



FORMATIONAL GIFTS

NEWS ON AQUINAS NEWMAN CENTER'S
RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 2009

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As graduate student, I was indoctrinated with the idea that effective faith formation entailed executing well planned lessons, doctrinal discussions, and memorization of facts and prayers. As a practicing Catholic, I realized that effective faith formation was built on experiences of Christ in my life and finding God in myself, in others, and in my community. As a parent it became obvious that effective faith formation must be a combination of these two approaches, encouraging doctrinal discussions to emerge from everyday life experiences and providing concrete experiences of what being an active Catholic means.

Active Catholics are born out of experiencing God's presence in their lives, of feeling Christ's love, of viewing the Church as a living creation instead of stagnant, meaningless ritual. Active Catholics participate in liturgy, not because they have to, but because they want to. They leave church in a better mood than when they arrived because of their participation in the community, the rituals, the familiar words of prayer and praise, and/or the renewed sense that they are covered by God. Active Catholics work with what is to envision what could be. Integral to and woven throughout this active-ness must be an understanding of the basic beliefs and doctrine which makes them uniquely Catholic.

The Faith in Life program supports and fosters this understanding of active faith while at the same time provides tools for parents to use to teach their children basic beliefs and doctrine. It can be seen as a foundation which families can use to build a structure reflecting their experience of God's presence in their lives or a study guide that encourages reflection and discussion of faith. It cannot be effective if it becomes a building that families visit like a museum, or Cliff Notes which families use to avoid reading the book. If it is to be effective in the formation of children and youth, it is imperative that parents recognize the need for both *orthodoxy* (doctrine) and *orthopraxy* (action).

Faith in Life will hopefully lead to a life-long journey toward a greater appreciation and respect for our church, encouraging us to view it as a second home, a loving and welcoming community, and a place of refuge, acceptance, and comfort.

Someone explained faith formation as a safety line that parents weave for their children so that if they leave the church they can always find their way back. What we, as parents, do today will effect how strong that line will be and how easily it can be grasped as they wander through the darkness.

ANNULMENT
VS. DIVORCE:
WHAT'S A
CATHOLIC TO DO?

NOVEMBER 4TH
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Please join us for an informative evening of exploration and explanation of one of the most misunderstood aspects of our Catholic faith.

The evening, will review Catholic beliefs, explain canon law, and allow participants to ask questions and (hopefully) get answers. At the end of the session, those wishing to pursue an annulment will be given the chance to make an appointment with a priest to discuss the issue further.

For those who are unfamiliar with the annulment process, it is, at its most basic level, an exploration of you and your ex-spouses lives, beliefs, and decision to marry and divorce. While some find the initial process to be a painful recalling of hurtful memories, many people, upon its completion, find the process to have been cathartic and healing, allowing them to better move forward with their life.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

ANC has added new opportunities to study the sacred scriptures. Complimenting Ben Baran's Sunday morning class, we now offer classes on Wednesday mornings and evenings.

The Wednesday morning program meets at 11:00 in the Dominican Chapel and is currently reading and exploring the Gospel of Mark. The format of the program is to read the entire book from start to finish, pausing along the way to discuss both the historical/contextual setting of the gospel and how God continues to use the Gospel to communicate to today's world. Participants are invited to stay after the class and join the community for the 12:10 liturgy.

The Wednesday evening program meets at 7:30 with Br. Paul Byrd facilitating. Currently exploring the book of Tobit, the class is initially focusing on the biblical books which are uniquely Catholic. Following Tobit, the class will explore the book of Judith. The Wednesday evening group is open to anyone though it is designed to appeal to young adults and college students. Participants are invited to come at 7:00 for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Join us on **October 12th after the 12:10 liturgy** for a special prayerful celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

This sacrament, once called extreme unction and reserved for those near death, is now available for all those who are in need of Christ's healing presence in their bodies, their minds, and their lives.

The sacrament is a celebration of Christ's healing powers as described in the scriptural accounts of his healing the blind, the lame, the possessed, and the physically infirm.

DID YOU KNOW...

purchasing Crayola washable markers at Target's back to school sale (\$1.49) rather than from the Oriental Trading Company (\$4.05) saved the parish over \$70 on just one supply item this fall!

Religious Formation buys supplies on sale, negotiates with vendors for discounts and free product, and finds creative solutions with minimal costs.

Religious Formation prides itself on its frugality because it realizes that whatever money it receives was hard earned and should not be wasted.

Yet, even as frugal as it is, it still needs your support through contributions to the weekly collection.

ARE YOU COMING TO THE MISSION?

**EACH ONE -REACH ONE
OCT. 12 - OCT. 14**

Don't miss Fr. James Marchionda, OP, and Sr. Ann Willitts, OP, at the 2009 area-wide Stewardship Mission.

