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The Year of Saint Paul booklet is available online:

<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/YearofStPaul.html>

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YEAR OF SAINT PAUL

Pope Benedict XVI has announced a special jubilee dedicated to the life and teaching of Saint Paul the Apostle. The Pauline Year opened on June 28, 2008 and will conclude on June 29, 2009, marking approximately 2000 years after the birth of the Apostle to the Gentiles. In his remarks, the Pope noted that the Church needs Christians today who will imitate Paul's great missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice.

Throughout the jubilee year, catechesis on the life and work of Saint Paul will be highlighted. The Diocese of Lansing has prepared a booklet entitled "*The Year of Saint Paul*" which will assist parishes, religious education programs and schools to celebrate this year with liturgies, prayer services and Scripture studies. Additionally, Father Douglas Osborn will be offering reflections on Saint Paul throughout the diocese.

The booklet contains six major parts:

1. *Introduction by Bishop Boyea*

2. *Official Statements*

 Homily of Pope Benedict XVI

 Decree on Indulgences

 Bishop Boyea's Homily on the Opening of the Year of Saint Paul

3. *The life of Saint Paul; maps of his missionary journeys*

4. *Sacred Scripture*

 Overviews of the Letters of Saint Paul

 Scripture for Bulletin Inserts

CATHOLIC DEAF/HH MINISTRY

A **Deaf Arts Festival** will be held on Saturday, September 20, at the DeSales Center in Brooklyn, Michigan from 10:00am - 8:00pm. Deaf performers and artists from around the country will share their talents, arts and crafts. Parking is \$5. www.deafartsfestival.org.

The **National Catholic Office for the Deaf Annual Pastoral Week** will be held in San Francisco January 16 – 21, 2009. This annual conference offers opportunities to network with pastoral workers as well as learn how to minister to the Deaf community. For further information, please contact: Rose Smith at 517-342-2532 or rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org.

The **2008 - 2009 Schedule of ASL** signed or interpreted weekend liturgies throughout the Lansing Diocese can be found at: www.dioceseoflansing.org.

“REALITIES OF SAME-SEX ATTRACTION”

This is a day of education with Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons and Rev. Paul Check speaking on the psychological and spiritual issues around this important topic. **Clergy Day, October 24; Everyone Day, October 25** at St. Joseph Parish, Howell, from 10:00am - 3:00pm, lunch included. RSVP is required. Contact: Linda at 517-342-2465 or lkolanowski@dioceseoflansing.org.

WEBINAR SEMINAR ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Webinar Seminar on Mental Illness: The NCPD Council on Mental Illness, October 6, 2008, 1:00 - 2:00pm EDT. Topic: *Come to the Table: Nurturing the Sacramental Life of Persons with Mental Illness.* <http://www.ncpd.org/Webinars.htm>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



US BISHOPS URGE PRAYER FOR ELECTIONS

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites U.S. Catholics to pray before the November election a novena for life, justice and peace called Novena for Faithful Citizenship. The Novena for Faithful Citizenship runs for nine days and can be used consecutively, one day each week, for nine days prior to the election or “in any way that works best for a community or individual.” The Novena is available either as a text document or can be downloaded as a podcast from the Faithful Citizenship website at <http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts>.

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. The date for this event is Sunday, October 19, at St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing. Mass is celebrated at 12:00pm followed by a luncheon in St. Mary Parish Center. RSVP by contacting: Joann at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org by October 12th.

