



Department of Education and Catechesis

[Department of Catholic Charities](#)

[Properties and Cemeteries](#)

[Department of Formation](#)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

“To the contrary, where youth end up religiously as emerging adults, is highly governed by the nature of their religious upbringings, commitments, and experiences in early years.” (Souls in Transition, Oxford Press, pp. 255)

The National Study on Youth and Religion (NSYR) is the landmark study on youth and young adult faith and behavior. Through three waves of surveys, interviews and statistical analysis Dr. Christina Smith has provided for us deep insights into what works and what impacts the formation of our youth, moving into adulthood. Two books have been written from this study, *Soul Searching* and *Souls in Transition*. Every person in ministry must know this material and that is why we are featuring two workshops on *Soul Searching* and two workshops on *Souls in Transition* at the [Diocesan Common Conference](#), September 29-30, October 1 at the Lansing Center. Dr. Sean Reynolds, from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be our featured speaker for these workshops. Dr. Reynolds brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in taking the information from the NSYR and applying it to ministerial settings. Because of the vast number of Catholic youth and emerging adults in this research a Catholic report has been compiled that is enlightening, sobering, yet gives us direction and hope. Our hope is in Christ and we as Catholics do have a rich treasure to draw from in forming our community of faith. As a community of faith, we are called together at the Common Conference to learn, grow, pray and be formed as leaders prepared to help our families find their hope in Christ and to follow him.

The Department of Education and Catechesis has prepared workshops for all three days of the Common Conference in the areas of liturgy, worship, catechesis, youth ministry, young adult ministry, evangelization, Catholic schools, adult formation, RCIA, and much more. We hope to help parishes and schools focus on being on mission and spreading the gospel to young and old. We seek to help you to lead prayer and devotions throughout the seasons of the year. We will provide opportunities to share resources and best practices in youth ministry. We will provide instruction on how to use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. We will provide workshops for catechist certification. We will help you lift your

voices to the Lord and pray the Liturgy of the Hours. We will help you, in the midst of your busy lives, to learn to balance life and ministry. Come and learn of the Paschal mystery. Learn how to use technology in the classroom and other ministry settings. Our department is providing 34 workshops on Saturday and 44 workshops on Thursday and Friday. The other departments and offices of the Diocesan Central Service will also be providing opportunities for formation in a variety of workshops.

The time we spend in prayer together, at workshops, and in networking at tables, is a result of us working together and listening to the needs expressed from each other. Because of the great input from all our diocesan committees, made up of representatives of all of you, we believe we have an opportunity at the Common Conference to experience great things and walk away better formed for the ministries to which God has called us. We in the Department of Education and Catechesis hope and pray you will join us. Please include in your budgets now the cost to send your catechist, liturgical ministers, youth leaders, and all ministry volunteers and staff to the Diocesan Common Conference September 29, 30 and October 1.

“To summarize most briefly, religious outcomes in emerging adults are not random happenstances about which all bets are off after age 18. Instead, they often flow quite predictably from formative religious influences that shape persons’ lives in earlier years” (Souls in Transition, Oxford Press, pg. 256). It is essential then, that our ministerial efforts not be happenstance but be directed with intention towards formational experience that influence the formation of the whole family, impacting our children in their early years, and continuing with them throughout their lives, so that we do attain our missions’ goal, to form Christian disciples, faithful to Jesus and His Church, and spreading the gospel in word and deed in every moment of their lives. Please join us at the Common Conference so that we may minister effectively together.

Diocesan Young Adult Mass & Picnic - for those 18-38 years old. Sunday, July 17, 2011. Mass at 2:00 P.M. followed by Picnic. Independence Lake, 3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake, MI. [for more information click here](#)

Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp application deadline is April 13. Go online and download all application material today. <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/youthministry/index.html>

Youth Ministry Basic Training Overnight - July 14 - 15 at Bethany House, DeWitt. All new adult and teen leaders are welcome as part of parish groups. Registration will be posted on the youth ministry web page by April.

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 REMINDERS

- April 9 Youth Events, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m., St. Jude, Dewitt
- April 10 Scout Reception and Award Ceremony, St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing
- April 12 Evangelization Committee, 9:30 – 1:00 pm
- April 16 Youth Ministry Class, Holy Family, Grand Blanc, 9:00 – 4:00 pm
- April 21 Chrism Mass, St. Mary Cathedral, 10:30am
- April 21 Holy Thursday
- April 22 Good Friday, Central Service offices closed
- April 23 Holy Saturday
- April 24 Easter Sunday
- April 25 Easter Monday, Central Service offices closed
- April 30 Youth Ministry Class, Holy Family, Grand Blanc, 9:00 – 1:00 pm

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

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice ministry is seeking donations of yarn to continue a program for the women inmates at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility. The donations of yarn will be given to the women inmates who will knit blankets, mittens, caps, shawls and many other items for donation to the poor. In the past, items have been given to orphanages and to retirement homes.

