



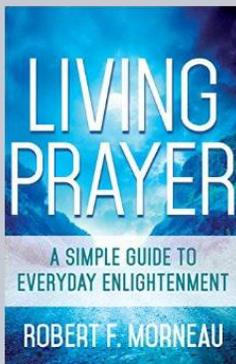
# Adult Faith Formation News

Parishes - Holy, Fully Engaged, Alive!



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Sherry Weddell's Book
- Hospice Nurses/Heaven
- New Release- Book
- Upcoming Events
- Catholic/American History
- Quote of the Month
- Contact Information



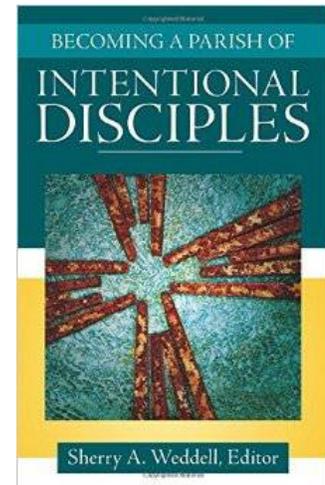
**NEW RELEASE!**

Cathedral Book & Gift has partnered with Bishop Robert Morneau to republish his book, Paths to Prayer, retitled Living Prayer.

## BECOMING A PARISH OF INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES!

*Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples*,  
by Sherry Weddell

By and large, parish-leaders are always on the lookout for new and practical ways of offering adult faith formation to their parishioners. Keeping up-to-date on new programs and best practices helps to enhance catechesis and evangelization. Yet, Our Lord reminds us that inspiration and guidance is to be found in the old as well as the new. He said, "Every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." (Matthew 13:52)



In light of this Gospel principle, Sherry Weddell draws our attention to our spiritual ancestors in seventeenth century France. The French Catholics of that era suffered through institutional decline and spiritual confusion. In fact, it was a time in our Church's history that closely resembles our current

Highly recommended by Bishop Ricken for *Teach My People to Pray*

Exclusive Early Release to Cathedral Book & Gift. For more information, click [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***The Wisconsin Way:***

Take a 3-day Pilgrimage with Fr. Andrew Kurz. Catholic Hikers Group Pilgrimages are available the following dates:

July 26-28  
August 16-18  
Sept. 27-29  
Oct. 11-13

For more information, click [here](#).

### ***Koinonia:***

Come and experience a retreat weekend.

Upcoming Koinonia Retreats:

August 28-30 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish- De Pere

October 16-18 at Sacred Heart Parish- Shawano  
For more information, click [here](#).

**Experience God through**

situation. Yet, these intentional disciples four hundred years ago were equal to their mission! Indeed, they responded with pastoral and missionary efforts which led to robust spiritual growth for centuries to come. Weddell refers to them as the "generation of saints." No doubt, they can serve as a source of hope for Catholic leaders in twenty-first century America.

The following is an excerpt from the first chapter of *Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples, The Generation of Saints*:

"I love to contemplate and to share the story of the generation of saints because their situation is so much like our own. Fifty years after a council, after living through decades of ecclesial chaos, conflict, and institutional decline, twenty-first century Western Catholics are at a major turning point. What can we learn from this remarkable group of disciple-friends?

- *They were intentional disciples together.* Each member of the generation of saints was already seeking to follow Jesus as a disciple in the midst of his Church. But they also knew that they were not meant to follow Jesus along but as part of a community of disciples.
- *They were in mission together.* Clergy, religious, and laity; men and women from all classes and educational levels; Catholics with very different charisms, backgrounds, and vocations- all knew that they were collaborating in a great common mission...
- *The collaborated on a grand scale.* They readily and openly learned from one another and were influenced by one another. They assiduously mentored, encouraged, supported, and prayed for one another.
- *They were present and future oriented.* They looked to the historic riches of the Catholic faith for inspiration and then creatively applied the Tradition to the unique needs of their generation for the sake of future generations.
- *Apostolic creativity was the new normal.* The often-grim situations they faced were the catalyst of many new evangelically oriented communities, structures, outreaches, devotions, and spiritual resources.
- *They expected God to act.* They took the

### 'Silence and Sunset'

Women of all ages are welcome to the next "Silence and Sunset" event from 6:30 to 8 pm Thursday, July 9. The evening will begin with prayer in St. Francis Convent chapel, 3110 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay, followed by free time to explore recommended readings in the library, stroll the gardens, reflect on our Franciscan mosaics, learn about spiritual direction, or sit and enjoy the sunset over the bay. A closing prayer will be followed by refreshments. This event is free but registration is needed.

