

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE MINISTERS  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST, 2007**

IMPORTANT—the National Office will be **closed** from August 31st until September 17th. Susan, have a well-deserved vacation!

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Congratulations to our new Officers, who began their service as of the 2007 Denver Convention: Bill (Tex) Urbine, President and Chris Codden, President-elect (also currently representing Region VII). Rounding out the Board of Directors is: Cynthia Dobrzynski, Diocesan Section Representative and Regional Representative for Regions I and II; Susan Stith, Region III; Heidi Peckham, Treasurer and Region IV; Dale Powers, Region V; Deacon Tom Fogle, Region VI; Lorrie Grammer, Region VII; Stan Isham, Region IX; Sr. Mary Louise Swift, Region X; Sheilah Lynch, Region XI; Region XII is currently vacant; Heddy Long, Region XIII; and Chris Rubio, Parish Section Representative.

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If you haven't visited [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org), indulge yourself! If you haven't seen it lately, you need to indulge yourself AGAIN. The USCCB has done an outstanding job on this website, and continues to improve it each week. You should follow the links for your diocese and see if you are happy with the visual and informational connection. Parishes should add this link to their websites, too! At the end of this newsletter is a one page mailing created by Tex Urbine to send to parishes in order to promote the website. Well done, Tex, and thanks for providing the membership with a great tool!

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The 2008 Convention will be in conjunction with Smart Marriages again. Destination: San Francisco, CA! The Opening Reception will be Monday evening, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Opening Mass will be on Tuesday, July 1 and go through the Wednesday, July 2. Smart Marriages will be July 2-5, with a rumored break in the schedule to enjoy fireworks at Candlestick Park! Lock in those pre-conference dates now, and the Conference Committee will update the membership on details as they become available.

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For those wanting contact information for Elizabeth Einstein (stepfamilies) it is: Elizabeth Einstein, MFT; PO Box 6760, Ithaca 14851 • [info@stepfamilyliving.com](mailto:info@stepfamilyliving.com). (Her contact information was in the original program packets that were lost in delivery in Denver.)

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Did ANYONE get pictures from the Denver conference that you would share? The Communications Commission would like to post a few on the website. Thank you!

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NACFLM participated in the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Symposium held at St. John's University (Collegeville, MN) earlier this month. NACFLM was represented by Bill Urbine, Cynthia Dobrzynski, Lydia Pesina, Judy Clark, Sr. Mary Louise Swift, Fr. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal, Linda Moses, Lorrie Gramer, and David Thomas. Please see the press release from the symposium, which is attached to the end of the newsletter. To keep abreast of the findings and papers, please visit <http://www.csbsju.edu/sot/symposium/> or type lemsymposium.org into your browser. It should take you right to it.

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**Looking for Remarriage Resources**

Are there any resources out there when the couple has older children already out of the home? Also, what are you using for couples with kids at home which you could recommend? Thanks for any help here... Susan Stith, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 814-886-5551, [sstith@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ssstith@dioceseaj.org)

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**Trainings coming your way, courtesy of the Education and Formation Committee! For more information about scheduling a training in your area, please call Lydia Pesina!**

**August 25-26, 2007 MWF 101** Apple Valley, California

Presenters: Paula Stuckart and Lydia Pesina

Contact Person: Fr. Tony Abuan

**October 8-9, 2007 MWF 201** Lansing, Michigan

Presenters: Judy Clark and Steve Beirne

Contact Person: Deacon Tom Fogle

**October 12-14, 2007 MWF 101 Spanish** Hartford, Connecticut

Presenters: Lydia Pesina and Fr. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal

Contact Person: Cluber and Martha Pezo-Marin 203-754-6706 [marthaflo@hartfordflo.com](mailto:marthaflo@hartfordflo.com)

**October 19-21, 2007 MWF 301** Orlando, Florida

Presenters: George and Judy Clark

Contact Person: Heidi Peckham [hpeckham@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:hpeckham@orlandodiocese.org)

**November 10-11 , 2007 MWF 101** Laredo, Texas

Presenters: Fr. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal and Lydia Pesina

Contact Person: Fr. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal

**April 26/27 or April 19/20, 2008 MWF 101** Brownsville, Texas

Presenters: Fr. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal and Alicia Perez (Spanish)

George and Judy Clark (English)

Contact Person: Lydia Pesina 956-784-5012 [lpesina@cdob.org](mailto:lpesina@cdob.org)

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MOMS: Ministry of Mothers Sharing continues to flourish in many parts of the country. Contact [srpaula@stpaulsmonastery.org](mailto:srpaula@stpaulsmonastery.org) for a copy on the new On the Journey Retreats for local parishes, facilitated by local MOMS leaders. First in a series, **Choice-making** will empower women to slow down, pray, discern and journal as they continue on their spiritual journey. For more information contact Sr. Paula or go to [www.stpaulmonastery.org](http://www.stpaulmonastery.org) and click on the link to MOMS.

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Attached is the latest "FAMILY FLYER," a family handout that can be copied and inserted into parish bulletins or sent home with students. The flyer is aimed at 5-13 year-olds, with the expectation that parents will use it as a discussion and/or activity tool. Diocesan NACFLM members have permission to send it to parishes in their diocese to copy and use. Parish members may copy it for their parish. Please see the note on the bottom of the Spanish edition, giving permission for the user to adapt the Spanish language to the appropriate language usage of their particular Spanish speaking people. NACFLM thanks Region V for writing this flyer on "**Taking Care of Our Bodies.**"

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**New Job Listing in Green Bay, Wisconsin for Family and Married Life Director.**

The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, WI has an opening for a full time Family and Married Life Director. This position is responsible for overseeing diocesan efforts to support and build up the family and married life throughout the Diocese. The ideal candidate should have a Master's degree in Theology or Pastoral Studies with a focus on the sociology or psychology of family or married life, plus a minimum of five years experience in the field in a related position. Must have experience ministering to families and engaged /married couples, with knowledge of the theology, spirituality and Christian social practices pertaining to the family and married life in today's society. The candidate will work in accordance with Catholic social teachings and the moral and ethical values of the Catholic Church. Must be a practicing Catholic and have a valid driver's license. If interested, please apply via e-mail to: [bwiegand@gbdioc.org](mailto:bwiegand@gbdioc.org).

