

Haciendo Conexiones en Español

By Pilar Latorre*

¡Aleluya! El Señor ha resucitado y le ha visto María, que le ha reconocido cuando la ha llamado por su nombre, y le han visto los apóstoles reunidos en el Cenáculo y han sentido, con su visita sorpresiva y esperada, la fuerza de la gracia que dimana de su Resurrección. Y han recibido de Él el regalo de la paz, “la paz sea con vosotros” les dijo el Maestro y se sintieron invadidos de una paz nueva, la paz que procede de la fe en Cristo victorioso de la muerte y del mal. Más tarde le vio Tomás, y le vio de una manera nueva, le vio resucitado y condescendiente con su falta de fe, “mete tu mano en los agujeros de los clavos y tu mano en mi costado y no seas incrédulo sino fiel”. “Señor mío y Dios mío” exclamó el discípulo enseñándonos para siempre ese profundo acto de fe que tantas veces repetimos, desde lo más profundo de nuestro corazón.

¡El Señor ha resucitado! Nosotros también estamos invitados a *nuevos* encuentros con Jesús, a nuevas *resurrecciones* en nuestras vidas. Encuentros en los que al oírle pronunciar nuestro nombre crezca nuestra alegría y exclamemos “Rabboni” como aceptación de su doctrina y de su mensaje. Encuentros en los que como a los discípulos se nos alegre el corazón por su triunfo y por la paz que dimana de su presencia victoriosa que nos invade cuando le aceptamos como Redentor. Encuentros en los que contritos y agradecidos por su condescendencia y su misericordia digamos llenos de fe “Señor mío y Dios mío” como Tomás y como él descubramos, un poco más, la anchura y la profundidad del corazón de Dios.

¡Cristo el Señor ha resucitado! ¡Aleluya!

Catequistas, transmitamos estas verdades y estos sentimientos a las personas que el Señor nos ha puesto en el camino para que les acompañemos en el camino de la fe.

*Pilar Latorre es Directora de la catequesis hispana en la Arquidiócesis de Boston

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“Nosotros también estamos invitados a *nuevos* encuentros con Jesús, a nuevas *resurrecciones* en nuestras vidas”

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Wake Up and Dream!*

By Angela B. Jones, M.Div. **



Angela Jones, M.Div., Vice President, CSPC Committee, center, at the recent "Catholic Ashura" lecture pictured with (L to R) Rev. Prof. Raymond Helmick, S.J.; Boston College; Saif Agha, Esq.; Adem Delibas, M.S.; and Jerome Maryon, Esq., President, CSPC Committee.

Lessons learned from my years as a director of religious education have crystallized into a new and exciting initiative. On Mother's Day, 2005, I joined forces with an earnest group of lay people at my Cambridge parish in Harvard Square, to form a speaker series committee entitled the Lay Committee on Contemporary Spiritual-&Public Concerns (the "CSPC Committee"). We met with the expressed purpose of addressing more deeply our dual lives as faithful Catholics in the Church and as responsible citizens in the world. Leading up to the meeting

we had been inspired to ponder various questions including, "How do we bring to bear in our lives the questions and answers of the day arising within our beloved Church, and how do we bring to bear in the city square and society at large, our Catholic twin values of faith and reason? Indeed, how do we create something positive, something meaningful, out of the tragic, dark days of the child sexual abuse crisis?"

Our Lady, Our Mother, stood at the foot of the Cross that Mother's Day and prayed with us and for us, consequently guiding us on a journey with our Risen Lord. We, like "...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb...then [like them, we] went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples." (Matthew 28:1, 8) Our newly established speaker series committee quickly filled a void in the tomb of adult faith formation and religious education and fully directed attention to this vital area that is often overlooked, under-served, or taken for granted. We selectively chose the medium of a public dialogue as an accessible and meaningful format for busy adults to gather and examine the urgent issues of the day that are consuming our complex, post-modern world.

To date, the CSPC Committee has sponsored nearly 30 lectures and over 20 various activities. Each lecture is meticulously organized, though event planners we are not. We are disciples on the journey commissioned to share the Good News with our fellow disciples. Grounded in faith and reason, all of our talks have a spiritual component and the introduction of each speaker requires a brief analysis of Catholic thought on the given subject. Extensive publicity enables us to reach as many people as possible and even the publicity reflects our charge in the flyer's picture: St. Paul's bell tower to the right (political labels not intended!) conveys faith and reason; the bell tower to the left on the academic building conveys reason alone; while the aerial view of Harvard Square depicts public dialogue in the heart of the city square.

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Rev. Robert J. Congdon
Pastor of St. Paul Church
Cambridge, MA

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From the private dinner with the speaker and CSPC Committee members preceding the lecture, through the informative lecture itself, to the inquisitive question-and-answer period following each talk, and finally, the lively reception punctuating the event, we believe we succeed in fulfilling the desire to nourish and mature our adult faith through our capacity for intellectual and spiritual stimulation. In addition, the CSPC Committee believes discipleship involves active dialogue with non-Catholics and non-Christians alike, therefore, we have offered a variety of talks including: The Christ-Life: Worship, Communion, and Service; Eastern Christian Spirituality; The Philosophy of Personalism in the Life & Writing of Pope John Paul II; The Practice of Law - & The Highest Human Good!; and Catholic Ashura, our inter-faith gathering with Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims and Jews.

