

**Diocese of Scranton**  
*Office for Parish Life*  
**Pastoral Formation Institute**  
**Fatima Renewal Center**

*FALL 2008*

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit.  
There are different forms of service.*

**Days of Reflection**

**Our Journey to the Eucharist**

Participants will come to experience the Eucharist as the "source and summit" of our faith. The day will focus on one's personal response to the Lord's invitation to "come rest awhile" before his Eucharistic presence. It will provide quiet time and reflection as one moves prayerfully into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

**Rev. Alfred J. Vito**

**St. Lawrence Church, Great Bend**

**October 18, Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**A Call to Holiness and Service with St. Paul**

St. Paul, transformed by a dramatic encounter with the Risen Lord, became a true disciple of Jesus in his missionary call to service in the early Church. Through the example of his life and the richness of his writings, he is a model for us in our own conversion story to holiness and service. This Reflection Day will help us to recognize and appreciate in ourselves how we are called through conversion to lead faith-filled lives following the example of St. Paul.

**Rev. James P. Dougher**

**St. Peter Church, Wellsboro**

**January 31, Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Mary, Woman of Faith and Mother of Compassion**

*This year the Church commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France, where she proclaimed, "I am the Immaculate Conception."*

Throughout Mary's life she exemplified a depth of faith and trust in God's plan for salvation. This young maid of Nazareth who said "yes,"

and who stood at the Cross of her son, directed her whole being to God in faithful obedience. From that faith, trust and obedience flow from her motherly compassion upon us, children of the new Eve. This Reflection Day will allow us to pattern our lives on Mary, woman of faith and mother of compassion, that we may be faithful to God's plan and live in loving concern for others.

***A special healing service will take place during the course of the day in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes.***

**Rev. Paul A. McDonnell, OSJ**

**Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton**

**November 15, Saturday 9:30 a.m. –2:30 p.m.**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated. Fee: \$25.00, lunch included.**

**To register: Call 570.207.2213.**

**For the November 15 Reflection Day, call Fatima Renewal Center at 570.563.1131**

## *“I am the Immaculate Conception”*

In 2008, the Church commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to a simple peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, at Lourdes, France. The apparitions began on February 11, 1858 and ended on July 16.

At the Grotto of Massabielle, this “Lady in white” appeared 18 times, and on March 25, revealed her name: “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Mary's message was penitential in nature. She told 14-year old Bernadette to pray for sinners, to call for conversion of life, and to summon the people of God to build up the Church of “living stones.”

Lourdes has long been identified with Mary's requests for deep prayer and conversion, and also for the healing powers of body and spirit. Let us ask Mary for the blessings of healing in our own lives that we may better fulfill God's plan of holiness and mission.

*You are all beautiful, O Mary,  
The original stain in not in thee.  
You are the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel,  
The great honor of our race,  
The advocate of sinners.  
Virgin most prudent, pray for us.  
Intercede for us with our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

**--Taken from the Latin hymn: Total Pulchra Es, Maria**

Born on January 7, 1844, to parents who were poor, Bernadette Soubirous was raised in a home nurtured in love and understanding. Unlettered and sickly, she possessed good sense and showed remarkable tenacity and extraordinary unselfishness throughout her life. Bernadette entered religious life at Nevers. Though she experienced much suffering, she was noted for her exceptional generosity and happiness. She died on April 16, 1879. Her body is preserved intact. She was canonized a saint on December 8, 1933, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

## **St. Paul: Apostle of the Gentiles**

Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed the year 2008-2009 as the The Year of St. Paul in commemoration of the 2000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the great saint and apostle, St. Paul.

After encountering the Risen Christ in a vision, Paul experienced a dramatic conversion that prompted him to dedicate his life teaching and preaching about Christ, whom he referred to as the "Crucified One" in so many of his writings.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, he traveled extensively sharing the Good News and founding many churches. He continued to keep in touch with these young communities through his writings which encouraged and exhorted them to be courageous and steadfast in the faith.

A man who endured great trial and tribulation, Paul never lost sight of his vision to give authentic witness to Christ Jesus and to encourage others to "remain faithful to what they have learned and believed..."

Paul died a martyr's death, by beheading, outside the walls of Rome in 64 or 67 A.D. during the persecution of Nero. Because of the manner in which he died, he is often depicted bearing a sword. Many artists depict him with St. Peter to indicate that these two were chosen to be the apostles of the Jews and the Gentiles.

St. Paul is honored on two days. The first is the Conversion of St. Paul, celebrated on January 25. The second is the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, observed on June 29.

Today, we are encouraged to rediscover through the life and writings of the Great St. Paul our own personal conversion so that we may, through prayer and attentiveness to the Good News, be faithful to God's plan in our lives.

