

MICAH 6:8

Live justly. Love tenderly. Walk humbly with your God.



Diocese of
Green Bay

Department of Living Justice

FEBRUARY 2015

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"The Department of Living Justice of the Diocese of Green Bay, rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, ignites passion for the sanctity of human life and advocates for marriage, family life and justice for the oppressed."

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Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- ◆ 19th - [Racial Literacy Training](#)—Read and resolve racial stress in social encounters, St. Bernard in Appleton at 7 p.m.
- ◆ 26th - ["What Do We Really Mean When We Talk About a Global Church"](#) by Thomas Landy, PhD, St. Norbert College at 7 p.m.

MARCH

- ◆ 3rd - ["The Drop Box"](#) movie, Marcus Cinema, Ashwaubenon at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ 4th - First Wednesdays in Honor of St. Joseph, Old St. Joseph on St. Norbert Campus at 7:30 p.m. Contact Jim Ball at 920-676-3489 or jimball@square1jb.com
- ◆ 5th - [Team Day 2015](#), Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay at 9 a.m.
- ◆ 7th - [Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Pilgrimage](#), LaCrosse at 9 a.m.
- ◆ 9th - ["The Moral Imagination - Conflict Transformation in the Contemporary World"](#) by John Paul Lederach, St.Norbert College at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ 14th - [2015 Feminine Genius Women's Conference](#), St. Pius X at 8 a.m.

World Justice Prayer

Creator God,
All around us, we can plainly see
The injustices that plague our world.
Help us envision a more just world,
One that is possible, a world You call us to.
We can see the poverty
That diminishes life in so many ways.
Help us envision the human flourishing
That is the affirmation of your gift of life.
We can see the intolerance
That wounds our communities.
Help us envision the solidarity
That binds us together as one human family.
We can see the violence
That destroys so many people and places.
Help us envision the peace
That your Son calls us to.
We can see the environmental destruction
That is growing daily in our world
Help us envision a green and growing garden
That shows forth the goodness of Creation,
Open our eyes, so we may see
How we have failed to follow your call;
Open our hearts, so we may envision
The world as you intended,
A world we are called to co-create
In justice and peace. Amen.
~ By Jane Deren

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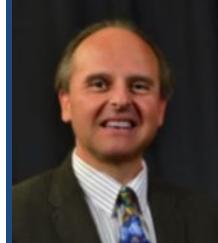
A Note from the Director

We are entering into the liturgical season of Lent, which has always been a favorite of mine. For me, Lent serves as the “gut check” moment of when I need to do a thorough self-assessment of where I am at with my faith and where I have been placing the majority of my time and energy. As I look at my calendar now, I see that it is quite full with meetings, appointments, events, etc., and I am sure many of the readers can relate to that. We run from one “thing” to another, and time seems to fly by at a rapid pace.

But I find myself asking, have I made any room for God? Have I made time to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation or to be truly present to someone in need without watching a clock? This past weekend, a family friend tragically passed away, and it has been very difficult on his family. I am making time during this busy week to be present to his family. In moments like these, I am reminded that I need to make time for the right things. I need to put God first, and everything else will fall into its correct place.

I pray that you will all have a fruitful Lenten journey, one that will bring you closer to Christ.

May God bless you, your families and your ministries!
Catherine



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Dear Friends,

As we enter the Lenten season, many of our parishes focus on the needs for the less fortunate. This is typically done by collections such as the CRS Rice Bowl or through direct acts of charity and/or justice.

Not only do we, as Catholics, focus on the world's needy, the United Nations has been doing the same. The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice promotes poverty elimination, full employment and social integration. It is held on February 20 each year.

The World Summit for Social Development was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995 and resulted in the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action. At this summit, more than 100 political leaders pledged to make the conquest of poverty and full employment, as well as stable, safe and just societies, their main objectives. They also agreed on the need to put people at the center of development plans.

Ten years later, the United Nations reviewed the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action when they gathered at a session of the Commission for Social Development in New York in February 2005. They also agreed to commit to advance social development. In November 2007, the UN General Assembly named February 20 as the annual World Day of Social Justice. The day was to be first observed in 2009.

