

VOLUME III
ISSUE 2

December
2009

Upcoming Events



January 11, 2010
Understanding and Using
Scripture with Youth
On-line Course

January 16, 2010
Family Life Faire
1:00 - 3:30 PM
Respect Life Mass
4:15 PM
St. John's Cathedral

January 23, 2010
West Coast Walk for Life
11:00 AM
San Francisco

February 4-5, 2010
Parish Catechetical Leader
Annual Retreat
*St. Anthony Retreat Center,
Three Rivers*

February 22, 2010
Effective Strategies for
Pastoral Ministry with Youth
On-line course

March 13, 2010
Retreat for Pastoral Juvenil
Group Leaders
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
St. Joachim, Madera

March 19-21, 2010
L.A. R.E. Congress
Anaheim Convention Center

March 25, 2010
Christm Mass
Morning of Reflection
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Holy Spirit Parish, Fresno



DIOCESE
OF
FRESNO

Office of Ministries
Newsletter - The Grapevine



this issue

Message from the Director P.1
Detention Ministry / Media Center P.2
Youth Ministry / Multicultural-Campesino P.3
Catechesis / KNXT-TV P.4
School of Ministry / Social Justice P.5
Family Life P.6

Merry Christmas from the Office of Ministries! This past month has been busier than usual as we have received many calls and visits from parishes and parishioners who are in need. Although we have not had any large events, the pace for this month really picked up keeping many of us pretty busy. One of the many calls that we received were surrounding the celebration of Las Posadas. Many expressed concerns regarding safe environment and safety. By September of next year we plan on developing guidelines for parishes wishing to celebrate this great tradition. We hope these guidelines will help parish leaders in planning and organizing Posadas at parishes or homes of parishioners.

As we head into the new year, we are excited to announce that the Office of Ministries Newsletter will be going completely green. Over 300 individuals have signed up to receive our newsletter via e-mail, but we still mail out hard copies to each parish on a monthly basis. In order to cut down on costs of printing and postage, we will be using a new e-mail newsletter system. In order to receive our newsletter you **MUST** sign-up to receive it. If you have not already done so, please visit our Ministries website www.dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/Newsletters/ to sign up. This will be the last issue that will be mailed out as a hard copy to parishes. If your parish does not have e-mail, we recommend that someone in your parish who is involved in ministry sign up and print a copy for your parish. Wishing all of you a Happy New Year!

Patty

New Logo for 2010 Diocesan Congress

We are happy to present our logo for our 2010 Diocesan Congress. Our new logo highlights the theme "Being a Eucharistic People." Many of you may wonder how we choose our themes. Often they are chosen to coincide with the theme of Catechetical Sunday. Last year we focused on our Baptismal Calling and Scripture and this year we are focusing on the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. The logo reflects a community of people gathered around the Eucharist. The different colors of the four persons represent the diversity of the Church and each of the four persons also forms part of the cross. The Eucharist at the center unifies our diversity within our diocese.



Detention Ministry



Claude Muncey
Director



As the year ends, let us reflect on the words of Cesar Chavez:

Prayer of the farm workers' struggle

*Show me the suffering of the most miserable;
So I will know my people's plight.*

*Help us love even those who hate us;
So we can change the world.*

*Free me to pray for others;
For you are present in every person.*

Amen.

*Help me take responsibility for my own life;
So that I can be free at last.*

*Grant me courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.*

*Give me honesty and patience;
So that the Spirit will be alive among us.*

*Let the Spirit flourish and grow;
So that we will never tire of the struggle.*

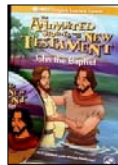
*Let us remember those who have died for justice;
For they have given us life.*



César E. Chávez

Media Center

Please remember to submit your Media Center Membership forms ASAP.



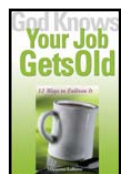
The Animated Stories from the New Testament — John the Baptist (DVD)

This story begins with the blessing John's birth was to his aged parents then grows in strength and integrity as he stands against political and spiritual adversity to preach about the coming of the Lord. Finally, John beholds and baptizes Jesus, the Lamb of God.



When You Teach in a Catholic School (Book) By Judith Dunlap

Dunlap provides inspiration and practical tips for teachers who want to share their faith in the classroom and school environment. This valuable resource offers fresh insight into the ministry of teaching—for teachers, school staff and administration, and parent-teacher organizations.



