

Toward Forum's Newest Institute in 2012!— Initiation in Multiple-Parish Communities

By Jim Schellman, Executive Director



By some estimates, about a quarter of parishes in the United States and Canada are now linked, merged, or clustered in some way into multiple-parish communities. The trend will only increase in the years to come. In the Winter 2010 issue of the Forum Newsletter I reported on a first formal consultation held by Forum in October 2010, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Forum assembled a group of pastoral ministers serving in U.S. and Canadian parishes to share their pastoral practice in these various settings and the challenges and opportunities they present for the adult initiation process.

A second consultation took place at the end of August 2011. This was held at the Siena Center in Racine, Wisconsin. Pastoral practitioners from multi-parish communities gathered to

- share their varieties of pastoral experience
- identify emerging good practice for RCIA in these settings, and
- develop strategies for more effective implementation of the Rite in the challenging pastoral circumstances of multiple-parish communities.

As with the first consultation, the Racine event was led by Mark Mogilka, Gael Gensler OSF, and me.

“We pushed hard to discover emerging “good practices” and developed some tentative models for formation of pastoral ministers for RCIA in the great variety of multiple-parish community settings.”

The Mission of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is the full implementation in all parishes of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and its implications for reconciliation.

Table of Contents

Forum's Fall Webinars!	2
Combined Federal Campaign	2
Forum's Board and Staff	3
Generous Supporters of Forum's 2011 Easter Appeal.....	5
Catholic Coalition on Climate Change	5
After the First Elation: Why New Catholics Stop Coming to Mass.....	7
RESOURCE REVIEWS	
The Catholic Family Connections Bible.....	10
Called, Gifted, Sent—The Sacraments of Initiation and the Triduum.....	12
Friends on the Way: Children's Catechumenate Resource.....	14
2011-2012 Calendar	16

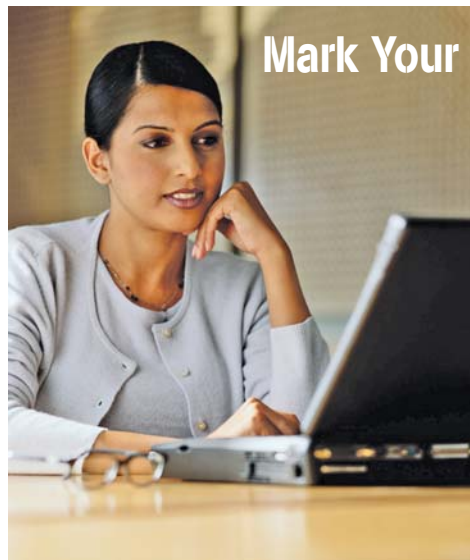
continued on next page

continued from previous page

Many of the findings of the second consultation confirmed those of the first (for a full report of the first consultation, go to www.naforum.org, click on Newsletter, then on Winter 2010. In Racine, however, the process built on what had been learned in Albuquerque and took the participants deeper. We pushed hard to discover emerging “good practices” and developed some tentative models for formation of pastoral ministers for RCIA in the great variety of multiple-parish community settings.

One result of the second consultation is a determination

among Forum’s leadership to offer in 2012 an initial formation event on RCIA in parishes that are linked, merged, clustered, etc. Please stay tuned! In the meantime, you may want to become familiar with one resource on the reality of multiple-parish communities, *Pastoring Multiple Parishes: An Emerging Model of Pastoral Leadership* (go to www.naforum.org, click on book services and then on “Implementing the Initiation Process”). This is authored by Mark Mogilka and his colleague, Kate Wiskus. A review of the book appears in the Winter 2010 issue of the Forum Newsletter.



Mark Your

Calendars Now for Forum’s Fall Webinars!

Sponsors in RCIA

Presented by Ron Lewinski

November 9, 2011

2 p.m. ET, 1 p.m. CT, 12 noon MT, 11 a.m. PT (1 hour)

RCIA with Young Adults

Presented by Michelle Miller

December 7, 2011

2 p.m. ET, 1 p.m. CT, 12 noon MT, 11 a.m. PT (1 hour)

These webinars can be experienced on your computer from home or workplace, by yourself or in company with colleagues.

Full information and registration details available soon at:

www.naforum.org



NOTICE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

**Please remember
FORUM at our
new number:
CFC #10095**

Regarding the Combined Federal Campaign

Federal employees, we invite you once again to offer your direct support to FORUM through the Combined Federal Campaign. Forum is a proud and continuous member of CFC for many years!

Thank you for your support through the years!

The North American Forum on the Catechumenate

125 Michigan Ave., NE Washington, DC 20017-1004

(202) 884-9758 Fax (202) 884-9747 www.naforum.org info@naforum.org



Mission The North American Forum on the Catechumenate (Forum) is an international network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, and theologians united to share the vision and practice of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

Mission Statement The mission of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is the full implementation in all parishes of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and its implications for reconciliation.

Theological Foundation The Mission of Forum is grounded in a theology based on the experience of

- ◆ God's gracious initiative
- ◆ the paschal mystery of death and resurrection in Jesus Christ
- ◆ the prophetic power of word and sacrament
- ◆ the shared life and wisdom of the people of God, graced and sinful
- ◆ listening to the voice of the poor and oppressed
- ◆ conversion to the freedom of disciples
- ◆ working for justice and peace for the world

Formational Principles To remain faithful to the vision of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Forum adheres to these principles:

- ◆ Initiation begins with evangelization leading to conversion.
- ◆ Catechesis, community, liturgy, and mission are formative.
- ◆ All cultural gifts are honored and celebrated.
- ◆ The methods of theological reflection are pastoral.

- ◆ The processes of adult learning are normative.

