

# Office of Ministries Newsletter

## Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue X  
August 2008

### Message from the Director – *Patty Jiménez*

It certainly feels as if our office is starting to take baby steps. At times we are frustrated because we are ready to run, sometimes even fly with our ideas, but we know that we have to take careful steps to plan and prepare for the road that is paved ahead. Now that we are fully staffed we have begun meeting to discuss the future of the office, its structure, and how the various ministries will collaborate with one another.

We are also gearing up for our Diocesan Congress in October where the progress of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan will be presented. Much of our ministry will be guided by the outcomes and goals established by the five committees. Diocesan Congress Registration Guidebooks are hot off the press and have been mailed out to parishes and individuals. We have also launched a new website with online registration. Go to [www.dioceseoffresno.org](http://www.dioceseoffresno.org) to find

the link. Please register early as it will help our staff tremendously. We are also still in need of volunteers, so please sign up online to volunteer.

I want to thank all of you as I complete my first year as Director of the Office of Ministries. One of the many blessings of having had staff vacancies when I came on board was that it gave me an opportunity to meet so many of you and to work directly with the various ministries throughout the diocese. I was able to get much needed feedback and to better understand the diocese and the many needs of the Catholic faithful in the Valley and the Eastern Sierra. I will certainly miss the many gatherings and meetings but I will make sure to visit you from time to time and be present at the various formation events.

*Patty*

Registration Guidebook • Cuaderno de Registro



## Our Vision for the Future

### Nuestra Visión para el Futuro

20th Annual  
Diocesan Congress • Congreso Diocesano

School of  
Ministry

Parish Life  
Coordinators

Youth  
Ministry

Catechetics

Vocations

Saturday, October 11, 2008 • 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Sponsored by the Diocese of Fresno - Office of Ministries  
Celebrating 40 Years as a Diocese

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### Seminar on Hispanic Lay Formation Programs

Monica Cabrera and Patty Jiménez attended a Seminar at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles the last week of July on Hispanic Lay Formation Programs. The seminar included presentations on the current state of formation programs in California and Nevada, the current and future demographic estimates, university and certificate programs, and a look at apostolic/charismatic movements and their formation.

Thanks to a grant, diocesan leaders from region XI and leaders from universities and institutes that offer Lay Formation programs in Spanish gathered and had the opportunity to network. There were many dynamic discussions among pastoral leaders and theologians (which included an earthquake in the middle of one of the discussion sessions). One of the hopes from the seminar is to form a regional Institute where we can

develop standards for Spanish formation programs which would give credit or transfer certification/coursework in dioceses and institutions in California and Nevada. The group hopes to gather again next summer.



Participants of the Seminario Regional de Verano 2008

# Office of Ministries Newsletter

## Youth and Young Adults

Peace of the Lord be with you and your ministry. I pray the Lord blesses you and gives you strength as you start this new school year. It's been a month since my arrival here at the Office of Ministries and I feel people have welcomed me and my family with open arms, and lots of work. I have been blessed by meeting with some of you; but there are still many youth ministers that I need to get to know. I am here to support, pray and serve you. I pray that together we can bring the kingdom of Christ to the young people of the Diocese of Fresno. I plan on creating a newsletter with a calen-

dar for youth ministry events. If you have events that you would like us to put on the calendar, please e-mail them to me. In the meantime here are some of the upcoming events:

**Day of formation** Sep. 13, 9:00am – 3:00pm. Serra Hall in Visalia. 608 N. Church St.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** Fresno Deaneries Youth Ministers Gathering. 10:00am – 12:00noon. St. Helen's, Fresno, 4875 E. Grant. Directions: Call Dolores Caldwell, Youth Director, 453-2423.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** Olimpiadas Juveniles, Woodward Park, Fresno.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>** World Youth Day Observance. We invite all parishes to celebrate youth on that weekend.

The **National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry** sponsored by the **NFCYM** will be held **December 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>** in Cleveland, Ohio. This is a great opportunity for professional development. **\$245.00 registration fee + Travel + Meals.** We would like to invite you to participate. For information or if you are interested in participating, please e-mail me or call me.

I look forward to meeting you per-

sonally and together celebrating what God has accomplished through your ministry. God Bless you. Mary pray for us.



Bilingual Coordinator:  
**Alejandro Barraza**

Ext. 105

## Catechetics

By now a large number of you have heard about the changes to the Basic Catechist Certification (BCC) process. Since there seems to be some confusion I would like to take this opportunity to try to clear up some important points.

First, many have asked if taking the Echoes of Faith Plus (EOFP) "train the trainer" is enough to run the program for BCC in their parish? The answer is yes, **IF** you are currently certified in some manner – as a basic catechist, a parish catechetical leader, a mas-

ter catechist, or if you have completed the New Wine or Holy Names Master's program. If you have no certification whatsoever but have completed the "train the trainer" sessions for Echoes of Faith Plus you must call me so that we can arrange how to complete your certification requirements.

