



Department of Formation
Department of Education and Catechesis
Department of Catholic Charities

Department of Formation

Rite of Commissioning - Most Reverend Bishop Earl Boyea celebrated the Rite of Commissioning with six Lay Ecclesial Ministers on November 6, 2010. Sharon L. Hardenbergh, Todd D. Gale, Lisa A. Dubinski, Glenna C. Diskin, Janet M. Cassidy, and Deborah K. Amato have responded faithfully to God's call by preparing themselves in an intentional manner for pastoral ministry within the church. As Commissioned Lay Ecclesial Ministers, these six persons have reached a standard set by the diocese for academic formation, represented themselves to be spiritually and pastorally directed, and demonstrated willingness to carry out their ministerial work conscientiously, zealously and diligently. 119 Lay Ecclesial Ministers have been commissioned through the Diocese of Lansing to date. These six newly commissioned Lay Ecclesial Ministers join a prestigious group of co-workers who devote themselves to some form of special service within the People of God. They ask for continued prayers as they go forth in love to serve the Lord within our diocese!

Lay Ecclesial Ministers Certification - The following lay ecclesial ministers were certified by the Diocese of Lansing during the Fall 2010 Round of Ministry Certification: Deborah K. Amato, Level IV, Intermediate, Catechetical Leader, Pastoral Minister; Lisa A. Dubinski, Level IV, Intermediate, Youth Ministry Leader.

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 USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation, www.usccb.cca.org

Registration for the Program in Theological Studies is underway. Visit the Diocesan web site to download the registration form for Winter 2010: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/layministry/index.html> . The deadline for registration is November 30, 2010. Additional information about Ministry Formation is also available on the diocesan web site.

Vocation Awareness - Sister Mary Ann hosted several hundred seventh graders for a vocation awareness Mass at St. John's in Jackson and St. Mary's Cathedral in October. Bishop Boyea presided with Father John Linden with several area priests concelebrating. Vocation Awareness continues with individual school visits throughout the month of November.

NOCERCC -REGION VI Regional Forum for Pastoral Leadership "**Ministry in a Polarized Church in a Polarized World**" with Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM Cap, Weber Inn, Ann Arbor, Jan 3-6, 2011 Black-white. Red State - Blue State. Democrat - Republican. Conservative -Liberal. We are constantly bombarded by our differences. How do we bridge the differences and begin to work together? Fr. Michael will speak about contemporary discipleship from the lens of (in)justice, especially the "isms" and "ideology" that sustain injustice in our church and world.

Formation Calendar Reminders

December 9, 2010 - Scripture Study Days, "**Preaching the Gospel of St. Matthew**" with Dr. Edward Sri, St. Pat's, Brighton (for Priests and Deacons)

January 3-6, 2011 - Region VI -NOCERCC - Regional Forum for Pastoral Leadership "**Ministry in a Polarized Church in a Polarized World**" , Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

April 2, 2011 - **Diocese of Lansing Men's Conference**, Lansing Center

Department of Education and Catechesis

Catechist Formation Opportunities:

Clinton/Shiawassee Vicariate: Hosted at St Paul, Owosso, December 6 – Topic #5 Managing Student Behavior. For more information or to register: http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Clinton_Shiawassee_Owosso.pdf

Genesee Vicariate: Hosted at Saint Mary, Mount Morris, November 30 – Topic #16 Old Testament Themes; December 7 – Topic #22 Catechesis and Social Justice. For more information or to register: http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Genesee_Cat_Form_Flushing_Nov_10.pdf

Eaton/Ingham Vicariate: Hosted at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing, All on January 22, 2011 - Topic # 7 Trinity;

Topic # 8 Creation & Incarnation; Topic # 15 Overview of the Bible; Topic # 16 Old Testament Themes; Topic # 21 Moral Development; Topic # 22 Catechesis & Social Justice; Enrichment: The Church: Yesterday, Today & Forever.

