



**St. John Neumann, Monday, January 5, 2015**  
**St. André Bessette, Tuesday, January 6, 2015**  
**St. Raymond of Peñafort, Wednesday, January 7, 2015**  
**St. Angela of Foligno, Thursday, January 8, 2015**  
**St. Adrian of Canterbury, Friday, January 9, 2015**  
**St. Gregory of Nyssa, Saturday, January 10, 2015**

## Question of the Week

For the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, January 11, 2015

“The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.” How are you helping the children in your life to grow, become strong, and filled with wisdom? How do you help them to see that the love of God is with them always and in all ways?

## Saint of the Day: St. Gregory of Nyssa

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/saint.aspx?id=1256>

The son of two saints, Basil and Emmilia, young Gregory was raised by his older brother, St. Basil the Great, and his sister, Macrina, in modern-day Turkey. Gregory's success in his studies suggested great things were ahead for him. After becoming a professor of rhetoric, he was persuaded to devote his learning and efforts to the Church. By then married, Gregory went on to study for the priesthood and become ordained (celibacy was not a requirement for priests at this time).

He was elected Bishop of Nyssa (in Lower Armenia) in 372, a period of great tension over the Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Christ. Briefly arrested after being falsely accused of embezzling Church funds, Gregory was restored to his see in 378, an act met with great joy by his people.

After the death of his beloved brother Basil, Gregory really came into his own. He wrote with great effectiveness against Arianism and other questionable doctrines, gaining a reputation as a defender of orthodoxy. He was sent on missions to counter heresies and had a prominent position at the Council of Constantinople. In the centuries after his death, his reputation diminished as the authorship of his writings became less and less certain. Thanks to the work of 20th century scholars, his stature is once again appreciated. St. Gregory of Nyssa is seen not simply as a pillar of orthodoxy but as one of the great contributors to the mystical tradition in Christian spirituality and to monasticism itself.

**Comment:** *Orthodoxy* is a word that can be misused today. To some people it may connote rigid attitudes that make no room for honest differences of opinion. But here it suggests something else: faith that has settled deep in one's bones. Gregory's faith was like that. So deeply imbedded was his faith in Jesus that he *knew* the divinity that Arianism denied. When we resist something offered as truth without knowing exactly why, it may be because our faith has settled in our bones.

## Quote from Pope Francis:

*“We must convince ourselves, despite any appearances to the contrary, that concord is always possible, at every level and in every situation.”* Pope Francis' Angelus Address, January 4, 2015

## NCCL News

### **Eternal Rest Grant Unto Mark Pacione**

On December 29, 2014, Mark Pacione entered eternal life. Bob McCarty, Executive Director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, said “Mark’s passion for his faith, his love of young people, and his creative leadership in ministry were grounded in his commitment to creating disciples of Jesus Christ. He lived a Gospel-based life and our faith is stronger because of his influence and witness.” These comments were echoed by NCCL Board member Bryan Reising who referred to Mark as a “Great guy and servant of the Lord and God’s people”, adding, “May he experience God’s loving embrace, be reunited with friends and family, and make new friends with all God’s Holy Ones! And may his family be comforted.” We ask that you hold Mark and his family in your prayers.



### **2015 Annual Conference & Exposition, May 18-21, Buffalo**

**“Save Me a Place” Member Registration: \$309 through January 16, 2015**

Register soon before the price increases!

Applications can be downloaded at [www.nccl.org](http://www.nccl.org) For Details see [www.nccl.us](http://www.nccl.us)

Please share the new promotion video: <http://nccl.us/ncclvideos.html>

## **NCCL 2014 ANNUAL APPEAL**

As the New Year begins, please take a moment to make a donation to our 2014 Annual Appeal for:

**Technology at the service of Catechist Formation.**

NCCL wants to develop a process for CLs to share their best practices, to help members learn from each other about what is effective in various settings, and to update some of the information (including theological language) and formatting of our Echoes 3.0 materials. [Please contribute generously!](#)

Donations received by January 5<sup>th</sup> may be recorded as a 2014 donation.

