

Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Parish Life!



News and resources for your parish

August 2008

Parish Life! from Our Sunday Visitor

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor. We've filled it with helpful hints and faith builders.

Be sure to visit our [Parish Resources pages](#). Newly updated for August, our theme this month is "Getting ready"! 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 [Year of St. Paul special web section](#) is now launched. Find free downloads (including a coloring book for children), prayers, Scripture, quotes, poster, and an interactive presentation. Go to www.osv.com/stpaul.

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.

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

Getting People Involved

by Lorene Hanley Duquin

If you're relying on the same people to help all the time, use the month of August to expand your volunteer horizons.

There are people in the pews who would like to get involved in parish adult education, but they don't come forward for a variety of reasons:

- Some of them aren't sure what volunteer opportunities are available.
- Some of them don't know who to ask.
- Some of them are afraid that they will be rejected.
- But these problems are easily solved. And August is the perfect time to do it!

Start by making a list of volunteer opportunities for the next 12 months:

- Do you need new idea people for planning teams?
- Could you use more hospitality people to be greeters at events?
- Are there ever enough people to bake cookies for events?
- How about people to serve refreshments after the events?
- Maybe volunteers would be willing to baby-sit during events?
- Could you use people to help type, staple, collate, or photocopy?

Your next step is to start running bulletin announcements inviting new people to volunteer. Be very clear in what opportunities are open. Offer to train new volunteers. Assure them that they will be welcome. Suggest that this will be a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved in the parish!

Let us know what YOU think by emailing us: webmaster@osv.com.

The Pope Down Under

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Did You Know?



On Aug. 15, 1981, Mother Angelica broadcasted her first program on Eternal Word Television Network. Today, EWTN is one of the largest global Catholic cable, satellite, Internet and radio network.

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

What Catholics Believe: Stewardship



A new pamphlet by Father
Daniel J. Mahan



Pope Benedict recently concluded a trip to Australia for the 2008 edition of World Youth Day.

Again, he drew large crowds and provided intellectual food for thought to Catholics worldwide. For a look at the pope's influence, and what he thinks we should be focused on, read the Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly editorial by [clicking here»](#)

From the editorial:

Pope Benedict XVI has done it again. And in some ways, his success in Australia during World Youth Day was even more surprising than his winning over of Catholic Americans and their compatriots during his visit here in April. [Continue reading»](#)

A Steward Reflects ...

By Julie Kenny

I recently read "The Spirituality of Fund-Raising," by Father Henri Nouwen. He started his ministry with the belief that fund-raising was a "necessary but unpleasant activity to support spiritual things." Time and dedicated service to others led Father Nouwen to understand "fund-raising is first and foremost a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission."

During work on a capital campaign, I understood what he meant. Soliciting volunteers to "ask for money" was not an easy task. We worked purposefully to instill the campaign vision and parish mission in our recruits. Suddenly we were not "asking for money;" we were asking them to invest in the faith as our ancestors had before us. People responded generously and the campaign was extremely successful.

Parishes perform various forms of fund-raising activities from campaigns to the weekly offertory collection. Are fund-raising activities in your parish transformational, inviting and educating parishioners to support the mission? Has the parish vision been communicated regularly in various ways? What can you do within the next month to enrich the parish/parishioner relationship?

Email your stewardship comments or questions to Julie at jkenny@osv.com.

Stewardship is a way of life deeply rooted in Jesus Christ, who by His example has taught us how to live. He came not to do His own will, but the will of the One who sent Him. He came not to be served, but to serve.
[Order here»](#)



NEW from Our Sunday Visitor and Scott Hahn!

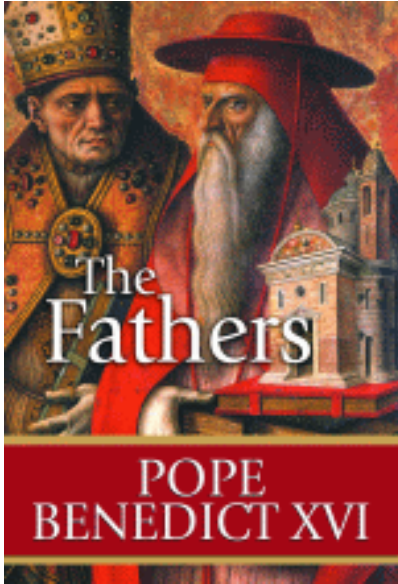
Faith Charts: The Bible at a Glance

This is a 6-panel, laminated, "cheat sheet" for the Bible: what it is, who wrote it, how to read it, the books of the Bible, where to find..., and more!

An irreplaceable resource for all ages and all stages of familiarity with Scripture.

Just \$7.95 plus S&H.
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Looking to the Fathers



Pope Benedict XVI spent much of 2006 discussing the apostles in his public audiences. Over the last year, he followed that up with a look at the Fathers of the Church, expounding on their contributions to the Church and all the faithful.

Beginning with Clement, the third successor to Peter as bishop of Rome, he focused on 26 early teachers over the course of a year, including both well-known - Augustine, Ignatius of Antioch, Jerome - and not so well-known - Chromatius of Aquileia, Paulinus of Nola.

The talks are now compiled by Our Sunday Visitor in a hardcover book titled "The Fathers." [More info here»](#)

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.

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