

BUDGET REDUCTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

2009-10 Fiscal Year Budget
for the Central Service
Departments of the Diocese
of Lansing (figures in
parentheses denote change
from 2008-09 Fiscal Year):

Catholic Charities:
\$1,234,854 (-\$89,224)

Communications:
\$333,326 (-\$117,083)

Curia:
\$883,822 (-\$30,599)

Education and Catechesis:
\$536,093 (-\$271,748)

Finance:
\$1,348,505 (\$89,449)

Formation:
\$1,123,160 (-\$105,056)

Pastoral Planning:
\$151,335 (-\$38,863)

**Grants, Assessments,
Other :**

\$1,092,098 (-\$195,313)

Total:
\$6,703,103 (-\$890,877)



CENTRAL SERVICES CUT POSITIONS, REDUCE BUDGET

Bishop Earl Boyea recently met with the staff of the Central Service Departments and announced a restructuring plan that will result in a 2009-10 fiscal year reduction of the expense of operating those offices. Faced with reduced revenue, Bishop Boyea stated that good stewardship of the resources of the diocese require these changes. The annual Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) fell short of goal this year by approximately \$700,000.

Through reduced work hours, retirements, and the elimination of certain positions, the restructuring will result in reductions equivalent to five full-time staff. This, coupled with the merging of certain offices and ministries, will realize anticipated savings for the coming fiscal year of approximately \$900,000.

Highlights of the plan include the elimination of three full-time staff positions and a reduction in hours of a number of office director and support staff positions. Further savings will be realized by the merging of the Department of Communications with Faith Magazine, and the elimination of the Office of Evangelization. All remaining staff will see a reduction in salary and benefits.

Bishop Boyea stated that in the current economy, "we must use the resources of the diocese in the most effective manner. This plan makes no claim to being without mistakes. It is the best that I could do and we will have to live with my limitations in this matter. By the grace of God and the will of the Holy See, it is my prudent judgment which has been entrusted with the care of this diocese, which I am coming to love more and more every day, even through these difficult kinds of decisions."

March, 2009 Inside Voices Alive

Page 2 - 3

[Catholic Charities](#)

Page 4

[Pastoral Planning](#)

Page 5

[Formation](#)

Page 6 - 7

[Education & Catechesis](#)

Page 8

[Calendar](#)

**JACKSON AREA
CATHOLIC SPECIAL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Ministry with Persons with disAbilities and the Diocese of Lansing wishes to honor the Jackson Area Catholic Special Religious Education Program for 40 years of serving people with disAbilities. On Sunday, April 26, 2009, Fr. James Shaver will celebrate 12 Noon Mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish honoring the students, families, staff members and assistants that have been blest by this wonderful program that brings ALL people to the Lord's table. If you have ever been involved with this ministry as a student, family member or staff, you are invited to Mass and lunch to follow in St. John Parish Center. Knights of Columbus from St. John's will host our lunch. RSVP to Jeannette at 517-783-2748 or 517-783-5566 jlienhart@hotmail.com or Joann at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org

RETREAT DAY

Retreat Day for Persons with disAbilities and their Caregivers will be held Saturday, April 25, 2009 at St. Michael's Parish in Grand Ledge. It will be held in the school building beginning at 1:30pm and closing with Mass at 4:30pm with parishioners of St. Michael's Parish. Caregivers presenter will be Daniel Blauw, an attorney who will discuss "disAbilities Issues". Persons with disAbilities host Joann Davis will present "Easter People". RSVP required. Contact at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Much of the news today has been dealing with the severe budget crises in Michigan and around the country. Our government urgently needs to find ways to provide for the common good with less money. Every citizen of Michigan feels this need very deeply. We live in a state that spends one of every five dollars of the General Fund on our prison system. That is more than we spend on education. In an effort to deal with these problems, the Governor has closed several prisons, proposed sentencing and parole reforms and outsourced health care in an effort to rein in costs. Currently, there is a bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee that would allow juveniles sentenced to life without parole a chance at parole rather than paying for their incarceration until they die. The United States is the only country in the world that sentences juveniles to life in prison.

