

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Please welcome our two newest employees:

- Emily Pries is the Executive Secretary for Bishop Amos and will assist the Chancellor and Vicar General's offices as well. Emily can be reached at pries@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4360.
- Nikki Gartner is our new Chief Financial Officer. Nikki can be reached at gartner@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4365.

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 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

Join us on Thursday, April 7 for Stewardship Day. Every other year, we hold a "Stewardship Day" to help all of us reflect on what it means to be a "steward", to be renewed in our call to stewardship and to discuss ways that we can practice better stewardship in our parishes and schools. See attached flyer.

We will have many ministry booths and two speakers. One of our speakers is Bishop Robert Gruss, who was originally a priest of our diocese. The other speaker is Tracy Welliver, a nationally recognized speaker and author on stewardship. The day is being co-sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor and Liturgical Publications, Inc. They will both have literature booths available. It all begins at 9:30 am at St. Patrick, Iowa City. We will conclude by 2 pm. The cost of \$15 includes your lunch and materials. Please join us. Invite others from your parish to join you. I look forward to seeing you on April 7. To register email Dan Ebener at ebener@davenportdiocese.org (and pay at the door).

Best Practices in Parish Stewardship: Tips from the Diocesan Stewardship Commission to effectively promote stewardship in the local community. *Be a welcoming parish that takes community-building seriously. Parishioners who feel a sense of community are more likely to share their gifts of time, talent and treasure. Some activities that are especially successful include: good directional signage on campus, easy accessibility for all, greeters at Mass, a clear and inviting process for registering new people, and social functions like picnics and potluck dinners to give people an opportunity to interact. Visit the stewardship library of resources at www.davenportdiocese.org/stewardship for a "Christian Hospitality" booklet with more information on this topic.*

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

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.

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. Please feel free to submit any parish event for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Future of Adult Faith Formation Gathering: April 6 at the Chancery, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Special Skype guest will be John Roberto. Come to discuss the process for the Catholic Diocese of Davenport on

- What could adult faith formation communities look like in five years?
- How can faith communities provide vibrant faith formation for all ages?
- How can parishes envision the future shape of adult faith formation?

Our day will include time for scenario planning and to identify major factors contributing to the success of adult programming including leadership formation. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to John Valenti valenti@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4244.

Unique Opportunity for Youth and Parents. Due to the dedicated work of a group of people in Iowa City, a special event focused on chastity will soon take place in our diocese. Attached please find two PDF flyers for the Jason Evert evening presentations in Iowa City and Davenport area (an itinerary for all days is also attached). Your assistance in advertising this event is greatly appreciated.

Jason is the founder of the [Chastity Project](#). During his three-day visit to our diocese, Catholic school students will have the opportunity to hear him during the day while at school, but the evening presentations are very unique. All youth in grades 7-12 in public and Catholic school are welcome (there is so much information presented that Catholic school students are encouraged to hear it again), *and parents are encouraged to attend the evening presentation with their child(ren)*. Jason will first speak to parents, while youth enjoy fellowship and pizza in an adjoining area. Following the parent presentation, Jason will address the youth with a talk entitled “Love or Lust?” Parents are encouraged to also hear this youth presentation to spur dialogue within families after the presentation. These talks will be wrapped in the sacraments; confession and adoration will be offered, with worship and praise music as well. Jason will be offering free books to every family at the conclusion of the evening, and he will stay and answer individual questions as well. Through the generosity of many donors, this event is offered free to all youth and families. *To assist in planning for refreshments and logistics, people are asked to RSVP at www.jcrtl.org.* To stay up-to-date with information on this and other events, “like” Theology of the Body Iowa on Facebook, and follow on twitter @TOB_Iowa.

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@davernportdiocese.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

4/16/16: Eucharist II , Dr. Corrine Winter	5/21/16: Cultural Diversity , Miguel Moreno & Guest
6/16/16: Matrimony , Dc. Frank & Marianne Agnoli	7/16/16: Holy Orders , Bishop Amos, Fr. Thom Hennen & Deacon David Montgomery
8/20/16: Personal/Pastoral , IlaMae Hanisch	9/17/16: Catholicism , Dr. Corrine Winter
10/8/16: Commissioning Liturgy , 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 (Chancery-Faith Formation-Lay Ministry-MFP Forms). For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact John Valenti, valenti@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4244.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Sponsor Couple Training: Thursday, April 28 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport, 7:00-9:00 p.m. This is a training workshop for new Sponsor Couples. Contact Marianne Agnoli, agnolim@davenportdiocese.org to register couples for this training or to schedule a training in your parish or deanery.

Parenting in a Sexualized Culture: This free one-hour webinar is designed to equip parents, grandparents, and leaders who minister to them with tools and strategies to help their children thrive in a sexualized, digitized age.

Presented by Noel Bouché, CEO of pureHOPE, <https://purehopeblog.wordpress.com/> and sponsored by the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, <https://www.religiousalliance.org/> which has several US bishops as members. The material will be presented twice: 1) April 21: 11:00 a.m. Central and 2) April 26: 8:00 p.m. Central. To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6539575576994651908>

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 for more details concerning this enriching opportunity for your parish.

