

# MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## Department of Living Justice

MARCH 2016

*“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

#### MARCH

- ◆ 7th - Human Trafficking Toolkit mailing began
- ◆ 24th - 28th - Diocesan Easter Break - Offices Closed
- ◆ 25th - [CRS Rice Bowl Grant Application](#) period ends
- ◆ 29th - [“Shine a Light”](#) Wine & Cheese reception @ Baer Gallery, Bush Art Center, St. Norbert College (5-6:30 pm)

#### APRIL

- ◆ April 22nd - [A&A Alexandrina Center Annual Spring Gala](#)

#### SAVE THE DATE!

May 9th - Steve Bollman, “The Choice Wine” @ Resurrection Parish, Green Bay

May 10th - [Diocesan Spring Leadership Gathering](#)

### Easter Morning Prayer

As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that You conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the candy is all eaten and on with life we go let us not forget.

The celebration of Your Resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring beyond the lily beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.

Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear; man's greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young our old our unborn. Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.

This alone, the most touching and profound of Your signs that fear is dead and belief in You brings, not just hope but life.

What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. Even in the garden, You took on our fear if for only moments, it was as real as our fears can be real and You knew then that this single enemy must be destroyed.

And, You sacrificed Your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear.

I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me.

Peace and Thanksgiving lifted unto You. Amen.

- Catholic Online

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## A Note From the Director

In my role as Director of Living Justice, I have the opportunity to discuss the relationship between religion and politics. Several individuals have said to me that they do not envy me in this regard; however, I truly enjoy it, with all its challenges, because of my educational background. How do the two areas connect with one another? Should they? In what way can our faith shape the culture around us? These types of questions come up more often than not during a presidential election year; yet, faithful citizenship is a year round effort.

The majority of my upcoming newsletter articles will be focusing on preparation for the November elections. Forming one's conscience is not something that can be done overnight. It is an on-going lifelong process, and one that each Catholic voter should take seriously. No one candidate is perfect, and we must prayerfully discern what our faith is calling us to do because "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation," (FCFC bulletin [insert](#)), but how do we do that when the political campaigns are getting increasingly negative?

Here is a [prayer](#) that can begin our conversation, which we will continue in the months ahead.

Gracious and loving God, let your Spirit be with us (me) today. Hear our (my) prayers, and increase in us (me) the will to follow your Son Jesus. Help us (me) to draw on the resources of our (my) faith as we (I) use the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, especially the poor and vulnerable. We (I) ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

May God bless you, your families and your ministries during these remaining Lenten days!

Catherine



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## Human Trafficking – Something You Can Do

Most every week I hear from someone that they are very concerned about human trafficking, and they would like to do more to prevent it from occurring. As Catholics, we work to fight human trafficking because it threatens the lives and dignity of our brothers and sisters who are its victims.

In an effort to combat human trafficking, we are asking you to contact members of Congress by March 18 either via phone, [email](#) or postcard to support the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015. This legislation would require companies to make information about their products' supply chains public to ensure their products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

Our Church has a history of fighting human trafficking both abroad and within the United States. For more than a decade, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has been a national leader in the fight against sex and labor trafficking. The USCCB and its partners have provided intensive case management services to victims of human trafficking, assisting more than 2,232 survivors and more than 500 of their family members. In addition, Catholic Relief Services has implemented more than 100 programs in more than 35 countries to reduce human trafficking and, through public-private initiatives. This includes recently engaging the corporate sector to help eradicate the worst forms of slave labor.

Click [here](#) to learn more and send an e-mail to your congressman asking them to co-sponsor and support the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015.

Please contact me at 920-272-8344 if you would like postcards for your parish and community group.

God Bless, Eric

*"Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral— and not simply an economic— act."* **Pope Francis, January 2015**

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## A Lenten Check - Mercy me!

At this time during Lent, it may be helpful to check on how we (as individuals, as couples, as families, as faith communities) are living out God's love and mercy in our lives. A Christian Contemporary Song, "Mercy Me" by Brian Duncan, resonates with me.

Refrain: *Me oh my, oh mercy me! (Mercy me); I found love is my responsibility.*

(One of the verses): *Oh, some things just won't keep 'til tomorrow; they're meant to be done today*

We not only need to know that God's mercy and love is for everyone, but we cannot forget that our responsibility, then, is to live it! Since Pope Francis declared the *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy* which began on the Feast of Immaculate Conception (12/8/15) and will conclude on Christ the King Sunday (11/20/16), I have become more keenly aware of the number of references to "mercy" during the Mass and in the Scriptures. God's love and mercy is abundant which surrounds us and permeates us in our everyday lives. So a question to ask may be: how can we live God's love and mercy in our lives?

