

Adult Religious Education and Faith Formation

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

By Judy Collins

After the Rite of Sending, the Rite of Election and Continuing Conversion was held at Notre Dame on Saturday, February 27, with Father David Boettman officiating. Fifty catechumens and candidates along with their priests, catechists, godparents, sponsors, and family members celebrated this memorable occasion. Afterwards our Council of Catholic Women hosted a wonderful reception for approximately 180 people from the Five Rivers Deanery.

We are now in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. During this time the catechumens celebrate the three scrutinies, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer are presented, the candidates receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, and everyone attends the Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

During Easter Vigil, our catechumens will receive the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The candidates will receive the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Renew: Why Catholic?

This faith sharing adult program is in the third year in the Diocese of Knoxville. It is conducted for six weeks during the seasons of Advent and Lent. The program is based on the four pillars of the Catechism: What We Believe, How We Celebrate, Morality, and Prayer. At Notre Dame, there are five strong groups meeting on different days, times, and places. They are currently reflecting on the Ten Commandments.

“Spirituality” with Fr. Michael Woods

The entire parish, along with the other parishes in the Five Rivers Deanery, is welcome to attend the workshop by Fr. Michael Woods on “Spirituality” on Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. There is no cost, but online registration is encouraged at www.dioknox.org to ensure proper materials. This course is one of four basic courses required for catechist certification.

Adult Faith Formation – Spring Year 2 with the Dominican Sisters

Our parish hosted this workshop in March for the Five Rivers Deanery with about 40 people from over 8 parishes in attendance. The workshop was based on the four pillars of the catechism – What We Believe, How We Celebrate, Morality, and Prayer. Sr. Mary Michael is the Director of Catechetical Formation Program of Aquinas College in Nashville, and she conducted the program. Next session will be held in the fall of 2010.

Catechism 101

By Scott Fisher

Beginning in January, Notre Dame began an adult formation class aimed at increasing the knowledge about the Catholic Church called Catechism 101. As of the end of March, there have been five sessions. All have been well attended, and more participation is encouraged.

People at the initial class were given a quiz about the Church and its practices. The quiz was intended to gauge the knowledge of those attending the class and use that as a springboard to teach where there might be gaps in our knowledge or understanding.

The topics covered in the classes include the Marks of the Church, the Pillars of the Church, the Precepts of the Church, and the relationship between Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium.

Future topics will include the Mass, the Liturgical Calendar and the colors associated with the seasons, how to effectively evangelize, and more. The weekly bulletin will advertise the next topic for the upcoming class. We meet at least one or two Sundays a month normally at 5 p.m. after the Mass in Spanish. All are welcome to explore the faith and Church.

Frazzled in the Vineyard

Several parishioners from Notre Dame attended the annual Frazzled in the Vineyard spiritual retreat. It was hosted this year by St. Patrick Church in Morristown. Pat Livingston was the Retreat Master, and she has written the books *Lessons of the Heart*, *This Blessed Mess*, and *Let in the Light - Facing the Hard Stuff with Hope* and has been a contributor to *Liguorian*, *Church*, *U.S. Catholic*, *Living Faith*, *Living with Christ*, and other magazines. She has appeared on Catholic television. Mark your calendar for February 18 - 19, 2011 for the next Frazzled Retreat to be held in the Knoxville area.

Ministries Day 2010

Despite the snow and cold weather, the diocesan event continued with over 120 in attendance. A variety of workshops were offered and participants were able to choose their area of interest to gain knowledge in the Catholic faith. Several from Notre Dame participated.

Ministry Day 2011 is scheduled for January 8 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart School in Knoxville. Workshops will include the changes in the Roman Missal by Fr. Randy Stice, Liturgical Music by Mary Weaver, the Blessed Virgin Mary by Fr. John Orr, and more. Susan Collins is the coordinator and ideas for workshops are welcome.