



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LANSING VOICES ALIVE!

WWW.DIOCESEOFANSING.ORG | 517-342-2440 | 228 NORTH WALNUT STREET, LANSING MI 48933

April 2010

**Dept. of Catholic Charities
Dept. of Education and Catechesis
Dept. of Formation
Office of Pastoral Planning
Safe Environment Office**

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Hispanic Ministry: A Contemporary Church Challenge

Below, is an excerpt from the Fall 2009 Report, "National and Regional Hispanic Catholic Ministry Organizational Initiatives: An Assessment"

Since the early 1970s, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has drawn increasing attention to the Hispanic presence in the Church in the North American context. Various documents and summary reports relating to this presence have been issued. Much of this research and proclamation has been aimed at developing effective pastoral strategies for Hispanic Catholic ministry. Relevant documents and reports include:

[Encuentro & Mission \(2002\)](#)

[Hispanic Ministry at the Turn of the New Millennium, a Report of the Bishop's Committee on Hispanic Affairs \(1999\)](#)

[Many Faces in God's House: Parish Guide \(1999\)](#)

Hispanic Presence in the New Evangelization in the United States (1996)

Strangers and Aliens No Longer, Part One: The Hispanic Presence in the Church of the United States (1993)

[National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry \(1987\)](#)

The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment (1984)

The data and recommendations in the above documents and reports are extensive. Hispanics are recognized as a collection of unique communities and cultures that have different historical experiences, patterns of assimilation and "Americanization." Given that there is no single Hispanic-American subculture, the styles and sensibilities of Hispanics as Catholics vary. The pastoral emphasis in these documents and reports is on integration, not assimilation or Americanization. Specialized needs for inculturated expressions of catechesis, religious education, moral and spiritual formation, theological education and sacramental practice are recognized. A more recent USCCB aim is to reshape Hispanic ministry at a time of a rapidly expanding Hispanic population in the United States by fostering greater integration with other Church ministries and by training Hispanics for leadership roles in the Church as a whole.

Concerns relating to these efforts have also been raised regarding the overall vitality of National and Regional Hispanic Ministry (NRHM) organizational initiatives.

The full report can be found here:

http://www.usccb.org/scdc/Regional%20and%20National%20Hispanic%20Ministry%20Organizations%20Survey_1.pdf

PERSONS WITH dis /ABILITIES

Retreat for Persons who are SightImpaired or Blind - Ministry withPersons with disabilities will hold a retreat "Open the Door Walk in Peace"from May 11-13, 2010 at St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt. Call 517-342-2497 or e-mail jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org for more information. Cost is \$100.00 and RSVP is required for this three day event by April 26th.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Note: There will be a charge of \$ 10.00 per couple, for all Introduction to Natural Family Planning Classes. All couples registered with the Natural Family Planning Office should pay before taking the class. All checks should be made out and mailed to: Diocese of Lansing, 228 North Walnut Street, Lansing, MI, 48933.

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

Thursday, May 16, 2010, starting at 7:00 pm, at St. Casimir Parish, Lansing;

Saturday, May 22, 2010, starting at 9:00 am, at St. Robert Parish, Flushing;

Monday, May 24, 2010, starting at 6:30 pm, at St. Mary Cathedral Parish, Lansing;

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, starting at 6:00 pm, at St. Therese Parish, Lansing.

Pre-registration is required for all participants. For more information contact: NFP Program at 517-342-2587 or e-mail nfp@dioceseoflansing.org.

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

Billings Ovulation Method: if interested, call Maria, 517-523-3526, or visit:

<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/nfp/ovulationmethodclasses.html> . Next class, April 24, 2010 at St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale at 10:00am.

Sympto-Thermal Method: taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL). Visit <http://www.ccli.org> and go to "registration" to find classes in Michigan. Next Class - St. John the Evangelist Parish, Fenton: Contact Mark/Jennifer at mmorri12@ford.com .

