



FEAST OF SAINT PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS
Monday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time
February 10 – Saint Scholastica
February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

Question of the Week

For the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Moved with pity, he...touched him,....” And according to the law of the time, Jesus then became unclean. Are you worried about who you touch? Are you concerned about whose lives touch you? Do you avoid being touched or associated with certain persons? Have you ever been “moved with pity” but were unable to reach out and touch another human who had aroused that emotion in you? Have you ever stepped back from getting involved or refrained from speaking up because you were worried about being *guilty by association*?

NCCL News

New YouTube Video about the 76th NCCL Conference & Exposition



Here is an opportunity to see what speakers are being featured at NCCL's conference and exposition in San Diego, May 6-10, 2012!

The idea belongs to NCCL 2012 Planning Committee member Jayne Mondoy. But she didn't do it alone. It became a family affair with the video being produced by her daughter, Catherine and the soundtrack includes her husband Tim on bass.

Don't wait, check it out at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV2td_pfBUk&feature=youtu.be
There is a lot more information available at www.nccl.us.

Access to Water on Pope's Prayer List for February

Pope Benedict XVI will be praying this month that no one will be denied the resources they need for daily life. His general intention is "that all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life."



The Pontiff's mission intention is focused on health care: "That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions."

[NACMP Invites All NCCL Members to Join Them on Sunday, May 6](#)



The National Association of Catechetical Media Professionals (<http://www.nacmp.org>) will be meeting slightly before, and somewhat concurrently with the larger NCCL Conference and Exposition in May.

At 9 am Sunday, May 6, we will enjoy a three hour keynote/workshop with Dr. Elizabeth Drescher (*"Tweet if you [heart] Jesus"* author) setting the cultural and educational stage.

In the afternoon, Tom Zanzig (<http://www.tomzanzig.com/Site/Home.html>) will help us process Elizabeth's presentation.

All NCCL members are invited to join us at NO CHARGE. Plan to fly in on Saturday and join us in a discussion that will be a wonderful warm-up for the NCCL conversation to follow. The cost of an extra night hotel stay is not only a bargain for this event, but will give you a chance to network and unwind before the NCCL Convention!

Summary Report on Catholic Bible Study Programs



Catholic Biblical Association
of America

The Catholic Biblical Association has published a 3-page document that summarizes in large strokes the work on the ad-hoc committee examining Bible study materials available for parishes. The major caution they issued concerns whether programs honor the historical-critical method, but not more specific than that.

The following ten principles were adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee as offering the most objective and useful criteria to use when judging the "Catholic" quality of Bible study programs.

Catholic Bible study programs should:

- 1) Be in conformity to major Catholic documents on Scripture, especially *Dei Verbum* (1965), the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2d ed., 1997), the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini* (2010), and the Pontifical Biblical Commission instructions *On the Historical Truth of the Gospels* (1964), *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church* (1993), *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible* (2002), and *The Bible and Morality* (2008);
- 2) Be factually accurate;
- 3) Be open to multiple methods of biblical studies and a judicious application of them, including the historical critical methods and patristic interpretations;

- 4) Quote biblical passages or explain them in their context in the Bible;
- 5) Not contradict Catholic doctrine concerning the Bible, its origin and its interpretation;
- 6) Make no claim to be the sole Catholic approach to the Bible;
- 7) Make no claim for a single understanding or theory of biblical inspiration;
- 8) Make no definitive judgments about matters that the Church leaves open-ended (e.g., date and authorship of biblical books);
- 9) Avoid fundamentalist interpretations or improper literal or fanciful interpretations;
- 10) Avoid definitive translations or interpretations of specific passages of the Bible except in the rare instances when the Church has declared a given interpretation as the correct one or has proscribed specific interpretations (e.g., Mark 3:32 on the brothers and sisters of Jesus).

