

IMAGO DEI



News from Florida

There are currently three Imago Dei facilitators in west central Florida:

Father Joel Kovanis is planning to start A New Language study at his parish in Sun City Center in January, 2010. He also will be speaking about Theology of the Body at a General Session of the National Catholic Singles Conference at Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Mark Manko, who is Pastoral Associate at his parish in Holiday, plans to begin a study series there but a date has not been set.

Sharon Iler has completed two study series this year at her parish in Seminole. Their New Language study will be featured as one of the ministries at a ministry fair in January, and they expect to begin a group study a few weeks soon thereafter.

~Sharon Iler

A New Language in New Languages

Spanish: "It was an amazing and a 'breaking new ground' experience to conduct a 24 week pilot group with my own Spanish translation of A New Language. The participants' responses were awesome, proof that the Study Guide works in Spanish, too. I am truly joyful that we are finally going to be able to offer it to the entire Spanish-speaking world and that it was my privilege to have had a part in it."

~Elida Solorzano

Italian: Giorgio and Stefania Riva, a couple in Milan, Italy, have completed translating A New Language into Italian. It was a labor of love which they completed just before their much-awaited daughter Letizia (Joy) was born on September 8. Imago Dei is profoundly grateful for this beautiful gift. ~ Mary Shivanandan

Marriage Matters in Washington, DC

This fall, Imago Dei and the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. co-sponsored an introductory presentation on "A New Language: John Paul II's Theology of the Body," at the Archdiocese's Pastoral Center, and a Facilitator Formation Day at the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. Both events were elements of a wider archdiocesan evangelization campaign--"Marriage Matters"--designed to transmit and

support Church teaching on the institution of marriage. At present the Washington, DC City Council is poised to legalize same-sex marriage. Imago Dei has offered both individual and parish-sponsored study groups throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area, but these two events mark a new level of collaboration with the archdiocese.

~ Joan Desmond

New Intern

Imago Dei welcomes our new intern, Emily Bissonnette. Hailing from Cincinnati, OH, Emily works part time in our K Street office, while pursuing a master's degree at the John Paul II Institute. Before coming to DC, Emily spent two years coordinating a chastity outreach program in Cincinnati and graduated with a double-major in theology and communication arts from Franciscan University of Steubenville. Already, she has updated our website and is sending grant applications to numerous foundations for new monies to fund the work of Imago Dei. We are delighted to work with Emily as she joins our efforts to provide service to facilitators and study groups and to promote John Paul II's theology of the body.

~ Suzanne Shaffer

News from Canada



From the Diocese of Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Lucy Nay reports that there are three TOB Study groups currently operating in the province. A fairly large and enthusiastic group of 16 people in Leduc are doing the fourth season this fall. Lucy facilitated seasons one, two, and three, with them, however, Louise Yoner (a trained facilitator) will facilitate season four with them. It should be an easy transition as Louise has been journeying with them already through the first

three seasons (she completed a 24 week study program several years ago in Edmonton). There is a small but committed group in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, that plans to complete seasons three and four sometime during the fall and winter months. Louise has been invited to work with that group as well. Alex Nay, Lucy's son, is facilitating a small group of enthusiastic young adults in Calgary, Alberta. They are currently finishing up season one and will soon begin season two. Instead of facilitating a group, Lucy plans to put in time helping with development of the young adult version of New Language. When it is finished she will pilot it with a young adults group either in Calgary or Edmonton.

Second annual "Vine and Friendship" fundraiser



Imago Dei supporters enjoy the Vine and Friendship fundraiser

A gathering to support Imago Dei's work and to provide study participants and spouses a time to socialize with one another was held on June 18, 2009. The event was hosted by Joann and Scott Faley in their Chevy Chase, MD, home. Attendees brought their favorite wine to share along with donations of \$100 per couple. Guests participated in a drawing for one special bottle donated by the host. This simple party template, wine, cheese, appetizers and desserts, is one we encourage others to copy. It is a terrific way to stay in touch with TOB friends and is a great way to contribute to the support and expansion of our program.

~ Josepha Faley