



# NEW CONNECTIONS

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## A Note from the Editor

Ash Wednesday is quickly approaching along with our constant need to acknowledge our sinfulness before God and each other. Lent gives us that opportunity each year to reexamine our lives and measure them against the life and attitudes of Jesus Christ. How often have we allowed ourselves to be comforted by the graces of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year? Or have we so imbibed the dwindling morals of society that we no longer see the difference between right and wrong? If we, who are leaders and models in catechetical ministry, fail to acknowledge our sins and weaknesses, how can we expect any more from those whom we teach? Perhaps that is why the Church's liturgical cycle leads us through Lent each year.

Included in this edition of the newsletter you will find some suggested videos for Lent and Easter that can help your family and students prepare for the celebration of the central mystery of our faith—Christ's victory over death. Be sure and book early as these titles are usually very popular at this time of year! In sorting the materials for Lent and Easter I ran out of room to be able to include everything and all the descriptions, so look them up on-line at [www.jegen.org](http://www.jegen.org) for more complete information.

## Clarification about Approved Catechetical Texts

There has been some confusion about which catechetical materials are approved for use in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Let me clarify here that any material found in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* by the US Bishops' Committee on the Catechism is approved for use in the Archdiocese. Besides basal elementary series, the Bishops' list also includes numerous materials for high schools, for sacramental preparation, and supplemental materials. That means that in those particular texts whatever is appropriate to the topic is both accurate and complete according to our Catholic faith.

The Bishops' Committee looks at content but not methodology. This is where differences come between textbooks. The Curriculum Exploration Days are designed to help you consider the learning needs of those you teach and choose what fits you best. They will be held again next year. See your reps at the Catholic Festival of Faith this year!

## Video or DVD Titles for Lent and Easter

This series was published by Brown Roa: Adoles/Adult

**The Adulteress**  
**The Fig Tree**  
**The Prodigal**  
**The Temptation**  
**The Transfiguration**  
**The Trial**

## Rolling Back the Rock; The Religious Meaning of Holy Week [1990] 2 hours Adults/Adolescents

Note: In this video author John Shea reflects on the meaning of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday. His comments are divided into four half-hour segments, with each segment introduced by an "angel of the Lord", followed by discussion questions.

**Journey to Easter [1987] Family** Note: A prayerful thought provoking experience that brings family members to a deeper more personal experience of Lenten renewal and Easter joy.

**Lent: A Time of Renewal [1988]** 7 segments of 18 min each Family Note: Focus is on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. True stories, drama, music and visual meditation are used.

**Mysteries of the Bible; The Last Supper [1996] Adult** Note: As a symbol of love, forgiveness, and everlasting life, few moments in the Bible hold more significance than Jesus' Last Supper in Jerusalem. For many Christians, the symbolic bread and wine from that particular Pass-over meal are the very centerpiece of worship. Leading scientists, scholars, and historians debate the specifics of Christ's final celebration with His disciples.

## Were You There? The Living Way of the Cross [1990] 28 minutes

Adults Note: Portrays the events of the Passion of Jesus Christ, as in the Stations of the Cross. It uses a combination of traditional images of the stations from locations such as the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville and portrayals by professional actors.



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**The Fall of Freddie the Leaf** Family Note: Looks at the natural cycle of birth and death through the eyes of Freddie the Leaf and his friend Daniel.

**Catholic Update; The Way of the Cross; Stations On Our Journey of Faith** [1997] 43 minutes Adults/Adolescents Note: This video offers four different approaches to the traditional Catholic Lenten observance of the Stations of the Cross: spirituality, social justice, history, and a video meditation on the stations. In the story segment, Fr. Richard Roos, SJ, who has traveled on foot to each of the Franciscan missions in California, relates his pilgrimage to the Way of the Cross, and tells of its powerful conclusion in a moment of personal conversion. The witness segment features a T.V. news-style report of the "Way of the Cross, Way of Justice" held on Good Friday in a metropolitan setting. Christians carry a large wooden cross and witness to issues of poverty and injustice. In the teaching segment, spiritual writer and teacher Gloria Hutchinson traces the history of the stations and explains step-by-step how to pray them. The 16 minute music video reflection is a Way of the Cross, narrated by a diverse group of voices, and accompanied by music and artistic representations of the stations.

