

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue V
March 2008

Message from the Director– *Patty Jiménez*

Happy Easter!

Every Easter vigil I am always touched to see so many people entering into the Catholic Faith. The Easter



vigil dates back to at least the mid second century and is one of our oldest Christian celebrations. Augustine referred to it as the “mother of all vigils.”

As you know, our office staff has also grown, we have had two new members join our staff and they are fitting in quite well. To learn more

about them, read the catechetical and family life sections. We have been interviewing for the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and we continue searching for a Coordinator of Campesino and Multicultural Ministries. If you know of someone who would make a great candidate, please make sure to encourage them to apply.

A few weeks ago our office gave a presentation to candidates for the permanent diaconate and their wives. They had an opportunity to meet our staff, learn what our office does and also received a tour of our office. We also just finished writing a



grant that will hopefully grant our Diocese Mission Status in 2009.

We also had a new phone system installed in the office. We will no longer have direct lines as we now only have one phone number– (559)488-7474. Each of us now have extensions and voicemail and we have an automated answering system that will direct calls after hours. The system will direct you in English and Spanish. During the day our staff will continue to answer the phone and direct your calls. Please ensure that your staff are aware of the change.

Patty

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Diocesan Morning of Reflection for Laity and Religious

The morning of reflection on March 13, 2008 was quite a success. This year marks our most attended reflection as of yet. We were over capacity as 314 people had pre-registered and 15 registered on site.

We began with morning prayer and our two new staff members were introduced to those who gathered. Sixty-three parishes participated with 42 people from San Clemente Mission in Bakersfield.

Msgr. John Griesbach, Director of Saint Anthony Retreat in Three Rivers, gave an excellent presentation to English participants. This year we also had an increase in the Spanish speaking participants. We had 70+ not including the sisters. Sr. Aurelia Gonzalez also gave a wonderful PowerPoint presentation using images and music in a powerful meditation.

We especially thank Fr. Eric Swearingen, the staff and 30 plus volunteers of Holy Spirit for their lovely hospitality and assistance.



Office of Ministries Newsletter

Youth and Young Adults

Pope Benedict XVI will visit the U.S. April 15-20, 2008 and the main focus of his visit will be education. To recognize this special event – and the U.S. visit in general – the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) is launching a campaign seeking service hours to be pledged in honor of the Holy Father’s birthday.

Students in schools, parish religious education programs, colleges and

seminaries are asked to complete or pledge (for completion by May 31, 2008) community service time in the name of the pope.



Activities could include programs in which students are already involved, or those that reflect the mission of the church in general. They are asking schools, parishes and other organizations

to collect the service hours at their institutions and then e-mail the total directly to NCEA.

Pledges from individuals also will be greatly appreciated. The pledge form is located at <http://ncea.catholic.org/> and may be completed online. Without doubt community service is a hallmark of our schools, colleges and religious education programs. In dedicating this service to the Holy Father, Catholic educators not only will present a most worthwhile tribute – but the nature of the gift will underscore the great foundation of Catholic education, rooted in civic engagement.



Youth Ministry Coordinators Meetings

Thursday, April 10, 2008
St. Mary’s, Visalia at 7pm
English

Sunday, April 27, 2008
St. Catherine of Siena, Dinuba
at 3pm Spanish

Bilingual Coordinator:

Vacant

Bilingual Secretary:

Martin Barrera

Ext. 103

Catechetics

Hello and peace be with you! My name is Madeline Loiacono (Iye-ock-in-no) and I am so pleased to be the newest member of the Office of Ministries staff as Coordinator of Catechetical Ministries.

I will be available to assist any persons involved in any area of catechesis by providing resources, offering direction and answering questions. I will also be helping you by making sure we offer a wide variety of the best media resources available –

periodicals, books, videos, music, etc.

I have just arrived from Bowling Green, KY where I spent the last 3+ years as the Children’s Minister for Holy Spirit parish. I am a native of the Syracuse, NY area. I have three teenage children and a wonderfully supportive and dedicated husband.

I completed the Formation for Ministry program through the Diocese of Syracuse and was commissioned a lay minister in Youth Ministry in 1998 and I was

certified as a Director of Religious Education. I completed the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program in Pastoral Studies with a focus in Religion & Ecology – through Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. I have experience with all ages- birth through adults.

