

### OFFICES CLOSED

The Diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4.



### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Rev. Nick Adam: St. Mary Parish, 3100 W. Madison Ave., Fairfield 52556-4213; 641-472-3179  
Rectory: 3204 West Tyler Ave. 52556-4711; 641-472-4375

Rev. Gary Beckman: St. Wenceslaus Parish, 623 Fairchild St., Iowa City 52245-2829; 319-337-4957

Rev. Corey Close: Prince of Peace Parish, 1105 LaMetta Wynn Dr., Clinton 52732-7600, 563-242-3311;  
Cell: 301-424-5550

Rev. Bruce DeRammelaere: St. John Parish, 205 Denning St., PO Box 100, Houghton 52631-0100; 319-469-2001

Rev. Hai Dinh: SS. John & Paul Parish, 700 Division St., Burlington 52601-5414; 319-752-6733

Rev. Jacob Greiner: SS Mary & Mathias Parish, 215 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Muscatine 52761-3362; O: 563-263-1878, Cell:  
319-321-5452

Rev. Wally Helms: 202 Village Dr., Apt. 4, Tiffin 52340-9301; 319-936-1601

Rev. Thom Hennen: Residence: St. Alphonsus Parish, 2618 Boies Ave., Davenport; US mail to Diocese of Davenport, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport 52804-1901; Office: 563-888-4255;  
Cell: 563-219-0525

Rev. Ron Hodges: St. Mary Parish, 1018 Broad St., PO Box 623, Grinnell 50112-0623; R: 641-236-5289; O: 641-236-7486; Cell: 563-676-3625

Rev. Joseph Nguyen: Sacred Heart Parish, 422 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Davenport 52803-5416; O: 563-324-3257; Cell: 563-612-3714

Rev. Stephen Page: St. Thomas More Parish, 3000 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Coralville 52241-1487; O: 319-337-2173

Rev. Tim Regan: Newman Center, 104 E. Jefferson St., Iowa City 52245-1717; 319-383-4276

Rev. Joseph Sia: St. Joseph Parish, 815 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Columbus Jct., 52738-1205; 319-728-8210

### NEW EMPLOYEE

Please welcome Don Boucher (say Boo shay) as our Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. He brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm and is eager to minister among us. He can be reached at [boucher@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:boucher@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4243.

### FINANCE OFFICE

#### **Reminders:**

- Budgets are due August 1
- Fiscal year-end reports were sent in June and are due August 1: 1) Internal Control Questionnaire, 2) Summary of Financial Data, 3) Finance Council Report
- Workers' Compensation reports were sent in June and are also due August 1
- Balance Sheet and Income Statements for year end 6/30/13 and 6/30/12 as well as budget for fiscal year ending June 2014 need to be provided to parishioners.

### 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, [vacdav@attglobal.net](mailto:vacdav@attglobal.net) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Make-up Training Session/Webinar on New Background Check Procedure: Sept. 5, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Four training sessions were held in June. *This session is for those who were unable to attend or for those who want a “refresher” on the new procedure.*

On July 1, 2013 the Diocese implements a new procedure for performing background checks. Instead of completing paper forms for a background check employees and volunteers will complete the background information electronically through the VIRTUS Program, excluding newly licensed teachers or DHS employees. It will be the responsibility of the local safe environment coordinator (SEC) to inform their employees and volunteers on how to use the VIRTUS Program for online training and background check completion.

Bishop Amos is requiring the local safe environment coordinator (SEC) to attend and highly recommends the pastors attend as well. The session will include information on 1) the new background check procedure, 2) safe environment requirements, 3) VIRTUS Program, 4) compliance issues and 5) the Stonebridge Audit.

**To register for the webinar go to:** <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/443512329>.

Personnel may also attend onsite at St. Vincent Center, Davenport. To register contact Laurie Hoefling, [hoefling@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4220.

