

DEACON DAVID MONTGOMERY, CHIEF OF STAFF

The office hours for the Chancery and Catholic Messenger are now 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This change was made to better meet the needs of visitors. Appointments should be made in advance for the noon to 1:00 p.m. time period when possible.

NEW ADDRESS

Fr. Bob Striegel: 1123 12th Ave., Apt 1, Moline, IL 61265-3082

FINANCE OFFICE

Applications for the Marguerite Ritzinger Scholarship of the Diocese of Davenport are being accepted now through Feb. 1, 2017. Any Catholic individual who plans to attend a college or university next fall may apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. Nontraditional students may apply for the scholarship.

The award is named for the late Marguerite Ritzinger, a Sigourney native, who left \$388,770 to the diocese to help with scholarships for seminarians and students attending colleges or universities. Applications must include an essay, copy of a high school or college transcript and two reference letters — all sent together along with the application form which can be found at

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/12/MRitzingerScholarship-application.pdf>

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Faith First is a stewardship-based prayer resource that connects the Sunday scripture readings to daily life in a meaningful way. It is written especially for parish leadership groups, families or anyone wishing to better understand the Gospels. Prayers and reflections for the Cycle A (2017) liturgical year can be found on the Diocesan web page. Use this link: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/stewardship> to access current reflections; and check back regularly because new resources will be posted as the year progresses. Sharing Faith First is an ideal way to begin parish meetings and prepare for the weekend liturgy.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

January is Poverty Awareness Month: For resources and information please go [here](#).

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering: In 2017 there will be no Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C. due to the large national convocation that USCCB will lead in Orlando on July 1-4. For more information please go to [here](#). The Gathering returns in 2018 on February 3-6.

CRS Rice Bowl Collection begins March 1.

- **Promotional Materials:** If your parish did not order or you need additional materials please contact [Esmeralda Guerrero](#), 563-888-4210.
- **Rice Bowl Breakfast:** Breakfast events over the past few years have helped to increase awareness of the Rice Bowl campaign. This year the Office of Social Action wants to try something different. We want to encourage every parish around the diocese to host and plan their own Kick-off Breakfast. We will assist you with ordering materials, coming out and walking you through the process on how to host a breakfast. For assistance contact [Loxi Hopkins](#), 563-888-4212
- **Grants:** Annually, 75 percent of the funds raised go to Catholic Relief Services to ease hunger worldwide; while the remaining 25 percent goes to organizations working to fight hunger within the Diocese of Davenport. Last year the CCHD/CRS board was able to fund 16 local organizations, totaling \$22,000. If you wish to apply for a grant go [here](#).

The Iowa Institute for Social Action will be held January 15-16 in Altoona. The Institute is our leadership-training event for advocates of the human life and dignity teachings of the Church. Brian Corbin, Executive Vice-President of Membership Services at Catholic Charities USA, will present the keynote address. Breakout sessions will feature

the latest on the social concerns of the Church, including poverty, immigration and protecting the vulnerable. For up-to-date information go to the Iowa Catholic Conference [website](#).

2017-18 Internship for Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD): Applications are being accepted until Feb. 15. Are you Catholic? Interested in fighting poverty? Then consider being an intern for CCHD. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development:

- Provides grants for self-help projects developed by grassroots groups working to address the root causes of poverty in their communities.
- Works to increase Catholics' awareness of poverty in the U.S.
- Educates about the Catholic social tradition.
- Builds bridges between poor and non-poor communities.

The Intern must be able to attend the **May 31 - June 2** CCHD Training. (Expenses paid). For more information go [here](#) or contact Loxi Hopkins, 563-888-4212 or hopkins@davenportdiocese.org. Please distribute the attached flyer to those who might be interested.

Social Action E-Newsletter: The Diocesan Social Action office has an email 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/TwoFeetNewsletter> or, send an e-mail to kerstana@diodav.org and we will add you to our subscription list.