A Sincere Thanks to those who have contributed! An updated list will appear in next week’s CL Weekly.

### **Rural Catechesis: Using Catholic Radio for Catechesis**

In December, Mary Woods led a discussion with NCCL’s Rural Catechesis Committee on using radio for catechesis, especially catechist formation. The discussion was taped and is available for download here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/eioghe8j8xop1ue/Maria%20Cruz%20Cordova%20National%20Conference%20for%20Catechetical%20Leadership%20phone%20conference%203%20Dec%20.mp3?dl=0>

Mary Woods is the host of *The Archbishop’s Hour* in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. *The Archbishop’s Hour* is broadcasted through Immaculate Heart Radio. Check its website to find stations that carry its broadcasts or other ways to listen to some of its programs: <http://ihradio.com/listen/>

### **Adult Faith Formation Webinar: Evaluating Your Program**

January 12, 2015 - 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. with Marilyn Kravatz-Toolan and supported by Peter Ries

Co-sponsored by NCCL’s Adult Faith Formation Committee and William H. Sadlier, Inc.

Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6984339016301265410>

This session will allow the participant to:

- reflect on one’s own hopes and dreams for life-long faith formation
- define the meaning of ongoing adult faith formation
- assess how one’s ministry enables solid and meaningful faith formation opportunities for adults

Two more webinars on AFF are being planned:

Connecting and Responding to Those We Serve, January 28, 2015 - 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Survey Options: Practical Applications, February 9, 2015 - 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

See NCCL’s website for more information: <https://nccl.wildapricot.org/page-1728993>

## myUSCCB: Join for Great Resources Throughout the Year



Here's a sample of the resources available from myUSCCB:

**Catechetical Corner:** *Holy Days of Obligation Calendar*

This resource explains the background and purpose of these days on which all Catholics have a duty to attend Mass. Use this brief article in bulletins, newsletters, on your website, in social media posts, or as a religious education aid.

**Fact of Faith:** *The New Year*

Paulist Father Larry Rice explains how the start of the New Year came to be January 1st and how the date has varied over the centuries among different faith traditions and cultures. Use this brief article in bulletins, newsletters, on your website, in social media posts or in adult faith formation.

**myUSCCB** was designed to help you save effort searching for the right materials, helping you to spend less time planning and more time doing. For more information: [www.usccb.org/myusccb/](http://www.usccb.org/myusccb/)

## Webinar: Eucharist – Food That Satisfies Our Deepest Hunger

In the second part of this mini-retreat, Tom Quinlan continues to explore the rich beauty of the Eucharist, both sacramentally and liturgically, drawing upon Scripture and stories from his personal journey of life-in-faith to help reveal the intimate and saving power of Jesus in the Eucharist. The goal of this retreat-style experience is two-fold: Invite you into reflection on your own life of journey and communion with God...and model for catechetical leaders, in a practical way, what can be done in parent First Eucharist prep sessions to foster conversion in them. *A Certificate of Attendance will be offered to all participants.*



Register for this free, live webinar series: Part Two, Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 1:00 pm EST, <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/798846814>

Tom Quinlan is the Director of the Religious Education Office in the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. He is Co-Chair of NCCL's Evangelization Committee. Tom holds a Masters of Divinity from University of St. Mary of the Lake. His wife, Kristi, is a parish catechetical leader.

SadlierReligion recorded Webinars: [www.YouTube.com/SadlierReligion](http://www.YouTube.com/SadlierReligion).

