



September, 2010

Department of Catholic Charities
Department of Education and Catechesis
Department of Formation
Child and Youth Protection

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

MARRIAGE

Here are four things you can do for marriage today:

1. **Stop the jokes that marriage is miserable.** It's been decades now since comedian Henny Youngman made a lot of people laugh with this line: "Take my wife – *please!*" I don't find the statement troublesome because of chauvinism; every husband and every wife have had those moments when they think their spouse is totally crazy. An occasional joke can help us not to take something too seriously. But an avalanche of jokes about the tribulations of marriage have

left younger people wondering why people willingly enter into marriage if everyone hates it so much. No more “ball and chain” references. And no, not all men are pigs or dolts. Let’s act like we’re *proud* of our husband or wife.

2. Stop discouraging marriage among young people. Sometimes two people will fall in love in their early or mid-twenties. The absolute worst thing anyone could say to them is: “Why are you getting married so young? You have your whole life to live.” As if marriage isn’t *life*? Marriage is the ultimate adventure – packed with adversity, yes, but also full of joy. It’s like we refer to singlehood as dessert and marriage as the dreaded vegetables that we have to endure eventually. Let’s watch what we say and remember something: Marriage is joyful. Why don’t we want people to be happy and enter into this beautiful institution? It was created by God for us. (It’s even worse when some parents or other relatives suggest – even encourage – young people to have many more “experiences” with other people first. Why would encouraging sin be helpful? Just because the 1970s were crazy doesn’t mean that we all have to repeat these mistakes.)

3. Make improvement a goal in your marriage. Don’t live your life on cruise control. Most people use New Years Day as an opportunity for self-examination – it’s when we consider another career or maybe just a new diet. Some married couples have used their anniversary as a time to invest in their relationship. Recalling the moments that you first fell in love and all the early challenges you overcame together can also help you remember that with God’s help you can face the future without fear. But don’t just do yearly checkups. Do them frequently throughout the year.

4. Make family time a priority. Most people think it’s impossible to tithe – that they couldn’t afford giving God back 10 percent of what He’s given us. The best answer I heard on this was to give God the first 10 percent and trust in Him to provide the rest. It has worked wonders in my life. What about other priorities? Carving out an hour every day with the family should be easier than 10 percent of your income, right?

Brian Caulfield, editor of www.fathersforgood.org (a project of the Knights of Columbus), recommends an easy way to build in plenty of quality family time: the daily family walk. Each night his wife and their two boys go for a walk and meet their neighbors, listen to birds and enjoy casual conversation.

“The benefits are many,” writes Caulfield. “Number one, it is a healthy family activity. We get

fresh air and exercise, spend an hour with nature and one another, and get away from the computer, TV and telephone. When we get back home, we have some refreshments, then play a family game or watch a family video.”

The key to understanding family life is recognizing that time is not replaceable. How you decide to spend your time says everything about your priorities. By pushing back against interruptions and distractions, you will make family time a sacred priority. In addition, think about how many rising family issues (especially with your kids) you’ll see much sooner if you’re already carving out time with those you love. Your children and spouse *will* notice. Not only will you know your children better, but your relationship with your spouse will blossom. You’ll develop a deep and meaningful relationship because you’ll have invested not just in “quality time,” but in “quantity time” – which today is more impressive given all the modern distractions. Seriously, the ballgame can wait. Turn off the tube, put down the iPhone, turn off the computer... get outside and go walk.

These four tips won’t alone change our marriage culture overnight. And we can’t underestimate the damage out there. Sadly, the frivolous nature of many Hollywood marriages and the high national divorce rate undermine the notion of marriage as a lifelong life-giving commitment to each other. But with God’s grace, if we create solid and loving marriages, then we will be engaged in authentic cultural renewal.

(Excerpt from ***Apostles for Marriage*** by Joshua Mercer)

Persons With disabilities

Annual Family Day with Bishop Boyea – Persons with disAbilities, Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing and their families throughout the Diocese are invited to celebrate Mass with Bishop Boyea and parishioners of St. Mary Cathedral. Date for this event is Sunday, October 24, 2010, at St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing. Mass is celebrated at 12:00 noon followed by luncheon in St. Mary Parish Center. RSVP by calling Joann at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org by October 18th.