Project Rachel services for those wounded by abortion are:

- Dedicated Helpline: 563-333-4107 (calls answered personally Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm.) Voice messaging available all other times.
- Dedicated e-mail: projectrachel@diodav.org
- Dedicated national website: www.hopeafterabortion.org
- Confidential referrals for individualized counseling with a Project Rachel priest or counselor

How you can help promote Project Rachel in your parish:

- Distribute the free brochure, "Peace Starts Here." Call 563-888-4212 to receive.
- On your parish website put a link to the [Project Rachel](#) website
- Pray for women and men that have been affected by abortion
- Include weekly bulletin announcements

There are two ways to support Project Rachel:

1. "Humble Angel Honey": For parishes who are interested in having "Humble Angel Honey" for sale at their parish please contact [Kent Ferris](#) or 563-888-4210 to make arrangements.
2. Make a financial contribution, payable to the Diocese of Davenport and mail to Diocese of Davenport, Project Rachel, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804-1901.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Ministry Skills Development: The Art of Accompaniment: Radical Listening workshop will be held at American Martyrs Retreat House on March 9-10. Participants will have the opportunity to enhance their listening skills and to understand the importance of developing these skills in preparation for effective ministry. The facilitator will be Barb Schwery, Executive Director of BeFriender Ministry. Go [here](#) for additional information and registration options.

Change in date for *Calling Youth To Mission – Equipping Young Disciples* Workshop. Due to a revision in the Re-Visioning Youth Ministry process, the date for this workshop has been changed from February 16 to Thursday, May 4, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at St. Patrick Church in Iowa City. Tom East from the Center for Ministry Development, is still our presenter. Cost, registration information, and more can be found [here](#).

Final QUEST Retreat of this year. This is your last opportunity of this academic year for your 8th and 9th graders to experience a QUEST retreat. The retreat will be held on January 28-29 at St. James parish in St. Paul. Flyers and registration forms are available [here](#).

Junior High Rally: Sunday, March 19, from 9:30-5:30 p.m., at Regina Education Center in Iowa City. Publicity and registration materials will be available by January 20 at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/jhrally>. The Rally is for all 6th-8th graders and this year's keynoter is [Cooper Ray](#).

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

MFP Courses: Classes are held at the Chancery in Davenport from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or participants may instead choose to join one of the video small groups held at various locations throughout the diocese. Each small group location will determine its monthly meeting time. An application form and additional information may be found on the [MFP website](#). For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact [Marianne Agnoli](#) or 563-888-4242.

2017 Schedule

1/21/17: Liturgy I: Deacon Frank Agnoli	2/18/17: Liturgy II: Deacon Frank Agnoli
3/18/17: New Testament I: Dr. Matthew Coomber	4/22/17: New Testament II: Dr. Matthew Coomber
5/20/17: Canon Law: Fr. Paul Appel	6/17/17: Intro to Theology: Dr. Corinne Winter
7/15/17: Intro to Catechesis: Dr. Corinne Winter	8/19/17: Civil Law: Deacon Bob Glaser
9/16/17: Spiritual Themes: IlaMae Hanisch	10/7/17: Commissioning Liturgy

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Diocesan Marriage Preparation Policies and Procedures: The new diocesan marriage preparation policies were promulgated on December 30, 2016 and will apply to all couples who began marriage preparation in the diocese after December 31, 2016. The new policy is now available on the diocesan website [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/marriage-preparation), <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/marriage-preparation>. Note that the diocesan Prenuptial Investigation English form has been revised to reflect the new marriage preparation requirements. It is in a fillable pdf format on the diocesan website [here](#). The Spanish form is forthcoming.

