

# MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## Department of Living Justice

JANUARY 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.”*

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### Calendar of Events

#### JANUARY

- ◆ 17th—[March for Life](#), Notre Dame High School, Green Bay @ 10 a.m.
- ◆ 20th—Respect Life Mass, St. Pius X, Appleton at 7 p.m.
- ◆ 25th—Respect Life Prayer Service, St. Joseph, Wautoma following the 9 a.m. Mass
- ◆ 26th—Bella Medical Clinic: Sanctity of Human Life, Most Blessed Sacrament (St. Peter’s Site), Oshkosh, 6:30—8:00 p.m. Call 920-267-8008
- ◆ 30th— Respect Life Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul, Green Bay at 7 p.m.

#### FEBRUARY

- ◆ 8th—[National Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Human Trafficking](#) (Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita)
- ◆ 16th—[Luke Spehar Concert](#), UW-Oshkosh at 7 p.m.

### January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

We know that human trafficking is alive here in our Diocese because of the stings that have been conducted by law enforcement and the arrests that have been made. This is a heinous crime that has hit almost every area in the nation. From statistics gathered, it shows that we are among the top states where sexual exploitation is taking place. Did you know that Milwaukee is the “pimp” capital of the United States? And that there are corridors of trafficking flowing from Milwaukee to the Fox Valley, to Green Bay as well as other corridors to LaCrosse – Wisconsin Dells, Wausau, and Superior-- as well as tourist areas in northern Wisconsin?

Pope Francis and President Obama have spoken out against human trafficking. Click [here](#) to read the President’s proclamation, “National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month”. Pope Francis includes human trafficking in his [World Peace Day](#) message.

On Friday and Saturday, February 6th -7th, Sister Celine Goessl, a member of the board of the Living Justice Society will be facilitating this two –day conference on human trafficking at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, Wisconsin. For more information and registration, please call 715-443-2236. Click [here](#) for the conference flyer. (Marathon is less than two hours from Green Bay.)

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## A Note from the Director

I have a vivid memory of the first time I met someone who (I thought) was very different than me. I was six years old, my mother and uncle were volunteering at the Special Olympics one summer, and they decided to bring me. I remember holding my uncle's hand and walking up to an area where a bunch of kids were playing kick ball. I was nervous to go over and play with them because they "looked" different. (Now, I know that most of the kids had Downs Syndrome.) My uncle noticed the hesitation, so he knelt down beside me, looked me square in the eye and simply said, "God made everybody different. They look like they're having fun, so why don't you go over and ask them if you can play?" This very brief exchange has stuck with me my entire life because I find myself asking, "Why did I hesitate?"

We are hearing more and more from Pope Francis about the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. He is reminding us that, "We are called to find Christ in them [the poor, vulnerable and marginalized], to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them." Despite our own reservations, we must go outside of our comfort zones in order to find Christ on the peripheries because it is in that place where we can encounter Jesus' love.

During this National Poverty Awareness Month, I would encourage you to think about the following: are there ways in which you are spiritually poor and need to strengthen your own prayer life? How can you transform your words into good works by reaching out to those in need?

I do not remember the rest of that day, but I continue to pray that I will not hesitate when called to go outside of my comfort zone and find Christ on the peripheries.

May God continue to bless you, your families, and your ministries!  
Catherine



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## Dear Friends,

The parishes within the Diocese of Green Bay have been a longtime supporter of Catholic Relief Services and the annual Lenten CRS Rice Bowl collection and the generous individual donations of parishioners throughout the year. With Lent beginning in a few weeks, it might be beneficial to learn more about CRS. Many do not know the results of your generous donations.

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Since then, CRS has expanded in size to reach more than almost 100 million people in 93 countries on five continents.

The work of CRS is based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, primary among them the protection of the dignity of the human person. Although their mission is rooted in the Catholic faith, they serve people based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity. CRS is motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to ease suffering, provide development assistance, and foster charity and Justice.

Catholic Relief Services is about more than helping people survive for the day. CRS approaches emergency relief and long-term development, thus, ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable are able to participate in the very fullness of life, to have access to basic necessities including health care and education.

For example, CRS has been active in the affected countries of Ebola and has worked since the current outbreak on public awareness and educating using mass media, training and equipping thousands of health workers, managing safe and dignified burials and helping to reopen St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, the oldest hospital in Liberia that closed when many staff died from Ebola.

In addition to the work offered overseas, 25% of the monies collected from the CRS Lenten Collection remains locally, within the diocese. That money, which amounted to \$13,000.00 in 2014, was granted to organizations within the diocese to assist low  
*(continued on page 4)*

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## Handing On Our Faith

As a child, I was intrigued by my grandma's hands. Her weathered looking hands reflected how she served her family - the baking and cooking, washing and scrubbing, knitting and sewing, playing and praying. Grandma's hands were the feature that I clearly remember, with love. My grandma's hands reflected her inner being outward to her family --- her love, sacrifice, work, and her prayer.

