



# Plunging our Roots into Christ

*“That you, rooted and grounded in love, may know the love of Christ that surpasses understanding.”*

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During the Year of Faith, we will be moving successively through the 12 Articles of the Catholic Faith as found in the Nicene Creed.

## Article 6: “He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.”

We now arrive at the mystery of Christ’s Ascension into Heaven. As a part of this mystery, we reflect upon the 40 days that the Lord spent with his disciples after his resurrection. We might wonder why the Lord spent this time with the disciples rather than just ascend directly to heaven after he rose from the dead. Our beloved Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI teaches us that during those 40 days, Christ was “training the senses” of the disciples, accustoming them to encountering him no longer in his earthly body but in his glorified body, and preparing them for the wholly new reality of his presence to them after the Ascension. The path of these 40 days was the path of moving the disciples from their earthly way of relating to him, accustomed, as they were, to speaking, acting and communing with him the way they would relate to anyone else. Christ was moving them into a heavenly way of relating to him, which would begin when he



took his seat at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. This reality would be something new and unfamiliar to their mortal experience. After the Ascension, the disciples’ relationship with Christ would remain entirely concrete and incarnate (“in the flesh”). But now, the Lord would be no longer subject to earthly limits such as space and time and he would now be present to *all* times and places, at a level of intimacy that hitherto had not been possible. This represents for the disciples—and for us—a radical new form of relationship, something that requires time for our mortal humanity to adjust to. This is the meaning of the 40 days prior to the Ascension. The Lord, in loving reverence for our humanity, offers his disciples *time* to become accustomed to a new way of being and acting with him – leading them beyond the limits of mortal, earthly reality and moving us into heavenly ways of living in communion with him.

In many ways we can say that this period of 40 days before the Ascension represents the journey that all of us must make. We are all in need of a “training of the senses”, time to “adjust” to relating to Christ *as he truly is* in heaven. So often in the beginning of our journey of discipleship, we relate to the Lord in ways that are bound by our earthly conceptions of reality. The journey of holiness is the Lord’s gentle work of moving us beyond our earthly conceptions of how we think God should act, make us feel and direct our lives, and moving us into a more and more authentic experience of the *divine* form of relationship that we discover in the glorified Christ. Let us enter these 40 days of the Resurrection and ask the Lord to “train our senses”, just as he did the disciples, and help us turn our gaze heavenward as we watch him ascend to the right hand of his Father in Heaven.

# A Table and Two Chairs



HOW MIGHT YOUR PARISH IMITATE THIS EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE STARTED BY THE VATICAN? PERHAPS AT A PARISH CARNIVAL OR LOCAL TOWN FAIR...

*Story from [www.news.va/en](http://www.news.va/en)*

Vatican City, (VIS) - Beginning in the month of August, two priests will be assigned to attend to visitors to the Vatican Museums. They will be available to dialogue with the visitors and to offer them, should they wish, spiritual advice and assistance. As Bishop Giuseppe Sciacca, secretary general of the Governorate of Vatican City State, explains in an article in the "Osservatore Romano" newspaper, "there is nothing institutional or pretentious about the initiative. The priests will simply be on hand with a table and two chairs at two strategic points on the normal itinerary visitors follow, and anyone who wishes may approach them to exchange a few words, or to reflect together". "The Vatican Museums", Bishop Sciacca goes on, "are an 'unicum' among the world's great cultural institutions. They are a precious casket in which, thanks to their wisdom and love of 'beauty', the Roman Pontiffs have gathered together what are perhaps the most exalted works that human genius has produced over the course of the centuries. ... And the Museums are not afraid to show that they, in fact, represent a way through which the good news of God-made-man can be announced to the world". The Museums "welcome everyone, whatever their beliefs or origins, while reminding each of them - through a statue, a piece of gold, a painting or a fresco - of the goal for which we were created".

**Your are invited to join our Facebook conversations about evangelization! [www.facebook.com/phillyevangelization](http://www.facebook.com/phillyevangelization)**

# We greet you with warm affection, Pope Francis!



## SAVE THE DATE

The Office for Life, Family and Laity presents

## DOOR – TO – DOOR EVANGELIZATION WORKSHOP

**OCTOBER 5, 2013  
9AM TO 4PM**

SS. Simon & Jude Parish  
8 Cavanaugh Court  
West Chester

Meet our presenters: <http://www.parishvisitorsisters.org/>

**Registration  
begins  
May 2013**



The Archdiocese of Philadelphia welcomes the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, who will share their wisdom and experience from over 90 years of parish door-to-door visiting.



# Around the Archdiocese...

To share information about evangelization events being hosted in your parish, please contact:  
Meghan Cokeley, Assistant Director, Office for Life, Family and Laity  
215-587-5630 • [mcokeley@adphila.org](mailto:mcokeley@adphila.org)