“The Executive Committee of the CBA hopes that this information will, in some measure, be helpful to Catholics who seek professional guidance on the choice of reliable Bible study programs.” It is for that reason that I suggest you download this piece from their website <http://www.catholicbiblical.org/> or you can get the PDF at <http://www.catholicbiblical.org/images/pdfs/AdHocCommittee-CatholicBibleStudyPrograms.pdf>.

FREE Professional Development Webinar – THIS Tuesday, February 7



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership** and the National Association for Lay Ministry presents a series of free, online workshops on professional development for parish ministers. For a complete listing of

professional development webinars in this series please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars

Title: *Bringing Lent Home with Mother Teresa*

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

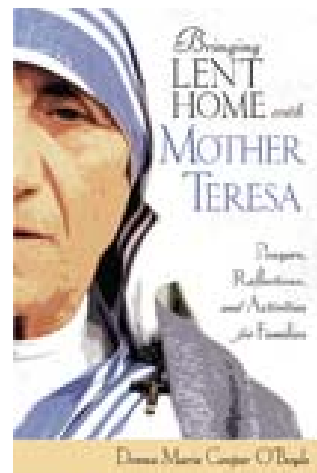
Join us for a Webinar on February 7

REGISTER NOW

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/442615344>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.



Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient and hero of the “poorest of the poor” has much to teach modern-day families, especially during the season of Lent. Join bestselling author, award-winning journalist, and EWTN television host, Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle, for a look at how her new booklet, "Bringing Lent Home with Mother Teresa," equips families with the holy tools to together progress on their spiritual journeys while forging a blessed bond in the heart of the home. This is a must-attend webinar for parish ministers who are looking for new ways to reach families during the busy season of Lent.



Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle is a bestselling author, award-winning journalist, sought-after speaker, and the EWTN television host of *Everyday Blessings for Catholic Moms*. She is the recipient of apostolic blessings from Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI and a frequent guest on national Catholic radio and television.

Tim Ragan – Founder of the East Coast Conference is Born to Eternal Life

NCCL was recently notified of the death of Tim Ragan. Tim was found dead in his home in January. Tim’s story was featured in the September 2004, Issue 15, No.3 of *Catechetical Leader* by Mary Kay Schoen. The theme of the issue was *The Catechetical Entrepreneur* and Tim fit that picture. Tim started the East Coast Conference in the 1970’s after attending a professional development conference. His first conference had 13 Exhibitors and 268 registrants. The following year the conference grew to 888 registrants. In the 80’s and 90’s there were well over 2000 participants. In 1994 Tim stated that “the biggest challenge is to turn around the concept that has crept into catechesis over the years: that most people don’t feel it is their obligation to preach the Gospel.” We pray for Tim’s soul and the souls of all the faithful departed that they may rest in peace.

New Wineskins Award – You Have Less Than 2 Weeks Left to Nominate



Last year was the second year this award was presented. The award has two recipients; one for a parish level program and one for a diocesan initiated program. When the award was instituted, former NCCL Board member Tom Quinlan stated that “This award is different from our current awards which celebrate the accomplishments of deserving individuals. It is designed to recognize an existing catechetical/evangelization program or initiative that reflects the vision and values of the National

Directory for Catechesis, is innovative in some manner, and has had a track record of success.” The background information on this award along with an application can be found on the homepage of our website (<http://www.nccl.org>).

3rd Annual NCCL Conference Scholarship

in memory of the life and ministry of
Sister Maria de la Cruz Aymes, SH

for

Diocesan Leaders

serving

Catechesis with Hispanics

Through the Generosity of



Information about the Scholarship process along with an application can be found on the NCCL website. Go to the NCCL homepage www.NCCL.org for more information including the application.

Application deadline, including all support documentation, must be received no later than midnight, Thursday, February 16, 2012.

Young Professional Catechetical Ministers Scholarships & Young Adult Initiative

Young Professional Catechetical Ministers Scholarship seeks to bolster young people engaged in catechetical ministry to become more involved with the mission of catechesis. If you are a full time paid professional minister who has 5 years or less experience and is 30 years of age or younger, you are eligible to receive a reduced registration fee of \$75. You will need to be nominated by your immediate supervisor/pastor, recommended by your diocesan catechetical office, not have received this award or the YAI scholarship for a previous NCCL conference and be able to cover the additional expenses not included in this award.

