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DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Diocese of Lansing recently updated its Parish Pastoral Councils and Commissions Guidelines. An important part of the update is the new [Guidelines for the Organization of Parish Charitable and Social Justice Activities Committee](#). The name was changed from *Parish Social Ministry* to *Parish Charitable Activities and Social Justice*, to better reflect the work being done at the parish level. The title led many to think it referred to the social events planned by the parish instead of being an avenue for parishioners to perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Please take the opportunity to read through the new policy. If your parish would like to start, enrich, or expand its charitable efforts please contact the Department of Catholic Charities (517-342-2465) for assistance.

Guidelines For The Organization of Parish Charitable Activities Diocese of Lansing - Department of Catholic Charities

PURPOSE

“Love of neighbor, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety. As a community, the Church must practice love. Love thus needs to be an ordered service to the community.” Deus Caritas Est 20

The mission of parish charitable activities is the work of the Catholic Church, to share the love of God by performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The corporal works of mercy call us to give drink to the thirsty, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, and to bury the dead. The spiritual works of mercy call us to convert the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, console the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive injuries, and to pray for the living and the dead. CCC 2447

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided us with seven principles of Catholic social teaching/doctrine to help us understand and carry out the Gospel mandate to love our neighbor. Mt 22:36 These principles are ordered in a logical sequence that reflects the synthesis of faith and reason. The preeminent and first principle is the Life and Dignity of the Human Person. Once human life is fully embraced, welcomed and protected it is possible to focus on the second principle: Family, Community, and Participation. The family is the basic unit of society and rightly called the domestic church. The third principle builds on the first two, Rights and Responsibilities. Here we learn that in order for human dignity to be protected everyone needs to assure individual rights are protected and that individual responsibilities are fulfilled. Preferential Option for the Poor, the fourth principle, recognizes that the spiritually and materially poor have a special place in God's heart. The fifth principle, The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, builds upon the four prior principles. It teaches that we are called to be co-creators with God and that workers are to be treated with dignity. Solidarity, principle six, reminds us that we are our brothers' keepers. The seventh and final principle is Care of God's Creation. If we are living the first six principles it will be visible in our proper stewardship of God's gift of creation.

John Paul II said Catholic Charities "exist for only one reason: to proclaim the Gospel." He also stated that Catholic Charities "must help the faithful to think and act in full accord with the Gospel, overcoming all separation between faith and life, but must also offer a clear institutional testimony of the saving truth." Adlimina visit of the bishops of Portland, Seattle, and Anchorage - June 24, 2004

ORGANIZATION

In response to the Magisterium and the path laid out by our bishop the Diocese has organized its charitable activities into two major forms overseen by the Department of Catholic Charities.

First are the Diocesan offices located in the Department of Catholic Charities:

[Life Justice](#) : Promotes pro-life issues and coordinates advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local levels at the direction of our bishop and in conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Michigan Catholic Conference.

[Family Life](#) , [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) , [Catholic Relief Services](#) , Outreach Ministries, Disaster Relief: Marriage preparation and family enrichment, national and local anti-poverty programs, international relief, disaster relief, Befriender, Project Rachel, Bishop's Council on Alcohol and other Drugs, Separated and Divorced, etc.

[Multicultural Evangelization](#): Ministry to ethnic and racial minorities, migrant workers, and transients (33 licensed migrant camps).

[Restorative Justice](#): Ministry to prisons and jails (1 federal, 12 state, 10 county, and youth facilities).

[Ministry to Persons with disAbilities](#): Retreats, CCD, physical accessibility, Braille, Faith on tape, etc.

[Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#): Ministry to deaf and those with hearing problems. Organize Mass, CCD, retreats, trainings, signing, etc.

[Natural Family Planning](#): Train married and engaged couples in Natural Family Planning methods (5 types). Teach introduction course as part of marriage preparation.

Second are the local Catholic Charities agencies:

[Catholic Outreach](#) (Flint)

[Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties](#) (Flint and Owosso)

[Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale Counties](#) (Adrian and Jackson)

[Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County](#) (Ann Arbor)

[Livingston County Catholic Charities](#) (Howell)

[Cristo Rey Community Center](#) (Lansing)

[St. Vincent Catholic Charities](#) (Lansing)

These agencies provide numerous programs that address the social, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the poor and vulnerable in our communities. Each agency is part of the Church and performs charitable activities on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop. As such, they are extensions of the parishes and do what no single parish could accomplish. They are part of larger efforts including: Catholic Charities of Michigan, Caritas Internationales, and the Vatican Dicastery Cor Unum.

