

### OFFICE CLOSING

The diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed on Good Friday, March 25.

### COMMUNICATION OFFICE

Rob Butterworth, Director of Technology, has researched different Apps that are available for parishes. His research notes and recommendations are attached.

### MERCY IN MOTION: A MINISTRIES OF MERCY CONFERENCE

In observance of the Year of Mercy, the Diocese of Davenport will be hosting *Mercy in Motion: A Ministries of Mercy Conference* on Saturday, July 30 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. Guided by keynote speaker Tom East from the Center for Ministry Development, the faithful of the diocese are invited to reflect upon our call to be a Church of Mercy. The conference will feature a ministry fair with representatives from numerous local organizations and parish programs. Attendants will also be able to participate in a variety of breakout sessions focused on how to develop and maintain various “ministries of mercies” within their parishes and how to be involved as “merciful ministers” with organizations or ministries that implement works of mercy in the community. Please contact Marianne Agnoli, [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnolim@davenportdiocese.org) if you have any questions or if you or one of your parish organizations is interested in providing information at the ministry fair.

### STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

**Best Practices in Parish Stewardship:** Tips from the Diocesan Stewardship Commission to effectively promote stewardship in the local community. *Expand the children’s offertory program by selecting a recipient for all or some portion of the funds collected. Children’s giving can be used for a parish project, to support families in need, for a local charity or an overseas mission. Involve children and their families in choosing where the money goes. Give periodic reports on the distribution of funds, share thank you notes received, and regularly compliment the young people for reaching out in love and justice.*

**Stewardship Day 2016** will be held April 7, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Bishop Robert Gruss of Rapid City, South Dakota will speak on *Stewardship-Reclaiming Our True Identity* and Tracy Welliver from Liturgical Publications, Inc. will present *Practice of Stewardship in the Parish*. There will also be display tables of materials including two publishers and several diocesan parishes. Registration fee is \$15 and the deadline is March 31. Go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/stewardship/index.htm> for a flyer and the link to the online registration form. For questions contact Dan Ebener, [ebener@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ebener@davenportdiocese.org), 563-888-4251 or Laurie Hoefling, [hoefling@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4220.

**Best Practices for Using Data in Pastoral Planning Webinar:** March 17, 1:00 p.m. CST. Before one can successfully navigate the “vision” and “mission” phases of pastoral planning it is imperative to understand the current reality, the “what is.” This webinar will focus on the systematic gathering, analyzing and reporting of data that can help inform a proactive pastoral planning stance. Emphasis will be upon the tools and reports that diocesan leadership finds most useful on an ongoing basis, with examples shown of “best practices.” Non-technical language will be used. Presented by Mike Cieslak who is responsible for strategic planning, research and evaluation, and serves as executive secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council in the Diocese of Rockford. To register go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6588195980950698754>.

### SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

**The CRS Rice Bowl Collection** is more than a collection. It is a Lenten program of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Using the materials from CRS, we can build a more prayerful Lent that includes knowledge and solidarity with the people of God in other countries. If you need materials contact Kent Ferris, [ferris@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ferris@davenportdiocese.org). While most of the collection goes to CRS for its work in helping others to help themselves and to respond to international disasters, 25% of the funds collected will remain in the Diocese to help organizations that fight hunger and poverty.

**Income Tax Help:** The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. To learn more and to find a location in your area go to: <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>.

**Pacem in Terris Local Celebration:** Join Bishop Amos celebrating the work of Thich Nhat Hanh, on Saturday, April 2, 4 p.m. at St. Ambrose University, Christ the King Chapel. Thich Nhat Hanh is a Vietnamese Buddhist monk, teacher, author, poet and peace activist, who has traveled widely and written more than 100 books on peace building. Pacem in Terris, Peace in the World, is our celebration and our way of honoring his work with an award that has gone to others such as Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Bishop Desmond Tutu in ceremonies since 1964.

**Praise and Prepare** is a state-wide program to assist faith communities in their disaster response. This threefold program speaks first to preparedness for the parish, its structures, contents and continuation of worship. It then assists parishes to help families and individuals prepare for disasters that might strike the home or community. Finally, it asks the question, "What role could the parish play in the community in the event of a disaster?" Preparation aids and training are available, and county emergency management agencies are partners in this work. For information on this program and the ways to prepare your parish, homes and families, go to <https://iavoad.communityos.org/cms/iowapraiseandprepare> and contact Glenn Leach, [leach@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:leach@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4214.

