

Gatherings

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

Reflections

September 3, 2009

From the Religious Education Office

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ST. JOHN VIANNEY, THE CURÉ D'ARS

*What Can We Learn
from this Saint Today?*

By Bryan Reising

Early Life

Jean Marie Vianney (John Mary Vianney) was born and baptized in Dardilly, France, on May 8, 1786. He grew up on a family farm, and his parents were known as devout Catholics who gave hospitality and food to the poor. Although his education was meager at best during his formative years, his parents laid a firm foundation for his faith. It was also a time that of the French Revolution and Catholicism was practiced in secret.

Fr. Balley, the parish priest of Ecully, took young John under his wing to study for the priesthood. John was just an average student, but his faith and vocation was strong. A fellow student, Matthias Loras, the future bishop of Dubuque, Iowa, helped tutor his Latin studies. Again, his studies had been disrupted because of Napoleon's war raging in Spain, and his drafting of French men.

Priesthood

John was ordained to the priesthood on August 13, 1815. He first became an assistant to Fr. Balley at Ecully. After Fr. Balley's death in 1818, he became the pastor of the parish in Ars, the curé or parish priest of Ars.

Curé d'Ars

Fr. John Vianney served at this parish for 23 years, and from the beginning the people of the town of Ars started going to church because his simple, yet powerful words lead many to conversion and to a greater love for God. His reputation for preaching, his long hours in the confessional, and his gentle and loving attitude attracted many. In fact, later, people from surrounding areas and then all over Europe and the world came to him.

Year of the Priest – 150th Anniversary of the Death of St. John Marie Vianney

Pope Benedict XVI announced this past spring that beginning in June, a special Year for the Priests will take place. It coincides with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney. It is a year of spiritual renewal for all priests throughout the world.

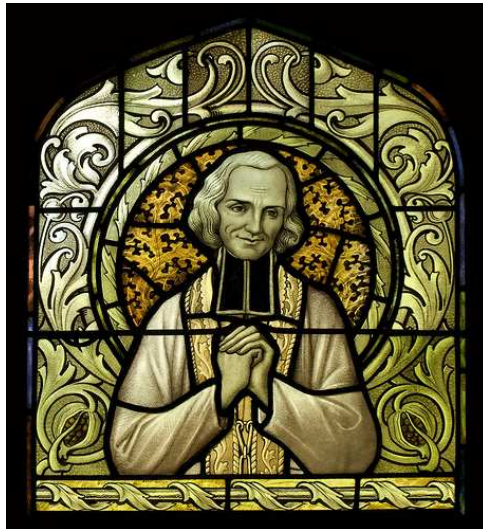
How to Honor Our Priests in the Diocese of New Ulm

The primary purpose of this Year of the Priests is for an internal renewal for our priests. The first thing that we the laity can do is pray for our priests so that they will grow closer to God and become good shepherds exemplified in Jesus the Good Shepherd.

We can also show our appreciation to our priests by inviting them to our homes for a meal or taking them out for dinner. Perhaps a parish can host a dinner in their honor.

The diocese will host two events to form and educate all our people regarding the priesthood and its importance.

- ❖ First, on Thursday, March 11, 2010, the next Bishop Lucker Lecture will focus on the priesthood. The keynote speaker will be Rev. William Baer, the rector and president of St. John Vianney Seminary in Saint Paul, MN.
- ❖ Second, Leonardo DeFilippis, a stage and film actor, will come to present Vianney in April in New Ulm. It is a drama of the life of St. John Vianney.



Catechetical Moments

This is also a time that we can dedicate a session, a youth ministry gathering, or even an intergenerational gathering to the topic of the priesthood. This topic is not only relevant to seminarians and priests, but to all of us. Priests are the ones that give us a special connection to Christ, especially through the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Priests serve the faithful so that the faithful can grow in holiness.

Just as St. John Vianney loved his people in Ars - sacrificed for them, served them, and brought them to holiness - our priests today strive the same for all of us. Let us pray for our priests as they guide and shepherd us!

