



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 9: The Church

“I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.”

So often in our discussions about evangelization, we have very little trouble convincing people of the goodness of Jesus Christ and the desirability of knowing him. Most people are attracted to the idea of encountering the Lord personally, experiencing his love and relating to him as a best friend. Where we typically run into roadblocks is not so much with the person of Jesus Christ, but rather, the institutional Church that he founded. For the Church, in all of the human frailty and, at times, scandalous behavior of some of her members, is for many not as easy a pill to swallow as the loving Son of God who died on the Cross for us. Add to this the typical American mindset that views Jesus Christ and the Church as separate realities. For example, you will typically hear people say, “Jesus Christ, yes. The Church, no.” Or, “The Gospel, yes. The teachings of the Church, no.” Or, “I am spiritual, but not religious.” We hear variations on this kind of thinking all the time.

But for the Catholic, Christ and his Church are one and the same reality, distinct from one another and yet entirely inseparable. Do we not say that the Church is Christ’s Body? As much as it is impossible to separate Jesus from his own body, is it impossible to separate Jesus from his Church. This logic traces its origins back to the Incarnation itself. When God took on human flesh, salvation took on visible, incarnate form *permanently*. This means that Christ’s presence in history, even after he ascends to the Father, will always have visible, incarnate (*in the flesh*) form. Just as it is true that 2000 years ago Jesus Christ could be seen, touched, heard and approached, so now, just as truly, Christ continues to be seen, touched, heard and approached in the Church, his Body. Think of how the Church has visible shape (hierarchy*), audible voice (creed) and face-to-face encounter (sacraments) built into her very structure! As our Synod Fathers recently articulated, “the Church is the space offered by Christ in history where we can encounter him...” (Synod 2012 Message 3). This means that, even in all of the weakness of her members, the visible,

incarnate Church is the place where Jesus Christ makes himself known to man and makes possible the fullness of an encounter with him. For the Catholic, there is no separation between Christ and his Church. Our evangelization efforts, then, must be deeply and thoroughly penetrated by a deep love for not only for Jesus Christ but also for his Church, who makes it possible for us to encounter him. For us, the great joy and source of our proclamation is knowing Jesus Christ who is *alive in his Church* and, precisely through the visibility and tangibility of the Church, is perfectly accessible to us. (**hierarchy is a Greek word meaning “sacred order”; it includes the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons and the lay faithful. “Hierarchy” means there is an order in the Church that is holy, instituted by God. All of us, while our roles and ‘place’ in the Church’s ‘order’ are different, together make up the hierarchy, the “sacred order” of the Church.*)



Catholic Apologetics: Bold, Intelligent, Confident

We don't hear the word 'apologetics' that often nowadays, and on first hearing it may suggest making some kind of apology for being religious and having faith! The word 'apologetics' comes from the Greek word 'apologeomai' and has the legal connotation of publicly standing up and making a defence in court, using evidence and reason. There is a difference between polemics and apologetics – polemics is a hostile encounter between two adversaries, while apologetics is a defense of one's own position, for whatever reason. Therefore, apologetics seeks to show the reasonableness of the assent of faith, and the reasonableness of the contents of faith. (*from Maryvale Institute's Official Year of Faith website*)

Great apologetics resources:

Science vs. Religion? The Insights and Oversights of the "New Atheists"

By Professor Brad Gregory

http://www.stthomas.edu/cathstudies/Logos/archives/volumes/12-4/12_4_Article.pdf

Ten Universal Principles: A Brief Philosophy of the Life Issues

By Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.