Originally, not knowing where our actions would take us, but empowered to operate through the fear of the unknown, my fellow CSPC Committee members and I "[ran] from the tomb" to living the joy of obedience to God's plan. Please visit our website and join us at a future lecture: www.saint-paul-cspc.org.

* Article title, from a homily of Fr. Oscar Pratt, Pastor of St. Katharine Drexel, Boston, 1/20/08.
** **Angela B. Jones** Angela Jones, M.Div., former Director of Religious Education at Saint Jerome Parish, Arlington (suppressed) serves as Vice President, of the Lay Committee on Contemporary and Spiritual and Public Concerns

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 1 - Enrichment - Chateau Restaurant, Waltham 9:30 to 12:30- Sister Carol Cimone, CSJ, Ed.D - "Living Large...Meeting New Standards for Catechetical Leaders."

Days of Prayer for Parish Catechetical Leadership Led by Reverend Jack Rathschmidt, OFM Cap.

Place: Eastern Point Retreat House Gloucester, MA	Place: Miramar Retreat Center Duxbury, MA
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2008	Date: Thursday, May 8, 2008
Time: 9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.	Time: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Cost: \$45.00	Cost: \$35.00

For more information about these events please call Susan J. Kay at the Office of Religious Education, Call 617-746-5861, 617-779-3625 or e-mail: Susan_Kay@RCAB.org

Bicentennial – Celebrating Our History

Did you know that...

In 1977 the goals of the office focused on family-oriented education, the growth of the coordinator movement, adolescent catechesis/youth ministry and primarily on adult religious education.

The NCD (1978) stressed the importance of plurality and cultural diversity, affirmed the value of adaptation and emphasized the challenge of education in social justice.

By the end of the 1970's the office moved from setting up programs to fostering a vision of total catechesis, quantity to quality etc.

In September 1981 the office developed its first "Mission Statement", echoing Pope John Paul's exhortation, *Catechesi Tradendae*, (1979).



Archdiocese
of Boston
200 years!

The Mystery of Harry Potter

Nancy Carpenter Brown. *Our Sunday Visitor*; 2007; \$12.95



This is a wonderful book to have at hand if you are asked to comment on the Harry Potter series. The author has done a masterful job assembling and addressing the criticisms of the series. She writes: "When people found out that I was writing a Catholic book about Harry Potter, their first question was always, 'Are you FOR or AGAINST Harry?' and I say, 'I'm **for** parents deciding for themselves what's right for their own family.'" This succinctly sums up Nancy Carpenter Brown's approach. She does not gloss over concerns, dismissing them and painting critics as fanatics. Instead, she puts criticisms raised against the series in the context of children's literature. She, herself, is an author, children's book reviewer, catechist, and mother of two children. Throughout this book she references specific Harry Potter books in the series and analyzes them in relation to other works of fiction, most notably works of G.K. Chesterton. Throughout the book there are Dinner Table Questions and Questions to Ponder. Two excellent Appendices conclude the book. The first contains two interviews: Dale Ahlquist, President of the American Chesterton Society; and Regina Doman, author of children's and young adults' books. The second Appendix is a treasure trove of discussion questions arranged by theme (some themes: Friendships; Heroes; Christian Symbolism; Materialism; Morality; The Bible and the Catechism). We are asked to include many things in our parish religion programs. Who has time for any more? With the publication of the final Harry Potter book there may be the presumption that controversy around the books has been put to rest. Maybe. Maybe not. This book is a good read and a very valuable resource to have.

Seasons of Hope

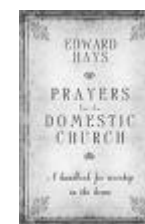
M. Donna MacLeod, 2007, Ave Maria Press



Seasons of Hope is a series for Bereavement Ministers. There are four, six-week "seasons" for small groups of people who have experienced loss and grief. The Guidebook for the leader is easy to use and comprehensive. If your parish is considering offering a bereavement program, this series is definitely worth a closer look. The Guidebook is \$19.95 and participants' books are \$5.95 (separate books for each of the four seasons).

Prayers for the Domestic Church: A handbook for worship in the home

Edward Hays. *Forest of Peace (Ave Maria Press)*, 1979 \$17.95



The back cover of this book reminds us that when it was first published the idea of home and family being the 'domestic church' was new. Reprinted and available for under \$20.00, the book is ideal for families who are looking for ways to pray at home and bless the events, people, and circumstances of the family. Every parish doing Total Community Catechesis or considering adding inter-generational gatherings to the parish calendar should think about having this book available for purchase. The book would also make a lovely addition to the First Communion program. Perhaps parish and families can split the cost with the parish subsidizing half and the parents paying the other half. It is a wonderful book. Once it finds its way to the home, it will be the source of many blessings.

Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton

Books Five and Six are now out. Eight books in the series edited by Jonathan Montlido and Robert G. Toth. Ave Maria Press, 2006 each book: \$5.95



The authors are members of the Thomas Merton Foundation giving extra credibility to this work. *Bridges* is an eight week program designed for small groups. The chapters are brief, just four pages, each beginning with an opening psalm followed by an introduction to the two texts in the chapter, one text from the writings of Thomas Merton and the other from a 20th century writer. This could be part of a parish program of adult faith formation and spiritual renewal.