

The **Ministry with Families**

formation experience is designed to:

- * Further the participant's transformation process in how they view the relationship between family and ministry
- * Deepen one's understanding of the impact of ministry on the Church and the Home
- * Provide insight and skills for participants to live out more intentionally a vision of a **Ministry with Families** in both their personal lives and ministerial efforts
- * Increase understanding of the dynamics of the family and the larger Church community as growing, changing systems

The formation process includes content focused on:

- * Christian Vision of Family Life
- * The Change Process in Systems
- * Family Spirituality
- * Family Systems
- * The Parish or Congregation as a System
- * Partnership with Families Across the Life Cycle
- * Partnership between the Family and the Parish or Congregation
- * Question for Partnership

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March, 2006
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INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY LIFE TRAINING COMING TO LANSING

Goal 3.2, Strategy C: Encourage and assist parishes in the implementation of family faith formation.

The Diocese of Lansing is pleased to announce that the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) will conduct its' **Ministry With Families 101** course in Lansing on Monday and Tuesday, 18-19 September 2006. This two-day course, the first in a series of three courses, is designed to address the needs of participants newly exposed to ministry with a family perspective. **The course is an introductory formation experience for all whose ministry efforts touch families.** It was formulated to address the particular needs of new family ministers and others (i.e. marriage preparation and enrichment leaders, parent educators, counselors, social workers, family enrichment facilitators, pastoral staff, Deacons, church volunteers, religious educators, RCIA leadership, youth ministers, teachers, adult education and formation leaders, bereavement ministers, leaders in divorce/separated ministry and all who are in ministry formation) who want to develop a family perspective in their ministry efforts. It is also for experienced family ministers who want to broaden their understanding of a family perspective in ministry and possibly replicate the **Ministry with Families** experience back in their local area.

The growth process does not end at the conclusion of the workshop. Participants formulate a family perspective goal that they want to accomplish within the year. They may request a mentor to be available to them as they incorporate a family perspective in personal and family relationships and in their ministerial and leadership role.

Ministry with Families is an experiential learning process. It is designed to assist the individual to incorporate his/her learning on a personal as well as on a ministerial and professional level. Throughout the process, ministering with a family perspective is a central theme. A main focus of the process is to increase the individual's capacity to be a self-differentiated leader. It examines three distinct family systems at the same time: the person who is ministered to and his/her family, the parish or diocesan family and the participant's own family.

NFP CLASSES IN THE SYMPTO-THERMAL METHOD

Goal 5, Strategy B: Offer educational tools that will assist individuals and families to integrate the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into their daily lives.

Couple to Couple League (CCL) will offer a course in the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning by Rob & Kate Choals at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Ann Arbor, April 24 at 7:00pm. Pre-registration REQUIRED. Call: Mary Perrydore at 734-429-4530.

INTERPRETED LENTEN MASS

Goal 1.1, Strategy B: Ensure every person will have a specific experience of being invited, welcomed and nurtured into the parish community.

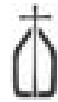
The Deaf Community in the Flint area will have interpreted Mass on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Father Bosco Padamattummal will be the celebrant for these liturgies and will be held at the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist, 600 North Adelaide Street, Fenton, Michigan. A Bible Study will follow. Contact: Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org.

DEAF FAMILY RETREAT

Goal 5, Strategy B: Offer educational tools that will assist individuals and families to integrate the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into their daily lives.

The Diocese has sponsored retreats for Deaf adults for many years. This year the retreat will be designed for families with Deaf members—including children and students. The Deaf Family Retreat will be held at DeSales Center in Brooklyn, Michigan, from Friday evening, March 24 through Sunday morning, March 26. Registration forms will be forthcoming. Contact: Deaf/HH Ministry office at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



CCMI

Goal 5, Strategy A: Make the needs and independence of the poor and vulnerable a priority.

Christians Concerned about Mental Illness (CCMI) monthly meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month from 12:00 - 1:00pm. We also have a monthly newsletter. Contact: Joann Davis at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org. Mark your calendar for **CCMI 2nd Annual Day Retreat** at St. Francis Retreat Center on Wednesday, June 14, 2006.