Young Adult Initiative seeks to encourage young people to consider this ministry. To be eligible for free registration, candidates must:

- be under 40 years of age
- have some ecclesial ministry experience
- never have been a professional parish or diocesan catechetical leader
- be able to cover the additional expenses not included in this award (perhaps they can secure money from their diocese or if they are in school, from their school)
- be nominated by their diocesan catechetical director
- not have received this award for a previous NCCL conference.

For more information go to the NCCL homepage www.NCCL.org. Nomination forms should be e-mailed to Michelle Tomshack (mtomshack@dwc.org) and Mark Buckley (mbuckley@stbedechurch.com), NCCL Membership Committee co-chairs. Deadline for submission: March 5, 2012. NCCL's Membership Committee will determine the awardees and notify them via e-mail by March 16, 2012.

President Invites Members to Join Committees



As a member-driven organization, President Anne Roat understands the importance of member participation on committees. They are the backbone of the organization. If you are interested in sharing your talents on a committee or if you would care to nominate an individual, either a member or a friend of NCCL with the gifts or skills to meet the committee's objectives, please contact NCCL President Anne Roat personally at aroat@dol-in.org.

A complete list of committees and their charges can be found at the NCCL website under [Committees](#). In addition, if you sign in you can see the current list of persons belonging to each of those committees.

Confession: Celebration of mercy, not trial before prosecution



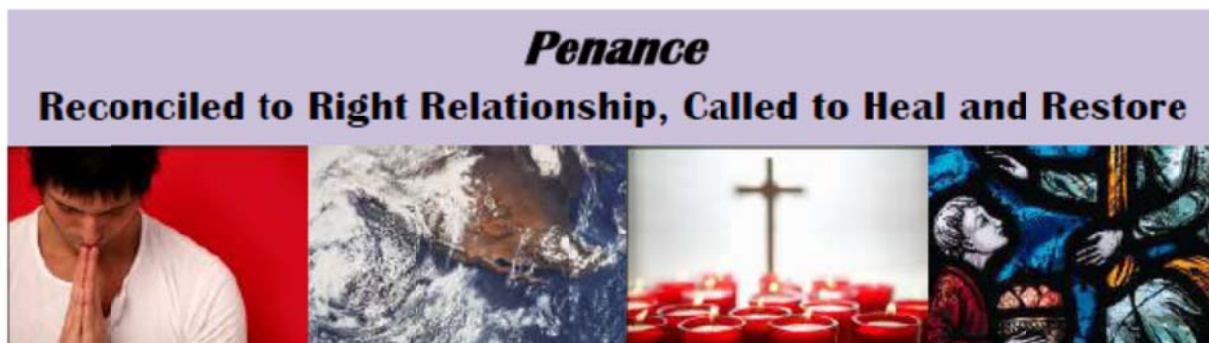
Priests hearing confessions need to replace any negative or aggressive attitudes with meekness and mercy toward the penitent, said Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, a Vatican expert on confession and a regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court that handles issues related to the sacrament of penance.

The sacrament of reconciliation "has led to a unilateral overemphasis on the accusation and listing of sins," The end result is that "the thing that is absolutely central when listening to sin, that is, the blessed embrace of the merciful Father, is put on the backburner," he said. A confessor is first and foremost a father who welcomes, listens and engages in dialogue, he said.

"Isn't it true perhaps that at times confession takes on the semblance of a prosecuting tribunal rather than a celebration of forgiveness," and that the conversation takes on "inquisitorial or, in any case, indelicate tones," he asked. People going to confession "are seeking comfort, advice and forgiveness," he said. Often they are dealing with problems in their personal life or in their relationships; concerns about contraception, separation or divorce; or difficulties between parent and child, he said.

