

## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

**Fact: In allowing and promoting abortion, FOCA goes far beyond even *Roe*.**

FOCA states that every woman has a “fundamental right” to have an abortion, and no government (federal, state, or local) may “deny” or “interfere with” this right. Moreover, no government may “discriminate” against the exercise of this right when regulating or providing “benefits, facilities, services, or information” to the public. In other words, abortion may not be treated differently from live birth -- if a public program supports motherhood it must equally support abortion. FOCA endangers a wide range of laws enacted by the people and their elected representatives over 35 years -- laws upheld under *Roe* and cases applying it. These include laws on informed consent, parental involvement, physician licensure, clinic safety, and taxpayer funding. FOCA’s far-reaching rule on abortion is more radical than anything wrought by *Roe*.

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### THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT (FOCA)

In late April 2007, Senator Obama, along with Senator Clinton and others, re-introduced the federal Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). It is a radical attempt to enshrine abortion-on-demand into American law. If passed and signed into law, it would sweep aside existing laws that the majority of Americans support, such as requirements that licensed physicians perform abortion, fully-informed consent, parental notification, and it would prevent states from enacting protective measures in the future.

FOCA is a cynical attempt to prematurely end the debate over abortion and declare “victory” in the face of mounting evidence that (a) the American public does not support the vast majority of abortions being performed in the U.S. each year, and (b) abortion has a substantial negative impact on women.

Women are not the only ones negatively affected by abortion. Our culture has shifted in its understanding of what constitutes a “quality” life. The USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities reminds us that those who judge the value of human lives by their “quality” forget that weaknesses and dependency are appeals to care and support on the part of those with greater mental and physical gifts. They equally forget that the “quality” of our own lives depends on our becoming mature enough to set our interests aside to serve those most in need, and thus building what John Paul II called a civilization of love.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has proposed a massive postcard campaign expressing our strong rejection of FOCA prior to its re-introduction in the new Congress. The postcard campaign will be a three-week campaign beginning January 25, 2009. All parishes are encouraged to participate. Materials are available in English and Spanish and may be ordered at <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/FOCA/>

## NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

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

### INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 pm, Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 9 am, St. Patrick, Brighton

Saturday, Jan. 24 at 9 am, St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing

Monday, Jan. 26 at 7 pm, St. Martha, Okemos

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 5 pm, St. John the Evangelist, Davison

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

### NFP CLASSES

**Billings Ovulation Method:** Call Maria at 517-523-3526.

**Sympto-Thermal Method:** Taught by Couple to Couple League. For class schedule, contact diocese or the website: [www.ccl-mi.org](http://www.ccl-mi.org).

**Creighton Model Fertility Care System:** Call Amanda Venema at 517-242-3710 or email: [venemafamily@cablespeed.com](mailto:venemafamily@cablespeed.com).

**Family of Americas Ovulation Method:** Contact the NFP Office at 517-342-2587.

We have the Introduction to Natural Family Planning DVD available both in English and Spanish. Cost is \$ 5.00 each. We will send a complimentary copy to any parish that has not received one for their library. Just call the NFP office: (517) 342-2587 or email us at [nfp@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:nfp@dioceseoflansing.org).

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES



## CAREGIVER RETREAT DAY

**Persons with disAbilities and their Caregivers Retreat Day** will be held on Saturday, January 24, at St. Therese Parish, Lansing from 1:30-4:30 ending with 4:30 pm Mass at St. Therese Church. Tony Sperendi, Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Therese, will be the caregiver presenter. Reservations are required for this event. Call Ministry with Persons with disAbilities at 517-342-2497 or e-mail: [jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org) to RSVP or find out more information.

## FUNDRAISER FOR RAINBOW HOMES

(Christian supported living for adults with cognitive disAbilities in Holt) A Silent Auction & Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 7, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lansing. Kelly Dean of Dean Transportation will be our speaker for the evening. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. If you would like to purchase a ticket or donate an item for this fundraiser, please contact Joann at 517-740-0293 or e-mail [jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org). More information is available on our website at [www.rainbow-homes.org](http://www.rainbow-homes.org). Please consider joining us in celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year of changing the life experiences of adults with disAbilities and their families.