CAREGIVER/DISABILITY RETREAT DAY

Goal 1.1, Strategy B: Ensure every person will have a specific experience of being invited, welcomed and nurtured into the parish community.

Ministry with Persons with disAbilities will host a retreat day at St. Mary Parish, Williamston on Saturday, March 25, 2006, beginning at 1:30pm and ending with Mass at 4:30pm. Caregiver presenter is Tony Sperendi, Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Therese Parish, Lansing. Persons with disAbilities presenters are Joann Davis and Sister Marlene Taylor, AD. Make reservations by contacting: Joann Davis at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org.

NEW OFFERING

Goal 1.1, Strategy B: Ensure every person will have a specific experience of being invited, welcomed and nurtured into the parish community.

The new audio tape “**Entering the Heart of God - Praying the Lord’s Prayer in Our Day**” by Father Charles Irvin is available from the Ministry with Persons with disAbilities for the cost of \$17.99. Our ministry offers this and other audio tapes for persons with sight impairments and those who cannot read or hold the printed word. If you are interested in purchasing this audio tape, call: 517-342-2497.

INTRODUCTION TO NFP

Goal 5, Strategy B: Offer educational tools that will assist individuals and families to integrate the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into their daily lives.

Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 6:00pm at St. Therese Parish, Lansing. Pre-registration is required. Contact: NFP Program at 517-342-2587 or nfp@dioceseoflansing.org.

NFP BILLINGS OVULATION METHOD

Goal 5, Strategy B: Offer educational tools that will assist individuals and families to integrate the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into their daily lives.

Michelle Comstock will teach a four-part series course in the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning beginning April 20, 2006. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Contact: Natural Family Planning Program at 517-342-2587 or nfp@dioceseoflansing.org.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Applications for the 2006 Local CCHD Grants are available. Organizations with programs focused on poverty are encouraged to apply. Contact: Vince Gale at 517-342-2470 or vgale@dioceseoflansing.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



NEED AN INTERPRETER FOR A FUNERAL?

Goal 1.1, Strategy B: Ensure every person will have a specific experience of being invited, welcomed and nurtured into the parish community.

How can parishes be prepared for Deaf/hard of hearing participants at funeral liturgies? At the time of death, hearing relatives of the deceased often do not think of the possibility that someone who attends the funeral may be deaf. One solution might be for the priest to make a note with all the information to be gleaned from the family in preparation for the funeral. Inserting an item like "Access for Deaf/HH or person with a disability" can remind family members about the possible need for a sign language interpreter or some other form of access. Contact: Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org.

PROJECT RACHEL

Goal 2, Strategy A: Claim the Great Commission (Mt. 28) as "servants of the word" in the work of evangelization.

We have concluded our second Rachel's Vineyard retreat and are very pleased to be able to offer this retreat to those who are suffering from pregnancy loss, particularly those related to abortion. We collaborated with other dioceses in the state of Michigan and are scheduling Rachel's Vineyard retreats systematically in order to have one scheduled within the State of Michigan throughout the year. Contact: Vince Gale at 517-342-2470 or vgale@dioceseoflansing.org.

HOT TOPICS, COOL JUDGMENTS

Goal 5, Strategy A: Make the needs and independence of the poor and vulnerable a priority.

Beginning in late spring, the Office of Life Justice will assist parishes to expand their knowledge on the Church's teaching regarding social issues, both those that would be considered "hot-button" and those which are simply important. The first topic will be **immigration/human trafficking**. The National Bishop's Office has targeted immigration as a focus of their education work and there is an abundance of quality material for use by the laymen or clergy. The desire is to see as many parishes as possible talking about this issue and coordinating an educated response as Catholics informed in our common understanding. There will be nationally known speakers available and a book recommended for parish groups to discuss as well as the material from the national office.

COURAGE/ENCOURAGE

Goal 5, Strategy C: Integrate Catholic Social Teaching into all parish life: liturgy, spirituality, education, formation, social ministry and other parish activities.

