



NEW CONNECTIONS

JEGEN CENTER FOR CATECHETICAL MEDIA AND RESEARCH ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vol. VI, No. 2

WINTER, 2002

A Note from the Editor:

As the days get shorter and the leaves are turning color and falling from the trees, and there is a crisp chill in the air, our lives begin snowballing towards Advent and Christmas. Thanksgiving has not even arrived, and the consumer atmosphere that so often surrounds the Christmas season is already prevailing in the stores and on the streets. Many times we wonder if the true spirit of Christmas is remembered at all. For that reason, much of this issue of the newsletter will be dedicated to the materials that are available to help during Advent in preparation for Christmas.

We also have a few dates to let you know about - workshops that may be of interest for your personal or professional enrichment.

May your Advent and Christmas be filled with the hope and joy that came simply and peacefully on that first Christmas night.

Videos for Advent and Christmas:

VC082156 12 min Prim-Intermed

Advent with Saint Nicholas; Customs from Around the World. Note: Ten-year old Holly arrives home from her religious education class eager to enter a contest about the meaning of Advent. St. Nicholas appears and helps her learn more about the meaning and background of customs families practice during Advent, such as Advent calendars and wreaths, Christmas trees, Las Posadas, etc. St. Nicholas then offers ideas about practicing these customs in a way that celebrates the Advent spirit of expectation and mystery.

VC160077 30 min Adol-Adult

Advent: The Journey Toward Christ; Program 1; Awakening. Note: A look at the everyday awakening that surrounds us and how we experience God in that world.

VC081751 11 min Prim-Intermed

The Angel's Advent Lesson. Note: Danny is happily making out his Christmas list--adding more and more things--when his Guardian Angel appears and realizes that Danny has forgotten the real meaning of Christmas. Together they review practices like the Advent wreath, reciting daily prayers at home, and doing daily acts of kindness.

VC151710 30 min Prim-Intermed

Animated Stories from New Testament; The King Is Born. Note: A video classic of the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus.

VC040104 60 min Prim-Intermed

The Bear Who Slept Through Christmas. Note: Bears usually sleep through Christmas except for Ted E. Bear who finds out from Santa that Christmas means loving, sharing and joy.



VC140032 25 min Adol-Adult

The Birth of Jesus; A Scriptural pilgrimage to the Holy Land locales of the hope and promise of Jesus' coming. Note: Scripture scholar Father Stephen Doyle guides the viewer through the ancient land of prophecies, including the ruins of the city of David; Qumran, site of the Jewish sect who lived in intense expectation of the Messiah's coming Nazareth with the wonder of Mary's "yes"; the site of Mary and Elizabeth's warm visit; the Basilica of the Annunciation; Shepherds' Fields, where the viewer will be touched by the glory and humility of the Christmas story; and the Basilica of the Nativity, the place of Jesus' birth.

VC232071 70 min Family

A Christmas Carol. Note: This is the classic tale of Scrooge.



VC041349 30 min Prim-Intermed

A Christmas for Little Children, Sing-Along Celebration. Note: Music, stories of Mary, Francis of Assisi, and Nicholas, animation and puppets.

VC040102 8 min Prim-Intermed

A Christmas Gift. Note: Claymation characters find the real meaning of Christmas in this adaptation of a song by Peter, Paul and Mary.

In this issue:

- Editor's Note page 1
- Videos for Advent and Christmas pages 1-4
- Calendar Items page 4

New Connections is published quarterly by the Jegen Center for Catechetical Media and Research, Office for Catechesis, Archdiocese of Chicago, in conjunction with *The Sower*. For more information call Sr. Judy Dieterle, 312-243-3700, extension 109, or e-mail AOC@jegen.org.

Visit our website at www.jegen.org.

VC042108 9 min Prim-Intermed
A Christmas Wish. Note: The story stresses the importance of Advent as a season of anticipation and preparation. Justine discovers that the time of preparation increases the joy of Christmas.

VC150048 25 min each Prim-Intermed
The City That Forgot About Christmas; I will take you to the Christ Child. Note: In the *City that Forgot about Christmas* 2 boys learn about a city that forgot the meaning of Christmas. *I Will Take You to the Christ Child*, features a marionette troop's retelling of the Christmas story.

