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(NOTE: Our apologies if you are receiving a second copy of this newsletter. A technical glitch resulted in only some subscribers receiving it last month. We believe the technical glitch is now resolved.)

STEWARDSHIP

One More New Year`s Resolution

When you thought about resolutions for the New Year, did you consider making one for your spiritual life? God has given us everything we have - life and time, talents and abilities, family, relationships, emotions, health, material goods - all are given freely to us by God, who loves us. We are called by God to use these talents and gifts in the service of one another as disciples of Christ.

It is important for us to think about how we use these God-given gifts and the amount of time we have been blessed with. Do you end each day satisfied that the time shared with your family and friends was the best it could be? Do you thank God for bestowing the gifts that you were able to give to those in need? Or, do you end another day that was filled with activity, still feeling as if you`ve been missing something?

God wants us to focus on the positive, rather than on the negative in our lives. In this New Year, we might want to think about taking an inventory of our assets - spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, etc. We can start with those things that are so close to us that we often take them for granted. For example, we might say to ourselves:

I have a job... lots of people don`t.

I have health insurance...lots of people don't.
I have a house to live in ... lots of people don't.

We are stewards, not owners of the life that God has entrusted to us. It's not too late to add one more resolution for this New Year - that of using what God has given us in a manner that reflects our belief in our obligation to live well - according to God's plan for each of us. Imagine if we all lived each day in gratitude for all the blessings God has given us!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Persons with disAbilities and their Caregivers Retreat Day - Saturday, February 20, 2010 at St. Casimir Parish, Lansing from 2:00 ending with 5:00pm Mass at St. Casimir Church. Paula Young, Coordinator of Social Ministry at St. Casimir, will be the caregiver presenter. Reservations are required for this event. Contact [Joann](#) at Ministry with Persons with disAbilities or call 517-342-2497 to RSVP or find out more information.

Fundraiser for [Rainbow Homes](#) (Christian supported living for adults with cognitive disAbilities in Holt) 4th Annual Silent Auction & Dinner will be held Saturday, February 6, 2010 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lansing. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. If you would like purchase a ticket or donate an item for this fundraiser please contact [Joann](#) or call 517-740-0293. Please consider joining us in celebrating our 11th 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 23, 2010 in the Diocesan Center, Lansing from 12:00 - 1:00pm. 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. Contact [Joann](#) or call 517-342-2497 for more information.

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.

The Introduction to Natural Family Planning class will be offered Sunday, February 7, 2010, 5:00 pm, at [St. John the Evangelist, in Fenton, Michigan](#). Pre-registration is required for all participants. Contact the [NFP Program](#) or call 517-342-2587.

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

Billings Ovulation Method: Call Maria, 517-523-3526, or view the schedule on [the diocesan website](#).

Sympto-Thermal Method: taught by the Couple to Couple League (CCL). [Visit their website](#) to

find classes in Michigan.

Creighton Model Fertility Care System is available at the [Hope Fertility Care Center of Mid-Michigan](#). Contact [Amanda Venema](#) or call 517-242-3710. Also contact The Caritas Center in Ypsilanti, Mary Bieniasz, 734-712-1990.

Family of Americas Ovulation Method: Looking for 6 couples who would like to take the class at no charge . Call the NFP Office for more information, 517-342-2587.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Office of Restorative Justice was contacted by Prison Fellowship in the month of November for assistance in the Angel Tree Christmas program. This program provides gifts for children of prisoners in the state prison system through the generosity of many volunteers. The gifts are given in the name of the person in prison. However, this year they found that there were approximately 400 children who would not be receiving gifts due to a clerical error.

A call for volunteers went out to all parishes of the diocese (as well as Detroit, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo) and, once again, the people of this diocese stepped up to make sure that those children were not forgotten. Nearly twenty groups and churches responded from this diocese! As a result, the volunteers from the Diocese of Lansing were able to purchase gifts for 120 of the 400 children. The remainder of the children were covered by other groups such as Salvation Army and groups outside the diocese.

