

MINI-MESSENGER Volume 42 Number 3, September 2013

The Official Newsletter of the Diocese of Davenport

Published Monthly

Deacon David Montgomery, Director of Communication, Editor

OFFICES CLOSED

The diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 for Labor Day.

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, FR. GEORGE MCDANIEL

We welcome our new archives assistant, Tyla Cole. Tyla has a background in museum studies and is excited about working in the diocesan archives. Please join us in welcoming her. She may be reached at 563-888-4225 or cole@davenportdiocese.org. Since she is part-time the best hours to reach her are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



FINANCE OFFICE

A one-hour webinar, *Parish/School Safety and Risk Management*, will be presented on October 1, at 2:00 p.m. We all can help prevent injuries and avoid liability by providing a safe environment and we can help preserve our precious assets by learning best practices risk management techniques to ensure the safety of our students, employees, parishioners and guests. A couple of key issues that the webinar will address will be slips and falls and techniques to protect the parish/school from liability. Slips and falls are the number one cause of loss within the diocese's insurance program and a good many of these are preventable. Other topics included will be property, general liability and workers' compensation exposures as well as fiduciary responsibilities of board members. The presenters will be Dan Molyneaux, Joe Heintz and Mark Shaffer from Molyneaux Risk Solutions and GuideOne Insurance. Collectively, they have decades of experience in the field of risk management.

In the long term, prevention of injury will save on insurance premiums, another goal we all share. The total cost of risk is so much more than what the insurance company pays. Prevention and implementation of Best Practices will save you time and money that can be better spent on the ministries of our parishes and schools.

Every parish and school in the Diocese of Davenport needs to have one representative attend the webinar. To register for the webinar go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/196405569>. If you would rather attend in person send an email to Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

All parishes will have their ADA materials by mid-September for the ADA Kick Off scheduled for September 28-29. The administration of the ADA will be handled by the diocese for all parishes this year for the first time in many years. Our office will send out monthly pledge reminders and tax letters in January for payments made in 2013. Parishes will be updated regularly on progress.

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Building an Engaged Church: A Stewardship Day for the Diocese of Davenport: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Friday, October 11, at St. Patrick, Iowa City and Saturday, October 12 at Holy Trinity, Richmond. Choose which day works for you. This day is for interested parishioners and staff members and free of charge. Presenters will be from The Cunneen Company. Complete details are in the attached flyer.

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 implemented 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 or 563-888-4220.

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

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Parish Nurse/Health Ministers Gathering: Sept. 29, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cathy Thennes, parish nurse at Our Lady of Lourdes, Bettendorf is hosting a parish nurse/health minister gathering. See the attached flyer for more information and please distribute to those who may be interested in attending.

October is Respect Life Month: Please use and display your Respect Life month packet materials. This year's theme is *Open Your Hearts to Life!* If your parish missed ordering a parish kit a few are still available by contacting Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4210. For those who would like to order additional materials they are now available at <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>.

The 2013 Iowa Institute for Social Action will not be held rather people are encouraged to attend the John Cardinal Newman Lecture at Drake University, Des Moines on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 4:00 p.m. The lecture will be given by Cardinal Peter Turkson who is from Ghana and is president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. His presentation will focus on "Vocation of the Business Professional. RSVP information will be available soon. You are also invited to an interfaith prayer service to end world hunger at 7:30 p.m. that evening, at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines. The prayer is held in conjunction with the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue and with the support of the Des Moines Area Religious Council.

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering: February 2-5 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Registration will open in the fall. For more information go to <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering/>.

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

VOCATIONS OFFICE

Vocations Webinar: December 3, 2:00 p.m. In this webinar Fr. Thom Hennen, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Davenport, will talk about how to create a culture of vocations in your parish and school. Fr. Hennen will not only address the importance of actively promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within our parish and school communities, but will offer concrete ways to go about it and suggest some helpful resources. Please consider attending this webinar in order to learn more about this vitally important work for the future of our local Church. To register for the webinar go to:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/952267913>. If you would rather attend in person send an email to Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.

