

MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of
Green Bay

Department of Living Justice

APRIL 2016

“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.”

In this Issue

Calendar of Events	Marriage as “The Choice Wine”	The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions
Prayer for On Care for Our Common Home	Legislative Advocacy	CST Video Resources
A Note From the Director	Year of Mercy Monthly Resources	“A Marriage in the Lord”
On Care for our Common Home	Spring Leadership Gathering	Family and Married Life
Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)	April is Child Abuse and Neglect Month	Family and Married Life Book Resources
Your “Green” Reproductive System	Eye Heart World Gala	
Forming Consciousness for Faithful Citizenship	Pope Quote	

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- ◆ 13th - [Prayer Service for Healing](#) @ Our Lady of Lourdes, DePere, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ 22nd - [A&A Alexandrina Center Annual Spring Gala](#)
- ◆ 22nd - Earth Day
- ◆ 24th - [Eye Heart World Gala](#) @ the Meyer Theatre, Green Bay from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

MAY

- ◆ 9th - Steve Bollman, [“The Choice Wine”](#) @ Resurrection Parish, Green Bay, 7 p.m.
- ◆ 9th - [“Forming Consciousness for Faithful Citizenship”](#) by Bishop Richard E. Pates @ St. Norbert College, F.K. Bemis International Center, 7 p.m.
- ◆ 10th - [“Forming Consciousness for Faithful Citizenship”](#) by Bishop Richard E. Pates @ UW Center for Civic Engagement, James F. Veninga Theater, Wausau, 7 p.m.
- ◆ 10th - [Diocesan Spring Leadership Gathering](#)

JUNE

- ◆ 7th and 14th - [FOCCUS Facilitator Training](#)

Prayer for On Care for Our Common Home

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
 teach us to contemplate you
 in the beauty of the universe,
 for all things speak of you.
 Awaken our praise and thankfulness
 for every being that you have made.
 Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
 to everything that is.
 God of love, show us our place in this world
 as channels of your love
 for all the creatures of this earth,
 for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
 Enlighten those who possess power and money
 that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
 that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
 and care for this world in which we live.
 The poor and the earth are crying out.
 O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
 help us to protect all life,
 to prepare for a better future,
 for the coming of your Kingdom
 of justice, peace, love and beauty.
 Praise be to you!
 Amen.

Excerpted from “A Christian prayer in union with creation,” in Laudato Si’, no. 246

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A Note From the Director

As I sit here and write this column, I do not know the results of the Wisconsin primary that will take place on April 5th. While I must admit that I am eagerly awaiting the results, I do not want to focus my attention on any one particular candidate. Rather, I want to focus my time on conscience formation, and what I am challenging you to do, too. Like I mentioned last month, "... participation in political life is a moral obligation," (FCFC 13), but that participation requires a well-formed conscience "...in accord with human reason and the teaching of the Church," (FCFC 17). So, what does conscience formation mean, and how does one do it?

First, we have to establish what a conscience is. For many individuals, thoughts of angels and devils on one's shoulder come to mind when discussing their conscience. For others, it may be Pinocchio giving a little whistle for Jiminy Cricket to come to his assistance. While these images can be good conversation starters, a well-formed conscience is much more. The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers us this [definition](#). Another way to think of it is, "God's voice resounding in the human heart, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil, (FCFC 17). That sentence packs a theological punch, so take a moment to ponder just the first part of the sentence:

God's voice resounding in the human heart

God's voice... what does it sound like? Can you hear it? Do you take the time to listen to it? What is He trying to say to you?

Everyone has a conscience, and we all have the responsibility to form it, which does take time. Forming one's conscience cannot be done overnight. It is not like pulling an all-nighter to cram for a test. It requires the following elements:

- a desire to embrace goodness and truth (because it is God's voice revealing that truth) by studying Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Church;
- an examination of facts, information and the choices surrounding them; and most importantly,
- prayerful reflection to discern the will of God.



