



acpm NETWORK

From Our President ... We are called to be Sowers of God's Peace

Greetings!

This year our catechetical theme is Sowers of God's Peace. As people of God, we are called to sow seeds of faith and peace in ourselves, in our families, in our parish communities and in the world. Looking at the idea by itself, we might feel very overwhelmed. In order to sow these seeds, we must have balance in our faith life. In the book, *Holy Longing*, by Ronald Rolheiser, the author suggests that there are four areas that create this balance. The first is private prayer and morality. The second is living and acting in justice. The third is taking delight in the world, in living in joy. And the fourth is worshipping in community.

In what area do you need to grow to sow seeds of peace? I invite you to plan time for yourself so that you can take inventory of your spiritual life and find where you may be out of balance. Only then can you bring yourself back into balance and live an attitude of peace. Only then can you become a sower of God's peace.

I challenge you to help your community recognize the four areas of spiritual balance so the seeds of faith and peace may take root and be life-giving to your parish. It is very important to help our communities live in balance. One of the most obvious ways is to teach our children to pray. Yes, they can recite the Lord's Prayer. They might even know all the mysteries of the Rosary. But is that enough to sustain them throughout their lives? We need to help them to know how much God loves them. Prayer is a response to God's love. When we know God loves us, we respond most

naturally in gratitude and service to others.

I encourage you to be Sowers of God's Peace by praying with your students using (and adapting) the traditional prayers of the church, such as Liturgy of the Hours, Liturgy of the Word, meditation and contemplation. Use ritual, symbols, gesture and action. All these can enrich prayer life. If you would like ideas in this area, contact me or other **acpm** coordinating committee members.

How can **acpm** help you achieve balance in your work life? Some issues that came out of our annual meeting last February include:

- ** Assimilation of foreign clergy into our American culture
- ** Establishing better pastor/staff relationships
- ** Fostering professionalism
- ** Mentoring of new catechetical leaders
- ** Increasing membership to promote a stronger voice in the Diocese
- ** Spiritual support and social activities on the deanery and vicariate levels

We currently have committees focusing in these areas. If you are interested in working on these issues, contact anyone on the **acpm** Coordinating Committee.

God bless you,
Mary Jo Wilt

**Don't forget to renew your
membership!
Use the form on the back page
of this newsletter.**

AUGUST 2003

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Mary Jo Wilt
713-840-8213

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NCPD Representative

Kathy Kelley

CCE Liaison

Anne Comeaux

OYM Liaison

Brian Johnson



Send articles to:

Eleanor Notz
St. Laurence Parish
3103 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Email: enotz@stlaurence.org

Notes from Kathy...

We thought it would be helpful and fun to compile a list of websites that our membership has found a good resource (and sometimes very entertaining). Your contributions to our list are welcome. Email the addresses to kathy.kelley@cgsc.org. We hope to highlight websites that focus primarily on prayer and spirituality in November.

www.AmericaCatholic.org
www.Catholic.org
www.eCatholic2000.com
(links listed topically)

www.Catholic-forum.com
www.Catholicfreebies.com
www.shc.edu/theolibrary/dir.htm
(Great directory of religious education and theological websites. All the best.)

Rain or shine, a sizable group of Galveston-Houston Diocese catechetical leaders gathered in St. Louis, the *Gateway to the West* to *Dream by the River* for the 11th Annual NPCD Convocation. Taize soothed us, Kathleen Chesto inspired us, once again David got us singing. We celebrated our REEA award winner, Lucille Pavlock and welcomed our new regional representative Jeannette Maher. The best part of the whole week, though, was being together.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your Regional Representative. I got more from the experience than I ever could have imagined. It is time that Dallas take the baton. Jeannette will serve us well.

Kathy Kelley

From the Tea Party
to the Big Dig

BOSTON



It's everyone's cup of tea!

NPCD Convocation
April 13-16, 2004

See you there!!!

RETREAT WITH THE POTTER

Tried, Tested and Ready for acpm Members to Use in Their Parishes

The month of May brought together several of the Parish Catechetical Leaders from the Central and Northeast Deanery for their final meeting of the year. Rather than plan and reflect on what had happened and where the group was going in the usual business meeting style, we gathered in the atmosphere of a retreat. We reflected with the help of a retreat outline put together by acpm on the theme of *"The Clay and the Hands of the Potter."*

We asked ourselves: How has God worked with our clayness? How have we been his hands in working the clayness of those who we were charged to lead in our Catechetical ministry?

The half day or longer retreat was divided into three short presentations followed by silence and reflection time with scripture. We then gathered after our reflection to share and pray on our clay and potter roles. The prayerful process was helpful to affirm us in our ministry and to guide and heal us in our clayness.

Our professional organization, acpm, has offered us a venue to do some peer ministry. The retreat outline is clear and very self directive. Most Catechetical leaders will find they can lead or share the leadership of this retreat day. If you are looking for a retreat tool with your deanery or your Catechists this fall, you will find this to be an effective and tested source for a prayer day.

If you would like to use our resource to help shape the clay in your workplace, give Mary Jo, our acpm president, a call at 713.840.8213.

Dan Schwieterman, Central Deanery Representative

acpm SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Barbara Mackie, DRE at St. Thomas More Church and Jennifer Sims, DRE at St. Monica Church, are the winners of the 2003-2004 acpm scholarships, announced Mary Jo Wilt, President of acpm and Kathy Kelley, scholarship committee chair.

Barbara is attending Xavier University in New Orleans working on a Master's Degree in Theology. Jennifer is attending the University of St. Thomas here in Houston working towards a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies.

The official award of the scholarships will take place at Catechetical Leadership Retreat Days August 5 and 6, 2003.

acpm scholarships totaling to \$575 are awarded annually to further the continuing education in ministry of acpm members. The funds for the scholarship are generated from membership dues. The deadline is April 30 each year. Scholarships are awarded based on demonstration of financial need and may be used for Diocesan certification programs such as Basic Formation for Catechetical Leaders, Certificate in Youth Ministry or for university level studies. Scholarship awardees are expected to serve at one Diocesan activity and to report to acpm membership at the annual business meeting. Other expectations include continued active participation in ministry, as well as a commitment to complete the studies.

For applications or further information, contact Kathy Kelley or any member of the acpm Coordinating Committee or check out our website at www.acpm-galhouston.org.

Congratulations to Barbara and Jennifer! Thanks for your commitment to ministry and to continuing education.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

acpm: This is our LOCAL professional organization, an independent association of parish catechetical ministers in leadership roles, regardless of "title." Annual dues: \$30.00 per person, due September 1.

NPCD: This is our NATIONAL professional organization, a department of NCEA. It is the only grassroots organization solely for parish catechetical ministers. Annual dues: \$75.00 per person, first member; \$60.00 each for the next two members; \$45.00 each for any additional members.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

PARISH: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Parish Mailing Address: _____

- I wish to join **acpm** at \$30.00
- I wish to join NPCD at \$75.00 (first member)
- I wish to join NPCD at \$60.00 (each for next 2 members)
- I wish to join NPCD at \$45.00 (each for additional members)
- I need an **acpm** gift membership.
- I need an NPCD gift membership.

***For you convenience, you may send one check to cover both memberships.
Please make checks payable to ACPM.***

Mail checks to: Lucille Pavlock
St. Katharine Drexel
1346 Wilkins
Hempstead, TX 77445

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Questions? Please call Lucille Pavlock at
979-826-2275

**St. Laurence Parish
Religious Education Office
3103 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479**