

# MICAH 6:8

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



**Office of Living Justice**

**MAY 2013 | Vol. 1, Issue 8**

## News to Celebrate!

### In This Issue

Note from Director  
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable  
The Vocation of Marriage  
Website: [For Your Marriage](#)  
Engaged Ministry  
Family Vocation Day  
Monthly Awareness Themes  
May is Mental Health Awareness Month  
Artificial Birth Control and the Environment  
"Gospel of Life"  
Calendar of Events

## Living Justice Contacts



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

## A Note from the Living Justice Director

For me, the month of May calls to mind two things: our Blessed Mother Mary and my grandmother Virginia. My grandma had a very special devotion to Mary, and I recall it every time I look up on my shelf and see her statue of the Blessed Mother, which is over 100 years old. My father gave it to me after my grandma passed away in 2009 at the age of 96.

Despite the fact that my grandmother had been suffering from Alzheimer's for well over 10 years and could not remember much, she never forgot how to say the rosary. While she was on her deathbed, our family was gathered around her praying the rosary. She passed away with her rosary in hand and her statue of the Blessed Mother on the nightstand beside her on December 27, 2009, the Feast of the Holy Family.

While this memory still brings tears to my eyes, it is a wonderful reminder of how beautiful and seamless our Catholic faith is. My family was together with my grandmother throughout her dying process for a number of reasons:

1. Family takes care of one another, and it is the right thing to do. No questions asked.
2. We wanted to make sure that she was not alone, and we could be with her to pray.
3. We were ensuring that she was receiving the best care possible, one that was in line with our Catholic faith.
4. We wanted to make sure that she retained her innate dignity, even to the end.

If that's not Catholic Social Justice, Dignity of Human Life and Family and Married Life working together seamlessly, then I don't know what else is. I hope our readers will be thrilled to know that our offices are working closely together under the umbrella of Worship and Living Justice here in our Diocese. Everything is connected and God's plan is truly masterful!

Many blessings throughout this Easter time,

Catherine



**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**

## Catholic Social Justice

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

We, as Catholics in the United States, are called to work for greater economic justice in the face of persistent poverty, growing income gaps, and increasing poverty and unemployment rates. Because of the current economic challenges, our need for Christian service and social action is needed and a requirement for our faith. Please consider the following questions to help determine the needs of your community.

- Who is "Lazarus" in our community?
- Are there people in our community who are homeless, hungry or without health care?
- How does our community treat children, the unborn, the elderly, recent immigrants or the mentally and physically challenged?
- Are there people who are not earning enough to meet their basic needs?
- What is our biggest community need?
- Whose responsibility is it to help provide for these needs?

For decades, our church has provided principles on how our society should be constructed. All economic life should represent the fact that we are all God's children and members of the human family who are called to offer an equitable community for all. Please consider your communities' needs when taking action on social justice issues for the poor and vulnerable.

May the blessings of Easter continue to provide you happiness and joy.

Eric Weydt  
 Catholic Social Justice Coordinator

#### Sources

Ending Poverty in Community, United States Catholic Bishops(2011)  
 A Catholic Framework for Economic Life - A Statement of the US Bishops, United States Catholic Bishops (November, 1996)

## Family and Married Life

### The Vocation of Marriage

When the Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a Christian vocation, it is saying that the couple's relationship is more than simply their choice to enter a union, which is a social and legal institution. In addition to these things, marriage involves a call from God and a response from two people who promise to

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

**August 6**  
Marriage Prep Workshop for  
Parish Volunteers

**August 7**  
Marriage Prep Workshop for  
Parish Staff Members

**September 14**  
Family Reunion Day at Camp  
Tekakwitha

**September 25-November 3**  
40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

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

## News to Celebrate!

Four Planned Parenthood clinics closing in Wisconsin! (Shawano closed in April; Chippewa Falls, Beaver Dam and Johnson Creek closing in July).

## Calendar

**MAY**  
7th - National Teacher's Day

build, with the help of divine grace, a lifelong, intimate and sacramental partnership of love and life. Read more on: [For Your Marriage](#).

## Bookmark this website - [For Your Marriage](#)

For Your Marriage is an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops dedicated to building strong marriages and family life. On this website, there are current articles on dating and being engaged, married life and parenting. Check it out!

## Engaged Ministry

It is with great joy that a Hispanic FOCCUS Training of Facilitators is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 at St. Willebrord Parish, Green Bay. FOCCUS is an acronym for "Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study". The facilitator training will be conducted in Spanish. If there are interested person(s) from parishes who want to be trained to facilitate this ministry to engaged couples, please contact the Family and Married Life Office at 1-877-500-3580, ext. 8315.

