

# INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS



## ST. JOHN PAUL II, PRAY FOR US!

Pope St. John Paul II impacted countless believers and nonbelievers worldwide during his nearly 27 years as pope, and he continues to intercede for us today. His visit to Denver for World Youth Day in 1993 and his call to a New Evangelization were paramount to the founding of the Augustine Institute. As such, we are excited to recommend the film *Pope John Paul II* by Ignatius Press to celebrate this great saint.

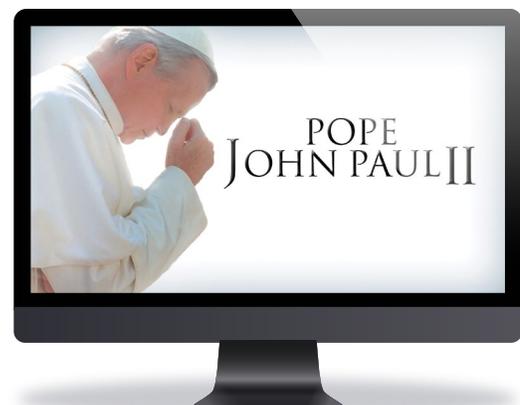
Filmed on location in Krakow and Rome, this epic movie explores the life of Karol Wojtyla from his youth in Poland to his final days in Rome. It depicts his struggles in Nazi-occupied Poland and his dealings with Communist Russia's desire to turn his beloved homeland into a godless society. The film examines Wojtyla's education in the underground seminary to his eventual election at age 58 to become the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. Viewers journey with Wojtyla from his athletic, theatrical youth to the fragility of his old age and moving, dignified death.

This film beautifully portrays how he impacted millions of lives, changed the face of the Church and the world, and tirelessly defended the dignity of the human person. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said of the movie, "Watching this film has renewed

in me a sense of profound gratitude to God for having given the Church and the world a pope of such an exalted human and spiritual nature."

Looking ahead to next month, we encourage you to foster your parish's devotion to Pope St. John Paul II by hosting a movie night in anticipation of his feast day on October 22. Parishioners will be moved to laugh, cry, and wonder at the privilege of sharing the earth for a brief time with this holy man.

Note: This movie is not rated but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain violence indicative of the life and times of the saint portrayed.



# HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED

This September, consider highlighting this new content on FORMED within your parish:



## Is Technology Bad? and Using Technology as a Catholic

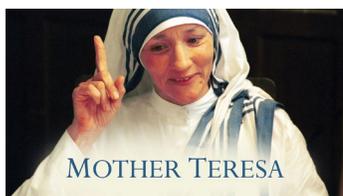
It's nearly impossible to escape technology in today's world. It's all around us. Many of us work on laptops or desktops and often fill our leisure time with TV shows, video games, or social media. Considering this environment, Taylor Kemp sat down with John Doherty, chief technology officer at the Augustine Institute, for two FORMED Now videos. They discuss the value and danger of technology today, as well as methods for remedying bad technology habits so that our devices become forces for good.

## Lectio: God

What do we mean when we say "God"? Many misconceptions about God exist, even among Christians, which can become obstacles in our relationship with him. Join Dr. Elizabeth Klein, professor at the Augustine Institute, for a careful study of Scripture to understand better who God is and how to share this truth with others. This new, dynamic program combines in-depth biblical study with insightful questions, personal reflections, and an explanation of common misunderstandings. It strives to strengthen your faith in the one true God, who is a communion of the three divine Persons.

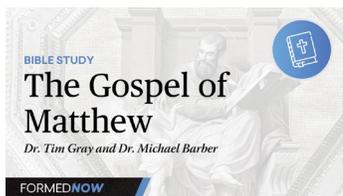
# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

To enrich your parishioners' knowledge of and devotion to prominent saints with feast days in September, check out these resources on FORMED:



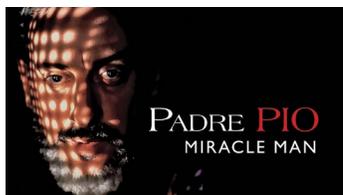
## September 5: St. Teresa of Calcutta

*Mother Teresa* portrays the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta, the selfless missionary who brought Christ's hope, love, and salvation to the poorest of the poor. Her many small miracles, great charity, and humble triumphs will inspire you in this poignant tale of a modern-day saint.



## September 21: St. Matthew

In *Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew*, Scripture scholars Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber dive into Matthew's Gospel. This lively and faith-filled series is excellent for personal or small group reflection in celebration of St. Matthew's feast day.



## September 23: St. Pio of Pietrelcina

*Padre Pio: Miracle Man* follows the life of Padre Pio, from his childhood to his 50 years as a Capuchin friar. The film captures the priest's intense faith, devotion, deep spiritual concern for others, and great compassion for the sick and suffering.

# CONTENT SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Tim Gray**

Celebrate St. Matthew's feast day on September 21 in a new and intentional way. Join Scripture scholars Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber in *Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew* to explore the riches of Matthew's account of Christ.



**Dr. Michael Barber**

The word "gospel" translates to "good news" and, as Dr. Gray explains, "Matthew's story of Jesus is exactly that, just as much today as when Matthew sat down and wrote this Gospel."

Through discussion, sacred art, and a passage-by-passage examination of the text, Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber share the fruit of academic research and scholarly debate with viewers in a simple, approachable way.

Because the four Gospels record the life and teachings of the incarnate Son of God, these accounts occupy a special position in Scripture. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "The

fourfold Gospel holds a unique place in the Church, as is evident both in the veneration which the liturgy accords it and in the surpassing attraction it has exercised on the saints at all times" (127).

The more we study and ponder the Word of God, the more we open ourselves to hear the Lord's voice and respond to his constant invitation to intimate communion.

Encourage your parishioners to follow along and pray together through this FORMED video series; may it aid deeper contemplation of and love for Christ.

St. Matthew, pray for us!



## DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary—also known as the Servite Rosary—is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on seven sorrowful episodes in the life of the Mother of God. To increase your parishioners' devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose feast is September 15, encourage them to pray with the eponymous six-minute video on FORMED. Images of sacred art by many of the great masters and a beautiful orchestral soundtrack accompany this presentation to aid your meditation.



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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Ben Akers

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Invite your parishioners into the stories of the modern saints we celebrate during September by watching *Mother Teresa* on September 5 and *Padre Pio: Miracle Man* on September 23. To honor St. Matthew, whose feast is September 21, consider doing a Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew with Augustine Institute President Dr. Tim Gray and Professor Dr. Michael Barber. Another series to highlight in your parish is our new Bible study *Lectio: God*, led by Augustine Institute Professor Dr. Elizabeth Klein. This study guides participants to a deeper awareness of who God is and how to share this truth with others. Another notable upcoming feast falls on September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows. Commemorate this feast by encouraging parishioners to pray *the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, a short meditation on FORMED. This month, join Taylor Kemp and Augustine Institute Chief Technology Officer John Doheny to learn about our relationship with technology as Catholics. Lastly, glancing ahead to next month, we invite you to host a movie night of *Pope John Paul II* to anticipate his feast day on October 22. Be assured of our prayers for you and your parishioners.