

# Office of Catholic Education



**Catholic Diocese of  
Richmond  
Newsletter  
December, 2009**

## *A Note on behalf of the Office of Catholic Education Staff:*

*"A grateful heart has a continual feast!" Proverbs*

Our diocese is blessed with generous and hospitable parishes and schools, Spirit-filled men and women of faith who share their lives as school teachers/catechists, lay ministers, deacons and priests to bring the knowledge and love of Christ to all whom they serve.

At Thanksgiving and as we enter the holy season of Advent, may we be attentive to Emmanuel, God-with-Us in all whom we meet and serve. Our diocesan Office of Catholic Education, Annette, Frankie, Miriam, Candra, Tammy, Dana, Amanda, Cheryl, Emily, Melanie, Katie, and Sandra, is deeply grateful to each of you.

*Emily Filippi*

## **Office of Catholic Education Update**

### **Pathways 2009**

8 Winter sessions will begin in January 2010 – March 2010. Dates, locations and the online registration is now available. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/cdrpathways>

Additional sessions continue after Easter, April - October. New dates/locations will be posted once they all have been confirmed. If you have any questions please contact either Katie McMaster, [kmcmaster@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:kmcmaster@richmonddiocese.org) or, for those in the Western Vicariate, Melanie Coddington, [mcoddington@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mcoddington@richmonddiocese.org).

## **Care & Share - A special FREE conference call for all volunteer catechetical leaders!**

Beginning **Wednesday, 12/2 – 7pm; Thursday, 12/3- 7pm** and **Friday, 12/4 -10 am**. To participate in this **FREE call** just dial **866-939-8416** and then when prompted type in the code **8389536#**. Katie McMaster and Melanie Coddington will host this call together.

An agenda will be sent the week before to all volunteer leaders that will list topics and ideas we will be discussing during our call. If you have a particular need or request, please email Katie McMaster at [kmcmaster@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:kmcmaster@richmonddiocese.org) and I will plan to incorporate it in our call.

Last year we had a great response to our monthly call in! Let's begin the Liturgical Year together. Volunteer Leaders call in and share what great things you are doing in your parishes while getting tips on how to partner with parents. Join us this month! Look for an agenda coming soon.

## **Office of Youth Ministry Update**

An important email "**Office of Youth Ministry | Important 2009 - 2010 Dates**" was sent to all parish leaders on 11/17/09 with important Youth Ministry information. The attachment, "Christian Awakenings/Discovery Retreat applications" was also attached. If you didn't receive this email, contact Mike School, [mschool@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mschool@richmonddiocese.org) to be put on the circulation list.

## **Connections to the Universal Church**

### **The Roman Missal Project**

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the changes to the Roman Missal during their November meeting. As a result, you may wish to begin a study of this project. The USCCB has set up a site to enable this to happen. Go to <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal> to begin your study and reflection, to follow the development of this project, and to see the proposed changes.

### **The Sullivan Conference**

To assist us all in our appreciation for and engagement with the liturgy, the 2010 Sullivan Conference will have as its theme "Source and Summit: The Mass as Catechesis." Rev. Paul Turner, Pastor, St. Munchin parish and St. Aloysius Church in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph will be the keynote speaker.

This will be a Conference of "firsts": For the first time in a long time, the venue for the Sullivan Conference is changing to **Church of the Redeemer in Mechanicsville**. And for the very first time, for those unable to travel to Richmond, a satellite Sullivan Conference will be held at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Salem** using webcam for the keynote presentations. For the

first time, we are extending the invitation to all who are connected to liturgy through their ministries: catechetical leaders and Catholic school teachers, priests, deacons, liturgy planners, musicians, worship directors, catechists, parish staffs, and liturgical ministers. Be sure to save the date: **May 18-19, 2010!** Watch for conference registration materials in January, 2010.

## [Advent and Christmas: Unity meets Diversity](#)

**Filipino Catholics** draw from the Spanish heritage of *misa de gallo* (the mass of the rooster), as they celebrate *Simbang Gabi*, beginning on December 16 and concluding on Christmas Eve.

With spiritual purpose and communal bonds, together Filipino people and their extended families and guests meet to pray for nine consecutive nights in preparation for the Nativity of the Lord. To read more about *Simbang Gabi*, see ([click here](#)) <http://hubpages.com/hub/Filipino-Christmas-Tradition-Simbang-Gabi> For a schedule of celebrations in Hampton Roads/Peninsula areas and Richmond, see <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/ocf/index.htm> scroll down page.

**Mexican Catholics** have a similar tradition of nine prayer events leading up to the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. Called *Posadas*, they too are both spiritual and communal in their nature. To read more about Mexican Christmas traditions, see <http://www.nacnet.org/assunta/nacimnto.htm>

To learn more about **ministry in diverse parishes**, read "Weaving Together a Culturally Diverse Church" <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/oha/documents/WeavingTogether.pdf>

## [Planning: Now and Later](#)

### Year C Resources

- Liturgy Training Publications has their Year C materials available. Go to <http://www.ltp.org/c-40-year-c.aspx> to find materials that include children's prayers, music and resources in Spanish.
- Resource Publications has some new materials for Year C, including Lectionary bulletin inserts. Go to <http://www.rpinet.com/>
- For those in Initiation Ministry, *Scripture Soundings* by Mike Novak is a resource that provides background on the liturgical season, the citations for the readings, reflection and discussion questions and comes with a CD that contains the reproducible pages. Year C is now available. Go to <http://teamrcia.com/bookstore/01-050MN/>

- The coming of Advent also marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. 23rd Publications also has Year C materials to assist you and those with whom you minister. Go to <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/yecad20.html>
- The 2010 (Year C) *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons and Weekdays*, authored by Catherine Combier-Donovan is available also.