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Alicia Perez, associate director from the Office of Family Life of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston needs is looking for job descriptions for Parish Family Life Ministers from around the country. It is her hope to get some interesting descriptions that can help priest and lay ministers write one for their parish based on models from around the country. Alicia's e-mail is [aperez@archgh.org](mailto:aperez@archgh.org) .

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***FROM OUR FEARLESS LEADER, "TEX" URBINE***

***For your marriage.org – an easy way to promote marriage in your parishes***

**Over the upcoming weeks and months, we encourage you to continuously place the announcements listed below in your parish bulletin. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has just announced this major effort to promote marriage in our society and churches. Without your help we cannot get the word out to your parishioners. Please make this a priority item for your bulletin.**

**I also encourage you to take a look at the website yourself. Much effort has gone into making this a very user friendly website for all engaged and married couples. There are many wonderful tips that we can use in our homilies, pastoral care, and talks we often are called on to give. Please promote the cause. It's a great resource, but each of us needs to promote this effort.**

***What have you done for your marriage today?*** Celebrate the Good News of Married Love. Check out our U.S. Bishops new website encouraging married couples on their lifetime journey. Go to <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/>. Then forward the website to your friends and family.

***What have you done for your marriage today?*** Are you looking for ways to enhance your relationship? Then go directly to [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/). It's part of our U.S. Bishops efforts to promote marriage. Help us help you family and friends. Email the website address to family and friends.

***What have you done for your marriage today?***

You want your marriage to grow. So do we. Because the Catholic Church cares for your marriage we encourage you to go to our new U.S. Bishops website [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/). Take time to nurture your marriage. After all, it's a lifetime adventure. Spread the word. Send the website address on to family and friends.

***What have you done for your marriage today?*** Looking for some good tips on nurturing your marriage today. Visit the U.S. Bishops new marriage website at [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/). Help us promote the cause. Email the website address to family and friends.

***What have you done for your marriage today?*** Resources for living happily ever after are right at your fingertips. Check out our U.S. Catholic Bishops new marriage website at [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/). Forward the website address on to your friends and family.

***What have you done for your marriage today?*** Recently married and looking for ways to keep your love strong? Resources for living happily ever after are right at your fingertips. Check out our U.S. Catholic Bishops new marriage website at [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/). Forward the website address on to your friends and family.

***What have you done for your marriage today?*** Need to rekindle your marriage relationship? Resources for living happily ever after are right at your fingertips. Check out our U.S. Catholic Bishops new marriage website at [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/). Forward the website address on to your friends and family.

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# Saint John's School of Theology • Seminary

COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2007

## National Symposium on Lay Ministry: Watershed Event for Catholic Ministry

Collegetville, Minn. – 210 lay ministers, priests, religious and bishops representing 26 national organizations, formation institutes and Catholic colleges and universities met from July 31 to Aug. 3 at Saint John's University for a National Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry, *Working in the Vineyard of the Lord*. Around 60 representatives participated from the Hispanic, African-American and Asian-Pacific communities ensuring their story and experience was also heard.

The symposium explored areas of formation, pathways to ministry, authorization and the ministerial workplace. This historic symposium was a response to the call by the United States Conference of Catholic bishops in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord* to review the reality of lay ecclesial ministry across the country and “refine [*Co-Workers*] in the light of our experience.”

Bishop David Zubik, Chairman of the US Bishops Committee on the Laity, presented the keynote address during which he noted that the “vision of the Church must embrace lay-clergy collaboration.”

Dr. Edward Hahnenberg, assistant professor of theology at Xavier University, Cincinnati, and a theological advisor to the bishops, situated the development of lay ecclesial ministry within a broad historical context as being both “traditional and radically new.”

Bishop Gregory Aymond, who attended the symposium and acted as one of the capstone speakers, described lay ecclesial ministry as “an essential part of the Church” and welcomed the “energy, faith, commitment and serious conversation” of those who participated. Bishop Aymond also identified four challenges in sustaining excellence in lay ecclesial ministry: admitting fears and overcoming ambiguities; providing carefully designed, highly quality, affordable and diverse formation opportunities; developing a clear theology of vocation and authorization for lay ministry; and living out justice in the ministerial workplace.

Symposium Chair, Jeffrey Kaster, of St. John's University, Collegetville, thanked participants for their personal and organization commitments to implement the recommendations developed during the symposium. Kaster also pledged that the steering committee composed of representatives from over 15 cosponsoring organizations in partnership with departments of the Bishops' Conference, would synthesize the proceedings and ensure the continuation of the development of lay ecclesial ministry in parishes, dioceses and chaplaincy locations across the country.

The publication of both the recommendations and organizational commitments for improving and sustaining lay ecclesial ministry will later be published on the Saint John's School of Theology•Seminary Website at: [www.csbsju.edu/sot/symposium](http://www.csbsju.edu/sot/symposium).

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For upcoming editions, remember to send your (generally) brief articles to [dpowers@dioceseofknoxville.org](mailto:dpowers@dioceseofknoxville.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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