Contact Sister Laura Zelten at [vocations@gbfranciscans.org](mailto:vocations@gbfranciscans.org) or 920-288-0237. More at [www.gbfranciscans.org](http://www.gbfranciscans.org).

### The Father Wound...Beyond

Holy Family Parish- Brillion  
Tuesday, July 14, 2015  
6:30-7:45pm

The emotional wounds that we carry are wreaking havoc in our lives and we don't even know it. But with God's help, we can be healed from these wounds. Bob will speak on the incredible impact a father has on a child. Great talk for both men AND women. One of the most powerful presentations you may ever hear. For more information, click [here](#).

### Humor & Homily

A Day for All School/Catechetical Administrators,

supernatural seriously and expected that the Holy Spirit would guide and inspire them, so they knew that ongoing discernment was critical. They also expected God to do things through them and provide for them in ways that were truly extraordinary.

- *They were deeply prayerful.* They knew that all spiritual and cultural transformation begins and ends with individuals encountering God in a profound way. They were especially aware of the incredible importance of corporate intercessory prayer to lay the foundation for fruitful evangelization.
- *They were faithful unto death.* They knew that significant change was the fruit of long obedience in the same direction and were prepared to devote their entire lives to answering God's call."

To learn more about fostering a parish of intentional discipleship, visit the Department of New Evangelization/GBD website at [New Evangelization/Intentional Discipleship](#).

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## HOSPICE NURSES AND HEAVEN

Teachers, Catechists, and Youth Ministers.

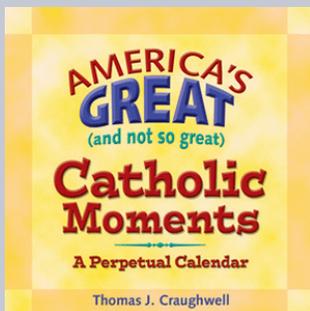
**SPEAKERS:**

Bishop David Ricken  
Julianne Stanz, Dpt. of New Evangelization

Friday, August 21, 2015; 8am-3pm  
Radisson Conference Center, GB

**LOCATION:**

Radisson Conference Center  
2040 Airport Dr.  
Green Bay  
For more information, click [here](#).



**JULY 14**

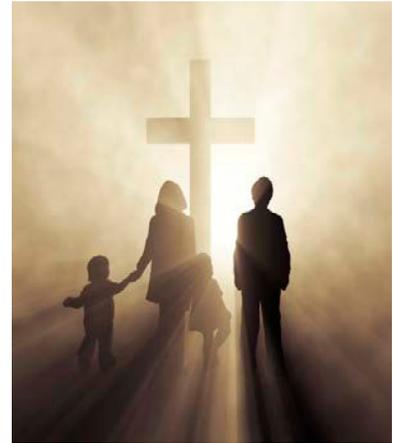
**St. Kateri Tekakwitha leaves her home in New York for Canada, 1677**

Kateri's baptism enraged her people. Her family looked for any excuse to beat her. When Kateri left her lodge, children would pelt her with stones. After a warrior brandished his tomahawk in her face and threatened to kill her, Kateri resolved to leave her

**Two Adult Faith Formation Programs Sponsored by the Department of New Evangelization**

Is Your Parish Willing to Host *Hospice Nurses and Heaven* or *You Have Your Whole Life Ahead of You?*

If what the Catholic Church teaches is true about heaven and hell, we should expect to find some evidence of it in human experience. And in fact, we do. Thanks to modern technology, there are many people who experienced death but then lived to talk about it. Renown cardiologist and skeptic, Dr. Pim Von Lommel, tells his story about several of his patients who were resuscitated from a cardiac arrest. After having interviewed his patients who experienced death, and the afterlife, he came to the conclusion that the soul survives the body. Magis Center president, Fr. Robert Spitzer, features an [interview with Dr. Lommel](#). Studies of near-death experiences of children and people who suffered from blindness can also be found at the Magis Institute website.



