

# Office of Ministries Newsletter

## Diocese of Fresno



Volume I, Issue I  
November 2007

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

As the Advent season draws near, our office finds itself in faithful anticipation of accomplishing the Goals and Priorities of our Diocesan plan that is in development, “Our Vision for the Future.” Since Advent marks the beginning of the Liturgical year, it is fitting that much of our time will be spent preparing and developing objectives for our office. One of the many requests that I have received since my arrival, is an increase in communication between our office and parishes. My hope is that through this newsletter we will be able to more effectively serve the people of God in the Diocese of Fresno as well as develop and improve our relationship with parishes and Catholic schools in the Diocese.

Having been here a little over two months, I am pleased that the busyness of the Fall

has now passed and that I am now able to begin organizing and tapping into the creative energies of our outstanding staff, committees and advisory boards. I am also thankful for the hospitable and warm welcome that all of you have blessed me with. Most important, I find myself honored by the grace of getting to



know so many of the people of the Diocese of Fresno in such a short time.

Our newsletter is divided into the various ministries in our office. Each section will begin by providing you with an update of ac-

complishments and events that our office has either organized or collaborated with. It follows with upcoming events and plans for each area.

The office is moving towards becoming more technologically savvy. You can expect improvements in our office website, an increase in communication via e-mail, and an updating of our Media Center. There are currently 4 positions that are open in our office- Multicultural/ Campesino Ministry, Family Life Ministry, Youth/ Young Adult Ministry, and Catechetics. I am currently overseeing all of these areas until they are filled. My hope is that most will be filled by the start of the new year. If you know of any qualified candidates, please be sure to refer them to our diocesan website or contact Katy Andrews at 559-488-7488 or [kandrews@dioceseoffresno.org](mailto:kandrews@dioceseoffresno.org).

*Patty*

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### Diocesan Congress



Our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Diocesan Congress was held on October 13, 2007. We had a total of 933 registrants representing 75 parishes and 14 Catholic schools this year. 22 presenters offered

41 workshops in four different languages – English, Spanish, Hmong, and Vietnamese.

As Bishop Steinbock indicated in his invitation, the theme for this year, “Encountering the Living Christ,” offered us a unique opportunity to deepen our awareness to the many ways by which the risen Christ constantly invites us to a new and transforming relationship with Him. Those in attendance surely experienced the joy of community celebration as part of the diocesan local church, returning to their respective par-

ishes/schools filled with a renewed spirit to remain eager in continuing their service to the people/ children of God.

Many thanks to all those who contributed so generously in making this day such a success. We are in the process of evaluating this year’s Congress. We appreciate your feedback. If you would like to volunteer next year or know of volunteers, please contact Paul Mentlewski at 559-488-7477 or sign up online using our volunteer form on our website.

# Office of Ministries Newsletter

## Youth and Young Adults



Bilingual Coordinator:  
**Vacant**  
Bilingual Secretary:  
**Martin Barrera**  
(559) 488-7495

**4** 23 youth from four deaneries participated in the **Olimpiadas Juveniles** that were held on October 28, 2007, at Woodward Park in Fresno. The event began with Mass followed by soccer and volleyball competitions. Winners were awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies as well as Best Team Spirit. Please check out our website for pictures from the event.

**O**n Saturday November 3, 2007, 117 youth, youth ministers and coordinators participated in the workshop **Theology of the Body for**

**Teens** adapted from John Paul II's papal addresses and facilitated by Brian Butler. The workshop was held at St. Mary's Parish in Visalia. Thanks to the committee's hard work, this was the largest training to date held nationally. Copies of books will be available soon in the Media Center to check out. Parishes can also order TOB books & DVD's through our office to receive a discounted price from the publisher.

**T**he USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat received a donation for free **Bella** movie tickets for Catholic Youth. The Diocese of

Fresno obtained 200 free tickets and on Nov. 11th 200 youth and young adults from the Fresno Metro Deanery attended a private showing of the movie. Go and see the movie!

**Youth Ministry Survey**— we are collecting youth ministry surveys on-line and in person. Mail surveys into our office by Nov. 30 – they will help us develop our five year plan.

A meeting for Coordinators of Youth/Young Adults and Pastoral Juvenil will be scheduled in January.

