

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue IX
July 2008

Message from the Director– *Patty Jiménez*

Happy summer! There is much movement in the office as new faces walk the hallways. Our cubicles are filling up quickly and by the time this newsletter reaches you, our staff will be complete. Our phones are ringing, and our calendars are beginning to fill up. It is a very exciting time for us. Again, we ask for your continued patience as we are restructuring and reorganizing the office. Since many of our staff are new, they need to be oriented to the diocese, its policies, and get acquainted with leadership in the parishes. Please make sure to give them a couple of days to adjust before you call to introduce yourselves.

We are also quite excited about our Diocesan Congress in October. Our speaker list is near finalization and we have many new plans and ideas to make this year's Congress an eventful one. Registration Booklets will be mailed out in a few weeks. We

encourage you to register as early as possible. Please promote the event to your parish staff, school staff, volunteers and anyone interested in attending as we will be presenting an update on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, "Our Vision for the Future."

I have spent some time reading Franciscan Theology as of late, for a paper that I was writing. Franciscan Theologian John Duns Scotus, states, "All reality is good and beautiful. Moral living does not so much involve finding those objects worthy of love but rather working out the manner by which we can love reality as it deserves." Scotus' statement was in regards to creation and seeing God's presence in all creation. Justice then becomes how we respond out of love for all of creation. My hope is to develop a curriculum for the Care of Creation for parishes in the near future. Blessings!

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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Donations Needed!!

Campesino Ministries is in need of donations. The economy is having a real negative effect on campesinos and their families. Most of them earn small wages for their hard work in the fields. With the increased cost of gas, food, and utilities there are more requests for assistance. Many of them also do not have the resources nor transportation to seek medical assistance. Many of the religious education programs take place in the home and our dedicated volunteers provide their own supplies and pay for their own transportation costs. Please consider donating some of the following items or starting a food bank at your parish to assist local farm workers.

Contact Monica Cabrera, if you can assist, by calling (559) 488-7474 Ext. 107.

Items Needed

- Clothing
- First Aid kits
- Kitchen Supplies
- School supplies for Religious Education Program (paper, crayons, pencils, markers)
- Bibles and Religious items (rosaries, Last Supper images/icons)
- Religious Education textbooks in Spanish



Office of Ministries Newsletter

Youth and Young Adults

We are excited to announce that Mike Hayes, author of "Googling God," will be a speaker at this year's Diocesan Congress. He will be giving two exciting workshops! Don't miss this opportunity – SAVE THE DATE: October 11, 2008.

The Youth Committee that is developing the Pastoral Plan is inviting youth ministers to at-

tend a meeting where they will be presenting tentative goals for youth ministry in the Diocese. It is IMPORTANT that ALL youth ministers attend to give feedback.

English and Spanish
Input on Youth Ministry Goals for the Pastoral Plan
August 3, 2008, at 3pm
St. Mary in Visalia

If you can't attend there will be another meeting open to all Catholics on

August 10, 2008, at 3pm

St Mary in Visalia

We look forward to seeing you there!



Formation Day
English and Spanish
September 13, 2008
Location to be announced

Bilingual Coordinator:
Vacant until 8/1/08
Bilingual Secretary:
Martin Barrera
Ext. 103

Catechetics

Happy summer to everyone! Here's to hot weather, bbq's, and being with family and friends! Summer in the Catechetical office is anything but a time to slow down – quite the opposite really. It is a very busy time full of planning and progress. I'm running a series of Basic Catechetical Certification courses using the new "Echoes of Faith Plus" series from RCL-Benziger. I'm also preparing for the upcoming RCIA retreat in September at St. Anthony Retreat Center as well as the upcoming Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCL's)

"Leadership Enhancement" days to be held August 6-8 in Merced, Fresno, and Bakersfield.

That's just the beginning. Also in the works are the revised sacramental guidelines for Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist; a revised Diocesan Handbook for PCL's; coordinating training sessions for RCIA; completing the course material for Advanced Catechist certification courses; and reviewing and deciding upon the curriculum for the revised Master Catechist certification process.