LITURGY OFFICE

David Haas Concert and Workshop

Concert: Friday, September 27, 7:30 p.m., St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf. David will connect his inspiring music to the good news of Vatican II. Fee: \$15 (students and seniors); \$20 (adults) \$25 (at the door). Scholarships are available. Proceeds to benefit Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, Wheatland

Liturgy Workshop: Saturday, September 28, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf. Liturgists, church musicians, and choirs are invited to join David Haas to explore inspiring music of Vatican II.

David will share his lively compositions and his 40 years of creating sacred music. Lunch and handouts provided. Fee: \$20 (students); \$25 (adults).

To register contact Sr. Rae Elwood, 563-336-8414, olpretreat@gmail.com or Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, 820 West Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804. Make checks payable to Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat.

FAITH FORMATION

Diocesan Young Adult Conference, *Called & Chosen*: Saturday, September 28, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., at St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Join us for an inspiring day featuring keynote speaker John Donaue-Grossman. Refer to the registration/flyer at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Young%20Adult%20Ministry.htm>.

The annual High School Youth Rally will take place October 27, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at the Coralville Marriott. All publicity and registration materials will be on the diocesan website by September 1. Early-Bird registration deadline is October 8 and late registration deadline is October 18. For more information, contact Barb Butterworth, 563-888-4240 or Don Boucher, 563-888-4243.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

A Natural Family Planning three-part series will be held September 16, October 21, and November 18. All sessions will take place in the Fanning Room at Mercy Medical Plaza, Iowa City. Persons attending are asked to sign up online at www.ccli.org. For more information contact the Pastoral Care office at Mercy Hospital, 319-339-3556 or the course instructors, Gary and Geralyn Ward, 319-360-4964. Sessions are sponsored by Mercy Hospital and the Couple to Couple League.

The Happy Families Toolkit may be downloaded for use in your family from the diocesan website <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm> (scroll to family life). The toolkit was created by best-selling author and New York Times family columnist Bruce Feiler who wrote the book *The Secrets of Happy Families*. The toolkit has about 17 pages of free ideas to use including a morning check list, suggestions for family meetings, a family's belief board, etc. You may print as many copies as you need for your family, parish or school. While you are on the diocesan page for marriage and family life check out the other resources and click on the various logos for direct links to pages of interest.

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

Weekend and One-day

- 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 or IlaMae Hanisch, 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 September 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 begin in October. The information packet for MFP Year I is on the diocesan website. It includes the application and recommendation forms that can easily be printed for your use or to give to a friend. Learn about the program by reading the overview. Go to www.davenportdiocese.org, click on chancery>faith formation>ministry formation.

Year I Basic in English is being offered in two formats: 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]. The Spanish Year I Basic will meet once a month at SS. Mary & Mathias, Muscatine. Year I of the MFP is a prerequisite for men interested in the diaconate.

There will be a specialized track for *pastoral associate* and will meet once a month at the Chancery.

Course titles are for Year I Basic, English and Spanish. The dates are for the onsite group meeting at the Chancery.

Oct. 19	Retreat: St. James, Washington	Oct. 26	Ecclesial Ministry
Nov. 16	Baptism	Dec. 21	Personal/Pastoral Themes for Ministry
Jan. 16	Retreat: Sustaining the Spirit	Jan. 18	Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick
Feb. 15	Eucharist I	March 15	Eucharist II
April 26	Confirmation	May 24	Matrimony
June 21	Cultural Diversity	July 19	Holy Orders
August 16	Catholicism	Sept. 20	Retreat & Commissioning

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.

WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

Journey to the Heart, A Conference for Catholic Women: Saturday, Nov. 2, St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Join us with nationally known speaker and retreat director Fr. James Kubicki, SJ, as he helps us explore loving God and our neighbor with all our hearts in the ordinary circumstances of our lives. As the Year of Faith draws to a close, this conference is an opportunity to nourish and reinforce our faith to give us strength and joy for the journey. For more information go to www.ic-cwc.com.