God Knows Your Job Gets Old: 12 Ways to Enliven It (Book)

The career guide with spiritual perspective. Career pro Marianne LaBarre has spent years helping people attain success and satisfaction in their jobs, and now she's crafted a career guide to help people define their careers, critique their work, embrace their callings, and transform their jobs into productive, fulfilling endeavors.



Rosie Navarro
Bilingual Secretary

Youth & Young Adults

These are excerpts from a recent article published by the *Central Valley Business Times* on November 18, 2009 titled "Nearly one out of five California kids live in poverty" "The specter of poverty is part of everyday life for tens of thousands of children in the Central Valley, and more than 1.7 million in California, according to new figures released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau says more than 1.7 million children live in poverty in California, 18.5 percent of all residents 18 years of age or under. Within the Central Valley, the childhood poverty rates are: Fresno County, 31.3% (83,435 children), Kern County, 26.6% (62,540 children), Kings County, 22.5% (9,066 children), Madera County, 27.0% (10,930 children), Merced County, 28.8% (21,790 children), Tulare County, 30.7% (41,040 children)." As we start our New Year 2010, I believe we all have put a face to hunger and need. It is unfortunate that due to the economic crisis we all have come to know people who have lost their jobs or are struggling financially. I personally invite you to let the Spirit of Christmas, especially of giving, permeate your lives and allow you to be givers of

life not only spiritually but economically during the upcoming year.

Recently, I read an article in *Time Magazine* describing the first decade of 2000 as a "decade from hell." The author of the article presented all the challenges we have faced, but closed his piece by inviting the readers to meditate on the lessons learned and to apply them to the new decade. I believe the biggest lesson we all have learned is the frailty of our reality. How fragile our economic stability is and how we need each other! I invite you too to keep that in mind and teach our teens how much we all need each other and how we can all be the answer to someone else's needs. The **Youth Day 2010** Committee is inviting Youth Ministers and those responsible for the youth of the diocese to join in our Diocesan "**Sacred Heart Pilgrimage 2010**" by planning a service project that will have a significant impact in the lives of your community. We invite the young people to perform Corporal Works of Mercy in their local communities and bring food items to donate at Youth Day on **10/10/10**. We invite each participant to bring 10 pounds or each small group of 10 to bring 100 pounds. You will receive more information later in the month.



Alejandro Barraza
Coordinator

Youth / Young Adult Ministry
Recognition Mass and Dinner
June 28, 2010, 6:00 PM,
Diocesan Pastoral Center

High School Leadership Camp
"Being a Faithful Servant"
This is for core teams of teens
and adults. August 2-5, 2010,
Diocesan Pastoral Center

WYD 2011 in Spain
For information on the trip:
[www.dioceseoffresno.org/
ministry/WYD2011FCD.pdf](http://www.dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/WYD2011FCD.pdf)

We are looking for hosting sites
for our meetings in the Fresno
Metropolitan & Rural Deaneries.

Multicultural/Campesino

Las Posadas calls to mind Joseph and Mary on their journey to Bethlehem where Christ was born. As the story is told in the gospels, Joseph and Mary have to flee into Egypt as refugees. They eventually return to Nazareth where Jesus grows in "wisdom, age and grace." In Multicultural and Campesino Ministry we meet travelers among the people of God. The USCCB has a specific office in Washington to address the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers. On Dec. 7, 2009 the office conducted a national conference on the Internet. The topic was: *Christ's Many Faces, Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers in the US Catholic Church Today*.

Issues of immigration were presented as both challenges and opportunities. Too often the discussion of immigrant ministry focuses on the difficulties of communication and fail to consider the opportunity to discover talents, insights and perspectives from other cultures. The incorporation of religious and spiritual practices of peoples brings a richness of expression into the life

of the faith. The celebrations of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Posadas, Nativity and celebrations of New Year, particularly from the Asian community enrich the Church greatly.

In the coming year we wish to bring attention to participation in the Census, Comprehensive Immigration Reform, the importance of citizenship and the unification of families. The movement of peoples has been taking place since scriptural times with the people of Israel going to Egypt and returning to the Promised Land and with the Holy Family and the missionary journeys of the Apostles to the movement of people today. The ministry of welcome calls all of us to be open to the blessings we receive in this movement of people.

During the coming year Immigration Reform should come more and more to the attention of people in this country. Let us be mindful to encourage people to look not only at the challenges, but the opportunity that this debate gives to us.



