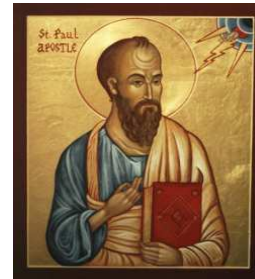


ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER  
 Office of Evangelization & Catechesis  
 1300 S. Steele Street  
 Denver, Colorado 80210  
 Tel. 303.715.3260

OUR MISSION

The Office of Evangelization & Catechesis provides support, training and resources to catechists, evangelists, pastors and directors of religious education in order to help them fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and to teach the Catholic faith confidently in accord with the *Magisterium* under the direction of the Archbishop.



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ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

*Finest Wheat*  
 A newsletter for the New Evangelization

APRIL 2009

**Harvesting the Fruit of Vatican II**  
 -James Cavanagh, Metro Area Director

On the flight to Africa the Pope was asked by an Italian reporter if he felt isolated in his office. The Pope was rather surprised by the question. "To tell the truth," he replied, "I must say I find this myth of my isolation rather amusing. I do not feel alone at all."

The question was prompted by the reaction by many Catholics including not a few bishops to the Pope's remission of the excommunication of four Lefevrite bishops in an attempt to reconcile members of the Society of Pius X. Apparently the reporter thought that the Pope, because of his actions, was completely out of touch with the rest of the Church and that he wanted to "turn the clock back to before the Council."

Part of the reaction - of the reporter and others - was a result of a misunderstanding. Many thought that the Pope wanted to 'turn the clock back' by his efforts to reconcile members of the Society. In his letter to the Bishops, however, he makes it quite clear that the remission of excommunication was to enable individuals to return to full communion with the Church. "There needs to be a distinction," he said, "between the disciplinary level, which deals with individuals as such, and the doctrinal level, at which ministry and institution are involved."

The situation was complicated by the fact that one of the Bishops had made anti-Semitic remarks and expressed skepticism about the Holocaust - causing some to wonder if the Pope was abrogating the teachings of Vatican II and negating 40 years of progress in Jewish-Catholic relations. The Pope expressed deep regret for any misunderstanding, but asserted that there is absolutely no "turning back the clock" on the Council with respect to Jewish relations, or anything else.

One of the things that made the lifting of excommunication possible, the Holy Father explained, was the Society's "recognition in principle of the Pope and his authority as Pastor." But there are still obstacles that need to be overcome before the Society itself can be reconciled to the Church, namely, their acceptance of the doctrinal authority of the Pope and the Council.

"The Church's teaching authority cannot be frozen in the year 1962," the Holy Father stressed, "this must be quite clear to the Society." At the same time, the Pope reminded the rest of us that "Vatican II embraces the entire doctrinal history of the Church. Anyone who wishes to be obedient to the Council has to accept the faith professed over the centuries, and cannot sever the roots from which the tree draws its life."

One of the newest initiatives of our office is a 12-part study called, "Harvesting the Fruit of Vatican II." There is a good deal of misunderstanding about Vatican II among Catholics, most of whom have never actually read any of the Council's sixteen documents. Many Catholics think that the Council represented a decisive break with the past akin to the Protestant Reformation. They interpret the Council according to what Pope Benedict has called a "hermeneutic of discontinuity" - a view held by members of the Society of Pius X, as well as those of a more "progressive" bent.

Many Catholics believe, for example, that the Council abolished Latin

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**Papal Intentions for April**



**General:** That the Lord may bless the farmers with an abundant harvest and sensitize the richer populations to the drama of hunger in the world

**Mission:** That the Christians who work in areas where the conditions of the poor, the weak and the women and children are most tragic, may be signs of hope, thanks to their courageous testimony to the Gospel of solidarity and love.

*Pope Benedict has signaled that his primary focus for 2009 will be the drive to proclaim the Gospel, energetically and unapologetically, throughout the world during the remainder of the Pauline Year, always relying confidently on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide*

**National Catholic Bible Conference 2009**



The National Catholic Bible Conference has been designed to equip all Catholics with the skills needed to read, understand, and proclaim Sacred Scripture. This annual event allows you to spend time with, and learn from, some of the most effective biblical scholars today as they share the keys to unlocking the riches of the Bible.

**June 26 - 27, 2009**

St. Thomas More Parish, Centennial

Please visit <http://catholicbibleconference.com> for more information and to register.

Continued on Page 2...



Continued from page 1

from the Mass. But that's not what the Council taught. While clearly allowing for wider use of the vernacular, especially with respect "to the readings and directives, and to some of the prayers and chants," nevertheless the Council affirmed that "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites" (SC 36). How many American Catholics know that? Respecting the fact that many Catholics do not know the Latin responses, especially in those places where the faith is relatively new, the Council Fathers said, "steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them" (SC 54).

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is one of the sweetest 'fruits' of Vatican II. Twenty years after the close of the Council John Paul II convened a Synod of Bishops to "celebrate the graces and spiritual fruits of Vatican II, to study its teachings in greater depth in order that all the Christian faithful might better adhere to it and to promote knowledge and application of it." Six and a half years later, the Holy Father authorized the publication of the first edition of the *Catechism*, which was issued on the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Council, emphasizing the profound connection between the *Catechism* and Vatican II.

