

MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of
Green Bay

Department of Living Justice

FEBRUARY 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.”

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Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- ◆ 10th - [CRS Rice Bowl Grant Application](#) period begins
- ◆ 12th - 14th - Lakeshore Retrouvaille Weekend Retreat @ St. Norbert Abbey, De Pere
- ◆ 27th - [FOCCUS Facilitator Training](#) Diocesan Campus (8:45 am - 2:30 pm)

MARCH

- ◆ 1st - *Beyond the Abortion Wars: Closing the Life/Justice Divide* webinar @ 1pm moderated by Catherine Orr
- ◆ 5th - [Hispanic Pre-Marriage Retreat Leader Training](#) @ St. Thomas More, Appleton (9 am - 5:30 pm)
- ◆ 25th - CRS Rice Bowl Grant Application period ends

SAVE THE DATE!

April 22nd - [A&A Alexandrina Center Annual Spring Gala](#)

Lenten Prayer

God of all creation,

We welcome you into our lives in a new way this Lent.

We are ready to serve your people, especially our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

We are ready to live out your call to mercy.

Through our prayers, fasting and Lenten gifts, may we learn to walk as one global human family.

May we learn to listen to each other,
and in so doing hear the merciful words of Christ.

Amen

2016 Catholic Relief Services.

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A Note From the Director

Now that campaign season is fully underway, let us take a moment to ask God for patience and guidance during this election year. As Disciples of Christ, we have a unique perspective on politics, one that calls each of us to transcend political rhetoric and to ask our elected officials to care for the most vulnerable among us.

During the remainder of this election season, let us pray for ourselves to take the time to properly form our conscience; pray for our elected officials to enact policies that care for the poor and most vulnerable among us; pray for our candidates that they exemplify civil discourse; and finally, to pray for our country that she will always be “one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

May God bless you, your family and your ministry!

Catherine



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CRS Rice Bowl

Dear Friends,

More than 40 years ago, Catholics in the United States wanted to respond to famine in Africa. Could people who were hungry and starving be helped through Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving? The answer was yes. The help came in the form of a small cardboard box, marking the beginning of “Operation Rice Bowl” 41 years ago in parishes in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Today, now called CRS Rice Bowl is a tradition for millions of Catholics in the U.S., who employ the Lenten pillars of praying, fasting and almsgiving to change the lives of others while enriching their own. CRS Rice Bowl is available in paper, web and through a mobile app in both English and Spanish through your Catholic Parish or online.

In 1976, Operation Rice Bowl was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as a national program. In 1977, the USCCB voted to make Operation Rice Bowl the official program of Catholic Relief Services.

In 2015, more than 13,000 Catholic parishes and schools across the U.S. participated in CRS Rice Bowl.

In the first 40 years, more than \$250 million has been given through CRS Rice Bowl to support programs that prevent hunger and poverty around the world. Of that, \$62.5 million went to programs in the U.S. through local diocese.

Lenten alms go to alleviate hunger and poverty in communities overseas and in the U.S.; seventy-five percent of gifts support CRS’ humanitarian programs around the world. Some examples of this include:

- Agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests
- Water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities
- Microfinance projects support small businesses
- Mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services
- Education projects provide resources and trainings and \$187.5 million went to CRS programs overseas.

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Marriage Leadership Training in Spanish Offered: Leaders will prepare couples for sacrament of marriage

Spanish-speaking married couples in the Diocese of Green Bay are ready to accept the challenge, issued by Pope Francis while he was in Philadelphia, to build and support strong Catholic marriages.

Since last September's "World Meeting of Families" and the papal visit to the United States, there has been a good amount of interest around the issues of marriage and family life. One point of interest directly involves a local group of Hispanic married couples who participated in the pilgrimage to Philadelphia. They listened to speakers there and were inspired and challenged to strengthen marriages and family life by Pope Francis' message. With the assistance of the diocesan Family and Married Life Office, these couples came back and discussed the local need for marriage education, enrichment and support, all in the Spanish language.

These couples are active in their parishes and a number of them have already graduated or are currently part of the diocesan lay leader training, "*Discipulos de Cristo*," a three-year ministry formation program. Students learn about their faith, Scriptures, the Catholic Church, morality and other topics that help acquire ministry skills — all in the Spanish language.

