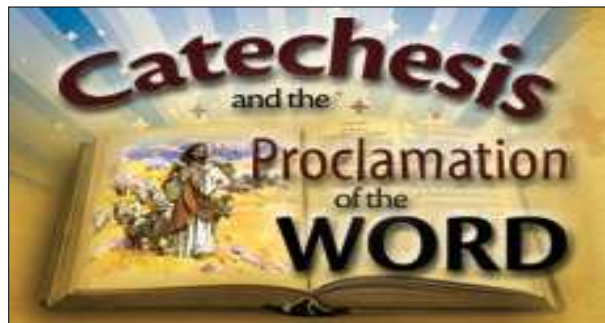


ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER  
 Office of Evangelization & Catechesis  
 1300 S. Steele Street  
 Denver, Colorado 80210  
 Tel. 303.715.3260

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.



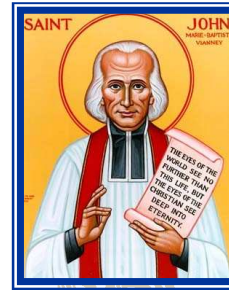
Catechetical Sunday  
 September 20

For more resources visit:  
<http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday/>

**Workshop: New Roman Missal**  
 JP II Center, 1300 S Steele Street  
 This workshop will run Friday and  
 Saturday, Sept 11-12

This workshop is intended for priests, deacons, pastoral musicians, and liturgists. Father Jan Michael Joncas, S.L.D will presenting talks on the New Roman Missal, the Spiritual Formation of Music Ministers, the impact of Music in the Liturgy, and much more.

For more information, call 303.715.3156  
 Pre-registration is required for this event,  
 spaces are limited.



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ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

*Finest Wheat*  
 A newsletter for the New Evangelization

**Adult formation: the principal form of catechesis**  
 -James Cavanagh, Metro Area Director

September 2009

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Indifference is perhaps one of the biggest obstacles to adult formation and one of the biggest sources of frustration for catechists. It's difficult to instill the faith in children if mom and dad aren't very interested in their own faith. It's also difficult to be motivated if parents are indifferent, uninterested or unsupportive, especially for volunteers which so many of our catechists are. Many adults, unfortunately, don't think that catechesis is important for them, or they don't have the time, and so do not avail themselves of the many opportunities to learn more about their faith. Other commitments and priorities take precedence.

Sometimes all it takes is one inspiring talk or one good book to spark interest in learning. Usually though it's a major change in life – marriage; a new baby; job change; serious illness, death or divorce that can trigger a conversion and arouse interest in religious matters.

One reason adults don't make more of an effort to learn about the faith is because they don't think it's necessary. They had six or eight years of religious ed when they were kids and that, they think, was enough. Don't get me wrong. Generally speaking these people are good, faith-filled Catholics. They attend Mass regularly and are generous in their support of the Church but being knowledgeable and articulate about Church teachings just isn't high on their list of priorities.

An important point that often goes unmentioned, however, is that we have a duty – yes, a *duty* - to learn the faith, first for the sake of our children, second for the sake of the Church and, third, for the sake of those who don't believe. We owe it to others to learn as much as we can about our Catholic faith. One of the spiritual works of mercy, remember, is to "instruct the ignorant;" and we can't very well do that if we don't know our faith. Learning the faith, in other words, is an act of *charity*; we do it for the sake of love.

John Paul II was quite emphatic in stressing the priority of adult formation:

"I cannot fail to emphasize now one of the

Papal Intentions for September



**General:** That the word of God may be better known, welcomed and lived as the source of freedom and joy.

**Mission:** That Christians in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, who often meet with great difficulties, may not be discouraged from announcing the Gospel to their brothers and sisters, trusting in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

*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*

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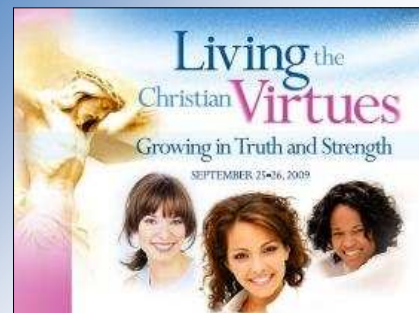
most constant concerns of the synod fathers, a concern imposed with vigor and urgency by present experiences throughout the world: I am referring to the central problem of the catechesis of adults. This is the principal form of catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form. **The Christian community cannot carry out a permanent catechesis without the direct and skilled participation of adults, whether as receivers or as promoters of catechetical activity.** The world, in which the young are called to live and to give witness to the faith which catechesis seeks to deepen and strengthen, is governed by adults. The faith of these adults too should continually be enlightened, stimulated and renewed, so that it may pervade the temporal realities in their charge. Thus, for catechesis to be effective, it must be permanent, and it would be quite useless if it stopped short at the threshold of maturity, since catechesis, admittedly under another form, proves no less necessary for adults." - John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae* [43]

Vatican II taught that "since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring." And John Paul II said, "Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it." (*Familiaris consortio*).