The question that the reporter posed to Pope Benedict on the flight to Africa highlighted a misunderstanding - of the Holy Father, of his work to foster Christian unity by reconciling separated brethren (one of the goals of Vatican II) and of the Council itself. Pope Benedict has stated that the Council and its documents can only be understood within a "hermeneutic of continuity."

The underlying thesis of "Harvesting the Fruit of Vatican II" is that one cannot understand the Church today, or Pope Benedict XVI, without understanding the Second Vatican Council, and one cannot understand the Council without reading the documents. Eventually the series will cover all sixteen documents. The Study Guide (part 1) includes Pope John XXIII's opening address, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*), Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*) and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*).

If your parish would like to start a study group of "Harvesting the Fruit of Vatican II" I would be willing to lead it. The cost of the study guide and accompanying CD is \$60/person. If you would like more information or to schedule a class, please call 303-715-3107. ❖



In the early Church there was a custom whereby the Bishop or the priest, after the homily, would cry out to the faithful: "*Conversi ad Dominum*" - turn now towards the Lord. This meant in the first place that they would turn towards the East, towards the rising sun, the sign of Christ returning whom we go to meet when we celebrate the Eucharist. Where this was not possible, for some reason, they would at least turn towards the image of Christ in the apse, or towards the Cross, so as to orient themselves inwardly towards the Lord. Fundamentally, this involved an interior event; *conversion*, the turning of our soul towards Jesus Christ and thus towards the living God, towards the true light.

Linked with this, then, was the other exclamation that still today, before the Eucharistic Prayer, is addressed to the community of the faithful: "*Sursum corda*" - "lift up your hearts," high above all our misguided concerns, desires, anxieties and thoughtlessness— "Lift up your hearts, your inner selves!" In both exclamations we are summoned, as it were, to a renewal of our Baptism: *Conversi ad Dominum*—we must always turn away from false paths, onto which we stray so often in our thoughts and actions. We must turn ever anew towards him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We must be converted ever anew, turning with our whole life towards the Lord. And ever anew we must withdraw our hearts from the force of gravity, which pulls them down, and inwardly we must raise them high: in truth and love. *At this hour, let us thank the Lord, because through the power of his word and of the holy Sacraments, he points us in the right direction and draws our heart upwards. Let us pray to him in these words: Yes, Lord, make us Easter people, men and women of light, filled with the fire of your love. Amen* ❖

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Praying the Psalms for Life Retreat with Thomas Smith



June 29-July 1  
St. Malo Retreat Center  
To Register call 303.715.3260  
(space is limited)

- Rediscover and Reignite your love for the Psalms
- Learn the ancient Hebrew images that will unlock these powerhouses of prayer
- Discover the meaning of meditation and the centrality of Christ in the Psalms
- Connect the Psalter with the ancient forms of prayer and renew your praying of the Office
- Master the methods for teaching the Psalms to your parish, community, or class

**IF YOU REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 15, YOU'LL SAVE MONEY!**  
(\$95 FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY; \$125 FOR SINGLE)



**CATHOLIC PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
FRIDAY, MAY 1  
7AM—BONFILS HALL, JP II CENTER  
FEATURING SEAN DALTON  
OF FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students)  
RSVP: 303.715.3260

### EVANGELIZATION SYMPOSIUM "OUR HEARTS WERE BURNING!"

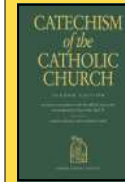


Rescheduled for Saturday, May 30  
Featuring Fr. Andreas Hock, S.S.D.  
8:30 am—3:00pm  
Bonfils Hall, JP II Center  
To register please call 303.715.3260; cost is \$30,  
which includes lunch and all materials.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER  
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

## SPRING CLASSES



### INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

Two sections to choose from starting April 20

Sec. 1—Mon. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. OR  
Sec. 2—Thur. 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

John Paul II Center-1300 S Steele St.

Instructor: James Cavanagh, Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

\$60 (incl. Catechism) \$40 (w/own Catechism)

### THEOLOGY OF THE CATHOLIC GOSPEL

Two sections to choose from starting April 21

Sec. 1— Tues. 7:00—9:00 p.m. @ Our Lady of Fatima OR  
Sec. 2—Wed. 7:00—9:00 p.m. @ John Paul II center

Instructor: Aimee Milburn Cooper

\$40

To register call 303-715-3260



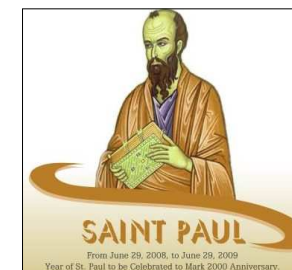
Catholic Biblical School  
Presents  
**Divine Mercy and  
Hope**

with Msgr. Stuart Swetland  
*Divine Mercy Saturday,*  
**April 18**  
*St. Joan of Arc, Arvada*

For more information please call 303-715-3195

### St. Paul Lecture Series

May 5; 7PM  
Bonfils Hall,  
JP II Center



### "Imitate me as I imitate Christ"

Exemplification and imitation: leading the life of virtue according to the thought of St. Paul. Please contact the Office of Liturgy for more information 303-715-3221