Organizational Traits Forum's operations, behaviors, attitudes, and actions exhibit these traits:

- ◆ Excellence: The highest level of competence, creativity, and professionalism are strived for at all times.
- ◆ Stewardship: Human, material, environmental, and financial resources are administered with responsibility and accountability.
- ◆ Respect: The precepts that all life is sacred, that each human being is unique, and that all deserve to be treated with dignity are affirmed in speech and action.
- ◆ Collaboration: Cooperation, consultation, communication, and networking are normative for all Forum projects.
- ◆ Inclusivity: Forum relies on the diversity of gifts among its members and proactively seeks a full range of diversity in all areas of its ministry.
- ◆ Integrity: Honesty, justice, and ethical behavior are hallmarks of Forum's work.

The FORUM Newsletter is published three times a year by The North American Forum on the Catechumenate and is available, free of charge, to all interested persons or institutions. Please address all correspondence to the address listed above.

Permission is granted to all subscribers of the FORUM Newsletter to reprint any articles or news items in the newsletter (permission not granted for graphics and copyrighted text). Include the following notation with the reprint:

"Reprinted from the FORUM Newsletter, (Date). No further reproduction permitted without permission. For more information contact The North American Forum on the Catechumenate, 125 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20017-1004. Send a copy of the reprint to Forum for our records. Copyright © 2011, The North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

Founder

Rev. James B. Dunning (1937-1995)

Board of Directors

Rev. William Burke
Ottawa, Ontario

Mr. Steve Janco
Forest Park, Illinois

Ms. Linda Krehmeier,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sr. Priscilla Lemire, RJM
Manchester, New Hampshire

Sr. Miriam Malone, SNJM
Los Gatos, California

Ms. Michelle Miller
Ottawa, Ontario

Rev. Richard Vega
Chicago, Illinois

Staff

Mr. James M. Schellman
Executive Director, ext. 4

Ms. Aleli Belonia
Institute Manager, ext. 3
Business Support, ext. 2

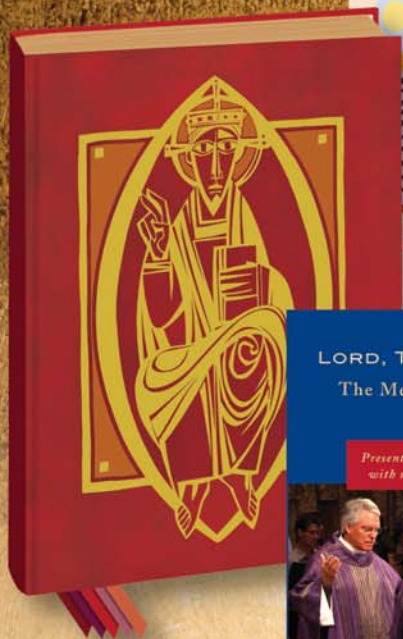
**“What good is it if the bread and wine
are changed, and we are not?”**

—Godfrey Diekmann, OSB

Living Liturgy

Living Liturgy

SUNDAY MISSAL



RITUALITY • CELEBRATION
FOR SUNDAYS AND

*Celebrating
the Eucharist*



Living Liturgy
NOVEMBER 28, 2010 – MARCH 8, 2011



THE
ORDER OF MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE CHANT or song
When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest
and the faithful, standing, sign themselves with
the Sign of the Cross, while the Priest, facing the

of the Father, and of the Son,
by Spirit. People: Amen.

to the people, saying:
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
of God,
mission of the Holy Spirit

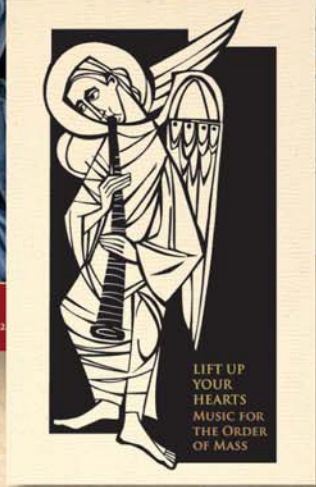
and peace from God our Father
Jesus Christ.

with you.

with your spirit.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY
The Meaning and Beauty of the
Roman Catholic Mass

Presented in 25 three-minute video sessions
with study guide for individuals or groups



Preview our new
25-segment video
Lord, Teach Us to Pray
online! A resource created
by a parish for parishes!

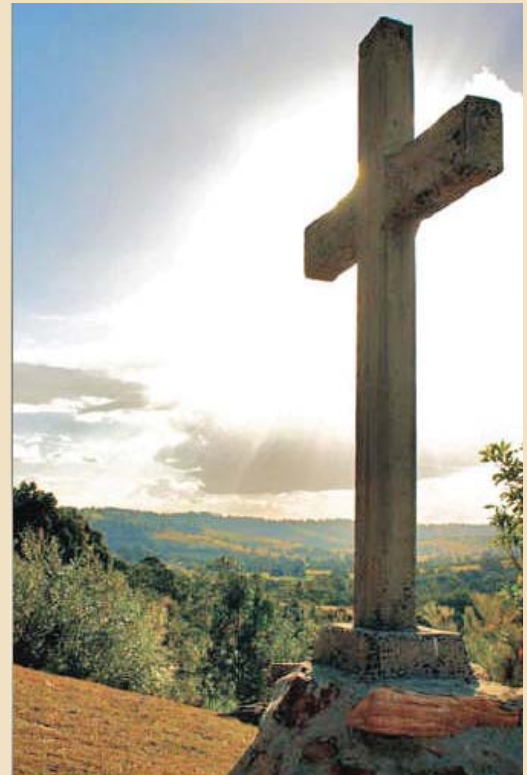
From new music and Mass settings to pew cards, booklets and *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* itself, Liturgical Press offers essential support for your ministry during this important transition.

LITURGICAL PRESS • 1-800-858-5450 • www.litpress.org

Generous Supporters of Forum's 2011 Easter Appeal

We thank the many Forum members and friends who took part so generously in Forum's 2011 Easter Appeal. We cannot name all who gave and so include here the names of those who were able to give in the amount of \$200 or more.