Secondly, many people have asked if the modules need to be completed in order. Although it is preferable that they be done sequentially, they are designed to be able to stand alone so that you can take whichever module you need as it is offered.

Thirdly, many of you who have completed some of the work un-

der the old format are concerned that you must start over. Not so! Your work is still valid and you only need to complete the modules you are missing. If you are not sure which modules or courses of EOFP you need just e-mail or call me and I'll help you figure it out.

And lastly, the observation requirement. It is preferable that a master catechist be the one to observe you, but as the number of certified master catechist has dwindled in the past few years, a certified basic catechist with at least 4 years of ministry service is able to observe/be observed to meet the requirement. The observation evaluation form

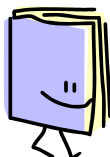
needs to be completed by both parties and submitted along with the Basic Catechist Certification application. If you have any questions about the certification process and the changes taking place, please don't hesitate to contact me!



Catechetical Coordinator:  
**Madeline Loiacono**

Ext. 109

## Media Center



Here is a series of books that are available for check-out at the Media Center. These books are very important for pastoral ministers who seek fundamental information about their faith.



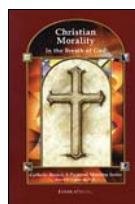
### Ecclesiology

The Church as Communion and Mission



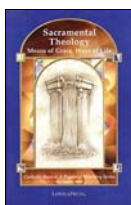
### Theological Reflection

Connecting Faith and Life



### Christian Morality

In the Breath of God



### Sacramental Theology

Means of Grace, Ways of Life



### Scripture

Nourished by the Word

Bilingual Media Secretary:  
**Rosie Navarro**

Ext. 100

## Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

I have met with groups that represent the color and flavor of our multicultural church; Hispanics, Native Americans, Lao-Kmhmu, and Hmong. There are many other groups I have yet to meet.

The hot summer months bring us opportunities to share outdoor activities with our family and friends; or stay indoors in our air-conditioned home. Unfortunately, many farm workers do not have that luxury of an air-conditioned

home. They are blessed with a sense of community and a sharing of resources. Masses are celebrated outdoors in the late afternoon in communion with all those who live in the different camps. The campesino leaders do an excellent job in organizing these celebrations.

The summer also brings death. If you have viewed the daily news, you have heard of the number of deaths that have been directly

linked to the heat. The farm workers NEED cold water available to them, consistently, at their work sites. **“Six farm workers deaths are being or have been investigated because of heat-related causes since May.**

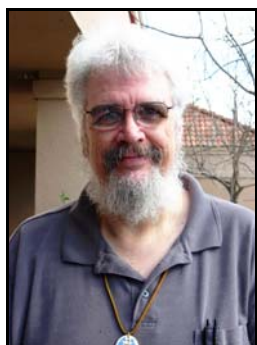
These recent deaths make it clear **the state does not have the capacity to protect farm workers.** As California's summer sizzles we must do everything we can to ensure that no more farm workers fall victim to the heat because the laws written to protect them are not enforced.” <https://secure.ga6.org/08/lobbyday08>

Thanks to all the leaders who give their time, their commitment and dedication to the people of God.



Coordinator:  
**Monica Cabrera**  
Ext. 107

## Detention Ministry



Director:  
**Claude Muncey**  
Ext. 108

There have been important changes in detention ministry over the last month. We have had to say good-bye to two of the most experienced prison chaplains, but also have been able to welcome a new chaplain with lots of experience in another diocese.

Sr. Carolyn Whited, S.H.F., and Sr. Diana White, S.H.F., have been the Catholic chaplains at California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran (CSATF) also known as “Corcoran II”, for most of that facility’s short life (it was opened in 1997). CSATF is one of the largest prisons in California, and

is currently the only one in the Diocese of Fresno with two Catholic chaplain positions. They established a range of programs at the facility, including sacramental preparation, and scheduled worship services for the Catholic community inside. Srs. Diana and Carolyn shared other pastoral care duties with four other facility chaplains for the more than 7,000 inmates at CSATF. Sr. Carolyn’s retirement last month was long planned, but Sr. Diana was relocated by her order recently for health reasons. Both have been a great help to detention ministry across the entire diocese, and both will be

greatly missed. Please keep them both in your prayers.

One of the two positions has already been filled. Mr. Jose Domingo Ojeda is the new Catholic chaplain at CSATF, having served for more than seven years at El Paso de Robles School (California Youth Authority) in the Diocese of Monterey. Jose is highly qualified and has a wide variety of experience in detention, Hispanic and youth ministry, as well as community organizing. The other chaplain vacancy is pending, frozen due to the current state budget situation.