## Family Vocation Day!

Families are invited to a conference at St. Pius Parish in Appleton on Saturday, May 18. "Open to God's Grace" -- It's FREE and lunch is included. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Dignity of Human Life

### Monthly Awareness Themes

There are awareness months, weeks, and days throughout the year that focus on a particular theme. Some are through the Catholic Church specifically, and others are secular that could lend themselves to good Catholic discussion.

Many of you are involved with a Respect Life, Married Life, Family Life, or Social Justice Committee at your parish. We encourage you to look at some of the awareness themes listed throughout the year, reflecting on how you can perhaps use them to promote the dignity of human life in your own parish. These days are often promoted heavily on the radio, in the newspapers, and on social media. Because they are so much a part of our culture, it would do us well to utilize them as a tool to educate people regarding our Catholic faith in light of them. Let us tap into them, bringing our Catholic faith into the world for all to hear!

Click [here](#) for the list of Monthly Awareness Themes.

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Blessed John Paul II had such a deep compassion for all human life, including people with disabilities. In his message to

12th - Mother's Day  
18th - "Open to God's Grace  
19th - Pentecost  
26th - Trinity Sunday  
30th - "Working to Reduce  
Poverty"

## JUNE

6th-8th - Retrouvaille  
15th-16th - "The Gospel of Life"

*(See main body of newsletter  
for more details)*

## 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

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

### The Compass

Official newspaper for the  
diocese

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

## 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.

the International Symposium on the "Dignity and Rights of the  
Mentally Disabled Person," (2004), he shares:

"The starting point for every reflection on disability is rooted in  
the fundamental convictions of Christian anthropology: even  
when disabled persons are mentally impaired or when their  
sensory or intellectual capacity is damaged, they are fully  
human beings and possess the sacred and inalienable rights  
that belong to every human creature. Indeed, human beings,  
independently of the conditions in which they live or of what  
they are able to express, have a unique dignity and a special  
value from the very beginning of their life until the moment of  
natural death. ... In fact, ... it is in the more difficult and  
disturbing situations that the dignity and grandeur of the human  
being emerges. The wounded humanity of the disabled  
challenges us to recognize, accept and promote in each one of  
these brothers and sisters of ours the incomparable value of  
the human being created by God."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)  
has provided a pamphlet regarding persons with disabilities in  
its Life Matters series. Click [here](#) to read more:

## Artificial Birth Control and the Environment

God created the Earth and everything in it. God created man in  
His image and likeness, and we are called to be stewards of  
His creation.

So how does artificial birth control fit into this picture? Click  
[here](#) to read more.

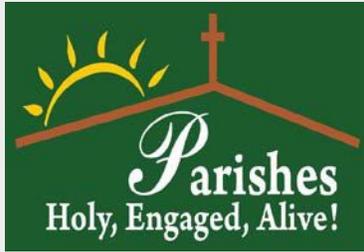
## "Gospel of Life" With the Holy Father

As part of the Year of Faith, the Pontifical Council for the New  
Evangelization has designated June 15-16 as days of  
celebration of "Evangelium Vitae," Blessed Pope John Paul II's  
encyclical on the Gospel of Life. Several events in Rome that  
weekend will provide the faithful the chance to gather with the  
Holy Father and celebrate the dignity of human life. Reflect on  
ways your parish can join together spiritually for this special  
time: Plan a prayer service, offer Eucharistic Adoration, watch  
Gospel of Life video (available in the Dignity of Human Life  
library to either borrow or purchase), offer brief quotes from  
Gospel of Life encyclical,... We will be creating a list in the near  
future to share with you.

## Calendar of Events

**MAY 7:** National Teacher's Day -- Pray for all teachers

**MAY 12:** Mother's Day - Give a flower to all the mothers you  
know



**May 18:** "Open to God's Grace" - St. Pius, Appleton

**MAY 19:** Pentecost - Wear fire colors (red, orange, hot pink) today in honor of the Holy Spirit. Ask: Why is forgiveness a part of Jesus' mission?

**MAY 26:** Trinity Sunday - Use a cloverleaf to explain the concept of three persons in one God. What is your favorite name for God? Why?

**MAY 30:** "Working to Reduce Poverty in America", Norbertine Center, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Brother Steve Herro, speaker.

**June 6-8:** Retrouvaille in Garden, MI - A program to help couples heal and renew their marriages. Click [here](#) for more information.

**JUNE 15-16:** Celebrate "The Gospel of Life" with the Holy Father, Rome