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A newsletter for the New Evangelization
September

Evangelization & Catechesis provides support, training and resources to catechists, evangelists, pastors and directors of religious education
mission (Matthew 28:18-20) and teach the Catholic faith in complete fidelity to the *Magisterium* under the direction of the Archbishop.

Inside:

- History of Confirmation -
- Catechetical Congress a gress
- Great formation opportunity the fall

BASIC APOLOGETICS

joins us to "always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Pt. 3:15). Learn how to
reasoned and informed answers to some of the most common questions about Catholicism.

Eight weekly classes, starting September 13th, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
John Paul II Center - Room 123 - Registration fee: \$25 + books.

Instructor: James Cavanagh, M.Div. Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

REGISTER TODAY!

For more information see the attached flyer.

A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

oughly Catholic Bible study is not your typical
ly. By focusing on just 14 narrative books of
e in only eight classes you will discover the
entire story of salvation history.

Eight classes - Starts Monday, Sept. 12
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Heart of Jesus (14th & Mapleton, Boulder)
(includes workbook, timeline chart & more)

REGISTER TODAY

MAKING MUSIC PRAY TWICE!

How to enliven your Catechesis pr
**Workshops: Language, Music and Faith
of Children; Music and Movement Tec**

Saturday, September 24th - 9:00 am - 3
John Paul II Center - Bonfills Ha
(1300 S. Steele St. Denver)

Pope Benedict's prayer intentions for September 2011



General intention: "That all teachers
know how to communicate love of the
instill authentic moral and spiritual val

Missionary intention: "That the Chri
communities of Asia may proclaim the
with fervor, witnessing to its beauty w
of faith."

The age of Confirmation wasn't a subject for discussion until recent times. Whenever age was discussed it was only in connection with first Confession and Holy Communion. In the Latin Church, children were not permitted to receive Holy Communion until they had reached the age of reason and had some devotion to the Eucharist. In 1215 the Fourth Lateran Council decreed that sacramental Confession and Holy Communion were obligatory for the faithful after they had reached the age of reason. There's no mention of Confirmation's place before first Holy Communion is shown by St. Thomas Aquinas' Catechism and Summa Theologica.

Development in the sacrament of Confirmation in the 20th century. Protestants rejected five of the seven sacraments. They only acknowledged Baptism and Holy Communion as true sacraments because, they believed, only ones instituted by Christ. In response to the rejection of a millennium of Church doctrine in the 16th century (1545-1563) reaffirmed the Church's long-standing practice by formally defining the seven sacra-

Confirmation as a sacrament, the Protestant Reformers had substituted a public profession of faith as a condition for being admitted to Communion. This took place at the age of reason. While this practice had the advantage of restoring a catechetical element that had been neglected with infant baptism, it placed undue emphasis on the individual rather than on the community. All this had an effect on the Church which had to meet the Protestant challenge with its own catechetical

emphasis on catechesis was one of the many changes after the Reformation. The first Roman Catechism was promulgated after the Council of Trent to arm the faithful with the doctrine in order to refute Protestant heresy. Holy Communion and Confirmation were reserved for those whose person was more mature and a more thorough preparation could be completed. Holy Eucharist eventually came to be seen as "a reward rather than a remedy for sin." The Decree of the Sacred Congregation of the

With the delay of Confirmation and first Communion, devotion to the Eucharist weakened. At the beginning of the 20th century Pope St. Pius X (1903-1914) sought to restore greater piety and reverence for the Eucharist by lowering the age at which children could be admitted to Holy Communion. In 1932 permission was given by the Sacred Congregation for Discipline of the Sacraments to modify the traditional order of the sacraments, allowing Confirmation to be administered after first Holy Communion so that the catechetical requirements associated with Confirmation could continue – a change which, as we know, eventually became the norm.

Confirmation had long been separated from Baptism owing to the phenomenal growth of the Church beginning in the early fourth century. But it's only been in the last hundred years that Confirmation has become sepa-

More than 500 people attended this year's Catechetical Congress. It was held at the Renaissance hotel on Quebec St. in Denver. The congress was based on the theme for Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 18): "Do this in memory of me." One of the main purposes of Catechetical Sunday is to highlight the new translation of the missal, which will be implemented November 27. With the emphasis on liturgy this year, Catechetical Sunday encourages us to be especially attentive to the connection between liturgy and catechesis.

Our Sunday Visitor ran an article recently where it was reported that 77% of Catholics are unaware that changes to the Mass are coming. The results were based on a random sampling of Catholics, regardless of Mass attendance. Not surprisingly those who attend Mass only a few times a year, so-called "C & E" Catholics, were the most unaware. But only 57% of those who attend Mass at least once a week said they knew that changes were coming.

That means that 43% of regular church-goers, in ten, are totally unaware of the upcoming changes to the Mass. Obviously we have our work cut out for us. The USCCB's office of catechesis says "Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the Gospel and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to the Gospel mission as a community of faith."

In order to highlight the vital role that catechesis plays in the life of the Church, pastors are encouraged to preach on Catechists on Sept. 18 and commission them for their ministry. Resources for Catechetical Sunday, including a prayer commissioning service, can be found at www.usccb.org. If for any reason you're not able to access the site or download the service, we will send you a copy. Call us at 303-733-8000.



DRE meeting - Confirmation guidelines

Thursday, September
15th

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Pictures of the Catechetical Congress
2011 "Do This in Memory of Me"