**Home Preparedness Kit:** Spring not only brings new growth, but too often severe weather: tornados, storms, and flooding. Preparing families now is important. Knowing how to contact each other if separated when trouble strikes, the location of important papers, and having a home preparedness kit are all important. This link, <https://www.uscg.mil/d7/airstaMiami/Downloads/Disaster%20Calendar.pdf>, is a unique way to build a home preparedness kit over a period of weeks. While intended to prepare folks for the Florida hurricane season, it is equally pertinent to our tornados and floods.

**Philanthropy University** offers online courses that are completely free of charge. Courses focus on social impact, nonprofit strategy, fundraising, leadership, financial modeling and capacity building. There are no minimum education or financial requirements--anyone can sign up for courses! For course dates and descriptions go to <http://philanthropyu.org/courses>. Philanthropy University is a non-degree, diploma or credit granting non-profit initiative sponsored by Philanthropy U, Inc. Learners are not entitled to earn college or other academic credit

**Project Rachel:** Project Rachel is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion. Brochures are available by contacting Loxi Hopkins, [hopkins@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hopkins@davenportdiocese.org). Local Helpline: 563-888-4107. E-Mail: [projectrachel@diodav.org](mailto:projectrachel@diodav.org)

**Social Action E-Newsletter:** The Diocesan Social Action office has a newsletter filled with upcoming events and deadlines, calls to action and social justice news and views. You can view previous issues or subscribe to *The Two Feet* newsletter at <http://bit.ly/1mY1moJ> or send an e-mail to [kerstena@diodav.org](mailto:kerstena@diodav.org). Please feel free to submit any parish event for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

## **FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

**Junior High Rally:** Promotional and registration materials are now available on the diocesan [Junior High Rally webpage](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/JuniorHighRally.htm), <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/JuniorHighRally.htm>. Early registration and t-shirt ordering deadline is March 21, and late registration deadline is April 4. Special feature this year is the Year of Mercy Pilgrimage Walk to St. Mary's Church for the closing Mass. Rally is open to all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and their adult leaders/chaperones.

**Strong Catholic Families:** The time is ripe for exploring the possibility of your parish entering into this Initiative in the fall, and moving from a *provider* of faith formation and ministry for your parents/families to a *partner* with them in these areas. Want to know more? Contact Don Boucher, [boucher@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:boucher@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4243 to set up an onsite meeting in your parish with staff and key ministry leaders.

## MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

### Basic Schedule

	3/19/16: <b>Eucharist I</b> , Dr. Corrine Winter
4/16/16: <b>Eucharist II</b> , Dr. Corrine Winter	5/21/16: <b>Cultural Diversity</b> , Miguel Moreno & Guest
6/16/16: <b>Matrimony</b> , Dc. Frank & Marianne Agnoli	7/16/16: <b>Holy Orders</b> , Bishop Amos, Fr. Thom Hennen & Deacon David Montgomery
8/20/16: <b>Personal/Pastoral</b> , IlaMae Hanisch	9/17/16: <b>Catholicism</b> , Dr. Corrine Winter
10/8/16: <b>Commissioning Liturgy</b> , Location TBA	

**On-Site Format:** All courses held at the Diocese of Davenport, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. DVD/YouTube Format: The order of courses is as stated above; however each group will determine its monthly meeting time. Application form and additional information may be found on the diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org) (Chancery-Faith Formation-Lay Ministry-MFP Forms). For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact John Valenti, [valenti@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:valenti@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4244.

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

**Marriage Preparation Enrichment Videos:** Marriage Ministries has just released a series of marriage preparation enrichment videos that include specific topics such as Cohabitation, Military Couples, Interfaith and Interchurch Marriages, Second Marriages, and Forming a Stepfamily. Clergy and Marriage Ministry leaders may register for free access to these and other videos to use during the parish marriage preparation process at <http://marriageboosters.net>. Click on “Parishes and Dioceses” and you will be asked to fill out a short registration form. You will then be given access to all of the videos and a list of questions that can be used for further discussion on the selected topic.

