

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).

November, 2009
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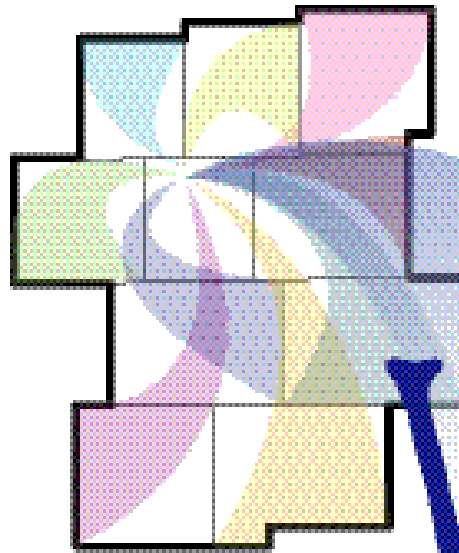
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ONLY 1 PRINT ISSUE LEFT

As of January '10 VOICES Alive! will no longer publish a print edition, but will be delivered via e-mail. To subscribe, e-mail MDiebold@FaithCatholic.com

VOICES *Alive!*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

On September 23, Catholic Charities USA convened its 2009 Annual Gathering in Portland, OR. The theme of this year's conference was "Journey to Reduce Poverty in America." The gathering marked the start of Catholic Charities USA's celebration of 100 years of service as a Catholic Social Service network in the United States.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lansing has been, and will continue, to strive to reduce poverty through the work of the Department of Catholic Charities at the diocesan level, and through our Catholic Charities agencies located throughout the diocese, in collaboration with their local Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals, and the community at large.

The objectively identified root causes of poverty, as documented by the U.S. Census Bureau, and acknowledged by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, are: 1) Lack of Education, 2) Broken Families, 3) Disabilities and mental health issues. Addressing these factors at the diocesan level, the Office of Family Life is focused on strengthening marriages by providing leadership in marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, and conflict resolution. The family also plays an important part in a child's education. Statistically kids from intact families have higher educational success. The Census Bureau report shows a direct correlation between high school graduation and poverty - the higher the educational success the lower the odds of poverty.

The Catholic Church has been trumpeting the importance of the family, well, forever. John Paul II said "The future of humanity passes by way of the family" (Familiaris Consortio). Just about all social justice issues can be addressed by concentrating on healthy (holy) families, which is what Catholic Charities is all about.

Our Catholic Charities agencies, located throughout the Diocese, will be starting a new Marriage Prep class for "ReMarriages" called (cont. at left)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

In a recent article in "One In God" (Vol 1, Issue 8) published by the Friends of the Master in Ann Arbor, an inmate named Bruce writes about life in the prison system. He notes that many of the prisoners spend their days playing cards, lifting weights, playing basketball and getting into trouble. Admitting that he was part of that culture for a while, he realized that prison will not change until the inmates change. So he set about changing the culture in prison by suggesting various educational programs for the prisoners. Due to his efforts, there are approximately 200 GED students, 30 inmates enrolled in college classes and a dozen tutors available for them. He has also suggested a "peer tutoring" program to the prison officials where the college students would assist the GED students.

Bruce is passionate about his faith and notes that the prison has an RCIA group, two weekly bible studies, group rosary and a variety of other religious activities. I am thankful that there are men and women in prison who are faith filled and eager to improve the circumstances there. If you are interested in helping, call Tim Metts at 517-342-2495.

FAMILY LIFE:

Courage & Encourage:

Catholic spiritual support for persons who struggle with same-sex attraction or behaviors and the family and friends who love them. Contact 517-351-3315 for more information or visit <http://couragerc.net>

PERSONS WITH DIS / ABILITIES

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, with reported cases growing at a rate of 10 to 17 percent a year. More information that be downloaded and personalized is available under "Catechetics" from the Archdiocese of Newark at: http://www.rcan.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_id=96. A good article on the topic can be found at <http://ncronline.org/news/faith-parish/autism-mass-and-religious-education>

Christians Concerned about Mental Illness- (CCMI) Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00pm at the Diocesan Center, Lansing. This support group is a chance to pray and share our stories. Call or e-mail Joann Davis at 517-342-2497 jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org for more information or visit our website at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/disAbilities/index.html>

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

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.

