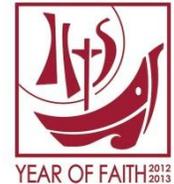


CL WEEKLY



FEAST OF SAINT PHILIP NERI
Monday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial Day (USA)
Saint Joan of Arc – May 30, 2013
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - May 31, 2013
Saint Justin – June 1, 2013



YEAR OF FAITH - Oct. 11, 2012, through Nov. 24, 2013
<http://www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html>

Question of the Week

For Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 2, 2013

“They all ate and were satisfied.” Isn’t that the goal of every host? Are you not content when all your guests have eaten and are satisfied? But this feast isn’t just about eating even though some people still refer to this feast as Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. However, it is the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. What difference does this make to you? How do you become the blood of Christ? How do you pour out yourself for others? Why are you called to be the body of Christ but not his blood?

On This Memorial Day

On this Memorial Day
Grant peace to the souls
of all those soldiers who died in war.
We remember the tears and grief of their families,
The pain of mothers, wives, husbands and children
Who lost precious loved ones.



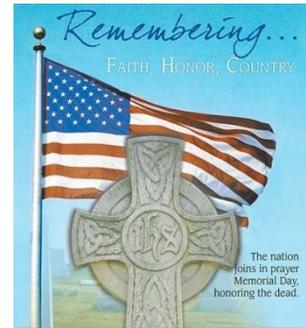
To build a meaningful memorial to them,
We ask God to give us all the will
To work for peace around the world
So no more sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers, nor mothers
Are slaughtered by the guns and bombs of war.

We ask Mary, who held the lifeless body of her son
And was pierced by the sorrow of his suffering and death,

To grant us the compassion and wisdom to affirm life
And honor the dead through forgiveness and peace
making.

May God have mercy on the souls of the departed.
Grant them peace, O Lord.

May we have mercy on the living.
Grant us peace, O Lord.
In Your name we pray.
Amen.



Found at Education for Justice <https://educationforjustice.org/node/846>. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed at the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. On this day we honor all who have died in service of our nation.

NCCL News

Michael Steier Receives Distinguished Service Award

**The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership
is pleased to present its
2013 Distinguished Service Award
to
Dr. Michael J. Steier**



in grateful acknowledgement of his many years of dedicated and accomplished service to the catechetical ministry, far beyond his decade of service as the USCCB liaison from the Secretariat of Catechesis and Evangelization to NCCL; Michael has served the catechetical community as the lead agent for Catechetical Sunday materials; now available on-line at no cost, and has continually promoted collaboration among diocesan leaders through the Leadership Institute and the subsequent webinars in advancing the mission of catechesis, at all times possessing an integrity and strength of character, which has earned him the admiration and respect of his peers in NCCL and beyond.



Michael Steier receiving his Distinguished Service Award from Vice President Mary Jo Waggoner and President Bill Miller.

New Wineskins Awarded

From 2012, the Diocesan Award. Pictured here with Sharon are members of the Evangelization Committee who served on the Review Committee, Diane Kledzik, Janet Crespi, Sharon Urbaniak (recipient) and Tom Quinlan, Committee co-chair.



Sharon Urbaniak
Diocese of Buffalo
for
G O D ' S F A M I L Y

An intergenerational Faith Formation Program for people with disabilities and their families

The monthly gatherings provide individual children and adults with physical/developmental disabilities and their families/caregivers the time to learn about their faith and share their faith in an atmosphere that is welcoming and respect's each person's unique needs and abilities.



This year's **2013 Parish Award** was given to Cheryl Smith. Pictured here with Cheryl are members of the Evangelization Committee who served on the Review Committee, Diane Kledzik, Tom Quinlan, Committee co-chair, Cheryl Smith (recipient) and Janet Crespi.

Cheryl Smith
Church of the Annunciation -
Clark Mills, NY – Diocese of Syracuse
for
The Power of ONE

AN INNOVATIVE , CREATIVE MODEL FOR EVANGALIZING OUR CHURCH

Integrates an on-line and in-person programming, service, parental and communal participation, to help make faith relevant to the lives of these teens.

This year's **2013 Diocesan Award** was given to the Evangelization and Catechesis Team of the Diocese of Rochester. Pictured here are members of the Rochester Team and the Evangelization



Committee members who served on the Review Committee, Janet Crespi, Jonathan Schott (Team Leader), Tom Quinlan, Committee co-chair, Maribeth Mancini (Director), Mary Dundas, Connie Derby (holding the laptop with the other team members back at the office, connected live) and Diane Kledzik. The weather prohibited the other Rochester Team members from driving to Cleveland for the Awards luncheon.