"As confessors we are called to show mercy and hope, to be fathers more than judges, to take on the penitent's pain and listen with much patience," he said. "All of this has nothing to do with being lax or permissive," he said, "rather it focuses on the inner liberation of the penitent," their feelings of remorse and repentance, and facilitating their reception of judgment, grace and mercy from God. You can read the full article at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1200375.htm>.

Sacraments and Social Mission Monthly Feature: Penance



This month's handout in the *Sacraments and Social Mission* series is on "[Penance: Reconciled to Right Relationship, Called to Heal and Restore.](http://tiny.cc/v04tb)" (<http://tiny.cc/v04tb>) In preparation for the sacrament, we examine our consciences to identify ways we are not in right relationship with God and others, as well as how we participate in structures of sin that degrade the lives and dignity of others. Penance allows us to receive God's gift of mercy and forgiveness and to become vehicles of Christ's love, making amends and restoring justice and the bonds that have been broken. Share this resource with catechists, religious educators, teachers, and all Catholics! [Get past sacrament handouts here \(http://tiny.cc/jlyxc\).](http://tiny.cc/jlyxc)

Jonathan Sullivan Announcing Catholic Blog Day Initiative



"All Catholic bloggers are invited to write on a common theme on the same day. By speaking with many voices on a common aspect of the faith, we can help evangelize the digital continent and demonstrate the powerful presence of Catholics online. **The theme for Ash Wednesday, February 22, is: penance.**

Possible points of departure for writing your blog post include the three traditional methods of penance (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving); a memorable experience in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation; or how accepting the call to repentance has made a difference in your life.



My hope is that Catholic Blog Day will occur two or three times each year; much will depend on the feedback I get from other bloggers ..."

You can get more information and sign up for updates at <http://www.catholicblogday.org/>.

FREE WEBINAR: Sustainability and Catholic Mission WED. FEB 8

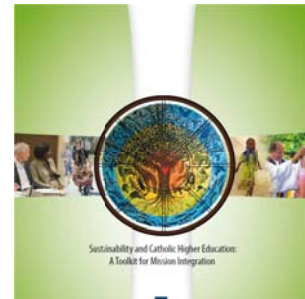


Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, the Coalition will partner with Loyola University New Orleans and offer free and to the public: *Catholics and the Climate: Fostering Mission-Based Sustainability*, a one-hour [webinar \(http://tiny.cc/8h9lq\)](http://tiny.cc/8h9lq) beginning at **8:00 pm CST**.

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, Bishop Emeritus of Spokane,

Honorary Chairperson of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and Past President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will address the centrality of creation for Catholics, the importance of environmental sustainability and the link between sustainability and mission for Catholic institutions. Dan DiLeo, Project Manager with the Coalition, will share the Coalition's new resource [*Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration*](#) (<http://tiny.cc/ljwih>).



Participants will then join a Q & A period co-moderated by Thomas Ryan, Ph.D., Director of the Loyola Institute for Ministry at Loyola University New Orleans and Kathleen O'Gorman, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Religion and Education at Loyola. For information about the webinar, how to log in next Wednesday, and the Loyola Institute for Ministry, [click here](#) (<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/online-events>).

Black Catholics Are More Engaged



A major new study of African-American Catholics has found that on average they are more religiously engaged than their white Catholic counterparts. They are also better-educated and more economically successful than their African-American Protestant counterparts.

But in terms of religious engagement and devotion, the African-American Catholics surveyed easily outpaced white Catholics, and the generation gap experienced among white Catholics in those areas -- with younger white Catholics considerably less engaged with the church than their elders -- has not affected younger black Catholics, according to the study.

Less than a fourth of U.S. black Catholics said they thought their church is racist against African-American Catholics, but at the same time less than half -- ranging from 37 percent to 45 percent -- said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the way the church promoted black bishops, emphasized black saints, targeted black vocations, promoted racial integration, supported issues like affirmative action or called attention to problems in Africa.

