



Diocese of  
Green Bay

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Diocese to celebrate Rural Life Day 2016**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (March 22, 2016) – The Diocese of Green Bay will host Rural Life Day on Tuesday, April 5, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Tisch Mills, and on Thursday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Parish, Bear Creek. Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Robert Morneau will celebrate the April 5 Mass and Bishop David L. Ricken will celebrate the April 7 Mass. The events include a Mass, luncheon, and keynote address.

The purpose of Rural Life Day is to recognize the hard work, dedication and stewardship of those who care for the land and to pray for a fruitful and safe farming season.

“These two days will emphasize the value of the people in our rural parishes and celebrate the fruits of their labor and faith,” Bishop David Ricken said. “The festivities include the blessing of soil, seeds, machinery and animals, which are all vital parts of a prosperous agricultural year.”

The featured speaker is Fr. Tony Birdsall, a retired diocesan priest who will speak on “Blessing & Values of Rural Life: Revealing the Hidden Treasures of the Lord.” Fr. Birdsall is a Senior Priest with a great love of farming. He was the Diocesan Director of Rural Life for ten years, as well as a Rural Life Committee member for many years. In his retirement, he continues to raise chickens and flowers that he enters each year at the Door County Fair.

All supporters of rural life are welcome. Tickets are not necessary for those attending only the Mass. Those planning to attend the luncheon are asked to purchase a ticket (\$8.00) at least seven days in advance by submitting your check or cash to the host parish with Rural Life Day 2016 in the memo line.

Tickets to the April 5 event at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Tisch Mills, are obtained by mail: 18424 Tisch Mills Rd., Tisch Mills WI, 54208-9508; phone: (920) 776-1555; or e-mail: [stisidore@tm.net](mailto:stisidore@tm.net). Tickets to the April 7 event at St. Mary Parish, Bear Creek, are obtained by mail: 207 W. Tielky St., Bear Creek, WI 54922; phone: (715) 201-9913; or e-mail: [sborlen@ssrmparishes.org](mailto:sborlen@ssrmparishes.org).

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**Who we are:** The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay boldly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus, prayerfully worships in word and sacrament, and compassionately serves those in need. Rooted in the call to form missionary disciples, we strive to spread the good news of God’s love and mercy. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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