For questions regarding the new background check process or the webinar contact Lynnette Sowells, [sowells@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:sowells@davenportdiocese.org), 563-888-4364 or Virginia Trujillo, [trujillo@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:trujillo@davenportdiocese.org), 563-888-4230.

## **STEWARDSHIP OFFICE**

**Stewardship Days:** Two days are scheduled this fall: Friday, October 11, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., St. Patrick, Iowa City and Saturday, October 12 at Holy Trinity, Richmond. The schedule for each day is the same so participants are welcome to attend either. The Diocesan Stewardship Commission and the Cunneen Company are planning the events. Further details will be forthcoming.

## **SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE**

**2013 Pacem in Terris Award Presentation taken to France:** Jean Vanier Founder of L’Arche will receive the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom award. For the first time in history the award is being taken overseas, to France. Bishop Amos will present the award to Vanier July 7 in the village where he founded L’Arche in 1964.

**A local celebration** will be held on Sunday, August 25, 2:00 p.m. at the Rogalski Center, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, to honor Jean Vanier and the local community in Clinton. For more information about Jean Vanier and the local celebration please see the attached flyer and feel free to distribute to others who might be interested.

**St. Vincent’s Home Corporation Grant:** For consideration at the October board meeting applications must be postmarked by **September 15**. Applicants are to be located within the 22 counties of the Diocese of Davenport or serve children within the Diocese of Davenport. The grant application and grant criteria can be found at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/sastvincenthomecorporation.htm#applygrants>.

All organizations that work with children must document their efforts to perform background checks for employees and volunteers that work or have direct contact with children, in order to be eligible for funding. If an organization received a grant in the past a Progress Report must also be submitted by September 15. New funding will not be considered until the Progress Report has been submitted.

## **FAITH FORMATION**

**Orientation for New Parish Leaders:** August 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Office of Faith Formation will be hosting an orientation for all new parish leaders at the Chancery. We would like to meet with you and get to know you. The day will be spent sharing our resources and information that will help you with your important ministry. A detailed flyer/registration form will be available soon.

**August Gathering:** August 16, 9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Parish/School personnel, volunteers and interested persons are invited to attend the two sessions: *Building Bridges: Engaging People in Living Faith* and *Coach Parents, Form the Family*. For further information see the attached flyer.

### **Upcoming Youth Events/Retreats/Rallies:**

- July 15-19, 2013: [Notre Dame Vision](#) (week four) – Notre Dame, IN
- October 27, 2013: [High School Youth Rally](#) – Marriott, Coralville
- November 21-23, 2013: [NCYC](#) – Indianapolis, IN

For information about these youth ministry events and resources go to [Youth Ministry Davenport Diocese](#) (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Youth%20Ministry.htm>) or contact Barb Butterworth, [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org).

### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

**50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass:** Sunday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m., St. Ann Catholic Church, Long Grove. At the request of Bishop Amos, the Office of Faith Formation is sponsoring a diocesan celebration for all couples who are celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. A Mass and informal reception will be held. Contact your parish to confirm that they have submitted your names and address. Invitations will be sent in August. (Parishes received an email from Barb Butterworth, [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org) on June 12 which provided the necessary information about how to submit couples' names and addresses.)

**The diocesan website pages for marriage and family** are being updated, <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>. You will find a smooth transition once you click on a program logo to that specific website. We've added current information about Marriage Preparation Online which now includes Natural Family Planning and a pre-marital inventory. To access click on the logo for online marriage preparation. There is some confusion as to the marriage preparation online program approved by the Diocese of Davenport. Two offerings have very similar website names, be sure you use the following which is from Michigan [www.catholicmarriageprepclass.com](http://www.catholicmarriageprepclass.com) and not the one from Denver.

**John Roberto Suggested Website:** The website link that John Roberto mentioned in his Clergy Days presentation for priests and parish staff will be added soon. Clicking on the Vibrant Faith@ Home logo will take you to the free website (<http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org>). There you will find ideas for adults, couples, young adults, young families, teen families, and a section just for kids.

