



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

OFFICE OF PASTORAL PLANNING

Diocesan Cemetery Study --- Preliminary Observations

Recently the Office of Pastoral Planning conducted a diocesan wide survey to ascertain the state of cemetery ministry and funerary practices within the diocese. The survey instrument - a questionnaire - was divided in two major sections - one for parishes with a parish cemetery and the other for parishes without a parish cemetery. The Office of Cemeteries and Property management thanks those who completed the survey, pastors, parish staff, cemetery staff and cemetery commission members for the time and effort spent researching this first of a kind survey.

For parishes with cemeteries, the survey focused on seven major areas of cemetery administration: a) Organization; b) Operations; c) Marketing; d) Development; e) Personnel; f) Finance; g) Religious Activities. Parishes without cemeteries were queried on the general applications of the three major rites of the Order of Christian Funerals - "Vigil and Related Rites and prayers", "Funeral Liturgy" and "Rite of Committal".

Currently, the survey's raw data is still being analyzed by the Office of Cemeteries and Property Management. The results by both parishes with and without cemeteries presented several ideas and proposals - all of which have value and merit - in how to improve cemeteries. A full report will be authored in the near future.

Preliminary observations:

1. In many cases, parish cemeteries seem to be apart rather than a part of the parish community. The reasons for this may be demographical, economical or merely a reflection of societal attitudes concerning death and funerals.
2. Cremation is an important economical and societal change which is affecting parish cemeteries. Several regions are experiencing a cremation rate higher than the Michigan state average (42%) while several are lower, but with rising rates.

3. How cremated human remains are received by parishes and cemeteries is a topic that calls for further discussion and refinement.
4. Presentation of worthy vessel (urn) and how it is presented appears to be the area with the most inconsistency.
5. The same is true of the role of many people involved in the ministry: cemetarians, priests, deacons, religious, musicians, funeral directors, and parish members who assist the family, lead bereavement support groups, and support the faithful in praying for the dead.
6. There appears to be a diverse and contradictory understanding of cemetery-related terms which created confusion not only in completing the survey but how we present the ministry to the public. "Ashes" (which cremated remains are not), "green burials", "memorial gardens" are terms which, according to the survey appear to be used in different contexts.
7. After care programs at the parish level, although not part of the study, is an area for future discussion.

During the next few weeks, the Office of Cemeteries and Property management will be interviewing many who completed the survey, to understand the "why" of their answers in order to formulate a better understanding of this corporal work of mercy at the parish level. An understanding of where we are will help in the understanding of where we are going in the future. Otherwise, the cemetery ministry could become a relic of the past if positive steps are not taken to challenge current direction.

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

DEAF / HH MINISTRY

Two opportunities for deaf teens and families are available this summer. [E-mail Rose Smith](#) or call 517-342-2532 for more information.

Catholic Family Week: July 25 - 30, 2010. For the first time, Holley Institute is offering this exciting program for families who want to bring more spirituality to their home. Led by Fr. Michael Depcik and Kid Fedio with a team of qualified staff, parents will have the opportunity to attend morning workshops led by presenters on spiritual issues. During this time, children will have morning activities focusing on the Bible and other spiritual topics such as art class and drama workshops. Various fun activities outdoors will be offered as well as religious services. Cost: Adults \$200; Children \$100. Maximum family cost of \$700.

Christian Youth Leadership Week: August 1 - 6, 2010. This program focuses on 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 and qualified counselors who are fluent in sign language, teens will have many role models to help them appreciate their faith and unique gifts from God. Daily schedule includes morning talks on spirituality, activities that promote teamwork, various fun activities in the afternoons and evenings, liturgy and prayer services. Teens of other faiths are welcome. Cost \$250.

MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Justice for Immigrants: With the expectation that comprehensive immigration reform could soon be considered by Congress, it is important that supporters of reform make their voices heard on Capitol Hill. For this reason, the Justice for Immigrants Campaign has initiated a postcard campaign to urge Congress to pass reform legislation. For more information, and to participate in either an online or snail mail post-card campaign to your national legislators, please go to: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>

FAMILY LIFE

St. Mary Star of the Sea Family Life Event - A **Spring Fling ... with your Spouse**. Do you and your spouse speak the same language? St. Mary Star of the Sea Church invites couples to learn how to say "I Love You" in a new way at its upcoming Spring Fling event, Friday, May 14 in St. Mary's Star Hall. You'll enjoy a delicious catered dinner and a fun and insightful presentation by Shelby Raines of Marriage Matters Jackson. Raines will speak on Dr. Gary Chapman's ***The Five Love Languages: How to Understand your Spouse***. A tasty dessert and second presentation by St. Mary Pastor Fr. Cecilio Reyna will cap the evening. Tickets are \$30 per couple with reservations necessary by May 1, 2010. The evening is limited to 50 couples. Call Marriage Matters Jackson for more information or to reserve your spot: 796-5116. For more information on [Marriage Matters Jackson, visit their website](#) .

