



REGIONAL
CONTACTS
STATE OF MICHIGAN

President

Jeannine Daly
mikedaly@tir.com

Detroit Metro

Eileen Burns
eb120246@sbcglobal.net
313-963-0448

Detroit Metro North

Jeannine/Mike Daly
mikedaly@tir.com
248-651-7075

Grand Rapids

Jerry O'Bee
jerry@jerryobee.com
616-676-0749

Lansing

Karen Schrauben
kroses@comcast.net
517-627-5534
Janet Glisson
j.behappy@comcast.net
517-484-0443

Kalamazoo

Jim Rose
jrose121@juno.com
(269) 544-2486

Saginaw

Ron & Rosemary Moon
roseron@sbcglobal.net
(989) 781-0921

Washtenaw

Arnie Messing
arniemessing@comcast.net
(810) 227-4609

Up North

John Chuchman
231-633-3464
poetman@torchlake.com

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church”,

given October 11, 1992, the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, in the fourteenth year of my Pontificate”, signed Joannes Paulus II.

This Catechism has 803 pages, 2865 separate instructions/teachings, delineating catholic belief and practices. This monumental work was initiated, developed and completed over a six (6) year period by men in the Vatican, “a compendium of all catholic doctrine regarding both faith and morals”. In the Pope’s own words, “---a work fully responding to the needs of the universal Church and of particular Churches”.

How important is this work today? How many Catholics have ever seen this Catechism? How many own a copy, or read it, or even parts of it? Maybe these aren’t fair questions as apparently it was not intended as a hand-out to every Catholic like the Baltimore Catechisms of pre-Vatican II. On page 12, for example, are found these words: “this work is intended primarily for those responsible for catechesis: first, bishops, as teachers of the faith and pastors of the Church, and for priests and catechists”. Why not for every adult Catholic, especially in these 21st century days when frequently the teachers become learners and the learners become teachers?

How important is this catechism today, one asks, when at the bottom of almost every page there are six to ten footnotes that refer back to the Council of Trent (1542), or the Council of Florence (1314), or the 4th Lateran Council (1215), or the Council of Nice (325), to mention a few. Indeed, the Catechism provides the reader an abundance of history about how and when doctrines and dogmas developed over time, but offers less to help people directly in their adult faith formation for the 21st century. For example, the most frequently cited footnotes are from the Council of Trent, not from Vatican II, even though it is a work intended primarily to reflect the theology and spirituality of Vatican II. God remains distant; people remain sinners who have lost God’s friendship; human beings are still the cause of death; ‘indulgences’ still are granted through the Church; God’s people are still “poor banished children of Eve, weeping in this valley of tears”. Sin/redemption theology prevails almost like nothing has changed.

Has the time come for a different catechism, or at least a different way of understanding those 803 pages? We in Call to Action think so and once again have invited Michael Morwood to be our ‘catechist’. He is coming to talk to us and to enlighten us on faith matters. Michael Morwood brings a new ‘catechism’, “From Sand to Solid Ground: Questions of Faith for Modern Catholics”. His catechism affirms the goodness of all instead of the sinfulness of all and grounds us in a theology that promotes a spirituality of greater communion with God and with all of God’s creation for everybody here and now.

Catechism classes begin March 3d and run through March 8th at five different locations. Find your location in this newsletter and prepare to join your group for a great evening.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

P.S. Recently Cardinal Walter Kasper openly criticized the Vatican's LANGUAGE in "One True Church" and in "Dominus Jesus", saying "It would be desirable to revise the form, the LANGUAGE and the presentation to the public of such declarations". Likewise, Bishop Kratzi, Vienna's popular Bishop, called for an end to the Church's ban on married priests and that the issue of birth control has to be discussed openly and calls for "responsible parenthood" based on the informed conscience of the individual, which the Second Vatican Council confirmed as the final instance for moral decisions. He says the fact that the Church forbids birth control but that so many Catholics practice it has lost Church much credibility.

These two Bishops of the Church, one a Cardinal, both friends of Benedict 16th (both catechists) have publicly expressed views different from 'the Catechism' for the good of the Church. How timely and fortunate to have Michael Morwood back in our midst!