CCMI MEETINGS

Christians Concerned about Mental Illness (CCMI) monthly meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month from 12:00 - 1:00pm in the Diocesan Center at 228 N. Walnut Street, Lansing. CCMI meetings will begin September 23. No reservations required. Meetings are a chance for prayer and fellowship. Contact: Joann at 517-342-2497 or jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org for more information.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Over the previous fifteen months, I have become acquainted with a man that I have come to admire and respect. He is a man that has overcome great obstacles in his life to become educated and informed. His family raised him in a Christian home where he, as a fourteen year old, worked at two jobs that enabled him to attend a Christian school. He achieved straight A's in his studies. At the age of fifteen, his life unraveled. Through a combination of circumstances, for which he accepts full responsibility, he was involved in a double homicide and sentenced to life in prison. His early prison history includes years spent in a gang, violence and hatred. Eventually, he wondered whether he would be consumed by hatred until he died and recognized the futility of it. He began to study the various cults and religions, looking for answers. He told me that he studied many different ones including the Aryan Brotherhood, Buddhism and the Protestant Reformation. He was introduced to Catholicism by a prison volunteer. He said, “I was able to poke holes in everything until I came to Catholicism.” He then accepted the Catholic faith and has led others to the faith in prison. He has written several books on Catholicism for use by inmates. When I visit him, his eyes are bright and he smiles widely. I asked him if he wants to be released. He replied that he “only wants to live a responsible life”. He understands that to live responsibly for him means to live his sentence responsibly and he is doing so. He is a very remarkable thirty-four year old man. Call: Tim Metts at 517-342-2495 for information.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

There is a charge of \$10.00 per couple for all *Introduction to NFP* classes which must be paid prior to class. Checks should be made out and mailed to: Diocese of Lansing, 300 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

Introduction to NFP Classes

- September 25, from 7:00 – 9:00pm, St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton
 - September 28, from 5:00 – 6:00pm, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Davison
 - September 28, from 4:00 – 6:00pm, St. Gerard Parish, Lansing
 - September 29, from 7:00 – 9:00pm, St. Mary Parish, Westphalia
 - October 2, from 7:00 – 9:00pm, Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson
- Pre-registration is required. Contact: 517-342-2587 or nfp@dioceseoflansing.org.

Billings Ovulation Method

Wednesday, October 15, 7:00pm, St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale. Call: Maria at 517-523-3526.

Sympto-Thermal Method

Ann Arbor Area: September 13 at 10:00am, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Ann Arbor. Taught by Albert & Beck Faraj. Call: Jolynn at 734-429-0603.
Westphalia/St. Johns Area: Tony & Stephanie Feldpausch are teaching classes this fall. To register, call: 989-593-2798.

Creighton Model Fertility Care System

Contact: Amanda at 517-242-3710 or venemafamily@cablespeed.com.

HUMANAE VITAE 40 YEARS LATER

A women's group study guide on *Humanae Vitae* has been produced by ENDOW in eight sessions. Thoughtful and deep, it is highly recommended for any woman who wants to internalize the Church's knowledge of sexuality and marriage. Go to www.ENDOWonline.com. ENDOW has been approved by the bishop for the Diocese of Lansing.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SHIAWASSEE AND GENESEE COUNTIES

Established over 65 years ago under the leadership of Monsignor Earl V. Sheridan, Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties has been providing help and creating hope for those it serves. Currently, Catholic Charities offers more than 30 different programs. One in particular is the Mr. Rogers "Say No" Program designed to educate, encourage and employ at-risk youth in Genesee County. It was created in 1989 by Wendell Rogers for minority males under the age of 25 who were at risk of academic failure and incarceration. Catholic Charities partnered with the program in 2006 and offered additional support and services to meet the growing concern in Genesee County for boys who were at high-risk for illegal activities, drug and alcohol use as well as academic failure. Today, the program is currently working with area schools and local churches throughout the county all year long.

A unique feature of the program is the Summer Garden and Horticulture Projects. The Summer Garden Project employs youth, ages 14 and up, to grow and maintain various gardens throughout Flint. The vegetables that are harvested are sold at the Flint Farmer's Market every Saturday in the summer. Another unique feature of the program is the Horticulture Project which employs students to maintain and beautify various sites throughout the county. Students have assisted various organizations in their beautification efforts, which include Applewood, the Genesee County Land Bank, Keep Genesee County Beautiful and the Michigan State University Extension Office, to name a few. Currently, it is the largest area employer of summer youth in Genesee County, employing over 40 youth.

