

The Department of Education and Catechesis is committed to helping parents fulfill the great responsibility they have to raise their children in the faith. This letter reminds us that we must ensure that Catholic schools and parish religious education programs are all that the Church demands that they be, and that we must work diligently to help all Catholic faithful understand that “religious education in schools fits into the evangelizing mission of the Church” (par. 17). Because Catholic schools have been entrusted with so great a mission, we recommit ourselves to seeking ways to make them more affordable so that as many parents as possible can take advantage of the great good that can be given through our Catholic schools.

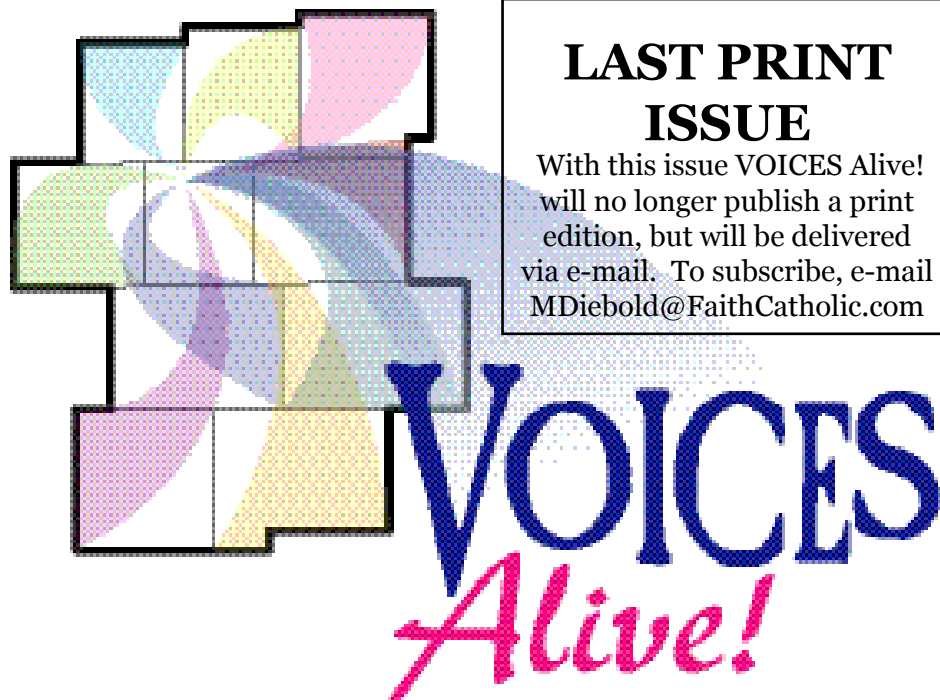
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## **VATICAN LETTER ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

On September 8, 2009, a letter from the Congregation for Catholic Education to the presidents of the bishops' conferences on the topic of religious education in schools was made public. The letter reiterated the importance of religious education in schools to the evangelizing mission of the Church.

The letter underscores the freedom of Catholics to educate their children in the faith, and the imperative for nations around the world to ensure that freedom. It draws on the Second Vatican Council's "Declaration on Christian Education," which states clearly the duty that parents have to be the primary educators of their children in the faith. Catholic parents are to ensure that their children are able to "advance in their Christian formation to a degree that is abreast of their development in secular subjects" (par. 7). That is a very high standard and a great responsibility. Indeed, as Bishop Boyea told principals this past August, we must help children prepare to be good citizens here on earth and to become citizens of heaven.

To accomplish that goal, Catholic schools are an excellent option, because they are free to integrate faith in all aspects of learning. The letter quotes Pope John Paul II, who wrote "the special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the reason why Catholic parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils" (Apostolic Exhortation *Catechesi Tradendae*, 69).

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

- Saturday, January 30, 2010, starting at 9:00am, at St. Robert Bellarmine, in Flushing Michigan

Pre-registration is required for all participants. For more information contact: NFP Program at 517-342-2587 or [nfp@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:nfp@dioceseoflansing.org).

## **NFP Classes Offered in the Diocese of Lansing**

Several methods of Natural Family Planning are taught, pre-registration is required for the following classes:

- Billings Ovulation Method:

If interested need to call Maria - (517) 523-3526, or diocesan website: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/nfp/ovulationmethodclasses.html>

- Sympto-Thermal Method: taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL)

Website: [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) and go to registration, to find classes in Michigan.