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND

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

Taize’ Vigil Service: Sun, September 1, 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.

Mini-Retreat: Wed, September 4, 10am – noon. Come early, stay late. Mass at 10 am with a variety of programs. Enjoy lunch from our garden! Fee: \$8.00

Teaching Children to Live as Jesus Lived: Tues, September 10, 6:30pm – 8:30pm by Roberta Brich, CHM. Take “Inspired by God, Serving You,” to a whole new level. Learn practical ideas to help and free children to live a cooperative life-style, to take responsibility for their behavior, and to promote peace in the family. This workshop will benefit parents, teachers or anyone who works with children, pre-K through teens. Fee: \$15

Fall Come to the Quiet: Mon, September 16, 9:30am – 3:30pm. Come to the Quiet and savor solitude, nutritious food & glory of the early days of fall at The Prairie. Fee: \$20

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

All events held at Benet House Retreat Center, 2200 88th Avenue West, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649. To register, contact Sr. Jackie Walsh at 309-283-2108 or retreats@smmsisters.org.

Evening at the Monastery: Thurs., Sept. 19, 4:45-7:45 pm. Do you wonder what life is like in a monastery? Come for an evening of prayer, pleasant conversation and a chance to ask the questions you have not had an opportunity to voice. Enjoy Vespers and dinner with the Benedictine Sisters followed by reflection and sharing on Scripture and the monastic way of life. Presenter: Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB. Fee: \$15.

Discerning Read: A Book Club for Seekers: Join us for a rousing discussion on each of the three books described:

The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe, by Kayle Tzemach Lemmon. Sept. 23; Oct. 21

Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard, by Liz Murray. This is the stunning memoir of a young woman, who at age fifteen was living on the streets and eventually made it into Harvard. Nov. 18; Dec. 16

Wise Irish Women: A Journey of Love, Loyalty and Friendship to Inspire the Irish Spirit, by Patricia Connorton Kagerer and Laura Prendergast Gordon. Jan. 20; Feb. 17; Mar. 17; Apr. 28

All book club meetings will be on the Mondays listed from 6:30-8:00 pm. Fee: \$5/session or \$35 for series if paid in advance. You may purchase the books or order them through Sr. Bobbi Bussan costing \$41.03. For more information contact Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB: (309) 283-2300.

Holy Aging: Welcoming God's Surprises: Thurs. Sept. 26, 9 am-12 pm. We know we are all aging. Look around! Look in the mirror! Let's do it well, successfully. We'll reflect on how to age well in body, mind and spirit, with tips from studies on adult development and our own experience, observation and reflection. "Aging is not a disease," say many; but it can be an art! Presenter: Sr. Helen Carey, OSB, served as campus minister and faculty member at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, and Couter College, Kentucky and recently as Hospital chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Bloomington, IL. Fee: \$20, plus an option for lunch \$8.

Jewish/Christian/Muslim Women's Dialogue: Mondays, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, 7-8:30 pm. Plan now for the annual Women's Dialogue! Join us for an interesting evening of sharing stories, laughter and refreshments as we discuss, "What does your faith tradition say about violence?" Get to know your neighbor while building trust, understanding and peace in the Quad-Cities. For more information call Sr. Catherine Cleary, OSB: (309) 283-2118. Program will be held at the Tri-City Jewish Center, 2115 – 30th Street, Rock Island. Free Will Offering.

Beyond the Birdbath: Francis of Assisi's Environmental Challenge: Thurs. Oct. 10, 7-8:30 pm. He preached to the birds, called the sun his brother and the moon his sister. It's no wonder St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and the environment! But the radical force of his life and his message – his strict simplicity, his attention to the poor, his courage to speak good news across differences – extends beyond the quaint figure in the birdbath. As we explore his legacy together, we gain inspiration for our own journeys of communion with God and with creation. Presenter: Dr. Laura Hartmann is the author of *The Christian Consumer: Living Faithfully in a Fragile World*. She is Assistant Professor of Religion at Augustana College with a specialization in Environmental, Sexual, Social and Medical ethics. Free Will Offering.