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

- Tuesday, November 26, 2009 at 7:30pm at St. Joseph Parish, Howell, Michigan
 - No Classes Schedule for December.
- 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

Several methods of Natural Family Planning are taught throughout the diocese. Pre-registration is required for the following classes:

Family of Americas Ovulation Method

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

Sympto-Thermal Method

taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL) www.ccli.org

Creighton Model Fertility Care System

Amanda Venema (venemafamily@cablespeed.com), 517-242-3710 or
The Caritas Center, Ypsilanti, 734-712-1990

Billings Ovulation Method

Call Maria 517-523-3526 for class information

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

DEAF/HH MINISTRY

Pastoral Week

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf will hold their annual Pastoral Week from Jan 15 to 19, 2010 in Houston Texas. This conference is a great opportunity for people involved with Deaf Ministry to come together to network and share experiences. Contact Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org

Mass Schedules for Deaf Community

The schedule of signed and interpreted Sunday liturgies for the deaf community throughout the diocese can be found under Catholic Deaf/HH Ministry on the Diocese of Lansing website at www.dioceseoflansing.org.

MULTI-CULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Pastoral Care of Migrants in the Era of Globalization

VATICAN CITY, NOV 2009

“Globalization”, said Archbishop Maria Veglio (speaking at the Sixth World Congress for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees at the Vatican), “has created a new labor market and, consequently, forced many to emigrate, also in order to flee from poverty, misery, natural catastrophes and local and international conflicts, as well as from political or religious persecution. This has opened markets to international intervention, but it has not torn down the walls of national boundaries to allow the free circulation of people, even with due respect for the sovereignty of States and their constitutional charters, safeguarding legality and security”.

“Specific pastoral care in relation to migrants is summarized in the value of welcome. This must be shown to people of various nationalities, ethnicity and religion and helps to make the authentic face of the Church visible. For such a pastoral care to be effective, co-operation between the migrants’ Churches of origin, transit and arrival is fundamental”.

“The present globalised world”, he concluded, “calls the Church to face, day by day, the causes of migration and the consequences it has in the lives of migrants and local people. The Church is close to migrants, especially to the victims of human trafficking, to refugees, to asylum seekers, and to the people who undergo the drama of human mobility. She is called to defend their cause in various contexts, also through collaboration in promoting adequate laws, at the local and international levels, that favor proper integration”.

ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

You are invited to take a Tour of Hope.

These guided behind the scenes tours of historic St. Vincent Catholic Charities highlight various aspects of our rich history, our services and our vision for the future. We will share a number of stories from over the

years that will inform and inspire you. These 60 minute tours are free to everyone in the community. Our Tour of Hope is a great way to learn firsthand about how Catholic Charities shares the love of Christ and transforms the lives of those living in crisis.

Tours of Hope are scheduled around your availability. Invite your friends, family and colleagues to attend a Tour of Hope on STVCC Campus. Or we can bring the Tour to your church, place of business, or home.

To Schedule a Tour of Hope, or for more information contact Rhonda Abood at (517) 323-4734 ext. 1205 or aboodr@stvcc.org

For Volunteer Opportunities contact Elyse Lee at (517) 323-4734 ext. 1204 or lee@stvcc.org

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.



EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

CATECHIST FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Check the webpage of the Office of Catechesis frequently for updates on catechist formation opportunities throughout the Diocese of Lansing: http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/index.html

Jackson Vicariate Catechist Formation

December 12, 2009, Jackson Catholic Middle School, 915 Cooper St. Jackson. Topics 1-10 and 20.

Eaton/Ingham Vicariate Catechist Formation

January 23, 2010, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lansing

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.

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

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 Holy St. Mary, Chelsea.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING RETREAT

The 2010 Catholic Social Teaching Retreat will be held at will be held in Bethany House at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. 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. Deadline to register is December 3, 2009. For more information go to the youth ministry web page. <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 for both events will be posted to our web pages in December and a mailing of the Rally poster and brochures will also be mailed to each parish.

EVANGELIZATION TRAINING FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

We will be bringing to our diocese Frank Mercandante. We are completing details but we are planning and two weekend opportunities and a program for our Catholic Schools. Mark March 6-8, 2010 on your calendars. We will be doing a five our training for teens and adults in a east and west location. A Monday program will take place for student leaders hosted by one of our Catholic High Schools. When details are finalized we will be sending our registration materials. Look for them in our December voices.

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/>

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

NEW! SECONDARY RELIGION CURRICULUM

Bishop Boyea has approved a new high school theology/religion curriculum for use in both school and parish based religious education. The document is found on the webpage of the Office of Catechesis http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/index.html and the Office of Catholic Schools <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/schools/index.html>

In reviewing the curriculum, note that the statements in bold are considered essential concepts that are intended for both parish and school religious education. The objectives in normal typeface are also to be used in school programs. They may be incorporated into parish religious education to the degree possible.

Special thanks to the members of the Secondary Religion Curriculum Institute and to Sustaining Pastoral Excellence for their great generosity in supporting the mission of Catholic education.