- Creighton Model Fertility Care System:

Call Hope Fertility Care Center of Mid-Michigan, Amanda Venema at (517) 242-3710 or e-mail: [amanda.venema@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.venema@gmail.com) or The Caritas Center in Ypsilanti, Mary Bieniasz, at (734) 712-1990.

- Family of Americas Ovulation Method:

Call the NFP Office to register for class: (517) 342-2587.

## **PERSONS WITH DIS / ABILITIES**

Thinking of donating to a worthy organization this Christmas? Rainbow Homes – is a non-profit Christian supported living environment for adults with developmental disabilities located in Holt. We have been changing the life experience of adults persons with disabilities for over eleven years, offering apartment style living and day and overnight respite options. To learn more about this organization please visit our website at [www.rainbow-homes.org](http://www.rainbow-homes.org)

Christians Concerned about Mental Illness (CCMI) - Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2010. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00pm in the diocesan center, Lansing. Meetings are a chance to pray and share our stories. Call or e-mail Joann at 517-342-2497 [jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org) for more information or visit our website at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/disabilities/index.html>

Christmas Celebration for Persons with disabilities- Ministry with Persons with disabilities invites persons with disabilities to our continued Christmas Celebration held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Diocesan Center, 228 North Walnut Street, Lansing from 2:00-5:00pm. Reservations are required. Please RSVP by calling Joann at 517-342-2497 with names and number of people attending by January 4, 2010.

## **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**

Note: There will be a charge of \$ 10.00 per couple, for all Introductions to Natural Family Planning Classes. All couples registered with the Natural Family Planning Office should pay before taking the class. All checks should be made out and mailed to: Diocese of Lansing, 300 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

### **Introduction to Natural Family Planning Classes**

The Introduction to Natural Family Planning classes will be offered as follows:

- No Classes Schedule for December 2009.
- Saturday, January 23, 2010, starting at 9:00am, at St. Patrick Parish in Brighton, Michigan
- Monday, January 25, 2010, starting at 7:00pm, at St. Martha Parish in Okemos, Michigan

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Each year at Christmas, Prison Fellowship runs a program that provides gifts for the children of inmates in their name. It is a wonderful program that provides children with a sense of belonging and an understanding of the joy in the birth of the Savior. When we learned that there were over four hundred children that had been left out, we sent an appeal to the churches in the diocese to assist in this effort. I was astonished at the response of charitable effort put forth! Nearly one hundred people volunteered to assist and many called with donations. The response was heartwarming.

As a result of the generosity of the people of this diocese, the Salvation Army, and many individuals, Catholic and non-Catholic, the children will be provided for. My thanks go out to all who so generously gave of their time, talent and resources in this effort. May God bless you abundantly!

Tim Metts, Director of Restorative Justice, 517-342-2495.

## DEAF/HH MINISTRY

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf will hold their annual Pastoral Week from Jan 15 to 19, 2010 in Houston Texas. For registration and other information please contact Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or [rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org)

Catholic Deaf/HH Ministry will sponsor a retreat for Deaf Community members of the Diocese of Lansing March 12-14, 2010 at the De Sales Center in Brooklyn, Michigan. Fr. Michael Depcik, OSFS, deaf priest from Chicago will be retreat master. Registration information will be distributed in January. For more information please contact Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or [rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org)

## FAMILY LIFE

Marriage Prep: The Remarriage Seminars are not currently being offered. It is recommended that the couple either takes the Smart Steps for StepFamilies class, offered through Catholic Charities agencies, if children are involved. If children are not involved it is recommended the couple takes a Remarriage inventory and a consultation with a professional facilitator at one of our Catholic Charities agencies. This can be arranged through the Family Life office by calling 517-342-2471 or email [vgale@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:vgale@dioceseoflansing.org)

## CRS

Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the U.S. Bishops to assist the vulnerable overseas. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching as we act to:

- Promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and,
- Serve Catholics in the United States as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, we work with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

## LAST PRINT ISSUE

With this issue VOICES Alive! will no longer publish a print edition, but will be delivered via e-mail. To subscribe, e-mail [MDiebold@FaithCatholic.com](mailto:MDiebold@FaithCatholic.com)



# EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

## CATECHETICAL FORMATION EVENTS:

Lansing Vicariate  
Saturday, January 23, 2010  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish  
Session I:  
#1 Ministry of Catechist  
#9 Jesus Christ  
#15 Overview of the Bible  
Session II:  
#2 Learning Process & Faith  
Development  
#10 Mary & the Saints  
#16 Old Testament Themes