Gael Gensler, OSF	William Lyons
John Durbin	Erin McGeever
Mildred Edwards	Katherine Pesek
Nancy Ferrari	Diana Dudoit Raiche
Jerry Galipeau	James and Andrea Schellman
Rick Goodwin	Albert Starshak
Robert Kennedy	Jean Walters
Theresa Luby	



Join the Work of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

Links for further information:

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
www.jubileeusa.org/climate
www.unfccc.int

By signing up at www.catholicsandclimatechange.org you will be kept up-to-date on how you can put your faithful stewardship into action. You will receive regular email and action alerts reflecting the U.S. Bishops' public policy priorities as well as news on efforts to care for creation from the Vatican, the U.S. Bishops, state Catholic conferences, dioceses, and parishes.

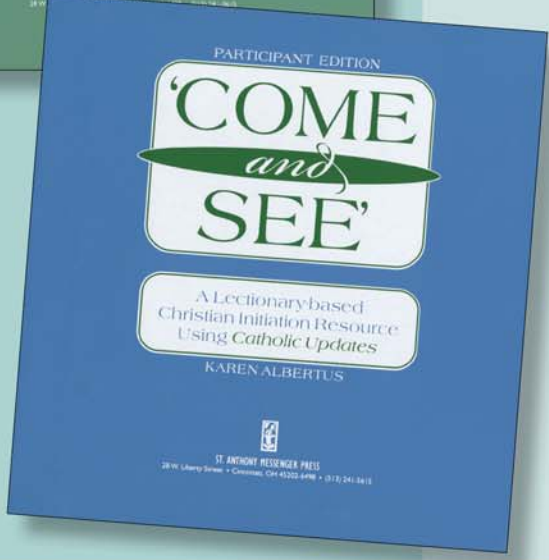
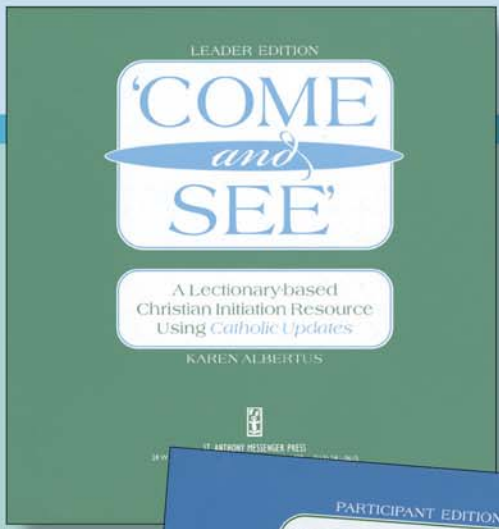


Take the prep work out of your RCIA sessions

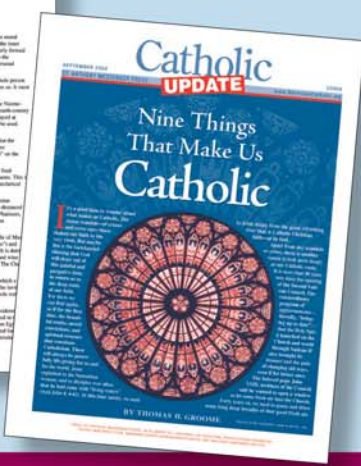
Come and See

Save time with everything you need in one convenient place:

- Relate each session to the Sunday readings using the optional lectionary-based process
• Use the complete session plans with suggestions for preparation, journaling and prayer
• Plan a one-day retreat for the Elect and Candidates from the outline provided



Plus, Come and See has:



- An Imprimatur from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati
• A glossary of Catholic terms
• Over 120 Catholic Updates written in an easy-to-understand style
• A list of more RCIA resources to support your ministry

For these and other RCIA resources, call St. Anthony Messenger Press at 1-800-488-0488 or visit Catalog.AmericanCatholic.org

After that First Elation: Why New Catholics Stop Coming to Mass

By Susanne Kowal, Coordinator of Adult Initiation for the Diocese of Plymouth in England

This article is reprinted with permission from the 21 July 2011 issue of The Tablet
(<http://www.thetablet.co.uk>)

It is now a few months since a number of new Catholics (neophytes) were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, and, with the period of post-baptismal catechesis (or *mystagogia*) now finished as far as the parish process is concerned, it is time for parishes to re-evaluate the process and look ahead.

I was surprised to hear from a woman who was received a few years ago that she now doesn't come to Mass any more. Her parish is known for being a welcoming and active parish and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team is friendly. She told me how the highlights of her journey in faith had been the Rite of Election and the Easter Vigil and she talked about how enthusiastic she had been on experiencing the teachings of the Church and how to live them out. She said that the parishioners had been very encouraging to her during the whole process; but, she said, this changed after the Easter Vigil. She told me that she felt absolutely elated at her baptism—full of hope and expectations of what it was going to be like in her new “spiritual home” and she could not stop talking about it. Only a few weeks later, however, she felt isolated and abandoned; the community appeared to show no further interest in her. She struggled for four years, and then just gave up.

The RCIA reminds us that “the entire community must help the candidates and the catechumens throughout the process of initiation” (RCIA #9). After my conversation with this woman, I had to ask myself when people think



this process ends. Perhaps they think that, after the baptism at the Easter Vigil or after the post-baptismal catechesis at Pentecost, the neophytes are fully initiated members of the community and they no longer need to be invited to join in any parish activity. How different it might have been for this woman if the parish had a “new Catholics” group — where they could continue to meet until they had gradually become involved in the activities of the parish.

A major concern expressed by priests, catechists and sponsors alike is why so many people who seem committed to taking

this step on their faith journey then fall away from practice (or, to use the more common term, lapse). The figure is thought by some parish priests to be about 20 per cent (*Note from Jim Schellman, Executive Director, Forum—To Forum's knowledge, there is no solid study of the attrition rate of those who have gone through the initiation process. Forum is seeking a grant to gather this information by scientific means through the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, CARA.*)

Maybe we should begin by asking why the vast majority of new Catholics stay — and appear to settle happily in our parishes and engage energetically in the mission and ministry within the parish. Indeed, it is widely known that their contribution to the life of the local and wider Church is immense. A recent study undertaken in the Plymouth Diocese considered these questions. Interviews with more than 30 “new” Catholics who had been received into the Church between four and 15 years ago revealed interesting responses. All of them confirmed

continued on next page

continued from previous page

that they had valued the RCIA process. Most of them found the parish congregation encouraging and interested. Only one interviewee felt that the sessions included too much doctrine; and only one felt that there was too little doctrine. Candidates found it encouraging to be asked to share their faith journey with the catechists and sponsors. They responded favourably to hearing the beliefs and teachings of the Church.