Department of Evangelization and

Catechesis – Diocese of Rochester, NY – Maribeth Mancini, Director

**Team Leader – Jonathan Schott, Coor. of Cat. Form. & Services; Mary Dundas, Coor. of Evang. and Sac. Cat.; Shannon Loughlin, Ph.D., Dir. YA & Campus Ministry; Linda Mehlenbacher, Dio. Coor. of YM; Connie Derby, RSM, Digital & AV Res. Librarian, Digital Archivist; Joanne Church, Tech. Coor.; Geri Peitzcak, CYO Coor.; Sylvia Mancuso, Admin. Ass't.*

for

TECHNOLOGY FOR MISSION & MINISTRY *EMPLOY TECHNOLOGY to REFLECT the AUTHENTIC TEACHING of the CHURCH*

*Dedicated to using technology effectively for mission,
the goal is not simply to present information in a new way;
but to proclaim the Good News in such a way that we and others must respond.*

First Nationally Certified Parish Catechetical Leader Recognized



At the Awards Luncheon, Deborah Scopacasa, received her certificate as the first Parish Catechetical Leader to be nationally certified by the Alliance. Deborah is the Director of Religious Education at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rock Creek, Ohio and at St. Mary Parish in Orwell, Ohio, both in the Youngstown diocese. NCCL Secretary Linda Stryker told those present that Deborah joins six other people who have achieved national certification from the Alliance. Pictured here is Deborah Scopacasa, between Lee Nagel, Executive Director and

NCCL Secretary Linda Stryker. The Alliance was awarded the authority to grant national certification of lay ecclesial ministers, by the USCCB Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry and Service, in the following areas:

- Director of Worship (Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions)
- Parish Life Coordinator (National Association for Lay Ministry)

- Pastoral Associate (National Association for Lay Ministry)
- Director of Music Ministries (National Association of Pastoral Musicians)
- Catechetical Leader (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership)
- Youth Ministry Leader, including *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana* (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry)
- Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader, including *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana* (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry)



For more information on national certification of lay ecclesial ministers and in particular a Parish Catechetical Leader, please go to <http://www.lencertification.org/>.

Catechetical Award for 2013



Pictured here are Bob and Maggie McCarty receiving the NCCL Catechetical Award from NCCL President Bill Miller. The NCCL Catechetical Award is given at the annual meeting to a person, persons or institution in recognition of outstanding or exemplary contribution to the ministry of catechesis.

The criteria used by the board of directors in the selection of the recipient are that the recipient(s) demonstrate:

- A life of witness to the Word of God;
- A magnanimous spirit of love and service to the Church;
- A vocation to ministry characterized by a pioneering spirit and innovative vision;
- A dedication and significant contribution to the ministry of catechesis in the Church at large.

Robert J. McCarty, D.Min.
Margaret Wilson McCarty, D.Min.

the

2013 NCCL Catechetical Award

in recognition of your witness as an exemplary Catholic couple
in Leadership and in Ministry;
in service of the mission of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Gospel
and bring people into communion with God;
in your home, at your work, and around the world,
by connecting hearts and hands and heads and professing
we are One Faith, One Body of Christ, in service of One God.

Federation for Catechesis with Hispanics Elects New Leadership

On Wednesday evening, the newly accepted **Federation** for Catechesis with Hispanics, approved four new persons to their Team of Officers. These four persons join four others currently in leadership positions. Jose' Amaya, who was discerned as an At-Large member of the NCCL Board of Directors will complete his term, ending in 2014, on the FCH Leadership team but an election will not take place at next year's meeting which is held in conjunction with the 2014 NCCL Annual Conference and Exposition in St. Louis. The FCH Leadership team chooses the president from their own ranks. The body gathered also acknowledged the hard work of Libia Paez-Howard who has served as the president of FCH for the last four years and led it through its transition to federation status. The FCH Leadership Team in alphabetical order:

- Jose Amaya, Archdiocese of Military Services, USA
- *Julie Blevens, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Maria Covarrubias, Diocese of San Bernadino
- *Peter Ductram, Archdiocese of Miami
- *Miriam Hidalgo, Archdiocese of Hartford
- Rita Martinez, Loyola Press
- *Luis Ramirez, Christ Our Savior parish, Santa Ana, CA, Diocese of Orange
- Victor Valenzuela, William H. Sadler, Inc.

