

## ***AMAZING GOD***

Annunciation and Our Lady Queen of Apostles will be joining many other parishes around the Diocese in an initiative called *Amazing God*, a three year program designed to rekindle the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world. The first year, titled "God is Love", will focus on God the Father and will take us through the writings of the Old Testament. The second year, "The Heart of Christ", will focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ, God the Son. The final year, "Filled with the Spirit", will focus on discipleship through God the Holy Spirit.

*Amazing God* will begin by enkindling that love of God into practicing Catholics, those who come to church most weekends and support our parishes. If practicing Catholics are not alive with our faith, then we cannot evangelize others. We will then reach out to our brothers and sisters who join us occasionally and encourage them to become more a part of our parish community. We will also reach out to those who have left the church, this very large religious group of lapsed Catholics. To re-invigorate the church we need to return them to the church, but to make that happen we first must strengthen the faith in each one of us.

*Amazing God* is not an attempt to convert people who may have a different belief system than we do. It is an attempt to deepen the faith of those who are already practicing the faith, as well as a way of lending a compassionate ear to those who may have left the church, gently inviting them back into our faith community. It is an initiative of joy and excitement, not an attempt at selling or negatively attacking any religious denomination.

There will be many activities over the next three years, both at a local and diocesan level, for all who would like to take part in this initiative. On a local level, the Adult Faith Formation group will be organizing a mini-retreat in April, along with other programs throughout the year. On a broader level, *Amazing God* will be a major theme of the diocesan Spring Enrichment beginning this year and running through 2013. A youth rally is also planned for November this year in Albany. Continue to look for bulletin announcements as the year progresses to stay aware of all the activities planned.