**This Is the Night; A Parish Welcomes New Catholics Esta Es la Noche** Spanish [1992] Note: The Easter Vigil crowns the many celebrations that mark the journey a parish makes with those who wish to join it in faith. This comes to life in Pasadena, Texas as St. Pius V Parish welcomes, catechizes and renews its life with their catechumens and candidates. Under the leadership of Father Don Neumann, this parish has discovered the power and beauty of the church's liturgy. The video follows the elect and the candidates from the celebration of the third scrutiny during Lent, through their baptisms and receptions at the Easter Vigil, to Easter Sunday morning. Catechumens and candidates, sponsors, initiation team and parish staff members, and parishioners describe their experience of Christian initiation.

**Lent; A Time to Forgive** [1991] 20 minutes Family Note: In this video, author Kathy Chesto focuses on how forgiveness is celebrated in family life, and how it can be a family Lenten practice. Lent allows time to slow down and realize that we are loved for who we are, not for what we do. The sacrament of Reconciliation offers the gift of forgiveness, to forgive and accept oneself as God does, and then forgive others.

**Easter Season; A Time to Remember** [1991] 20 minutes Families Note: In this video, author Kathy Chesto helps parents use typical events to mirror the "letting go" that must precede new life, and the remembrance that binds the past to the present. Parents experience "letting go" as their children grow into adulthood and begin a new life, but they also realize that memory holds families together, despite moves and transitions. So family experiences teach about the Eucharist, remembering Jesus' passion and death, and celebrate his new life in resurrection.

**The Wall** [1999] 40 minutes Adults/Intermediate Note: In the early hours of Good Friday morning two thieves, awaiting their crucifixion, agonize in a lonely prison cell. As they grapple with fear about their impending death and the dark of night ends, they glimpse another prisoner who will be crucified with them. They argue about who this other man is, and wonder if he has the power to save their souls as they have heard.

**Liturgies of the Triduum;** Adults/Intermediate [1999] The series treats the Triduum, beginning Holy Thursday evening and ending Easter Sunday afternoon, the center and climax of the Christian year.

**Holy Thursday** [1999] 29 minutes Note: Elements of this liturgy include proclaiming powerful scripture readings, washing of each other's feet or some other appropriate gesture, raising a collection for the poor, celebrating Eucharist, and singing in procession with the Blessed Sacrament.

**Good Friday** [1999] 26 minutes Note: Elements of this liturgy include proclaiming the scriptures, chanting many prayers of intercession, veneration of the cross, singing hymns, and the reception of the Eucharist.

**Easter Vigil** 55 minutes Note: Elements of this liturgy include a blazing fire, a newly-lighted candle, and the scriptures which especially this night proclaim the stories of salvation. RCIA candidates, after long preparation, are baptized, anointed with chrism and join the rest of the assembly in the joyful celebration of the Eucharist.

**The Angel's Lenten Lesson** [1995] 14 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: In this video, angel Theo appears to eight-year-old Danny as he grumbles and groans over a religion quiz about Lent. They go through the quiz together which helps Danny realize that the heart of the Lenten message is to follow Jesus. They discuss the most significant days of Lent and Holy Week, and Theo also reminds him about the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, parish Lenten Reconciliation services, Stations of the Cross, and daily prayer with the family.

**The Angel's Church Year Lesson.** [2001] 11 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: Three angels take students on a journey through the church year to convince them that Jesus is always with them. They learn what happened to Jesus in each church season and on special feasts, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.



**Stations of the Cross for Children** [1997] 15 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: In this video, Fr. Stan invites young viewers to accompany him as he makes the Way of the Cross. Each station is well illustrated, and described in simple and clear language so that children can reflect on what happened there. The descriptions are based on biblical images and stories from tradition. The goal of the video is to help children, ages 7 - 12, view the Stations of the Cross as an opportunity to follow Jesus more closely, emphasizing what they can do today to be more Christlike.

**A Lenten Journey;** 27 minutes each Adults This Michael Himes' Series looks at the Lenten readings **What Is Temptation Really?** [2001] Note: The author draws upon the scriptural readings for the first two weeks of Lent, and demonstrates how these stories give an overview of all of salvation history, from creation to new life in Christ. He challenges the viewer to examine what temptation really is, and to discover answers given in Genesis and Luke. He reflects on the power of "call" and "Baptism" as shown in the stories of the call of Abraham and the Transfiguration.

