

### VISION 20/20

Thanks to all of you for your participation in and support for the Vision 20/20 process, which is our diocesan attempt to revitalize the Catholic Church in each of our parishes. In the listening sessions, we heard loud and clear that people want to know more about evangelization: What is it? How do we do it? We also heard that fear is the major obstacle we need to overcome as we move forward. Attached is the Executive Summary from the Listening Sessions.



The regional conversations will be an effort to move this process toward its next steps: Searching for possible solutions, identifying possible tools that would be most helpful, discussing how the parish evangelization team will work within the parish, and developing our teams as they prepare for the diocesan convocation on June 6-8 at St. Ambrose University.

The facilitators for Vision 20/20 will meet at the chancery on January 16 to prepare for the next steps in the process. Shortly afterward, the facilitators will be calling the pastors in each of their regions (usually three parishes) to schedule the regional conversations, which we hope will be held before Ash Wednesday (March 6).

The steering committee of Vision 20/20 will be working with faith formation leaders in the Diocese to develop formational plans for Lent 2019. Stay tuned for more information.

Thanks again for your help with Vision 20/20.

### LITURGY OFFICE

The January 2019 issue of *LiturgyNotes* is now available [here](#).

**REMINDER: The Rite of Election** will be celebrated on Sunday, March 10, 3pm at Saint Patrick Church in Iowa City. To register, and for further information, please visit: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy/ocia/rite-of-election>. Registrations are due no later than FEBRUARY 1!

### STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

**Stewardship Day, On the Path to Vision 20/20:** March 25, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., St. Patrick, Iowa City. An opportunity for those wanting to learn about or grow in their understanding of stewardship ministry. No registration fee. Supported through your gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, Liturgical Publications, Inc., and Our Sunday Visitor. Save the date and watch for a registration link with the February *Mini-Messenger*.

### SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

**January is Poverty Awareness Month**, a time to call attention to poverty in America. Please join the U.S. bishops and CCHD and the Catholic Community in the United States to live in solidarity with the poor. For many resources, including a printable calendar with information, links and study/reflection materials for each day, visit the USCCB [Poverty Awareness page](#).

**January 14-22, 9 Days for Life** is a novena for the respect and protection of every human life. Find resources [here](#).

**Catholic Social Ministry Gathering** will be held February 2-5 in Washington, D.C. The theme of the 2019 gathering is rooted in our commitment as disciples to cultivate God's justice, at home and around the world, to heal

the brokenness in our communities reflected in racism, incivility, and poverty. Learn more about the speakers and for registration [click here](#).

**Rice Bowl** begins Ash Wednesday, March 6.

- **Materials:** If you did not order or need additional materials contact [Esmeralda Guerrero](#), 563-889-4210.
- **Rice Bowl Breakfasts** over the past few years have helped to increase awareness of the Rice Bowl campaign. We encourage each parish to host and plan a kick-off breakfast at your parish. The Office of Social Action is willing to assist with the ordering of materials and walking parishes through the process of hosting a breakfast. Contact Kent Ferris, 563-888-4211.
- 25% of the funds collected from the Rice Bowl Campaign remains in the Diocese to help organizations that combat hunger and poverty. [Click here for Grant Criteria](#). Applications are due May 31, 2019.

**Income Tax Help:** Low-and moderate-income working families may qualify for help from two federal tax benefits: Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). For more information about the Tax Credits go to [www.eitc outreach.org](http://www.eitc outreach.org). Also, please encourage families to file their taxes through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). This offers free tax help for low-to-moderate income people who cannot prepare their own return. To learn more and to find a location in your area call, 800-906-9887 or go to the IRS website [here](#).

**Project Rachel Special Request:** We are asking all parishes to assist us with the promotion of Project Rachel. Please consider placing Project Rachel as a bulletin announcement on a quarterly basis or as space allows. A sample announcement can be found [here](#) under resources.

**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 [kerstena@diodav.org](mailto:kerstena@diodav.org) and we will add you to our subscription list.

## **FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

**Bishop's Mass for Scouting:** This annual celebration, where Scouts who have earned their religious emblems and recognitions, will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, February 24 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport. All Scouts – Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venture Crew, American Heritage Girls – leaders, families and friends of Scouting are welcome to attend. A brief reception will follow in the Diocesan Parish Center, with all welcome to attend. For more information, contact [Barb Butterworth](#) or visit the [Catholic Scouting webpage](#).

