

Maintain the truth lovingly and  
 always love truthfully.  
 John Paul II

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# Boldly Living the Faith

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When the Son of Man returns, will He still find faith on earth? (Luke 18:8). While introducing the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: *Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty...A Christian may never think of belief as a private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with Him.*

In this New Year, we clearly see the horrendous evil that has been exposed. The fabric of the family is being torn apart and our religious freedom is being trampled upon. In this Year of Faith God is calling us, as Catholic Christians, to be courageous, faith-filled soldiers in the battle!

For the past 15 years CPO has been committed to Teach and Defend the Catholic Faith with Holy Boldness! Each day we reach out to thousands of people across the world through our website, the CPO email list, our Facebook page, the remarkable CPO TV programs and our outstanding Multimedia Library.

CPO is not just "preaching to the choir." We are reaching people of all faiths and backgrounds. For example, a gentleman who operates a TV ministry at a Lutheran church called to say he watched the CPO TV program *Protecting the Institution of Marriage* with guest, Jason Adkins. He thought it was an outstanding show and requested a copy to air on the Lutheran church's local cable channel. Also, a Prison Minister called and reported to us: *The prisoners here are thoroughly enjoying the remarkable video series of Fr. Robert Altier's Fundamentals of Catholicism. Fr. Altier reminds me of Archbishop Fulton Sheen!* These are only a couple examples of many!

Seating is limited, so register early for the annual CPO Lenten Retreat to be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013. This year's theme will build on the Holy Father's Year of Faith: *Faith Lived in Love: Joy in Encountering Christ in our Daily Lives*, featuring



Crystal Crocker speaking on behalf of Minnesota Catholic Conference and Minnesota for Marriage at the CPO Luncheon in October, 2012.

Father Robert J. Altier. The Retreat will be held at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Oakdale, Minnesota. For more information and to register, please see the flyer on page 11.

God's grace and your tremendous support have enabled us to continue our Mission: To build a network of faithful, dynamic, and informed parents, students, and alumni, committed to working with Catholic schools, other programs of education and the community at large, to ensure the authentic teaching and protection of our Catholic Faith, and to address issues that undermine our Catholic Faith and Morals.

A Holy Mass is offered every month of the year for the intentions of our benefactors. I hope to see you at the Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>!

God bless you and yours,  
 Colleen Perfect





Professor Teresa Collett, Professor of Law at St. Thomas School of Law, being interviewed on CPO TV by Colleen Perfect.



Mary Kellett, Founding Director of Prenatal Partners for Life



Dale Ahlquist, President of the American Chesterton Society and Co-Founder of Chesterton Academy for Life



Cheerful Volunteers at Minnesota for Marriage booth at the State Fair.



# Faith in Action

BY FR. ROBERT ALTIER, CPO SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

All things are part of God's providence. This includes human free will and the choices that follow from allowing such liberty. Throughout history we can see the ebbs and flows of human greatness and foolishness. It seems that as people become more affluent, comfortable and materialistic they also tend to stray away from God and His ways. After some time of allowing this, God will finally do something to help people see the error of their ways. What most often follows from such a divine intervention is that people get back on track with their prayer lives, with their moral lives, and with the practice of their faith. Our world has been straying from God for a long time. When Pope John Paul II said that the greatest sin of the twentieth century is the loss of the sense of sin, it made me think; it shocked me to find out that these words were said first by his predecessor, Pope Pius XI, in the 1920's! Europe had already strayed badly in the first quarter of the last century. Things were so bad that Our Lady warned in 1917 that Russia would spread her errors throughout the world. Europe has been severely affected by this, but the United States had been insulated from much of this over the years. As time has gone on, I see Our Lady's dire warning from Fatima being fulfilled before our eyes as the errors of Russia have been exported from there and accepted by people all over the world. Even as the top officials from Russia publicly warn that their system does not work, people have failed to learn from her mistakes and are actively seeking to follow down the path on which she serves to lead the world to the edge of a cliff. It is also part of God's providence that the Church, which is the only means to counter these errors, has been essentially silent for fifty years regarding these evils. Now, as the situation becomes critical, the Holy Father has instituted an indirect call to reject these wayward ideas that are founded on atheism. We have begun the Year of Faith as declared by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. The timing of this could not be more perfect. Not only are people woefully ignorant of the basic points of the *Catechism*, but they have, in many cases, been profoundly affected by the deception of the world in which we live.

