

TRANSITIONAL DEACON ORDINATION

Seminarian Mark Rutherford of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, will be ordained as a Transitional Deacon on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at his home parish, Christ the King Church in Ann Arbor, at 4:30 pm. Mark is the son of Brad and Karen Rutherford of Ann Arbor. All are welcome to attend.

Mark's Ordination to Priesthood is scheduled for June 13, 2009

On May 16, 2009 ordinations to the Diaconate of both Transitional Deacons and Permanent Deacons will be combined.

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RITE OF COMMISSIONING

On November 15, 2008 at St. Mary Cathedral, Bishop Earl Boyea commissioned lay ecclesial ministers:

Colleen Asher ~ Certified: Pastoral Minister, St. Joseph, Howell

Kimberly Greenburg ~ Certified: Pastoral Associate & Catechetical Leader, St. Joseph, St. John

Joan Hartley ~ Certified: Catechetical Leader, St. Rita, Clarklake

Rose M. Smith ~ Certified: Pastoral Associate, Diocesan Central Services.

Congratulations to all.

Prior to Commissioning, candidates must be certified in one of the specialized areas of ministry approved by the USCCB Committee on Certification and Accreditation. These specialized areas include: Catechetical Leader, Pastoral Minister, Pastoral Associate, Pastoral Coordinator, and Youth Ministry Leader. Lay ecclesial ministers (LEMs) are eligible for ministry certification when they have completed: (1) academic theological studies, (2) the initial spiritual formation process and (3) the equivalent of one year of leadership experience in a supervised ministerial setting. LEMs certified by the diocese are men and women who demonstrate a gift of pastoral leadership which they exercise in a spirit of collaboration with pastors of the Church. After LEMs have acquired initial formation and ministry certification they are commissioned by the Bishop, for service to the Diocese of Lansing.

NFP

There is a charge of \$10.00 per couple for all Introduction to NFP classes which must be paid prior to attending class. Checks should be made out and mailed to: Diocese of Lansing, 300 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

Introduction to NFP Classes

Thursday, January 22, 2009, 7 pm,
Queen of the Miraculous Medal
Parish, Jackson

Saturday, January 24, 9 am, St.
Patrick Church, Brighton

Saturday, January 24, 9 am, St.
Robert Bellarmine Church, Flushing

Monday, January 26, 7 pm, St.
Martha Church, Okemos

Pre-registration is required
for all participants. For more
information contact: NFP
Program at 517-342-2587 or [nfp@
dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:nfp@dioceseoflansing.org).

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Last month I wrote about a program at the Robert Scott Correctional Women's Facility in Plymouth, Michigan, that involved gathering and sending skeins of yarn into the prison for the women to use to make lap robes, mittens and sweaters for needy people. The program had, for some unknown reason, been discontinued a while ago. Since that time, I have heard from Assistant Deputy Warden Robin Cole regarding this effort. She told me that she is very excited about this program because it gives the women an opportunity to do something kind for others who are in need. She is very excited about restarting the program. This opportunity allows the women to remove their focus from their own circumstances and to re-focus on others in doing good works. Activities such as these are critical for rehabilitation. If there is a group that is willing to organize this effort in their church, please call Tim Metts at 517-342-2495.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



DEAF COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Christmas Liturgies for the Deaf Community will be held at St. Mary Cathedral Crypt, 219 Seymour Avenue, Lansing, on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. The celebrant will be Fr. Ken McKenna, OSFS, who will sign the Mass. On Christmas Day, Fr. McKenna will celebrate the Liturgy for the Deaf Community in the Fenton/Flint area at 10 a.m. at St. John Church, 600 N. Adelaide Street, Fenton, Michigan.

DID YOU KNOW?