### **Adult Formation:**

**Catechist Skills Workshop Series:** January 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., St. Mary, Albia. The topic is “Techniques for Classroom Management.” February 9, Holy Family, Fort Madison with the topic of Creative Catechesis. Visit our [website](#) to see additional dates and topics. [Register](#) online or contact [Rosina Hendrickson](#), 563-888-4244 for more information.

**Online Sessions from STEP at the University of Notre Dame.** Courses begin January 14 and cover a wide variety of topics. Participants completing the *Core Course: Introduction to the Catholic Faith* partially complete coursework for the diocesan [Basic Formation Certificate](#). Cost is \$74.25 per course; participants work at their own pace each week. Visit our [website](#) for additional details or contact [Rosina Hendrickson](#), 563-888-4244.

**Becoming Sheep Roundtable Discussions:** Friday, January 25, 9 a.m.-Noon with lunch to follow at St. Alphonsus, Mount Pleasant and Monday, January 28, 9 a.m.-Noon with lunch to follow at St. Joseph, DeWitt. These days will be devoted to discussing justice/service and intentional discipleship in our parishes. Designed for clergy, catechists, ministry leaders, and adult parishioners, this is a day to hear from each other about what is occurring, discover best practices and identify challenges to implementing adult formation. Participants select one of the two dates to attend. A freewill offering will be taken for morning hospitality and lunch. [Register online](#) by January 22. For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact [Rosina Hendrickson](#), 563-888-4244.

**Upcoming Courses:** 1/26/19 Intro. to Theology and Catechesis by Rosina Hendrickson and 2/16/19 Old Testament I by Dr. Matthew Coomber. Whether you need a refresher for yourself or are a catechist forming students or

catechumens/candidates, these courses are for you! 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Chancery. \$25 per course. [Register](#) or contact [Rosina Hendrickson](#), 563-888-4244.

**Accompanying Families: Practiced and Practical Ways to Walk with Disciples:** Thursday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Richmond. Denise Utter, the presenter, will provide practical ways to reimagine faith formation to reach parents and integrate families into the community. Designed for ministry leaders, clergy and catechists/team members. Cost is \$35 by February 3. [Register online](#) or for more information, visit our [website](#) or contact [Rosina Hendrickson](#), 563-888-4244.

**2-day Courses:** February 23-24, 9:00 a.m., Chancery in Davenport. Each course costs \$150 for those active in ministry in the diocese. [Register online](#) by January 15. For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact [Rosina Hendrickson](#), 563-888-4244.

**Pastoral Care:** Explore the principles and methods of caring for young people. Through a combination of theory, experience and practice, participants will develop their adolescent pastoral care skills.

**Planning and Implementing Lifelong Catechesis:** Explore the skills needed for the development of dynamic catechesis with people of all ages in a parish setting. Through a combination of theory, experience and practice, participants will come to understand how to effectively catechize across the lifespan.

### **Marriage and Family:**

**Addressing Suicide in Our Communities & Congregations:** January 7, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Cedar Rapids Public Library-Whipple Auditorium. This conference, sponsored by HopeWalk Cedar Rapids, is designed for both clergy and mental health providers, with the intention of bringing these two professional groups together to more effectively address suicide. See [flyer](#) and [agenda](#) for additional information. [Register here](#).

**Recommendation Deadline for Couples to Serve as Covenant of Love Marriage Mentors is January 28.** The diocese is hoping to train twelve couples (2 from each deanery) to serve as Marriage Mentors. Please read the **attached** Marriage Mentor Ministry Description sheet and send [Marianne Agnoli](#) the names and email addresses of any qualified couples you believe might be called to serve in this ministry.

**Celebrate World Marriage Day (Feb. 10) and National Marriage Week USA (Feb. 7-14).** Preaching resources, bulletin inserts, flyers and other materials will soon be available for 2019 on the [USCCB](#) website. Additional resources can be found on the diocesan [Marriage Enrichment page](#).

**Spanish Language Natural Family Planning** in person Introduction Sessions to NFP as well as complete full instruction in the Families of the America ovulation method are now being offered in the diocese. Participation in an Introduction to Natural Family Planning or a method specific instruction is required of all couples of child bearing age preparing for marriage in the diocese. [Listing of free upcoming introductory sessions and specific method classes](#). Contact [Marianne Agnoli](#), 563-888-4242 if you would like to schedule an NFP instruction in English or Spanish in your parish or deanery.