Contest for Grades 1-3 - Ministry with Persons with disAbilities is offering a disAbility Awareness Contest for Parish Schools & Religious Education Programs. To participate visit

ministry website at <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/disAbilities/index.html> and e-mail jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org A copy of a book about children with disAbilities will be mailed to you. You will then read this story to your classroom and students will draw a picture of what they learned from the book. Introduction letter with listing of prizes and drawing page is available on website.

WEBINAR - Threats to the Life of People With Disabilities, Part 1: Poor Prenatal Diagnosis of Lethal or Non-lethal Conditions & Disability: Presented live on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, 1:00-2:30pm by the National Catholic Partnership on disAbility in collaboration with USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities the Archdiocese of Washington, via webinar and onsite location. To register and for more information visit

www.ncpd.org

This webinar is FREE to anyone in the Diocese through Ministry with Persons with disAbilities affiliation. Recommended for personnel in: Parish & Diocesan Pastoral Support & Family Life, Health Care, Seminary & Medical Studies, Social Concerns, Chaplaincy, Mental Health, Youth/Young Adult Ministry.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

(Note: There will be a charge of \$ 10.00 per couple, for all Introductions 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 payable to Diocese of Lansing, 228 North Walnut Street, Lansing, MI 48933.)

Introduction to Natural Family Planning Classes offered as follows:

7:00pm, Thursday, **September 23**, at St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton;

10:00am, Saturday, **September 25**, at Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson;

9:00pm, Saturday, **September 25**, at St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing;

4:00pm, Sunday, **October 10**, at St. Gerard, Lansing

Pre-registration is required for the following classes:

Billings Ovulation Method - please contact Maria, 517- 523-3526, or visit the diocesan website at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/nfp/ovulationmethodclasses.html> . Jackson and Hillsdale area.

Sympto-Thermal Method, taught by the Couple to Couple League (CCL) - visit [the CCL website](#) , then click on "Search / Register for Class" to find classes in in Michigan. Upcoming classes:

September 26, at St. John the Evangelist, Fenton. Contact: mmorri12@ford.com or 810-714-4953

September 27, at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing. Contact: kristinewitkowski@gmail.com

October 2, at The Ark-Upstairs Room, St. Mary, Westphalia. Contact:

amberfeldpausch@hotmail.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 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

Pen Pal Ministry - The Diocese of Lansing, Office of Restorative Justice, has many volunteer opportunities available. One is the Pen Pal program. This is corresponding with inmates. Visit the Restorative Justice webpage at:

http://dioceseoflansing.org/restorativejustice/Pen_Pal_Application.pdf to obtain an application.

Contact Joe Dionise, Director of Restorative Justice, 517-342-2495, or via e-mail to:

jdionise@dioceseoflansing.org

Yarn Drive - The Huron Women's Correctional yarn drive is continuing. Several bags of yarn have been taken to the prison over the past few months. If you have any extra yarn please contact Joe Dionise via jionise@dioceseoflansing.org . The only colors that cannot be used are black and gray.

Prison Visit by Bishop Boyea - On August 3, 2010, Bishop Boyea traveled to Milan Federal Prison. He celebrated mass, baptized one prisoner and confirmed three. After mass Bishop had a question and answer session with the inmates. They totally enjoyed his interaction with them.

DEAF/HH Ministry

ICDA Annual Picnic - The Flint Catholic Deaf Group invites the Deaf/HH Community to attend their annual picnic on Sunday, September 26, 2010. The event will be held at the Flint Association of the Deaf (FAD); 4156 Holiday Drive; Flint, MI 48507 and begins with Mass at 11 am -- Fr. Michael Depcik will be the celebrant. Lunch, social and games will follow at 12:30. Lunch is \$7 for ages 12 and over. Contact Rose Smith at 989-587-6950 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org

Deaf Mass Schedule - Deaf Mass Schedule - The list of interpreted and/or ASL signed Masses for the 2010/2011 year is now [available on the diocesan website](http://dioceseoflansing.org/deafhh/asl_int_liturgies.html) at http://dioceseoflansing.org/deafhh/asl_int_liturgies.html . If your parish offers interpreted Mass for the Deaf Community and is not listed on this website, please [contact Rose Smith](#) .

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY - Are you in need of healing from divorce? Don't miss this incredible weekend. The Journey of Hope 2011, Annual Conference for separated and divorced Catholics, will be held **Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6, 2011** at the Atlanta Marriott Northwest, 200 Interstate North Parkway, Marietta, GA 30339. For information, call 770-952-7900.