When we spoke to those who now feel they belong to the community each one was keen to stress that the inclusive spirit of welcome both during and after the process had been of paramount importance and was, in fact, the overriding factor in their settling into the community. Many of them had become engaged in parish ministry or in some activity ranging from taking a turn on the tea and coffee rota to being ordained to the permanent diaconate.

Having interviewed a number of the lapsed “new” Catholics, it would appear that the reasons for their not practising are many and varied. One woman we spoke to was in her early 30s. She had married young; she was expecting her first child when her husband of a few months left her. She never saw him again and the marriage ended in divorce. With her son later at a Catholic primary school, she was drawn to and later initiated into the Catholic Church. Some eight years later, she met someone, and wanted to marry him. Realising the difficulty she faced, she approached her parish priest; but he had no time to

TO DO:

- Consider starting a “new Catholics” group to help people make a gradual adjustment into parish life
- Make sure there is a sound process of discernment for people asking to become Catholic
- Be deliberate and welcoming in the way that you invite new Catholics to become involved in the various aspects of parish life

“The most overwhelming reason for not settling into the Church was the lack of welcome from the parish community. According to the people interviewed, the adjustment from being part of a small intimate RCIA group into being part of the larger parish community was like being thrown to the lions. Some felt that we invite them to the feast but forget the after-dinner conversation.”

see her. After two more unsuccessful attempts, she was never seen again at Mass.

A more uncommon dilemma is when one partner in a marriage decides to become Catholic — but without the full consent of their non-Catholic or anti-Catholic partner — only to discover later that the fact of coming to Mass on a Sunday drives a wedge in their marriage.

These cases may sound extreme; they are just a few of the situations that the local study uncovered after interviewing people who had lapsed. The most overwhelming reason for not settling into the Church was the lack of welcome from the parish community. According to the people interviewed, the adjustment from being part of a small intimate RCIA group into being part of the larger parish community was like being thrown to the lions. Some felt that we invite them to the feast but forget the after-dinner conversation.

No questions were needed to prompt these people to explain why it had not worked out for them and to

hear them express their sadness. They were seemingly anxious to help the Church get it right in the future. A few had returned to their previous denomination; others were disillusioned, angry and hurt.

In conclusion, we believe that we have to ask ourselves some uncomfortable questions about how we welcome people and how we invite people to be involved in our parishes — especially when it concerns those we meet on the threshold.

A Simple Introduction to the RITE of PENANCE

WORDS of FAiTH



Explore key themes
with these 5 bulletin
inserts:

- Introduction
- Contrition
- Confession
- Acts of Penitence
- Absolution

Each theme sold in packs of 50 for \$8.95 or
as a PDF for as little as 18¢ per insert!

Volume discounts available for orders over \$100



ave maria press® | (800) 282-1865 | www.avemariapress.com
A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross

GRADUATE EDUCATION

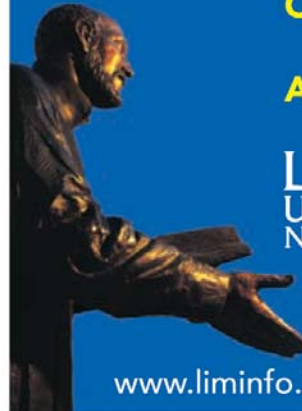
for Catechetical Excellence

Loyola Institute for Ministry
offers affordable master's
degrees in pastoral studies
and religious education.

Online or
On Campus

Apply now!

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS



www.liminfo.loyno.edu



The Institute in Pastoral Ministries

*An Experienced Pioneer
in Pastoral Education*

*Celebrating
25 years
of excellence
in serving the
educational
needs of
persons
engaged in
Roman
Catholic
ministries*

MASTER OF ARTS	Pastoral Ministries Pastoral Administration
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	Canon Law
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE	Pastoral Ministries Pastoral Administration

**Affordable, accessible professional education
for deacons, lay ecclesial ministers and priests**

- Online format with a 10-day on-campus summer residency at Saint Mary's beautiful Winona campus.
- Directed individual study, allowing preparation before and project completion in the months following the summer session.
- Join us to study deeply our Catholic faith, to practice skills for Christian service, and to pray fervently for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Enroll now!
(800) 635-5987, Ext. 7500
www.smumn.edu/ipm



BOSTON COLLEGE

THIS FALL EXPLORE THE EUCHARIST

**The Church in
the 21st Century Center**

Download the fall C21 Resources magazine, "The Eucharist: At the Center of Catholic Life" and access the Center's extensive fall programming.
Visit: www.bc.edu/church21

C21 Online

Enroll in the C21 Online workshop "The Eucharist: At the Heart of Catholic Life" (October 12 – 25) and explore fall online learning opportunities.
Visit: www.bc.edu/c21online/forum

RESOURCE REVIEW

The Catholic Family Connections Bible

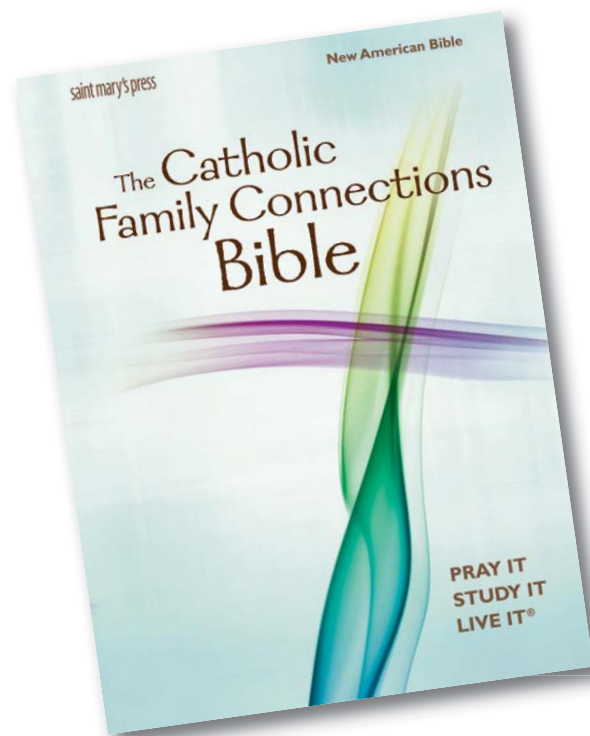
Published by Saint Mary's Press,
\$26.95 (U.S.), 1802 pages