The World Day of Social Justice is a global observance and not a public holiday.

Please continue to pray for and support the various diocesan and parish initiatives that promote the elimination of the injustices in the world.

Have a blessed Lenten season.
Eric

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7 Ways to Improve Your Marriage This Lent

Read this article by Danielle Bean with your spouse. Find ways to change habits during Lent!

"I used to think that happy couples didn't have to work on their marriages. True love is free and easy, right?

Actually, wrong.

The happiest of couples are those who make their marriage a priority and are committed to improving their relationship, in big and small ways, day in and day out. A happy marriage takes work. Lots of work. And a healthy dose of sacrifice too.

Pope Francis recently tweeted:

"How to live a good marriage? United to the Lord, who always renews our love and strengthens it to overcome every difficulty."

That sounds very nice, but how exactly are we to unite ourselves and our marriages to the Lord? Well, Lent is all about uniting ourselves to the Lord, growing closer to Christ, and, in some small ways, sharing in our Lord's redemptive suffering. Why not make a commitment to unite yourself to the Lord by making some changes and small sacrifices to improve your marriage this Lent? Here are some ideas to get you started.." (Click [here](#) for the rest of the article.)

Virtual Marriage Retreat

Are you looking for a retreat with your spouse? Can't afford to get away for a whole weekend? See the virtual retreats for married couples online. You can set aside special time with your spouse at your convenience. There are two different retreats:

- ◆ ***Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan***
- ◆ ***A Retreat with Pope Francis***

Click [here](#) for more information.



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Loving the Sick: Masterpieces of God's Creation

Pope Francis shared the following quote in his 2013 Day for Life Greeting:

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

We are hearing more and more about allowing the sick to die with dignity. People do not want to see their loved ones suffering. There are places in our country, as well as abroad, where assisted suicide is legal for this very reason. On January 22, 2015 a bill was introduced in Wisconsin called the "compassionate choice" bill. This proposal would allow dying patients the choice of ending their lives with medical help. As St. Pope John Paul II wrote in *The Gospel of Life*: "True compassion leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear." (no. 65)

Being Valentine's time, our society focuses on love. Married couples may reflect back on when they exchanged their wedding vows with each other, whether just recently or many years ago. They most likely expressed words such as: "I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love and honor you all the days of my life." It is not easy if our spouse becomes sick, but we promised each other that we would take care of each other through it all.

I invite you to watch this beautiful video, [Forget Me Not](#). It touched my heart, recognizing the love that is being shared. We are called to love the sick, cherishing them as a masterpiece of God's creation.

Note: By accepting this message, you will be leaving the website of the Diocese of Green Bay. This link is provided solely for the user's convenience. By providing this link, the Diocese of Green Bay assumes no responsibility for, nor does it necessarily endorse, the website, its content, or sponsoring organizations.

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Love Her Life, Respect Her Body

The theme of love is in the air at this time every year. We express our love in a variety of ways, and one way is through physical touch. We know that many women are using a hormonal birth control so they do not have to fear becoming pregnant (whether they are married or not). It would be beneficial, and even potentially life-saving, if men would become educated about the harmful effects of hormonal contraceptives, as well as the healthy benefits of chastity and Natural Family Planning. The information and wisdom would be a great gift of love for the woman you cherish. Her life is a treasure. Her body is a masterpiece of God. We encourage you to learn more and to share the information, protecting the lives of women in our life! See the two articles below for more information.

[**Life Matters: Contraceptives and Women's Well-Being**](#)

[**Life Matters: Contraception**](#)

Legislative Advocacy

Wisconsin Catholic Conference—[Capitol Update—February 6, 2015](#). Listed below are the contents of this update:

1. Governor Walker presents 2015-16 State Budget. See which budget issues are of particular interest to the WCC.
2. WCC Supports Human Trafficking Bill requiring the Department of Justice to design a poster promoting the national human trafficking resource center hotline.
3. Online Registration for Catholics at the Capitol to be held April 8, 2015 where the keynote speaker will be Jonathan J. Reyes, Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development for the USCCB.
4. Upcoming hearings of interest
5. New Bills of interest
6. Websites of interest

Visit www.wisconsincatholic.org for additional WCC information.