2011 Annual Conference, "Catholic Social Workers and Our Call in the 21st Century"
June 21-23, 2011, Denver, CO. Keynote: Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Visit <http://www.cswana.org/> or call: 317-416-8285.

MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Cultural Diversity in the Church - For more information on Cultural Diversity in the Church, visit the US Bishops' website at <http://www.usccb.org/scdc/>

National Black Catholic Congress - The goal of the National Black Catholic Congress is to establish an agenda for the evangelization of African Americans; and to improve the spiritual, mental and physical conditions of African American Catholics. Stay in touch with matters relating to the Black Catholic Community by visiting: <http://www.nbccongress.org>

Hispanic Heritage Month - In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15-Oct. 15, the Michigan Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs encourages all individuals and organizations to join in the festivities by sponsoring a cultural, educational, or social event within your city, town, university, college and/or school. The calendar of events is available for download at

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/COSSA_HispHeritageMo_Cal_2010_332563_7.pdf

. Contact the Commission at: 517-373-8339 or via e-mail to: cosssa@michigan.gov

A National Congress - Rooted in discipleship: Enviados en mission. With the desire to revive the spirit of the *Encuentros* and celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Encuentro 2000*, the National Congress on Hispanic Ministry "*Raíces y Alas 2010*" is expected to be an extraordinary gathering of Catholic organizations, leaders and individuals from across the United States involved in Hispanic ministry. This gathering will provide the opportunity to celebrate, reflect on the current reality of Hispanic ministry in the United States, carry out theological reflection, and look toward the future with concrete projections for ministerial actions. The reflections on the reality of Hispanics will be based on the priorities outlined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB):

- Marriage and the Christian family

- Faith formation and sacramental practice
- Priestly and religious vocations
- Life and dignity of the human person
- Diversity with special emphasis on Hispanics

Visit: <http://isite157931.web08.intellisite.com/501370.ihtml>

Vietnamese Catholics - For more information on Vietnamese Catholics, visit <http://cwings.org/vietcatholic.net>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

A Word from the Superintendent: Let's Embrace Our Mission

In August, the principals of our 34 diocesan elementary, middle, and high schools spent time prayerfully exploring ways to more effectively serve our Lord in and through our Catholic schools. It was a very candid and faith-filled conversation, one I wish all parents, priests, parishioners, and benefactors could have witnessed.

We talked together about the changes we are going to make so that our schools will become more vibrant communities of witness, evangelization, and discipleship. In a word, we talked about ways we could more effectively live out our Mission as Christians, to share the good news of the Gospel.

Catholics know that we have been given the best of gifts in our baptism—life in God—and it is a tremendous gift that our Catholic schools not only allow, but encourage, our teachers and students, our parents and principals, to talk about Jesus, God's love, and the truth that sets us free.

As we begin this new school year, let us all pray for our principals, teachers, faculty, staff, parents, and (of course) students, that each of them will become wiser, more knowledgeable, and more Christ-like this year. And may each of us become more effective witnesses, evangelists, and disciples of Jesus this year as well.

With anticipation and hope for a great school year,
Fr. Steve Mattson, Superintendent

Catechist Formation Opportunities:

October 9, Souper Saturday, St Patrick Church, Brighton (Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 12, 10, 17) For more information see:

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Livingston_Cat_Form_Brighton_Oct_10.pdf

October 11, The Ministry of the Catechist, St. Paul, Owosso (Topic 1) . Presenters are Sharon Hardenbergh and Gina Moskal. For more information see:

http://dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Clinton_Shiawassee_Owosso.pdf

October 25, Learning and Faith Development, St. Paul, Owosso (Topic 2). Presenter is Gina Moskal. For more information see:

http://dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Clinton_Shiawassee_Owosso.pdf

Jamboree Mailing has gone out and it includes posters, brochures, Jack and Paty Armstrong Friend of Youth Nomination forms and all paperwork for the event. Additional material is on our youth ministry web page at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

The event takes place at Lansing Center, November 7. Steve Angrisano is our keynote speaker. http://web.mac.com/sangrisano/Steve_Angrisano/Home.html

Houseband is Noelle Garcia and Bishop Boyea will celebrate Mass with other priests from our diocese.

Basic Training in Youth Ministry - will once again take place on the four Mondays of October at St. John Student Center in East Lansing. October 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. Registration form is on our youth ministry web page at

http://dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/Basic_Training_Fall_2010.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.