Creighton Model Fertility Care System: Call Hope Fertility Care Center of Mid-Michigan, Amanda Venema 517-242-3710 or e-mail: amanda.venema@gmail.com .

Family of Americas Ovulation Method: Call the NFP Office for more information: 517-342-2587.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice ministry is seeking donations of yarn to continue a program for the women inmates at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility. This program was suspended when the Scott Correctional Facility was closed last year and has now begun again. The donations of yarn will be given to the women inmates who will knit blankets, mittens, caps, shawls and many other items for donation to the poor. Currently, they are working on knitting blankets to send to Haiti. In the past, items have been given to orphanages and to retirement homes. This worthwhile activity gives the women inmates a sense of positive self worth and assists them in their rehabilitation.

If you or your church is interested in assisting in this program by collecting yarn, please call Tim Metts at 517-342-2495, or e-mail tmetts@dioceseoflansing.org in the Catholic Charities Office of Restorative Justice.

There is also a need for paperback books for the Ingham County Jail Library Program. If you are willing to donate books that are uplifting in nature, please contact Joy at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in East Lansing, 517-35-7215.

LIFE JUSTICE

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has analyzed the recent Health Care Legislation and the Executive Order. To view the analysis - a very detailed legal review - visit <http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/03-25-10Memo-re-Executive-Order-Final.pdf>

The purpose of this legal memorandum is to identify the problems of the recently-passed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148 ("PPACA" or "the Act"), in relation to abortion funding and conscience protection, and then to assess whether (and if so, how) the corresponding Executive Order of March 24, 2010, corrects those problems. Although we wish it were otherwise, we must conclude that PPACA poses serious problems in these two areas, and that the Executive Order does not correct those problems.

DEAF / HH MINISTRY

Captioned Mass for Deaf / Hard of Hearing People - The Catholic Mass shown daily and Sundays on the EWTN Catholic network is live captioned for deaf and hard of hearing people. The daily 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 EWTN productions are now captioned. Please share this information with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, especially shut-ins.

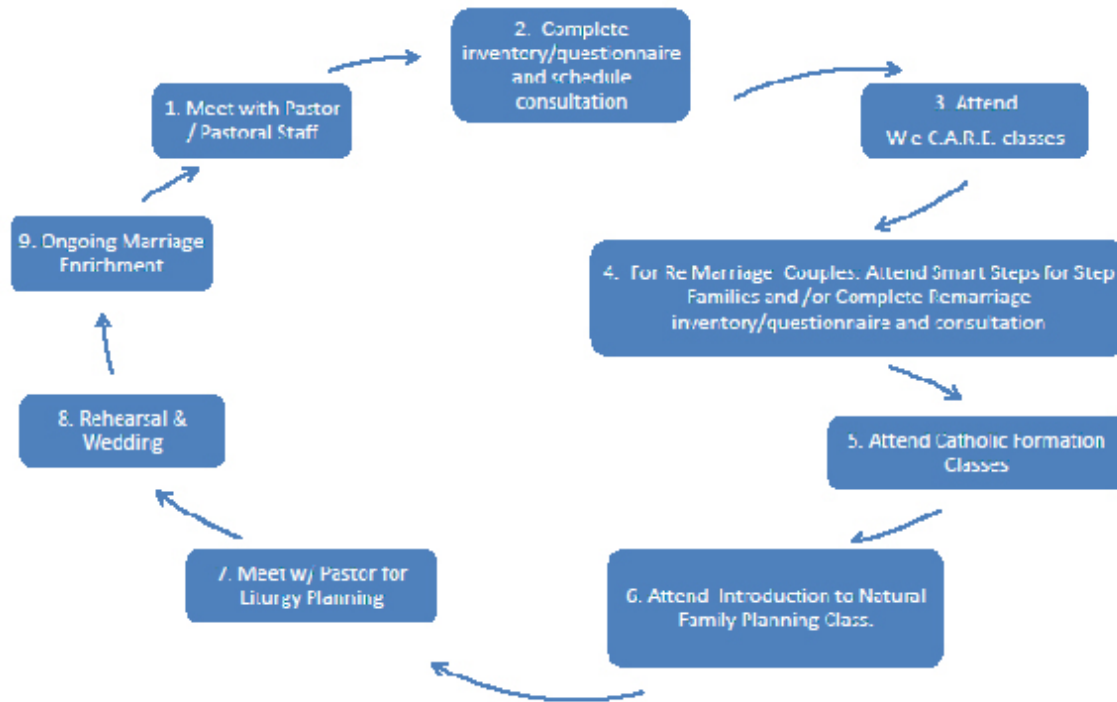
Catholic Family Week - July 25 - 30, 2010 For families who want to bring more spirituality to their home. This program is led by Fr. Michael Depcik and Kid Fedio with a team of qualified staff. Parents will have the opportunity to attend workshops on spiritual issues. Various beach and outdoor activities along with religious services will be offered.