## CCMI MEETINGS

Christians Concerned about Mental Illness monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 in the Diocesan Center, Lansing from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Persons with mental illness and their families are invited to attend. Each meeting is a time for prayer, fellowship and sharing in a safe environment. No reservations are required. Call Joann at 517-342-2497 or e-mail [jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org) for more information.

## CMA LANSING GUILD

The Catholic Medical Association Lansing Guild is looking for medical personnel in all fields to become a part of this vital organization. CMA seeks to educate both the practitioners and the public on medical and ethical issues of concern to Catholics. Their annual Rose Mass and Banquet will be on March 21. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Rory at [rhoipkemier@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:rhoipkemier@dioceseoflansing.org) or Janet at [cmalansing@gmail.com](mailto:cmalansing@gmail.com).

## WELCOME BACK!

The Department of Catholic Charities is happy to announce that Mr. Vincent Gale, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Jackson County and former Director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)/Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will be returning to the diocesan office as the new Director of Family Life/CCHD/CRS.

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Most likely, if you are like me, your New Year's resolution has been made and broken several times over by the time you are reading this. I am not sure why, but it seems that breaking a New Year's resolution is just part of the process - I don't think I have ever been successful in keeping one for over a month! Reflecting on this has brought a bit of insight. Christ told us not to worry about tomorrow or about the past. Today is enough for us. Those resolutions seem much more manageable when they are broken down to one day at a time. Seek to do His will today. Love as He loves us.

As we begin this new year, please remember those who are incarcerated and those who are stigmatized by a previous conviction. Please remember that we are all brothers and sisters. If you are able, lighten someone's load today. The Diocese of Lansing, Office of Restorative Justice, has many opportunities available for doing so. Mentoring programs for children of prisoners, Pen Pal programs for corresponding with inmates searching for spiritual guidance and working with ex-offenders to strengthen their employment skills are just a few. This past Christmas, through the work of volunteers from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lansing, St. Peter's in Eaton Rapids and St. Mary's in Charlotte and the generosity of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, we were able to provide Christmas gifts for nineteen children in the diocese.

A big thank you goes out to the people of St. Therese Parish in Lansing for their generous contribution of yarn for the women prisoners of Scott Facility! Through that generous donation, 30 hats, mittens and scarves were crocheted for homeless children in Plymouth as well as 2 afghans. We are still accepting donations of yarn for next year! If you are interested in becoming involved, please call Tim Metts at the Office of Restorative Justice, 517-342-2495.

## CAPTIONED MASS FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

**The Catholic Mass** shown daily and Sundays on the **EWTN** Catholic network is live captioned for deaf and hard of hearing people. The Mass is shown live at 8 am, with repeats at 12 pm, 7 pm and 12 am. Check with your cable provider to locate the **EWTN** channel in your area. Many of the other EWTN productions are also captioned. Please share this information with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in your parish, especially those who are shut-ins.

## WEBSITE FOR DEAF CATHOLICS

Fr. Michael Depcik, who is Deaf, has a website especially suited to Deaf people who use sign language. Each week Fr. Depcik has a homily based on that Sunday's readings. The visual blog (VLOG) also includes signed prayers like the Rosary and other Catholic-related topics. The name of the program is Fr. MD's Kitchen Table and can be found at: [www.frmd.org](http://www.frmd.org).

## SOCIAL BENEFITS AND JOB READINESS SEMINARS

As the economy in Mid-Michigan sinks deeper into recession, the Lansing area parishes have partnered with Cristo Rey Community Center and the Diocese of Lansing Catholic Charities to present a six-part seminar covering social benefits and job readiness. The six seminar segments will be presented at the Diocesan Center, 228 N. Walnut, Lansing from 2:00 – 4:00 pm on six Sundays beginning on January 11. These segments will be "stand alone" seminars and an individual could attend one, several or all of the segments. The dates and topics for each segment are as follows:

**January 11:** Services available in the Mid-Michigan area. An explanation of the 2-1-1 system and all the agencies and benefits available to people in the Mid-Michigan area. An explanation of services available at St. Vincent Catholic Charities and Cristo Rey Community Center.

