



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## Adult Faith Formation News

Parishes: Holy, Fully Engaged, Alive!

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Ideas that Work
- Upcoming Events
- Resources
- Oremus Training Session
- Order Form: AFF Booklet
- Contact Information

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS & OTHER EVENTS

**November 16: The Joy & Power of Advent-** *An Evening with Bishop David Ricken*

### A RETREAT AT THE MONASTERY:

*The AFF Committee Takes Time For Spiritual Renewal*

On Friday, October 24th, the members of the adult faith formation committee seized the opportunity for a well-needed retreat at Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Gregory Nazianz, WI. The exterior of the monastery building has an Austrian feel to it and is situated on a beautiful estate near a lake. However, the inside of the monastery is decorated with icons rich in color, thus evoking an important part of our religious heritage that few Catholics have been exposed to.



Beginning with the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, an ancient liturgy dating back to the fifth century, Abbot Nicholas and Fr. Maximos took us on a journey into the mysticism of Eastern Catholic Spirituality, otherwise known as the Byzantine tradition. Appealing to all five senses, the liturgy reminds us that the human person is a unity of body, soul (mind) and spirit. Indeed, "all aspects of the person are involved in worship. The body is taken up in sights (icons), scents (incense and candles), touch and taste (blessed foods and flowers)."

What stood out for me in particular was that the retreat itself captured the transcendence of our faith while the talks they gave, such as *Praying with Icons* and the *Jesus Prayer*, inspired a renewed awareness of Eastern Catholic roots that can be traced back to many of the Apostles such as St. Andrew and

Location: Riverside Ballroom- GB  
Sponsored by the Power of Life.  
For more information, click [here](#)

**November 18: Right on Target**

Speaker: Jim Vandehey  
Location: St. John the Evangelist  
Parish- Antigo  
Time: 6:30-8pm

**November 18: The Gospel of Life at the End of Life**

Speakers; Dr. Robin Goldsmith & Joe Tremblay  
Location: Annunciation Parish, GB  
Time: 6:30-8pm

**November 20: When Life Throws You a Curve**

Speaker: Vern Sumnicht  
Location: St. Mary Parish, Appleton  
Time: 6:30-8pm

This is a parish men's event. To register or if you have any questions, please contact [Carol Jensen](#)

**December 1st: When Life Throws You a Curve**

Speaker: Vern Sumnicht  
Location: St. Pius X Parish, Appleton  
Time: 7-8:30pm

If you have any questions, please contact [Terry Kuehl](#)

**December 4: Girl Friends in God**

Location: St. Mathew Parish- GB  
Time: 6:30-8pm  
For more information, click [here](#)

**December 6: The Meals, the Mass and the Mystics**

Speaker: Amberly Boerschinger  
Location: St. John the Evangelist  
Parish- Antigo  
Time: 9am-12pm

---

**MORE EVENTS AHEAD!**

**November 8: Healing Mass**

Celebrant: Fr. Peter Mitchell

St. John.

During the *Praying with Icons* presentation, Abbot Nicholas reminded us that it is important to know where we come from if we want to be happy. You see, a big part of who we are as Catholics involves the Eastern Catholic Churches and its mystical spirituality. As the Holy Resurrection Monastery website reminds us:

"Of the 1 billion Catholics in the world the vast majority belong to the Roman Church. About 20 million Catholics belong to the 21 Eastern Catholic Churches. The largest of group of these are those Churches of the Byzantine tradition."

Also, an important prayer within the Byzantine tradition is what is known as *The Jesus Prayer*. This prayer varies, but the one I learned from Bishop David Ricken goes as follows: "Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner." Fr. Maximos, in his presentation, gave the adult faith formation committee members fresh insights and practical tips on how to enter into contemplation using *The Jesus Prayer*. This short prayer is meant to be repeated, thus paving the way for the action of the Holy Spirit within one's spirit. Particularly helpful was Fr. Maximos' counsel on not succumbing to discouragement over the natural distractions of prayer.

There were many things I took away from the adult faith formation retreat at Holy Resurrection Monastery. But one that touched me in a special way was how much we, as Roman Catholics, need our Eastern Catholic brothers and sisters. After all, they bring a mystical and historical dimension to the New Evangelization; one that is sorely needed today. As Pope St. John Paul II said, the Church must breathe with two lungs again.

