



Department of Finance and Administrative Services
Department of Education and Catechesis
Department of Catholic Charities
Department of Formation

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Living as a Steward

For many of us, the word “stewardship” is correlated with financial giving to the Church. For others, the three “Ts” of time, talent and treasure expanded the understanding of stewardship. Christian stewardship is a way of life that acknowledges God as the source of all. Living as a steward is our grateful response to God’s generosity for the abundant gifts entrusted to our care. When considering living as a steward, an understanding of the realities of prayer, sharing and service will help provide a deeper awareness of the true meaning of “Living as a Steward.”

Simply put, stewardship means giving back to God what God has given to us. God has given us many gifts. We really do not own them, we steward them, and it is up to us to give those gifts back to him. Before we can do so, it is important for us to spend time in prayer, identifying our gifts. When we take some time to prayerfully consider what God has given us, we may be surprised at how many ways in which God has made us special.

Once we have had an opportunity to reflect on the gifts that God has given us, we are presented with the opportunity to share those gifts, for the honor and glory of God, and for the benefit of each other. Each of us, whether young or old,

has unique gifts to share with our faith family. God wants us to use our unique gifts, shared with others, to inspire each of us to become more like Christ. By taking care of and sharing God's gifts, we are - "Living as a Steward."

Whenever we share our gifts, we begin to understand what it means to be servants of God. To be a servant means to think first of Christ and others, and second of ourselves. As Christian stewards – managers of the gifts God has given us – we are called to reflect God's love in our faith community by offering loving service to others. We all are called to be servants; to love as Jesus loved; to serve as Jesus served and to extend our hands of service to our sisters and brothers, especially those who are most in need. By living life God centered, rather than self centered, we will find ourselves - "Living as a Steward."

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10*

PROPERTIES AND CEMETERIES

Pastors and parish administrators are advised the Diocesan Office of Property management will be offering three inservice workshops for parish maintenance personnel in the coming months:

EPA Renovation Repairs and Painting (RRP) Lead Training - This course was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to train maintenance personnel and any workers removing or modifying painted surfaces which may or may not contain lead-based paint and comply with newly instituted federal regulations concerning the same.

The eight hour course is an intense fast-paced day with hands-on materials, consumables, and equipment. EPA regulations require one instructor for every six trainees. Parish maintenance personnel completing the course will receive an EPA Certified lead Renovator certificate valid for 5 years.

EPA regulations limit class size to 40. Class will be given at St. Francis Retreat center, DeWitt on July 21, 2011. We do not anticipate repeating this class until 2012. Space will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Contact Paul Garriepy via pgarriepy@dioceseoflansing.org

Annual Maintenance Seminar - This one day seminar will be divided into three areas this year.

Annual asbestos awareness training required by federal regulations for all school maintenance personnel and other parish personnel which have identified asbestos containing material (ACM) in their buildings. This is a required annual training.

Right-to-Know training for maintenance personnel who handle any type of chemicals in the workplace. Right-to-know training is required by OSHA and MIOSHA regulations and has not been offered to diocesan and parish personnel since 2003.

General Safety for Parish Maintenance Personnel. The segment is designed to review general hazard prevention and safety practices in the course of a work day for parish maintenance personnel. Curriculum is being developed in cooperation with Michigan Catholic Conference loss prevention program and MIOSHA regulations.

Training will be held at St. Francis Retreat Center on July 28, 2011 and is open to all parish maintenance personnel and their supervisors. Contact Paul Garriepy via pgarriepy@dioceseoflansing.org .

Common Conference - One session on Thursday, September 29, 2011 will focus on mold and other environmental standards of care. Session description will announced later. The three trainings listed above are DSA supported activities without cost to diocesan entities. Further details of these programs will be communicated at a later date.

For more information or to register contact Paul D. Garriépy at pgarriepy@dioceseoflansing.org .

