

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.

### RCIA workshop: The Rite of Election and the period of Purification and Enlightenment

Saturday, January 28th - 8:30 to 12:00  
John Paul II center (1300 S. Steele St., Denver)  
Cost: \$15

With the Rite of Election, the catechumens (and candidates) enter into "a period of more intense spiritual preparation consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction." Learn more about the Rite of Election and the third period of RCIA. This training day will help you help your catechumens, and your parish, get the most out of Lent. Learn how to prepare your catechumens for the Rite of Election, how to celebrate the Scrutinies well, what to teach during this period and how best to involve the parish community.

**Presenters:** Jere Allen, Loretta Flom, and James Cavanagh.

To register e-mail [evangelization@archden.org](mailto:evangelization@archden.org)  
Or call 303-715-3260

### DRE MEETING

#### "Developing small group Ministries"

Special guest: Chris Ruff  
Thursday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
9:30 – 12:00  
JP II Center - Bonfils Hall

**Chris Ruff, S.T.L.** has been the director of the Office of Ministries and Social Concern for the Diocese of La Crosse since 2001. He assists the bishop in matters of social justice and charitable outreach. He also directs formation programs for Catholic laity and is the associate director of deacon formation. Chris will talk about how small, faith-sharing groups bear fruit in community service and charity.

Go to <http://catholicroundtable.org/blog/tag/small-groups/> to learn more.

This meeting is co-sponsored by office of youth and young adult ministries.

**Lunch will be provided, please RSVP if you plan to attend!**

# Finest Wheat

*A newsletter for the New Evangelization*  
January 2012

### *Inside:*

- Fearlessly facing 2012
- RCIA workshop: The Third Period
- Living the Catholic Faith Conference - Save the Date

### Pope Benedict's prayer intentions for January 2012

**General intention:** "That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives."



**Missionary intention:** "That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will."

*We encourage you to include these intentions*

## Fearlessly facing 2012

-James Cavanagh, Metro Area Director



Last March a doomsday film called "2012" was released. Advertised as "the best disaster movie ever!" the movie was based on the idea that the world will end on the winter solstice of 2012, according to the Mayan calendar. National Geographic did a story back in November, 2009 debunking the whole idea. Apocalyptic predictions about the end of the world come and go and I'm

confident that December 21, 2012 will not be any different. Besides, ever since the advent of Christ and the founding of the Church we've been living in the "end times" for 2000 years. Christians always live with the expectation that it could all end tomorrow. Or this afternoon.

While most sensible people are rightly skeptical about end-of-the-world predictions, the combination of ordinary gullibility and pessimism about the future makes such predictions about 2012 plausible for many people. But you don't have to believe in dire predictions about the future based on an ancient Mayan calendar to be at least a little uneasy about the coming year. There's enough to worry about in the real world without complicating things with ominous Mesoamerican myths.

It is therefore all the more striking that the Holy Father would have us look forward to the end of the year with two important and related initiatives: A synod on the New Evangelization in October followed by a "Year of Faith".

It would seem that the time has come to evangelize the world in earnest. For the last 50 years, since Vatican II, the Church has been preparing, as it were, for this moment. At the beginning of his pontificate Pope Benedict XVI reiterated what his predecessor had said on numerous occasions: "I have before my eyes," the newly elected Pontiff said, "the testimony of Pope John Paul II. He leaves a Church that is more courageous, freer, and more youthful. She is a Church which, in accordance with his teaching and example, looks serenely at the past and is not afraid of the future."

Surveying the recent past, one can see the hand of God guiding the Church toward a new season of evangelization. First, there was the Synod on the Eucharist, followed by the Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*. Next was the Synod on the word of God, followed by *Verbum Domini*. And now there has begun a renewal of the Mass with the introduction of the new translation of the Roman missal. This last development might be the most important of all because most Catholics are probably unaware of those two synods and the apostolic exhortations that came from

them. But virtually every Catholic, at least those who attend Mass regularly, know about the changes in the liturgy. And it's the renewal of the Mass that will probably have the biggest effect on evangelization.

I know some people disagree with me, but I've always been a firm believer that the Mass is the pre-eminent place where evangelization takes place. For if Christ is truly present, 'body, blood, soul and divinity' in the Eucharist, as we profess, it follows that the Mass is the best place to introduce people to Jesus. That of course doesn't exclude other aspects of evangelization like personal testimony, RCIA and other initiatives like "Catholics Come Home", Steubenville of the Rockies and Living the Catholic Faith Conference. But it does highlight the importance of the liturgy and sets the Catholic Church apart from all other churches in terms of how we evangelize. Beautiful liturgy is vitally important, not just from an aesthetic point of view; it's essential to evangelization: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Rom. 10:15; Is. 52:7) When the Mass is conducted with reverence and beauty with the 'full, conscious and active participation' of the people, it is a powerful witness to Christ.

