

'Call to Prayer'

The Delhi Clergy Association invites you to 'Call to Prayer' on Sunday, August 3, from 6 to 7:30 pm at SUNY Delhi Farrell Hall.

This is a unified effort to bring people of faith together from all over Delaware County in order to praise God in thanksgiving for all that has been done for us and encourage prayer for one another, our county, our students and educators.

Introduction to the Theology & Practice of Contemplative Christianity

"For God alone my soul in silence waits . . ." Ps. 62:1

The word 'contemplation' derives from the Latin contemplatio: 'to behold' or 'to gaze upon.' The intent is to move beyond discursive and imaginative forms of meditation and prayer into a simple, restful, intuitive, and intimate gaze upon God. The contemplative disciplines are designed to foster this process of deep inner healing and to help to cultivate the unity of intent – "purity of heart" – by and in which we experience union with Christ, and so with the Father in the Spirit.

Participants in this program will be introduced to the theology and practice of the Christian contemplative life, exploring its provenance in scripture, in Hebrew and Hellenic philosophical traditions, and in early church writings. We will learn how the contemplative disciplines pervade all aspects of life, not merely quiet prayer, but liturgical worship, work, study, relationships, ethics, and morality. Some practical skills will also be gained, such as an overview of various approaches: chanting the daily offices, how to practice prayerful work, etc.

Mons Nubifer Sanctus Institute for Contemplative Christian Studies, Pine Hill, 845.254.4872. Sept 6, 7:30 am -5 pm, \$65.

Vacation Bible School

Weird Animals- Delhi Alliance Church, August 4-8, 6 to 8:30 pm, call 746.3714 for details.

Faith Formation

Early registration for the 2014-15 Religious Education Programs. Stop in the office during the summer. Cost: \$15.

Catechists are needed at both *Parishes* for the upcoming year so please consider helping with our programs. Helpers are always welcome.

First Reading Background } Wisdom 12

The author of this Book of Wisdom had true, sound wisdom, and he set out to teach it to his fellow Jews, who because of the influence of their pagan environment, were growing weak in their loyalty to the true God of their fathers. The philosophy of the great Greek thinkers was influencing the minds of most of the citizens of Alexandria. Great advances, for that day and age, had been made in science, and the author reminds his readers that, wise though the philosophers and men of science may think themselves, there is only one who is truly wise, the one who is Wisdom itself and from whom all wisdom comes. This is the God of Israel who is God of all the world. He is almighty as well as all wise.

How very like Alexandria of the first century BC is our world today. The world has learned so much more about the infinite mercy of God and His interest in our true welfare, but just as in Alexandria the vast majority of its inhabitants spend their days chasing after the shadows of earthly happiness and prosperity, so the vast majority of the developed world's population today spend their time on similar pursuits. We have new philosophers, inferior in most respects to those of ancient Greece, shouting their earthly wisdom and ignoring, if not denying, the source of all wisdom, the all-wise Creator of all things.

True wisdom is the knowledge of God and the recognition of His dominion over us. The truly wise man is the man who knows that he should be grateful to the Almighty Creator, who gave him life and who, as Father, has prepared a place for him in an eternal future, on condition that he does his part. Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field. Matthew 13:36

Jesus talks a lot about seeds and weeds. Children of course are like the seeds that we nurture and hope to see bloom, but life does not always work neatly. As parents, we must sometimes carefully weed bad habits out of ourselves and our children without damaging the root and their spirit. Has your child inherited any "bad weeds" from you? Prune yourself *first*.