Parish / School Maintenance Contact List - Please ask parish / school maintenance person(s) to send an e-mail to Paul Garriepy, Director of Properties and Cemeteries via pgarriepy@dioceseoflansing.org . Paul would like to compile a list of maintenance personnel e-mail addresses for ease of communication, and to hopefully save some printing and postage costs.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

Catechist Formation Opportunity - Washtenaw Vicariate: Wednesday, May 4. Hosted at Christ the King, Ann Arbor. For more information or to register:

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Washtenaw_Cat_FormSept_10.pdf

Roman Missal: Guide for Catechists - A series of eight lesson plans designed to assist catechists and teachers in familiarizing students with the new responses at Mass is available here:

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

Youth Ministry Basic Training Overnight is July 14 & 15 at Bethany House, DeWitt. All new adult and teen leaders are welcome as part of parish groups. We allow teens going into ninth grade to register with their parish group for this training. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

Diocesan Young Adult Mass & Picnic - July 17, 2PM Mass – Picnic at Independence Lake. Rev. John Linden, director of the Department of Formation and Seminarians, will preside at Mass, along with recently ordained priests in our diocese. All young adults are welcome for a time of prayer, fellowship, food and fun. Activities include volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, beach front swimming and much more. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youngadult/index.html>

Catholic Athletic Retreat - The Diocese of Lansing presents its first annual "Catholic Athletic Retreat" designed for any Catholic athlete of high school age on May 21 - 22 at Bethany House, DeWitt. These two days will look at the issue of sports and spirituality, providing participants with “a way of being” in the world of athletics and in their everyday life. The weekend will include Mass with the Bishop, Reconciliation, and Adoration. Both boys and girls are invited to attend, whether they attend public or Catholic high school. The keynote speaker is Tom Izzo, MSU Basketball Coach. The cost is only \$65.00 and the retreat leader is Ron Landfair. For more information, go to <http://www.stfrancis.ws/BethanyHouse/UpcomingEvents/tabid/93/Default.aspx>

Roman Missal Resources - Please remember to sit down as a staff to calculate the needed quantities of pew cards,

music, and catechetical material, then submit your form directly to Faith Catholic. Questions? Please call the Office of Worship at 517-342-2476.

Education and Catechesis Calendar Reminders

May

- 1 Scout Committee Meeting, 4:00 P.M. East Lansing
- 3 Principals' Meeting, 9am – 4:00pm - rescheduled
- 3 CYM Advisory Committee, 9:30 – 1:00 pm, Diocesan Center
- 11 Diocesan Worship Commission, 10:30 to 3:00
- 14 Youth Ministry Class, Holy Family, Grand Blanc, 9:00 – 1:00 pm
- 16 Young Adult Advisory, 6:30 – 9:30 pm, Diocesan Center
- 19 Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis
- 21 Diaconate Ordination, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 10:30
- 21-22 Sports & Spirituality Retreat, Bethany House
- 30 Memorial Day, Offices Closed

June

- 11 Presbyteral Ordination, St. Mary Cathedral, 10:30am
- 12 Pentecost Sunday
- 19-24 Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp, Bethany House
- 20-23 Curriculum Institute
- 29 Cedar Point Day

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

PERSONS WITH DIS / ABILITIES

Retreat for Persons who are Sight Impaired or Blind - Ministry with Persons with disabilities will hold a 3 day retreat entitled: "Life is What We Make It - Jesus is Our Life Line" from May 17–19, 2011 at St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt. Call 517-342-2497 or e-mail jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org for more information. Cost is \$100.00 a person and RSVP is required for this three day event by May 2.

Braille copies available of Bulletin Inserts of the "New Missal" explanation. Call Ministry with Persons with disabilities at 517-342-2497 or e-mail jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org . If you are aware of a parishioner who is Blind and reads Braille please inform them of this service.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Introduction to Natural Family Planning classes will be offered at the following locations, (there is a \$ 10.00 fee to attend the class):

- 9:00am, Saturday, May 21, 2011, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Flushing
- 6:00pm, Monday, May 23, 2011, St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing

7:00pm, Wednesday, May 25, 2011, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Jackson
7:00pm, Thursday, May 26, 2011, Holy Spirit Parish, Hamburg

For additional NFP Introduction Classes visit <http://dioceseoflansing.org/nfp/index.html> .

Several methods of Natural Family Planning are taught throughout the diocese. Pre-registration is required for the following classes:

Billings Ovulation Method - If interested, call Maria, 517-523-3526, or see:
<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/nfp/ovulationmethodclasses.html>

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00pm, St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale
Saturday, June 18, 10:00am, St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale

Sympto-Thermal Method: taught by Couple to Couple League (CCL). Website: www.ccli.org and go to registration, to find classes in Michigan

May 23, 6:00pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing, Postpartum Class. Call: Kristine 517-48-2083 or kristinewitkowski@gmail.com

Creighton Model Fertility Care System - Call Hope Fertility Care Center of Mid-Michigan, 517-242-3710.