May God bless each who gave so generously for others in need! It means so much to these children to be remembered at this time of year.

Contact [Tim Metts](#) Director of Restorative Justice, or call 517-342-2495.

DEAF/HH MINISTRY

Catholic Deaf/HH Ministry will host a Lenten Retreat for deaf Catholics at the De Sales Center in Brooklyn, MI from Friday evening, March 12 to Sunday, March 14, 2010. Fr. Michael Depcik, OSFS will be the presenter. Contact [Rose Smith](#) or call 517-342-2532.

MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Migrant Camp Sacramental Preparation - The [Office of Multi-Cultural Evangelization](#) in conjunction with the Office of Catechesis will be issuing new guidelines for Sacramental Preparation for use in all Migrant Camps in the Diocese of Lansing. Developed in consultation with representatives from parish religious education, Diaconal ministry and camp volunteers, the guidelines are in accordance with the "Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series" from the USCCB. They will be available on the website for Multicultural Evangelization beginning in March of 2010.

FAMILY LIFE

Men & Women are from Eden is a study guide to Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. This is a wonderful study guide that parishes could do on a regular basis to assist couples either in premarriage and/or marriage enrichment. If you want to get started call the Family Life office

at 517-342-2471.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

REGIONAL MEETINGS - MARCH 2010 - The following DRE/CYM/Pastoral Ministers Business Meetings have been scheduled:

Livingston & Washtenaw Regions, 9:30-12:00, Wed. March 10, St. Joseph, Dexter. Contact [Marinell High](#) or call 734-426-8483, ext. #203

Lansing Region, 9:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Thur., March 11, St. Mary, Charlotte. Contact [Teresa Hurd](#) or call 517-543-4319.

Jackson & Lenawee/Hillsdale Regions Wed., March 17, St. Joseph, Adrian. Contact [Aimee Phipps](#) or call 517-265-8938.

Genesee Region, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 pm, Thur., March 18, Ss. Charles & Helena, Clio. Contact [Chris Maniaci](#) or call 810-686-9861.

Please call one week in advance of the location to which you will attend. We need rsvp for food count and program set up.

CATECHETICAL FORMATION EVENT: Lansing Vicariate - 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

Schedule of the Day

8:00-8:30 Registration & Hospitality

8:30-8:50 Morning Prayer

9:00-10:45 Session I

11:00-12:45 Session II

Cost for the day is \$15.00 (Make checks payable to: St. Gerard ORE). Mail to: St. Gerard Religious Education Office, 4437 W. Willow Highway, Lansing, MI 48917.

Questions? Please call Kathy Warriner at St. Gerard Religious Education Office 517-321-4179

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING RETREAT - The 2010 Catholic Social Teaching Retreat has been canceled due to lack of registration. We hope to offer this opportunity next year with input from parish CYM's in scheduling and format. This will be discussed at our March regional

meetings.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011 - Information for the Diocesan group going to Madrid, Spain in August, 2011 can be viewed and downloaded [from the diocesan website](#) . A direct mailing has been sent to parishes who have expressed interest. Deposits must be paid with initial registration by March 3. Contact [Mary Lou Hahn-Setta](#) or call 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY - This year`s Middle School Rally is March 13, 2010, C.I.A. "Christ In All", at Lumen Christi Catholic High School, Jackson. Our keynote is Bob Rice. Fr. Jerry Vinke will be celebrating Mass with us. Inspirational message, Metro Inflatables, music, dance, great food and an awesome celebration of faith are featured. The parish Rally pack, brochures and posters to print can be downloaded from the [Office of Youth Ministry website](#) . Two posters and five brochures have been mailed to each parish. Please contact [Pat Rinker](#), Office of Youth Ministry for more information.

DIOCESAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP (DYLC) - Youth or youth ministers: please download [the registration material](#) and make sure to meet the submittal deadline of March 17 (with deposit). This is the best possible leadership formation we can offer our teens. An email will be sent directly to youth ministry leaders with alternate Summer opportunities, including service opportunities, Steubenville info and other formation opportunities. DYLC is the only available opportunity whose primary focus is Catholic Leadership formation.

