



Fanning the Flame

A Diocesan Wide 125th Anniversary Journey of Faith

The Catholic Diocese of Belleville, Illinois



2620 Lebanon Avenue, Bldg. #2
Belleville, IL 62221
www.ftfdiobelle.org

Phone: (618) 235-9601 #1332
FAX: (618) 257-2969
e-mail: ftf125@diobelle.org

Fanning the Flame has been launched!

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Thank you to everyone who is working together in your parish and school communities to make this initiative widely available in manners that are flexible to meet the complex needs of people who really do long to grow deeper in their faith but are balancing demands from many directions!

Here is a quick update with a few numbers that will only tell part of the story, but it is a good part:

- We have 13 parishes/schools already committed to providing 21 of the 36 youth read USCCA faith stories
- We have generous Chapter Guides assigned to 29 of the 36 chapters
- In just the last three weeks we have had well over 2,000 unique visits to the website with over 6,000 page loads
- Many parishes have groups gathering, bulletin nuggets, and/or reminders of the option of independent study
- We have over 230 direct registrants receiving weekly emails for their chapter study sheets
 - *Of those who indicated their parish they represent well over 40 parishes
 - *We have registrants joining us from at least 6 other states

But this is just a part of the story... Scores of those who are registered have also committed to praying specifically for the spiritual renewal of the diocese, offering to pray weekly and even daily Rosaries with that intention. Others have committed to attending daily Mass at least once a week, while others have prayed the [Novena](#) and will include it again in their devotions.

This year of our 125th Anniversary is being supported in prayer from every corner of the diocese!

But there is more! In the prisons we have Catholics who are seeking to deepen their faith and are journeying along with us in the way that is available to them, studying the USCCA independently but knowing that they study in solidarity with the larger community surrounding them. We have asked them for their prayers and we will ask you now for prayers for them. (See [here](#) the brochure that welcomes them, [here](#) in Spanish.)

And one more thing ... The chapter study sheets are being made available in Spanish. Watch for them to be on the chapter webpages soon – in the mean time, if you are (or know of) a Spanish speaker who might assist in tweaking the “google” translations that we are using as a starting point, your help would be greatly appreciated! (You can also have the webpage itself translated using [these instructions](#).)

Finally, we want to remind you about the “*Ask the Bishop*” series! The first session is scheduled for February 26 at 7:00. You will be able to listen in at [this link](#). This is also where questions may be submitted through February 20, about the chapters we will have covered to that point. This is the first of five sessions scheduled during the year.

Thank you for your prayers, promotion, and participation! Remember to share the opportunity with others. If you are on facebook “like” *Fanning the Flame* and share us with your friends – it is all about the Good New of our faith!

May God Bless you ... May God Bless us all as we journey together!

P.S. Don't forget the Drawing for the “Catholicism” DVD series – [the entry](#) for your parish is due March 6!