**Family Day:** We are once again partnering with CASA (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University) to encourage parents to spend quality time with their kids and youth especially eating meals together. *Family Day* (Sept. 13 this year) is a national movement to celebrate parental engagement as an effective tool to help keep America's kids substance free. More information can be found on the Marriage and Family page of the diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org).

**Marriage Preparation:** The Diocese of Davenport offers several marriage preparation program formats. One day, Weekend (two day) and Online.

#### **Weekend and One-day**

- August 10-11, 2013: Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, *registration deadline is August 2*
- October 12-13, 2013: Muscatine, SS. Mary & Mathias, *registration deadline is October 4*
- January 25, 2014: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline is January 17 (space is limited so register early)*
- February 22, 2014: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline is February 14 (space is limited so register early)*
- Additional dates and locations for 2014 are still being arranged.

The fee, for both the One day and Weekend format, is \$125 per couple. 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) or IlaMae Hanisch, [hanisch@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hanisch@davenportdiocese.org).

## **Online**

This online program has been approved by the Diocese of Davenport as a formal marriage preparation program. Information on the program can be found at <http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/>.

To register, pay and have access to the online class go to <http://www.catholicmarriageprepclass.com/>. The online class fee is \$195 per couple.

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

## **MINISTRY FORMATION**

Ministry Formation Programs will begin in the fall. Applications, overview of programs, and calendar of courses will be on the diocesan website in August. Click on [chancery>faith formation>ministry formation](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Lay%20Ministry%20MFP.htm), (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Lay%20Ministry%20MFP.htm>).

We will be offering Year I Basic in 1) the DVD format (read material and view DVDs at home then meet once a month in a small group) and 2) onsite format (meet at the Chancery one Saturday per month). Courses will include: Ecclesial Ministry in the Catholic Church, Sacrament of Baptism, Cultural Diversity, Sacraments of Healing-Anointing and Reconciliation, Sacraments of Service-Holy Orders and Matrimony, Sacrament of Confirmation, Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, Personal & Pastoral Themes for Ministry, and Catholicism. These are offered in English and Español. Year I of the MFP is a prerequisite for men interested in the diaconate.

The specialized track will be for pastoral associates and parish life coordinators and they will meet once a month at the Chancery.

All MFP participants and guests are invited to the annual retreat on Saturday, October 19 at St. James parish, Washington, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bishop Amos will celebrate Mass at 10:30 and commission all who have completed their courses in the MFP. More information will be included in the September issue of the Mini and on the diocesan website.

## **WOMEN’S CONFERENCE**

*Journey to the Heart, A Conference for Catholic Women:* Saturday, Nov. 2, St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Registration 7:30 a.m., Mass 8:30 and conference ends at 3:00 p.m. Speakers: Fr. James Kubicki, SJ the National Director of Apostleship of Prayer; Colleen Pasnick and Anne Mallampalli. For more information contact Mary Anderson, 319-354-5303.

## **WOMEN AND SPIRIT EXHIBIT**

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary presents “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America,” a professional museum exhibit featuring panels of photographs and text highlighting the historical contributions of women’s religious communities of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. In addition, archival treasures from the Sisters of Humility will be on display.

The exhibit will be open for public viewing at Humility of Mary Center, 820 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport, from 11:00 am – 3 pm on Sunday, July 14 and 11:00 am – 3pm on Sunday, July 21. Guests to Humility of Mary Center are welcome to attend a 10:00 am Mass on those Sundays prior to viewing the exhibit.

Gathering their skirts and climbing uphill, the first group of Catholic sisters arrived by riverboat in Dubuque from Philadelphia in 1843. Over the next decades, a dozen communities of Catholic sisters thrived in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Sisters founded schools, orphanages, and hospitals, and they established nursing schools and universities. Today, sisters continue to do what they always have done: respond where the need is greatest.

Among the congregations included in the exhibit are: Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of St. Francis, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of the Visitation, Sisters of the Presentation, Benedictine Sisters and Franciscan Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration.

