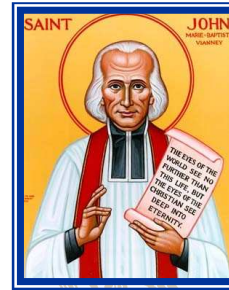


ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER
 Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
 1300 S. Steele Street
 Denver, Colorado 80210
 Tel. 303.715.3260

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

POPE ENCOURAGES USE OF NEW MEDIA FOR EVANGELIZATION

-reprinted from CNA.com

October 2009



From Catholic News Agency

Pope Benedict XVI plans to focus his message for the next World Day of Social Communications on the new media and how they can serve the spread of the Gospel. **The papal message encourages priests especially to make use of the new means of communicating.**

The full title of the Pope's theme for the January 24, 2010 celebration is, "The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word." The day is observed every year on the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron of journalism.

A statement published on Tuesday by the Vatican said that the goal of the Pope's message is "to invite priests in particular, during this Year for Priests and in the wake of the Twelfth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to consider the new communications media as a possible resource for their ministry at the service of the Word. Likewise, it aims to encourage them to face the challenges arising from the new digital culture."

The Holy Father will also use his message to touch on how the "new communications media, if adequately understood and exploited, can offer priests and all pastoral care workers a wealth of data which was difficult to access before, and facilitate forms of collaboration and increased communion that were previously unthinkable," the Vatican says.

The Vatican statement goes on to point out that if the new media are used wisely, enlisting the help of experts in technology and the communications culture, they "can become—for priests and all pastoral care workers—a valid and effective instrument for authentic and profound evangelization and communion." ❖

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Papal Intentions for October



General: That Sunday may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist

Mission: That the entire People of God, to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity.

Pope Benedict has signaled that his primary focus for 2009 will be the drive to proclaim the Gospel, energetically and unapologetically, always relying confidently on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide the Church

Catholic Author, Blogger and Evangelist

MARK SHEA
 101 Reasons NOT to be Catholic



November 5 at 7 pm
 Bonfils Hall
 This event is free and open to the public.

NEW DATE!!!!

DRE Appreciation Luncheon
 Featuring guest speaker,

Thomas Smith

October 22, 2009

Bonfils Hall, JP II Center

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

To thank you for your service to the Archdiocese of Denver!

To RSVP, please call 303.715.3260 or Email tess.stone@archden.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

“The Cure d’Ars and the Catholic Priesthood”

A consideration of Saint John Vianney’s amazing story!

An inspiration for both priests and parishioners of today

by renowned author and homilist
Father George Rutler

Wednesday, Oct. 21
7 p.m.

Bonfils Hall ♦ John Paul II Center
1300 S. Steele St. ♦ Denver 80210

I HAVE CHOSEN YOU

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you...”
(John 15:16)

Living the Catholic Faith Conference

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26-27, 2010
Colorado Convention Center • Karbel Ballroom • Denver, Colorado

Registration now available
Please visit

www.archden.org/lcfc2010

Gospel of Life Conference

“Strengthening the family:
Hope for the future”

OCT. 24 at Christ the King Parish
8am

Featuring:

Helen Alvare
Jonathan Reyes
Fr. Jorge Rodriguez

Call 303-715-3205

For more information and to register

What is “The Authentic Gospel Message?”

-James Cavanagh, Metro Area Director



One of the newest initiatives of our office is an eight-week class on evangelization. My thanks goes to Aimee Milburn Cooper, a graduate of the Augustine Institute who developed the class. “Authentic Gospel Message” is a solid catechesis on evangelization that draws from Scripture, the

Church Fathers, Vatican II, the Catechism, the Magisterium, saints and doctors.

Many Catholics want to evangelize but don’t know how. This class explains the “Authentic Gospel Message” in the fullness of the Catholic faith so that Catholics can understand what it is and how it differs from, and is so much richer than, the message preached by evangelical Protestants.

So what, you might ask, is so distinctive about the Catholic Gospel message? The main thing is that it’s rooted in a *sacramental* understanding of reality. It explains how the God who became flesh uses matter to fill us with his life, transform us and through us, the whole creation, which is journeying toward perfection. In a Catholic understanding of the Gospel we are not only meant to ‘know’ God emotionally or intellectually, but we are meant to be drawn up into the very life of the Most Holy Trinity – the inner life of God himself. This happens as we are incorporated into Christ’s body, the Church, through the sacraments. The “Authentic Gospel Message” focuses on the following seven key points:

Life has a purpose.