For further information on the High School Religion Curriculum and its content, use and implementation, please contact: Sally Amman, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, samman@dioceseoflansing.org; Michael Andrews, Director of Catechesis, mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org; or Patrick Rinker, Director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries prinker@dioceseoflansing.org.

MICHIGAN WINTER GATHERING

Save the date! The Michigan Winter Gathering of catechetical leaders will be held on January 7-8, 2010 at Bethany House, Dewitt.

DIOCESAN LITURGY AND MUSIC CONFERENCE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

You won't want to miss the thirteenth 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 ecclesialogist. 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. Look for flyers and registration brochures soon on the website. For more information, please call the Office of Worship at 517-342-2480.

FORMATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 2, 2009 PPMA Meeting - Diocesan Center. Contact Nancy Joseph, 517-342-2512 or njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org

December 14 Lay Ecclesial Ministry Advisory Committee Meeting - Diocesan Center. Contact Nancy Joseph, 517-342-2512 or njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org

January 4-7, 2010 Region VI Forum for Pastoral Leadership "Belonging Leads to Believing" Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor. Registration forms are available through the Priestly Life and Ministry office at 517-342-2510 or by e-mailing arivet@dioceseoflansing.org

February 6 Preparing for the Triduum - 9:00am - 3:30pm at Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor. Contact the parish at 734-761-8606.

March 11 Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests - St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Contact the Retreat Center at 866-669-8321.

May 3-7 Spring Retreat for Priests with Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. At Bethany House, DeWitt. Contact Priestly Life and Ministry Office 517-342-2510 or Bethany House at 866-669-8321.

THE MAGAZINE
OF THE CATHOLIC
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faith



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Your Name: _____

Parish/Office: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Do you know someone who has a great faith story for us? Give us the who, what, where, when and why:

2010 Editorial Schedule

Magazine Issue	Parish Deadline	Magazine in the mail
Jan./Feb. 2010	10/14/09	12/18/09
March 2010	12/23/09	02/17/10
April 2010	01/13/10	03/17/10
May 2010	02/17/10	04/21/10
June 2010	03/17/10	05/19/10
July/Aug. 2010	04/21/10	06/18/10
Sept. 2010	06/16/10	08/18/10
Oct. 2010	07/14/10	09/15/10
Nov. 2010	08/17/10	10/13/10
Dec. 2010	09/08/10	11/10/10
Jan. 2011	10/20/10	12/15/10

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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.

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR December, 2009 - March, 2010

December 7	6:30pm Young Adult Council, Diocesan Center	February 1-6	Catholic Schools Week
December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation	February 1	10:00am, Catholic Schools Week Liturgy - St. Mary Cathedral
December 8	9:30am CYM Advisory, Diocesan Center	February 6	8:00am – 3:30pm, Liturgy and Music Conference, St. John the Evangelist, Davison
December 9	Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mary Cathedral, Diocese of Lansing	February 7	Legislative Evening, Saint Joseph Parish, Adrian
December 12	10:00am Youth Events Committees and DYAC, St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton	February 11	12:30pm, Implementation Commission, St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton
December 14	10:00am LEM Advisory Committee	February 13	10:00am, Youth Rally Committee, Location: TBA
December 24-		February 15	6:30pm, Young Adult Council, Diocesan Center
January 1	Diocesan Central Service Offices closed	February 16	9:30am, DRE Advisory Committee, Diocesan Center
January 7-8	Michigan Winter Gathering of Parish and Diocesan Catechetical Leaders	February 17	Ash Wednesday
January 10-17	Vocations Week	February 18	9:00am, Pastoral Ministers and Administrators' Retreat – Bethany House, DeWitt
January 14	1:00pm Diocesan Pastoral Council	February 20	9:30am, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - St. Mary Cathedral
January 16	10:00am Youth Events Committees, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing	February 20	2:00pm, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - Christ the King, Ann Arbor
January 19	10:30am Diocesan Evangelization Advisory Committee Teleconference	February 21	3:00pm, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - St. John the Baptist, Howell
January 20	10:30am Diocesan CAFE Advisory Committee Teleconference	March 6	10:00am, Youth Events Committees and DYAC - St. Mary, Chelsea
January 20	11:45am Diocesan Christian Initiation Advisory Committee Teleconference	March 10	10:00am, Principals' Meeting – Diocesan Center
January 21	6:16pm Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis	March 10	10:30am, Diocesan Worship Commission
January 25	Anniversary of Ordination and Installation of Bishop Mengeling (1996)	March 13	Middle School Rally - Lumen Christi Catholic High School, Jackson

***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