**Marriage & Family Enrichment Pilot Project:** The Diocese of Davenport in coordination with John Bosio (author of *Happy Together: The Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage* and *Blessed is Marriage: A Guide to the Beatitudes for Catholic Couples*) is inviting parishes in the diocese to pilot a new enrichment program: **Four Dates for Catholic Couples – the Virtues**. This innovative program will be made available free of charge to any parish participating in the Spring Pilot and has the potential of reaching not only the couples in your parish attending the four dates, but also those in the pews and beyond. Please contact Marianne Agnoli at 563-888-4242 or [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnolim@davenportdiocese.org) for more details concerning this enriching opportunity for your parish.

**Spanish-Speaking Sponsor Couple Training Workshop:** Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Chancery in Davenport. Juan and Rita Guerra will offer instruction to Spanish-speaking couples willing to serve as Sponsor Couples in their parishes. For more information (in English) contact Marianne Agnoli: [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnolim@davenportdiocese.org). For more information (in Spanish) contact Miguel Moreno: [moreno@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:moreno@davenportdiocese.org).

**Entrenamiento para la preparación de Matrimonios en Español:** Juan y Rita Guerra ofrecerán instrucción en español a todas las parejas interesadas en servir como instructores en sus parroquias. El entrenamiento será el sábado 5 de marzo del 2016 de 9:00am a 4:00pm en la Cancillería en Davenport. Para información en inglés contacte a Marianne Agnoli: [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnolim@davenportdiocese.org). Para información en español contacte a Miguel Moreno: [moreno@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:moreno@davenportdiocese.org).

**Marriage and Parenting Resource:** Attached is the March issue of “Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers.” These may be used in parish bulletins or as links on parish websites.

### Marriage Preparation:

The Diocese of Davenport offers several marriage preparation program formats: Sponsor Couple (through your parish), One-day, Weekend (two-day), and Online (under special circumstances-with parish approval).

**Sponsor Couple:** It is preferred that those preparing for marriage meet with a trained parish Sponsor Couple. Contact Marianne Agnoli at [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnolim@davenportdiocese.org) to schedule a training in your parish.

### Weekend and One-day:

**April 23-24, 2016:** Williamsburg, St. Mary, registration *deadline is April 15*

**August 6-7, 2016:** Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, registration *deadline is July 29*

The current fee is \$125 per couple and is now also payable by credit card/PayPal. Please note that this fee will increase to \$150 for registrations received after July 1, 2016.

The registration form and more information can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>. If you have questions contact Barb Butterworth, 563-888-4240, [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org).

**Online:** Go to <http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/>. – to be used only under special circumstance with parish approval.

### **Natural Family Planning Links:**

**Billings Ovulation Method NFP course** is available on line at <http://learnnfponline.com>. A certificate of completion will be issued.

**Couple to Couple League (Sympto-thermal) Method** offers two on-line options for those couples who do not have a local teaching couple, or for those whose schedule prevents them from attending a local instruction. Couples will receive the same materials as those attending any on-site class, plus have access to professional chart reviews until confident in their method skills.

- Live Class Online (check website below for dates and times) - \$130
- Self-paced Online - \$99
- <http://ccli.org/productsservices/nfp-instruction/home-study-course.php>

**Engaged couples** are encouraged to begin NFP instruction at least four to six months prior to the wedding date.

Additional NFP contacts information can be found on the diocesan website, <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>

### **PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN**

**To report child abuse contact:** Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator: 563-349-5002, [vac@diodav.org](mailto:vac@diodav.org) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

### **NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK: MARCH 8-14**

**“Pray it Forward”:** The Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi River Valley will celebrate with a new social justice campaign called “Pray it Forward.” The “Pray it Forward” campaign – funded by a grant from National Catholic Sisters Week – will feature six one-minute videos with Catholic sisters holding signs that illustrate social justice issues such as human trafficking, violence, and poor environmental practices. The videos ask viewers to join sisters in raising awareness of and praying for resolution of the issues. Scheduled to begin on March 6, the videos will continue throughout National Catholic Sisters Week at [www.facebook.com/catholicsisters](http://www.facebook.com/catholicsisters). A different video will posted each day. The public is encouraged to share the “Pray It Forward” posts on their own social media channels—ensuring these important messages spread to many others.

In addition to the video there is a prayer card with the six justice issues listed. You are invited to pray for these intentions especially during this week. The prayer card is attached.