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

Visit [www.chmiowa.org](http://www.chmiowa.org) to learn more about Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. For direct inquiries: 563-336-8414 or [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com).

### **Private or Directed Retreat**

**July 1-8/begins 7pm; ends 10am**

Come for days of quiet reflection alone or with others. Share prayers, rituals and nutritious locally grown seasonal food. Optional spiritual direction is extra, \$50/session. Massage extra. Any combination of days. Fee: \$60 per day.

### **Mini-Retreat**

**Wed, July 3, 10am - noon**

Come early, stay late. Mass at 10 a.m. with a variety of programs. Enjoy lunch from our garden! Fee: \$8.00

### **Taize' Vigil Service**

**Sun, July 7, 5pm**

Taize is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified and compassionate prayer. Friends of The Prairie and churches of all faith traditions in the area are invited to participate. Supper following. Free will offering.

### **Mid-Summer Come to the Quiet**

**Wed, July 10, 9:30am – 3:30pm**

Come to the Quiet and savor solitude, nutritious food and the glory of Summer at The Prairie. Fee: \$20

## **SPECIAL EVENT in AUGUST**

**Spirit of the Prairie: 3rd annual summer party**

**Sun, August 25, 3pm - 6pm**

Make your reservations now to join us for a spirit-filled afternoon and enjoy:

- Buffet~Spirits~Live Music
- The beauty of The Prairie
- Indoor and outdoor seating
- Locally produced food~wines~beer

\$40 admission with proceeds benefiting Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat scholarship fund. Limited number so don't delay. Call 563-336-8401 or [kbrooke@chmiowa.org](mailto:kbrooke@chmiowa.org).

### **Spirit of the Prairie cookbook**

The 2nd edition of the popular *Spirit of the Prairie* cookbook is now available. (\$10.50) Please contact 563-336-8414 or [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com) to arrange for pick-up at the Humility of Mary Center (820 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport). Or call 563-374-1092 to pick up your cookbook at The Prairie. \$5.00 shipping/handling if mailed.

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

All events held at Benet House Retreat Center, 2200 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649. To register, contact Sr. Jackie Walsh at 309-283-2108 or [retreats@smmsisters.org](mailto:retreats@smmsisters.org).

**Silent Directed Retreat: Listen With the Ear of Your Heart:** Sun. July 21, 4 pm-Wed. July 24, 5 pm. As Christians, we all believe that God is speaking to us to teach, console, and guide us. Listening on a deep level is a skill that can be learned and improved. God speaks exactly what we need to hear, but we are often blocked by many factors. Come with an open heart and be amazed at what God wants to say to you. *Meet daily with a certified spiritual director: Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB; Sr. Margaret Murphy, OSB; Abbot Philip Davey, OSB.* Fee: Registration fee: \$265.

**SHALOM RETREAT CENTER, DUBUQUE**

To register call 563-582-3592 or send check payable to Shalom Retreat 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)

**Weekend Retreat -- WISDOM: A Way of Living**

Saturday, Oct. 12, 9:00am – Sunday, Oct. 13, 1:00pm

The wisdom tradition of biblical Israel is primarily concerned with the living of life in harmony with people and creation. It is a way of life that will assure happiness, prosperity, and fulfillment. We will view women’s and men’s perspectives based on life experiences.

Director: Dianne Bergant CSA: Professor, Biblical Studies, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL; serves on editorial boards of Biblical Theology Bulletin & Chicago Studies; currently working in the areas of biblical interpretation/ theology, particularly issues of peace, ecology and feminism. Offering: Commuter: \$75.

Overnight: \$126 (overnight and 5 meals). \$50 deposit, register by Monday, Oct. 7.

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).

