

VOLUME III
ISSUE 1

November
2009

Upcoming Events



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

January 16, 2010
Family 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, CA

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

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

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

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

March 25, 2010
Chrim Mass Day of
Reflection
9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Holy Spirit Parish, Fresno



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OF
FRESNO

Office of Ministries
Newsletter - The Grapevine



this issue

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Advent for me brings back many memories particularly my childhood in Catholic school. So many of those memories revolve around the Advent wreath and the lighting of the candles in class or at Mass. It was always a very festive time filled with decorations, art, and lots of food. This is also the time of celebrating the Posadas and The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. *Our Sunday Visitor* and *Loyola Productions* have produced a DVD documentary about Las Posadas and the journey of unaccompanied immigrant children and they are inviting everyone to celebrate Las Posadas from December 16 until the 24th. The Office of Ministries has received a copy of this documentary for each parish. If you would like a copy of it and information on how to celebrate Posadas in your parish, please contact the Office of Ministries or stop by the office to pick one up. We also recently mailed information about our Media Center Membership. Please remember to fill it out and return to our office even if you plan to pay as used.

Currently our office is catching up on work and planning for spring and summer formation events. Holy Names University is also recruiting for the MA in Pastoral Ministries. We are grateful to Msgr. Dreiling for providing St. Mary's parish as a new site for the MA to be offered via video-conferencing. This would mean that the MA program would be available in three of our deaneries if we get enough students signed up for a new cohort. If you know of anyone who you think might be a great candidate for the program, please contact our office. We are also planning to offer other formation programs via videoconferencing. More information to come soon! Please note that Madeline Loiacono will be taking time off from December 7 through the end of December. If you have any questions regarding Catechesis, please feel free to contact me. Wishing all of you a blessed Advent season!

Patty



Detention Ministry



Claude Muncey
Director

Ah, a room full of wonderful guests, good food, and stimulating discussion – three weeks *before* Thanksgiving.

We were happy to host on November 6th the Central California session of Healing the Wounded Heart: an exploration of restorative justice. This was an all-day event at the Pastoral Center in Fresno which examined just what restorative justice is, and what role the Catholic Church has to play in promoting it. Other sessions were held in San Francisco and Orange in October.

Bishop John Steinbock welcomed the 55 participants Friday morning, with the session being led by Suzanne Neuhaus, who has more than 20 years of experience in juvenile justice, probation, and victim's services. Thirty-six of the fifty-five participants were from all over

the Diocese of Fresno with the remaining attendees from the (Arch)dioceses of San Bernardino, Monterey, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and Las Cruces (New Mexico). The day included panel discussions on how a crime is seen from different points of view, and the resources available for restorative justice activities.

Neuhaus laid out the need for a victim-centered view of restorative justice. Many victims of crime distrust "restorative justice" as a way of being lenient towards criminals and ignoring the damage caused by criminal acts. In responding to criminal acts, we must work to meet the needs of everyone involved, especially the victims.

Also, several presenters discussed the need for far more people to become involved in restorative justice ministry. The

shortage of people willing to mentor ex-offenders, help with juvenile programs or provide simple support to victims is as serious as shortage of funding.

This event was presented by the California Diocesan Restorative Justice Offices and based on the success of the first gathering, will be repeated in the future.



Media Center

Please remember to submit your Media Center Membership forms ASAP.

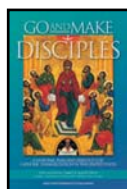


Rosie Navarro
Bilingual Secretary



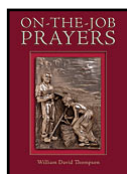
The Nativity Story (DVD)

A message foretold in the heavens...A prophecy that would threaten an empire...A miracle that would change the world.



Go and Make Disciples/ Vayan y Hagan Discipulos-10th Anniversary Ed.

This compelling work presents a broad vision of what Catholic evangelization is, the command to bring the Good News of Christ and his gifts to all strata of society, and the imperative of implanting his Church in every place--to make salvation readily available to all. Includes goals and strategies useful to leaders in evangelization, youth and campus ministries, dioceses, parishes, and more.



On-the-Job Prayers: 101 Reflections and Prayers for Christians in Every Occupation

William David Thompson

Each prayer session includes a Scripture text to help readers focus, a reading from a variety of thinkers and writers, and concludes with a workplace prayer—many written especially for *On-the-Job Prayers*.

Youth & Young Adult

We continue to say THANK YOU! As you know the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry held the Young Adult Night in conjunction with our Congress. We had a blast! We were blessed to have Ceili Rain share their gifts and talents with us, as well as our speaker Mary Jansen from the Young Adult Office of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. I would personally like to thank our Young Adult team from St. Paul Newman Parish in Fresno for their work and taking the lead in making this possible: Rosalia Estrada, Teo Gijon and Hector Vazquez. Your hard work made it possible for the young adult community to gather and grow in their understanding of the faith and themselves.