Hosted at St James, Mason, All on March 19, 2011 - Topic # 1 Ministry of the Catechist; Topic # 9 Jesus Christ; Topic # 17 Key People of the Old Testament; Topic # 2 Learning Process & Faith Development; Topic # 10 Mary and the Saints; Topic # 18 New Testament: Gospels; Enrichment: Women of the Old Testament. For more information or to register: http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Eaton_Ingham_Lansing_Mar_11.pdf

Washtenaw Vicariate: Hosted at Christ the King, Ann Arbor - January 5 – Topic #4 Effective Catechetical Techniques; March 2 – Topic # 3 Lesson Planning & Using the Catechetical Text as a Tool. For more information or to register: http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Washtenaw_Cat_FormSept_10.pdf

NCCYM and NCYAMA Leadership Forum will take place this December in New Orleans. We have had over 50 youth & young adult ministry leaders attend this adult leadership conference for several years. Please plan on attending for great formation, inspiration and networking. Visit the Forum website at <http://nccym.nfcym.org/>. We need to know who is going from our diocese and how many will join us for the Diocesan dinner at Mothers, Saturday night. Please contact Pat Rinker via e-mail to: prinker@dioceseoflansing.org

DYLC 25th Anniversary-Banquet was a wonderful success due to the support of many pastors, parish ministers and former DYLC participants. People can still go on line to contribute to the scholarship fund with donation or pledge. Please continue to pray for this ministry of forming young Christian disciples.
<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

Introduction to Youth Ministry, Siena Course RST215 is coming this Winter. All CYM's should at least have level II certification within their first two years if not before their hire date. This is one of two courses required for level II. The other is **Catechetical Methodology**. For course information:
http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/RST215_YM_Course_2011.pdf

High School Theology Curriculum - Sharing for parish and school ministry leaders was scheduled for October but will take place in February. Please watch next month's issue of VOICES, Alive for date and location.

Middle School Rally and DYLC - mailings will be going out in December. Middle School Rally is **March 12, 2011** at Lansing Catholic High School. It is our hope that all 6th – 8th graders will have the opportunity to attend with their parishes. It is a call to all middle schoolers in our diocese to celebrate their faith with Bishop Boyes, keynote, Steve Angrisano, and other ministry leaders.

Michigan Young Adult Conference is March 25 & 26. Young Adults, single and married, post high school, into their 30's are invited. Day care is provided for free will offering. Registration will be on line in December at <http://www.micyac.org/> . Featured keynote and music will be provided by Thicker Than Water.

ROMAN MISSAL WORKSHOPS - On the First Sunday of Advent, 2011, the dioceses of the United States will begin to use the third edition of the Roman Missal. While the Order of Mass will not change, we will experience new English translations of some of our current texts.

This presents a golden opportunity to catechize on the rich theology of our Eucharistic celebrations and to examine the beauty of our liturgical texts. As a member of your parish's implementation team, how will you help your parishioners participate more fully, to pray more deeply, and to understand the changes to long-familiar responses and prayers?

Please join us at one of six regional workshops! We will explore the history of the Missal, review the process of translation and the documents that guided it, examine new texts, sing new dialogues and prayers, and review processes and resources which will assist you in this important catechetical endeavor. There is no charge to attend, but these six workshops are designed for parish implementation teams only. Lunch and sample resources are included. All workshops are 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Thursday, **January 6, 2011** at St. John the Baptist, Howell;

Tuesday, **January 11** at St. Casimir, Lansing;

Thursday, **January 13** at Holy Family, Grand Blanc (Parish Center);

Monday, **January 17** at Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson;

Wednesday, **January 19** at St. Joseph, Dexter (Dover Rd, Parish Center);

Wednesday, **January 26** at St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh.\

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE. Just look for the round red logo at www.dioceseoflansing.org/worship .Registration deadline is January 3.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS CALENDAR REMNDERS

November

25 Thanksgiving Day, Offices Closed

26 Offices Closed

28 First Sunday of Advent

30 Principals' Meeting 9am- 3:30pm

30 Roman Missal Workshops for Musicians, St. Gerard, Lansing 7:00 to 10:00 PM

December

4 Youth Events & DYAC, 10:00 – 1:00 pm, St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton

8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation

8&9 NCYAMA Forum, New Orleans

9 Solemnity of the Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mary Cathedral (Feast in all parishes)

9-12 NCCYM, New Orleans, LA

13 Young Adult Council, 6:30 pm, Diocesan Center

- 14 CYM Advisory, 9:00 – 1:00 pm, Diocesan Center
- 15 DEC Staff Meeting --10am – 12pm
- 24-1 Offices Closed
- 25 The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas

January 2011

- 6 Roman Missal Workshop, 10:00-3:30, St. John the Baptist, Howell
- 11 Roman Missal Workshop, 10:00-3:30, St. Casimir, Lansing
- 13 Roman Missal Workshop, 10:00-3:30, Holy Family, GB (Parish Center)
- 17 Roman Missal Workshop, 10:00-3:30, Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson
- 19 Roman Missal Workshop, 10:00-3:30, St. Joseph, Dexter (Dover Rd, Parish Center)
- 26 Roman Missal Workshop, 10:00-3:30, St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh

2010-2011 Calendar http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education_catechesis/2010_11_ed_cat_calendar.pdf

Department of Catholic Charities

Ministry with Persons with disAbilities

Resources are available from the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities on their website at www.ncpd.org on supporting families who receive a poor prenatal diagnosis. The abortion rate for prenatal diagnosis of a disability or lethal condition kinds of pregnancies is alarmingly high...up to 90% of mothers ultimately make a choice against life. A recent study showed that when support is provided to the expectant parents, the abortion rate drops significantly. The online toolkit contains free downloadable resources with a faith-based framework to equip your ministry to respond to these needs. <http://www.ncpd.org/webinars/prenatal#Resources>

disAbility Awareness Contest Winning Classroom - This past fall, students in Grades 1-3 in our parish schools and religious education programs were asked to participate in a disAbility Awareness Drawing Contest. Our ministry received a wonderful response from 13 different parishes which included 44 classrooms. Each classroom was given a storybook about a child with a type of disAbility. Teachers read the storybook to the classroom and the children drew a picture about what they learned from their story. Classrooms then choose the best drawing and sent them in to our ministry to be judged.

Our first judging took place with 130 people with disAbilities and their families at our Family Day Mass and luncheon with Bishop Boyea. Our final judging took place at the Diocesan center and the winning classroom was chosen from all entries. 1st Place receiving a presentation by “Count Me In” child size puppets with disabilities is: **St. Martha, Okemos, Mrs. Andrea Patton’s 3rd Grade split classroom drawing by, Nora Fiero & Eli Meder.** 2nd Place receiving a set of 21 hardbound Library Books on children with disAbilities is: **St. John’s, Fenton, Brenda Waraniak 3rd grade classroom drawing by, Kayla Murray.** Thank you all for participating in this awareness activity. Visit <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/disAbilities/index.html> to see drawings.

Natural Family Planning

Pre-registration is required for the following classes:

Billings Ovulation Method – please call Maria, 517-523-3526, or check the diocesan website:

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

Sympto-Thermal Method: taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL). Visit their website at www.ccli.org then click on "Search / Register for Class" to find classes in Michigan.

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 class information, 517-342-2587.

DVD's: Introduction to Natural Family Planning ~ DVD has medical support and testimonies from NFP users. We have in both English and in Spanish. Cost is \$5.00, contact NFP office 517-342-2587 or: nfp@dioceseoflansing.org

Restorative Justice

Matthew 25:36 encourages us to visit the imprisoned. We are told that we visit the Lord Himself when we do so. And so, it is with joy that we enter the prison to visit those confined.

Frequently, those who are in prison have no one who will visit them. This is so for a variety of reasons. It may be that the person has committed a crime which has caused shame to a family and they will not visit or, perhaps, the family lives at a great distance from the prison and cannot afford to make the trip to the prison. Smaller groups are lifers whose families have died or moved away. Whatever the reason, many welcome the opportunity to be involved with outreach volunteers who bring them God's Word and a friendly smile.

The Diocese of Lansing has approximately twenty-five prisons, jails and youth facilities within the ten county area. Most of these facilities have a group of volunteers that go in at this time. If you feel that you may be called to this ministry, contact Joe Dionise at the Diocese of Lansing Restorative Justice Office, 517-342-2495 or via e-mail to jdionise@dioceseoflansing.org

Deaf / HH Ministry

Christmas Events - The Diocesan Deaf Community Christmas Party will be at St. John Parish, Fenton on December 5, 2010. Mass will be in St. John Chapel at 11 a.m. followed by dinner in St. John Activity Center.

Christmas Eve signed Mass with Fr. Ken McKenna in St. Mary Cathedral Crypt at 4 p.m. followed by our traditional Christmas Eve Dinner.

Christmas Day Mass at St. John Chapel with Fr. Ken McKenna will be in St. John Chapel in Fenton at 10 a.m.

Contact: Rose Smith at rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org , call 517-342-2532, or VP to 866-552-0427.

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf - (NCOD) will celebrate their 40th Anniversary during Pastoral Week 2011. The conference will be held from in Atlanta, GA. from Jan 14-18. For more information please contact Rose Smith at rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org or call 517-342-2532

Family Life Ministry

Project Rachel - posters with tear off phone numbers are available. Please call 517-342-2471 or email vgale@dioceseoflansing.org to receive the posters or other post-abortive materials.

