

# MICAH 6:8

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



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## Department of Living Justice

APRIL 2014 | Vol. 2, Issue 6

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### A Note from the Director

Hello everyone and peace be with you! I trust that each of you have been having a prayerful Lenten journey and are eagerly awaiting the celebration of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

During the third week of Lent, with the Gospel story of Jesus encountering the Samaritan woman at the well, the diocesan Department of Living Justice held its first ever family-friendly conference focusing on The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. (Please feel free to check out Bishop Ricken's recent Compass column about the conference below!) The conference speakers and the Gospel message fit together beautifully because they echoed the fact that Christ engaged, dialogued and ultimately, died for every person, including a Samaritan woman, and not just a select few.

Each baptized person is called to joyfully proclaim the Gospel to everyone, and Catholic Social Teaching is a wonderful evangelizing tool that you can utilize. Blessed John Paul II said in his Encyclical Letter, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, "The teaching and spreading of her social doctrine are part of the Church's evangelizing mission."

I pray that each of you reading this newsletter will continue to joyfully proclaim the Gospel to all people, especially the least among us: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the lonely and the disenfranchised.

May God continue to bless and keep each of you during these remaining days of Lent, and I hope you all have a joyful Easter celebration!

Yours in Christ,  
Catherine



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## "Just Live, Love & Walk" Conference Pictures

### Recap of Living Justice Conference by Bishop David Ricken

On Friday, March 21, and Saturday, March 22, the first-ever Department of Living Justice sponsored conference was held at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family in Manitowoc, titled "Just Live, Love & Walk: Fully Engaged, Fully Alive."

This conference was family-friendly and open to all individuals who were interested in learning more about The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation). Keynote addresses and workshops were offered to expand participants' understanding of these themes, in particular, Life and Dignity of the Human Person.

While I could not be there for much of the conference personally, I understand it was a beautiful experience for all involved on this very first conference of this type put on by the department and hosted by Silver Lake College.

During my homily for the closing Mass, I spoke more about how "living justice" is a tool of the new evangelization because it is how we live out our faith within the community. By rooting ourselves in prayer and transforming our own lives, we will then be able to share that faith joyously with others. I also wanted to highlight the importance of bridging the existing gap between the pro-life and social justice communities because one depends on the other. They cannot be separated because life issues are justice issues and justice issues are life issues.

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

### Catholic Relief Services and Lent

Each year during Lent, the Diocese of Green Bay conducts several collections within their parishes. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is one of those collection programs. CRS is a national collection for the world's poor in which 75% of the funds collected are for international relief and development projects. The Diocese of Green Bay in turn keeps 25% of the donations to be used for projects that aid immigrant and refugee people who are struggling with basic material needs.

Most every Catholic is familiar with the CRS Rice Bowl, the Lenten program for parishes, schools and families that invites Catholics to pray, fast and give alms for our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Since 1975, Catholics who participate in the program have daily reflections in a Lenten Calendar, offer suggested sacrificial gifts to their rice bowls and read Stories of Hope from individuals and communities who have been changed from CRS contributions. This program faithfully symbolizes Jesus' love for all of his worlds' people. The



Bishop Ricken receives gifts from Terese and Patrick McKee



Fr. Jim Neilson speaks on the "traditional" and "modern" Stations of the Cross



John Donahue-Grossman engaging high school students in simulation activity



John Donahue-Grossman presents "Ray, When Did I See You Hungry"

countries featured in the 2014 program with Stories of Hope include Kenya, Guatemala, Philippines, Malawi and Haiti.

Lent is truly a time in which we pray, fast, and give alms to the poor. Let us try to carry this Lenten practice throughout the Easter Season and ordinary time as Jesus always cares for his people.

#### **Some questions for your consideration**

- What are some ways we can assist the poor and vulnerable in our world?
- Why is solidarity important to our Catholic faith?
- Why is it important to assist those in need all year long?

Click [here](#) to access the 2014 CRS Rice Bowl Grant application form. The deadline to apply is April 18, 2014.

God Bless,

Eric Weydt  
Catholic Social Justice Coordinator

## Family and Married Life by Peg VandeHey

### **Pope Francis Cares About Families!**

Pope Francis called an assembly of bishops to meet in October 2014 titled the "Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops." On February 25, 2014 Pope Francis wrote a letter to all families about the upcoming assembly of bishops in Rome to discuss the theme of "pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization". Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family. The pope writes, "This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church."

Pope Francis asks everyone to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and to shed light on the important tasks of addressing the pastoral challenges to the families. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel." Click [here](#) to see the full letter.

In 2015, the Eighth World Meeting of Families will be in the United States hosted in Philadelphia, PA. The dates are September 22-27, 2015 and the theme is "The Gospel of the Family, Resource of Humanity." This theme will emphasize the

## Legislature Adjourns Regular Session

The Senate and Assembly have adjourned for the 2013-14 session. All bills that did not pass both houses are therefore dead. A summary of the session will appear in the next **Catholic Update**.

Barring any special session the Governor might call, the Legislature now stands adjourned until January 2015. The WCC, therefore, will be issuing the **Capitol Update** less frequently.

## WCC Supports "Choose Life" License Plates

The WCC submitted [testimony](#) in support of [Assembly Bill 206](#) (Rep. Andre Jacque, R-DePere), which would permit Wisconsin residents to obtain special license plates with the words "Choose Life." The proceeds from the sale of these plates would support the state's pregnancy care centers. The bill has passed in the Assembly and is now available for a floor vote in the Senate.