Family of Americas Ovulation Method - Call the NFP Office to set up class time: 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

The Image Program is a faith-based movement whose mission is to provide the necessary spiritual, emotional and physical needs of recent parolees to the Lansing area. They provide mentoring, direct aid and encouragement to ex-offenders. They are encouraged to attend church services and volunteers provide transportation to those services.

This is a self-esteem building program which has been specifically modified to address the needs of ex-offenders. The program runs continuously and a parolee may begin at any point in the program to complete.

Image cannot succeed without the generous support of volunteers. Without our support, the people coming out of prison will not succeed. They have done their time. It is now time for us to use our expertise to assist those willing to work with us giving a helping hand through volunteering, mentoring and giving our love and compassion.

Please call Joe Dionise at the Diocese of Lansing, 517-342-2495.

FAMILY LIFE

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County - Meet the Frohriep family: Parents Bill and Cindy; Aiden, age 5, and four-month-old triplets Andrew, Mark and Luke. After they adopted Aiden, the couple hoped to have several children, but worried it wouldn't end up that way.

Wanting to grow their family, they contacted the Adoption program at Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County (CSSW).

The year they participated in the CSSW pool of prospective parents was a roller-coaster ride, says Bill. “It was fantastic since we had so many opportunities to meet with birth moms. Every time you think, ‘this is going to work, this is going to happen’ and you get your hopes up.”

It didn’t. Seven times they met with birth parents; seven times they weren’t chosen. Both in their early 40’s, Cindy and Bill began to rethink their dream of a large family; maybe it just wasn’t to be, maybe it was time to opt out of the adoption pool.

The triplets were born on a Sunday last November. The following day, the Frohrieps were notified that the birth parents would be choosing the adoptive family by Tuesday afternoon. If interested, they and other prospective parents would need to have three infant car seats ready to go. It was happening that fast.

The Frohrieps were not the second choice this time. Among other factors, the birth parents were especially impressed by the couple’s commitment to their Catholic faith. It was a done deal.

Once Cindy told her parents, they all sat down and started crying. “My mom said, ‘well, you always wanted a big family, you got one now.’”

Real life with a storybook ending.

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County places infants for domestic adoption employing a voluntary and open approach. Counseling for birth parents and services before, during and after the adoption process are also provided. Please call 734.971.9781 ext. 322 for more information.

Culture of Life and Respect for Rights of Families - On March 29, the Holy Father sent a message to the meeting of bishops who head episcopal commissions for the family and life in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their meeting took place in Bogota, Colombia, from March 28 – April 1 under the presidency of Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. In his message, Benedict XVI said “As I reiterated during the Fifth General Conference of the Episcopate of Latin America and the Caribbean”, the Pope writes, "the family is the value the people of those noble lands prize most highly. For this reason, the pastoral care of families has an important place in the evangelising activity of each one of the particular Churches, promoting a culture of life and working to ensure the rights of families are recognised and respected”.

For the complete text of the Holy Father’s message, click here: <http://www.zenit.org/article-32160?l=english>

Families Urged to Adopt a "Media Policy" - An international university research group is encouraging families to establish their own media policy regarding the use of technology in their homes.

The Rome-based Family and Media Group, which was established in 2005, studies how the family is presented in the media and how the institutions that promote the family communicate their message and help present a better portrayal of the family in the public space. Last month, the organization launched their English-language Web site.

The project coordinator, Norberto González Gaitano, a professor of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, said that one of the things the group emphasizes is the habits of media use by the family.

He said, "We are telling parents and families: You are the protagonist of your family life, and since the media is already there -- yourselves, your children, your family lives are already in a media environment -- so you have to have a 'family media policy.'"

To read more, click here: <http://www.zenit.org/article-32147?l=english>

LIFE JUSTICE

Catholic Conference Supports Renewed Effort to Ban Partial-Birth Abortion in State Law - Michigan Catholic Conference released the following comments from President/CEO Paul A. Long regarding Senate Bill 160, legislation which passed the Senate Judiciary Committee that would ban partial-birth abortion in this state:

“There are few practices known to mankind that are more gruesome and deplorable than that known as partial-birth abortion, where a viable child is partially delivered from his or her mother before an abortionist kills the child by puncturing the skull with a pair of scissors. The fact that there is opposition to banning this heinous practice speaks to the injustice unborn children face every day. Considering Senate Bill 160 mirrors the federal partial-birth abortion ban found constitutional in 2007 by the United States Supreme Court in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, there should be no reason to question the legality of this widely-supported measure.