Marriage Preparation: In the hope of helping to build a solid foundation for an enriching life-long marriage, engaged couples beginning preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Diocese of Davenport after December 31, 2016 will participate in the following preparation activities:

1. Initial **personal interview** with the priest, deacon or pastoral minister
2. Completion of an approved **Premarital Inventory:** FOCCUS, REFOCCUS or PREPARE/ENRICH
3. **Follow-up meetings** as determined by the minister.
4. Participation in a **Marriage Preparation Instructional Program:**
 - **Sponsor Couple** (preferred option)
 - **Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Day/Weekend** - see dates below
 - **Approved On-line option** (only under special circumstance – requires parish approval)
5. Participation in an approved **Introductory Natural Family Planning Instruction**-see options below
6. Completion of the **pre-nuptial investigation form**.
7. **Post-wedding couple contact plan**.

Marriage Preparation Instructional Programs: 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](#) to schedule a training in your parish to serve in this important ministry with couples preparing for marriage.

Weekend and One-day:

January 21, 2017: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline is January 13*

February 25, 2017: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline February 17*

April 29-30, 2017: Williamsburg, St. Mary, *registration deadline April 21*

August 5-6, 2017: Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, *registration deadline July 28*

October 7, 2017: Muscatine, SS Mary and Mathias, *registration deadline September 29*

Registration fee: *\$150 per couple*. The registration form and more information can be found on the [Marriage and Family webpage](#). If you have questions contact [Barb Butterworth](#) or 563-888-4240.

Online: Go [here](#) – to be used only under special circumstance with parish approval.

Attend the final session of the *Amoris Laetitia* Webinar Series- Pastoral Response in Accompanying Families in Faith:

The Strong Catholic Families National Partnership invites ministry leaders, teachers, parents and clergy to join together with others around the globe in a four-part webinar series focusing on the pastoral implementation of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). Four Master Teachers will be speaking to different aspects of a family's faith journey over the next several months. Each month, two live panels will convene to reflect on the master teacher presentation and to discuss the pastoral issues, concerns and effective practices related to that month's theme. Times are 1:00 or 6:00 p.m. each day.



- *Theme 4 (January 25): Engaging for Mission* presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington. [Click here](#) to register.

Sponsor Couple Training Workshop: Sunday, January 22, 2017 at St. Mary, Pella, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Area parishes are invited to send any married couples for training as [Sponsor Couples](#). Sponsor couples are married couples who are trained to assist engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Using the marriage preparation workbook *For Better & For Ever* and their own experiences of Christian marriage, the sponsor couple journeys with the engaged couple during this important time of preparation and throughout the couple's first year of married life. If you plan on sending couples for the training please contact [Marianne Agnoli](#), 563-888-4242 [ASAP](#) in order to insure that the couples have sufficient time to receive the necessary training materials and to complete the pre-training assignment.

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

National Marriage Week will be celebrated February 7 – 14. Within this week is World Marriage Sunday observed on February 12. The USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth has a variety of resources available: bulletin inserts, a virtual marriage retreat, an online contest, preaching resources and resource websites. These items can be found [here](#). The Faith Formation office also has several marriage enrichment resources available for individual or parish use. Contact Marianne Agnoli at agnolim@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4242 for more information.

Natural Family Planning: Participation in a diocesan approved *Introductory NFP Instruction* is required for all engaged couples of child bearing age that begin preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony in the diocese after December 31, 2016.

Both general information as well as method specific content is offered in a variety of formats:

- Individual couple or group on location instruction
- Live or self-paced online instruction
- One-on-one Skype instruction
- Video instruction and study guide

Couples may select to participate in one or more of these resources based on their individual level of interest or particular life circumstance. Most instruction is available in both English and Spanish. Engaged couples are

encouraged to start NFP instruction at least four months prior to their wedding date. Diocesan approved NFP online and local instructional resources can be found [here](#).

Courage and Encourage Support Groups are currently meeting in the Diocese of Davenport. *Courage* is a support group for Catholic men and women who experience same-sex attractions and desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. *Encourage* is the Courage affiliate support group for family members, spouses, and friends of men and women experiencing same-sex attraction. A variety of printable informational brochures can be downloaded in both English and Spanish from the [Courage website](#).