**January 18:** An explanation of services available at Capital Area Michigan Works.

**January 25:** Resume writing. Resume presentation on the web. Individual critique of resumes.

**February 1:** How to prepare for a job interview. Job interviews and mock job interviews.

**February 8:** Veteran benefits and services available to veterans. Basics of Entrepreneurship.

**February 15:** A job fair with business people present to talk about employment.

If there are questions, contact Robert Vogel at Cristo Rey Community Center at 372-4700, ext. 158, or email:

[rvogel@camw.net](mailto:rvogel@camw.net).

# OFFICE OF MISSIONS

## THE NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION

**MARCH 1, 2009**

The American Catholic Community has always reached out with generous hearts and giving hands to the annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection for 125 years. Deep gratitude and appreciation is expressed to the thousands of men, women and families who make their annual monetary gifts in parishes and communities across the United States. Once again we call on everyone to be prepared for the National Black and Indian Collection.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church beautifully teaches us that the Lord's missionary mandate is grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: "The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit. The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make all people share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love."

Many churches and schools in the Native and African American communities depend on the annual evangelization grants to continue their programs and pastoral activities. Together, we can make a difference in the faith lives of our Black and Indian brothers and sisters when we support the National Collection. Further, the collection promotes a sense of solidarity with the many priests, religious, deacons and laity who serve these communities.

Please join in to make a sacrificial gift to the 2009 NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN COLLECTION. Allow the "Spirit of love" to guide you in responding generously. Let the Collection this year be another witness of responsible stewardship. Each of us is needed, if we wish to bear faithful witness to the message of Christ's Gospel of love and redemption in the Black and Indian missions in the United States.

# PASTORAL PLANNING

## SHARE THE WEALTH – JANUARY 2009 GREEN IS BECOMING THE COLOR OF THE DAY ... A 'GREEN PARISH'? ... What is it all about?

If you are looking for a New Year's resolution that can be a boost for the environment and pay off in reduced expenses for you parish, why not consider having your parish become part of the Michigan Interfaith power and Light Coalition? Several of our parishes have become stewards of God's creation by promoting and implementing energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices. For more information, read the Share the Wealth article at [www.dioceseoflansing.org](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org).

### FAQ: TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

"Temporary administrator" and "parish administrator" are terms of convenience that refer to someone whom the bishop assigns to conduct certain routine administrative duties in a parish or other community of the faithful during the absence of its pastor. These duties normally include overseeing the finances, employees, and property of the community so that customary tasks of parish management are diligently fulfilled according to the norms of canon (church) law (**canons 1282-1289**), diocesan policy and **applicable** civil law. The precise duties and powers of the administrator in any given situation are specified by the bishop. Unlike the "parochial administrator" in canons 539-541, neither "temporary administrator" nor "parish administrator" are terms of canon law.

Those who fulfill the functions that the bishop designates are not required to be priests since they do not exercise full pastoral care over the community. However, in the case of a priest, the bishop may also add responsibility for some or all sacramental care of the community. Otherwise, he provides for it in another way. If the temporary administrator is a deacon, the bishop may designate responsibility for those acts of divine worship which a deacon is competent to administer.

(Sometimes parishes use the term "parish administrator" but with a different meaning (**e.g., business manager**) since no appointment by the bishop is involved).

# FORMATION

## PASTORAL RESPONSE TO PORNOGRAPHY AND CYBERSEX

*with Sr. Lynn Levo of the St. Luke Institute*

February 12, 2009 ~ 10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S -- BRIGHTON

\$30 covers seminar and lunch

Registration Form is available on the Diocese of Lansing Website

Office of Priestly Life and Ministry -

*this event is open to all interested*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **February 7**

Deacon Formation Classes - St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing

### **February 12**

Pastoral Response to Pornography - St. Patrick, Brighton \* *open to All*

### **February 26**

Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests with Bishop Boyea - SFRC\*

### **March 7**

Men's Conference - Lansing Center

### **March 14**

Deacon Formation Classes - St. John, Davison, 9am-3pm

### **March 27**

PPMA Spring Event - St. Patrick, Brighton

### **April 4**

Deacon Formation Classes - St. Casimir, Lansing 9am-3pm

### **April 25**

Deacon Formation - St. Mary Cathedral Crypt- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year only

