

VOLUME II
ISSUE 8

July
2009



Upcoming Events

Fri.-Sat., August 28-29
Youth Ministers Boot Camp
*St. Anthony Retreat Center,
Three Rivers*

Saturday, September 12
10:00 AM
Bishop's Annual Anniversary
Mass for Married Couples
Holy Spirit, Fresno

Fri.-Sun., September 18-20
RCIA Leadership Retreat
*St. Anthony Retreat Center,
Three Rivers*

Saturday, October 10
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
21st Annual Diocesan Congress
Visalia Convention Center

Sunday, October 11
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Diocesan Youth Day
Visalia Convention Center



DIOCESE
OF
FRESNO

Office of Ministries

Newsletter - The Grapevine



this issue

Message from the Director P.1

Catechesis / Catechetical Formation P.2

School of Ministry / Social Justice P.3

Detention Ministry / Media Center P.4

Youth Ministry / Multicultural-Campesino P.5

Family Life P.6

Wow! What a busy month July has been for our office. We hosted a regional formation summer course in Pastoral Juvenil for RECOSS (Region XI Commission on the Spanish Speaking); coordinated a High School Leadership Camp; offered a thank you dinner for Youth Ministers; designed, published, mailed and delivered Registration Guidebooks for Congress and Youth Day; and launched a Youth Day website and on-line registration for Congress and Youth Day. Please visit www.dioceseoffresno.org/congress/ and follow the links to check them out! There are also many updates on our Congress website which include a complete list of our speakers.

Recently our office and other Pastoral Center staff received training for our newly installed video-conferencing equipment. It is currently being tested with parishes in the diocese and we hope that it will prove to be a useful tool for many of our formation programs in the diocese. Our staff is already planning for the many ways that we can creatively use it. Thank you to the many diocesan staff and parish personnel who have been so supportive and helpful as we coordinate this new project.

There will be many opportunities for formation during the month of August so please see this edition and mark your calendars. Wishing all of you a wonderful and peaceful summer!

Paz,

Patty

On-line Registration now available for Congress & Youth Day



PayPal

On-line registration is now available by following the registration link on our Diocesan Congress website. To register on-line you must pay using a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card are accepted) or a PayPal account. You do not need an e-mail address to register, but it is recommended so that you may receive an invoice and information about your registration. You may also register a group on-line. To register a group, you will need to submit an address and phone number for each registrant. You may enter the parish address and phone number for each registrant. Please help our staff save time by registering on-line!

Catechesis



Madeline Loiacono
Coordinator

Annual RCIA Leadership Retreat

Fri.-Sun., Sep. 18-20
St. Anthony Retreat Center,
Three Rivers

Sr. Danielle Witt &
Msgr. John Griesbach
"Fanning into Flame the Fire
in Our Hearts"

[Using Lectio Divina in
"breaking open the Word"]

\$150/shared \$190/private
\$275 married couple
Limited scholarships
available.

www.stanthonyretreat.org
(559) 561-4595

Although most people are trying to take advantage of the summer months and find some time to relax or regroup, some of us are busy planning – looking ahead to what the next year might bring!

The Diocesan office is busy planning, too - looking ahead at what offerings would be beneficial to you – the Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCL's). There are some things already in the works and some even have dates! The next big event coming up is the annual RCIA Leaders Retreat. This retreat is for anyone who is in RCIA leadership or is part of an RCIA team. The retreat this year is being held September 18, 19 and 20 at St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers. The retreat directors will be Sr. Danielle Witt and Msgr. John Griesbach. This retreat, "Fanning into Flame the Fire in our Hearts," will focus

on using Lectio Divina throughout the process of RCIA and the richness it can bring to breaking open the Word. The cost is \$150/shared room, \$190/private room and \$275 for married couples. The retreat begins Friday evening and will conclude Sunday at noon. There are some limited scholarships available. Information is being sent out to parishes and you can always contact St. Anthony Retreat Center for more information or to reserve your spot by logging-on to www.stanthonyretreat.org or calling (559) 561-4595.