Never before has the devil had such means at his disposal to try to undermine the faith of the people. The media has the ability to control how and what people think. The education system has been wildly successful in watering down the truth and producing a couple of generations of people who are unable to make distinctions or think critically. We have degenerated into a selfish, amoral (if not immoral), faithless society. These three points are directly countered by true faith from which follow charity and morality.

The present trajectory of the world's decisions appear to be following the pattern mentioned above which will eventually result in God doing something to bring us back to our senses like the Prodigal Son. This Year of Faith will have different

implications depending upon the level of faith with which each person begins. For some, it will require the consideration of the most basic elements of faith, e.g., does God exist, which Church is the true Church, is Jesus really the Savior and Redeemer? For those who already possess this basic level of faith, there will be the challenge to look deeper into questions of doctrine and morality. For those who know and love their faith, this year will bring with it the opportunity to put that faith into practice in practical ways.

This living out of our faith will require that we augment and strengthen our prayer life. It will force us to look at questions of Divine Providence and why God would allow bad things to happen; it will require trusting in God because it will become evident that there is no human solution to our problems, and it will require helping others by word, action and example to change their lives and look to God. You will notice in these areas just mentioned that the three Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity will have to be employed and purified.



This is the kind of faith that is being sought and the kind of faith that will bring the world back to sanity, reason and morality. While it is good to believe that God exists, Saint James reminds us that the demons also believe this and they tremble. It is far better to know and believe in everything the Church teaches and believes to be revealed by God. However, to believe without acting on the faith demonstrates that the truths of the Faith have not progressed beyond our minds and into our hearts. We need to be formed intellectually and morally by the Faith so that we will choose to do what is good, right and just. In other words, faith will find its proper expression in love for God and neighbor. This is the kind of faith that the world needs: faith in action. This is the fruit of this Year of Faith which has begun in our time but will lead beyond time to an eternity of truth and love.

# Redemptive Suffering

BY MARILYN GRUTSCH

In recent years, I have had the honor to be present at the time loved ones drew their last breaths. It is a Divine moment. On one hand, there is profound grief at the realization that we will never again have an opportunity, in the physical realm, to relate to this person whom we loved and treasured during our time on earth together. But God's presence is palpable! There is a strong sense of a hope-filled release...almost as if one can see this soul take flight into Eternity. Leading up to death, there is usually suffering, both on the part of the dying and their loved ones. In that sense, death is a relief, even though we desperately don't want to let go. It is complicated by the fact that on a purely human level, none of us wants to suffer nor do we want to watch someone else go through agony or pain. In fact, by today's secular standards, we should try, at all costs, to eliminate suffering.

Yet, what does Christ have to say about suffering and dying? In Luke 14:27 Jesus says, *Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.* And in John 12:24, *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone and bears no fruit.* Jesus is teaching that suffering and death are part of every human life, and it is only through suffering and death that we obtain the glory of resurrection. But suffering isn't just for our own redemption. St. Paul tells us that we, as the body of Christ, can help one another reach our goal of eternal happiness: *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of His body, which is the Church.* (Col. 1:24).

At the bedside of my dying brother, as the priest was saying the prayers of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, I looked around the room at the grieving family members and, in a very real way, I also felt the presence of the Communion of Saints, those family members who have gone before us. It seemed they were consoling us with the Heavenly message that there is more to life than the one lived in this world.

Last year, we said good bye to another brother. He taught us much through his 3½ years of suffering with pancreatic cancer. His journey made me think of the Sorrowful Mysteries of Christ's life. When diagnosed with this terminal illness, he was faced with the reality that he would face death soon and that he had to put his life in the hands of the medical world... his *Agony in the Garden*. Then the poking, prodding, testing and chemotherapy



began—like the *Scourging at the Pillar*. His *Crowning with Thorns* was the mental anguish he eventually faced—losing his ability to work and worrying about what was in store for



him and his family. *The Carrying of the Cross* he did nobly, following doctor's orders, undergoing tests and therapies, relinquishing his freedom and, without complaint, placing his trust in God. But, instead of death coming on Good Friday, God chose Christmas Day for my brother to enter eternal life, which seemed to be our compassionate Father's reminder to us that this is a new beginning for our loved one.