Marriage and Parenting Resource: Attached is the April 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 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*

New Date **October 15, 2016:** Muscatine, SS. Mary & Mathias, registration *deadline is October 7*

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.

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. Cost is \$49.

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 or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND

To register contact: 563-336-8414 or 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.

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

Don't Quit-Surrender: Saturday, May 7 | 10am – 3pm. Step 7 - The key to transcending our lives into authentic purpose and usefulness. Simple activities, reflections and sharing on how Step 7 impacts our recovery and lives. Fee: \$20. Jean Simpson LISW

Come to the Quiet: May: The Gift of Beauty: Thursday, May 12 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. So often we miss the gifts of beauty that surround us in our everyday world—in our backyards, dusk and dawn, in the faces of those we love. The gift of beauty opens our eyes to the beauty that surrounds us. Fee: \$20. Pat Shea

A Taste of Dances of Universal Peace: Tuesday, May 17 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. An introduction to the dance circle as a form of prayer combined with delectable treats from The Prairie kitchen that reflect the cultural, global origin of each dance. This day is meant to be savored. Fee: \$20. Sophia Virginia Melroy and Mary Martin Lane

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 or 563-324-7263, <http://www.eagleswings.ws>. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

Unbound Ministry Training: April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9; 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.

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

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

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: Registration Fee: \$40 per mother/daughter.

Creation - We Celebrate God’s Beautiful World: May 14 9:00 am- 3:00 pm. A renewal day for adults and adolescents with developmental disabilities. Family members, friends and caregivers are also welcome to attend. Join us for a day filled with fun, sharing, activities, singing, and prayer. Bring a sack lunch and be ready to celebrate! Presenters: Steve and Kathy MacDonald. Fee: \$20/family 2-3; \$10 individual.

The Spirituality of Gardening: May 21 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Do you recognize your garden as a true blessing? As each seed breaks forth and sprouts, do you stand in awe of God’s gift of life? People in many ways are gardens, too, needing nourishment and warmth for growth. Join us to reflect on and celebrate the gift of life sprouting forth in our midst. Presenter: Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB. Fee: \$20, plus an option for lunch \$8.

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, info@shalomretreats.org

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.

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.

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.

Stewardship Day 2016

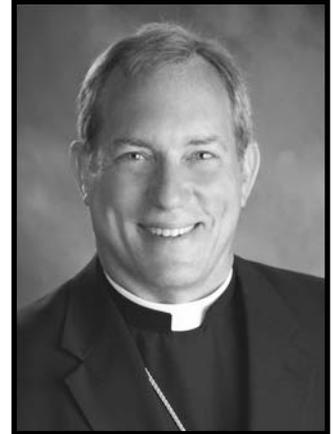
April 7, 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Church, Iowa City

Stewardship - Reclaiming Our True Identity

Presented by Bishop Robert D. Gruss, Rapid City, SD

Formerly a priest of the Diocese of Davenport



9:30 Registration
10:00 Prayer & Welcome by Bishop Amos
10:30 Presentation by Bishop Gruss
11:45 Lunch
12:45 Presentation by Tracy Welliver
2:00 Dismissal

\$15 fee, includes lunch and materials

To register go to:

https://diodav.formstack.com/forms/stewardship_day_2016

Registration deadline is March 31

Cultivating Stewardship in Parish Soil

Presented by Tracy Welliver



What steps need to be taken to have a great harvest of stewardship fruits in the parish? Are we throwing our seed on rich soil or is it being lost on rocky or sandy ground? There are important principles to follow and basic steps to take in the stewardship way of life that will yield good results for the future. We will talk about those and have fun dreaming the dream of creating a powerful reflection of the Kingdom in every parish community.

A Catholic speaker, author, teacher, and stewardship coach with over 20 years experience in parish ministry. He is currently the Director of Parish Community and Engagement for Liturgical Publications, Inc., having previously served for 22 years as Pastoral Associate at Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Davenport, Liturgical Publications, Inc. (LPi) and Our Sunday Visitor. Displays from LPi, Our Sunday Visitor, Catherine of Siena Institute *Called and Gifted Discernment Process*, Sacred Heart Parish, Newton and other ministries will be available to browse.

For questions contact:

Dan Ebener: ebener@davenportdiocese.org, 563-888-4251

Laurie Hoefling: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org, 563-888-4220



Jason Evert Speaking Engagements, Davenport Diocese

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

6:00-9:30 p.m. St. Patrick Catholic Church, Iowa City

- Parents: *Parenting for Purity*
- Youth grades 7-12: *Love or Lust?*
- Confession, Adoration, Music

Thursday, April 28, 2016

9:00 a.m. Regina Catholic School, Iowa City

- Youth grades 7-12: *Love or Lust?*

12:30 p.m. Assumption High School, Davenport

- Youth grades 9-12: *Love or Lust?*

6:00-9:30 p.m. Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Davenport

- Parents: *Parenting for Purity*
- Youth grades 7-12: *Love or Lust?*
- Confession, Adoration, Music

Friday, April 29, 2016

9:30 a.m. Notre Dame School, Burlington

- Youth grades 7-12 from Holy Trinity Junior/ Senior High, and Notre Dame Junior/ Senior High: *Love or Lust?*

1:00 p.m. Assumption High School, Davenport

- Youth grades 7-8 from All Saints, John F. Kennedy, Lourdes, Prince of Peace, St. Joseph, and St. Paul the Apostle: *Love or Lust?*



Chastity Presentation by **Jason Evert**

**St. Patrick Catholic Church
Iowa City**

**Wednesday, April 27
6:00pm - 9:30pm**

An evening for parents and teens (7th-12th grade)

Jason Evert, international Catholic speaker and author,
will present the following talks:

“Parenting for Purity”

Jason will first address parents while teens
enjoy fellowship and pizza.