## Catechetics

**Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.**

— St. Jerome

**O**ur office has met with DRE/CRE's from 4 of the 5 Deaneries in the Diocese. The Diocesan Catechetical Advisory Board has also been meeting every other month to discuss items such as Basic Catechist Certification, developing the DRE/CRE handbook, and to report events in each of the deaneries.

There have been many opportunities for catechetical formation— Diocesan

Congress, Theology of the Body, and RCIA Training. Little Rock Scripture Study was postponed due to low registrations.

Our office will be working on developing the DRE/CRE handbook and providing diocesan policies regarding sacramental preparation. We are also hoping to find a speaker to present how to offer religious education for students with special needs.



Catechetical Coordinator:  
**Patricia Jiménez**  
Administrative Assistant:  
**Paul Mentlewski**  
(559) 488-7477

## Media Center

**O**ur Media Center will be getting a face lift in the upcoming months. We have received many requests for DVD's, as most of our media is only available in VHS format. Our hope is to begin the process of switching to DVD in the upcoming months. We will also be evaluating all resources to ensure that they are up to par with the 1993 Catechism of the Catholic Church. We are purchasing a library circula-

tion software for the Media Center. This software will allow us to use a scanner and barcode system similar to most libraries. It will also allow us to catalogue, search and circulate books, CDs, DVDs, audiocassettes, videos, magazines, etc. It will automatically track loan items and print reminder notices for overdue items. Once our cataloging is complete, we will be able to provide a searchable catalog online that will be accessible

to catechists, DRE/CRE's, pastors, priests, deacons, lay ministers and Catholic school teachers in the Diocese via our website. We will be in need of volunteers as switching to a new system will take much time and effort. Our hope is that it is completed by summer '08. Please contact Rosie Navarro or sign up online using our Volunteer Sign Up Form.



Bilingual Media Secretary:  
**Rosie Navarro**  
(559) 488-7474

## Multicultural/Campesino Ministry

We have begun meeting with various groups in the diocese such as the Hmong Catholic Community and Hmong Catholic Young Adults. The Hmong communities will be celebrating the New Year on December 2nd and 8th. Fr. John Bosco, from Berkeley, travels once a month to celebrate Mass with the Lao/Kmhmu'

community in Fresno and the Lahu community in Visalia. We have met with both of these groups this month.

A meeting with coordinators of Spanish Catechetical programs and Campesino ministry will be scheduled in December.



Director:

**Vacant**

Bilingual Secretary:

**Martin Barrera**

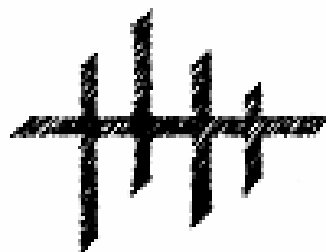
(559) 488-7495

## Detention Ministry

This ministry has been busy with basic detention ministry formation sessions at four locations (St. Brigid's in Hanford, St. Francis of Assisi in Bakersfield, St. Patrick in Merced and the Pastoral Center in Fresno) as well as working with facility chaplains, the California Conference of Bishop's and local Catholics to try and resolve religious freedom issues at certain facilities.

Looking towards the new year, we are planning a day of recollection for prison and jail chaplains, and a detention ministry day and Mass.

Director Claude Muncey will continue finding and supporting prison chaplains for the many families in our diocese, and working with local pastors and laity ministering in local jails.



Director:

**Claude Muncey**

(559) 488-7494

**The Lord has  
turned all our  
sunsetts into  
sunrise.**

– St. Clement of

Alexandria

## Lay Ministry Institute

New Wine Program- In September "New Wine" participants began their second year of exciting learning and growth with a course on "Ministry and the Minister" followed by a course on "Human Development and Communication." We are grateful to Rory Duran, Mary Lou Paquette, Teresa Dominguez, Gabriel Martínez, and Jim Grant who have done a terrific job of facilitating the courses.

Vino Nuevo- Participants have also begun their second year in the program with renewed enthusiasm. Gabriel

Martínez and Cesar and Maricela Lucio have also done a super job in facilitating the courses and translating some of the materials into Spanish. Thank you! Both groups are about to start a new course on "Prayer and Spirituality".

