



Diocese of
Green Bay

Adult Faith Formation News

Parishes: Holy, Fully Engaged, Alive!

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UPCOMING EVENTS



October 8- Men's Day of Reflection
Stella Maris Parish from 8am to 4pm.
For more information click [here](#) or if
you have any questions, contact [Mark
Kunstman](#)

October 8- Praying with Icons
St. Pius X Parish in Appleton

YOUNG CATHOLIC AMERICA:

EMERGING ADULTS IN, OUT OF, AND GONE FROM THE CHURCH

The Challenge:

Christian Smith's book, *Young Catholic America: Emerging Adults, In, Out of and Gone From the Church* confirms what many parish-leaders in the Diocese of Green Bay have been concerned about in recent years: *The difficulty adults are having in evangelizing youth and young adults.* As one adult faith formation coordinator said, "About 15 years ago young adults used to drift away from the Church but then comeback when they had children. Today, however, they are not coming back."



Smith's research reveals that 62 percent of Catholic adolescents attend regular services during high school. But this percentage drops to 22 percent in the emerging adulthood years (ages 18-23). That is to say, the Catholic Church loses a significant number of young adults in the post-high school years.

In fact, Sherry Weddell, in her book, *Forming Intentional Disciples*,

Time: 6:30-8PM
Speaker: Abbot Nicholas
For more information, click [here](#)

October 9- *The Gospel of Life at the End of Life*

St. Clare Parish, Wrightstown
Time: 6:30-8PM
Speaker: Dr. Robin Goldsmith & Joe Tremblay
For more information, click [here](#)

October 10- *On the Same Page*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, GB
Time: 9:45-11AM
Speaker: Maria DeMeuse, Phil Lawson, and Joe Tremblay
For more information, click [here](#)

October 11- *Women's Retreat*

Holy Family Parish, Brillion
Time: 6AM-5PM
Speaker: Johnnette Benkovic
Download a pdf registration form by clicking [here](#).

October 20- *Hospice Nurses and Heaven*

St. Mary Parish, Winneconne
Time: 6:30-8PM
Speaker: Tina Poppe, RN
For more information, click [here](#)

October 23- *America is Heaven*

Annunciation Parish, Green Bay
Time: 6:30-8PM
Speaker: Egide Nimubona
For more information, click [here](#)

October 23- *Praying with Icons*

Sacred Heart Parish, Appleton
Time: 6:30-8PM
Speaker: Abbot Nicholas
For more information, click [here](#)

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manitowoc
For more information, click [here](#)

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manitowoc
For more information, click [here](#)

had this to say: "As the Pew report put it, Catholics have the biggest 'generation gap' of any religious community in the United States. Sixty-two percent of Catholics sixty-five and older in 2008 said that they attended Mass every week, while only 34 percent of Millennials did so." (pg. 44) The question then becomes, what can we do?

The Church's Answer:

In preparing for an adult faith formation program called, *On the Same Page*, I contacted a number of Catholic apostolates who have enjoyed some success in evangelizing youth: FOCUS, NET Ministries, Cardinal Newman Society, and Nashville Dominicans to name a few. I asked them what they believed high rates of faith retention rested on. The two principles they identified were 1. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ needed to be in place if religious education was to bear any fruit. 2. Parental support of that relationship is also of the greatest importance.

As for the first principle, *The General Directory for Catechesis* reads: "Only by starting with conversion, and therefore by making allowance for the interior disposition of 'whoever believes' can catechesis, strictly speaking, fulfill its proper task of education in the faith." (GDC, art. 62) Indeed, the way to the mind is through the heart. And conversion, according to the *GDC*, involves "essential moments" when the person experiences the person of Christ; moments when the heart is touched by grace.