*Indicates election at the May 22, 2013 FCH Meeting

Fr. James Mallon – Pastoral Application of the Sacraments



Conversation following Fr. Mallon's Monday keynote presentation and subsequent time with the combined Diocesan Directors and Diocesan Staff Forums revolved around some of Fr. Mallon's practical ideas. Courtesy of Tom Quinlan, Director of the religious Education Office in the Diocese of Joliet, the following link is to a daylong presentation Fr. James Mallon did in the Diocese of Joliet back in late 2011

<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/FrMallonPresentation.aspx>. The four segments can be listened to directly or downloaded for retention and sharing among people. In addition, we have been given access to Fr. Mallon's treatise: [**Toward a New Model of Pastoral Care of the Sacraments**](#)



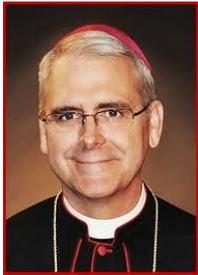
Victims of Oklahoma Tornado

We join with Pope Francis in expressing our sympathy for the victims of the tragic tornado that struck the town of Moore, outside Oklahoma City. Here is the content of the telegram sent by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State, to Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, expressing Pope Francis' sympathy.



The Holy Father has followed with deep concern the aftermath of the devastating tornado which has struck Oklahoma and he asks you convey to the entire community the assurance of his solidarity and closeness in prayer. Conscious of the tragic loss of life and the immensity of the work of rebuilding that lies ahead, he asks Almighty God to grant eternal rest to the departed, comfort to the afflicted, and strength and hope to the homeless and the injured. In a particular way he commends to the Father of mercies the many young children among the victims and their grieving families. Upon the local civil and religious leaders, and upon all involved in the relief efforts, His Holiness invokes the Risen Lord's gifts of consolation, strength and perseverance in every good.

Oklahoma Archbishop: We Will Walk Together



Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City noted that his initial primary concern is for the victims, and he expressed his gratitude and promise of prayer for the first responders. "As soon as possible, I will be on site in Moore to help support and offer comfort and consolation to anyone who might need or desire it," he said Tuesday morning. "We draw hope in such times from Jesus' invitation to the weary or troubled to come to Him and find rest."

"Catholic Charities [Oklahoma City] and we as an archdiocese will work with many others to ensure a smooth and comprehensive response not only to the immediate needs of those affected by the violent storms, but also to their longterm needs as they rebuild their lives," the prelate added. "We're there for the long term and we're usually the last ones to leave." The Archdiocese has established a disaster response center at All Saints school. You can read more on the diocesan website at <http://archokc.org/>.

Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City is currently accepting donations at the following link: <https://ccokc.ejoinme.org/?tabid=406485>. NCCL members are encouraged to respond by using the Catholic Charities link.



Prayers Requested



Last Friday, May 17, Jane Regan, an associate professor of theology and religious education at Boston College who last spoke at the NCCL Conference in Detroit, found out that her daughter Natalya (in her early 20s) is being placed in hospice care. She had a liver transplant within the last few years, and her body's rejection of the new liver has progressed to the point that there is nothing more that can be done. They expect

hospice care to be set up by early next week. Your prayers for Jane and Natalya and younger daughter Katie are greatly appreciated.

UPDATE: I am sorry to report that Jane's daughter, Natalya, passed peacefully on Friday afternoon. The arrangements are listed below:

Wake at Gillooly's Funeral Home – 6:00pm – 8:00pm on Wednesday.

126 Walpole St., Norwood, MA 02062
(781) 762-0174

Funeral liturgy at St. Timothy's Church at 10:00am on Thursday.

650 Nichols St., Norwood, MA 02062
(781) 762-4868

Pope Francis: When Church Tries to Close Doors, "Jesus is Indignant"



Per the [Vatican Radio](#) summary, this Saturday morning's Francis-preach:

[Today's Gospel](#) tells us that Jesus rebukes the disciples who seek to remove children that people bring to the Lord to bless. "Jesus embraces them, kisses them, touches them, all of them. It tires Jesus and his disciples "want it to stop". Jesus is indignant:

"Jesus got angry, sometimes." And he says: "Let them come to me, do not hinder them. For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

"The faith of the People of God – observes the Pope - is a simple faith, a faith that is perhaps without much theology, but it has an inward theology that is not wrong, because the Spirit is behind it."

The Pope mentions Vatican I and Vatican II, where it is said that "the holy people of God ... cannot err in matters of belief" (*Lumen Gentium*). And to explain this theological formulation he adds: "If you want to know who Mary is go to the theologian and he will tell you exactly who Mary is. But if you want to know how to love Mary go to the People of God who teach it better. "

"The people of God are always asking for something closer to Jesus, they are sometimes a bit 'insistent in this. But it is the insistence of those who believe "

"I remember once, coming out of the city of Salta, on the patronal feast, there was a humble lady who asked for a priest's blessing. The priest said, 'All right, but you were at the Mass' and explained the whole theology of blessing in the church. You did well: 'Ah, thank you father, yes father,' said the woman. When the priest had gone, the woman turned to another priest: 'Give me your blessing!'. All these words did not register with her, because she had another necessity: the need to be touched by the Lord. That is the

faith that we always look for , this is the faith that brings the Holy Spirit. We must facilitate it, make it grow, help it grow. "

