

# MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## Department of Living Justice

APRIL 2015

*“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

#### APRIL

- ◆ 30th - [“The Feminist Case Against Abortion”](#) by [Feminist For Life](#) President Serrin Foster, St. Norbert College, Bemis International Center at 6:30 p.m.

#### MAY

- ◆ 2nd - English FOCCUS Facilitator Training, Diocesan Campus, from 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Advanced registration required. Register [here](#)
- ◆ 7th - [Stewardship Day](#), St. Joseph Parish, Appleton from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- ◆ 16th - End of Life: Church Teachings & Documents, Holy Rosary Parish, Kewaunee after the 4:00 p.m. Mass
- ◆ 17th - End of Life: Church Teachings & Documents, St. Mary Parish, Algoma after the 8:15 a.m. Mass

### A Newborn Prayer

*(In Honor of Catherine and Matt’s baby, James)*

Heavenly Father,

We pray for your abundant blessings on this little newborn. We look at this adorable child and by faith we see:

Soft little ears that will one day hear and receive the message of God's love and grace.

Bright little eyes that will one day notice the needs of others, and look for ways to express God's love to the world.

Precious little fingers that will one day reach out with acts of kindness to the world.

Cute little feet with tiny little toes that will one day grow into beautiful confident feet that will bring the Good News of Jesus to the world.

Lord, we also see a tender little heart.

God, we pray that this child will always have an open heart to you and to your word.

May this child grow up to be a mighty man of God.

Amen

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Catherine Orr  
Director of Living Justice  
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## A Note About the Director

Congratulations to Catherine and her husband, Matt, on the birth of their son on Tuesday, April 7th.

James Geraghty Orr arrived weighing 6 lbs. 4 oz. and stretching out 20.5 inches long! Mother, father and baby are all doing well and Catherine and Matt are quickly adjusting to life as new parents.

As kids like to keep parents on their toes, James started early as Catherine's due date was set for April 30th. Hope they had everything ready for their early arrival!

Not only is James Catherine and Matt's first child, it is the first grandchild on both sides of their family. James will be the receiver of much love and attention from everyone.

Please join us in offering a blessing to Catherine, Matt and James.

Living Justice Department  
Peg, Eric, Celia and Theresa



Eric Weydt  
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## Dear Friends,

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the St. Joseph Food Program in Menasha. This non-profit organization has been operating since 1982 serving 120 clients that first year. Now the program distributes up to 30 tons of fresh food and non-perishable items to hundreds of people who need assistance each week. Much of the items are donated from area food stores and restaurants while the rest of the items are purchased.

St. Joseph Food Program is not your "typical" pantry. They provide food for clients in Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago Counties. They also provide food for 15 other service agencies within the region. Because of the large area covered, last year 10,000 clients were served, which amounts to 3.5 million pounds of food.

The St. Joseph Food Program has its beginnings from Fr. Bill Alcuin and his Friday morning bible study thirty eight years ago. Fr. Bill began with the Gospel of Matthew and the recurring theme within the gospel of establishing God's kingdom on earth. When the pastor challenged the group with, "What can our group do to establish that kingdom here in the Fox Valley?" two members took the challenge to heart and the St. Joseph Food Program began.

The study group Fr. Bill began thirty eight years ago. The Fox Valley Catholic Bible Study Group, still meets each Friday morning at 6:30AM in St. Bernadette parish in Appleton. This organization which started out with eight individuals has now grown into more than 270.

Because of the power of prayer, two organizations were formed and remain vibrant. Please remember to continue to pray throughout this Easter season for programs that nourish the basic and spiritual needs of others.

To find more information on the Fox Valley Catholic Bible Study Group visit: <http://fvcbbsg.org/>

To learn more about the St. Joseph Food Program visit: <http://stjoesfoodprogram.org/>

Blessings,  
Eric

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I love seeing the signs of spring! God's beautiful creation is beginning to sprout new life. New life is all around, indeed! We are especially excited to have a new baby boy in our Living Justice Department: our director, Catherine Orr and her husband Matt celebrate the birth of their firstborn this week of Easter ... and we also rejoice that just a few days later, a new baby boy is born to our Young Adult Coordinator in the New Evangelization Department, Phil Lawson and his wife Patty. Congratulations!

