

Fashion Me a People 2010



The Word of God for All Ages

Thursday, January 7, 2010

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - **Workshops**

1. **Preparing Prayer and Liturgy for and with Children in the Classroom and Parish**

Facilitators: Mark Friedman and Sarah Hart

Mark and Sarah will share wonderful and engaging music and explore many creative ideas for planning prayer and liturgy with children in both parish and school settings. This workshop will energize teachers, pastoral planners, and musicians to empower their young people to more fully participate in their worship experiences, ritual prayers, and Mass.

2. **Seeing the Forest AND the Trees: Understanding and Claiming the Vision of Systematic, Intentional, Lifelong Catechesis**

Facilitator: Jo Ann Paradise

There is no doubt that the vision of faith formation claimed by the Church is that of lifelong catechesis. How we support, challenge, and affirm that process for people of all ages in our parish is the heart of catechetical ministry. This workshop explores the tasks and settings of catechesis offered in the *General Directory* through the lens of the development of a parish-wide curriculum. If you need an introduction to or a renewal in the vision of lifelong formation, this workshop is for you.

3. **Intergenerational Faith Festival: The Word of God**

Facilitators: Sean Lansing and Joan Weber

We live in intergenerational communities, so it makes sense to also learn with people of all ages. This workshop provides an actual experience of a parish learning event that engages parishioners of all ages in the Word of God. We will begin with prayer, an all-ages experience, and in-depth learning about the Word of God. This will be followed by an overview of how to do intergenerational learning in your own parish, based on what you have just witnessed and experienced.

4. **Strategic Planning for Parish Life and Ministry**

Facilitator: Paul Henderson

Effective ministry is about helping people deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and being leaven in the world today. It doesn't happen just by good intentions, but requires a well thought out and implemented ministerial approach. This workshop is geared to parish teams and individual leaders to help them understand the role of strategic thinking and acting in helping a parish community achieve its ministerial goals. In the end, isn't it true? How I think is how I act.

5. **Justice and Faith: Formation in Today's World**

Facilitators: Sr. Katherine Feely, SND and Ted Miles

Catholics have long been integral in the movements aimed at creating a world of justice and peace. The challenge for those who work in faith formation is to foster an understanding of how this work relates to our Catholic Social Tradition and to help Catholics believe that they, indeed, can be meaningful participants in promoting biblical justice. Learn how to help those we serve: 1) foster a faith life that is both personal and social, 2) form their social consciences, and 3) engage in social analysis about current social problems. This workshop integrates highlights from Pope Benedict XVI's new encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, and provides practical ideas, suggestions, and resources on how to use this document as a catechetical tool. The workshop also features programs and resources available through the Center of Concern, Catholic Relief Services, and their partners.

6. **Lifelong Faith Formation: Realizing the Vision**

Facilitator: Brian Topping

In this workshop participants will be invited to discover how to facilitate a shift in the life of a parish from an exclusively child-centered catechetical program to the vision of lifelong learning. Through the introduction of organizational principles of change and practical strategies for implementing change, participants will develop a plan for use in their parish. This session is designed

to help parish staffs move from vision (seeing the forest and the trees) to lived reality.

7. **Catholic Families and the Bible**

Facilitator: Leif Kehrwald

Bringing Catholic families and the Bible together remains an important task. The Bible as a tool used at home for faith growth and spiritual development remains a rarity among ordinary Catholic families. We believe this situation can – must – change. The Center for Ministry Development has spent the last two years researching and studying effective ways to boost biblical literacy among Catholic families and exploring innovative ways to help families understand the Catholic approach to Scripture. The Center has identified three main concerns and seven key strategies for bringing Catholic families and the Bible together. We will review these concerns and strategies in the process of outlining a strategic vision, along with practical ideas and activities, to connect Scripture with family living.

7:00 p.m. **“A People Called by the Gospel”**

“No longer is it enough to be passive members, receiving a word told us by someone else, filing that word away to be taken out for a reading now and then. . . . we are realizing that the Word of God is addressing us, saying something to us, making demands on us, and asking us to live that Word in our lives. We are a people called by the gospel, called to make a difference in the world.” (Maria Harris, Fashion Me a People)

Join the Fashion Me a People assembly in an evening of storytelling, music, prayer, and challenge as we explore together receiving the Word. A collection of Fashion Me a People workshop and song leaders will facilitate this evening celebration of God's Word in our lives!

