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# Parish Planning for the Year of St. Paul

*"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2.20)*

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PAULINE YEAR



## 1) "Hold Fast to God's Word" (1 Cor 15:2)

Using the Letters of St. Paul for the focus of homilies, opening prayers at meetings, bulletin articles, RE and Youth Sessions etc. are a good way to honor St. Paul and better understand how this "Servant to Gentiles" challenges us "to put on Christ" (Col 3). Multiple resources are made available at [www.paulineyearphx.org](http://www.paulineyearphx.org).

## 2) "Share the Gospel" (1 Th 2:8)

Like St. Paul bring Christ to every situation. Create opportunities for evangelization. Consider having a family movie night or incorporating some of the many movies about St. Paul into your regularly scheduled events. Below are some recommendations from NCCL.

### Movies about St. Paul

*Paul the Apostle* - the Bible Collection - Good Times Publishing ([www.pauline.org](http://www.pauline.org))

Filmed in the Moroccan desert, *Paul the Apostle* is a sweeping saga of a man whose story continues after the Passion of Christ. 180 minutes

*Paul: Contending For the Faith* - Ignatius Press ([www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com))

Includes four parts - *Hebrew of Hebrews*, *Chosen By God*, *Running the Race* and *Contending Unto Death*. 90 minutes

*Apostle Paul and the Earliest Church* - Pauline Book Store ([www.pauline.org](http://www.pauline.org))

Visit the places Paul traveled. 48 minutes

### Movies with Pauline Themes

Using contemporary movies the author looks at various themes in Paul's life. Movies include: *Star Wars*, *Amadeus*, *A Separate Peace*, *Tender Mercies*, *Dead Poets Society*.

*St. Paul at the Movies: the Apostle's Dialogue with American Culture*

Robert Jewett, Westminster John Knox Press, 1993

*St. Paul Returns to the Movies: Triumph Over Shame*

Robert Jewett, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999

### CD's about St. Paul

*Great Themes of Paul – Life as Participation*, Richard Rohr, O.F.M.

St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1-800-488-0488, ([www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org))

## 3) Teach the Risen Christ

With St. Paul as our model create catechetical opportunities to teach about the life and mission of St. Paul and how His encounter with Christ reveals to us God's plan for our own lives. Use the Pauline feast days to celebrate this special year. More ideas are available at [www.annopaolino.org](http://www.annopaolino.org) and our own Diocesan site.

## 4) Study God's Word

Organize Bible Studies for your parish. Visit the Pauline Year Phoenix website for a complete list of excellent Bible Studies. Send team members, neophytes and parishioners to the *Great Adventure Bible Timeline with Jeff Cavins* this October, and be sure to come to the Bible Study Expo this February to preview all the great resources available. Visit [www.biblestudyexpo.org](http://www.biblestudyexpo.org) this fall for more information.

## 5) "Proclaim the Word" (2 Tim 4:1)

Various opportunities for Pastors and Catechetical Leaders will be held during the year to help them proclaim the risen Christ in their respective roles. For opportunities for Pastors please contact the Vicar for Priests, for Catechetical leaders visit [www.catecheticalleadershipphx.org](http://www.catecheticalleadershipphx.org)

## 6) "Therefore encourage one another" (1 Thes 4:11)

- Like Paul, we all have times when Christ enters our life and invites us to grow in our faith. In this year of Paul, invite parishioners to write a few sentences about the experience of God in their lives. Put these in your bulletin throughout the year. Sample starters: I felt God working in my life when... I had an experience of God when... I felt very close to God when...

- Invite people to participate in a small community group during Advent, Lent or anytime. Consider joining the 9 other parishes and more than 2200 adults who began the RENEW Why Catholic? Program last year [www.renewintl.org](http://www.renewintl.org)

- Or focus on St. Paul with Loyola Press, *Six Weeks with the Bible*, [www.loyolapress.org](http://www.loyolapress.org) Each six-week guide focuses on a specific book of the New Testament. *Acts: The Good News of the Holy Spirit*, *1 Corinthians: Living as Christians*, *2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness*, *Thessalonians 1 & 2: Stand Firm in Faith*, *Galatians: Free in Christ*, *Colossians/Philemon: New Life in Christ*, *Romans: Amazing Grace!*

- Consider leading a Pauline Retreat with St. Anthony Messenger Press' *St. Paul: Called to Conversion*, A Seven-Day Retreat or small-group discussion. Ronald D. Witherup. [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org)

## 7) "No Division Among You" (1 Cor 12:25)

Participate in **Church Unity Octave** January 18 - 25, 2009. Information can be obtained from the USCCB: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## 8) Pilgrimages of Paul

Organize a Parish Pilgrimage to St. Paul's Parish, Phoenix. 330 West Coral Gables Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85023. Various facilities are available for prayer and reflection contact MaryAnn Ronan @ 602-942-2608 to schedule your pilgrimage.

Organize a Parish pilgrimage to Turkey, Greece and Rome. Various companies have already planned trips and many others are available to begin planning you parish pilgrimage.

## 9) Purchase Parish Books on Paul

Purchase books on St. Paul for your parish library and throughout the year put a brief synopsis in the parish bulletin encouraging people to borrow them. For a resource of books contact the Pauline book store 215-676-9494, [www.pauline.org](http://www.pauline.org).