VIRTUS Trainings

- September 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Spicer
- September 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Cathedral
- September 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Marshall [School]
- September 13, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Glencoe [in Spanish]
- September 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Canby
- September 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. St. Peter
- September 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Tracy
- September 19, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Granite Falls
- September 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Willmar
- September 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. North Mankato
- October 3, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Litchfield
- October 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Redwood Falls
- October 24, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Glencoe
- November 5, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Sleepy Eye
- December 1, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Arlington
- December 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Olivia



Catechetical Sunday 2009 September 20, 2009

The theme is *Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word.*

This year, the resources customarily published in the English/Spanish Catechetical Sunday booklet are available on a special Web site as a free download: <http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday/>

FOUNDATIONS

This is a collaborative effort of St. Mary's University in Winona and the Diocese of New Ulm for those in catechetical ministry (catechetical leaders and catechists), Catholic schools (principals and teachers), liturgical ministry, youth ministry, adult faith formation, social concerns, and any interested adult. Attached is a brochure and registration. Please contact your pastor to sign your registration form. It is only

\$70 for all seven sessions including lunch. The following is the schedule for this year:

Sept 19 Introduction to the Christian Scriptures -

Sr. Judith K. Schaefer, OP, PhD

Revelation and the Study of Scripture
Gospels
Letters

Oct 10 Introduction to the Jewish Scriptures - Prof.

Brian Singer-Towns

Torah: Covenant and Law
Prophets

Nov 14 Introduction to Catholic Theology - Prof.

Greg Sobolewski

The Mystery of God, The Trinity, Creation
Jesus Christ
The Holy Spirit

Dec 5 Prayer and Liturgy - Ms. Ann Przybilla

Ways of Prayer
Liturgy and Ritual
The Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours

Jan 16 Theology of the Catholic Church - Prof. Rose Beal

Images of the Church
Mission of the Church
Church History, Role of Mary, Saints

Feb 20 Theology of Sacraments - Mr. Bryan Reising

Sacraments of Initiation
Sacraments of Healing
Sacraments of Vocation

Mar 13 Morality and the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church - Prof. Christopher Walchuk

Living in Relationship with God
The Responsibility to Take Care of Our Neighbor
The Social Teaching of the Church

Faith Formation Day - Register Now!

Saturday, September 26, 2009

St. Catherine Church, Redwood Falls, MN

Why Study Church History

is the theme for the day. The keynote speaker will be Steve Weidenkopf, a lecturer of Church History for the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College in Virginia. He will lead us in the keynote, Why Study Church History. After his keynote, there will be two different tracks to choose from: the Church History Track and the General Track. The Church History Track will end at 5:00 pm. The General Track will end at 2:30 pm. Faith Formation Day is for all catechists, teachers, and any adult! See registration form attached.

Workshops in the General Track will include:

- "The Sources & Principles of Catholic Social Teaching" by Chris Loetscher

- “Certification for Lay Ecclesial Ministers--Questions and Answers” by Karla Cross
- “Child or Adolescent Development” and “Response to Disaster and Tragedy” by Tom Keaveny and Catholic Charities Counselors
- “Lord Teach Us To Pray: Preparing Prayer Services for Children and Youth” by Ann Przybilla
- “Intergenerational Catechesis” by Ron Skjong
- “One Program – Six Models: Diversifying the Style and Delivery of Adult Faith Formation Programs” by Pete Ries of Lansing, Michigan (10th Anniversary of Our Heart Were Burning Within Us, the US Bishops statement on adult faith formation) - RCL
- “Area Faith Communities and Catechesis” by Pam Osborne
- Would you like to get **M A D?** (Methods for **A**dolescents!!) by Pixie Smith of RCL

Gathers for 2009-2010 (and other dates) – for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs or DREs) and Youth Ministers

We begin with a social, a prayer, then an enrichment with a guest speaker, lunch, meeting/networking, and closing prayer. If you have conflicts like work or other commitments, let me know. We can perhaps work on a conference call during the evening sometime or even a visit.

CYM = Center for Youth Ministry near Renville
CPC = Catholic Pastoral Center, New Ulm)

Mon, Aug 31, 2009 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg CYM
Joe Roueche, the Local Outreach Coordinator for NET Ministries – Theme: Volunteers. He did a special welcome to those who are new!

Mon, Oct 5, 2009 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg CYM
Michelle Bowe, DRE and specialist in ministry with persons with disabilities – Theme: Welcome to My World!

