

MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of
Green Bay

Department of Living Justice

DECEMBER 2014

VOL 3, ISSUE 3

"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

DECEMBER

- ◆ 19th—20th—[Respect Life Retreat](#). The Servants of Our Lady of Guadalupe & Vigil for Life @ Durward's Glen near Baraboo. Contact Jen Dunnett at 715-340-2779 or vitapretiosa@gmail.com.
- ◆ 25th—Christmas
- ◆ 24th—January 1, 2015—Diocesan offices are closed

JANUARY

- ◆ 1st—New Year's Day
- ◆ 4th—10th—National Migration Week 2015. The theme will be "We are One Family Under God". Click [here](#) for the 2015 prayer card.
- ◆ 8th—[Journey of Hope](#). St. Thomas More, Appleton at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ 18th—Spanish Pre-Marriage Retreat, St. Willebrord Parish, Green Bay, 8 a.m.—4 p.m.
- ◆ 20th—Respect Life Mass, St. Pius X, Appleton at 7 p.m.
- ◆ 30th—Respect Life Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul, Green Bay at 7 p.m.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal Word, guide our world toward a lasting and just peace.

How easily we say "Peace be with you."

How often we call you the "Prince of Peace."

Help us to put the beautiful message of this holy season into practice,

Our words into action.

Fill us with the courage and creativity needed for this important work.

Help us to live with integrity what we claim to believe.

Make us effective instruments of your peace.

Amen

Did You Know?— Pax Christi was founded as a Catholic Movement at the end of WWII to promote reconciliation between the Germans and French. Pax Christi is now working in five continents and promotes action and non-violence locally and internationally.

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A Note from the Director

I find myself waiting a lot these days. Waiting in line at the store, waiting in traffic, waiting for a flight, waiting...waiting...waiting. For someone who may not be the most patient person in the world, waiting can be very difficult and challenging. "Hurry up already!" is what I find myself muttering under my breath a lot when I am waiting. But as soon as I start to get frustrated, I think, "Really, what is the rush?"

Advent is a time of waiting...but waiting for what? The simplest answer is Christmas. But if we dive deeper, we can learn and experience firsthand that Advent is so much more than "the time that comes before Christmas." During Advent, we await the anniversary of Christ's birth, but also His second coming, which begs the question: how do you prepare for these occasions? Do you spend it worrying about what gifts you still need to purchase for relatives? Or do you take the time to joyfully thank God for all of the gifts He has already given you, and share those gifts with others?

During Advent, please remember that God has graced each of us with many gifts and blessings that are meant to be shared. How we share those gifts is a way to participate in the love that the Father has for His Son, Jesus. Jesus came into this broken world to share with us the gift of His life, so what small gift can we share this season?

May God bless you, your families, and your ministries this Advent season!

Catherine



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Dear Friends,

We are about halfway through the season of Advent. Christmas lights and music are beginning to brighten our neighborhoods and our cities. Be grateful for their arrival – they are a perennial sign of hope in a decidedly violent world. Perhaps they can make a bit lighter the weight of war, hatred, poverty or natural disaster.

During Advent when we hear the hopeful verses from Isaiah, let us try to see examples of hope around the world. Let us remember and pray for the ordinary people attempting to make peace and working for social justice, even in the midst of violence and hatred. These people are the light that makes manageable the heavy burdens of these times. They are the ones who, with Isaiah, announce the year of favor from our God.

Have a blessed Advent.

Eric

One Thought... *Peacemaking is not optional; it is a requirement of our faith called by our Lord Jesus. How do I promote and demonstrate peace?*

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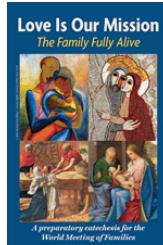
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World Meeting of Families 2015 Philadelphia Pilgrimage



Paul II began these gatherings in 1994 in Rome to “explore the critical role the family plays in society and to give families opportunities to talk about the challenges and blessings that all families have.” The previous WMOF was in 2012 in Milan, Italy.

The theme for the *World Meeting of Families 2015* is “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive”. The conference will address important teachings and issues of the family. There are ten themes that will be explored. Over the next several months, each theme will be summarized in this column. The themes are compiled in the preparatory catechism with explanation and end of chapter discussion/reflection questions. The books would be a great small group discussion in parishes, marriage enrichment or Image groups, family groups, to name a few, in order to deepen understanding of the teaching of the church on the family. The book can be purchased at www.osv.com



Click [here](#) for the ten themes and the rest of the article.