### **May 1-3**

Permanent Diaconate Pre-Ordination Retreat, Bethany House, DeWitt

Presenter: Rev. Timothy Gallagher, OMV

### **May 4-8**

Spring Priest Retreat - SFRC

### **May 16**

Permanent & Transitional Diaconate Ordination, Saint Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing - 10:30 am, Reception to follow in school gym/cafeteria

### **June 5-6**

Ministry Formation Program Retreat- St. Francis Retreat Center

Director: Sr. Carol Weber

### **June 13**

Priesthood Ordination

### **June 26**

Senior Priest Appreciation Luncheon - Bethany House

### **July 30**

Midsummer Priest Day - Bethany House

### **July 31**

Vocations Awareness Lugnuts Game - Lugnut Stadium

\*Registration form available on Dioceses of Lansing Website

## THE COURAGE APOSTOLATE

Persons with homosexual desires have always been with us; however, until recent times, there has been little, if any, formal outreach from the Church in the way of support groups or information for such persons. Most were left to work out their path on their own. As a result, they found themselves listening to and accepting the secular society's perspective an opting to act on their same-sex desires.

He Eminence, the late Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, was aware of , and troubled by this situation. He knew that the individual dealing with same-sex attractions truly needed to experience the freedom of interior chastity and in that freedom find the steps necessary to living a fully Christian life in communion with God and others. He was concerned that many would not find this path and would be constantly trying to get their needs met in ways that ultimately do not satisfy the desires of the heart.

In response to this concern, he decided to form a spiritual support system which would assist men and women with same-sex attractions in living chaste lives in fellowship, truth and love.

With the endorsement of the Holy See, Courage now has more than 110 Chapters and contact people world-wide, over 1500 persons participating in its ListServes, and hundreds of persons per week receiving assistance from the main office and website. It has become a mainstream Catholic Apostolate helping thousands of men and women find peace through fellowship, prayer and the Sacraments.

In helping individuals gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the Church's teachings, especially in the area of chastity, Courage extends the Church's invitation to a life of peace and grace. In chaste living, one finds the peace and grace to grow in Christian maturity.

# EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

“HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SINGING?”

LITURGY AND MUSIC  
CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 7  
ST JOHN, HOWELL

## Goal 6, Strategy E: Promote education and formation for liturgical ministers

You are invited to participate in the diocesan Liturgy and Music Conference on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009. This year's conference, “How Can We Keep from Singing?” will feature noted composer, professor, and dynamic clinician Dr. Steve Janco.

There will be workshops for all liturgical ministers, RCIA teams, catechists and teachers, parish worship commissions and all interested parishioners.

The fee is still only \$25 for the day with a discount for more than five registrations from the same parish. Encourage all your liturgical ministers, catechists, parish worship commissions, and RCIA team members to attend!

The full registration brochure is posted to the diocesan website main page and the Office of Worship page. [http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/worship/Liturgy\\_&\\_Music\\_Conference\\_2009.pdf](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/worship/Liturgy_&_Music_Conference_2009.pdf)

Early registration deadline is Jan. 23.

We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 7th at St. John the Baptist Church in Howell (Hartland). The church is on M-59, two miles west of US 23.

Call Office of Worship at 517-342-2480.

**Refresh Retreat**, for young adult singles, in your 20's and 30's, is March 13-15. Don't miss the opportunity to get away and look at your life direction in light of your faith. Draw closer to God and His call to you with other young adults in the diocese. Watch our diocesan website. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youngadult/index.html> Retreat registration should be available at the end of January.



## CAFÉ

### Goal 1: Create comprehensive continuing adult education and formation opportunities

In addition to gathering people for adult faith formation opportunities, a parish can also provide for ungathered adult faith formation. Consider the following:

- Review the parish pamphlet rack. Include materials you feel are timely from an adult faith formation perspective. A number of publishers have attractive mini-newsletters which contain short articles on various aspects of faith formation.
- Consider including DVDs for your parish pamphlet rack. There is a growing number of organizations which provide a wide range of titles at a reasonable price.
- Offer online adult faith formation. Include a page or two of reading. Have one or two questions for reflection. Ask for a response from those who log on so that you can interact with them and also post online some of the highlights of that interaction.

