



# Parish Leadership Newsletter

Department for Parishes  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

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**Save the Date!**  
**September 27, 2003**  
**Come to the**  
**Cousins Center to**  
**Celebrate Church**  
**as Servant Leader –**  
**Our Mission in a**  
**New Millennium**

Archbishop Dolan announced the beginning of a third cycle of planning for the whole church in southeastern Wisconsin (see bulletin insert). The semi-annual Parish Leadership Conference will take a new turn this year. The conference will be entirely devoted to planning and will officially “kick-off” the new archdiocesan planning process.

Who should attend? Because of limited space, we ask each parish council to send just three (3) representatives. Your representatives will bring information back to your council for further discussion and guidance in developing a plan for your parish, your cluster and your district.

The program will include:

- Keynote Focus: What does it mean to be a Eucharistic community?
- Session 2 Focus: Demographic changes since 1989 -1997- today. Challenges, Trends and Opportunities for the Church of southeast Wisconsin
- District Sessions
- Closing Session: Planning to insure...
- Access to the Eucharist in its totality – Word, Sacrament, Service and Community for all the faithful
- Opportunities to live Eucharistic lives through practice of Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Wise stewardship of our human and temporal resources

Plan ahead! Send your best to the Planning Kick-off, September 27, 2003!  
Don't get left behind!

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[The following may be used as a bulletin insert.]

April 22, 2003

Dear Pastors, Parish Directors, Parish Leaders, Chaplains, and Faithful Parishioners,

As you know, I have appointed a Planning Commission to begin a process of looking at both parish and school planning. Their work will build on the first two cycles of archdiocesan planning that took place back in 1989 and 1996. The Commission will also be examining ministry to other institutions, such as, jails, hospitals, and nursing homes.

I will write a pastoral that will help guide the planning process at all levels. The Commission will provide educational and formational materials and activities to be used at the parish and cluster level and input sessions at the district level. The members of the Commission will base their recommendations on the importance of accessibility to the Sunday Eucharist for all the faithful.

As you plan your calendars for the future, please keep the following time-frame in mind:

**August, September, and October 2003**

- Planning materials, including the Archbishop's pastoral, will be distributed for parishes or clusters of parishes to use as part of the consultation process in September.
- District input sessions will be held by the Planning Commission for parish councils and staffs in early October.
- Parish Leadership Day will be held September 27. The focus of the day will be planning for the future. (see related article)

**October-December 2003**

- The Planning Commission will compile the information garnered from the district input sessions, dialogue with the district deans and the parish consultants, archdiocesan pastoral council, and other appropriate groups.
- The Planning Commission will begin development of tentative recommendations to be presented to parish councils in January and February of 2004.

**January and Early February 2004**

- The Planning Commission will hold district hearings for parish and school leadership to get feedback on the tentative recommendations.
- The Planning Commission will have hearings with the archdiocesan pastoral council and archdiocesan council of priests.

**Late February-Early March 2004**

- The Planning Commission will revise its tentative recommendations based on what it heard from parish leadership and the pastoral and priest councils.
- The Planning Commission will present its recommendations to me.

**March 2004**

- I will do a final consultation with archdiocesan council of priests and archdiocesan pastoral council.
- I will promulgate the plan and appoint an Implementation Commission.

I want to thank you in advance for your anticipated participation in the planning process. It is a wonderful opportunity for us, guided by the Holy Spirit, to help form the shape of the Church's mission for the future in southeastern Wisconsin.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

## Updates from Adult and Family Ministry

### Best Wishes to Polly Horkey

After almost 19 years with the Office of Adult and Family Ministry, Polly Horkey, associate director for Bereavement Ministry, has decided to retire. Polly has been instrumental in the success of two bereavement programs offered through the Adult and Family Ministry Office: "Let's Live Again: A Healing Weekend for Widowed Men Women" and "A Day of Healing for All Who Mourn the Death of a Child." Polly has also worked diligently at creating and updating resources for parishes to use in their bereavement ministry programs. Polly will be missed, and we wish her the very best in her retirement.

Questions regarding bereavement ministry can be directed to Randy Nohl, director of Adult and Family Ministry, at [nohler@archmil.org](mailto:nohler@archmil.org), 414-769-3440 or 800-769-9373, x440 (in the archdiocese).

### Collaborative Bereavement Ministry

An excellent example of collaborative parish ministry was demonstrated recently at a bereavement ministry program hosted at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Milwaukee. Representatives from St. Gregory Parish; St. Rita Parish, West Allis; St. Alphonsus, Greendale; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Milwaukee; and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Milwaukee, shared bereavement ministry resources they have found beneficial.

