

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue XI
September 2008

Message from the Director– *Patty Jiménez*

September has come and gone so quickly. It has been a very productive and exciting month for our office having organized the Annual Anniversary Mass, formation opportunities for Youth Coordinators and Campesino Ministry leaders, a Retreat for RCIA Coordinators, a movie preview for Family Life Coordinators, Diocesan Regional Meetings, and planning for Congress.

Monica Cabrera was married earlier this month and we congratulate her as she ventures into this new chapter of her life. I have never seen a happier bride. We also have had some staffing changes as Andy Ruperto has moved on and we welcome Sr. Joanne Bauer (see below) who has stepped in to coordinate Family Life. We want to thank Andy for his contributions and enthusiasm and we wish him the best. These last few months I have been very impressed with the dedication and collegiality amongst

our staff. There is a true spirit of collaboration and dynamism and I am most grateful for all of their hard work and flexibility in organizing and planning events. I have been fortunate to observe how passionate and committed they are to their ministry. My deepest admiration goes to those who have the courage to follow their ministerial calling. I thank them for their example. I also want to thank those of you who continue to read our newsletter. We always appreciate your feedback. In the upcoming months we plan on jazzing up our newsletter and adding a few new sections, so keep an eye out.

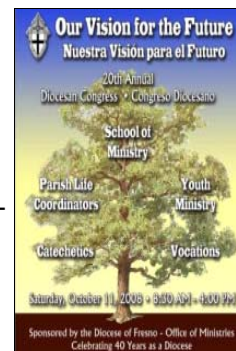
Our Diocesan Congress is less than two weeks away and there is so much enthusiasm. In the past, it was often thought of as an event reserved just for catechists and parish leaders. This year we are inviting all of the faithful who want to learn more about the Faith and who are eager to contribute to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. More than 1,000

people have registered thus far. The highest registrations received were 1,064 in 2003.

We anticipate that this year will mark the highest attendance. **For this reason we ask that you please car-**

pool. We are taking measures to provide alternate parking sites with shuttles to the Pastoral Center. **Help us out by sharing a ride.** Please check our Congress website for updates on parking. We ask for your continued patience during these next few weeks as we prepare for such a large turn out. Our staff is working overtime and we may not be able to promptly respond to e-mails and phone calls outside of Congress matters. Please note that we will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2008 to allow our staff some time to recover from this large undertaking.

Patty



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Welcome Sr. Joanne Bauer, CSC

I am delighted to have the privilege of working with you and serving you in the position of coordinator of Family Life Ministries. For the past ten years, I have been blessed to serve as Director of Adult Faith Formation, and earlier, as Director of Campus Ministry, at Fresno's St. Paul Newman Center. I grew up in Fresno; was baptized at St. Anne's in Porterville; attended St. John's & St. Therese's & San Joaquin Memorial. I also taught for 5 years at SJM. My mother and father were very active in supporting the parishes and Catholic schools that we attended in Fresno. Dad owned Fresno Linoleum Company on Van Ness Blvd., and donated labor and materials over the years to the parishes, rectories and schools. While I was in the novitiate in Indiana, my family moved from Oakland back to Fresno to tend to 40 acres in Fowler. They were active participants in the building of St. Lucy's. I treasure family life and all that it means on our faith journey. Fr. Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, spoke constantly of the priests, brothers and sisters as a family. It is with deep humility and respect that I enter into this relationship with you and the diocese, in serving as coordinator of Family Life Ministries. I am especially grateful to Andy Ruperto and all of my predecessors in this role over the years. I look forward to ministering with you and to you in the Lord's vineyard here in Fresno.

Sr. Joanne Bauer, CSC

www.dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/

Youth and Young Adults

We held our Formation Day in Visalia and it was well received by the Youth Ministry Community. Thank you so much to all who made it possible: Mr. Charles Culbreth, Ruben and Barbara Cabatic for all their hard work, Roy Guzman, Cesar and Maricela Lucio, Ana Barraza, EVAE Ministry from St. John's Cathedral and Andy Ruperto for presenting. A special thank you to Douachy Lor and the Hmong community for leading us in a beautiful ending prayer. I pray that in all we do, let us not forget to feed our soul so we can feed our young brothers and sisters. I am here to support, pray and serve you.

We are planning on publishing a newsletter for youth ministers with a calendar. If you have events that you would like us to put on this calendar, please e-mail them to me. In the mean time these are some of the events going on:

October 26th Olimpiadas Juveniles.

October 25th - 26th World Youth Day Observance. We invite all parishes to celebrate youth on that weekend. **More info available.**

The **National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry** sponsored by the

NFCYM will be held **December 4th - 7th** in Cleveland, Ohio. This is a great opportunity for youth coordinators. **\$245.00 registration fee + Travel + Meals.** For information or if you are interested in participating, please e-mail me or call me.

December 13th. Advent Retreat Place TBA.

Diocesan Youth Day January 31st, 2009. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee please call or e-mail me ASAP. If you are interested in knowing more about it please e-mail me.