During the month of October we held our XV Olimpiadas at Woodward Park in Fresno. This year marked a special moment in the life of the event. We were blessed with the participation of 17 teams

for a total of 398 people competing in volleyball and soccer. We had the participation of Father Guillermo Preciado as the presider for the Mass. It was a beautiful occasion for groups from the diocese to get together and celebrate. Our winners this year were:

Soccer - 1 st place Young Adult	St. Teresa United from The Shrine of St. Therese, Fresno
Soccer-2 nd place Young Adult	Recollection B from St. John's Cathedral, Fresno
Soccer-3 rd place Young Adult	Recollection A from St. John's Cathedral, Fresno
Soccer -1 st place Youth	Peregrinos Juveniles from St. Anthony's, Atwater
Soccer -2 nd place Youth	Misericordia Divina from St. Joseph Firebaugh
Soccer -3 rd place Youth	Juventud Misionera from Mount Carmel, Fresno
Volleyball 1 st place	Recollection from St. John's Cathedral, Fresno
Volleyball- 2 nd place	Divina Majestad from St. Anthony's, Reedley
Volleyball- 3 rd place	Peregrinos Juveniles 1 from St. Anthony's, Atwater

Thank you very much to our committee who made it all possible. Jose Barbosa, Teresa Arroyo, Salvador Montoya, Dani Alba, Isaura Martinez, Mari Solorio, Elisa Arroyo and the many people who helped as referees and volunteers. Our next Youth Day will take place in Visalia as well, in conjunction with the 22nd Annual Diocesan Congress. It is scheduled for Sunday October 10th, 2010. Our theme is: "Stand Up! Raise Your Voice! - ¡Levántate! ¡Alza tu Voz!"



Alejandro Barraza
Coordinator

Youth / Young Adult Ministry Recognition Mass and Dinner. June 28th, 2010. 6PM at St. Anne's Chapel in the Pastoral Center.

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

2011 Spain. Information on the trip is: www.dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/WYD2011FCD.pdf

We are looking for hosting sites for our meetings in Fresno and Fresno Rural.

Multicultural/Campesino

As the holidays of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas approach one can see competing needs for Multicultural and Campesino Ministry. Concerns of poverty, lack of work and desperation are highlighted as cold weather sets in. The holidays themselves bring to mind for many immigrants the distance between themselves, their families and their land of origin. There can be loneliness and sadness for those separated from loved ones. Hardships based on issues of immigration are a constant source of concern among immigrants. Yet the holidays are a time of great celebration that not only brings families together, they are filled with celebrations that come from home.

Our immigrant communities celebrate important moments of faith and culture that support their dignity and values. Cultural celebrations of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Posadas prepare our Hispanic community for finding hope even in difficult times. The celebrations are moments for families and friends to gather, remember old

times and to teach their children what is of real value. The foods represent their particular communities. Christmas celebrations bring families together and remind people of cherished times. New Year has many customs in Asian communities that are not only colorful and tasty. They are a source of pride and dignity for the immigrant and times of education for the children.

Appreciation of one's history, culture and faith are essential to the well-being of immigrants and their families. The importance of cultural celebrations can hardly be overemphasized. Children learn of their heritage, and from these celebrations they learn of their dignity and faith.

As we work for justice and peace, it is important that we do not forget to celebrate the spiritual aspect of these days. Participation in cultural celebrations of other communities can help break down barriers between people, but also give people the opportunity to expand their personal experience.



Fr. Mike McAndrew, CSsR
Coordinator

Catechesis



Madeline Loiacono
Coordinator

November is a very reflective month – if you think about it (pun intended!) We are asked during this month to think about those persons who have passed on before us – our loved ones we personally knew and all of the great ancestors and faithful of the Church upon whose shoulders we stand in faith. November is also the month we are asked to give thanks for our many blessings and reflect upon the past year as we gather with friends and family. We also celebrate Christ the King which marks the end of our liturgical year – again a moment to pause and reflect on our faith life and spiritual growth. It is a time of thought and thanks, but it is also a time when we begin preparing for a very holy season and especially busy time of year.

Many of you in catechetical programs have collections of various types during this holiday season

to benefit charities or local community/parish groups. This is a great idea and helps us remember the real reason for this season of gift giving – generosity to others in need as God was so generous to give us His only Son in our time of need. This is also a time when many children (or the parents more likely) bring gifts to the catechists and perhaps even exchange among each other in their groups/classes. I'd like to make a suggestion for this year – why not ask the parents and children to pool their resources and make a real difference with a gift that will bring life to people. Isn't that what this season is really about – bringing forth a new life into the world that makes a difference?!