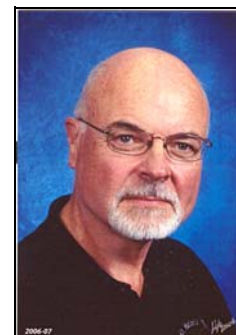
## School of Ministry

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens (Eccles. 3:1) The Hebrew scriptures tells us this great truth about God’s plan, Divine Providence, for His world and everyone on it. Discerning that plan is never easy, but there are signs all around us if we take the time to look and listen. As our third-year New Wine/Vino Nuevo students prepare to complete this program, they will be prayerfully discerning how to continue to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained during this process to pastoral ministry. They will complete a major project/paper this

coming spring helping them to apply their formation to the real-life situations in which they are. And, for some, this experience will lead them on to greater areas of service to Christ and His Church. We accompany them with our prayers and pray for their successful completion of this lay ministry formation process.

A new beginning of New Wine/Vino Nuevo is planned for the fall of 2009. Stay tuned to this newsletter and your parish bulletins for more information. We are also looking forward to the continuing program from Holy Names University, Oakland, for

the M.A. in Pastoral Ministries and the new site and new class at St. Francis of Assisi parish, Bakersfield. We are most grateful to the people at Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno, and at St. Francis parish who have made these class sites available and provided the diocese with the wonderful tele-conference equipment to make these interactive classes possible. And we are most appreciative for the diocesan financial support for student tuition made possible by the generosity of those who have given to **Our Faith, Our Family, Our Future.** God bless all for such generosity.



Dean  
**Fr. David Norris**  
Ext. 104

# Office of Ministries Newsletter

## Family Life Ministry



Coordinator:  
**Andy Ruperto**  
Ext. 106

In the words of St. Paul: "... every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband" (Eph 5:33). I want to highlight some things that are happening in our nation, in our state, and in our diocese around the theme of marriage.

The U.S. Bishops have already kicked off their campaign for marriage with their excellent website: [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) Please check it out if you have not already done so. Another promotional marriage tool that is coming out nationwide is a powerful movie called "Fireproof." It is coming to theaters on Septem-

ber 21<sup>st</sup>. For more info please go to the website: [www.fireproofthemovie.com](http://www.fireproofthemovie.com). In the state of California, we are being asked—What do we believe about marriage? We will have a chance to vote for Proposition 8 in November. The text is as follows: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California." [www.protectmarriage.com/amendment](http://www.protectmarriage.com/amendment). Please visit the website. It gives information on donating and volunteering for the cause. An ecumenical grassroots movement (endorsed by the California Catholic Conference of Bish-

ops) called "Protect Marriage," is working in our state. They kicked off 100 days of prayer in July and have also scheduled 40 days of fasting and prayer starting on Wed., Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. For the 100 days of prayer, they have instituted prayer everyday at 8 am and 8 pm in light of Proposition "8." Please say a short prayer or a "Hail Mary" to ask for our Mother Mary's intercession.

On September 6, 2008, Bishop John T. Steinbock is presiding at the annual Anniversary Mass for married couples at Holy Spirit Church in Fresno! The Holy Mass will be at 10:00 am followed by a small reception. Couples are asked to register through their local parish.

## Social Justice

Last month I sent you a letter from Paris; this month I would like to give you some thoughts from my visit to Poland. First of all, I would like to say that my experience in eastern Europe is not extensive, but the impression I got from the former East Germany and the Czech Republic, is that Poland is economically in worse shape than the other countries I have visited. I am sure this is related to their very difficult

history during the last century. During my visit I was talking with one of the Jesuit superiors in the city of Krakow and asked him about the turn-over from Communism to freedom, how the former leaders were treated. He answered that they were given total amnesty, and I said that was a grace-filled action. He said no.

He told me that most of the Communist leaders got their power and money on the backs of others who were severely

oppressed. Amnesty has permitted those people to maintain their power and their money to the disadvantage of others. The priest suggested that there was and still is a lack of justice in Poland, and this must be addressed, somehow. He was not talking about revenge, the oppressed demanding retribution, but what we call restorative justice, taking steps to restore justice among the people. This is an important topic as we look at our own prison systems. And more about this later. *Jim*



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

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 6 – Anniversary Mass, Holy Spirit, Fresno
- Sept. 13 – Youth Ministry Formation Day, St. Mary's, Visalia
- Sept. 28 – Campesino Ministry Meeting, Fresno
- Oct. 1 – Fresno Deaneries Youth Ministers Meeting, St. Helen's, Fresno

## Save the Dates!

- Oct. 11 – Diocesan Congress XX, SJM High School, Fresno
- Oct. 26 – Olimpiadas Juveniles, Woodward Park, Fresno
- Oct. 25 – 26 - World Youth Day Observance.



### Diocese of Fresno OFFICE OF MINISTRIES

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