Reviewed by Jay Freel Landry

The bible, the living word of God, gives great life and is the primary source of theology. Yet, it is also one of the most daunting books to read. Where do you begin, especially as a family? Do you read from one book alone, follow the lectionary, or bounce from book to book? With *The Catholic Family Connections Bible*, families will find a good start to praying with, studying, and living the bible. This new bible offers a family-friendly approach to the bible with the trademark Pray It! Study It! Live it! that includes many articles throughout the bible on how to pray, study, and live God's word.

The prayer articles promote personal and family prayer as they elucidate the biblical foundation for prayer in various ways. For example, they invite the family to praise God for all that God has done for us, quoting King David in 2 Samuel 7, where he does just that. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has encouraged all its members to pray with God's word. This bible describes *lectio divina* as one method of personal prayer. It could also have encouraged the powerful method of group *lectio divina*. This is better suited for a family, where even young children can repeat a word or phrase that strikes them and remember this word or phrase later in the day or the week as a call to prayer or discipleship. The rosary and how to pray it is also offered as a family prayer form. This bible wisely shares the scriptural basis for each mystery of the rosary.

The articles on how to read and study the bible promote family conversation connecting contemporary life issues with biblical passages. The list of issues covered is vast, based in cultural connections with the word of God. Perhaps the greatest strength of this bible is its excellent grounding of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) in



Scripture, for example, our responsibility to protect the dignity of the human person and the planet flowing from Genesis 1-2. Another citation of CST connects the dignity of all work with the response in the Synoptic Gospels of many of Jesus' hometown crowd, who react to him as "just a carpenter." CST insights are offered throughout this bible and empower the family to realize that CST's origin is in God's word and to link it to daily life. Rather than keeping CST as our best kept secret, this bible strongly promotes CST by inviting the family to infuse their common life with prayer, study, and service grounded in CST flowing from Scripture.

Two fruits of Catholic Social Teaching are discipleship and service. In 2 Maccabees 6, we find Eleazar going to his death by torture, thereby teaching by example and giving courage to fellow Jews to be faithful, no matter the cost, amidst the Seleucid persecution. Realizing the theological diversity in the bible, the editors describe the concept of just-war from 1 Maccabees 6 and later describe nonviolent resistance as found in 2 Maccabees 6-7, linking it with Matthew 5 in the Sermon on the

RESOURCE REVIEW

Mount. Further, the editors offer activities to learn and live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy: naming how the other members of the family serve; practicing the works of mercy; the call to Lenten conversion through prayer, fasting and almsgiving; and counting your blessings as a call to steward them for others.

This bible includes the standard NAB introductions to each book and a second introduction that can help the family more deeply engage God’s word. Many aids assist in locating biblical passages pertinent to historical people, teachings of Jesus, tradition, sacraments, faith issues, the liturgical calendar, Sunday lectionary, and an excellent historical biblical timeline. Further, the editors offer helpful insights into the variety of biblical genres. Just as the newspaper and literature have different types of writing, so does the bible. Here we find history, myth, chronicles, oracles, gospels, epistles, apocalyptic writings, and poetry. The editors emphasize the importance of

diverse rules for interpreting each genre in its own literary context. Throughout, the editors have included Catholic teaching on Scripture as part of tradition that incorporates brief articles on essential doctrines like salvation history, revelation, inspiration, interpretation, biblical criticism, and reason.

Lastly, based on the premise that the family is called to holiness, this bible offers a good means for the family reading, praying with, and being drawn to service and discipleship from the word of God.

Jay Freel Landry is married and the father of two daughters. He has done parish ministry for 12 years and served on the Initiation Committee of the Ft. Wayne-South Bend Diocese. A Forum Team member, Jay is currently a pastoral associate at Little Flower parish in South Bend, Indiana, with responsibilities for initiation, adult formation, outreach, and community organizing. He has published in Catechumenate and Vision magazines.

New Titles for the RCIA from WLP

Formed in Faith

Sessions for Inquiry, Catechumenate, and Ongoing Faith Formation

Mary Birmingham

All sessions are reproducible from the included CD-ROM which contains handouts, discussion/reflections questions, and other materials.

017185 Book with CD-ROM\$59.95
3 or more copies\$49.95 each

Enlightened by Faith

Prayers for the RCIA Journey

Anita Ahuja

Forty-three prayers and meditations for the journey through the initiation process.

017353 5 x 7 Paperback\$6.00 each
5 or more copies\$5.00 each
Even lower bulk pricing online!

The Spirit at Work

Conversion and the RCIA

Michael Marchal

Explore the challenges that face RCIA ministers and the entire parish. This book will lead RCIA ministers to the core of the initiation process and give them the wisdom and tools necessary to lead all to a profound conversion to the Lord.

017186 Paperback\$14.95



Fountain of Life SERIES



World Library Publications
800-566-6150 • wlpmusic.com

RESOURCE REVIEW

Called Gifted Sent— The Sacraments of Initiation and the Triduum

By Rev. Dr. Elio Capra, SDB

Published by James Goold House Publications,
Melbourne, Australia, 116 pages

Book \$15 (AU\$), Journal \$10 (AU\$), plus handling
and freight, visit www.kwl.com.au

Reviewed by David Arsenault



Initial reaction, after briefly looking through the book, was “too much,” “too detailed,” and “too long.” Neophytes gathering just after the Triduum would not be willing to review their experience in such detail. After reading and reflection, however, it would seem that there is great value in such a detailed and lengthy review. After one or two reflection sessions, the neophytes will understand the value of spending time in such reflection. The book includes a journal with different reflection questions for both the elect and sponsors (or members of the parish community).

