

MICAH 6:8

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



Office of Living Justice

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A Note from the Living Justice Director

With the recent Memorial Day celebration fresh in my mind, I continue to feel a great sense of pride for our country and all of the servicemen and women who fought and continue to fight for this great nation. There is something to be said about seeing the American flag flying on a warm summer day with "America the Beautiful" or "God Bless America" playing softly in the background. You can almost feel yourself stand a little taller because how can one not feel proud to be living in the US?

Despite this sense of pride, we are not perfect. There are constant and persistent threats to the very foundation of what made this country great, namely, our first and most cherished freedom of religious liberty. From the very beginning of our country's history, our founding fathers respected the right of conscience and freedom of religion. St. Thomas More articulated that moral and philosophical principles are the very foundation and strength of a democratic society, but these same principles cannot be up for democratic deliberation. If they continue to be chipped away, our foundation will begin to crumble and chaos will ensue.

In order to strengthen our patriotic foundation, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have called for a Fortnight for Freedom, a two-week period of prayer and action, to address many current challenges to religious liberty, including the August 1, 2013 deadline for religious organizations to comply with the HHS mandate; religious liberty concerns in areas such as immigration and humanitarian services, and Supreme Court rulings that could redefine marriage in June. Please keep your eyes open for information to be posted on our Diocesan website about upcoming events throughout the Diocese. If your



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Peg VandeHey

parish plans on hosting an event, please feel free to contact me, so we can help spread the word!

[Click here](#) to view information on the Kick Off Rally June 21st. Please [click here](#) for additional Fortnight For Freedom Diocesan events.

Many blessings,

Catherine

Catholic Social Justice

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

"Take care to keep the Sabbath day as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you may labor and do all of your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord."

(DT 5:12-14)

All the people have a corresponding duty to work and to provide the needs of their families. According to Pope John Paul II, Catholic tradition asks for a "society of work, enterprise and participation". All economic life should acknowledge the fact that we are God's children and members of one human family, called to exercise a clear priority for the least among us. How does the importance of work fit in our other weekly commitments as Catholics?

Sunday "is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church. On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." This is, of course, recalled from our third commandment. For, many people, sadly, Sunday is neither a day of rest nor a time for worship. Exceptions are made for those who must work for the public good, but this is not the problem. Taking a break from the pressures of the workplace, we are given an opportunity to open our hearts and souls to matters of significance: Eucharist, worship, family and rest. We must prioritize the opportunity to go to Mass on Sundays without competition from work and even athletic events.

Try to think of possible answer to these questions:

- What can be done to free up people (especially the poor) from difficult working schedules that prevent

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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 email address that should be on file for Living Justice newsletters. Thank you for your help!

Save the Date

August 6

Marriage Prep Workshop for Parish Volunteers

August 7

Marriage Prep Workshop for Parish Staff Members

September 14

Family Reunion Day at Camp Tekakwitha

September 25-November 3

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

March 21-22, 2014

Living Justice Conference

Calendar

JUNE

15th-16th - "The Gospel of Life"
June 21st - "Let Freedom Ring Rally"

JULY

July 4th - Independence Day
Mass

them participating in our Sunday Eucharistic celebration?

- How can we reverse the practice of scheduling unnecessary work and athletic events for people or families on Sunday morning?
- What can our family do to enrich Sunday life?

May God bless you and your families each day of the week.

Eric Weydt

Catholic Social Justice Coordinator

Sources

A Catholic Framework for Economic Life - A Statement of the US Bishops, United States Catholic Bishops (November, 1996)

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (2006) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Family and Married Life

Transitions in Life: "Empty Nesting"

Time flies! I often find myself singing the lyrics from Steve Miller's song, *Fly Like an Eagle*: "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin', into the future". Time does not stand still, and we move with it through many transitions of life.

Moving along, here we are in another month. I have always enjoyed the month of June. It is the beginning of summer vacations and time to recharge as a family; to make time for backyard barbecues with friends and neighbors, to plant a garden, and to swim in the pool. June also marks important milestones like celebrating graduations and weddings. It is a time of realization that perhaps our children have grown up and will leave the nest. Whoa! How did that happen? Where did the time go?

Transitions can be stressful and bring out insecurities. Married couples who enter this time of transition may want to admit to each other that things are changing and it is perfectly fine to take time to rest, recuperate, recharge and refocus. While there will certainly be challenges in this time of transition, it can also be a time to renew your own friendship and dream together in order to create a vision

Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

Diocese of Green Bay website

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The Compass

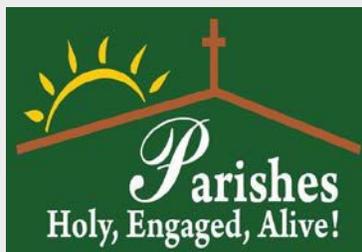
Official newspaper for the diocese

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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.



for the rest of your marriage. [Click here](#) to read an online article titled, *Help for Empty Nesters* by Claudia and David Arp. You can also find many other helpful articles about family and married life at this website, [For Your Marriage](#), which is an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Dignity of Human Life

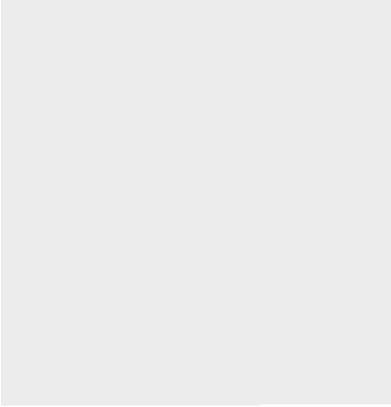
St. Norbert College: Knights for Life



On May 2, the St. Norbert College Student group, Knights for Life (with much appreciated help from the 40 Days for Life crew!), set up a powerful display of flags on campus to represent the number of unborn babies who are aborted each day. Thank you for your courage and commitment to life!

Respect Life Packets

The Respect Life packets are scheduled to be arriving to the Diocesan Dignity of Human Life Office in the beginning of August. We would like to have our Respect Life Representative contact list as up-to-date as possible to ensure the packets get to the right people in the parish. If you are the Parish Respect Life Rep, or if you know your parish's rep, it would be most helpful if you could please email Theresa McKenna at tmckenna@gbdioc.org, so we can double check our list. Thank you for your assistance!



Prayers for Summer Youth Service Trips

The Living Justice Department will be praying for the youth and adults who will be offering their time and talent this summer on service trips. Is your parish offering a service trip? If yes, please send us the information so we can make sure that they are on our prayer list: parish/city, location of service trip, and date. You can email the information to tmckenna@gbdioc.org.

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