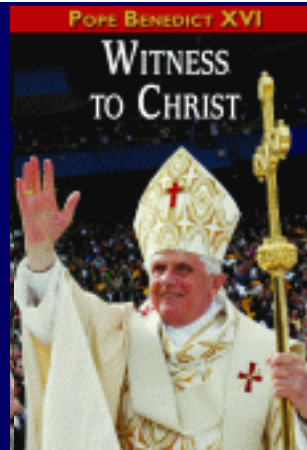


Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Parish Life!

News and resources for your parish



May 2008

Parish Life! from Our Sunday Visitor

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor. As a parish leader who has ordered from Our Sunday Visitor in the past, you're receiving this eleventh edition of our special enewsletter just for parishes!

Be sure to visit our [Parish Resources pages](#). Newly updated for May, this material is written specially for YOU! This month, you'll find columns by parish experts Lorene Duquin, Anne Neuberger, Kelley Renz, Woodeene Koenig-Bricker and Mary Lou Rosien written for early childhood, elementary, adult, youth, catechists, and the workplace! It's free! [Help for your parish is here now»](#)

Our newest pamphlet

Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit in April has energized Catholics around the country. OSV has the resources you need to keep the energy going in your parish. Our new pamphlet, [Witness to Christ](#), is written by publisher Greg Erlandson, and focuses on the six action steps given to us by the Holy Father. [See a sample online now»](#)

This enewsletter is designed with parish leaders in mind! We'd love to hear from you as well, so please e-mail us with questions or topics you would like to see discussed in future editions: yyoung@osv.com.

To continue receiving this monthly enewsletter, you need do nothing. To unsubscribe, please follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

Feel free to forward this email to a friend who might be interested.

Introverts and Extroverts - Getting Along

By Lorene Hanley Duquin

At a parish where I worked, the director of religious education came to me one day in tears. Every time she tried to present to the pastor a well-thought-out plan, he would respond enthusiastically with idea after idea on other things that might work.

"I can't take this anymore!" she sobbed. "I'm going to quit."

When I mentioned to the pastor that there was a problem, he was astounded. "She's doing such a great job," he exclaimed. "Why would she want to quit!"

The problem was simple: she was an introvert and he was an extrovert.

What's the difference?

Scientists tell us an introvert's brain functions differently with increased blood flow in areas related to planning and problem-solving.

- Introverts process information by thinking things through. They don't speak until they know what they are going to say. They curb their enthusiasm and keep their feelings to themselves. They are quiet and reflective. They are energized by being alone.
- Extroverts process information by talking about ideas that pop into their heads. They don't really know what they think until they talked about it for a while, so they bounce ideas off other people. They are enthusiastic and outgoing. They are energized by being around other people.

In the case of the DRE and the pastor, she would spend hours thinking about every detail in her plan. When she presented it, he would process the idea by "thinking out loud." She experienced it as being pelted with unrelated thoughts and ideas. He didn't have a clue there was even a problem!

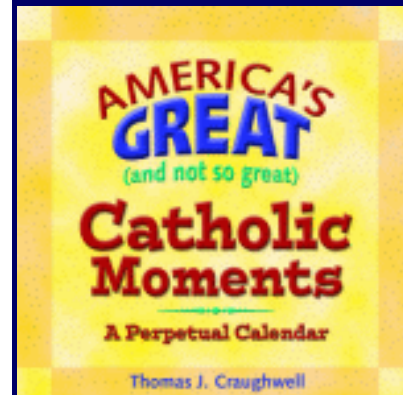
If the introverts and extroverts on your parish staff are struggling with each other, here are a few tips:

- Simple personality indicators like Myers-Briggs can help staff members understand that everyone is different.
- Prepare an agenda for staff meetings so the introverts can think about the issues ahead of time.
- Encourage written proposals and let staff members read before reacting.
- Remind introverts that just because an extrovert says something, it doesn't necessarily mean that it's carved in stone.

In This Issue

Introverts and Extroverts
-- Getting Along
A Steward Reflects
Caring for All Creation

Catholic Moments



May 1

Pope Pius VII creates the Diocese of Boston

On this day, Franciscan Father Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares blessed the site of a mission he named San Antonio de Valero. It remained an outpost of Catholicism in Texas until 1792, when the Mexican colonial government seized the property. In 1836, the old mission became famous as a beleaguered fortress called the Alamo.

- From "America's Great (and not so great) Catholic Moments," by Thomas Craughwell (OSV). [Order it here»](#)

- Give introverts a chance to talk. Let them express their thoughts without interrupting.
- Appreciate the gifts introverts and extroverts bring to the staff. Help them see that their differences complement each other and make the parish a better place.

