

MICAH 6:8

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



Department of Living Justice

November 2014 | Vol. 3, Issue 2

"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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A Note from the Director

November is a month that celebrates many feast days and national holidays. Maybe it is because of my Irish heritage, but I always loved to celebrate the Feast of All Saints and All Souls on November 1 and 2. These two days remind us how we are connected to the saints in heaven who pray for us, and also, how we are connected to those who have gone before us by continuing to pray for them. There are many other feasts of saints and martyrs that you can learn more about at the USCCB homepage: www.usccb.org, when you click on the calendar.

Not only are we connected to those who have gone before us, but we must also remember that we are connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ within our own families and communities. As a nation, this month we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, and every few years, Election Day. Despite the fact that the majority of individuals continue to be disenfranchised with the state of politics, 54.25% (or 2.4 million) of people within the State of Wisconsin turned out to vote on November 4 (See the Post Election Update article on the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board website: <http://gab.wi.gov/>). By casting a ballot, Wisconsinites said that they are engaged in the political process, despite their disenfranchisement.

As Catholics, we need to continue to raise our voice in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are voiceless, even after the election is over. If you or your parish council wants to dialogue with one of your newly elected officials about issues concerning your parish community, have you considered writing them a letter, making a phone call, or requesting a meeting? Are you unsure on how to do any of that? If so, feel free to give me a call and/or please check out our recently updated advocacy resources [here](#).



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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

17th - 19th - [Hearts Open Wide: A JustFaith Mission](#) in the Spirit of Pope Francis at St. Thomas More in Appleton, 7 p.m.

17th - [Hunger and Homeless Awareness Dinner](#) at Riverside Ballroom, Green Bay, 6 p.m.

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

Legislative Advocacy

Please call the White House TODAY at this toll free number: **1-855-589-5698**. Our message is simple: ***Protect as many immigrants and their families as possible from deportation.***

Catholic Relief Services Reaches Out to Syrian Refugees

Dear Friends,

Since 2011, more than 100,000 people have lost their lives in the Syrian Civil War. More than 2 million people have fled from Syria to neighboring countries. More than 4.5 million people are internally displaced. Half of those affected are children. What is being done to help these people?

Thanks to your help, Catholic Relief Services is reaching out to Syrian refugees and providing assistance with housing, food and other basic necessities. Medical care is being offered for those physically injured. Counseling care is offered for survivors of trauma, especially for the children. It is the mission of CRS to defend the lives and dignity of people living in poverty around the world.

More help is needed. Elected officials can be contacted and pressed to encourage dialogue to end the conflict. Any monetary donation to Catholic Relief Service would be appreciated. As always, prayers are also needed. Please feel free to link to the prayer listed in the side bar below.

Thank you for the support you offer CRS and thus, to all those in poverty throughout the world.

God Bless,
Eric

Diocese of Green Bay Awards Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Grants

In July 2014, \$13,000 in CRS Rice Bowl Grants was awarded to and distributed among the following programs and sponsors:

- St. Patrick's Food Pantry/St. Patrick's Outreach Program
- Hispanic Family Assistance/Howe Community Resource Center
- Literacy Partners/Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc.
- Hooray for 3/Love Life
- Neighborhood Partners/Sustainable Fox Valley

18th - [Hunger and Homeless Press Conference](#) at Paul's Pantry, Green Bay, 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

19th - [Hunger and Homeless Food Insecurity Simulation](#) at the YWCA, Green Bay, 1-3 p.m.

27th-28th - Diocesan offices closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

19th - 20th - [Respect Life Retreat](#)

Pope Quote

"In light of the words of Jesus, love is the measure of faith, and faith is the soul of love. We can never separate religious life from the service of the brothers and sisters, to those concrete brethren we meet. We can never divide prayer, the encounter with God in the Sacraments, from listening to others, from being close to their lives, especially from their wounds." - **Pope Francis, Angelus, Oct. 26, 2014**

Prayer Resources

["Prayer After an Election" by Cardinal Adam Maida](#)

[Prayer for the People of Syria \(in English and Spanish\)](#) [This prayer is adapted from Catholics Confront Global Poverty. . . , a collaborative effort of USCCB and Catholic Relief Services.]

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.

- Supporting and Strengthening Families/Catholic Charities
- Adult English Language Learner Classes/Literacy Green Bay
- Called To Be One/St. Joseph Hispanic Ministry Leadership
- English Language Learning Educational Materials/Fox Valley Literacy Council
- Hispanic Youth Advancement Opportunities/Casa ALBA Melanie, Hispanic Resource Center

In 2015, the application process will begin in mid-February with applications due by April 3, 2015.

Healing Within Marriage From an Abortion

When Susan's husband, Juan, told her about the abortion he was involved in when he was in college, she finally understood why he was so depressed and had trouble bonding with their children. However, she wanted him to just get over it, without seeking help from a post-abortion healing ministry. It bothered her to think of him dealing with this in relation to another woman and child. Finish reading the article here in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

NOTE: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay offers post abortion healing. Please visit their website for more detailed information about services provided: <http://www.newcatholiccharities.org> or contact them at 920-272-8234.

A Thanksgiving Ritual for Families

This time of year, we pause to give thanks to our generous and loving God. Families gather together to celebrate their meaningful traditions and rituals. Click [here](#) for a Thanksgiving Ritual for families.

"Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive" - A Resource

A preparatory catechism for the World Meeting of Families 2015 is available. There are 10 themes that focus on the rich Church teachings regarding the family. Each chapter has discussion questions that can be used as personal reflection or small group discussions in parish groups, marriage enrichment, Marriage Encounter groups, Teams of Our Lady groups, etc. It is a good way to deepen one's understanding of the Church's teachings about marriage and family life. Order [here](#).

THANK YOU!

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the many volunteers and parish leaders who are committed to building strong marriages and families. It is a great pleasure to work side-by-side with you in ministry.

In gratitude and with the Holy Family, I pray for you and your

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

Thank you for your help!

Website for Parishes



[Click here to visit the diocesan website for parishes.](#) At this website, you can read Bishop Ricken's pastoral letter, "Parishes: Called to be Holy, Fully Engaged and Fully Alive," and find other parish-building resources.

Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

Diocese of Green Bay website

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

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!

Diocese of Green Bay

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The Compass

Official newspaper for the diocese

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families.

Jesus, Mary & Joseph; pray for us!

Peg VandeHey, Family & Married Life Coordinator

People of Life: Spirit of Gratitude

People of Life is the pro-life action campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Their mission is to activate the Church, its people, and its institutions to defend life through programs of prayer and worship.

We invite you to read their November newsletter, which offers resources and stories to help us in our fight to build a culture of life. Click [here](#) for the newsletter.

Hearts Open Wide: A *JustFaith* Mission in the Spirit of Pope Francis

Jack Jezreel, the founder and president of [JustFaith Ministries](#), will present a [mission](#) consisting of three evening talks on Nov. 17, 18, and 19 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), 2014, at 7 PM at St. Thomas More Parish, 1810 N. McDonald Street in Appleton.

Anyone in the diocese is invited to attend the talks and browse the social justice fair afterwards. The titles for his talks are: "An Abundant Love" on Monday, "An Abundant Life" on Tuesday, and "An Abundant Mission" on Wednesday. Please contact Judy Curtis at 920-574-2389 or e-mail her at: stmparish@stmccath.org



We wish you and your families
a blessed Thanksgiving!