Elio Capra has done his homework and has gathered a wealth of information from a wide variety of sources, both ancient and contemporary. The author wants to do more than just impart knowledge and teach doctrine. He wants readers to be drawn “into the mystery of God’s love” by reflecting upon their experience of the Triduum liturgy, especially the celebration of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

One of the most useful characteristics of this book is the author’s emphasis on how God and the Church take the ordinary, everyday, and mundane and make them extraordinary, unusual, and holy (sacramental). For example, his explanation of the simple rite of the Presentation of the Gifts by the neophytes at the Easter Vigil (see pp. 97 – 98) is made significant and more meaningful by his use of the Augustinian allegory of the journey toward Eucharist. Just as the bread and wine are fruits of the earth, made by human hands, so the neo-

phytes are fruits of the Spirit, made by the hand of God. Another characteristic of the book is the plethora of quotes from the Fathers of the Church and early theologians describing the initiation process and procedure in the ancient Church. What we do today is clearly based on ancient practice. Prayers from earlier rites and traditions also highlight the continuity of theological belief and practice from past to present.

There is an assumption that the Stations of the Cross are “celebrated” on Good Friday morning. What is the place of Morning Prayer?

Some additional catechesis may be necessary to enable the elect to answer some of the reflection questions. For example, in order to respond to the reflection questions about the second reading on Good Friday (Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9), some explanation of the priesthood of Jesus and the priesthood of all the faithful may be needed.

At times, some of the descriptions of liturgical gestures and symbols are unnecessarily verbose and detailed. Let the gestures and symbols speak for themselves (e.g. the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross). Let the elect describe them as they experience and “see” (understand) them.

Other descriptions, however, are moving and profound (e.g. the Easter Vigil Liturgy of Light, pp. 40-43). As Capra says, “Words are not necessary if the fire that dispels the darkness of the night has abundant and generous flames” (p. 41).

RESOURCE REVIEW

The author has taken the time to explain many of the details of the Easter Vigil in a way that makes them more profound and meaningful (e.g. the Renunciation of Sin, pp. 53-54, and the Anointing with Chrism, pp. 82-85). There are regular and constant references made to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

There is an extended and lengthy reflection on the theology of Baptism (see p. 58 ff), including the naming, immersion, the role of Godparents, the role of the parish community, dying and rising with Jesus, the garment, and the candle.

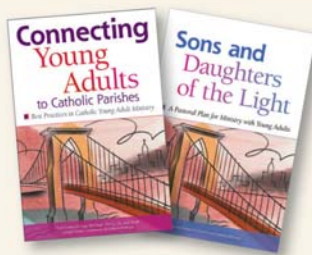
In the reflection on Confirmation, the author includes sections on the “role of the Holy Spirit during the catechetical journey”, (see pp. 85-86), the “Holy Spirit and the Cross of Jesus Christ” (see pp. 86-87), and “The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit” (see pp. 87-89).

Much has been said about the lack of, and ineffectiveness of, Mystagogia. This book and the accompanying

journal provide a tool for making Mystagogia more effective and a true reflection of the “experience” of the Paschal Triduum. Not only will the neophytes remember and contemplate their experience of the Triduum liturgy, but there is the real possibility that they will come to a more profound understanding of the deeper theological foundations of the prayers, actions, and gestures which comprise this most important liturgy of the Church.

David Arsenault is Pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish and Catholic Chaplain at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. He also offers sacramental ministry at the State Correctional Institution in Smithfield, PA. A member of the Forum Team, David has a number of years of initiation ministry experience, including campus ministry at Penn State University. His parish supports an active Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference and is twinned with a parish in Lalomas, Haiti.

USCCB Youth Ministry Resources



Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes

Contains best practices and highlights how to do Catholic Young Adult Ministry in your parish.
No. 5-546, 288 pp., \$24.95

Sons and Daughters of the Light (Rev. Ed.)

A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults

Helps young adults discover the answers to life's most profound questions through a personal relationship with Jesus and the Church.

No. 7-090, 62 pp., \$9.95

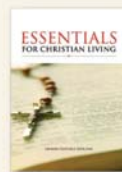


Renewing the Vision

Empowers young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, encourages their responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Church, and fosters their total personal and spiritual growth.

English: No. 5-004, 62 pp., \$6.95

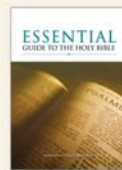
Spanish: No. 5-005, 68 pp., \$6.95



Essentials for Christian Living

What do Catholics believe? How are we supposed to act? This compact little book summarizes the core of what Catholics must know and put into practice.

No. 7-020, 131 pp., \$6.95



Essential Guide to the Holy Bible

Re-discover the Bible's extraordinary history, its worldwide scope, and its appeal as the “inspired word” of God in this offering from the Vatican.

No. 7-066, 70 pp., \$6.95

Available at USCCBPublishing.org
 or call **800-235-8722**.

MODERN QUESTIONS. GOSPEL ANSWERS.



USCCB
 COMMUNICATIONS

RESOURCE REVIEW

Friends on the Way: Children's Catechumenate Resource

By Janet Miller

Available from TeamRCIA, \$97.50 (U.S.) for one full liturgical year, or \$36.00 per quarter

Reviewed by Nancy Dunkerley

Dear Dedicated Catechist or Coordinator,

The Church is grateful that you understand the notion that the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is intended for all unbaptized persons of catechetical age (around age 7) or older. You know the resources you use for catechesis have to be age-appropriate.