With the current fiscal climate and declining tax revenues, more changes are in order. We must find new and better ways to deal with the issues surrounding crime – the need for public safety, concern and compassion for victims and proper justice for the criminal. In January of 2009, The Justice Center of the Council of State Governments issued two reports in response to a request from Governor Granholm, Senate Majority Leader Bishop and Speaker of the House Andy Dillon. The reports, entitled "Analyses of Crime, Community Corrections, and Sentencing Policies" can be found online and offer excellent insight into this problem. The Office of Restorative Justice urges you to make your views known to your legislator on these very important issues.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life continues throughout Lent at the abortion mill on 6500 Centurion Drive, Lansing. Over 150 people have signed up to pray outside the clinic 24 hours a day seven days a week. We need you! Go to www.40daysforlife.com/lansing for maps, vigil calendar and wonderful stories of saved babies and women.

IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

The Michigan Immigration Rights Conference is holding two conferences. The first of two 2009 Summits will be held on March 27, 2009 at the [Lansing Community College West Campus](http://www.lansingcommunitycollege.edu) in the Executive Amphitheater. Registration is free, but please submit a registration form by March 20, 2009. (Late registrants may not be provided with a boxed lunch.) On the day of the Summit, check-in will begin at 8:30am. Go to <http://mirp.mpip.org/> for more information.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SHIAWASSEE & GENESEE COUNTIES

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties has an array of comprehensive health and human service programs that have been *Providing Help and Creating Hope* in Genesee County for over 65 years. Catholic Charities was founded in 1941 with the sole purpose of strengthening and preserving families. Our mission remains the same as we continue to strive to offer services that improve the quality of life for all in our community.

A unique program of Catholic Charities is the Kinship Caregivers Program. When parents are unable to take care of their children, the burden most often falls on the grandparents. Bud and Jane Mosley have been raising their 9-year-old granddaughter Jada and 12-year-old grandson Eric ever since the children's meth-addicted mother was deemed unfit. Both Bud and Jane are in their late sixties. They have dedicated themselves to raising their two grandchildren. This was a really big step for them. They had plans to travel the world; however, one phone call from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Protective Services, changed all that. The Mosley family represents a growing trend of grandparent-headed households in this country. In Genesee County alone, the American Community Survey indicated that there are nearly 15,000 grandparents raising their grandchildren. Of those, nearly 70% are still in the labor force, nearly 50% are single heads of households, and almost 10% are living in poverty.

Our Kinship Caregivers Program continues to be the only one of its kind in our area, providing caregivers with the resources they need to cope with the unique and difficult challenges that come with raising grandchildren. Strengthening kinship families helps many avoid placing their children in the foster care system – which is costly to our State and Federal governments and heartbreaking for children and families. Services for kinship caregivers include *kinship family coordination*, where a family service plan is developed and includes one-on-one case management, support groups, and other outreach services. Our program's *support groups and workshops* provide information and peer support for kinship caregivers and the children they are raising. *Group and individual therapy* is offered as needed as are *respite services*. We assist kinship caregiver families facing financial hardships with help acquiring services and items such as food, clothing, bedding, school supplies, recreational activities, and transportation. For more information contact Greg Wilson at 810-232-9950. To learn about other programs or attend a monthly Hope Tour, contact Kelli Davis at 810-232-9950, ext. 160.

RELIGIOUS ASL WEEK

Religious ASL Week, held annually at DeSales Center in Brooklyn, Michigan, is scheduled this year from July 26-31. The program is designed for priests, deacons, seminarians, qualified interpreters and lectors who minister to the Deaf Community. Participants learn how to better convey religious concepts for deaf ASL congregations. Presenters will be Fr. Michael Depcik, Deacons Pat Graybill and Dave Sommers who are deaf, and there will be a number of other professionals as well. Cost is \$360. For more information please contact Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CCHD local grant applications are due May 1, 2009. Applications are online at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/cchd/index.html> or contact Vince Gale at 517-342-2471.