The holiday season is supposed to be a time full of joy, parties and gatherings with friends and families. But the holidays can be a difficult time for many persons dealing with personal grief, loneliness and illnesses of all kinds. One in four families sitting in the pews is living with someone who has a mental illness. Many are suffering in silence and are afraid to share their pain with others. Mental Illness: A Coping with the Holidays flyer can be downloaded from the website: http://www.mentalhealthministries.net/links_resources/brochures.html. Anyone struggling with mental health issues can contact their local Catholic Charities agency.

DISABILITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On Saturday, January 10, 2009, Ministry with Persons with disAbilities invites all persons with disAbilities from the diocese and their families to attend this celebration. The Christmas Celebration will be held at the Diocesan Center, Madonna Hall, located at 228 North Walnut Street from 2:00-5:00pm. Reservations are required for this event. Please call Joann at 517-342-2497 or e-mail: jdavis@dioceseoflansing.org before January 5, 2009.

BOOK AVAILABLE

Render Unto Caesar by Archbishop Chaput of Denver is an intelligent, relevant and timely look at the responsibilities of Catholics in the public square. The bishop clearly lays out the theological, historical, sociological and political factors that have led to the present hostilities in our country and the shallowness of our political conversation. This would be an outstanding book for any book group discussion. The Life Justice Office is offering it for \$13.00. Please contact Colleen at candrews@dioceseoflansing.org or call 517-342-2560 for more information.

“WORK OF HUMAN HANDS” GIFT CATALOG

Catholic Relief Services sponsors the Work of Human Hands Catalog of Gifts. These handmade items, made in the developing world, are quality crafts at very affordable prices, the purchase of which directly supports those trying to work out of poverty. The catalog includes food and children's clothing as well as instruments and toys along with the usual kitchen and household goods. A paper catalog is not necessary as one may go online to order. Go online to <http://www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts/> for more information and to order.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CATHOLIC DEAF/HH MINISTRY

National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD) has announced that Pastoral Week 2009 will be held in San Francisco, California from January 16-21, 2009. NCOD is the main resource for Catholic Deaf Ministry throughout the country. This year's theme is "Christ our Hope". For more information about NCOD or Pastoral Week, go to www.ncod.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES - MDOC PROGRAM

Six of the Catholic Charities agencies within the diocese work closely together to provide substance abuse treatment services for parolees and probationers from the Michigan Department of Corrections. Each of the agencies views this as an important role for Catholic Charities as we seek to serve those who are often shunned or who may fall through the cracks of our society. Collectively, we also see this work as an extension of the Diocesan Office of Restorative Justice.

For many years, the State of Michigan has purchased these types of services to support the successful rehabilitation of those who have broken the law. Over the past 4 years, the state has put an even stronger emphasis on this type of service as a more cost effective manner to serve a portion of the law-breaking society. With the state's budget crisis during the recent 2-3 years, this area has grown measurably as the State of Michigan has sought to close prison beds and identify effective therapeutic options for those who might normally have been incarcerated. Each of the parolees or probationers is supervised by a local Probation or Parole Officer. These officers make a referral to the local Catholic Charities agency for substance abuse treatment. Some of the agencies are also able to provide additional services for prison parolees. For example, Livingston County Catholic Social Services also provides mental health counseling, family therapy and anger management classes for those who might benefit from them. The scope of additional services will vary between each agency. For more information, please contact the Catholic Charities agency in your community.

COURAGE/ENCOURAGE

COURAGE is a spiritual support group helping Catholic men and women live in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching on same-sex attraction and/or behavior. Each Courage meeting is moderated by a priest. ENCOURAGE is a separate spiritual support group for families and friends of loved ones with same-sex attraction. For information, call the Courage Office at (517) 351-3315 or visit their website at www.courageRC.net. All contacts are confidential. Courage/Encourage has newly-designed posters available for the asking. The Catholic Medical Association has produced the pamphlet Homosexuality and Hope, a clear explanation of the Church's teaching and outreach on homosexuality. These and other materials are available from the Life Justice Office. Contact Colleen at candrews@dioceseoflansing.org or call 517-342-2560.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Like much of the country, our diocese is being impacted by difficult economic circumstances. Many of our parishioners are struggling financially. During such times, they may experience marital stress, depression, substance abuse or other problems. We are blessed to have eight Catholic Charities agencies spread across the ten counties of our diocese. They are extensions of our parishes and are available to help spouses, families and/or individuals with a wide array of services. Their contact information is below and they are available and eager to be of assistance:

St. Vincent Catholic Charities, 2800 W. Willow Street, Lansing 48917 Tel: 517-323-4734

Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High Street, Lansing 48906 Tel: 517-372-4700

Livingston County Catholic Social Services, 2020 E. Grand River, Ste. 104, Howell 48843 Tel: 517-545-5944

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties, 901 Chippewa Street, Flint 48503, Tel: 810-232-9950, and, 120 West Exchange St, Owosso 48867, Tel: 989-723-8239

Catholic Outreach, 509 N. Grand Traverse, Flint 48501 Tel: 810-234-4693

Catholic Charities of Lenawee, 199 N. Broad Street, Adrian 49221 Tel: 517-263-2191

Catholic Charities of Jackson County, 1522 Joy Avenue, Jackson 49203 Tel: 517-782-2551

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County, 4925 Packard Road, Ann Arbor 48108 Tel: 734-971-9781

PASTORAL PLANNING

FAQ - What is a canonical pastor?

A pastor is a priest to whom the diocesan bishop entrusts the pastoral care of a parish. Under his authority, the pastor carries out three broad functions of this care: teaching, sanctifying and governing. Canons 519-534, as well as some others, present his duties, rights and other special functions in fuller detail.

The pastor is to provide this care either personally or through others. Other priests or deacons cooperate with him, and lay members of the Christian faithful assist him according to the norms of Church law.

Normally a priest pastors only one parish and resides there. Yet sometimes he must pastor more than one parish. The bishop may designate a deacon or lay person to assist him by participating in certain aspects of pastoral care in the other parish or parishes. The bishop defines the scope of that participation in light of Church law.

For convenience in such a case, we refer to the priest as the “canonical pastor” of the other parish and to the deacon or lay person as its “parish life coordinator.” The priest remains its pastor, but the coordinator provides leadership and pastoral care according to the limits that the bishop has established.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT

VIRTUS online training is now available. Volunteers who have contact with minors are required to attend one Protecting God’s Children Session for Adults. Aware that occasionally it is impossible for a volunteer to attend a live Protecting God’s Children session, VIRTUS now has on-line training available.

To receive the online training module, follow the steps below:

- Post- register at www.virtus.org for a live Protecting God’s Children Awareness session
- Be sure to enter a valid e-mail address during the registration process
- When prompted: “Have you already attended a session?” Select “Yes”
- Choose a session from the drop-down list at the next screen
- Inform Sally Ellis, sellis@dioceseoflansing.org when registration is complete
- The on-line module will be assigned. There is a two-week deadline to complete
- The volunteer will receive an e-mail from VIRTUS as soon as the on-line course is assigned that reads:

“*** This is an automated email message. Please do not reply. ***”

_____ (volunteer’s name):

Your VIRTUS Online administrator has assigned you to do online training. Please visit www.virtus.org and login to access this training.

Your user id is: _____

If you do not remember your password, click the “FORGOT PASSWORD” link at www.virtus.org

Once you have logged in, click on the MY TRAINING tab and choose the ONLINE TRAINING link on the left-hand side of the page.

If you have any questions, please contact your system administrator.

Your system administrator is:

Sally Ellis

sellis@dioceseoflansing.org

517-342-2551

Volunteers are strongly urged to attend a live Protecting God’s Children Session. Online training is an option in the event that a volunteer absolutely is unable to attend a live session.

REMINDER: volunteers who work with minors are required to attend one live Protecting God’s Children Awareness Session or complete one on-line training module. Full and part-time employees are required to attend one live Protecting God’s Children Awareness Session.