Also in the works is an "in-service" or "training day" for new or relatively new PCL's (also referred to as DRE, CRE, DFF, DCM, etc.) This day will take place in November and will assist those of you who are newer to catechetical leadership in finding your way. In order to make this day as beneficial to you as possi-

ble, I would like for you to offer me suggestions on areas that are most troublesome or uncertain to you. Don't be shy about your input – let me know what you need because if one of you feels the need then there are certainly others who do also and would benefit from us discussing it. E-mail me, leave me a voice-mail, or drop me a note – just please feel free to contribute to the planning of this training event.

Also – as our teleconferencing is up and running – please feel free to offer suggestions for possible events that could take advantage of this great technology – Basic Catechist certification courses, meetings, in-services – the possibilities are up to you!

Peace and blessings

Madeline

Catechist Formation Opportunities

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Bakersfield
900 H Street
The Betenbaugh Room

(661) 327-4734
Alice Fry - Facilitator

Thursdays: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

August 20: Module 3, Session 4
The Scriptures (Part 1)

September 3: Module 4, Session 1
The Scriptures (Part 2)

September 17: Module 4, Session 2
Catholic Morality (Part 1)

October 1: Module 4, Session 3
Catholic Morality (Part 2)

October 15: Module 4, Session 4
Methods—Grades

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Clovis
Northwest corner of 8th and DeWitt
Notre Dame Hall

(559) 299-4270
Karen Mentlewski - Facilitator

Thursday, August 6, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Module 2, Session 3: Roles of the Catechist

Thursday, August 13, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Module 2, Session 4: Adult Faith Formation

Saturday, August 15, 9:30am - 2:00pm
Module 3, Session 4: The Scriptures (Part 1)
Module 4, Session 1: The Scriptures (Part 2)

Thursday, August 20, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Module 3, Session 3: Person of the Catechist

Thursday, August 27, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Module 4, Session 4: Methods (Grades K-8)

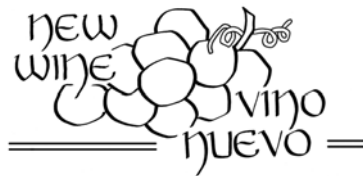
Saturday, August 29, 9:30am - 2:00pm
Module 4, Session 2: Catholic Morality (Part 1)
Module 4, Session 3: Catholic Morality (Part 2)

School of Ministry

The summer planning is ongoing as the “new and improved” **New Wine** courses are being prepared. You may read the excellent article about our recent **New Wine/Vino Nuevo** graduates in the current issue of our diocesan newspaper [Central California Catholic Life](#).

After much input from graduates and teachers of this lay ministry formation, updated materials are being gathered and several former teachers are designing the courses in Sacraments, Church History and Morality to be a part of the **Foundations** year, beginning in January of 2010. Registration information and a description of the courses have been

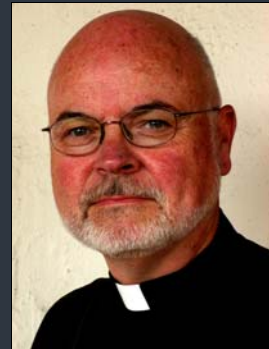
sent to all parishes and clergy of the diocese. If you don't see information in your parish bulletin, call your parish office and discuss your interest with your pastor or parish administrator. Once the application process is com-



plete later in the fall, dates and sites will be determined for classes. The **Vino Nuevo** program is also being planned for formation of Spanish-speaking lay ministers. These applications are also available at your parishes.

The M.A. in Pastoral Ministries program, co-sponsored by the Diocese of Fresno and the Holy Names University, Oakland, is planning to start up again in Fresno and Bakersfield the end of August. Our continuing students will once again benefit from the excellent classes, discussions, retreats and theological reflection. Our first group of students, now half-way through this degree program, will be engaging in their year of Supervised Ministry Placement in collaboration with their pastors or ministry supervisors.

Anyone interested in these lay ecclesial ministry formation programs may call the School of Ministry (559) 488-7474.



Fr. David Norris
Dean



Diocesan Formation for Ministry

Social Justice

July was quite a month. For one thing, on its fifth day I hit my 76th birthday—somebody at my Sunday Mass at Fresno's St. Paul Newman Center squealed on me and suddenly the congregation was serenading me with “Happy Birthday.”

