

MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of
Green Bay

Department of Living Justice

EASTER 2017

“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.”

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- ◆ 14th - [CRS Rice Bowl Grant Application Deadline](#)
- ◆ 17th - [On the Same Page](#) - Green Bay
- ◆ 20th - [When Mom or Dad Depend on You](#) - Flintville
- ◆ 24th - [Prayer Service for Healing](#) - White Lake
- ◆ 25th - [Prayer Service for Healing](#) - Appleton
- ◆ 25th - [New Employee Orientation](#) - Diocesan Campus
- ◆ 26th - [Catholic/Lutheran Reformation 500th Anniversary Symposium](#) - Appleton
- ◆ 29th - [Spring Morning of Reflection](#) - Green Bay
- ◆ April 29th-30th - [Marriage Encounter](#) - DePere

MAY

- ◆ 6th - [Birth Mother Retreat](#) - Milwaukee
- ◆ 6th - [Hispanic Marriage Prep](#) - Diocesan Campus
- ◆ 11th - [Diocesan Stewardship Day](#) - DePere
- ◆ 18th - [Inspiring Disciples on the Way](#) - DePere
- ◆ 18th - [Catholic Charities Gala](#) - Green Bay

JUNE

- ◆ 6th - [Spaulding Golf Outing](#) - Oneida
- ◆ 12th & 19th - [FOCCUS Facilitator Training](#) - Diocesan Campus
- ◆ 19th - 22nd - [Retreat for Priests](#) - Green Lake

JULY

- ◆ 6th - 9th - [Lifest 2017](#) - Oshkosh

AUGUST

- ◆ 25th - 27th - Marriage Preparation Weekend Retreat - Camp Tekekawitha
- ◆ 25th - [Retrouvaille Weekend](#) - Oconomowoc

Catholic Easter Prayer

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

source: New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

alleluia!
Christ has Risen!

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Eric Weydt
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Dear Friends,

Being in the midst of Lent, we are called to build a culture of encounter. Jesus made that clear by the way he lived; Pope Francis makes that clear by his own daily example. This Lent, it's our turn. The [Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowl](#) is our tool to encounter ourselves, our neighbor and our God anew this Lent.

25% of the money collected stays within the diocese. Those generous donations provide a funding source to offer our CRS Rice Bowl grants within the Diocese of Green Bay. These grant monies provide a source for the various local agencies to offer basic needs assistance towards refugee and immigrant people throughout our diocese.

Please click [here](#) to learn about the grant criteria and application process. The granting period ends on Good Friday. (April 14)

In looking a bit ahead towards Easter, we refer again to our Pope Francis. His monthly intention for the month of May is **"Christians in Africa"**

"That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace."

Did you know that our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Eastern Africa (Somalia, South Sudan and Kenya) are experiencing extreme drought and famine? Catholic Relief Service is responding with emergency food aid, water and vocational training for the most vulnerable people, including those who have been displaced from their homes.

The need for CRS prayer and support does not end at Lent. Please visit <http://www.crs.org/> to find out about the year round efforts and needs of CRS throughout the world. Please consider helping:

May God bless you and your loved ones throughout Lent and Easter.

Eric



Celia McKee
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Moved by Mercy 2017 Respect Life Essay and Poster Contest

This year's Respect Life Essay and Poster began on March 25th, the date 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.

Use the theme "Moved By Mercy" to reflect on how YOU personally are moved by mercy to help someone (or a group of people). How do YOU say "yes" to life by inviting Jesus into your heart and sharing His mercy with others? Here are two ideas: Reflect on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and how they help you cherish the gift of each life as precious! Reflect on the parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

The poster contest is open to grades 1-4; the essay contest is open to grades 5-8.

The deadline to submit essays and posters is April 25th. Visit our [website](#) for more information, guidelines and entry forms.

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Elisa Tremblay
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Introducing Marriage Prep Weekend Retreats

Imagine a beautiful sunset, walking together on the beach, holding hands and beautiful conversations. Now imagine that you are engaged to be married and your only care in the world at that moment is each other. This isn't an advertisement for a fancy wedding venue, but it is the kick off of our new Diocesan Marriage Prep Retreat. In response to the new mission and vision of the Green Bay Diocese, we are adding a retreat option to marriage prep to give couples the opportunity to spend a weekend with each other in prayer, conversation, and fellowship. Discipleship is essential to our mission at the diocese and calls us to journey with couples as they prepare to be married. The addition of a retreat option to our marriage prep line-up allows couples the opportunity to hear more extensive marriage preparation talks, to have more time to talk to one another and pray together, and to spend more time creating friendships with other couples and the presenters on staff that weekend. The weekend retreats will cover both Part 1 and Part 2 of the marriage prep program and is also a fantastic option for couples who have varying work schedules, or are traveling from a distance to do the program together.

We will be hosting three retreat weekends this upcoming year, two in summer and one in winter. Please keep your eyes posted on Parish Pages and the website in the next few weeks for more information about these upcoming retreats. We will also continue to provide the traditional two part seminar classes and the other marriage prep options such as "Re-opening the Door to Marriage," Hispanic marriage prep and online marriage prep. It is also our goal to keep these marriage prep options affordable, and we anticipate the cost of the weekend retreat to be in line with our other programs. If you are interested in learning more about the retreat or have additional questions, please contact the Marriage Ministries Office at (920) 272-8315.



