

CATECHIST HONORS

Catechist magazine would like to say “thank you” to catechists around the country for answering the call to share the Good News.



PROGRAM

Our annual *Catechist* Honors program celebrates the creative work of gifted catechists, directors of religious education (DREs), catechetical leaders, and youth ministers. We wish to share their ideas and recognize their hard work and dedication. Thank you for all the nominations! These pages contain our *Catechist* Honors finalists. Their stories illustrate our important mission of enlivening the Catholic faith in the hearts of the next generation. In gratitude, we are pleased to award each finalist a life-time membership in the National Society for Volunteer Catechists (NSVC) and a one-year subscription to *Catechist* magazine!

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Makes the Faith Come Alive

LOIS BENNIN

Catechist at Our Lady of Grace Church, St. Petersburg, Florida

Nominated by: Susan Salisbury

Highlights from Lois' nomination: Lois is a catechist for seventh graders and others preparing for Confirmation. "Lois lives the faith. ... Every time I see her, she has the radiance of God's love shining through her face ... she makes her classes come alive ..." and is working toward becoming a master catechist. Projects illustrating faith-in-action include hosting a baby shower for the Pregnancy and Family Life Center. Lois also encouraged participation in a walk where walkers prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet as they raised funds for the homeless.

Catechist talks with Lois Bennin:

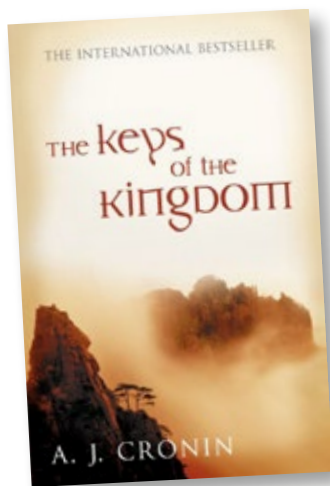
What's the best spiritual book you've read? Both fiction and nonfiction have influenced

my spiritual life:

The Keys to the Kingdom by AJ Cronin; *These Stones Will Shout* by Mark Link, SJ; and my old daily Maryknoll Missal.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? I practice being conscious

of God's presence. I



had polio as a child and I use a motorized chair to get around. I am thankful for being independent in my home—close to church. I pray, "How beautiful is your house, the dwelling place of your glory!" as I go down the street.

"How beautiful is your house, the dwelling place of your glory!"

Who is your favorite saint and why? My favorite saint is St. Katharine Drexel, a great role

model for today. She put her faith into action by forming a religious community to build God's kingdom. She broke social barriers, empowered the poor, and acted boldly against social opposition. She used wealth for things of true value rather than for vanity.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? I am inspired by the strong faith of those around me, both Catholic and non-Catholic. I participate in several groups, [for prayer and study] and a small Christian community studying Genesis. I discuss faith-related issues with friends.



Lois Bennin

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? Putting one's

faith into action. I start with St. Paul's concept of the "Body of Christ." Using construction paper blocks on the bulletin board for Christ's torso and head, I have different students make feet, hands, eyes, ears, heart, brain, mouth, and nose to tack on the body. Afterward, students complete sentences on a worksheet with their own concrete examples, such as, "I am

Christ's eyes; I _____."

Then we discuss their answers.

Could you share a teaching tip? Have an activity, worksheet, or craft project for major points. That way, lessons are more than words; a concrete object, event, or image triggers the student's memory.



BE READY FOR NEXT YEAR'S
CATECHIST HONORS!

Anyone can nominate a catechist for Catechist Honors. Next year's nominations will be open April 1-August 1, 2017. Watch for news of it in our April/May issue, or find details at Catechist.com.



Friendly, Positive, Leadership

■ MARIA CROOKSTON

Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Ashtabula, Ohio

Nominated by: Jennifer Fuentes and William A. Niemi

Highlights from Maria's nomination: Maria is the DRE and youth minister. She not only retooled a religious education program upon her arrival a few years back, she also launched a now-thriving youth ministry. Maria desires what is best for children and is very supportive of her teachers. "She provides outstanding leadership, training, humor, and loving friendship to the staff."