Full and part-time employees are required to complete a background check that includes fingerprinting. Volunteers who have access to minors four or more hours per month are required to complete a background check. Refer to Section II, paragraph B of the Employee Handbook regarding background checks.

FAITH & LITURGICAL COMMISSION PUBLISHINGS

HOW ARE BOTH COMPANIES DOING?

The Diocese of Lansing's two publishing companies merged Nov. 29, 2007. Now that a year has passed, how are both companies doing? What can they do for your parish?

How is FAITH doing?

In an average year, FAITH launches three magazines and annually grows combined circulation by 180,000, making FAITH America's fastest growing Catholic publisher. This year, FAITH will become one of the largest. FAITH's 15 magazines will reach nearly 1 million Catholic homes. With parishioner adherence declining, FAITH's membership magazine model is proving vital. Independent auditors across the country validated FAITH's effectiveness. More growth means FAITH is more affordable. Thank you, Diocese of Lansing, for being a leader in Catholic communication!

What can FAITH do for your parish?

1. Tell us your story ideas so we can get your story told: Who inspires you? E-mail your ideas, news and event info to: editor@faithmag.com.
2. Use the back page of FAITH for your parish message.
3. Use FAITH's free online database to access your list, bulletin art and more.
4. Visit the all-new www.FAITHmag.com to access all FAITH's columnists, daily changing news and more.

How is Liturgical Commission Publishings (LCP) doing?

For more than 40 years, LCP built a national reputation for its quarterly homily and commentary periodicals, which reach nearly one-third of U.S. parishes. Over the past year, LCP entered a strategic planning process, concluded an audit and underwent staff restructuring. These steps will move LCP from annual operational losses to a bright future, with the ability to upgrade and develop new products to serve the Church.

What can LCP do for your parish?

1. Homilies: For 25 cents a day, LCP provides priests and deacons with daily homily guides. Plus, LCP homilies are now available in a digital version.
2. Commentaries: For 25 cents a day, LCP provides a focus, reflection and prayers of the faithful for daily Mass.
3. Liturgical resources: from books and certificates to funeral products and ministry posters, LCP can provide your parish with liturgical products not found anywhere else.
4. Tell us what you think. If you are a current customer, let us know how we can improve. Plus, LCP is looking for new authors. Those with homiletics training can submit writing samples for consideration to: sheila@liturgicalcommission.org.

To order: call 517.484.4449 or visit www.liturgicalcommission.org.

Keep abreast of products, services, news and happenings at:
www.FAITHpublishingservice.com
www.liturgicalcommission.org

FORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1- 23

Advent Hall Prayer Diocesan Center, 3rd Floor - come join us every day at 3:00pm to keep us in the true spirit of the season.

December 20-21

Seminarian Winter Gathering

January 5-8, 2009

Region VI Forum for Pastoral Leadership, Webers' Inn, Ann Arbor. Theme: "Mary" Discipleship for the 21st Century. Contact Anne 342-2510

February 26

Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests with Bishop Boyea - SFRC

May 1-3

Permanent Diaconate Pre-Ordination Retreat, Bethany House, DeWitt. Presenter: Rev. Timothy Gallagher, OMV

May 4-8

Spring Priest Retreat - SFRC

May 16

Permanent Diaconate Ordination, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing - 10:00am. Reception to follow in school gym / cafeteria.

June 13

Priesthood Ordination

June 26

Senior Priest Appreciation Day, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt

July 31

Vocations Night at the Lugnuts

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Goal 7.1 Engage youth, college students, and young adults through ministry and creative programming

Matt Maher to Perform at Holy Redeemer, Burton

Matt Maher is one of the newest and most sought after Catholic artists in the country. For singer/songwriter/worship leader Matt Maher, there is nothing more special about his call than anyone else's, and like those before him, he is trying to live that same call, as his 12-track Essential Records debut album's title says, to be made Empty & Beautiful. Maher breaks open these two simple words on the project, in songs that are both corporate and reflective; driving and soft; each one telling the story from a different perspective. Empty & Beautiful was co-produced by Maher and Jeff Thomas, except for, "As It Is In Heaven," which was produced by Ed Cash (Chris Tomlin, Bebo Norman, Bethany Dillon). He will be performing at Holy Redeemer, Burton on November 24 at 7:00 P.M. All youth and young adults are welcome to attend. Check out this flier and be there.