I recently read an article in a magazine entitled "John Paul II and Suffering." It began,

*It is no secret, John Paul II, as a young man and even during the early years of his pontificate, was a picture of health, vigor and vitality. In the early 90's, however, a series of health problems began to take their toll: colon tumors, dislocated shoulder, broken femur, appendectomy, surviving an attempted assassination, a Parkinson-like condition, and strokes. He was clearly entering the part of his life's journey marked by failing health and suffering. Describing the Holy Father in 1998, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger stated: 'The pain is written on his face. His figure is bent, and he needs to support himself on his pastoral staff. He leans on the cross, on the crucifix...'*

This brought to mind my 87 year old mother-in-law, Helen, who recently died from lingering effects of a stroke. When I first met her some 45 years ago, she too, was a picture of health. Her hardships in life had made her a determined and fearless woman, as she tirelessly worked to raise nine children after her husband died at age 47. In old age or when we have a terminal illness, God allows us to go through the humbling process of relinquishing our strength, our health, and sometimes our minds, so that we can begin to detach from this world and be a witness for others. The great paradox is, as the perplexed Master evil one describes in *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis: *At the time God withdraws all the supports and incentives from humans, they grow more into the*



*sort of creatures He wants them to be.* At times, when we feel completely abandoned by God, He allows us an unexpected consolation of pure joy as we recognize the privilege of being entrusted to share intimately in His sufferings. Could this be what one of my friends was experiencing when she said, while deeply grieving the death of her spouse, “Oh, the sweet joy of suffering”?

The article about John Paul II continues, *There was something beautiful and noble in the pope's witness. His courageous perseverance in carrying out his activities as pope, despite his physical afflictions, was a heart-lifting example for all of us.* This was, perhaps, doubly true for all those people around the globe who were themselves bearing some cross or affliction. Many of us, faced with the same tests, would be tempted to shrink from public view, as if infirmity were an embarrassment or personal disgrace. I saw that in Helen too, as she started losing some of her abilities over the years, her lion-like toughness was transformed into the sweet mildness of a lamb. She didn't shy away from conversations even though sometimes she was confused. It was a powerful witness to watch how she loved us and how we all loved her back. She was like how John Paul II was described in the article: *His humble, unpretentious and unembarrassed acceptance of suffering was a dramatic form of witness. The pope offered the world a wonderful model for responding with grace to the test of suffering and illness. Even age has a message, and suffering, a dignity and a salvific force.*

Helen's stroke left her with difficulty in talking, walking and swallowing; however she was conscious and could communicate and recognize family. There was family discussion about not putting in a feeding tube after the doctor's discouraging and erroneous counsel: *Do you really think she'd want to lie here like this relying on a tube for sustenance? She won't suffer if she dies without food or hydration. I consider feeding tubes as heroic measures.* The family was in

turmoil, as many are at a time like this. Is it inhumane not to expedite death to avoid continued suffering? Thankfully, the local Catholic priest appeared at the hospital and objectively explained the Church's teachings: *The natural law and the Fifth Commandment require that all ordinary means be used to preserve life, such as food, water, hygiene, and medical care, including pain medication.* The tube was put in. She died three months later and we'll never know this side of life, how much work she was doing for our family during those last days of her life that she was allowed to live.

Blessed John Paul II, long before his years of sickness and suffering, wrote about the care which is due the sick and dying, reminding us that Christ continues His mission and His preference for the vulnerable, through His Church. In *Dying with Dignity*, he states,

*The Church knows that the moment of death is always accompanied by particularly intense human sentiments: an earthly life is ending, the emotional, generational, and social ties that are part of the person's inner self are dissolving. The Church lifts her voice so that the dying are not offended but are given every loving care and are not left alone as they prepare to cross the threshold of time to enter eternity.*

At this crucial time in life, even when it feels compassionate to end all suffering, a person should not be deprived of this God-given time so as not to interfere with the person's ability to prepare to meet God and to finish the work he has been called to do. As Blessed Mother Teresa said,

*This is the triumph of the Cross: all suffering has lasting and redeeming value when offered to Jesus, who glorified all human suffering by His Holy Cross.*



Fr. Altier speaking at 2012 Lenten Retreat at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church.

