



Parish Leadership Newsletter

Department for Parishes
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Vol. 1, No. 4

February 2003

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---|
| Bereavement Ministry Contacts | 1 |
| Catholics at the Capitol..... | 1 |
| Preparing to Respond to the Call to Serve on Parish Council | 2 |
| Project Connect Needs Volunteer Tutors | 2 |
| Elizabeth Ministry and Family Resources | 3 |
| “Healing the Body of Christ” RENEW Series | 4 |
| Office for Women | 4 |
| Visiting Sick and Aging Parishioners: A Ministry of Presence..... | 5 |
| Parish Committee Manuals Available! | 6 |



Bereavement Ministry Contacts

The Office of Adult & Family Ministry now has a list of “Contacts for Grief Ministry.” It includes the names of people currently involved in parish bereavement ministry who have agreed to serve as contact people. It is organized according to geographic locations. If you would like a copy, please contact the Barb Krieser in the Office of Adult and Family Ministry at 414-769-3444, 800-769-3973, x444 (within the archdiocese) or krieserb@archmil.org. You can also contact Barb if you would like your name added to the list. (When requesting to be added to the list please specify the area in which you are involved in bereavement ministry.)

Catholics at the Capitol

Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) offers “Catholics at the Capitol” day on April 29, 2003. For more information, go the WCC website.

<http://www.wisconsinatholic.com/legday/index.htm>

A bus will be going from Milwaukee. Call the Office for Social Concerns, 414-769-3402.

Preparing to Respond to the Call to Serve on Parish Council

It was not you who chose me,
it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit.
Your works must endure,
so that all you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.
The command I give you is this, love one another.

—John 15:16-17

So you've been nominated to serve on parish council! What are you thinking and feeling? Are you uncertain, feeling honored, ready, confident, concerned, disinterested, delighted, unworthy, curious, surprised, open? Is your first, unguarded response likely to be: I'm too busy! Great timing! It's about time! Now's my chance. Help! I haven't a clue! I'm not that religious. Could God really be calling me... (Or are they just desperate?) How will you respond to this invitation?

One person's story...

Entering Jericho, Jesus passed through the city. There was a man there named Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector and a wealthy man. He was trying to see what Jesus was like. First he ran on in front, but being short in stature he was unable to do so because of the crowd pressing in front of him. Finally, he climbed a sycamore tree along the route to get a view of the man he'd heard so much about. When Jesus came to the spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. I mean to stay at your house today." Zacchaeus quickly descended and welcomed Jesus with delight. [Adapted from Luke 19:1-10]

Zacchaeus wasn't the most popular man in his town or the most learned. He wasn't even very spiritual. Those in the know in Jericho were overheard to mutter (under their breath, of course) that Jesus had gone as a guest to the home of a sinner! Zacchaeus probably didn't plan for it to happen that way, but taking the risk to see Jesus more clearly opened up a whole range of possibilities for him.

His experience was not unlike that of a whole host of men and women we read about in Scripture, men and women who one way or another, listened to a call to take a risk and respond in faith. Can you see yourself among them?

Matthew 4:18-22 Matthew 28:1-10 1Samuel 3 Jonah 1, 2, 3

The first step in discerning a call to serve is to seek God's wisdom and guidance in the matter.

For additional information, contact Noreen Welte in the Office for Parish Councils and Planning, 414-769-3378 or welten@archmil.org.

Project Connect Needs Volunteer Tutors

Please consider reserving one hour a week to help a child read. Project Connect is an archdiocesan program in cooperation with Milwaukee Public Schools that trains and places volunteer reading tutors. As a volunteer you may select one of the many Catholic or public schools that fits your interests and schedule. A tutor training session will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on February 22 at Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, 3501 South Lake Drive in Milwaukee. If you are interested in attending, please contact Barbara Stadler in the Department for Parishes, 414-769-3449 or email stadlerb@archmil.org.

Elizabeth Ministry & Family Resources

The following books listed under the category of “Family Spirituality” in the Adult and Family Ministry Resource Library (Cousins Center) may be of interest to parish leaders involved in Elizabeth Ministry and other family-related ministries. For more information on these resources, contact Barb Krieser in the Adult and Family Ministry Office, krieserb@archmil.org, 414-769-3444 or 800-769-9373, x444. For specific questions about Elizabeth Ministry, contact Peg Flahive in the Office for Human Concerns, humanconcerns@archmil.org or 414-769-3426, 800-769-9373, x426.

- Caring That Enables: A Manual for Developing Parish Family Ministry
- Christian Families in the Real World
- Christian Parenting
- Come to the Table
- Daily Meditations for Busy Moms
- Elizabeth Ministries – Leaders Manuals (2)
- Elizabeth Ministries – Visitors/Training Manuals (2)
- Elizabeth Ministry Video and Packet
- Elizabeth Ministry – Jeanne Hannemann (June 1999)
- What is Elizabeth Ministry?
- Faith and Families
- The Faith of Parents
- Families
- Family Faith and Fun
- Family Spirituality – National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers
- Family Spirituality – The Sacred in the Ordinary
- Family: The Forming Center
- Family Prayer for Family Times
- Family Time
- Family Traditions
- Growing Faith, Growing Families
- Handbook for Today’s Catholic Family
- A Journey in Faith with Families Today
- Media, Faith and Families
- Meditations for Moms to Be
- MOMS – Revised set of materials include: Facilitator Guide, Developing A Ministry, A Personal Journal, a Prayer Companion, and Introductory Video “MOMS, What Is It?”
- Raising Faith-Filled Kids
- Raising Kids Who Care
- Rejoice! A Child is Born
- Spirituality of Parenting
- Strengthening Family Life
- Weaving a Family
- Weaving a Faith Family When You’re Hanging on by a Thread

“Healing the Body of Christ” RENEW Series

Archbishop Dolan is encouraging parishes to offer the RENEW series during the six weeks of Lent to help people deal with and move forward in light of the Church’s sexual abuse scandal. The RENEW series addresses six themes:

- The Church in Times of Crisis
- Healing, Repentance and Forgiveness
- A Church of Saints and Sinners
- Relationships: In the Church, to the World
- God’s Gift of the Eucharist and the Sacraments
- Prayer, Spiritual Growth, Recommitment of Faith.