9:00 p.m. **Reception**

Friday, January 8, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – **Prayer and General Session**

Visio Divina: A Prayer Practice for Encountering God

Come and see God's Word! Pray with *The Saint John's Bible*. Learn the practice of Visio Divina – a Latin term which means “divine seeing.” Similar to the sixth-century Benedictine practice of Bible reading called *lectio divina*, Visio Divina is a prayer practice that facilitates a revelation of God through the opened eye of one's heart. In this session, we will pray with and ignite your spiritual imagination for the ‘Baptism of the Lord’ illumination and Scripture.

Facilitator: Dr. Barbara Sutton

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – **Kindred Ministry Workshops**

The Experience of the Word in Our Ministry Contexts

How do we apply what we are hearing through our ministry lens? What are the most important principles about engaging our ministry group with Scripture? What are the best strategies or ideas to engage our ministry group with the Word of God?

1. Children and Scripture – Jo Ann Paradise
2. Scripture and Youth – Frank Mercadante
3. Scripture and Adults - Diana Macalintal and Nick Wagner
4. Scripture and Intergenerational Formation - Joan Weber
5. Scripture and Liturgy - Tom Tomaszek
6. Scripture and the Home Church - Leif Kehrwald
7. Scripture in the Hispanic Culture - Santiago Fernandez and Rey Malave

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – **Workshops**

1. And God Said What?

Facilitator: Dr. Margaret Nutting Ralph

As you read the Bible, have you ever found yourself asking, “Why would God say that?” Have your children or students ever asked you questions like, “Why did God punish the whole human race because Adam sinned?” In this workshop we will explain the Catholic approach to Scripture, the contextualist approach, in which we consider context in order to understand meaning. We will also discuss the difference between the way an adult and a young child understand Scripture, and give some hints on what is age appropriate and what is not.

2. Expanding Your Horizons: Learning Scripture Through an Interactive Museum

Facilitators: Cheryl Kieffer and Team (Resurrection Parish, Rochester)

The Expanding Horizons Team from Resurrection Parish will explain the Expanding Horizons concept as well as its implementation over the past 4 years in their overall intergenerational faith formation effort. Expanding Horizons is one of three equally important GOF learning opportunities at Resurrection that developed in response to the needs expressed by parishioner evaluations of the GOF program. To accommodate busy lifestyles, self-guided learning experiences for all ages are developed and made available for one week, three times a year. This unique format provides the opportunity for greater subject depth with attention to a variety of learning styles, but more importantly it is intended to engage the imagination and the heart. Come and experience for yourself a “Walk through the Scriptures.”

Resurrection Parish will also host an on-site sample of one of their interactive museum displays, focused, of course, on the Word of God!

3. Conversing with God in Scripture: A Contemporary Approach to *Lectio Divina*
Facilitator: Stephen J. Binz

Pope Benedict has said, "If the practice of lectio divina is effectively promoted, I am convinced that it will produce a new spiritual springtime in the church." The World Synod of Bishops has challenged the church to find new ways of adapting this tradition to the life of God's people in the 21st century. This presentation will explain this ancient practice and show Bible readers how to experience the ongoing power of the Spirit within the inspired text. Participants will learn how to move from attentive listening to reflective prayer to contemplative action. This workshop is for Bible students in all stages of adulthood, parish pastoral teams, volunteers, and anyone interested in Catholic Bible study.

4. Integrating Visio Divina and Saint John's Bible into Lifelong Faith Formation
Facilitator: Barbara Sutton

There is a widespread demand for spirituality in today's world. John Paul II called for Christian communities to become genuine "schools" of prayer (*Novo Millennio Inuente*). Visio Divina is one means of renewing the spirituality of parish communities. This workshop describes the structure and curriculum for integrating illuminations from the Saint John's Bible into the prayer life of the whole community.

