

# 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

### Legislative Advocacy...in it for the Long Haul

I would not consider myself an avid runner, but several months ago I started running more in an attempt to train for the Door County Half Marathon (13.1 miles) this past May at Peninsula State Park. One of my "bucket list" items is to run a full marathon (26.2 miles), so I thought that this run would be a good stepping stone to reach that goal. While I was not particularly diligent about maintaining a strict training schedule, I felt confident that I would be able to complete the race in a respectable time.

On the day of the race, I woke up nervous and excited. Nervous because I knew I probably should have trained a bit harder, but also excited because I was ready for the challenge. The weather that day was cool and there was a crisp breeze coming off of the water, which made for wonderful running conditions. Running Peninsula State Park was definitely an uphill battle...literally. At the mile 4 marker, (just when I felt like I was settling into a steady pace), there was a colossal hill that I needed to charge up and conquer in order to continue. It seemed as if the course had strategically placed the hills along the way, just to test each runner's grit.

At mile 11, I was ready for the race to be over. At that point, the only thing that kept me going was the fact that I started this race, and I was determined to cross that finish line. In the end, I finished just under 2 hours, which was respectable enough for me. What mattered most was that I set my mind to accomplish this task, and I saw it through to the end.

When I think of the legislative process, my mind immediately goes back to the half marathon because advocacy requires each person to be in it for the long haul. **Working for justice is a marathon and definitely not a sprint.** There are going to be uphill battles, stumbles and challenges that will test our resolve. However, our Catholic voice is extremely important to be heard



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every step of the way. In his encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI taught, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful," (no.29). Because we are both a people of faith and reason, Catholics have a moral obligation to participate in political life because it is rooted in our baptismal commitment to Christ. "We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world," (*Faithful Citizenship* 4). If we set our sights on the finish line and really think about how a piece of legislation can build the kingdom of heaven here on earth, every challenge is worth it. Our Catholic faith tradition should enhance the very values that built this country: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness because they call each person to rise above partisan ideologies and work for the common good of society.

Legislative advocacy can seem to be an uphill battle, but with Christ, all things are possible. St. Patrick's Breastplate continues to give me hope when I pray:

**Christ with me,  
 Christ before me,  
 Christ behind me,  
 Christ in me,  
 Christ beneath me,  
 Christ above me,  
 Christ on my right,  
 Christ on my left,  
 Christ when I lie down,  
 Christ when I sit down,  
 Christ when I arise,  
 Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
 Christ in every eye that sees me,  
 Christ in every ear that hears me.**

I pray that each of you has the strength to be in it for the long haul and will continue to be an example of Christ's love in your communities!

Blessings,

Catherine

**NEWS BRIEF**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The JustFAITH JustMATTERS Module on ***Prison Reform: Church of the Second Chance*** will be offered this Fall at Resurrection Catholic Parish, Green Bay. The six sessions will be held on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. from Sept. 28 through Nov. 2nd. Cost per person is \$24 for two books.

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## Calendar of Events

### August 15

Feast of the Assumption

### August 16-18

Retrouvaille - St. Anthony  
Spirituality Center, Marathon

### September 7

Hearts United 2013 Eucharistic  
Rosary Rally for Peace  
and the Family

### September 8

Immigration Sunday

### September 9

Crescendo Movie - St. Francis  
of Assisi, Manitowoc (Waldo  
Site)

### September 9-11

Retrouvaille - Green Bay

### September 14

[Family Reunion Day at Camp  
Tekakwitha](#)

### September 26

Crescendo Movie - Holy Family  
Parish Center, Marinette

### September 30

Crescendo Movie - St. Agnes,  
Green Bay

### October 4-6

Retrouvaille - Bishop O'Connor  
Center, Madison

### October 29

[Leadership Convocation](#)

### September 25-November 3

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

### November 2

[Birth Mother Retreat -  
Norbertine Center for](#)

Using the tools of reading, dialogue, active listening, videos, etc. participants will:

- Engage the issue of prison reform from many angles,
- Learn what people of faith have to say about punishment and justice,
- Identify common myths and misconceptions about prisons and the corrections system
- Explore the concept of rehabilitation and restoration as well as prison "profiteering,"
- Discuss the systematic denial of the humanity of prison inmates

Registration deadline is August 23rd. For more information and to register, contact Michele Becker at [mbecker@gbres.org](mailto:mbecker@gbres.org) or 336-7768.