Three new chapters of Courage, the official Catholic support group for persons with same-sex attraction are being started throughout the diocese. Monsignor Robert Lunsford, former Chancellor of the diocese, has been appointed chaplain. Encourage, for parents of children with same-sex attraction, remains under the leadership of Bob and Sue Caveria. The Twelve-Step Review by Fr. Emmerich Vogt, outstanding pamphlets explaining the Catholic perspective on spiritual healing and renewal, are fundamental to the group. To receive a copy of the pamphlet, contact: Rory Hoipkemier at 517-342-2465 or rhoipkemier@dioceseoflansing.org. For more information about Courage, call: 517-351-3315 or 810-231-9199.

PAROLEE AFTERCARE

Goal 5, Strategy A: Make the needs and independence of the poor and vulnerable a priority.

The diocese is working to gather and educate large numbers of faith-filled volunteers in Flint and Jackson to work with ex-offenders after their release. There is a new coordinator for Jackson and one committed deacon in the Flint area. If your church would be willing to hear a presentation, call: Restorative Justice Office at 517-342-2560.

SUMMER SCRIPTURE

DAYS 2006

Goal 1.1: Provide community activities to stimulate participation in the life of the community.

The Summer Scripture Days for 2006 are scheduled for August 22-24 at Bethany House, DeWitt. Reverend William Wegher, Pastor, Holy Redeemer Church in Burton, will present "Songs of the Soul . . . Praying the Psalms."

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DAY

We invite you to join in a time of prayer, fellowship and renewal at the first annual **Catholic Charities Day**, Thursday, May 4, 2006 from 9:00am - 2:30pm in the Diocesan Center, Lansing. Bishop Mengeling will celebrate Mass followed by a talk on Pope Benedict's first encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love). Michael Andrews, Director of Catechesis, will speak on church organization and the history of the Church's charitable work. Father Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA, will talk about the history and work of the organization. Monsignor Robert Lunsford will talk about what makes Catholic Charities unique.

FAMILY MINISTRY MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Grants up to \$750.00 are available. Call: 517-342-2465 or visit <http://home.catholicweb.com/familyministryminigrantdioceseoflansing>.

Training is August 14-15 at Bethany House, Dewitt. Contact: Sally Ellis at 517-342-2551, sellis@dioceseoflansing.org or 517-342-2595 (fax).

** Reminder - Compliance audit reports and supporting documentation were due February 28th. Please complete and return the audit report to Sally Ellis, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300. W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933 or fax to 517-342-2505.

The Safe Environment staff receives questions regarding who has to attend a Protecting God's Children Awareness Session [PGC], who has to have a background check and who has to read and sign Code of Pastoral Conduct.

To clarify:

- All full and part-time employees are required to attend one PGC session.
- All volunteers working with minors, no matter how many hours, are required to attend one PGC session.

Background checks:

- All full and part-time employees are required to have a background check with fingerprinting.
- All volunteers working with minors four or more hours per month on a regular basis are required to have a background check. If the volunteer has lived in Michigan 10 years consecutively (counting back from the current year), fingerprinting is not required. Background checks are completed by the safe environment office staff. If the volunteer has lived in Michigan less than 10 years, fingerprinting is required.

Code of Pastoral Conduct:

- All full and part-time employees are required to read and sign acknowledgment.
- All volunteers working with minors are required to read and sign acknowledgment.

PASTORAL PLANNING

NEED HELP TO ACHIEVE YOUR PARISH'S PASTORAL PLAN GOALS?

Judging from the responses in the 2005 parish annual reports, there is a variety of ways to achieve similar goals that have evolved out of the planning process... and some of them appear to be working quite well.

The Office of Pastoral Planning has identified a number of these and – in this and future issues of *VOICES Alive* – will highlight one or more of them so that other parishes can share in the wealth of good ideas. Some of them will be new efforts while others will probably present a brief description of the initiative here and also through a link ([Sharing the wealth...](#)) on the diocesan website. This will provide those interested with more details and resource persons for follow-up. Hopefully, future parish pastoral plans can benefit from this information and over a period of time, “*Sharing the wealth...*” will become a library of success stories upon which all can draw.