“Love or Lust?”

Jason will then address youth (7th-12th grade).
Parent attendance strongly encouraged.

Evening to include confession, adoration, and music.
Materials provided at no cost.

Please RSVP for the evening talks at www.jcrtl.org | All events are FREE through the generosity of our sponsors.
Facebook: Theology of the Body Iowa | Twitter: @TOB_Iowa

*For more information, please contact Megan McDonald at (319) 572-7480
theologyofthebodyiowa@gmail.com*



Knights of Columbus Insurance
www.KofC.org



Johnson County Right to Life
Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director
(319) 855-8475
director@jcrtl.org
www.jcrtl.org

The Local Knights of Columbus Councils of SE Iowa



Chastity Presentation by **Jason Evert**

**Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Davenport**

**Thursday, April 28
6:00pm - 9:30pm**

An evening for parents and teens (7th-12th grade)

Jason Evert, international Catholic speaker and author,
will present the following talks:

“Parenting for Purity”

Jason will first address parents while teens
enjoy fellowship and pizza.

“Love or Lust?”

Jason will then address youth (7th-12th grade).
Parent attendance strongly encouraged.

Evening to include confession, adoration, and music.
Materials provided at no cost.

Please RSVP for the evening talks at www.jcrtl.org | All events are FREE through the generosity of our sponsors.
Facebook: [Theology of the Body Iowa](https://www.facebook.com/TheologyoftheBodyIowa) | Twitter: [@TOB_Iowa](https://twitter.com/TOB_Iowa)

*For more information, please contact Megan McDonald at (319) 572-7480
theologyofthebodyiowa@gmail.com*



Knights of Columbus Insurance
www.KofC.org



Johnson County Right to Life
Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director
(319) 855-8475
director@jcrtl.org
www.jcrtl.org

The Local Knights of Columbus Councils of SE Iowa

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

April 2016

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

TWITTER: [@Vogt_Susan](https://twitter.com/Vogt_Susan) ***EDUCATORS, LEADERS, & MINISTERS:** You are welcome to reprint these MM's and PP's in bulletins, newsletters, and on your website with proper credit, (By Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net). When used on a website, please also link to my website: www.SusanVogt.net

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

669. Apr. 4: "Peace be with you." (John 20:21) All married couples hurt one another at one time or another. Whether minor or large, it still can hurt. Offering forgiveness can bring peace to you both. Is there anything left unforgiven in your marriage? Make peace.

670. Apr. 11: "Talking to your man is different from talking to your girlfriend. By and large, a man wants the bottom line. Cut the amount of prelude by approximately 90%, and you'll get it just about right." (from Smart Marriages). Yes, this is a stereotype but stereotypes often hold a kernel of truth. Does this fit your marriage?

671. Apr. 18: After the last child leaves home, Mom and Dad may wake up and wonder who they are looking at. Somewhere over the years, they've gotten so involved in their children's lives that they forgot about each other. Prepare for an empty nest by paying attention to your honey today. Plan a date for this week.

672. Apr. 25: "Love one another." (John 13:35) You're married. Of course you love your spouse. But Jesus keeps repeating this command to love. Perhaps it is because love is never finished. Look for a new opportunity to show your love today. Surprise your beloved.

PARENTING POINTERS

670. Apr. 1: (April Fool's Day) Laughter can be healing. Does your family have any stories about family foibles that get repeated at family gatherings? It doesn't matter that it's embarrassing; it becomes family mythology. Let your child play a joke on you today.

671. Apr. 8: "Together were Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, Zebedee's sons, and two others..." (John 21:2) Jesus' friends decide to go on a fishing trip. At first they don't recognize Jesus on shore. How many of your child's friends can you name? Talk together about their personalities and strengths.

572. Apr. 15: Child Abuse Prevention Month. Certainly you don't abuse your own child (unless insisting on homework is considered abuse). You may not know any children in danger either. But prevention counts. Be kind to a neighbor or lonely child this week.

573. Apr. 22: (Earth Day) On this Earth Day take stock of what your family already recycles (paper, plastic, cans...) Can you add one more thing to recycle? Better yet, can you refrain from buying something that needs recycling? We call it "preycling."

574. Apr. 29: Gratitude can be an overused word these days, but that doesn't mean we should neglect it. Play a "Gratitude Game" with your child. See if each of you can list 10 things you're grateful for today. If something bad happens, see if you can find a silver lining.