

He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), and was the recipient of the organization's 2007 Distinguished Service Award. Following his retirement, the Diocesan Office of Evangelization, RCIA, and Adult Faith Formation was dissolved. Aspects of this office's responsibilities in the area of evangelization will now be handled by Patrick Rinker, Diocesan Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry; and aspects of RCIA and adult faith formation will be handled by Michael Andrews, Diocesan Director of Catechesis. Beginning July 1, Peter Ries will serve as RCIA Director at Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish and Saint John Student Center, East Lansing.

The Department of Education and Catechesis prays that God will abundantly bless Father Mattson as he takes on his new responsibilities, and will graciously reward Sister Dorita Wotiska and Peter Ries as they begin a new phase in their continued service to the Lord.

The Department of Education and Catechesis is comprised of the Offices of Catechesis, Liturgy, Schools, Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries.



NEW CHAIR WELCOMED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

The Department of Education and Catechesis welcomes its new chair, Father Steven Mattson, Ph.D., who has also been appointed Superintendent of Catholic Schools. At the same time, the Department bids farewell to two veteran diocesan leaders: Sister Dorita Wotiska, OP, Ph.D., who is retiring as department Chair and Superintendent, and Peter Ries, the retiring Director of the Office of Evangelization, RCIA and Adult Faith Formation.

Father Steven Mattson was ordained in 2005 and served as associate pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing until he was named Pastor of Saint Mary Queen of Angels Church in Swartz Creek in February, 2008. Before studying for the priesthood, Father Mattson pursued a graduate degree in curriculum, instruction, and educational policy from Michigan State University. While in the seminary, he completed his doctoral dissertation, "Changing Metaphors: Instructional Reform as Evangelism," and was awarded a Ph.D. in Education in 2003. Prior to entering the seminary, Father Mattson served as principal of Grattan Academy, a K-8 charter school in west Michigan, and he taught at Lansing Community College and Michigan State University. In addition to his doctorate, he holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Michigan State University and an S.T.B. and M.Div. from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois. Father Mattson continues as Pastor of Saint Mary Queen of Angels in Swartz Creek.

Sister Dorita Wotiska, OP, Ph.D., has served the Diocese of Lansing since 1982, first as Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and three years later as Superintendent. She became Chair of the department in 1994. Originally from Chicago, Sister Dorita entered the Adrian Dominican Sisters, Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, in 1954. She was awarded a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Michigan State University in 1980. Sister Dorita has served as past president of the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (M.A.N.S), and as a member of the United States Department of Education National Review Panel for the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Prior to her service in the Diocese of Lansing, she was the Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Gaylord, and served as principal at Saint Stephen School, Saginaw.

Peter Ries is retiring as the Diocesan Director of RCIA, Adult Faith Formation, and Evangelization. From 1988 to 2005, Peter Ries served as the Diocesan Director of Catechesis. (continues at top of left column)

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NEW LIFE

New Life is a faith-based movement whose mission is to provide the necessary spiritual, emotional and physical needs of recent parolees to the Lansing area. New Life provides mentoring, direct aid and encouragement to ex-offenders. They are encouraged to attend church services and volunteers provide transportation to those services.

A primary focus of the program is a fourteen week class called "Image". This is a self esteem building program which has been specifically modified to address the needs of ex-offenders. The program runs continuously and a parolee may begin at any point in the program to complete the fourteen weeks.

The output services provided include mentoring, employment assistance, clothing, groceries, medications needed and housing. They are assisted in obtaining job training and those skills necessary to function in society.

New Life identifies success through a reduction in recidivism from the current rate of over fifty per cent.

New Life cannot succeed without the generous support of volunteers. Without our support, the people coming out of prison will not succeed. They have done their time. It is now time for us to use our expertise to assist those willing to work with us giving a helping hand through volunteering, mentoring and giving our love and compassion.

In addition to New Life, there are other aftercare organizations in other cities of the diocese. Regeneration - Beginning Anew is in Jackson and REAP - Re-entry After Prison is in Adrian. Also, there are efforts in Flint and Washtenaw areas.

