



MARCH 2015

# OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

GOOD NEWS NOTES

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## Come and See

### *ARISE Together in Christ*

from RENEW International

*ARISE Together in Christ* is a proven small-group approach to bring your parish community together to encounter Christ and deepen faith.

- Fosters a network of small groups that awaken faith and form disciples
- Provides a process for developing parish leaders for the new evangelization
- Supported by training, consultation, and web-based resources



*Scripture-based faith-sharing resources for all ages!*

**Come to one of the following regional information sessions to learn how this process can serve your parish's pastoral goals!**

**Thursday, March 26 – Epiphany Parish, Sayre, 4:30-5:30pm**

**Thursday, March 26 – St. Michael Parish, Canton 7:00-8:30pm**

**Monday, April 27 – St. Joseph Parish, Matamoras, 6:00-8:00pm**

**Wednesday, April 29 – St. Therese, Shavertown**

**For further information contact Greg Kremer at 908-242-0447 or [gregk@renewintl.org](mailto:gregk@renewintl.org)**

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Observed in our Diocese Sunday, April 26th 12:15 Mass at Cathedral

Parish Resources available at [USCCB website](http://USCCB.org)



[www.renewintl.org](http://www.renewintl.org)



## DIOCESAN-WIDE DIALOGUE ON PASTORAL LEADERSHIP



### Regional Mtgs 6:30-8:30pm

**April 14**

St. Maria Goretti, Lafin

**April 30**

St. Luke's Hall, Stroudsburg

**May 4**

Diocesan Pastoral Center,  
Scranton

**May 5**

SS Peter and Paul, Towanda

**May 6**

St. Ignatius, Kingston

**June 16**

Sacred Heart Hall,  
Peckville

**June 17**

St. Joseph Hall, Williamsport

**June 29**

St. John Bosco, Conyngham

In the beginning of March, all priests received a packet from the Office for Parish Life containing:

- DVD with Bishop Bambera's Homily to be shared at all parish Masses on weekend of April 11-12;
- Local Leaders Preparation for the Diocesan Dialogue on Pastoral Leadership, with accompanying article;
- Sample of bulletin insert/handout to be offered to all parishioners along with the homily (these were also delivered in bulk to every parish this week).

Each Pastor is asked to gather parish leaders for study and discussion, and to bring a parish delegation of 5-6 members to one of the meetings listed in column to left. Please note that this is a **revised list of dates/locations** – it is the most accurate list.

To register your parish, call Jennifer at 570-207-2213.

### Communication Skills for Ministry Series – (Each Workshop \$30; Call 570-207-2213)

#### **In Front of a Group: April 25, 9am-4pm**

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre

**Public Speaking/Presentation Skills** - Dr. Maria Poggi-Johnson, University of Scranton, Theology Department will introduce basic public speaking techniques and practice.

**Designing and Leading Prayer** - Sr. Madonna Figuera, SSCM, Pastoral Associate, St. André Bessette Parish, Wilkes-Barre will provide guidelines for planning and leading community prayer experiences.

#### **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.

#### **As a Parish Leader: November 7, 9am-4pm**

St. Barbara Parish, Exeter

**Working with Paid Staff, Ministerial Relationships** - Fr. Mike Quinnan, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville will discuss best practices for establishing and nurturing effective staff relationships in a ministerial context.

**Working with Volunteers** - Marie Caffrey, Director of Volunteers, St. Vincent Parish, Milford, will talk about how to nurture and get the best from parish volunteers.

**Liability & Risk Management** - Kathy Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, Diocese of Scranton will present policies and guidelines for all parish leaders to ensure a safe environment and reduce risk.

## April 2015 Opportunities: Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive

### 1. Family-oriented Mystagogy

**What is this about?** Mystagogy, the final phase in the RCIA process, is a period of reflection on the mysteries of God's grace changing us in the initiation process. While most parishioners don't go through RCIA/RCIC, they all receive sacraments of initiation and spring is filled with them! Gather families to reflect on how they continue to be saved by Jesus and grow spiritually after the ceremonies are done.

**Who is invited?** Anyone who has received any of the three sacraments of initiation and their families

**What does it look like?** Families bring photos from and a gift received for the sacramental event to a parish gathering. In the context of prayer, they share memories of the day and reflect on what was significant for them about the day as well as how it has changed them personally and in their family life. A meal or light refreshments are shared for fellowship.

**How do I do this?** Use these tools:

[Introduction](#)

[Invitation](#)

[Prayer Service](#)

### 2. Helping Families Choose Life, Part 4: Communication Essentials for You and Your Teen

**What is this about?** This is the fourth brief video in a series teaching parenting skills. Produced in collaboration with Catholic Social Services, it presents counselors Andrew Ball and Jollette Lyons who explain how good communication with your teen is the cornerstone to a good relationship. While a teen becomes increasingly independent, he/she needs you to be a safe launching pad. Andy and Jollette show that everyday communication enables you to be that safe base for your teen. They give tips on communicating well and ways to use technology and social media wisely.

**What can I do with this to help parents in my parish?** Some options include:

Get the word out – in the bulletin, parish webpage/Facebook page or newsletter for Youth Group, CCD/Religious Ed or the Catholic school-- that this is available for viewing privately. Viewing links are listed below.

Invite parents of teens (middle school or high school) for an evening/weekend/afternoon of reflection. Show the video and discuss.

Use a prayer/reflective activity from [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org).

Show this to parents while their teens are attending youth group/religious education classes and discuss. Use a prayer/reflective activity from [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org). Include this video as part of a parent meeting for Confirmation preparation.

**Where can I watch it?** *The following links should be **ready by April 7***

[Our Faith, Our Diocese](#) on CTV

[The Office for Parish Life Facebook](#) page & [The Diocese of Scranton Facebook](#) page

[www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) –type the title in the “search” box

### 3. Intergenerational Lesson Plan for Easter

**What is this?** Catechesis for all members of the family that focuses on Lent, 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 the [Family Support and Enrichment](#) page on the OPL website **after April 7, 2015**.

## Meeting for Liturgical Ministry Coordinators

The Office for Parish Life will be holding an important two-part 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 “previewed” and there will be opportunity for comments and suggestions for its development.

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

The first part of this training series for parish liturgical ministry coordinators will take place at the following locations:

**Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville**

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at Holy Child Parish, Mansfield**

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Dushore**

**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at St. Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin**

Please contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 to register for one of these sessions. The second part of this training series will take place the beginning of September.



## TEAM MEMBERS

[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

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: **Tommy McGrady**

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 Hvozdovic**

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

Coordinator for Ministry with the Deaf and

Persons with Disabilities: **Sr. Mary Beth Makuch**

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

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

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

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

Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**

Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin** Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE  
330 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18503  
(570) 207-2213