Send your ideas for ungathered adult faith formation to Pete Ries at [pries@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:pries@dioceseoflansing.org).

## PARISH STAFF OPENINGS

### Goal 4: Nurture ministers and leaders in the life of the Spirit and the vision of the Church to use their gifts to serve the needs of all.

The Offices of Catechesis, Evangelization, RCIA, and Adult Faith Formation, and Youth and Young Adult Ministry run a clearinghouse of information for parishes with ministry openings for Director of Religious Education, Director of Adult Faith Formation, RCIA Director, Director of Evangelization, Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Pastoral Minister. We share the information we receive from parishes with individuals who are looking for positions and with those parishes which are looking for applicants.

If your parish – or you as an individual – are considering a change, we want to assist. The Diocese does not hire parish ministers, but can give assistance to this process and review the background and experience of candidates before a position is offered.

You can request a copy of the *Diocesan Hiring Guidelines for Parish Catechetical Leaders* or the *Diocesan Hiring Guidelines for Coordinators of Youth Ministry* that contain: leadership models, job descriptions and approaches to developing a job description, background and skills required for positions, interviewing techniques, and a checklist of duties for a search committee. Call: Michael Andrews at 517-342-2479, Pete Ries at 517-342-2486, or Pat Rinker at 517-342-2485.

## PASTORAL MINISTERS/ADMINISTRATORS RETREAT

### Goal 4.3, Strategy A: Emphasize through formation and education that spiritual growth in the likeness of Christ is the heart of ministry and leadership.

Principals, DREs, CYMs, Directors of Adult Faith Formation, RCIA Directors, Directors of Evangelization, Pastoral Ministers are invited to participate in this retreat on Thursday, February 19, 9:00am - 3:00pm at Bethany House, DeWitt. Deacon Michael Murray will lead this day of reflection, sharing and relaxation with others involved in educational, catechetical and pastoral ministry.

For registrations materials call Caludia Kaloz at 517-342-2482 or [ckaloz@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:ckaloz@dioceseoflansing.org).

# EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES:

**Goal 7.1 Engage youth, college students, and young adults through ministry and creative programming:**

**DYAC and Youth Events Committees** have their next meeting January 17, 10:00am – lunch, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lansing. Diocesan Youth Advisory will meet January 17 & 18 at the Quality Inn on Grand River Dr. in Lansing, beginning at 3:00pm.

**National Catholic Youth Conference** deposits will be due by January. A separate mailing by email went out in November with forms for participants and vital information. The response is less than projected and some parishes have chosen not to go for financial reasons. **If you had decided not to offer this trip please reconsider.** Remember that both the federation and our office offer financial assistance. Make this opportunity available for all youth. We have found out that our hotel is the Holiday Inn at the Plaza. The entire hotel is ours if we keep our projection of 300 people. We are now at an estimated 250.

**Middle School Rally and Diocesan Leadership Camp** info are on our website. Rally is a great experience of evangelization for our early teens. DYLC is the best experience of discipleship formation we have and is a model program for others around the country. Scholarship assistance is available. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

**State Young Adult Conference is coming.** Go to [www.micyac.org](http://www.micyac.org) for info. Register and pay online. Many of you in ministry are also young adults. Come join us.

## EVANGELIZATION AND PARISH LIFE

**Goal 2, Strategy B: Design and implement a systematic plan for evangelization.**

In November two regional gatherings of parish leaders involved and interested in evangelization were attended by 41 people from 18 parishes. Participants shared ideas, reviewed resources and considered approaches to expanding or beginning a parish evangelization team.

In February a second round of regional gatherings is scheduled. Pastors/Pastoral Coordinators, Directors/Chairpersons of Evangelization and Teams are invited to consider concrete ways to develop the ministry of evangelization in the parish. Agenda will include:

- light supper
- two types of parish evangelization committees
- a possible schema for systematically developing evangelization in a parish
- parish to parish sharing of evangelization strategies and resources

Choose either Tuesday, February 10, at St. John the Evangelist, Fenton or Wednesday, February 11, at St. Joseph Shrine, Brooklyn. Both evenings are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Please pre-register by returning the form below so that we can prepare.