## Immigration Sunday



Click [here](#) for additional information on Immigration Sunday.

## Hearts United 2013 Eucharistic Rosary Rally for Peace and the Family

**Hearts United 2013 - Year of Faith  
Celebration**  
**Saturday September 7, 2013**  
**12:30 pm Music Concert, Rally 1- 4 pm**

Wisconsin Exposition Center at Wisconsin State  
Fair Park in Milwaukee,  
South 84th Street and West Greenfield Avenue

Click [here](#) for the flyer.

**Register:** Online at [www.heartsunited2013.org](http://www.heartsunited2013.org)

By mail: Rosary Evangelization Apostolate, PO Box  
305 Oak Creek, WI 53154 (please include address,  
phone number and email address so tickets can be  
sent to you). Contacts: Dick and Terry Boldin 414-570-  
4389 or [info@rosaryea.org](mailto:info@rosaryea.org).

[Spirituality, DePere](#)

**September 28 - November 2**  
Prison Reform: Church of the  
Second Chance

**November 8-9**  
Marriage Encounter -  
Norbertine Center for  
Spirituality, De Pere

**March 21-22, 2014**  
Living Justice Conference

### Family Prayer in the Year of Faith

O God our Father,  
in Jesus you call all Christian  
families and homes  
to be signs of living faith.

By the light of the Holy Spirit,  
lead us to be thankful for the  
gift of faith,  
and by that gift  
may we grow in our  
relationship with Jesus, your  
Son,

and be confident witnesses of  
Christian hope and joy  
to all we meet.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

Amen

### Living Justice at Lifest 2013

Our Living Justice Department hosted a day at the Diocesan campsite for Lifest on July 12. It was exciting to see so many young people eager to have a bracelet or tattoo (with themes of respect life, caring for others, purity,...) or a precious feet pin. Conversations were fruitful! We thank all those who were able to volunteer or partake in the evangelization that day with us!

**Cost:** \$12 per person; \$5 for under 18 years old

This event will be an historic Eucharistic Rosary Rally for Peace and the Family in response to the spiritual crisis in the culture and for the cause of peace and the family. Everyone is welcome: youth, young adults, men, women, single, married and entire families!

**Dynamic national Speakers:** Fr. Larry Richards from Pennsylvania and Jesse Romero from Los Angeles as well as Archbishop Jerome ListECKI presiding and speaking. Includes an opening procession with various organizations, uplifting music, prayer, adoration and procession of the Blessed Sacrament, witness speakers and more.

**Endorsed by:** Bishop David Ricken and five other Bishops of Wisconsin, Francis Cardinal George and Timothy Cardinal Dolan.

**Sponsored by:** Rosary Evangelization Apostolate, Men and Women of Christ Ministries in cooperation with the Nazareth Project of the John Paul II Center of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

A unique opportunity - do not miss it -thousands attending from the Midwest and from across the country.

## Catholic Social Justice

### Consumerism and our Culture of Waste

In June of 2013, Pope Francis addressed his audience for World Environment Day about the need to counter the culture of waste that is prevalent in today's society. For example, a ten point drop in the stock market or a "crash" of a technology system in many economies is considered a tragedy. But in many of those same regions, a person dying of hunger is not even news. People are disposed of with little regard. Our reckless consumerism leads to disposal of land, resources and food. It disrespects our earth's resources and its people.

Our Pope stressed that this culture of waste infects everything, including human life. Human life is not perceived as being valuable, especially the disabled, elderly, poor or the unborn. In addition, consumerism has made us more insensitive to the waste and disposal of food when throughout the world many individuals are suffering from malnutrition and hunger. Throwing food away is taking away from the poor.

In the story of the miracle of the loaves, Jesus feeds the crowd with five loaves and two fish. "They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets," (LK 9:17.) When food is shared in a fair way, we can meet the needs of the poorest.

Please consider these questions:



Eric Weydt, Social Justice Coordinator, handing out bracelets and other free items.