In his apostolic letter announcing the Year of Faith, *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict highlighted four things for us to think about: Vatican II (50th anniversary of the opening of the Council); the Catechism (30th anniversary of its publication); Church history; and the witness of charity. The Council, he said, it is "a sure compass by which to take our bearing in the century now beginning." The Holy Father also urges us to make "a concerted effort to rediscover and study the fundamental content of the faith" by studying anew the Catechism of the Catholic Church which is one of the most important fruits of the Second Vatican Council. The Catechism, he said, is an essential tool "providing real support for the faith, especially for those concerned with the formation of Christ, so crucial in our cultural context."

The Pope also talked about the importance of "retracing the history of our faith" especially as it's revealed in the lives of the saints. Finally, he urges us to "intensify the witness of charity" for faith without charity bears no fruit "while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt." Faith commits every one of us, he said, to become "credible witnesses" and "a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world" – something the world is in particular need of today.

And so despite all the uncertainties about the future and the potential dangers that lie ahead, Pope Benedict is calling us to face the future with hope and joy by preparing for a Year of Faith and a new season of evangelization.

# Living the Catholic Faith Conference

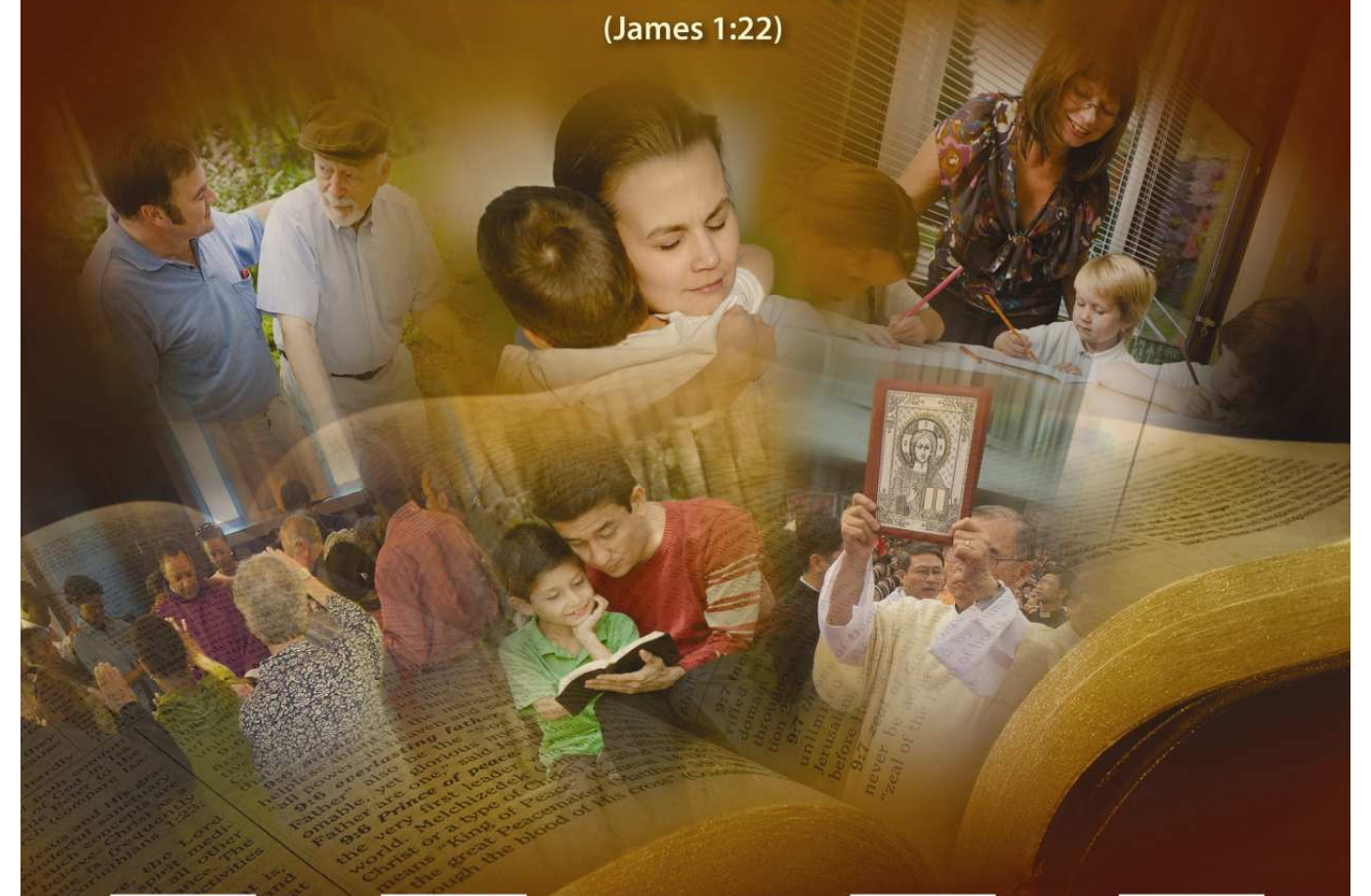
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 2-3, 2012

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