FAMILY MINISTRY

“The natural family, as an intimate communion of life and love, based on marriage between a man and a woman, constitutes ‘the primary place of “humanization” for the person and society’, and a “cradle of life and love”. The family is therefore rightly defined as the first natural society, “a divine institution that stands at the foundation of life of the human person as prototype of every social order”. Indeed, in a healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them. For this reason, the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace.” –Pope Benedict XVI

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The Outreach Ministries of the Diocese of Lansing consist of Project Rachel, Bishop's Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Separated and Divorced, and BeFriender. Remember, our contact number has changed – for these programs call 517-745-5579.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The *Introduction to Natural Family Planning* is \$10.00 and couples must register with the Natural Family Planning Office at 517-342-2587 or at nfp@dioceseoflansing.org prior to attending the class. Checks can be made out to **Diocese of Lansing** and mailed to: Diocese of Lansing, NFP Office, 300 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

Introduction to Natural Family Planning (NFP) Classes

Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 2:30 pm, St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing

Thursday, April 02, 2009 at 7pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Flushing

Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 5pm, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Davison

Thursday, May 07, 2009 at 7pm, St. Casmir Parish, Lansing

Family of Americas Ovulation

Method: Saturday, April 18, 2009, 10:00am at Diocese of Lansing. Call the NFP Office to register: (517) 342-2587.

PASTORAL PLANNING

ENRICHING YOUR PARISH DURING LENT

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Oct. 11, 1992, Pope John Paul II presented the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to the faithful of the whole world, describing it as a “reference text” for a catechesis renewed at the living sources of the faith. Thirty years after the opening of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the desire for a catechism of all Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, which had been voiced in 1985 by the extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, came to fulfillment.

COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In order to realize more fully the *Catechism's* potential and in response to the request that had emerged at the International Catechetical Congress of October 2002, Pope John Paul II, in 2003, established a Commission under the presidency of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was given the task of drafting a *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as a more concise formulation of its contents of faith.

If you are looking for Lenten enrichment for your parish, consider searching the SHARING THE WEALTH website located on the homepage for the Diocese of Lansing. You will find several good ideas there for parish groups and families during Lent. “Family Stations of the Cross” and “The Walk to Jerusalem” are wonderful family activities. Other helpful hints can be found in “Grief Support Ministry”, especially during this time of unemployment and economic hardship. The need for social ministries is ever increasing today. Take a look at “Martha Meals Ministry”, “Knitting Ministry”, “Angels Outreach Ministry” and the “Dresser Ministry”. Out of the 35 programs listed there, hopefully your interest will be peaked in one or two of them”.

PLANNING TOMORROW'S CHURCHES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Which model of cluster is used? Who chooses the model?

Several models of clusters have been defined. These are described on the [website of the Diocese of Green Bay](#).

The model of cluster that will be used as we move into parish clusters will be determined by the needs of the parishioners and pastoral staff. It will vary from cluster to cluster. Consultation will take place with the Office of Pastoral Planning, the designated pastor and the pastoral staff of the cluster. The needs of the cluster parishes will be identified and staffing patterns determined. The guiding principle in any cluster is to minimize the number of programs/meetings. The underpinnings of this kind of ministry are cooperation and collaboration.



FORMATION

March 23

Ministry Certification Review Board - Spring Meeting, 10:30-2:00,
Diocesan Center, Lansing

March 27

PPMA Spring Event, St. Patrick Church, Brighton, 8:30-3:30.
Appreciative Listening, Practical practices for Finding Presence,
Compassion, Joy and Creativity. Presenter: Anna Marie Henrich.
\$25 for Non-PPMA members. Free to Members. Registration
available from Nancy Joseph- njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org

April 4

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

April 25

Deacon Formation - St. Mary Cathedral Crypt- 3rd 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 with Fr. Tim Nolan. Registration forms
available at <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org>

May 9

Ministry Formation Program - Spirituality Workshops, Sr. Carol
Weber, OP; 8:30-4:30, Diocesan Center, Lansing

May 16

Permanent & Transitional Diaconate Ordination ~ Saint Thomas
Aquinas, East Lansing - 10:30am ~ 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: Bishop Boyea will ordain Deacon Mark
Rutherford into the priesthood at 10:30am in St. Mary Cathedral

June 26

Senior Priest Appreciation Luncheon - Bethany House

July 30

Midsummer Priest Day - Bethany House

July 31

Vocations Awareness Lugnuts Game - Lugnut Stadium

Sept 28 - Oct 1

Presbyteral Convocation - McGuire's ,Cadillac MI

October 3

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

October 16

Lay Ministry Convocation - St. Agnes Fowlerville

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH EXECUTIVE ORDER PLACES POLITICS AHEAD OF SCIENCE

Michigan Catholic Conference
Vice President for Public Policy
Paul A. Long released the
following statement regarding
an executive order issued by
President Obama that permits
federal tax-payer funding of
embryonic stem cell research:

“President Obama’s executive
order regrettably places ideology
and political posturing ahead
of proven scientific therapeutic
advancements. There are
endless studies and stories of
patients who have been treated,
even cured of their debilitating
condition following stem cell
therapies that do not necessitate
the destruction of human
embryos, yet the president today
will sign an executive order
that makes every tax-paying
American citizen unwittingly
complicit in the destruction of
human embryos for experimental
research.