## Prayer

*St. Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles, pray for us.  
St. Paul, who knew nothing but Christ, and him crucified,  
Pray for us.*

*St. Paul, whose love for Christ was stronger than death,  
Pray for us.*

*St. Paul, whose zeal knew no bounds, pray for us.  
St. Paul....*

*That we may walk in newness of life, pray for us.  
That we may stand steadfast to the last, pray for us.  
That we may put on the armor of Christ, pray for us.  
Let us Pray... O God, you have given us the blessed apostle  
Paul. As we celebrate his memory may we be  
ever more drawn to you through his example of faith  
and zeal. Amen.*

## St. Paul and Our Call to Conversion

### *A Weekend Retreat*

Presented by

Rev. Richard J. Loch, V.E.  
Episcopal Vicar for Priests

October 17-19, 2008

at

Fatima Renewal Center  
1000 Seminary Road  
Dalton, PA 18414

In celebration of the Year of St. Paul, this weekend retreat will lead us into personal conversion through reflection on the life and writings of St. Paul. A man for all times, Paul experienced in himself and in others the forces of struggle, limitation and challenge; yet, fortified by grace and through belief in the power of the "Crucified One," he became a model of conversion after which he devoted his life to the teachings of the Gospel. Paul speaks directly to us today just as he spoke to the people long ago. Come and experience his message of conversion and his deep love for Christ and for the Church.

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.*

The weekend begins at 6 o'clock with dinner on Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday.

Cost: \$115.00 per person \$95.00 per person if registered as a couple.

To register call Fatima Renewal Center at 570.563.1131 or the Pastoral Formation Office at 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107.

## **Continuing Education**

**Continuing Education programs are designed to offer an educational experience that will provide for the participant a deeper involvement in the apostolic works of the Church.**

**The Christian Traditions in Art  
Diocesan Center, Scranton**

**October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2008 – Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Josephine Dunne, Ph.D., Art Historian and Associate Professor  
University of Scranton**

**This five-day slide lecture course will focus on images and buildings produced to serve Christian doctrine, liturgy and education. During the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great wrote that images could be employed by the Christian Church to educate the laity. These lectures reveal how that education was achieved through paint, stone, glass and wood from the third through the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.**

**Pope Gregory's thought became the foundation of the modern Church's approach to art, an approach even recently confirmed by Pope Benedict XVI (March 2008) who enjoins clergy to study art history in their formation as teachers.**

### **SESSION 1 - THE BIRTH OF CHRISTIAN ART**

Jewish and Greco-Roman traditions converge in the making of early Christian art and architecture. We will study the earliest images produced for Christianity in the catacombs, discover how the early Christian church developed as a unique sacred space, and analyze the type of images depicted on the walls of the first churches in Rome. We will become familiar with typology, a way of thinking in the early church that related to Old to New Testament as a form of teaching and making art.

### **SESSION 2 – EUCHARISTIC IMAGERY IN A SIXTH CENTURY CHURCH**

Eucharistic typology is the subject of this lecture that focuses on the sixth century churches of Ravenna, Italy. Mosaics on walls present significant ideas on the Transfiguration of Christ and on Old and New Testament images related to the Eucharistic liturgy.

### **SESSION 3 – ST. BONAVENTURE AND ST. FRANCIS AT ASSISI**

Few realize that St. Bonaventure who wrote the first official biography of St. Francis, is the source for the images painted in the upper church of St. Francis at Assisi. St. Bonaventure's biography is not chronological, but organized around special themes that he wished to relate about Francis. One of these themes was the controversial idea that St. Francis was a second Christ (*alter Christus*). We will review St. Francis' life through St. Bonaventure's biography and through the great murals painted to adorn the 13<sup>th</sup> century church dedicated to the patron saint of Italy.

#### **SESSION 4 – SALVATION TIME IN MICHELANGELO’S SISTINE CHAPEL**

The Sistine Chapel, begun by Pope Sixtus IV in the 15th century and completed by Pope Paul III in the 16th century, is an extraordinary presentation of the unfolding of salvation history. Not only Michelangelo’s paintings of Genesis and the Last Judgment, but also scenes from the life of Christ and Moses, and portraits of the first 30 popes will be studied to reveal that salvation time both begins and ends in the space of this papal chapel, specifically to conform to the dimensions of Solomon’s Temple.

#### **SESSION 5 – THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION-CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER**

The course concludes in the sacred spaces of the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton. Knowledge gleaned from preceding lectures will be applied in order to understand the meanings behind the choice of images, and to assess the extent to which our Cathedral engages and promotes “The Christian Tradition in Art.”

*This course is recommended for those seeking knowledge and appreciation for sacred art in the Christian tradition, and for those who are involved in the teaching of art on any level. Those who are involved in creating the liturgical environment in their parish churches would also benefit from this course.*

**To register: Call 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107. Fee: \$35.00 per person. For five or more participants from any given parish, school or institution, the fee is \$125.00.**

#### **Intermediate Sign Language**

**Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre**

**October 6, 20, 27 and November 3 (Mondays) 6—8 p.m.**

**Sister Mary Beth Makuch, SS.C.M.**

A continuation of **Introduction to Sign Language**, this course will present the language of the Deaf Culture on a higher and broader level of learning.

