

Pauline Jubilee Offers Catholic School Students Lessons in Discipleship

Elementary Schools

- St. Mary, Clinton
St. Anthony, Fitchburg
St. Bernard, Fitchburg
Our Lady of the Rosary, Gardner
Sacred Heart, Gardner
St. Anna, Leominster
St. Leo, Leominster
Milford Catholic, Milford
Assumption, Millbury
St. Bernadette, Northboro
St. Mary, Shrewsbury
Trinity Catholic Academy, Southbridge
Our Lady of the Valley Regional, Uxbridge
St. Anne, Webster
St. Joseph, Webster
St. Louis, Webster
Our Lady of the Angels, Worcester
St. Mary, Worcester
St. Peter C.C., Worcester
St. Stephen, Worcester
Venerini Academy, Worcester
- ### High Schools
- St. Bernard's C.C., Fitchburg
Holy Name C.C. Jr.-Sr., Worcester
St. Mary Jr.-Sr., Worcester
St. Peter-Marian C.C. Jr.-Sr., Worcester
Notre Dame Academy, Worcester
Notre Dame Jr.-Sr., Fitchburg
St. John, Shrewsbury

Struck down by the light of Christ on the road to Damascus, St. Paul is a towering figure in Christian history and a principal model of discipleship for the Church. To commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth, Pope Benedict XVI announced a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostle's missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice. As the patron saint of the Diocese of Worcester, this jubilee is especially meaningful.

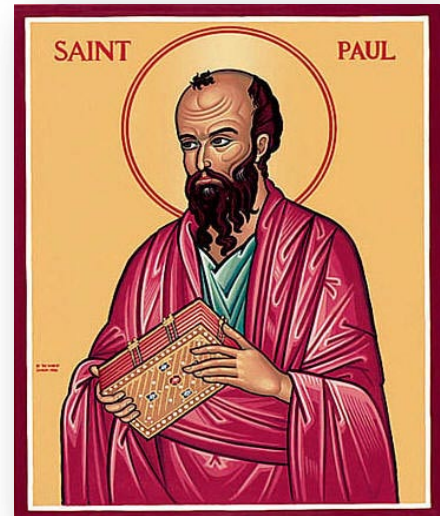
Throughout the year, Diocese of Worcester schools will be using this commemoration as a teaching opportunity in faith formation through special services, storytelling, prayer and other age-appropriate learning techniques.

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, in what is now Turkey, at the start of the Christian era, sometime between A.D. 7 and 10, according to church historians. After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he became one of the church's foremost evangelizers, first among Jews, then among Gentiles.

"As in the church's beginning, today, too, Christ needs apostles ready to sacrifice themselves. He needs witnesses and martyrs like St. Paul," said Pope Benedict XVI while presiding over a vespers service at the Basilica of St. Paul in Rome on June 28, 2007. According to a long-standing belief, Saints Peter and Paul met near the basilica before they were martyred, and they hugged and blessed each other.

Mulford to Serve as Interim Superintendent

William J. Mulford has been named Interim Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Worcester by Bishop Robert J. McManus, succeeding Stephen Perla who has accepted a position with the University of Notre Dame. Mr. Mulford has been Associate Superintendent for Business Management since 2006. His background includes serving as Anna Maria College's Chief Financial Officer for six years and as City Manager for the City of Worcester for nine years. A superintendent search is underway.



Pope Benedict said St. Paul's success as an evangelizer was not credited to skills as a speaker or to a "refined strategy" of missionary argumentation. His achievements had more to do with his extraordinary personal involvement in announcing the Gospel and his total dedication to Christ, despite persecutions.

Catholic schools throughout the diocese will use the ministry of St. Paul to teach lessons to students through prayer, storytelling and other creative outlets.

During this celebration, the Catholic Schools Office reminds us of the words of St. Paul in Colossians 1:28: *It is Christ whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*

Pope Benedict said, "The action of the Church is credible and effective only to the extent that Christians are willing to pay personally for their faith in Christ in every situation. Where this commitment is lacking, the appeal of the Gospel will be weaker."