For openers, some may be interested in the program, Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP). In its 2005 parish annual report, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Fenton cited this program as contributing to the attainment of the first two priorities: “Provide variety and quality adult education and faith formation” and “Find and promote new volunteers for parish projects and committees”. CRHP (routinely pronounced “chirp”) features a fairly intense weekend of scriptural study, discussions, reflection and experience sharing. It was introduced in Fenton with support from St. Patrick's Parish of Brighton where the program has been operating successfully for several years.

Material resources required are relatively modest because the significant commitment of the program staff is what makes CRHP productive. Some of the outcomes cited include: increased attendance at daily Mass and greater involvement in parish ministries. Additionally, life-shaping and altering experiences happened for the participants.

For more information and the names of the people to contact about CRHP, check out “*Sharing the wealth...*” on the diocesan website at www.dioceseoflansing.org.



CURIA

FROM THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

The Diocese of Lansing will offer facilitator training this summer for *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Program*. The plan is to have an on-site for each parish, school or agency, or to have a facilitator for a cluster of parishes.

Facilitator candidates must have:

- attended a *Protecting God's Children Program* for Adults
- completed a criminal background check
- read and signed the Code of Pastoral Conduct
- public speaking ability

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have a background in education, social work, psychology or criminal justice. There is no registration fee and the diocese will provide overnight accommodations.

CURIA

BISHOP MENGELING APPOINTS NEW COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

Goal 4.2: Effectively deploy clergy to improve sacramental and pastoral ministry.

Bishop Mengeling announces the appointment of the new College of Consultors for a five year term effective immediately in accord with Canon 202. The College of Consultors assists the Bishop in the governance of the diocese. When the diocesan see is vacant or impeded, the College assumes a governance role in the diocese and appoints a diocesan administrator if no other provisions are made. For more information and details on the College of Consultors, go to <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/index.cfm/NewsItem?id=168506&From=Home>.

Rev. Jame Eisele

Rev. David Howell

Rev. Charles Irvin

Rev. Robert McGraw

Rev. Msgr. Michael D. Murphy

Rev. Thomas Nenneau

Rev. Karl Pung

Rev. Msgr. Steven Raica

Rev. Fred Taggart, OSA

Rev. Gerald Vincke

Rev. Brendan Walsh

Rev. Daniel Wheeler



FORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 11, the Deacon Community will gather for a Lenten Day at St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing in Fr. MAC Hall. Father Karl Pung, Chairman of the Diocesan Formation Department, will be the presenter with the theme, *"Mercy; Restored and Restoring"*. The event begins at 9:00am with registration and refreshments and continues at 9:30am with morning prayer and the first presentation. The day will include quiet reflection time and celebration of the Eucharist, concluding at 3:00pm with prayer and blessing.

Thursday, March 23, Bishop Mengeling will gather with the priests of the diocese for their annual Lenten Day of Reflection at Saint Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Fathers Matthew Fedewa and Douglas Osborn will be the presenters. The event will begin at 10:00am with check-in and refreshments. The day will include presentations, quiet reflection and opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation, concluding at 3:30pm with prayer and blessing. Cost: \$20.00. Contact: Arlene in the Priestly Life and Ministry Office at 517-342-2510 or awoelfel@dioceseoflansing.org.

May 1-5 is the week for the priests working in the diocese to gather for their Annual Retreat at Bethany House, DeWitt. Father Norbert J. Wood, O. Praem from Silverado, CA is the presenter with the theme: *"The Desire for God: The Priest as Man of Prayer"*. The event begins on Monday evening with a welcoming dinner at 6:00pm. The week together will include presentations, quiet time, celebration of the Eucharist each day, a communal penance service and holy hour. Cost: \$300.00. Contact: Arlene at 517-342-2510 or awoelfel@dioceseoflansing.org.

