

MICAH 6:8

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



Office of Living Justice

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Note From the Director

Growing up as a child, I was very fortunate to attend St. Francis de Sales Catholic Grade School in southeastern Wisconsin. Fr. Dave, our pastor, was the perfect example of a shepherd who tended to his flock. He regularly visited the classrooms and played with the children while on recess. Tuesday morning was designated as All School Mass Day, and he spoke to the students on a level in which we could understand our faith. He was loved by every student!

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Celia McKee

The more and more I hear about Pope Francis, I am constantly reminded of Fr. Dave, and the wonderful role model he was to me at such a young age. Pope Francis speaks to us about creating a culture of encounter, one in which we go out to be with people on the peripheries. He recently stated that one of the greatest concerns of our time is the loneliness of the old.

Fr. Dave created a culture of encounter every Friday afternoon for two 7th graders and 8th graders. He would pull four students (picked at random) out of their classes the last hour and half of the day to take a mini-field trip. We would walk with him across the street to visit the people living in the nursing home. If you would have told me at the time, I was doing a Corporal Work of Mercy, I would have looked at you dumbfounded! All I knew was that I had fun sharing stories, playing cards and visiting with the residents of the nursing home. For example, one man named Joe was extremely frail and bound to a wheel chair. You would never have been able to guess that during the 1940's, he was an Olympic Gold Medalist in Track and Field.

Creating a Culture of Encounter is even more important around the holidays when some people are not as fortunate to be with their families. If possible, I would encourage you to consider organizing a day to do one of the Corporal Works of Mercy with your youth groups or at your parish. What a wonderful way to go out to the margins and show Christ's love!

Wishing you a blessed and safe Thanksgiving,

Catherine

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Office of Living Justice Mission Statement

Our staff recently developed a mission statement that clarifies what we do and why we exist. This is the first time we are publishing it in our newsletter.

"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."

Calendar of Events

2013
November 28 - Happy Thanksgiving
December 6 - Fair Trade Sale

Thanksgiving Prayer

Father, all of Creation rightly owes you thanks and praise. Your justice, love and mercy abound. We thank you this day for all that you have given us.

For the Passion and Death of your Divine Son, we thank you Father, through the Cross, He redeemed the world.

For the Church, we thank you Father, it is our beacon for salvation.

For the martyrs and saints who give testimony to your son, we thank you Father, their witness to your Son is our inheritance.

For the loved ones and friends who have died and gone before us, we thank you Father, their love abides with us forever.

For loving spouses, we thank you Father, together we seek you.

For the gift of children, we thank you Father, they are your precious gifts to us and to the world.

For the gift of our families, loved ones and good friends, we thank you Father, through them we see the reflection of your Son.

For jobs, our homes and all that we have, we thank you Father, give us only that which we need, as we seek Your Kingdom.

For the bounty we are about to eat, we thank you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Catholic Social Justice

Today, the peoples in hunger are making a dramatic appeal to the peoples blessed with abundance."

-Pope Paul VI, 1967

Feed the Hungry

With winter quickly approaching, we must keep the basic needs of others in mind. As Catholics, the right to food is near the top of the list because hunger is a fundamental assault on human life itself. It is also very widespread. Please consider the following statistics which help clarify the immediate needs of the hungry.

- With the recent cuts to the FoodShares program, as

2014

January 16 - Project Rachel Training (Post Abortion Ministry) - St. Benedict, Suamico

January 17 - Diocesan Respect Life Mass at St. Pius X, Appleton at 7PM

January 19 - Crescendo Pro Life Film - tentatively planned for St. Bernard, Appleton - TBA

January 24 - Diocesan Respect Life Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul, Green Bay at 7PM

Youth Trip to Washington DC for the March for Life and Youth Rally.

March 21-22 - Living Justice Conference

Quote from Pope Francis

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace," (Interview with *la Repubblica* on 10-1-13).

Welcome Dominic Michael McKee!

On Oct. 26th, 2013 Dominic Michael burst into this world at 2:52 a.m., weighing in at 9 lbs. 6 oz. He is welcomed by his parents, Celia & Kevin, along with his siblings Terese, Patrick & Marta.



many as 30,000 people in Brown County alone will be affected. This will be reflected in a \$3 million dollar reduction in funding within the county. Certainly all the counties in the diocese will be similarly affected.