This worthwhile activity gives the women inmates a sense of positive self worth and assists them in their rehabilitation.

If you or your church is interested in assisting in this program by collecting yarn, please call Joe Dionise at 517-342-2495 in the Catholic Charities Office of Restorative Justice.

PERSONS WITH dis / ABILITIES

Retreat for Persons who are Sight Impaired or Blind - Ministry with Persons with disabilities will hold a 3 day retreat intitled: "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 by May 2nd for this three day event.

Retreat Days for Persons with disAbilities and their Caregivers for 2011 – Ministry with Persons with disAbilities offers a Retreat Day to be held at the Diocesan Center, Lansing on April 2. 1:00pm ending with 4:00 Mass 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 .

April is **Autism Awareness Month** - Resources available for parish, teachers parents and advocates on the NCPD (National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities) website: <http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/autism> .

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

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

7:00pm, Wednesday, April 6, 2011, St. Michael Parish, Grand Ledge

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, April 13, 7:00pm, Diocese of Lansing, Lansing. Call 517-342-2587.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00am, St. Anthony Parish, Hillsdale

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00pm, 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

April 10, St. John the Evangelist, Fenton. Contact Mark or Jennifer, mmorri12@ford.com or call 810-714-4953

April 16, Christ the King Parish, Ann Arbor. Call Albert & Becky, 734-994-3999 or email: annarbor@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

FAMILY LIFE

Marriage Matters Jackson Announces Spring Workshops - Reserve today to guarantee your spot at www.MarriageMattersJackson.com . Marriage Matters Jackson workshops are growing in reputation and attendance as participants share their comments with others about their great experiences. The only drawback from the positive responses – many MMJ workshops fill fast!

“This was so much fun. I'd recommend this program to everyone interested in having healthy relationships!” This was a recent comment from a participant in a MMJ workshop for singles and it's the goal of every MMJ activity.

Marriage Matters Jackson's spring workshop schedule is listed below. People are encouraged to register for the upcoming workshops early to guarantee their spot. Details are available at www.MarriageMatterJackson.com or by calling 517-796-5116.

2011 MMJ Spring Workshop Schedule - Pick a Partner for Singles Thursdays April 14, 21 & 28 Mat's Café, Jackson. Whether you are single, or single again, learn how to avoid dating or marrying a jerk in this fun, 3-week workshop, which includes great information and dinner each week. Cost: \$30 per person.

All About Us: Overnight Retreat Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, Holiday Inn, Jackson. Praised by both men and women, this is one of the most well-respected and research-proven marriage programs available. Couples will learn ways to love more and argue less at an overnight workshop, which starts on Friday evening, and includes lodging at the beautiful new Holiday Inn, with breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Cost: \$75/couple.

Marriage Links: Overnight Retreat Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14, Camp Michindoh. This overnight retreat, which starts Friday evening, takes place in a beautiful lodge set in rural Hillsdale County. Come and have fun and learn tools for managing crucial relationship links. Topics include communication skills, conflict resolution, forgiveness & trust, individual needs and intimacy. Cost: \$75/couple

Free **Marriage Restoration** workshops held every Monday evening from 6-8pm; A weekly marriage restoration workshop offered at the United Way Center in Jackson is designed to address the tougher times in a relationship. The “mini-workshops,” offered at no cost to participants, provide skills to couples, and tackle some of the critical issues in a marriage. Topics change each week and couples can attend any session.

Marriage Matters Jackson is supported by the Weatherwax Foundation and individual donors. The vision of Marriage Matters Jackson is to promote, prepare, and preserve healthy marriages. MMJ seeks to strengthen marriage, and

decrease divorce, by communicating the importance of marriage, connecting people to resources, and collaborating with community leaders and organizations.

Defense of Marriage DVD's are available from the Family Life Office. Please call 517-342-2471, or email vgale@dioceseoflansing.org to get a copy.

MULTICULTURAL EVANGELIZATION

Shrine Pilgrimage - The Office of Multicultural Evangelization invites the entire Diocese of Lansing to join the 6th **Woman of Hope-Shrine Pilgrimage**, a Weekend Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located in Washington D.C. Thursday, September 1, to Sunday, September 4, 2011 Cost: \$130.00 per person, round trip. Includes three day (3) and two (2) night housing stay at Trinity College, Includes breakfast on Friday, Saturday & Sunday & Sunday brunch (Other meals are on your own).