**To register: Call 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107. Fee: \$30.00**

## **Ministry Component**

#### **MS034 Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training**

The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion serves God’s people, sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with worshipers in the assembly, with those confined to their homes, and with those in hospitals. Those enrolling in the seven-hour training sessions are required to attend each evening listed below. A certificate will be given to each person after the sessions.

**St. Mary of the Mount Church, Mount Pocono**

September 6 and 13 (Saturdays) 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

September 20 (Saturday) 11 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**Rev. Joseph R. Kopacz, V.G.**

**Diocesan Center, Scranton**

September 23, 30, October 7 (Tuesdays) 6:30—9:00 p.m.

**Deacon Gerald Carpenter**

**Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre**

September 18, 25, October 9 (Thursdays) 6:00—8:30 p.m.

**Deacon Robert Roman**

**To register: Call 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107. Fee: \$25.00**

**MS011 Basic Skills** Recommended for those who are new to parish religious education programs, and highly recommended for those already in the program, but who wish to strengthen their skills, this course is based on the model of Jesus as teacher. Some key topics are: Ministry of the Catechist, Methods of Prayer, Overview of *The National Directory for Catechesis* and *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Curriculum/Lesson Planning/Manuals/Texts, Classroom Management, and Integrating the Family in the Religious Education Program.

**Diocesan Center, Scranton**

September 18, 25, October 2, 16, 23 (Thursdays) 6:00—8:30 p.m.

**Robin Lipik and Maureen Scarfo**

**To register: Call 570.207.2213, Ext. 1107. Fee: \$50.00 or 20% discount for 5 or more participants from a parish or school.**

## **Level III Courses**

**101 Introduction to Sacred Scripture**

Holy Cross High School, Dunmore

Sept. 17 – Nov. 19 (Wednesdays) 6:00-9:00 p.m.

**Mrs. Patricia Cuff**

**101 Introduction to Sacred Scripture**

Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre

Sept. 17 – Nov. 19 (Wednesdays) 3:15-6:15 p.m.

**Deacon Robert Roman**

**101 Introduction to Sacred Scripture**

St. John Parish Center, East Stroudsburg

Sept. 10 – Nov. 12 (Wednesdays) 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Rev. John C. Lambert**

**101 Introduction to Sacred Scripture**

Holy Family Academy, Hazleton

Sept. 9 – Nov. 11 (Tuesdays) 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Deacon Robert Roman**

**201 Fundamental Teachings of the Church**

St. John Neumann High School, Williamsport  
Sept. 23 – Nov. 25 (Tuesdays) 3:15-6:15 p.m.  
**Mr. Paul Ward**

**201 Fundamental Teachings of the Church**

St. Agnes School, Towanda  
Sept. 24 – Nov. 26 (Wednesdays) 3:30-6:30 p.m.  
**Mr. Paul Ward**

**301 Sacraments in General**

St. Peter Parish Center, Wellsboro  
Sept. 10 – Nov. 12 (Wednesdays) 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Rev. James P. Dougher**

**301 Sacraments in General**

Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter  
Sept. 18 – Nov. 20 (Thursdays) 3:30-6:30 p.m.  
**Rev. Gregory T. Finn, OSJ**

**301 Sacraments in General**

Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg  
Sept. 9 – Nov. 11 (Tuesdays) 3:15-6:15 p.m.  
**Rev. David W. Bechtel**

**401 Introduction to the Spiritual and Moral Life**

St. Rose of Lima Annex, Carbondale  
Sept. 16 – Nov. 18 (Tuesdays) 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Mr. Brendan Murphy**

**601 Catechetical Methodology**

Good Shepherd Academy, Kingston  
Sept. 9 – Nov. 11 (Tuesdays) 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Mrs. Mary Jane Kozick**

**This course is especially recommended for teachers in parish religious education programs, not only for beginning teachers, but also for those who seek updating on Church documents that pertain to this important parish ministry.**

**Please Note: If class falls on a holyday or holiday, the instructor will advise the class on make-up dates.**

**Level III courses are for Catholic school teachers, catechists, coordinators, or for those seeking personal enrichment.**

**To register: Call 570.2213, Ext. 1107**

**or e-mail [sister-leonita-duhoski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:sister-leonita-duhoski@dioceseofscranton.org)**

**Fee: Credit - \$150.00 Audit - \$60.00**

## Online Courses

Catholic Distance University and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary will offer online courses which will be accepted by the Pastoral Formation Institute. Please check their websites and call the PFI Office for confirmation. Catholic Distance University: [www.cdu.edu](http://www.cdu.edu)

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary:  
[www.scs.edu/religious-studies](http://www.scs.edu/religious-studies)

Please be sure to check dates and fees.  
"For this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the Word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word, but as truly is the Word of God which is now at work in you who believe."  
--Thes 2:13