

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

Volume 2, Issue 1 May 2008

Small Community Leader Training Schedule

The Small Community Leader Training Schedule for Year 2 is now ready. See page 2 of this newsletter. Year 2 of the *Why Catholic? Journey through the Catechism* is called, "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery: Sacraments." This year we will read the second Pillar of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*; focusing specifically on the liturgy of the Church, each of the seven Sacraments, and the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This training is not only for new small group leaders, but also for those who lead groups in Year 1. Participants will sharpen their small



group facilitation skills, and most important, receive training on the theological background necessary to lead a successful small group. Pastors, parish staffs and Why Catholic? Parish planning teams should also attend so everyone in the parish is "on the same page."

Question: The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) is really hard for some of my small group participants to read. What should we do?

Answer: It is difficult to read and understand some parts. You have a few options. Encourage those who can read the Catechism at home to do so, and share their insights with the group. If participants can read only the CCC sections reprinted in the participant books, that is fine. Your group may want to read the U.S. Catechism for adults instead, which contains the same information as the CCC, but written specifically for adults in the United States. There is always tension between challenging people to grow and stretch a bit, and overwhelming them so much they give up. A skilled group leader is invaluable for this process. Be sure to attend the yearly small group facilitator trainings in the Fall!

Year 2 Schedule also available

The schedule for 2008-09, Year 2 is also included in this newsletter. Please enter these dates in your personal calendar, as well as the parish calendar. As

you plan parish faith formation events for the next school year, consider the *Why Catholic?* Faith formation workshop in February and the Lenten retreat in

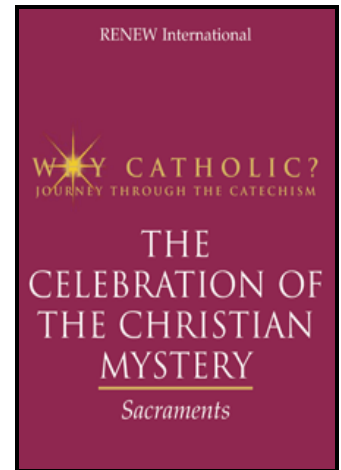
March. Why not just require the parents of those celebrating First Communion next year to attend the Faith Formation workshop? Continued on page 4.

Has your Why Catholic? Team met to plan next year?

If you have not already done so, your parish team should meet to plan your strategy for next year. Plan another big sign up. Target specific groups as well, such as PCCW or the Knights of Columbus. Show these groups how the small group format can be modified and used for their meetings. If you need help, just contact Karen Pešek at the diocesan office. Do existing groups need a few more

participants? Perhaps some groups have more than 12 people and need to be divided. Think of creative ways to get the word out about *Why Catholic?* Try fliers on cars parked for Sunday Mass, postcards mailed home, and/or phone calls to specific groups by fellow members.

Don't forget to order books early! If possible, the group leaders should bring them to the training.



How do we order books?

“Baptism is the sacrament of faith. But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1253

The parish kit has an order form enclosed.

You may also call 888-433-3221 (toll free) or fax an order to 908-769-5660.

Mailing address:

RENEW Resources
1232 George Street
Plainfield, NJ
07062-1717

The website is
www.WhyCatholic.org

E-mail :

resources@renewintl.org

Call:

908-769-5400

For help with returns.

Family Bulletins

The family bulletins are an *optional* resource from RENEW. Take a look at the samples in your parish kit. You may want to order some for this year and get feedback from the parish. The Office of Religious Education will order COC Set 1, Issues

1-6 by August 15, so that parishes will be able to get their orders at the Small Community Leader training meetings. You may want to include one per Sunday bulletin, pass them out at PSR or coffee and donuts, or order one per Catholic school

family. The cost through the diocese is \$. 54 per set of 6 bulletins, plus \$2.00 for handling through the diocese, providing we have a combined order of at least 1,000.

Year 2 Small Community Leader

Training in English revised 5/30/08

Springfield, St. Agnes Cafeteria	Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7:00 P.M.
Neosho, St. Canera	Wednesday, Sept. 3, 7:00 P.M.
Kennett, St. Cecilia	Thursday, Sept. 4, 7:00 P.M.
Sikeston, St. Francis Xavier (Pastor luncheon)	Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00 A.M. 12:00 noon
Cassville, St. Edward	Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00 A.M.
Branson, O. L. of the Lake	Monday, Sept. 8, 6:30 P.M. -begins with dinner
Bolivar, Sacred Heart	Tuesday, Sept 9, 7:00 P.M.
Piedmont, St. Catherine	Saturday, Sept 13, 9:00 A.M.
Salem, Sacred Heart	Tuesday, Sept 16, 7:00 P.M.
Cape Girardeau, St. Vincent	Monday, Sept. 22, 6:00 P.M. begins with dinner

Entrenamiento en español

Cape Girardeau, St. Vincent	Martes, el 2 de sept., 7:00 P.M.
Kennett, St. Cecilia	Miércoles, el 3 de sept. 7:00 P.M.
Noel, Nativity of the Lord	Jueves, el 4 de sept., 7:00 P.M.
Carthage, St. Ann	Viernes, el 5 de sept., 7:00 P.M.
Cassville, St. Edward	Sábado, el 6 de sept., 7:00 P.M.
Springfield, Sacred Heart	Domingo, el 7 de sept., 2:30 P.M.

This training is for previous and new small group leaders, parish staff, parish *Why Catholic?* teams, and any interested parishioners. Choose from any of the sessions listed. The training will include not only help in leading small groups, but also give a theological update on sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and its meaning in our lives. Questions? Contact Karen Pesek, kpesek@dioscsg.org or 417-866-0841. Training sessions are about 2 hours and 15 minutes long.

Para todos los animadores (nuevos y previos), Equipo Promotor de *¿Por qué ser católico?*, personal de la parroquia, toda persona interesada. Preparación para previos y nuevos animadores de los pequeños grupos; repaso de la Eucaristía y su significado en nuestras vidas. Se puede escoger de cualquier sesión. Las sesiones duran 2 horas y cuarto.



Diocese of Springfield- Cape Girardeau

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DIOSCG.ORG



Year 2 Schedule also available, continued from p. 1

How about the sponsors, Candidates, catechumens and the RCIA team all attending the workshop together? Your PSR catechists need continuing formation, and this would be an excellent opportunity for them. Arrange to attend as a group with the catechetical leader (DRE or CRE). Instead of finding a speaker for the annual women's or men's retreat, go to the diocesan Lenten retreat instead. You get the idea, use these opportunities to your advantage. Think of the time it will save you and your staff, and possi-

bly even money! The faith formation workshops and retreats are for everyone in the diocese, whether or not they participate in a small group. We won't have Fr. Abraham and Sr. Veronica with us forever, so let's take advantage of their expertise and availability while we can!

How can we serve you better? Do you have any ideas for improvement? Action responses that were creative or touching? Let us know!

Is your parish information up to date?

Please keep us up to date at the diocesan office. We need the name, phone number and email address of your parish *Why Catholic?* Coordinator. We also keep track of the number of small group participants in your parish in English and Spanish, and the number of small groups. Take a moment and update your parish information by calling Rosie or Karen at 417-866-0841 or send a message to kpesek@dioscg.org

Thank you!