

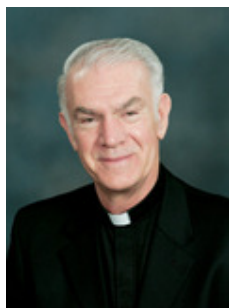


# Light of the World News

January, 2011

Bringing the Light of Christ into the world through a comprehensive Parish Evangelization Process

## A Message From Monsignor Dan Hermes



My Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The New Year always brings with it lots of jokes, and made-for-breaking resolutions, but also new hopes and dreams and some new openness to God's daily presence

There's a lovely term I remember from my seminary days (100 years ago!) called "prevenient grace." That means, among other things, that God's grace goes before us, and covers us, and is more than adequate for any situation we find ourselves in--in fact, so "adequate" that if we respond to it, it will take us all the way to heaven!

And of course God's grace is a Person--the living Jesus Christ. So, much like very slowly opening a Christmas present, we are meant to "unwrap" this present all year long. Every single day of 2011, we are meant to ask "Jesus, what is Your plan for me today? Where are You leading me today? Where is Your grace right there, present in my life, waiting for my response?"

That will take a certain "spiritual alertness" on our part, but what benefits it will yield in our lives! Far from falling on rocky ground, all the daily graces God showers into our lives will be received by our eager hearts, and we will notice true spiritual growth in our life--Our Lord Jesus Christ will become even more alive and real for us.

God bless each and every one of you in this new year of 2011. I pray that this year will be the best ever for our being aware of God's daily graces in our lives, and that we will respond with eager and obedient hearts to every one of the graces He gives us.

Sincerely, in our Incarnate Lord,

*Msgr. Dan Hermes*



**LOTWEM's "Patron" to be Beatified**  
John Paul II, the author of "the new evangelization," is to be beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday (May 1, 2011). This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 steps to canonization.

## Upcoming Retreats

The following is a list of retreats to be held during the next several months. Please pray for these parishes, retreat teams and attendees. Please especially pray for new parishes Mater Dei (Topeka, KS), St. Patrick, St. Francis, St. Patrick (Osage City, KS), St. Dominick, St. Francis and Our Lady of the Snows (Hulton, KS).

### January

01/14/10 Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln, NE  
01/29/11 Resurrection, Wayne, IL

### February

02/04/11 Mater Dei, Topeka, KS  
02/04/11 St. Patrick, St. Francis, St. Patrick, Osage City, KS  
02/18/11 Immaculate Conception, Arnold, MO  
02/18/11 St. Patrick, Wadsworth, IL  
02/19/11 St. Peter Parish, Lincoln, NE (Rekindle the Flame)  
02/25/11 Incarnation, Collierville, TN  
02/26/11 St. Mary, Aberdeen, SD USA

### March

03/05/11 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Topeka, KS  
03/11/11 Our Lady of Gaudalupe, Topeka, KS  
03/11/11 St. Charles Borromeo, Hampshire, IL  
03/11/11 St. Thomas the Apostle, Crystal Lake, IL  
03/12/11 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Aurora, IL  
03/12/11 St. Joseph Parish, Lincoln, NE  
03/14/11 North American Martyrs Parish, Lincoln, NE  
03/18/11 Our Lady of the Rosary, The Entrance, NSW, AUS  
03/18/11 St. Matthew, Topeka, KS  
03/18/11 St. Michael, Sioux Falls, SD  
03/18/11 St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (Spanish), Crystal Lake, IL  
03/18/11 Sts. Mary & Mathias, Muscatine, IA  
03/19/11 SS Peter and Paul, Naperville, IL  
03/24/11 Catholic Parish of Warringah, Dee Why, NSW, AUS  
03/25/11 St. Patrick, Kansas City, KS