2006

May 2, 4, 10 & 23: Deacon Formation Board Interviews, Diocesan Center, 5:00 - 9:00pm

May 7: Discernment Day for Diaconate, 12:00pm Mass at Cathedral, 1:00 - 4:00pm Madonna Hall, Child care in Theological Library

May 12: Ongoing Formation Day - sponsored by Formation Dept., Place: St. Agnes, Fowlerville, 9:00am - 3:30pm, Presenter: Fr. Robert Rivers, Theme: Evangelization

May 23: Social for Senior Priests, Bethany House, DeWitt, 11:00am - 2:00pm

May 23: Gathering for Newly Ordained (*last 5 years*), Saint Francis Retreat Center, 2:00 - 7:00pm

July 21: Lugnuts Game - family night for vocations

July 26: Priests' Summer Day, Bethany House, DeWitt

August 10: Rite of Candidacy (20 men), 7:00pm Mass in Cathedral, Reception following in Parish Hall

August 19: Conversations in Ministry, Diocesan Center, Presenter: Dr. Janet Smith, Theme: Theology of the Body

August 24: Institution to Acolyte (12 men), 7:00pm Mass in Cathedral
Reception following - Madonna Hall

Sept. 29 - October 1: Permanent Deacon Community Annual Convocation, Shanty Creek Resort & Club, Bellaire, MI, Presenter: Fr. Richard Hogan, Theme: Theology of the Body

October 2-5: 28th Annual Presbyteral Convocation, Shanty Creek Resort & Club, Bellaire, MI, Presenter: Fr. Richard Hogan, Theme: Theology of the Body

RCIA DIRECTORS AND TEAMS

Goal 2: Commit to our mission of evangelization by sharing the joy and promise of the Gospel with inactive and alienated Catholics and the unchurched.

Confer the March, 2006 issue of *Today's Parish* for an editorial and 5 articles about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

MINISTRY POSITIONS

Goal 4.1: Establish a diocesan human resource office to attract, support and retain professional ministers at all levels throughout the diocese.

If your parish is seeking applicants for a position, or you or someone you know is interested in current openings in youth ministry, young adult ministry, adult education/faith formation, RCIA, religious education or pastoral ministry, call: [Pat Rinker](mailto:Pat.Rinker@dioceseoflansing.org) at 517-342-2485; [Pete Ries](mailto:Pete.Ries@dioceseoflansing.org) at 517-342-2486; [Michael Andrews](mailto:Michael.Andrews@dioceseoflansing.org) at 517-342-2479 or [Nancy Joseph](mailto:Nancy.Joseph@dioceseoflansing.org) at 517-342-2512.

FOCCUS FACILITATOR TRAINING

Goal 4.3: Increase leadership among the laity through formation, education and active service.

The revised FOCCUS Facilitator training for new and experienced facilitators is now available. The curriculum consists of approximately 12 contact/instructional hours and can be adjusted to accommodate unique situations. Contact: Office of Family Life at 517-342-2471 or tfogle@dioceseoflansing.org and identify your need (the number of couples) for the training.



EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

(Continued from Page 1)

Currently, the Diocese of Lansing is the only location in the Midwest where this training will be provided in 2006. **For budgetary planning, we anticipate the per individual cost for both training days, to be approximately \$160**, which includes the registration fee, a manual, supplies, four meals and snacks (does not include evening meals, travel expenses or lodging). Detailed cost, registration deadline and schedule will be forwarded to each parish pastor soon.

Now is not too early to start planning and scheduling your ministry team members to attend. Previous Diocese of Lansing attendees of this training have implemented outstanding family ministry focused programs within their parish and organizations. All are highly encouraged to take advantage of this special training to be offered in our own diocese.

For additional information, contact: Office of Family Life Ministry at 517-342-2471 or tfogle@dioceseoflansing.org.

CAFÉ

Goal 3.1: Create comprehensive continuing adult education and formation opportunities.