If you would like to visit Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Gregory Nazianz, Wisconsin or schedule a retreat there, you can start by clicking on their website link: [Holy Resurrection Monastery](#).

Also, to learn more about the Byzantine tradition and the New Evangelization in an article featured in *The Catholic World Report*, please click here: [Mysticism, Monasticism and the New Evangelization](#)

---

## IDEAS THAT WORK!

Location: St. Mary of the Immaculate  
Conception Parish- Greenville  
Time: 7:00pm

**Other dates include:**

December 13th- 7:00pm

January 10th- 7:00pm

February 7th- 7:00pm

**November 11: Be Healed!**

Speaker: Dr. Bob Schucht

Location: St. Mary of the Immaculate  
Conception Parish- Greenville

Time: 7:00pm

"Be Healed" is a ten week program.

Cost of the book, "Be Healed!" is \$15

Any questions, please contact

Tammy at (920) 757-6555 or

[tkrueger@stmarygreenville.org](mailto:tkrueger@stmarygreenville.org)

**November 13-15, 2014: Christian  
Experience Weekend** (for women)

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manitowoc

For more information, click [here](#)

**February 13-15, 2015: Christian  
Experience Weekend** (for men)

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manitowoc

For more information, click [here](#)

**February 13-15, 2015: Women  
Celebrate**

Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake

For more information, please click

here: [Women Celebrate](#)

---

If you should have any questions about any  
of the above listed programs or retreats,  
please contact me at:

[jtremblay@gbdioc.org](mailto:jtremblay@gbdioc.org) or

(920) 272-8313

## STICK AROUND AFTER MASS

In the AFF October newsletter, I wrote about Christian Smith's book, *Young Catholic America: In, Out of, and Gone From the Church*. Given his findings that the practice of the Catholic faith among young adults during the post-high school years drops precipitously, I asked him what he thought was the cause behind this disturbing trend. His response was the following;



"Well, it's really not that complicated. Most youth, if they have good relationships with their parents, generally end up looking a lot like their parents religiously. What is going on with Catholics is that, on average, Catholic parents are just less committed, invested, and involved in the Church and their own personal faith and practice. And so that's what the kids learn and follow when they get older." (August 7, 2014)

One example he cited in particular was the habit of many families to rush out the church after Mass. Smith said that this speaks volumes to our children. It shows one of two things: that Mass is not that important or that the bare minimum time ought to be invested in parish life.

Perhaps we get frustrated or impatient when a spouse or a member of the family routinely engages in long conversations after Mass. If you are a NFL football fan like myself, you may be tempted to get home in time for the kick-off. But I learned that the fellowship after Mass (at our parish it is called "Donut Sunday") is an important part of parish life. It shows that the Mass is not just a box that we check off once a week. Rather, sticking around after Mass allows for building relationships with other Catholics who share both our values and a common love for our Lord. This would speak volumes to our children that going to Mass is not just an observance of a ritual, but it is the foundation upon which we live the life of Christ.

If you are a parish-leader and you have an "idea that works," please contact me at [jtremblay@gbdioc.org](mailto:jtremblay@gbdioc.org).

## COMING TO A PARISH NEAR YOU!

---

**Adult Faith Formation  
Resources:**

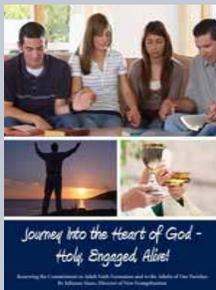


**On the Same Page-** An Adult Faith Formation Program

Does your school or parish want to host this program?

Click [here](#) for PowerPoint slides  
Click [here](#) for October's newsletter article on *Young Catholic America*

## HOW TO START?



Get your adult faith formation program started. A great how-to-booklet written by the Director of the Department of New Evangelization.

