



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
December, 2013

## Plan to Attend Annual Christmas/Birthday Dinner on Dec. 15

Our annual "Christmas/Birthday" get-together is an extension of a custom that began as a celebration of Msgr. Alphonse Popek's December 9 birthday during the time he was the Spiritual Advisor of this Chapter. The tradition has continued since his death in December of 1986.

There will not be a formal address, or "speaker," but there will be a short time after dinner, for anyone who wishes, to share a fond memory of this holy priest who touched the lives of many during his generous service to Christ's Church. We will also hear a short report on the "State of the Chapter" from our president, Al Szews.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER ON SUNDAY, DEC. 15

WHERE: Genesis Restaurant  
3740 South 108<sup>th</sup> Street  
(Highway 100 and Beloit Road)

WHEN: Sunday, December 15

TIME: 4:30 p.m. - Cash Bar  
5:30 p.m. - Dinner

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YOUR DINNER RESERVATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

If you plan to attend this dinner on December 15, please fill out the registration form and mail it by Dec. 10 to:

ANN TAUCHER  
6235 Walnut Lane, Unit A12  
Cudahy, WI 53110

*Merry Christmas from your friends at Catholics United for the Faith. May Our Lord bring you much love, laughter, and many blessings during this Holy Season, and always.*

NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate dinner choice(s) and number: \_\_\_ Baked Cod \_\_\_ Rotisserie Chicken \_\_\_ Beef Pot Roast

Number of dinners: \_\_\_ Dinner(s) @ \$23 per adult: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Dinner(s) @ \$18 per student: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ and/or Chapter donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: "St. Gregory VII - CUF"

For questions, call Al Szews at 414-321-9377

## The December, 2013, Prayer Intentions published by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

During December, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has asked that we pray for two intentions: 1) **Victimized Children.** That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need, and 2) **Prepare the Savior's Coming.** That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Savior's coming. For information regarding the activities of **The Apostleship of Prayer**, please visit: [apostleshipofprayer.org](http://apostleshipofprayer.org)

### Plan to Attend the "All-Night Vigil of Reparation" on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

The "All-Night Vigil of Reparation" is held on the **First Friday and Saturday** of each month. The December All-Night Vigil will be at **St. Robert's Church**, 2214 East Capital Drive on **December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**. It opens Friday night with Mass at 8:00 p.m., followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. There will be Adoration, talks, community prayers and confessions throughout the night, concluding with First Saturday Mass at 5:00 a.m. Come for the opening Mass if you can, and stay as long as you like. If you need a ride, or more information, call 414-254-2790.

### If you are not on our First Class list, an e-mail address will give you every mailing

If you are unable to provide a financial contribution and receive the newsletter by First Class Mail, but instead, are part of our **Bulk Mail** rotation, and only receive the newsletter a few times a year, **you might consider sending us an e-mail address so you will be able to read the news every month!** We are unable to include the entire mailing list when sending the monthly newsletters by Bulk Mail. Therefore, we rotate the names so each address on the "Bulk list" will receive a newsletter every third or fourth mailing. The newsletter is published monthly from September through May.

### Recordings of our speakers, both CDs and DVDs, are available for purchase

Contact Sylvester Markowski (414-762-1991) to purchase recordings of our events, most recently **Dr. Duke Pesta**, discussing "Common Core: Dangers and Threats to Catholic Identity" "on Nov. 17, and Bishop Donald Hying's address as the **Msgr. Popek Award** recipient on Oct. 27. The cost is \$10 for a DVD and \$8 for a CD.

### "Catechetical Corner"

**Question:** What is Sanctifying grace?

**Answer:** Sanctifying grace is a free gift of God, "the life of the soul," given to us through Christ in the sacraments, especially Baptism and Penance. **Sanctifying grace:** 1) Makes us holy and pleasing to God, 2) makes us adopted children of God, 3) Makes us "Temples of the Holy Spirit," and 4) Gives us the right to Heaven (providing we die in the "state of grace").



**Catholics United for the Faith**

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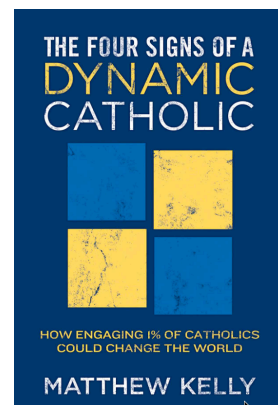
### Book of the Month: "Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic"

**Author: Matthew Kelly**

**Publisher: DynamicCatholic.com, 2013**

"If you walk into any Catholic church next Sunday and look around, you will discover that some people are highly engaged, others are massively disengaged, and the majority are somewhere in between. Why? What is the difference between highly engaged Catholics and disengaged Catholics? Answering this question is essential to the future of the Catholic Church. If we truly want to engage Catholics and reinvigorate parish life, we must first discover what drives engagement among Catholics. Matthew Kelly explores this question in his groundbreaking new book, and the simplicity of what he discovers will amaze you. Four things make the difference between highly engaged Catholics and disengaged Catholics: the four signs of a Dynamic Catholic...The central idea in this book should change the way we live our faith and the way we teach our faith."