DYAC and Youth Events Committees will have their next meeting December 13, 10:00 a.m. – lunch, at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Brighton.

National Catholic Youth Conference isn't until 2009 but deposits will be due by January. A separate mailing by email will go out in November with forms for participants and vital information.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS



CAFE

Goal 3.1: Create comprehensive continuing adult education and formation opportunities.

As part of your efforts to reach inactive Catholics, you can use an internet resource from St. Anthony Messenger Press. OnceCatholic.org is a welcoming interactive web community. It puts people in touch with online resources related to various reasons individuals are no longer active in the Church. Access their site at www.oncecatholic.org. You can:

- Get a stack of postcards about this website to mail to individuals.
- Post the website address in your bulletin and encourage parishioners to share it with inactive family members and friends.
- Put this link on your parish webpage for any visitor to find.
- Consider this as one concrete action for your parish evangelization effort.

LITURGY AND MUSIC CONFERENCE

“HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SINGING?”

Goal 6, Strategy A – Foster education and formation opportunities which will promote full and active participation in the liturgy.

Goal 6, Strategy D – Promote quality music in the liturgy.

Goal 6, Strategy E – Provide education and formation for liturgical ministers.

The Office of Worship cordially invites you to participate in the annual Liturgy and Music Conference on Saturday, February 7, 2009, 8:30 to 3:30 pm at St. John the Baptist Church, Howell.

This year's conference will feature famed liturgist, composer, and dynamic clinician, Dr. Steven R. Janco. He will offer two plenary sessions “Music and Catholic Identity” and “Sing to the Lord” (on the recent USCCB document).

As always, additional workshops will address specific formation for various liturgical ministries.

Registration forms will be posted online and a limited number will arrive in next month's parish packet. \$25 per person/ \$20 each for five or more per parish. For more information, call 517-342-2480.

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Goal 7.2 Engage more adults in ministry with youth and young adults

The National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry: (NCCYM) is the largest adult conference for Catholic youth ministers in the country. Join thousands of your colleagues—youth and campus ministers, religious education leaders, clergy, religious, performers, artists and volunteers—for four days of inspiring keynotes, challenging workshops, dynamic prayer and worship, helpful networking, extensive resources, and good-hearted entertainment. The dates are December 4-7 in Cleveland, OH. To register all you have to do is click the following link. <http://nccym.nfcym.org/>

GATHERING OF CATECHETICAL LEADERS

Goal 4.3, Strategy A: Emphasize through formation and education that spiritual growth in the likeness of Christ is the heart of ministry and leadership.

DREs, CYMs, Principals, Directors of Adult Faith Formation, RCIA Directors, Evangelization Chairpersons and others engaged in catechetical ministry are invited to join their peers in ministry from across the state for a 25 hour ministry renewal. This will take place on Thursday, January 8, 12:00 noon to Friday, January 9, 1:00 pm at Bethany House, DeWitt. Workshops will include: marketing your program, taking a second look at working with volunteers, wearing multiple ministry hats/doing ministry in multiple parishes, and a scripture update resulting from the recent Synod of Bishop on the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church. Registration deadline is December 18. For a registration brochure, contact: Ava at 517-342-2484 or apung@dioceseoflansing.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Goal 4.3, Strategy A: Emphasize through formation and education that spiritual growth in the likeness of Christ is the heart of ministry and leadership.

...for the Pastoral Ministers/Administrators Retreat, Thursday, February 19, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Bethany House, DeWitt. More details to follow.

