

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you long for a deeper appreciation of the beliefs, richness, and joy of our Catholic faith? To really understand the power of God's Word in our lives? To find ways to link our faith with our everyday life? I know I do, and so do many others.

Why Catholic? is a unique opportunity for our parish community to reclaim our Catholic identity and make our faith not only more meaningful, but truly alive! I am therefore, *extremely* pleased that we will be participating in *Why Catholic?*

Why Catholic? promises to be a very powerful means of growth for each of us individually, as well as for the parish as a community. I support this process wholeheartedly and look forward to participating in the small Christian communities. I hope you will join me on this spiritual journey in the footsteps of Jesus.

**FR. GEORGE F. MAROUN,
ST. JAMES MINOR CHURCH,
CARTHAGE, NEW YORK**

NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

For more information or to see how you can become involved, call one of the *Why Catholic?* Planning Team.

Parish Staff

Fr. George Maroun (493-3224)

Sr. Annunciata Collins, SSJ (493-1301)

Deacon Richard Staab (493-3224)

Planning Team:

Michael J. Sligar, Planning Team Program

Coordinator (778-3567)

Maria Teresa Kapos, Planning Team

Spanish Coordinator (519-1211)

Team Members:

Yvonne Ablan (493-3681)

Darren Bracy (493-1009)

David Heywood (493-4754)

Mary Ann Margrey (493-1430)

Cindy Pate (346-1282)

Robert & Mary Beth Renaud (493-6734)

Bette Shampine (493-1062)

**ST. JAMES MINOR CHURCH
327 WEST STREET, CARTHAGE
PHONE: 315-493-6734
FAX: 315-493-3280**

**DEEPEN YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH
AND CONNECT ITS TEACHINGS
TO EVERYDAY LIFE**

**WHY
CATHOLIC?
JOURNEY THROUGH THE GATECHISM**

- Are you searching for meaning and purpose?
- Do you have questions about your faith?
- Would you like to connect more with God?

THEN THIS IS FOR YOU!



**EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF
FAITH LEARNING
FAITH SHARING
FAITH LIVING**

St. James Minor Church

WHAT IS WHY CATHOLIC?

Why Catholic? is a unique adult faith formation program that is solidly based on Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Why Catholic? offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their every day lives.

Why Catholic? encourages learning in a prayerful small-community setting.

What are the themes of *Why Catholic?*

The Profession of Faith: What We Believe

Discover the basic truths of our faith and how they connect with our daily lives.

The Celebration of the Christian Mystery:

Sacraments

Appreciate the richness of the Mass and see the Sacraments as doors to the Sacred.

Life in Christ: Walking with God

Explore the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as sources for moral wisdom and as blueprints for living the Christian Life.

Christian Prayer:

Deepening my Experience of God

Experience different forms of prayer as ways to grow more deeply in our relationship with God.

WHO CAN BENEFIT?

- CATHOLICS WHO WANT TO DEEPEN THEIR FAITH
- PARENTS WHO WANT TO PASS ON THEIR FAITH
- CATECHISTS WHO WANT TO ENHANCE THEIR FAITH
- ADULT CANDIDATES AND CATECHUMENS WHO WANT TO LEARN THEIR FAITH
- PARISH ORGANIZATIONS AND STAFF WHO WANT TO REFLECT ON THEIR FAITH

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

JOIN A SMALL CATHOLIC BASE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

* USING BOOK:

#1 *The Profession of Faith: What We Believe*

* GROUPS WILL MEET FOR SIX WEEKS STARTING:

1st Week of Lent - Week of February 18, 2007

* SIGN-UP AT MASS ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES:

December 9-10, 2006
January 13-14, 2007

Call any of the people listed on the back panel for more information.

USE RENEWING FAMILY FAITH

These weekly bulletins will enrich everyone. Through stories, blessings, Scripture, activities, and additional resources, explore the important teachings of our Catholic Faith.

ATTEND THE PARISH RETREATS & ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

Every six months the parish will gather to deepen understanding of our Catholic identity through a faith enrichment presentation or a retreat experience. Watch bulletin for details.



WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

"Why Catholic? Has reminded me of my roots and why I am Catholic. My mother always said being a Catholic is more than a religion - it's a way of life."

Kimberly D, Atlanta GA

"I want my kids to believe, and Why Catholic? Is deepening my faith and teaching me how to pray. It is helping my faith seed out into my children."

Amy M. Toronto, OH

"Before Why Catholic? I shied away from religious questions. Now, by learning more about the richness and traditions of my Catholic faith, I share faith more confidently."

David M, Prattville, AL

A Disciple's Prayer

*Loving God and Father,
help us to be people of prayer,
committed to the person and message of
Jesus Your Son.*

*Help us to grasp the integrity and beauty
of the truths of our faith and
the transforming power of your grace.*

*Nourish and strengthen us
as people of faith, disciples of Jesus,
committed to the mission of the Church
and eager to share the gospel without restraint.*

*Let our hearts burn within us
as we catch glimpses of your heart in Jesus,
for through Him,
we know your loving plan for us.*

*We ask this through Jesus the Christ
who lives with You and the Holy Spirit
in One Loving Trinity.
Amen.*