

DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

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Special points of interest:

- *Don't forget to set your calendar for the September meetings with Renew International. The team will help you with some of the questions you have from the first sessions on Prayer!*
- *Dates: September 9, 10, 11, 2011—Faith Enrichment—deanery level gatherings*

Catching the Spirit of Renew International

Deanery Round-up

What a delightful time Sister Janet had among the Renew Coordinators as they told stories that reflected the experiences of "Prayer" groups in their parishes. There is a definite sense that God's Spirit is working among us as we continue to have open minds and open hearts.

New ideas emerged as groups came together to share their thoughts on passages of Scripture,

the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Adult Catechism and other reflective messages found in the booklet on "Prayer". This is certainly a graced time in the lives of so many people who took part in the six lessons of the booklet. This adult process has become a beacon light and a way to learn more about our Faith and the journey that we have taken. Let's hear more from individuals in



The fruit of Prayer is the beginning of new life and growth in our midst. With God there is peace and joy!

parishes! We know you want to share your stories with the Diocese!

THANK YOU!

A Look at Renew International

This journey of Renew began in June, 2010 when pastors and DREs came to a session at the De Falco Retreat Center. The staff of Renew International presented the four-year process for Adult Faith Formation. The process is

designed to help adults understand their faith in a new light and to be able to reflect, pray, and share about the great things that God has done for us. It is a process that supports adults on their journey in life and beckons

them to respond to God's grace within them.

In a hectic world it is the place where God speaks to the heart!



**In the light of the
Son, we grow
together**

St. Anthony, Hereford

A message from a prayer group: Getting to know everyone and learning a lot about the Church. No one looks down on you for asking dumb questions. I do feel much closer to God, this I needed a lot and I am more comfortable with myself praying.

Positive insights:

- Building a better relationship with God thru prayer.
- Openness/sharing
- Informative
- Catechism for us
- Good Material
- Music helps

What we need:

- More information on the Sacraments
- Spontaneous prayer can be difficult
- Need more younger people to join us
- More contemporary music
- Yet, we move.....

St. Vincent de Paul, Pampa

It was good to meet in a small group environment with fellow parishioners. We got to know each other better in a spiritual way. Most important we got to know more about prayer in general as Catholics. Praying together also

makes us stronger Catholics.

I think the group experiences were great. Everyone was willing to share and the leaders were very well prepared.

I thought this was an amazing experience.

I would like to see a continuation of small group weekly prayer. If anyone is interested—give us a call.

*Are you using the
Diocesan Hymn that
was written
especially for us by
Vanessa and Jim
Rauscher?*



**“Let us listen to what
all the faithful say
because in every
one of them the
Spirit of God
breathes.”**

St. Paulinus of Nola

St. Thomas, Amarillo

There were so many good stories. People really enjoyed the small groups. It really helped build community in our parish.

It was very important for our small commu-

nity leaders to go through a session as a participant. It alleviated a lot of anxiety about leading a group!

St. Thomas leadership gathered the small community leaders to talk

about the success of the first six sessions. After the reports, a delicious meal was served and the sharing continued!

St. Mary's, Texline

A message from the prayer group: As we talked about prayer during one of our sessions on a very windy day, the discussion centered on finding God in all around us. The birds, the sunset, the blue sky or even a hawk were suggested as sources, before one member

pipied up, "How about the wind? Didn't God come to his people in the wind? Doesn't the Bible tell us about Him coming in the wind in the Old Testament. Now, I look for God on the unbearable windy days, too."

Another comment: We grew in our prayer life—

praying on the tractor and on the way to work.

God is with us.

Quote: "God is so close, in fact, that God even hears the desires of our hearts." –

St. Vincent Ferrer



Summer is a time for the reflection of God's Providence Take note of His Goodness!

*Did you know that St. Valentine Radio broadcast the sessions on Prayer for those who were not able to attend a small group in the parish?
Thanks to Father Tony Neusch and Prayer Group*

St. Martin, Amarillo

By the grace of God, members of our parish have become better friends. We actually know each other on a personal level. We had a parish dinner and the participation of volunteers and donations were a blessing. It was

like we all felt more comfortable with each other.

There was a recommendation since our parish is so small to meet once a week at the Church so that our pastor would be there and we could

have more participation.

Our Lady of Vietnam, Amarillo

The small group of Why Catholic? was able to combine into an existing prayer group of eleven members. The prayer group has been active for over ten years. We had a great sharing

and reflection session on "how to forgive".

Thank you,
Pastors and Parochial Vicars and all the leadership in the parishes for your support and assistance for
RENEW in the Diocese
Amarillo



Renew International Together We Grow In Faith!

JUNE, 2011

Adult Faith Formation

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WE ARE ON THE WEB

<http://www.amarillodiocese.org>

Be sure to follow RENEW in the
Diocesan Newspaper : WEST
TEXAS CATHOLIC

What we need to know.....important dates coming up!!!

- Be sure to place the September Renew International in- service dates on your calendar.
- Bulletin announcements to the small group communities are important. Please do not wait until the last minute to inform the parish.
- The last six sessions for “Prayer” will take place in the Fall, 2011. Consult the small group communities on dates and times to gather for the sessions.
- Let everyone know that Renew International will conduct Advent Retreats in December, 2011 for all four deaneries. Everyone is invited to attend.
- If you have not order your booklets for 2012, please consult the pastor and your groups. How will you invite additional parishioners to take part in RENEW?

- The booklet for 2012 is:
Profession of Faith (blue book)



“The tree that is beside the running water is fresher and gives more fruit.” – St. Teresa of Avila

Moving Forward with Renew in September, 2011

With deep gratitude we give thanks to the pastors, Renew leaders and the all those who have participated in this initial stage of the process. The commitment and the zeal of parish involvement is gratifying to know that Faith is first in our lives. To nourish our Faith is a concern of the people of the Diocese. In the recent Diocesan Assembly one of the concerns

was a “need” for on-going spiritual growth for Adults. After much study, Bishop Patrick Zurek invited Renew International to come to the Diocese for continued in-service over a period of four years. The Diocese is engaged in finding ways to nourish that Faith that began at the time of Baptism. Baptism is that “precious moment” when we become chil-

dren of God and heirs of Heaven. This is a sacred “moment” when each person takes on new life—Sanctifying Grace. The Spirit of God is given that we might truly be kingly people, prophets to speak God’s word, and a priestly people that we might truly serve one another.

Adult Faith formation is an effort to help foster a better understand-

of our commitment to live in the light of Jesus, whom the Father has sent to us. As people on the journey, we search for ways to meet Jesus in our everyday life.

Let us continue to remember one another in prayer during this special time in the history of our Diocese.

Sincerely,
Sister Janet , SSND