Maria's positive rapport with the parish youth stands out. "She inspires youth and gets them involved." Plus, she knows how to have fun! She's brought Vacation Bible School, a youth softball league, and other special events, such as family movie nights, to the parish.

Catechist talks with Maria Crookston:

What's the best spiritual book you've read? It is difficult for me to find time to read a book. However, I have found it spiritually enriching to listen to Christian music and reflect on the lyrics in the songs as they relate to Scriptures and aspects of my ministry. By listening to Christian music, I

have not only been able to grow in my faith, but ... connect with my students, allowing me to see the faith through their eyes.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? I enjoy reflecting

while taking walks and enjoying the beauty of God's creation, surrounded by silence. Our media tends to focus on tragedies, so I find it refreshing to take these walks in order to refocus myself on God and all the good in the world, whether it be through individuals I have encountered or just the simple beauty of the earth.

Who is your favorite saint and why? The Blessed Mother. In Scripture, Mary didn't say too much, and this has taught me that actions speak louder than words. She also challenges me to try new things. ... Lastly, Mary isn't concerned with being "top dog," but dedicates her life to service. Each of these things I try to embody ... and I look to her for guidance.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? My friends Miguel Chavez, PJ Chavez, and Fr. Bob Lanterman: Each one has taught me about my

faith through textbook knowledge, but also encouraged me to ask questions to fully understand what the faith means to me. Their witness to the Gospel values during joyous, and even difficult, times in their lives, has provided me with a faithful example and has encouraged me to follow in their footsteps.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? It is the "why" things: why things are the way they are, or why we do what we do as Catholics. In order to help answer

the "why" questions, I try to immerse my students into the topic. This might mean putting themselves in Jesus' shoes, or having them plan a Mass in order to understand it better. It is important to have faith come alive rather than simply reading a book.

Could you share a teaching tip?

Meet your students where they are. ... Learn what they like to do and incorporate whatever that is into a lesson or ministry event. If students have a vested interest ... they [are] more engaged and even encourage others to follow suit. Also, do not be afraid to use social media to the advantage of the Church.



Maria Crookston



A Writer in the Field

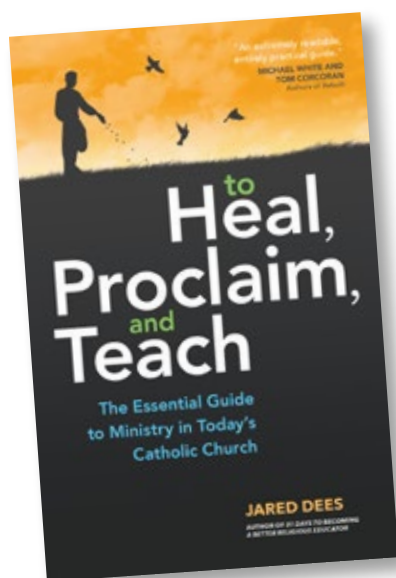
■ JARED DEES

*Catechist at St. Pius X Church,
Granger, Indiana*

Nominated by: Stephanie Sibal

Highlights from Jared's

Nomination: Jared Dees is a catechist for second graders. It's hard to miss a nomination singing the praises of a two-time author in the field of catechesis. But what caught our attention is that Jared's books grew out of his extensive experience and training as catechist, RCIA sponsor, and participant in the parish renewal effort known as *Christ Renews His Parish*. What comes to light is his commitment and energy to creatively engage others with the Good News of our Catholic faith. His nomination states he is "committed to the New Evangelization by spreading the Gospel ... to help others become more committed disciples." (See The Browser on page 51 for notes on Dees' latest book.)



Catechist talks with
Jared Dees:

What's the best spiritual book you've read? Lately, I keep coming back to *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton. Every time I pick it up, I find something new to reflect on and ponder.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? I pray the Angelus and the Rosary every day.