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 your parish is interested in assisting in this program by collecting yarn, please [e-mail Tim Metts](#) or call 517-342-2495.

PERSONS WITH dis / ABILITIES

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 Catholic Special Religious Education Curricula can be found at: <http://www.nafim.org/files/index.php?section=resources&cat=infoSheets> ,

"**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 e-mail jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org . Information is also available at: <http://www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/policy/church/bishops>

Planning an event? Please remember to welcome ALL. Just having a space for "Special Needs" on your registration form can be a start. Many people have dietary, accessibility, interpreter, listening device and special handout needs. Please visit the [webpage for Ministry with Persons with disAbilities](#) for a checklist on "[A good host is a good planner](#)." An "Equal Access Guide" with a more comprehensive listing is available on the website of [The National Council of Churches USA](#) . For more information, please e-mail [Joann Davis](#) or [Rose Smith](#) .

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, March 18, 2010, 7:00pm, at [St. Mary Star of the Sea, in Jackson](#)

Sunday, April 18, 2010, 5:00pm, at [St. John the Evangelist, Davison](#) . Pre-registration is required for all participants. For more information [e-mail the NFP Program](#) or call 517-342-2587 .

Pre-registration is required for the following classes:

Billings Ovulation Method, call Maria at 517- 523-3526. Schedule is available at:

<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/nfp/ovulationmethodclasses.html>

Sympto-Thermal Method, taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL). To find classes in Michigan, [visit the CCLwebsite](#) .

Creighton Model Fertility Care System - call Hope Fertility Care Center of Mid-Michigan, [e-mail Amanda Venema](#) or call 517-242-3710. You may also contact Mary Bieniasz at the Caritas Center, Ypsilanti, 734-712-1990.

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

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES HAITI APPEAL

The earthquake that devastated Haiti, already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, has taken an estimated 150,000 lives and affected 3 million. The programs supported by The Catholic Relief Services Collection have been hard at work providing for the enormous humanitarian and pastoral needs of the victims, giving hope to Jesus in disguise. This collection supports humanitarian, economic, and advocacy efforts for the marginalized and impoverished in Haiti and worldwide. Please be generous in this year`s collection.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL ALTERNATIVES

Recent Advances in Adult Stem Cell Research, and Other Alternatives to Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Cloning (*We advise you to look up these articles and, if you want to print hard copies, do so immediately, as some may be available online for a short time only. If the link is no longer working, do an Internet search for the article, as it may be posted elsewhere.*):

OVERALL SUCCESS - ["California`s Proposition 71 Failure," Investor`s Business Daily, January 12, 2010](#) .

ADULT STEM CELL VERSATILITY - ["Dramatic transformation: Researchers directly turn mouse skin cells into neurons, skipping IPS stage," Stanford School of Medicine, January 27, 2010](#) .

STEM CELL SOURCES - ["Fat Tissue May Be a Source of Valuable Blood Stem Cells, Study Says," American Society of Hematology, January 27, 2010](#) .

CORD BLOOD - ["Fighting disease with cord blood," WJRT-TV \(Mid-Michigan ABCNews\), January 14, 2010](#) ;

["Experimental Technology Improves Cord Blood Transplants for Leukemia Patients," American Cancer Society, January 19, 2010](#) .

BRAIN DAMAGE - ["New stroke therapy successful in rats," EurekAlert, January 12, 2010](#) .

(Articles compiled by Richard M. Doerflinger, Associate Director of Pro-Life Activities, USCCB)

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

VOCATION SERVICES

Women`s Discernment Retreat - The Diocese of Lansing is sponsoring the Third Annual Discernment Retreat Saturday, April 17 - Sunday, April 18 at Lawrence Lodge, Camp De Sales in Brooklyn, MI for women who are discerning religious life. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time both alone with the

Lord, and in community with other young women who are discerning. There will be various women religious on the retreat as well as a panel of Postulants and Novices who will share their personal discernment experience. The retreat includes lunch/dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. There will be Mass both Saturday and Sunday and Adoration Saturday evening. If you are interested in attending this retreat, please [e-mail Sr. Mary Ann Foggin](mailto:MaryAnn.Foggin@diocesanolansing.org) or call 517-342-2506 for more details.

