

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue II
December 2007

Message from the Director– *Patty Jiménez*

We hope that you enjoyed our first issue of our newsletter. We have received great feedback and compliments from many of you in the parishes and schools. Thank you to all who received it with great enthusiasm and signed up to receive it online. Please note that we will only be sending a limited number of hard copies to the parishes. You can sign up to receive it by e-mail via our website or you can find it posted online.

In this edition, you will find useful information and important dates to put on your calendar. We continue organizing and planning for the 2008-2009 years. We have also been busy interviewing prospective candidates for various positions in the office. We

are hopeful that the Office of Ministries family will continue to grow in the upcoming months. It is a top priority to have the personnel to support you and your wonderful ministries.



Earlier this month our Pastoral Center Staff took some time off for an Advent day of Reflection. Fr. Cyprian Consiglio,

OSB was the retreat facilitator. While we recited our morning prayer he stopped us and asked us to, “SLOW DOWN – there is no rush today.” It is difficult during the Holiday Season to slow down, especially in ministry, as we are busy coordinating so many celebrations– the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Hmong New Year, Posadas, Christmas Liturgies and parties, we are traveling, preparing meals and baking, hosting our families, etc. Slowing down for just a few minutes can be quite a blessing.

Our office wishes all of you a Very Blessed Holiday Season and we hope that you take some time to rest, slow down and celebrate the joyous birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Patty

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to these 18 Master Catechists who in 2007 have been certified/re-certified in accordance with the guidelines of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops:

Rebecca Yoch	St. Philip the Apostle, Bakersfield
Karen Mentlewski	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Clovis
Mark Riordan	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Clovis
Sr. Pilar Borregon, RCM	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Clovis
Sr. Isabel Lopez De Dicastillo, RCM	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Clovis
Tomi Castilleja	St. Catherine of Siena, Dinuba
Marina Montejano	St. Joseph School, Firebaugh
Cheryl Ann Sarkisian	Holy Spirit, Fresno
Edgar Briseño	St. Anthony of Padua, Fresno
Mary Socorro Briseño	St. Anthony of Padua, Fresno
Sharon Christison	St. Anthony of Padua, Fresno
Rosemary De Gracia	St. Paul Newman Center, Fresno
Betty Clemente	St. Brigid, Hanford
Sr. Marieta (Vianney) Tifare, SOLN	St. Brigid, Hanford
Sr. Leotina Fesaitu, SOLN	St. Rose-Thomas McCarthy School, Hanford
Tomas Tafolla	St. Rose-Thomas McCarthy School, Hanford
Priscilla Bustamante	St. Mary, Sanger
Shirley Ann Puccinelli	St. John the Evangelist, Wasco

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Youth and Young Adults

We have set two dates for meeting with youth leaders of the diocese. Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 6:30 p. m. in English and Sunday, January 27, 2008 at 3 p.m. for Spanish-speaking coordinators/directors. The meetings will take place here at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. If you have not yet been contacted by our office,

Bilingual Coordinator:

Vacant

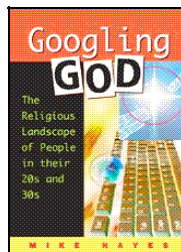
Bilingual Secretary:

Martin Barrera

(559) 488-7495

please call us and ask for Martin. We believe communication is the first step for success. Our objectives for this meeting are; first, we would like to meet you and see where you are and what your needs and goals are; we would also like to update the Youth Ministry Database with any new information; you will have the opportunity to meet our new Director of Ministries, Patty Jimenez, who came aboard in September; we would also like to discuss the possibilities of organizing a Diocesan Youth Day in

2009 and the certification of youth ministers in the diocese. See you then!



We recommend the following resource for those involved in Young Adult Ministry— *Googling God: The Religious Landscape of People in their 20's and 30's*. The author Mike

Hayes does an excellent job of examining young adults in the U.S. and provides useful tips on how to use current technology and media as a way to communicate and evangelize!

We Need help!

We need volunteers to help us enter the Diocesan Youth Ministry Survey into the database by mid-January. Anyone in need of service hours or youth groups in need of a project can help!!

Catechetics



**Diocesan Catechetical
Advisory Board**

Our office continues to meet with DRE's and CRE's as well as plan upcoming events. We are currently working on coordinating the DRE/CRE retreat that will take place at Three Rivers in February. Sr. Donna Shanahan, CSJ will lead the retreat titled "Wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be". We hope you take advantage of this opportunity. You should receive registration flyers in the

mail. We continue developing the DRE/CRE handbook as well as planning upcoming 2008 events.