5. Moving From Evangelizing to Immanuelizing
Facilitator: Frank Mercadante

This workshop will detail why we must transition from "evangelization" to "immanuelization" in order to reach today's Catholics. Immanuelization, a form of evangelization that speaks to a postmodern age, is all about evangelizing with our presence. It means *experiencing* the presence of God through the very life of the faith community. This workshop will take a fresh and practical look at our evangelistic approaches in light of a postmodern age.

6. The Proclamation of the Word
Facilitator: ValLimar Jansen

Proclamation of God's word is an experience "charged" by the Holy Spirit. Examine different modalities in proclaiming the Word of God. Proclamation may include music, movement, visual art, storytelling and other art forms faithful to the Gospels. Experience a renewal of your passion for God's Holy Word.

7. Faith Formation and Parish Social Ministry: Forging Relationships to Serve the World
Facilitator: Tom Ulrich

Catholic Social Teaching calls all baptized to 'love of neighbor'. In a parish, 'love of neighbor' is lived out in a very concrete way through organized actions of

social justice and direct service. This workshop will explore what parish-based social ministry is and how faith formation is the best path for engaging in that social ministry action.

3:45 A Celebration of Resources

Come hear about all of the creative and effective resources 23rd Publications, the Center for Ministry Development, Catholic Relief Services, Oregon Catholic Press, and Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division (formerly Harcourt Religion Publishers) have to offer you to help your communities study, pray, and celebrate the Word of God.

Saturday, January 9, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – **Prayer and General Session**

The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church

Facilitator: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The synod document lists four ways in which the church is nourished by the word of God: in the liturgy and prayer; in evangelization and catechesis; in exegesis and theology; and in the life of the believer. Each of these areas will be discussed.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - **Workshops**

1. Making the Word of God Come Alive Gospel-Style - Catholic Revival

Facilitator: Fr. Chester Smith, SVD

This workshop presents a process for making the Word of God refreshing, real, and relevant. The workshop will include various preaching techniques and formats to use in a revival and retreat setting.

2. Not on Bread Alone: A Catechetical Cookbook for Feasting on the Liturgy of the Word

Facilitators: Diana Macalintal and Nick Wagner

Workshop description: Add some spice to your catechetical menu, and sample recipes for breaking open the word, extended catechesis, and lifelong faith formation. This workshop will give you a simple process for identifying and drawing out the catechetical content in the Liturgy of the Word, a skill that will enrich your own faith and the faith of those you teach. Learn the essential ingredients for bringing out the flavor of the living Word, and savor the rich fare of the gospel.

3. Spiritual Exercises for Today

Facilitator: Dan Schutte

The heart of our faith, and the core of our ministry, is our living, growing relationship with our God. Dan's new book, *Walking the Sacred Path*, is a treasury of thirty contemplative exercises designed to draw a person into deeper relationship with God. Each exercise includes a centering introduction, a focus scripture, a reflection, questions for consideration, and closing prayer. Come experience this wonderful tool for yourself. Learn how you might use it with those you teach.

4. Digital Storytelling: How Do We Make Our Story Go Viral?

Facilitator: Tim Welch

We will explore digital storytelling as well as the principles of making our Story go viral. Then we will actually walk through some easy digital storytelling processes by creating a slide meditation for worldwide broadcast, a discussion tool for home viewing, and more... all to proclaim the Reign of God with free online tools.

5. Generation to Generation: One in God

Facilitators: Bill Huebsch and Jo Ann Paradise

How does a child grow up Catholic? Well, one thing we know for sure is that growing up Catholic *is the result of an intentional choice by parents to create a childhood steeped in Catholic life.* We know from studies that most active adult Catholics today were formed in faith in their household, supported by a faith community. To succeed at this today, we must begin to coach parents to form their own children in faith. How do we accomplish this? Jo Ann Paradise and Bill Huebsch will unpack this idea and provide practical principles and practices to help us achieve it.

6. Engaging Youth in Scripture and Music: Evangelization that Makes a Difference

Facilitator: Steve Angrisano

Based on one of Steve's popular songs, "Go Make a Difference," this workshop explores the commandment of Jesus to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Catholic faith is both personal and communal in nature. We are called to times of personal prayer and private acts of faith, we are also called to go out to all people, "...among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life" (Philippians 2:15). How do you go forth? What is the message we carry? Come to the workshop and find out!