Also I went down to my two favorite prisons (Avenal and Pleasant Valley) a couple of times each and was overwhelmed as usual by the exciting things that were happening there. One of the exciting things was bad: a fight between two gangs in which an inmate was killed by a Corrections Officer who was trying to stop the fight. This meant that the yard was closed down and will be down for some weeks, or even months. I wanted to see a couple of men in that yard, now I can't and I don't even know if they were involved in the fight.

And one exciting thing was good:

the spiritual development of one of the inmates who told me that the three years he has served there were the best thing that has happened to him. They have served as a type of retreat for him, getting him closer to Jesus and so to God and to other people as well. He told me he senses that he has the vocation to reach out to his fellow inmates, especially the ones who do not go to chapel. The fight troubled me and the spiritual growth delighted me but all those men are my brothers and I feel incredible compassion for them and I want them all to grow in God's love.

One other very important event this past month was my decision to focus very strongly on only one issue for a while in my Social Justice Ministry—and that issue is the death penalty. I have written about it before but that is not enough. With the help of an ecumenical volunteer group I will

form, I will scream out to our churches and to our congregations and to our parishioners so that they will want to work with me to kill state killing, for that is what the death penalty is.

During his life Jesus taught us that our brothers and sisters deserve our love, even when they have harmed us. He taught us to love our enemy and turn our cheek. He identified himself with guys in prison. He forgave the woman taken in adultery and prevented her execution. Now during our lives Jesus teaches us the same thing through His Spirit.

Just why do some of us think that it's okay to execute? The Church doesn't. It has come out strongly against the death penalty. Please open your minds and your hearts and support our drive to do away with this most immoral punishment. In Jesus' name, let us do away with the death penalty.



Fr. Jim Rude, SJ
Director

Detention Ministry



Claude Muncey
Director



Save the date:
Friday, November 6, 2009.

The California Catholic Conference is sponsoring day-long Restorative Justice training sessions this fall in three locations: Southern California, Northern California, and in Fresno for Central California. The leadoff speaker for the day is Suzanne Newhouse from the California state Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS). She is an advocate for victims of crime and for a view of justice that includes care and ministry to all those affected by crime. Some of the topics that will be covered:

- The idea of restorative justice, and how it differs from our current approach to handling the consequences of crime.
- The role of the Roman Catholic Church in promoting restorative justice in our culture. Practical steps and resources, both in and outside of the Church proper.

Representatives from all 12 Catholic arch/dioceses in California have been working on this training since early this year, and it promises to be a unique opportunity for those involved or interested in promoting a more just and more effective criminal justice system. More details on this event and registration will be available in the coming months.

Get on the Bus!



Maria Costanzo Palmer

In Workshop B-09 Maria will give an overview of this program that unites children with their mothers and fathers in prison, as well as personal stories of the people served.

*21st Annual Diocesan Congress
Saturday, October 10, 2009*

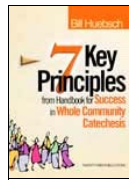
*Visalia Convention Center
303 E. Acequia Ave.*

Media Center

[Check out these books from our Congress Keynote Speaker](#)

Dreams and Visions: Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation
By Bill Huebsch

This book offers a strong plan of formation for the whole community with the goal of helping all parishioners turn their hearts so fully toward Christ that a fire is lit in the heart of the parish itself. Highly recommended for all pastors, parish teams, DREs, and parish ministers.

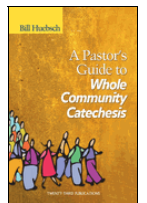


7 Key Principles from Handbook for Success in Whole Community Catechesis (DVD)
by Bill Huebsch

Bill's hope is that parish leaders will use these presentations with their parishioners to engage them in fruitful discussions, and thus enter into these new ideas with grace and unity.

A Pastor's Guide to Whole Community Catechesis
By Bill Huebsch

This book is an essential reference for every pastor in these days of rapid change, disillusionment with the Church, and confusion mixed with hope among God's people. It offers affirmation for the pastors and encourages them to embrace lifelong faith formation in the parish.



