



Annunciation



A CATECHETICAL UPDATE OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND

Scripture: The Living Word of God

by Rolando Moreno

“Whoever is called to teach Christ must first seek the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus” (CCC 428). This convicting passage in the Catechism resounds the often-quoted phrase by St. Jerome that *“Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ”*. For us, charged with the handing on of the faith, this statement is especially true. We are called to be immersed in the reading of Sacred Scripture daily and familiarity with the Gospels is vital for our work in ministry. Likewise, in preparing lesson plans, we ought to saturate our teaching in the Word of God. The bible is no ordinary book; it is the living, breathing, Word of God with power and potential to transform lives. Christ, the *logos*, is the one Word that the Father wished to say from all time and eternity. As it says in Hebrews, *“in these last days, he has spoken to us by a Son”* (Heb. 1:2). Being immersed in the Word of God enhances our lives, strengthens our teaching, and helps us to bear witness to Christ in the world. Let us trust in the promise of the Lord that, *“the Holy Spirit, whom the Father has sent in my name, will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you”* (Jn. 14:26). Furthermore, let us not neglect our part to prayerfully study Sacred Scripture.

As Pope St. Gregory the Great said,

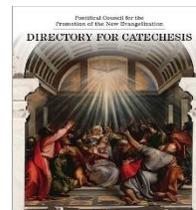
“The Emperor of heaven, the Lord of men and of angels, has sent you His epistles for your life’s advantage and yet you neglect to read them eagerly. Study them, I beg you and mediate daily on the words of God your Creator. Learn the heart of God in the words of God, that you may sigh more eagerly for things eternal, that your soul may be kindled with greater longings for heavenly joys” (Letters, 5, 46).

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Mt. 11:15).

- WHAT'S INSIDE
- What's coming up
- Institute News
- Scripture Resources
- Speaker Spotlight
- Prayers for you

What's Coming Up

March 18th at 1pm: Rolando leads the second part of the virtual study series on the New Catechetical Directory. We will be looking at the second chapter. This is an opportunity to study it together and learn how to apply it to our ministries. This workshop will take place both virtually and in-person at Queen of Peace parish in Salem. The rest of the scheduled dates are: **April 8 & 22 and May 13 & 27 at 1pm.** To register either for in-person or virtually click [here](#). A copy of the new Directory is recommended but not required. To order a copy click [HERE](#).



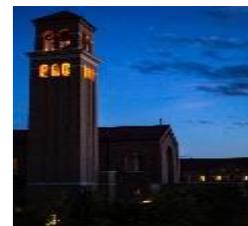
Wednesday March 31 at 6:00pm: Dr. Ryan Mainard in collaboration with the Archdiocese, will be giving in-person workshop on family catechesis at St. John the Apostle parish. This workshop will highlight the importance of family catechesis, how to develop a program at your parish and Dr. Mainard's own experience of implementing this at his parish over the last couple of years. All parish staff leaders and pastors are highly encouraged to attend. An option to attend virtually is also available. To register go to [this Eventbrite registration page](#).



On

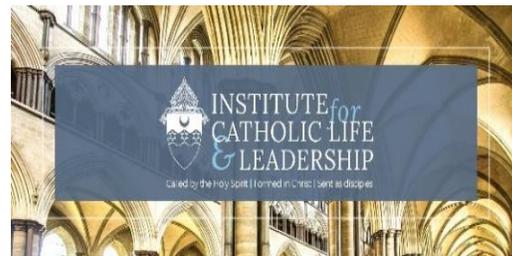
Retreat at the Abbey

Registration is Now Open! We are planning to offer the **Annual Faith Formation Leaders Retreat on April 5-7** at Mt. Angel Abbey Retreat House. The Easter Season will be a nice time for rest, prayer, and fellowship. Mount Angel has been open to a limited number of retreatants throughout the pandemic and has been following strict COVID-19 precautions. To view the speakers and schedule go to [Schedule](#). For more information and to register click [here](#).



The Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership

The students in the Foundational Certificate program at Shepherd of the Valley are beginning their final course this month entitled *Prayer and Beatitude*. They also have workshops in human and spiritual formation this month. Our instructor in English is Fr. Peter Vecellio OCD and in Spanish Omar Torres. A decision about a new cohort in the Portland or Mid-Valley area will be decided this month, please stay tuned for an announcement. To learn more, go to [Institute](#)



Scripture Resources:

Ever wanted to read the entire bible? Let Fr. Mike Schmitz be your companion and guide through Sacred Scripture. He has a new podcast called [The Bible in a Year](#). This unique podcast will feature daily scripture readings, reflections from Fr. Schmitz and guided prayer. Check it out!

Catechetical Institute

If you are interested in learning more about scripture and wanting to a deep dive the [Catechetical Institute](#), can help you in the comfort of your own home. There is a workshop called [Scripture the Heart of Catechesis](#) and another [Scripture: The Driving Force of Doctrine](#). Franciscan University offers every year an amazing opportunity for growth at the [St. John Bosco Conference](#) which is



happening this year on July 12 -15. There are well over 50 different speakers and many different tracks to individualize your learning. For more information and ways to enroll with the support of your archdiocese contact rmoreno@archdpx.org

Bilingual Articles on How to Include Scripture

The [Catechetical Review](#) is a great resource for all who teach the faith in parish catechetical ministry. The article [The Four Rules of Thumb for Teaching Scripture](#) is incredibly helpful to catechists who have a limited knowledge of scripture. Also helpful to your Spanish catechists is [this article](#) on “Discípulos que Forman Otros Discípulos” or “Disciples Forming Other Disciples” in which teaching scripture is just part of a complete model of forming intentional Discipleship. To subscribe to the *Catechetical Review*, click [HERE](#)



Speaker Spotlight: Carl E. Olson Journalist and Author



Carl Olson is the editor of Catholic World Report and Ignatius Insight, the online magazine of Ignatius Press. He is a frequent contributor to the Catholic newspaper Our Sunday Visitor, for which he writes a weekly Scripture column titled "Opening the Word".

Carl, what are you working on most recently?

I have a couple of projects in the wings but most recently, is a book on the [Praying the Our Father in Lent](#). I just completed a feature piece for Our Sunday Visitor on [7 characteristics of a Successful Reading Group](#). We, at Catholic World Report, had a bit of publicity when we took on Big Tech for the censoring of our content.

You have certainly been a prolific writer, (for a List of available books click [here](#)) but what are some things that you are involved in that we wouldn't necessarily come across in our newsfeed?

I have actively been involved in Men's ministries, bible studies and apologetic's for over a dozen years. Of course, my job weaving journalism and theology has been the major focus of my career but helping people be grounded in scripture focuses my own personal catechesis. I lead a men's reading group that has been a profound source of evangelization. Amazingly, we have sustained a core group over the years and it's important to not take them for granted.

How have you done that?

What maintains each group is the clear vision of the objectives of the group. There is a distinct difference from the Men's bible study where we explore liturgy and spirituality. In the reading group, we focus not just on exegesis, or the interpretation of the text, but on the underlying meanings and symbolism of the readings. The appeal to the individuals is that both groups are highly interactive.

During this time of forced retreat for a lot of speakers, how have you used alternate mediums?

Ignatius Press has released a couple of interviews on [Catholics in the Media](#) and of course, CWR's recent brush with the [cancel culture on Twitter](#). One interesting veer off into a different medium happened right before the shutdown. I was thrilled to be able to collaborate Notre Dame's music director, J. J. Wright. I provided the CD's liner notes for his new composition, [Vespers for the Immaculate Conception](#). Music has always been a passion of mine and it was great to contribute to a composer who has both contemporary and traditional elements in a marvelous piece of liturgy.

Carl lives in Eugene Oregon and is available to speak in the Portland area. For his contact information click [here](#)



Prayers Before Reading Scripture

light a candle while reading scripture aloud -
it brings to the Word of God
an experience conveying *"this is a special moment"*

**Father, anoint me with your Holy Spirit,
so that as I read your eternal word,
your word may penetrate my whole being
and transform me.**

**Grant me the blessing to be a faithful disciple,
in believing the Word of God
that I may be a light shining
upon all who are in darkness.**

Amen.