

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 teach the Catholic faith in complete fidelity to the *Magisterium* under the direction of the Archbishop.

#### Comes from page 2

In the parable of the prodigal son, from which I quoted at the beginning of this article, the climax of the story comes when the father runs to meet his wayward son and embraces him

“while he was still a long way off.” You probably know someone who’s been away from the Church and is still “a long way off” spiritually. No matter. The fact that they’ve decided to ‘come home’ is cause for great joy.



The Return of the Prodigal Son, Rembrandt

### DRE meeting - Confirmation guidelines

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bonfils Hall - John Paul II Center  
(1300 S. Steele St., Denver)

Please RSVP at 303-715-3260 or at  
[ursula.jimenez@archden.org](mailto:ursula.jimenez@archden.org)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR “SMALL GROUP MINISTRY”

Chris Ruff will talk about developing small  
group ministry

Thursday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
9:30 – 12:00 - JPII Center

Sponsored by Youth and Young Adult Office  
and Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

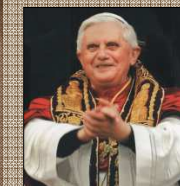
# Finest Wheat

A newsletter for the New Evangelization  
December 2011

## Inside:

- Catholics Come Home
- Living the Catholic Faith  
Conference - Save the Date

### Pope Benedict's prayer intentions for December 2011



**General intention:** “That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect.”

**Missionary intention:** “That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that they may be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.”

*We encourage you to include these intentions  
in the prayers of the faithful.*

## Catholics Come Home

James Cavanagh, Metro Area Director



"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." – Luke 15:20

Evangelization isn't just one task among many, it is the very reason the Church exists. Everything we do – building projects, religious education, sacramental preparation, finance and stewardship, music and liturgy, *everything* – is geared toward the proclamation of the kingdom of God and the redemption of all people.

This was the clear message of Vatican II, a message embraced by Pope Paul VI and taken up by his successors. "The task of evangelizing all people," he said, "constitutes the essential mission of the Church. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the church, her deepest identity." (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 14).

An unprecedented opportunity for evangelization is coming soon to Denver. From December 17 through January 9 **Catholics Come Home** will launch a nation-wide television ad campaign aimed at those who have been away from the Church as well as those might be interested in joining the Catholic Church.

Parish participation is vital if this effort is to be fruitful. All of us have a part to play: clergy, staff and parishioners. Vatican II taught that the laity has a special role in the life and mission of the Church; a role no one else can play. Baptized in Christ and nourished by his body and blood, the laity are sent forth to share the Gospel with others. "All Christians," the Council taught, have "the preeminent responsibility of working to make the divine message of salvation known and accepted by all men throughout the world." (Decree on the Laity, 3)

Many Catholics, perhaps you're one of them, aren't inclined to evangelize and even if they were, don't feel equipped. Most Catholics don't see themselves knocking on doors or preaching on street corners. Few of us are called to that kind of evangelization, but all of us are called, in the words of one of the new dismissals to 'glorify the Lord by your life.'

The beauty of **Catholics Come Home** is that you don't have to be an expert in all things Catholic. You don't even have to

be particularly outgoing. All you have to do is familiarize yourself with their apostolate by visiting their web site and invite others to Mass when the opportunity presents itself. Most importantly, it's imperative that all our parishes are prepared to welcome those who come as a result of the ads. But how, you may ask, will I know who's visiting as a result of the ad campaign and who is simply a parishioner I don't know? The answer is simple. Be friendly to everyone. Oh, one more thing. Please urge people not to leave before the dismissal. It's rude.

Our response to those who 'come home' is crucial. Think about it. Imagine that you've been away from the Church for twenty five years. You see an ad on T.V. and your conscience stirs and you think, "Maybe I should go to Mass." After a couple of weeks you work up the courage to go to church only to find parishioners who aren't very friendly and don't really care about the monumental step that you've just taken. How would you feel? This is a unique opportunity. We should do everything we can to make the most of it.

What you can do? Here are some ideas:

1. Acquaint yourself with Catholics Come Home by visiting their web site at: [www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org),
2. Tell others about this ad campaign and direct them to the web site,
3. Invite those you know who haven't been to church in awhile to go to Mass with you,
4. Be ready to respond to those who might visit your church as a result of this campaign,
5. Be hospitable and welcome those who have decided to 'come home,'
6. Ask your pastor to host an inquirer's class for returning Catholics and newcomers,
7. Celebrate the return of your brothers and sisters with a feast.

At the end of Mass we are dismissed and told to go and put into practice that which we have just received. "The love that we celebrate in the sacrament," Pope Benedict XVI said, "is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with all." In the Eucharist "The love of God has been poured into our hearts" (Rom. 5:5) and so we are sent forth into the world to share that love with others.