Fr. Mike McAndrew, CSsR
Coordinator

Catechesis



Madeline Loiacono
Coordinator

During the month of December, Ana Barraza has been assisting the Office of Ministries with catechetics. We are very grateful for her support during this time as she has been busy scheduling formation events for catechist certification and preparing for upcoming events.

Many of you should have received the flyer inviting Parish Catechetical Leaders (DRE's and CRE's) to the Annual Retreat on February 4-5, 2010 at St. Anthony Retreat in Three Rivers. If you did not receive a flyer, please visit <http://dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/formation/RetreatFlyer-Feb2010-Eng.pdf> to download the registration form. Please remember that this is for coordinators/directors of Catechetical programs. This is great opportunity for spiritual rest and to prepare for the upcoming Lenten season.

The Theme for this year's retreat will be **JAZZ UP YOUR MINISTRY! JAZZ UP YOUR LIFE! GET RHYTHM!**



Teresa Dominguez will be the retreat Leader in English and Rosa Maria Guembe will guide the retreat in Spanish. Please make sure to RSVP by January 27, 2010.

If you received a brochure for catechist certification at a recent deanery meeting, please make sure to note that the dates will be rescheduled for the summer months. The dates are being rescheduled so that we can begin using the video-conferencing equipment to broadcast the train-

ing to Bakersfield, Visalia, Bishop and hopefully Merced. Rescheduled dates will be sent out in January. Please make sure to notify any catechists who were planning on attending.

Training will include Basic, Advanced, and Master Catechist certification. The basic certification is what is required of all catechists in the Diocese of Fresno. The Advanced certification leads to a California Catechist certification and the Master is for Parish Catechetical Leaders who can offer certification at their parish or for the diocese. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.



KNXT-TV

January Specials with KNXT!

Ch 49 Fresno, 38 Bakersfield

KNXT, Catholic Television for the San Joaquin Valley, is proud to announce the following January specials:

Misa Dominical

Featuring children from St. Aloysius Parish in Tulare doing a dramatization of the Nativity Story
January 3rd, 7:30-8:30 pm

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord with Pope Benedict XVI

Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Right to Life Week:

Thine Eyes: A Witness to the March for Life
Human Life International: Thwarting the Culture of Death in the Caribbean

Living Hope: Stories from the Crusade Cutting Through the Spin on Stem Cells and Cloning
An Answer to Prayer
A People of Life

Demographic Winter: The Decline of the Human Family

March for Life
Walk for Life West Coast

Catholic Schools Week:
Catholic Education: Can It Survive?

Visit our NEW website <http://knxt.tv> for more information on our programs or festive community events!

KNXT



Catholic Television
channel 49/38

After a lengthy application process, and some changes in schedule, the *New Wine/Vino Nuevo* lay ministry formation programs are scheduled to begin in January. We have registered fifty-three candidates from around the diocese for *New Wine* and a good number, still being counted, for the Spanish-language *Vino Nuevo* program. These students will begin the **Foundations** year of introduction to the three-year program.

We will be holding the *New Wine* classes on **Thursday** evenings (not Wednesday as had been planned) and the *Vino Nuevo* on alternate Saturday day-long sessions.

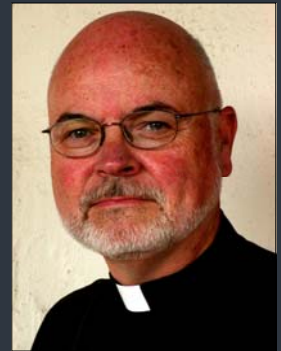
The Holy Names University M.A. in Pastoral Ministries classes are proceeding well. As with the *New Wine/Vino Nuevo* classes, the video conference capabilities provided by the Pastoral Center in Fresno, St. Francis of Assisi parish, Bakersfield, and, most recently, the Catholic Church of Visalia, will be of great assistance to conducting these di-

ocese-wide classes. Thanks to the generosity of donors to Our Faith, Our Family, Our Future capital campaign over the last few years, the diocese is able to provide financial aid to many of these students. Their parishes, too, as they are able, have provided financial assistance to students who need it. Thank you!



Did you know that HNU is consistently ranked as one of the most diverse universities in the country? The 2008 edition of *US News and World Report's America's Best Colleges* ranks Holy Names Number One in Campus Diversity among all institutions in the West. Over 70% of their students are from under-represented ethnic backgrounds and the student body represents 36 nations.