Youth leading the Holy Rosary at the Retreat.



## Practical Suggestions to Deepen our Catholic Faith

BY FREDERICK BLONIGEN

The 'door of faith' (Acts 14: 27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. These are the opening words of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, October 11, 2011, announcing the Year of Faith from October 11, 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of Vatican II, to November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King. During this special year of grace Pope Benedict is calling upon Catholics throughout the world to ...*rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ*. I would like to suggest some practical ways Catholics can grow in their faith during this special year of grace.

### First: Praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

The spiritual life always begins with prayer. Unless we are praying regularly, unless we are communicating with God on a daily basis, we cannot have an authentic relationship with God, let alone deepen our union with Him. I would especially recommend praying all or at least part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily prayer of the



Church. Praying the Divine Office with the entire Church will surely strengthen our faith and draw us closer to God.

### Second: Daily reading of Scripture.

Pope Benedict says in *Porta Fidei* that *We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the Word of God*. The Bible is God's love letter to mankind. Let us make it a priority during this Year of Faith to read and meditate on Scripture frequently, and daily if possible.

### Third: Reading and studying the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The starting date of this Year of Faith, October 11, 2012, is also the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism*. What the *Catechism* provides is a systematic and organic synthesis of the fundamental content of the faith. A major factor in the present crisis of faith is that so many Catholics are uncatechized: they simply do not know or understand their faith. The new *Catechism*, a spiritual fruit

of Vatican II, was given to us by the Church to help remedy this widespread ignorance of the faith. It is a beautiful tool for the transmission of the faith. Faith seeks understanding: the *Catechism* helps us to better understand and articulate what we believe as Catholics.

### Fourth: Reading and studying the Vatican II documents.

Amazingly, it is fifty years since Vatican II began and the vast majority of Catholics have never read the sixteen documents produced by this Council. This Year of Faith would be the perfect time to read or reread these beautiful and inspiring documents. A large part of the confusion experienced in the Church today is the result of dissenters who talk endlessly about "the spirit of Vatican II" but never refer to what the actual documents of the Council say. In *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict says of Vatican II,

*I feel more than ever duty bound to point to the Council as the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century: there we find a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the century now beginning...if we interpret and implement it guided by a right hermeneutic, it can be and can become increasingly powerful for the ever necessary renewal of the Church.*

Reading the documents of Vatican II is essential if we are to participate fully in the renewal of the Church.

### Fifth: Renewing our commitment to the Mass and Eucharistic devotion.

The Holy Mass is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. At a time when many Catholics do not even attend Mass weekly, we must keep Sunday Mass the center of our spiritual life. If possible, we should attend Mass daily, or at least several days a week. We should make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament and commit to a weekly holy hour. Only widespread Eucharistic adoration and devotion can lead the Church out of the present crisis of faith.



### Sixth: Imitating the faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Mary is the model of faith. Great as was Mary's privilege to be the Mother of God, before she conceived Our Lord in her womb, she conceived Him in her heart. In this Year of Faith, may we look to Mary as our example of perfect discipleship. May we ask Our Lady often to intercede for us, so that our faith in her Son will grow and that it will be a faith lived out with zeal each day.



**Seventh: Making sure our faith shows itself in deeds of love.**



Dear CPO, I'm hoping to incorporate the *Fundamentals of Catholicism* by Fr. Robert Altier into the RCIA program. Is a Spanish version of the *Father's Examination of Conscience* available? There are more Spanish speaking people in Vancouver and it would be a helpful tool. I am familiar with his English pamphlet already and we have those here in our confessional. Finally, do you know if Fr. Altier gives Lenten Missions? If he doesn't have any plans this Lent, I'd fly him up here. God Bless.  
~from a Catholic Priest

I just wanted to take time out to thank you. I have learned and started praying for so much more than I would have ever thought of, had it not been for me joining this e-mail group. May God bless you and keep you in His safe hands.