Granted, all this talk about "duty" and "obligation" doesn't go very far with most adults in today's world. But somehow we need to convey to adults in general and parents in particular that they do have an obligation to learn the faith. Obviously we need to be careful about how we do that, and be kind in the way we express it. Parents need to be encouraged – not "guilt tripped" – into learning more about the faith for sake of their children, and for their own sake. After all, no one likes to be "should" on.

In the passage just cited, John Paul II explains that adults need formation because they are the ones who "have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form." The task before us as catechists is to create a positive and encouraging environment that stresses the importance of adult formation for its own sake, but also for the sake of the Church and "the temporal realities" in which Catholics live and work.

If adult catechesis is "the principal form of catechesis" upon which all other catechesis is based, then the vitality of our religious education programs, including RCIA and sacramental prep, will be directly proportional to the vitality of our adult formation programs. One example of how this is true is the Great Adventure Bible series by Ascension Press. In places where parishioners have embraced it, the church has invariably experienced new energy, commitment and enthusiasm. Also, special events, conferences and dynamic guest speakers can whet people's appetite for more. Parishes that host such things on a regular basis, if only once or twice a year, have seen many lukewarm Catholics get fired-up about their faith as a result. Many people think that if they have good religious ed programs for children, they'll "get" the parents. I'm not so sure. Parents, and adults in general, need to understand the importance of faith formation at every stage of life. And we, for our part, must do everything we can to inspire and encourage adults so they'll want to learn more. ❖



ENDOW Women's Conference  
Sep 25-26, 2009  
St. Thomas More Parish

Visit [www.EndowOnline.com](http://www.EndowOnline.com) for more information and to register.

### Authentic Human Development: Evangelization at the heart of Pope's new encyclical

-Tess Stone, Coordinator

Having read the Pope's new encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* when it first came out in July, I was looking forward to attending a panel about on August 26 with people much smarter than I. What came as a surprise to me as I listened to the panel and what I had read in the encyclical previously was how much this encyclical is about evangelization. I don't want to drift into exaggeration or hyperbole but the Pope is very adamant about how the answer to all of the economic and political woes of our day is evangelization.

Here's a confession from a young adult Catholic woman who is dedicated to promoting the Catholic faith; well my job is, after all, coordinator of evangelization and catechesis. That is, our world often divides and separates charity and truth; and usually I end up doing the same thing. Not intentionally of course, but I think I have a tendency to organize how I think about activities into groups of charity or truth. For example, when I am feeding people at the local soup kitchen, charity. When I am answering someone's question about the Church's teaching on contraception, truth. When I have to deal with my sister who I disagree with on almost everything (and do so with patience, at least sometimes), charity. On the other hand, when I help host an event to train catechists, well that must be truth.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds all of us that charity and truth are united and we must not separate the ways we serve either. The heart of the matter is Christ, himself. And since he is both charity and truth, presenting him to the world means neglecting neither. Charity that lacks the truth, he says, turns into mere sentimentality. And truth that lacks charity doesn't have the power to authenticate or persuade. As Christians, we are called to integrate love and truth in every activity we do, most especially our evangelization. The Pope also reminds us that giving people the gift of Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life, is the greatest charity. He says that it is not only important to speak the truth of Christ's love to the world, but it is essential for the development of any person's life.

What is the link between economic, social, and political troubles and what he is saying about the encoun-

ter with Christ who is love and truth? Only if we know Christ can we know ourselves, only if we know ourselves can we know how to pursue the common good. We must understand that we are daughters and sons of God and treat each other as such. Each person has been given gifts from God, some in the economic field, some in the political field. Consequently, when we begin to evangelize and have such gifted individuals encounter Christ they can then serve the world in a much better and more profound way.