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

21st - [Catholic Family Faith Conference](#) 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ Resurrection, Green Bay

29th - [Life and Loss Mass](#), 6:30 p.m. @ St. Paul, Combined Locks

### MAY

1st - John XXIII Symposium @ Silver Lake College

3rd - A Marriage in the Lord - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ St. John's in Antigo

3rd - F.O.C.C.U.S. Facilitator training - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ St. Louis Parish, Dyckesville

17th - A Marriage in the Lord - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. @ Nativity Parish, Green Bay

17th - F.O.C.C.U.S. Facilitator

good news of the family and its intrinsic value to the good of society. Keep updated by checking the website: [World Meeting of Families](#). This is truly an exciting time for us!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mothers' Day - May 11, 2014

Fast approaching after Easter is the month of our Mother, Mary, and a special day to celebrate all mothers.

### Mother's Day Prayer

I love you, Mom. I love your aliveness, your joy in living, your understanding, your giving.

[Click here for the rest of the prayer](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Litany and Intercessions to Mary, Mother of Life

*This litany and prayers to our Blessed Mother is written by Kathleen Jones and Theresa Notare, PhD. and posted on the USCCB website. The prayers address our Blessed Mother with her various names and titles. It is a beautiful prayer to pray as a family or as a personal prayer asking Mary to pray for the many needs of families. [Click here](#) to read the prayer.*

## Dignity of Human Life by Celia McKee

## Birthmother Retreat - Saturday, May 3

A Birthmother Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 9AM-3PM at the Holiday Inn Express in Sheboygan.

This is a day for birthmothers to connect with other women who have created an adoption plan. This event is open to women who completed an adoption in any state, any agency, and is open to women of all ages.

It is free of charge and transportation assistance is available. Breakfast and lunch will also be served.

The day is sponsored by the Dignity of Human Life Office and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

For additional information, please click [here](#):

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## Pro-Life Books For Sale - \$12 Each

Training - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @  
Nativity Parish, Green Bay

#### JUNE

18th - 21st - [Camp Franciscan 2014](#) @ Silver Lake College

#### Recently in *The Compass*

Did you miss last week's Compass article by Catherine Orr on fasting? Check it out [here](#).

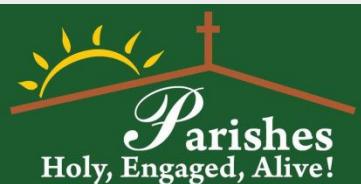
#### Database Updates

The Office of Living Justice is continuing to update our email database.

Please contact Theresa McKenna at [tmckenna@gbdioc.org](mailto: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: [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

We loved Chad Judice's story so much that we want to share it with you! A special price of \$12 (regular price is \$16.95):

[Waiting For Eli](#): A Father's Journey from Fear to Faith About a Lafayette, La., couple and their infant son Eli who was born with a dreaded birth defect called spina bifida. It is an inspiring story of faith, hope and the power of prayer. The book takes us on an emotional roller coaster ride, starting with the day the author first learns of his son's medical condition. This moving story has a strong pro-life, pro-love message, and is made even more compelling by the author's descriptions of little miracles along the way.

[Eli's Reach](#): On the value of human life and the power of prayer The sequel to Waiting for Eli. It is the story of how this child's life has touched the hearts and influenced the thinking of many. Hearing Eli's story has brought about a keener appreciation of the value of all human life and is credited with saving several unborn babies from abortion. Additionally, the story -- as told in the first book and presented by Eli's father during numerous speaking engagements -- has rekindled the faith of many and drawn them into earnest prayer.

Either book (or both) would make a great Easter gift! Or they would be a powerful addition to your home or parish library. Please contact Celia for more information.

#### Quote from Pope Francis

" 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Cor 12:9). Christian triumph is always a cross, yet a cross which is at the same time a victorious banner borne with aggressive tenderness against the assaults of evil," (Evangelii Gaudium 85).

#### Pope John XXIII Symposium "Jesus the Evangelist: Holy, Engaged, Alive!"

Join the departments of Living Justice, Education and New Evangelization for a day to deepen and challenge your understanding of faith and the world around us!

Join Bishop Ricken, Bishop Ramirez and Allan F. Wright for Mass and keynote addresses on facets of the new evangelization including:

- The call to holiness
- The life of Jesus
- Serving the most vulnerable

Find more information [here](#).

Green Bay, visit [www.gbdio.org](http://www.gbdio.org).

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Diocese of Green Bay

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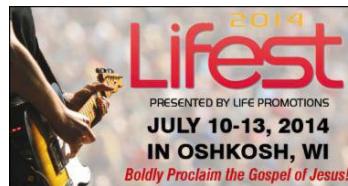
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Register today at [www.gbdio.org/symposium](http://www.gbdio.org/symposium)

## LIFEST 2014



**Lifest** 2014  
PRESENTED BY LIFE PROMOTIONS  
**JULY 10-13, 2014**  
**IN OSHKOSH, WI**  
*Boldly Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus!*

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\*OFFER GOOD FROM 4/1/14 THRU 5/31/14 ON GENERAL FULL EVENT TICKETS ONLY NO LIMIT.  
TICKET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNT WILL BE \$50. SERVICE FEES APPLY NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS.  
VALID THROUGH 5/31/14. VISIT LIFEST.COM FOR COMPLETE DETAILS AND SCHEDULE.

Lifest will be here before we know it! The "Party with a Purpose" is a 4-day event with music, activities, speakers, KidZone,... Top Christian music bands, as well as other artists, will rock Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh from July 10-13! The Diocese of Green Bay will again be sponsoring a campsite, as well as a booth inside the expo center. Our Department of Living Justice will be hosting the campsite on Friday, July 11 all afternoon. Stop by to join in activities revolving around our Catholic Social Teaching, or volunteer to help! Please watch for details in the near future.

**"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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