**Marriage Preparation Instructional Programs:** Several marriage preparation program formats offered. More information: [Marriage and Family webpage](#).

## **ST. MARY, SOLON**

**Men's Conference, *Do All Things through Christ who Gives You Strength*:** Saturday, February 2, 7 a.m.-Noon. Fr. Rick Wendell & John Pridmore will share their journeys of faith from being caught up in everything the world offered - to being set free by Christ to live life to its fullest.

**Women's Conference, *Created & Called as God's Beloved Daughters*:** Saturday, February 9, 8 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Anne Costa will lead a day of renewal helping women understand, embrace and live their feminine genius.

For more information about the conferences or to sign-up online go to [www.solonstmary.org](http://www.solonstmary.org) or call the parish at 319-624-2228.

## **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](mailto:vac@diodav.org) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

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

To register contact: 563-336-8414 or [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com). To learn more about these programs and Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat visit [www.chmiowa.org](http://www.chmiowa.org). All programs include a delicious homemade meal prepared with local and organic ingredients.

- *Day of Reflection on Gratitude:* January 10, 9:00am-3:00pm
- *Come to the Quiet: The Way of Wholeness and Holiness:* January 14, 9:30am-3:30pm
- *Act of Power:* January 26, 9:30am-3:30pm
- *Taizé Prayer at Humility of Mary Center:* January 27, 6:30pm-7:30pm
- *Mass at The Prairie:* February 6, 10:00am
- *Come to the Quiet: The Way of Suffering:* February 12, 9:30am-3:30pm

## **BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL**

Contact Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108, [retreats@smmsisters.org](mailto:retreats@smmsisters.org) or online at <http://www.smmsisters.org/retreats/retreats-and-programs> to register for the program mentioned below.

**Silent Directed Retreat:** The Wedding at Cana: Jesus said, "Fill the jars with water, take it to the headwaiter." (John 2:1-11): Sun., Jan. 20, 4 pm-Wed. Jan. 23, 4 pm

**Bookmarks:** *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril* by Elizabeth A. Johnson: Wednesdays: Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27; 6-7:30 pm

**Catholic Princess Retreat:** Sat., Jan. 26, 9 am-3 pm. (contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB at 309-283-2300, [vocation@smmsisters.org](mailto:vocation@smmsisters.org))

**Sacredness of Yoga:** Sat. Feb. 2, 9 am-3 pm

**Girls Be A Catholic Sister for A Day:** Sat., Feb. 2, 9 am- 4 pm; (contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB at 309-283-2300, [vocation@smmsisters.org](mailto:vocation@smmsisters.org))

**Compassion to Self Retreat – a 24-Hour Retreat:** Mon., Feb. 4 (Arrival: 4:30 pm; Soup Supper (optional) 5:30 pm; Retreat Opening: 7:30 pm)-Tues., Feb. 5, 5 pm

**Valentine Evening for Couples: Laughter-the Language of Love:** Fri., Feb. 15, 6:30-9:30 pm

**Mandala Retreat Day:** Mon., Feb. 18, 9:30 am-3:30 pm

**Spiritual Practices for Dealing with Depression:** Tues., Feb. 26, 10 am-3 pm

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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	
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).

## Vision 20/20

### Listening Sessions

#### Executive Summary

Twenty facilitators led 66 Listening Sessions with over 1600 persons participating. Participants included lay adults, clergy, women religious and youth.

Note: Responses in italics were common responses from many parishes. The others represent ideas that emerged from at least two regional reports.

Question One: How do we reach out beyond our four walls?

- *Social action*
  - Refugees and immigrants, prison ministry
  - Outreach to the poor, sick, homebound, nursing homes
- *Faith formation*
  - CEW, Vacation Bible Schools
- *Baptisms and funerals*
- Catholic schools
- Social media, parish newsletters
- Stewardship / Welcoming / Hospitality

Question Two: What are greatest challenges to evangelization?

