



Faith Engaged!

Sharing Christ's Message since 1559

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Four Themes Enliven Year of Faith Engaged

Synergy happens when two or more factors interact so that the combined effect is greater than the sum of individual effects. Applied to groups of people, such as parishes, schools and organizations within a diocese, synergy becomes a collaboration that creates an enhanced combined effect.

The four themes being promoted for the *Year of Faith Engaged* work together to produce spiritual synergy:

- It is the **Eucharist**, as the source and summit of our Faith that unifies and animates our life as Church and as disciples of Christ.
- The Eucharist, as source for the life of the Church and its sons and daughters, sends us forth to tell the good news with our lives. Authentic **evangelization** flows from the graces of the Eucharist.
- Our celebration coincides with the 2000th anniversary of the birth of the **Apostle Paul** and the Pauline Year set by our Holy Father. Studying and reflecting on Paul's life, works and words during this *Year of Faith Engaged* brings the riches of Scripture to our project.
- Finally, history offers a fourth theme: Faith Engaged since 1559. In that year, the first Mass was celebrated on the feast of Our Lady's Assumption August 15, 1559. For **450 years**, the Catholic Faith has been present, alive and active in our region.

All diocesan entities have been urged by Bishop Ricard to use these themes in their program planning this year – for catechesis, for reflection and discernment. All are invited to promote events celebrating these themes and the Year of Faith Engaged. Send information to mceills@ptdiocese.org for inclusion in this newsletter.*

* *The editor will forward the information to News Notes for Parishes, as well as the Florida Catholic.*

Sacred Heart Cathedral Site for Convening of Leaders January 23, 2009

Save the date! Share a bus! Gather all parish leaders!

Bishop Ricard has called for a "Convening of Leaders" as a cornerstone event for the Year of Faith Engaged. On Friday, January 23, 2009 clergy, religious, and laity from across the diocese will come to Pensacola to learn, reflect and commit to acting on the themes of the year.

Dr. Thomas Neal, formerly of Florida State University and the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Tallahassee, will keynote the day with an address on the Eucharist unifying us and sending us forth to be Christ in the world. Workshops on evangelization in the marketplace, beatitude living and spirituality in today's world will continue the day capped with Mass.

"This is the opportunity for members of pastoral councils, stewardship commissions, ministry leaders, members of parish staffs, and clergy to come together as the larger Church family of the diocese to explore the implications of living out the life of a disciple in today's world," said Sr. Margaret Kuntz, chairman of the Year of Faith Engaged steering committee. "The Eucharist sends us forth to bring Christ and his good news into every corner of our world. In what practical ways will we do that in our own community of Faith?"



Prayer Service Format for Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocesan Youth

(This can be found on Faith Engaged website under “Prayer”)

Opening Prayer: (Diocesan prayer for Year of Faith Engaged)

Praise be to You, O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for your many gifts. In this **Year of Faith Engaged**: Sharing the Message of Christ Since 1559, may we be strengthened and renewed in our commitment to the fullness of faith in the Eucharist and our willingness to share that faith with all people by our words and works. Amen.

Introduction:

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009 a year dedicated to St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul’s missionary travels helped bring the Good News of Jesus Christ and the church to the people throughout the world. During our diocese’s **Year of Faith Engaged**, may we grow in our knowledge, understanding, and love of Jesus in the Eucharist as presented by the Apostle Paul.

Theme: We are the Body of Christ

Opening Song Suggestions: (Can use one verse of song for the opening and another verse for the closing song—use as a listening)

- Christ Be Our Light Spirit and Song #105
- Go Light Your World Spirit and Song #112
- Go Make A Difference Spirit and Song #113
- How Can I Keep From Singing Spirit and Song #117

Reading: First letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 12:12-27

Short Reflection:

- Use the one below or ask students to prayerfully re-read Corinthians summarizing it in their own words.
- Perhaps they could write a reflection on how it pertains to their life at this time.
- If the words to the song touch their heart, they can reflect on those.

To a divided community, Paul offers a picture of unity. We are all different in many ways yet we are all one. As Paul says, we are all parts of one body.

Think about your body. When you stub your toe, what part or parts feel the pain? So, too, is it with the Body of Christ. What I do affects others and vice versa.

Reflection Question:

- How am I working to bring about unity in my family, school, work, community?
- What can I do to bring unity wherever I go?
- Am I the type of person people are glad to see come? Or go?

Lord’s Prayer: In a spirit of unity, let us pray in the words Jesus gave us to pray OUR FATHER...

Closing Song Suggestions: See *Opening Song Suggestions* above.

Send Favorite Facts About Your Parish, School or Organization!

The parishes and missions, schools and organizations of the Diocese have stories to tell. God has been at work among us. The Heritage of Faith that forms the history of the Diocese gives our faith community a unique character. Our stories, our culture, our experience of the Faith are portions of God’s message to all. God’s grace is made visible in our heritage of the Faith. You are invited to share those stories and interesting facts to the glory of God for the edification of all.

These Diocesan “Facts of the Day” are posted on the Faith Engaged website – a new fact or nugget of faith – each weekday.

Included below is an example...

There are many reasons to visit Christ Our Redeemer Parish, Niceville, not the least of which is their new worship space. A welcoming and hospitable faith community, parishioners have lovingly named the alligator in the parish pond, “Dudley.”

Check out the web site for historical facts about your parish, school or organization.

Send favorite historical nuggets to: mcneills@ptdiocese.org.