24 Hour Body, Mind, Spirit Retreat for Women: Fri. Oct. 25, 7 pm-Sat. Oct. 26, 7 pm. Like any journey, our faith journey sometimes requires stopping to refocus and change directions. Register for this retreat to ponder your prayer life. We will renew our intentions, perhaps change the way we pray, learn new ways to pray, learn how to eliminate distractions and learn how to be mindful of God's presence throughout the day. Pray, listen, rest, laugh, be rejuvenated! Presenters: Sr. Catherine Cleary, OSB and Helen Schiltz. Fee: \$105 (private room), \$97 (shared room). Optional opportunities: Yoga and Chair Massage available.

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.

Silent Directed Retreat: Friday, September 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. *My Beautiful One* will focus on “The Lover and His Beloved” using the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. There will be times of reflection by creative art, journaling and group sharing to express how the Lord is speaking. Bring a bible, journal and sack lunch. Registration fee: \$35. For details call Cyndi at 323-9945.

Healing Mass: September 10, 1:00 p.m.

Just Listen! Tuesday, September 24, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. This interactive DVD presentation gives participants an opportunity to learn to be effective listeners; improving relationships both on the job and on a personal level. The teachings will help you learn what type of listener you are and you will be given opportunities throughout the day to practice the new listening skills. Those who have completed this series in the past are amazed at what they learn and want to learn more! Registration is \$40. Bring a sack lunch. Call to register and leave a message.

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, info@shalomretreats.org

Embracing Life After the Death of a Spouse or Significant Other: Thursday, Sept. 12; 8:00am – 3:30pm
Team: Barbara Meloy Callahan, Diane Fasselius, Pat Pierce, Jim Swenson, and Marci Blum OSF
Gather with others who have lost a spouse and share experiences of loss, grief and healing. Topics include: coping with loss, making adjustments, dealing with fears, surviving and thriving.
Offering: \$35. Includes continental breakfast and lunch. Register/prepay by Monday, Sept. 9.

The Miracle of Mindfulness: An Antidote to That Overwhelmed Feeling: Saturday, Sept. 28, 9:00am – 3:00pm. Facilitator: Eileen Miller OSF. Life is hectic. Most of us find ourselves rushing from one thing to another, leaving little time to reflect or “just be.” Hopefully, this day will give participants some ideas and tools on how to use the precious minutes in between events of their days to quiet their bodies, minds and spirits. We will learn to do mindful meditation, as well as other mindful practices that keep us in tune with the beauty of life. (A bonus might be lower blood pressure readings!) Offering: \$40. Includes program, coffee on arrival and noon lunch. Note: Bring a friend who is new to Shalom and offer us \$60 for both of you. Register/prepay by Wednesday, Sept 25.

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.

Building an Engaged Church:

A Stewardship Day for the Diocese of Davenport

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	
<i>Choose to attend one of these days</i>	
Friday, October 11, 2013 St. Patrick Parish Hall, Iowa City	Saturday, October 12, 2013 Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Richmond

Sponsored by the Diocesan Stewardship Commission and The Cunneen Company

In this six-hour day we will explore innovative initiatives proven effective in the hundreds of campaigns conducted by The Cunneen Company. This day is free and open to all interested parishioners.

Together, we will embrace this challenge throughout the diocese, and provide each parish with its own unique vision of meaningful stewardship. The day is designed to help participants/parish teams build a stewardship plan for their faith community.

