



GOOD NEWS NOTES

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

**Introduction to RCIA – (in partnership with Diaconate Formation Program)
Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA**

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This two-part course will walk participants through the actual Rites, the periods of adult initiation, the various ministerial roles and opportunities for total parish renewal included. The workshops are led by a team of six pastoral leaders who have been engaged in Christian Initiation Ministries through RCIA for many years. Great opportunity to establish or build your team



- **August 28-29** (Friday 7:00pm-Saturday 3:00pm) **and**
 - **September 11-12** (Friday 7:00pm-Saturday 3:00pm)
- Registration: \$50 for both weekends, (plus lodging*) 570-207-2213**

Communication Skills Series Continues

(Each Workshop \$30; Registration 570-207-2213)

Within a Group: September 12, 9am-4pm, St. Ignatius Parish, Kingston

Group Dynamics & Personality Types - Dr. LeeAnn Eschbach, Ph.D., LPC, & Dr. Julie Cerrito, University of Scranton, Counseling and Human Services Dept will explore communication within groups as it is enhanced by knowledge of personality styles.

Facilitation Skills - Bernadette Rudolph, Office for Parish Life, will provide practical ways to make group discussion happen smoothly.

Consensus & Collaboration, Appreciative Inquiry, Pastoral Planning Process - Catherine Butel, Office for Parish Life, will explore these key elements of parish group work.

Catechetical Sunday

September 20, 2015
Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person

Commissioning Service



Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will be holding Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training on the following dates:

September 14, 21, 28 (Mondays) from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Our Lady of the Snows Church, 301 South State Street, Clarks Summit

September 15, 22, 29 (Tuesdays) from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes St. Swoyersville.

Please email David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org or call 570-207-2213 to register for one of these sessions. Please note that it is necessary for candidates to attend all three dates at either site. There is no charge for this ministry preparation.



Your parish can host a national convention for parents, grandparents & guardians with national speakers & great music to revive their faith & celebrate their vocation as they help their families grow in faith!

The Catholic Parent Revival (CPR) at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia will be live-streamed to include participants throughout the country.

Please consider being a host site on Sept. 23-24, 7-9:30PM.
(Pre-event concert with John Angotti at 6:40PM both nights.)

All you need is a projector that can connect to the Internet and some [publicity](#).

The Catholic Parent Revival is crisscrossing the country to support, motivate and revive the faith of parents and grandparents through stirring music and song, inspiring messages and stories, and deep and powerful prayer. Invite them to join with national presenters and performers like Steve and Jenni Angrisano, Bob and Maggie McCarty, Michael Theisen and John Angotti, and hundreds of other adults for some CPR and inhale a breath of new life into their vocation as a parent. The Catholic Parent Revival has been created to allow time for parents, grandparents and guardians to talk with one another in small groups and to allow for some extended time to reflect and pray with and for one another. Steve and Jenni Angrisano, serving as emcees, will guide everyone through this process as the event unfolds.

CPR is part of the Strong Catholic Families initiative presented in partnership w/ NFCYM, NACFLM, NCCL & NCEA.

During the event, visit strongcatholicfamilies.org and click on the "CPR Live" button (which is not there right now!)

If you missed [the CPR in San Antonio last December](#), you can purchase a DVD copy for \$60 and use it as a retreat for parents and grandparents.

NEW WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ANNOUNCED

Pope Francis has decided to set up a "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" which will be celebrated on September 1st annually. In his letter of announcement, Francis states: *The annual World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live. The celebration of the Day on the same date as the Orthodox Church will be a valuable opportunity to bear witness to our growing communion with our orthodox brothers. We live in a time where all Christians are faced with identical and important challenges and we must give common replies to these in order to appear more credible and effective. Therefore it is my hope that this Day can involve, in some way, other Churches and ecclesial Communities and be celebrated in union with the initiatives that the World Council of Churches is promoting on this issue.*



Free Youth Sessions on Care for the Earth—from

[Center for Ministry Development](#)

For your home or parish use:

[A Reader's Guide to Laudato Si by Jesuit Father Thomas Reese](#)

FOCCUS Facilitator Training

Saturday, August 22, Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville: A workshop will be held 9:30AM-3:30PM to train for using the FOCCUS premarital inventory with engaged couples. FOCCUS is a great tool for helping couples talk about key issues in married life that both the US Catholic Conference of Bishops and licensed marriage counselors agree are essential. This workshop prepares a person to go over the results when an engaged couple take the survey. Priests, deacons, pastoral associates and married sponsor couples are all welcome to attend. Go to www.foccusinc.com and click on "Training" to register.