All DRE’s/CRE’s are asked to attend the April 12, 2008 meeting at 2pm at the Pastoral center. We will be meeting the catechetical committee to share

our thoughts and suggestions for the pastoral plan.



Catechetical Coordinator:

Madeline Loiacono

Ext 109

Media Center

Last month we attended the L.A. Religious Education Congress where we purchased over 100 items (books, CD’s, DVD’s, etc.) to add to our Media Center. We also are meeting with Publishing Companies who are updating material in our library. DRE’s and CRE’s will then be able to review materials for their own parish. We also purchased new items in Spanish as there have been many requests for more material in Spanish. A quick reminder to parishes to please pay your outstanding membership dues, invoices will be mailed.

Having my own trials of grief along with close family and friends who have also gone through their own losses, I’ve research a few books that I hope will comfort your family or friends. God Bless!

All Seasons Pass: grieving a miscarriage By Martha Manning (psychologist)

A spiritual story about miscarriage by her own personal experience. Martha expresses the story in a parable in which an old woman comforts a younger woman who

thinks that if she just tries hard enough, and does everything perfectly; she will be in control of her life.

In Memoriam
By Henri J.M. Nouwen

When a mother or father dies, the mystery of life reveals itself to us. It is precisely in the moments when we are most human, most in touch with what binds us together, that we discover the hidden depth of life.

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn By Glenn M. Spencer
For those who mourn, Glenn Spencer looks at the grieving process within the context of the Church/sacraments. Showing the reader how and why we must grieve. Spencer not only explains how to grow from the grief experience, but how to be a better friend to those who are grieving.

Bilingual Media Secretary:

Rosie Navarro

Ext. 100

Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

Leaders of Campesino Ministries met this month to discuss formation. They also received Safe Environment training. Our next meeting will be held Sunday, April 27, 2008 10am-3pm.

Fr. John Bosco celebrated Holy week with the Lao-Kmhmu com-



munity in Fresno. On Sunday children and youth were treated to an Easter Egg hunt.

The Consulate of Mexico in Fresno, California, in collaboration with The City of Fresno and the support of important community and business organizations such as Wells Fargo Bank and Univision Canal 21, will present the "Youth and Children Cedros – Universi-

dad Panamericana Symphony Orchestra" on May 2nd, 2008, at 7:30p at the Rotary Amphitheatre, in Woodward Park.

This Orchestra will perform a selected repertoire of classical music from Latin-American composers. The purpose of this international concert is to promote the appreciation of classical music among the Central Valley's children and

youth as well as to introduce some works of internationally renowned Latin-American composers to the general public. For further information: comunidades@consulmexfresno.net

<http://portal.sre.gov.mx/fresno>

Director:

Vacant

Bilingual Secretary:

Martin Barrera

Ext 103

Detention Ministry

Last month, St. Anthony Retreat in Three Rivers hosted the annual Detention Ministry leaders day of recollection. The group included half of the state prison chaplains in the diocese, as well as leaders and volunteers from Bakersfield to



Merced.

Sr. Suzanne Jabro, C.S.J., co-founder of Get on the Bus and a 30-year veteran of ministry to inmates, victims, and families, was the presenter. She shared insights into the nature of the work of detention ministers, with its emotional and spiritual challenges. Combined with lunch and beautiful weather, the day was well appreciated by all the participants.



The annual Detention Ministry Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 at St. Mary's Visalia. The liturgy, scheduled to begin at 7pm, will be celebrated by Fr. Rod Craig. Everyone involved in the justice and corrections systems, at any level, is warmly invited to attend. Detention ministers are called to serve not only current inmates, but their families, their victims, and facility staff.



Director:

Claude Muncey

Ext. 108

School of Ministry

Rosa Maria Guembe has visited the *New Wine/ Vino Nuevo* classes as the end of the current term approaches. End-of-the-year evaluations will be done soon.

As *New Wine* approaches the third and final year of the current cycle of classes, a comprehensive review is planned of the entire program with the collaboration of the Office of Ministries and Permanent Diaconate office, coordinated by Father Norris. Over 250 alumni of the program will be contacted for their evaluation, along with the current 60 plus students.