VC151123 30 min Prim-Intermed
En el Principio: El Nacimiento de Jesús. Note: Las ancestrales profecías del Antiguo Testamento se cumplen cuando, en un establo de Belén, nace el Mesías: Jesús de Nazaret. Caricaturas.

VC040843 30 min Primary
Gerbert: The Gift of Giving. Note: Gerbert finds in this Christmas tale the joy of choosing to give over the hunger to get.

VC210094 25 min Family
A Good and Perfect Gift. Note: A touching Christmas story of the power of prayer and how it can lead us to appreciate the gifts of those who enter our lives.

VC140061 c.45 min Adol-Adult
The Genesis Project. The Gospel of Luke: Christmas / The Bible on Video. Note: The story of the birth of Jesus according to Luke visually set against the holy land and told through word for word from the King James Version of the Bible.

VC150984 30 min Prim-Intermed
In the Beginning; The Birth of Jesus. Note: The ancient prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled through the birth of the Messiah in a stable in Bethlehem. Animated.

VC141417 116 min Adol-Adult
Jesus of Nazareth; Part 1 of 3. Note: This film portrays the epic majesty of the life of Jesus as told by the Apostles. This first part begins before the Nativity and extending through the early years of the life of Jesus as told in the Gospels. Includes a very thorough Study Guide.

VC151383 30 min Prim-Intermed
Jesus, A Kingdom Without Frontiers: The King is Born. Note: The ancient prophecies are fulfilled with the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem. Study Guide. Animated.

VC151393 30 min Prim-Intermed
Jesus, A Kingdom Without Frontiers: King Herod and the Wise Men. Note: A spiteful King Herod calls for the murder of the innocent children of Bethlehem as the Holy

Family escapes into Egypt under God's watchful eye. Study Guide. Animated.

VC071617 28 min Family
The Journey. Note: Paralleling the plight of Mary's and Joseph's seeking a place for Jesus to be born, a homeless couple struggles to find food and shelter for their child.

VC232416 22 min Adol-Adult
Keeper of the Peace; A Christmas Story. Note: Directed by five time Emmy Award winner Michael Rhodes, this video tells the story of Christ's birth in a very touching way with a look. The familiar story is taken a step further as the drama unfolds in another stable in Bethlehem on that holy night. Marcus is a young Roman soldier and Ruth is an old Jewish woman who stumble upon each other, unaware that this chance encounter will change both their lives. Through forgiveness and reconciliation, they find the true keeper of the peace in the gift of Christ's birth. Includes discussion guide.

VC151198 c.30 min Primary
A Little Stable in Bethlehem. Note: A re-enactment of the Christmas Story from perspective of the animals in the stable. Six traditional carols sung by life-size puppet characters. Study Guide.

VC150047 10 min Primary
Mary's Story; Clem the Clumsy Camel. Note: *Mary's Story* shows pictures of the baby Jesus. *Clem the Clumsy Camel* carries one of the Wise Men.

VC040828 30 min Prim-Intermed
McGee and Me! 'Twas the Fight Before Christmas. Note: Loving people who are hard to love is the lesson for 11 year old Nicolas and his animated friend McGee. Study Guide.

VC041270 c.15 min Prim-Intermed
The Mouse in the Manger. Note: Oscar, the mouse, leaves home because he is angry with his father. In his adventure he learns a lot about himself as he talks to various animals who are in the manger of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth.

VC151312 30 min Prim-Intermed
The Nativity. Note: Travel with three adventuresome children to the time of Jesus' birth. Relive with them the excitement of Bethlehem's welcome to the new king.

VC041312 23 min Family
Nestor, The Long-Eared Christmas Donkey. Note: A long time ago a delightful little donkey named Nestor lived in a stable near Bethlehem with his mother. Mocked by everyone for his long ears, he and his mom are thrown out of the stable. During cold, snowy night, Nestor is protected by his mother who dies during the storm. In the spring, a cherub arrives to help guide Nestor on a path so he can save someone

as his mother saved him. Mary and Joseph choose Nestor to take them to Bethlehem.