Goal 4: Nurture ministers and leaders in the life of the Spirit and the vision of the Church to use their gifts to serve the needs of all.

The 2009 Annual Conference of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership is coming to the Archdiocese of Detroit April 27-30 at the Dearborn Michigan Hyatt. The theme is “Belong, Engage, Believe”, “Pertenece, Dedicacion, Creer”. Come to celebrate the 10th anniversary of “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us”. Network with other parish and diocesan catechetical leaders.

Experience dynamic keynote presentations, round tables, poster postings, hot topics, and numerous theological updates. To register and for additional information contact www.nccl.org.

CERTIFICATION OF PARISH STAFF PERSONS

Goal 4: Nurture ministers and leaders in the life of the Spirit and the vision of the church to use their gifts to serve the needs of all.

All parish catechetical leaders, youth ministry leaders and pastoral ministry leaders are asked to pursue certification through the Diocese of Lansing. Our certification system has been reviewed and approved by the United States Conference of Catholics Bishops. We are currently completing the process for a group of parish staff persons. If you would like to be part of the next group to go through this process this winter, contact one of the following by November 30 for specific information and certification materials:

- Michael Andrews, Office of Catechesis, 517-342-2479, mandrews@dioceseoflansing.org
- Pat Rinker, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 517-342-2485, prinker@dioceseoflansing.org
- Pete Ries, Office of Evangelization, RCIA and Adult Faith Formation, 517-342-2486, pries@dioceseoflansing.org
- Nancy Joseph, 517-342-2512, njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org



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**DIOCESAN CALENDAR
 NOVEMBER, 2008 - JANUARY, 2009**

November 22	Transitional Diaconate Ordination - Christ the King, Ann Arbor, 10:30am	December 13	We Care Seminar - St. Paul, Owosso, 9:00am
November 22-23	Catholic Campaign for Human Development	December 13	Youth Events Planning / Diocesan Youth Advisory Committees - St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton, 10:00am
November 24	Matt Mahar Concert - Holy Redeemer, Burton, 7:00pm	December 13-14	Retired Religious Collection
November 25	Diocesan Evangelization Advisory Committee - Diocesan Center, 9:30am	December 20-21	Seminarian Winter Gathering - Bethany House
November 25	Introduction to NFP Class - St. Joseph, Howell, 7:30pm	December 24 - January 2	Central Service offices closed
November 26	Deadline for application for certification as a Catechetical Leader, Youth Ministry Leader, Pastoral Minister/Associate	January 5-8	Region VI Forum for Pastoral Leadership - Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor
November 27-28	Diocesan Central Service offices closed	January 6	CYM Advisory Council - Diocesan Center, 9:30am
November 30	First Sunday of Advent	January 8-9	State Catechetical Leaders Gathering - Bethany House
December 3-7	NCCYM Pre-Conference, Cleveland	January 10-11	Remarriage Seminar - St. Joseph, Jackson
December 4	Diocesan Catechetical Day 2009 Planning Meeting V - Diocesan Center, 10:00am	January 14	CAFE Advisory - Diocesan Center, 9:30am
December 5	We Care Seminar - Catholic Charities, Jackson, 6:00pm	January 14	Christian Initiation Advisory Committee - Diocesan Center, 11:45am
December 6	We Care Seminar - Catholic Charities, Jackson, 9:00am	January 15	Diocesan Board of Education and Catechesis - Diocesan Center, 6:16pm
December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation	January 17-18	Diocesan Youth Advisory Committee Overnight, Quality Inn, Lansing
December 9	Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mary Cathedral, Diocese of Lansing	January 17	Youth Events Planning Committees - Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing, 10:00am
		January 25-31	Catholic Schools Week
		January 26	Catholic Schools Week Mass - St. Mary Cathedral, 10:00am

Help us decrease printing and posting expenses!

To receive *VOICES Alive* via e-mail each month, send a request to mdiebold@DioceseofLansing.org