The meeting began with introductions and a reflection, followed by a round table discussion. The discussion focused on what each parish provides for funerals and their follow-up support for the bereaved. The information reported was inspiring! The meeting concluded with preliminary planning for two collaborative events: an evening of reflection for the bereaved and enrichment opportunities for bereavement ministers.

Bonnie Pendzick, Coordinator of Bereavement Ministry at St. Gregory's, has provided a detailed report of the meeting. Any parish leader interested in receiving a copy of the report is encouraged to contact Barb Krieser in the Office of Adult & Family Ministry at [krieserb@archmil.org](mailto:krieserb@archmil.org), 414-769-3444 or 800-769-9373, x444 (within the archdiocese).

### Website for Families

The Wisconsin Diocesan Family Life Ministers have established a website that contains materials that may be printed and given to families in your parish or school. The website, <http://www.familyandchurch.org/>, contains activities for families, family prayers, quotes for the bulletin and parish newsletter, a topic of the month, resources and products. This website will be updated on a monthly basis. The hope is that parishes and schools will choose materials beneficial for families with whom they work or notify families of the website for their own personal use.

### Married Couples Needed to Help with Engaged Programs

The Office of Adult and Family Ministry is committed to preparing engaged couples for marriage. As with all sacraments, adequate preparation is essential if the sacrament is to have its full meaning. Engaged couples attend a day or

weekend retreat as part of the preparation process. Married couples who are willing to share their time, experience and stories with engaged couples are needed. Couples who make these presentations benefit by taking time to explore their own relationship and by attending enrichment programs offered to couples in this ministry. If you are interested in this ministry or would like further details, contact Marie Grevsmuehl, the Associate director for Engaged and Marriage Ministry at [grevsmuehl@archmil.org](mailto:grevsmuehl@archmil.org), 414-769-3441 or 800-769-9373, x441.

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## Looking for a new idea for your parish festival or a school fundraiser?

### How about a *Work of Human Hands* sale?

Festivals, parish bazaars, school fairs and other events are perfect opportunities to sponsor a sale of high-quality international crafts. By participating in the *Work of Human Hands* program, your parish or school can be connected with the poor of the world, while helping to foster God's gifts of hope and self-reliance. This is also a great opportunity for the youth to get involved by participating in a fundraiser and gaining a better understanding of how they can help others around the world who are in need.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community and sponsor of *Work of Human Hands*, works with poor people of all races and religions in more than 75 countries to alleviate suffering, foster peace and justice, and build lasting solutions to poverty. There are programs to educate people in the U.S. about Catholic Relief Services' work and to foster solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

CRS & SERRV International (a nonprofit alternative trade and development organization that promotes the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by purchasing and marketing their handicrafts in a just and direct manner) jointly coordinate a Catholic parish-based *Work of Human Hands* sales program. You can learn more about this program at [http://www.catholicrelief.org/what\\_we\\_do\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states/work\\_of\\_human\\_hands//index.cfm](http://www.catholicrelief.org/what_we_do_in_the_united_states/work_of_human_hands//index.cfm).

*Work of Human Hands* is designed for parish and school communities to support low-income men and women around the world who are struggling to earn a decent living. The program helps them support their families and be productive members of their community. Helping artisans receive a fair wage for their hard work and promote dignified working conditions are among *Work of Human Hands*' top priorities. These women and men create traditional, high quality, handcrafted products for the *Work of Human Hands* catalog.

Participating in the program involves no risk or cost to your parish. A small percentage of each sale will remain in your parish for your own social programs; the rest will go to the artisans and the programs that support them. If your parish / school would like to be involved with *Work of Human Hands*, you can call Catholic Relief Services at 800-685-7572 directly or contact Annette Basaldua of the Archdiocesan Social Concerns Office 414-769-3390 or 800-769-9373, x390 for more information.

*Work of Human Hands*: Together we can make a difference!

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## Parish Council Officers' Training

- For: Council Officers 2003-04
- What: A two-hour session to
- review council officers' responsibilities and resources
  - answer questions and
  - organize a council calendar for the coming year.
- Day/Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2003 Time: 7-9 p.m.  
*Register by July 4, 2003*
- Day/Date: Saturday, July 19, 2003 Time: 9-11 a.m.  
*Register by July 16, 2003*
- Day/Date: Thursday, July 24, 2003 Time: 7-9 p.m.  
*Register by July 7, 2003*
- Place: Cousins Center, 3501 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, WI
- Cost: No charge. This workshop is a service of Office for Parish Councils and Planning – supported by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

You can register in either of two ways:

- Email to: [parishcouncils@archmil.org](mailto:parishcouncils@archmil.org), Subject: Parish Officer Training
- Call Maureen Habetler at 800-769-9373, x380 or 414-769-3380.