Sun, Oct. 25, 2009 11:30-5:30 Senior High Rally –
Saint Peter Parish in Saint Peter, MN

Mon, Nov 2, 2009 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg CYM
Our Sunday Visitor will sponsor

Mon, Dec 7, 2009 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg CYM
Pflaum will sponsor

Mon, Jan 4, 2010 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg CYM

Mon, Feb 1, 2010 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg CYM
Sadlier will sponsor

Mon, Mar 8, 2010 2:00-5:00 Gather Mtg CYM
(tentative speaker scheduled)

Mon, Apr 12, 2010 10:00-3:00 Gather Mtg –
Curriculum Day – DPC

Sun, Apr 25, 2010, 11:00-5:00 Junior High Festival at a place to be determined (Stage and film actor, Leonardo DeFilippis will present)

Mon, May 24, 2010 Noon-4:00 Spring Fling at a place to be determined

University of Dayton's VLCFF

Cycle 7: Oct 18 - Nov 21

(Registration: Opens Sept 1; Closes Oct 14)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church and Communication](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: The Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Letters of Paul](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [Media, Faith, and Values](#)
- [National Directory for Catechesis](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Overview of the GDC & NDC \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Praying With Children](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Scripture: Introduction](#)
- [Scripture: Old Testament](#)
- [Scripture: New Testament](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)

For further information, contact Bryan Reising at 507-233-5324 and check out VLCFF's website:
<http://vlc.udayton.edu/>.

Media Resources from the Diocesan Media Library

For Elementary Grades

- **I Can Find My Way - Beginnings** by Ohio Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors

For Middle School Grades

- **I Can Find My Way - Exploring** by Ohio Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors
- **Molokai: The Story of Fr. Damien** by ERA Films/CVBA Damien – Jos Stelling Films (for the whole family)

- **Sacraments for Children: An Introduction to the Seven Sacraments for Middle-Grade Children** by Ligouri Publications

For Middle School & High School Grades

- **Sacraments of Service** by Oblate Media
- **Sacraments: God's Amazing Grace** by Videos with Values

For High School Grades and Adults

- **Answering God's Call: The Experience of Priesthood** by the USCCB Publishing
- **I Can Find My Way – Growth** by Ohio Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors
- **Vocation to the Priesthood** by The Knights of Columbus
- **Priestly Vocations** by the Christophers

These and many other resources (DVDs, videos, and audio) can be used by member parishes, schools, and individuals. Check out the Media library catalogue at <http://dnu.kdsi.net/search/search.php>

ACRE Assessment

This year will be our fourth year of doing ACRE. Again, it is through a grant of the Catholic Extension Society that we are able to do this diocesan-wide for our parishes

and schools! Our third year results showed an improvement in all grades (5th, 8th, and 11th) overall. This is great news!

The cover letter and order form are attached. Deadline is September 15 – so please place your orders as soon as possible. And like the Touching Safety, please schedule your ACRE assessments (and IFG for your new catechists and even home school parents) for November or December. Thank you!

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

Right now they are doing a membership drive for potential members of NCCL. **See the attached for membership benefits for parish catechetical leaders! The cost of an individual membership to NCCL is only \$60.00. This is only \$5.00 a month.** For further information, check out the website: <http://www.nccl.org/>

Parish Catechesis Question

Is there a priest that you know (knew) that inspired you because they live (lived) a holy life and they speak (spoke) words of everlasting life? Share his story with others.

NEXT YEAR'S DATES - Rel Ed / Youth Ministry Calendar for 2009-10

*note change in date

2009			
Mon, Aug 31	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Sun, Sept 20	Catechetical Sunday		
Sat, Sept 26	Faith Formation Day	Track 1 9:00-5:00 / Track 2 9:00-2:30	Redwood Falls
Mon, Oct 5	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Sun, Oct 25	Sr High Rally	11:30-5:30	St Peter
Mon, Nov 2	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Nov 17-22	NCYC		Kansas City
Mon, Dec 7	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
2010			
Mon, Jan 4	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Feb 1	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Mar 8	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Apr 6-8	NCEA Convention		Minneapolis
Mon, Apr 12	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers – Curriculum Day	10:00-3:00	Catholic Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, Apr 25 *	Jr High Festival	11:00-5:00	TBA
Mon, May 24	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00	TBA
Thurs-Fri Jun 17-18	Young Women's Discipleship Camp	Thu 9:30 am-Fri 5:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Thurs-Fri Jun 24-25	Young Men's Discipleship Camp	Thu 9:30 am-Fri 5:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry

