

# FROM THE PASTOR'S



First Sunday of Lent - February 10, 2008 A

## DIOCESE CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A FESTIVAL OF FAITH (MAY 8th-10th)

This year our Diocese celebrates its 40th Anniversary. Also, this year has been designated by Bishop Wenski as a *Year of Evangelization*.

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary as a Diocese and to highlight the Year of Evangelization, our Diocese will have a *Festival of Faith* celebration May 8-10, 2008. This will be the *biggest ever celebration* as a Diocese, I am hoping and praying very much that Ascension will be well represented by many of you. *All of you* are welcome. But, I am especially hoping that all of you who are active in one or more ministries will go to one or more days of this event. To help you with your planning the following is a breakdown of the events.

### **Multi-Cultural Mass with Procession and Mary Crowning - at Queen of the Universe Shrine, 8300 Vineland Ave, Orlando - Thursday May 8th - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

This Mass will celebrate the wonderful diversity of our Diocese and at the same time honor Mary the Mother of God and the Patroness of the Diocese. This would be a wonderful event for families and all who love the diversity of our church family. We plan to take one or more busses to this event—depending on interest. If interested in going on a bus contact Rita Billingsly at 254-3865, email ritab@aol.com. Rita is the Ascension coordinator for the *Festival of Faith*.

### **May 9th & 10th Convention Center, International Drive**

The Friday and Saturday events for the Festival of Faith will take place at the **Orange County Convention Center, South Concourse, 9899 International Drive.**

#### **Key Events on Friday for Adults**

10:30AM *New Catholic Religious Communities: What are They Saying to Us?* This presentation will look at some of the new ecclesial movements and religious communities that have sprung up in the United States

dioceses. Presenter, Sr. Patricia Wittberg, Professor in the Department of Sociology at Indiana University—Purdue University.

11:00 AM *The Eucharist and Evangelization*—Fr. Robert Barron, Professor at Lake-Mundelein Seminary, Chicago.

11:00 AM El Pader Evangelizador de la Palabra de Dios—Adele Gonzales D. Mis

1:00 PM *Catholic Faith in Action*—Fr. John Hurley, a Paulist priest and presently Executive Director of *Church* magazine.

1:00 PM *Biblia, Musica y Evangelizacion*—Padre Esau Nel Garcia

3:00 PM *Dreams & Vision: Pastoral Planning of Lifelong Faith Formation.* Bill Huesch. Bill led a seminar at Ascension last March.

4:00 PM  
*Ecclesial Movements*—Monsignor Lorenzo Albacete.

4:00 PM *The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: New Scientific Evidence.* John Iannore

7:30 PM *Ama De Berdad, Vive De Verdad*—Padre Alberto Cutie, host of a very popular radio station.

### **Saturday, May 10th**

On Saturday several of the above events are repeated such as:

10:00 AM The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin

10:30 AM New Catholic Religious Communities

11:00 AM El Poder Evengelizador de la Palabra de Dios

Noon—New Ecclesial Movements—Presentation in Spanish.

2:00 PM Ecclesial Movements in English

3:00 PM Dreams & Visions—Bill Huesch

3:00 PM Catholic Faith in Action—Fr. John Hurley

## New Events on Saturday

***Be Yourself with Mary and the Saints*** - Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath. Brother Mickey is a very popular presenter at conferences across the nation.

11:00 AM *Involving Young Adults in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Catholics between the ages of 18-39 make up 40% of the church today. How can we help them to be more connected to our Church? This presentation will look at what other dioceses, parishes and campus ministries are already doing. Presenter, Fr. Dave Dwyer, a Paulist Priest.

11:00 AM *Life-Giving Evangelization Through Ministry of Consolation*. Dr. Susan Blum Gerding, Ed.D. This presenter will present a six dimension process for Catholic evangelization in general which can be applied anytime, anywhere.

1:00 PM *He Has Done Great things for Us: Evangelization and the Eucharist*. Fr. J-Glenn Murray, S.J. This African American speaker is one of the most popular speakers in the nation.

1:00 PM *A Community of Disciples* – Fr. Frank DeSiano, a Paulist Priest.

3:00 PM *The Challenge of Evangelization*— This presentation will explore ways to evangelize students using resources already available to us. Presenter: Ken Doran. He has 30+ years in Catechetical ministry in parish, Catholic school, Diocese and in the Field of Publishing.

## Other Events

Saturday 10:00 AM *Interfaith Service and Ecumenical Reception*. After the service, a reception will follow with nationally recognized speaker, Hedly Abernethy, delivering a *keynote address*. This presenter worked in Northern Ireland seeking to bring peace to a troubled province. He has a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation from the Center for Justice & Peace, Eastern Merronite University, Virginia.

1:00 PM *Wedding Anniversary Mass*— Bishop Wenski All couples invited.

9:00 AM *Catholic High School Youth Gathering*.

10:00 AM *Youth Gathering* grades 6-12

## Catholic Film Festival

The Festival of Faith will present the first *Catholic Film Festival*. Some of the features are:

*Double Feature: Sent Forth, Liturgy & Our Lives*—27 minutes and *Faithful Citizenship*.

*Power of Forgiveness* 71 minutes. Highly acclaimed documentary maker Martin Doblemeier will present this powerful film on forgiveness and reconciliation from various parts of the world.

*Double Feature: For the Love of It*—25 minutes. *Celebrate What is Right with the World* 30 minutes

*Double Feature: Reflections for the Spiritual Explorer*—12 minutes and *Inspired Stories & Songs Inspired by Scripture*—46 minutes

*Champions of Faith - Baseball Edition*—60 minutes

*Come to the Water: Adult Journey to Baptism* -58 minutes

*Bella*—90 minutes. This movie promotes a culture of life and shows what it means to live a Catholic life.

## Saturday—5:00 PM Reception of Baptized Christians into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

All ninety parishes of our diocese will be represented and all our Catholic Schools, each with exhibits of the good things happening in their parishes and schools.

Also there will be lots of exhibitions and vendors. Food and drinks available inside the Convention Center. Entry is free.

Festival of Faith website: [festivaloffaith.org](http://festivaloffaith.org)

As stated above I am hoping that many of you will be able to attend what should be a wonderful event. Ann Horschel, a longtime parishioner at Ascension is *Coordinator of Volunteers for Brevard County*. If you can help, contact Ann Horschel at 254-6587 or email her at [horschela@bellsouth.net](mailto:horschela@bellsouth.net)

Next weekend I would like to do two things:

- Sign up any of you to give some of your time to being a volunteer on one of the two days.
- Sign up any of you who think that you would be interested in attending one (or both) of the two days. Again at this point in our planning we are seeking the number of Ascension people who may be interested in attending the Festival of Faith.

Reference: Article, *Ten Suggestions for a Lenten Retreat* by Fr. Tobin go to parish website: [ascensioncatholic.net](http://ascensioncatholic.net), click on Catholic Beliefs & Practices, then Seasons of the Year, then Lent.

Have a blessed week,



