As the calendar year winds down and a new year winks from the horizon we might be contemplating resolutions for the coming year. Why not include a resolve to renewing your baptismal commitment? A commitment made perhaps by someone else on your behalf but one nonetheless that has marked you as belonging to Christ.

It is our hope that Developing News will assist in developing you!

Welcome to Developing News, a newsletter designed to enlighten, inspire and entertain our developing minds! As adult Christians we are well aware that we are never “quite done.” Our formation continues throughout our lifetime paralleling our continuing conversion. Conversion is not a seasonal occurrence rather, it is the hallmark of lives lived in the awareness of God in our midst. In and out of season there is always something we can do to better reflect our identity as Catholic Christians.

What have you done recently to further develop your spirituality, your discipleship? There are numerous ministries in the parish of Saint John Vianney that offer the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of our faith and tradition. There are also a variety of avenues that invite us to develop our discipleship. How blessed we are to have such roads to holiness!

The Legacy Series, a continuing Christian education program for adults, continues to increase its participants. The segments on the Old and New Testaments, presented September through November, proved to be well appreciated. The 9:30 am session was so enthralled by their study of the New Testament that they asked to continue two weeks past the scheduled concluding date! The series resumes in January with Church History, presented over the course of 6 weeks. This will be followed with a seven week exploration of each of the sacraments. The instructors for the series are Yvonne Gill, Mike Hansel, Jean and Mike Grogan and Sandy Steffes.

There is no fee for these courses. To pre-register contact the office of Adult Formation.

Caravaggio’s Emmaus
Parish Mission
January 11—14, 2010

Led by Redemptorist Priests, Fr. Arturo Uribe and Fr. Tony Judge

Each morning following the 9am Mass
Each evening following the 7pm Mass

Refreshments immediately following each session

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>God’s Plan of Salvation and Our Response</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Who is Jesus to Us?</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sin, Reconciliation and Healing</td>
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<td>(Confessions will be heard after the presentation)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Jesus, Nourishment For The Journey of Faith;</td>
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<td>Our Mission to Share In His Continuing Work</td>
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Childcare is available each evening
Monitored study room for children in grades 1-5.
Please call 281.497.6665 for reservations
Parish Missions began in the eighteenth century. Saint Alphonsus Liguori, a priest of the diocese of Naples, worked tirelessly to develop them in Europe. The Redemptorist Order brought them to America one hundred years later.

A parish mission centers on the Word of God and on Catholic teaching and practice. It offers us the opportunity to take some time to look at our life, our values and direction. It encourages us to ask: “What is really important to me? What am I doing with my life? Where does God fit into my life? What does my faith, my Church, my parish, mean to me?”

In a parish mission our faith is awakened as we experience anew the passion and fervor of our faith as expressed through sacrament, story and song. Let us Return, Renew, and Rejoice so that we may see with new eyes, hear with our hearts and believe by our living!
“Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?” Why were their hearts burning? They were burning because in, with and through Jesus, the disciples caught a glimpse into the heart of God and found their world made new. They saw for an instant the scope of the Father’s loving plan and its culmination in Christ’s death and resurrection. With that new perspective, the pathway of their lives was transformed from confusion and despair into conviction and hope, and they began to grasp the height and depth of God’s mysterious love. What a profound learning experience that must have been!

The Emmaus story shows the need we all have for ongoing formation in faith. In the passage we see two adult disciples who, after encountering and listening to the risen Lord, grow strong in love, knowledge, commitment and zeal. Just as the two disciples felt their hearts burn within them and returned in haste to Jerusalem to share their broadened understanding of Jesus, so too may we seek to fan the flame that was first ignited in our baptism and return to our homes, our jobs, our schools, our relationships with renewed gratitude and awareness for blessings—big and small—received each day.

Like all living things, a living faith needs nourishment. Nourishment found in the Word of God, the sacramental Body and Blood of Jesus and in His Body, the Church.