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"O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, ...that we may protect the world and not prey on it."
Pope Francis 2015

On Care for our Common Home

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the Resurrected Lord and new life, it could be a perfect time to become familiar again with "On Care for Our Common Home," Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis. At the core of Pope Francis's message is the idea of "integral ecology," - that how we relate to one another, especially the poor, and how we relate to the environment are intimately connected.

"On Care for Our Common Home" highlights several basic teachings. First, the destruction of God's creation, and specifically climate change, is a moral issue. Second, there is an integral connection between our destruction of "Mother Earth" and the suffering of the poor, especially those in developing countries. Finally, immediate actions are required, by individuals, who must change their lives, and by the community of nations.

One way we can join Pope Francis to make integral ecology and care for the poor central to Christian spirituality and religious education is to utilize the bulletin insert below with a parish group or perhaps even individually. Hopefully this will help deepen your own understanding of these crucial matters as well as how they relate to our brothers and sisters in Christ and the protection of life.

Happy Easter,
Eric

St. Vincent de Paul Society Voice of the Poor February 2016

["Care for Our Common Home"](#) bulletin insert.

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Amoris Laetitia (Joy of Love)

On April 8, 2016, Pope Francis released his post-synodal exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*. It follows the two synods on the family when many situations and the state of marriage and family life in the world were closely examined. It will take a little time to read and reflect on the 264-page document. But the pope encourages a pastoral approach, and stands strong when affirming marriage and family life with the complex issues that are part of life today.

Here is one statement from the *The Joy of Love*:

It is important for that child to feel wanted.

He or she is not an accessory or a solution to some personal need.

A child is a human being of immense worth and may never be used for one's own benefit.

So it matters little whether this new life is convenient for you, whether it has features that please you, or whether it fits into your plans and aspirations.

For children are a gift. Each one is unique and irreplaceable...

We love our children because they are children, not because they are beautiful,

or look or think as we do, or embody our dreams.

We love them because they are children. A child is a child. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 2016, Par. 170)

It seems unthinkable to misuse, neglect or abuse our beautiful innocent children. However, it is happening everywhere. April is **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**. The theme for 2016 is **Building Community. Building Hope**. The hope is that everyone takes responsibility to prevent child abuse and to protect children and families. [Click here](#) to find valuable information and resources.

What Is Child Abuse and Neglect? Child abuse or neglect often takes place in the home at the hands of a person the child knows well—a parent, relative, babysitter, or friend of the family. There are four major types of child maltreatment.

(continued on page 4)



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Your "Green" Reproductive System

April is well-known for its focus on the Earth. God created the Earth, and he gave us the task of being responsible stewards of it.

There is a strong movement to live more naturally. We are starting to understand the harmful effects of chemicals and unnatural products that are being put into our food. We see the results of overprescribing pharmaceutical drugs. We know that plastics and other materials are wreaking havoc on our land. But how often do we consider what we are doing to our reproductive systems? Why not incorporate our "green living" philosophy into all areas of our lives?!

We invite you to take a peek at our recently launched website <http://www.ournaturalfamily.org>

Here is just one perspective offered on the website as we look toward living a "greener" lifestyle:

"Have you been labeled "green" or "crunchy" or "granola" by your friends and family? No matter how you feel about those labels, chances are you simply want to be a good steward of the earth's resources and keep you and those you love as healthy as possible.

Those who are proponents of sustainable farming, hormone-free milk and meat, and fair trade often translate these values into their parenting. When you think about having children, you may think about things like un-medicated childbirth, breastfeeding, babywearing, and wooden toys. But did you know that natural parenting can begin before conception?

You can give your reproductive system the same natural care you give your nutrition, your health, and the environment. It is a natural extension of your parenting philosophy to keep your children's first home – the womb – chemical free. It's organic parenting at its earliest stages."

