

# MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## Department of Living Justice

MARCH 2015

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*“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.”*

### In this Issue

Calendar of Events	Feast of the Annunciation	Family and Married Life
A Note from the Director	Culture of Life	Journey of Hope
Apostleship of Prayer	Legislative Advocacy	Pope Quote
Image of Water	Catholics at the Capitol	Prayer Resources
Lenten Journey: Renewing and Strengthening Body, Mind and Spirit	World Meeting of Families—Theme #4 Make a Difference	Database Updates Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

### Calendar of Events

#### MARCH

- ◆ 19th - *“Walking Together: Exploring Immigration Issues in Brown County”* at St. Matthew’s Parish, 130 St. Matthew Street, Green Bay from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.
- ◆ 25th - Feast of the Annunciation

#### APRIL

- ◆ 1st - First Wednesday in Honor of Saint Joseph, St. Joseph’s Chapel, Diocese of Green Bay Campus from 5-6:30 p.m. “Lenten soup” gathering to follow. Contact Jim Ball at 920-676-3489 or jimball@square1jb.com
- ◆ 8th – [Catholics at the Capitol](#) at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison from 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM
- ◆ 11th - Spanish FOCCUS Facilitator Training , St. Willebrord Parish from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Advanced registration required. Register [here](#)
- ◆ 19th - Spanish FOCCUS Facilitator Training , St. Willebrord Parish from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Advanced registration required. Register [here](#)
- ◆ 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](#)

### Apostleship of Prayer

This powerful ministry, which is an apostolate of the Jesuits, promotes praying for the pope’s intentions. Join the worldwide movement of prayer. Click here for more [information](#).

[Apostleship of Prayer Family Retreat in Milwaukee](#): “Exploring the Heart of Christ”

[Children’s Ministry of Apostleship of Prayer](#): Grace Mazza-Urbanski, Director of Children’s Ministry, in her blog, writes about the “Perfect Sandwich for Lent”. She uses the image of a sandwich to help children and their parents to pray all day long, beginning with the Morning Offering and ending with the Evening Review. The good stuff in the middle includes all the thoughts, words and deeds that happen throughout the entire day. It is a wonderful way to teach children to “pray unceasingly” each day as St. Paul tells us.

**Please note:** Morning Prayer window clings and other Apostleship of Prayer resources are available in the Family & Married Life Office. Contact Peg VandeHey [pvandehey@gbdioc.org](mailto:pvandehey@gbdioc.org).

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## A Note from the Director

With the warmer weather finally upon us, you can start to see more and more people outside soaking up the sun. And why wouldn't they? Spring is here! But we must remember that, liturgically speaking, we are still in the Lenten season journeying toward Easter. Before we get ahead of ourselves, let us take the time to relish in the fact that we still have a few more weeks left of Lent in order to fully prepare for the Easter celebration. We still have a few more weeks to take stock of our lives and see where we may have fallen short.

Personally speaking, I started this Lent with a list of "things" I wanted to do to make it a memorable and fruitful journey. After recently reassessing my list, I realize that I have fallen short...again. While slightly discouraged, it dawned on me that I am trying to control too many aspects on this list instead of clearing out the clutter and really taking the time to listen to God and make room for Him in my heart.

I continue to pray that we will all be open to the will of the Lord these last few weeks of Lent, so that we can all take stock of our lives and recognize that we cannot accomplish anything without the help of the Lord.

May God continue to bless each of you, your families and your ministries during these remaining weeks of Lent!

Many blessings,  
Catherine



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## Dear Friends,

*"Water is much more than just a basic human need. It is an essential, irreplaceable element to ensuring the continuance of life. Water is intrinsically linked to fundamental human rights such as the right to life, to food, and to health.*

*Access to safe water is a basic human right. In 2004, Saint Pope John Paul II wrote, 'as a gift from God, water is a vital element essential to survival, thus everyone has a right to it.' **Pope Benedict XVI, 2006***

The image of water has been a symbol from the Old Testament through the New Testament. God's gift of a spring of water in the desert to Hagar speaks of mercy to all in the human family. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River calls each of us to renewal, and he called everyone to come to him and "drink" of his life-giving teaching. Water was, and is, a precious gift of God that should be cherished.

In today's world, water has added significance as we plan our cities near water so our economies are built on the strength of water transportation. The products we buy and sell are all partly water. Much of our electrical energy is created by its use.