Saturday, March 20, 2010  
St. James, Mason  
Session I:  
#3 Lesson Planning  
#11 Church  
#17 Key People of the Old  
Testament  
Session II:  
#4 Catechetical Techniques  
#12 Liturgy & Worship  
#18 Gospels

Schedule of the Day  
8:00 - 8:30 Registration &  
Hospitality  
8:30 - 8:50 Morning Prayer  
9:00 - 10:45 Session I  
11:00 - 12:45 Session II

Cost & Contact Information  
Cost for the day is \$15.00  
Make checks payable to: St.  
Gerard ORE  
Mail to: St. Gerard Religious  
Education Office  
4437 W. Willow Hwy.  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Questions? Please call Kathy  
Warriner at St. Gerard Religious  
Education Office (517)321-4179

## MICHIGAN WINTER GATHERING OF PARISH AND DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL LEADERS

The Michigan Winter Gathering will be held at Bethany House, Dewitt on January 7-8, 2010. Featured speakers will be Father Joe Krupp, Rita Thiron, and Jack Armstrong.

Fr. Joe Krupp, a former major network comedy writer, Fr. Joe writes FAITH Catholic's best-read column, "In the Know with Father Joe." Its success is due to a mix of teaching, straight talk, and humor. Fr. Joe has served as chaplain at Lansing Catholic High School, and is currently Director of Campus Ministry at St. John Student Center in East Lansing. Fr. Joe will speak on "Leadership in Challenging Times."

Rita Thiron is the Director of the Office of Worship in the Diocese of Lansing. She will review the process for the translation of the Roman Missal, will examine the texts already approved, and provide insights to assist in the Missal's implementation.

Jack Armstrong has served in both diocesan and parish pastoral ministry, where he has often entered into dialogue with people having struggles in faith and difficulties in life. He knows from personal experience that there is no greater test of faith than losing someone you love. In the span of two years, Jack lost his wife, his son, and his daughter-in-law. Jack will share insights along the path of spiritual growth in his presentation, "Pastoral and Spiritual Care."

For further information, contact Michael Andrews, Director of Catechesis, at [mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org) or (517) 342-2470.

For registration brochure:

[http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis\\_k12/Winter\\_Gathering\\_2010.pdf](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Winter_Gathering_2010.pdf)

## YOUTH COMMITTEES MEETINGS:

The Diocesan Youth Advisory Committee and the three youth committees, DYLC, Jamboree and Rally, will meet Saturday, December 12, 10:00 AM – Lunch at St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton. The youth committees meet again January 16 at IHM, Lansing. DYAC will have an overnight meeting January 16 & 17 at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center in Lansing.

# EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING RETREAT

The 2010 Catholic Social Teaching Retreat will be held at Bethany House at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Deadline for the retreat has been extended to December 17. Please download forms from our website and register your group. Pat Rinker will set up conference call with group leaders after all are registered. We have three parishes that are planning on registering. We would like four more. The cost of participation, for both youth and adult participants, is \$90.00 which includes the conference material, meals and overnight accommodations. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

Information for the Diocesan group going to Madrid, Spain in August of 2011 is on the Diocesan web pages for youth, young adult and campus ministry. The deadline for the diocesan group has been extended. Contact Mary Lou Hahn-Setta at 734- 475-3250 to get your group started with the Diocese of Lansing. Information for groups from St. Francis AA, St. John, Davison, and Siena Heights University will be posted as information arrives. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

## Middle School Rally and Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp

Registration materials are posted on our web page. Bob Rice will keynote this March 13 event at Jackson Lumen Christi Catholic High School. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

## EVANGELIZATION TRAINING FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

Registration materials are now available on our youth ministry and Evangelization web pages for this training with Frank Mercadante of Cultivation Ministries. Saturday, March 6 will be at St. Mary, Chelsea, and Sunday, March 7 will be at St. Gerard, Lansing. High school youth must register as a parish group with appointed adult leadership from their Church. Permission slips and health forms are on the web site. Adults may register individually. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/evangelization/index.html>

## STATE YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

It will be held March 19 & 20, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Lansing, MI. Young adults 18-35 will be attending from groups throughout Michigan. Check out the MICYAC web page for information updates monthly. <http://www.micyac.org/> Keynote speaker is Sr. Ann Shields from Renewal Ministries. Bishop Boyea will celebrate Mass. Noelle Garcia will have a concert Friday evening. Full slate of workshop, descriptions and speakers will be posted in January on the micyac web page.

## DIOCESAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

(DYLC) application packets are on line. Youth or youth ministers can download the material and get all completed in sent in by March 17 with deposit. This is the best possible leadership formation we can offer our teens. An email will be sent directly to youth ministry leaders with alternate Summer opportunities, including service opportunities, Steubenville info and other formation opportunities. DYLC is the only available opportunity whose primary focus is Catholic Leadership formation. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

## DIOCESAN LITURGY AND MUSIC CONFERENCE

You won't want to miss the 13th annual Diocesan Liturgy and Music Conference! This year's conference will be held on February 6, 2010 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Davison. Bishop Earl Boyea will lead us in prayer! The keynote will be Dr. Edward Hahnenberg of Xavier University in Cincinnati. We promise you will be entertained, inspired, and challenged by this nationally-renowned theologian and ecclesiologist. In addition, there will be workshops aimed at all liturgical ministers. Start the buzz and bring your friends -- as always, there will be multiple discounts for five or more registrants from the same parish. Registration brochure can be downloaded from [http://dioceseoflansing.org/worship/Lit\\_Music\\_2010.pdf](http://dioceseoflansing.org/worship/Lit_Music_2010.pdf) .For more information, please call the Office of Worship at 517-342-2480.

# FORMATION

The National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) is sponsoring "Telling our Ministry Story" a Gathering for Lay Ministers serving throughout Bishop's Region 6 - which includes all of Michigan and Ohio. This is the first in a series of Gatherings that NALM will sponsor - one in each of the 14 Episcopal Regions, over the next 18 months. Funded by a grant, these Ministry Gatherings are designed to provide a structure for lay ministers to reflect on their personal journey's and explore with colleagues the current trends and future developments for lay ministry in their region. The interactive process will include storytelling, small group discussion and a presentation from NALM Executive Director, Christopher Anderson. The opening "Story Teller" will be Jean Schaub, Pastoral Coordinator from St. Mary on the Lake, Manitou Beach. She will be one of several lay ecclesial ministers from the Diocese of Lansing attending the NALM Region 6 Gathering. For more information about NALM check out the three Websites: [www.nalm.org](http://www.nalm.org) [www.emergingmodels.org](http://www.emergingmodels.org) and [www.co-workers.org](http://www.co-workers.org).

For more information contact Nancy Joseph at [njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org) or by phone at 517-342-2512

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES



## CATHOLIC OUTREACH - FLINT

Catholic Outreach begins its 34th year of operation by continuing to serve the less fortunate with compassion and concern. With the current state of the economy hitting the Flint area particularly hard, the agency is assisting more neighbors with such basic necessities as rents/foreclosures, water/electric bills, food, personal needs, diapers and baby formula. Anyone who comes for help outside these areas is provided a resource list and if necessary allowed to use the agency's phone to contact other agencies that may be able to help them with their particular need.

St. Christopher Children's Transportation Program continues to transport seriously ill children with special medical needs to hospitals in Ann Arbor, Detroit and Lansing. The program also transports children from outside of Genesee County to Hurley Medical Center in Flint. This vital service assists approximately 100 children. It will have safely transported kids to over 400 medical appointments by the end of this year. Drivers are on call 24 hours a day and feel extremely blest to be part of these courageous children's lives. If scheduling permits, the program works with Jewish Family Services in transporting adults and with the Veterans Administration in helping with veterans.

Catholic Outreach Founder, Sister Claudia Burke, is retired and now living at the Franciscan Mother House in Cincinnati. The agency stays in contact with her often and keeps her informed on agency happenings. She keeps the agency and those served in her prayers.

If you would like more information on Catholic Outreach or to make a donation of money or a gas card, please call 810-234-4693 or write us at PO Box 815, Flint, MI, 48501.

## SMART STEPS FOR STEP-FAMILIES

Call your local agency, or the Family Life office (517-342-2471). Be on the lookout for a promotional flyer on the study guide by Dr. Mary Healy called Men & Women are from Eden. This study guide is terrific as a parish based program for marriage prep, enrichment, or education. If someone at your parish would like to facilitate this program call the office of Family Life (517-342-2471). There will be a Clinical Training on Post Abortion Grief, facilitated by the Founders of Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, Theresa and Kevin Burke on December 4, 2009, is co-sponsored by the Project Rachel Ministries of the Dioceses of Lansing and Grand Rapids. The location for this event will be Cathedral Square, 360 Division Avenue, Grand Rapids. Call the office of Family Life for registration (517-342-2471).

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT

## SHIELD THE VULNERABLE - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Shield the Vulnerable is dedicated to raising awareness of abuse and neglect, and providing training and resources to help protect the most vulnerable members of our communities. Shield the Vulnerable provides “. . .innovative, state-specific, online training. . .to teach adults who interact with children, youth and elders how to recognize, report and prevent abuse or neglect.”