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## Trustee Training Sessions

- For: Parish Trustees, new and “seasoned”
- What: A two hour session to review the roles and responsibilities; parish procedures and resources available to parish corporation board members.
- Day/Date: Thursday, July 10, 2003 Time: 7-9 p.m.  
*Register by July 7, 2003*
- Day/Date: Tuesday July 22, 2003 Time: 7-9 p.m.  
*Register by July 18, 2003*
- Place: Cousins Center, 3501 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, WI
- Cost: No charge. This workshop is a service of Office for Parish Councils and Planning – supported by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

You can register in either of two ways:

- Email to: [parishcouncils@archmil.org](mailto:parishcouncils@archmil.org), Subject: Parish Trustee Training
- Call Maureen Habetler at 800-769-9373, x380 or 414-769-3380.

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## Office For Women

As we look forward to the summer, I invite you to consider various ways to enrich your spirituality. Some possibilities include taking time for a retreat, a day of reflection, reading about women in scripture and our faith tradition, reflecting on the new encyclical entitled “Ecclesia De Eucharistia” (available on the Vatican website <http://www.vatican.va>) or reading and discussing a topic in Catholic Social Teaching. Or your group may want to evaluate their goals and objectives in the context of prayer.

Another option might be to read a book. Some suggestions include *Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America*, by Barbara Ehrenreich, a Metropolitan/Owl Book, Harry Holt and Company, New York, or *Not Counting Women and Children* by Megan McKenna, published by Orbis Books.

*Nickel and Dimed*, is a New York Times bestseller and Notable Book of the year. Many Americans work full-time for wages that are below poverty level. Barbara Ehrenreich is an author who felt strongly about welfare reform which promised that work would provide a better life. She wondered how anyone could survive on six or seven dollars per hour, and she decided to try to live on that amount. The author moved across the country from Florida to Minnesota and to Maine, living in very modest places, and worked in a variety of jobs including “waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing home aide and Wal-Mart salesperson.” Ehrenreich discovered that this work was exhausting and that you needed more than one job to provide basic necessities. An easy read that is eye-opening and informative.

Megan McKenna is a storyteller who uses stories from scripture and who is well known for her workshops and retreats. In this book, she shares her insights and poses questions that invite discussion. Some chapter titles include “Not Counting Women and Children,” “Women in the Genealogy of Jesus,” and “Abigail, Teacher of Peace.” Sound interesting? Both books are available through the Office for Women.

For ideas or assistance on issues related to women, contact Thelma Walker, Office for Women, 414-769-3501 or 800-769-9373, x501 or e-mail [walkert@archmil.org](mailto:walkert@archmil.org).

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## Save this Date!

Saturday, September 6, 2003

**Now and at the Hour of Our Death: A Conference on End-of-Life Decisions**

Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, 3501 S. Lake Dr., Milwaukee

Registration—8:30 a.m.; Program—9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (*lunch not included*)

Cost \$8.00 per person

This half-day conference will focus on education and pastoral outreach regarding end-of-life care and Catholic social teaching. Fr. Andrew Nelson will give a keynote address and break out sessions will be offered on topics such as: palliative care; Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care; practical tools for parish leaders; and other topics based on the 2002 statement “Now and at the Hour of Our Death,” from the Wisconsin Catholic Conference.

Health care continues to be a dynamic enterprise marked by extraordinary changes in technology and in the delivery system itself. Health care institutions have at their disposal many treatments and procedures directed toward

alleviating suffering and disease. These very same treatments present families with agonizing decisions about end of life care. Making decisions about the care of a loved one as they progress towards death can be a daunting task. This conference will explore what is it that the Church teaches regarding end of life care? Participants will also receive practical resources to help with clarifying wishes regarding end of life care.

Target audience includes parish leaders, parish nurses, clergy and deacons, chaplains, visitation ministers, bereavement coordinators, Catholic physicians and nurses, and other healthcare providers. Watch for a registration brochure in the summer and information on the archdiocesan website.

This event is co-sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office for Human Concerns and Columbia/St. Mary Hospital. For information, contact the Office for Human Concerns, [humanconcerns@archmil.org](mailto:humanconcerns@archmil.org) or 414-769-3426.

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## Parish Nurse Day of Reflection

The third annual Day of Reflection for Parish Nurses will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Cousins Center. Sr. Virginia Stone, BVM will facilitate the day which will include presentations, prayer, reflection and group sharing.

The cost of \$25 will cover materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Deadline for registration is August 14, 2003. For questions, contact Thelma Walker, 414-769-3501 or 800-769-9373, x501 or e-mail [walkert@archmil.org](mailto:walkert@archmil.org).

Send registration to: Office for Human Concerns  
3501 S. Lake Drive, P. O. Box 070912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912