**Danger and Desire** [2001] Note: The author examines the readings of the Third Sunday of Lent in which water is a primal symbol. He shows its varied dimensions and irony in the Scripture taking viewers on a reflection into the depth of baptismal imagery, showing how Christian commitment requires dying to self in order to rise with Christ.

**God Sees Into the Heart** [2001] Note: The author examines the readings of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the theme of "light and darkness". God sees into the heart with the unlikely choice of David for king, and the man born blind only sees Christ when he "testifies". The second reading is a vivid description of the Easter Vigil in the early Church, when people literally stumbled through the darkness to receive the light of Christ.

**Endless Possibilities** [2001] Note: The author examines the readings of the Fifth Sunday of Lent. When Jesus weeps and is troubled by Lazarus' death, it foreshadows the reaction of the disciples to his death. The author shares the insight that life for Lazarus and for all holds endless possibilities; death will not have the last word, the living God will.

**Following Jesus through the Church Year** [1991] 10 minutes Intermediate/Primary This series follows Detective Krispin as he tries to find Jesus but misses him at every juncture. In the process he learns to be Christian. The series includes the following titles:

**Lenten Lane**  
**Holy Week Crossing**  
**Resurrection Road**

**Celebrating the Season; Lent** [2001] 12 minutes Intermediate/Older Primary Note: This video explores customs, traditions, prayers, and ways the faithful can keep Lent as one prepares for the new life of Easter. Author Gaynell Cronin reminds viewers that during Lent, "we pray, we fast, we do good works, we remember." The video invites students to deepen their understanding of Lent as a time to turn to God, and to look at the way Jesus lived his life.

**Jesus Christ Superstar** [1973] 50 minutes Intermediate/Adult Note: This film version of the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar was produced in the early 1970's. Told entirely in song, images, and music, the story focuses on the last week of Christ's life, his betrayal, and Crucifixion seen from the point of view of Judas. Costumed in contemporary American 1970's style. Filmed entirely on location in Israel, and filled with fast-moving images. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

**Catholic Update; The Church Celebrates Lent and Easter** [2004] 32 minutes Adult Note: Provides an overview of the pivotal seasons of Lent and Easter in the Church's liturgical year. The story segment tells of a man whose personal story of spiritual death and rebirth illustrates the dying to self all followers of Christ must undertake. In the witness segment, Catholics share their personal reflections about the meaning of Lent and Easter. In the teaching segment, Fr. Tom Richstatter presents an overview of the Easter season from Lent to Pentecost, emphasizing Baptism as central to Christian identity in the lives of all believers. The music video reflection, "Shelter Your Name" by Danielle Rose Skorich, invites viewers to allow God to renew them in the spirit of Lent and Easter. .

**Davey and Goliath; Happy Easter** 30 minutes Primary Note: This video Easter story of Davey and his dog Goliath teaches the difficult subjects of death and eternal life to children in a way they can easily understand. It opens with Davey at his Grandma's house, whom he loves very much. The next day, Davey's father tells him that Grandma has died suddenly. Davey is very upset and refuses to be comforted until, during the Easter play, he hears about Jesus' resurrection, and learns that Grandma will be raised also. When he realizes that not only will he see his grandmother again but also Jesus, his grief turns to joy.

**Celebrating the Church Year with Children; Lent** [1989] 15 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: Catholics perform many special actions during Lent, such as wearing ashes on our foreheads, fasting, and praying the Stations of the Cross. We dedicate ourselves to repentance and turning to new life. This video conveys the meaning of Lent in a manner children ages 8-12 will appreciate.

**Jesus, A Kingdom Without Frontiers** [1997] 30 minutes Primary/Intermediate This is an animated series both in English and Spanish. It includes the following titles:

**Temptations in the Desert**  
**Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem**  
**The Last Supper**  
**The Agony in the Garden**  
**The Trial of Jesus**  
**Jesus Dies on the Cross**  
**The Resurrection of Jesus**



**Celebrating the Church Year for Children; Easter** 15 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: Easter is a time of New Life offered to all through the power of the resurrected Jesus. As a community of believers, we celebrate this event with numerous meaningful liturgical signs and family customs. This video communicates the dynamism of Easter for children ages 8-12.

**The Story of Easter/Beginner's Bible** [1995] Primary Note: The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is told by animated characters as part of "The Beginner's Bible Series".

