



# *Faith Engaged!*

*Sharing Christ's Message since 1559*

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## **One of Four Themes for the *Year of Faith Engaged!* - Our Heritage of Faith**

The church does not age as mankind does - it measures its span of time, instead, by the continuous bringing of souls closer to God through the graces of the Sacraments, the spiritual services it renders, the cultural development it fosters, the social progress it encourages and supports and the heritage it passes on to future generations.

Thus the Church in Northwest Florida, though full of years, remains youthful, vigorous and resilient. In a very real sense it is the product of its time, a creation of the place where it has flourished under the leadership of its pastors and the examples of sacrifice, courage and faithfulness set by its followers. Our diocese can be viewed as a mirror - an echo - a response, to the life of the region and to the faith professed by the many thousands who have worshiped here since the founding day, August 15, 1559.



### **Keeping Records of Faith: Archivist Carlisle Semmes, Ed.D.**

Dr. Semmes works directly under the chancellor, Monsignor Michael Reed, who is responsible for the archives.

More than a person or place, diocesan archives represent ongoing identification, preservation and maintenance of the permanently valuable records (past and present) of the church of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

“Records bear witness to the spread of the Kingdom of Christ in the eighteen counties of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and its parishes/missions,” says Dr. Semmes. “Preservation of documents from the most humble to the most elaborate records tell the story of the church. This is the basis upon which the church stands today as we continue to spread the good news by word, worship and service.”

### **Electronic Invitations Sent to 700 Plus Leaders: Please Respond!**

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. Speakers include Bishop Ricard, Dr. Tom Neal, Fr. Dennis Berry, ST, Carolyn Ketchel and Diane Kledzik.

Please respond so we can plan a vibrant and hospitable gathering! Call Michele in Christian Formation at 850/435-3522 or email [johnstonm@ptdiocese.org](mailto:johnstonm@ptdiocese.org).

### **Importance of Archives**

For the Church, archives are places of memory of the Christian community and storehouses of culture for the new evangelization . . .

The papers of memory are a living, cultural good because they are offered for the training of the Church and civil community and handed down for generations to come. Therefore it becomes our duty to protect them carefully.

*(The Pastoral Function of Church Archives, Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, 1997, 7, 35)*



## **Parish Prayer Service for the *Year of Faith Engaged!*** **Theme: If God is for Us, Who Can Be Against Us?**

### **Open with the Sign of the Cross.**

#### **All:**

Praise be to You, O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for your many gifts. In this *Year of Faith Engaged! Sharing Christ's Message 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 16th has declared June 28, 2008 – 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 people throughout the world. During our diocese's Year of the Eucharist, may we grow in our knowledge, understanding, and love of Jesus in the Eucharist as presented by the Apostle Paul.

#### **Opening Song Suggestions:**

"Christ Be Our Light" by Bernadette Farrell

Use one verse of song for the opening and another verse for the closing song.

#### **Reading:** Romans 8:28-39

#### **Short Reflection:**

At times we face difficulties and trials, but Paul says that in all things God is always with us, present in every circumstance and situation in which we find ourselves. This great love is revealed in God's love for his son, Jesus. This is our hope too. That "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (8:28)

#### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Have you ever felt abandoned by your friends? By God?
2. "All things work together for those who love God." When have I felt this kind of harmony in my life?

#### **Closing:**

In a spirit of unity let us pray in the words Jesus gave us to pray

*Our Father...*

### **"Faith-Filled Flicks" Video Challenge to Youth and Young Adults of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee**

Religious Education classes, Youth Groups, Catholic Schools and Young Adults are invited to celebrate a "*Year of Faith Engaged – Sharing Christ's Message Since 1559*" by accepting a challenge to develop a Faith-filled Flick on any one of the four themes of the *Year of Faith Engaged!*

The Steering Committee is asking the Young Church of the diocese to join the celebration by creating a compelling video focusing on any one of the four themes of the *Year of Faith Engaged!* The video should be one to three minutes long and will be shown at the area-wide deanery gatherings in the spring and summer of 2009 and will be posted on the diocesan *Faith Engaged!* website. For more information, contact the Office of Christian Formation or the Office of Youth Ministry.