As catechetical leaders we can be very conscious of emphasizing black saints in both the pictures and icons we use along with the stories of the lives of the saints that we choose to share. That alone can address one of the concerns highlighted in the survey. A one-page survey highlights can be found at http://www.nbccongress.org/special-report/survey/nbcc_survey_highlights.pdf while a four-page Executive Summary is available at <http://www.nbccongress.org/special-report/survey/exec-summary-key-findings.pdf>.

The Institute for Black Catholic Studies



The Institute for Black Catholic Studies is a school of ministry for clergy, religious and laypersons working in the Black community and Catholic church that convenes each summer at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. The 2012 session

dates are June 22 through July 14. The Master's Program is a three-week course of pastoral theology studies. Certificate & Enrichment courses (for Catechists, Youth/Young Adult Ministers, Parish Leaders, Elders) are held in three one-week modules. Early registration has begun and continues through March 15. For more info including scholarship application deadline, check the website www.xula.edu/ibcs or call (504)520-7691.

NCCL invites you to submit your best practices to its YouTube Channel



In the spirit of our national conference roundtables, we invite membership to submit its best practices in evangelization and catechesis. Please submit your entries to Bryan Reising (breising@dnu.org) and Juliann Donlon-Stanz (Jdonlon@gbdioc.org) for review and they may be a part of the NCCL YouTube Channel. Practitioners in parishes, Diocesan level personnel, scholars, publishers, and other resource people can submit their videos. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Webcast on Advocacy Priorities as Faithful Citizens – February 17

Join USCCB and Catholic Relief Services for a webcast on February 17, 2012 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. During the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, hundreds of Catholics will make their voices heard on issues affecting the poor and vulnerable. This webcast will provide updates on advocacy priorities and identify where further advocacy is needed. [RSVP now!](http://tiny.cc/tv0do) (<http://tiny.cc/tv0do>).

One million UK Catholics to be given ‘faith cards’

The graphic has a blue background. On the left, the word "Service" is written in large white letters. Below it is a quote in white text: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good and be a preacher of truth in my own place." Below the quote is the attribution "Blessed John Henry Newman (adapted)". On the right side of the graphic is a small icon of Jesus Christ with a halo, wearing a red and blue robe, holding a book. At the bottom, the text "For more information: www.catholicnews.org.uk" is written in white, with "Produced by the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales" in smaller white text below it.

Every devout Roman Catholic in the United Kingdom is to be given a credit card-sized reminder to share their faith with others. The Rt Rev Kieran Conry, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and chairman of the Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, said: "The faith card for Catholics aims to offer a daily reminder of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We can't summarize the whole of our faith in bullet points, but we hope that the card simply inspires people to do, read and learn

more."

He went on: "The card is also designed to give Catholics confidence to share their faith – often people need help knowing what to say. Faith is a not a private matter.

Multi-Media Youth Contest Materials - Now in Spanish!



The contest packets for Young Artists ([Artistas Jóvenes](http://tiny.cc/jhoy0)) (<http://tiny.cc/jhoy0>) and Educators ([Educadores](http://tiny.cc/mo6zf)) (<http://tiny.cc/mo6zf>) for the Multi-Media Youth Contest are now available in Spanish. The contest educates youth about poverty in the U.S., how Catholics are called to respond, and the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to fight poverty in our local communities. We need your help alerting the Hispanic ministry contacts in your diocese that materials are now available to allow Spanish-speaking youth and youth leaders to participate. The annual contest deadline is March 31. [Get the Spanish contest packets here.](http://tiny.cc/0apj4) (<http://tiny.cc/0apj4>).

‘The Light Which Illumines The Way’

“Christ is the light which illumines the way” is the theme for the 2012 Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, which will be held in most parishes on February 22, Ash Wednesday. This collection supports essential unmet pastoral needs in Central and Eastern Europe and areas of Asia formerly under Soviet control.

“The collection is a way for Catholics in the United States to stand in solidarity and compassion with our brothers and sisters who suffered severe repression by the Soviet Union,” said Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop emeritus of Philadelphia and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Subcommittee for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. “This repression greatly weakened the Church. The region’s bishops are still facing the formidable task of restoring its church structures and, more importantly, rebuilding the spirituality of its communities.”