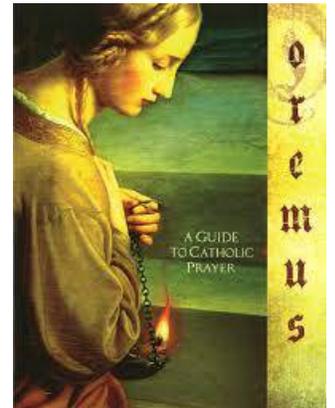
Order one by clicking:  
[Journey into the Heart of God](#)

The Tremblay's would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support for our new born daughter:

JOURDAIN THERESE TREMBLAY  
Born: October 29, 2014

## Training Sessions for Parish Leaders on: The Oremus Program A Guide to Catholic Prayer

In his most recent reflection, *Teach My People to Pray*, Bishop Ricken said that "God is closer to us than we are to ourselves." Yet, few of us know the nearness of God because our minds and hearts are often too cluttered with noise and distractions. So, how do we rise above this? How do we, as Catholics, teach people to pray and respond to God's presence in our daily lives? The Catholic Church offers a plethora of spiritual exercises and insights to aid us with our prayers but where do we begin?



Oremus is a good place to start! In eight short weeks, Fr. Mark Toups will help you:

- Become aware of God's presence in your life
- Discover the simple yet profound steps of Catholic prayer
- Discover how to hear God's voice
- Learn how to overcome frustrations, distractions, and dryness in prayer
- See that desolation and consolation are a normal part of everyone's walk with God

The Office of Adult Faith Formation will be offering training sessions for parish leaders on Oremus in the Spring of 2015. Training sessions will address practical ways to set up the Oremus program for your parish, guidelines on discussion group facilitation, the main points of the DVD presentations by Fr. Mark Toups, and the spiritual principles of the Oremus program.

In order to better accommodate parish leaders who are interested in attending, I will be hosting the Oremus training sessions at the following parishes (dates and times are also listed below):

**Saturday, March 21 (9:00-12:00)- East I (St. Hubert Parish- Rosier)**  
Register for this event by clicking [here](#)

**Saturday, March 28 (9:00-12:00) - East II (St. Mary Parish- Greenville)**  
Register for this event by clicking [here](#)

**Saturday, April 11 (9:00-12:00)-West (St. Mary Magdalene Parish- Waupaca)**  
Register for this event by clicking [here](#)

**Saturday, May 9 (9:00-12:00)- North (St. Mary of the Lake Parish- Lakewood)**  
Register for this event by clicking [here](#)

Registration fee is \$12 per person to cover the Oremus workbook and refreshment expenses. If you have any questions, contact Shelia in the Department of New Evangelization. Email address: [sschaut@gbdioc.org](mailto:sschaut@gbdioc.org) or call 920-272-8276 Ext. 8276.

**-Deadline for registrations is February 27, 2015-**



"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." Jeremiah 1:5

---

## Quote of the Month:

"There is nothing more worthwhile than to pray to God and to converse with him, for prayer unites us with God as his companions. As our bodily eyes are illuminated by seeing the light, so in contemplating God our soul is illuminated by him. Of course the prayer I have in mind is no matter of routine, it is deliberate and earnest. It is not tied down to a fixed timetable; rather it is a state which endures by night and day."

-St. John Chrysostom, Eastern Father of the Church

---

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*An Evening with*  
**BISHOP DAVID RICKEN**  
*The Joy & Power of Advent*  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2014**  
AUCTION - DINNER - PRESENTATION  
RIVERSIDE BALLROOM, GREEN BAY, WI  
For registration and details visit:  
[www.thepoweroflife.org](http://www.thepoweroflife.org). Tickets now on sale.

***A special thanks to all of you who made the  
2014 Marian Eucharistic Conference  
a huge success!!***

***God bless you!***



**Joe Tremblay**

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

920-272-8313 | [jtremblay@gbdioc.org](mailto:jtremblay@gbdioc.org)  
1825 Riverside Drive | P.O. Box 23825 | Green Bay, WI 54301

**The Office of Adult Faith Formation is a beneficiary of the Bishop's Appeal!**

Your support helps us spread the Good News!  
Thank you for your generosity!

**STAY CONNECTED WITH THE DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY ONLINE**

**[WWW.GBDIOC.ORG](http://WWW.GBDIOC.ORG)**