Today our challenge is to be aware of threats to our water and to advocate for access to safe, clean sources, especially for the poor and vulnerable. Water scarcity is an issue of poverty. Unclean water and lack of sanitation are the destiny of needy people across the world. Lack of hygiene affects poor children and families in devastating ways, increasing illnesses and childhood mortality. For poor people, water scarcity is not only about droughts or rivers running dry. Above all, it is about guaranteeing the fair and safe access they need to sustain their lives and secure their livelihoods. Catholic social teaching tells us structures and systems that are unjust must be transformed to ensure that all people have equal access to clean water and to basic sanitation.

This problem is not confined to a particular region of the planet -- it is a world-wide issue. A third of the earth's population lives in "water stressed" countries and that number is expected to rise dramatically over the next two decades. The crisis is worst in developing nations, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. *(continued on page 5—The Image of Water)*

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## Lenten Journey: Renewing and Strengthening Body, Mind and Spirit How is Your Lenten Journey?

We are over half way through Lent and I am reviewing how my personal journey is going. While it is not what I expected, I am personally enriched by the many opportunities that have allowed me to reflect, pray and to be active.

My husband Steve and I are privileged to give a variety of presentations to couples, parents and grandparents in parishes around the diocese. This year, our focus has been to examine how to live a balanced life -- personally, as a married couple, and as a family. It seems that we are pulled in many directions on any given day and time and often can feel out of sorts; maybe feeling stressed, unhappy, overwhelmed, or just not feeling like oneself -- something is missing, or not hitting the mark.

Upon personal review, I am fully aware that God created us in His image. We are not just physical beings, but we are made up of body, mind and spirit. Right before Lent, I began contemplating who God created us to be as a married couple, as parents and grandparents. Because Steve and I both work in ministry and are tugged here and there to do God's work, our question became, "What are we doing to balance our lives as a married couple?" We see that our blessed union of marriage is also body, mind and spirit. I picture this as a three-legged stool. If one of the legs is weak or too short, the stool tips over. If our personal life or our married life is like that three-legged stool and one leg is wiggly or perhaps too short, the stool will tip over or collapse, depending on the weight. When our spiritual "leg" (couple prayer) is weak or too short, our communion with one another and with God is missing. In February, we made a very intentional decision to strengthen all the "legs" -- body, mind and spirit.

Every morning at 5:30, we wake up to strengthen our hearts and spirit --doing cardio exercise and to pray together, followed by eating breakfast together. It starts our day in a perfect way to keep God and our union in marriage as the number one priority. We are able laugh and share our thoughts and plans for the day. It is becoming a habit!

During this remaining time of Lent as we approach Easter, I pray that you and your household can find balance, strengthening your "legs," to stand with our Lord and with those who are most important in your lives.



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## Feast of the Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation is March 25, the day on which the archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary to say she would conceive in her womb and bear a son whom they would call Jesus. Mary said YES to life!

We are asked to say YES to life by embracing Jesus in our hearts every day and sharing Him with others. "With our own yes to God's voice in our lives we are also asked to nurture the word of God within us and bring Christ into the world—certainly not in the same way that Mary was, but in our own situations. Using our own talents and graces we are called to bring Christ into the lives of others." Click [here](#) to read more on *America Magazine* website.

It is the perfect time for us to reflect on how we are saying YES to life by embracing Jesus in our heart and bringing Christ into the world. How are we using our talents and graces to help others see that each of us is a masterpiece of God's creation, especially those who are the weakest and most vulnerable in our society?

If you are a youth in grades 7-12, or a college-age young adult, you can share your Annunciation reflection in our pro-life essay contest! You will have the chance to win a \$75 gift certificate to any Catholic bookstore within the Diocese of Green Bay. You can find more information about the contest [here](#).

## Culture of Life

We often hear that we need to build a culture of life. There are so many ways of doing this, and we are blessed in our diocese to have such a strong pro-life community that embraces this concept, building it up in a variety of fashions.

