

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Parish Life!



News and resources for your parish

June 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 12th edition of our special newsletter just for parishes!

Be sure to visit our [Parish Resources pages](#). Newly updated for June, 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»](#)

This newsletter 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 newsletter, 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.

Getting ready for summer

By Lorene Hanley Duquin

The old song says, "Summertime and the living is easy...." But in a parish there can be some things during the summer that aren't so easy. For example, just because it's summer, the parish phones and doorbell don't stop ringing.

- Newcomers still need to register.
- People still want Mass cards.
- Couples want to schedule weddings.
- New parents want to schedule baptisms.
- Funerals must be arranged.
- People have questions about everything from the parish picnic and vacation Bible school to annulments, how to become a Catholic and whether it's too late to enroll a child in vacation Bible school.

Now is the time to plan for how you will continue to serve parishioners during the summer months when parish staff members go on vacation or retreat. Here are some things you might want to consider:

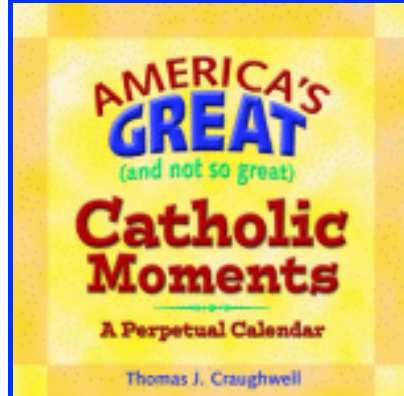
- **Cross-training staff members:** It's a good idea to make sure every staff member knows how to register new parishioners, issue Mass cards and answer commonly asked questions. It will give everyone on the staff an appreciation of what other staff members do.
- **Phone answering:** It's a good idea to institute a uniform policy for answering the phones with staff members identifying themselves to the callers. For example, "St. Mary's Parish. This is Jane Doe speaking." It helps the parishioners understand immediately that the person they usually speak with is not available.
- **Dealing with mail and messages:** Make sure you have a system for dealing with the mail and telephone messages that come through while people are on vacation. Whether you have voice mail and e-mail, or whether you still rely on mailboxes and little pink message pads, it's important that messages don't get lost during the summer.
- **Making referrals:** All staff members should have a basic understanding of how to make referrals to the parish priest, diocesan departments or Catholic Charities. You might want to type up a little referral information sheet and have copies available at each telephone in the rectory office.
- **Training temporary replacements:** Some parishes bring in trusted parishioners to fill-in while staff members are gone. Take the time to train the replacements. Leave how-to lists and reminders to reinforce the training. Remind replacements that what happens in parish offices is usually confidential.

A little forethought and a few preparations now can help you make sure that

In This Issue

Getting Ready for Summer
Year of St. Paul
Rosary of the Hours Free
E-book
Catholic VBS

Catholic Moments



June 28, 1928

The Democratic Party Nominates Alfred E. Smith for President

The Democratic Party nominates Alfred E. Smith for president. It was up-and-coming Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt who nominated Smith for president of the United States. Smith was a Catholic, and his nomination inflamed bigots across the land. When Smith's campaign train passed through the countryside, the Ku Klux Klan burned crosses beside the tracks. Smith lost the election by 6 million votes.

- From "America's Great (and not so great) Catholic Moments," by Thomas

summertime in the rectory office is easy!

Did you know? About St. Paul

The Year of St. Paul begins June 28, 2008. Paul wrote more books of the New Testament than any other author and Scripture has provided a fascinating biography of this great evangelizer. For example:

- St. Paul was descended from Benjamin, the youngest of Jacob's twelve sons (Philippians 3:5).
- When St. Paul was a teenager, his parents sent him to Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel, one of the most respected rabbis of his time (Acts 22:3).
- St. Paul had at least one sister who lived in Jerusalem. When Paul's enemies planned to ambush and murder him, his sister's son warned his Uncle Paul and the Roman authorities (Acts 23:16).
- When the king of Damascus tried to kill St. Paul, the apostle's friends had him climb into a heavy-duty basket, then lowered him from a window in the city walls to safety (2 Corinthians 11:32-33).
- Late one night, a teenage boy named Eutychus sat in a window listening to St. Paul preach. Eutychus dozed off, lost his balance and fell three stories. St. Paul brought the boy back to life (Acts 20:7-12).
- St. Paul was shipwrecked on the island of Malta (Acts 27 and 28).
- St. Paul has four feast days: Jan. 25, The Conversion of St. Paul; Feb. 10, St. Paul Shipwrecked; June 29, Sts. Peter and Paul; Nov. 18, Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul-outside-the-Walls.
- St. Paul's first convert was Lydia, a businesswoman who sold purple cloth (Acts 16:13-15).
- St. Paul is buried in Rome, in the Basilica of St. Paul-outside-the-Walls. His relics lie under the altar in a stone coffin. On the lid is the inscription "Paulo Apostolo, Mart." which means, "The Apostle Paul, Martyr."

We'll be launching a special web section devoted to St. Paul in on June 15. Be sure to visit www.osv.com/stpaul.

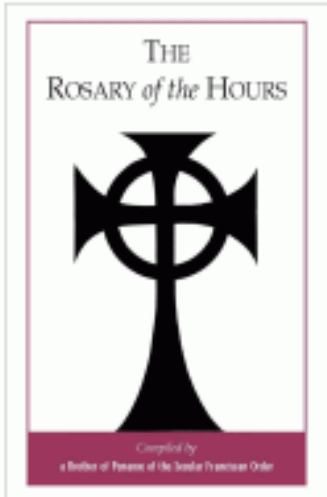
Craughwell (OSV).
Order it here»

A Call to Action!



Pope Benedict XVI's words during his historic visit to the United States in April are still resonating with Catholics around the country. OSV has the resources you need to keep the energy going in your parish. Our pamphlet, *Witness to Christ*, points out: "The Pope had two clear goals for his visit: To "be a source of renewal and hope for the Church in the United States," and to "strengthen the resolve of Catholics to contribute ever more responsibly to the life of this nation." The pamphlet goes on to focus on the six action steps given to us by the Pope.

he most interest. [Click here to order»](#)



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»](#)

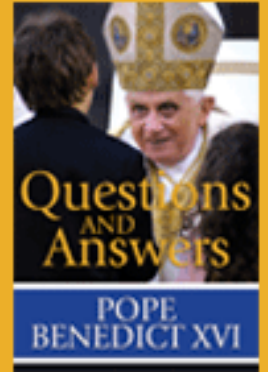
Rainforest Adventure VBS



[Rainforest Adventure](#) engages kids in the faith with attention-grabbing Scripture stories, hands-on activities and opportunities for prayer and song. The guiding stewardship theme in Rainforest Adventure teaches kids that they are called to care for all of God's creation - other

people, plants, animals and all of our natural resources. This is reinforced in word and deed at each activity site, in the daily theme (give, share, grow, love and praise), the saint for each day and in the large-group celebrations that open and close Rainforest Adventure. More information is available at Our Sunday Visitor (800-348-2440), or visit www.thevbplace.org.

Questions & Answers Pope Benedict!



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

Our Sunday Visitor

Bringing Your Catholic Faith to Life
www.osv.com

1-800-348-2440

Parish Life! Resources

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

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.

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to cdee@osv.com, by webmaster@osv.com
Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



800-348-2440 | Our Sunday Visitor Publishing | 200 Noll Plaza | Huntington | IN | 46750