



Office of Pastoral Planning  
Department of Education and Catechesis  
Department of Catholic Charities  
Office of Child and Youth Protection  
Department of Formation

## OFFICE OF PASTORAL PLANNING

This article serves as an update on several projects facilitated by the Office of Pastoral Planning:

- 1. Parish Pastoral Plans** - The Office of Pastoral Planning continues to be the office responsible for the collection and review of parish pastoral plans. VOICES sessions that were held at the turn of the century provided assistance to all parishes in drafting parish pastoral plans. Many parishes have continued the practice of annually reviewing pastoral plans, gathering additional information and formulating updated plans which will guide the future of the parish based on identified needs. Pastoral plans submitted during recent months show broad based input from parishioners and existing councils and commissions. Some parishes, among who are many of our newly merged/clustered communities, are doing a parish wide information gathering out of which a plan for the future will be determined. It does not matter which process is used, it remains important that we plan well for the future of our parishes and use wisely the resources given to us. If you need assistance in this task, call Sister Rita Wenzlick at 517-342-3502.
- 2. Planning Tomorrow's Churches** - The Diocesan Pastoral Council has been charged with the ongoing implementation of parish restructuring. Regular status reports are presented and consultation continues to take place on any revisions to the plan that may need to be reviewed as new information becomes available.
- 3. Data Collection Initiative** - As part of Planning for Tomorrow's Churches, Bishop Boyea accepted the recommendation that "data will be collected from the parishes once annually. To improve the data collection process, all parishes will use an online data input process made available through the diocese within the next two years". All

information needed for this project has been gathered and the project remains within the timeline of being available for use by the end of our current fiscal year. Regional training dates/sites will be publicized in time to begin using the application according to the established schedule. Stay tuned as more information becomes available.

4. **Common Conference** - By now you are aware that the 5th Common Conference is scheduled for September 29, 30, October 1, 2011 at the Lansing Center. For all information, go to [http://dioceseoflansing.org/pastoralplanning/common\\_conf\\_2011/main\\_page.html](http://dioceseoflansing.org/pastoralplanning/common_conf_2011/main_page.html) . It is the goal of the Common Conference Steering Committee to publish the entire Preliminary Program online sometime in March, 2011. Registration forms will be available soon thereafter. Overnight accommodations will be available at the Radisson Hotel and these registration forms will also be available online.

5. **Appointment of Engagement/Discipleship Task Force** - This is the most recent responsibility in the Office of Pastoral Planning. Bishop Boyea has appointed a Task Force that is charged with preparing a vision statement for a diocesan wide engagement/discipleship initiative. This vision statement will be accompanied by suggested strategies for making this vision a reality and some benchmarks by which parishes will gauge their efforts at increasing engagement and discipleship in their parishes. A complete report of the work of this task force is scheduled for release by Advent, 2011.

Should you have any questions or comments about any of these initiatives, contact Sister Rita Wenzlick at [rwenzlick@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:rwenzlick@dioceseoflansing.org) or by phone to 517-342-2502.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

### **Catechist Formation Opportunities**

**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](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Eaton_Ingham_Lansing_Mar_11.pdf)

**Washtenaw Vicariate** (Hosted at Christ the King, Ann Arbor):

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](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/catechesis_k12/Washtenaw_Cat_FormSept_10.pdf)

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**High School Theology Curriculum Sharing** for parish and school ministry leaders was scheduled for October but will take place 9:00am – 2:00pm, Friday, February 25. Registration material will be available soon. This program is intended for CYM's, Catholic high school theology teachers, and others who are directly involved with faith formation of our high school students.

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**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.

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**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.

#### **EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

February 1-5	Catholic Schools Week
5	Rally Committee, TBA, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.
7	Young Adult Council, 6:30 pm, Conference Call
9-10	Pastoral Ministers and Administrators' Retreat, Bethany House, DeWitt
12	Youth Ministry Class, Holy Family, Grand Blanc, 9:00 – 1:00 pm
18-20	Veritas Retreat for young adults, 18-28, St. Paul, Owosso
25	High School Theology Curriculum Sharing Day, Diocesan Center, 9:00 – 2:00 pm/Mass 12n
26	Youth Ministry Class, Holy Family, Grand Blanc, 9:00 – 1:00 pm

Complete Education and Catechesis **2010-2011 Calendar:**

[http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education\\_catechesis/2010\\_11\\_ed\\_cat\\_calendar.pdf](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education_catechesis/2010_11_ed_cat_calendar.pdf)

### **DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

#### **PERSONS WITH disABILITIES**

**Retreat Days for Persons with disAbilities and their Caregivers** for 2011 - Ministry with Persons with disAbilities offers three Retreat Days to be held at the Diocesan Center, Lansing on February 12, March 12 and April 2, 2011. All retreats begin at 1:00pm and end with Mass at 4:00pm at St. Mary Cathedral. The day is spent in two separate tracks: one for persons with a disAbilities and one for their caregiver. An excellent opportunity for Faith Sharing! Reservations are required by calling or e-mailing Joann at 517-740-0293 or [jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org)

