

# MICAH 6:8

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



**Office of Living Justice**

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## A Note from the Living Justice Director

Peace to you all in the Risen Lord!

I attended an absolutely beautiful Easter liturgy at my parents' home parish in southeastern Wisconsin this past Sunday. It was moving and prayer filled, which made me so happy because many people came back to attend Easter Sunday mass. The church was packed, including the narthex, choir loft and mother's room! There were even people standing in the side aisles! After the mass concluded and everyone was filing out of the church, I could not help but wonder, what causes mass attendance to sky rocket on Christmas and Easter?

## Living Justice Contacts



**Catherine Zirngibl**  
Living Justice Director  
920-272-8299  
[czirngibl@gbdioc.org](mailto:czirngibl@gbdioc.org)

After some contemplation, I decided that it is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit moves each of us to recognize the fact that there is something so special at Christmas and Easter, which draws us back to the Church. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, and at Easter, we celebrate His resurrection. Christ devoted His life, passion, death and resurrection to the ministry of others. I think that each of us needs to continually examine our lives and see how we can emulate Christ's ministry in order to transform our world, which is so desperately needed.

There is no denying the fact that our society is moving in a direction that is averse to our Church's teaching. The debates on immigration and same-sex marriage challenge our faith and how we as Catholics are supposed to live. The debates can seem complex, but if we take the time to pray and listen to the Holy Spirit working within us, the answers become clearer. But, do we have the fortitude to take it one step further and actually champion our Church's teaching?

Easter is a time full of joy, hope, love and life. Putting our faith in the Risen Lord will strengthen us to stand up for our faith and its teachings.

May God's spirit continually work within us and bless us in our ministries!



**Celia McKee**  
Dignity of Human Life  
Coordinator  
920-272-8271  
[cmckee@gbdioc.org](mailto:cmckee@gbdioc.org)



**Eric Weydt**  
Catholic Social Justice  
Coordinator  
920-272-8344  
[eweydt@gbdioc.org](mailto:eweydt@gbdioc.org)



**Peg VandeHey**

Catherine

## Catholic Social Justice

### A Lesson in Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Responsibilities

"From the viewpoint of the U.S. bishops, it has become apparent for several years that our immigration system is broken and badly needed of repair. The U.S. Bishops are united in the view that migration is beneficial to our nation economically, socially and culturally. The strength of our nation comes from its diversity and from the hard work and contributions of immigrants who have come to our shores over the past two hundred years. It is our identity and soul."

- *The most Reverend Kevin Farrell, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and member of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops Committee on Migration*

The new immigrants to the United States call most of us back to our own ancestral heritage as descendants of immigrants. As Catholics, the presence of different cultures should be celebrated as a gift to our church. We must welcome the newcomers to our churches and neighborhoods as well as in their places of work. This welcoming attitude is increasingly necessary because of the unique set of issues facing the millions of refugees and exiles, including racial intolerance and negative attitudes towards a person who is looking for work and better living conditions outside his or her own country.

Not only are we called to responsibly welcome the stranger, but we, as Catholics, must continue to evangelize all of our members. The church provides support for the human rights of all people and thus, offers pastoral care, education, and social services, no matter the circumstances of entry into the country. The church works for human dignity of all, especially those who find themselves in the most difficult and vulnerable situations.

The Catholic Church is an immigrant church that continues to grow with our country, helping to welcome and empower the stranger. We, as Catholics, are called to promote the rights of immigrants and to overcome all discrimination based on race, religion or culture in the workplace, legal system, schools and within the government. Please continue to pray for and support the immigrants as our country looks to establish laws governing their lives.

Please consider signing the Justice for Immigrants' post card [here](#) which will be sent to your legislator to advocate for compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform!

Easter Blessings and Joy,

Family and Married Life  
Coordinator  
920-272-8315  
[pvandehey@gbdioc.org](mailto:pvandehey@gbdioc.org)

## 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 email address that should be on file for Living Justice newsletters. Thank you for your help!

## Save the Date

**April 5-7**  
Retrouvaille

**April 10**  
Catholics at the Capitol

**April 15**  
Open to Life

**May 8**  
End of Life Presentation

**August 6**  
Frank Hannigan

**August 7**  
Workshop at St. John's,  
Howard

## Catholics at the Capitol

Please join us this year for **Catholics at the Capitol** on Wednesday, April 10!