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Catechetics

September means one thing – Catechetical Sunday! This year it was celebrated nationwide on September 21st. I hope that you took advantage of the day to recognize all those persons who answer the call to be a part of catechesis in the Church. It is important to publicly acknowledge the men and women who share their gifts, their faith and themselves with the larger Church by being that “echo of faith.” The theme for this catechetical year is “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.” This theme lends the opportunity to focus on Scripture and how to apply Scripture to

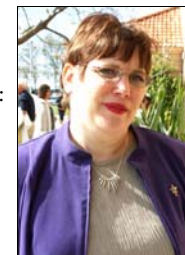
our life and ministry while fulfilling Christ's mission of building up the kingdom of God. If you need any resources, ideas or help in planning lessons or sessions around this theme, please feel free to contact me.

It is exciting that so many of you want to participate in the Echoes of Faith program and pursue certification! With such a demand for formation opportunities it is more than one person can do. If you have been cleared to facilitate the Echoes of Faith Plus program and would be willing to do so with a group, either at your parish, within your deanery, or at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, PLEASE let me know as there are catechists wishing to participate in the training. If

you already have some sessions planned and they are open to all then PLEASE let me know the date, location, time, cost, module, etc., so that it can be posted on the Diocesan website.

Under the new Echoes of Faith Plus format the materials are inclusive and defined so that everyone completing the program has completed the same work. This means that the Diocesan Congress workshops are not applicable to any modules. With the new process for Basic Certification there is a “professional development” requirement that means you must attend one full Fresno Diocesan Congress. By participating this year you will fulfill that require-

ment. Also, if you are re-certifying, any workshops you attend are applicable towards the 10 hours/year continuing formation requirement. And finally, some of the workshops may apply towards the eight-hour spiritual development requirement. If the workshop is for your spiritual enrichment then it would count towards that requirement.



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Media Center

This month I decided to share a poem. I have this poem at my desk and everyday I'm able to read it. I realized that I could relate to this more than usual. There are days when I have so much on my mind and so much to do getting off track and starting to feel exhausted. Finally taking the time to reflect and be in silence with the Lord instead of thinking only of myself, I started to feel the peace in me.

The Difference

I got up early one morning and rushed right into day; I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task. "Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on gray and bleak: I wondered why God didn't show me.

He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock. God gently and lovingly chided,

"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;

I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.



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Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

Greetings! As of September 6, 2008, I am Mrs. Pulley. I received the sacrament of marriage to Mr. Britt A. Pulley. It is a joy to be married to a man of God.

Campesino Ministry: There are numerous needs that have been expressed by many of you. The three main areas of necessity:

1. Mobile clinic (to the rural areas)
2. Food warehouse (especially for the winter season)
3. Material for catechism and for

evangelization.

Native Americans Ministry: I have submitted a request for membership to Tekakwitha Conference. 2009 Annual Conference: "We invite you to the 70th Annual Tekakwitha Conference from July 1 - 5, 2009 at the Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina." http://groups.creighton.edu/tekconf/annual_conference.html

Hmong Ministry: If you have not visited <http://www.hmongcatholic.org/>

take a look. You will find valuable information pertaining to the Hmong community.

Lao-Kmhmu: The Lao-Kmhmu have a monthly Mass on the first Sunday of the month in St. Anne's Chapel in Fresno at 8:00 A.M.

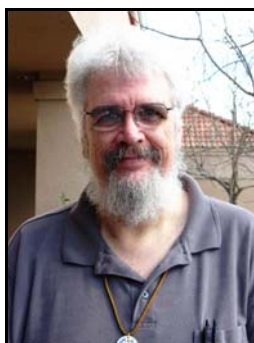
Donations: Thanks to all those who have generously donated items for the Campesino Ministry.



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Detention Ministry



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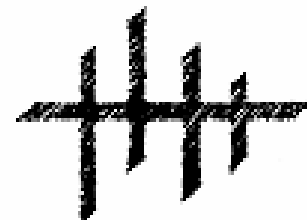
The Catholic Bishops of California have announced their opposition to Proposition 6 on the November 4th state ballot. This measure would mandate new and continued funding of certain criminal justice programs, while making changes in California criminal law. In their September 17th message, the bishops agree that communities have the right to make and enforce laws to protect the public, but that Catholic teachings demand protection of the life and dignity of both victim and offender:

"As bishops, we oppose Proposition 6 because it advances a retributive rather than a restorative

justice model for dealing with crime. Proposition 6 would create multiple new crimes and additional penalties, some with potential for new life sentences. Proposition 6 could also curtail the participation of nonprofit organizations in community councils that determine county-level policy for juvenile justice.

Although Proposition 6 was introduced in good faith by those with legitimate concerns about "safe neighborhoods," it offers more of the same criminal justice policies which have failed in the past—and it will cost Californians billions of dollars without increasing public safety."

Programs based on restorative justice, that both holds the offender responsible for their actions while seeking reconciliation with the victim, have been very successful in recent years, including here in the San Joaquin Valley.