“The Gift of Mothers” (by Bishop Victor Galeone, May, 2010) - I want to invite you to come back with me to Mother’s Day 1970. I had just sat down to have a light supper with my widowed mother before returning to the rectory. My mother was grieving because in less than a month she would be losing her “bambino.” You see, my archbishop had given me permission to serve as a missionary in Peru for five years, and I would be leaving within a month. The fact that I was 35 years old and a priest for ten years was trumped by my imminent departure for the Peruvian Andes, where I might meet with an untimely end – or so my mother imagined.

While having our soup, mother continued her complaining to the point that I blurted out an unkind remark. She started to cry.

“Mom, I’m sorry. I don’t know what possessed me. Please forgive me.” – “Oh, I’m not crying about that.” – “Well, why are you crying?”

She continued: “I’m going to tell you something that I’ve told no one except your father. It was during the Depression years. The social worker came by to see how things were going. I told her that everything was fine except that I had missed two of my periods in a row.”

“Oh, that’s very bad news, Signora Rita! I’ll come back on Thursday afternoon and take you to see this doctor and he will make your period come.”

“I told her that I could never do that . . . that I would rather die first.”

“What! You won’t cooperate! Where’s your husband?” “He’s out looking for work.” “Over two years without a steady job, and you won’t cooperate! Three young mouths to feed already and you won’t cooperate! When your husband returns, talk this over with him. If you don’t cooperate, we just might take those two cards away from you. I’ll see you on Thursday!”

Two comments: Being the fourth child in the lineup, I was that “period.” And the two cards referred to by the social worker were the one that entitled the family to receive a large bag of fried beans every two weeks, and the other was for an occasional delivery of coal during the winter.

My mother continued: “Two hours later, your father came home all frostbitten. As I helped him off with his coat, I told him that the social worker had stopped by. “What did she want?” – “I told her that I was expecting. She became

very upset. She said that she'd be back on Thursday to take me to this doctor, who would make my period come. If I refuse to go, they might take our benefit cards away."

Your father stood there for the longest while without saying a word. Finally, he spoke: "Very well, let them! Let them have their cards back! The Lord will provide."

At that point, my mother got to her feet and knelt down beside me. "Mom," I insisted, "would you please stop this!"

"No, Let me finish!"

"Oh Jesus, forgive me! I didn't want him then because of all our problems. And now I'm afraid of losing him? Forgive me, Jesus, please forgive me! You take him for your poor people in Peru. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you!"

On two occasions of my life, I stayed awake all night long. One was a case of food poisoning in Peru. The other was Mother's Day 1970. I tried to fall asleep, but to no avail. For the first time in my life – on learning how close I had come to not seeing the light of day – I fully realized what a precious gift life is.

Throughout the night, scenes from my boyhood intermingled with images of the heroine I had for a mother: "Hey, Victor, your Mom sure talks funny. I could hardly understand her." Gee, I wonder why my Mom can't talk nice English like all the other mothers can. "No, I could never do that! I would rather die first!" And she only went as far as the third grade in a backward school in Southern Italy. "Is that your grandmother?" No, that's my Mom. Her hair turned snow white when she was 30. She had me when she was 35. "At two months, all the major organs are formed and functioning. All that is required for birth is time and nourishment." – "No, I could never do that! I would rather die first."

I would like to close with the inspiring words that Cardinal József Mindzenty penned many years ago about motherhood:

"A Christian mother cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body. The angels have not been blessed with such a grace . . . God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. What on God's good earth is more glorious than this – to be a mother?"

Multicultural Evangelization

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (FCYM) is pleased to announce that Bishop Martin Holley , Archdiocese of Washington, has agreed to serve as episcopal advisor. Bishop Holley's three year term begins November 2010. Bishop Holley follows Bishop Jaime Soto, Diocese of Sacramento, who served as episcopal advisor since 2004. This marks the first time that a Hispanic Bishop and African American Bishop have served as episcopal advisors. For more information go to www.nfcym.org

Hispanic Bishops Meet with Latino Legislators, Others in Congress on Policy Issues Most Affecting Hispanics ~ Immigration reform, health care, education, housing, poverty on agenda ~ Bishops offer Catholic social teaching principles to help in public debate

At a series of meetings at Capitol Hill, a delegation of Hispanic Bishops discussed with Democrat and Republican legislators of both houses, four areas of deep concern and offered principles of Catholic social teaching to help in the

current debates.