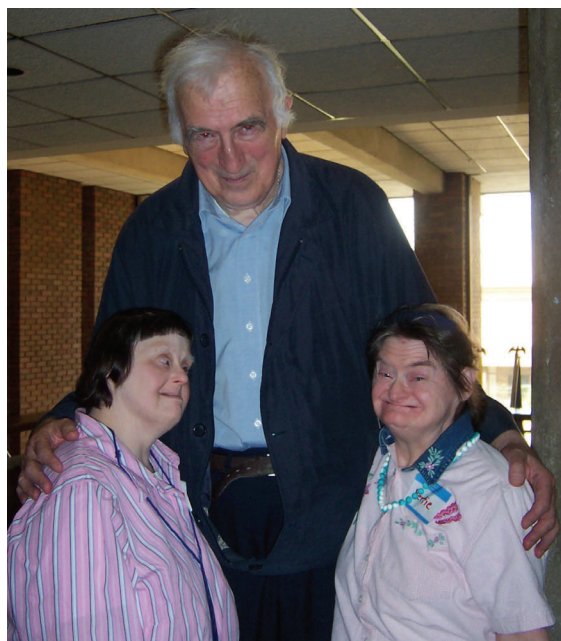


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An Invitation to Attend the

# 2013 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award

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**Jean Vanier**

Founder of L'Arche and Co-founder of Faith & Light

Philosopher, writer, religious and moral leader, **Jean Vanier** is best known as the founder of L'Arche, communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together. Today, 139 communities belonging to L'Arche are implanted in 35 countries stretching across five continents.

Jean also cofounded Faith & Light, communities of people with intellectual disabilities and their families and friends—particularly young friends, who meet on a regular basis in a Christian spirit to share friendship, to pray together and to celebrate life.

In 1963 Jean left an academic career and his homeland in Canada to join Father Thomas Philippe who was chaplain to a small institution for men with developmental disabilities in Trosly-Breuil, France.

In 1964 Jean decided to settle in Trosly-Breuil to live with people with intellectual disabilities. He bought a small house and named it "L'Arche," the French word for Noah's Ark. Jean has always strived to build caring relationships.

**Join Bishop Martin Amos and the L'Arche Community  
celebrating the work of Jean Vanier**

**Sunday, August 25, 2013, 2 P.M.**

**St. Ambrose University**

**Rogalski Center Ballroom**

**518 W. Locust Street, Davenport, Iowa**

**Previous award recipients include** Martin Luther King, Jr.; Dorothy Day; Dom Hélder Câmara; Mother Teresa; Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Eileen Egan; Cesar Chávez; Daniel Berrigan; Adolfo Pérez Esquivel; Lech Walesa; Bishop Salim Ghazal; Rev. John Dear, SJ; Bishop Álvaro Leonel Ramazzini; and Kim Bobo.

**Award co-sponsors:** Diocese of Davenport, St. Ambrose University, Augustana College, The Catholic Messenger, Churches United of the Quad City Area, Pax Christi Quad Cities, Muslim Community of the Quad Cities, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Sisters of St. Benedict, Sisters of St. Francis (Dubuque, Iowa), Sisters of St. Francis (Clinton, Iowa)

# Diocese of Davenport ~ 2013 August Gathering

## August 16<sup>th</sup> Building Bridges

St. Patrick Parish  
4330 St. Patrick Drive  
Iowa City IA 52240

9:45	Registration
10:00	Prayer Introductions Session one
Noon	Lunch
12:45	Session two
2:45 -	Closing



### Building Bridges: Engaging People in Living Faith

As pastoral leaders, we face enormous challenges and have immense opportunities to touch the lives of people every day. The challenge: engaging those we already know, bringing them closer to Christ and the parish community. The opportunity: reaching out to those we do not already know, evangelizing them through those who are already connected to the community of faith. Explore how we as pastoral leaders and those with whom and to whom we serve may become bridge builders, reaching out to the world with the Good News.

### Coach Parents, Form the Family

We all know the importance of parents in the faith development of their children, and many of us share a concern that many parents are not engaged in their children's catechesis; many are not engaged in their parish or in a lively and growing faith at all. How can we engage parents in ways that will help to form faith that lasts a lifetime? Explore how everything changes when we coach parents to form their children, partnering with them, and leading the family to living and lasting faith.