Christian Youth Leadership Week , August 1 - 6, 2010 This program is for Deaf Teens ages 13 - 18 who want to deepen their Catholic faith while having a good time at the beautiful Holley Family Village in Brooklyn, MI. Directed by Fr. Michael Depcik and Kid Fedio - all in American sign language. Teens of other faiths are also welcome. Cost \$250. Contact Rose Smith at rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org for more information.

FAMILY LIFE

The Catholic Church has a long history of helping couples to prepare for marriage. It has learned a great deal that can benefit any couple. Because the Catholic Church wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages, couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to:

Diocese Of Lansing Marriage Preparation Flow Chart



For other resources on Marriage Preparation, please visit:

Parenting and Family Resources from For Your Marriage - <http://foryourmarriage.org/parenting-family/>

Resources for Dating and Engaged: <http://foryourmarriage.org/dating-engaged/>



St. Vincent Catholic Charities provides numerous services to help families, children, and adults living in crisis to find safety and have the opportunity to thrive. Services include the Counseling Center, Family Preservation, Foster Care, St. Vincent Catholic Charities Children's Home, Adoption, Housing Services for the Homeless, Refugee Resettlement, Immigration Law Clinic and more. Here is a little more about two of our services:

Family Preservation - When Protective Services, through the Department of Human Services, identifies children who will be or are removed from their home because they find that a home is unsafe, they often refer the parents to St. Vincent Catholic Charities for assistance. Parents of at-risk families are provided hands on services so they can develop safe and loving homes for their children. Nearly one hundred percent of the families, who receive assistance are successful in keeping their families together in a loving home.

Adoption Services - St. Vincent Catholic Charities identifies qualified loving families for adoptive children of all ages. Typically, the children placed by St. Vincent Catholic Charities are those with special physical and/or emotional needs who are waiting in foster care for a forever family. However, St. Vincent Catholic Charities also provides private

adoption services. It works with parents who are looking to find loving adoptive parents for their child when he or she is born.

If you know someone who is considering giving their newborn child an adoptive home, or would like to learn more about adopting please give St. Vincent Catholic Charities a call at (517) 323-4734. The staff will treat you with kindness and provide you with the information you seek. To learn more visit www.stvcc.org and sign up for our new tri-annual e-newsletter.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

Catechist Formation Opportunity: Genesee Vicariate -

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Genesee_Cat_Form_Mar_10.pdf

Youth Committees Meetings - Youth Committees will meet April 17 at St. Gerard, Lansing. We will return to our regular time of 10:00 A.M. - Lunch.

Scout Award Ceremony Location Change: Due to street closures for special events in downtown Lansing, the Scout Award Ceremony on April 25 has been moved to St. Thomas Parish, East Lansing. Reception is 1:00 in the school gym and the ceremony is 2:30 in the Church.

Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp may still have openings for the June 20-25 camp at Bethany House. Contact the diocesan Youth Ministry office, 517-342-2485 or e-mail prinker@dioceseoflansing.org immediately if you have a high school leader you wish to sign up for camp.

Mark your calendars for two events celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp (DYLC) for high school youth!!!