- *What is evangelization?*
  - Lack of knowledge about our faith
  - Fear / Uncomfortable talking about our faith – not a Catholic thing to do
  - Need training in evangelization
- *Secular culture*
  - Family breakdown
  - Obsessively busy culture, e.g. sports on Wednesdays and Sundays
  - Media / electronics / lack of human interaction
- *Few young people in our church*
  - Lack of outreach to 20-40-year-olds
  - Kids have moved to entertaining churches
    - Nothing for them here at our church
- *Clergy scandal* / loss of moral authority
- Old stubborn establishment of the church, resistance to change
- Divorced and single parents not accepted, need to be more welcoming
- Church leaders need to be re-trained

Question Three: To what extent do we involve youth, young adults and all ages?

- *Faith formation*
- *Catholic schools*
- Youth ministry / NCYC
- Retreats
- Social action / Service trips
- Bible study, Prayer groups

Question Four: How do we reach out to the poor and those on the margins?

- *Social action*
  - Outreach to poor, hungry, homeless
  - Refugees and immigrants
- *Eucharist / visits / bulletins to homebound and nursing homes, caregiving*
- Funeral dinners
- Healing ministry

Question Five, Part a.) What Resonated from Pope Francis' message in Joy of the Gospel?

- *Personal encounter with Jesus*
- *Live joyfully*
- *Tell your faith story*
- *Missionary discipleship*
- Live the gospel
- "Take on the smell of sheep"
- Step out of your comfort zone
- Have courage
- Ministry to poor is essential to the gospel
- Bishop Zinkula is a great role model for us
- Be welcoming
- Jesus went to the margins
- We need a spark
- "Boundless love"

Question Five, b.) What Challenged You from Pope Francis' message in Joy of the Gospel??

- *Fear of offending / being ridiculed / being rejected*
- *Lack of energy, passion, confidence and commitment*
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of time and energy
- Lack of role models
- Clericalism
- Clergy scandals
- It's a "me world"

## ***Covenant of Love Marriage Mentors Ministry Description***

**Description:** *Covenant of Love* Marriage Mentors are trained volunteer couples who journey with other married couples through sharing their own stories and experiences, including their journey toward a deeper understanding of the fullness God intended for marriage. They share both their failings as well as their victories. They are hopeful that in this process they will impart to other couples the practical tools needed to best live out the sacrament of marriage.

*Covenant of Love* mentoring is not professional counseling. This is a catechesis, initiating couples into the fullness of Christian life on marriage. Hopefully, it will take a couple to a deeper understanding of their sacrament, oath, and commitment in their marriage. *Covenant of Love* mentoring is not a comprehensive approach to issues and/or problems facing various married couples, including psychological or mental health struggles, anger issues, addictions, family of origin wounds, etc. However, the process can give all couples a better and more effective way to live in harmony with each other as husband and wife. Some couples may have other issues that are beyond the scope of mentoring, and may need additional professional help.

### **Qualifications:**

1. Must be in a valid, sacramental marriage, preferably for at least seven years
2. Must be in good standing with the Catholic Church and actively practicing their faith
3. Must provide a letter of recommendation from their parish pastor or his delegate
4. Must uphold the Church's teachings on marriage, family life, and sexuality
5. Must have good relational (inter-personal) skills
6. Must be approved by the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office prior to training (an in-person, phone, or video conference interview may be required)

### **Expectations:**

1. Both spouses' participation in the training process that includes:
  - Essential Elements of a Strong Catholic Marriage retreat – Saturday, April 27, 2019 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at St. Ludmila Catholic Church, Cedar Rapids)
  - Covenant of Love Mentor Training – Sunday, April 28, 2019 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at St. Ludmila Catholic Church, Cedar Rapids)
2. Willingness to further develop relationship, mentoring, and catechetical skills through reading, videos, enrichment programs, and other ongoing formation opportunities
3. Willingness to share your life experiences, especially regarding your marriage, as a primary tool for encouraging and supporting those you are mentoring
4. Collaboration with the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office
5. Willingness to have names and contact information published on a diocesan list of trained mentor couples
6. Commitment to responding to requests of couples wanting to be mentored in a timely and hospitable manner. Mentor couples are free to decline taking on new couples if their schedules do not allow or they think the couple would not be a good fit.
7. Mentor couples meet with mentees for six sessions (or more) at a maximum frequency of once per week. Mentor couples should work with no more than two couples at a time.
8. Commitment to maintaining confidentiality