The Pope also mentioned the story of the blind man of Jericho, who was rebuked by the disciples because he cried to the Lord, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

"The Gospel says that they didn't want him to shout, they wanted him not to shout but he wanted to shout more, why? Because he had faith in Jesus! The Holy Spirit had put faith in his heart. And they said, 'No, you cannot do this! You don't shout to the Lord. Protocol does not allow it. And 'the second Person of the Trinity! Look what you do... 'as if they were saying that, right?"

"Think of the good Christians, with good will, we think about the parish secretary, a secretary of the parish ... 'Good evening, good morning, the two of us - boyfriend and girlfriend - we want to get married'. And instead of saying, 'That's great!'. They say, 'Oh, well, have a seat. If you want the Mass, it costs a lot ... '. This, instead of receiving a good welcome- It is a good thing to get married! '- But instead they get this response:' Do you have the certificate of baptism, all right ... '. And they find a closed door. When this Christian and that Christian has the ability to open a door, thanking God for this fact of a new marriage ... We are many times controllers of faith, instead of becoming facilitators of the faith of the people."

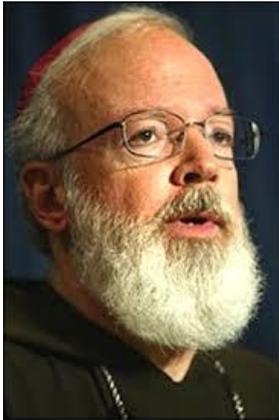
And "there is always a temptation to try and take possession of the Lord.

"Think about a single mother who goes to church, in the parish and to the secretary she says: 'I want my child baptized'. And then this Christian, this Christian says: 'No, you cannot because you're not married!' But look, this girl who had the courage to carry her pregnancy and not to return her son to the sender, what is it? A closed door! This is not zeal! It is far from the Lord! It does not open doors! And so when we are on this street, have this attitude, we do not do good to people, the people, the People of God, but Jesus instituted the seven sacraments with this attitude and we are establishing the eighth: the sacrament of pastoral customs!"

"Jesus is indignant when he sees these things" - said the Pope - because those who suffer are "his faithful people, the people that he loves so much"

"We think today of Jesus, who always wants us all to be closer to Him, we think of the Holy People of God, a simple people, who want to get closer to Jesus and we think of so many Christians of goodwill who are wrong and that instead of opening a door they close the door of goodwill ... So we ask the Lord that all those who come to the Church find the doors open, find the doors open, open to meet this love of Jesus. We ask this grace."

Human Cloning Inconsistent With Human Dignity, Treats People As Products



Human cloning for any purpose is inconsistent with the moral responsibility to "treat each member of the human family as a unique gift of God, as a person with his or her own inherent dignity," said the chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "Creating new human lives in the laboratory solely to destroy them is an abuse denounced even by many who do not share the Catholic Church's convictions on human life," said Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston. He said this way of making embryos will also be taken up by people who want to produce cloned children as "copies" of other people. "Whether used for one purpose or the other, human cloning treats human beings as products, manufactured to order to suit other people's wishes." He added, "A technical advance in human cloning is not progress for humanity but its opposite."

Cardinal O'Malley's statement responded to the news May 15 that researchers in Oregon have succeeded in producing cloned human embryos and obtained their embryonic stem cells. He added that the researcher's goal of producing genetically matched stem cells for research and possible therapies is already being addressed by scientific advances that do not pose the same moral problems.

More information on USCCB's position on human cloning is available online: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/cloning/. The full text of Cardinal O'Malley's statement can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/news/2013/13-094.cfm>.

Bishop Pates Urges Public Discussion, Greater Scrutiny of Drone Usage



The United States should publicly discuss and scrutinize its policy of targeted killings by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or drones, in order to formulate "a more comprehensive, moral and effective policy to resist terrorism," said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace in a letter to National Security Adviser Thomas Donilon. "An effective counterterrorism policy should employ non-military assets to build peace through respect for human rights and addressing underlying injustices that terrorists unscrupulously exploit," wrote Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa.

Bishop Pates acknowledged the right of a country to use force in self-defense and noted that counterterrorism, even against an organization as dangerous as Al Qaeda, is primarily a law enforcement activity when it takes place outside of a war zone. He noted that targeted killings by drones raise "serious moral questions," including concerns related to discrimination, imminence of threat, proportionality and probability of success. "Targeted killing should, by definition, be highly discriminatory," wrote Bishop Pates. "The Administration's policy appears to extend the use of deadly force to alleged 'signature' attacks and reportedly

classifies all males of a certain age as combatants. Are these policies morally defensible? They seem to violate the law of war, international human rights law, and moral norms.”