Our task to evangelize is of the utmost importance today and every day. The Pope suggests that in order to solve the issues of our day, evangelization is essential and, in reality, the only solution. The human person can only understand himself in Christ, who is both love and truth. The human person can only come to full development in knowledge and encounter with Christ. Only the truth of who we are can set us free to build a better world full of more peace and justice. Although there are many pressures to think and act as though our faith is something good for us and not for everyone, we must hold strong to the fact that only with this encounter with Christ will anybody come to the true good, the true life that they are meant for. And only when these people begin to live the life they are meant for can they build a better world, each with his own gifts.

When I sit back and think about how I divide my activities into groups of charity and truth, I begin to wonder how to integrate them better. First, as always, God's grace is needed and my openness to it, crucial. The second is to bear in mind when I am serving at the soup kitchen that those I feed are made in the image and likeness of God and that through knowing and loving Him will they truly know themselves. With that, when I am hosting a training day for catechists knowing that I am serving them out of love of Christ and that only when they encounter him will they be able to share with others. The heart of a true Christian servant is a heart that serves the truth and love at the same time because that is who Jesus ultimately is.

## TRANSFORMED IN PRAYER FORMED In KNOWLEDGE

One day conference for Catholic Adults

September 26

9 am—3 pm

St. Michael the Archangel, Aurora

\$20 registration fee

Followed by a concert with **John Michael Talbot**

Keynotes by:

Paige Byrne-Shortal "Womb to Tomb"

Sr. Peg Maloney "Transformed by Prayer" and

Workshops including:

John Michael Talbot: "Music and Prayer"

Debbie Vasicek: "Forming an Adult Faith"

Deacon Craig Fucci: "The Ways and Hows to Pray"

Mark Evevard: "Creating a Prayerful Home Environment"

And more!

Call 303-690-6797 for more information!

### Intro to Evangelization for Catholics

featuring **Aimee Milburn Cooper**

Sat., September 26

8:00—3:30

At **St. Vincent de Paul Parish**

Call 303.744.6119 x17 for more info or  
to register

### Theology of the Body Event

Mile-High Theology of the Body Event: Saturday, **September 19th** from 8:30am-4:30pm at **Christ the King Parish**, followed by a swing dance with Manhattan Swing Band at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum from 7pm-11:30pm. Go more in-depth with the theology of the body with talks by national speakers (Fr. Thomas Loya, Mary Beth Bonacci, Dr. Edward Sri and others) and plenty of fellowship! For more information and registration visit [www.TheologyoftheBody.net](http://www.TheologyoftheBody.net) or call 303-543-7867

Excerpt from *Caritas in Veritate*  
Pope Benedict XVI

Without God man neither knows which way to go, nor even understands who he is. In the face of the enormous problems surrounding the development of peoples, which almost make us yield to discouragement, we find solace in the sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ, who teaches us: "Apart from me you can do nothing" and then encourages us: "I am with you always, to the close of the age." As we contemplate the vast amount of work to be done, we are sustained by our faith that God is present alongside those who come together in his name to work for justice. Man cannot bring about his own progress unaided because by himself he cannot establish an authentic humanism. Only if we are aware of our calling, as individuals and as a community, to be part of God's family as his sons and daughters, will we be able to generate a new vision and muster new energy in the service of a truly integral humanism.

**The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God.**

Openness to God makes us open towards our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in a spirit of solidarity. On the other hand, ideological rejection of God and an atheism of indifference, oblivious to the Creator and at risk of becoming equally oblivious to human values, constitute some of the chief obstacles to development today. A humanism which excludes God is an inhuman humanism.

Awareness of God's undying love sustains us in our laborious and stimulating work for justice and the development of peoples, amid successes and failures, in the ceaseless pursuit of a just ordering of human affairs. God's love calls us to move beyond the limited and ephemeral, it gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all, even if this cannot be achieved immediately and if what we are able to achieve, alongside political authorities and those working in the field of economics, is always less than we might wish. God gives us the strength to fight and to suffer for love of the common good, because He is our All, our greatest hope.

# Upcoming Events

**EVANGELIZATION WORKSHOP**  
**SAT. OCTOBER 3, 2009**  
**8:30 AM—3:00 PM**  
**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, NORTHGLENN**  
Featuring  
Fr. Andreas Hock,  
Aimee Milburn Cooper,  
Chris Stefanick,  
Judd Baretta and Sylvia Gutierrez

Do you have a heart for sharing the faith with your family, friends, and co-workers but just don't know how to get started? This workshop is for you! Come learn the basics of sharing our beautiful Catholic faith and learn from the experience of those who are in the field doing it!