“In his remarks at the National
Prayer Breakfast on February
5, President Obama stated
‘There is no God who condones
taking the life of an innocent
human being. This much we
know.’ Unfortunately, there is
no consistency between this
profound statement and today’s
executive order - as destroying
human embryos is, in fact, taking
the life of an innocent human
being.”

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

PASTORS/PASTORAL COORDINATORS AND PARISH SECRETARIES

Goal 4.1: Clearly define present roles and create new roles in the Church to serve the pastoral and spiritual needs of people.

Job performance appraisal/administrative review forms for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and contracts for 2009-2010 have been sent to all principals, DREs, CYMs, Directors of Adult Faith Formation, RCIA Directors, and Directors of Evangelization with the mailing of this issue of VOICES. Please distribute to the appropriate people.

DREs, CYMs, DIRECTORS OF ADULT FAITH FORMATION, RCIA DIRECTORS, DIRECTORS OF EVANGELIZATION

Common Strategy 3: Assist every parish to develop a plan to improve communication.

The Department of Education and Catechesis 2009-2010 calendar has been completed and can now be found on the diocesan website, www.dioceseoflansing.org, offices and ministries tab, Department of Education and Catechesis front page. This year it is in text format. Any additions, deletions or changes will be made throughout the year and appear in an alternate style for easy recognition. Please confer with the calendar as you plan regional and parish events.



WORKBOOK/KIT FOR DEVELOPING A PARISH PASTORAL PLAN FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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

This 20 page workbook collects a recipe of worksheets and questions for a parish adult faith formation committee to work through. It considers all of the opportunities for adult faith formation already going on in parish life, three different approaches to adult faith formation, leadership, marketing and soliciting the support of pastoral leadership. Where do you want your parish adult faith formation effort to be one year from now? Three years from now? Systematic use of this workbook will allow a parish to build its pastoral plan based on what it thinks is doable and reasonable in the near future. To receive a copy, contact: Pete Ries, 517-342-2486, pries@dioceseoflansing.org.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

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.

Child Sexual Predators: Protecting Children Online will be presented by national expert Robert Hugh Farley Thursday, April 23, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at St. Patrick, Brighton, and 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Mary Cathedral Hall, Lansing. Intended for clergy, parish program leaders, principals, parents, guardians and the general public, registration fee is \$8.00. For further information and a registration flyer, call Margaret Grima at 517-342-2555, mgrima@dioceseoflansing.org

PASTORS/PASTORAL COORDINATORS

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.

Urge your parish DREs, Directors of Adult Faith Formation, and other catechetical leaders to take advantage of the 2009 National Conference for Catechetical Leadership Annual Conference being held this year in Detroit, April 27-30. The attached logo gives the theme of this conference which includes a wide variety of presentation styles and the opportunity for interaction with peers from across the country. The parishes of our diocese have been very generous in sending CYMs and teens to national teen conferences and CYMs to national CYM conferences. Make every effort to send your parish catechetical leaders to this event which this year celebrates the 10th anniversary of Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, the United States Bishop National Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation. Registration materials are available at www.nccl.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 will have their next meeting April 18, 2009 at St. Paul, Owosso. Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with lunch. Both groups will also meet March 7 at St. Mary Church, Chelsea.

State Young Adult Conference is coming. Link into www.micyac.org for info. You will be able to get registration material in January. You can even register and pay online. Remember, many of you in ministry are also young adults. Come in join us.

National Catholic Youth Conference parishes are signed up and we are now at 280 people. We have only received deposits for 190. Some parishes still need to get in their \$50.00 deposits. Scholarship assistance is available.

Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp is the best opportunity for forming young disciples offered for our diocesan high school youth. Application forms are on our website. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html> Final deadline is April 14. You only need a \$50.00 deposit to apply. Scholarship assistance is available.