### **FUNDRAISER FOR OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT**

***Rooted in Love: The Life and Martyrdom of Sister Dorothy Stang***: Thursday, Mar. 10 | 7pm at St. Ambrose University. A one-woman play about Dorothy Stang, an American nun, who was murdered in Brazil because of her efforts to protect the rainforest and its people from disastrous and often illegal exploitation by logging firms and ranchers. Co-sponsored by St. Ambrose University environmental studies and campus ministry in support of programs at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. Fee: \$10. Sister Nancy Murray, OP

### **IOWA CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE**

*Faith for the Journey*, the 4th annual Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference will be held March 5 at St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines. Join Bishop Pates and hundreds of Men of Christian Faith as we share our Journey of Faith.

Nationally known and locally known speakers will challenge and encourage us to be strong in our faith and to lead our families. Fee \$35. To register and for more information go to <http://iowacatholicmensconference.com>.

### **OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND**

To register contact: 563-336-8414 or [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com). All programs include a delicious homemade meal prepared with local and organic ingredients. To learn more about Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat visit [www.chmiowa.org](http://www.chmiowa.org).

**Come to the Quiet: The Gift of Awe and Wonder:** Monday, Mar. 14 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. At the end of this month we celebrate Easter; the time of awe and wonder in the fulfillment of promises proclaimed in the Resurrection. Fee: \$20. Pat Shea

**The Enneagram...A Tool for Deepening Understanding of Ourselves and Others:** Tuesday, Mar. 15 | 9am – 4pm. You will have an experiential introduction to the nine personalities of the enneagram. Through the characteristics of each type and in this process you may discover your own type. Fee: \$30. Meg Bolish and Alice Martin

**Women of Mercy: A Retreat for Women:** Mar. 18 – 19 | Friday, 5pm – Saturday, 4pm. The art of Michael McGrath has given the quality of mercy a human face, a sisterhood of hard-working women—from Teresa of Avila to Thea Bowman—who continue to inspire today. This presentation will combine Brother Mickey's art with a reflection on what mercy means, and how these women embody it. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy will take on new meaning and relevance. Fee: \$125. Kathy Coffey, Author of “Women of Mercy” ([kathycoffey.com](http://kathycoffey.com))

**Weaving Prayers and Baskets:** Monday, April 11 | 9am – 4pm. Learn simple basket weaving in the context of prayer and meditation. Make a door hanging basket today. Limited to 8 participants. Fee: \$30. Kathleen Storms, SSND

**Come to the Quiet: The Gift of Joy:** Wednesday, April 13 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Joy is one of the beautiful fruits of the Holy Spirit. Receiving the gift of joy encourages us to recognize how blessed we are and encourages us to share those blessings joyfully in care and service to others and our beautiful planet earth. Fee: \$20. Pat Shea

**Easter Earth Taize` Vigil Service:** Tuesday, April 19 | 6:30pm. Taize is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified and compassionate prayer. All people of faith are invited to participate. Pre-registration encouraged. No fee.

**Compassion for Our Fragile Earth:** April 22 – 24 | Friday 5pm – Sunday 10am. Pope Francis couples the concerns for the fragility of Earth with our concern for the poor (Laudato Si.). Both are in need of new insights, understandings and ways of living. Make Earth Day more meaningful by paying attention to creation, changing our relationship with Earth and exploring a more spiritual, deeper way of relating to Earth. Fee: \$125. Janet Mallak, SSND, Paulette Zimmerman, SSND

**Journey to Forgiveness:** April 29 – May 1 | Friday 5pm – Sunday 10am. So often and from many sources, we are told that we need to practice forgiveness. Sacred scripture teaches us that we are called to forgive as we have been forgiven. Yet we sometimes forget that forgiveness is a journey, not a destination. During this retreat we will explore a process for our own healing and well-being and ways to nourish our forgiving hearts. Fee: \$125. Pat Shea

### **EAGLES' WINGS COUNSELING AND RETREAT CENTERS, DAVENPORT**

To register, for questions or information about obtaining a spiritual director, or Christian counseling contact Marcia Moore, [marcia@eagleswings.ws](mailto:marcia@eagleswings.ws) or 563-324-7263, <http://www.eagleswings.ws>. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

