

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue VII
May 2008

Message from the Director– *Patty Jiménez*

Next month marks my nine months as Director of the Office of Ministries. A few weeks ago I had a dream that I was giving birth to a baby. This dream has surfaced at several points in my life, particularly when I am busy creating and developing projects. I am happy to announce that after nine months we have a complete staff. Alejandro Barraza has accepted the position of Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Monica Cabrera will also join the staff as Coordinator of Campesino/Multicultural Ministry.

Alejandro is moving from Minnesota and will start August 1, 2008. Monica will begin next month and is from Hanford. Both of them are fully bilingual and bicultural and I am very excited about the quality and commitment that they bring to their perspective ministries. Having coordinators for these positions will certainly be a great asset to parish coordinators who are in need of support, formation, and leadership. I thank all of you for your patience and suggestions as we continue to organize our office and plan future events.

Patty

2008 Diocesan Congress
"Our Vision for the Future"

Saturday, October 11
On the campus of San Joaquin Memorial High School & the Diocesan Pastoral Center

- Vocations •
- Catechetics •
- Youth Ministry •
- School of Ministry •
- Parish Life Coordinators •

Workshops offered in
• English / Spanish / Hmong / Vietnamese / Thai •

• Mass celebrated by Bishop Steinbock •

20th Annual Gathering presented by the Office of Ministries each year since "Called and Gifted" - September 30, 1989

Celebrating 40 years as a Diocese

BE A PART OF HISTORY!

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Diocesan Congress Volunteers Needed

The success of our Annual Diocesan Congress would not be achievable were it not for the staff and many volunteers who give so much of their time. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve in the following capacity or committees:

- Liturgy**
- Registration**
- Hospitality**
- Equipment Set up/Delivery**
- Parking**
- Publicity**
- Set Up**
- Clean Up**
- Office Support**
- Transportation of Speakers**

This is a great opportunity for youth groups/confirmation students looking to obtain service hours. Fresno State students can also receive credits by volunteering next Fall and enrolling in Community Service 101. Please contact Martín Barrera 559-488-7474 ext. 103 for more information.

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Youth and Young Adults

Youth Coordinators and parishes rejoice! After a four-year vacancy, Alejandro Barraza will soon join our staff as Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Alejandro currently works as a Youth Coordinator at a Parish in Minnesota. He is a Charter member of NACYML (National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders) and currently serves as

Treasurer for the organization. Alejandro is Bilingual/Bicultural and has worked with English and Spanish speaking youth, and has experience with Hmong communities. He is finishing up his contract at St. Anastasia Parish and is also organizing a parish trip to Australia for youth day. His start date is August 1, 2008.

He is very excited about visiting parishes and developing a vibrant youth ministry program in the Diocese.



Upcoming Youth Coordinators Meetings:

English

June 26, 2008, 7pm
St. Mary's in Sanger

Spanish

July 6, 2008, 3pm
St. Anthony in Atwater

Bilingual Coordinator:

Vacant until 8/1/08

Bilingual Secretary:

Martin Barrera

Ext. 103

Catechetics

The Diocesan Catechetical Advisory Board (DCAB) has been heating things up at the Diocese with their work on the guidelines for sacramental preparation (first sacraments, baptism) and new learning objectives. Also, a new reporting form to generate a more complete census of the Diocese has been developed and we hope to share it at the upcoming Bishop's Appreciation Day gathering. This form will

be used as a means to gather comprehensive information from around the Diocese regarding catechesis and will allow the Diocesan offices to better serve you in your areas of parish ministry. Speaking of the upcoming Bishop's Appreciation Day for Catechetical Leaders – Bishop Steinbock has graciously agreed to come and spend a little “one-on-one” time with us at the morning gathering before the liturgy and luncheon.