Agenda for Each Day

9:00: Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:30: Opening Prayer

Box Lunch Provided

Topics Include:

- Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure
- Parishioner Engagement and Parish Communication
- Stewardship of Treasure – A different perspective
- Best Practices in Giving
- Roundtable discussion – Seven Principles of Stewardship
- The Seven Principles - A Review of the Bishop's Pastoral on Stewardship
- Build Your Parish Stewardship Plan – Workshop for Building a Year Long Parish Stewardship Plan

3:30: Adjourn



Fee: No charge, funded by The Cunneen Company

Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 3

Register online at: <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=z6V7%2AilvI7Os8WWJ%2ASXDJw>

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

First Annual Parish Nurse / Health Minister Gathering



Dear Parish Nurse or Health Minister,

I am sending this invitation to all Parish Nurses or Health Ministers in the Diocese of Davenport. It has been a vision of mine to gather all those practicing in this ministry to come together to learn, share ideas, and promote this ministry in our Diocese. Well this is the year that I finally set a date to do just that. This first year I will be hosting this gathering at my parish. Here are the details.

Date: Sunday, September 29, 2013

Place: Our Lady of Lourdes Church
1506 Brown Street
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
1-563-359-0345

Time: 10:30 am - Mass together
11:30 am - Lunch provided. Please bring a dessert to share.
Noon - 1:30pm - Learning session "Understanding your Catholic Faith" facilitated by Ila Mae Hanish
1:30 - 2:30pm - Sharing of program ideas
The gathering will end promptly at 2:30pm

If you are still actively involved in this ministry, please come and meet others in our diocese. You are all doing many wonderful and unique things in your parishes and it would be very helpful if we could share program ideas and materials. Please consider bringing a short write up about a program that you have successfully implemented at your parish. We can then collaborate with each other in the future to bring the shared ideas that spark our interest to our own parishes.

I have listed this event as annual but we certainly can entertain the thought of meeting more frequently and possibly rotated host parishes. If you know another parish nurse/health minister in our diocese, please ask if they received this invitation as I may not have a current list of those who are active.

**Please RSVP to me by Friday, September 6th, so that I can prepare for this event.*

1-563-359-0345 Our Lady Of Lourdes OR
1-563-332-6273 My home number OR
e-mail me at lourdesnurse@qwestoffice.net

Your sister in Christ,

Cathy Thennes
Parish Nurse Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers September 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 ***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

536. Sept. 2: (Labor Day) "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" - and a spouse boring. On this Labor Day, use a labor saving device (washer, microwave, car, blender, etc.) to save some time and do something playful with your honey. Pray for (and thank) those who worked to make your life easier.

537. Sept. 9: "Who can know God's counsel..." (Wisdom 9:13) The wisdom of God is sometimes only recognized in hindsight. Although your beloved is not God, he/she has probably said some pretty wise things over the years. What's a bit of wisdom you've learned from your spouse?

538. Sept. 16: Are you a perfectionist? It's natural to want to do a good job but don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. If your spouse advises you to "Lighten up" it might be good counsel. Marriage and parenting are tough jobs.

539. Sept. 23: Does your spouse accuse you of being irresponsible? Sometimes you might just have different personality styles, but sometimes it may carry a tad of truth. Even if it hurts, don't ignore the criticism but try to see what truth might be behind the charge. Take one step toward self-improvement.

540. Sept. 30: Marriage Challenge: Careers are often at their height when couples are also in their active parenting stage. It's hard to balance both. Try your best but when all is done don't beat yourselves up for any parenting regrets. You can't change the past. Work on making the future better.

PARENTING POINTERS

536. Sept. 6: Jesus worked many miracles. You may not be a miracle worker but each human life is like a miracle. Ask each person in your family, what miracle they would work, if they had the power. Pray for miracles.

537. Sept. 13: Getting kids to help clean: One parent said, "Sometimes I tape money to the bottom of some wastebaskets. When the children empty one, they get the coin. It's like a treasure hunt. Or I might tape wrapped candy to the window cleaner or furniture spray. The children dust and do mirrors now with excitement.

538. Sept. 20: Next Monday, Sept. 23, is "Eat Dinner Together Day." Maybe you always do this anyway. If so, why not invite another family with children to join you. If not, make a point to do eat together more frequently - no phones, TV, or electronics allowed.

539. Sept. 27: "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments...and lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus." (Luke 16:19) Are children consumed with wearing the latest, expensive fads? Tell them the story of Lazarus. As a family figure out one way to share your clothes, toys, or tools with those in need this week.