Activities: Visit to Shrine of the Immaculate Conception including Eucharistic Liturgy at the Shrine, Reconciliation & Adoration. Tour of Arlington National Cemetery, Ford's Theatre, U.S. Capitol & Walking tour of DC memorials. Films. Guided White House Tour (if available), Smithsonian Museum & National Archives visits. Night bus tour of DC monuments. Sunday Mass at Historic St. Augustine's Parish in Washington D.C

Contact Ron Landfair, rlandfair@dioceseoflansing.org

LIFE JUSTICE

Life Issues Forum - **Finding Truth and Peace this Lent** (by Susan E. Wills, assistant director for education and outreach, USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities)

When it comes to sins against human life or chastity, there is today a profound darkening of conscience. American culture also promotes a moral relativism that prevents us from seeing sins for what they are. Just last week, I encountered written material from three Catholics illustrating this trend:

In a paper on the ethics of contraception, a Catholic college student wrote that she believes the Church does not take very seriously its objection to contraceptive use, so she doesn't either. She has never heard it mentioned in a homily, nor been told of the teaching (except dismissively) in years of Catholic schooling.

A co-chair of a parish-based program gave the impression she is considering being sterilized. On a popular blog for "urban moms," she asked if other women could share their positive experiences with a particular method of permanent sterilization.

Another Catholic woman wrote of her experiences going through multiple harrowing cycles of egg extraction and in vitro fertilization (IVF), in her effort to create children genetically related to herself and her husband.

Many Catholics experiencing fertility problems have resorted to IVF to create a child, and many consider IVF to be

“pro-life” simply because it may bring a new baby into the world. Few are aware that, in addition to the moral problems related to IVF, the vast majority of the embryonic children created through reproductive technologies are discarded or otherwise die in the process.

As adults we cannot claim that the Church’s moral truths are unavailable to us. The Catechism teaches that the moral law is inscribed in our hearts by God, and that we have a duty to educate and form our conscience so that we can make good judgments and act morally (See CCC, 1776-1794). It has never been easier to access the wisdom of the Church on issues of life and chastity—the writings of popes, bishops, and good moral theologians are only a Google search away.

But recognizing that an act is sinful is just the first step toward reconciliation. We must also repent of our action, and that usually entails dropping our excuses or rationalizations for the wrong we commit. How many parents, faced with a diagnosis of genetic problems in their unborn child, have succumbed to the advice of doctors and loved ones to end the child’s life to “prevent the child’s suffering”? How many parents of pregnant teens thought they were doing the right thing by insisting their daughter have an abortion so she wouldn’t be “burdened” while finishing her education? God wants to restore our peace and pour out his healing grace on us in confession, but the rationalizations and excuses have to go.

Parish priests should be uniquely qualified to inspire deep conversion and reconciliation among their parishioners. They can foster an understanding of Church teachings on life and chastity—the basis for an authentic and comprehensive examination of conscience—through homilies, and through bulletin inserts and announcements citing good articles on these teachings. By preaching on God’s desire to forgive our sins and renew us in his grace, and offering extra hours of sacramental reconciliation each week, priests can overcome the obstacles of fear and “inconvenience” that keep people away from confession.

With these few steps, all of us in the parish can be encouraged to make peace with our past and more worthily observe Holy Week and Easter this year.

For more information on the bishops’ pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/prolife .

PROPERTIES AND CEMETERIES

Pastors and parish administrators are advised the Diocesan Office of Property management will be offering three in-service 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 co-operation 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 FORMATION

Diocesan Women's Discernment Retreat - Each year we are very blessed in this Diocese to offer young women who are discerning religious life an opportunity to "come away with the Lord." In the four years we have offered this retreat, 3 women who have attended have gone on to enter religious life. This year our Diocesan Discernment Retreat weekend will be April 9-10.

Women religious from various communities including Dominicans, Benedictines, Felicians, Daughters of Mary of Divine Providence and Franciscans will be on the retreat sharing their own vocation stories and offering workshops on everything from Finding Jesus in the Cloister to Mission.

If you know of a woman who could benefit from this retreat, please mention it to her and ask her to call Sr. Mary Ann Foggin at 517-342-2506 to reserve a space. This retreat is offered FREE of charge!

PPMA SPRING EVENT ~ Enjoy the Manifestations of GOD with Sr. Mary Finn and writer Jane Knuth - St. Patrick, Brighton. Contact Deborah Amato, Office of Lay Ministry, 517-342-2512 or via e-mail to damato@dioceseoflansing.org for registration by April 8th.

DEPARTMENT OF FORMATION CALENDAR REMINDERS

April 2 Diocese of Lansing Men's Conference, Lansing Center

April 6 PPMA Meeting

April 6-10 Deacon Pre-Ordination retreat, Diocesan Center & St. Francis Retreat Center

April 9-10 Diocesan Women's Discernment Retreat, Camp deSales, Brooklyn

April 15 PPMA Spring Event

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.

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