Here Comes Everybody!
By Leisa Anslinger

Built upon real parish experience, *Here Comes Everybody!* provides guidance and encouragement for any who are considering whole community catechesis, or for those ready to begin this process of faith transformation. An excellent resource for catechetical leaders, pastors, faith formation teams, and other pastoral leaders.



Rosie Navarro
Bilingual Secretary

Youth & Young Adult

Online registration for Youth Day is now up and ready. We are eagerly awaiting this wonderful opportunity to serve the young people and their chaperones. We have a great day planned for you! Also, during this year's congress we will host our first Young Adult Night for people in their 20s and 30s. This event will feature live music by Ceili Rain and an inspiring conversation with Mary Jansen, Director of Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry and Evangelization for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. She will offer scriptural references and show Catholic young adults ways to stay connected to the parish as well as dialogue about the needs of balancing faith lives, work, and community commitments. In keeping with our congress theme, young adults are invited to come and explore ways to connect with the Word of God and be a source of life for their parish.

We held our first Youth Ministers recognition dinner sponsored by Loyola Press. We were blessed by having the opportunity to have Mass celebrated by Bishop John T. Steinbock and hear some very profound words of gratitude and support. We hope this was an opportunity for those 60 people present to hear how much appreciated their work is in our diocese. Thank you to all who made the event so beautiful.

We held our High School Leadership Camp that was co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. We had the blessing of having the Fourth Degree Knights from OLPH, Clovis, and Council 0440 from Fresno working on behalf of the young people of the diocese. We had 5 parishes/schools present: 33 teens and 9 adults. We were blessed with the participation of Pat Clasby from the diocese of San Diego and John Angotti, recording artist for WLP. We look forward to next year's summer

camp to be held August 2-5 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. If you wish to be part of the planning committee, please e-mail me.

Youth Ministers Boot Camp: August 28-29 at St. Anthony Retreat, Three Rivers. Come hear stories, learn skills, and find an answer to the most asked question — "What forms do I need to fill out?" Registration by August 24: \$95 shared room; \$120 single room; 4 meals included.

Youth Day: Visalia Convention Center; Sunday, October 11; 10am - 5pm. Mass celebrated by Bishop Steinbock. \$20 per person. T-Shirts: \$12 or \$14 for XXL. Information can be found in the Diocesan Congress and Youth Day registration guidebook or on-line at www.dioceseoffresno.org/youthday/.

God bless you and may Mary be your protection and bless all your efforts.



Alejandro Barraza
Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Youth Day Committee Planning Meeting
Monday, August 17, 10:00 AM
Diocesan Office of Ministries

Youth Ministers Boot Camp
Friday-Saturday, August 28-29
St. Anthony Retreat, Three Rivers

Youth Day
Sunday, October 11
Visalia Convention Center
www.dioceseoffresno.org/youthday/

Multicultural/Campesino

Bishop Steinbock celebrated three Masses for migrants and farmworkers in July. The first Mass was held at the Merced Migrant Center on July 20. The camp was decorated for a festive occasion. Twenty-five children received their First Eucharist. A music group from Sacred Heart parish provided music for the liturgy. A wonderful meal was provided with carnitas and birria.

On July 22, the bishop celebrated Mass at a camp on Nebraska Ave., near Caruthers. The Mass was attended by people from several campesino ministry communities in the area of Fresno. People represented seven or eight campesino communities. Parts of the celebra-

tion were translated in Mixteco, as a significant part of the group was indigenous. A wonderful meal followed of Posole.



On July 24, fifty children celebrated their First Eucharist at a migrant Mass at Lost Hills. The celebration included nearly five hundred people. The community prepared an elaborate altar that was elevated. The children and their Padrinos were beautifully organized and prepared for the liturgy. The area was prepared as an outdoor church. Even the

parking area was lined.

The beauty of these Masses is the tremendous display of devotion and faith of humble people who work hard in our fields. We must commend those dedicated lay volunteers who prepare the children for their First Eucharist. They do an exceptional job with little resources and less than optimal conditions for their classes.