Greg Gaines, Program Director for the Mr. Rogers "Say No" Program, stated that the program has been very successful and many of the boys have gained valuable work experience that has led to other employment and academic achievement. "This program has changed my grandson's life. It has changed our family's life!" Rosie, the grandmother of one of the program's youth could not say enough regarding the instrumental changes the program has made in her grandson's life. "He finally has someone to look up to and respect; most importantly, he has found self-respect and pride. He now believes that he can do whatever he wants to. This program has given him not only that dream, but also, the tools he will need to accomplish it!"

- Volunteers whose duties include four or more hours per month contact with minors

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was implemented in the Diocese of Lansing in August, 2003. This is the first time we have asked you to provide us information on existing employees and volunteers who are active and completed a background check in a previous year. The re-check will be done utilizing the Michigan State Police Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT). There is no cost. The information needed is: First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, Date of Birth, Ethnicity (i.e., African American; Asian or Pacific Islander; Caucasian; American Indian, Alaskan Native or Other).

If you are certain that there is a Diocese of Lansing Consent form on file in the Safe Environment Office for the individual, all that is needed is a list of employees/volunteers with the above information. If you are uncertain, complete the consent form. Send lists and consent forms via email to: sellis@dioceseoflansing.org or fax to 517-342-2505. The deadline is extended to November 15, 2008.

The re-check process does not negate background checks for new employees/volunteers. Diocesan policy is still in effect [see page 10 of Employee Handbook]. The re-check is an "extra" we are doing to ensure that children and youth continue to be protected from risk of harm. Call: Sally Ellis at 517-342-2551.

NB: PURSUANT TO THE REVISED SCHOOL CODE LAW, THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE RUN A BACKGROUND CHECK ON FULL AND PART-TIME SCHOOL EMPLOYEES YEARLY. THEREFORE, SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS PROCEDURE.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

FROM THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE. . .

VIRTUS ONLINE TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE: Volunteers who have contact with minors are required to attend one Protecting God's Children Session for Adults. The recent compliance audit figures indicated that there were 400+ volunteers who did not complete safe environment training by the end of the audit period (June 30).

Aware that occasionally it is impossible for a volunteer to attend a live Protecting God's Children session, VIRTUS now has online training available.

The online training is for volunteers who are unable to attend a live Protecting God's Children session. The volunteer will need to register at www.virtus.org for one of the live sessions before he or she can be assigned the online training course. There is a two-week deadline from the date of assignment to complete the online course. The volunteer will need a valid email address and will receive an email from VIRTUS as soon as the online course is assigned that reads:

“*** This is an automated email message. Please do not reply. ***

_____ (volunteer's name):

Your VIRTUS Online administrator has assigned you to do online training. Please visit www.virtus.org and login to access this training.

Your user id is: _____

If you do not remember your password, click the "FORGOT PASSWORD" link at www.virtus.org.

Once you have logged in, click on the MY TRAINING tab and choose the ONLINE TRAINING link on the left-hand side of the page.

If you have any questions, please contact your system administrator.

Your system administrator is: Sally Ellis

sellis@dioceseoflansing.org

517-342-2551

If you have volunteers who are unable to attend a live Protecting God's Children session, please send me their names, ask them to register at www.virtus.org and make sure they include a valid email address during the registration process. The online training course will be assigned once these two steps are completed.

Volunteers are strongly urged to attend a live Protecting God's Children Session. Online training should be an option in the rare circumstance that a volunteer absolutely is unable to attend a live session. The online training is for volunteers; employees are required to attend a live session.

CLARIFICATION: The auditors suggested that we background check volunteers and employees again who went through this process previously. People are asking why? The answer is because our focus is to create safe environments for children and youth. In our endeavor to protect children and youth from risk of harm, it is prudent to perform ongoing background checks on:

- Full and part-time employees

- **Young Adult Mass and Brunch with the Bishop** has been added to our 2008 - 2009 calendar. It will take place October 12 at Holy Redeemer Church in Burton. Noon Mass will be followed by an opportunity to share food and faith with Bishop Boyea and our young adults. Get registration information online at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youngadult/index.html>.