Dear Catholic Parents OnLine, thanks for the fantastic job you did with the recent Lenten Retreat. Please consider this a request for copies of Fr. Rober Altier's talks at that event. I will gladly pay for any costs, and am also considering a donation to your organization anyway. Please keep up the great work you do! I know our Lord appreciates and I'm sure many others do

also! May God bless each one of you!

Wow. This is a real keeper. I'll be printing and reading this one to my children. Thank you for sending this email and the many emails you send.

Dear CPO, I am married with three beautiful children because of God's great mercy. You have been instrumental in my parenting with your truth and encouragement to live a Catholic Family Life when I was feeling isolated...Family is everything to me, God's family, and we are ALL GOD's CHILDREN through LOVE... We will keep you in our family prayers, maybe we will meet someday.

Please send me a copy of *The Parent's Guide: Teaching the Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality* DVD. We'll be including this in the library of our Catholic Mom's Group. This is much needed information. God Bless you.

Dear Friends at CPO, your emails are outstanding, thanks for your great ministry. God bless you we are entering difficult times and the remnant must be united in the heart of the Church. *Amor meus crucifixus est.* ~from a Catholic Priest

Thank you also for ALL of the emails you send out--I can't tell you the number of times I have forwarded them to others. May God continue to bless you and the work of

For as the Apostle James reminds in his letter, faith without works is dead. Or, to again quote the words of Pope Benedict: *Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt.*

Although we live in a highly secular age, human beings are still hungry for the truth and are searching for the ultimate meaning in their lives. Our task, as disciples of Christ, is to be a light to others and show them Christ in our daily living of the Gospel. Near the conclusion of *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI summarizes beautifully the challenge of those who would follow Christ:

*What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the Word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.*

May faithful Catholics everywhere take to heart the encouraging words of His Holiness and make this Year of Faith a time of spiritual renewal and an ever deeper encounter with the Living Christ.

your hands (and heart!). Many, many thanks for what you do. This DVD was such a blessing for me to see initially. I can't wait to share it with my husband.

Hi there, I have been receiving your e-mails for some time through my dear mother. I am wondering if I might be able to get on your mailing list, myself, directly. Thank you for passing on noteworthy information to us Catholics.

Thank you! The CD was so amazing that I need two copies, so that I can share it both with my family and the ladies at my Bible Study. THANKS for your commitment to the Faith! I live 200 miles north but it was well worth the trip for your retreat! Praised be Jesus Christ!

Today was amazing. Fr Altier is so wonderful. He truly speaks the truth in season and out of season. You'd like EVERYONE to have been present today. God bless you for all the hard work.

Bless you CPO for sending the emails!!! You are helping my family immensely.

BRAVO! What a fantastic job you guys did with the recent Lenten retreat. So very well organized, and inspiring as well. I'm sure our Lord and many, many others appreciate your efforts. God bless each of you!

As a pro-life nurse this is a great article. THANK YOU.

## Start Early and Persevere

# A Catholic Montessori Education

BY LISA BROMSCHWIG

Maria Montessori was an Italian medical doctor and teacher, born in 1870. She was known to be a devout Roman Catholic and had utmost concern for the wellbeing of others. Maria was a determined and highly intelligent student, graduating from the University of Rome in 1896 as a doctor of medicine and eventually becoming an expert in pediatric medicine. She is best known, however, for her philosophy of education known as the “Montessori Method.” Montessori instruction emphasizes the child’s independence, allows freedom with appropriate limitations, and respects natural psychological development. The instructional materials make use of technological inventions and concrete objects for exploration (play) in learning. There are certain elements that need to be present in order for a school to claim the name “Montessori.” According to the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and the American Montessori Society (AMS), the following components are essential:

- Mixed age classrooms, with classrooms for children aged 2½ or 3 to 9 years old by far the most common
- Student choice of activity from within a prescribed range of options
- Uninterrupted blocks of work time
- A Constructivist or “discovery” model, where students learn concepts from working with materials, rather than by direct instruction
- Specialized educational materials developed by Montessori and her collaborators

Based on Maria’s extensive education, years of working in pediatric medicine, and research in the areas of mental retardation and disabled children, her method evolved into a successful, comprehensive educational model. Educators using the Montessori Method observed that their students consistently demonstrated the ability to concentrate, pay attention, and exercise self-discipline. They were ahead of their peers in traditional classrooms. The Montessori classrooms began to attract the attention of prominent educators, journalists, and public figures. Soon the Montessori Method became widely employed throughout Italy and from there spread internationally. While writing this article, I had the privilege of interviewing Elizabeth Trojack, Head of School at the Elizabeth Ann Seton Montessori School in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Lisa:** Your school offers a Catholic preschool education for children. How does the Montessori aspect differ from other Catholic preschool programs?