Lansing Branch Update

CTA Lansing branch hosted an evening in September to usher in an era of new leadership. Presentations by Lena Woltering of CTA-National, Beth Rindler of CTA-MI and John Chuchman, MA, author and poet, following a potluck dinner, made it an enjoyable event. John's presentation was entitled "WE Are Church" which led to some lively discussion and good questions with the 30 people in attendance.

Our October gathering was an evening of brainstorming as well as sharing what many of us had heard from Robert McClory at the CTA-MI Conference. In November those who had attended the National CTA Conference reported on workshops they attended and on content of plenary sessions.

For January, we invited Richard Currier, Phd, and author of the book "Connecting the Dots" to share his understanding and beliefs about the church and Christian faith journey.

Now we are preparing for Michael Morwood's visit here March 5th by studying his latest book, "From Sand to Solid Ground" . That meeting will be held at Grace United Methodist Church , 1900 Boston Blvd , Lansing . Call either 517-285-1490 or 517-484-0443 for more information.

And last, but certainly not least, all of us together express our deepest heartfelt gratitude to Joe Droste for his faithful years of leadership to our branch and for his inspiration to all of us. Thank you, Joe!

Karen Schrauben and Janet Glisson

CTA-MI Honors Father Thomas J. Duffey

"Lord, I am Worthy Because You Love Me, Come"

Eileen Burns

Father Thomas J. Duffey, beloved "Duff" died on Christmas Day 2007. It was fitting that Duff returned to the One who is All Love on the ultimate day of love. In his eulogy, Bishop Tom Gumbleton said, "Tom Duffey was probably the most radical priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit." He then went on to explain that by radical he did not mean radical in the 1960's sense of violently destroying something to create something new. Duff was radical in the Gospel sense of transforming through the radical power of love. Tom Duffey was an incarnation of love. He loved people and he loved his priesthood. Duff understood that through his vocation he was called to serve. If a senior needed furniture moved, if a neighbor wanted a prayer said for her dying cat, if the St. Patrick Senior Center needed someone to pick-up food, he was there. He continued to bring the Eucharist to shut-ins long after he retired. He knew how to share life and love at baptisms, graduations, weddings, dances. He was a warm human being who reflected Jesus' love in any situation.

And he believed in the innate goodness of people. St. Patrick's parish was known for saying, "Lord, I am worthy because You love me, Come" rather than, "Lord I am not worthy to receive you..." before Communion. This change did not come lightly. The Liturgy Committee spent months discussing the whys and why nots. Finally, it was Duff who spoke passionately – "It's not that we are being arrogant that we say we are worthy. It is because of God's free and tremendous love for us that we are worthy." Change made. And when visitors came for Mass, many said how meaningful that phrase was for them.

Tom Duffey was a strong supporter in Vatican II. "You are the Church" he would tell his parishioners. Duff was the first winner of the Call To Action-MI "In the Spirit" award – and rightly so. When Marge Orlando began CTA-MI in her living room, there sat Tom Duffey. Tom Duffey touched our lives and we are all better for it. And we can honor his memory by understanding our goodness – and everyone's goodness – for we are worthy.

Report from Kalamazoo

Wishing you all God's most gracious blessings for the New Year. We are gearing up for some thought provoking and challenging events in the coming months in West Michigan .

With so many issues facing our nation and our church it is paramount that we join together for dialogue and support. What is our place in this vast spiritual milieu we call Life? What is the Gospel calling us to be and do for ourselves, our fellow pilgrims and our precious planet? Theologian and author, Michael Morwood will join us at Kalamazoo College in Olmsted Hall on March 6, from 7:00 pm to 9:00pm to help us unpack these essential questions. Come and hear this creative and cutting edge thinker present us with new insights into our Christianity.

For those of you who have read any of his work you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts on Feb. 21, at 7:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena's in Kalamazoo. Come prepared to share some of your ideas with others who have read Morwood's work RSVP to Jim Rose at 269-544-2486.