VC041348 30 min Primary
Nicholas, the Boy Who Became Santa. Note: Animated story of the traditional figure, Nicholas, the man we call Santa Claus.

VC041348 30 min Primary
Nicolás, Y Los Tres Sacos de Oro. Note: La fascinante historia del niño cuya generosidad y amor lo convirtió en una de las figuras mas queridas de todos los tiempos y que hoy llamamos Santa Claus.

VC162144 50 min Adult
Norman Rockwell Christmas. Note: Take a nostalgic, heart-warming look at the world of Norman Rockwell. The 170 voice Pacific Chorale helps the Christmas scenes spring to life with all the magic and wonder Rockwell originally envisioned.

VC080091 60 min Family
Preparing for Christmas. Note: Offers suggestions for experiencing the peace, love, and beauty of Christmas through preparation.

VC080092 56 min Family
Preparing for Christmas II. Note: A sequel to *Preparing for Christmas*, Fr. Tony shows how to experience the peace, love, and beauty of Christmas by preparing for it in a contemporary fashion.

VC041448 30 min Primary
Quigley's Village: A Christmas Story; The Joy of Giving. Note: Everyone learns that Christmas is more than getting presents when unexpected things happen in preparing the Christmas pageant. Mr. Quigley loses Danny's present. Spike and Bubba play Mary and Joseph in the pageant and do their best to make Baby Jesus more comfortable than the Bible story describes.



VC151670 30 min Prim-Intermed
Un Reino Sin Fronteras: Ha Nacido El Rey. Note: En *Ha Nacido el Rey* se cumple la antigua profecía de que el Rey de los judíos había de nacer en un establo en Belén.

VC151672 30 min Prim-Intermed
Un Reino Sin Fronteras: Heródes y los Reyes de Oriente. Note: La soberbia del rey Heródes le hace ordenar la muerte de los niños inocentes de Belén, mientras que la Sagrada Familia escapa a Egipto, bajo la protección de Dios Padre.

VC210585 25 min Familia
Un Regalo Bueno y Perfecto. Note: Nos cuenta de la Navidad inolvidable de una niña que vive en un pueblo pequeño de Nuevo México. Ella la pide a Dios un papa para Navidad mientras en el pueblo llega un hombre huyendo a la policial. SG.

VC151699 30 min Prim-Intermed
Relatos Animados del Nuevo Testamento: El Rey Nació. Note: *El Rey Nació* es un vídeo que contiene la historia clásica del nacimiento de Jesús según la Biblia. Los públicos de todas las edades disfrutaban inmensamente de este relato genuino de la Sagradas Escrituras.



VC222109 14 min Prim-Intermed
Saints for Kids; Vol. 2; Nicholas, Stephen, Anne and Joachim. Note: This video has three stories, highlighting the stories of Nicholas, Stephen, and Anne and Joachim. Nicholas is the popular patron of children whose kindhearted goodness reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. Stephen was the first saint to give his life for Jesus. The Anne and Joachim segment tells the legendary story of the parents of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Each story lasts approximately four minutes. Closed Captioned.

VC040640 30 min Primario
Santa Claus, la Verdadera Historia. Note: Caricaturas. La fascinante historia del niño cuya generosidad y amor lo convirtió en una de las figuras mas queridas de todos los tiempos y que hoy llamamos Santa Claus.

VC040877 30 min Intermediate
Secret Adventures: I'm Dreaming of a Right Christmas. Note: The story of Andrea Thomas and her friends as they come to an adventuresome understanding of what Christmas is really about, loving someone and living it out. Study Guide.

VC040105 30 min Prim-Intermed
The Secret of the Second Basement. Note: At Christmastime a loving family of street people teaches that nothing-- no "things"-- bring greater joy than Jesus, God's gift to the world. Featuring the Peppercorn Puppets.

VC040103 22 min Prim-Intermed
A Star for Jeremy. Note: A night before Christmas dream of a young boy and a special star that awaits the birth of Jesus.

VC150852 30 min Primary
The Story of the Nativity/Beginner's Bible. Note: The story of the birth of Jesus as told by animated characters as part of "The Beginner's Bible Series." Animated.

