

Office for Evangelization & Faith Formation

Deepening faith in Jesus and sharing Him with others

March 2017 Newsletter



Middle School Faith Night

“With Joy” – Spring 2017 Theme

Youth in grades 6-8

March 31, 2017 6:30-9:00 PM

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School

Register: Registration is now open

Every year, the youth of the Diocese of Greensburg join to rejoice the glory of God together. Fall and Spring Middle School Faith Nights, sponsored by the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation, brings students in sixth through eighth grade together for a night filled with music, food, prayer and games. If you would like additional information, please contact [Christie Smith](#), diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry.

Fall Confirmation Prep

As has become our mid-winter tradition we wanted to remind those who are in Block 3 for the Administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, that last year, Bishop Malesic administered the Sacrament in the fall. In all likelihood that will be the case again in the Fall of 2017. It is advisable if you are in Block 3 that you plan to have your day of reflection this spring and your family day of service and social closer to the celebration of the Sacrament. Should you have any questions, please contact [Bob Sherwin](#).

The Simple Truth About Getting More RCIA Inquirers

If you have noticed a decline in the number of inquirers you have had in recent years, there is a very clear reason. From the inception of the modern catechumenate in the 1970s, the number-one source of new Catholics has been people who marry into the faith.

However, while the Catholic population in the United States has grown significantly since the 1970s, the number of Catholic weddings has declined by 64 percent. In 2013, 154,450 Catholic marriages were celebrated in the U.S., compared with 426,309 in 1969.

For most of our history as RCIA teams, we have relied primarily on engaged Catholics inviting their prospective spouses to become Catholic as the source of our new inquirers. Now that source has greatly diminished, and many parishes are left wondering where they will find new inquirers.

[Learn more](#)

Sponsor Couple Training

The Spring dates for Sponsor Couple Training are April 30 or June 11. Sponsor Couple training will take place at the Pastoral Center located at 725 E. Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. The time is from 1:00pm to 4:15pm and a light lunch is provided. Attendees should go around to the back of the building and look for the signs as to where to park and enter the building. Each person must have a copy of the handbook, For Better and For Ever. If you need to order them, go to the website www.marriagepreparation.com Pre-payment of the book is not required. After you place your order, they will send an invoice/billing & you pay by check or money order. For more information contact Rich and Leeanna Ryba at 724-289-8748 or 412-951-9522.

Summer Program For Catholic Youth

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, will host the seventh annual Faith and Reason summer program from Sunday, June 11 to Friday, June 16. Students age 15 and older are invited to apply for admission to the program which introduces young minds to the rich intellectual tradition of the Roman Catholic faith and is designed to prepare students for college-level education. Housing in a college residence hall and three daily meals in the college dining hall are included in the cost (\$495). Limited scholarship funding is available. Further information is available by contacting Dr. Michael Krom at 724-805-2844 or by email at michael.krom@stvincent.edu. Students may register online at www.stvincent.edu/faithandreason

2017 Prayer and Penny Week

This year, the Missionary Childhood Association celebrates *National Prayer and Penny Week* March 19-24. This program is a prayer movement that serves as MCA's Lenten prayer and sacrificial program for Grades K-8. MCA has made changes which allow groups to personally choose a mission project and the people it serves to pray for and support as part of the program via www.missio.org.

The *National Prayer and Penny Week* program continues to honor the legacy of Venerable Pauline Jaricot – who encouraged prayers and help for the Missions of her day (including our own country). In the 19th century as founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society like the Missionary Childhood Association, this young French laywoman encouraged prayers and financial help for the Missions of her day. In her day she called for a daily sacrifice of a sou, a rough equivalent to our penny. This program's name is meant to symbolically honor its origin and not reflect the current financial need. Today, her vision calls us to action – to do for the Church in the Missions of our day what she helped do for us in building the Church here in the United States. During *National Prayer and Penny Week* (March 19-24), participants turn their focus to the hope they can offer to those in need throughout our world through the loving service of missionaries – the hope that saves, Jesus Himself.

For full details on this program, materials, and for a Lenten calendar, please log onto www.missio.org, click on Resources, then Liturgical Season, then Lent.

Catholic Engaged Encounter

Catholic Engaged Encounter is an in-depth, private, personal, marriage preparation experience within the context of Catholic faith and values. Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat away with other engaged couples with time alone together to discuss honestly and intensively about their future lives together-- their strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, attitudes about money, sex, children, family, and their role in the church and society.

The next weekend in Greensburg is June 9-11, 2017. For more information please contact George & Pat Ziringer (724-335-4966) ziringer@comcast.net, or www.engagedencounter.org

Natural Family Planning

The key to successful NFP use is cooperation and communication between husband and wife.

CM-BBT is a sympto-thermal medical model of Natural Family Planning.

There are one-time instruction sessions held on Monday evenings or Saturday mornings at the Catholic Charities' main office in downtown Greensburg. The next scheduled CM-BBT Instruction Session is scheduled for Monday, May 8th at 6pm. For more information contact Mary Ann Newhouse at 724-837-1840, ext 1658.

The CM-BBT instruction scheduled for APRIL has been cancelled.

In This Issue

- Middle School Faith Night
- Fall Confirmation Prep
- Getting More RCIA Inquirers
- Sponsor Couple Training
- Summer Program For Catholic Youth
- Prayer and Penny Week
- Catholic Engaged Encounter
- Natural Family Planning

Upcoming Events in the Diocese

- 3/31 [Middle School Faith Night](#)
- 4/30 Sponsor Couple Training
- 5/7 [Scout Convocation Mass](#)
- 5/8 [Natural Family Planning](#)
- 6/4 [Youth/Adult Confirmation at The Cathedral](#)
- 6/9-11 [Engaged Encounter Weekend](#)
- 6/11 Sponsor Couple Training
- 6/11-16 [Faith and Reason Youth Summer Program](#)
- 6/23-25 [Steubenville Youth Conference](#)

St Joseph Parents Prayer

O glorious St. Joseph, to you God committed the care of His only begotten Son amid the many dangers of this world.

We come to you and ask you to take under your special protection the children God has given us.

Through holy baptism they became children of God and members of His holy Church.

We consecrate them to you today, that through this consecration they may become your foster children.

Guard them, guide their steps in life, form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

St. Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent when the child Jesus was lost, protect our dear children for time and eternity.

May you be their father and counsellor.

Let them, like Jesus, grow in age as well as in wisdom and grace before God and men.

Preserve them from the corruption of his world, and give us the grace one day to be united with them in Heaven forever.

Amen.

Contact Us

[Robert Sherwin](#), Managing Director

[Christina Smith](#), Director, Youth/Young Adult Ministry and Adult Initiation

[Greg Petrucci](#), Director of Evangelization

[Rich and Leeanna Ryba](#), Marriage Preparation & Enrichment Trainers

[Father E. George Saletrik](#), Chaplain, Catholic Committee on Scouting

[Jackie Mignogna](#), Secretary

[Tina Moore](#), Secretary