Bishop Pates emphasized the importance of protecting American lives and the danger posed by an organization like Al Qaeda, but said the relative low cost and ease of using drones might tempt U.S. leadership to use them to excess, causing our nation to underutilize “economic, political and diplomatic responses.” He urged attention to the “longer-term social and political impacts of targeted killings by drones on the struggle against terrorism.”

“And doesn’t the prospect of widespread deployment of UAVs by other nations and non-state actors put a spotlight on our nation as the primary developer and user of UAV armed and unarmed technology?” he wrote. “The U.S. should exercise leadership in advancing international norms, standards and restrictions for their use.” In sharing the correspondence with all of the bishops, Bishop Pates noted the letter addresses the morality of U.S. policy; it does not question the moral integrity of those charged with carrying it out. The full text of Bishop Pates’ letter is available online: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/arms-trade/upload/letter-to-administration-congress-on-drones-2013-05-17.pdf.

USCCB Chair Applauds Passage of Immigration Reform Bill Out of Committee



Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, applauded approval by the Senate Judiciary Committee of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, legislation which would reform the nation's immigration system. "This is an important step in the legislative process," he said May 22, the day after the committee vote. "I applaud Chairman Patrick Leahy and the committee members for their efforts and strong bipartisan cooperation," said Archbishop Gomez.

Archbishop Gomez said that the bill should be taken up by the full Senate as soon as possible, and that amendments to improve upon the legislation should be adopted. In his remarks, he specifically mentioned the need for improvements to the path to citizenship and the family immigration provisions in the legislation. "The path to citizenship should be widened, so that the maximum number of persons can access it and come out of the shadows," he said. "To leave a large population behind would defeat the purpose of the bill, which is to bring persons into the light so they can become full members of our communities." The USCCB has been working to shorten the amount of time an individual must wait to apply for permanent residency, to move forward the cut-off date for eligibility, and to ease income and work requirements.

Archbishop Gomez also expressed concern over cuts to the family-based immigration system, a hallmark of the nation's immigration laws for decades. "We must not abandon our focus on families, which are the backbone of our society," he said. "Family unity, based on the union of a husband and a wife and their children, must remain the cornerstone of our nation's immigration system." Archbishop Gomez welcomed several amendments added to the legislation helping

immigrant children. He also commended the Senators for turning back efforts to strike provisions assisting asylum-seekers and refugees.

Preambles for Faith

This article in the latest issue of *America* by Matt Emerson, the director of admissions and an instructor in theology at Xavier College Preparatory in Palm Desert, California offers some great advice on working with teenagers. Besides affirming the power of immersion trips, Matt reminds us that we have to start by getting them to ask questions. While he focuses on Catholic schools, what he has to say is pertinent to faith formation, whether in a Catholic school or a Catholic parish program.



If you want to get to Jesus, start with Socrates. Before students can fathom the mystery of faith, they need to hone an introspective, self-examining outlook; and every subject, not just theology, must join this project. Whether Scripture or English, Algebra I or environmental science, every class must be a bit of an earthquake, leaving students, like Mary before Gabriel, a bit shaken, asking: “How can this be? What else am I missing? What else have I not known?”

It is only when students relinquish their certainty about inherited beliefs that they rethink their resistance to God. One way that Catholic schools encourage this shedding is through immersion trips.

Check it out at <http://americamagazine.org/issue/preambles-faith>.

At 18, He Taught Us How To Live Before He Died



"Every teenager believes they are invincible," said Zach Sobiech. "It's not the kind of invincible like Superman; it's the kind of invincible like, 'I'll see you in five months.'" Zach didn't have five months. He died of cancer on 20 May 2013, shortly after his 18th birthday. This film gives us glimpses of Zach's enormous capacity for love, his gentle humor, haunting music, and the quiet courage with which he approached the end of his life. It reveals the profound impact of his grace on all those he was about to leave behind. This is a film that will fill your eyes -- and your heart. You can watch this 22 minute film at <http://www.karmatube.org/videos.php?id=4123>. You can listen to his song *Clouds* at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/fix-me-up-feat.-zach-sobiech/id603389901>.



Pope Francis: For the Church, No One Is a Stranger



When Pope Francis addressed the plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, he said we are all called to nourish hope in the hearts of refugees and migrants who are forced to leave their homelands in pursuit of a normal life. The theme of the assembly was *The Pastoral Concern of the Church in the Context of Forced Migrations*. The council published a document on refugees and those forcefully uprooted, calling attention also to the plague of human trafficking.

