



ALASKANS DOWN UNDER

GoodDay Mate! Actually not everyone in Australia says that, but many do. The Alaska pilgrims have returned from our sixteen day World Youth Day 2008 trip to Sydney, Australia. We have returned filled with **Wonder and Awe** at God's creativity in the animal and plant world of a continent

as large as the lower 48 states. Before the WYD08 activities we were able to visit the rain forest and Great Barrier Reef near Cairns. Many of us enjoyed the boat ride and snorkeling and a few of us even tried scuba diving. What a beautiful undersea world we were privileged to explore. Thankfully we were in the rain forest during the dry season, unlike our rain forest which gets rain year round, theirs is wet and dry, and so we grew in our **Understanding** of creation by our exploration.

The week spent in Sydney attending WYD08 had a certain rhythm to it. In the morning after breakfast we would bus to the St. Don Bosco Parish, where we would have a catechetical session with about 600 pilgrims from other English speaking countries. These sessions included some praise and worship singing and thought provoking skits lead by LOGOS a young adult group from New Zealand. Followed by a teaching session with a Bishop, and a period of questions and answers, which helped all of us grow in our **Knowledge** of our faith. We would then celebrate Mass together, where we were able to experience different cultural dimensions of the Catholic Church from around the world. We were all inspired by the joy with which the group from South Africa brought up the gifts of bread and wine while singing and dancing. After lunch at this site we would head into the city of Sydney.

The city of Sydney really rolled out the red carpet to welcome the over 223,000 registered pilgrims, including 110,000 from 170 nations making WYD08 the largest youth event ever hosted in Australia. Opening Mass with George Cardinal Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, and the Bishops of the World was Tuesday. This was the first experience for many of the young people to go to Mass with 125,000 Catholic pilgrims from around the world and to have the best view of the altar from your section to be the semi-truck sized LED screen, while standing outside in the converted shipping container terminal used for the event. To see the **Piety** and reverence for the celebration of the Mass in so different a venue than their home Church by so many young people was really inspiring. We returned to this venue on Thursday night to welcome the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, who arrived by boat-a-cade, through Sydney harbor. As the Pope exited the venue in the

Pope-mobile he drove right by where our group was standing, to the great delight of the young people who chanted and waved enthusiastically while taking dozens of photos.

On Friday night the young people of Australia acted out the Stations of the Cross showing the young people of the world and all of us the great **Love and Courage** that Jesus has for each one of us as he underwent his passion and death. Saturday morning we hiked into the final venue for the Vigil and Closing Mass. On Saturday night the Randwick Racecourse was transformed into a sea of color from all the flags and candle light of 235,000 pilgrims, as the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, called on the faithful to hear Christ's great promise to send the Holy Spirit and pray together, as his Apostles did before that first Pentecost. "Tonight, we do the same. Gathered before our much-traveled Cross and the Icon of Mary and under the magnificent constellation of the Southern Cross, we pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit," he said. "We recall our parents and grandparents who walked alongside us when we, as children, were taking our first steps in our pilgrim journey of faith. Now many years later, you have gathered as young adults with the Successor of Peter. I am filled with deep joy to be with you." Even with so many people there was incredible silence and **Peace** when we all knelt with the Holy Father before Christ in the Eucharist in a two meter high monstrance. After the last concert ended around 11pm we had the largest sleep over with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims sleeping out under the stars. It was the gift of **Counsel** that allowed our young people to respond prudently to any situation we encountered on the pilgrimage.

On Sunday morning at the closing Mass with over 400,000 receiving Communion the Pope continued to show the young people that true **Wisdom**, seeing the world and people with God's eyes, can be found in the Sacraments, the Scriptures, and the Teaching Traditions of the Catholic Church. "In these days I too have come, as the Successor of Saint Peter, to this magnificent land of Australia. I have come to confirm you, my young brothers and sisters, in your faith and to encourage you to open your hearts to the power of Christ's Spirit and the richness of his gifts. I pray that this great assembly, which unites young people 'from every nation under heaven' (cf. *Acts* 2:5), will be a new Upper Room. May the fire of God's love descend to fill your hearts, unite you ever more fully to the Lord and his Church, and send you forth, a new generation of apostles, to bring the world to Christ!"

Thank you Cathedral Parish for your support of our pilgrimage. We returned blessed and built up in our faith. I look forward to going to Madrid Spain in 2011 for the next World Youth Day. Visit www.wyd2008.org and www.vatican.va for more details.



FROM SR. MARIE LUCEK, OP
CATHEDRAL PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

**VOLUNTEERS--
A GIFT TO ALL OF US**

Recently on the evening news I heard a report on the number of volunteer hours contributed by citizens in the 50 states of our country. Alaska ranked fourth among all the states, which tells me that many Alaskans are generous in giving of their time. Many events, especially fund-raisers, would not happen if it weren't for volunteers.