So this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. This day is a day we say “Thank You!” to our dedicated catechetical leaders in the parishes (DRE's, CRE's, DFF's, DCM's and Pastors). A scrumptious buffet luncheon hosted by Sadlier Publishers and catered by Grand Occasions will round out the day. DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 6 – don't delay!!!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- June 19 – Appreciation Day with Bishop Steinbock
- October 11 – Diocesan Congress “Our Vision for the Future”



Catechetical Coordinator:

Madeline Loiacono

Ext 109

Media Center



LET'S GET READY TO STRETCH OUR MINDS

During this month we find ourselves celebrating sacraments and getting ready for graduations.

Thank you to those who have taught in religious education/faith formation programs. You've made a difference and we hope that you continue in your journey to teach and spread the Word.

Let's not forget to take the time for ourselves to reevaluate what we've accomplished and what we can continue to do to grow in faith and wisdom.

Annual Membership Information for the Media Center will be mailed out to parishes the first week of June! Check out the new membership prices.

NEW ARRIVALS



Questions and Answers
POPE BENEDICT XVI



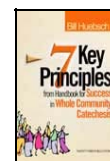
Take Five On-the-Job Meditations with St. Ignatius

Mike Aquilina & Fr. Kris D. Stubna



Here Comes Everybody

Whole Community Catechesis in the Parish



7 Key Principles (DVD)

Success in Whole Community Catechesis

Bilingual Media Secretary:

Rosie Navarro

Ext. 100

Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

We are happy to welcome Monica to our staff.



Monica Cabrera has worked as a case worker for the Central Valley Regional Center. In this capacity she worked with various ethnic groups, many of whom are campesinos. She is very well connected with social services in the Central Valley. She has been a catechist and has led youth retreats. Most important is her own

experience as an immigrant from Mexico. Monica will start July 1, 2008.

Fr. Michael McAndrew, a Redemptorist priest from Arizona, will be providing a Parish Mission for focusing on evangelization with Campesinos. Fr. McAndrew has ministered to migrants in Oregon and California.

Campesino Meetings

June 1, 2008
July 27, 2008
August 31, 2008
September 28, 2008
December 7, 2008

Director:

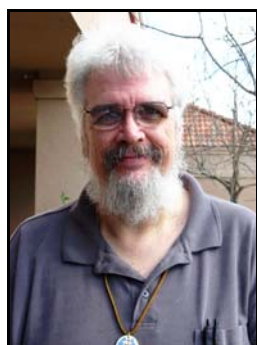
Vacant until 7/1/08

Bilingual Secretary:

Martin Barrera

Ext 103

Detention Ministry



Director:

Claude Muncey

Ext, 108

Orientation and training sessions for anyone interested in detention ministry have been scheduled for this summer. Introduction to Detention Ministry is intended for those called to serve as volunteers in jails, prisons or juvenile facilities. Topics will include: the history and philosophy of detention ministry, the culture of incarceration, and the practice of pastoral visiting in detention facilities.

In addition to this session, each facility has its own requirements for clearance and training.



While the written materials are bilingual English/Spanish, these initial four sessions will be presented in English only.

The sessions will run from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (on Saturdays) at the following locations:

7/12 — Pastoral Center, Fresno

7/26 — St. Francis of Assisi, Bakersfield

8/9 — St. Brigid, Hanford

8/23 — St. Patrick, Merced

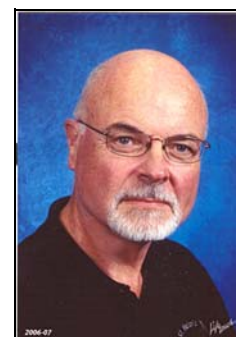
School of Ministry

The second year of the current *New Wine/Vino Nuevo* classes concluded with personal interviews for all eighty candidates, sixty in the English language program and twenty in the Spanish language program. The participants were asked to reflect on their growth through their experience of gatherings and instructions and implementing their learning in their own lives and ministries. As the third and final year of classes begins this fall, candidates will be engaging in their final paper/project for completion of this program. A comprehensive evaluation of *New*

Wine will be conducted by the School of Ministry by contacting alumni of the program--over 250 throughout the diocese--and presenters past and present. *New Wine* has been used in our diocese now for nearly a dozen years. All present and former participants who wish to take part in the evaluation are asked to contact the School of Ministry.