Rochester-North Metro

Racism and our Catholic Tradition

Mary Ann Dixon, OP, will deliver a talk entitled "A White Looks at Racial Issues" at a combined CTA of Rochester-North Metro and CTA of Detroit meeting, April 20 at 2:00 pm. Sr. Mary Ann will defend her dissertation "For Whites Only: Knowing Our Place" at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit in March. She is a Dominican from Adrian who has ministered in the Detroit area for the last 45 years. The presentation will be followed by discussion, a prayer service and a pot-luck at the home of Mike and Jeannie Daly. Call 248-651-7075 for directions.

Happy New Year From Saginaw

After a wonderful holiday season Saginaw got down to business. Our first meeting was blessed with a professor from Saginaw Valley State University , Doctor Manwan Wafa, Dean of Business and Management. Dr. Wafa spoke openly and candidly about his faith of Islam. We were given a clear description of the true message of the Koran. The world needs this clarification of what Islam is and the suffering of Muslim people who have nothing in common with the homicidal terrorists who muddy the real teachings of Islam.

Our branch voted to support a new promising program coming out of the Mexican American Council here in Saginaw . It is called Loan Assistance Program (LAP), designed to help poor folks who are faced with emergency bills. A local credit union has agreed to handle the legal side and monitor repayment at 5% interest.

Saginaw is looking forward to hosting Michael Morwood again as he travels the circuit throughout the state that has become an annual event for Michigan CTA. Michael will be in Saginaw on Friday, March 7, at St. Andrew Church. The complete schedule is elsewhere in this newsletter, so if you can't make one location there are four other opportunities!
-- Rosemary Moon

From the Washtenaw Area CTA

The Washtenaw Area CTA had one organizational change when two members accepted open Board positions for the 2008-2009 term. Don Dufek is our new Treasurer and Helen Simon is our new Recording Secretary. (We are grateful for their willingness to serve.)

Our monthly liturgies continue to be blessed by the gifts and skills of our members who assume responsibility for each joyous gathering. Our very own bread baker, Sallie Rowley, and our own composer of original music, Bob Rowley, are amazing!

In October Judi Pawloski and Rosemary Rader explored with us meditation as a unique way of prayer. Our December liturgy, hosted by Pat and Don Dufek in a home that sang out "Alleluia" was prepared by Ron Mason to celebrate the 'birth of a radical Jesus'.

The readings included comments by Deepak Chopra on reflections of Albert Einstein, (who admitted to being influenced by the personality of Jesus, the Nazarene.) As usual, members found themselves in a most interesting discussion.

As we look forward to Michael Morwood's visit and lecture, we're encouraging members to read his latest book, "From Sand to Solid Ground", so that we may better appreciate our time with him. Location of meeting – 1050 Wall St . Ann Arbor , 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more info call Ron Mason at 248-865-9544.
-- Margaret Pooler

Treasurer's Report: Thank you for your financial support. Each year we ask for support via membership dues and an appeal. The full report for 2007 can be found on our website. *Jim Rose*

News from Detroit

CTA-Metro Detroit started off the new year with a joint meeting with CTA-Rochester North (see their report). Thank you, Mary Cay, for an informative and interesting presentation on the Chaldean community.

Our monthly meetings are the First Sunday of Each Month at Gerry Sellman's, 1802 Leverette in Detroit from 2:00 to 4:00. A wonderful group of journeying Christians enjoy meaningful discussions, liturgy and pot luck.

In addition, we are beginning a Lenten discussion group on the Saturday of Lent from 11:00 – 1:00 at Eileen Burns', 1645 Leverette in Detroit . "40-Day Journey with Joan Chittister" will guide us through Lent. All Are Welcome. You can order the book at benetvision.org. Call 313-963-0448 for more info.

I hope you will join us to hear Michael Morwood on March 4 at 7:00 in Rochester .

Idea to ponder: How do we create the type of praying/Gospel acting/human community we are all looking for? What does today's intentional community look like?

Eileen Burns

Don't Miss This! Racism and our Catholic Tradition

Mary Ann Dixon, OP will deliver a talk entitled "A White Looks at Racial Issues" at a combined CTA of Rochester-North Metro, and CTA Metro-Detroit meeting on April 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Daly's home, 1311 E. Fairview Lane, Rochester Hills, MI 48306. The presentation will be followed by discussion, a prayer service and a pot-luck. Sr. Mary Ann's talk will be based on her dissertation entitled "For Whites Only: Knowing Our Place." She is a Dominican from Adrian who has ministered in the Detroit area for the last 45 years. Call 248-651-7075 for directions. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Michael Daly, mikedaly@tir.com

Thank you, Beth!