- Our various local food pantries have seen increases each year over the past several years. Pantry use has increased by about 37% from 2009 to 2012.
- At the national level, about 15 percent of people are in need of food sources.

When donating to our food pantries, please consider nutritious options for the needy as well. All donated items are appreciated but items high in fat and in sugars are not preferred sources.

Please keep in mind what Pope John XXIII said in 1963: "Every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life; these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and finally the necessary social services."

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,
Eric Weydt
Catholic Social Justice Coordinator

Questions for you to consider (click [here](#))

Sources:
Fred Kramer, S.J. *Catholic Social Thought and Hunger*, Understanding CST, Fall 2013

Patti Zarling,
Green Bay Press Gazette, Food Pantries Likely to See Increase in Traffic, Nov. 2, 2013

Family and Married Life

Honoring Marriages

On our recent trip to Europe, my husband Steve and I traveled to five countries- Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary. One of our primary intentions was to visit the families of students who we hosted or taught during their high school years here in the United States. This article is the second in a series of reflections connecting our European adventure to family and married life. It was a blessing to be included in the family life of three families who placed great value on their faith, marriage and family.

One of the couples celebrated 50 years of marriage while we were in Germany and then we discovered another couple in Czech Republic was also celebrating 50 years of marriage in a few months. In Hungary, the parents were celebrating 32 years of marriage. As the Diocesan Family and Married Life Coordinator, I was very interested to hear what people from



World Marriage Day" CD Giveaway

Don't miss the deadline for your parish to take advantage of the CD Giveaway for "World Marriage Day". The CD by Dr. James Healy, is called "When the Cake is Gone". Parishes can order the CDs at a huge discounted price so everyone in the parish can receive one to celebrate World Marriage Day on February 9, 2014. Don't miss this opportunity! Click [here](#) for more information.

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!

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.

Feel free to check out the best practices in the Dignity of Human Life Focus Area on the Parishes website: www.holyengagedalive.org.

other countries had to say about what contributed to their successful long marriages.

I was delightfully surprised by the seriousness that the married couples considered my question. A thoughtful pause preceded amazing insights that were freely shared within their storytelling.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.



Blessing of married couples at Cana Mass at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Kaukauna

Dignity of Human Life

Did You Know That November is Adoption Awareness Month?

"I am still in awe of how abundantly my husband Tom and I have been blessed. Like country music star Garth Brooks states so well in one of his songs, "I thank God for unanswered prayers". For years we prayed so hard to conceive a child. We could not even begin to have known how much more joy God's plan for us would bring".

Please click [here](#) to read more about this inspirational adoption story found on For Your Marriage, which is an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Please check out the adoption services provided by Catholic Charities in northeastern Wisconsin. Click [here](#).

Also, check out the best practices for Youth, Young Adults and Family under Pastoral Resources, on the Parishes website. Please click [here](#).

Diocesan Website and Social Media Links

Diocese of Green Bay website

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

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Diocese of Green Bay

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"Just Live, Love & Walk: Fully Engaged, Fully Alive" Based on The 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching March 21-22, 2014 Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

On March 21-22, 2014, the Department of Living Justice is sponsoring a conference for all that is family friendly, at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc that is titled, *Just Live, Love and Walk: Fully Engaged, Fully Alive*. The theme will be "The 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching". Events include inspiring keynote speakers, breakout sessions for adults, youth, teen and young adults, and Mass with Bishop Ricken. Each month, until the conference, we will highlight one of our keynote speakers and this month, feel free to learn more about Chad Justice, author of "Waiting for Eli".

Chad Justice is a teacher of civics and American History at St. Thomas More Catholic High School in Lafayette, La. He is the winner of the 2010 Lafayette Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Award in the Inspirational category. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education Social Studies from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He and his wife Ashley make their home in Lafayette, and they have two young children.

On his book, "Waiting for Eli"...

"I think that God can prove to people through this story, that life has value. All life has purpose. It is in the endless search for that purpose, that we all engage in throughout daily life, in which He reveals that all it takes is a leap of faith and a willingness to choose the path less traveled in order to find everything we have been looking for."

"An inspirational story that takes the moral principles of the pro-life movement from the realm of argument to reality. It will convict pro-life activist everywhere; erasing any justification for remaining silent on the moral issue of this century and leaving pro-choice advocates speechless."

- Chad Justice

**Conference registration begins in January -
Plan now to attend!**