On behalf of the School of Ministry, may you have many blessings from the Newborn King to remain with you throughout the New Year.



Fr. David Norris
Dean



Diocesan Formation for Ministry

Social Justice

In the last Ministry Newsletter, I mentioned our second meeting of the Fresno chapter of California People Faith working to abolish the death penalty, and I mentioned that we had given the members some homework, interviewing a large number of local faith leaders. Just as that meeting was disappointing (since there were fewer people than the meeting before), so December's meeting was disappointing in that some of the members had not been able to do their homework. But I am not disappointed, because our goal is very difficult and will take a good deal of time and effort. But we simply **HAVE** to bring our state into humanity and Christianity by abolishing state murder. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 16 at 11:00—join us if you'd like.**

The members' homework assignment was only half done, but most of those results were positive and we can look forward to

eventual success. One neat thing that we managed to do was organize a radio interview of Jim Grant and me on Pacifica Radio KPFA about the death penalty. I wasn't so sure that we were an astounding success, but later word was positive.

This past month I went to Avenal State Prison twice and Pleasant Valley State Prison five times, and once to Central California Women's Facility. As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, my usual gig used to be to hit two yards, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with an hour plus for confessions and then Mass, but at Avenal it is different. I go only to one yard for the whole day. This past month on one visit I did confessions and Mass, the other time I only heard confessions. What this extra time permits me to do is to spend more time with the men, to answer questions and to go deeper into their spiritual needs and successes. There may be a thou-

sand men on a yard and I only deal with a couple, three dozen, but the spirituality that I witness can be extraordinary. I am so glad that I have been called to serve my brothers and sisters in prison in this way.

Speaking of sisters, I was upset when I went to say Mass for them one recent Sunday because I was told that it was their first Mass since Pentecost—their first Mass in twenty-four weeks! That is not acceptable! I am organizing some priests to serve them better.

The third Thursday of each month a large number of us in the States are fasting for an end to violence in Gaza, for justice for the Palestinians, a movement that was started by a group of American rabbis. There are presently almost a thousand people involved; if you are interested, go to www.fastforgaza.net for information or to sign up.



Fr. Jim Rude, SJ
Director



**Sr. Joanne Bauer, CSC
Coordinator**

Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. (Luke 2:10) These words in Luke's gospel reveal the depths of God's love for us: the Word became Flesh and dwells among us. We contemplate that first coming, as the Virgin ponders the life within her, and gives birth to the Son of God.

During the season of Christmas we are caught between a world that is already—and a world that is not yet. In some of the last words of the Bible, we read, "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20) These words cry out the longing of God's people for that final coming of the Lord Jesus at the end of time.

But we cannot forget how we, as a "Eucharistic People," birth Christ today and "grow" the kingdom. For, even though Christ came over 2000 years ago, Christ still comes in our present reality. What wonder to realize we carry within us the same Christ that Mary did! Jesus assures us, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst." (Matthew 18:20)

As we reflect over this past year, where have we experienced Christ being born in us? In our minis-

try among God's people? Mary's "yes" to God gifted her with a walk into the unknown. Did her "modus operandi"—her entire 'way of being'—have to change? Where has this been true in my own experience, as I continue to "walk the walk" with God in my life?

Family Life Ministries has blessed me with God's joyous presence revealed in our Bishop, priests, religious and people of the Diocese of Fresno. As Bishop John celebrates his 25th Episcopal Anniversary, the love he has for his people radiates in the Respect Life Mass in January and the Bishop's Anniversary Mass for Married Couples in September. Our priests expressed dedication and care for their flock at deanery meetings I attended from January through March of this year. The fruit of those meetings is still "in process." At the Marriage Enrichment Retreat in November, Fr. Jim Torrens highlighted commitment at the core of a couple's relationship, and revealed the need of retreats for the married.

The self gift of individuals in family life organizations that serve real needs of our people is to me a sure sign of "God with us." I hope that all will take advantage of our Family Life Faire on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 1pm-3: 30pm, prior to the Respect Life Mass at St. John's Cathedral.

**THIS IS THE LAST MAILED COPY
OF THE OFFICE OF MINISTRIES
NEWSLETTER —
*THE GRAPEVINE.***

**STARTING JANUARY 2010,
IT WILL ONLY BE SENT OUT
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