<http://www.ignatius.com/Products/TUP-P/ten-universal-principles.aspx>

(Ignatius Press \$14.41)

Dangers to the Faith: Recognizing Catholicism's 21st Century Opponents

By Al Kresta (Our Sunday Visitor \$14.95)

Thanks to Our Sunday Visitor for this excellent resource list:

Answering the New Atheism, by Scott Hahn and Benjamin Wiker

(Emmaus Road Publishing, \$12.95)

The Godless Delusion: A Catholic Challenge to Modern Atheism, by Patrick Madrid

(Our Sunday Visitor, \$14.95)

The Dawkins Delusion?: Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine, by Alister McGrath and

Joanna Collicutt McGrath (InterVarsity Press, \$13)

Handbook of Catholic Apologetics: Reasoned Answers to Questions of Faith, by Peter Kreeft and Ronald

Tacelli (Ignatius Press, \$24.95)

God Is No Delusion, by Father Thomas Crean, OP (Ignatius Press, \$12.95)

Websites:

New Apologetics

<http://newapologetics.com/>

Catholic Answers

<http://www.catholic.com/browse/Apologetics/all/all/all>

Maryvale Institute

http://catholic-year-of-faith.com/?page_id=39





Announcement: Office Change **Archdiocese of Philadelphia** **Secretariat for Evangelization**

Starting July 1, the Office for Life, Family and Laity will be reconfigured into two distinct Archdiocesan offices: The **Office for Life and Family** and the **Office for the New Evangelization**. The contact information and ministries these offices will serve are listed below:

Office for Life & Family

Director: Steven Bozza
sbozza@adphila.org
215-587-5661

Ministries:

Respect Life
Marriage and Family Life

Program Coordinator: Mary Cullinan
mcullinan@adphila.org
215-587-0500

Office for Pastoral Care
Persons with Disabilities/Deaf
Apostolate

Director: Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM
srschipa@adphila.org
Phone: V: 215-587-3530/VP: 267-507-1215

Office for the New Evangelization

Director: Meghan Cokeley
mcokeley@adphila.org
215-587-5630

Ministries:

Evangelization
Adult Faith Formation/Lay Ministry

Program Coordinator: Mary Cullinan
mcullinan@adphila.org
215-587-0500

Website (forthcoming July 10):
Accessed from archphila.org or
www.phillyevang.org



Around the Archdiocese...

To share information about evangelization events being hosted in your parish, please contact us.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Where</u>
June 21-July 4	<i>Second Fortnight for Freedom</i>	Local parishes
Topic:	During the Fortnight, our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, St. John Fisher, and St. Thomas More. Through prayer, study, and peaceful public action during the Fortnight for Freedom, we hope to remind ourselves and others all throughout the United States about the importance of preserving the fundamental right of religious freedom.	
More info & resources:	http://uscceb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/	
July 6, 5pm	<i>Feast Day of St. Maria Goretti</i>	St. Maria Goretti 1601 Derstine Rd., Hatfield
Topic:	Celebrate the liturgical feast of our patroness, Saint Maria Goretti. Enjoy refreshments in the narthex following the 5:00 PM Mass and the movie, <i>St. Maria Goretti</i> , on the big screen. No cost and no registration required.	
July 14, 6:30pm	<i>Mass in Thanksgiving for the Canonization of St. Kateri Tekawitha</i>	Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul
Topic:	The Liturgical Commemoration of St. Kateri in the USA; Confessions begin at 5:30pm	
Celebrant:	Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.	
August 13-14, 5pm	<i>Revolution or Revelation? Law, Life, Science & Faith</i>	Malvern Retreat House Malvern, PA
Topic:	Law, religious liberty, science and medical ethics issues facing Catholics and all people of faith today.	
Speakers:	Larry Cirignano, founder of CatholicVote; Ted Meehan, Director of the PA Catholics Network; Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schiavo & President of the Life & Hope Foundation; Brian Gail, author of <i>Fatherless, Motherless, and Childless</i>	
More info & registration:	www.malvernretreat.com • 610-644-0400	
Sept 12, 19 Oct 1, 7pm	<i>Archbishop Chaput Year of Faith Lecture Series</i>	St. Charles Seminary Wynnewood
Topic:	Sept 12: Prof. Brad Gregory – <i>Science vs. Religion? The Compatibility of Catholicism and the Natural Sciences</i> Sept 19: Ross Douthat – <i>Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics</i> Oct 1: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.— <i>Fire Upon the Earth: A Call to Conversion and a New Evangelization</i>	
More info:	All lectures take place 7-9pm in Vianney Hall Auditorium at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Cost is \$5.00 per lecture.	
To register:	archphila.org/yearoffaith	