**Grandma's Bread** [1985] 18 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: Mario and his grandmother are very close. A few days before Easter, Grandma prepares her special bread, Pane de Pasqua, which he asks her to make for his First Communion. After Grandma unexpectedly dies before Mario's First Communion, his mother learns to make the bread, making this First Communion celebration very special.

**The Proud Tree** Primary/Intermediate Note: This video tells children the story of the Crucifixion from the viewpoint of Rex, the tree that became the cross Jesus carried to Calvary. Rex, proud and ungrateful, learns a lesson from the humble, gentle Jesus. Sadness and sympathy for the suffering Jesus mingle with the joy and exultation of the Resurrection as an old familiar story is told in a new and memorable way.

**Easter Is** [1989] 25 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: This video is the story of a little boy named Benji who is asked by his class to draw an Easter poster for a contest. The deadline is approaching and he cannot even come up with an idea. Then his dog, Waldo, is kidnapped by a street kid who demands a \$5.00 ransom. Benji only has \$3.05, which he willingly gives to get his beloved pet back. His parents and religion class teacher help him understand how much Jesus gave up for humankind by his death on the cross. These events help Benji understand the true meaning of Easter and produce a prize winning poster.

**The Fourth Wise Man** [1985] Family Note: A story of the fourth wiseman who also knows of the birth of a new king. Starting out a bit later he just misses Jesus at every turn for 33 years until old and dying he meets Jesus on Easter Sunday.

**Celebrating Christ's Splendor** [1997] Note: A video record of the Easter celebration and the joy of Christians at this most holy of feasts. Good Liturgy. Good Music.

**Easter at the University of Notre Dame: A Celebration of Hope.** [1998] Note: Join the internationally renowned Folk Choir of the University of Notre Dame in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as they celebrate Christ's Resurrection and the hope it symbolizes through scripture readings, songs, and hymns. The music takes viewers on a deeply moving journey that enlivens the spirit and strengthens the soul.

**Animated Stories from the New Testament: He Is Risen** [1988] 30 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: He is Risen is the story of the greatest miracle of all, the resurrection of Jesus. Sorrow and despair become complete joy and love as the disciples behold their resurrected savior. The creative force behind the whole series is a former animator from the Walt Disney Company. Each video has its own original music score. Animated.

**Jesus for Kids; Animated Bible Stories for Ages 4-6** [1997] Five 10 minute segments Primary Note: This is a five segment video designed to be an introduction to the life of Jesus for young children, ages 4 to 6; these stories are based on the gospels. The five 10 minutes programs are: The First Christmas, Jesus the Storyteller, Jesus the Miracle-Worker, Jesus the Healer, and The First Easter.

**Francesco's Friendly World; The Last Stone** [1996] 41 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: When a storm damages the church at San Damiano, Francesco and his animal friends work to repair it before the people arrive for sunrise worship on Easter Sunday. It all comes down to the last minute and the last stone. Francesco's mystical ability to get all the animals to work together provides a positive message of togetherness and faith. Animated.

**Veggie Tales; An Easter Carol** [2004] 49 minutes Primary Note: Veggie Tales' version that Easter is more than candy and eggs. It explains why Christians celebrate Easter past, present and future.



**Lenny Learns About Lent** [1986] Primary/Intermediate Note: Helps children restore some of the lost luster to Lenten penitential practices. Explains balance between joyous celebration and sober restraint.

**The Magic Boy's Easter** [1989] Note: 25 minutes Primary/Intermediate Note: Ten-year-old Josh suffers from a crippling bone disease, which could be helped by surgery, but Josh is afraid to have the operation. In the hospital he meets a young girl cured surgically of a serious illness, and a somewhat cynical but caring magician who often performs for children in the hospital. Whisked away to Biblical times in a dream, Josh encounters Lazarus and Joanna, both healed by Jesus, and a street performer who helps him understand the power of believing. His dream ends as Christ, on His way to the cross, takes the time to heal Josh.

*Please note: The Jegen Center also has other titles besides what is listed here. Call Terrie or Sr. Judy for suggestions at 312-243-4562.*

 

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Office for Catechesis, Archdiocese of Chicago.

For more information call the  
Jegen Center at 312-243-4562 or  
Sr. Judy Dieterle, 312-243-3700, extension 109.  
E-mail [jegen@archchicago.org](mailto:jegen@archchicago.org).  
Visit our website at [www.jegen.org](http://www.jegen.org).

 