



Plunging our Roots into Christ

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

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 3: The Incarnation



We have reached the section of the Nicene Creed when we bow profoundly from the waist and say, “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” This physical gesture of bowing as we speak is an expression of our great reverence for this central mystery of our faith—that God emptied himself to take on our humanity and save us. In these lines, we are face to face with the deepest mystery of divine love, the very truth of who God is. The language we use in the Creed is that God “came down” from Heaven. Saint Paul uses this same language in his great hymn to the Incarnation, “Though he was in the form of God,...he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...” (Phil 2:7). In the Greek, the word used to

describe God’s “coming down from Heaven” is *kenosis*, which means “self-emptying, or total pouring out of self”. What this indicates is that we are not reverencing God’s love in the Incarnation in an ambiguous way. Rather, we are reverencing God’s love in a very specific form—that of the total pouring out of self. And what is so astonishing is that God did not empty himself just on this one occasion in order to become man. Rather, the Incarnation reveals that God Himself is self-emptying love.

The implications of this for our lives is immense. For if it is true that God is *kenosis*, eternal self-emptying love, then the whole world and all of humanity, created *by* him, is penetrated by this same reality. It means that all that exists bears within itself the inner logic of *kenosis, self-emptying love*. In a very real and practical way, this means that the more we strive to live self-emptying love, to overcome our selfishness, root out sin and replace it with kenotic love, the more we fulfill the very meaning of our existence and the existence of the whole created world (*cf. Gaudium Et Spes* 24). Striving to live in this form of love brings us profound peace, because we are living in accord with the very meaning of our humanity. However, working towards holiness does not just bring us *personal* peace, it also becomes a source of peace for others. The more we manifest in our lives self-giving love, we become a reminder and a *call* to others of the very meaning of their own existence. Whether or not we ever see it, holiness stirs people in their depths because it resonates with the very logic of their existence. Even further, holiness radiates outward to the whole created world and it illumines the very reason for the world’s existence. This is what Christ means when he demands of us, “Let your light shine before men.” A life of kenotic, self-emptying love, makes visible *in the flesh* the deepest meaning of the world. It issues an irresistible call to others to order their lives the same way. This is the very heart of evangelization. At its core, evangelization is a call, issued through the witness of holiness, to live the self-emptying love of the Incarnation and thereby, illumine for others the true meaning of their lives.

It is only through the gift of faith that our eyes can see and understand this reality. There are times when it is extremely hard to believe that the world and humanity is penetrated by the logic of God’s self-emptying love. The experience of profound evil can lead us to doubt this intensely. This is why during the Year of Faith, we must ask God to increase our faith. It is only through faith that we can turn our experiences of sin and evil into a sacrificial offering to God and precisely there, in the moment of suffering, discover at the heart of reality a love that is stronger than sin and death and the true meaning of the world as created by Love and for Love.

Start a new January 1st Tradition:

SAINTS FOR THE YEAR!



In your parish, family, classroom, workplace or among friends, help others discover the very real friendship of the saints. Here's a simple and fun practice that offers everyone a chance to welcome a new saint into their life and watch how their intercession unfolds throughout the year.

1. Print out a list of saints with the saints' name, a quotation and a prayer intention for the year. Cut out the saints into strips, fold and put into a bag or box.

For a list of saints:

http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish_evangelization/links/links.htm

2. Invite people you know-Catholic and non-Catholic-to pick a saint for the year.
3. Pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit before each person draws a saint from the bag.
4. Take turns drawing a saint from the bag. Explain to them that, in reality, it is the *saint* who is choosing *you!*
5. Each person keeps the strip of paper containing their saint and prayer intention.
6. Encourage each person to learn more about their saint and ask for his or her intercession through the year.
7. Cultivate an awareness throughout the year of how that saint "shows up" in your life!
8. The following year, choose a new saint, but the previous one always stays with you!