Cost is \$30 which includes lunch and all materials.  
To register, please call 303.715.3260

Prayer Breakfast for Catholic Professionals  
"Exorcism and the Church Militant"  
With Fr. Thomas J. Euteneuer  
Friday, September 11 at 7am  
Seven 30 South Grill—730 S. University Blvd.  
Suggested Donation \$10

For more information visit the website: [www.ffpbdenver.com](http://www.ffpbdenver.com) or email Frank at [fni@catholic.org](mailto:fni@catholic.org)

**NEXT DRE MEETING**  
**Thursday, Sept. 17 at 9:30am**  
**JP II Center**  
Guest Speaker JD Flynn from the  
Tribunal on the topics of *Annulments*

RSVP by emailing Tess:  
[tess.stone@archden.org](mailto:tess.stone@archden.org)  
or call 303-715-3260

## DRE Appreciation Luncheon

Thursday, October 29

11:30 am—1:30 pm

featuring guest speaker **Thomas Smith**

RSVP 303.715.3260

Catholic Author, Blogger and Evangelist

**MARK SHEA**

*101 Reasons not to be Catholic*

November 5 at 7 pm  
Bonfils Hall

# Save the Date

Living the Catholic Faith Conference 2010  
**I HAVE CHOSEN YOU**

"It is not you who have chosen me, but I who have chosen you" John 15:16

Feb. 26-27, 2010

Colorado Convention Center, Downtown Denver

Featuring Keynotes by:

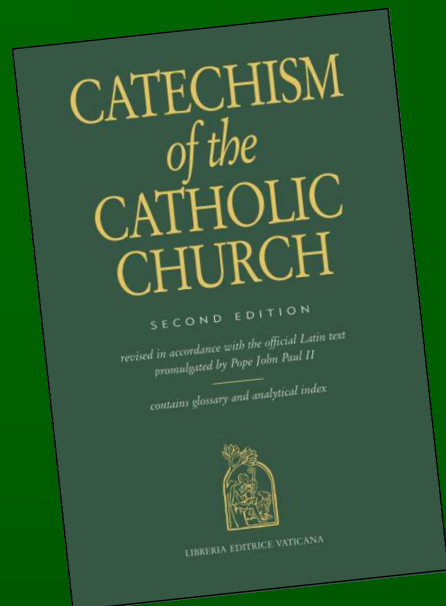
**Tim Gray**, "The vocation of a teacher: on the re-enchantment of education"

**ValLimar Jansen**, "Living, breathing, moving in the Word of God"

**Janet Smith**, "The family as a path to holiness"

With special screening of film "**The Human Experience**" and Q&A with the filmmakers.

Visit [www.archden.org/lcfc2010](http://www.archden.org/lcfc2010) for more info and to register



# INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

Eight classes covering the entire  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

Starts Thur. Sept. 24

**6:30—8:30 p.m.**  
John Paul II center  
\$40 (incl. study guide)

**To register call 303-715-3260**

"The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends." (*Catechism* 25). This *basic* overview of the Catechism will introduce you to the depth and beauty of our Catholic faith while learning how to use the Catechism with confidence. If you haven't had any formal instruction in Catholicism since your were confirmed this course is for *you*.



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

Office of Evangelization & Catechesis

Foundations in Evangelization

## *The Authentic Gospel Message In the Fullness of the Catholic Tradition*

Eight classes starting  
**Wed. Sept. 16**  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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

To register call 303-715-3260

All "gospels" are *not* the same. This fact is confirmed by the *thousands* of Protestant sects and churches that have emerged since the Reformation. Each one claims to preach the Gospel. But there's only *one* Gospel, which the Catholic Church has preserved *in its entirety* for two thousand years. What is the Catholic gospel? If someone asked you, could you explain it to them?

Based on Scripture, *the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Magisterial documents, the Church Fathers, saints, mystics and Doctors of the Church, this class will challenge you intellectually and inspire you personally. Above all, this course will empower you *"to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope"* (1 Peter 3:15), and to do so with joy and confidence.

**Registration: \$40.**  
All materials included

*All you need is an open mind and the desire to grow in your faith!*



**About the instructor: Aimee Cooper** entered the Catholic Church in 1999 after a long journey that led her from new age feminism through Evangelical Protestantism and finally home in the Catholic Church. She graduated from the Augustine Institute in May 2008 with an M.A. in Evangelization and Catechesis. Besides her various teaching responsibilities, Aimee is also the creator and moderator of **HistoricalChristian.com**. Aimee and her husband Joe live in Westminster.