Beginning July 1, 2009, Shield the Vulnerable [STV] was implemented in the Diocese of Lansing as the online training for adult volunteers who interact with children and youth. The course incorporates statespecific mandatory reporting law and the Diocese of Lansing Volunteer Code of Conduct. STV courses are available in both English and Spanish.

Shield the Vulnerable is for adult volunteers who absolutely are unable to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults Awareness Session.

The volunteer will register themselves for the STV course. STV has a comprehensive Data Management System that makes tracking and reporting easy to meet the USCCB audit requirements. You will receive further information/instruction as soon as STV is tailored to the Diocese of Lansing. Questions? Call Sally Ellis, Safe Environment coordinator, 517-342-2551.

## PERSONS WITH DIS / ABILITIES

### NAFIM

Resources on disAbilities: The National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAFIM) is a nonprofit membership organization of persons with and without disabilities working and praying together for the good of the whole Church to realize justice for persons of all abilities in the parish and in religious, social and civic life. We share with you and invite you to share with us. New Publication Information Sheets on Catechesis in English and Spanish and First Reconciliation Preparation Tips for Parents, Teachers and Pastors at: <http://www.nafim.org/files/index.php?section=resources&cat=infoSheets>



# WORSHIP

## CALENDAR ITEM - RITE(S) OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

... will be held at three sites this year on the first weekend of Lent.

**Saturday, February 20 9:30 AM** St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing

**Saturday, February 20 2:00 PM** Christ the King, Ann Arbor

**Sunday, February 21 3:00 PM** St. John the Baptist, Howell (Hartland)

Please mark your calendars with these dates.

Materials will be sent to parish Directors of RCIA after the first of the year.

## VOICES ALIVE TO PUBLISH ELECTRONIC EDITION ONLY

Effective with the January, 2009 edition VOICES Alive! the newsletter of the Central Service Departments of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing will no longer publish a hardcopy edition. The newsletter will only be available online, at the diocesan website <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org>. An e-mail notification will be sent each month when the newsletter is posted to the site.





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## DIOCESAN CALENDAR January - March, 2010

January 7-8	Michigan Winter Gathering of Parish and Diocesan Catechetical Leaders	February 16	9:30am, DRE Advisory Committee, Diocesan Center
January 10-17	Vocations Week	February 17	Ash Wednesday
January 14	1:00pm Diocesan Pastoral Council	February 18	9:00am, Pastoral Ministers and Administrators' Retreat – Bethany House, DeWitt
January 16	10:00am Youth Events Committees, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing	February 20	9:30am, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - St. Mary Cathedral
January 19	10:30am Diocesan Evangelization Advisory Committee Teleconference	February 20	2:00pm, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - Christ the King, Ann Arbor
January 20	10:30am Diocesan CAFE Advisory Committee Teleconference	February 21	3:00pm, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - St. John the Baptist, Howell
January 20	11:45am Diocesan Christian Initiation Advisory Committee Teleconference	March 6	10:00am, Youth Events Committees and DYAC - St. Mary, Chelsea
January 21	6:16pm Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis	March 6	11:00am, Evangelization Training, St. Mary, Chelsea
January 25	Anniversary of Ordination and Installation of Bishop Mengeling (1996)	March 7	12:40pm, Evangelization Training, St. Gerard, Lansing
February 1-6	Catholic Schools Week	March 8	Evangelization Training for Catholic School students, Lansing Catholic Central High School
February 1	10:00am, Catholic Schools Week Liturgy - St. Mary Cathedral	March 10	10:00am, Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
February 6	8:00am – 3:30pm, Liturgy and Music Conference, St. John the Evangelist, Davison	March 10	10:00am, Principals' Meeting – Diocesan Center
February 7	Legislative Evening, Saint Joseph Parish, Adrian	March 10	10:30am, Diocesan Worship Commission
February 11	12:30pm, Implementation Commission, St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton	March 11	Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
February 13	10:00am, Youth Rally Committee, Location: TBA	March 13	Middle School Rally - Lumen Christi Catholic High School, Jackson
February 15	6:30pm, Young Adult Council, Diocesan Center	March 17	Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
		March 18	Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA

***VOICES Alive! will become an online publication in January, 2010***

To sign up for e-mail delivery of *VOICES Alive*, send a request to [mdiebold@Faithcatholic.com](mailto:mdiebold@Faithcatholic.com)