And you recognize the vital role of parents as well as sponsors in the whole process; you know you and your children's initiation team cannot do this alone (and shouldn't!). You encourage peer companions for the children and seek ways to include them appropriately in the process. Surely, the initiation journey is something involving the whole family, indeed the whole community, throughout the liturgical year. You know that the ministry requires a dual focus for equipping both children and their adults for the journey of Christian discipleship.

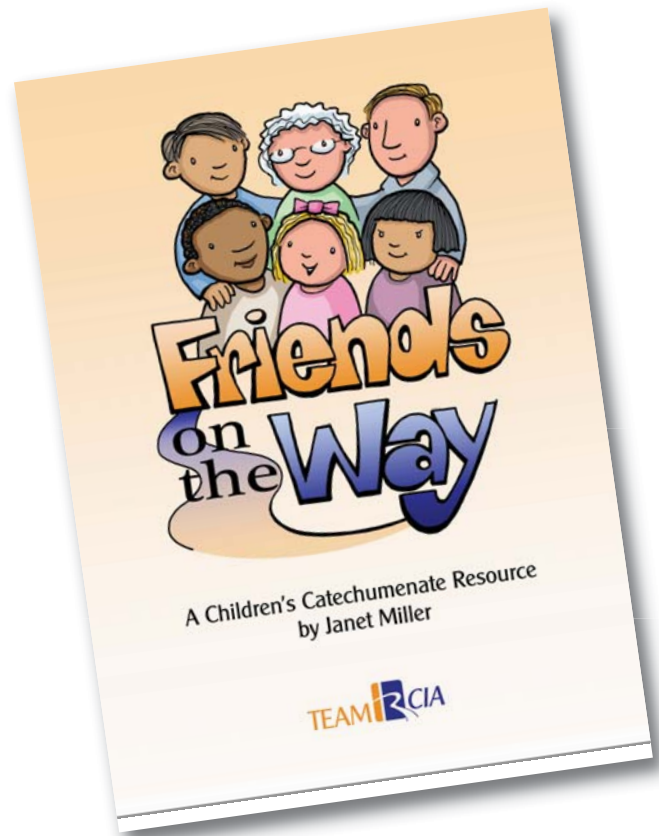
And you are sold on the importance of including children in the rites in your parish along with adult catechumens. What better witness to the whole community that we are all, no matter what age, one in our Christian walk!

And you recognize that the initiation journey is one that involves discernment all along the way, yet has unique programmatic needs—planning, scheduling, training, and administration—in the parish.

So, are you still looking for catechumenate materials to use with families and children?

Haven't discovered *Friends on the Way* yet? A resource offered through TeamRCIA <http://teamrcia.com>.

The resource includes a dismissal session and a catecheti-



cal session for every Sunday of the liturgical year. In the course of the year, children learn about the entire mystery of faith. And each session includes a direct link to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The best thing about *Friends on the Way* is that it is completely electronic. That means you download each session directly to your computer as a PDF file, and you keep that file on your computer as long as you want. You have permission to forward that file and to print as many copies as you like for each of the catechists on your team.

The price is within the reach of most groups, less than \$100 for a whole cycle of plans, handouts, and directions for activities and more. Or, you can order a bundle of only 3 months at a time, at an average price of \$12 per month.

Am I beginning to sound like a sales person? Maybe so. This resource is user friendly, adaptable, and reliable. The philosophy undergirding the series recognizes the basic principles for all initiation (other than infants) and

RESOURCE REVIEW

the particular norms for adapting the Rite for children. It's worth going online to the TeamRCIA site and exploring this resource. Download a sample, show it to your team, and see if it doesn't offer you guidance for a meaningful process.

While you're on the site, look around at the rest of what they offer: lots free in the way of inspiration, training, sharing of ministry tips, and dealing with practical pastoral problems.

Friends on the Way was created by Janet Miller, long-time master catechist, contributor to *Celebrating the Lectionary*, author of *Family Advent-ures*, *Family Prayers and Activities: Weekly Guides*, and *Catechizing for Justice: A Six-Session Program To Promote the Gospel Mission*. She is the lead editor of *FaithDays!* and *Forming Ministers for Whole Community Faith Formation*, selected by the Library of Congress for its social significance. Her other works are available from Resource Publications, Inc.

A bonus on the TeamRCIA website: a recorded webinar featuring Janet Miller, *Introducing Friends on the Way: Children's Catechumenate Resource*, offers a chance to take yourself back to when it was recorded in 2010 and pick up a thorough workshop! This video gives background on principles of children's initiation catechesis, suggests ways of adapting materials in various situations, including use with teens, suggestions about clustering with neighboring parishes, and it outlines what is included in the program.

Now, stop reading this review and get online to <http://teamrcia.com> ... right now!

Nancy Dunkerley is co-founder of Spiritual Ministries Institute, a non-profit organization promoting ecumenical Christian formation for spiritual directors and other spiritual growth ministries. She coordinates a network of spiritual directors in the Texas-Arkansas region. A Forum Team member and popular retreat leader and speaker, Nancy has many years of experience with catechumenal ministry at parish and diocesan levels.

NOW is the time to cultivate invitations to the RCIA!

Seeking Christ



When inquirers come to your door, how do you greet them, engage them, and help them reflect on whether the RCIA is the right process for you? These flexible sessions can be easily adapted to help others come to experience basic aspects of our Catholic vision of life and faith.

- Who are you attracting to think about Jesus in our Catholic tradition?
- How are you equipping your parishioners to invite?
- What resources do you have available?



Resources to help you invite available from:

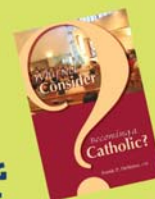
WWW.PEMDC.ORG
(800) 237-5515

Faith Outreach Brochures



Inexpensive, attractive brochures for you to make available to your parishioners, or to distribute through mailing home visitation or doorknob hangers, help raise the question about the Catholic faith for everyone.

Why Not Consider Becoming a Catholic?



Do you ever wish you had a simple, inexpensive book to give to inquirers? Here it is—an accessible way for people to begin to think about the Catholic faith in a sensitive, tactful way.

