

# St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York

**TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING** by S. Casarotto, CS

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## **JESUS, THE TEACHER**

A young man went to Jesus and asked Him, "Teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?" In the Gospel, Jesus is often called "Teacher". In fact, Jesus said: "Learn from Me because I am meek and humble of heart... Heaven and earth will pass away, my words will never pass away!" Jesus' followers were called "disciples".

The word discipline derives from the Latin word *discere* or to learn. We learn by listening and by doing. The word "education" derives from the Latin word "*educere*" or to bring out. Before teaching, a true educator must bring out the best of him/ herself. Education is not only intellectual learning. Many bad people have a good knowledge and many good people may have little or even no literary or scientific knowledge. True education brings out the best in a person and develops the full potential of all our faculties. "God knows us not only for what we are but also for what He would like us to be." (St. Augustine)

Peggy Noonan wrote: "We are not the most educated people in history; it is only that we have spent more days in the classroom. Sitting in a classroom does not make us educated; in fact, it makes many people only proud. We are last or close to last in education among the industrial countries of the world, but we are first in self-esteem. How smart is that? Catholics today, for the most part, know less about faith than their parents did. How smart is that?"

During his recent visit to the USA, Pope Benedict XVI said: "Sometimes we are looked upon as people who speak only prohibitions. Nothing could be further from the truth! Authentic Christian discipleship is marked by a sense of wonder... Christ's light beckons you to be guiding stars for others, walking Christ's way of forgiveness, reconciliation, joy, and peace. Tell others about the truth that sets you free" (Pope Benedict XVI to Youth at Dunwoodie, 2008). The Pope also insisted that the Gospel is good news "to a world that longs for genuine freedom, authentic happiness, and the fulfillment of its deepest aspirations" (Pope Benedict XVI at National Park). He proclaimed that "Christ is the truth that gives meaning to human existence, the source of that life which is eternal joy." (Pope Benedict XVI at Yankee Stadium, 2008).

**CHURCH ALIVE** - For over 30 years I have received the monthly Chiesa Viva, a 16-page, full colored publication by the diocese of Vicenza (my birthplace) dedicated to vocations and missions. It is sent free of charge to all the parishes, Catholic groups and religious of the diocese and also to all its missionaries around the world (more than 1,000). In the past 7 years, over 500 young people from Vicenza have volunteered to work in the missions for one or more months and some much longer. This year, 45 young people, including some newlyweds, have also volunteered. Another 50 people are in training to go to the missions next year. Vicenza has the same Catholic population as the Diocese of Buffalo.