Even though the temperatures have been cool, we know that we can look forward to warmer days. Spring also could indicate "spring cleaning!" After a long winter, there are many things we are happy to put away or to clear away to have a fresh start. This time of year can also be a time for spring cleaning our hearts. The following reflection, "Spring Clean our Hearts, O Lord," is from a newsletter written in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PA.

## Spring Clean our Hearts, O Lord!

**De-Clutter!** – Think about all of the things that clutter your path to God. Is your schedule full of activities that steal you away from sitting in the presence of your Creator? Think about what activities you can eliminate, so that you will have time to grow in a personal relationship with the Lord.

**Dust!** – Remove the dust of spiritual staleness from your life. Don't settle for how things have always been. Read a good new book about our Catholic Faith! Try a different approach to prayer (ex. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises). Perhaps even attend a workshop or conference that will help to ignite your faith.

**Sweep!** – Remove the cobwebs of the past that inhibit your walk with God. Reconcile with your neighbor! Have the courage to go to frequent confession, recognizing the need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Don't let your past hold you back from the future God has for you!

**Shine!** – Don't be afraid to share your love with others. Be a light in this very dark world. Do others know there is something different about you? Shine! Make them wonder what the source of your JOY really is!



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## The Feminist Case Against Abortion

Serrin M. Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America, continues the tradition of early American feminists who opposed abortion, such as Susan B. Anthony. Pro-life feminists recognize abortion as a symptom of, not a solution to, the continuing struggles women face in the workplace, on campus, at home, and in the world at large. In her presentation, Ms. Foster carries out the mission statement of Feminists for Life, "Women deserve better than abortion."

Immediately following the talk, St. Norbert College Knights for Life will offer a formal dessert reception and cash bar as an opportunity to further the conversation with Ms. Foster and other distinguished guests of honor.

Please click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## "Maggie's Story" – First in Series of Videos against Assisted Suicide

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) sent us a list of its efforts against the well-funded, multi-state campaign to legalize physician-assisted suicide. One of the efforts is a planned set of short videos featuring the stories of various people who are against legalization.

"Maggie's Story" is the first in the series.

*From the USCCB:* "Maggie's Story" features Maggie Karner, a 51-yr-old mother of three, who was diagnosed last year with terminal brain cancer. She reclaims the term 'dignity' and places it at the heart of a loving family. She shares about her dad's courageous witness when he was rendered a quadriplegic for the last 5 months of his life, allowing Maggie and her siblings to keep him company and attend to his basic needs. Through the gift of that time spent together, he taught her to face her own final days with true grace and dignity. "My brain may be cancerous, and I don't know how much longer I have," she says, "But I still have a lot to contribute to society as a strong woman, wife, and mother. And my family can daily learn the value of caring for me in my last days with compassion and dignity."

Other videos are being produced for us to view in the coming weeks. Click [here](#) for the video.

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## 40 Days for Life

As of March 31st, there were 402 known babies who were saved from abortion during the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign!

The next campaign will be held from September 23 - November 1, 2015.

## Stewardship Day Thursday, May 7, 2015

We are happy to promote the Diocesan Stewardship Day at St. Joseph Parish, Appleton on Thursday, May 7. The Living Justice Department Offices of Family & Married Life Office and Dignity of Human Life are teaming up to present a breakout session called, “Planting the Seeds of Stewardship in the Family”

Presenters:

- Peg VandeHey, Diocesan Family & Married Life Coordinator
- Celia McKee, Diocesan Dignity of Human Life Coordinator

The “soil” of family life is the fertile ground to plant the seeds of gratitude, faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing. This session will offer ways to help till the soil so that parish families can grow in their understanding of God’s abundant love, mercy and goodness. To register for the Stewardship Day click [here](#).

## Diocesan Gathering of Families August 29, 2015

“Diocesan Gathering of Families” will be held on August 29 at Camp Tekakwitha. This day at camp is a local celebration that precedes the “World Meeting of Families 2015” in Philadelphia.

