

MICAH 6:8

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



Office of Living Justice

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In This Issue

Note from Director
Catholic Social Teaching
Generous Hospitality
"Enjoy Your Marriage"
"Marriage on Fire"
Looking Ahead to January
"Living Water" The story of St. Gabriel
the Archangel Church

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A Note from the Living Justice Director

October is such a wonderful month! You know fall is here when the trees are turning, vibrant colors are popping up along the horizon and it is getting darker earlier in the day. I have heard many people say, "it is dark when I get up for work in the morning, and soon it will be dark when I leave." Nature has a wonderful way of telling us when the seasons are changing, and that we need to adjust to those changes.

Adjusting to change can be difficult, but it does not have to be scary because Christ is always with us. Finding God in all things is a helpful way for us to remember that there is a time and place for everything. While we may be lamenting the fact that summer is no longer with us, take a moment to revel in the beauty of a setting sun, which highlights the colors reflecting on the water. Find God in all things!

Many blessings,

Catherine

Catholic Social Justice

"To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren."

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Catholic Social Teaching

In 1995, our bishops' conference established the Task Force on Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Education. The task force found much in innovative efforts and good will in communicating the social doctrine of the church. However, it did find that in some programs Catholic Social Teaching is not really shared or sufficiently highlighted. Because of this, many do not understand that social teaching being a key part of our Catholic faith.



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Calendar of Events

October 18

[Marriage on Fire](#), St. Bernard, Green Bay

October 19

["Enjoy Your Marriage"](#), St. Francis Xavier, Appleton

October 19

Marriage Prep at St. Mary, Hilbert

October 22

["Living Water"](#) play at St. Norbert College

October 29

[Leadership Convocation](#)

September 25-November 3

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

November 2

End of Life Presentation, St. Margaret Mary, Neenah

November 2

It is important to remember an essential element to our identity as Catholics is that we are called to be leaven for transforming the world, and act as agents for bringing about a kingdom of love and justice. This message has its roots as early as the Hebrew prophets and as recently in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Modern Catholic Social Teaching has been highlighted through papal and episcopal documents that explain the social responsibilities of our faith.

Let these key themes, which are the heart of our Catholic social tradition, serve as a starting point for you to begin exploring this tradition more closely.

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation

God Bless,

Eric Weydt
Social Justice Coordinator

Source:

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions - USCCB (1998)

**Each month we will be offering a little bit of information to give you a small taste of what to expect at our Just Live, Love & Walk: Fully Engaged, Fully Alive conference in March 2014. The conference will be based on the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching.*

Family and Married Life

Generous Hospitality

Recently, my husband Steve and I traveled to five countries in Europe. Our main objective was to reconnect with the families of students that we hosted or taught while they were in high school. Now, they are young adults and one even has three children of her own. We made our way through Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary via planes, trains, busses, boats and automobiles while enjoying the beautiful scenery, the centuries of culture and history, the architecture, art and music, and of course, the wonderful food and drink.

In forthcoming issues, I will write a few of my reflections from our travels to make connections to our Catholic Faith in the areas of family and married life. The first reflection is about

[Birth Mother Retreat - Norbertine Center for Spirituality, De Pere](#)

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

Open Your Hearts to Life! Celebrate Respect Life Month

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation.

You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death.

Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life.

To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Quote from Pope Francis

"Jesus wanted to show us his heart that loved so deeply...God loved us, he loved us with such great love. I am thinking of what St. Ignatius told us...He pointed out two criteria on love.

The first; love is expressed more clearly in actions than in words. The second: there is greater love in giving than in receiving," *(taken from his homily at the Mass of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus).*

Database Updates

GENEROUS HOSPITALITY.

PART 1: GENEROUS HOSPITALITY - While my husband and I really enjoyed the sightseeing part of our trip, the greatest gift, however, was to spend time and stay with three different families in three different countries. Their tremendous generosity and hospitality was beyond what we could imagine. We never had to be concerned or worried about anything when we were among their families. Comfort, food and drink were bountiful. Even as we would prepare for our next leg of our trip, we miraculously found schnitzel, wonderful bread rolls, fresh fruit and a beverage in our bags for our train ride. Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.

"Marriage on Fire"

Presented by Greg and Julie Alexander
St. Bernard Parish, Green Bay
(Sponsored by St. Pius X Parish in Appleton)

Come listen to Greg and Julie Alexander, founders of the Alexander House, share their personal testimony of how they went from crisis to Christ and restored their troubled marriage. Click [here](#) for more information on how to attend.

"Enjoy Your Marriage" Workshop

Discover God's Plan for Marriage
St. Francis Xavier, Appleton
(Sponsored by St. Pius X Parish in Appleton)

The "Enjoy Your Marriage" workshop inspires couples to initiate positive change in their marriage. You will leave with a renewed sense of hope, inspiration and encouragement. Click [here](#) for additional information, registration form and contact information.

Dignity of Human Life

Looking ahead to January

January is well known for the anniversary of Roe V Wade on January 22, and there are special events and prayers that focus around the theme of abortion. We wanted to share some of the special happenings in the Diocese with you so you can plan ahead:

- **January 16** - Project Rachel Training (Post Abortion Ministry) - St. Joseph, Suamico - TBA
- **January 17** - Diocesan Respect Life Mass at St. Pius

The Office of Living Justice is continuing to update our email database.

Please contact Theresa McKenna at 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.

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.



X, Appleton at 7PM

- **January 19** - Crescendo Pro Life Film - tentatively planned for St. Bernard, Appleton - TBA
- **January 24** - Diocesan Respect Life Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul, Green Bay at 7PM
- Youth Trip to Washington DC for the March for Life and Youth Rally.

We are looking to have people to join a prayer team, specifically for the youth and leaders on the March for Life trip. Please consider joining, recognizing the power of prayer!

We also want to encourage your own parish, or community, to hold a prayer service or Mass on January 22 in remembrance of all the lives lost, as well as for hope to bring about a culture of life! There are also pro-life novenas that can be prayed.

Are there any special happenings in January at your parishes that we can share with other parishes? Please send an e-mail to Celia at cmckee@gbdioc.org.

Please Share What Your Parish is doing for Respect Life Month

We receive phone calls and emails from parishes asking us for suggestions for Respect Life Month. We share our ideas, but we would love to hear yours, being able to offer ideas directly from the parish! Please share with us how you are helping to uphold the dignity of human life during this month! Please send an e-mail to Celia at cmckee@gbdioc.org.

Also, feel free to check out the best practices in the Dignity of Human Life Focus Area on the Parishes website: www.holyengagedalive.org.

"Living Water"

The Story of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish

You are invited to a play on Tuesday, October 22nd that will be presented at St. Norbert College regarding the real life resurrection story of a New Orleans parish that banded together to rebuild their church and neighborhood after the massive devastation of the post-Katrina floods of 2005.

Please join us!

Click [here](#) for more information. Also, feel free to use this bulletin announcement in your parish to help promote this event that you can find [here](#).