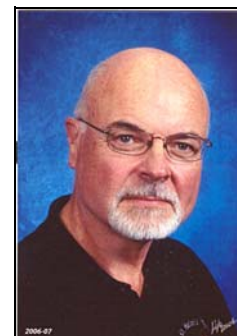


School of Ministry

"Our Vision for the Future", the highlighted theme of this year's Diocesan Congress, includes the formation programs promoted by the School of Ministry. Thanks to Rosa Maria Guembe's excellent efforts, the **Vino Nuevo** program, the Spanish-language version of **New Wine**, will complete its first three-year class next spring with twenty students. Along with the sixty students of **New Wine**, they will "graduate" next May with a certificate of completion. We congratulate and thank all the students, pre-

senters and site coordinators in Fresno, Bakersfield and Visalia for their tremendous participation. Registration information for the new **New Wine/Vino Nuevo** classes, which will begin in the fall of 2009, will be coming out early next year. Interested registrants should contact their parish pastor/priest administrator for registering and for his letter of recommendation for this worthwhile ministry formation program. Parishes will soon receive information brochures which detail the contents and requirements of this program.

"In the Footsteps of Paul—the Model of Conversion" This has been this year's theme for the annual RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) retreat that took place on the weekend of Sept. 19 -21 at St. Anthony Retreat House. The retreat was facilitated by Madeline Loiacono, Diocesan Coordinator of Catechetical Ministry, in coordination with Msgr. John Griesbach and Sr. Danielle Witt, Director and Associate Director of the retreat house. It was a wonderful experience for all.



Dean

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Office of Ministries Newsletter

Family Life Ministry



Coordinator:
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Family Life Ministries continues this month to work with our Diocese as a whole, in collaboration with the California Catholic Conference (of Bishops), to encourage the passage of Proposition 8 on the California November 4, 2008 ballot. If adopted, Proposition 8 will add these words to the California Constitution: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California."

The Yes on 8 / Protect Marriage movement encourages Californians to know the issues, register to vote, and to vote on November 4. It is felt that if the faithful form and inform their con-

sciences according to the principles of good stewardship, faithful citizenship, and the teachings of the Church, then when they vote their consciences they will vote "Yes" on Proposition 8.

Valuable information can be found on the home page of our diocesan website, www.dioceseoffresno.org. A rich context for our voting is found in our 2008 Diocesan Congress workshop on Faithful Citizenship, B-9, and at www.faithfulcitizenship.org/ or for KNXT Programming on Prop 8 See below.

Bishop Steinbock's Annual Anniversary Mass for Married Couples was a highlight for Family Ministries, as witnessed by glowing countenances and jubilant voices of those 120 couples who participated. Congratulations to all!



Social Justice

Soon a little more than a month we are going to walk into voting booths and cast ballots that will affect the common good of our city, our state, our nation, the world. We had better know what we are doing. We have the right to vote because we are Americans. We have the obligation to vote because we are Catholics. And as Catholics, we have the duty to vote intelligently and to vote morally. We have to leave our emotions, our feelings, our prejudices outside the booth.

I don't know about you, but I am getting a little tired of the games that some politicians are playing with our minds. I pay less attention to those games, and try to look to the issues—what do the various candidates understand, what are their views on my important issues, what do I believe they will do about those issues. As Catholics, we must look to the common good, not just to my own or my family's or even just to my country's well being. The dignity of human life, our common creation by our God, our common redemption by Jesus, the fellowship

effected in us by the Spirit are basic to us, touching issues of war, abortion, the death penalty, immigrants, economic justice. If we have primary obligations involving our own countrymen, we are also asked to love our neighbor, and that does not only refer to the family next door, it refers as well to the country next door. We cannot make society perfect, there's no magic wand that we can wave that will solve all our problems, but we can work together, aware of our goals to be a people, one people, under Father, Son and Spirit. Voting is not just something we do one Tuesday in November. It is a

process that takes some time, so that our voting is done intelligently and morally—and lovingly. Jim



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Upcoming Events Save the dates!

- Oct. 11- 20th Annual Diocesan Congress
- Oct. 26– Olimpiadas Juveniles, Woodward Park, Fresno.
- Oct. 25- 26 World Youth Day Observance
- Nov. 4– Get out and Vote!
- December 13th- Advent Retreat for Youth Coordinators

KNXT TV Marriage Programming– Prop 8

Date(s)	Program	Speakers/ Guests	Topic
October 15, 16, & 19	<i>Yesterday Today and Forever</i>	Fathers Esquivel, Toschi & Avila	Catholic Clergy discussion— Theology of Body & Prop 8
October 29, 30 Nov 2	<i>Yesterday Today and Forever</i>		Prop 8
Oct 13 & 17 th	<i>Forum for Better Understanding</i>	Interfaith panel looks at Prop 8	Fr. Dan Avila & Pastor Franklin
Oct 8, 9 & 10 th	<i>Yesterday Today and Forever</i>	Prop 4	Right to Life of Central California
TBA	<i>Pueblo de Dios</i>	Hilda Tapia	Discussion of Prop 8—Spanish
TBA	<i>Nossa Fe</i>	John Souza	Prop 8-- Portuguese
TBA	<i>Compartiendo la Palabra</i>		Catholic Teaching on Marriage Spanish

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