**Elizabeth:** Both have as their goal to provide a learning experience for the child. Maria Montessori was a devout Catholic with much of her theories steeped in her faith,

although most Montessori Schools disregard it. The biggest difference lies in the kind of learning experience each school provides and the method used to accomplish this goal.

The Montessori Method is an approach to learning based on the truths about the human nature, the importance of this time of 3-6 years old, and the tendency of the child to soak up information during this period. Montessori Method includes theories on the stages in development called the “Four Planes of Development,” Sensitive periods, and the need for a specific environment based on the needs and tendencies of each plane. The Montessori environment for the second plane of development, ages 3-6, is called the “Children’s House.” In the Children’s House, there are mixed ages of three to six which creates a community within the learning environment that fosters care for self, others, and the environment.

Catholic preschool programs are similar to traditional education, which follows a group method of instruction. The Montessori Method does not follow a group style of learning. There is no ‘ceiling’ on the child’s learning nor anyone ‘left-behind’ nor anyone sitting ‘idle’ waiting for others. Each child learns at his own pace.



**L:** But, wait! Maria Montessori was a devout Catholic. There are many accredited Montessori schools in operation but without teaching solid Catholic doctrine. How can that be?

**E:** I have asked myself that same question. Many Montessori Schools emphasize that the child’s development socially, physically, and intellectually is important. However, they disregard the moral and spiritual dimension of the child.



**L: Describe a typical day for a student in your school. What do they do from the moment they walk in?**

E: A child's day varies from individual to individual according to their interest, ability, and what he has been shown. The child may choose to work alone or with others; ask a friend if they may observe them or select a material right away.

For instance, one child may choose to work on a Sensorial Material such as the Red Rods. The child is working on this material to master his ability to discriminate length in a series and prepare himself for the concept of a unit and quantity in the math materials.

At the same time, another child may be working on some reading cards with consonant combinations (blends) and vowel combinations such as 'sh' or 'ee'. That child is moving deeper into the area of Language by further exploring sounds and expanding his reading/writing abilities.

**L: You say they use a lot of manipulatives. How does a child really learn if he is just playing with objects?**

E: The materials in each area of the room have a specific developmental aim. Each has a direct aim along with an indirect aim and they build on each other. For example, the direct aim of the Number Rods is to give the child a sensorial, visual impression of numbers and quantity. The direct aim of

the Sandpaper Numbers is to introduce the child to how the numbers are symbolized.

Also the materials prepare the child for other materials. For example, when a young child uses the cylinder blocks, they use the pincer grip which prepares them for holding a pencil and the future writing work that is to come.

For the child, work does not have the negative association that it does for most adults. A child at school rarely washes the floor because it needs to be washed. They wash the floor because they have a desire to wash it. They are drawn to it because they are developing their fine and gross motor skills, concentration, and so on.

**L: A typical Catholic school usually devotes a half hour every day for Religion class. How often are the Catholic doctrines taught in a Catholic Montessori school?**

E: Catholic Doctrine permeates the entire curriculum of the Catholic Montessori School and not just a class period of religious education. It is an integral education that responds to all the needs of the human person: intellectual, physical, social, religious and moral dimension. Its specific purpose is the formation of the child to be not only good citizens of this world, but also citizens of the world to come. The school seeks to foster good Catholic children who will love God and their neighbor, answering their call to be saints.



Popular CPO Media Table at Fall Luncheon & Fundraiser.



## ARTHUR A. HERKENHOFF AWARD

Art Herkenhoff was a true friend and one of CPO's founding Board members. He was a hero in all the areas that truly matter: in Faith, Family and Pro-life involvement. Art had enormous courage in the face of opposition to proclaim the Truth of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, and he always exhibited true charity, humility and joy.