A Steward Reflects

by Julie Kenney

Chapter Three of "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response," titled "Living as a Steward," reminds us that our "jobs" and places of employment are critical pieces of the vocation God has chosen exclusively for each and every one of us.

Titus 3:14 tells us: "And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful."

We are called to be productive using the means (equipment, people, ideas, time, etc.) available to us in order to serve others. Many times, the focus is on what you should be doing; some thought should be on what you should stop doing to allow you to be a better steward of the time He's given you, enabling you to focus on the things that really matter.

When is the last time you reviewed the processes and procedures at the parish to judge their effectiveness? What measures do you have in place to let you know if your efforts are successful? How do you know if you've had a good day? Can technology be better utilized in the office to accomplish a goal?

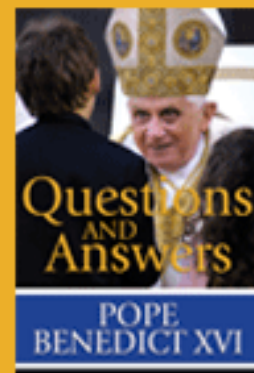
Yes, change can be scary; but, fear is an obstacle thrown our way to keep us from building the Kingdom!

Caring for All Creation

Our responsibility to respect and care for God's creation (including each other!) is reflected throughout the sacred scriptures. In the first chapter of Genesis, God declares that all creation is "very good." Psalm 24:1 begins simply "The earth and everything on it belong to the LORD." Because human beings have been created in God's image, the human person holds a pre-eminent place within creation, yet we are intrinsically connected to the whole of the natural world.

The U.S. Catholic bishops echo this connection in their statement *Renewing the Earth*, "... as stewards we seek to explore the links between concern for the person and for the earth, between natural ecology and social ecology. The

Questions & Answers Pope Benedict!



978-1-59276-439-6, \$14.95

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Our Sunday Visitor's website offers monthly articles on early childhood education, elementary education, adult formation, spirituality at work, youth ministry that inspires and help for catechists. [To see the latest, click here»](#)

Quick Links

www.OSV.com

Parish leaders' resources

Q&A with Dr. Joseph White

7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free Small Group Study Program

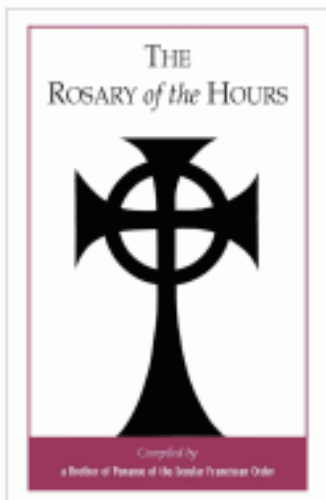
web of life is one."

Go Green in your Family!

"Going green" is a phrase that means we live out a commitment to responsible consumption. "Going green" can be integrated into our daily lives in large ways and small. The range of things families can do to "go green" is limited only by our imaginations! Below you'll find some initial ideas and resources that will hopefully inspire further of your own:

- Turn off the lights, turn off the electronics in your home and talk!
- Plant a garden on your property. Flowers and leafy greens take less water than green grass and also prevent run off into lakes and ponds. When your fruits and veggies are ripe, donate the produce to a local food bank or share in the abundance with your neighbors.
- Plant more trees and shrubs on your property. (Be sure to plant native species.) You'll be creating more habitat for birds and wildlife.
- Review your home's energy use. Check heaters and vents and make sure they are clear. Install weather-stripping, energy-efficient lighting and blown insulation in the attic.
- Encourage the whole family to bike, walk, bus or carpool when able.
- Around the house, use reusable cloths for cleaning and fewer paper towels. Encourage your family to drink less bottled water and more tap water (if clean and safe).

- From *Take Out: Family Faith on the Go* (Summer 2008). [Learn more about Take Out by clicking here»](#)



Now available: The Rosary of the Hours free ebook

St. Paul exhorted the young Church to pray always. And over the course of centuries, the Church introduced the Rosary, a simple yet profound prayer for praising God and meditating on the holy mysteries of Christ and His Blessed Mother. Now there is a way to pray the Rosary "around the clock," whereby a decade, with its own special theme, may be prayed for each of the 24 hours of the day.

Our Sunday Visitor provides the Rosary of the Hours free-of-charge to all. [Download it here»](#)

New VBS program:
Great Bible Reef

Register to win free
programs and
materials for YOUR
parish

Let us know what you think!

We hope you've enjoyed our Parish Life! newsletter! Let us know what you think--we appreciate your comments, questions, suggestions, and requests! Email York Young: yyoung@osv.com.

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