We also have numerous accounts from hospice nurses who, from coast to coast, tell strikingly similar stories about their dying patients. It is not uncommon that they witness their patients reaching out to God, deceased loved ones, and heaven itself. One story comes to mind about a 48-year-old man who was committed to hospice care. Trudy Harris, his hospice nurse, reported that upon saying "good-bye" to this world, indications were such that he was being greeted by another world...a better world. "Suddenly his eyes opened wide, and, sitting up in bed under his own strength with arms raised in the air and with a big smile, he said, 'There it is. I can see it. It's beautiful.' And lying back down he took his last breath and died." ([Glimpses of Heaven, Trudy Harris, RN](#))

Why is this important for adult faith formation? The answer: *the virtue of hope is a priceless virtue in troubled times*. In fact, through adversity and hopeless situations, the Saints drew strength from their meditation on eternal life. Indeed, the anticipation of the joys of heaven put their life, their pain and even their joys in context. To reflect on heaven and to anticipate our eternal reward with Jesus Christ and our loved ones not only renders grief more bearable but it puts life into context.

home. She walked 200 miles to a Christian Indian village near Montreal.

**JULY 16**  
**Blessed Junipero Serra**  
**founds San Diego de Alcalá,**  
**1769**

The mother of the California missions began as a hut made of brushwood. Its founder, Father Serra, 54 years old, stood just 5 feet 2 inches tall and was asthmatic and lame. yet in 15 years he founded nine more missions and labored ceaselessly for laws to protect the rights of the California Indian tribes.

**JULY 17**  
**President George**  
**Washington invites architect**  
**James Hoban to design the**  
**White House, 1792**

After studying designs from nine architects, Washington awarded the commission to design the president's house to Hoban, the son of Catholic tenant farmers in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Hoban built a Georgian mansion for the presidents that was elegant without being ostentatious.

The Saints teach us that we can live life in one of two ways: to live as if death is the end of life or to live life knowing that death is the beginning of eternal life. The good news is that Jesus Christ offers the latter option to each and every person. As Pope Leo XIII said, "...when we have given up this present life, then shall we really begin to live...He has given us this world as a place of exile, and not as our abiding place." To be sure, we are made for heaven!

But how often do we hear or talk about it? How often do we think about it? And does it have any bearing on how we live?

The Department of New Evangelization is sponsoring two adult faith formation programs to get us thinking and talking about heaven. Featured speaker, Tina Poppe, gives a fascinating testimony as a former hospice nurse in these two programs, *Hospice Nurses and Heaven* (for a general audience) and *You Have Your Whole Life Ahead of You* (for seniors). From credible studies on near death experiences and the witness of the Saints, she also provides compelling reasons why the biblical teaching on heaven and hell is true.

If your parish is willing to host [\*Hospice Nurses and Heaven\*](#) or [\*You Have Your Whole Life Ahead of You\*](#), please contact Marcia Garcia at (920) 272-8276 or email her at [mgarcia@gbdioc.org](mailto:mgarcia@gbdioc.org).

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## SETBACKS ARE TO BE EXPECTED



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

AD GENTES (ON THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY)

## OF THE CHURCH)- A Vatican II Decree:

"For the Church, although of itself including the totality or fullness of the means of salvation, does not and cannot always and instantly bring them all into action.

Rather, she experiences beginnings and degrees in that action by which she strives to make God's plan a reality.

In fact, there are times when, after a happy beginning, she must again lament a setback, or at least must linger in a certain state of unfinished insufficiency.

As for the men, groups and peoples concerned, only by degrees does she touch and pervade them, and thus take them up into full catholicity.

The right sort of means and actions must be suited to any state or situation."



### **Joe Tremblay**

Adult Faith Formation Coordinator  
Department of New Evangelization  
Diocese of Green Bay

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