

Stones Cry Out

Faithful of Southern Illinois

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent the stones will cry out!" Lk. 19: 39-40

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FOSIL'S FUTURE MISSION

If you are on our website's email or regular mailing lists, you recently received a survey asking a series of questions about FOSIL. Your answers will help guide the steering committee toward FOSIL's future.

FOSIL is a resurrection of a group that was formed in the late 60s to provide and promote adult education in the diocese of Belleville, Illinois. We purchased and published Richard McBrien's weekly column after his removal from the Belleville Diocesan paper, *The Messenger*. In addition, we have added Roger Karban's weekly commentaries to our list.

We have sponsored lectures and workshops with distinguished speakers, created a website and continue mailings to over 43 states and international countries.

Our current mission statement reads: "Committed to justice, equality and the dignity of all people, FOSIL seeks to affirm the good and holy in everyone. Scriptural exegesis, along with an emerging new worldview, provides more mature and expansive ways of understanding God and all creation, and inspires FOSIL to keep the voice of prophecy alive through spiritual and civic action."

We want to hear from you about our mission and where you feel we need to take FOSIL in the coming years. If you didn't receive the survey, you are welcome to complete one on our website:

www.fosionline.com.

SIAP DINNER FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE

Many Catholics in the Diocese of Belleville Illinois have received a beautifully prepared invitation to celebrate the 70th birthday of Bishop Braxton. Addressees were asked to purchase the \$100 ticket and encouraged to send additional monetary gifts to participate in a special dinner at the St. Clair Country Club in honor of the Bishop.

With monies not used for the dinner itself, Bishop Braxton will establish a foundation in his name to support Catholic education at the three diocesan high schools and the Sr. Theresa Bowman school. An interesting way to honor oneself.

What would Pope Francis think of such an extravagant way to raise funds for Catholic education. Incidentally, financial assistance provided by the Bishop's Office to Catholic education has significantly decreased since Bishop Braxton became Ordinary of the Belleville Diocese. Church members simply do not trust the Bishop's use of church funds.

So a group of diocesan priests, under the leadership of Southern Illinois Association of Priests (SIAP), is planning a separate fundraiser with assistance from other organizations (St. Vincent de Paul and Faithful of Southern Illinois or FOSIL) to benefit Catholic diocesan schools and St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

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Invitations will be sent via "evitations" for a Soup 'n Bread lunch to be held at Cosgrove's Kitchen. Cost of the dinner will be \$1.00 with a request for additional donations to assist the educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese. If participants prefer, they may simply offer their gift and share a meal with their family or friends in lieu of joining us at Cosgrove's Kitchen. The event will more readily emulate the preaching and example of Pope Francis than the Bishop's self-serving fundraising event.

OCTOBER SYNOD SURVEY

Pope Francis advised all Bishops to encourage broad participation in responding to a survey prepared by the Vatican in preparation for the Synod on the Family to be held in Rome this October. There has been world-wide press attention given to the results found in this survey.

The National Catholic Reporter provided several reports on how American Bishops pursued this Pope's survey initiative, eventually listing the dioceses that had sought public input and submitted results for the Vatican Synod. Unfortunately, it appears that Bishop Edward Braxton of the Belleville Diocese has chosen not to participate. Many FOSIL members submitted their responses and mailed it via FedEx to the designated diocesan contact. The completed survey can be viewed on the FOSIL website.

What a pity that the voice of the faithful is no longer heard in the Belleville Diocese, something that the faithful of Southern Illinois have become only too aware of during the tenure of Bishop Braxton.

ROGER KARBAN'S SCRIPTURE CLASSES

For all of you who are in the metro and southern Illinois areas, Roger Karban has adult scripture classes at these locations. Everyone is welcome to join these classes:

Tuesday: 10:30 AM to 12:30 Summer hours
St. Joseph Catholic Church (meet in rectory)
901 N. Alton St., Lebanon, IL 62254
618-537-2221

Thursday: 7:30 - 9:30 PM
(2nd and 4th Thursday during Summer)
Mater Dei High School, cafeteria or chapel
900 Mater Dei Drive, Breese, IL 62230
618-526 -7216 or 618-526-7063

Every third Friday: 9:30 - 11:00 AM
Notre Dame Motherhouse at Ripa
320 East Ripa Ave., St. Louis MO 63125

Saturday: 9:00 AM - Noon
SIUC - Newman Center
715 S. Washington St. Carbondale, IL 62901
618-529-3311

Every other Sunday from 8:00 to 8:45 AM
Our Lady of Good Counsel
2038 Washington St., Renault, IL 62279
618-458-7710

Every other Sunday: 7:00 to 9:00 PM
St Elizabeth's Hospital, Centennial Room
211 S. 3rd St., Belleville, IL 62220
618-234-2120

**Mark Your Calendars
More Info to Come!!**

**A THANK YOU CELEBRATION FOR ROGER KARBAN
50th Anniversary of Roger's Ordination into the Priesthood
October 26th 2014**

3:00 PM Eucharist: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Belleville, Illinois
5:00 Dinner & Entertainment: Fischer's Restaurant, Belleville, Illinois