At each Mass campesino work was honored at the offertory as the offering included fruits of their labors and symbols of the work in the fields. One cannot help but be impressed by the display of devotion at these Masses. The preparation of the people changes a camp or a parking lot into sanctuaries of hope and faith.



Fr. Mike McAndrew, CSsR
Coordinator



**Sr. Joanne Bauer, CSC
Coordinator**

Save the Dates

Saturday, Sep. 12, 2009, 10 am
Bishop's Annual Anniversary Mass
Holy Spirit Church, Fresno
Couples register with your parish;
Parishes register with Family Life

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, 1-3 pm
Family Life Faire
Msgr. F.X. Singleton Hall, Fresno
Organizations register with Family Life
4:15 pm Respect Life Mass follows
St. John's Cathedral, Fresno

Recommended Websites

www.foryourmarriage.org
U.S. Catholic Bishops' website

www.embracingourdying.com
California Catholic Bishops' website

The Diocese of Fresno isn't sizzling alone this summer, as Family Life Ministries reveals some "hot" news:

Bishop Steinbock's September 12, 2009 Annual Anniversary Mass

Parishes need to register their married couples who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, or more than 50th -year anniversary with Sr. Joanne no later than August 19, in order for the couple to receive an invitation to the Mass and a wedding anniversary certificate at the reception. The Mass will be celebrated at 10am at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fresno, with Bishop Steinbock presiding.

Christian Family Support bilingual English-Spanish Hot line

Gabriel and Marina Martinez have opened their hot line, 1-900-505-VIDA. The 2pm to 8pm hotline runs from Monday through Friday and is limited to attentive listening, relaxation techniques, understanding behavior and consequence(s), exploring alternative approaches to deal with crisis, and praying. The charge for the call, which must be accepted by a caller older than 18 years, is \$5 for the first minute, plus \$2 per additional minute. The charge will be included in the caller's landline telephone provider monthly bill, which is payable directly to the telephone company.

"Coping with Life Alone," is a new 10-week series for the Widowed, Divorced & Separated hosted by Beginning Experience Ministry. It will be held at the Fresno Diocesan Pastoral Center, July 16-September 17, 2009, 7-9pm.

Retrouvaille Fresno Community has a new website: <https://retrofrsno.securespsites.com/default.aspx>

20% off on DVDs related to Family Life - if parishes call Br. Richard Crag, OSB, (Paraclete Press, 800-451-5006 ext. 352) to request the discount.

- *Beyond Regret: Entering into Healing and Wholeness after an Abortion*, 35 minutes, \$29.95
- *Footprints On Our Hearts*, 60 minutes, \$29.95. (For parents going through a baby's death due to miscarriage or stillbirth)
- *Helping Children Grieve (2009)* With Khris Ford and Paula D'Arcy, 55 minutes, \$59.95
- *Shattered Dreams: Healing After Divorce*, 30 minutes, \$29.95
- *At Death's Door: Facing the Terminal Illness of a Loved One & Beyond Death's Door: Help for the Grieving Process*, 35 minutes each, \$64.95 for set
- *When Your Parent Needs You: A Guide to Positive Growth When Caring for Aging Parents*, 35 minutes, \$29.95

Marriage Enrichment Retreats

Rev. James Torrens, S.J. — Director

Spanish — Saturday, Sep. 26, 2009, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, St. Anthony's Ranch, Sanger

English — Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, 7:00 pm - Saturday, Nov. 21, 5:00 pm, St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers

Family Life Organizations

2009 Weekends for the Engaged
Friday - Sunday, November 13-15
(559) 875-2024

2009 Rachel's Vineyard in English
Friday - Sunday, November 13-15
(877) 629-6626

2009 Rachel's Vineyard in Spanish
Friday - Sunday, September 11-13
(888) 686-8537

2009 Retrouvaille (for troubled marriages)
Friday - Sunday, September 11-13
(559) 589-9657; (559) 935-1424

2009 Beginning Experience
Friday - Sunday, October 9-11

2010 Beginning Experience
Friday - Sunday, February 19-21

Fresno Catholic Singles
2nd Monday of each month
(559) 905-3643

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