For anyone who may have not have heard or received the information regarding the new Basic

Catechist certification process, the older modules have been replaced with a wonderful program from RCL-Benziger called "Echoes of Faith Plus." This program is learner-driven with a facilitator leading the group and is very user friendly. The 11 required courses are combined into four modules and take about 32 hours to complete. They are easy to understand, easy to participate in, and make offering courses and completing the requirements a snap. Every parish was sent a flyer listing the summer offerings at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Right now, the courses are being offered in

English only. As soon as I get some volunteers willing to offer Ecos de Fe (Spanish version of the program), I will be sure to let everyone know and post it to the website.



Catechetical Coordinator:
Madeline Loiacono
Ext. 109

Media Center



Our Media Center is receiving some TLC so please excuse us in this transition. We hope to make it more convenient for all of us. God Bless!

The Rose Fitzgerald Program

(available in Spanish)

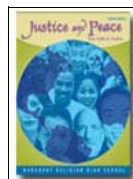
to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities.



Justice and Peace

Our Faith in Action

Emphasizes key themes from Scripture. Focus on Catholic Social Teaching.



Spirituality of Sport

Balancing Body + Soul

In exploring and developing a healthy spirituality for body and soul, Susan Saint Sing tells many personal anecdotes and those of her fellow athletes and coaches.



Mary, in her own words

The Mother of God in Scripture

The Bible notes Mary's words on only four occasions. Humanly speaking, this is not much to go on for those interested in learning about who she was and why she matters today.



Bilingual Media Secretary:
Rosie Navarro
Ext. 100

Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

The first day of work, I listened to stories of a great leader who served God's people in this ministry — Mr. Zeferino Gonzalez. I want to follow in his footsteps in this road towards the kingdom of God. I am here to serve and support you, as much as possible. I have listened to many of you who have visited or called. It sounds as if you felt that this ministry was abandoned. This ministry was not aban-

doned — Jesus was carrying it. I would like to thank the staff at the Office of Ministries for giving me a warm welcome. It will be a joy and honor to work with all of them.

The California Relay for Education Dream Act (SB 1301): "The Dream Act will allow undocumented AB 540 students to compete for institutional financial aid in the University of California and California State University system." We will be hav-

ing a week of activities during August 22-28, 2008.

For further information visit:
www.cadreamact.org

Summer Campesino Masses

No summer masses with Bishop John T. Steinbock until next summer — July, 2009.

2008 Campesino Meetings

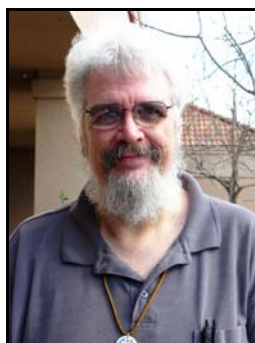
August 31; September 28; December 7



Coordinator:
Monica Cabrera
Ext. 107

Bilingual Secretary:
Martin Barrera
Ext. 103

Detention Ministry



Director:
Claude Muncey
Ext. 108

The annual Introduction of Detention Ministry classes have begun for the summer, with a small but successful session in Fresno on July 12. The next three sessions, which run from 9am to 1pm, are:

- August 9 at St. Brigid, Hanford
- August 23 at St. Patrick, Merced

Each session covers essential topics for ministry in prisons and jails. We discuss the basic nature of detention ministry as ministry of presence, as well as reviewing

some of the unique characteristics of inmate spirituality. Also included is a description of the world inside detention ministry and guidelines for Catholic ministry in such facilities. The intention is to provide a basic knowledge that will assist either the new or experienced in this work.



This training is necessary because all ministers need to be adequately prepared for the environment in which they work and prisons and jails are unique environments. Also, some facilities require documentation from the Church that a person is qualified before authorizing them to minister at their facility.

To register you can call, fax, or email me at the Pastoral Center:

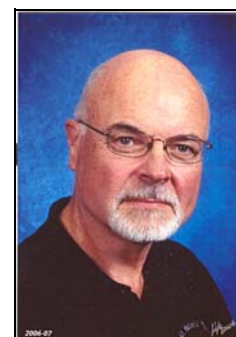
Phone: (559) 488-7474 x 108
Fax: (559) 493-2847
Email: cmuncey@dioceseoffresno.org

School of Ministry

The "dog days" of summer (this year, thanks to the College World Series, they are the Bulldog Days!) bring a time for renewal and relaxation. They are also hectic here at the SOM planning for new and exciting programs for the coming year. The new group of M.A. candidates is forming for our Tuesday classes in Fresno and Bakersfield, and the continuing students will meet in those two cities on Monday evenings starting in late August.