## Echoes 3.0 Pricing Information

1. Licenses can be purchased at <http://echoesoffaith.com/> or through your RCL Benziger representative.
2. Licenses are cheaper the more you buy at one time and never expire until they are used. Once they are used, they allow access to Echoes 3.0 content for exactly one year from the date of first use and then must be renewed or they will expire.
3. Each person using Echoes 3.0 needs an individual license.
4. Licenses cost \$34.95 per license when purchased in quantities of 1-14. So if you purchase 14 licenses your total cost will be \$489.30.
5. The group price for 15-35 licenses is \$499.95. The licenses last until one year after they are first used, so you can buy 35 licenses without fear that they will go out of date if you don't use them immediately. If you buy 35 licenses for this price, your cost per license drops to \$14.29 per license, or what you would now pay for two Echoes Plus module booklets. If your catechists do more than two modules in a year, they are getting them for free.
6. For diocesan price information or to purchase larger quantities of licenses, please contact your local RCL Benziger representative.
7. With each purchase of 10 licenses you will receive 1 administrator license for free. This will allow you to administrate the course, oversee the work of each catechist, moderate and guide discussion board activities, administer the course for your catechists. These licenses never go out of date.

For more details contact your RCL Benziger rep or Dan Mulhall (410-693-7971/ [dmulhall@rclbenziger.com](mailto:dmulhall@rclbenziger.com))



## Take ONE small step to become a Digital Disciple



Learn to integrate technology into everyday ministry with both youth and adults. DDBC is a full ONLINE course, February 3 – June 21, 2015. Learn more at:

<http://ddbcformation.org/>.

Take this course! It is worth every minute, the instructors are awesome and the material is "out of this world"! Don't be overwhelmed by all the content, it is one small step for you and one giant step for catechetical ministry!  
Joan Fye, Diocesan Media Resource Director, Diocese of Erie

## Pope: Examine the Areas of Your Life

[http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-gives-9-tips-to-vatican-employees?utm\\_campaign=dailyhtml&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dispatch](http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-gives-9-tips-to-vatican-employees?utm_campaign=dailyhtml&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dispatch)

On December 22, Pope Francis met with the behind-the-scenes Vatican employees. After thanking them for their dedication, he encouraged them to examine areas of their lives. His words readily apply to all.

**“Care for your spiritual life, your relationship with God”** because “this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.” “A Christian who is not nourished by prayer, the sacraments and the Word of God, inevitably fades and withers,” he added.

**“Care for your family life”** “giving to your children and your loved ones not only money, but above all time, attention and love.”

**“Heal your relationships with others”**, “transforming faith in life and words into good works, especially for those most in need.”

**“Watch how you speak”**, “purifying the language from the offensive words, vulgarity and phraseology of worldly decadence.”

**“Heal the wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness”**, forgiving people who have hurt us and medicating wounds we have caused in others.

**“Care for your work”**, doing it “with enthusiasm, humility, skill, passion, and with a soul that knows how to thank the Lord.”

**“Avoid envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings”**, “that devour our inner peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people.”

**“Let go of the bitterness that brings us to revenge”**, **“the laziness that leads to euthanasia”**, **“the finger-pointing that leads to pride,”** and **“the complaining that constantly leads us to despair.”** “I know that a few times, to keep your job, you quarrel with someone, to defend yourselves. I understand these situations, but the road does not end well.” “Rather,” he suggested, “ask the Lord for wisdom to bite one's tongue” and “not to say insulting words that afterward leave your mouth bitter.”

**“Reach out to the weak, elderly, sick, hungry, homeless and foreigners.”** This will determine how we will be judged.

Acknowledging he had spoken of various areas on which to reflect carefully, the Holy Father called on the Vatican employees to ponder which area they need to address the most.



Photo: Global News

## A Prayer for the New Year

A prayer for the New Year. Note: The photos with the words of the prayer are displayed twice; once with background music and a second time without.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mCS5tYPZpU>



Feedback/Comments on this issue of CL Weekly should be addressed to this week's writer, Joanie McKeown, NCCL Treasurer and CFO: [jmckNCCL@email.com](mailto:jmckNCCL@email.com)