**Meet our guest speaker, Leisa Anslinger.**

Leisa holds Masters Degrees from Purdue University and the Athenaeum of Ohio. She served as a parish leader of faith formation for many years and now serves as Director of Growing Up Catholic. In this capacity, Leisa continues her work of developing ways to re-engage Catholics with their faith and their parish. A frequent presenter at conferences and in-service days, Leisa speaks on topics of catechesis, pastoral leadership and stewardship.

She contributes regularly to ministerial publications and is the author of Here Comes Everybody! And co-author of Desires of the Heart and Forming Generous Hearts: Stewardship Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation.

**For information, contact Mary Wieser [wieser@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:wieser@davenportdiocese.org) 563-888-4241**

**Registration deadline: August 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Cost \$25 (includes lunch)**

**Send form and payment to:**

**Diocese of Davenport  
Faith Formation Office  
780 W Central Park Avenue  
Davenport IA 52804**

Make checks payable to Diocese of Davenport

Name:			
E-mail:		Day Phone Number:	
Parish/School:		Parish/School/Town:	
Please check which box lunch you would prefer. We will do our best to accommodate your request.			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turkey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ham	<input type="checkbox"/>	Egg Salad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veggie

## Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers July 2013

*I offer you these tidbits of wisdom as prayer prompts to remind you (and your constituents) of the sacredness of marriage vows and the value of every child. The commitment to love a spouse forever, and the generous gift of life parents offer a child are indeed spiritual under-takings and cannot be done alone. May the God of Love be with you and your work. Susan*

**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)

**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](http://www.SusanVogt.net)"). When used on a website, please also link to my website: [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)

### **MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

527. July 1: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware..." (Galatians 5:14) Your spouse is your closest neighbor. Make a conscious effort to speak kindly (not biting at each other) today. Your love will come back to you.

528. July 8: If you desire children but are not yet parents, tenderly support each other. Consider how your love may flow out to others needing your generosity. If you already have children, pray for those couples who yearn for what may have come easily to you.

529. July 15: Couples often have different time clocks. Is one of you often ready to walk out of the house while the other decides to brush and floss? Take the Quiz: [Do You Operate in Different Marital Time Zones?](#)

530. July 22: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things." (Luke 10:41) You don't have to be female to worry and fret about many things. Who is the main worrier in your marriage? Does one worry for both of you? Is it productive worry or just useless anxiety? If your beloved worries unduly talk about how you might take some of the load. If you don't worry enough, try to be more conscientious.

531. July 29: Climate change can be a boon to your marriage. If you feel frustrated with each other, try changing the environment you have control over. Cool off if it's too hot out. Warm up if you're freezing. Light some candles if you're depressed. Put on some rose-colored glasses for fun.

### **PARENTING POINTERS**

527. July 5: "Parents spend 40% less time with their children than did parents in the 1950's...the average father spends less than 30 minutes a week talking to his children...Most kids need more adult time and less money." (Mary Pipher) Talk to your child for at least 30 minutes today, even if it's just gurgling with a baby.

528. July 12: Does your family have a mission statement? It doesn't have to be long, boring, or involve a lot of meetings. Just answer these questions with your kids: What are the three most important values to our family? (loyalty, generosity, support, love...whatever) What practical ways do we live out these values? Do the ways we spend our time, money, and treat each other reflect these values?

529. July 19: "Include other families in your life. Invite neighbors over for Sunday dinner or have a get-together with friends - adults and kids gathered together. The idea is to create a circle of friends, both young and old - not to wear yourself out cooking." (Mimi Doe)

530. July 26: You may not realize it, but the 4th Sunday of July is [Parent's Day](#). Don't let it be just a Hallmark holiday. Take a moment today to remember why you so wanted a child. Cherish each of your children in thought and words today.