Please congratulate all of our DRE's/CRE's and catechists who have recently been certified or recertified in our diocese. We are very blessed by their service and commitment to the evangelizing mission of the Church. DRE's and CRE's please make

sure that we have all of your updated information on file— we are especially in need of e-mail addresses. Please go to our website and update your information!

Catechetical Coordinator:

Patricia Jiménez

Administrative Assistant:

Paul Mentlewski

(559) 488-7477

Media Center

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!
Your Media Center has some great new resources.

BOOKS

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program / El Programa Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy

Googling God: The Religious Landscape of People in their 20's and 30's

Discerning Disciples

Marriage IT'S A GOD THING

A B Cs of HEALTHY GRIEVING

FACING FORGIVENESS

VIDEOS

Echoes of Faith Plus Adult Faith Formation Methodology (DVD)

By Blue Fish TV "Annual Fishing License"

By Blue Fish TV "Stories" Real Teens Real Life Volumes 4-7

By Blue Fish TV "Revolution2" A Bible Study for Teenagers Volumes 1-5

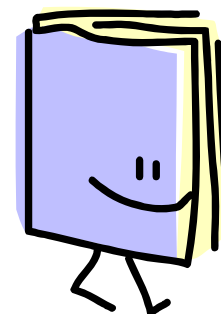
By Blue Fish TV "Shorts" Volume 4

Debut "Outside da Box"

If you have any request please share your needs with us. We are here to help everyone with any resources that may be of great benefit to all.

LIBRARY HOURS—

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p. m. or by appointment. Group Visits should also be scheduled by appointment only.



Bilingual Media Secretary:

Rosie Navarro

(559) 488-7474

Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

We met with Coordinators who are involved in ministry to the Campesino and Latino communities of our diocese as well as groups that minister to campesino in the rural Fresno areas.

It was an honor to assist Charles Oloño and the Knights of Colum-

bus, who worked hard to obtain funds to be able to prepare 50 Christmas baskets for families in need in our diocese. The baskets were distributed Christmas Eve.

The Lao/Kmhmu celebrated Christmas on Saturday December 22, 2007. Fr. John Bosco from Berkeley presided the Mass.



Bishop Steinbock celebrated Mass with the Lao/Kmhmu community in Fresno.

Director:
Vacant
Bilingual Secretary:
Martin Barrera
(559) 488-7495

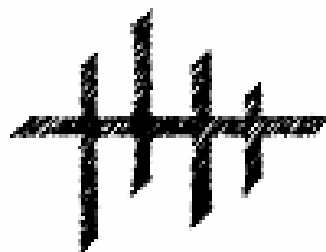
Detention Ministry

It is the holiday season for the incarcerated, just as for the rest of us. But it is a very difficult season for them, separated from home and family. Most of the efforts of prison and jail chaplains and volunteers this time of year is aimed at helping inmates deal with separation and loss, while growing in their faith.

Priests, deacons, and lay volunteers from parishes across the

diocese will make sure that extra Masses and Communion services are held in as many facilities as possible. The professional chaplains will be staging holiday celebrations and liturgies, usually with outside help.

Bishop Steinbock will personally be celebrating Mass in two different facilities this year during the Christmas season.



Director:
Claude Muncney
(559) 488-7494

**To keep a lamp
burning we
have to keep
putting
oil in it.**

-Mother Teresa

School of Ministry

Please note that the Lay Ministry Institute is now called the School of Ministry.



Diocesan Formation for Ministry

New Wine Program- New Wine and Vino Nuevo students are taking a three week Christmas recess. They have been busy with the course "Prayer and Spirituality." Sr. Donna Shanahan, CSJ, Rosie De Gracia and Mary Hetherington are the facilitators.

This course will conclude with a retreat at St. Anthony Retreat Center on Jan. 19th & 20th, 2008.

R **CIA Training-** 40 participants continue to meet the first Saturday of the month.

M **A. in Pastoral Ministries-** The Master Program in Pastoral Ministries in our diocese is a reality! The new cohort of 15 students will commence their studies on January 14, 2008! Students will meet at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno where

they will participate in courses via video-conferencing with students from the Diocese of Oakland.

The first course they will take is "The Church and Practical Theology: Foundations for Lay Ecclesial Ministry" offered by the Program Director, Robert Lassalle-Klein, PhD.