Eric Weydt  
Catholic Social Justice Coordinator

## Resources

1. Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, (November 15, 2000)
2. John Paul II, Welcoming the Poor: Reigniting Hope, Origins 27:36, (February 26, 1998)
3. Pat Fina, Dianna Ortiz OSU, Education for Justice Newsletter (March 2013)

## Family and Married Life

**SAVE THE DATE: September 14, 2013**  
**"Family Reunion: Pray Hard, Play Hard II"**  
(For Families of All Ages and Stages)

Read article from the 2012. Click [here](#) at [Camp Tekakwitha](#).

## Married Life

**Marriage Preparation.** A workshop, led by Frank Hannigan from Family Ministries in the Archdiocese of Chicago, is scheduled for parish volunteers who prepare engaged couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. It will be in the evening of **Tuesday, August 6th** at St. John the Baptist Parish in Howard.

On **Wednesday, August 7th** at St. John's, Howard, the workshop will be for pastors, parish leaders and other staff members who are involved in the preparation of engaged couples for marriage. It will be during the day and there will be more details to come.

**"Re-Opening the Door to Marriage"** - In addition to the other marriage preparation programs offered by the Diocese of Green Bay, on February 2nd, a retreat was offered for couples who experienced the death of a spouse, had a previous marriage annulled, or were seeking to have a civil marriage validated in the Catholic Church. Among the topics were communication, finances, and forgiveness. All had the opportunity to discover their strengths through the "Living Your Strengths" process, led by Mary Ann Otto. Due to the positive feedback from the couples, we hope that this will be a regular offering.

Today, the sacredness of marriage is challenged on many levels - politically, spiritually and socially. Recent news indicates that the prevalence of divorce among older couples has increased. The Post Crescent reported on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 that many more couples who are aged 50 and over are getting separated and divorced. Key reasons cited are, "aging, loss of stigma and financial concerns." This has a great impact



Our theme is "Reclaiming the Common Good in the Year of Faith." There will be a keynote address by The Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen, Bishop of Superior, Wis., with several breakout sessions addressing the various themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit with their legislators in order to continue professing the Gospel message.

To register, please fill out the [attached form](#) or feel free to contact the Living Justice office.

### News to Celebrate!

On March 15, the Maryland House of Delegates passed a bill to abolish the death penalty for future crimes. The same bill passed the Maryland Senate on March 6. This will make Maryland the 18th state to abolish the death penalty, and the sixth to do so in the last six years

### Rural Life Days

on their adult children and grandchildren. Families are bearing added weight in responding to these new challenges.

It is essential that parishes continue to support and encourage married couples and families and to promote healing through care, support and outreach. Please see Bishop Ricken's comments in his pastoral letter, [Parishes: Called to be Holy, Fully Engaged, Fully Alive.](#)

**Marriage Enrichment.** A recent opportunity for married couples to strengthen their marriage was offered at Monte Alverno Retreat Center in Appleton. The weekend retreat was called, "Growing in the Spirituality of Marriage". Please click here for photos - [Monte Alverno Retreat.](#)

**Marriage Encounter.** Another very successful program which is offered regularly at The Norbertine Center for Spirituality is "Marriage Encounter". This is a very effective and meaningful weekend!

***What is Marriage Encounter?***

A Marriage Encounter weekend gives married couples an opportunity to improve and grow in their couple communication. It is an ongoing process, not something that comes naturally after a wedding, but involves a lifetime of active learning. Read more at: [Marriage Encounter.](#)

Click here for dates: [Marriage Encounter Dates.](#)

When Help is Needed: Catholic Charities is available to help families and married couples in a variety of ways. Check out the website - [Catholic Charities Services.](#)

***Marriage Help Program***

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!**

***What is a Retrouvaille Program?***



Bishop David Ricken presided over this year's Rural Life Days Mass at St. Edward in Mackville and blessed the farm equipment and animals that were present that day. Also in attendance were Celia McKee and Catherine Zirngibl of the Living Justice offices. Bishop Ricken said, "When you [farmers] plant those seeds in the ground...you are exercising the virtue of hope because you are hoping that things will continue to grow, that God will provide."

## Surveys

If you have attended either of these events, please take the survey by clicking the link!