7. **Be-Attitudinal Living: Bringing Catholic Social Teaching to Life**

Facilitator: Cullen Larson

The Beatitudes and the “Sermon on the Mount” are central in Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels. But is Jesus really serious? If not, what’s the point of being Christian? What is the difference between charity and justice? How do the Beatitudes affect what difference I see? What connections are there between the Beatitudes and key themes of Catholic Social Teaching? What are the implications for faith formation? The session will suggest some answers to these questions.

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – **Workshops**

1. **Generation to Generation: One in God**

Facilitators: Bill Huebsch and Jo Ann Paradise

How does a child grow up Catholic? Well, one thing we know for sure is that growing up Catholic *is the result of an intentional choice by parents to create a childhood steeped in Catholic life.* We know from studies that most active adult Catholics today were formed in faith in their household, supported by a faith community. To succeed at this today, we must begin to coach parents to form their own children in faith. How do we accomplish this? Jo Ann Paradise and Bill Huebsch will unpack this idea and provide practical principles and practices to help us achieve it.

2. **Scripture and Family Ritual in the Hispanic Home**

Facilitators: Santiago Fernandez and Rey Malavé

Santiago and Rey will address the ways in which the Bible affects family life and culture for Hispanic Catholics, who make up nearly 40 percent of all Catholics in the United States and are the fastest growing segment of the Catholic Church in the country. Bible study in the home and in small ecclesial communities or *Comunidades de Base* will be discussed at length, as this grassroots approach to Scripture-centered reflection and prayer continues to grow among Hispanics. Come ready to participate and sing rhythmic and lively Biblical songs! This engaging duo of presenters will surely leave you renewed and motivated to see God's holy Word as a “living, piercing and active force in the heart of the Church.”

3. **Adolescents Learning about Faith through Practices of Faithful Living**

Facilitator: Tom East

How can we open up the life of faith in our ministry, parish and community so that youth can learn and live their faith in vibrant ways? This workshop will provide a survey of best practices for helping youth learn about faith through

active engagement in Christian practices. Scriptural images will be used as participants explore methods for enhancing faith sharing and prayer with families of youth and engagement with all of the generations of the parish community.

4. How We Read the Bible

Facilitator: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Everyone, scholar and layperson alike, utilizes various methods when reading the Bible. Three basic approaches will be examined and then employed in examining the readings for the next Sunday.

5. Impassion the People! Transforming Parishes and Lives with Parish-Based Retreats

Facilitator: Jim Smith

Catholics for centuries have been helping people find God through the retreat experience. Retreat centers abound for this purpose. But how can we offer this rich experience to people *right where they are* – within their very own parish communities and even within the world of their desktop computers, their kitchens, their workplaces, their very lives? This workshop illustrates how catechetical leaders can bring the richness of the retreat experience to the parish level and to the real world where we dwell 24/7. Expect innovative ideas, helpful illustrations, and clear step-by-step instructions to impassion the people!

6. Making Solidarity Real - Building Strong Relationships

Facilitator: Patrice Schwermer

To really understand and participate in global solidarity, relationship is a must. How can we build relationships with people from other parts of the world? For the past 25 years the Diocese of Richmond has built a strong Twinning Ministry with Haiti that includes 60 active partnerships. Along the way, we have learned some creative, practical and concrete ways for parishioners of all ages to engage in true relationships of solidarity. Learn about these experiences, and share your own ideas!

7. Scripture to Go

Facilitators: Gayle Beuke and Fr. Mike Baldwin (St. Vincent de Paul Parish)

Today's Catholics are often unfamiliar with the stories of the Bible, and if they do know the stories, they rarely see themselves in those stories. We may focus on the Scriptures at our intergenerational events, but how do we put the Bible in a home kit? How can we package the Scriptures in inviting and accessible ways, which will help people connect the Scriptures to their daily lives? In this workshop we'll share with you some of the ideas we've used over the last few years to hopefully begin to fashion a People of the Word.

4:00 p.m. **Integration**

Fr. Mark McCormick will guide us as together we integrate what we have learned as we prepare to celebrate Eucharist and return to our home communities.

5:00 p.m. **Eucharist**