<http://nccym.nfcym.org/>

DYLC 25th Anniversary-Banquet - Please go on line and register today for the 25th anniversary celebration of our Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp (DYLC) for high school youth!

*On October 16 we will have an 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.***

<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. Enter this link for course information.

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/RST215_YM_Course_2011.pdf

Education and Catechesis Calendar Reminders

October 4 – Youth Ministry Basic Training, St. John Student Center, Lansing, 7-9 PM

October 4-9 - 2010 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, Alexandria, LA

October 6-7 - St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor, Accreditation

October 9 - Youth Events and DYAC Meeting, 10:00 – 1:00 pm, Holy Redeemer, Burton

October 11 - Youth Ministry Basic Training, St. John Student Center, Lansing, 7-9 PM

October 12-13 - Sacred Heart, Hudson, Accreditation

October 16 - DYLC 25th Anniversary Celebration, Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, Lansing

October 16 - NPM Taizé Service, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Jackson

October 18 - Youth Ministry Basic Training, St. John Student Center, Lansing, 7-9 PM

October 24-27 - CACE Annual Meeting, Mobile, AL

October 25 - Youth Ministry Basic Training, St. John Student Center, Lansing, 7-9 PM

2010-2011 Calendar

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education_catechesis/2010_11_ed_cat_calendar.pdf

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

The priests are holding their Convocation at the end of September and the Deacons will hold their Convocation the first weekend in October. These events are a great opportunity for fellowship in these two communities. The priests will begin their preparation for the implementation of the changes in the Missal in Advent of 2011 and the deacons will begin preparation for the changes in the Missal and take an in depth look at the Psalms with Msgr. Lunsford. Pray for both of these communities as they spend time in renewing fellowship, prayer and study.

Mark your calendar for two major events the diocese is planning in 2011!

The Diocesan Men's Conference will be April 2, 2011 at the Lansing Convention Center. We have already lined up some terrific speakers.

The Diocese is holding a Common Conference for all Catholics in the Diocese. The Conference will be held from September 28-October 1, 2011. The theme is In Service of the Family of God

Formation Calendar Reminders

September 27-30 Emmaus Convocation, Fr. Paul Turner - *The New Translation*

October 1-3 Deacon Convocation, Msgr Robert Lunsford - *The Messianic Psalms*

October 10 Loyola Extension (Limex) Graduation Celebration, St. Mary Cathedral, 10:00am
Mass, light reception to follow in Madonna Hall

November 6 Lay Ecclesial Ministers Commissioning

November 19 Lay Ministers Convocation, St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton

OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

Child and Youth Protection - Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions for Adults
(duration of all sessions is 3 hours) For more information, contact: Safe Environment
Coordinator,

[Sally Ellis](#) at 517-342-2551).

Pre-register for a session at www.virtus.org.

Please do not call the hosting parish to pre-register.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

9:30am

[St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton](#)

Facilitator: Sister Maryetta Churches

Sunday, September 26, 2010

10:15am

[St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton](#)

Facilitator: Robin Shepard

Sunday, September 26, 2010

11:15am

[St. John Church and Student Center, East Lansing](#)

Facilitator: Al Weilbaecher

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

6:30pm

[St. Mary School, Mt. Morris](#)

Facilitator: Paul Johnston

Thursday, September 30, 2010

6:30pm

[St. Mary Parish, Pinckney](#)

Facilitator: Rebecca Keiser

Saturday, October 2, 2010

9:00am

[St. Mary Parish, Pinckney](#)

Facilitator: Rebecca Keiser

Monday, October 4, 2010

6:30pm

[St. Martha Church, Okemos](#)

Facilitator: Anne Cruce

Thursday, October 7, 2010

6:30pm

[St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton](#)

Facilitator: Sister Maryetta Churches

Sunday, October 10, 2010

2:00pm

[St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing](#)

Facilitator: Cheryl Williams-Hecksel

Saturday, October 16, 2010

9:00am

[St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, East Lansing](#)

Facilitator: Annie Kitching

Thursday, October 21, 2010

6:30pm

St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor

(Session in [Parish Activity Center, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd](#))

Facilitator: Linda Miller

Saturday, October 23, 2010

6:30pm

[St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Flushing](#)

Facilitator: Lisa Miller-Lee

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

6:30pm

[St. Gerard Church, Lansing](#)

Facilitator: Lynn Fuller

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

6:30pm

[St. Mary Parish, Westphalia](#)

Facilitator: Ray Rzepecki