Many elderly residents of the former Soviet region of Georgia awoke one morning to find their pensions and life savings gone. Former doctors, lawyers and musicians now find themselves with the equivalent of \$50 a month on which to live. This stipend doesn't even cover the cost of one loaf of bread per day, leaving nothing to pay for transportation, clothing, or medicine. Collection funds are essential to make sure medical dispensaries, shelters, religious and lay ministers are available to help those who live in the region.

“Through your donations, the Catholic Church is able to provide support for Catholic organizations that bring the light of Christ to the region,” said Cardinal Rigali. For more information on the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe visit www.usccb.org and search “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”.

[First CL Podcast for 2012 is Now Available: Year of Faith](#)

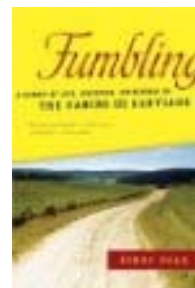


According to Jonathan Sullivan the latest CL Podcast is now up and waiting for you to listen. It features a roundtable conversation about the *Year of Faith* announced by Pope Benedict XVI. You can listen at <http://www.catechicalleader.org/2012/01/episode-013-hangin-out/>. If you are interested, you can read the Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, announcing the *Year of Faith* at <http://tiny.cc/9r5fr>. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith also released a [Note with Pastoral Recommendations for the Year of Faith](#) (<http://tiny.cc/iwxrp>). You can also view a short *RomeReports* video on this *Year of Faith* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSDefJ9JzCk>.

[My Faith: What People Talk About Before They Die](#)



I would encourage you to read this blog whether you currently know someone who is dying or not because the author, Kerry Egan, author of [Fumbling: A Journey of Love, Adventure, and Renewal on the Camino de Santiago](#) shares how she believes we talk about God. She makes a great connection between our experiences in our families and our understanding of church and God. I would suggest that she affirms what research tells us about the important role parents play in the development of faith in their children and the relationship children have with their church. Here is an excerpt and reflection thirteen years after a professor asked her what she talked about with the patients who were dying and then made fun of her answer. You can read the entire commentary at <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/28/my-faith-what-people-talk-about-before-they-die/>.



...I am a hospice chaplain. I visit people who are dying – in their homes, in hospitals, in nursing homes. And if you were to ask me the same question - What do people who are sick and dying talk about with the chaplain? – I, without hesitation or uncertainty, would

give you the same answer. Mostly, they talk about their families: about their mothers and fathers, their sons and daughters.

They talk about the love they felt, and the love they gave. Often they talk about love they did not receive, or the love they did not know how to offer, the love they withheld, or maybe never felt for the ones they should have loved unconditionally.

They talk about how they learned what love is, and what it is not. And sometimes, when they are actively dying, fluid gurgling in their throats, they reach their hands out to things I cannot see and they call out to their parents: Mama, Daddy, Mother.

What I did not understand when I was a student then, and what I would explain to that professor now, is that people talk to the chaplain about their families because that is *how* we talk about God. That is *how* we talk about the meaning of our lives. That is *how* we talk about the big spiritual questions of human existence.

We don't live our lives in our heads, in theology and theories. We live our lives in our families: the families we are born into, the families we create, the families we make through the people we choose as friends.

This is where we create our lives, this is where we find meaning, this is where our purpose becomes clear.

Family is where we first experience love and where we first give it. It's probably the first place we've been hurt by someone we love, and hopefully the place we learn that love can overcome even the most painful rejection.