EVANGELIZATION TRAINING FOR YOUTH & ADULTS - [Registration materials](#) are online for this training with Frank Mercadante of Cultivation Ministries. Saturday, March 6 will be at St. Mary, Chelsea, and Sunday, March 7 will be at St. Gerard, Lansing. High school youth must register as a parish group with appointed adult leadership from their Church. Permission slips and health forms are available on the [Youth Ministry website](#) . Adults may register individually.

STATE YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE 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 webpage](#) for information updates monthly. Keynote speaker is Sr. Ann Shields from Renewal Ministries. Bishop Boyea will celebrate Mass. Noelle Garcia will have a concert Friday evening. Full slate of workshop, descriptions and speakers will be posted soon on the [MICYAC web page](#) .

EPIC SEMINAR AT HOLY REDEEMER, BURTON - [Holy Redeemer Church, Burton](#) is proud to announce the upcoming EPIC Seminar: "A Journey Through Church History" on Saturday February 20, 2010. EPIC is an all-day event that takes participants on a journey through 2,000 years of Church history. Our speaker is Mr. Steve Weidenkopf of Ascension Press, a lecturer in Church history at the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. Registration begins at 7:30am and the presentation starts promptly at 8:15am. Lunch will be provided and the day will conclude at 4:30pm, giving participants the chance to attend the 5:00pm Saturday evening Mass. Early registration is taking place until

February 12th for a cost of \$20. After that, the cost is \$25.00. This fee covers the workbook materials each participant will receive as well as a hot lunch. Childcare is provided free ofcharge. You can register by [e-mailing Holy Redeemer](#) or calling 810-743-3050. Mr. Weidenkopf will present a free lecture at 7:00pm, February 19 at Holy Redeemer. His talk that evening is on "September 11th: The Most Famous Day in History."

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS CALENDAR REMINDERS

February

- 1 -6 Catholic Schools Week
- 1 Scout Awards Information due
- 1 Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, St. Mary Cathedral, 10am
- 6 Liturgy and Music Conference, St. John the Evangelist, Davison, 8:00am -3:30pm
- 10-11 St. Joseph, St. Johns School Accreditation
- 13 Rally Committee, TBA, 10:00am
- 15 YA Council, 6:30pm
- 16 DRE Advisory Committee, 9:30am - 12:30pm
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 18 Pastoral Ministers and Administrators Retreat, Bethany House, DeWitt, 9:00am - 3:00pm
- 20 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, St. Mary Cathedral, 9:30am
- 20 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Christ the King, Ann Arbor, 2:00pm
- 21 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, St. John the Baptist, Howell,3:00pm
- 23-24 Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson School Accreditation

March

- 6 Youth Events Committees and DYAC, St. Mary, Chelsea, 9:00am
- 6 Evangelization Training, St. Mary, Chelsea, 11:00am - 4:00pm
- 7 Evangelization Training, St. Gerard, Lansing, 12:40 - 5:40pm
- 8 Evangelization Training for Catholic School students, Lansing Catholic
- 9 CYM Advisory, 9:30am
- 10 Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
- 10 Principals` Meeting, 10:00am- 4:00pm
- 10 Diocesan Worship Commission,10:30am - 3:00pm
- 11 Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
- 13 Middle School Rally, Jackson Lumen Christi Catholic H.S.
- 15 Certification Review Board, 10:30am - 2:00pm
- 16-17 St. Mary Star of the Sea, Jackson School Accreditation
- 17 Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
- 18 Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA
- 18 Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis, 6:15pm
- 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 19-20 State Young Adult Conference, Ramada Inn, Lansing
- 23-24 St. John the Evangelist, Jackson School Accreditation
- 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- 28 Palm Sunday of the Lord`s Passion

FORMATION

MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

The following lay ecclesial ministers were certified during the 2009 Spring & Fall Rounds of Ministry Certification, as noted below:

Catechetical Leader

Debi Amato, Level III, Basic, (11/30/09 - 11/30/14)
Janet Cassidy, Level IV, Intermediate, (11/30/09/ - 11/30/14)
Patricia Droste, Level IV, Intermediate, (11/30/09/ - 11/30/14)
Theresa Hurd, Level III, Basic, (04/30/09/ - 04/30/14)
Adam Janke, Level IV, Intermediate, (11/30/09/ - 11/30/14)
Mary Mahar, Level IV, Intermediate, (04/30/09/ - 04/30/14)
Denise Waytes, Level III, Basic, (11/30/09 - 11/30/14)

Pastoral Minister

Debi Amato, Level III, Basic, (11/30/09 - 11/30/14)
Jennifer Delvaux, Level III, Basic, (11/30/09 - 11/30/14)
Denise Waytes, Level III, Basic, (11/30/09 - 11/30/14)

Youth Ministry Leader

Jennifer Delvaux, Level III, Basic, (11/30/09 - 11/30/14)
Peter Fiero, Level V, Advanced, (04/30/09/ - 04/30/14)
Theresa Hurd, Level III, Basic, (04/30/09/ - 04/30/14)

The Diocese of Lansing Certification Standards and Procedures for pastoral associates/ministers, pastoral coordinators, parish catechetical leaders and youth ministry leaders are approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation.

FORMATION CALENDAR REMINDERS

February 6 Preparing for the Triduum, 9:00am - 3:30pm, St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor. Deacon Formation Program - contact [Office of Deacons](#) to register.

March 11 Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests - SFRC, Dewitt. Priests may download registration form from [the diocesan website](#). There is no cost to senior priests, but please call 517-342-2510 to register.

March 14 Day of Discernment for Deacon Inquirers, Diocesan Center, 9:00am - 5:00pm.

April 16 PPMA SPRING Event, 8:30-3:30, St. Pat's, Brighton, Sowing the Seeds of Justice, presented by Dan Driscoll of Just Faith Ministries cosponsored by Office of Lay Ministry. Contact: [Nancy Joseph](#) or call 517-342-2512.

April 21 Priest Study Day -details TBA

April 22 Priestly Life and Ministry Committee Meeting, 12:30-3:00pm, Diocesan

Center

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

VIRTUS FACILITATOR TRAINING will be held March 12-13, 2010, at [Bethany House, DeWitt, MI](#). It begins 6:00pm Friday, March 12 and ends 5:00pm, Saturday, March 13. Qualifications for facilitator candidates: attend one Protecting God's Children Awareness Session for Adults; complete a background check; public speaking ability; background in education, social work, psychology, counseling or criminal justice helpful, but not necessary.

Contact [Sally Ellis, Diocese of Lansing Safe Environment Coordinator](#), or call 517-342-2551, for application form.

Parishes, schools, and agencies are encouraged to have a certified VIRTUS facilitator onsite. The diocese covers the cost of the training, including Facilitator Manual, overnight accommodation at Bethany House, dinner Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., breakfast Saturday at 8:30 a.m., and lunch Saturday at noon.

Shield the Vulnerable safe environment [online training is available now in Spanish](#). Shield the Vulnerable is for volunteers who are unable to attend a live session of Virtus Protecting God's Children Awareness for Adults.

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions for Adults - Pre-register for a session at [VIRTUS Online](#) . Please do not call the hosting parish to pre-register.

Sunday, February 7 - 1:00pm, [St. John Church and Student Center, East Lansing](#). Facilitator: Al Weilbaeher

Monday, February 22 - 6:30pm, [Holy Rosary Parish, Flint](#). Facilitators: Elaine Oullette and Paul Schlegelmilch

Tuesday, March 2 - 6:30pm, [St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ann Arbor](#) (Parish Activity Center). Facilitator: Linda Miller

Saturday, March 13 - 1:30pm, [St. Francis Retreat Center/Bethany House, DeWitt](#). Facilitator: Cheryl Hecksel

Duration of all sessions is 3 hours. For more information, contact Safe Environment Coordinator, Sally Ellis, or call 517-342-2551.

SIGN UP

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