Who is your favorite saint and why? Mother Teresa's life is an incredible inspiration. She was an educator, but realized the great needs of the people around her and starting healing them by offering her love, acceptance, and care.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? My wife and kids. My wife pushes me by the way she lives her life and strives to learn and do more in the Church. My kids *never* forget to pray before meals and bed. We taught them this habit early and now they remind us when we forget!

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? The Real Presence. I used to come up with elaborate explanations with props and diagrams. I found, though, that going to the chapel and praying before the tabernacle

in silence gets the point across much better. It is something many students have never done before.

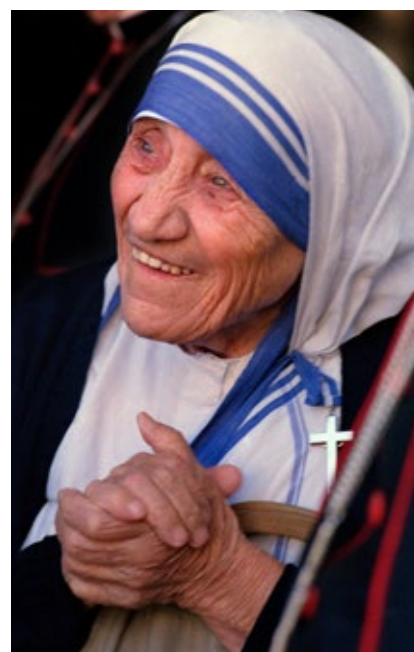
Could you share a teaching tip? Make disciples, not theologians.

Don't worry about teaching everything in the book. It just isn't possible. Our goal isn't to provide all the answers—especially answers to questions students aren't asking. Instead, encourage them to ask questions.

Inspire them to want to learn more. That's our goal: make disciples. You cannot expect your students to leave class as expert theologians, but you can expect them to leave with a love for learning the faith.



Jared Dees



PHOTOS: (LEFT) CNA, (RIGHT) PUBLIC DOMAIN

Always Innovating

■ KIM LASINSKI

Youth Minister at Church of
St. Michael and St. Peter,
Syracuse, New York

Nominated by: Bonnie Barker

Highlights from Kim's Nomination: Kim has been in catechetical

ministry for 16 years, since her teens. Besides being the youth minister and coordinating and teaching Confirmation, her DRE writes, "I do not know what I'd do without her." Kim's very savvy using current technology and social media to connect with youth.

She also works with her DRE to upgrade classroom technology and find new ways to evaluate what works best. Plus, she writes new curriculums and helps to lead an innovative week-long Bible-based summer camp, Bible Land Adventure, for preK through sixth grade. This multi-generational adventure brings children together with teen and adult volunteers and includes a family celebration at the end of the week.

*Catechist talks with
Kim Lasinski:*

What's the best spiritual book you've read? The best spiritual book I've read is the Book of Ruth from the Bible. It has been such an inspiring example of how "day-to-day" faith can be just as transformative and amazing as performing miracles.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? I love to pray. I love to pray with my kids especially. I listen to all the things that they pray about, and it gives me an incredible perspective on life and priorities.



Kim Lasinski

Who is your favorite saint and why? My favorite saint is St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She was queen, but we don't remember that about her. We remember her for unwavering faith and service to the poor. She is

another example of "day-to-day" faith changing the world.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? My parents have been an incredible influence on my faith. Faith was not something that was dusted off on Sunday and then put away; it was a natural part of our family dynamic. There wasn't ever a question of going to church and serving. The question was always how we were going to serve the church community when we got there.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you

teach it? The most difficult topic that I've taught is social morality.

Often teenagers have a low tolerance for things they perceive as unjust or hypocritical, and our world is full of societal contradictions. The kids and I talk about how Jesus taught by example. He came to change the world, but he didn't do that just by preaching to everyone and letting that be enough. [His] most profound teaching moments came when he lived what he was preaching. The times when he stepped outside of what society decided was normal and did what was just are the lessons that we remember most. We talk about the things that they can do in their daily lives to bring about change. ... Not just

to think about "What Would Jesus Do," but to turn that into the action: DO what Jesus would do.

