



Teaching From The Heart



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**Episcopal Diocese
of Albany**

Giving Your Faith Away

Upcoming Events (details on pp. 2 and 3)

School of Ap Action March 11, 2006 Christ the King SLC (details on p. 3)	\$15/ \$20
"Faith That Sticks" Children's Ministry Conference Sat., April 1, 2006	\$39/ \$49
School of Ap Action May 13, 2006 Christ the King SLC (details on p. 3)	\$15/ \$20
Christian Ed Conference August 26, 2006 Christ the King SLC	TBA

It's the most frustrating thing I know. What do you most want to give your kids? "Faith." I answer. "I want them to have faith because Christ is the only person who will never leave them alone, never stop loving them, never intentionally hurt them." And if there was a way, a box I could put it in, a special blessing that would confer it, a crazy dance I could do that would somehow give kids faith, gosh darn it, I'd do it.

But there isn't a dance or a box that can contain it or express it or give it. My kids—both the ones at church and the ones I'm parenting—have to choose Christ for themselves. And while I sometimes feel the weight and the difficulty of this task, I know I'm not powerless because I have faith.

So here's what I can do: I can pray before every meal wherever we are, whether we're out to dinner or at home. I can read scripture with my kids and share my amazement at some of the beauty, fierceness, grace and hope I find in those words. I can ask them to pray for me and for others. I can ask them if their prayers have ever been answered. I can ask them where they saw God in their lives this past week. I can ask them what scares them and teach them how to give stuff like that to God.

I can pray with conviction when I'm not with them that God will seize their hearts and hold tight. I can pray that these teens will one day walk into church, and will look up and recognize the overwhelming love and sacrifice they see on the cross and understand "Hey, he did this for ME!"

This year I pray for you, and for myself, that we may know the power of our own faith and that we may choose to share that with a kid we know, whether it's someone we're related to or someone God has simply placed in our path. Kids respond most quickly to people who care about who they are and what their lives are about. Relationship is in; lectures are out.

You want to give faith away? Show kids what it looks like in your life and invite them to share the journey.

Peace and grace of Christ always, Deacon Laurie

Laurie's Links

**The Center for
Parent/Youth
Understanding:**

www.cpyu.org

See article on page 2



The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding

Looking for a reality check about what teens are into these days?

Want to be clear about how to raise your teens in faith?

Finding it hard to compete with peers in your teen's life?

Sign onto Walt Mueller's website for information on teens and faith.

Articles on January 2006 website:

"Living and Teaching Right from Wrong"

"Parents' Religion and Talking to Teens about Sex"

As well as articles about communicating with teens, teen body image, teen suicide, teen drug use and LOTS about parenting your teen in a Christian home.

"None of us completely outgrow who we were when we were teenagers."

Actress Jennifer Garner (*Alias* TV show), *YM*, May 2004, p. 65 as quoted on the CPYU website:

www.cpyu.org

When Just Say "No" Just Doesn't Work

Why are we so afraid to talk about sex with our teens in church? And why are we so afraid to teach them to abstain from casual sex? Is it possible that we're buying into society's ideals instead of Christ's? If so, we're selling our kids short. Even more, we're selling Christ short.



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," Romans

Talk to your own kids and to the kids at your church about sex.

For abstinence resource info, go to www.AlbanyDiocese.org and click on Christian Ed.

Free CD of Large Print Book of Common Prayer

Recently I received an e-mail with information about this CD of BCP materials. I couldn't believe it was actually for real and so I sent Ann (the person who is in charge of this) an e-mail and I asked her: "Is this for real?" Here is her response, with ordering information:

"This is definitely for real! My name is Ann Dahlen. I've been preparing large-print worship materials for use at Trinity Episcopal, Rock Island, Ill. for more than two years. It took me about two years to put together The LARGE-PRINT Book of Common Prayer CD. My work is in thankfulness to God for His many blessings and

in memory of my dad who had vision problems. —Ann"

To order a copy, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with three 37 cent stamps attached (four if it's a padded envelope) to me at : Ann Dahlen, 1900 6th Avenue, Apt. 513, Rock Island, Ill. 61201. DONATIONS ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED TO HELP COVER COSTS



"Faith That Sticks" Workshop

Sat., April 1, 2006 at

Light of the World Christian Church, Latham, NY

Register on-line at:

www.group.com/cmml/register.asp

Time: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$29—\$49

Be sure to check out all the resources available from Group at the Conference!!!!

When kids encounter Jesus in a vibrant, passionate way, they get a faith that sticks.

Attend the all-new, interactive workshop and get tools, experience, and information you need to give kids a faith that sticks.

Discover the keys to leading kids into genuine, life-changing encounters with the living God.



FREE subscription to Children's Ministry Magazine with each registration!! A \$29 value!!!

Upcoming School of Apostolic Action Events

Cost for each course is \$15 (pre-registration) or \$20 (day of event) Cost includes lunch and any materials. To register on-line: www.albanydiocese.org Downloadable forms can also be printed from the website for mailing.

Saturday, March 11, 2006,

"Energizing the Church Community Through Small Groups"

In this workshop, Fr. Robert Haskell will show us:

- * What small groups can do for your church
- * How to run a successful small group meeting
- * How to multiply groups
- * Different ways of starting small groups
- * How to train leaders of small groups
- * Resources you can use in small groups

Canon Bob Haskell has 30 years of experience in starting and running small groups.

Saturday, May 13, 2006:

"Sharing Your Faith Without Being Obnoxious"

with Bishop David Bena

- How do we allow the Holy Spirit to use us in touching lives?
- How do we keep from blowing it in the process?

This course offers hints on how to share Jesus in a kind and effective manner.



Teen Suicide Statistics

Among nearly 2,000 13-17 year old teens:

- 45% of teens (39% of boys and 51% of girls) know of someone who has attempted suicide.
- 22% of teens (16% of boys and 28% of girls) say they have talked or thought about committing suicide.
- 6% of teens (4% of boys and 9% of girls) say they have attempted suicide.

*Source: Gallup Tuesday Briefing, conducted 2003-2004
Accessed at www.cpyu.org/page.aspx?id=77009*

These statistics are not meant to frighten us, but they may help us realize how essential our ministry to young people is. In a recent article called "The Great Omission", the writer was concerned that most churches spend less than 15% of their budget on Christian Ed for people under 18.

How can we effectively teach hope to the young people in our churches? Send your thoughts to:

LGRohr@albanydiocese.org

To subscribe to this newsletter by e-mail or US Post, send a note to LGRohr@AlbanyDiocese.org or to Christian Ed, Episcopal Diocese of Albany, 68 S. Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210



Disciples Making Disciples



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