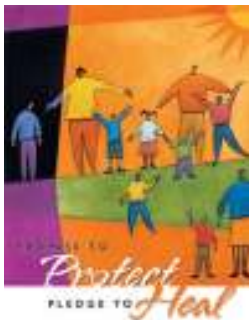
#### **must complete:**

- ◆ Fingerprinting and criminal background check
- ◆ Diocesan Abuse Prevention Workshop
- ◆ Sign required form that they are responsible for reading:
  - Diocesan Code of Conduct for Church Personnel and Volunteers
  - Policy and Procedural Guidelines Relating to Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel and Volunteers

*Any Adult (18 and over, paid or volunteer) responsible  
for the instruction and guidance of children and young  
people including Catholic school teachers and aides,  
parish catechetical leaders, catechists, youth ministers  
and youth advisors and coaches*

#### **must complete:**

- ◆ Fingerprinting and criminal background check
- ◆ Diocesan Abuse Prevention Workshop
- ◆ Safe Environment Teaching Prevention Workshop
- ◆ Sign required form that they are responsible for reading:
  - Diocesan Code of Conduct for Church Personnel and Volunteers
  - Policy and Procedural Guidelines Relating to Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel and Volunteers



## **Home Safety Rules**

### **Answering the Door**

- ◆ Never open the door to a stranger.
- ◆ If a stranger knocks on the door or rings the doorbell, tell your child to look out the peep hole or call out “who’s there?” If it’s for you, your child should tell the visitor to wait, and leave the door locked until you are available. If you are not home, your child should tell the visitor that you are busy and to please come back again later. Your child can take a message, but he or she should NEVER open the door.
- ◆ If the visitor will not go away tell your child to call 911.

### **Answering the Phone**

- ◆ When answering the telephone, your child should not give out any information. If the caller asks “who is this?” instruct your child to ask who the caller is and whom he or she called.
- ◆ If your child is alone, he or she should never tell anyone that he or she is alone. Have your child take a message.
- ◆ If your child feels uncomfortable or gets scared by anything the caller says, tell him/her to hang up and make sure to tell you immediately about it.

### **Signs a Child Is a Bully**

- ◆ Child is aggressive, even toward adults.
- ◆ Child like pushing around and teasing other children.
- ◆ Child dominates and manipulates.
- ◆ Child is a smooth talker in tough situation.
- ◆ Child is easily frustrated.

## CENTERPEACE LIBRARY NEWS NOTES



To really celebrate and be a part of our Catholic faith, we recognize and encourage receiving the sacraments: baptism, Eucharist and confirmation. Parishes throughout our diocese are preparing children and adults to either be brought into the Catholic faith through baptism, or strengthen their Catholic faith by being fully initiated (Confirmation) or welcoming Jesus in their lives through the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist.

Those involved in this preparation should be aware of the many resources available to aid in this ministry:

- First Penance/Child's First Eucharist - videos
- First Communion/First Reconciliation - DVDs
- Grandma's Bread - video and DVD
- Confirmation Sponsor/Confirmation: It's Your Choice - videos
- What Catholics Believe.....About RCIA - video
- Persons, Places and Practices of the Catholic Church - video
- Available online <http://ptdlibrary.ptdiocese.org>
- Call 850-435-3525 or email [tolbertr@ptdiocese.org](mailto:tolbertr@ptdiocese.org)

### **Lenten Resources**

We have received samples of resources from Channing L. Bete and Liguori for the 2009 Lenten season.

#### From Liguori:

- The Way of the Cross for Families
- Lenten Prayers and Calendar pamphlet
- Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter
- Lenten Meditations with Saint Pio
- Every Day of Lent and Easter: Year B

#### From Channing L. Bete

- Six week Lent poster
- What every Catholic should know about Lent: booklet

**New, in the diocesan library**

Sample kit for Vacation Bible School from Liguori  
(It is not too early to start planning for VBS)

**Catholic IQ:**

**From the game: DIVINITY**

**(Before Catholic Jeopardy, there was DIVINITY)**

1. What does the word Eucharist mean? #73  
a) praise b) sacrifice c) thanksgiving
  
2. Who is the king-priest of the Old Testament who pre-figures Christ by offering bread and wine? #74  
a) Abraham b) Melchizedek c) David d) Aaron
  
3. What day of the week did Christians meet to "break bread" and commemorate the death and resurrection of their Lord? #76
  
4. What special feast day is perpetuated in the Church through the sacrament of confirmation?  
a) Easter b) Pentecost c) Christmas
  
5. Confirmation falls in the wake of what other sacrament? #69
  
6. What should one do to prepare to make a good confession? #85  
a) penance b) examination of conscience c) acts of charity
  
7. What action must one perform after confession to make amends for sins?  
a) act of contrition b) act of penance c) act of faith

Answers:

1. c 2. b 3. Sunday 4. b 5. baptism 6. b 7. b