Could you share a teaching tip? Don't get trapped in the lesson plan, and invite the Holy Spirit into your classroom. Sometimes a kid is going to go "off script" and ask you a question that needs to be answered. Those "off script" classes have the power to change lives.



Centered on the Eucharist

■ LUCILLE LAYNE

*Catechist at Sacred Heart Church,
Haworth, New Jersey*

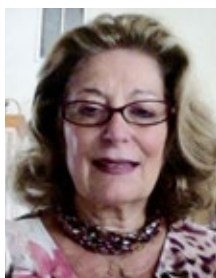
Nominated by: Sr. Regina McTiernan

Highlights from Lucille's nomination: Lucille is a catechist for second graders. "Lucille Layne is a certified catechist ... teaching in our sacramental program for the last four years. She bubbles with enthusiasm, joy, creativity, a love for Jesus and the Church, and a desire to share all of this with her cherished second graders! The children look forward to her creative ways of learning ... music, guided prayer, fun activities, DVDs, skits, and games to learn the basics, along with the text material, all make the time fly!"

"Lucille is appreciated by her partner catechists for her great ideas which she readily shares. ... She is first in line for any new workshop or information that might [make] a positive difference for the children and families in her care. Above all, Lucille gives credit to God for her call to this ministry and trusts that it is God who is really teaching through her!"

*Catechist talks with
Lucille Layne:*

What's the best spiritual book you've read? There are several spiritual books that I have read



Lucille Layne

... but I think the one that stands out is *The Lamb's Supper* by Scott Hahn. This book actually pointed me in the direction to be a catechist. It motivated me towards the mystery of the Eucharist ... the very center of my Catholic beliefs.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? Attendance at daily Mass: It sustains and maintains my purpose as a Christian, which is to love and serve God! It keeps me on the "straight and narrow" road ... and reminds me how much I depend on and need the Holy Eucharist in my life!

The Lamb's Supper by Scott Hahn ... actually pointed me in the direction to be a catechist.

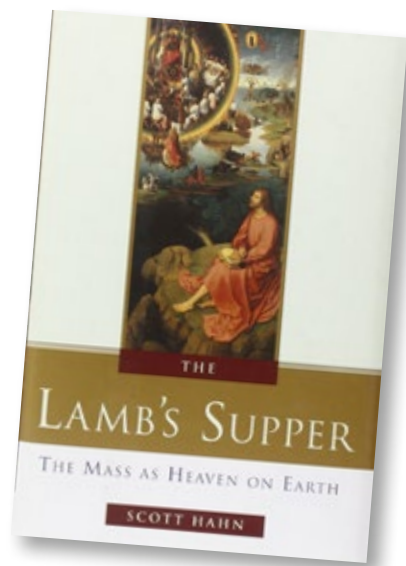
Who is your favorite saint and why? My favorite is St. Thérèse of Lisieux. She serves as an inspiration because of her love of God and others through her endless prayers, great faith, and hope—even when she was experiencing great difficulties, failures, and sorrows. Her message was one of great love!

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? The biggest influence on my faith is my mother, whom I am blessed to still

have with me. She is almost 98 years old and she still offers daily morning prayers and the Rosary. It is because of her great faith, hope, and love that I have the strong Catholic foundation to rely on in my life.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? The consecration of the Eucharist and the mystery that it really, *really* is the presence of Jesus. It is hard for young second graders to understand and conceptualize this because they cannot visualize its occurrence.

Could you share a teaching tip? Some of the teaching tips I would love to share are: Keep your children *moving*, and be creative in how to teach a particular topic that might otherwise be slow and boring to them. Engage them. Challenge them with games, extra credit projects, and reward their efforts with small prizes.



Encourages Encounters With Christ

YOLANDA LOPEZ-NIEVES

Director of Catechetical Ministry
at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San
Bernardino, California

Nominated by: Irene Ortiz

Highlights from Yolanda's Nomination:

Currently the director of catechetical ministry, Yolanda's nomination focused on her good influence in the community as someone who truly inspires and forms catechists. Her nominator writes: "When she asked me to be a catechist, I was so afraid ... but with patience and diligence she helped me ... and now I am more confident ... I have grown to deeply love God and my Church, and it is all because of the influence of Yolanda."