As the final year of this session of *New Wine/Vino Nuevo* is to begin in September, plans are already being made to register new applicants for the new cycle of that formation beginning in the fall of 2009. Evaluation questionnaires are being prepared for mailing to all present and former students of *New Wine/Vino Nuevo*, as well as to all presenters and staff members of the program. We appreciate your response to help us improve the program before it begins again.

We continue to thank God for the many blessings we have received in the many persons who have offered themselves for ministry in our wonderful diocese. In this **Year of St. Paul**, we dedicate our programs to the intercession of the Apostle to the Gentiles as we form new messengers of the Good News following in the footsteps of this true witness to Jesus Christ.



Dean
Fr. David Norris
Ext. 104

Office of Ministries Newsletter

Family Life Ministry



Coordinator:
Andy Ruperto
Ext. 106

Bilingual Secretary:
Martin Barrera
Ext. 103

I hope all of you were able to spend time with loved ones on the 4th of July. It's funny, the Day of our Independence caused me to reflect on our dependence on God and on one another (especially family). At the root of society is a declaration of dependence—Marriage!

From June 30th to July 5th, I attended 2 conferences on marriage. From the conferences, I have 2 things I want to promote. The first is an awesome film that will be coming out in September called "Fireproof." It is a movie about a fireman and his transformation through Christian marriage. The second item I want to continue to promote is the Bishops' website on marriage: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org>.

Please spread the word and look into these two tools of evangelization and knowledge!

The week of July 20-26 was National Family Planning Awareness Week. The Catholic Church is against all forms of contraception. It destroys relationships and distorts the beauty of sexuality that the Church advocates. The Catholic Church promotes the use of Natural Family Planning. To learn more, call me and I can send you some information or look at what the U.S. Bishops' have to say on their website: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/information.shtml>.

Register to vote!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Engaged Encounter Weekend Retreat

When: Aug. 15—Aug. 17, Fri.-Sun. (7:00pm Fri.—3:00pm Sun.)

Where: [St. Anthony Retreat Center](#) in Three Rivers, CA

Contact: CEE INFORMATION LINE at (559) 265-3365.

Engaged and Married

Natural Family Planning 1st Class (ENGLISH)

When: Aug. 12, Tues. (6pm—9pm)

Where: St. Anthony's Conference Room, Fresno **Contact:** Brian & Fran Cameron: (559) 432-8466

Natural Family Planning 1st Class (SPANISH)

When: Aug. 23, Sat. (5pm—8pm)

Where: Room D of St. Joachim's Center, Madera **Contact:** Ramon & Maribel Alvarado: (559) 674-3062

Social Justice

I am writing to you from Paris, France, a city that for me for a long time has meant acceptance and integration of different races and ethnic groups. Indeed, these days I have seen people from countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Australia and even America. However, these days I am reading about a developing racism, affecting mainly

those from Arabic countries. If this is true, it would be very sad.

We all have one Creator, one Redeemer, one Consoler: Our God is the Father of all. Jesus asks us to love all.

Social Justice is not some left wing movement. It is

Jesus calling us all to reach out to the poor and the hungry, the sick and the imprisoned, no matter their race or country of origin. We are called to walk with the oppressed and the voiceless so well that we can be their voices. We receive this call with our Baptism.

Jim



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

Upcoming Events

- August 3 – Youth Committee Meeting, St. Mary, Visalia
- August 6-8 – Leadership Enhancement for New PCL's
- August 9 – Detention Ministry Training, St. Brigid, Hanford
- August 10 – Youth Committee Meeting, St. Mary, Visalia
- August 23 – Detention Ministry Training, St. Patrick, Merced

Save the Dates!

- August 31 – Campesino Ministry Meeting, Fresno
- September 6 – Anniversary Mass, Holy Spirit, Fresno
- September 13 – Youth Formation Day, TBD
- September 28 – Campesino Ministry Meeting, Fresno



Diocese of Fresno OFFICE OF MINISTRIES

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

Coordinator of Family Life: Andriel Ruperto

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