- **Jamboree**, November 2 at the Lansing Center for high school youth is coming. Our theme is: *Fight the Good Fight: Unleash the Faith Hero Within*. The keynote speaker is Bob Perron from Stooze for Christ ministries. Bob has been to our diocese twice before. His stories, humor and message of faith will inspire our youth and those adults who attend with them. Bishop Boyea will celebrate Mass with us. Registration material has been mailed. For more copies, please see our website at: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>.

SEPTEMBER 30 IS THE DEADLINE

- ...for ordering CAFÉ merchandise to enhance your adult faith formation efforts. Coffee mugs, coasters and large banners are available. Sets of 8 CAFÉ posters are free. Order forms were mailed to everyone on the parish adult education leader mailing list. To request another order form, contact: Ava at 517-342-2484 or apung@dioceseoflansing.org.



EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

CAFÉ



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

1) Consider planning at least one program this year in collaboration with a neighboring parish or the parishes of your region. Discuss this possibility with a neighboring director of adult faith formation or at your next regional meeting of parish adult faith formation leaders.

2) Effective adult faith formation programming needs to be timely. On the ballot this November will be a proposal to allow for Embryonic Stem Cell research in the state of Michigan. It is being very highly funded and has some big stars behind it. The bishops of Michigan have designated a chunk of the educational funds of the Michigan Catholic Conference to assist in the fight against this proposal. On September 15th the MCC will mail to every parish a packet of liturgical and homiletic aids, some suggested bulletin announcements and other materials. Why not put on an information evening about this issue for your parishioners?

TRAFFIC NEWS

On Tuesday, September 2, 2008, Walnut Street in Lansing was closed to all traffic between Ottawa Street and Shiawassee Street, including the intersection of Walnut and Ionia. The project is slated to last through the month of October.

DRES/CYMS/PASTORAL MINISTERS/PRINCIPALS

Common Strategy 3: Assist every parish to develop a plan to improve communication.

Please mark Wednesday, September 17 on your calendars. The Legal Issues Inservice is 9:15am – 12:00pm. We have worked hard to provide for you responses to legal issues relevant to all ministries – religious education, youth ministry, adult faith formation, RCIA, evangelization, pastoral ministry and Catholic schools. We will meet at the Diocesan Center with registration/coffee at 9:00am.

The fall business meeting for DREs/CYMs/Pastoral Ministers will be 1:00 – 3:00pm. Lunch will be at 12:00pm. Cost is \$7.50 for the day. Please RSVP to: ckaloz@dioceseoflansing.org.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT

Goal 7.1: Engage youth, college students, and young adults through ministry and creative programming.

Youth & Young Adult Activities

- **Veritas Retreat** will take place September 26 - 28 at St. Mary Church in Swartz Creek. Watch for registration material for this young adult retreat in the Flint area. You will find more on our website at <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youngadult/index.html>. In the spirit of mutual program planning and support for each others' programs, *To Encounter Christ* will be scheduled in the Flint area at another time.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Common Strategy 3: Assist every parish to develop a plan to improve communication.

We need to update our mailing, phone and email lists by deleting staff persons who have left and by including information on new people who have joined parish staffs. Also, if you have a new email address, please give us that change as well. Send information to: pries@dioceseoflansing.org.

EVANGELIZATION CHAIRPERSONS/ WELCOME HOME PARISH CONTACTS

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.

1) Contact: Pete Ries at 517-342-2486 or pries@dioceseoflansing.org if you have not received your parish Welcome Home organization packet for 2008 - 2009.

2) Confer the September, 2008 issue of *Today's Parish Minister* for five articles on evangelization.

3) Approach your pastor/pastoral coordinator and parish pastoral council about the possibility of having a presentation about evangelization, what it is and how it can give a unique focus to the activities your parish and its commissions are already doing. Call Pete Ries when you want to schedule such a presentation.

4) A six clock hour training program is available for parish evangelization teams at a time of your choosing. If you wish to do this with neighboring parishes or for your region as a whole, that can be arranged also. Call: 517-342-2486.

rites of Election: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Three Rites of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion are scheduled for Lent 2009.