Like most groups and organizations, our parish depends on generous parishioners for many of its activities and the day-to-day tasks that need to be done. Tasks such as cleaning, straightening, organizing, repairing, and preparing are behind the scenes types of jobs, but important to the general appearance of the church and readiness for a prayerful liturgy. Other volunteers are more visible as greeters, readers, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, or altar servers. Gardeners and flower arrangers enhance the beauty of our worship space and surrounding areas. Several parishioners bring Communion to those who can't come to church. Catechists instruct children of all ages and also adults wishing to become full members of our Church.

In the name of all of us, the Pastoral Council meets monthly. Also, volunteers go out to the community to help in programs such as the Glory Hole and St. Vincent de Paul. Several parishioners are members of diocesan and community-wide boards.

Besides all these individual contributions of time and others too numerous to mention, the Knights of Columbus Council helps organize and carry out various events, such as the monthly breakfast, annual parish picnic, Oktoberfest, and St. Patrick's Day, all of which help build a spirit of joy and community.

To all our volunteers, a hearty **THANK YOU!!** This is your parish and it is truly inspiring to see so many of you take ownership in a multitude of ways. If you are one of those who hasn't decided yet how you might be able to volunteer, think about it, look at the partial list above, and call the parish office where you will be connected with someone who can give you more information, or look for the coming Faith in Action mailing which lists many possible volunteer opportunities. Each of you is a valued member of this parish, and by contributing your time you can develop an even greater sense of ownership.



KATY RICE
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
HAPPENINGS IN
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**

Dear Cathedral Parents, Youth and Children,
This past month we've been busy at the Cathedral making plans for the coming year of Religious Education! On the next two pages you'll find information on how to register your children (whether they've been registered in the program before or are new to it), learn more about the programs we'll be using this year and find out how to get involved. **Parents, please pick up a copy of *The Cathedral's Religious Education Parent Handbook* for complete information on our program's content, policies, and procedures. Handbooks are located at the back of the Church, in the Office, and in the Office of Religious Education.** As always, we value parent, grandparent, godparent, and concerned adults involvement in the program. The only way religious education is made possible year after year is through our excellent and dedicated volunteers. If you're feeling called to help in our program this year please contact me via phone or e-mail to learn more about volunteer opportunities! We hope you are all ready for an excellent year of fellowship as we grow in our faith together.

In Christ, Katy Rice

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2008-2009

Pre-school through 5th grades:

We are pleased to continue our partnership with our neighbors, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, this year in bringing ***Godly Play*** to our Pre-school through 5th grade children.

Godly Play is a religious education program used widely in the United States by Catholics and Protestants alike. It uses a Montessori approach to religious education which centers on inviting children to interact with the sacred stories of our faith. The other important component of Godly Play is creating a sacred, child-friendly environment for children to learn about God. This environment (the classroom) contains beautiful artwork, colorful cloths, story-telling materials, as well as things from nature, such as trees, to remind children of the creator God who loves them infinitely.

For specific sessions throughout the year, children from the Cathedral and Holy Trinity will meet separately to focus on aspects of faith specific to their own Tradition.

Class Schedule:

Pre-school and Kindergarten meet during the 11 o'clock Mass, Sunday morning. Their lessons last from 11 o'clock to approximately 12:15pm or later, depending on when Mass ends. 1st grade through 5th grade meet from 9:45am to 10:45am Sunday mornings

Middle School and High School Youth Groups

The middle school and high school youth groups will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm. The Youth Groups provide opportunities for young adolescents and teens to socialize with other Catholic youth while learning about their faith, participating in service opportunities, and praying together.

Schedule:

Both the Middle School and the High School youth groups meet from 7:00 to 8:30pm Wednesday evenings.

Registration for Religious Education 2008-2009

If your child was registered for the 2007-2008 school year you should have already received a registration packet in the mail. To register your child, please complete the registration form and return it, and the tuition fee, to the Office of Religious Education. You may either mail the form back in the pre-addressed envelop, deliver the envelope to the Cathedral Office or place the envelope in the collection basket at one of the weekend liturgies. I will confirm by e-mail or phone that your child's forms and payment arrived within one week of receiving the envelope.

If your child is new to the program this year, please pick up a registration form and a parent handbook at the back of the church during one of the weekend liturgies. Please fill out the registration form and return it with the tuition fee to the Office of Religious Education.

If you have any questions about our programs or if I can assist you in any way with the registration process please contact me by phone, 586-1317 or e-mail cathedraldre@acsalaska.net.