VERITAS WEEKEND APRIL 3-5, 2009

Veritas is an opportunity for young adult men and women to discover and express their Catholic faith. The weekend consists of talks, music and activities focused on recognizing the role God plays in our everyday life. It is a blend of seriousness, fun, spiritual exercises, talks and discussions on topics of interest to young Catholic Christians. Click here for more information and registration form.

PARISH BASED TRAINING FOR EVANGELIZATION

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

If your parish is about to recruit members for its evangelization team or if you already have a team, consider a 6-clock hour training program.

Usually conducted in three 2-clock hour sessions, the first gives an overview of evangelization and how it is causing some major shifts in how we view Church membership and parish life. The second and third leads the parish evangelization team through the 3 pastoral goals of evangelization as set forth by the United States bishops and helps committee members strategize ways they can be done.

To explore this possibility or set up dates to bring this training to your parish, please contact Pete Ries at 517-342-2486, pries@dioceseoflansing.org.

MINISTRY POSITIONS

Goal 4.1: Establish a diocesan human resource office to attract, support and retain professional ministers at all levels throughout the diocese.

If your parish is seeking applicants for a position, or you or someone you know is interested in current openings in youth ministry, young adult ministry, adult faith formation, RCIA, evangelization, religious education or pastoral ministry, call: Pat Rinker at 517-342-2485; Pete Ries at 517-342-2486; Michael Andrews at 517-342-2484 or Nancy Joseph at 517-342-2512.

WELCOME HOME

Goal 2: Commit to our mission of evangelization by sharing the joy and promise of the Gospel with inactive and alienated Catholics and the unchurched.

Again this year parishes are doing Welcome Home spread out over the 12 months of 2008-2009. Forty parishes focused this activity July-December. Many parishes are doing Welcome Home January-June, 2009. Feedback from both groups will be tallied and sent to all the Welcome Home parish contacts and pastors/pastoral coordinators after Easter. For any questions about Welcome Home contact Pete Ries at 517-342-2486, pries@dioceseoflansing.org.

RCIA DIRECTORS

Goal 2: Commit to our mission of evangelization by sharing the joy and promise of the Gospel with inactive and alienated Catholics and the unchurched.

Refer to the March, 2009 issue of Today's Parish Minister for a number of articles related to the RCIA.



300 West Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48933

FIRSTCLASS
PRE-SORTED
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #782
LANSING, MI

**DIOCESAN CALAENDAR
MARCH - APRIL, 2009**

March 26	Diocesan Central Service Staff Retreat, Bethany House - offices closed	April 21	Diocesan Evangelization Advisory Committee, Diocesan Center, 9:30am
March 28	Young Adult Conference, St. Scholastica Parish, Detroit, 9:00am	April 22	Diocesan CAFE Advisory Committee, Diocesan Center, 9:30am
April 5	Passion/Palm Sunday		Diocesan Christian Initiation Advisory Committee, Diocesan Center, 11:45am
April 9	Chrism Mass, St. Mary Cathedral, 10:30am		Priestly Life & Ministry Committee, Veritas, 12:30pm
April 10	Good Friday ~ Diocesan Central Services offices Closed		
April 12	Easter Sunday	April 23	Child Sexual Predators: Protecting Children Online, St. Patrick, Brighton, 4 pm
April 13	Easter Monday ~ Diocesan Central Services offices Closed		Child Sexual Predators: Protecting Children Online, St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing, 9 pm
April 14-17	National Ed. Assoc/National Assoc of Parish Catechetical Directors Annual Conf., Anaheim, California	April 25	3rd yr Deacon Candidates Lunch, Veritas, 11:45am
April 16	Catholic Charities Day, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt	April 26-29	National Conference for Catechetical Leadership Annual Conference, Dearborn
April 18	Youth Events & DYAC, St. Paul, Owosso, 10:00am	April 26	Scout Committee Meeting, Lansing, 9:00am
April 19	Scout Reception and Award Ceremony, St. Mary Cathedral, 1:30pm	April 30	Diocesan Pastoral Council, Diocesan Center, 1:00pm

Help us decrease printing and posting expenses!

To receive *VOICES Alive* via e-mail each month, send a request to mdiebold@DioceseofLansing.org