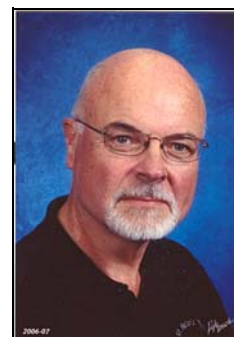
Bishop Steinbock visits MA Students



The M.A. program continues successfully on Mondays. Both classes in Oakland and Fresno appreciated the visit of Bishop John recently to the teleconference room at Saint Agnes Medical Center.

A new cohort of the program is being anticipated in Bakersfield in the fall at a new site in St. Francis of Assisi parish. This cohort will probably meet on Tuesdays, if enough students are enrolled.

Father Norris and one of the current M.A. candidates taped a program this month with Channel 49 about this formation program in pastoral ministries.



Dean

Fr. David Norris

Ext. 104

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Family Life Ministry



Coordinator:
Andy Ruperto
Ext 106

Give thanks to God for the warm welcome from everyone in the diocese and am honored to join the growing family

at the Office of Ministries. These first weeks have been mostly one of organizing and getting settled in.

My name is Andriel Ruperto and I also go by Andy. I am 23 years old and of Filipino descent. I was born in Redwood City, California. After living there for about 10 years, we moved to Beaverton, OR where I attended Jesuit High School. Then I attended College in Steubenville, OH where I received my Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Theology at Franciscan University.

I worked in North Dakota where I served as a youth coordinator for a program called the Healthy Marriage Initiative. This program was connected to a Parish mission called St. Ann's, which is run by the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (S.O.L.T.).

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12th: **Fresno Walk for Life** sponsored by the Fresno-Madera Right to Life of Central California

When: Saturday, April 12, 2008 - 9:00am

Where: Roeding Park, Umbrella Grove, Fresno, CA

For more info: <http://www.rtlcc.org/fresno-madera/events/index.htm>

April 11th-12th: **Married Love and the Gift of Life Conference** sponsored by the "California Association for Natural Family Planning" and hosted by the Diocese of San Bernardino

When: Friday-Saturday, April 11-12, 2008 – registration @ 8:00 am
Where: Pastoral Center, 1201 E. Highland Ave, San Bernardino, CA

For more info: <http://www.canfp.org/conference.php>

Social Justice

Jesus told us that when you look at the poor and the hurt and the vulnerable, you are looking at him. And our Bishops have told us that we have an obligation to participate in the political system of our country, our state and our local community. One way to do both is by participating in Catholic Lobby Day. This year it will be April 22. I've done it two years now, and it

is exciting. Some 700 Catholics from all over the state gathered at the Cathedral in Sacramento, talked, prayed and then marched on the Capitol. A rally on its steps, a bite to eat, and then into the building and onto our Senators and Assemblypeople. We just HAD to tell them what were our Catholic values and concerns. Do they pay attention to us? It seems to me to be pretty hard to ignore 700 people wandering about your office building!

Fresno has not been well represented these past few years. We just have to do better this year. The Bishops tell us that we have to participate in the political system. They say we could run for office, work for some candidate, study the issues to vote well. Or we could join the 700 and march on the Capitol!

Jim



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

Upcoming Events



Apr. 5 – RCIA Training

Apr. 5-6 – "Vino Nuevo" Year 2 Retreat

Apr. 10—Youth Coordinators Meeting— English

Apr. 12 – DREs/CREs Meeting

Apr. 15-20 – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Journey to the U.S.

Apr. 22 – California Catholic Lobby Day in Sacramento

Apr. 26 – RCIA Training

Apr. 27– Youth Coordinators Meeting- Spanish

Apr. 27– Campesino Coordinators Meeting

May 3 – RCIA Training - Last Session

May 7– Detention Ministry Mass

June 19 – Bishop's Annual DRE's/CRE's Appreciation Mass & Luncheon

Diocese of Fresno OFFICE OF MINISTRIES

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Director of Ministries: Patricia Jiménez

Director of Detention Ministry: Claude Muncey

Coordinator of Catechetics: Madeline Loiacono

Coordinator of New Wine: Rosa Maria Guembe

Bilingual Secretary: Martín Barrera

Dean of the School of Ministry: Fr. David Norris

Director of Social Justice Ministry: Fr. James A. Rude, S.J.