For more information, contact:

- Family Life Coordinator – Marianne Agnoli, 563-888-4242, agnolim@davenportdiocese.org
- Courage (English) – Fr. Thom Hennen, 563-888-4255
- Encourage (English) – Fr. Tony Herold, 563-888-4363
- Encourage (Spanish) – Fr. Joseph Sia, 319-728-8210

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 RIVER, LECLAIRE

Special Needs Prom: “Night to Shine”, a prom for persons with special needs ages 14 and older will be held on Feb. 10 from 6-9 p.m. at the Quad-Cities Waterfront Convention Center in Bettendorf. Hosted by Our Lady of the River Parish, the event is free, but guests need to register as soon as possible. Persons from all faith backgrounds who live in Iowa or Illinois are welcome. Approximately 200 volunteers, ages 14 and older, are also needed to ensure a memorable night for the honored guests.

The prom event, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, includes a red carpet welcome, DJ and dancing, dinner, karaoke, limo rides, photo opportunity, shoe shine and hair/make-up stations. All guests will be crowned king or queen of the prom and take home a souvenir bag of prom goodies.

Guests and volunteers should register at www.ourladyoftheriver.com or download a registration form and send it to the appropriate person. Contact Jennifer Hildebrand, Our Lady of the River Parish Nurse, for additional information at 563-370-4412 or kjhildebrand@windstream.net

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.

Sabbatical for Sisters – a Five Week Experience: Thurs, January 26 – Tues, February 28 | Travel Dates. A sabbatical program that offers an extended contemplative experience. Take time for rest and renewal. Enjoy the silence and solitude of The Prairie in late winter. Reflect on the beauty of your life, the beauty of the Creator within and around you. Uncover all the beauty that your life holds for you, the church and the world. Deepen a sense of your connectedness to all life. Discover what is still inside you that begs to be born. This experience includes morning ritual, presentations, and videos. Take the time to practice new learnings, commune with nature, and learn from others retreating with you. Fee: \$2,500 Non-Refundable Deposit: \$100. Registration Deadline: January 15.

Mini-Sabbatical Experience: Attend one or more with those who are on the full sabbatical. Join in community life with sisters; learn from their experience of prayer, communal dialogue and support. Enrich the dialogue with reflection on your spiritual journey. Registration Deadline: January 15. Fee: \$600/week. Non-Refundable Deposit: \$100. See details on www.chmiowa.org website under “Retreats”

- Week One: January 30 – February 3: Contemplative Seeing through the Arts
- Week Two: February 6 – 10: Current Christology and Theology of Religious Life
- Week Three: February 13 – 17: Our Sacred Universe
- Week Four: February 20 – 24: Wellness and Wholeness

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 <http://www.smmsisters.org/retreats/> to register for programs mentioned below.

Silent Directed Retreat: Jesus Asked Them, Who Do You Say I Am?: Jan. 15 4:00 PM (Check-in: 4-6:30 pm; Conference: 7 pm) – Jan. 18 4:00 PM. Register now for this popular retreat which fills early. You will receive personal time with a spiritual director. In addition to daily Eucharist, there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Centering Prayer, personal prayer, silence, rest, prayer with the Benedictines and walking the grounds. Spiritual Directors: Sr. Margaret Murphy OSB; Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB; Toni Petersen; Fr. Mark DeSutter. Fee: \$345.

Catholic Sister for A Day: Jan. 21 9:00 AM – Jan. 22 1:00 PM. Experience life as a Sister with other single Catholic women 18-50 years old. Enjoy prayer, meals and conversation with the Sisters, discover how the Benedictines serve God with personal and communal prayer, and learn about the process of discernment. Come and take the step you need to discover whether God is calling you to religious life. There is no cost; you are our guest!