DYLC Reunion : On August 7 there will be a reunion at St. Martha, Okemos, inviting this year's campers and other recent attendees and leader teams. There will be opportunities to connect with past campers and this year's team and campers.

DYLC 25th Anniversary Banquet - On October 16 we will have a anniversary dinner for those adults who are past campers, team members or supporters of our leadership camp. Let us join together in celebrating a quarter century of forming young Catholic disciples.

Watch for registration materials for **Overnight Basic Training in Youth Ministry** July 8 & 9 at Bethany House. Given that we are not having Nuts and Bolts in August, new Coordinators of Youth Ministry and new adult and teen youth leaders should attend.

Diocesan Young Adult Picnic (18-35) co-hosted by the diocesan office and Generation Christ, will be July 18 at Independence Lake.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS CALENDAR REMINDERS

April 20-21 Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson School Accreditation
April 25 Scout Ceremony and Reception, St. Thomas, East Lansing
April 25-28 FDLC Region VI, St. John Retreat Center, Plymouth
April 27 Diocesan Evangelization Advisory Committee, 9:30am - 12:30pm
April 27-28 St. Peter School, Eaton Rapids Accreditation
May 1 MFP Spirituality Workshops
May 2 Scout Committee Meeting, Lansing, 2pm
May 5 Diocesan CAFÉ Advisory Committee, 9:30am - 12:30pm
May 5 Diocesan Christian Initiation Advisory Committee, 11:45am - 3:00pm
May 11 CYM Advisory, 9:30am

May 13 Diocesan Worship Commission, 10:30am - 3pm
 May 13 DRE Advisory Committee, 9:30am - 12:30pm
 May 15 State Scout/NSYR Training, St. Thomas, East Lansing, 10:30 - 4:30 P.M.
 May 16 Ascension of the Lord
 May 20 Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis, 6:15 pm
 May 23 Pentecost
 May 31 Memorial Day, Diocesan Central Service Offices Closed
 June 4-5 MFP Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center
 June 14 LEM Advisory Committee, 10-2 pm
 June 14-17 Curriculum Institute
 June 19 DYLC Team Report
 June 20-25 DYLC, Bethany House, DeWitt
 June 30 Diocesan Cedar Point Day, Sandusky, OH
 July 8-9 Basic YM Training Overnight, Bethany House
 July 18 YA Picnic, Independence Lake

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

Four Deacons to be Ordained on June 11 - At 6:30pm, Friday, June 11 at St. Mary Cathedral, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart and on the day which closes the Year for Priests, the diocese will ordain four men to the priesthood: Deacons Anthony Strouse, Mathias Thelen, Pieter VanRooyen and Thomas Wasilewski.

Deacon Strouse is from St. Mary Parish, Williamston. He has served at a number of parishes including Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Jackson, St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor, and St. John the Evangelist, Fenton. His first parish assignment after ordination will be serving as Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, East Lansing. In Summer, 2011 he will begin graduate studies toward a Licentiate in Sacred Liturgy at the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.

Deacon Thelen is from Most Holy Trinity Parish, Fowler. He has served at St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor and St. Thomas Aquinas/St. John Student Center, East Lansing. After ordination he will serve as Parochial Vicar of Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Jackson.

Deacon VanRooyen is from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, East Lansing. He has served at Our Lady Guadalupe Parish, Flint and St. Mary Star of the Sea, Jackson. His first assignment after ordination will be serving as Parochial Vicar of St. Gerard Parish, Lansing.

Deacon Wasilewski is also from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. He has served at St. John the Evangelist, Davison and St. Joseph Parish, Adrian. After ordination he will serve as Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish, Adrian and St. Joseph Shrine Parish, Brooklyn.

In addition, three seminarian candidates will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, May 8 at 5:00pm at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Flushing. These men are: Dan Kogut from St. Peter, Eaton Rapids; Jonathan Perrotta from Christ the King, Ann Arbor; and Andrei Rynhel from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Davison.