There are three particular charities that come to mind that are perfect for this – Heifer International, H2O for Life, and Operation Smile. We have a lot of informational handouts available

on the first two, and a gift giving ideas catalog on Operation smile – all available at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Each organization offers wonderful ways to really make a difference. I have mentioned these three because of their proven successes and record of service. Catholic Relief Services also has ideas for holiday charitable giving. It's always nice to give that toy or gift off the tree locally, but in addition, it is important to aid others in need in our wider global community – we are called to such acts of kindness as Catholics through the Gospel and our teachings on Social Justice.

Think about making a life-giving gift this year – and as always I thank God for all of you – the many gifts He has blessed our Diocese with!

Madeline

KNXT-TV

December Specials with KNXT!

Ch 49 Fresno, 38 Bakersfield

KNXT, Catholic Television for the San Joaquin Valley, is proud to announce Advent and Christmas themed programming to get you in the spirit of the holiday season!



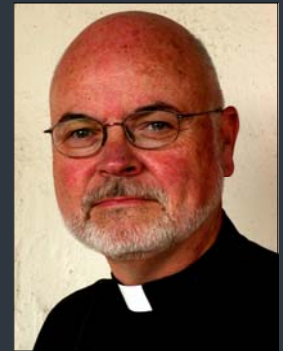
<p>"Feasts & Seasons" every Friday 8:30 am "Advent Reflections" every Monday 2:30 pm "Solemn Mass of the Immaculate Conception" Dec. 8th, 9:00-10:30 am "Cathedrals Across America: Solemn Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe" Dec. 12th 9:00-10:30 am</p>	<p><i>Christmas Day:</i> "Christmas Mass from St. Anne's Chapel" 7:30-8:00 am "Solemn Mass of Christmas" (EWTN) 9:00-10:30 am "Catholic University of America Christmas Concert" 3:00-4:00 pm "Christmas Mass from St. Anne's Chapel" 5:00-5:30 pm "Urbi et Orbi" 8:00-9:00 pm</p>
<p><i>Christmas Eve:</i> "Candles & Carols 2009" 10:00-11:00 am "Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve with Pope Benedict XVI" (LIVE) 1:00-3:00 pm "Choral Meditations" 7:00-7:30 pm "Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve" (LIVE from BNSIC) 8:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p>"The Life of Christ" Dec. 26th 10:30-12:00 pm "Urbi et Orbi" (repeat) 3:00-4:00 pm "A Time to Remember" Dec. 27th 10:30-12:00 pm "Vespers of Thanksgiving" Dec. 31st 9:00-10:30 am "Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God" Jan. 1st 9:00-10:30 am</p>

New Wine/Vino Nuevo classes are being planned to begin early in 2010. Due to a number of late applications, we are still compiling materials and organizing the files for class participants. As of now, it looks like we will have classes in Fresno, Bakersfield and possibly in the Hanford/Visalia area. Each classroom must have a minimum of fifteen students to make a site viable. Students from other areas may benefit from the wonderful teleconference equipment that has been installed throughout the diocese. We will be exploring this option. Tuition will be approximately \$300. per year, plus book costs and retreat fees. Some parishes give financial aid to their active parishioners who come to the program, if they are able. We have a final total of fifty-three applicants for the English language classes: 21 from the Kern/Inyo deanery, 16 from the Fresno Metro/Rural deaneries, 8 from the Merced/Mariposa deanery and 8 from the Tulare/Kings deanery.

Thanks to all the pastors and parish staff who helped facilitate this application process. Those who inquired too late for the current process may be able to apply next year. We hope to have the Foundations classes

each year, leading into the second and third year of New Wine/Vino Nuevo. Since we are limited in teacher's availability and by the large travel distances in our diocese, this may not be possible but we have this as a goal.

The Holy Names M.A. program is proceeding well. We have been searching for new students to begin a new cohort in Fresno in January. We may have enough students to start this third cohort within our diocese. Besides Fresno, Bakersfield, Stockton and Oakland, Sacramento will possibly be participating in these weekly live teleconference courses given by the excellent faculty from Holy Names University. We are also recruiting for a Visalia site at St. Mary's parish for students who live in the Tulare/Kings deanery. Please continue to promote our lay ministry formation programs in your parish bulletins. Information is available on the diocesan web-site, in the diocesan newspaper and via regular circular mailings to all parishes, but your parish bulletins are the main resource we depend on to get the word out and recruit people. Thanks, pastors and parish office managers/secretaries for your continued support.