There are many people today who doubt that life has any real purpose other than to enjoy things, avoid pain and secure one’s future. The dominant world view is that of secularism, which means that the physical world is all there is. It is a world without God in any meaningful sense. There is no heaven above us; nor hell below us. When your life is over, it’s over. **But as Catholics we believe that life has meaning and a purpose that goes beyond this world. We believe that each person exists for a reason; that life has a purpose; that it’s going somewhere.** We believe that the human soul is immortal and that we are made by God and are meant to live with Him forever. Not only that, but we believe that we are also meant to experience God *now*, to receive Him and to have Him living in us *now*; and not as a merely subjective experience, but as on *objective reality*. We believe that this happens in the fullest and most direct way possible in the Catholic Church through the *Eucharist*. The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Catholic faith and the most important thing we do as

Catholics because we believe that in it we literally receive God into ourselves.

God is love.

We believe that there is only *one God* who is eternal and infinite. God’s chief characteristics are that He is *absolute* goodness, truth and beauty. But God’s most important attribute is that He is *love*. (1 John 4:8). That is the reason why everything exists. God created the universe, the bountiful earth with all her creatures and, most of all, human beings because of who He is, namely, *love*. **Love is not static; it doesn’t just ‘sit there.’ Love is active, dynamic and creative.** Because God’s very nature is love, He too is active, dynamic and creative, constantly pouring himself out in love. That is why we believe that God is a *Trinity of Persons*, while remaining *one* in being. God the *Father* pours Himself out wholly in love continually, forever, without beginning or end. The ‘object’ of His love is the *Son*, who receives the Father’s love and returns it by pouring himself out continually, forever, without beginning or end. This eternal exchange of love is the *Holy Spirit* and the ‘fruit’ of this exchange is *creation*.

Creation is good.

Creation makes the infinite, invisible, incomprehensible, transcendent God present so that we can have a *relationship* with Him. Creation is *not* God, but it points to Him and reveals Him. **The purpose of creation is to make God visible and receivable.** As the Bible says, “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork!” (Psalm 19:1). The Church Fathers called creation the first *sacrament* because through it God uses *matter* as the means by which He conveys His love.

Man: made in the image and likeness of God

Man is the climax of creation, her crown and glory. Man is unique. Made in ‘the image and likeness of God, man is the only creature who is *both* matter and spirit. Like other animals he is *physical*, composed of matter. But like the angels he is also a *spiritual* being. Man is made in the image and likeness God. **Like God we can think and reason, will and choose. Above all, like God, we can love.** But there can be no real love without *freedom*. Man is the place where God and creation meet. We are meant to be *filled with God* and to participate in His work of creation. We are meant to make God visible and present in the world. But, more often than not, we don’t. Why?

The Fall

Sometime in the far distant past our first parents refused God’s love, represented by “the tree of life” and chose something else instead: “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Gen. 2:9). They were deceived and chose to listen to the ‘evil one’ rather than God. The consequences of rejecting God spread like a disease

“infecting” the whole human race and the life of God in us died. We were broken and incapable of ‘fixing’ ourselves. It was as if we had fallen into a deep pit with no possibility of escape. We were trapped in darkness and sin. **The evidence of this brokenness is all around us: violence; divorce, abortion; corruption; immorality; pollution; depression; disease and the list goes on and on.** But the Fall is only temporary. Creation is ongoing. God is not finished with it yet. The Fall was just the beginning of something more glorious and magnificent than even we could imagine what “no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, nor mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Cor. 2:9)

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity. We believe that He is *fully* God and *fully* human. Through Christ, the Creator entered His creation by entering man. Everything Christ said and did revealed God. But not only that, since he was fully human, he also revealed to us what we were meant to be. **The most important thing Christ did was to bring the life of God into the world in order to save the world and bring the whole of creation to its final end and perfection.** In his death, Christ destroyed everything that was broken in human existence, including death itself. By rising from the grave, he made the whole creation new and restored human dignity. Christ poured out his entire being, the very life of God, on the cross. (John 19:34). And this outpouring of the life and love of God is still going on *through the Church*, for as Christ said, “I will be with you always until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

The Church

The life of God, which is continually being poured out, flows from Christ’s *body*, which is the *Church* (Colossians 1:18). **Through the sacraments of the Church we receive the very life of God.** The first sacrament is baptism. Through it we are ‘buried’ with Christ in His death; by it we are raised up with him in His resurrection. Original sin is washed away so that the new life of God can take root and grow. In the Eucharist, Christ himself enters into us and gradually changes us so that we become more and more like him. All the other sacraments likewise transmit the life of God so that through us God perfects creation until that day when Christ will be ‘all in all.’ (Ephesians 1:23) ❖