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### Evangelization and Parish Life

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and Site You Will be Attending:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, St. John the Evangelist, Fenton

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, St. Joseph Shrine, Brooklyn

**Return to: Ava Pung, Diocese of Lansing, 300 West Ottawa, Lansing, MI, 48933 or fax to Ava at 517-342-2515 or [apung@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:apung@dioceseoflansing.org)**

## PARISH-BASED TRAINING FOR ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEES

**Goal 3.1: Create comprehensive continuing adult education and formation opportunities.**

This 10 clock hour training program can be scheduled at your parish at a time of your choosing. It includes practical, ready-to-use approaches to developing and energizing adult faith formation in your parish. Call Pete Ries at 517-342-2486, [pries@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:pries@dioceseoflansing.org), to schedule this training.

### SMALL GROUP FACILITATION SKILLS

**Goal 3, Strategy C: Ensure that adult faith formation utilizes a wide range of adult learning styles.**

St. Francis of Assisi will offer this inservice, conducted by Pete Ries on **Monday, February 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** This inservice will explore common challenges in facilitating small group discussions. It will cover:

- the role of the discussion leader
- some common mistakes in group discussions
- things to keep in mind when leading a group discussion
- various types of questions which
- produce more participation
- how various types of participants can add or detract from the quality of a small group discussion

Invite people who lead your Lenten discussion groups, RCIA table leaders and dismissal leaders, bible study group leaders, small faith community leaders, etc. Pre-register by calling 517-342-2486, or [pries@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:pries@dioceseoflansing.org). Call Janene Ternes at St. Francis of Assisi, 734-821-2122.



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**DIOCESAN CALENDAR  
 JANUARY - MARCH, 2009**

February 7	Litruhy & Music Conference, St. John the Baptist, Howell, 8:30am - 3:30pm	March 1	Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion, St. John, Fenton, 3:00pm
	Youth Events Planning, Queen of the Mir. Medal, Jackson, 10:00am -1:00pm	March 2	DEC Staff Meeting, Veritas Hall
February 9	Young Adult Advisory, Diocesan Cnt., 6:15pm	March 3	CYM Advisory, Veritas Hall, 9:30am -1:00pm
	Inservice "Small Group Facilitation Skills", St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor, 7:00-9:00pm	March 4	Regional Meeting of DRE/ CYM/ Pastoral Ministers, Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale Regions, St. Catherine, Concord, 9:30am - 12:00noon
February 10	DRE Advisory, Diocesan Cntr., 9:30am	March 5	Regional Meeting of DRE/ CYM/ Pastoral Ministers, Genesee/Owosso Region, SS. Charles & Helena, Clio, 9:00am - 12:00noon
February 11	Regional Evangelization Gathering, St. John the Evangelist, Fenton, 6:30pm	March 7-8	Remarriage Seminar, Maryville Center, Holly
	Worship Commission, 10:30am - 3:00pm	March 7	Youth Events & DYAC, St. Mary, Chelsea 10:00am - 1:00pm
February 12-13	NACARE Region VI Meeting, Weber Center, Adrian, 1:00pm - 3:00pm	March 10	CYM Advisory, Diocesan Cntr., 9:30am
	Implementation Comm., Queens, Jackson		Regional Meeting of DRE/ CYM/ Pastoral Ministers, Lansing Region Location: TBA 9:30am - 12:00noon
February 16	President's Day	March 11	Regional Meeting of DRE/CYM/ Pastoral Ministers, Livingston & Washtenaw Regions Location: TBA, 9:30am - 1:00pm
February 17	Remarriage Facilitators, 6:30pm		Principals Mtg, Diocesan Cntr., 10:00am
February 19	Pastoral Ministeres Retreat, Bethany House, DeWitt, 9:00am - 3:00pm	March 12	Diocesan Staff Retreat, Bethany House, DeWitt, 08:30am - 04:00pm
February 25	Ash Wednesday		
February 28	Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion, St. Joseph, Dexter, 9:30am		
	Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion, St. Gerard, Lansing, 2:00pm		

*Help us decrease printing and posting expenses!*

To receive *VOICES Alive* via e-mail each month, send a request to [mdiebold@DioceseofLansing.org](mailto:mdiebold@DioceseofLansing.org)