Fr. David Norris
Dean



Social Justice

Since the last Ministry Newsletter, a lot has happened. I attended a meeting in the San Fernando Valley of the directors of Social Action from all the dioceses in California. Fr. Mike Kennedy, a Jesuit who is working full-time on restorative justice on the juvenile justice level, focused our days for us. Teenagers are not adults, and no matter how horrible their crime, they should not be treated as adults—psychiatrists tell us this, and so does normal Christian morality.

Later that week, I attended a forum on the Death Penalty that was held at St. Paul Newman Center. The two people invited to speak, pro and con, did very well, but I have to admit that the Christian point of view is a lot stronger. We are against the death penalty because Jesus was executed and raised by God to give us life, not to encourage us to take it.

The Saturday of that week was both a disappointment and a success: against my hopes as expressed in the last Newsletter, there were

fewer in attendance at our local chapter meeting of CPF, California People of Faith Working Against The Death Penalty, but they seemed very strong and determined. Homework was given them, to interview a large number of local faith leaders. Next meeting, December 5, we will see the results.

The following week I attended another meeting about restorative justice, this one held by the local Jesuit province and organized by Fr. Mike Kennedy again. It was attended by some eighty people, Jesuits and colleagues, and was exhausting because it was so full of dedication and loving concern—it was a fantastic workshop.

Faith in Community, our Fresno PICO affiliate, had been working hard on our award luncheon for November 7, and it paid off. The luncheon, at which we honored our own Bishop John Steinbock along with two others, was a grand, inspiring success.

At the meeting I mentioned above that was held in the Valley, we were

all asked to say something about our works, and my comment went something like, "I've been doing work in prisons, jails and juvenile halls and camps in practically every job I've had for more than forty years." Later on that day, I had to ask myself the question: why? What was the reason I was so drawn to prison work? I really don't know. I've worked in prisons from San Quentin to Tijuana, federal, state and county, and why?

At Avenal State Prison, I used to hit two yards a day, with an hour plus in confessions and then Mass in each yard. Recently the chaplain there changed the MO: one yard with four hours plus in confessions and conversations with the men, and then Mass. The end result was fatigue and a soul-stirring joy. I had gone to prison to serve, and I ended up being served. Jesus came to bring us life and community: I really feel life and community when I serve the men and women in our prisons.



Fr. Jim Rude, SJ
Director



**Sr. Joanne Bauer, CSC
Coordinator**

I'm barely putting pen to paper as the Newsletter goes to print. *Marriage, the Lasting Adventure* is three days away, November 20 & 21, 2009. "Good evening," (as they answer the phone), "I'm calling to confirm your reservation." "Honey," (the response), "are we still going? We're going." Another replies, "Yes, I've never been on a retreat!" An e-mail was returned: "Oh," she says, "you've left the 't' out! Yes, we're coming." Someone else, "Yes, we're there frequently; it's beautiful."

I take time out for our staff meeting, which bears good fruit. The staff suggests how to market the important, upcoming Family Life Faire taking place at Msgr. Singleton Hall prior to the Jan. 16, 2010 Respect Life Mass-- involve KNXT, *Catholic Life*, Christmas bulletins, and more. I am reminded that Maria is waiting for an answer to her e-mail: "In 2012, what is the date for Respect Life? I have this on January 21; Bishop has January 28." When is the 2012 West Coast Walk for Life, so the Mass does not conflict with it?

St. Anthony's Retreat tells me that overflow retreatants can stay at the Comfort Inn in Three Rivers, but the conference room has reached its capacity. Abundant blessings! Registrations started

arriving on September 14 and people keep calling. "Yes, we'd like to be put on the waiting list. When can you let us know?"

Still on the phone, I see an alert on my computer from the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministry: "The Bishops meeting in Baltimore just passed the Pastoral Letter on Marriage." Great! Marriage needs nurturing on every front, especially these days. It's all about tending to the flame of love at the heart of married life.

It's late now and a live voice on the phone says, "Yes, we're coming." I say, "I'm sorry to call you at dinner." "No," says the voice, "we're in the car. I'm on a cell phone--my wife is driving. Our daughter is ill, and we're taking her to the doctor." Concerned, I offer, "Oh please let your daughter know I hope she gets well soon."

The desire for spiritual communion between spouses is a need to which couples are responding from Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, Fresno, Bakersfield, Porterville, Avenal, Kingsburg, Kerman, Chowchilla, Springville, Clovis and Three Rivers. How Exciting!

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress Registration Guidebooks are now available to be picked up at the Office of Ministries. Please stop by our office to pick up a bundle for your parish. L.A. R.E. Congress will be March 19-21, 2010 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Don't forget to book your hotel now!

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