“Pew Research Center surveys have found that upwards of 75 percent of the general public support keeping partial-birth abortion illegal. According to Pew: ‘Even among those who say abortion should be legal in all cases, almost half (49%) believe that partial-birth abortion procedures should be illegal. Overall, only 17% of Americans say that partial-birth abortion should be legal.’ Unfortunately, partial-birth abortion is legal in Michigan due to court challenges and executive vetoes. It is time for this injustice to end!

“It is the hope of the Michigan Catholic Conference that Senate Bill 160 sails through the Legislature, as similar measures have done on four separate occasions over the last 15 years, and is signed into law by Governor Snyder.”

Michigan Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in this state.

May 2011 Word of Life is now available - [English Word of Life](#) and [Spanish Word of Life](#) are available via the highlighted links and on the website of the USSCB website for Pro-Life Activities.

LIFE ISSUES FORUM

Taxpayer funding and Planned Parenthood (by Vicki Evans, Respect Life Coordinator in the San Francisco Archdiocesan Office of Public Policy & Social Concerns)

There is much information and misinformation swirling around the Pence Amendment and its potential to close down Planned Parenthood. To paraphrase Mark Twain, Planned Parenthood’s demise is greatly exaggerated, especially by Planned Parenthood itself.

The Pence Amendment is amendment No. 11 to the House appropriations bill, HR 1. It denies funding to Planned Parenthood of America and 102 of the organization’s affiliates. Related amendments to HR 1 would eliminate funding

for Title X programs, ban federal and local appropriations to pay for abortions in the District of Columbia, ban funding for the U.N. Population Fund and ban funding for foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions as a method of family planning. These amendments were introduced because Americans, regardless of how they feel about abortion, are not often eager to subsidize it with their tax dollars – especially abroad and especially in this economy.

Planned Parenthood’s reaction was swift and intense. Pence’s proposal alone would cut off 48 percent of its patients, or 1.4 million people, from their source of health care, the organization said.

(to continue reading, please click here: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/publicat/lifeissues/040111.shtml>)

MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Hispanic Marriage and Family Life - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) recently announced the launch of a major Spanish-language media initiative in support of marriage and the family. The campaign directly speaks to the many challenges faced today by couples in sustaining healthy marriages and family life. It is designed to more-effectively address the specific pastoral needs of the Spanish-speaking community in the U.S. The radio public service announcement (PSA) campaign, titled “Matrimonios que inspiran” (Marriages That Inspire), is composed of nine unique 30-second radio spots, targeted to different age demographics. The website can be viewed at <http://www.portumatrimonio.org> , Spanish language pamphlets addressing “Divorce and the Healing Ministry of the Church”, “Married Couples and the Challenge of Military Service” and “A Book of Readings on Marriage” as well as a paperback text entitled “A Book of Readings on Marriage” is available (in limited quantities as well) are also available from the Office of Multicultural Evangelization.) Contact Ron Landfair at 517-342-2496 or rlandfair@dioceseoflansing.org for more information.

Catholic Athletic Retreat - The Diocese of Lansing presents its first annual "Catholic Athletic Retreat" designed for any Catholic athlete of high school age on May 21 - 22 at Bethany House, DeWitt. These two days will look at the issue of sports and spirituality, providing participants with “a way of being” in the world of athletics and in their everyday life. The weekend will include Mass with the Bishop, Reconciliation, and Adoration. Both boys and girls are invited to attend, whether they attend public or Catholic high school. The keynote speaker is Tom Izzo, MSU Basketball Coach. The cost is only \$65.00 and the retreat leader is Ron Landfair. For more information, go to <http://www.stfrancis.ws/BethanyHouse/UpcomingEvents/tabid/93/Default.aspx>

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

CALENDAR REMINDERS

May 3,5,9, 11 Deacon Formation Review Boards

May 16-20 Spring Priest Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, “The Spirituality of Thomas Merton” with Fr. Patrick Collins

May 21 Permanent Deacon Ordination, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 10:30am

June 4 Formation Saturday - St. Francis Retreat Center. Dr. Dennis Sugrue will speak on ‘Gender, Church and Partnership in Ministry’

June 11 Priesthood Ordination, St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing, 10:30am

July 29-31 Deacon Retreat - St. Francis Retreat Center- with Dcn William Ditewig, PhD

Contact Anne Rivet, arivet@dioceseoflansing.org , or call 517-342-2510 for registration forms or more details on these events.