At the last CTA-MI Board meeting, Sr. Beth Rindler resigned as President. New officers are: President Pro-Tem: Jeannine Daly, Vice President, Jim Rose.

CTA of Michigan would like to take this opportunity to thank Sr. Beth Rindler who has led our organization since June of 2005. As President, Beth worked very hard to make the CTA 30th Anniversary Celebration success, held here in Detroit last summer.

And who could have confronted Bishop Bruskewitz with such grace, honesty and courage at the reception for him at St, John's Center, Plymouth , MI . We again offer our thanks to Sr. Beth whose other ministries include working for Women's Ordination and for peace. As a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, Beth's lifelong vocation has been committed to reaching out to the poor and oppressed. CTA of Michigan is fortunate to have Sr. Beth remain on as a board member where she will work in building membership. Blessings, Beth!



Synod of the People of God

When the CTA-MI Board chair introduced the topic for discussion at the January 12th board meeting there was complete silence at first. No one wanted to speak! But after discussion got going EVERYBODY spoke! It was an important moment when we went around the table and all had to speak for their branch on this important issue. A consensus was reached. The Synod will have to be postponed for now, but not forever. As a familiar prayer goes “Life is changed not ended.”

During the intense discussion one member said “What I see among Catholics, I happen to know, is that they’ve either decided the Church is all knowing and righteous and bow to authority, or it’s useless and either ignore Rome and walk away entirely or remain on their own terms. CTA members are passionate, faithful Christians who love God and the teachings of Jesus, but cannot abide blind obedience with no room for personal experience or opinion. If this passion is not shared by the greater Catholic population we are spinning our wheels.”

Another member added: “After reading more about Synods in other places, I feel we need to do much more study and work before bringing it to pass. I’m afraid this is a bigger undertaking than we all realized when it was started.”

Another statement: “It’s my understanding that Synods need to include a much larger group of people than just our CTA’ers.” To which another person responded “don’t forget our State Conference in Brighton in 06 when we brought together individuals representing six Catholic connected groups, DIGNITY, VOTF, SNAP, PAX CHRISTI, WOC and CORPUS? That was all about preparation for Synod 08. We did reach out to other groups and a wider representation.”

Another board member added: “listening to the people who participated in those break-out sessions at our 07 Conference in Saginaw it seems that their hopes and dreams of what they would like the Church to be, versus what it is in their experience, is a very big challenge and maybe just wishful thinking. After all, what can a Synod do to help bring about these changes?”

These are samples of how the discussion unfolded, but only samples, as a very thorough discussion took place before the consensus was reached. It should come as no surprise.

Isn’t this what CTA is all about? Leading, educating and energizing, despite uphill battles, setbacks, and postponements. CTA history is littered with such, only to recall that as recent as last summer for CTA’s 30th anniversary celebration a CARDINAL of the Church opposed another CARDINAL who called the first CTA Conference.

So for now, CTA of MI will continue forward undaunted, recognizing the signs of the times, as more and more Catholics are guided less and less by dogmas and doctrines,

and by fossilized, legalistic, dogmatic and authoritarian like statements from a hierarchical church. They seek a spirituality that motivated Jesus to announce and bring about the kingdom of God , a spirituality to include all at the table and paying for it with his Life.

The CTA-MI Board of Directors is going on retreat in April to discern the direction the organization should pursue. Please share your ideas with your local Branch or Chapter head and keep us in your prayers.

*Unlike some organizations,
National Call to Action does
not share dues with CTA-MI.*

*Therefore, we really
appreciate your support when
you send dues and donations
to CTA-MI.*

Mark Your Calendars...

Call To Action State Conference 2008

in Detroit on Friday evening, September 19 and Saturday,
September 20, 2008.

Keynote Speaker: Tom Roberts, Editor of the National
Catholic Reporter