The charitable activities at the parish are most effective when they mirror the Diocesan structure. Members should be recruited to reflect the Diocesan offices. One or two parishioners should be recruited who have a heart for the work of each office, i.e. Life Justice, Family Life/CCHD/CRS/Outreach/Disaster Relief, Multicultural Evangelization, Restorative Justice, Ministry to Persons with disAbilities, Deaf/HH, or NFP. These individuals act as liaisons to the corresponding Diocesan office.

Each member, especially the leader(s), commits to participate in the ongoing educational and formational opportunities offered through the Department of Catholic Charities. They are also encouraged to participate in convenings organized for parish representatives by Diocesan Charities staff.

Parish charitable activities should also be linked with the local Catholic Charities agency(ies). This relationship provides parishes opportunities to participate in the charitable activities of the agencies and the agencies can provide professional support and assistance to parish based initiatives. Close collaboration between parish and agency not only enriches the work of both, it becomes a sign of unity and a source of strength.

STARTING AN ORGANIZED PARISH CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in establishing organized parish based charitable activities needs to contact the pastor. The pastor can direct those interested to contact the Department of Catholic Charities. Diocesan staff can work with the parish to recruit parishioners to participate in the charitable work. Once sufficient members have been recruited the Diocese will provide a professional training along with a comprehensive orientation, job description, and organizational structure. Following the initial training, Diocesan staff will meet with the individuals representing particular offices/activities.

Diocesan staff will continue to help recruit, form, and support parishioners and to enhance the ability of the parishioners to participate in the salvation of souls.

Parishioners engaged in the organized parish charitable activities will be introduced to the leadership and key staff of the local Catholic Charities agency(ies). A strong personal relationship will help the parish and agency carry out the Church's charitable work while helping the agency to better understand and meet the needs of the parish, parishioners, and community.

RESOURCES

For a list of resources on Catholic Social Teachings and doctrine, consult [*Guidelines for the Organization of Parish Charitable and Social Justice Activities Committee*](#).

FAMILY LIFE

Join Bishop Boyea at the "Celebration of Marriage" Mass February 26, 5 PM, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, East Lansing. Bishop Boyea will celebrate and rejoice with married couples of the Diocese of Lansing with this special televised Mass.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

For most parishes the Catholic Relief Services Annual Collection will be April 3, 2011. Please promote and participate in this Collection as the date approaches.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The Outreach Ministries consist of Project Rachel, Bishop's Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Separated and Divorced, and the Listening Ministry. For material on these ministries including Rack Cards and a Project Rachel contact information tear off poster call 517-342-2471.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

If you have not received your Operation Rice Bowl material please contact 517-342-2471. Please promote and encourage participation in ORB this Lent.

MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH disABILITIES

Aging Caregivers / Caregiving is Pro-Life - "Who will care for him/her when I'm gone?" is an ever present concern for family caregivers of adults with disAbilities. Most often we think of caregivers as the ones who take care of aging parents. But there are a significant number of senior citizens who are themselves primary caregivers of an adult with an intellectual disability or chronic condition, someone who requires assistance with activities of daily living and always will. With advances in healthcare, people with disAbilities are living longer; as they age, so do their caregivers.

Concerns of aging caregivers:

When I'm no longer able, who will provide for my loved one's:
Residential placement, housing options?

Financial security?
Health care?
Legal representation, guardianship?
Vocational, leisure, and spiritual life fulfillment?
Paid and unpaid family and community supports?

How your parish can help:

Start a caregiver support group.
Begin a program that offers respite care to caregivers.
Remember caregivers in the prayers of the faithful at Mass.
Provide caregiver information on a regular basis in the parish bulletin, school publications and on the parish website.
Instruct parish pastoral ministers making visits to the homebound to also offer assistance and encouragement to their caregivers.
Set up a prayer chain so that fellow parishioners can remember the needs of caregivers in their prayers.