VC190176 23 min Prim-Intermed
There's No Such Thing as a Chanukah Bush. Note: Robin, a young Jewish girl, longs for a Christmas tree, or Chanukah Bush. Parents and grandfather show her ways to help Christian friends celebrate while remaining proud of her own faith. Study Guide.

VC040872 30 min Family
Veggie Tales; The Toy that Saved Christmas.

Mr. Nebby K. Nezzar has convinced all of Dinkletown that "Christmas is when you get stuff." Much whining and begging for more toys seem to point to a terrible Christmas for the town. One Buzz-Saw Louie doll, with the help of Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber, embarks on a hazardous journey to find the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers of all ages learn that Christmas is not about "getting" but about "giving," and mostly about the greatest gift of all, Baby Jesus.

VC150049 16 min Prim-Intermed
Welcome the Stranger. Note: Two children, strangers themselves in a strange land, witness the birth of the baby Jesus.

VC 163155 30 min Family
Jacob's Gift. Note: Jacob learns an important lesson about giving when he must choose between building the best woodworking project and helping a family with a newborn baby.

VC153421 30 min Prim-Adol
Visual Bible for Kids: The Birth of Jesus. Note: A cozy fire, cookies and cocoa, a family, and a visit from a favorite uncle create the environment to read the Christmas Story.

VC083723 10 min Prim-Intermed
Following Jesus through the Church Year: Advent Roads. Note: Detective Krispin travels through the four weeks of Advent, guided by the lit Advent Wreath, and by the people and events he encounters.

VC083724 10 min Prim-Intermed
Following Jesus through the Church Year: Christmas Crossroads. Note: Detective Krispin is lost in the crowded streets of Bethlehem. Aaron, a shepherd, brings him to the stable where Jesus was born, but Jesus is no longer there.

Workshops - Save the Dates

November 13, 2002 10:00 - 1:00 pm
Jacquie Jambor
Title: **Sacramental Preparation: Let's Make It Better!**
Sponsored by Resources for Christian Living in collaboration with the Jegen Center
No Charge; Lunch Included
Location: Murphy Hall at St. Edmund Church 188 South Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park
RSVP to Dave Drown at 1-708-301-3652

Watch for more details on the web at www.jegen.org and in the mail.

For information call 312-243-4562 or e-mail AOC@jegen.org

November 20, 2002 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Greg Pierce and Others
Title: **A Christmas Present Just for You**
Sponsored by ACTA Publications and the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in collaboration with the Jegen Center
No Charge for the evening
Holiday Refreshments Included
Location: Cenacle Retreat House
513 W. Fullerton Parkway, Chicago
RSVP to Terrie Wepner at 312-243-4562
Free Parking for the First 20 Registrants!

March 4, 2003 10:00 - 1:00 pm
Jo Rotunno
Theme: **Family Catechesis**
Sponsored by Harcourt Religion Publishers in collaboration with the Jegen Center
No Charge; Lunch Included
Location: Jegen Center
1025 W. Fry Street, Chicago
RSVP to Terrie Wepner at 312-243-4562
Parking Is Available

March 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2003 - 9:30 - 1:30 pm
Textbook Selection Workshops with Pubs 'n Subs
Sponsored by the Youth Ministry Office, the Office of Catholic Schools, and the Office for Catechesis, through the Jegen Center

These workshops will be held regionally to attend to the needs of the parishes and schools who are looking to adopt new religion textbooks. The major religion textbook publishing companies will join us at each site to share their materials. They will also provide lunch of sub sandwiches as you browse through their materials and ask all your questions. If you are not yet using texts that have been found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church by the Bishops' commission, this is the time to see what is available for your use. Watch for details on locations of the workshops.

March 25, 2003 9:30 - 11:30 am
Rabbi Larry Edwards and Sr. Mary Ellen Coombe
Title: **Retelling Our Stories: Pitfalls and Possibilities. A Closer Look at Passover and Easter**
Sponsored by the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Jegen Center for Catechetical Media and Research
Location: Jegen Center
1025 West Fry St., Chicago
RSVP to Terrie Wepner at 312-243-4562