From the Youth Ministry Office:
Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP
Director of Youth Ministry & Vocation Awareness
mmchugh@dnu.org

Instruments of God's

Mercy Mercy

How do you get to know someone? I've discovered that often one of the best ways to get to know someone is through their writings. Where can you find the best focused expression of their thought, philosophy, and spirituality? Most often, it is seen in their writings.

The saint given to us this year is St. John Vianney a.k.a. "The Curé (pronounced "cure-A") of Ars." Pope Benedict XVI recently named him the patron saint of priests. In this Year of the Priest which runs from June 2009-June 2010, it seemed appropriate to read some of his writings and to get to know him better. In this article, I've selected some of his writings describing the priest as an instrument of God's mercy.

Saint Jean Marie Vianney was able to touch hearts by his words at Mass and in the confessional. Our priests today are given to us as instruments of God's mercy. The service they exercise is God's gift to the Church...and to every single one of us!

Mercy and the sacrament of forgiveness

*God's mercy is like an overflowing stream.
It sweeps away hearts as it passes.*

It is not the sinner who returns to God to ask for forgiveness, it is God who runs after the sinner and makes him return to him.

*Let us therefore give this joy to this good Father:
let us return to him...and we will be happy.*

*The good Lord is always ready to receive us.
His patience waits for us!*

*There are those who turn a cold heart to the Eternal Father. Oh, how mistaken they are! The Eternal Father, to disarm his justice, gave his Son an excessively good heart:
you cannot give what you do not have...*

There are those who say: "I have committed too many sins, the Good Lord cannot forgive me."

This is a gross blasphemy. It is the same as putting a limit on God's mercy, which has none: it is infinite.

*Our errors are grains of sand beside
the great mountain of God's mercy.*

Section 1458 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "By receiving more frequently the gift of the Father's mercy, we are spurred to be merciful as he is merciful..."

The example of many saints confirms the truth of this teaching. To some extent, every sin redefines our sense of what is normal, what is growing within our lives. Regular Confession helps us ask the question, "Are the right things growing in my life? Regular Confession can help us avoid the slippery slope of describing everything we do as "no big deal."

I would like to suggest that for the Year of the Priest, each one of us let our priests be priests. Give them the opportunity to be instruments of God's mercy!

What about us? Are we instruments of God's mercy? Many of our young people would go to Confession and could experience the gift of God's mercy, if they had the opportunity to do so. Are we providing these opportunities during retreats, Youth Ministry, and Catechesis?

Year of the Priest theme at Youth Rallies

The Year of the Priest will be a theme at the two Youth Rallies this year.

- ❖ **Senior High Rally October 25, 2009 in St. Peter.** Fr. Burke Masters, a priest from the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, and a former professional baseball player will be our keynote speaker.
- ❖ **Junior High Festival on April 25, 2010** Leonardo di Fillipis, a professional actor, will be sharing pieces from the life of St. John Vianney and doing some acting/lectoring workshops.

Rally Publicity

The publicity packets for the upcoming Senior High Rally are coming together even as I write. You can expect them soon! Please make sure you have the date and time written in ink on your calendar:

Sr Rally	Oct 25, 2009	11:30-5:30	St. Peter, St. Peter
Jr High	Apr 25, 2010	11:00-5:00	TBA

Diocesan Youth Council '09-'10

The DYC began the year together with an Orientation and Training weekend August 29-30 at the Center for Youth Ministry in Renville. Their parents were invited to come for part of the day on Sunday. I am so impressed with our young people this year! You can look forward to a lot of enthusiasm and positive energy at the Youth Rallies. Special thanks to all of you who encouraged them to apply for the Diocesan Youth Council!