FORMATION CALENDAR REMINDERS

March 14 Day of Discernment for Deacon Inquirers, Diocesan Center, 1-4 pm starting with Mass at Noon. For more info e-mail [Deacon Jerry Brennan](mailto:Deacon.Jerry.Brennan@diocesanolansing.org) or call 517-342-2451

April 16 PPMA SPRING Event, 8:30am - 3:30pm, [St. Patrick, Brighton](http://www.stpatrickbrighton.org), *Sowing the Seeds of Justice*, presented by Dan Driscoll of Just Faith Ministries, co-sponsored by Office of Lay Ministry. [E-mail Nancy Joseph](mailto:Nancy.Joseph@diocesanolansing.org) or call 517-342- 2512

April 17-18 Diocesan Women`s Discernment Retreat, Camp DeSales, Brooklyn. [E-mail Sr. Mary Ann Foggin](mailto:MaryAnn.Foggin@diocesanolansing.org) or call 517-342-2506 for more information

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

May 3-7 Spring Retreat for Priests with Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, Bethany House, DeWitt. [Registration form is available on the Diocesan Website](http://www.diocesanolansing.org) - No cost to seniors but please register by [e-mail to Anne Rivet](mailto:Anne.Rivet@diocesanolansing.org) or call 517-342-2510. Deadline April 23

May 8 Transitional Deacon Ordination, St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing, 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 11 Priest Ordination, St. Mary Cathedral, 6:30pm

August 6-8 Deacon Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt

August 20 Vocations Night Lugnuts Game tickets available at parishes, from Knights of Columbus Councils, or call Cooley Law School Stadium (formerly Oldsmobile Park) at 485-4500. 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 (for both Transitional and Permanent Diaconate), St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 5:00pm

September 27-30 Emmaus Convocation, Crystal Mountain

October 1-3 Deacon Convocation, Crystal Mountain

October 15 Lay Ministers Convocation

Nov 6 Lay Ecclesial Ministers Commissioning, St. Mary Cathedral

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

National Catechetical Conference - The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) will meet in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 19-22, 2010. The theme of the conference is *Catechesis: An Oasis Amidst Diversity*. It will include keynote presentations, major breakout sessions and opportunities for round table learning activities. Religious education, Christian Initiation and adult faith formation are included among the many workshops. For further information and registration materials, [visit the NCCL website](http://www.nccl.org) . If you plan to attend, [e-mail Michael Andrews](mailto:Michael.Andrews@diocesanolansing.org) or call 517-342-2479. Catechetical leaders from the Diocese of Lansing will gather to meet during the conference.

Youth Committees Meetings - Youth Committees will meet April 17 at St. Jude, DeWitt. We will return to our regular time of 10:00am - Lunch.

World Youth Day 2011 - Information for the Diocesan group going to Madrid, Spain in August, 2011 is on the [Diocesan web pages for youth](http://www.diocesanolansing.org), young adult and campus ministry (as well as information for groups from St. Francis, Ann Arbor, St. John, Davison, and St. Robert, Flushing . A direct mailing has been sent to

parishes who have expressed interest. Deposits were to be paid with initial registration by March 3. Contact Mary Lou Hahn-Setta at 734-475-3250 to see if your group can still register with the Diocese of Lansing.

State Young Adult Conference - March 19 & 20, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, Lansing. Young adults 18-35 will be attending from groups throughout Michigan. [Check out the MICYAC web page](#) 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 are posted on the MICYAC web page.

Catechist Formation Opportunity - 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 Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917. Questions? Please call Kathy Warriner at St. Gerard Religious Education Office, 517-321-4179.

Catechist Formation Opportunity - Livingston Vicariate (Brighton):
http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Livingston_Cat_Form_Feb_10.pdf

Livingston Vicariate (Pinckney):
http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Livingston_Cat_Form_Winter_10_Pinckney.pdf

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS CALENDAR REMINDERS

March 13 Middle School Rally, Jackson Lumen Christi Catholic H.S.

March 15 Certification Review Board, 10:30am - 2pm

March 16-17 St. Mary Star of the Sea, Jackson School Accreditation

March 17 Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA

March 18 Vicariate DRE/CYM/PM Meeting, TBA

March 18 Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis, 6:15pm

March 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

March 19-20 State Young Adult Conference, Ramada Inn, Lansing

March 23-24 St. John the Evangelist, Jackson School Accreditation

March 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

March 28 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

April 1 Chrism Mass, St. Mary Cathedral, 10:30am

April 1 Holy Thursday

April 2 Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - Diocesan Central Service offices closed

April 3 Holy Saturday

April 4 Easter Sunday

April 5 Easter Monday - Diocesan Central Service offices closed

April 6-8 NCEA/NPCD Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN

April 13-14 St. Mary, Mt. Morris School Accreditation

April 17 Youth Events Committees, TBA, 10am

April 19 YA Council, Newman Center, St. Michael Church, Flint, 6:30pm

April 19-22 NCCL Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV

April 20-21 Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson School Accreditation
April 24 State Encuentro, Grand Rapids Diocesan Center
April 25 Scout Ceremony and Reception, St. Mary Cathedral
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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

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.

Saturday, March 13, 2010 - 1:15pm - [St. Francis Retreat Center/Bethany House, DeWitt](#) . Facilitator: Cheryl Hecksel

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 - 6:30pm - [St. Gerard Parish, Lansing](#) . Facilitator: Lynn Fuller

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