Yolanda works with the Valley Missionary program: "She develops and coordinates a three-day retreat for young adults ages 18–25. Out of these three-day retreats come many new catechists ... [plus young adults] coming back to Church and to God."

Yolanda's dedication extends to fund-raising to bring numerous parish youth on pilgrimage to the last five World Youth Days around the world.

Catechist talks with Yolanda Lopez-Nieves:

What's the best spiritual book you've read? The meditations from *A Simple Path* by Mother



Yolanda Lopez-Nieves

Teresa keeps me grounded, Sometimes I find myself wanting to conquer the world, and her reflections center me. They keep me focused on the hope needed to create a "truly kinder world," one faithful Catholic at a time.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you?

I have come to appreciate the quiet of the day or night. I use this rare quiet time to reflect and listen.

Who is your favorite saint and why?

St. John Paul II: His inspiring words guide me daily on being available to journey with the youth and young adults of the Church.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith?

Definitely the young adults I have come to know. These young men and women teach me so much about our faith, about what hope is. They smile after an "encounter" with Christ, and to know that I had a small part in that encounter is indescribable. They make the parable of the prodigal son come to life!

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it?

The importance of having an intentional relationship with Christ! When I have the opportunity to catechize the parents in the program and I share simple thoughts about a potential relationship with our Lord, their reaction is mind-blowing! I must say it 100 times a week ... Christ

just wants us to be present in our relationship with him. He is not asking us to be Scripture scholars; he is inviting us to fall in love with him and share that same love with our families, our friends, our neighbors, and most importantly our enemies.

Could you share a teaching tip?

Keep it simple; less is more. Catechists want to share so much information. We tend to ... overwhelm our audience. ... Develop your lesson plan, pray with it, and cut it by 50 percent. I had a teacher ... say, "Yolanda you don't have to use so many words; just pick the important ones."



Embodies Service to Others

■ ANN NEWKIRK

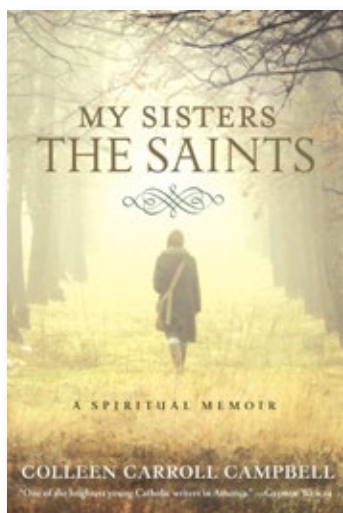
Catechist at St Leonard Congregation, Muskego, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Lisa Jachimiec

Highlights from Ann's nomination:

Ann is a catechist for first graders. "Ann has committed herself to teaching first graders and does a fantastic job. She creates supplemental activities to aid them with their memorization components. She adds exciting activities to make brain-based learning go even further. ... Ann attends various workshops ... through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and is our only catechist presently to have obtained her advanced certification for elementary religious formation."

It gave me peace in knowing that some struggles are not unique to our present day—but ageless.



Ann is a generous volunteer, taking on extra events like summer VBS programs and the First Eucharist retreat. She brings others to the faith in a strong and passionate way. She is upbeat and dedicated to the formation programs, as well as in her individual ministries person-to-person. "Ann embodies service to others—and does so with a smile on her face."

Catechist talks with Ann Newkirk:

What's the best spiritual book you've read? *My Sisters the Saints* by Colleen Carroll Campbell. Since I regularly converse with the saints, this book gave me greater insight to the challenges and strength of character of each of the women detailed. It gave me peace in knowing that some struggles are not unique to our present day—but ageless.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? I attend workshops, Bible studies, retreats, and more.