Contributors of \$12 or more per year to the Chapter are entitled to discounts on all books displayed at CUF meetings.



# *The Compass*

## **“Common Core standards:”**

### **“Reference not replacement for Catholic school standards”**

**By Bishop David Ricken, November 21, 2013**

The Diocese of Green Bay is blessed to have strong Catholic schools. It is because of the great work of so many that our students perform at the highest levels on state and national tests and our graduation rates are between 97 and 100 percent. I am so very proud of our Catholic school teachers, students and parents for their commitment and hard work in making this possible; after all, it is about the children.

As of late, the “common core standards” initiative in the public school system is fueling a fire storm of debate and heated discussion in the Diocese of Green Bay, the state of Wisconsin and the nation. The “common core,” as it is referred to, is a relatively new set of math and English/language arts standards designed to help children in public schools “race to the top.”

It is an initiative, backed by government grants, intended to raise academic achievement and improve graduation rates in public schools. This initiative was developed in response to long-standing concerns by business, industry and leaders of higher learning indicating that young people are not sufficiently prepared for the work force or higher education.

Is it necessary for us to “adopt or adapt” the “common core standards?” No, it is not necessary. Some Catholic schools across the country are “adopting” these standards, while others are “adapting” them, in the hopes that the standards will improve their academic performance. Private schools are not required to adopt or adapt the “common core standards.” Several years ago, in the Diocese of Green Bay, we developed comprehensive

standards of our own and these have served us very well. I have instructed our diocesan Department of Education staff, school principals and school system administrators that they not “adopt or adapt” the “common core standards,” but may use them only as a reference to improve the curriculum we already have. It is my directive that the schools of the

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**“It is my directive that the schools of the diocese utilize the diocesan standards previously in place and not substitute for them with ‘common core standards.’”**

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diocese utilize the diocesan standards previously in place and not substitute for them with “common core standards.”

The verdict is still very much out on the “common core standards.” All of the subject area standards have not yet been developed, let alone proved to be successful over time. There is no track record or existing data to help us determine if these standards will actually improve our students’ performance.

My position and my direction for the diocese is to first see how the standards actually work in public schools and, if their performance exceeds ours, we will then take another look. Our diocesan Department of Education worked diligently several years ago to create

comprehensive academic standards. Their hard work, coupled with our faith integration model, provides our students with an exceptional academic education and formation in their faith. We must support what we have created and constantly strive to incorporate the very best ideas available to us.

The challenge for Catholic schools in the diocese is not only academic excellence, but increasing enrollment, helping our parishes and parents to really embrace the great treasure in their own backyard. We also need to help to raise scholarship funds for those who may not be able to attend because of costs.

My hope is that the public school systems here in this area continue to improve. Both my brother and sister have spent much of their careers serving in the public school sphere. The service of school staffs, including teachers and administrators, is often unsung and underappreciated. I have great admiration for all those who teach our children, whether in private or public schools.

This brings us back to the real reason we are all so invested in this topic. It is about the children. For the sake of the children, we ought to be mutually supportive of one another in both public and private arenas. We also need to recognize that our approaches differ and that is not a bad thing. That is a gift.

*The Compass* is the Official Newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**THE FALL-WINTER-SPRING SCHEDULE:**

- December 15** **MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER** (at Genesis Restaurant)
- January 19** **COMMON CORE: DANGERS AND THREATS TO CATHOLIC IDENTITY**, by Dr. Duke Pesta
- February 9** **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- March 9** **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION**, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)
- April 27** **THE MODERN PAPACY AND THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL**, by Dave Archibald
- May 24** **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- September 21** **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- October 19** **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER**----Recipient: **Bishop Robert C. Morlino**
- November 16** **TO BE ANNOUNCED**



*To Support, Defend and Advance the Efforts of the Teaching Church*

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Join us January 19 to hear Dr. Duke Pesta again discuss Common Core

Come and bring a friend to the

**Annual Msgr. Popek  
Christmas/Birthday Dinner**

Sunday, December 15  
Genesis Restaurant  
3740 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St.  
(Beloit Road and Highway 100)