Here are three specific suggestions:

### Ways to live out mercy

How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Click here to see various [ways to live out mercy](#) every day!

### Prayer – "The Jesus Prayer"

A simple, but profound prayer is called, *The Jesus Prayer*. It happens to be one of Bishop Ricken's favorite prayers. Sit quietly and listen to the rhythm of your breathing. Take a deep breath and pray each line slowly, *[breathe in]* "Lord Jesus Christ"; *[breathe out]* "Son of God"; *[breathe in]* "have mercy on me"; *[breathe out]* "a sinner." Repeat several times. Regular practice of this breath prayer allows God's love and mercy to permeate our being - to be as natural as our breathing.

*(continued on page 4)*



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## Monica Meyer Respect Life Grant

The Monica Meyer grant in the Catholic Foundation helps parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay to plan and execute parish-based pro-life/anti-abortion activities and events.

Grants are for up to \$1,000.00 per parish per project.

The application process opens up on March 25, which is traditionally the day we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation (when Mary said YES to life by accepting God's will of conceiving Jesus in her womb!)

One story from a parish that received funds last year:

St. Nicholas in Freedom purchased fetal models with the money received through the Monica Meyer Grant. When the fetal models were delivered to the parish, a grandmother happened to be in the office at the time. Her twin grandchildren had just been born prematurely at 6 months, and they are in the NICU. They unpacked the models, inviting her to hold the 6 month fetal model. Beautiful moment as she could see and feel how big her grandchildren are!

We encourage you to apply for a grant! Please click [here](#) for full details.

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## A Lenten Check

(continued from page 3)

**Devotion - “Divine Mercy Novena”** (Good Friday (3/25/16) to Sunday of Divine Mercy (4/3/16))

Pope Francis says in his encyclical, *Evangelii gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), that popular piety is “a true expression of the spontaneous missionary activity of the people of God” (122). A special devotion that is growing more popular is called the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) which many people pray daily, especially at the hour of mercy – 3:00 pm. A special novena (9 days of prayer), called [The Divine Mercy Novena](#) begins on Good Friday and concludes on the Second Sunday of Easter (now called, *Sunday of Divine Mercy*). “Each day, a different group of people is prayed for, embracing all of humanity, living and dead. The Divine Mercy devotion focuses on the mercy that pours forth from Christ’s death and resurrection, fount of the Holy Spirit who forgives sins and restores joy at having been redeemed” (*Sourcebook*, LTP, 2015 p. 165).

Me oh my, oh mercy me! I found Love is my responsibility! I pray for you and your families each day. May you uncover the love and mercy that God has for each of us during these remaining days of Lent.

The Lord is kind and merciful!  
Peg Vande Hey, Family & Married Life Coordinator

## 2016 RESPECT LIFE ESSAY & POSTER CONTEST

We are excited to begin this year’s Respect Life Essay and Poster contests on March 25, when the Church traditionally celebrates the Feast of the Annunciation, when Mary said “Yes” to life by accepting God’s will of conceiving Jesus in her womb. This day is also recognized as the International Day of the Unborn Child.

1st Prize in each grade division is \$75, 2nd Prize is \$50, and 3rd Prize is \$25 to any Catholic bookstore of your choice within the Diocese of Green Bay.

**Poster Contest** - Entry categories: Grades 1-2; Grades 3-4

**Essay Contest** - Entry categories: Grades 5-6; Grades 7-8

### Theme: Every Life is Worth Living

Reflect on how you personally help someone (or a group of people) feel that his or her life is worth living. How do you make sure this person (or group of people) feels loved? How do you say YES to life by inviting Jesus into your heart and sharing His love with this person or group of people?

Click here for the [flyer](#).

Click here for the [webpage](#)

## Circle of Support Saves Lives!

I simply want to share this story from Green Bay (February 2016) to encourage us in our ministry of SUPPORT! Whether physically, materially, spiritually... So essential to have a circle of support!

*I work at the local pregnancy crisis center and just before the last vigil (40 Days) a woman came in with her beautiful daughter for a pregnancy test. When she heard she was pregnant she broke down and said there was no way she could have this baby. Even after an ultra sound she had so much fear that she did not know how she could do it.*

*I told her we would be with her all the way through it and told her about the prayer warriors of **40 Days** who were praying for all mothers and their unborn babies. It was a tough pregnancy for her, but I always reminded her of the prayers being said for her.*

*Last Wednesday, I was asked to be at the birth of that baby. It was a boy, and I can't tell you what joy it was to hold that 5 minute old baby in my arms. I was humbled when she told me that she'd asked me to come so she could give me a card that said, Thank you for being with me through this, and all the prayers that were said for me."*

*There was such joy and love in the room for that baby. Your prayers certainly changed a heart, and a little boy not only has life, he is loved. (And she asked me about a church she could go to!)*

## Family and Married Life

[Christian Family Movement](#): Christian Family Movement (CFM) is a national network of parish/neighborhood small groups of Catholics and their families.