### News to Celebrate!

Planned Parenthood in Green Bay closed its door on August 1st.

### 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!

### 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**



- In what ways have the culture of waste infected our communities and society?
- How can overconsumption and waste in one part of the world negatively affect those living elsewhere?
- Which themes of Catholic Social Teaching are reflected in this article?

God Bless,

Eric Weydt  
Catholic Social Justice Coordinator

#### Sources

*Challenging Our Culture of Waste: A Call from Pope Francis and St. Francis-* Education for Justice (June 2013)

*Pope at Audience: Counter a Culture of Waste with Solidarity-* The Vatican Today, NEWS.VA (June 2013)

## Family and Married Life

### Marriage Enrichment Green Bay Marriage Encounter *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. Marriage Encounter is a program geared toward enhancing the couple relationship through communication occurring in an open and honest face to face, heart to heart encounter. Click [here](#) for more FAQs.

Fall Date at Norbertine Center for Spirituality, De Pere: November 8-9, 2013. Click [here](#) for registration information.

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### Marriage Help [Retrouvaille](#)

... a lifeline for Marriage

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**

### **The Compass**

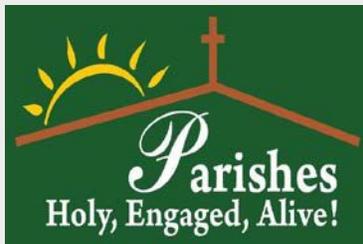
Official newspaper for the diocese

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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.



### *2013 Fall Dates in Wisconsin:*

- August 16-18 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon
- September 9-11 in Green Bay
- October 4-6 at Bishop O'Connor Center, Madison

Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

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## **Family Life Events**

*Family Reunion Day is Saturday, September 14th at Camp Tekakwitha*

"Be the Light of Faith" is the theme for this year. Join us and share your faith while having fun with other families. Click [here](#) for the brochure. Click [here](#) to register.

## **Dignity of Human Life**

### **Respect Life Packets Are Here!**

Some of you may have already received your packet. For those who haven't, we will be handing them out at the Catechetical Leadership Day this week. Check with your religious education staff. All the packets that have not been handed out by next week will be delivered by Diocesan staff or mailed within the next 2 weeks.

We would like to have our Respect Life Representative contact list as up-to-date as possible to ensure the packets get to the right people in the parish. If you have not already contacted us, please email Theresa McKenna at [tmckenna@gbdioc.org](mailto:tmckenna@gbdioc.org), so we can double check our list. Thank you for your assistance!

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### **Crescendo - Pro Life Film - coming to the Diocese!**

The Dignity of Human Life Office is coordinating with the Department of New Evangelization to bring the new pro-life film, "Crescendo," to the Diocese of Green Bay! The film is intended to bring awareness to the importance of crisis pregnancy centers, as well as offer funds to help support the centers. Half of our licensing fees for the film will be donated to the crisis pregnancies centers within the Diocese, along with any money donated from the free will admission fee. More dates and locations will be added to the list this fall; however, we want to announce the 3 showings we have solidified that are coming up soon:

1) St. Francis of Assisi, Manitowoc - Monday, September 9 at 6:30PM (Waldo site)

2) Holy Family Parish Center, Marinette - Thursday, September 26 at 6:30PM

3) St. Agnes, Green Bay - Monday, September 30 at 6:30PM

Click [here](#) for the current flyer. Help spread the word at your parish and beyond!

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## Birth Mothers' Support

Catholic Charities is offering support to birth mothers who bravely and selflessly chose life by offering their child up for adoption. If you know a woman who has offered a child up for adoption, please invite her to one or both of the following offerings. We also encourage you to hang a flyer up at your church and spread the word via social media. A personal invitation is the best way to encourage women to seek the support they need!

1) ***Support Group for Birth Mothers***

3rd Tuesday every other month, alternating between Appleton and Green Bay.

Please click [here](#) for the flyer with more details

2) ***Fellowship Day for Birth Mothers***

Always in My Heart: Remembering a Birth Mother's Love  
Saturday, November 2 from 8:30 AM -4:30PM at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality, De Pere

Please click [here](#) for the flyer.

Please click [here](#) for the registration form.