I was deeply touched by the film, *The Drop Box*. It is a true story of Pastor Lee who is passionate about saving the lives of babies in South Korea that would otherwise be abandoned on the street. Many of the babies have a disability, some more severe than others. He created a drop box for mothers to put their babies into, desiring for their child to have a better life than what they feel they can offer. It is a beautiful witness that every human life is sacred and worthy of love. *(continued on page 5)*

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## Legislative Advocacy

- The Catholic Church has long insisted that while it does not have technical solutions for every human problem, it does have a moral duty to speak out on matters that involve the life and dignity of the human person and the common good. Catholic social teaching consists of seven essential principles, one of which is the “Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.” Click [here](#) to read more about the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) testimony on Right to Work.
- The Joint Committee on Finance, which is charged with the first revision of Governor Walker's budget, will hold four public hearings around the state later this month. Readers are encouraged to attend and make their concerns known. The first will take place within the Diocese of Green Bay on Wednesday, March 18 from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. at Brillion High School in the Endries Performing Arts Center, W1101 County Road HR.
- Never testified at a public hearing before? Check out these tips: Here are some tips on testifying at these hearings:
  - \*Arrive early and complete a registration form, which are available from the legislative pages who staff the hearing.
  - \*Plan on keeping your comments to two or three minutes. Committee members will follow up with questions if they want to know more. Give personal or specific examples of why you support or oppose a budget item.
  - \*If possible, have written copies of your testimony for the committee. If you have to leave before you are called to testify, you may leave the written testimony with a page, who will make sure the committee members receive it.
  - \*If you can't make these hearings, you will still have several weeks to contact your own legislators to share your views on the budget.
- Do you know what committees your representative serves on? If so, great! Continue your advocacy efforts! If not, check out this [list](#) and reach out to them so your voice can be heard.

## Catholics at the Capitol

Join us for a day of prayer, formation and advocacy on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at Catholics at the Capitol – A Church United in Hope and Love in Madison. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Jonathan J. Reyes, Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Click [here](#) to register online or mail in your registration using this [form](#).

## Preparing for the World Meeting of Families 2015 Theme #4—Two Become One

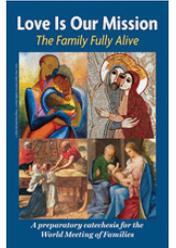


Everyone is invited to prepare for the World Meeting of Families. Not everyone can attend the event in September, 2015. The preparatory catechism can be a tool to encourage study, personal reflection and

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 Catechesis plays a central role in each World Meeting of Families. The catechesis, 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

We are not made to be alone. Human beings need and complete each other. Friendship and community satisfy that longing with bonds of common interest and love. Marriage is a uniquely intimate form of friendship that calls a man and a woman to love each other in the manner of God's covenant. Marriage is a Sacrament. Married love is fruitful and offered without reservation. This love is in the image of Jesus's faithfulness to the Church.

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## Culture of Life (continued)

The theme of love is in the air at this time every year. One of the themes that was woven into the film was that of building a culture in which we embrace life. A culture that will love and take care of the most weak and vulnerable among us, especially those who have a disability. We know in our own country that parents who receive an adverse prenatal diagnosis will often choose abortion. We need to create a culture in which: all babies (regardless of their health) are loved and cherished, mothers and fathers know that they are supported by the community in whatever way they need our help, and community members lovingly step forward on their own to offer their gifts and talents accordingly.

The film was specifically about the babies and children who are being loved by Pastor Lee, his family, and the mission. However, it certainly branches out to all areas of life. We need to recognize that each and every human being is created in God's image and likeness, deserving of the utmost respect.

This causes me to ponder: If I walk into my church as if I was someone in need of help, whether a pregnant teen, a drug addict, a human trafficking victim, a homeless person, a person with a terminal illness, an elderly person,... would I immediately know and feel that I would find support there? Would I know that the community would embrace me, helping me to see I am worthy of love and respect? After examining our own hearts, we should look at our own church community to see how well we are displaying, and living out, the gospel of life.

## The Image of Water (continued)

*Some Points of interest for your consideration or discussion are as follows:*

- In 2012, over 700 million in the world lacked access to clean drinking water.
- 3.6 million people die every year from water-related diseases.
- 4,000 children die every day from diseases caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene.
- By 2025, 800 million people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two thirds of the world population could be under stress conditions.

International Water Day is on Sunday March 22. Please pray and advocate for clean and accessible water sources.

God Bless,  
Eric

*Source: 2013 Center of Concern*

## 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!

## Respect Life Support Opportunity

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.

## Quote from Pope Francis

“How I wish that the Church can overcome the culture of waste, promoting the joyful reunion and mutual acceptance of different generations!”

*March 11, 2015 general audience in St. Peter's Square*

## 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.