Who is your favorite saint and why? Most recently, I feel drawn to St. Monica. She struggled with her son's lack of faith and was a dedicated and devoted "pray-er" on his behalf.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? I can't narrow it down to one person. Faith has

been an integral part of my life since I was a child. Many



Ann Newkirk

people have provided examples to me over the years. I'm blessed with a large circle of faithful companions on this journey.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? Trying to teach

the Trinity to first graders has its challenges. We have an interactive classroom experience modified from *The Catechist's Journey* website using three different pitch bells and three student volunteers. The bells rung separately signify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Rung together, they signify the Trinity.

Could you share a teaching tip? To assist the students in reciting the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and the Sign of the Cross, I have created booklets, breaking down each prayer into simple segments. This allows students to learn a portion, create a picture, and see all the prayers together when complete.

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50 Years a Catechist!

ROSIE CZECH ROOT

Catechist at Our Lady of Belen Church, Belen, New Mexico

Nominated by: Therese Salazar

Highlights from Rosie's Nomination:

Rosie is a catechist for fourth graders and assists with the RCIA. Described as a “dyed-in-the-wool” catechist, Rosie began teaching catechism classes when she was 20, and has rarely missed a year in more than 50 years. Her dedication to her students is steadfast. “The deep joy and love that Rosie has for her students is evident in the way she speaks and interacts with them. Her voice is soft; she looks directly at them, listens intently, and her eyes express the love of God to them.”

Rosie's longevity as a catechist is a rich resource to others. She willingly gives advice to the younger catechists who draw from her wealth of experience.

Rosie is also a very prayerful person and is known to accept all prayer requests. Her trusting relationship with our Lord Jesus is palpable when others interact with her.

Catechist talks with Rosie Czech Root:

What's the best spiritual book you've read? The *Confessions* of St. Augustine touched me deeply. It is the story of his journey toward God and submitting himself completely to God's will. St. Augustine was

born in the fourth century, which is only 354 years after Jesus Christ walked the earth. In his book, St. Augustine quotes directly from Sacred Scripture—the same Scripture we read today. This in itself supported and reinforced my belief in God.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? I find reading Scrip-

ture, *My Daily Bread*, and *Augustine Day By Day* starts my day on a good footing. I also love spending time with the Blessed Sacrament in church.

Who is your favorite saint and why? St. Rose of Lima

because of her great love for God, her prayerfulness, and her dedication to God's will in her life.



Rosie Czech Root



Who has been the biggest influence on your faith?

Sr. Danielle, the director of RCIA at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Burbank, California. She was very patient with me. ... She saw God's gifts within me and encouraged me to use them.

... be yourself with your students and share personal experiences with them. ... Be the love of Christ to them.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it?

My greatest challenge is teaching the faith to fourth graders. They are full of energy, and they have a short attention span. ... Using CDs of Scripture stories catches their attention. I also incorporate word puzzles, coloring pages, and games around the topic we are studying. I found that giving them a treat when they answer the question correctly has increased class participation.

Could you share a teaching tip?

My teaching tip is to be yourself with your students and share personal experiences with them to support your teaching topic. Be the love of Christ to them.



Promotes Spiritual Development in the Parish and Archdiocese

■ DONNA STACHULSKI

Director of Faith Formation at St. Linus Church, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Nominated by: Patricia Larson

Highlights from Donna's Nomination: As the director of faith formation, Donna's passion is helping individuals of all ages "encounter with the Living God, and to spread the Good News of Our Lord through vibrant activities and family Masses. ... In her preparation for classes for first Reconciliation, first Eucharist, and Confirmation, it is easy to see the ... compassion she has for each individual." She has witnessed teens who once were in summer-time Vacation Bible School now returning to help run that program.