The release of the movie *The Da Vinci Code* on May 19, will be an opportunity for faith formation, prompted by what is happening in daily life. The book of the same name was a best seller over the last 2-3 years. It has and will cause questions about basic beliefs of our faith. Some parishes have already scheduled adult faith

formation events regarding *The Da Vinci Code*. For resources that could be helpful in this area, consider the following:

- pamphlet *The Da Vinci Code: The Facts Behind the Fiction of the Bestselling Novel*, by Amy Welborn, Our Sunday Visitor, 2004, 800-348-2440
- the book *De-Coding Da Vinci: The Facts Behind the Fiction of The Da Vinci Code*, by Amy Welborn, Our Sunday Visitor, 2004, 800-348-2440
- the book *Mary of Magdala*, revised edition, *What The Da Vinci Code Misses*, by Mary Thompson, Paulist Press, 2006, 800-218-1903

NATIONAL EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE

Goal 2: Commit to our mission of evangelization by sharing the joy and promise of the Gospel with inactive and alienated Catholics and the unchurched.

A number of national evangelization organizations are sponsoring the North American Institute for Catholic Evangelization 2006, with the theme "Evangelizing God's People in a Culture of Diversity". The conference will be held July 12-15, 2006 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. If you are interested in attending, contact: Pete Ries at 517-342-2486 or pries@dioceseoflansing.org.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

Goal 7.1, Strategy A: Develop ways to evangelize youth, college students and young adults that will sustain them in the Church.

Our first conference since 2001 will be held at St. Thomas in Ann Arbor on April 1. Look for registration material online and check out our [young adult ministry page](#) on the Diocese of Lansing website. Sal Solo is our featured keynote. We will have 8 workshops, Mass, dinner and dance. Workshop choices include:

Chris & Diana Root - Relationships Between Men & Woman

Rev. John Ricardo - Theology of the Body

Ron Landfair - "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

Sister Ann Shields - 8 Effective Things You Can Do to Jumpstart Your Prayer Life

Sister Dorothy Ederer - Forgiveness as a Bridge to Minister Together.

Rev. Carl Pung - 8 Vocations

Rev. Dan Reim - Social Justice Outreach Christian Social Justice: "Faith in Action"

Rita Thiron - Eucharist Outside of Mass

Sal Salo - You Have a Call

See our website for registration brochure and material.



OPPORTUNITY FOR BASIC YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING

Goal 7.4: Nurture & develop the leadership potential of youth & young adults.

Basic training in youth ministry will be offered at Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor, 4000 Ave Maria Dr.

The four sessions are:

* Thursday, April 20, 7:00 - 9:00pm - Vision of Youth Ministry, presented by Pat Rinker, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

* Thursday, April 27, 7:00 - 9:00pm - Church: Mission & Ministry, presented by Theresa Chartier, Coordinator for Youth Ministry, St. Thomas Church, Ann Arbor.

* Thursday, May 4, 7:00 - 9:00pm - Understanding Youth Culture and Working with Small Groups, presented by Todd Gale, Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Queen of the Miraculous Medal and St. John's Church, Jackson.

* Thursday, May 11, 7:00 - 9:00pm - Youth Ministry Planning presented by Deacon Ron Kenney, Coordinator of Youth Ministry for St. John the Evangelist Church, Fenton.

Call: Christ the King Church to register, 734-665-5040

DIOCESAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP (DYLC)

Goal 7.4: Nurture & develop the leadership potential of youth & young adults.

Camp is June 18-23 at Bethany House. Registration materials our out to parishes. Are you sending your youth leaders? This is an awesome formative experience for our high school leaders. Please consider sending your potential leaders. Early deadline for DYLC is March 17. Late deadline is April 7. Materials are available on our website.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION SEQUENCE IS IMPORTANT

Goal 4.3: Increase leadership among the laity through formation, education and active service.