- ◇ **A GREAT EVANGELIZATION TOOL**
- ◇ **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SAINTS**
- ◇ **DISCOVER HOW GOD'S PROVIDENCE WORKS THROUGH THE SAINTS**
- ◇ **GIVES PEOPLE WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO EXPERIENCE WITH RELIGION A SIMPLE WAY TO CONSIDER GOD'S HELP IN THEIR LIVES**

Visit our website: http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish_evangelization/parish_evangelization.htm

Parish Evangelization Formation Series

The Year of Faith

A Time of Grace

"A Time of Grace" formation series, available January through May 2013, is designed to help all those involved in the Church's great work of evangelization to receive and celebrate the Year of Faith in fullness. We will explore the major themes of the Year of Faith, discuss how to celebrate the holy year in our parishes and prepare to cultivate the rich fruits of that celebration in the years that follow. Presentations given by: Meghan Cokeley, Assistant Director, Office for Life, Family and Laity

- Session 1:** *Porta Fidei* - **The Themes of the Year of Faith**
virtue of faith • encounter with Jesus Christ • joy & hope in Christ • rediscovering the content of our faith • new evangelization
- Session 2:** *Content of the Mystery* - **The Documents of Vat II**
- Session 3:** *The New Evangelization* - **Fruit of the Year of Faith**
October Synod on the New Evangelization • documents of the Synod • new evangelization as the fruit of the Year of Faith

The 3-part series is available at the following locations:

Tuesdays, Jan 8, 15, 22	7-9pm	St. Rose of Lima • 428 S. Main Street • North Wales
Wednesdays, Feb 6, 20, 27	7-9pm	St. Alphonsus • 33 Conwell Drive • Maple Glen
Thursdays, Mar 7, 14, 21	7-9pm	St. Maximilian Kolbe • 15 E. Pleasant Grove Rd • West Chester
Mondays, Apr 15, 22, 29	7-9pm	Archdiocesan Pastoral Center • 222 N. 17th St • Philadelphia

To register for this formation series, please contact:

Mary Cullinan, Program Coordinator mcullinan@adphila.org 215-587-0500
Office for Life, Family and Laity
Secretariat for Evangelization

Visit our website: http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish_evangelization/parish_evangelization.htm

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Where</u>
January 8, 15, 22, 7-9pm	<i>Evangelization Formation Series: Time of Grace</i>	St. Rose of Lima Parish North Wales, PA
Topic:	Enter the Year of Faith more deeply by reflecting on the texts the Church places before us	
Speaker:	Meghan Cokeley, Assistant Director, Office for Life, Family and Laity	
More info & registration:	215-587-0500 - mcullinan@adphila.org	
January 12, 10am-12pm	Public Witnesses of Faith Meeting with Bishop McIntyre	St. Matthew Parish Conshohocken, PA
Topic:	For Parish Evangelization Coordinators: presentation of Bishop McIntyre's plan for public witness during the Year of Faith; opportunity for coordinators to work together to plan for their deanery.	
Speaker:	Bishop John McIntyre, head of Secretariat for Evangelization	
More info & RSVP:	Meghan Cokeley • 215-587-5630 • mcokeley@adphila.org	
January 23-May 8, 7-9:30pm	<i>A Course on Theology of the Body</i>	St. Charles Seminary, Wynnewood
Topic:	A detailed study of the text of Blessed John Paul II's <i>Theology of the Body</i>	
Speaker:	Dr. Peter Colosi, Professor of Moral Theology, St. Charles Seminary	
More info & registration:	www.GraduateTheology.com • Tuition for non-credit guests: \$399	
January 25	<i>March for Life</i>	Washington, D.C.
Topic:	Join with thousands of others who will march on Capitol Hill in Washington to give witness to the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.	
More info & registration:	Contact your parish for details and plans for making a pilgrimage to D.C.	
February 2, 9:30am-4:30pm	<i>The New Evangelization: A Report from the Synod</i>	Mother Boniface Spirituality Center, 3501 Solly Ave, Phila.
Topic:	A first-hand report of the proceeding of the October 2012 Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization	
Speaker:	Sr. Sara Butler, MSBT, PhD	
More info & registration:	Sr. Geraldine Whelan, geraldinew.msbt@gmail.com , 267-350-1830	
February 8 or 9, 9am-4pm	<i>Archdiocese Philadelphia ENDOW Facilitator Training</i>	Feb 8 - Archbishop Carroll Feb 9 - St. Charles Seminary
Topic:	Training for leaders of ENDOW formation programs for women, teens, or middle school girls. (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women)	
Speaker:	Kate Sweeney, Program Director, ENDOW	
More info & registration:	www.EndowGroups.org/events or Meghan Cokeley, 215-587-5630	

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