Catholic Princess Retreat: Jan. 28, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM. The retreat is designed to instill in K-4th grade girls a sense of their dignity as daughters of God, and to remind them of their beauty and honor God's world. The retreat will teach the girls that every person is made in the image and likeness of God, with a unique personal beauty. Presenter: Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB. Fee: \$10 for materials.

Valentine's Evening for Couples: "They Are Like Trees Planted in the House of the Lord." Psalm 92:13: Feb. 10, 6:30 - 9:30 PM. Trees are strong, beautiful statements of life, as is marriage. The knots in the wood of a tree add to its beauty. The challenges of the world can add to the beauty of a couple. Join us for an evening of celebration of that beauty. Presenters: Deacon Steve and Kathy MacDonald; Jeff and Deb Rausch. Fee: \$45/couple. Couples may stay overnight at Benet House for an additional \$75.

Men's Retreat: Look Beyond the Horizon: Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. – Feb. 19 Noon. "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5-8) This retreat will break open John 15 and challenge you to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus calls us to look beyond the horizon and follow Him in new ways. Presenter: Rev. Duane Jack, Retired Priest and serves as Spiritual Director of NW Cursillo. Fee: Register and pay in full by Jan. 17: \$220 (private room), \$205 (shared room). Registrations after Jan. 17: \$235 (private room), \$220 (shared room). Commuter fee: \$155, includes lunch, dinner and brunch.

Girls' Be A Catholic Sister For A Day: Feb. 25, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Spend a fun-filled day at St. Mary Monastery with other girls entering 5th - 8th grades. This great day includes meeting and praying with Benedictine Sisters, making arts and crafts, playing games, enjoying friends and food. Learn how wonderful a life focused on God can be! Fee: \$10 for materials.

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

Simple Practices For Befriending Stress: Saturday, February 4, 9:30am-11:30am. Learn practical ways that can be used to deal with stress, so that we can grow in kindness towards ourselves and others. An integrative approach of body-mind-spirit will be offered during this. Offering: \$10, includes a snack. Registration Deadline: February 2

Grieving the Loss Of A Loved One: February 6, 7:00pm-8:30pm. If you are grieving the loss of someone dear to you, we invite you to join us for this evening of supportive learning and sharing. Offering: Free
Registration Deadline: February 3

Days of Quiet & Prayer: A 4-Session Series: February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, 9:30am-2:45pm. Each session will begin with coffee and rolls at 9:30am. We will continue with prayer, and each participant will be given a booklet to aid personal reflection throughout the day. Faith-sharing and prayer will conclude each day. The book selection for this program is "The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings" by John Philip Newell. Offering: \$85 for series, includes the book, program, materials, coffee & rolls, lunch, and a private room
Registration Deadline: January 30

Shalom's Annual Valentine Evening For Married Couples: Sunday, February 12, 6:00-8:00pm, Sunday Liturgy at 5:00pm. Bring your Valentine for a delicious candlelight meal in our cozy dining room! After dinner, Steve and Gina Gansemer will share an inspirational message on the meaning of married love. For those who wish to attend, the 5:00pm liturgy will include an opportunity to renew your loving commitment to one another. Offering: \$48 per couple. Registration Deadline: February 7

Wellness Day: Wednesday, February 15, 9:00am-3:30pm. Come for a day enjoying two 30-minute holistic services of your choice, a private guest room, delicious lunch, walking the labyrinth, adult coloring, and space to just be. Choose two services from the following: Massage, Reflexology, Essential Oil Consultation, Success Coaching, Spiritual Direction. Offering: \$85. Registration Deadline: February 10

Substance Use Disorders & The Family: Tuesday, February 21, 6:30-8:00pm. This presentation will include signs and symptoms of substance abuse disorders and the effects of these disorders on the family system, as well as things you can do and resources available. The evening will include time for sharing, processing, and questions. Free Will Offering. Co-sponsored with Mercy Medical Center. Registration Deadline: February 20

Create A Brighter Future Workshop: Thursday, February 23, 6:00pm-9:30pm. The workshop is designed for people in transition. In contemplating a career move or considering what to do in retirement, participants will discover ways you want to be and how you want to impact the world. Offering: \$35 includes materials and snacks. Registration Deadline: February 16

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.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Diocesan Internship

The Catholic Campaign
for Human Development
(CCHD):

1) Provides grants to self-help projects developed by grassroots groups of empowered poor persons who are working to address the root causes of poverty in their communities.

