



# *Fanning the Flame*

## A Diocesan Wide 125th Anniversary Journey of Faith

### *The Catholic Diocese of Belleville, Illinois*



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(In other words ... one month before *Fanning the Flame* begins!)

We will begin with thanking you for the efforts you have already put into promoting *Fanning the Flame* in your parishes and schools. In response to hearing about the initiative, we have people in varied parts of the diocese committing to additional prayer specifically with the intention of spiritual renewal for our diocese during the anniversary year. Some are adding time to their regular devotions, others are praying a weekly Rosary. Now people may add this [Novena](#) to pray for *Fanning the Flame* and spiritual renewal in 2012!

As noted in a recent email, if you are just beginning to look toward 2012 with *Fanning the Flame* you can still move forward effectively! The key is letting people know in pulpit and bulletin announcements that it is coming up. You can also help by giving them an opportunity to purchase a book, first through a large group order; then your parish could keep a small inventory on hand. An order of as few as 6 copies priced at \$15 each will cover your cost. (This [promotional pricing](#) through USCCB will be available through 2012.)

***People may sign up for FTF directly from the website and receive their weekly Study Sheet via email.***

To support those who may want to follow along on their own, but who aren't inclined to use computers, it would be a big assistance if you provided copies of the Study Sheet for them to pick up (they will be available for download on the website). You could even keep an FTF file box stocked set up with sheets for each week, with extras from previous weeks for people who got a late start or missed Mass.

As for groups, you could begin with groups already in place, then simply encourage broad individual participation, maybe coupled with a monthly "Coffee with Father" when he invites questions about any of that month's chapters – or maybe you will be brave and alternate with Father asking the people questions! – Maybe have teams: older vs younger ... men vs women ... even numbered birth years vs odd ... be creative, have fun, simply: "*Know more and Grow more... In Belief. In celebration. In life. In prayer.*"

There is one important opportunity for which ***time is running short***. We all know that there are those who find their way to Mass only at Christmas or Easter. This may be a chance to capture their attention and encourage them to plug in, even if it is from a distance following on their own (maybe checking in on the FTF Blog) where they are still comfortable ... until the Holy Spirit draws them back ☺. There are resources on the [Parish Planning page](#) of the website that you can insert in your ***Christmas Bulletins***. These include a [brochure](#), flyers ([full](#) or [half sheet](#) – this could also be printed right in the bulletin, in whole or just the left side), [a prayer card or bookmark](#) (these can still be ordered – but you need to ***act quickly*** if you want them for Christmas, of course they will be useful well into the New Year... please call 618-235-9601 x 1462).

Some short parting points of information:

\*For your future planning we have formatted the *Fanning the Flame* calendar in a [format](#) that includes the weeks that are open. (Some of these weeks may be devoted to Faithful Citizenship.)

\*[Catechetical hours](#) will be available for *Fanning the Flame* through the Office of Education.

\*There are [many people](#) helping to bring this together, please keep them in your prayers.

\*A great way to start *Fanning the Flame* will be a "[Blessing of the Books](#)," perhaps timing it the weekend before January 15, which is the actual anniversary of the diocese!

**Thank you for your support and prayers,**

*The Fanning the Flame Core Team*