## Conversion in the Year of Faith



of





"The Year of Faith is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Savior of the world. We want this Year to arouse in

every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope." (Pope Benedict XVI)

To witness to the "New Evangelization" of the Catholic faith requires an examination of how the teachings of the Church form our understanding of the value and dignity of each person in an increasingly secular and relativist world view. The goal of this day is to provide a forum for examining the profound respect each person is owed in justice and how we may



express that Truth through our personal and collective conversion and knowledge. The Church is the prophetic voice for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in our human family. All are called to be their voice.

## oin us

St. Andrew Catholic Church 801 N. Hastings St. Orlando

Sunday, April, 21, 2013

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Opening Liturgy 12:30 pm Reception 1:00 pm Keynote Sessions 1:45 pm and 2:45 pm Closing Session and Prayer 3:30 pm

Cost: \$ 10.00

Make Check payable: Diocese of Orlando Mail to: address below

Office of Advocacy and Justice

RSVP: 407-246-4819 or

advocacyjustice@orlandodiocese.org

<u>Agenda</u>

Keynote: Rev. Vang Cong Tran, C.SS.R Sessions:

**Dale Recinella** 

Death Row Chaplain and Ministry of Forgiveness

Sandy Buck

Be Not Afraid Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, is A witness to the humanity and dignity of children with a poor prenatal diagnosis

- Robert Urrutia K of C
- Ronald Ciampi K of C

Hope for those with disabilities through the programs and resources of Knights of Columbus Councils

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council # 9236 of St. Andrew's Parish and the Orlando Diocese/Office of Advocacy and Justice: PO Box 1800, Orlando, Florida 32801



## Conversion in the Year of Faith: Speakers

<u>Rev. Vang Cong Tran C.SS.R</u>, a Redemptorist priest from North Carolina who is in active ministry with the marginalized and impoverished Montagnard people in the highlands of Vietnam. Fr. Tran ministers to the persecuted, poor families, and lepers by sharing resources and raising the visibility of the dignity of these communities. Fr. Vang ministers to Montagnard and Burmese refugees in the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh. In his ministry, Fr. Vang encourages these refugees to live out their culture and worship in their language in their new home.

<u>Dale Recinella</u>, author of *Now I Walk on Death Row: A Wall Street Finance Lawyer Stumbles into the Arms of a Loving God* (Chosen Books: April 2011) and The Biblical Truth about America's Death Penalty (Northeastern University Press: 2004), "Ending the Death Penalty: What One Catholic Supreme Court Justice Could Do," America, April 28, 2008, and "Why American Catholics Must Say 'No' to the Death Penalty," America, November 1, 2004, has served for 20 years as a spiritual counselor and Catholic lay chaplain in Florida's prisons. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Florida, in 1998 he began ministering cell-to-cell to the approximately 400 men on Florida's death row and the approximately 2,000 men in Florida's long-term solitary confinement.

<u>Sandy Buck</u> comes from Charlotte, NC, where she is the Program Director for the Be Not Afraid Ministry. Be Not Afraid Ministry is a network of concerned parents, professionals, and laypersons who have experienced and/or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnoses. In presenting stories and information relevant to various diagnoses, they offer hope to parents who are asked to make life and death decisions about their unborn baby. This outreach is guided by the directives of the Catholic Church as they concern issues surrounding beginning and end of life. Sandy has worked in perinatal bereavement ministry for ten years. She is deeply committed to the development of resource materials that encourage and foster local services for parents carrying to term.

<u>Knights of Columbus Robert Urrutia</u> serves as the current Special Olympic Chairman for the state of Florida. Robert has served as Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, and Former District Deputy. The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus have determined that the Special Olympics is the most universal program that works with the mentally disabled population supported by the Knights. Every single person enrolled in Special Olympics is trained in many activities. They compete in their own district with the possibility of going on to the State Games usually at **Disney's Wide World of Sports** and maybe even to the World Games!

A Special Olympic Gold Medalist from St. Andrew will also tell his story. This will be followed by a short film on "**The Global Wheel Chair Mission.**" In 2003, the Knights of Columbus began participating in the Global Wheelchair Mission and sponsored 2,000 wheelchairs to be distributed in Afghanistan. Since then, Knights in the U.S. and Canada have sponsored the distribution of some 35,000 wheelchairs in Vietnam, Argentina, Colombia, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the United States and Vietnam (among many others).

Finally, <u>Ronald Ciampi who is the Knights of Columbus Diocesan Charities Coordinator</u> will speak on the many charities sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Examples are Coats for Kids, Food for Families, sonogram donations, State Basketball Free Throw contests, essay contest on Drug Awareness and Religious Liberties, bible distribution, vocations, scholarships, etc. We undertake these acts of charity because **we see those in need through the eyes of faith**. Pope Benedict XVI calls this the "practice of love...as a community." In the Year of Faith, the Knights of Columbus help center the New Evangelization of the Church within in the core of our faith in service.