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The Evangelist

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Office for Parish Life staff participate in meeting and online course

Trenton Meeting

The Office for Parish Life and Evangelization staff joined 15 arch/diocesan staffs at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Catholic Evangelization Designates meeting in Trenton, NJ. The gatherings are hosted by the Office of Evangelization/Parish Development for the Diocese of Trenton. The participants come from New Jersey, New York, and Eastern Pennsylvania.

The meetings are held semi-annually and focus on promoting evangelization as the primary mission of the Church, as presented in *On Evangelization in the Modern World* by Pope Paul VI (1975), and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States* (1992).

After a period of prayer and faith sharing, members address the evangelization efforts in their own localities, and then explore new evangelization programs and resources. Each meeting centers on a particular topic. The topic presented at the spring session was "Reaching Out to Inactive Catholics."

Online Course

During the month of June, Mary Anne Malone, Brendan Murphy and Sister Leonita Duhoski participated in an online course, *Keys to Reaching Inactive Catholics*.

Presented by the Paulist Evangelization Training Institute, the six-week course discussed ways to reach today's inactive, marginal and unchurched Catholics.

The presenters, John and Therese Boucher, explored six

ways for developing a new model of everyday missionary outreach that goes beyond programs and relies on God's presence in each person's journey of faith.

In addition to the online instruction, participants were expected to prepare for each week's presentation through various readings. Two sources included [Remaining Catholic: Six Good Reasons for Staying in an Imperfect Church](#), by Rev. Martin Pable, and [When You Notice the Empty Pews](#), written by the presenters. Other Church documents supplemented the instruction.

It is the aim of the OPL staff to share what they have learned with parishes through various means of communication—visits, presentations, and newsletters.

Two faith formation events planned for July

Bible Study Program Scheduled at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Hall, Wilkes-Barre

A faith formation bible study program, *A Quick Journey through the Bible*, is set for July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25, (Thursdays) at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Hall, Wilkes-Barre. Presenter is Brendan Murphy, director of Adult Faith Formation. Time is 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The eight –part series provides an introduction and overview of the Bible. It covers salvation history through talks that are complemented by group discus-

sion, questions, maps and charts, and information for home study. Fee: \$30, includes \$20 for workbook. Contact: 207.2213, ext. 1107 or e-mail sister-leonita-duhoski@dioceseofscranton.org.

A Biblical Walk through the Mass

This five -part series provides a more in-depth study of the Liturgy. Based on the revised translation of the Mass that goes into effect in Advent 2011, this study explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures experienced during the Mass.. As participants note the biblical roots of the

Mass, they will come to know and understand the Mass more deeply. The words and gestures that are said and seen will be experienced in a new light, leading them to a richer and more fruitful sense of worship and renewed devotion to the Eucharist.

Presenter is Brendan Murphy. Dates are July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8 (Mondays) from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Diocesan Center, Scranton. Fee: \$30, includes the \$20 for workbook/study book. Contact: See above information.

Social Justice issues need Catholic support and action

Legislative Advocacy Drive

Participation in the legislative process of our government is an integral component for ensuring that laws will not deprive anyone of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In their document, *Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*, the U.S. bishops remind us that Jesus calls us to "love one another," and that means action on a broader scale. Faithful citizenship requires ongoing participation in the political/legislative process. The faithful of the Diocese are encouraged to join the Diocesan Advocacy Network. Contact the Office of Social Concerns/Pro-Life and

register your name/e-mail address. You will receive legislative updates, action alerts, and information to assist you in your participation in the legislative process of those in need.

Bishops Issue Policy

The USCCB issued a policy statement on physician-assisted suicide at the Spring General Assembly in Seattle. The statement, *To Live Each Day with Dignity*, speaks of the hardships and fears of patients facing terminal illness and the importance of life-affirming palliative care. It also cites the Church's concern for those tempted to commit suicide, its opposition to

physician-assisted suicide, and the consistency of this stance with the principle of equal and inherent human rights and the ethical principles of the medical profession. It says that physician assisted suicide does not promote "compassion" and that it undermines patients' freedom by putting pressure on them to choose death. It also states that assisted suicide is not an addition to palliative care, but a poor substitute that can be an excuse for denying better medical care to the seriously ill, including those who never considered suicide as an option.



Everyday evangelizing is everyone's mission. By virtue of our Baptism, we are all called to share our faith. It is not a program, but a way of life. It takes place any time, any place, under any circumstance.

Upcoming events scheduled for summer and fall months

Mass of Remembrance

The annual Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death will take place on Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the liturgy in memory of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, or accident. All who grieve the loss of a loved one are invited to this liturgy to remember in prayer and to celebrate the lives of their loved ones. For more information and to register the names of anyone who has died as a result of violent or tragic death, please call 570.207.2213, ext. 1102.

Reflection Day Focuses on Eucharist

Rev. James Price, CP, rector at St. Ann Shrine Basilica, Scranton, will conduct a Reflection Day, *The Eucharist and the Transfiguration: Living in the Glory of God*, on Saturday, August 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Father will explain that the Eucharist is not only a gift and obligation but a means to change and transform us. Just as the disciples came to the mountain with Jesus to behold his glory, we too come together to reflect on the ways the Eucharist can transfigure us and keep us focused on the mission of Jesus. Fee: \$30, includes lunch. To register, call 570.563.8500.

Convocation for Catechists

The Convocation for Catechists will take place Saturday, October 15, beginning with Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera at 9 a.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Wilkes-Barre. Theme for the day is *Vocations: Creating a Culture .Celebrating our Call.* At Holy Redeemer H. S., keynote speaker, The Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, D.D. Bishop of Harrisburg, will address the group. A panel discussion on vocations/workshops are scheduled. Directors of religious education, sacramental coordinators, catechists, RCIA teams and youth ministers are invited as are any adults who seek to deepen their faith.



**"The fruit of evangelization is changed lives and a changed world—holiness and justice, spirituality and peace."
—USCCB Go and Make Disciples**

Technology utilized to spread the work of evangelization

Disciple Podcast Launched

The Office for Parish Life and Evangelization has launched a monthly podcast to educate, encourage, and enrich the faithful of the Diocese. Each episode will follow a set structure. The *Faith in a Flash* segment will explain a fundamental aspect of Catholic belief, practice, or spirituality in 20 minutes or less, using the Sunday readings as a starting point. A second segment will highlight positive ways in which people around the

Diocese are living out their Catholic faith. *Friends in High Places* will profile a saint whose feast falls in that episode's month, and a calendar of events will round out each episode.

A Podcast is an audio file that can be listened to online, downloaded to an mp3 player (e.g. iPod), or burned to a CD. The *Disciple* Podcast will be posted monthly on the Diocesan website. This format will allow

people to listen to each episode in whatever format is easiest for them. Listeners will also be able to subscribe to the podcast through iTunes. The nature of the mp3 format is such that it will be easy to pass each episode on to family, friends, and co-workers. *Disciple* is useful for reaching out to those who are estranged from the Church or who are curious about what Catholics believe, since it would evangelize in a non-threatening way.



Evangelization is holding Jesus in your heart and carrying him to the hearts of others.