The **Feast of the Epiphany** is rich with spiritual significance, implications for social justice and popular practices that can easily be done in homes. The feast (January 6th but liturgically celebrated on the first Sunday following January 1) is the date we as the Church recall that Jesus came to save all humankind. We also see it as a time to increase our sense of solidarity with those from lands other than our own, re-committing to bring a sense of God's abundance and hope to those who have not seen it or seen it minimally, and we have the chance to bless our homes, exchange gifts and recall the pilgrimage of the magi, who model for us the willingness to seek the Lord. For more information on this feast and ways to celebrate it in the parish and in homes, see <http://wf-f.org/epiphany.html>.

The **Baptism of the Lord** follows the Feast of the Epiphany and is the end of the Christmas season for Roman Catholics. For more information, go to <http://wf-f.org/baptism.html>

### **Focus on Ongoing Ministry Development**

**Adult Faith Formation:** Did you read about "The Gift" in last month's newsletter? The "Gift" is a newly created diocesan process designed to assist parishes in developing an adult faith formation plan, thereby enabling systematic formation of adults to happen in every parish. Pilot parishes will use this new planning process throughout this winter. The hoped-for outcomes include:

- To enable as few as two interested parishioners to get started thinking, praying and planning around adult faith formation
- To enable an actual adult faith formation plan to be created for the parish
- To focus adult faith formation on the liturgy for this coming year (task 2 of the six tasks of catechesis)
- To establish "systematic" faith formation using the six tasks of catechesis
- To begin to create an expanding online library of resources for adult faith formation that provides annotations, tips for use, and vetted speaker lists

Watch for progress updates from the Pilot parishes!

## For Experienced Catechetical Leaders:

**Fashion me a People:** A National Gathering on lifelong catechesis. Disney Hilton January 7-9, 2010. Center for Ministry Development and others. Go to <http://secure.cmdnet.org/index.cfm>

**Families and Faith:** A Workshop for all Parish Leaders. Presenter: Writer, speaker Leif Kehrwald. Sunday January 24 at 1:00PM at St. Mark, VB repeated on Tuesday January 25 at Church of the Ascension , VB and Wednesday January 26 at Holy Spirit Church, VB. There will also be a 10:00AM January 25 session for parish staff. The cost of these events and registration information will be available soon. Contact Deacon Mike Johnson at St. Mark: [deacon\\_mike@stmark-parish.org](mailto:deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org) .

**Los Angeles Conference for Religious Education** March 18 (youth day)-21, 2010 Themed Incredible Abundance. Go to <http://www.recongress.org/>

**NPCD Convention** (which is the catechetical arm of the NCEA) April 8-10, 2010 St. Paul and Minneapolis; Minneapolis Convention Center. Go to <http://www.ncea.org/events/NCEAMinneapolisCentral.asp>

**NCCL Conference:** An Oasis Amidst Diversity. Bally's, Las Vegas NV April 18-20, 2010. Go to <http://www.nccl.org/> for a "Save me a place" form.

## An Advent Reflection

**An Advent Examination** . . . . . Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*

"Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

"Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts." (p.196) See <http://www.appleseeds.org/Christmas-quotes.htm>

## CALENDAR

\* Beginning November 30, daily prayers for Advent can be sent directly to your desktop. These prayers are written by the young adults of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. To receive these prayers, contact the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry at <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/cyam/index.htm>

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**\*January 18-25, 2010** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**January 29-31, 2010** Diocesan Young Adult Ministry Retreat, Holy Family Retreat Center, Hampton, VA. See the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry site for more information as it becomes available: <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/cyam/index.htm>

**\*February 5-7, 2010** Kujenga Retreat See <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/obc/index.htm> for forthcoming details.

**\*February 16, 2010** 3:00-4:00PM. Webinar sponsored by the Office of Disabilities on Access in Education in High School. Go to <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/index.htm>

**\*February 22-25, 2010** The Diocesan Pastoral Center will host “Foundations for BeFriender Ministry”, Monday-Thursday, 2/22-2/25, from 8:30 am-5:00 pm each day. This is a highly interactive workshop designed for leaders who want to implement and maintain a listening ministry of lay pastoral care in their parishes. For more information, or to register, go to [www.befrienderministry.org](http://www.befrienderministry.org) and click on “Foundations Workshop”.

**June 25-27, 2010** Youth Retreat for High School Guys. No details yet available. But save the date and watch the Youth Ministry website for more information.

**\*August 13, 2010** National Gathering for Black Catholic Women in Charlotte, NC See <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/cal/obccal.htm> for details.

**\*New listings since last newsletter**