Not only is Donna active at St. Linus parish, but she assists with spiritual formation and professional development for new faith formation directors in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Catechist talks with Donna Stachulski:

What's the best spiritual book you've read? *Under the Influence of Jesus*, by Joe Paprocki. He writes: "If you think meek is weak, try being meek for a week." In

reading this I felt, "That's me!" ... Growing in faith is something that we need to do on a daily basis. ... We need to turn to Jesus and have faith that he will lead us.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what spiritual practices are helpful to you? Praying the Rosary everywhere—in my car, curling my hair in the morning, walking the halls of the school, outside enjoying ... creation. Praying the Rosary throughout the day keeps my day hemmed in prayer, and ... I feel less rattled. And I use *The Word Among Us* ... and mini retreats such as the 3-Minute Retreat on *Loyola Press.com*.

Who is your favorite saint and why? St. Paul. What a character ... God can save anyone; we just need to be open to that saving grace. The story of Paul repeats itself every day, as sinful, broken people ... are transformed by God's saving grace.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? First, it has to be my mother, who taught me how to pray, [with] daily novenas ... and, of course, Mass on the weekends. In high school and college, it was my teachers ... and when I got involved in church ministry, it

was my former DRE and her encouraging me ... to be a certified catechist

... later attending college for degrees in pastoral ministry.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? Teaching seventh graders the importance of prayer and to realize that Jesus is with them everywhere ... I came up with something I had seen before: "Flat Jesus."

Armed with "Flat Jesus" card-stock images, along with a letter to families explaining the concept, each child had to take their "Flat Jesus" to three different places, take pictures of him at these places, and then write about their experiences. ...

The stories and photos were priceless: "Flat Jesus" at the grocery store, the dentist office, the basketball court, in the RV, visiting Grandma. ... People would ask what they were doing [and] ... my students became mini-evangelists. ... I knew my students *got it!* Jesus is everywhere!

Could you share a teaching tip? Be confident in your own worth. ... Don't doubt yourself, and pray often for your teaching ability, for your students, and their families.



Donna Stachulski



Irresistible Spirituality

■ SHEILA TULLIER

Director of Youth Ministry at
Our Lady of the Angels Parish
Allen, Texas

Nominated by: Deacon Shawn P. French

Highlights from Sheila's Nomination: Sheila is a youth minister for grades six through 12. She was nominated for her inspiring example, her sincere work ethic, and intentional discipleship. She is "the exemplar of quiet administration, yet fiercely devoted to the people she serves." She applies "research, prayer, and effort into creating the best possible experience" for her students.

... it's important to listen to their stories. Ask what is important to them and how they are doing—how they are really doing.

"Sheila injects an irresistible element of spirituality into her efforts—instructive for all, and is an accomplished steward of the meager resources afforded her, and manages her fiscal responsibilities in creative ways."

*Catechist talks with
Sheila Tullier:*

What's the best spiritual book you've read? *The Holy Longing* by Ron Rolheiser. It helped me

understand what Christian spirituality is and that the restlessness we all feel is our longing for God.

Besides attending Sunday Mass, what other spiritual practices are helpful to you? I had the opportunity to pray with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius over a period of nine months. That has made all the difference to my personal prayer life. The *Examen* and Ignatian contemplation have helped me hear God more clearly and be more aware of his presence in me and around me. I also meet with a spiritual director once a month.

Who is your favorite saint and why? Currently, my favorite is St. Ignatius of Loyola. We can all learn how to pray contemplatively and with our imaginations. We can also learn how to pray for this

desire alone:

"To want and choose only what better leads to the deepening of God's life in me" (the First Principle and Foundation, *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*).



Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? My parents. My dad died 16 years ago from cancer. He never complained or asked, "Why me?" His only concern was for his family. He surrendered himself completely to God. My mom always puts others first; she loves and serves Christ through loving and serving others.

What's the most challenging topic you've taught, and how did you teach it? Respecting sexuality, especially the sixth and ninth commandments. I have been using *Theology of the Body for Teens, Middle School Edition*. The video segments feature national speakers on the topic. The stories and discussion points are excellent.

Could you share a teaching tip? With teens, it's important to listen to their stories. Ask what is important to them and how they are doing—how they are *really* doing. Once they trust that you accept them as they are and will truly listen to them, they will open up ... to what you have to say or teach.



Sheila Tullier