**Healing Mass:** March 8, 1:00 p.m. with Adoration at noon. Reconciliation will be available before Mass.

**Unbound Ministry Training:** April 9, May 14, June 11, July; 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. “Unbound” is a DVD series by Neal Lozano. If you find yourself struggling with the same habit or sin areas time after time and sometimes feel helpless in overcoming them in spite of your best efforts, then you will want to learn more from Neal Lozano. Neal teaches the 5 keys of Unbound prayer and the need for inner healing and deliverance. This 8-part teaching series will be shown one Saturday a month for four consecutive months. In addition to the videos, participants will have the opportunity to ‘practice’ Unbound prayer during the workshops. Bring a sack lunch. Cost for the individual Saturdays is \$35 or registration for the series is \$100. We are unable to offer make up sessions or refunds if you

miss a class. For those who have previously received the training at Eagles' Wings and would like to attend for a review, please contact us. To register: 563-324-7263 or [Marcia@eagleswings.ws](mailto:Marcia@eagleswings.ws).

### **BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER/ST. MARY MONASTERY, ROCK ISLAND, IL**

Contact Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108, [retreats@smmsisters.org](mailto:retreats@smmsisters.org) or online at [www.smmisters.org/retreats/retreats-and-programs](http://www.smmisters.org/retreats/retreats-and-programs) to register for programs mentioned below.

**Men's Retreat: This is my Commandment: Love One Another:** Fri., Mar. 18, (Check-in: 6:30-6:45 pm; Conference: 7 pm) 7 pm-Sun., Mar. 20, 12 pm. Part of our faith journey is discovering how to put into practice John 15:13, "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." Our discussions will investigate the Lord's command. Presenter: Rev. Michael Schaab. Fee: Register and pay in full by Feb. 18: \$200 (private room), \$185 (shared room). Registrations after Feb.18: \$210 (private room), \$195 (shared room). Commuter fee: \$130, includes lunch, dinner and brunch.

**Catholic Sister for a Day:** Mar 5 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Experience life as a Benedictine Sister with other single Catholic women 10-50 years old. Enjoy prayer, meals and conversation with Sisters. Join the Benedictines as they serve God with personal and communal prayer and hear about the process of discernment and Benedictine life. Join us and take the step you need to discover whether God is calling you to religious life. Fee: There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or [vocation@smmsisters.org](mailto:vocation@smmsisters.org).

**Family Evening: "Bread - The Food of Life":** Apr 5 5:30 - 8:00 pm. This evening will consist of fun, food, stories, prayer, activities and a chance to bake your own loaf of homemade bread. All ages are welcome, however, the focus will be families with grade school age children. Children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. are all welcome. Presenters: Steve and Kathy MacDonald. Fee: \$15/family of 2-3; \$20/family of 4 or more.

**Ora et Labora for High School Students:** Apr 16 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Benedictine monastic life is centered around prayer and work, "Ora et Labora." Here high school girls learn about and experience our daily schedule of prayer and the different works we perform for the monastery. Fee: There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300.

**Mother/Daughter Morning at Benet House: Come and Journey:** Apr 30 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Love and walk with each other during our annual Mother-Daughter Morning. We'll enjoy a special breakfast, time together, solitude, fun and activities. Presenters: Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB, and her mother, Kathy MacDonald. Fee: Register and pay in full by Mar. 30: \$30 per mother/daughter; Registrations after Mar. 30: \$40 per mother/daughter.

### **SHALOM SPIRITUALTY CENTER, DUBUQUE**

To register call 563-582-3592 or send check payable to Shalom Spirituality Center with your contact information to: 1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001. [www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org), [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

**Praying with Poetry:** Saturday, April 30, 9am to 4:30pm. Presenter: Rhonda Miska. From the psalms of Hebrew Scriptures to 21st century spoken word, poetry has long served as a path of speaking to and of God. This workshop includes input, time for personal writing, exploration of writing as spiritual practice, and reflection on writings by poets including Mary Oliver, Rumi, & Billy Collins. All are welcome regardless of experience reading/writing poetry. Offering: \$40 includes lunch. Register & prepay by Tuesday, April 26.

**Leading like Francis: Building God's House:** Presenter: Saturday, April 23, 9am to 3pm. Carl Koch. This day of retreat will be based on Carl's book, *Leading Like Francis — Building God's House*. Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi call us to be servant leaders. The ten characteristics of a servant-leader are all qualities of the self-giving love that forms the heart of servant-leaders. Leading like Francis builds God's house. By the end of our day together, we should all understand our calling to be servant leaders in the footsteps of Jesus, Francis of Assisi, and now Pope Francis. Offering: \$40, includes lunch and snacks. Register by Tuesday, April 19. Mr. Koch's book will be available in the Shalom gift shop.