Resources:

[Catholic Caregivers](#)
[Friends of St. John the Caregiver](#)
[Rainbow Homes Christian Supported Living for Adults with Cognitive disAbilities](#) (for Apartment Living and Respite Care)
Contact [Ministry with Persons with disAbilities](#)

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):

4:00pm, Sunday, March 6, 2011, St. Gerard Parish, Lansing
7:00pm, Thursday, March 31, 2011, St. Casmir Parish, Lansing

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>
Wednesday, March 16, at, 7:00 pm @St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale, MI
Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 pm @ Diocese of Lansing, Lansing, MI (Ph: 342-2587)
Saturday, April 16, at 10:00 am @St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale, MI

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

Mar. 12, at St. Andrew Catholic Church, Saline, MI, Call: 734-272-6919 or kelly.kopinski@gmail.com
Mar. 13, at St. John Student Center, E.Lansing,MI. Call: Kobi/Gretchen Inkumsah, 517-485-4478 or uneewk@yahoo.com

Creighton Model Fertility Care System - Call Hope Fertility Care Center of Mid-Michigan, Amanda Venema at (517) 242-3710 or e-mail: amanda.venema@gmail.com

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 Diocese of Lansing has over twenty-five prisons, jails and juvenile facilities within its boundaries. Over 48,883 persons are incarcerated in Michigan and, in an average year, approximately one thousand are paroled to cities within the diocese. The probation populations: 176,083. The violent crimes rate, Michigan national ranking: 17. The cost to house, feed, guard and care for the inmates is staggering. The total cost to taxpayers in Michigan is \$1.9 billion dollars annually. But, as Christians, we believe there is redemption through the love of Christ. Please contact Joe Dionise, Director of Restorative Justice via e-mail to jdionise@dioceseoflansing.org or phone to 517-342-2495.

DEAF/HH MINISTRY

Pilgrimage in Detroit Area - Fr. Michael Depcik has invited the Deaf Community to join a Pilgrimage in the Detroit area on March 26, 2011. The pilgrimage begins at St. John Deaf Center in Warren, then will visit Assumption Grotto, St. Peter & Paul Church and Sacred Heart Seminary, ending with Mass at St. John Deaf Center at 4:15pm. The \$30 cost includes bus and lunch--reservations are required and first come, first served. Transportation to Warren is on your own. Contact Rose Smith at rsmith@dioceseoflansing.org or 866-552-0427 VP for further information.

MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Celebrating Black History Month is not a monthly activity but a yearlong endeavor to see how the African-American experience (like the experience of all people) tells the "Story of Us". For more resources go to : <http://dioceseoflansing.org/multicultural/index.html>

For a great link on the Black Catholic Experience in America (particularly during Black History Month) go to: <http://magazine.nd.edu/news/17883-my-church-home/#>

If you are in need of a speaker please contact Ron Landfair, Director of the Office of Multicultural Evangelization at 517-342-2496 or via email to: rlandfair@dioceseoflansing.org

LIFE JUSTICE

The Detroit Guild of the Catholic Medical Association in conjunction with Christus Medicus Foundation is hosting a regional Catholic healthcare conference March 31 – April 2, 2011 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. It begins at 7p.m. on Thursday, March 31 with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Allen Vigneron. Additional information and a registration brochure can be found at <http://onemoresoul.com/docs/Make%20Straight%20the%20Pathway%20Conference%5B1%5D01229.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

Catechist Formation Opportunities

Clinton/Shiawassee Vicariate - Owosso

Hosted at St. Joseph, Owosso, Monday, February 28.

Topic #8 - "Creation and Incarnation"

For more information or to register:

http://dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Clinton_Shiawassee_St_Joesph_Owosso_02_2011.pdf

Clinton/Shiawassee Vicariate - Morrice

Hosted at St. Mary, Morrice, Saturday, March 5.

TOPIC # 10 - Mary and the Saints/Eternal Life

TOPIC # 11 - Church

TOPIC # 20 - How to use the Bible with Different Age Levels

For more information or to register:

http://dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Clinton_Shiawassee_Morrice_03_2011.pdf

Eaton/Ingham Vicariate

Hosted at St James, Mason, all on March 19, 2011.

Topic # 1 Ministry of the Catechist

Topic # 9 Jesus Christ

Topic # 17 Key People of the Old Testament

Topic # 2 Learning Process & Faith Development

Topic # 10 Mary and the Saints

Topic # 18 New Testament: Gospels

Enrichment: Women of the Old Testament

For more information or to register:

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Eaton_Ingham_Lansing_Mar_11.pdf

Washtenaw Vicariate:

Hosted at Christ the King, Ann Arbor, Wednesday, March 2.

Topic # 3 Lesson Planning & Using the Catechetical Text as a Tool

For more information or to register:

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

Middle School Rally and **DYLC** mailings have been sent and posted on our web page at

<http://dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>. **Middle School Rally is March 12** at Lansing Catholic High School. It is our hope that all 6th – 8th graders will have the opportunity to attend with their parishes. It is a call to all middle school students in our diocese to celebrate their faith with Bishop Boyea, keynote, Steve Angrisano, and other ministry leaders. **DYLC** application deadline isn't until March but leadership teens need to get started on securing recommendations and all paperwork.

