



# Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:

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To deepen our understanding  
of our Faith and increase our  
Love for God

May 2010

## May Focus

A long time ago a 5 year-old little girl was asked by her dad to carry a pot of newly-planted flowers to the “Mary” statue in the backyard. She walked as if in a procession, straight and slow to the statue, and placed the flowers down. I’m sure the Blessed Virgin has watched over her all these years and has kept that moment in her heart, just as the little girl’s mother has. That little story prompted the “Parenting Tip of the Month”. May is the month to give special honor to Mary, the Blessed Mother. Our own spiritual walk throughout our lives may not be so straight, yet we can be sure that Mary, the Mother of God, will be a beacon to guide us closer to Jesus.

*“Mother of Christ, our hope, our Patroness, Star of the sea, our beacon in distress,  
Guide to the shores of everlasting day, God’s holy people on their pilgrim way.”*

*verse text—Mother of Christ, Verse 1*

## Upcoming Events

> **May 7th—May Crowning**— 6:30 p.m. See bulletin for more details.

> **May 17th—Confirmation** — 7 p.m. at Epiphany—Coon Rapids for 25 St. Albert’s teenagers. Keep them in your prayers.

> **May 23rd—Confirmation Receiving Mass**—10 a.m.—Confirmed teenagers will be involved in the Mass with a reception to follow. Please take time to congratulate them.

## Dictionary for the Laity

**Marian prayers Catholics should know.** *Question 194 in the Catholic Answer Book by Rev. J. Trigilio and Rev. K. Brighenti*



Catholics call any prayer addressed to the Virgin Mary (often she is just called the Blessed Mother) “Marian” prayers.

**The Ave Maria (Latin for The Hail Mary)** is the most famous.

### Hail Mary (Ave Maria)

*Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

**The Salve Regina (Latin for Hail Holy Queen)** is prayed at the end of the Rosary and is chanted in Latin at the funeral of a deacon or priest, and also at the funeral of the mother or father of a priest.

### Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina)

*Hail Holy Queen, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then most gracious Advocate thine eyes of mercy towards us and after this our exile, show onto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.*

The **Magnificat** is prayed at Vespers (Evening Prayer) and comes from Luke 1:46-55. This is the prayer the Virgin Mary herself prayed as recounted in the Gospel.

### Magnificat

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant; From this day all generations shall call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham, and his children forever. Amen.*

The **Memorare** was composed by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1154 AD).

### Memorare

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother! To thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful, O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*

## Parenting Tip of the Month

Do you have a Marian statue in your garden or flower bed? If you do why not have your children plan and carry out a May Day-Marian procession.

Have the children carry a potted plant, or have them make a crown of flowers (artificial—real—or dandelions). Process from the house to the statue and have one of the children place the plant in front of the statue, or the crown on the head of the statue. Don’t forget to Sing a Marian song or say a Marian prayer when you get to the Statue.

If you don’t have a statue of Mary come join the rest of the parish for our annual May Crowning on Friday, May 7th, at 6:30 p.m. Jesus blesses those who honor His Mother.

Come Join Us!

## Pope Benedict XVI May Prayer Intentions

### Human Trafficking

**General:** That the shameful and monstrous commerce in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended.

### Priests, Religious and Committed Lay People

**Missionary:** That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care.

## May is a Great Month for a Personal Marian Pilgrimage

Last May the Adult Faith Formation Committee made a half-day pilgrimage to the Grasshopper Chapel in Cold Spring. This year we want to suggest a different location — The Epiphany Parish Marian Gardens. If you’re going to Confirmation for our St. Albert’s teens on the 17th of May, why not go early and tour the gardens. Not going to Confirmation? Then plan a different day in May. It’s only a 35-minute drive from St. Albert’s. It’s a beautiful garden; and who knows — you might just see Fr. Reiser there.

**Happy  
Mother’s Day  
to all Mothers!**

**Sunday—May 9th**

## Video/DVD Suggestion for May

If you are interested in a video/DVD about the Blessed Virgin and Fatima, or St. Rita of Cascia, Ignatius Press has "The 13th Day" and "Saint Rita". Both were recently produced using state-of-the-art technology.

Check online at [ignatiuspress.com](http://ignatiuspress.com).

## Friendly Defenders Mary - Worship or Veneration?

**Question #1:** Catholics worship Mary.

**Catholic Response:** To worship Mary would be a grave sin. Worship is reserved for God alone. The Ten Commandments tell us...

