

MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of
Green Bay

Department of Living Justice

MAY 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

MAY

- ◆ 30th - Memorial Day Mass, 10:30 a.m. @ Allouez Catholic Cemetery

JUNE

- ◆ 7th and 14th - [FOCCUS Facilitator Training](#)
- ◆ 11th - [Spanish FOCCUS Facilitator Training](#)
- ◆ 21st - July 4th - [Fortnight for Freedom](#)
- ◆ 22nd - [St. Thomas More Society Mass](#), 7:15 a.m.
@ St. Willebrord Parish, Green Bay

SAVE THE DATE

- ◆ July 7th - July 10th - Lifest, @ the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh

Have an enjoyable summer!

Prayer for Ecuador

God, you are in the midst of those who suffer.
May all affected by the earthquake in Ecuador
feel your healing presence

God, you are in the hands of those who reach out
Help responders in their courageous work

God, you are in the hearts of those compassionate ones
Whose prayers cry out for their families
Whose prayers cry out for their neighbors
Whose prayers cry out even for strangers
Bless and comfort those who mourn

God, you are in the still small voice,
The gentle whisper that follows
May our ears always hear
May our hearts always cry out for one another
May our hands always reach out to one another
And may we always walk like you walk
in solidarity with those who suffer
And so reflect your presence and comfort
Amen.

Catholic Relief Services

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A Note From the Director

Sometimes at Mass, after listening to a gospel account of one of Jesus' parables, I find myself left dumbfounded like the apostles. Jesus then chides them saying, "Do you still not understand?" (Mark 8:21). I feel embarrassed for them, and myself, who struggle to understand the nugget of truth that Jesus the Teacher is expressing.

As we continue our discussion of conscience formation, in light of the upcoming presidential election, this month we are going to take a look at the virtue of [prudence](#) (CCC 1806) and how that virtue helps us to search for God's truth. Remember that we stated, a conscience is "God's voice resounding in the human heart, *revealing the truth to us* and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil," (FCFC 17).

The cultivation of [virtues](#), especially the virtue of prudence will be especially helpful this election season because it "shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act decisively. Exercising this virtue often requires the courage to act in defense of moral principles when making decisions about how to build a society of justice and peace" (FCFC 19).

St. Thomas Aquinas explained that '*prudence is right reason in action*' meaning that a prudent person will not only seek the truth and know the right thing to do, but also how to do it. A prudent person will conduct research, will ask questions, will seek advice from trusted individuals and will pray before making an important decision. While this all may seem like commonsense, many people make rash decisions based off of impulse or emotion, and ultimately, they make a bad decision because of it.

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Luke 1:46-48

Mary's Song

And Mary said:

**"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.**

From now on all generations will call me blessed"

Dear Friends,

During the month of May, we recognize Mary as Mother of God. Mary listened to God and being "immaculate" she was free from every taint of selfishness that might obscure God's light in her being. She obeyed God perfectly and in her obedience, found the fulfillment of perfect love.

By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home. (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 62)

Like Mary, we, as Catholics, care for those who are experiencing dangers and difficulties. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing water, food and emergency shelter to thousands of people in Ecuador who have been victims of the recent earthquake.

CRS is also assisting other people in need throughout the world. This includes areas within Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. To get Catholic Relief Service updates on these and other places in the world, please click on the links below.

Using Mary and Jesus as our models, please continue to offer prayer and assistance for any of our brothers and sisters who may be surrounded by dangers and difficulties.

God Bless,
Eric Weydt

[Deadly Earthquake Strikes Ecuador](#)
[Greece Embraces Refugees](#)
[CRS Global Emergency April 2016](#)

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Marriage and “The Joy of Love”

Steve Bollman, the founder of “That Man Is You (TMIY),” came to Green Bay recently to share his marriage strengthening program called, “The Choice Wine.” It is one of many programs that rose from a need to provide enrichment and education to strengthen marriages. Deacon Tony Abts, the Diaconate Director, and I teamed up to promote the evening presentation. Not having any idea how many couples would come on a Monday evening, we planned for about 60 people and were pleased with that estimate. Imagine the surprise when over 200 people came! A good number of the men who are experiencing TMIY were delighted to meet Bollman and to share the night with their spouse. Among the attendees were couples from Marriage Encounter and Cursillo, along with parish FOCCUS facilitators and others interested in pre-marriage and marriage ministries. Many of the couples signed an interest form to start “The Choice Wine” at their parishes.

The number of couples who attended signified to me that there is a hunger for spiritual growth in marriage, to deepen spousal relationships and to ground their marriage in Christ and His Church.

Pope Francis in his recent papal exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (“The Joy of Love”) speaks so beautifully of marriage. The pope writes, “...we cannot encourage a path of fidelity and mutual self-giving without encouraging the growth, strengthening and deepening of conjugal and family love” (AL # 89). One of my favorite chapters is Chapter 4 when the pope reflects on the famous passage from St. Paul (1 Cor 13: 4-7) about what love is.

The following website has divided chapter 4 into smaller bites for couples to read every day and then relate it to your marriage each day. The dates can be changed to your own starting date and then read and share insights. <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/amoris-laetitia-bootcamp/>

This is one simple way that married couples can learn and grow deeper in love with each other and with our Lord, Jesus.