Archbishop José Gomez of San Antonio, Texas, led the September 17 delegation, representing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information go to: <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2009/09-181.shtml>

Evangelization, Education and the Hispanic Catholic Future (by Archbishop Gomez, from *Origins*, Vol. 39, No. 11, Aug. 13)

“A generation ago we could hardly imagine a Hispanic saying he or she had ‘no religion,’ yet that number has doubled in just the past few years,” Archbishop José H. Gomez of San Antonio said in a June 8 address at a national symposium on the present and future of Catholic Hispanic ministry in the United States at Boston College. Archbishop Gomez, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, said one reason for this increase is that “if our people feel scapegoated in society and marginalized in Catholic life, it’s only natural that they would look around for someplace that might welcome them and treat them with the dignity they deserve.”

For an excellent review of the current state of Hispanic Ministry in the United States, go to:
http://www.usccb.org/hispanicaffairs/gomez_1.pdf

Life Justice

Stem Cell News:

“Parents of child saved by stem cells welcome new public cord-blood bank”:

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1004190.htm>

“Scientists overcome hurdles to stem cell alternatives”: www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/30/AR2010093003211_pf.html

“Researchers engineer adult stem cells that do not age, overcoming a major barrier to progress in regenerative medicine”: www.buffalo.edu/news/11785?print=1

“Scientists discover gene that controls stem cells in central nervous system”:
www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/202596.php

“Athersys announces groundbreaking data showing neuroprotective effects of MultiStem Therapy for traumatic brain injury”: <http://ir.athersys.com/releasedetail.cfm?releaseid=508875>

“Stem cells alternative gains attention”: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100912/NEWS01/9120354/Stem-cells-alternative-gains-attention>

“New research demonstrates safety of cord-blood-derived stem cell treatments”:
www.prweb.com/prweb/4427444.htm

“Researchers discover how bone marrow stem cells injected into skeletal muscle reverse heart failure”:
www.buffalo.edu/news/11795?print=1

“EHSI: Researchers convert skin cells into liver cells”:

www.businesswire.com/news/home/20100922005640/en/EHSI-Researchers-Convert-Skin-Cells-Liver-Cells

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

Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and Abortion of the Disabled - Increasingly in our society those with severe disabilities or debilitating illnesses are being killed because they are judged to have an insufficient “quality of life.” Oregon, Washington and Montana already permit euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, and Maine, Hawaii, and Vermont have tried to pass similar laws. Of the children diagnosed with Down Syndrome prior to birth, 90% are killed through abortion. Individuals like Terry Schiavo who are in a permanent “vegetative” (or minimally conscious) state are being starved to death with the approval of the courts.

Yet, Pope John Paul II has clearly stated, “the value of a man’s life cannot be made subordinate to any judgment of its quality expressed by other men,” and “Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a ‘vegetative state’ retain their human dignity in all its fullness.” (Address of John Paul II to the International Congress on “Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State: Scientific Advances and Ethical Dilemmas” taken from the September/October 2010 Choose Life... Issue from the National Right to Life Committee)

Excerpts from U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, 2010

It is a principle of Christian faith, anchored to natural law, that the human being should be protected, precisely in situations of weakness; the human person always takes priority over other aims. The new possibilities of biotechnology and medicine frequently put us in situations as difficult as walking on the razor’s edge. It is our duty to study diligently to what point these methods may be helpful to the human being and where, instead, it is a matter of the manipulation of the human being or a violation of human integrity and dignity. We cannot refuse such developments but we must also be attentive. When people begin to make distinctions and often this is already done in the maternal womb between a life that is worthy and one that is unworthy of living, no other phases of life will be spared, especially not old age and infirmity.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Sept. 13, 2010

Life is a unique gift, at every stage from conception until natural death, and it is God’s alone to give and to take.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address at St. Peter’s Residence, London, Sept. 18, 2010

As advances in medicine and other factors lead to increased longevity, it is important to recognize the presence of growing numbers of older people as a blessing for society. Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it. Indeed the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much an act of generosity as the repayment of a debt of gratitude.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address at St. Peter’s Residence, London, Sept. 18, 2010

The evangelization of culture is all the more important in our times, when a “dictatorship of relativism” threatens to obscure the unchanging truth about man’s nature, his destiny and his ultimate good. There are some who now seek to exclude religious belief from public discourse, to privatize it or even to paint it as a threat to equality and liberty. Yet

religion is in fact a guarantee of authentic liberty and respect, leading us to look upon every person as a brother or sister. ... Society today needs clear voices which propose our right to live, not in a jungle of self-destructive and arbitrary freedoms, but in a society which works for the true welfare of its citizens and offers them guidance and protection in the face of their weakness and fragility

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, Sept. 16, 2010

Each of us has a mission, each of us is called to change the world, to work for a culture of life, a culture forged by love and respect for the dignity of each human person.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address in Hyde Park, London, Sept. 18 2010

[click here to Unsubscribe](#)