School Voucher Program Update

The new Wisconsin state budget proposal is suggesting the 1000 student voucher cap be lifted. If a student qualifies for the program, the good news is that all Catholic schools could be included in the program.

There are people, who, through no fault of their own, cannot afford Catholic education, and we, as Catholics, believe that all people who want to send their child to a Catholic school should have that opportunity. Check out this [link](#) featuring Living Justice Society Board of Trustee, Deacon Ray DuBois: The current open enrollment period began February 2 and ends sometime in late April. There will probably be another open enrollment between June and July,

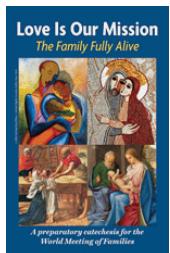
Preparing for the World Meeting of Families 2015 *Theme #3—The Meaning of Human Sexuality*



Everyone is invited to prepare for the World Meeting of Families. Not everyone can attend the event in September, 2015. The preparatory catechism can be a tool to encourage study, personal reflection and discussion in parish groups, families, schools, or other groups, like marriage enrichment or with young adult groups, among others. This book is written so all God's people can understand the meaning of "domestic church," how the Church can serve families and how families can serve the Church. The catechism is a collection of what Catholics believe about human purpose, marriage, and the family.

The theme for the World Meeting of Families is "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive."

Love is our mission, and it is by loving God and one another that we will be fully alive. The Preparatory Catechesis plays a central role in each World Meeting of Families. The catechesis, like the World Meeting, is for people of all ages at all stages of life. The catechism can be purchased through Our Sunday Visitor. www.osv.com.



Teachers, Catechists, Parents! You can find ready-made lesson plans for all grades K-12 about the themes of the World Meeting of Families. Click [here](#).

Theme #1—Created for Joy

Theme #2—The Mission of Love

Theme #3 The Meaning of Human Sexuality

The tangible, earthly, corporeal world is more than inert matter or modeling clay for the human will. Creation is sacred. It has sacramental meaning. It reflects God's glory. That includes our bodies. Our sexuality has the power to procreate, and shares in the dignity of being created in the image of God. We need to live accordingly.

Here is a sample of discussion questions for this chapter:

Why do Catholics enjoy and value the physical, tangible world so much? Think of anything beautiful, such as nature, bodies, food, or art – why are these things so important in Catholic tradition?

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Make a Difference

Do you have an interest in making our community safer? Do you have a genuine willingness to help others? Consider being part of our mission:

People helping people transition from incarceration into community

Volunteers needed to be in weekly support group meetings for ex-offenders released from incarceration. Contact Danel Burchby @ 920-840-3037 or dburchby_gw.gwicc.org. Click [here](#) for the brochure or visit www.circles-of-support.org.

Journey of Hope

[Journey of Hope](#) is a quarterly Prayer Service developed and led by a team of survivors of sexual abuse, friends of survivors and other caring persons. It is a gathering in hope and prayer for all those affected by sexual abuse. Everyone and anyone is welcomed. 2015 dates are: April 9th and July 9th.

Quote from Pope Francis

“A Christian who does not protect creation, who does not allow it to grow, is a Christian who does not care about God's labors which are borne out of God's love for us.”

Stay tuned for more information about Pope Francis' anticipated encyclical on human ecology and man's relationship with creation!

Prayer Resources

Are you looking for ways to incorporate Catholic Social Teaching in your prayer life? Try using this [examination of conscience](#) next time you go to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Catholic Relief Services, the international humanitarian arm of the USCCB, recently published a great resource titled, *Walk With Me*, a 21-day journey around the world. Download your copy [here](#).

Database Updates

The Office of Living Justice is continuing to update our email database.

Please contact Theresa McKenna at tmckenna@gbdioc.org if you have a new e-mail address that should be on file for Living Justice newsletters.

Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

For more information on the Diocese of Green Bay, visit www.gbdioc.org.

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