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**Braille Embosser** - Ministry with Persons with disAbilities is offering our services, to persons who are blind and read Braille in your parish. What we would need from you is your information sent by e-mail in a word document to our office, we can then format your document into Braille. This opens up many new possibilities for persons who are blind and read braille to be able to more fully participate in their parish. Parish's that have used our services to-date are: St. Mary Cathedral, St. Joseph Shrine, St. John, St. Thomas, St. Casimir and Resurrection parish's for hymns, newsletters, prayers & bulletins. These ideas are just a few ways to assist persons who are blind and in turn these parishioners will be more aware of ways to serve their parish. For more information, phone Joann at 517-342-2497 or e-mail [jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org)

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### **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):

1:00pm, Saturday, **February 19**, St. Joseph Parish, Dexter  
7:00pm, Wednesday, **February 23**, St. Agnes Parish, Fowlerville  
4:00pm, Sunday, **March 6**, St. Gerard Parish, Lansing.

For additional NFP Introduction Classes go to: <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>

10:00am, Saturday, **February 19**, St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale

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

**Feb 26**, at The Ark, Westphalia, MI. Call: Neil/Amber Feldpausch(517)282-2371 or [neilfeldpausch@hotmail.com](mailto:neilfeldpausch@hotmail.com)

**Mar. 13**, at St. John Student Center, E.Lansing,MI. Call: Kobi/Gretchen Inkumsah, 517-485-4478 or [uneewk@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nfp@dioceseoflansing.org)

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## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Most likely, if you are like me, your New Year's resolution has been made and broken several times over by the time you are reading this. I'm not sure why, but it seems that breaking a New Year's resolution is just part of the process - I don't think I have ever been successful in keeping one for over a month! Reflecting on this has brought a bit of insight. Christ told us not to worry about tomorrow or about the past. Today is enough for us. Those resolutions seem much more manageable when they are broken down to one day at a time. Seek to do His will today. Love as He loves us.

As we continue through the year, please remember those who are incarcerated and those who are stigmatized by a previous conviction. Please remember that we are all brothers and sisters.

Contact Joe Dionise, Director of Restorative Justice via e-mail to [jdionise@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:jdionise@dioceseoflansing.org) or phone to 517-342-2495.

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## **DEAF/HH MINISTRY**

Now is a good time to review access issues in the parish. For example, special events like funerals, weddings, and anniversary celebrations often bring people to the parish who don't regularly attend there. Ask the family in advance if visitors may have a special need, for example a deaf or hard of hearing person may need a sign language interpreter or (ALD) assistive listening equipment. Others may need special seating or any number of special needs. Being prepared in this way will make our parishes more welcoming.

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## **FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY**

Marriage in the News - New Report Calls **Marriage Gap a Social Tragedy** (From USCCB For Your Marriage, by David Gibson)

The conviction is growing that a "marriage gap" separates contemporary college-educated Americans from their less-educated counterparts. The 2010 "State of Our Unions" report, released Dec. 6 by the National Marriage Project headquartered at the University of Virginia, focuses on this gap, calling it a social tragedy.

"As marriage — an institution to which all could once aspire — increasingly becomes the private playground of those already blessed with abundance, a social and cultural divide is growing. It threatens the American experiment in democracy and should be of concern to every civic and social leader in our nation," says the report, authored by W. Bradford Wilcox, the Marriage Project's director.

I've discussed the marriage gap previously in this space. Researchers have been finding that, at least in statistical terms, the prospects of marital success and happiness are higher for better-educated Americans — whose earnings as a couple also tend to be higher — than others. What jumped out at me in the new "State of Our Unions" report was its accent on what the marriage gap means for the future of society.

The annual report monitors the health of marriage and family life in America. It investigates the state of marriage among young adults and assesses the outlook for marriage as an institution. The report is published jointly by the National Marriage Project and the Center for Marriage and Families at the Institute for American Values. (to continue

reading this Marriage in the News column, please visit: <http://foryourmarriage.org/new-report-calls-marriage-gap-a-social-tragedy/>)

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### **MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION**

Diversity and Vocations - A study of 4,000 men and women in the early years of their vocations to religious life finds growing demographic diversity among those in formation. While 94% of men and women finally-professed are white, among those in formation, 6% are African or African American, 21% are Hispanic, and 14% are Asian or Pacific Islander. The study of religious did not include diocesan priests. The Center for the Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University conducted the for the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) in order to identify effective practices for attracting and retaining members. For the full report, see <http://www.nrvc.net/>

## **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](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

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**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@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:sellis@dioceseoflansing.org) or phone to 517-342-2551 for more information.

## DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION

### Department of Formation Calendar Reminders

- February 3 Vocations Awareness Visit to Holy Spirit School, Brighton
- 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](mailto:arivet@dioceseoflansing.org) or via phone to 517-342-2510 - for registration forms or more details on any of these events.

The Test account can not be unsubscribed.