These couples are ready to accept the challenge of Pope Francis because they realize the importance of building strong marriages amid the critical problems that face families. However, they also found that they do not feel skilled enough to lead marriage programs.

Now these couples, along with others from around the diocese, will be able to attend a training day to learn how to facilitate a daylong pre-marriage retreat in Spanish.

On Saturday, March 5, Valentín Araya of Chicago will lead the training day. Valentín has 17 years of experience in marriage ministries and is the creator of the *Alfa y Omega* marriage program of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is an educator, conference presenter, retreat preacher, husband and father. He and his wife, Betty, have two teenage children.

(continued on page 4)



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The Effects of Pornography on Marriage

February is a month during which we focus on love and marriage. It is a beautiful month! Flowers, dates, chocolate, sharing of wedding memories,... Sometimes the month reignites the spark!

But for some married couples, February can intensify loneliness and hurt. One of the top issues currently found in marriages is pornography. It affects more married couples than we can even imagine.

Here is one of many resources available for couples who are struggling from the effects of pornography. It is found on "For Your Marriage," an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

⇒ *Overcoming Obstacles: Pornography* by Gerald Korson. Henry seemed to have it all—a loving marriage, four young children, and a solid middle-management position with a local financial corporation. He and his family lived in a good suburban neighborhood and were active in their local parish, where Henry was involved in the music ministry. At 35, he was poised for a promotion to a more lucrative upper-management post...

...Everything came crashing down late one evening when Henry's 11-year-old daughter, Hannah, walked in on him as he watched an Internet video of men and women engaging in sexual acts. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Other items found on "For Your Marriage" website are:

- ◆ "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography"
- ◆ Help for Men and Women Struggling with Pornography Use
- ◆ Internet Porn by the Numbers
- ◆ Women and Online Pornography
- ◆ How To Strengthen Your Marriage After Porn Addiction

Please pass this information on to anyone who might benefit from it. Prayers for hope and healing from the addiction of pornography!

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Marriage Leadership Training in Spanish Offered

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This is a special training event for Spanish-speaking married couples or other parish leaders who want to lead pre-marriage retreats for couples using Araya's manual, entitled "*El Amor Nuestro y el Sacramento del Matrimonio*." The program parallels the English pre-marriage program currently offered in the diocese called, "A Marriage in the Lord."

The training day will be from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., March 5, at St. Thomas More Parish, 1810 N. McDonald Street in Appleton. Registration is required. Contact Theresa McKenna in the Family and Married Life Office at (920) 272-8291; Spanish-speakers may call Juanita Fiscal at (920) 360-9841.

(See the following for the Spanish translation of this article.)

Formación de liderazgo de matrimonio se ofrece en español

Los líderes prepararán a parejas para el sacramento del matrimonio

Las parejas casadas de habla hispana en la Diócesis de Green Bay están listas para aceptar el desafío, publicado por el Papa Francisco mientras estaba en Filadelfia, para construir y apoyar matrimonios católicos fuertes.

Desde el pasado mes de septiembre en el "Encuentro Mundial de las familias" y la visita del papa a los Estados Unidos, ha habido un buen importe de interés sobre las cuestiones del matrimonio y la vida familiar. Un punto de interés implica directamente a un grupo local de parejas Hispánicas casadas que participaron en la peregrinación a Filadelfia. Ellos escucharon a los oradores, y fueron inspirados y desafiados reforzar los matrimonios y vida familiar por el mensaje de Pope Francisco.

Con la ayuda de la Oficina de Familia y la Vida en Matrimonio/ Family and Married Life Office, estas parejas volvieron y hablaron sobre la necesidad local para la educación sobre el matrimonio, el enriquecimiento y el apoyo, todo dado en la lengua español.

Estas parejas están activas en sus parroquias y muchos ya han graduado o son actualmente parte de la formación para el liderazgo secular de la diócesis, "Discípulos de Cristo," un programa de tres años para el ministerio. Los estudiantes aprenden de su fe, las escrituras, la iglesia católica, la moralidad y otros temas que ayudan adquirir habilidades ministeriales- todo en la lengua español.

[\(Haz clic aquí para leer el artículo completo\)](#)

Operation Rice Bowl

(continued from page 2)

25 percent of gifts remain in each U.S. diocese where they were given for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in those communities. In our diocese, these gifts are reflected in the offering of the CRS Rice Bowl grants during Lent each year. (Click [here](#) for the grant application form and criteria for 2016.)