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To support the ministry of your parish, school and the diocese these groups automatically receive the *Mini-Messenger*:

Deacons	Diocesan Corporate Board	Youth Ministers	Pastoral Associates	Directors/Coordinators of Faith Formation
Parishes	Catholic Foundation Board	Sisters	RCIA Parish Contacts	Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Priests	Parish Lay Directors	Bookkeepers	Diocesan Board of Education	Diocesan Planning Commission
Seminarians	Diocesan Pastoral Council	Principals	Parish Life Coordinators	

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, [hoefling@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org).

## Parish App Considerations

We have received several requests for more information regarding apps for parishes. Luckily there are several good options to choose from. The right app for your parish will be based on your parish's specific needs and may very well be different from your neighboring parishes. Please take a look at the information provided below and give me a call if you have questions.

Parish Apps are great tools for keeping parishioners involved. For the most part they will provide parish information like news, event calendars, bulletins and prayer resources. They also are an excellent communication tool with the ability to push text like notifications to phones and tablets. These messages can range from prayer requests and event reminders to weather closings. These Parish Apps are very helpful in keeping active parishioners involved on a daily or weekly basis.

The first step in selecting a parish app is to evaluate your current parish website. This may not make sense at first but many of the key features offered by a parish app should be also be available on the website. Does your website look clean, modern, and is it up-to-date? How does it look on a tablet or phone? The parish website, just like a parish app, needs to have regularly updated content including parish news, Mass times, contact information for parish staff, a calendar of events, and copy of the latest parish bulletin. Your parish website is usually the first place a person will go to lookup parish information and the most likely way that a new person will discover your parish. The parish website also needs to be mobile ready, since many people use their phones or tablets as their primary means of web browsing. Some parish apps can pull information from your mobile website in order to update app information. This is a nice feature as you only need to update the website in order to update the information on the app. Because of the importance of mobile-ready websites, the diocese is currently evaluating options for changing our website to an alternate platform in order to make it mobile-friendly.

One of the most effective ways to communicate with parishioners is through electronic communications like text and email. A parish app should give the ability to push text-like messages out to all parishioners who have installed the app. Some parish apps will be able to push messages out to specific groups and a select few will allow texting between group members. While a parish app is not required to send out electronic texts and emails, it does simplify the process and it is one of the major reasons for having a parish app.

There are several costs to be aware of when choosing a parish app. The first fee is the initial setup price. This is a onetime fee for the design of the app and can range anywhere from free to \$1000. There is also a recurring monthly charge to use the app which can range from \$50 to \$100. You may be able to get a discount on a parish app if you use a bulletin provider that also offers their own parish app.

There are a couple of other questions to ask during the selection process that could affect your selection of an app provider. You need to confirm that the app is available on both Apple & Android phones. The major parish app developers have both versions available but smaller developers may be Apple or Android only. A major concern for many parishes is if the app is available in multiple languages. If your favorite app is not bilingual make sure to select one that can integrate with your website so you can pull bilingual material from your website into the app. A final question would be how do I link or upload my bulletin to my parish app? Some app providers will automatically upload your bulletin if they are your bulletin provider but may not allow a bulletin from outside sources into their app.

The final hurdle in successfully implementing a parish app is getting the parishioners to install the app. The better app providers will help with materials and strategies for a kickoff event like a "bring your phone to church day" which will help you to get the app installed on as many phones as possible. Make sure to ask the app providers what services they can provide to make your app implementation a success.

My notes on the different apps can be found on the next page.

My two preferred apps:

MyParish App from Diocesan Publications

<http://myparishapp.com/>

Example: Muscatine SS Mary & Mathias

Select Parish from list, not a parish branded app

Can push message all app users but not groups

Can only send messages from desktop (not app)

Only fully functional App I saw that was Bilingual (per website)

Parish Solutions App from Parish Solutions

<http://www.parishsolutionsco.com/mobile-apps.html>

Example: Davenport St Paul

Parish branded app

Group push notifications or push to all users

I don't see a way to select the groups you want to receive messages from in the app

This app appears to link to parish website for content (nice integration)

Other options:

Catholic Parish Apps from Our Sunday Visitor

<http://parishapps.com/>

All or group notifications (opt in to groups in app)

Allows for intergroup communication

Has advertising at bottom of app

One Parish App from JS Paluch

<https://www.jspaluch.com/OneParish.aspx>

Select Parish from list

Process not easy. Example: if selecting St Mary as parish no address

listed just distance from current location

Uses Twitter for one of its messaging options

Can push message all app users but not groups

Must use JS Paluch for bulletin in order to update bulletin in app

The Vibrant Parish App from LPI

<http://www.4lpi.com/services/app/>

Downloaded 4 parishes but none were great examples...