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience lectionary based preaching with strong stewardship and evangelistic themes throughout. It is offered to nurture and nourish your faith, to provide time away to focus on God, and to reflect the energy and excitement which Aquinas Newman Center offers both to its members as well as the greater Albuquerque area.

There will be a special program offering scripture stories, crafts, and activities for kids in Preschool (age 4) through 5th Grade, allowing parents to focus on the words and images of Fr. Jim and Sr. Ann.

Monday, October 12

12:10 Daily Mass and Anointing of the Sick

7:00 Mission: *Becoming What We Pray*
Children's Mission: *Praising God*

Tuesday, October 13

5:00 Daily Mass (*followed by Soup/Supper*)

7:00 Mission: *All Are Welcome*
Children's Mission: *One World*

Wednesday, October 14

12:10 Daily Mass

7:00 *Sing With Joy to God Final Concert*

This is truly an exciting event for Aquinas Newman Center and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Contact Kris Coffey (kcoffey826cpe@aol.com) for more information.

Each One - Reach One and together we can change the world in which we live.

MARYKNOLL ANNOUNCES THEIR 2009 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

Each year the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers sponsor an essay contest with the winners sharing \$3,000 in scholarship money, as well as coverage in Maryknoll magazine and on its website.



"It's all about me" is a popular slogan for many young people today. Yet Jesus teaches us to: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:28).

This year's essay theme is **"It's all about me"** and the assignment is to explain how you can follow Jesus' words in today's self-centered culture.

The essay should be 500-750 words. Pages should be typed and double-spaced or neatly handwritten in ink and stapled. There are two age divisions and older youth can submit their essay electronically.

For additional rules and more information go to

<http://society.maryknoll.org/essay>

This is a great opportunity for mid- and high school students to reflect on what it means to be a Catholic and how they are called to live in today's society. Entries must be postmarked by December 1, 2009.

ARE YOU USING OUR ONLINE RESOURCES?

We have again teamed up with Harcourt/Our Sunday Visitor to offer you an online resource and text series to use in your home. Registration for this exciting online resource can easily be completed at:

www.calltofaithconnect.com/account/up_request.php

Once registered and approved (an additional level of security), you will have access to formal curriculum, games and activities, faith reflections for children, youth, and adults, and a reference source for both scriptural and traditional heritage.

The website also includes special announcements about programs, the program calendar through June 2010, and email contacts for your child(ren)'s catechists.

ARE YOU GETTING THE TOOLS YOU NEED?

As we enter the 2nd month of the 2009-10 religious formation program, it is important to stop and assess how effective we are in providing you with the tools you need, as a parent, to form the faith of your child(ren).

In your opinion, how effective and useful have the Faith in Life handouts, the Call to Faith e-connect on-line resource, the newsletter, bulletin announcements, etc. been?

If you have comments or suggestions for additional resources or tools, drop me an email or call me so that we can discuss.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR TICKETS?

AQUINAS NEWMAN CENTER RENATUM DINNER

NOVEMBER 7, 2009

6:00 PM

UNM STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

Tickets available at the Newman Center Office

JOURNEYING TOWARDS THE SACRAMENTS

Please keep the following 3rd grade members of Aquinas Newman Center in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this year.

Theresa Apodaca

Joaquin Madrid-Larranaga

Jane Archibeck

Julia Lopez

Claire Benton

Nicholas Miller

Mathias Bertram

Andrew Nairn

Abigail Craff

Evan O'Connell

Nathaniel Gomez-Valenzuela

Grant Smith

and Amanda Suazo

OCTOBER '09

				1	2 Little Saints Catholic Home-school Co-op	3
4 1-3 PM Faith In Life - Knowing God	5 7:00 PM Sacramental Preparation for Baptism	6	7 11:00 AM Mid-week Bible Study	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Little Saints Catholic Home-school Co-op	17
Each One-Reach One Mission						
18	19	20	21 11:00 AM Mid-week Bible Study	22	23	24
25 12:30-3 PM Faith in Life - Celebrating the Communion of Saints	26	27	28 11:00 AM Mid-week Bible Study	29	30	31

UPCOMING EVENTS	NOV. 4	ANNULMENT VS. DIVORCE. . .	7:00 PM
	NOV. 8	FAITH IN LIFE - ENCOUNTERING JESUS	1:00 PM
	NOV. 22	FAITH IN LIFE - ANTICIPATING CHRIST IN ADVENT	12:30 PM
	NOV. 30	PAINTING RETABLOS - A TWO PART ART PROGRAM <i>(CONTINUES ON DEC. 7)</i>	6:30 PM
	DEC. 12	FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION	10:00 AM