Saturday, February 28

9:30am
St. Joseph, Dexter

Saturday, February 28

2:00pm
St. Gerard, Lansing

Sunday, March 1

3:00pm
St. John the Evangelist, Fenton

We are deeply grateful to the host parishes for their generous hospitality.

For more information, please contact: Office of Worship at 517-342-2480.

DAY OF REGIONAL CATECHIST FORMATION CLASSES

Livingston Area Catholic
Educational Ministers Presents

Souper Saturday

A Day of Regional Catechist
Formation Classes

October 4, 2008

8:00am – 4:00pm

**Held at St. John Church
2099 North Hacker Road
Howell, MI**

8:00am - Registration

8:15am - Prayer

8:30 - 10:00am - Session I

3 Lesson Planning/Using the
Catechetical Text as a Tool

(Please bring the teacher edition of
your text.)

Presenter: Mary Mahar

Or

#6 Jesus Christ Presenter: Fr. Dave
Howell

10:15 - 11:45am - Session II

#1 Ministry of the Catechist
Presenter: Sr. Theresa M. Fifer, OSF

Or

10 Mary & the Saints/Eternal Life
Presenter: Marlene Zebrowski

**11:45am - 12:30pm - LUNCH
and Door Prizes**

12:30 - 2:00pm - Session III

#2 Learning Process & Faith
Development

Presenter: Marlene Zebrowski

Or

#12 Liturgy/Worship

Presenter: Diane Kubus

2:15 - 3:45pm - Session IV

5 Managing Student Behavior
Presenter: Angela Garcia

Or

#16 Old Testament Themes
Presenter: Sr. Theresa M. Fifer, OSF

3:45pm - Closing Prayer



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**DIOCESAN CALENDAR
 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2008**

September 24-25	NACARE Region VI Meeting, 6:30pm	October 4	We Care Seminar - Catholic Charities, Jackson, 9:00am - 12:00pm
September 24	Newly Married Subcommittee - 6:30 - 7:00pm		Introduction to NFP Class - St. Joseph, Owosso, 10:00am - 12:00pm
September 25	Introduction to NFP Class - St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton, 7:00 - 9:00pm	October 5	We Care Seminar - St. Gerard (Parish Center), Lansing, 3:00 - 6:00pm
September 27-28	Remarriage Seminar, St. Joseph Retreat Center, Jackson	October 6-9	30th Annual Presbyteral Convocation - Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI
September 27	We Care Seminar - Holy Cross (School Community Room), 9:00am - 12:00pm	October 6	MCCMA Meeting - Saginaw
September 28	American Evangelization Appeal	October 7-9	Pre-Commissioning Retreat - St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt
	Introduction to NFP Class - St. Gerard, Lansing, 4:00 - 6:00pm	October 8-10	MANS Administrators' Conference - Mackinaw Island
	Introduction to NFP Class - St. John the Evangelist, Davison, 5:00 - 6:00pm	October 9-10	NCCL Provincial Meeting - Augustine Center, Conway, MI
September 29	Introduction to NFP Class - St. Mary, Westphalia, 7:00 - 9:00pm	October 11	Youth Events & DYAC - Holy Redeemer, Burton, 10:00am - 1:00pm
September 30	Evangelization Committee - Catholic Diocese Madonna Hall, Lansing, 9:30am - 12:30pm	October 12	Laity Sunday
October 2	Diocesan Pastoral Council		Mass/Brunch with Bishop - Holy Redeemer, Burton, 12:00pm
	Introduction to NFP Class - Queen of the Miraculous Medal, Jackson, 7:00 - 9:00pm		We Care Seminar - St. Gerard (Parish Center), Lansing, 3:00 - 6:00pm
October 3-5	Deacon Community Convocation - Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI	October 14-17	FDLC - Milwaukee, WI
October 3	We Care Seminar - Catholic Charities, Jackson, 6:00 - 9:00pm	October 14	We Care Seminar - Catholic Diocese Madonna Hall, Lansing, 6:30 - 9:30pm

Help us decrease printing and posting expenses!

To receive *VOICES Alive* via e-mail each month, send a request to mdiebold@DioceseofLansing.org