This year, CRS Rice bowl has an extra significance. Pope Francis writes in *Misericordiae Vultus*—the papal document announcing this Jubilee Year of Mercy— that he desires that Christian people everywhere more deeply reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The pope views this year as an opportunity to "reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty." He challenges us to "enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy."

Lent is a time to reflect more intentionally on Pope Francis' invitation. During these 40 days, we examine our own lives in an ongoing effort to "be merciful, just as [the] Father is merciful." CRS Rice Bowl can be our tool to do just this. Through CRS Rice Bowl, we can encounter those living in conditions of poverty around the world, and we have the opportunity to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Have a blessed and meaningful 40 day journey.

Eric
2016 Catholic Relief Services

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.

"A Marriage in the Lord" Marriage Preparation Program

The 2015-2016 marriage preparation schedule is available online at www.marriageinthelord.org for registration. If you want brochures, please call Theresa McKenna at 920-272-8291 or send an e-mail to tmckenna@gbdioc.org.

"Marriage and Mercy" Virtual Retreat

Make a virtual retreat on the theme "Marriage and Mercy" with your spouse during National Marriage Week, February 7-14. Click [here](#).

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World Day of Marriage

The USCCB recently released a memo and bulletins regarding the upcoming World Day of Marriage to be celebrated on Sunday, February 14th. Click [here](#) for the memo and bulletins.

Respect Life Poster and Essay Contest!

Children in grades 1-4 are invited to participate in this year's Respect Life Poster Contest! Students in grades 5-8 are invited to participate in this year's Respect Life Essay Contest!

Watch for more details to come!

Basics:

Contest runs from March 25 (The Feast of the Annunciation, a very special day on which Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to say she would conceive in her womb and bear a son whom they would call Jesus. Mary said YES to life!) **to May 15** (Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles).

Theme: Every Life is Worth Living (This year's respect life theme from our U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)
God invites us to love each and every life. Think of all the people that we know! And all the people we don't know! All of us are created by God and are loved by God!

Reflect on how you personally help someone (or a group of people) feel that his or her life is worth living. How do you say YES to life by inviting Jesus into your heart and sharing His love, making sure this person (or group of people) feels special and loved?

Year of Mercy Monthly Resources

[March, 2016](#)

[April, 2016](#)

[May, 2016](#)

Beyond the Abortion Wars: Closing the Life/Justice Divide

A webinar sponsored by the Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors, will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 1 PM CST titled, *Beyond the Abortion Wars: Closing the Life/Justice Divide*. Join Charlie Camosy, author of *Beyond the Abortion Wars*, and Mike Jordan-Laskey, Vice Chancellor and Director of Life & Justice Ministries of the Diocese of Camden, for an interactive conversation about how to close the life/justice divide. The webinar will be moderated by Catherine Orr, and you can contact her for more information.

Legislative Advocacy

[WCC Capitol Update](#) - Here's what's coming up

[Action Alerts](#) Support Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. Tell your senators to care for creation by helping nonprofits make needed energy-efficiency improvements and protecting a national carbon standard

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](#)

Wisconsin LCWR Anti-Human Trafficking Toolkit Distribution

The Wisconsin Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) has cancelled all scheduled regional workshops due to low registrations.

Please check future newsletters and Parish Pages for an update on how toolkits will be distributed.

Please call our office at 920-272-8921 with any questions.

Teach My People to Pray Quarterly Resources

Looking for ways to pray with your family? Check out these resources to help foster family prayer in our home.

[Quarter 3 Resources](#) - January, February, March

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Pope Quote

“In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy - counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer - we touch more directly our own sinfulness.”
-2016 Lenten message

The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions February 2016

Universal Intention - **Care for Creation** *That we may take good care of creation-a gift freely given-cultivating and protecting it for future generations.*

Evangelization Intention - **Asia.** *That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.*

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.

Pope Francis’ Speeches

In case you missed any of his homilies or speeches from the World Meeting of Families and visit to the United States, check out this [link](#) to catch up on them.

CST Resource Videos

CST 101 is a collaborative 7-part video series presented by the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services on Catholic Social Teaching.

“[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

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.