**Bible Verse:** "You shall have no other gods before me." *Exodus 20:3*

**Description:** Catholics *venerate*, or honor, Mary in prayer and song. Some people mistake that for worshipping her; but it's not. The Mass is our worship, and in it we worship God alone.

**Related Verses:** *Luke 1:28-30, 1:43, 1:48; 1 Kings 2:19; Proverbs 31:9; Psalms 45:10*

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## St. Rita of Cascia — May 22nd



Rita was the daughter of Antonio and Amata Lotti, a couple known as the *Peacemakers of Jesus*; they had Rita late in life. From her early youth, Rita visited the Augustinian nuns at Cascia, Italy, and showed interest in a religious life. However, when she was twelve, her parents betrothed her to Paolo Mancini, an ill-tempered, abusive individual who worked as town watchman, and who was dragged into the political disputes of two factions. Disappointed but obedient, Rita married him when she was 18, and became the mother of twin sons. She put up with Paolo's abuses for eighteen years before he was ambushed and stabbed to death. Her sons swore vengeance on the killers of their father, but through the prayers and interventions of Rita, they forgave the offenders.

Upon the deaths of her sons, Rita again felt the call to religious life. However, some of the sisters at the Augustinian monastery were relatives of her husband's murderers, and she was denied entry for fear of causing dissension. Asking for the intervention of St. John the Baptist, St. Augustine of Hippo, and St. Nicholas of Tolentino, she managed to bring the warring factions together, not completely, but sufficiently that there was peace, and she was admitted to the monastery of St. Mary Magdalen at age 36.

Rita lived 40 years in the convent, spending her time in prayer and charity, and working for peace in the region. She was devoted to the Passion, and in response to a prayer to suffer as Christ, she received a chronic head wound that appeared to have been caused by a crown of thorns, and which bled for 15 years.

Confined to her bed the last four years of her life, eating little more than the Eucharist, she taught and directed the younger sisters. Near the end she had a visitor from her home town who asked if she'd like anything; Rita's only request was a rose from her family's estate. The visitor went to the home, but it being January, knew there was no hope of finding a flower; there, sprouted on an otherwise bare bush, was a single rose blossom.

Rita is well known as a patron of desperate, seemingly impossible causes and situations. This is because she has been involved in so many stages of life - wife, mother, widow, and nun. She buried her family, helped bring peace to her city, saw her dreams denied and fulfilled - and never lost her faith in God, or her desire to be with Him.

Source—[saints.sqpn.com](http://saints.sqpn.com)

*"Deeply rooted in the love of Christ, Rita found in her faith unshakeable strength to be a woman of peace in every situation. In her example of total abandonment to God, in her transparent simplicity and in her unflinching fidelity to the Gospel, we too can find sound direction for being authentic Christian witnesses at the dawn of the third millennium."*

- excerpt of an Address by Pope JP II - May 20, 2000

## Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Prayer for Priests

*Mary, Mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of purity over our priests. Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart. Be a mother to them especially in times of discouragement and loneliness. Love them and let them belong completely to Jesus. Like Jesus, they too are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal. Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips, so that He is the one they offer to sinners and to all they meet. Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother, loving them and bringing them joy. Take special care of sick and dying priests and the ones most tempted. Remember how they spent their youth and old age, their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus. Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart. Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful and pure and immaculate, so full of love and humility so that they, too, may grow in the likeness of Christ. Dear Mary, make them humble like you and holy like Jesus. Amen.*

- the following is another excerpt to reflect on as we acknowledge Pope Benedict XVI's "Year of the Priest" -

## Reflections on the Priesthood

by St. John Vianney

"What joy did the Apostles feel after the Resurrection of Our Lord, at seeing the Master whom they had loved so much! The priest must feel the same joy, at seeing Our Lord whom he holds in his hands."

Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

## With Grateful Thanks!



**Fr. Joseph Jagermann**

**Born: 5/21/1879-Died: 6/9/1919**

**Ordained: 6/18/1904**

**Served at St. Albert's from  
1906 to 1908**

## With Grateful Thanks!



**Fr. Mathias Duhr**

**Born: 2/11/1876-Died 7/27/1946**

**Ordained: 8/10/1900**

**Served at St. Albert's from  
1908 to 1916**