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# Living the Catholic Faith Conference

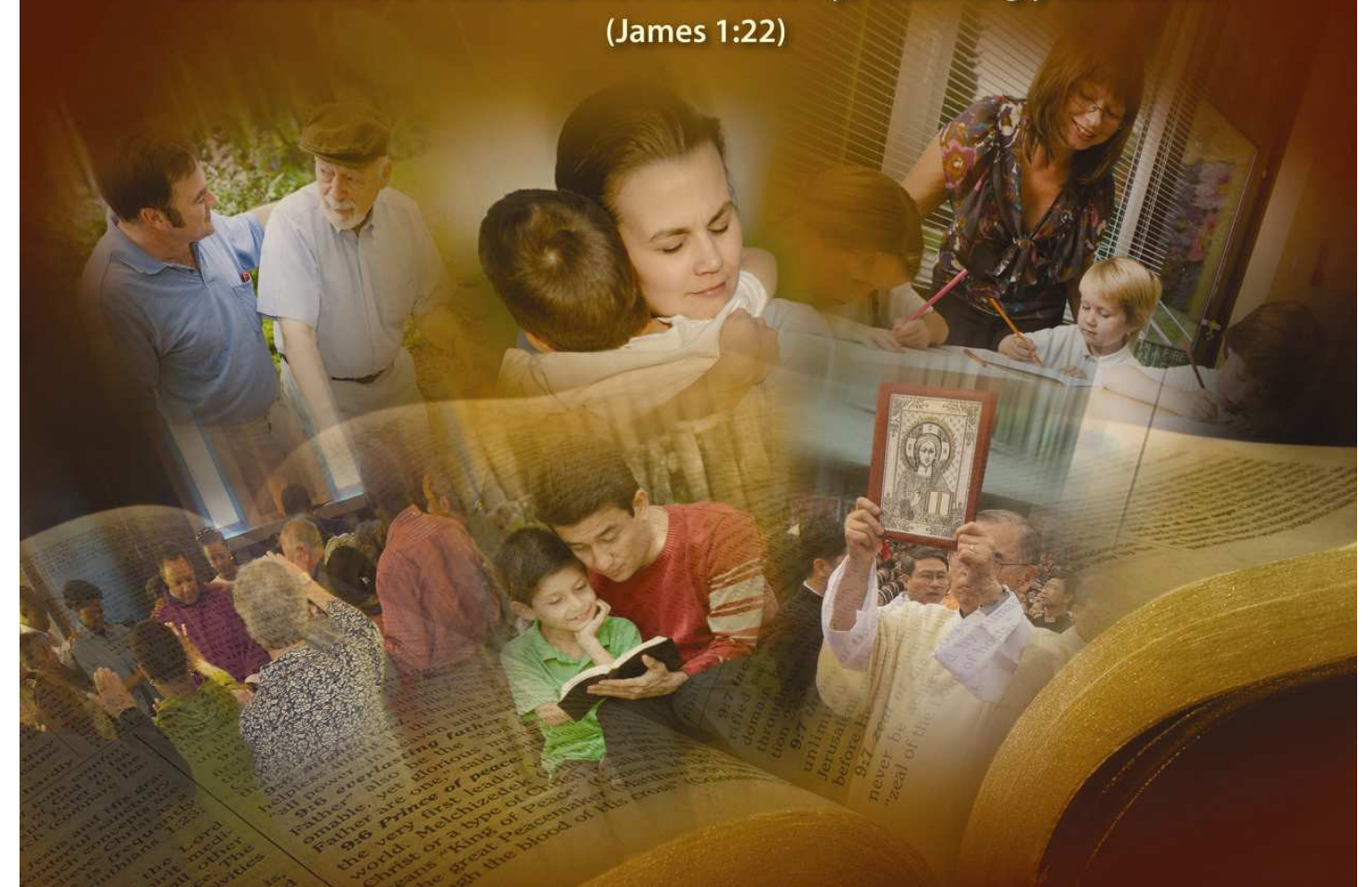
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 2-3, 2012

Colorado Convention Center • 700 14th Street • Denver CO 80202

## Be doers of the word

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

(James 1:22)



**ANTONIN SCALIA**  
Associate Justice  
of the United States  
Supreme Court



**BROTHER GUY  
CONSOLMAGNO, S.J.**  
Planetary Scientist and Curator of  
Meteorites at the Vatican Observatory

**NEW THIS YEAR**  
Youth Track  
with Jason Evert,  
ages 13-18



**CHRIS STEFANICK**  
Director of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministry,  
Archdiocese of Denver



**JOHN ALLEN JR.**  
International  
Vatican News  
Correspondent