One day I glanced down and noticed that I now have my grandma's hands. Well, no surprise! I guess having 18 grandchildren warrants my own "grandma hands." My hope is that these hands also reflect love, especially God's love, to my grandchildren. My prayer is that my faith is handed on, not only to my children, but to their children and the following generations.

This love handed down from many generations is reflected in a special way through the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We recently celebrated the feast day, honoring the Holy Family on Dec. 27-28. We are so blessed to have the model of the Holy Family to show us how to hand on the gift of faith.

It is the noble Joseph who passes on the work of his hands, as a carpenter to young Jesus, teaching him an honest work ethic. It was loyal Joseph who showed his special love and fidelity toward his beloved wife, Mary to protect her and sacrifice for her. And together, as parents, Joseph and Mary taught Jesus how to pray, to play, to work and to become the best person he was called to be. I enjoy contemplating Mary and Joseph teaching Jesus to pray, to sing, to play, to work, to love and to sacrifice for others. Jesus was born of a woman and lived in a family to become a man. It was the love of Mary and Joseph who handed on their deep faith in God and helped Jesus become who he is most fully, our loving Lord and Savior.

*What do your hands look like? How do your hands reflect God's love? How can you hand on your faith?*

Happy New Year!  
Peg VandeHey



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## Pro-Life Prayer Opportunities

*"Only with prayer - prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls - will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life."*  
-Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Catholic Bishops

January 22, 2015 marks the 42nd anniversary of Roe V Wade. So many lives lost, and many more wounded. Let us root ourselves in prayer as we build a culture of life!

[Diocesan Respect Life Masses and Prayer Service](#)

[9 Days for Life: Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage](#)

[Pro Life Prayers for Life](#)—Rosary and other pro-life prayers can be found here

[National Prayer Vigil for Life](#)

On-going Pro-life Prayer Within our Diocese

- ◆ *Respect Life Holy Hour*, Wednesdays 8-9 am @ St. Francis of Assisi (Waldo Site) Eucharistic Chapel, Manitowoc
- ◆ *Cenacles of Life*, Mondays 6-7 pm @ St. Francis Xavier, DePere
- ◆ *Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration*, last Sunday of each month 6 pm @ St. Paul Catholic Church, Plainfield

Prayers for Life at one of the perpetual adoration chapels

- ◆ [St. Pius X, Appleton](#)
- ◆ [Good Shepherd, Chilton](#)
- ◆ [Ss. Peter and Paul, Green Bay](#)
- ◆ [Holy Family, Marinette](#)
- ◆ [St. Margaret Mary, Neenah](#)
- ◆ [Most Blessed Sacrament \(St. Mary Site\), Oshkosh](#)

Click [here](#) for Eucharistic Holy Hours through out the Diocese

[Pro-Life Essay Contest for Youth and College-age Young Adults](#)

[Word of Life for February 2015 \(English and Spanish\)](#)

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## Catholic Social Justice CRS Rice Bowl (cont.)

income people with their basic needs. The grant period for 2015 begins on Ash Wednesday. The application form is accessible either through the [Diocesan Office of Catholic Social Justice](#) webpage or by calling my office at 920-272-8344.

Catholic Relief Services is truly a worthy organization of your support as they tend to people's basic needs both locally and internationally. Your continued support of this program during the Lenten collection and throughout the year is vital in providing an example of charity and justice that Jesus presented to us.

God Bless  
Eric

## Legislative Advocacy

Wisconsin Catholic Conference—*Capitol Update*

With the start of the new legislative session, WCC staff will resume regular publication of the *Capitol Update* every two weeks, with special updates as events warrant. Additional information is also regularly posted on the WCC website, [www.wisconsinatholic.org](http://www.wisconsinatholic.org). Click on the link to read January 9th's issue.

## 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!  
See more information at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)



## Preparing for the World Meeting of Families 2015



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 or for 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.

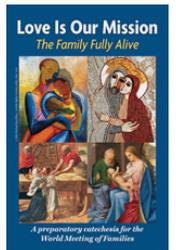
The theme for the World Meeting of Families is "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive."

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](#).

Last month, I highlighted Theme #1 - Created for Joy. Below is a brief summary of Theme #2

### Theme # 2 The Mission of Love

God works through us. We have a mission. We are in the world for a purpose — to receive God's love and to show God's love to others. God seeks to heal a broken universe. He asks us to be his witnesses and helpers in that work.

*Sampling of questions – Why is God's love like a marriage? Can you think of a time when God's love helped you to love in a more honest and better way?*

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## 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

Check out these suggested [New Year's Resolutions](#) from Pope Francis:

## 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?