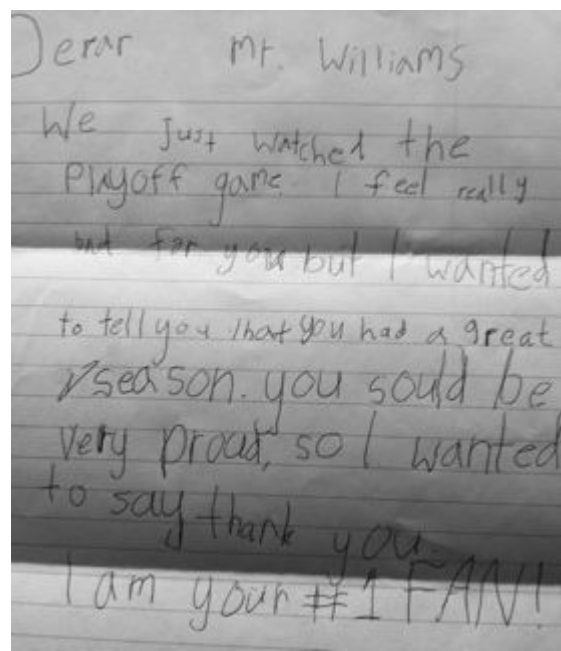
Lessons from a 7-yr-old's Heartwarming Letter



These are the words of Nisha Srinivasan. She and her husband Ragnath Padmanabhan share updates on natural farming and holistic living at [Greenlocal.org \(http://greenlocal.org\)](http://greenlocal.org) -- their "experiment in laying a new path on an old road that leads to simplicity, sustainability and, dare we say, spirituality."

As parents, sometimes the greatest lessons come unexpectedly, and from the smallest moments. 7-year-old Owen Shure's heartwarming letter to a football player is a perfect example.

The Twittersphere buzzed with reactions to the San Francisco 49ers' Kyle Williams fumbling the ball in a tight moment in the playoffs. Some responses were downright vitriolic. But hopefully Kyle also



saw this touching story from [Ben Mankiewicz on the Huffington Post Blog](#):

He was crying, saying of Kyle Williams, with the distinct sobs of a seven-year-old between each word, "But... why... did he... have to... fumble?"

[...]

Trying to get his son to stop crying, Michael asked him, "If you feel this way, how sad do you think Kyle Williams is?"

Owen paused a second, then asked his dad, "Can I write him a letter to make him feel better?"

The article stresses the importance of asking questions and even offers some questions to consider when thinking about how one teaches compassion. You can read the full article at <http://www.dailygood.org/view.php?sid=170>. In the meantime, "here are some questions that we ourselves continue to consider:

- * How can we teach our kids to be gentle and compassionate along with teaching them to be assertive, resolute etc (otherwise they might become misfits in a competitive world)?
- * What kind of life-style(s) is most conducive to practicing compassion?
- * Can compassion be willed into existence or is it an outcome of one's natural empathy -- which one is more appropriate to teach to a kid and how?
- * Repetition is the key to perfection. What are the daily activities that, with some subtle changes, help kids practice compassion?
- * How do we teach compassion to our kids without the probable side effect of a holier-than-thou attitude?

Asking Sincere Powerful Questions

If you really want to learn more about asking good questions, please review this quotation from the article above as well as download the 18-page article. It is excellent. Here is the excerpt:

...the value of asking sincere, powerful, questions that strike at the root of the matter. From author Juanita Brown:

If asking good questions is so critical, why don't most of us spend more of our time and energy on discovering and framing them? One reason may be that much of Western culture, and North American society in particular, focuses on having the "right answer" rather than discovering the "right question." Our educational system focuses more on memorization and rote answers than on the art of seeking new possibilities. We are rarely asked to discover compelling questions, nor are we taught why we should ask such

questions in the first place. Quizzes, examinations, and aptitude tests all reinforce the value of correct answers. Is it any wonder that most of us are uncomfortable with not knowing? (The full 18-page article, 'The Art of Powerful Questions: Catalyzing Insight, Innovation, and Action', can be downloaded at <http://www.theworldcafe.com/pdfs/aopq.pdf>).