RCIA Training- In depth training for RCIA Parish Teams was the goal of the new program we started in September. The program began with a retreat at Three Rivers and 40 participants continue to meet—the first Saturday of the month. Requirements include personal assign-

ments on the steps of the RCIA process. We are all enjoying and growing with Fr. Steve Coffey's teachings and guidance.

A. in Pastoral Ministries-

The Diocesan partnership with Holy Names University is becoming a reality! There are already 15 participants from our Diocese ready to start the program in January. We want to thank Bishop John T. Steinbock, Msgr. E. James Petersen and the Lay Formation Committee and Saint Agnes Medical Center who, along with the Holy Names administration, have

been working hard during the last few months to bring this program to our Diocese. A document of approval from WASC is the only thing we need to start. For more information contact Rosa Maria Guembe or go to [www.hnu.edu/academics/gpastoralministries.html](http://www.hnu.edu/academics/gpastoralministries.html)



Interim Director:

**Rosa Maria Guembe**

(559) 493-2871

# Office of Ministries Newsletter

## Family Life Ministry

On Saturday, September 29, 2007 143 couples attended the Anniversary Mass at Holy Spirit Church in Fresno. Bishop John T. Steinbock presided. This year's couple who has been married the longest— 70 years- Manuel and Mary Silva presented a bouquet of flowers to our Blessed Mother Mary during the ceremony where couples renewed their marriage vows. See photos online!

make sure to contact our office and inform us of any events happening in your parish. The office is preparing for the Right to Life Mass on January 19, 2008, at 4:15 pm at St. John's Cathedral in Fresno.



Bilingual Coordinator:

**Vacant**

Bilingual Secretary:

**Martin Barrera**

(559) 488-7495

We are currently updating our list of Family Life and Natural Family Planning Leaders. Please

## Upcoming Events– Save the Dates!



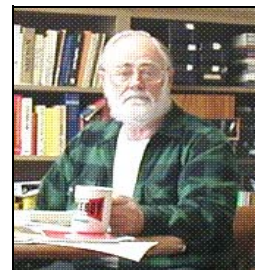
- Right to Life Mass** January 19, 2008
- New Wine Retreat** January 19-20, 2008
- DRE/CRE Retreat** February 7-8, 2008
- L.A. Religious Ed. Congress** February 29-March 2
- Chrim Mass** March 13, 2008
- DRE/CRE Formation Day** April 12, 2008
- DRE/CRE Appreciation Luncheon** June 19, 2008

## Social Justice

On early November, Fr. Rude gathered with a dozen other Jesuit priests involved with Detention Ministry to set a goal for themselves. The Diocese of Fresno is the diocese with the greatest number of prisons and incarcerated in America and it is in great need for more volunteers. The Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley will be developing courses for volunteers to be taken through distance learning or in person: if there were enough volunteers, the teachers would come to us. Detention ministry is an essential part of our Church ministry to the marginalized. Remember they are not

primarily criminals; they are our brothers and sisters.

Other issues that are pending right now are: 1) citizenship—getting people to continue their journey to the goal and then practicing it by voting intelligently; 2) immigration—specifically what rights an undocumented person has; 3) Get on the Bus—taking children to see their mothers in prison. It may not take place until May, but it demands a lot of preparation. Anyone interested in helping?



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

### Important Information!!!

Your parish should have received the 2007 Diocese of Fresno Human Resource and Risk Manual. In it you will find the up-to-date forms needed for your programs such as permission slips. All forms previously used are now obsolete!! Please do not use them. See your Office Manager for more information.

Keep checking our website for updates and the latest news and events. To receive this newsletter electronically via e-mail, please sign up for our list serve via our website. Help us conserve paper!

[www.dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/](http://www.dioceseoffresno.org/ministry/)

Diocese of Fresno

### OFFICE OF MINISTRIES

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- Interim Director of Lay Ministry Institute:** Rosa María Guembe
- Director of Social Justice Ministry:** Fr. James A. Rude, S.J.
- Bilingual Secretary:** Martín Barrera
- Director of Detention Ministry:** Claude Muncey
- Administrative Assistant:** Paul Mentlewski
- Bilingual Media Secretary:** Rosie Navarro



**Are you a new Coordinator?**  
**Update your info online**  
**or call our office!**