Currently, there are several churches that have joined with New Life in this effort. The greater the diversity, the better the chance of success will be. To learn more, please contact Bob Heriford at 517-342-2500 or Tim Metts at 517-342-2495.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



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>

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING SACRAMENTS

Resources available from Ministry with Persons with disabilities - "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with disabilities" by: USCCB also "Opening Doors of Welcome and Justice to Parishioners with Disabilities - A parish Resource Guide" by: National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Please contact Joann, for these and other resources available at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org Information is also available at: <http://www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/policy/church/bishops>

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP)

Note: There will be a charge of \$ 10.00 per couple, for all Introductions to Natural Family Planning Classes. 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, 300 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

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

- Sunday, August 23, 2009 at 4:00 pm, at St. Jude, DeWitt
- Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 pm, at St. Mary, Pinckney
- Sunday, September 20, at 5:00 pm, at St. John the Evangelist, Davison

Pre-registration is required for all participants. Contact: NFP Program at 517-342-2587 or nfp@dioceseoflansing.org.

NFP Classes Offered in the Diocese of Lansing

In the Diocese of Lansing, several methods of Natural Family Planning are taught, pre-registration is required for the following classes:

- Family of Americas Ovulation Method:
Call the NFP Office to register: (517) 342-2587.
- Sympto-Thermal Method: taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL)
Lansing Area Class - Starting September 12th, at St. Mary Cathedral.
Call Ed & Michelle Rivet at (517) 676-5915. Check website for Classes at: ccl-mi.org
- Creighton Model Fertility Care System:
Call Amanda Venema at (517) 242-3710 or e-mail: venemafamily@cablespeed.com
- Billings Ovulation Method: Call Maria - (517) 523-3526

CATHOLIC DEAF/HH MINISTRY

Retreat for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, The Bible and Beach Retreat will be at the DeSales Center in Brooklyn, Friday, August 14 - Sunday, August 16, 2009. Deacon Patrick Graybill will present, Fr. Michael Depcik, OSFS will be the celebrant for the weekend Liturgy. Cost is \$95 per person. Children must be accompanied by a parent and cost is reduced depending on age. Contact Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

There will be a **Protecting God's Children Awareness Session** for Adults at the Diocesan Center, Madonna Hall, August 11, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. This is being held in conjunction with the orientation days for new principals, DREs, CYMs, teachers. Pre-register at www.virtus.org

REMINDER: Praesidium Called to Protect for Youth "train the trainer" workshops will be held on the following days:

Tuesday, August 18, Lansing Catholic Central High School

Wednesday, August 19, Luke M. Powers High School, Flint

Thursday, August 20, Father Gabriel Richard High School, Ann Arbor

Friday, August 21, Queen of the Miraculous Medal School, Jackson

Principals, DREs, CYM's and staff who will be teaching the material are required to attend one of the sessions:

The workshops are from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Christy Schiller, Praesidium's Called to Protect™ Program Manager will facilitate the training. Principals, DREs, CYM's and staff who will be teaching the material are required to attend one of the sessions.

Lunch is included. Registration fee is \$10 to help defray the cost of refreshments and lunch.

Downloaded the registration form at: http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/safe_environment/index.html
Contact Sally Ellis, 517-342-2551; sellis@dioceseoflansing.org

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

Parishes are signed up and we are now at 255 people. Scholarship assistance is available. Please contact our office this month so that assistance can be calculated into balances owed. The total cost per person is \$570.00 We need list of all adults attending, their parish, and their birthdates for CBC. Please contact Pat Rinker, 517-342-2485.

ORIENTATION FOR PARISH MINISTRY LEADERS

... DRE's, CYM's, Adult Formation and Pastoral Ministry Leaders, Principals, New Pastors, will be held, Wednesday, August 12, at the Diocesan Center. As new people are hired this Spring and Summer, please register them for orientation for their ministry.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND LEGAL ISSUES DAY

... is Wednesday, September 16. Please contact our offices with legal issues you would like addressed by August 15. Dcn. Michael Murray will be able to prepare his presentation in light of our concerns. It is vital that leadership people responsible for faith formation attend as we will introduce the new high school curriculum during our business meeting. The learning outcomes from this curriculum can also be of great benefit for those in adult formation.

FORMATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 31 - Family Night Celebration of Vocations - Oldsmobile Park, 6pm

Aug 4 - Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist Final Profession, Christ the King, 10am

Aug 8 - Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist First Profession, Christ the King, 10am

Aug 10 - Permanent Deacon - Rite of Reader Retreat - St. Joseph Shrine, Irish Hills, 6pm

Aug 14-16 - Seminarian Gathering - Bethany House, 10am

Aug 14 - Seminarians & Deacon Community Picnic Social- Bethany House, 6pm

Aug 15 - Seminarian Rite of Candidacy, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 5pm

Aug 16 - Prospective Seminarian Dinner with the Bishop, Bethany House, Social begins at 3pm, followed by Overnight Retreat for young men 16 years and older discerning the Priesthood

Aug 24 - Installation to Office of Reader for Permanent Deacon Candidates- St. Mary Cathedral, 7pm

Sept 1 - Bishop's 2nd Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser

Sept 16 - Aspirant and Deacon Formation classes begin

Sept 28 - Oct 1 - Presbyteral Convocation - McGuire's, Cadillac MI

Oct 3 - Deacon's St. Francis Day - St. Agnes, Fowlerville

Oct 16 - Lay Ecclesial Ministry Convocation - St. Agnes Fowlerville



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DIOCESAN CALENDAR August - September, 2009

July 31	Knights of Columbus Family Night, Oldsmobile Park	September 1	Bishop's Golf Classic for Seminarian Education
		September 7	Labor Day, Central Offices Closed
		September 9	Diocesan Worship Commission, 10:30am - 3:00pm, Diocesan Center
August 10	Feast of St. Lawrence, Deacon	September 10	Implementation Commission, 1:00 - 3:00pm St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton
August 11-13	Summer Scripture Days, Bethany House, DeWitt	September 11	Washtenaw Vicariate Meeting, Saint Andrew, Saline, 11:00am - 5:00pm
August 11	Orientation for New Catholic School Teachers, 9:00am - 12:00pm, Diocesan Center	September 11	Lansing Vicariate Meeting, St. Mary, Charlotte 11:00am - 5:00pm
August 11	Virtus Training, 1:00 - 4:00pm, Diocesan Center	September 12	Prison Ministry Conference, 8:00am - 5:00pm, Diocesan Center
August 12	Orientation for New Pastors, Administrators, Ministers, 9:00am - 3:30pm, Diocesan Center	September 16	Legal Issues Day, 9:00am - 1:00pm
August 13	Principals' Meeting, 9:00am - 3:30pm, Diocesan Center	September 16	DRE/CYM/Pastoral Ministers' Business Meeting 1:00 - 3:00pm, Diocesan Center
August 13	LCCMA, St. Mary Student Parish, AA, 10:00am	September 17	Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis, 6:15 - 8:30pm ~ Diocesan Center
August 15	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, NOT a Holy Day of Obligation	September 19	Lansing Region Fall Formation Kick Off, St. Gerard, Lansing, 9:00am - 1:00pm
August 15	Rite of Candidacy, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 4:30pm	September 21	Senior Appreciation Liturgy, 8:00am - 5:00pm
August 15	Conversations in Ministry, Bethany House	September 21	NPM Dinner, Dialogue and Dessert, 7:00 - 9:00pm, St. Patrick, Brighton
August 18	Praesidium, Safe Environment, 8:00am - 5:00pm Lansing Catholic Central High School, Lansing	September 22	Siena Heights University Ministry Formation Classes begin, 11:00am - 5:00pm
August 19	Praesidium, Safe Environment, 8:00am - 5:00pm Fr. Luke M. Powers High School, Flint	September 23	Senior Appreciation Liturgy
August 20	Praesidium, Safe Environment, 8:00am - 5:00pm Fr. Gabriel Richard Regional H.S., Ann Arbor	Sept 28 - Oct 1	Presbyteral Convocation, McGuire's, Cadillac
August 21	Praesidium, Safe Environment, 8:00am - 5:00pm Queen of the Miraculous Medal School, Jackson		