Human trafficking, the Pontiff said, is "a disgrace for our societies that call themselves civilized! Exploiters and clients at all levels should make a serious examination of conscience before themselves and before God! In a world where there is much talk of rights, how many times human dignity is trampled," the Pope lamented. "In a world where there is so much talk of rights, it seems the only one that has them is money. Dear brothers and sisters, we live in a world where money commands. We live in a world, in a culture where the fetishism of money reigns."

For the Church, instead, no one is a stranger. "We are in fact only one human family that, in the multiplicity of its differences, walks towards unity, valuing solidarity and dialogue between peoples," he said. "I would like to invite all to receive in their eyes and heart the refugees and persons forcefully uprooted and to give them the light of hope," Francis added. "Hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendly relations, in the desire to participate in the society that receives them, also through learning the language, access to work and education for the littlest ones. I admire the courage of the one who waits to be able to take up again, gradually, a normal life, in the hope that joy and love will make glad his existence. We all can and must nourish this hope!"

"...God is good; let us imitate God," he said. "Their condition cannot leave us indifferent. And we, as Church, recall that by curing the wounds of refugees, of the dispersed and of victims of trafficking we put into practice the commandment of charity that Jesus left us, when He identified Himself with the foreigner, with one who suffers, with all innocent victims of violence and exploitation." The full text is available at www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-pontifical-council-for-migrants.

FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, June 4, 2013



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership**, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar

13 Ways to Become a Better Religious Educator During Summer Break is offered on Tuesday, June 4 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at [PDW - 06-04-2013](http://tiny.cc/voupww) (<http://tiny.cc/voupww>). For a

complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

13 Ways to Become a Better Religious Educator During Summer Break

Tuesday, June 4, 2013 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT



School's out, but that doesn't mean teachers and catechists can't use the summer to become the best teachers and leaders they can be next year!

Jared Dees, author of the new book [*31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator*](#), will share thirteen exercises and scriptural reflections for religious educators to increase their effectiveness as master-teachers. Participants will renew their sense of mission as they reflect on this past school year and look ahead to the next school year.

All registered participants will get a handout with exercises to share with their colleagues over the summer.

You can purchase [*31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator*](#).

Fortnight for Freedom – FREE Materials



The materials below are already available publicly through the website www.Fortnight4Freedom.org, so please feel free to distribute widely or provide website links:

1. [Parish guide to celebrating the Fortnight](#) (including fourteen (14) suggested ideas)
2. [14-Day Study Guide on *Dignitatis Humanae*](#)
3. [Frequently Asked Questions about Religious Liberty](#)
4. [Litany for Liberty](#)
5. A series of examples of [current threats to religious liberty in the U.S.](#) (including examples in the areas of marriage, immigration, and humanitarian services)
6. A series of examples of examples of [international threats to religious liberty](#)
7. [Prayers of the Faithful](#) (as part of the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty)
8. [Holy Hour Template](#) (also part of the Call to Prayer)



Please note that the publicly available materials are **also available in Spanish** on the Fortnight for Freedom website.



[The State of Religious Freedom: 2 New Reports Published](#)



On Monday the U.S. Department of State published its annual review on religious liberty, covering the year 2012. Suzan J. Cook, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, at the report's presentation to the media, urged governments to condemn religious intolerance and to take action against those who commit crimes because of religious animosity. "The right to religious freedom is inherent in every human being," the report stated. A right, however, that in 2012 was not respected in many nations.

Apart from specific countries the report noted a general problem with laws against blasphemy and apostasy, which are frequently used in a discriminatory manner. The report also found that in 2012 there was a continued increase in anti-Semitism, particularly in Venezuela, Egypt and Iran. Coinciding with the report's release Secretary of State John Kerry announced that Ira Forman, a former leader of the National Jewish Democratic Council, will serve as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

The second report published this week, also on Monday, was the 2012 "Cases of Intolerance or Discrimination Against Christians," by the Austrian-based Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe. It dealt with themes such as conscientious objection on matters such as abortion, euthanasia, and stem cell research. There is, the report affirmed, a virulent campaign by some groups to undermine the right to conscientious objection.



Hate speech laws are also being used against Christians, particularly on two subjects: Islam and homosexuality. "The European Court of Human Rights has shown increasing support for censorship arguments," the report stated. Protecting freedom of speech is not without risks, the report conceded, but if we accept the idea that the state should censor public debate, then there is no logical stopping point regarding which ideas will be stifled.