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Hope for Married Couples Who Want to Have a Child

The month of May often focuses on motherhood. This can be very emotionally challenging for women who are trying to conceive without success.

Perhaps this is a familiar scene to you, or to someone you love:

Alone in the bathroom, staring blankly at the negative test, you tearfully ask yourself, “Why am I not pregnant yet?” Later, you may find yourself talking to your doctor about a “take-home baby” and come face to face with the costly, invasive and sometimes morally questionable reality of fertility treatments. You wonder, “Is there any hope for me?”

[Read more](#) to discover that yes, there is hope!

Natural Family Planning is mentioned in the article above. “Many people think of Natural Family Planning as a way to avoid pregnancy, but NFP can also help some couples experiencing infertility... Tracking your unique cycle can help a husband and wife know exactly when their fertile window is and increase the odds of conceiving. For many couples, irregularities in those same signs and symptoms have offered insight into the causes of infertility.”

Please visit [Our Natural Family](#) website to find out more.

[NaProTECHNOLOGY](#) (Natural Procreative Technology) is also one of the resources mentioned in the above article. It is “a new women's health science that monitors and maintains a woman's reproductive and gynecological health. It provides medical and surgical treatments that cooperate completely with the reproductive system.”

NaPro offers real solutions to real problems. Just some of the problems it work with are: infertility, repetitive miscarriages, hormonal abnormalities, polycystic ovarian disease...

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A Note from the Director

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Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, “*prudence* demands humble, disciplined and vigilant reason that does not allow itself to be dazzled by prejudices; does not judge according to desires and passions, but *seeks the truth — even uncomfortable truth*,” (September 2009 homily). Jesus challenges us constantly to seek God’s truth, which we know is not easy in our world today, especially during this election season. But just as Jesus, St. Thomas Aquinas, the U.S. bishops, and Pope Benedict remind us, we must be courageous in our decision-making to always seek God’s truth, and the cultivation of prudence will assist us in that decision-making process.

May God bless you, your families and your ministries!

Catherine

References:

[The Art of Living the First Step of Prudence](#)

[Prudence: The Forgotten Christian Virtue](#)

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)

[Homily of Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI](#)

Legislative Advocacy

Action Alerts

We hope the U.S. Congress will use its leadership role to support the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund. Click [here](#) to take action.

[\[Call to Action\] Conscience Protection Act 2016](#)

Resources

[WCC Capitol Update](#)

[Committee Hearing on Farm Economy](#)

[“Notes for Neighbors” - USCCB-JPHD](#)

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship Resources](#)

Fortnight for Freedom

The Fortnight for Freedom/Quincena Por La Libertad is a call to fourteen days of prayer, education, and action for religious freedom in the United States and abroad from June 21-July 4.

This year’s Fortnight theme is *Witnesses to Freedom* and will focus on the lives of women and men of faith, from all over the world, who have borne witness to authentic freedom in Christ. Click [here](#) for two new major resources: 14 stories of witnesses to freedom in both English and Spanish, including Bl. Oscar Romero, Edith Stein and the Coptic martyrs, and a new video on the “Right to Religious Freedom”.



Hope for Couples Who Want to Have a Child

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“Unlike common suppressive or destructive approaches, NaProTECHNOLOGY works cooperatively with the procreative and gynecologic systems. When these systems function abnormally, NaProTECHNOLOGY identifies the problems and cooperates with the menstrual and fertility cycles that correct the condition, maintain the human ecology, and sustain the procreative potential. Women now have an opportunity to know and understand the causes of the symptoms from which they suffer.”

May the Lord be with you on your journey!

Homeless Young Adults in Green Bay

At St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter, the number of adults 18 to 25 who were homeless jumped considerably from the previous year. Click [here](#) to read this article printed in the Green Bay Press Gazette on April 29th.

Year of Mercy Monthly Resources

[March, 2016](#)

[April, 2016](#)

[May, 2016](#)

[June, 2016](#)

[July, 2016](#)

[August, 2016](#)

Resources on *Laudato Si'*

[Full text](#) of Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si'*

[Discussion guide](#) on *Laudato Si'*

[Liturgy, Preaching and Taking Action resources](#) on the theme, “Care for God’s Creation”

NEW! [Catholic Rural Life One Year Anniversary Resources](#)

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Pope Quote

“Today let us ponder this question just for five minutes... How am I doing on this Christian journey? Am I standing still, making mistakes, turning here and there, stopping in front of the things that I like, or (am I following) Jesus who said “I who am the Way.”?
-Homily, May 3, 2016

The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions May 2016

Evangelization Intention - **Holy Rosary** *That families, communities and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.*

Universal Intention - **Respect for Women** *That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed*

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.

“A Marriage in the Lord” Marriage Preparation Program - August 2016 through June 2017

We are currently setting up the schedule for “A Marriage in the Lord,” the Diocesan marriage preparation program. The new schedule and brochure will be available at the end of June. The last scheduled session is June 4th at St. Agnes in Green Bay. Visit www.marriageinthelord.org to register. A few spots are still available.

Family and Married Life Resources

[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 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 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.