Therefore, before religious education or catechesis can truly be effective, a relationship with Jesus Christ is essential. Only then will the Mass, the Sacraments and the Church take on greater relevance for our younger generation of Catholics. As such, an intensification of evangelization, witness talks, spiritual mentoring, retreats, and pilgrimages as a precursor to and basis for religious education and faith formation may be something that is worth taking a look at.

Lastly, the success of parishes and Catholic schools in evangelizing and educating youth also rests upon the active support of parents. The faith and religious participation of parents largely determine whether or not their children as *emerging adults* will retain the faith. To be sure, the Church was never meant to be a surrogate in forming the child; only a partner. It is only when parents take a leading role in evangelizing and educating their children can we, who work on behalf of the Church, hope to raise up a generation of disciples who are on their way.

IDEAS THAT WORK!

February 13-15: Women Celebrate
Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
For more information, please click
here: [Women Celebrate](#)

OCTOBER ADULT FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES

Disciples on the Way & Teach My People to Pray resources: click [here](#).

Great Endeavors Mined and Shared
(GEMS- #46) [October 2014](#) issue

Fidei Defensor:
Learn How to Defend the Faith- *With Kindness and Charity*
Click [here](#) for more information

It is no easy task for parishes to keep track of those who are attending Mass and those who are not. But when it does come to the attention of the parish that a person or family has not frequented the parish in some time, Deacon Jim Trzinski from St. Paul Parish in Plainfield came up with an idea that is working for him.

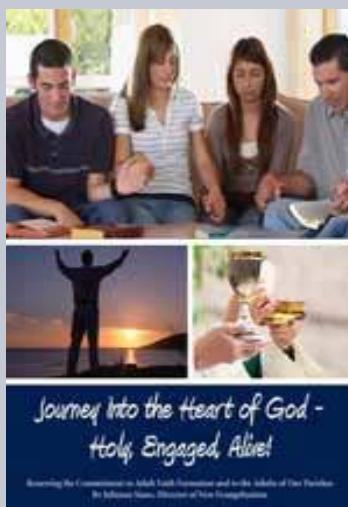
At St. Paul Parish, for those registered parishioners who have not been to Mass in several weeks, Deacon Jim sends them a parish bulletin with a note that their presence was missed. Interestingly, he has not only received positive feedback, but his efforts are bearing fruit.

People not only want to belong, but they also want to be missed. And when they are missed, then their sense of belonging is all the more secure. As such, their chances of returning to the parish they once frequented will be more promising.

If you are a parish-leader and you have an "idea that works," please contact me at jtremblay@gbdio.org.



HOW TO START?

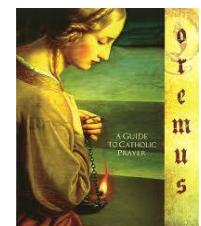


COMING TO YOUR PARISH!

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 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 us 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

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](#)

walk with God

The Office of Adult Faith Formation will be offering training sessions for parish leaders on Oremus in the Spring of 2015. If you are a parish leader and you are interested learning more about Oremus or the training sessions, please feel free to contact me at any time. My contact information is at the bottom of the newsletter.

Also, if your parish is interested in purchasing the program, click [here](#). Ascension Press will be more than happy to accommodate you.

Quote of the Month:

"Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking. Parents are the ones who must create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man, in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered. Hence the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society needs...Let parents, then, recognize the inestimable importance a truly Christian family has for the life and progress of God's own people."

-*Declaration on Christian Education*, The Second Vatican Council 1965

2014 Wisconsin Shrine Pilgrimage

Marian Shrines of Wisconsin with Bishop David L. Ricken

October 12-14, 2014

Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, Hubertus, WI

Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, Champion, WI

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, WI

Brochure is available at
www.thecompassnews.org
or call 920-272-8212

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Joe Tremblay
Adult Faith Formation Coordinator
Department of New Evangelization
Diocese of Green Bay
920-272-8313 | jtremblay@gbdioc.org
1825 Riverside Drive | P.O. Box 23825 | Green Bay, WI 54301

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