Another Catholic Response to *Why I Love Jesus But Hate Religion*



Several weeks ago, CL Weekly shared a Catholic response to Jefferson Bethke's video about why he loves Jesus but hates religion. While there have been many responses, we now have a Catholic layman offer one of the best Catholic responses to Bethke's arguments. Here is what he states "Jefferson Bethke's video 'Why I Love Jesus But Hate Religion' has stirred up a lot debate in the past couple days. And while he has many, many good points to make, many of his critiques apply directly to the Catholic Church. I have nothing but respect for Jefferson, he is an incredibly talented, sincere, and gracious guy. In the spirit of dialogue, I thought I'd make a Catholic response!" You can check out his website at <http://www.makeafriar.com> or check out this four (4) minute video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dqnfz4y8uA>.

Father Barron Comments...*Why I Love Jesus But Hate Religion*



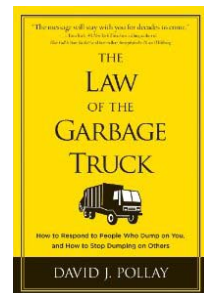
Many of our members also suggested that it is worth watching Fr. Barron's response. Father Barron now comments on subjects from modern day culture at <http://www.wordonfire.org/> so for those who missed his comments you can hear this nine (9) minute response from Fr. Barron at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLta2b9zQ64&feature=related>.

Story of the Month: The Law of Garbage Trucks

This [original](#) story, *The Law of the Garbage Truck*, was written by David J. Pollay. In fact it is now a book. This is a posting of the story and I thought you might find the message worth reading. I had a similar experience concerning "Thumbs Up!" It was a radio program that suggested when someone cuts you off in traffic or "drives like a jerk" that you just give them a *Thumbs Up* rather than using other fingers or fists. It has kept me sane on the road many, many times. I found this story to be even better. Here is the story but if you are interested in ordering the book, just click on [The Law of the Garbage Truck: How to Respond to People Who Dump on You](#).



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[and How to Stop Dumping on Others.](#)

Sixteen years ago I learned an important life lesson, in the back of a New York City taxi cab.

I hopped in a taxi, and we took off for Grand Central Station. We were driving in the right lane when, all of a sudden, a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us.

My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by mere inches! The driver of the other car, the guy who almost caused a big accident, whipped his head around and started yelling bad words at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was actually friendly!

So, I asked him, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and could've sent us to the hospital!"

And this is when my taxi driver told me about what I now call, "The Law of Garbage Trucks."

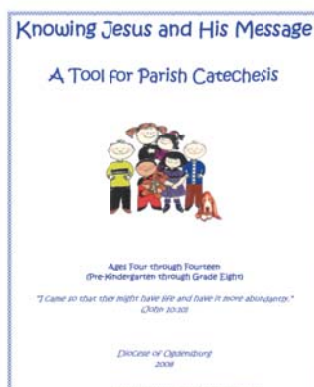
"Many people are like Garbage Trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it, and if you let them, they'll dump it on you. When someone wants to dump on you, don't take it personally. Instead, just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. You'll be happier because you did."

Wow. That really got me thinking about how often do I let Garbage Trucks run right over me? AND, how often do I then take their garbage and spread it onto other people: at work, at home, on the streets? It was that day I resolved, "I'm not going to do it anymore."

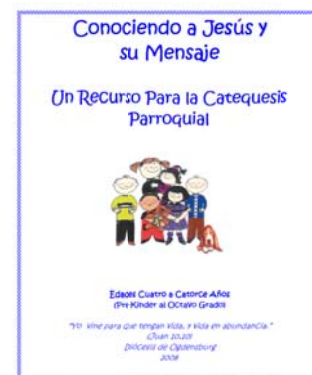
Since then, I have started to see Garbage Trucks everywhere. Just as the kid in the *Sixth Sense* movie said, "I see dead people," I can now say, "I see Garbage Trucks." :)

I see the load they're carrying ... I see them coming to drop it off. And like my Taxi Driver, I don't make it a personal thing; I just smile, wave, wish them well, and I move on.

[Knowing Jesus and His Message – Conociendo a Jesús y su Mensaje](#)



This is an excellent resource. Immediately following the Learning Session on this resources at the NCCL Conference and Exposition in Atlanta, the NCCL Bookstore sold over twenty



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