FORMATION CALENDAR REMINDERS

April 22 Priestly Life and Ministry Committee Meeting, 12:30-3:00, Diocesan Center
 April 29 Deacon Advisory Council meeting 6-9pm, Diocesan Center
 May 3-7 Spring Retreat for Priests with Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, Bethany House, Dewitt * Registration is available on the Diocesan Website - No cost to senior priests, but please register by calling 517-342-2510. Deadline
 April 23
 May 8 Transitional Deacon Ordination, St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing, Saturday, 5:00pm
 May 15 Deacon Aspirant's Day of Reflection, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt
 May 21-23 Deacon Candidate Retreat, Maryville Center, Holly, MI

June Lay Ecclesial Ministers Advisory Committee meeting
 June 11 Closing of "Year for Priests" dinner for presbyterate, 4pm, St. Mary Parish Hall (invites will be mailed.)
 June 11 Priest Ordination, St. Mary Cathedral, Friday, 6:30pm
 June 26 Statewide Catholic Men's Conference, Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center, Ypsilanti, go to www.ChristsChosen.com to register
 August 6-8 Diocesan Deacon Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt
 August 20 Vocations Night Lugnuts Game tickets available at parishes through Knight of Columbus, or call Cooley Law School Stadium (Lugnuts Stadium) directly at 485-4500 and mention Diocese of Lansing.
 August 20-22 Seminarian Summer Gathering - St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt
 August 21 Rite of Candidacy and Installation to Office of Acolyte, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 5:00pm for both Transitional and Permanent Diaconate
 September 27-30 Emmaus Convocation, Crystal Mountain
 October 1-3 Deacon Convocation, Crystal Mountain
 October 15 PPMA Lay Ministers Convocation
 Nov 6 Lay Ecclesial Ministers Commissioning, St. Mary Cathedral

OFFICE OF PASTORAL PLANNING

One year ago, we informed all parishes that we would be calling for new pastoral plans for each of the parishes. We suggested that the information learned in Planning Tomorrow's Churches be used as a beginning for pastoral plans. It is always helpful to also add any projected resolutions to the current issues parishes are experiencing.

Some parishes sent plans in 2009. You do not need to send new ones this year. However, if you did NOT send a plan in 2009, kindly do so by June 30, 2010. Plans can be sent via e-mail to rogge@dioceseoflansing.org.

The **From PEI to Parish Pastoral Plan** Template can be found at the Pastoral Planning page of the diocesan website at <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/pastoralplanning/>

We also suggest that information like the following be included in your pastoral plan:

1. If your parish is clustering at some future date, what are you doing now to prepare for the cluster status?
2. If your parish has merged with another parish or other parishes, how has the parish incorporated the life and mission of the former parish(es)?

Questions about this parish pastoral plan process can be sent via e-mail to rwenzlick@dioceseoflansing.org or you can call 517.342.2502 for questions/assistance.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions for Adults - duration of all sessions is 3 hours. For more information, contact: Safe Environment Coordinator, Sally Ellis via e-mail to sellis@dioceseoflansing.org or call 517-342-2551.

Pre-register for a session at www.virtus.org. Please do not call the hosting parish to pre-register.

Thursday, May 13, 6:30pm, Holy Family Parish, Grand Blanc, Facilitator: Jan Gravel

Monday, May 24, 6:30pm, St. Michael Parish, Grand Ledge (session in Parish Hall), Facilitator: Nancy Selby

Tuesday, May 25, 6:00pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lansing (session in school library), Facilitator: Renee Kouyate

Saturday, June 5, 9:00am, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Ann Arbor, Facilitator: Linda Miller

Tuesday August 10, 1:00pm, Diocesan Center, Madonna Hall, Facilitator: Cheryl Hecksel

PDF VERSION

For a pdf version of VOICES Alive! visit the Diocesan website: <http://dioceseoflansing.org/voicesalive/pastissues.html>

To remove your name from future Mailings and unsubscribe, click this link:
[Click here to Unsubscribe](#)