You can read the rest of the information from this perspective on the following link, learning more about how hormonal contraceptives can harm your body, as well as the environment. <http://www.ournaturalfamily.org/persona#fndtn-persona-53>

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A Note from the Director

(continued from page 2)

That being said, we need to be in a place where we can think rationally about a choice instead of emotionally reacting to a situation. That is why conscience formation takes time and an important decision, like casting a vote, should be done when a person is in a good frame of mind.

As we continue to learn more about how to properly form one's conscience, I would encourage the readers to click on the links within the article in order to have a common understanding of the terms that I will be using. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, and let us pray together as we continue on this journey:

[Prayer for Conscience Formation](#)

I praise you Lord for creating me in your divine image. Thank you for giving me a [free will](#) to know you and love you. Open my heart to your teachings and help me to form my conscience according to your will.

Please strengthen me with the [virtues](#) of faith, hope, love, and especially prudence. Grant me your loving guidance each day and send me the graces to always do your will, even when most difficult.

Amen.

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

**NOTE: The Wisconsin Primary was held on Tuesday, April 5. Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders won the state's Republican and Democratic primaries, respectively.*

Forming Consciousness for Faithful Citizenship

Bishop Richard E. Pates, leader of the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa calls the Pope's climate change Encyclical a "clarion call" for everyone to care about the environment and become involved citizens.

Bishop Pates will speak on this subject on Monday, May 9th at St. Norbert. Click [here](#) for more information.

Marriage as "The Choice Wine"

Steve Bollman, developer and popular presenter of *That Man is You* will speak to married couples on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Resurrection Parish in Green Bay.

All are welcome to hear about Steve's marriage strengthening program, "[The Choice Wine](#)". Admission is free.

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)

(continued from page 3)

Although any of the forms may be found separately, they often occur together:

- **Neglect** is failure to provide for a child's basic needs.
- **Physical abuse** is physical injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or otherwise harming a child.
- **Sexual abuse** is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape, or commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.
- **Emotional abuse** is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats, and rejection.

There are startling statistics to show that pornography is linked to sexual violence and human trafficking.

"Adult sex offenders show a high rate of using hard-core pornography: child molesters (67%), incest offenders (53%), rapists (83%) are significantly higher in use than non-offenders (29%)." (*Journal of Sex Research, Volume 25, Issue 2, 1988*)

Following are some links from "Integrity Restored" and "Covenant Eyes" to help parents become informed. This abuse issue can no longer be denied, ignored or hidden. It is destroying marriages, harming our children, and wounding whole families. But there is hope and healing. We, as Church, need "to proclaim the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the mind and heart of every person" (*Amoris Laetitia*, par. 309)

The dark side of the Internet and help for parents: Protecting young children from pornography can be a daunting task. The average age when a child is first exposed to hard core internet pornography is 11. 80% of 15-18 year olds have had multiple exposures to hard-core pornography. The largest single population of internet pornography users is 12-17 years-old. It may seem like pornography is everywhere, but you need not feel helpless. While we will have specific webpages for protecting children, here are some things that you can do right now:

- [Click here for help for parents.](#)
- [Pornography and Sexual violence](#)
- [Pornography and Sex-Trafficking](#)

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Legislative Advocacy

[WCC Capitol Update](#) - An update from March 21st

Catholics Confront Global Poverty - [Open Your Arms to Syrian Refugees](#)

Resources from the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development: ["Notes for Neighbors"](#)

Here is what's new from [Justice for Immigrants](#)

[10 Ways You Can Celebrate Earth Day \(April 22\)](#)

[\[Call to Action\] Conscience Protection Act 2016](#)

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)

2016 is a presidential election year! Many parishes start to make plans for events leading up to the November election, but have you seen the newly revised *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* document? If not, check it out [here](#) and other resources that you may find helpful in your planning processes:

- Do's and Don'ts [Guidelines](#)
 - *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* Reflection [Questions](#)
 - [Novena](#) for Faithful Citizenship; en [español](#)
 - Sample Bulletin [Announcements](#);
 - Bulletin Inserts
- ⇒ How to Form Your [Conscience](#); en [español](#)
- ⇒ What is Civil [Dialogue](#); en [español](#)
- ⇒ How to Contact Your Elected [Official](#); en [español](#)

Year of Mercy Monthly Resources

[March, 2016](#)

[April, 2016](#)

[May, 2016](#)

[June, 2016](#)

[July, 2016](#)

[August, 2016](#)

Spring Leadership Gathering - May 9th KI Convention Center - Green Bay

Living Justice topics to be presented are:

- Programs for Strengthening Marriage
- What Your Parish Can do to Address the Harms of Pornography
- The Choice Wine (Family Strengthening)
- What Your Parish Can do to Address Human Trafficking
- Two Legs of Mercy for the Imprisoned: Justice and Charity
- Deacon Round Table on Marriage and Family

Click [here](#) to learn more about these sessions

April is Child Abuse and Neglect Month And Alcohol Awareness Month

Prayer for Abused and Neglected Children

Gentle Jesus, look kindly on those children who have been denied the gift of a safe and happy childhood. Protect them from abuse and neglect and let them find comfort in Your love and protection.

Help all of us to show sympathy and compassion to troubled children whose words and actions test our patience and understanding. Let these children see the world as the beautiful place You created. Help them find the courage to overcome their fears so they may learn to trust your love.

Grant those who have young lives entrusted in their care Your wisdom and kindness so they may provide the kind of love all children need to grow and mature. Amen

This prayer is from the book, "Healing Prayers" Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL 62223-1160

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next. Amen

See more at [Prayers for Special Help](#)

Eye Heart World Gala

Eye Heart World is a non-profit organization dedicated to combatting Human Trafficking in the U.S. through awareness, prevention and aftercare.

The Eye Heart World Gala event will be a dessert reception, awareness experience, and program designed to educate the community on the reality of sex trafficking in the (920), and cast vision for Eye Heart World's strategic response to this issue. All funds raised through ticket sales, silent auctions, and contributions will go toward opening the first residential aftercare program for survivors of sexual exploitation in Northeastern Wisconsin.

It will be held on April 24th at the Meyer Theatre at 117 E. Washington Street in Green Bay. [Click](#) here to learn more.

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Pope Quote

“By means of these simple yet powerful gestures [corporal and spiritual works of mercy], even when unseen, we can accompany the needy, bringing God’s tenderness and consolation.” (4/3/16 homily)

The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions April 2016

Evangelization Intention - **African Christians** *That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.*

Universal Intention - **Small Farmers** *That small farmers receive a just reward for their precious labor.*

Click [here](#) to visit the Apostleship of Prayer website for children’s prayer resources on the Pope’s monthly intention. Be sure to click on the image next to the monthly intention.

CST Resource Videos

CST 101 is a collaborative 7-part video series presented by the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services on Catholic Social Teaching. The following videos are available:

“[Care for God’s Creation](#)” Released on September 1, 2015, (which we celebrated as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation).

“[Life and Dignity of the Human Person](#)” Published on October 3, 2015.

“[Call to Family Community and Participation](#)” Published on December 14, 2015

“A Marriage in the Lord” Marriage Preparation Program

Only four more marriage preparation Part I sessions left for this season! The current schedule is available online at www.marriageinthelord.org for registration. The new schedule and new brochures will be available at the end of June.

Family and Married Life

[Christian Family Movement](#): Christian Family Movement (CFM) is a national network of parish/neighborhood small groups of Catholics and their families.

[Retrouvaille - A Lifeline for Marriages](#): A program to help couples heal and renew their marriages.

Family and Married Life Book Resources

[A Short Guide to Praying as a Family: Growing Together in Faith and Love Each Day](#) (also in Spanish, [A Uno invitacion para Orar En Familia: Creciendo Unidos Cada Dia en la Fe y El Amor](#)).

Database Updates

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.

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.