Invoking the principle of equality has also led to restrictions on religious freedom, the report explained. The principle of equality before the law is now being extended to the arena of moral choices and how people treat each other. While the discrimination faced by Christians in Western Europe is of a different kind from that described in the report by the Department of State, it is, nevertheless, a real threat to religious freedom and one that is worsening.

Department of State report can be found at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper> The Report by the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe is available at http://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Report_2012_-_Legal_Restrictions_Effecting_Christians_Webversion.pdf

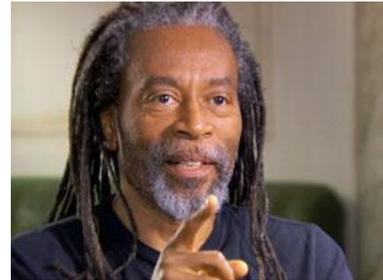
Bobby McFerrin



This week *Religion & Ethics News Weekly* featured Bobby McFerrin. This Grammy-Award-winning artist's new album, "spirityouall," includes his interpretations of classic African-

American spirituals as well as songs he composed. Through all of them he hears the influence of his father, Robert McFerrin, Sr., who was an operatic baritone, as well as echoes of his own deeply held Christian faith. McFerrin grew up in the Episcopal Church and says at one time he wanted to be an Anglican monk. "If there is any one thing I want, it's for people to have that sense of joy, the joy that I feel just being able to sing," says McFerrin. You can watch this eight and a half minute interview at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/may-24-2013/bobby-mcferrin/16615/>.



Online Only: [Watch an extended interview](#) with McFerrin about his faith and his music, and [watch his recent performance of "Fix Me Jesus"](#) in the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis.

Eyes on the Stars



The featured video here tells the true story of Ronald McNair, a successful astronaut who perished in the Challenger explosion in January of 1986. McNair's brother, Carl, went to Story Corps to remember him and pay tribute to his brother's fierce, yet humble persistence to learn, dream and succeed, even though he grew up in an America steeped in racism. The resulting cartoon is simple, touching, and just the thing to help us feel a little better about

the struggles we have faced, are facing right now, and will face tomorrow. Watch it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/storycorps>.

Why We Need Stories Of Disability

Sam Ferrigno on HoopLaHa shares how we gain from narratives of perseverance.

It may seem odd that as a good-news website, we feature countless stories of people with disabilities. The deliberate reason is, they give us hope. Hope for abundant happiness in life despite being deaf, or having no arms, or, like the 22 year old college student in [today's video](#), living with spinal muscular atrophy. Their ability to focus on what one can do versus what one can't do reminds us all we can be happy with what we have if for a second we just stopped complaining about it.

The caption over a photo recently posted on [I Waste So Much Time](#), sums it up well:

If he can smile, so can you.



I Waste So Much Time

not only like he's dealing with his disability well, but that he's also proud of it. He was born that way, and it doesn't look like he's in for a life filled with remorse and bitterness.

You wouldn't wish this boy's plight on your worst enemy, but there he is, smiling beside a lifetime of prosthetic limbs. I'm sure there are times when he wishes things were different, that he could know what it's like to feel the grass under his bare feet. Everyone has bad days where it's all too easy to wish for things to simply be better. However, that doesn't mean an imperfect life has the power to break us. Making the effort to be happy despite the things we can't change is, in itself, a reason to rejoice. The boy

pictured above doesn't look like he's faking it. He looks



Nick Vujicic, a man born without any limbs at all, has made a successful career out of his [life story](#). One of his lectures was posted on Youtube, and to date it has 36,978,732 views. He thought he'd never be a good husband because, "How can [you] be a good husband when you can't hold your wife's hand?" but those worries were quelled when he realized that, although he can't hold her hand, he can still "hold her heart." You don't need hands to captivate someone's imagination, or fall in love. Essentially, that's what we want to hear. We want to know that whatever wounds we acquire won't cut us off from certain parts of life. We want someone to prove that a bad day might be a blessing in disguise, and when a good day rolls around (and they always do) we'll enjoy them better having been through hell. Watch this four minute video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjbX6mDnMwM>.

Benedictine Nuns' Album Debuts at No. 1



A contemplative group of Benedictines from Missouri have a second No. 1 hit on their hands. "[Angels and Saints at Ephesus](#)," a follow-up to their hit record, "[Advent at Ephesus](#)," debuted last week at No. 1 on Billboard magazine's Classical Traditional Music Chart.

The album also earned the No. 2 spot on Billboard's new-artist "Heatseekers" chart, which encompasses all music genres. "Angels and Saints at Ephesus" topped a group of classical albums that includes Fifty Shades of Grey: The Classical Album and Downton Abbey: The Essential Collection.