	Region	Grade	Parish
Stephen Leeb	1	11th	St. Peter, St. Peter
Ruth Ann Illikman	1	12th	New Ulm, St. Mary
Amanda Anderson	2	12th	Morgan, St. Michael
Erin Hauth	2	11th	Springfield, St. Raphael
Emily Bot	3	12th	Minneota, St. Edward
Tonio Rabaey	3	11th	Minneota, St. Edward
Tiffany Hanen	4	12th	Montevideo, St. Joseph
Leah Miller	4	10th	Murdock, Sacred Heart
Andrea Tauber	5	10th	Olivia, St. Aloysius
Bernadette Streling	5	10th	Spicer, Our Lady of the Lakes
Ian Coates	6	10th	Glencoe, St. Pius X
Jennifer Maiers	6	12th	Stewart, St. Boniface
Sara Hughes	At Large	10th	Darwin, St. John
Johanna Johnson	At Large	10th	Murdock, Sacred Heart
Shawn Polman	At Large	10th	Cottonwood, St. Mary

Please pray for John Verly, son of Patrick and Barb, of Holy Redeemer in Marshall. He has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and is doing chemo therapy. John is a former DYC member.

NET Team

NET Ministries will arrive in our diocese on October 17 and depart on the 31st. They will be available for 11 retreat days October 18-30. Available dates are: Tues Oct 20, Thurs Oct 29 (day and evening only), Fri Oct 30. If

interested, please let Cindy Blickem know as soon as possible 507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org.

NCYC Update

We're preparing an NCYC update. In the meantime, *PLEASE* make sure you have all your chaperones in good shape with Safe Environment paperwork and VIRTUS training. A few parishes still need to turn in NCYC t-shirt sizes, paperwork, money, or pictures. If you have not attended to these details, please do it as soon as possible!

NCYC Diocesan Team

This year, I will be working with Kahle Bontjes from Spicer, Samantha Grewe from Gibbon, and Kate Schreiner, also from Gibbon, to coordinate the on-site details for the Diocese of New Ulm.

Riverbend TEC Schedule for 2009-2010

**Riverbend TEC, 112 W Van Dusen St.
Springfield, MN 56087 507-723-4141
<http://www.riverbendtec.org/>**

Attached below is the schedule of the TEC weekends, the planning meeting (usually 2 weeks before the TEC on Sunday from 1-5 pm) and the small reunion (usually 2 weeks after the TEC on Sunday from 1-4 pm).

TEC	Date of TEC Weekend	Place	Planning Meeting	Small Reunion
2009				
224	Jun 27-29	Bird Island	Jun 14, 1-5	Jul 12, 1-4
225	Aug 1-3	Winsted	Jul 19, 1-5	Aug 16, 1-4
226	Oct 24-26	Bird Island	Oct 11, 1-5	Nov 8, 1-4
227	Jan 16-18	New Ulm	Jan 3, 1-5	Jan 31, 1-4
2010				
228	Feb 13-15	Winsted	Jan 31, 1-5	Feb 28, 1-4
229	Mar 20-22	New Ulm	Mar 14, 1-5	Apr 11, 1-4 (3 wks)
230	Jun 26-28	Bird Island	Jun 13, 1-5	Jul 11, 1-4
231	Jul 31-Aug 2	Winsted	Jul 18, 1-5	Aug 15, 1-4

PEAK

What can the faithful do for their priests during this Year for Priests? Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual lives, and we receive the Eucharist through the hands of our priests, the following acronym is very relevant:

PEAK.

P- Pray. Priests need the prayers of the faithful in order that they become the men God has called them to be. We pray that all our priests become saints like their patron, St. John Vianney.

E- Encourage. Encourage young men that show the qualities that would make a good priest to at least consider the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood; let it be a viable option in their life. Considering the priesthood should be natural for all Catholic young men.

A- Affirm. Your spiritual fathers need affirmation. When you hear a good homily, witness a baptism or marriage that really touches your heart, or out of gratitude for receiving the Eucharist, write your priest a letter. Priests hear a lot of bad news; you would be amazed what one letter of affirmation can do to touch the heart and soul of your priest, and thus build him up.

K- Know. Increase your knowledge of the gift of the priesthood to the Church. The priesthood is the very core of our Church's identity. As Jesus gave his very life two thousand years ago, our priests continue to hand on to us the Body of Christ and to reach out the hand of Christ in healing and absolving our sins. Appreciate the value of celibacy that your priests have entered into.