A Ministry of the Family Life Office, Archdiocese of Omaha



**FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES: SHERRY WEDDELL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015 - 8am-4pm
ST. MONICA'S PARISH CENTER - WEST WYOMING, PA**

How can we transmit a living, personal Catholic faith to future generations? By coming to know Jesus Christ, and following him as his disciples.

These are times of immense challenge and immense opportunity for the Catholic Church.

Consider these statistics for the United States.

- Only 30 percent of Americans who were raised Catholic are still practicing.
- Fully 10 percent of all adults in America are ex-Catholics.
- The number of marriages celebrated in the Church decreased dramatically, by nearly 60 percent, between 1972 and 2010.
- Only 60 percent of Catholics believe in a personal God.

If the Church is to reverse these trends, the evangelizers must first be evangelized.

In other words, Catholics-in-the-pew must make a conscious choice to know and follow Jesus before they can draw others to him. Sherry Weddell leads participants through steps that will help Catholics enter more deeply into a relationship with God and the river of apostolic creativity, charisms, and vocation that flow from that relationship for the sake of the Church and the world.

Learn about the five thresholds of postmodern conversion, how to open a conversation about faith and belief, how to ask thought-provoking questions and establish an atmosphere of trust, when to tell the Great Story of Jesus, how to help someone respond to God's call to intentional discipleship, and much more.

Be prepared for conversion because when life at the parish level changes, the life of the whole Church will change.

REGISTRATION: www.dioceseofscranton.org

\$25 before September 30th, then \$30

Meeting for Liturgical Ministry Coordinators

The Office for Parish Life will be holding the second part of an important training series for parish coordinators of various liturgical ministries. This series is geared for any pastor, priest, deacon, music director or other lay person who is responsible for the formation and training of new liturgical ministers. A new diocesan resource for training volunteers in various ministries will be presented. This resource will also be a useful tool for offering ongoing formation and spiritual renewal for these ministries. Some of the liturgical ministries covered in this resource are: Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers, Cantors, Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers and Greeters), Ministers of Art & Environment.

Tuesday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m.

at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport
(711 W. Edwin St.)

Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 p.m.

at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Kingston
(339 N. Maple Ave.)

Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m.

at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton
(330 Wyoming Ave.)

Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda
(106 Third St.)

Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.

at St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg
(818 Main St.)

Please contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 to register for one of these sessions.

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive

A Year-long Parish Celebration of Marriage & the Family!

[Click here for complete calendar](#)

September 2015 Opportunities

World Meeting of Families –Philadelphia, Sept. 22-25, 2015



What is this? Held every three years and sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, the World Meeting of Families is the world's largest Catholic gathering of families. Each World Meeting of Families has a theme that energizes and enlivens the event while adding great depth of meaning to our understanding of families. The theme of the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 is "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive," emphasizing the impact of the love and life of families on our society. Visit <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/>

What happens at it? The Congress is a huge gathering to pray for families and marriages and to learn about them from the Catholic Church's perspective. It is international and about 15,000 people are expected to attend from all over the world. There will be liturgies, keynote speakers and break-out sessions throughout the 4 days. Because this is for families, children are welcome: children ages 6-17 are invited to the Youth Congress happening simultaneously with the Adult Congress and childcare is available for children 6 months-12 years.

Can I come for a day? Yes, you can register for the whole conference or for parts of it.

Will Pope Francis be in attendance? No, but his visit to the USA was planned in conjunction with it and he will be in Philadelphia for an open air family celebration and mass the Saturday and Sunday after the World Meeting of Families (Sept 26-27)

Intergenerational Lesson Plan for Ordinary Time on the Works of Mercy

What is this? Catechesis for family members of all ages that focuses on Ordinary Time, adapted from the Diocese of Greensburg, PA

How can I use it with families in my parish? Invite parishioners to come after mass, during an afternoon/evening or in place of parish religious ed. Use the detailed lesson plan, posted on our webpage on [Marriage Support and Enrichment](#).

TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**

Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries:

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**

Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **David Clarke**

Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and

Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**

Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages – **Fr. Andrew Hvozdozic**

Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**

Coordinator for Ministry with the Deaf and

Persons with Disabilities:

Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Consultant, Parish Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty MacLean**

Event Coordinator for Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**

Catholic Campus Ministers: **Courtney Hull, Caitlin Czeh**

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