Although parishes are encouraged to use the “Healing the Body of Christ” series during Lent, they may choose to offer it at a different times. For further details regarding these materials and the “Healing the Body of Christ” series, please contact Randy Nohl in the Office of Adult and Family Ministry at 414-769-3440, 800-769-9373, x440 (within the ten counties of the archdiocese) or nohlr@archmil.org.

Office for Women

Our prayer is that the coming year will be filled with God’s blessings and peace. As the winter season unfolds, the Office for Women invites you to consider some reading material during winter and the upcoming Lenten Season. Some suggestions that might offer ideas for reflection include:

Mixed Blessings, by Paula Ripple Comin, Ave Maria Press, 1999. In light of her own faith journey, Paula Ripple Comin shares her reflections on the challenges of life and draws on scripture, contemporary authors, images and stories to flesh out the topics of each chapter. Some chapter titles include: “Life as Journey: the Canyon Gorge”; “Forgiveness: A Way to Healing and Life”; “Identifying the Life Signs by Which We Live”; “Gratitude: A Life-Giving Attitude”; “The Sounds of Silence.” For example, in the chapter on silence, Comin stresses the importance of inner silence, and suggests listening to God in a calming, restful place. Allowing time for being silent can provide a special means to communicate with God. Silence can enhance our spirituality during Lent and all seasons of our life.

Being God’s Partner, How to Find the Hidden Link Between Spirituality and Your Work, by Jeffrey K. Salkin, Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, Vermont, 1994. Being God’s partner will help people to reflect on the challenges of work and the inner journey of the soul, and to discern the links between the two. Chapter titles “Smuggling Religious into Work”; “Being God’s Partner”; “Standing the Presence of God: How to Hear God’s Voice in Business Ethics”; and “Restoring Balance to Our Work Lives: Specific Things You Can Do”; give a sampling of the topics and reflections shared by the author. Salkin’s emphasis is to discern how we can become God’s partners in our work or ministry. He uses the word “reframing” experiences to invite readers to think in a new way about the link between our spirituality and work.

Courageous Virtue, A Bible Study on Moral Excellence for Women, by Stacy Mitch, Emmaus Road Publishing, Steubenville, Ohio, 2000. This bible study is designed to help women of all ages to learn more about Christian virtues and how they can be applied to our lives. It utilizes scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church and can be used with individuals or a group.

Parenting Smart, Everything You Need to Know to do It Right, by Pat and Patrice Parsons, Parsons Print Works, 1999. This resource is also called the SMART Program and is a parenting tool that empowers both the parent and the children. The aims for participants in the program include the desire to improve oneself, have the initiative to act, accept challenges and set goals. Motivating to succeed is an important component of the program. This is a basic, easy-to-understand tool for parents.

These resources are available in the Office for Women. Please contact Thelma Walker in the Office for Women, 414-760-3501, 800-769-9373, x501 or walkert@archmil.org.

Visiting Sick and Aging Parishioners: A Ministry of Presence

Being involved with people who are suffering or struggling in their later years calls us to a Ministry of Presence - actively listening with our heart to understand what the person is feeling and what is needed, versus offering an immediate solution. By doing so, we foster connectedness, community, security and self esteem. How can we accomplish this?

1. Our presence – be prepared before the visit; set the mood and agenda, leave your own “baggage” at home, bring the Holy Spirit along.
2. Center your attention on the person you are visiting. Remember that you are a guest.
3. Listen and hear their story. Take the time to help them discern their feelings and perceptions. Avoid talking about your own problems and illnesses.
4. Be a catalyst to foster hope and encouragement, reminding them they are made in Christ’s image and that there is a purpose for this season in life. Allow them to minister to you.
5. Help them own and affirm their feelings and be “OK” with them. Walk with them unconditionally withholding judgment. Do not let them feel they are alone with their circumstances. Validate their feelings and have an understanding heart. Be clear that you are there for them by being yourself and being genuine.
6. Maintain confidentiality.
7. Consider a hug or a warm handshake if this seems appropriate - this can be a way of showing genuine care.
8. Help them feel a part of the parish community. Having more than one person visiting brings a sense of “community” and connectedness. Talk about what occurred in the parish during the past week. Bring them a bulletin and offer to include them in prayer.

For more information on ministry among older adults, view the resources on the archdiocese web page (www.archmil.org) or contact Bill Leon at Catholic Charities’ Ministry on Aging at 414-769-3412.

Parish Committee Manuals Available!

Parish Committee Resource Books are available from the Office for Parish Councils & Planning. This 3-ring binder is a resource for parish council and committee members. It provides committee descriptions, responsibilities and guidelines. It was updated October 20, 2001.

Revisions are being made to the *Parish Council Manual*. Updates will be e-mailed to all pastors/parish directors/administrators, present parish councilors and parish staffs in March 2003.

Please contact Maureen Habetler at 414-769-3380 or 800-769-9373 x380 or parishcouncils@archmil.org if you have questions or would like to place an order. Cost is \$15/each plus shipping and handling.