Each year CPO receives many outstanding nominations for the Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award. This year the Board of Directors has chosen to present the 2012 Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award to a remarkable woman, Jo Tolck.



Jo Tolck with son, Chris Tolck

Jo Tolck is dedicated to building a "Culture of Life." She is the Executive Director of Human Life Alliance, an international pro-life organization based in Minneapolis. Her involvement in the pro-life movement goes back a long way. She began volunteering in the early 1970's even prior to Roe v. Wade, and she worked with a variety of pro-life organizations. These organizations offer counseling to pregnant women, assist families in need with clothing, furniture, and prenatal care, and generate educational materials.

Jo was welcomed into the Catholic Church at age 17 and is currently a parishioner at St. Raphael's in Crystal where she attends daily Mass and is a committed adorer of our Lord at Eucharistic Adoration. She is also an active member of the Respect Life and A Community Caring for Life committees. Jo is blessed with two living children and five beautiful grandchildren. Sadly, her husband died at the young age of 37. After her husband's first heart attack, she re-entered the workforce on a part-time basis cleaning houses. One of the offices she cleaned hired her as a secretary, working in vocational rehabilitation. From there, she became a placement specialist and went on to supervise their placement department and human resources department. She says she will always be grateful for the opportunity they offered that enabled her to provide for her children.

In 2001 she became aware of an opportunity for employment with Human Life Alliance.

The position was only advertised once in the Catholic Spirit newspaper, but she believes it was through the intervention of the Holy Spirit that she became aware of it. Jo said it has been an immeasurable blessing in her life to be a part of this incredible organization and work full-time in the pro-life movement.

Jo is truly committed to this remarkable organization, Human Life Alliance, which is dedicated to creating a culture in which all human life, from the process of fertilization to natural death, is respected and cherished. HLA's distribution of outstanding pro-life educational materials to high school and college students, churches and pro-life organizations around the world has reached over 175 million people in the past 21 years.



Jo Tolck with Herkenhoff family members and Colleen Perfect, President of CPO, on the far right.

The CPO Board of Directors seeks the names of individuals who would be worthy of nomination for the 2013 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award. The persons nominated should exhibit the same qualities, principles and values which characterized the life and person of Art Herkenhoff: Faith, family, pro-life involvement, courage, charity and joy. This year's award will be presented at the CPO Annual Fundraising Luncheon to be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013.

**Please submit your nomination by October 1, 2013. You may complete the Online Nomination Form at: [www.catholicparents.org/herkenhoff/index.html](http://www.catholicparents.org/herkenhoff/index.html) or contact us at 651-705-5409 and we'll be happy to mail you the form.**



# Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 16, 2013

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM



*Faith Lived in Love:*  
***JOY*** *in Encountering Christ*  
*in our Daily Lives*



*Featuring Father Robert J. Altier*

Guardian Angels Catholic Church  
 8260 4<sup>th</sup> Street North  
 Oakdale, Minnesota 55128

The day begins with Mass at 8:00 AM at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, followed by a continental breakfast, and includes three dynamic presentations by Fr. Robert Altier, a delicious lunch, the Rosary and more.

***Please join us!***

***Register early, seating is limited.***

For more information, please call 651-705-5409 or email [info@catholicparents.org](mailto:info@catholicparents.org)

## REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per married couple.  
 Please send check made payable & mailed to:

Catholic Parents OnLine  
 P.O. Box 130815  
 St. Paul, MN 55113

**Number Attending** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Includes continental breakfast and lunch

Tickets will not be mailed out in advance; name tags will be waiting for you at the registration table after Mass.

## **CPO Award-Winning Multimedia**

*Categories include CDs and DVDs, most featuring Fr. Robert Altier*

Advent - Christmas  
Defending the Faith  
Lent - Easter  
Morality  
Sacraments  
Spanish  
Virtues

Catholic Church Teaching  
Family  
Life Issues  
Personal Growth  
Saints  
Suffering

Catholic Music & Bookstore  
Inspirational  
Marriage Enrichment  
Prayer & Devotions  
School Education  
The Virgin Mary

*Find more information at: [www.catholicparents.org/cpomedia.html](http://www.catholicparents.org/cpomedia.html)*