When a couple presents themselves to the Church and express their desire to be married, two important steps need to be taken sequentially and right away. First, the step to ascertain the couple's freedom to marry within the Church through the completion of the M-A form (Prenuptial Questionnaire) by the pastor, priest, or deacon who will be the official Church witness at the wedding, should be accomplished before the wedding is scheduled, before the Church is reserved and before the reception hall is reserved. A critical second step is to administer to the couple the FOCCUS inventory **prior to attending any other marriage prep sessions and/or programs.** It is important to measure all responses to FOCCUS in relation to the couple's remote and proximate phase of marriage preparation (provided by parents and their environment) before they enter into the immediate phase of marriage preparation. For more information, contact: Office of Family Life at 517-342-2471 or tfogle@dioceseoflansing.org.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR MARCH - APRIL 2006

3/15	9:30am - 12:00pm Livingston & Washtenaw Regions DRE/CYM/Pastoral Ministers Meeting - St. Joseph, Dexter	4/9	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
3/16	9:00am - 12:00pm Genesee/Owosso Region DRE/CYM/ Pastoral Ministers Meeting - St. John, Davison 1:00 - 4:00pm Diocesan Pastoral Council - St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton 6:15pm Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis - Diocesan Center	4/13	Holy Thursday 10:30am Chrism Mass - St. Mary Cathedral
3/18	10:00am Catholic Committee on Scouting - St. Joseph, Howell 5:00pm Confirmation - SS Charles & Helena, Clio	4/14	Central Services Closed for Good Friday
3/19	10:00am Confirmation - St. Joseph, Adrian	4/16	Easter Sunday
3/20	St. Joseph, Husband of BVM	4/17	Central Services Closed for Easter Monday
3/23	Priests' Lenten Day of Reflection with Bishop - SFRC, DeWitt	4/18-21	National Catholic Educational Association Annual Conference - Atlanta, Georgia
3/24-26	8:00am Refresh Retreat for Young Adult Singles - TBA	4/18-21	14th Annual National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors Conference - Atlanta, Georgia
3/24-26	9:00am - 5:00pm Deaf Adult Retreat, DeSales Center, Brooklyn	4/20	1:00 - 4:00pm Diocesan Pastoral Council - St. +Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton 7:00 - 9:00pm Basic Training in Youth Ministry - Christ the King Parish, Ann Arbor
3/24-26	6:00 - 8:00pm Deaf Family Retreat, DeSales Center, Brooklyn	4/22	10:00am - 1:00pm Youth Events Planning Committee - St. Paul, Owosso 5:00pm Confirmation - St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor
3/25	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord 2:00 - 5:00pm Caregiver/disAbility Retreat Day, St. Mary, Williamston 5:00pm Confirmation - Holy Family, Ovid	4/23-26	8:00am FDLIC Region VI Spring Meeting - Weber Center, Adrian
3/26	Catholic Relief Services 2:00pm Confirmation - St. Isidore, Laingsburg	4/23	Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday 1:30pm Scout Awards Reception - St. Mary Cathedral Hall, Lansing 2:00pm Confirmation - Sacred Heart, Hudson 2:30pm Scout Awards Ceremony - St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing
3/28	9:30am Evangelization Advisory Committee - Diocesan Center 7:00pm St. Paul/St. Joseph Confirmation - St. Paul, Owosso	4/24	7:00pm Confirmation - St. Mary, Westphalia
3/29	8:30am - 2:00pm Catholic Student Legislative Day, Diocesan Center	4/25	12:00 - 3:00pm Family Life Advisory Board Meeting - Diocesan Center 7:00pm Confirmation - Holy Redeemer, Burton
3/30	Diocesan Staff Retreat - Diocesan Offices Closed - SFRC, DeWitt	4/26	9:30am - 12:30pm CAFE (Catholic Adult Formation and Education) Advisory Committee - Diocesan Center 12:00 - 3:00pm Christian Initiation Advisory Committee - Diocesan Center
4/1	Diocesan Young Adult Conference - St. Thomas, Ann Arbor 4:30pm Confirmation - St. Mary, Williamston	4/27	7:00pm Confirmation - St. Robert, Flushing 7:00 - 9:00pm Basic Training in Youth Ministry - Christ the King Parish, Ann Arbor
4/2	2:00pm Confirmation - St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor	4/29	4:30pm Confirmation - St. Pius X, Flint
4/6	7:00pm Confirmation - St. Anthony, Hillsdale		



300 West Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48933

Help us decrease printing and posting expenses!

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