### April

04/01/11 Holy Family, Rockford, IL  
04/01/11 St. Dominic, St. Francis, OLS, Holton, KS  
04/01/11 St. Edward, Shelton, WA  
04/01/11 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Crystal Lake,  
04/01/11 Sts. Peter and Paul (Spanish) Cary, IL  
04/08/11 St. Joseph, St. Joseph, St. Ann, Apple River, IL  
04/09/11 Sacred Heart, Aberdeen, SD  
04/09/11 St. Mary Parish, Plano, IL  
04/09/11 St. Patrick Parish, Yorkville, IL  
04/09/11 Holy Cross, Batavia, IL

### May

05/06/11 Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore, Narenburn, NSW, AUS

### June

06/03/11 St. Rita of Cascia (English and Spanish). Aurora, IL

## LOTW AUSTRALIA: INAUGURAL ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS

By Fr. Bill Stevens



The “Light of the World” Evangelisation Outreach of our Diocese met together for their inaugural Annual Mass and Luncheon on Saturday 30 October. Celebrated by Bishop David Walker and priests associated with LOTWEM, it was a very joyous occasion. The LOTWEM Retreat process is now beginning to spread to parishes in the Diocese as a means of deepening the personal faith of the retreatants and being a vehicle for evangelisation through the ongoing small faith groups that follow the weekend retreats.

One of the highlights of the Mass was the active participation of parishes that already have established regular LOTWEM retreats. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Paschal Candle, alight on the sanctuary, was used as the source of lighting individual candles held by the congregation figuring the light of Christ going out into the community through us as evangelisers of the great gift of faith.



Bishop David spoke of the work of evangelisation as being one of the privileged duties of being a Baptised member of Christ’s body.

The day concluded with a delightful lunch in the Parish Centre of the hosts – Our Lady of the Rosary at The Entrance. The spirit of joy and celebration enthused all present to continue this evangelising role.

## A Unique LOTW Retreat

at St. Rita of Cascia

By Mary George

This past Fall brought a new dynamic to the LOTW Retreat held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, Illinois. There were five people from Eden Supportive Living who attended our English Retreat. It was such a blessing to see how happy and appreciative they were to have the opportunity to spend their time with us and to share the incredible experience that is Light of the World.

It was particularly moving to see two of the attendees who were stroke victims “blossom” before our very eyes. The growth in their trust, confidence and communication was palpable. They truly gave themselves as a gift to all in attendance.

These residents will now go back to Eden and begin their own Small faith community. Isn’t that wonderful? God is so good!

† † †



**Aberdeen, S.D.** Despite ice, snow and a biting wind, the Holy Spirit showed up on Nov 20, at the combined *Rekindle the Flame* Retreat held by St. Mary and Sacred Heart Parishes!



### *From the Directors: Mike & Lori Pacer*

Dear Friends,

So many incredible things are happening in the world of LOTWEM. A number of new parishes began the Process last semester and several more will begin during the next couple of months. LOTW is spreading like a prairie fire in the Archdiocese of Kansas City. The Archbishop, his priests, and the faith-filled people of Kansas are truly inspiring. Thanks so much to Matt Karr of the Archdiocese, the retreat teams from Lincoln, NE and

Creve Coeur, MO, and the awesome new parish leaders. † We had the opportunity to make a presentation regarding the LOTW Process before a Dubuque Archdiocesan committee on evangelization and adult faith formation this month. We were very well received. Please pray for their discernment process. † Our first Information Day in Southern California (Burbank) is set for this May.

In March of 2010, we began the process of funding LOTWEM in a sustainable manner. We have been visiting parishes and individuals personally – getting to know each other and asking them to prayerfully discern whether they might be called by our Lord to support the Ministry on a regular basis. It has been an awesome evangelizing experience. We have met with great success, but still have some more work to do. Please pray for us (and let us know if we can visit you sometime).

Your servants in Christ,

*Mike & Lori*

For information regarding Light of the World Evangelization Ministries, please check out our website: [lotwem.org](http://lotwem.org) or contact Mike Pacer [mpacer@lotwem.org](mailto:mpacer@lotwem.org) or Lori Pacer [lpacer@lotwem.org](mailto:lpacer@lotwem.org). LOTWEM General Newsletters are published tri-annually.