Godly Play classes will begin on September 7th with an Open House from 9:45am to 10:45am in the Godly Play classrooms. Come with your child to see their classroom and meet their teachers. Regular classes will begin Sunday, September 14th.

Middle School & High School Youth Groups begin Wednesday, September 10th!



Sacramental Preparation

Baptism: The next baptismal preparation class for parents of infants and young children will be September 23rd from 6-8pm. . Please contact Katy to register for this class.

First Reconciliation: Children age seven and older are eligible to prepare for their first Reconciliation this Fall. There will be a meeting for parents on Sunday, September 28th at 9:45am in the Parish Hall classroom #4. First Reconciliation classes begin Sunday, October 5th. Children will be dismissed from the 11 o'clock Mass after the Homily. They will go over to the Hall with their catechists to learn more about Reconciliation. Please call or e-mail Katy to register your children for First Reconciliation preparation.

CATHEDRAL YOUTH MINISTRY SEPTEMBER

Middle School

September 10th: 1st night of Youth Group! Come kick off the school year with us and celebrate with Ice Cream Sundaes!

September 17th: *Understanding Myself* Session #1

September 24th: Rock Climbing! Meet at The Rock Dump, 1310 Eastaugh Way

High School

September 10th: 1st night of Youth Group! Come kick off the school year with us and celebrate with Ice Cream Sundaes!

September 17th: Session on Trust

September 24th: Rock Climbing! Meet at The Rock Dump, 1310 Eastaugh Way

Godly Play September Schedule

Pre-school & Kindergarten Schedule

September 7th: Godly Play Open House (from 9:45am to 10:45am)

September 14th: Introduction to Godly Play (from this date on, this class meets at 11am)

September 21st: Introduction to Godly Play

September 28th: The Light

1st & 2nd Grade Schedule

September 7th: Godly Play Open House (from 9:45am to 10:45am)

September 14th: Introduction to Godly Play & The Light

September 21st: Creation

September 28th: The Flood & the Ark

3rd & Up Schedule

September 7th: Godly Play Open House (from 9:45am to 10:45am)

September 14th: Creation & 2nd Creation

September 21st: The Great Family & the Story of Sarah

September 28th: The Story of Jacob

Cathedral Adult Catechesis
In Celebration of the Year of Paul
 June 2008 - June 2009

July 16 th & 23 rd	St. Paul & the Eucharist Fr. Ken Hannon, OMI
August 21 st	The Travels of St. Paul Fr. Peter Gorges
September 18 th	The Story of Paul's Life Katy Beedle Rice
October 16 th	Pauline Iconography Deacon Charles Rohrbacher
November 20 th	Introduction to Paul's Letters Fr. Thomas Weise
December 18 th	Paul & the Incarnation Fr. Thomas Weise
January 15 th	Exploration of a Pauline Letter Sr. Marie Lucek, OP
February 19 th	Problematic Pauline Passages Collaborative presentation
March 19 th	Paul and the Catechumenate Deacon Charles Rohrbacher
April 23 rd	Women in Paul's Ministry Katy Beedle Rice
May 21 st	Romans 8 Fr. Thomas Weise
June 18 th	Pauline Music Collaborative presentation

Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information on these sessions.



Adopt a Godly Play Story

Once again we are hoping to introduce several new Godly Play stories into the classrooms this year. All of the stories are handmade in the United States and crafted to last for many years of use. Last year, through the generosity of parishioners, we were able to add 10 new Godly Play stories to our curriculum! If you would like to help add one of these stories to our shelves, please make out a check to the Cathedral & write the lesson name or Godly Play in the memo space. Donations may be dropped off at the Cathedral Office, Religious Education office, or placed in the Sunday collection.














*Advent story for younger children	\$35.00
Jesus is Baptized	\$23.00
Jesus the King	\$36.50
Jesus' Last Passover	\$25.25
*Jesus Appears to Thomas	\$50.00
Jonah, the Backward Prophet	\$133.25
The Story of Samuel	\$73.70
The Story of King David	\$108.30
The Story of Daniel	\$146.70
The Parable of the Deep Well	\$76.45
*Parable Games for Older Children	\$34.35
*Purchased Thank you for your generosity!	

Just for KIDS

Unique Creations

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed the footprints you make in the sand? A famous poem called "Footprints in the Sand" reminds us we are never alone.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprint. See what Psalm 119:133 (NRSV) says about our footsteps. (The bold letters are the first letters of the words.)

 "reDcti	 ym	 efoopstst	
 cgc dianro	 ot	 oryu	 dowr
 elt	 on	 nsi	
 lreu	 rvoe	 em."	

Psalm 119:133, NIV

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Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 am & 5:30 pm

Monday-Friday 12:10 pm

Friday 9:30am **Wildflower Court**

Saturday 9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

and by appointment.

Cathedral of the Nativity
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