Click [here](#) for the pilgrimage flyer.



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Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Protectress of the Unborn December 12th

"Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of Mexico, the United States and all of the Americas, as well as the protector of unborn children. In 1531, she appeared in a vision to the peasant Juan Diego, on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City, and charged him with asking the bishop to build a church on that spot. But the bishop demanded a sign, so Our Lady had Juan gather flowers in his cloak, in December, to take to the bishop. When Juan opened his cloak, the colorful image of Guadalupe was emblazoned on the cactus-cloth. That icon is preserved in the most famous shrine in the Western Hemisphere and Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to inspire poor and oppressed people worldwide." (Taken from the [USCCB](#) website).

Listed below are resources relating to the unborn and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.:

- ◆ [Prayer to Mary](#) (Gospel of Life Prayer (St. Pope John Paul II))
- ◆ [Pro-Life Rosary](#)
- ◆ [Children's Activities](#)

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Legislative Advocacy

- Catholic advocacy networks around the country are continuing to push for a comprehensive immigration reform bill. The Justice for Immigrants campaign of the USCCB is sponsoring National Call-In Days to Congress beginning on Tuesday, December 9th through Friday, December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. The toll-free number to call is 1-855-589-5698 and our message is simple: ***Please oppose including language in a federal funding bill that bars the President from using his authority to protect immigrants and their families from deportation, and please pass comprehensive immigration reform.***
- Standing firm in our commitment “to protect poor and vulnerable people, promote human life and dignity, and advance the common good.” On Tuesday, Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami and Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces, New Mexico, [sent a letter to Congress](#) urging them to draw a “circle of protection” around programs serving the poor and vulnerable as they weigh spending and tax legislation.
- The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously passed H.R. 5656, **the Global Food Security Act of 2014**. The bill authorizes Feed the Future, a program dedicated to helping poor countries improve their agriculture systems. [In a letter of support](#) to the bill’s sponsors, CRS President Carolyn Woo said that “Catholic Relief Services fully supports . . . the sustained investments in agricultural development for poor farmers the program represents.” This is just the first step of many in order to continue the Feed the Future program. Therefore, we may need your help to encourage Congress to pass this bill before they adjourn in December.
- How will you celebrate **World Day of Peace on January 1, 2015?** Follow Pope Francis’ call to recognize the “equal dignity” of our brothers and sisters who are enslaved and exploited and to work to end human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, slave labor, and the enslavement of women and children. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a [webpage](#) set up with lots of resources including this very helpful Catholics Confront Global Poverty 2 page [handout](#).
- We urge you to send a message to your U.S. Representative and Senators to incorporate the (cont...)

Legislative Advocacy (cont.)

Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) into must-pass funding legislation at the earliest possible opportunity. Click [here](#) to write to your congressman.

Advancing the Mission Grants

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay is accepting applications for Advancing the Mission grants. Grants are available for Evangelization, Leadership Development, and Lifelong Catechesis, within the Diocese of Green Bay, its parishes and individuals. The grants are intended to provide financial support for the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our Catholic community.

Application deadline is January 15, 2015. Applications will be reviewed and approved in March. Checks will be mailed by June 30, 2015.



Wake up the World!

Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life starting on the First Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29, 2014, and ending on February 2, 2016. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of Perfectae Caritatis, a decree on religious life, and Lumen Gentium, the Second Vatican Council’s constitution on the Church. Its purpose, as stated by the Vatican is to “make a grateful remembrance of the recent past” while embracing “the future with hope.”

Events for the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life:

February 8, 2015—Consecrated Life Day
More information to follow

We Are One Family Under God

National Migration Week 2015 will be take place January 4-10 with the theme, “We are One Family Under God”, which brings to mind the importance of family in our daily lives. This reminder is particularly important when dealing with the migration phenomena, as family members are too often separated from one another. Click

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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: January 8th, April 9th and July 9th.

Quote from Pope Francis

“We always think of Jesus when He preaches, when He heals, when He travels, walks along the street, even during the Last Supper. But we aren't used to thinking about Jesus smiling, joyful. Jesus was full of joy, full of joy.”

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 if you have a new e-mail address that should be on file for Living Justice newsletters.

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

Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

For more information on the Diocese of Green Bay, visit www.gbdioc.org.

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter?