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Summer Training for Formation Program for 3-6 Year-Olds

"If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense of joy, admiration, and wonder." – Maria Montessori

For the first time, training will be available in the Diocese of Green Bay this summer for anyone interested in being certified to teach the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level I for 3-6 year olds.



While parents are sometimes unsure about how much their children can developmentally handle at very young ages regarding the faith, they want to provide the best formation during these important years that they can. The Catholic Church recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith, but often parents are looking for assistance with how to best form

their youngest children. Parishes usually begin their regular formal programs of religious education in first grade, with younger children participating in a variety of offerings, depending on what a particular parish has available. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a beautiful program option that has a well-researched understanding of the developmental stages included in this age range and which then seeks to pass on the faith in the richest, most beautiful yet accessible ways possible for them. Parents marvel at what their children learn and absorb, not only in knowledge, but in reverence as well.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three, designed to help them fall in love with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and the Catholic Church. Level I, which serves 3-6 year olds, is the focus for this summer's training. CGS Seeks to create

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A Short Discussion of *Laudato Si'*

We are reminded during Lent to sacrifice, pray and give alms. Since there are different approaches to each of these, Let us consider another way to do them. Pope Francis wrote the encyclical, "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home" to bring us to awareness that we are all interrelated with creation and with one another. What we do affects everyone around us and beyond. This is a short synopsis of the encyclical. It is worth reading either as read it either as an individual or as a book club member. It is not hard to read and as others have said, it isn't filled with technical and scientific words that you won't understand.

The way of the encyclical is very much in line with being Franciscan as St. Francis is the patron of the environment. You may like to know that Pope Francis isn't the first Pope who has spoken out on these issues. Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have also done so.

In Chapter 3," The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis", our Holy Father takes up the positive and negative influences of technology. He writes: "we stand naked and exposed in the face of our ever-increasing power, lacking the wherewithal to control it. We have certain superficial mechanisms, but we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear minded self-restraint." Pope Francis says we are enthralled with a technocratic paradigm, which promises unlimited growth, "But this paradigm is based on a lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit (101)." How do we use technology? Does it take the place of human and divine communication?

You may be saying...what can I do? It's bigger than me. This is true...we need governments working together to create better lives for the people in their areas. Praying for our leaders and letting them know our views is one way to help. We also need to realize that what we do impacts what happens elsewhere. That's where you come in....believe it or not, there are some things you can do to help right now. Start recycling whatever you can.

There are places that will take your newspapers, paper, cans, metal, bottle caps and tabs and recycle them for funding for a project or some extra cash. Whatever you are able to recycle stays out of the ground. Batteries cost to recycle but that is better than burying them in garbage as they can explode or cause a fire under the right conditions.

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Summer Training for Formation Program For 3-6 Year Olds (cont.)



and facilitate a sacred, "hands-on" space for children called an atrium, in which both the children and their catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Catholic faith as revealed in Scriptures and the Liturgy.

The format of the program consists of groups of children meeting once a week for a little over an hour in their specially prepared spaces called "atriums." Even though the group meets, the children are presented with the day's lesson in a special one-on-one format by the specially trained CGS Catechist. Assistants are present in the room to aid in supporting the environment for CGS and to help with the children not receiving the day's lesson just yet. The children enjoy a variety of learning stations until it is their turn for the lesson.

Training for Level I, Part I will be held August 7th-12th at Holy Family/St. John Paul II Classical School in Green Bay. Carolyn Kohlhaas is a nationally recognized Formation Leader for CGS who will be coming to the area to conduct the training. Tuition for the training is \$200. Training for Level I, Part II will be held Summer 2018 TBA.

Those interested in learning more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I program or the upcoming training should contact Dianne Vadney, Family Life Ministries Coordinator at dvadney@gbdioc.org or Maria Schuette, Religious Education / Youth Ministry Director at mdemeuse@gbdioc.org. Registrations are being accepted now, with space very limited.

Legislative and Social Justice Advocacy Links

[Wisconsin Catholic Conferece](#)

[USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development](#)

[USCCB Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#)

[Diocese of Green Bay - CRS Rice Bowl](#)

[Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force](#)

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A Short Discussion of *Laudato Si'* (cont.)

Electronics can be recycled, but ask when you recycle, where do the items go? If they go overseas, then don't give them to that recycler. There are places that will accept them and repurpose them for others. You may need to pay for it, but again, it is better than burying it and contaminating the ground. Burying garbage that is not environmentally friendly eventually may cause contamination in water and food sources.

How did we get to the point where what we are doing impacts the environment? Well, Pope Francis said that "the post- industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history" (165). Why.... because the world went about using resources without thinking about the consequences. Pope Francis speaks of a global consensus for confronting problems, a common plan. He encourages peoples and nations to dialogue and present honest solutions for working towards the common good.

"Praised be You, my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs." (Praises of God" by St. Francis).

Written by: Sister Mary Frances Maher, OSF, Living Justice Society Board of Trustees, Diocese of Green Bay

Sources: *Laudato Si'*, Encyclical on Care for our Common Home, notations numbered.

"Just Gospel" December 2015, Sister Kathleen Murphy, OSF (from the monthly Publication of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity).

Living Justice Society Board of Trustees, Green Bay Diocese discussions of the encyclical.

Database Updates

Please contact Theresa McKenna at tmckenna@gbdioc.org or 920-272-8291 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. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