"This is an unprecedented accomplishment for an artist, a group of contemplative nuns, this devoted, hidden prayerful group who do not tour and remain close to their Benedictine Rule of Life," said Monica Fitzgibbons, co-founder of De Montfort Music. The producer noted that the sisters have maintained "their hidden life of prayer and sacrifice for priests and for the whole world" in the midst of their record-making.

“The Benedictines of Mary have again created a beautiful recording to connect us to the oldest traditions of European monastic chant and hymns,” remarked Costa Pilavachi, Senior Vice-President, Classical A+R Universal Music Group International. You can purchase the album from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore at [Angels and Saints at Ephesus](#).

[Inspiring Generations Seen as a 'Nudge in the Right Direction'](#)



In anticipation of this July's World Youth Day in Rio, a book, *World Youth Day: Inspiring Generations*, has been released to share the story of World Youth Day and to inspire more young people to attend. The book aims to encourage people to experience World Youth Day, as well as dispel the myth that young people are not interested in faith. It contains stories based on the experiences of young Catholics who have been to previous World Youth Days.

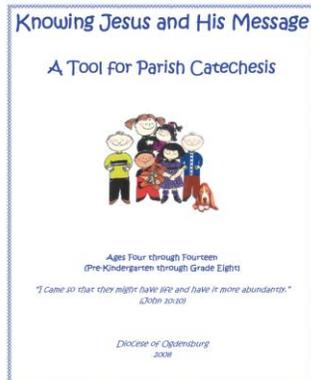
Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols, the head of the Church in England and Wales, was presented with a copy of the book at a Year of Faith event last week. He congratulated the co-editors on their determination and act of faith in putting the resource together. The archbishop, who wrote the foreword for the book, spoke at that event about morality, chastity and sexuality, explaining that the moral law is not a 'no' to life, but is in fact a 'yes!' He said through moral law we are truly free and can find true and everlasting happiness.

The co-editors, James Kelliher, Jo-Anne Rowney and Paula Mendez, shared their thoughts about the book and World Youth Day:

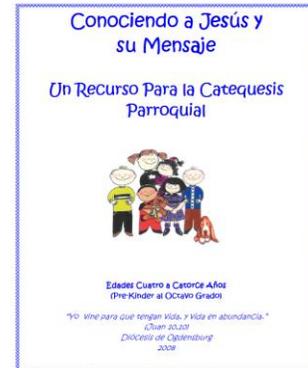
- Kelliher said: “WYD Madrid was such an amazing experience for myself and many other young people. When I returned home, I wanted to share our stories with Catholics everywhere. It has been a long process in the making, yet I’m really happy with the outcome and I hope lots of people will enjoy the read!”
- Rowney said: "WYD was a great experience that I really wanted to share with other people my age. We realised that often young people don't know where to look to get more involved so it was important we gave them a nudge in the right direction. But, while there are lots of things to do at home, World Youth Day is really the best place to start and the book shows that."
- Mendez said: "During World Youth Day we spent a lot of time talking to each other about our life experiences and the Church, some of these experiences were very moving – that is when we realised that we could get something together which could be put at the service of the Church."

The book can be purchased from <http://www.ctsbooks.org/world-youth-day-inspiring-generations>. As well as the pocket-sized book, there is a Kindle edition, which includes more pilgrim stories, as well as bonus sections such as a pilgrim guide, advice and resources. The Kindle edition can be purchased from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore at [World Youth Day: Inspiring Generations](#).

Knowing Jesus and His Message – Conociendo a Jesús y su Mensaje



This is an excellent resource. Immediately following the Learning Session on this resource at the NCCL Conference and Exposition in San Diego, the NCCL Bookstore sold over twenty (20) copies of the book in English and Spanish.



Based on the protocol used to evaluate elementary religion series, the book used fifteen standards for Pre-K and K

through Grades 7 & 8. Included with the binder is a CD with all the materials available for duplication. This is an ideal help for any elementary catechist regardless of the series you might be using. Check out the following and use the Order Form.

- [PREFACE - Knowing Jesus and His Message \(http://tiny.cc/nysql\)](http://tiny.cc/nysql)
- [EXPLANATION - Knowing Jesus and His Message \(http://tiny.cc/xuvw8\)](http://tiny.cc/xuvw8)
- [Standards - Explained \(http://tiny.cc/65wmc\)](http://tiny.cc/65wmc)
- [Normas y Fundamentos \(http://tiny.cc/zfrg2\)](http://tiny.cc/zfrg2)
- [ORDER FORM - Knowing Jesus and His Message \(http://tiny.cc/9j0mb\)](http://tiny.cc/9j0mb)

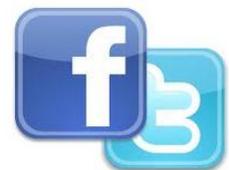
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