The North American Forum on the Catechumenate's Pastoral Training Institutes provide ministers—volunteer and paid, full and part-time, lay and clergy - with deeper understanding of the vision of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the fundamental and advanced skills to implement all aspects of the Rite and its implications for reconciliation. Institute leaders are among North America's most experienced pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, and theologians.

2011-2012 CALENDAR

■ THE INITIATION EXPERIENCE INSTITUTES

present the compelling vision and pastoral skills to implement the initiation process and emphasize the relationship of good liturgy to good catechesis.

BEGINNINGS & BEYOND INSTITUTE

BEGINNINGS "PLUS" INSTITUTE

BEGINNINGS INSTITUTE

October 20-22, 2011, *Diocese of Charlottetown (Prince Edw. Island)*

October 27-29, 2011, *Diocese of Superior (WI)*

June 21-23, 2012, *Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington MI (Archdiocese of Detroit) – with multicultural emphasis*

June 21-23, 2012, *Archdiocese of Milwaukee (WI)*

August 2-4, 2012, *Diocese of Fall River (MA)*

October 11-13, 2012, *Diocese of Birmingham (AL)*

■ INITIATION IN RURAL & SMALL PARISHES

(Diocesan Events)

■ THE FOCUS ON INITIATION INSTITUTES

concentrate on specific aspects of initiation using presentations, celebrations of the rites, and small group discussions. It is preferable that they follow the Initiation Experience Institutes.

CATECHUMENATE

October 21-22, 2011, *Archdiocese of Atlanta (GA)*

November 11-12, 2011, *Diocese of Sacramento (CA)*

June 8-9, 2012, *Diocese of Salt Lake City (UT)*

PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

MYSTAGOGY

August 16-17, 2012, *Diocese of Monterey (CA) – bilingual*

CHILDREN AND CHRISTIAN INITIATION

January 20-21, 2012, *Archdiocese of Miami (FL)*

August 3-4, 2012, *Diocese of Richmond (VA)*

August 17-18, 2012, *Archdiocese of Los Angeles (CA)*

August 20-21, 2012, *Diocese of Buffalo (NY)*

CONCERNING THE BAPTIZED

November 4-5, 2011, *Diocese of Grand Rapids (MI)*

■ THE INITIATING COMMUNITY INSTITUTES

explore advanced issues of implementation for experienced ministers as they broaden the initiation experience to include the entire community. Small groups discuss, share, and critique models.

DEVELOPING THE MINISTRIES

FURTHERING THE INITIATION EXPERIENCE

PRAYING THE RITES

ECHOING GOD'S WORD

September 23-24, 2011, *Diocese of Calgary (AB)*

IMAGING THE INITIATION PROCESS

IN SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITIES

■ AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST: BUILDING RECONCILING COMMUNITIES

explores the ministry of reconciliation • invites participants to reflect on the vision and process of conversion and reconciliation • explores an understanding of a reconciling community rooted in initiation • examines present processes and future possibilities for reconciling ministry in the parish

November 12-13, 2011, *Diocese of Sault Ste Marie (Ontario)*

■ THE VISION OF INITIATION MINISTRY

introduce the vision and practice of initiation in a two-day format. Can be done as an institute (open beyond diocese) or as a conference for individual dioceses, formation institutions, and religious communities. For clergy and other pastoral ministers, together or in separate events.

Vision of Initiation Ministry Institutes

November 4-5, 2011, *St. Martin de Porres Parish, Weslaco TX (Diocese of Brownsville) – bilingual*

January 27-28, 2012, *Archdiocese of New York (NY) – Spanish*

Vision of Initiation Ministry Conferences

October 4-5, 2011 *Diocese of Biloxi (MS)—Clergy*

October 21-22, 2011, *Diocese of Yakima (WA) – Bilingual*

September 18-19, 2012 *Diocese of Great Falls-Billings (MT) – Clergy*

■ THE EVANGELIZING PARISH: VISION, PASSION, PRACTICE

develops the vision and practice of evangelization and how this creates parishes of mission

Evangelizing Parish Institutes

September 23-24, 2011, *Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau (MO)*

September 30-October 1, 2011, *Diocese of Prince Albert (Saskatchewan)*

October 14-15, 2011, *Archdiocese of Ottawa (Ontario)*

October 28-29, 2011, *Archdiocese of New Orleans (LA)*

January 27-28, 2012, *Diocese of Syracuse (NY)*

June 8-9, 2012, *Diocese of Little Rock (AR)*

July 6-7, 2012, *Diocese of Davenport (IA)*

August 24-25, 2012, *Diocese of Tucson (AZ)*

August 24-25, 2012, *Diocese of Jefferson City (MO)*

Evangelizing Parish Conferences

■ CONSULTATIONS

■ WEBINARS

Sponsors in RCIA, presented by Ron Lewinski
Wednesday November 9, 2011, at 2 p.m. Eastern

RCIA with Young Adults, presented by Michelle Miller,
Wednesday December 7, 2011, at 2 p.m. Eastern

■ WORKSHOPS

January 19, 2012, *Clergy, Archdiocese of Miami (FL), 01/19/12*

April 21, 2012, *Diocese of Palm Beach (FL), 04/21/12*

■ TO BE DETERMINED (partial listing)

Diocese of Arlington (VA)

Archdiocese of Baltimore (MD)

Diocese of Baton Rouge (LA)

Diocese of Belleville (IL)

Diocese of Charleston (SC)

Diocese of Charlotte (NC)

Diocese of Dubuque (IA)

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (TX)

Diocese of Lansing (MI)

Loyola University (Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA)

Diocese of Metuchen (NJ)

Diocese of Nashville (TN)

Archdiocese of Philadelphia (PA)

Archdiocese of St. John's (Newfoundland)

Archdiocese of Seattle (WA)

Diocese of Pueblo (CO)

Diocese of Charlotte (NC)



The North American Forum on the Catechumenate
125 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20017-1004

(202) 884-9758 • fax (202) 884-9747 • E-mail: info@naforum.org
Check our website www.naforum.org for the latest calendar and resource updates