



WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

April 2017

BOOK REVIEW:

A Church on the Move...By
Joe Paprocki (Loyola Press)

Reviewed by Pam Fischer

This book truly opens your eyes to ways in which we can see how to bring the message of Pope Francis...mission, mercy and evangelization. He shares 52 ways that there truly is hope for the future of the Catholic Church.

From the Facilitator

Adele Svetnicka

April 2017

Spring is in the air! Well, it really depends on the day in wonderful Wisconsin. But it is Lent, which means spring, so whether or not we have sunshine and flowers, we can count on Easter to bring us renewal and new life!

What kind of new life are you experiencing?

- † In yourself?
- † In others around you?
- † In nearby nature?

Is there a renewed energy about you?

- † In your body?
- † In your mind?
- † In your soul?

"...be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and [clothe] yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Eph 4:23-24

It's not always easy, I know! If finding new life and renewal is a challenge for you, make time to renew *yourself* in body, mind, and spirit. Just a few minutes a day can do wonders. And try doing something just for fun! (I will admit I am partial to Legos and touching my rock collections). Invite Jesus to enjoy it with you and new life will spring up for you real soon.

May you be filled with the joyful promise of Easter, and through it may you embrace renewal and new life within and around you.

In Christ our Lord and Savior,

Adele



Did you know....? We have a National Day of Prayer

As Catholic Christians we participate in Word Day of Prayer and local ecumenical prayer events, but did you know that the United States has a National Day of Prayer? This year's day is scheduled for May 4, 2017. The annual National Day of Prayer dates back to Harry S. Truman's administration when in 1952 through a joint resolution of Congress set aside the first Thursday in May to pray for America, its leaders and its families.

St. Paul Parish in Mosinee will observe this day by a Prayer Pilgrimage around the city. We will stop at the various civic/government buildings and offer our collective prayer for those who serve us locally. For ideas on how your parish can observe this day, visit the nationaldayofprayer.org

DARE News

The Diocese of LaCrosse Parish and Diocesan catechetical leaders recently hosted Fr. John Parr from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Holmen, WI.

Fr. Parr's presentation entitled "The Spirit Among Us" focused on the Holy Spirit in the life of the catechetical leader. Fr. Parr urged us all to remember that the Holy Spirit works in us to remind us to never tire of telling Jesus that we love Him. He challenged us to rethink our Catechetical approach of beginning with the end in mind which is so often get so caught up in teaching simply the facts that we lose sight of nourishing the relationship with our Lord God which should come first. Why do we know that a relationship is important? Because we look to the example of Jesus who at the end, clung closely to his relationship with His Father.

When should we cling to the Holy Spirit to keep ourselves open to a relationship to the Lord? Father Parr taught: In times of incompleteness-when we yearn for something; in times of wistfulness-when we feel life in us; in moments of indignation that move us to righteous anger; in moments of gratitude-when we know who it is that we have been given; in times of clarity-when we can clearly see what truly matters and in moments when we feel vulnerable-because God speaks to us through the vulnerable.

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR FR. PARR'S ENLIGHTENING WORDS AND ENCOURAGEMENT. THIS TALK WAS A PART OF A SERIES DARE IS HOLDING FOR PARISH CATECHETICAL LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE. OUR NEXT SESSION WILL BE LED BY DENNIS KURTZ WHO WILL SHARE WITH US INSIGHT ON HOW TO USE HOLY SCRIPTURE. THIS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 16TH AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH IN EAU CLAIRE 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.



Basic Evangelization Training

The Diocese of LaCrosse is sponsoring a two day immersion evangelization training on Friday April, 28 beginning at 7:00 p.m. through Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the Holy Cross Diocesan Center in LaCrosse. The training will be conducted by St. Paul Evangelization Ministries, a renowned organization from Bloomington, IN.

We live at a time when 23% of the population declares itself unaffiliated with any religion and nearly 13% of all Americans describe themselves as “former Catholics.”

The urgency of a New Evangelization has been a central theme of our recent Popes. Oftentimes the question asked initially is “how to begin.” This training focuses on answering that question and overcoming our sense of discomfort in talking about our faith with others—even total strangers

The cost to attend is \$45.00 per attendee and includes continental breakfast, catered lunch and materials. Complete information on the training, as well as online registration, is available at www.dioc.org/basic-evangelization.

Mary, Queen of the May

The month of May is set aside, as we know, to honor our mothers. We often bring them bouquets of roses, lilies, carnations and sometimes dandelions to show our love. We show our Blessed Mother in heaven our love and devotion by bringing her flowers during May Crowning.

An extra special way we can honor Mary is by planting a Mary Garden. Early Catholics saw Mary’s attributes in the herbs and flowers growing around them. They named plants after her, often connecting them to different events in her life.

Roses became known as Mary’s flower.. Sometimes Mary is even called “The Rose,” and the rosary that we pray means “crown of roses” or “garland of roses.” Many legends exist about some of the different kinds of roses such as the *Rosa Alba* which turned pink when Mary blushed at the angel’s Annunciation.

The lily is also commonly known as Mary’s flower. The white petals signify her purity of body while the yellow anthers stand for the glowing light of her soul. One legend says that when Mary’s tomb was opened to show Thomas that her body had been assumed into heaven, he found the tomb filled with lilies. It might be a fun activity to explore other legends about roses, lilies and other flowers attributed to Mary.

Examples of such flowers are: May Hawthorn - “Mary’s Flower of May”

Marigold - “Mary’s Gold”

Violet - “Our Lady’s Modesty”

Columbine - “Our Lady’s Shoes”

Zinnia - “The Virgin”

Lavender - “Our Mary’s Drying Plant”

Petunia - “Our Lady’s Praises”

Lily of the Valley - “Mary’s Tears”

Morning Glory - “Our Lady’s Mantle”

Honeysuckle - “Our Lady’s Fingers”





Bluebell - "Our Lady's Thimble"
Canterbury Bells - "Our Lady's Nightcap"
Bachelor Button - "Mary's Crown"
Campanula - "Mary's Star"
Foxglove - "Our Lady's Glove"
Impatiens - "Our Lady's Earrings"
Pansy - "Our Lady's Delight"

These are just a few of the flowers connected to our Blessed Mother. Perhaps this Mother's Day you might give your mother a Mary's Garden in a planter or dedicate a garden to Mary at your home or in your parish.