### 40 Days for Life

**Free to Be...Fully Alive Conference**

## Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

### Diocese of Green Bay website

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!**

**Diocese of Green Bay**

The word Retrouvaille™ (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i.) is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program. Click here for more information: [Retrouvaille](#)

## Dignity of Human Life

### Contraceptives and Women's Well Being

***\*\*Did you know that 54% of women seeking abortions state they were using contraception in the month they became pregnant?***

"The birth control pill has been called the invention that 'defined the 20th century.' The pill and its cousins radically transformed American culture--fundamentally altering attitudes, values, beliefs, relationships and behaviors, and leading to a substantial increase in casual sexual activity outside marriage.

Many believed that hormonal birth control would give women greater control over their lives, allowing them to pursue educational and career goals free from dependence on men and from the supposed burden of bearing and raising unplanned children. It would improve women's health by helping them space and limit their children. It was their ticket out of poverty through the full-time employment made possible by 'controlling' fertility. Finally, by reducing unintended pregnancy, the pill would eliminate the 'need' for abortion."

### ***Were these promises fulfilled?***

Read more about the developments that have occurred since the sexual revolution in "Life Matters: Contraceptives and Women's Well-Being" from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [Life Matters](#)

### Mother's Day Fundraising Ideas

May will be upon us soon and Respect Life groups are making plans for Mother's Day. Some are seeking ideas about where to send funds if they are raising money at their parish, whether through a Rose Sale, special collection, or...

#### *Some ideas to consider:*

\*Local Crisis Pregnancy Centers, where we know women are being served and babies are being saved!

\*The Knights of Columbus councils of Sheboygan and Manitowoc counties have teamed up to raise money to

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### **The Compass**

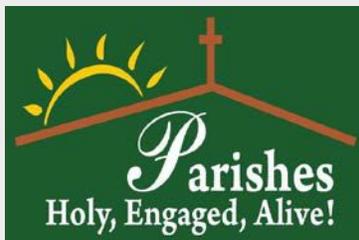
Official newspaper for the diocese

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## **Website for Parishes**

[Click here to visit the diocesan website for parishes.](#) At this website you can read Bishop Ricken's pastoral letter, "*Parishes: Called to be Holy, Fully Engaged and Fully Alive,*" and find other parish-building resources.



purchase an ultrasound machine for *The Crossing*, a crisis pregnancy center serving Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. {Studies have shown that if a women sees an ultrasound image of her baby, nearly 90% of those mothers choose life over abortion, and if the father and mother see their baby the percentage goes to 95%}. Support their drive!

\*Dignity of Human Life Office at the Diocese of Green Bay, helping us continue programming that builds up a culture of life.

Please contact Celia McKee for more information at 920-272-8271.

## **End of Life Presentation May 8 at St. Joseph in Appleton**

Did you know that once you are 18 years old, your parents are not automatically your Health Care Advocate anymore? Did you know that even if you are married, your spouse is not automatically your Health Care Advocate? It is important to have conversations regarding end of life issues because we never know when something will happen to us. Whether you are an adult or a soon-to-be-18-year-old, we invite you to attend an End of Life Presentation that will be held on Wednesday, May 8 from 6:30-8:30PM at St. Joseph Parish in Appleton. Presenters and panelists will include Sara Buscher, a retired attorney, Jan Beringer, a parish nurse and Tina Poppe, a hospice nurse. RSVPs are encouraged, but walks-in will be welcomed. To register, please contact Celia McKee, Diocesan Dignity of Human Life Office at 920-272-8271 or [cmckee@gbdioc.org](mailto:cmckee@gbdioc.org) with your name and parish by Tuesday, May 7.

### *End of Life Presentation March 23 at St. Pius, Appleton*



## **40 Days for Life Closing Mass March 22 at St.**

## Francis Xavier Cathedral

The 40 Days for Life Campaign in Green Bay held a closing Mass on Friday, March 22 at the Cathedral, with Bishop Ricken presiding. He encouraged us all to pray for the priests and deacons so that they will be able to speak with courage and compassion about life issues such as abortion and contraception! Following Mass, Shawn Carney, National Campaign Director of 40 Days, gave a short witness talk about the power of 40 Days for Life!



## Open to Life Presentation

The Neenah/Menasha Respect Life Committees are sponsoring the event "Open to Life". The presenter, Mary Gietman of Oshkosh, will talk about Contraception, Fertility Awareness and Ethical Options for treating infertility. It will be held at St. Mary Central High School in Neenah on Monday, April 15th at 6:30 p.m. Please click [here](#) for the flier.