W e are very grateful to Rosa Maria Guembe who has dedicated so much time and effort to the development of the School of Ministry. She also worked diligently to offer the formation program in Spanish known as Vino Nuevo. In January, Rosa will be

assisting Fr. David Norris with the transition as he assumes the position of the Dean of the School of Ministry. Thank you Rosa!



Interim Director

Rosa Maria Guembe
(559) 493-2871

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Family Life Ministry

We met with Jennifer Butcher from Project Rachel—a compassionate outreach to those hurting after abortion. They offer one-on-one assistance, therapist and clergy referrals, retreats, printed materials, and remembrance prayer services. Services are also offered in Spanish. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry please have them call 1-888-HOPE-790.

The office is preparing for the Right to Life Mass on January 19, 2008 at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral in Fresno.

Have you checked out the USCCB website on National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage?



Go to www.foryourmarriage.org for information and resources.

Our office has a list of dates for Engaged Encounters offered on a monthly basis for 2008-2010. Call our office for details.



Upcoming Events Save the Dates!

RCIA Training	January 5, 2008
New Wine Year 2 Retreat	Jan. 19-20, 2008
Right to Life Mass	January 19, 2008
Spanish-Speaking Religious sisters Retreat	January 25, 2007
DRE/CRE Retreat	February 7-8, 2008
RCIA Training	February 2, 2008
New Wine Graduates Retreat	Feb. 15-17, 2008
Prison Chaplains Retreat/Day of Reflection	Feb. 20, 2008
L.A. Religious Ed. Congress	February 29-March 2

Social Justice

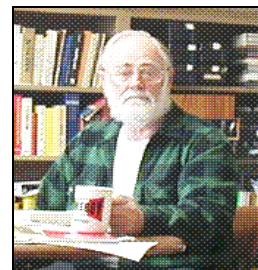
What a tremendous Christmas gift New Jersey gave to us all. It dropped the death penalty!

I know all sorts of Americans feel that the final penalty should be kept, but we Catholics should look at it from a different point of view. We should look at it

as Jesus did—and does. In the case of the woman taken in adultery, He clearly indicated that killing her was not for the good. How could her execution help anybody? Jesus' goal was the Kingdom—preaching it to all and inviting all to join. Just how does state killing advance that goal? We are called to be

brothers and sisters to one another. We are called to be one family, one community, one people. Therefore we must correct and encourage, but also forgive and accept. Remember those on death row the next time you go to confession and ask God's mercy.

Jim



Director
Fr. James A. Rude, S.J.
(559) 488-7482

Congratulations to these 60 Basic Catechists who in 2007 have been certified/re-certified in accordance with the guidelines of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops:

Leonor Aguirre, Rose Alvarez, Connie Amezola, Martina Anguiano De Lopez, Giuliana Bosco, Jo Ellen Buckley Mosher, Marcia Bunney, Mariella Dolores Caldwell, Maria Del Socorro Carmona, Jacqueline Carrillo, Alma Cervantes, Arcelia Chavez, Rosie Culver, Francisco Curiel, Susanna Duenas, Florence Eichenberg, Angelica Estrada, Mary Grace Fellows, Irene Garcia, Ernestina Gil, Anjelica Gonzalez, Rochelle Gonzalez, Trinie Gonzalez, Rogelio Fernandez, Rosa Galindo, Mabel Hernandez, Soledad Hernandez, Suzanne Johnson, Delia Jordan, Roseanne Kobilis, Pedro Lopez, Gloria Martinez, Lydia Martinez, Esperanza Melendez-Rios, Marsha Mincer, Andres (Andy) Molina, Connie Molina, Shanna Morse, Rosa Munoz, Edward Ochoa, Thomas Haight Osborn, Albert Prinster, Yolanda Prendez, Rose Ramirez, Candice Restivo, Marla Leis Roach, Jesse RochaDavid Rodriguez, Linda Rodriguez, Dolores Romo, Anhelena Rosas, Luz Maria Sanchez, Georgia Ann Twist, Suzanne Patricia Walters, William Terry Walters, Robert White.

Diocese of Fresno

OFFICE OF MINISTRIES

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Director of Ministries: Patricia Jiménez

Interim Director of the School of Ministry: Rosa María Guembe
Director of Social Justice Ministry: Fr. James A. Rude, S.J.
Bilingual Secretary: Martín Barrera
Director of Detention Ministry: Claude Muncey
Administrative Assistant: Paul Mentlewski
Bilingual Media Secretary: Rosie Navarro