Office for Life, Family & Laity Calendar of Events: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/calendar.htm>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Where</u>
<b>April 5, 5pm</b>	<i>Terri Schiavo Day Memorial Mass &amp; Gala</i>	Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter & Paul Gala: Phila Marriott
Topic:	Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network invites everyone to pray in remembrance of Terri Schiavo and all of our vulnerable brothers and sisters. Mass followed by Awards Gala.	
Speakers:	Mass Celebrant: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F. M. Cap. Gala Keynote: Governor Sarah Palin	
More info:	<a href="http://www.terrisfight.org/terri-s-day-201">http://www.terrisfight.org/terri-s-day-201</a>	
<b>April 7, 7pm</b>	<i>Movie: Restless Heart: The Confessions of St. Augustine</i>	The Colonial Theatre Phoenixville
Topic:	The story of St. Augustine; "Man doesn't find the Truth, man must let the Truth find him."	
More info:	Online Tickets: <a href="http://www.thecolonialtheatre.com">www.thecolonialtheatre.com</a> ; Group Discount, email: <a href="mailto:theevangelist@verizon.net">theevangelist@verizon.net</a>	
<b>April 12, 6:30pm</b>	<i>Mass for Hope &amp; Healing</i>	Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter & Paul
Topic:	For those who have lost children through abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, illness & violence. Confessions and individual prayers for healing will be available following Mass.	
Celebrants:	Mass Celebrant: Bishop John McIntyre Homilist: Father Bruce Lewandowski	
More info:	Office for Life, Family & Laity 215-587-0500	
<b>April 15, 22, 29, 7-9pm</b>	<i>Time of Grace Evangelization Series</i>	Archdiocesan Pastoral Center 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia
Topic:	A Year of Faith formation series: Session 1—the major themes of the Year of Faith, Session 2—The documents of Vatican II, Session 3—the documents of the Synod on the new evangelization	
Speaker:	Meghan Cokeley, Assistant Director, Office for Life, Family and Laity	
More info & registration:	215-587-0500 • <a href="mailto:mcullinan@adphila.org">mcullinan@adphila.org</a>	
<b>April 15, 7-8:30pm</b>	<i>Straight Talk About Annulments</i>	St. Maria Goretti Parish, Hatfield
Topic:	Hear straight answers to some very tough questions concerning the annulment process. Free information packets to be distributed	
More info & registration:	<a href="mailto:directoraff@stmariagoretti.net">directoraff@stmariagoretti.net</a>	
<b>April 22, 9am-12:30pm</b>	<i>Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Conference</i>	St. Helena Parish, Blue Bell
Topic:	The Heart of the NFP Message: For the New Evangelization	
Speakers:	Francis Maier, Theresa Notare, PhD, John Harden	
More info:	<a href="http://www.PNFPN.org">www.PNFPN.org</a>	

# Around the Archdiocese...

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Where</u>
April 24, 7pm	<i>St. Gianna Beretta Molla Feast Day Celebration</i>	Nativity of Our Lord Parish Warminster
Topic:	Join us at the Shrine of St. Gianna for 6:30pm Rosary followed by 7pm Mass	
More info:	<a href="http://www.saintgianna.org">www.saintgianna.org</a> • 215-657-3101	
April 25, 9am-2pm	<i>Enrichment Day for Secretaries &amp; Receptionists</i>	St. Charles Seminary, College Aud.
Topic:	Day of prayer, reflection and celebration of the Eucharist Theme: The Secretary: A Person of Faith & Evangelist	
Speakers:	Fr. Dennis Gill, Office for Divine Worship	
More info:	215-587-0500 • <a href="mailto:mcullinan@adphila.org">mcullinan@adphila.org</a> (register by April 22)	
April 26 or 27, 8:30am-12:30pm	<i>Workshop: Adult Faith Formation in the Year of Faith: A Plan for Parishes</i>	4/26, Corpus Christi, Lansdale 4/27, St. Charles Sem, Wynnewood
Topic:	Living the Year of Faith through Adult Faith Formation; Starting, renewing and growing your Adult Faith Formation Program; Sample Ascension Press' adult faith formation programs	
Speaker:	Matthew Pinto, President, Ascension Press	
Register Online:	<a href="http://archphila.org/evangelization">archphila.org/evangelization</a> • Office for Life, Family and Laity 215-587-0500	
May 4, 5:15pm	<i>Wedding Anniversary Mass</i>	Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul
Topic:	Celebrating the witness to love and fidelity of married couples. All married couples and their families are welcome! Special seating for couples celebrating 25 & 50 year wedding anniversaries.	
Celebrant:	Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.	
No prior registration required		
May 4, 9:30am	<i>5 mile Walk/Run for Life</i>	Ridley Creed State Park, Pav. 11A&B
Topic:	Help raise funds for the Pro-Life Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center	
For more info:	<a href="http://amnion.org">amnion.org</a> • 610-622-9832 • <a href="mailto:info@amnion.org">info@amnion.org</a>	
May 11, 8am-4:30pm	<i>The Bible in a Day</i>	St. Norbert Parish, Paoli
Topic:	<b>Do you want to read the Bible, but don't know how to begin?</b> Join Sarah Christmyer, Editor of The Great Adventure Bible Study Series as she facilitates a ONE DAY video "Quick Journey Through the Bible"	
Speaker:	Sarah Christmyer, Editor of The Great Adventure Bible Study Series	
Register & more info:	<a href="mailto:mchristmyer@stnorbert.org">mchristmyer@stnorbert.org</a> or 610.644.1655 ext. 31H; cost \$30	
May 14, 7pm (New Date)	<i>Archbishop's Year of Faith Lecture Series</i>	St. Charles Seminary, Wynnewood
Topic:	Women's Freedom and Religious Freedom: Collaboration or Clash?	
Speaker:	Helen Alvare, Associate Professor of Law, George Mason University	
Register & more info:	<a href="http://archphila.org/yearoffaith/onlineyoflectureseries.php">http://archphila.org/yearoffaith/onlineyoflectureseries.php</a>	

Visit our website: [http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish\\_evangelization/parish\\_evangelization.htm](http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish_evangelization/parish_evangelization.htm)