Future Options

USCCB Catholic Church App

<http://www.usccb.org/myusccb/about-catholic-church-mobile-app.cfm>

Currently this app is missing the push notifications and the parish and diocesan page functionality. These abilities are expected to be added in the future. Their absence makes the app difficult to evaluate. The addition of those features would make it an app to strongly consider. This app is currently bilingual.

Reference site with more information:

<http://catholictechtalk.com/2015/04/29/parish-apps-yes-there-is-now-an-app-for-that/>

I am available if you need assistance or have any questions.

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## Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

March 2016

**FOR MORE** extended marriage and parenting articles, plus archived Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers, go to: [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net) \***BLOG:** *Living Lightly.* [www.SusanVogt.net/blog](http://www.SusanVogt.net/blog)

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### **MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

665. Mar.7: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind." (Jn 9:2) Figuring out blame is a trap that it is easy for even loving couples to fall into. One of the sweetest phrases I hear from my husband is, "Honey, you were right." Said honestly, it can be a healing balm.

666. Mar. 14: Adultery is a tragic offense against one's marriage vow. Yet, Jesus says, "Has no one condemned you?...Neither do I condemn you." (Jn.8:11) It doesn't make an awful act right, but Jesus' response is mercy. Is there anything big or small that needs mercy in your marriage?

667. Mar. 21: Growing old together: *"I wanna make you smile whenever you're sad; Carry you around when your arthritis is bad. All I wanna do is grow old with you. I'll get your medicine when your tummy aches; Build you a fire if the furnace breaks. Oh it could be so nice, growing old with you."* From: The Wedding Singer.

668. Mar. 28: (Easter) As Christians we believe that Jesus rose from the dead. As humans we know that each of us will eventually die. When you are honest with yourself, do you really believe in an afterlife? What do you think it will be like? Talk it over with your beloved.

### **PARENTING POINTERS**

666. Mar. 4: Books are a wonderful tool of knowledge and inspiration, BUT, I bet you have some that you won't read again or you can get the information online. This week pass at least one book on to a friend, a school, Friends of the Library, a nursing home...

667. Mar. 11: Jesus fed the hungry and bids us to do the same. (Mt. 25:35) But people need pots, pans, and other kitchen utensils to cook meals to feed themselves. Do you have any duplicate kitchen supplies that you can pass on to a needy family; perhaps a newly arrived immigrant?

668. Mar. 18: Everybody needs a little fun in their lives. Sports equipment and games can help us do this. Is there some amusement that your family no longer uses? Let your children help you pick out things to pass on to kids who don't have a basketball, skates, a puzzle, etc.

669. Mar. 25: On this "Good" Friday, we remember that Jesus experienced humiliation and the physical suffering of the crucifixion. Death is the ultimate letting go of self. Few of us will be in a position to surrender our lives for our faith through physical martyrdom, but letting go of pride and ego can be a spiritual martyrdom and not for the fainthearted. Take stock of your attitudes of pride, self-righteousness, and wanting to be right and important today. Help your children understand true humility.

# PRAY IT FORWARD



**LIKE IT. SHARE IT. DO IT.**

For Earth, our common home,  
we pray.  
Let us protect all creation.

For those who lose their freedom  
to human trafficking,  
we pray.  
Let us stop exploitation.

For immigrants in search of  
better, safer lives,  
we pray.  
Let us welcome all.

For all who face violence,  
we pray.  
Let us find peace.

For all who struggle with forgiveness,  
we pray.  
Let us know healing.

For the sick, hungry, and homeless,  
we pray.  
Let us share what we have.

**Celebrating  
National Catholic Sisters Week  
March 2016**

**[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CATHOLICSISTERS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CATHOLICSISTERS)  
#PrayItForward #NCSW**