"Catholic schools equip students with the knowledge of the Gospel and the faith to carry it out," said Sr. Marguerite Timothy Young, SND, Associate Superintendent of Elementary Schools.

The Pauline year runs from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009.

The Privilege of Supporting Catholic Schools

Each year the Diocese of Worcester takes time to celebrate the mission and work of our schools through the Catholic Schools Appeal, held from Sept. 27-28, 2008.

"There is perhaps no more effective means of evangelization and advancing Catholic values than through our schools and it's a great privilege for us to say yes to spreading the Gospel by honoring this year's appeal," said Bishop Robert J. McManus.

Economic pressures on Catholic school families and the Catholic faithful are putting a strain on personal budgets. But the monies raised during the Catholic Schools Appeal have become a necessary part in maintaining the vitality of school programs throughout the Diocese.

While not every family chooses a Catholic education for their child, the value of Catholic education to society as a whole is immeasurable.

This sentiment was well reflected by State Rep. Marie St. Fleur, a Catholic school alum herself, in sharing her experience about working to bring back character education in the public schools.



"We don't have to bring it back to Catholic schools," Rep. St. Fleur said at Catholic Schools Advocacy Day last March. "You cannot be in a better place to get that than where you are today."

"I humbly and prayerfully ask that parishioners simply do their best when responding to this year's appeal, said Jeff Mulford, Interim Superintendent.

Summer Math and Science Program Attracts Record Participation

Now in its second year, the St. Paul Catholic Schools Consortium Math and Science Summer Enrichment program has wrapped up with stunning success.

Held at Fitchburg State College, the program helps struggling students and those with a keen interest in Math and Science learn through creative, hands-on approaches that open a new world of learning for students.

"We judge success by three measures: did the students actually improve their academic standing, did they fully engage with the material, and did our registration match our goals. On every measure, this summer exceeded expectations," said Program Director Julianne Morin.

Underwritten by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education, tuition costs for this six-week program remain affordable — giving all students who wish to gain valuable skills and enter the world of technology an opportunity for academic growth.

The Consortium's partnership with the College and all the facilities it has to offer exponentially elevates the learning experience.

"The faces of the students as they gain new insights into the world of Math and Science makes all the hard work and preparation worth while," Ms. Morin concluded.

The program will be offered again next summer for students entering grades five through eight.

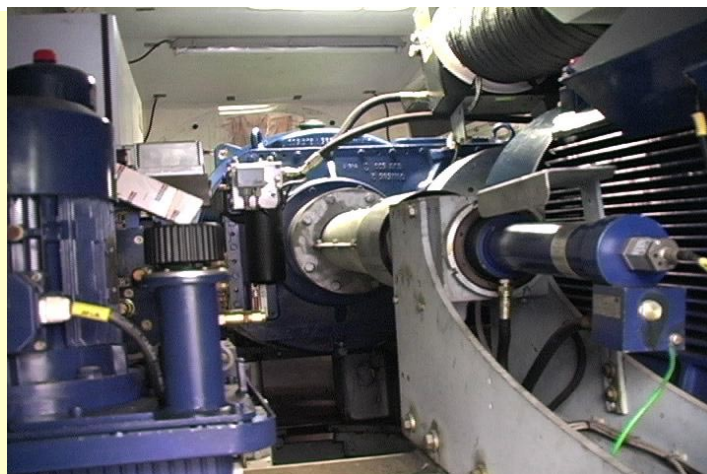


Math and Science Summer Enrichment Program participants study force and friction during the "Mysterious Machines" unit.

Holy Name Wind Turbine Blessed by Bishop Reuger

After almost three years of planning, the wind turbine at Holy Name Jr.-Sr. High School in Worcester is just weeks away from producing clean, cost-effective power. On August 11, Bishop Reuger led a service to give blessing and thanks for this resource. The apparatus is enormous. On right is a view from the inside.

Photo courtesy Steve Kaufman



Connections welcomes your comments and additions! Please contact Connections, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm St. Worcester, MA 01609 (508) 929-4317.