[Retrouvaille - A Lifeline for Marriages](#): A program to help couples heal and renew their marriages.

## “A Marriage in the Lord” Marriage Preparation Program

The 2015-2016 marriage preparation schedule is available online at [www.marriageinthelord.org](http://www.marriageinthelord.org) for registration. If you want brochures, please call Theresa McKenna at 920-272-8291 or send an e-mail to [tmckenna@gbdioc.org](mailto:tmckenna@gbdioc.org).

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## Legislative Advocacy

[WCC Capitol Update](#) - Here's what's coming up.

Resources from the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development:

["2016 Working Family Tax Credits Outreach Campaign"](#)  
["Notes for Neighbors"](#)

[Action Alerts](#) Support Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. Tell your senators to care for creation by helping nonprofits make needed energy-efficiency improvements and protecting a national carbon standard

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)

2016 is a presidential election year! Many parishes start to make plans for events leading up to the November election, but have you seen the newly revised *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* document? If not, check it out [here](#) and other resources that you may find helpful in your planning processes:

- Do's and Don'ts [Guidelines](#)
  - *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* Reflection [Questions](#)
  - [Novena](#) for Faithful Citizenship; en [español](#)
  - Sample Bulletin [Announcements](#);
  - Bulletin Inserts
- ⇒ How to Form Your [Conscience](#); en [español](#)
- ⇒ What is Civil [Dialogue](#); en [español](#)
- ⇒ How to Contact Your Elected [Official](#); en [español](#)

## Human Trafficking Toolkit Mailing

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross started mailing human trafficking toolkits, from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), to all parishes on March 7th.

If your parish does not receive a toolkit soon, please call our office at 920-272-8921.

Make Wisconsin safer—help combat human trafficking.

You can make a difference!

## Year of Mercy Monthly Resources

[March, 2016](#)

[April, 2016](#)

[May, 2016](#)

## Shine a Light on Human Trafficking

Please call or email Wisconsin members of Congress by March 18<sup>th</sup>

Now is the time to shine a light against trafficking by taking action to protect our brothers and sisters—especially children—from human trafficking and exploitation. Contact your members of Congress today and ask them to fight human trafficking by cosponsoring the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015. This legislation would require companies to make information about their products' supply chains public to ensure their products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the bill.

Click [here](#) for a form that you can use to notify your congressman or you can

Click [here](#) for your senator and local congress representative contact information.

## Marriage as "The Choice Wine"

Steve Bollman, developer and popular presenter of *That Man is You* will speak to married couples on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Resurrection Parish in Green Bay.

All are welcome who are interested to hear about Steve's marriage strengthening program, "The Choice Wine" especially those active in *That Man is You* ministry. Admission is free.

This event is sponsored by the Diocesan Diaconate Office and the Diocesan Family and Married Life Office.

## Teach My People to Pray Quarterly Resources

Looking for ways to pray with your family? Check out these resources to help foster family prayer in our home.

[Quarter 3 Resources](#) - January, February, March

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## Pope Quote

“Virtue is the most authentic expression of the good that man, with God's help, is able to achieve...It is not merely a habit, but the constantly renewed decision to choose good.” - March 4, 2016

## The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions March 2016

Evangelization Intention - **Persecuted Christians** *That those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.*

Universal Intention - **Families in Difficulty** *That families in need receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments.*

Click [here](#) to visit the Apostleship of Prayer website for children's prayer resources on the Pope's monthly intention. Be sure to click on the image next to the monthly intention.

## CST Resource Videos

CST 101 is a collaborative 7-part video series presented by the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services on Catholic Social Teaching. The following videos are available:

“[Care for God's Creation](#)” Released on September 1, 2015, (which we celebrated as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation).

“[Life and Dignity of the Human Person](#)” Published on October 3, 2015.

“[Call to Family Community and Participation](#)” Published on December 14, 2015

## Family and Married Life Book Resources

[\*A Short Guide to Praying as a Family: Growing Together in Faith and Love Each Day\* \(also in Spanish, \*A Uno invitacion para Orar En Familia: Creciendo Unidos Cada Dia en la Fe y El Amor\*\).](#)

## Database Updates

Please contact Theresa McKenna at [tmckenna@gbdioc.org](mailto: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](http://www.gbdioc.org).

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.