Coordinator of Family Life: Andriel Ruperto

Administrative Assistant: Paul Mentlewski

Bilingual Media Secretary: Rosie Navarro

Apply Now for an M.A. in Pastoral Ministries!

Classes Begin—September 2008

The Diocese of Fresno and Holy Names University invite you to apply for the next cohort of the HNU MA in Pastoral Ministries. We are seeking individuals engaged in some form of pastoral ministries who are interested in pursuing an advanced degree or graduate certificate in this field. The program is designed for men and women who wish to deepen their theological grounding and perfect practical skills in their ministries.



- ◆ ***Advisor/mentor for each student***
- ◆ ***Student-designed Final Ministry Project***
- ◆ ***Three-year cohort program beginning in September 2008***
- ◆ ***Reflects standards of the National Association for Lay Ministry***
- ◆ ***Integrates intellectual, spiritual ministerial practice***
- ◆ ***Responsive to multicultural realities of the Diocese***
- ◆ ***Tuition assistance available***

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries is an exciting program of intercultural formation for lay leadership and ministry in the Catholic Church. The program is designed for full-time working adults and offers unique networking, employment, and community building opportunities with other students. Courses are scheduled to accommodate the lives of full-time individuals (one four-hour class every Tuesday evening, one course at a time). Classes will be offered via live video-conferencing at St. Agnes Medical Center, with other sites in the Valley to be identified in the future.



To receive an information packet contact Mary Turowski at 510-436-1139, or contact turowski@hnu.edu

"Seeing beyond your horizons is our view every day."



**HOLY NAMES
UNIVERSITY**

3500 Mountain Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94619

"We each come to our ministry with passion, vision and commitment. What this program can do is help us solidify that vision and sustain that passion by synthesizing the knowledge and experience we've gathered over the years into practical tools for growth as seasoned ministers and ever-evolving human beings."

Rob Grant — Graduate '08, musician

"The Pastoral Ministries Program offered at Holy Names University has transformed me and changed my life forever. The teachers are fantastic and very supportive every step of the way."

Mary Kovalitsky — Graduate '08

"This is such a wonderful program. I never realized how little that I knew about the history, early history of the Catholic Church until I started this class. The class is exciting, interesting, and full of facts, dispels myths, and encourages me to use my talents and gifts for the benefit of our faith community."

Cathy Barrett — Current Fresno Student

"The Pastoral Ministries Program at Holy Names University gave me the opportunity to search and grow in my spirituality, it provided me the skills to serve better in my ministry, and challenged me, as a Latina, to share the love of Christ with people of different cultures."

Beatriz Carballo — Graduate '04

"I have been transformed by the Masters Program in Pastoral Ministries. The intimacy of the cohort, the focus on developing spirituality, and the rigorous academics have made a difference in my ministries."

Gaby Miller — Graduate '08

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries is a wonderful educational opportunity to continue my formation as it deepens and strengthens what I know about faith, church, and ministry. There is always so much more to learn and this joint venture between the Diocese of Fresno and Holy Names University gives our diocese a chance to increase our knowledge without having to travel too much. It's an excellent program!

Rebecca Yoch — Current Fresno Student

The Masters in Pastoral Ministries program is a wonderful opportunity to grow. The gift of the Holy Spirit and our calling comes alive when you are in this class. The knowledge of our faith is empowering and inspires me to want to do more to build the body of Christ. It gives validation to the ministry I am so passionate about as well as a new vision and hope for the future. I am thankful for this program and those who support it.

Sally Flores RN, BSN — Faith Community Nurse and Current Fresno Student

"The program gave me a solid practical and theoretical foundation for my work as a lay minister."

Stephanie Baker — Graduate '04

"I feel very privileged to be among the first cohort among many to come in the future. We are making history. I am not certain what will come of all of this in my future, but I do know that I will be giving of myself to the church in a fuller way."

Paula Martinez — Current Fresno Student

"I did not know what to expect from this program, but after just one class, I know this is the direction Blessed Mother has prepared for me. I have a much deeper respect for our bishop, priests, deacons, and all the laity that work tirelessly in God's vast kingdom."

Mary Moore — Current Fresno Student