2) Works to increase Catholics' awareness of poverty in the U.S., educates about Catholic social tradition, and builds bridges between poor and non-poor communities.

**For more information,
contact:**

Loxi Hopkins
Diocese of Davenport
780 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804
563-888-4212
hopkins@davenportdiocese.org



Are you Catholic? Interested in fighting poverty?

Application deadline is February 15, 2017

Who? Any U.S. Catholic with an interest in solidarity building, participation of the poor, and Catholic Social Teaching. Spanish-speaking preferred but not necessary.

What? Intern will work with two local CCHD funded groups: Quad Cities Interfaith, Davenport or Center for Worker Justice, Iowa City. Tasks will vary but may include: parish education, training and outreach, letter and article writing, research, and developing relationships with community organizations. The internship is 16-20 flexible hours per week for 24 weeks during the school year paid at \$12.00/hour.

When? 2017/2018 school year. Intern must be able to attend the May 31 to June 2, 2017 CCHD Training. (Expenses paid).

Where to apply: Diocese of Davenport,
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/cchd-internship-opportunities>

2016/2017 Intern

Nick Riedesel works with Quad Cities Interfaith. He is working with neighborhood outreach efforts. He is a liaison for Ambrosian's for Peace and Justice. He also assists with the administration of the office and provides assistance with the monthly newsletter, manages the office database, and creates marketing materials. Nick also engages with the board of QCI.

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

January 2017

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

710. Jan. 2: (New Year's) Traditionally people make resolutions to improve themselves at the beginning of the year. In marriage, since you are united in love, what improves one spouse also improves the other. What marriage building practice do you want to start or continue during 2017? For ideas click here.

<http://www.susanvogt.net/EnrichmentEx.htm>

711. Jan. 9: Trip Down Memory Lane #16. It is the middle of winter cold in the northern hemisphere. What was your first winter living together like? Do you have newer, better ways of keeping warm enough today?

712. Jan. 16: In these days of racial tension, yes, black lives matter. Yes, all lives matter. Presumably you've had to figure out how to resolve differences in your own marriage. Do you have friends of a different race than your own? Relationships matter. Make friends.

713. Jan.23: St. Paul urged the Corinthians to "be united in the same mind and in the same purpose." (1 Cor. 1:10). Marriages can survive many differences of opinion as long as you hold basic values in common. What heartfelt values do you share?

714. Jan. 30: Which of the Beatitudes most typifies your spouse - living simply, grieving, humility, hunger for righteousness, merciful, acts with integrity in the face of temptations, peacemaking, works for justice despite personal attacks (Mt 5:1-12).

PARENTING POINTERS

710. Jan. 6: (Epiphany) According to tradition, 3 kings came to honor the baby Jesus and we call this feast the Epiphany (the recognition of Jesus as God by the larger world). Consider giving something gold, sweet smelling, or soothing (myrrh) to your child today as a sign of God's presence within him or her.

711. Jan. 13: Consider starting a new family prayer tradition this year. Try this ancient prayer: "May God bless you and keep you! May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May God look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6:22-27)

712. Jan. 20: Many people are on the move this weekend. Some going to Washington, DC for the Inauguration, others for the Women's March. Talk to your children about standing up for what they believe in.

713. Jan. 27: March for Life - Envision a world where every human life is valued and protected. Help your children understand the importance of protecting life, no matter how small, by some act of solidarity with children younger than themselves today.