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

DYLC application deadline is April 13. Leadership teens need to get started on securing recommendations and all paperwork. Go online and download all application material today at <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

ROMAN MISSAL RESOURCES - Thanks for your support and energy at the January workshops for parish implementation teams. Over 625 attended diocese-wide. 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 HIGHLIGHTS

March

- 5 Youth Events & DYAC, 10:00am, St. Mary, Chelsea
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 12 Middle School Rally, Lansing Catholic H.S.
- 12 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, 9:30am, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing
- 12 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, 2:00pm, St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor
- 13 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, 3:00, St. John, Fenton
- 15 CYM Advisory, 9:30am, Diocesan Center
- 16 St. Patrick, Brighton, Regional Mtg. DRE/CYM Pastoral Ministers
- 16 Diocesan Worship Commission, 10:30am
- 17 SS. Charles & Helena, Clio Regional Mtg. DRE/CYM Pastoral Ministers
- 17 Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis
- 19 Youth Ministry Class, 9:00am, Holy Family, Grand Blanc
- 19 Scout Meeting, 10:00am, St. Patrick, Brighton
- 23 St. Mary, Williamston, Regional Mtg. DRE/CYM Pastoral Ministers
- 24 Jackson & Lenawee/Hillsdale Regions DRE/CYM Pastoral Ministers
- 25-26 Young Adult Conference, Lansing
- 27-30 FDLC Region VI Spring Meeting
- 30 Principals' Meeting

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

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

Department of Formation Calendar Reminders

- March 28 7th Grade Vocations Mass/Presentations for the Washtenaw Region will be held at Christ the King.
April 2 Diocese of Lansing Men's Conference, Lansing Convention Center
April 9-10 Diocesan Women's Discernment Retreat, Camp deSales, Brooklyn, MI
April 15 LEM Convocation, with Sr. Mary Finn, location TBD
March 31 Priest's Lenten Day of Reflection, St. Francis Retreat Center. 10am-4:30pm
May 16-20 Spring Priest Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center
May 21 Permanent Deacon Ordination, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, 10:30am
June 11 Priesthood Ordination, St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing, 10:30am

Contact Anne Rivet – arivet@dioceseoflansing.org or via phone to 517-342-2510 - for registration forms or more details on any of these events.

OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

The **Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) Manual** was updated January 6, 2011, and can be downloaded at: http://dioceseoflansing.org/safe_environment/OCYP_Manual_11_10.pdf. Specifically, revisions were made to the compliance grid in Section 1; Virtus registration instructions were deleted in Section 3 and replaced with a one-page instruction for the Virtus on-line training (courtesy of Susan Mahoney of St. Joseph Parish in St. Johns, MI).

Section 6 of the manual regards background checks and includes forms and instructions. Please refer to this section prior to sending documentation to the OCYP. You are asked to keep in mind that the OCYP staff is handling paperwork for all the parishes, schools and other diocesan agencies. Therefore, it is important that the consent form for background check, the DHS Central Registry Clearance form and a photocopy of the driver's license are submitted to the OCYP at the same time for each individual for ease of processing.

Employees and volunteers who are required to complete a background check need to:

complete the Diocese of Lansing **Consent Form for Background Check**;

complete the **DHS Central Registry Clearance** form and sign it in the "Signature of Requestor" box;

submit the consent form and DHS form along with a photocopy of driver's license to the Diocese of Lansing, Office of Child and Youth Protection, 228 N. Walnut Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Safe Sheep in our Flock materials were mailed to primary grade school principals and DREs the first week of

January. This is the new safe environment program for grades K-5 implemented in the diocese as of January 1, 2011. It was created by Todd Gale, who is the CYM/DRE at Queens parish in Jackson. If you would like to order extra DVDs, contact Todd through the Safe Sheep website: <http://www.safesheep.com/>. DVDs are \$10 each.

The Office of Child and Youth Protection will sponsor **facilitator training** for the Virtus Protecting God's Children for Adults program if there is sufficient interest. Each parish/school/agency is encouraged to have its own Virtus certified facilitator to train staff and volunteers on ways to create a safe environment for children and youth. Please contact Sally Ellis, sellis@dioceseoflanisng.org or phone to 517-342-2551 for more information.

The Test account can not be unsubscribed.