## Action Needed: Protect Religious Liberty in the Nation’s Capital

“Our religious liberty is under attack in our nation’s capital and we need you to act! Thank you for making time to join in the social media campaign happening right now and for responding to the Action Alert in defense of life and liberty. Together we will be heard.” Click on this [link](#) to read the alert.

## Preparing for the World Meeting of Families 2015 Theme #5—All Love Bears Fruit

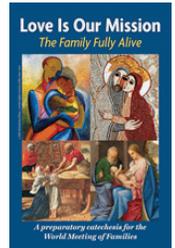


Everyone is invited to prepare for the World Meeting of Families. Not everyone can attend the event in September, 2015. The preparatory catechism can be a tool to encourage study, personal reflection and

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 Catechism plays a central role in each World Meeting of Families. The catechism, 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](http://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

Theme #4—Two Become One

### Theme # 5—All Love Bears Fruit

Not everyone is called to marriage. But every life is meant to be fertile. Every life has the power and the need to nurture new life — if not through bearing and raising children, then through other vital forms of self-giving, building and service. The Church is an extended family of different vocations, each distinct but each needing and supporting the others. Priesthood, religious life and the celibate lay vocation to enrich, and are enriched by, the witness of the married state. The different ways of being chaste and celibate outside of marriage are ways of donating one’s life to God’s service and the human community.

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## FOCCUS Facilitator Training Diocesan campus, Green Bay Saturday, May 2, 2015



F.O.C.C.U.S. is an acronym for *Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study.*

This is one of the parish components of sacramental preparation for marriage. Often, the parish uses married couples (although not necessary) to facilitate the FOCCUS inventory (NOTE: it is NOT a test, nor is it a “compatibility indicator”). It is a rewarding ministry within the parish to reach out to the engaged couples.

From extensive ongoing research, FOCCUS Inc. created an inventory that allows engaged couples, guided by facilitator(s) to enter into a deeper conversation with each other about important topics:

- Lifestyle Expectations
- Friends and Interests
- Personality Match
- Personal Issues
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Religion, Spirituality and Values
- Parenting Issues
- Extended Family Issues
- Sexuality Issues
- Financial Issues
- Readiness Issues
- Covenant/Commitment
- Family of Origin
- Dual Careers
  
- Special topics (*dependent on situation*)
  - ◇ Interfaith
  - ◇ Remarriage
  - ◇ Cohabitation
  - ◇ Couples with children

NOTE: There is a need for trained facilitators in outlying areas of the diocese. Please invite others to consider this ministry. Training is provided through the diocese. See link for registration.

## Burning Hearts Disciples

Check out this website that may be of interest for your family’s faith growth: <http://www.burningheartdisciples.org/> Come and discover a faith that is a relationship with Jesus Christ - who you can come to know intimately and personally.

## Family and Married Life

**Marriage Encounter Weekends**: Spend a weekend to enrich and deepen your love with your spouse.

**Christian Family Movement**: Are you interested in getting together in small groups in your parish? Christian Family Movement (CFM) is a national network of parish/neighborhood small groups of Catholics and their families. Parents, including empty-nesters and grandparents, meet regularly in one another’s homes or at the parish. Through the use of programming and the dynamics of group interaction, Christian values are reinforced and families are encouraged to reach out in action to others. Check it out! [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org)

**Retrouvaille - A Lifeline for Marriages**: A program to help couples heal and renew their marriages.

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?



... Retrouvaille provides marriage help!

## Be Alerted When Abortionist Present in Grand Chute

If you are looking for a way to show your support for life, a current effort is in place where you can receive a text alert when an abortionist is present at the abortion clinic in Grand Chute.

Charles Estermann will send out text alerts to encourage you to go to the clinic and pray there that day or to pray from wherever you are. Because the clinic has no set schedule, this is a way to get the word out.

If you are interested in receiving these alerts, please contact Charles at [cestermann@new.rr.com](mailto:cestermann@new.rr.com).

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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](mailto:dburchby_gw.gwicc.org). Click [here](#) for the brochure or visit [www.circles-of-support.org](http://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.

## Word of Life: May Edition

[Word of Life](#) is a monthly resource for dioceses and parishes. It is available in both English and Spanish. Each month, you will find bulletin quotes, occasional homily notes and petitions.

## 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](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.