The M.A. program in pastoral ministries successfully concluded its first year. This history-making program for our diocese will expand to two sites in August as a new cohort begins on Tuesday evenings in Bakersfield as well as

Fresno. The current group of students will continue on Monday evenings at both sites as well. We are most grateful to Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno and St. Francis of Assisi church, Bakersfield, for making facilities and staff available for these excellent classes, broadcast live and interactively from Holy Names University, Oakland. Our present and newly registered students are excited about the opportunities for ministry formation provided by this fine program. For information about either of these programs, contact the School.



Dean

Fr. David Norris

Ext. 104

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Family Life Ministry



Coordinator:
Andy Ruperto
Ext 106

In light of the Memorial Holiday that we are celebrating this month, I want to share about my experience at Catholic Lobby Day this past April. This is the main point I learned—Catholics are called to be responsible citizens. We are called to know and love our American heritage and, rather than spiral into criticisms and nasty remarks to find solutions to our nation's shortcomings.

On April 22, a group of us from the diocese made our way down to Sacramento (I love the "Catholic" names of our cities!) to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We had Mass with Bishops, priests, seminarians, lay people, and students from all over Califor-

nia. Then we marched down the street to the capitol building where we found out that "Planned Parenthood" was also having their lobby day!

For a person that has not been too politically active, this day opened my eyes to the power and responsibility we have to influence the choices of our state! The Catholic voice is an important one, and I highly recommend anyone to attend Catholic Lobby Day to be a presence, and a voice in our stand for life and families or just to learn more about the politics of our state.

As Church we must be the first to confront the discontent-

ment and apathy that confronts our citizens today by being a leading voice in economics, politics, in the workplace, and in our homes about the good news of the Kingdom and the teachings of Jesus Christ! Let us make a stand for life, for families, and for our faith.

POSITIVE PUBLIC POLICY ACTION

Become informed about the issues at this website:

<http://www.catholic.org/>

Don't forget to register to vote!

Social Justice

Our diocese participated in two very important Social Justice projects these past thirty days: April 22 was Lobby Day and May 9 was Get on the Bus Day.

The former was a marvelous moment in Faithful Citizenship as some 700 Catholics from all over California convened in Sacramento to talk, to celebrate Mass and then to march on the Capitol in order to talk to our legislators about our views and values and the needs of the people who cannot speak for themselves. One item we discussed was the state budget, and

hopefully we made an impression because the governor still wants to cut help to the poorest and most vulnerable and that must not be permitted.

The latter was a day of laughter and tears and hugging and loving as over 600 children were bussed to five different state prisons to be united with their mothers the Friday before Mother's Day. It is important for the mothers to see their children; it is essential for the children to see their mothers. Some people have criticized this program, maintaining that the

women are criminals and deserve the punishment. But our Church prefers to walk with Jesus who praised those who visit the imprisoned. Check Matthew 25:36-40: "I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, ...when was it that we saw you ...in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Jim



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

Upcoming Events

- June 1 – Campesino Ministry Meeting, Fresno
- June 19 – Bishop's Annual DRE's/CRE's Appreciation Mass & Luncheon
- June 26 – Youth Ministry Coordinators Mtg. (English), St. Mary, Sanger
- July 6 – Youth Ministry Coordinators Mtg. (Spanish), St. Anthony, Atwater
- July 12 – Detention Ministry Training, Pastoral Center, Fresno
- July 26 – Detention Ministry Training, St. Francis of Assisi, Bakersfield

Save the Dates!

- July 27 – Campesino Ministry Meeting, Fresno
- August 9 – Detention Ministry Training, St. Brigid, Hanford
- August 23 – Detention Ministry Training, St. Patrick, Merced
- August 31 – Campesino Ministry Meeting, Fresno



Diocese of Fresno OFFICE OF MINISTRIES

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