

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS & PHONE

The parish office for the parishes in Charlotte, Delmar, Petersville and Sugar Creek has moved from Delmar to Charlotte. Effective immediately please send all correspondence to: 147 Broadway St., Charlotte, Iowa 52731-9686. The office/rectory phone number is 563-677-2758.

### MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY OFFICE

“Song of Hope”, a bilingual concert with Tony Melendez will be held **March 6**, 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, Iowa City and **March 7**, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Ottumwa. Tony Melendez, born without arms, was invited to play for Pope John Paul II in 1987. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Office of Multicultural Ministry, 563-888-4217; St. Patrick Church, 319-337-2856 or St. Mary Church, 641-682-4559. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Please purchase tickets in advance, as there is limited seating. For questions contact Miguel Moreno, [moreno@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:moreno@davenportdiocese.org).

### COMMUNICATION OFFICE

**Diocesan Website:** Do you have specific suggestions for improvements to the website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org)? Is there information that should be added to the website? Is there information that is difficult to find? Please send your comments to Deacon David Montgomery, [montgomery@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:montgomery@davenportdiocese.org).

### STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

**Complimentary Webinar: *The Shared Parish: Navigating Two (or more) Cultures in Parish Life***, March 19, 1:00 p.m. Central time. Presenter: Bret C. Hoover. As Catholic faith communities across the United States grow ever more diverse, many parishes have become shared parishes. Shared parishes allow cultural groups to maintain their own language and customs. Shared parish life is a long process of negotiation-how to share leadership, committees, worship, etc. We'll investigate strategies that can help pastors, pastoral staffs, and lay parish leadership in their struggle to facilitate their parish becoming a more holy and inclusive people of faith. To register go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/572555622>. Provided by the Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development of which the Diocese is a member. For questions contact Dan Ebener, [ebener@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ebener@davenportdiocese.org).

### **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

- ***To Be in Your Presence and Minister to You:*** Region IX (Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas) Stewardship Conference: Friday, May 1 in Columbia, MO, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., \$90. The day will address the important purpose, tools and impact of parish stewardship processes with particular focus on the Eucharistic presence in our lives as the most important aspect of Christian Stewardship. For more information and to register go to <http://www.dcdiocese.org/stewardship>. To reserve a hotel room call The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 573-442-6400.
- The International Stewardship Conference, ***Stewardship: In the Footsteps of Pope Francis***, will be held in Chicago on October 22-25. More information about this conference is available at the ICSC website, [www.catholicstewardship.com](http://www.catholicstewardship.com).

These two ICSC conferences provide an excellent opportunity for parish stewardship teams, including parish council, lay trustees and finance councils, to attend with their pastor, to deepen the understanding and appreciation for the stewardship approach to parish ministry. For more information, please contact Dan Ebener at [ebener@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ebener@davenportdiocese.org).

### SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

**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). This year eligible low-wage families in 2014 may be eligible for an EIC worth up to \$6,143. Workers raising children who earned less than about

\$48,000 in 2014 may be eligible for the EIC. Workers not raising children who earned less than about \$14,590 also can qualify. For more information about the Tax Credit go to [www.eitcoutreach.org](http://www.eitcoutreach.org). Also, please encourage families to file their taxes through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). This offers free tax help for low-to-moderate income people who cannot prepare their own return. To find a current location call 800-906-9887 or visit the VITA website, <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=219171,00.html>.

**The Justice and Peace Advocacy Team (JPAT):** The Office is working on rebuilding the Justice and Peace Advocacy Team (JPAT) within the Diocese of Davenport. The group will share what is going on in our parishes and deaneries and form action plans to address injustice or gaps in service. We will work on the issues affecting you and your neighbors by communicating needs to legislators and proposing solutions. Local leadership will likely take charge of relevant issues with the rest of JPAT and the Social Action Office assisting as needed.

The JPAT team will meet via GoToMeeting and you can participate by phone or using your computer. We have plenty of help to get you connected by the easiest method for you. **The first meeting will be Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m.** Future meetings will alternate between Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon in the hope that if one day and time does not fit your schedule, the other will. Please RSVP to [guerrero@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:guerrero@davenportdiocese.org) if you have an interest in serving with JPAT.

**Available Grants:** The Diocese of Davenport Social Action Department is now accepting grant applications for the local share of the CRS Rice Bowl and Catholic Campaign for Human Development collections. All grant requests must be postmarked by May 31. For questions call Loxi Hopkins at 563-888-4212.

- **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl:** For those providing/supporting direct services to people who are hungry (first foot of Social justice). If your parish or community would like to apply go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/saoperationricebowl.htm>
- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD):** For those organizations and projects that promote systemic change (second foot of social justice). To apply please send your request in a 1-2 page letter along with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grant Agreement. To view grant criteria and obtain a copy of the agreement go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/sacchdapplyingfoagrant.htm>

**Project Rachel** is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion. Brochures are available by contacting Esmeralda Guerrero, [guerrero@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:guerrero@davenportdiocese.org). You may contact Project Rachel staff by calling the local Helpline: 563-888-4107 or email, [projectrachel@diodav.org](mailto:projectrachel@diodav.org).

There are two ways to support Project Rachel:



Purchase “*Humble Angel Honey*” at \$10 bottle. (The bottle is shaped like an angel and is 100% pure premium quality produced honey by Midwest beekeepers.) To purchase contact Esmeralda Guerrero or stop by St. Vincent Center at 780 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport.

Make a *financial contribution*, payable to the Diocese of Davenport. In the memo line write Project Rachel and mail to Diocese of Davenport, Project Rachel, 780 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804

**Social Action E-Newsletter:** We have an e-newsletter filled with upcoming events and deadlines, calls to action and social justice news and views. You may view previous issues or subscribe to *The Two Feet* newsletter at <http://bit.ly/1mY1moJ> or email [kerstena@diodav.org](mailto:kerstena@diodav.org) to be added to the subscription list.

**Diocesan Volunteer Program Grant:** The Social Action Office re-launched the Diocesan Volunteer Program (DVP). The primary focus of the volunteer program grant is to assist in providing support to individuals for short-term mission work and to support new and existing global projects and partnerships within the Diocese of Davenport. People interested in applying please visit our website to obtain a copy of the grant criteria and application: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/sadodvolunteerprogram.htm>.

**Fair Trade Catalog:** The new SERRV Spring/Summer 2015 catalog is now available. For a chance to buy Fair Trade handcrafts and gourmet food items from disadvantaged producers around the world, go to [http://www.serrv.org/crs\\_handcraft?c=crs](http://www.serrv.org/crs_handcraft?c=crs) and click on the image next to Our Catalog.

## **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.

## **FAITH FORMATION**

**COR Youth Retreats** are coming up on March 13-15 in DeWitt and 27-29 in Keota. Invite your 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders to take some time away to reflect on their faith and their relationship with Jesus. Brochures and registrations forms can be found on the [COR webpage, http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/COR.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/COR.htm).

**Live Like Jesus Did, Junior High Youth Rally:** Sunday, March 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Regina Education Center in Iowa City. This is for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Deadline for late registration is March 12. Publicity and registration materials are now available on the [Junior High Rally webpage](http://www.davenportdiocese.org) on the diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org).

**Live in the Light – Diocesan Summit on Young Adult Ministry:** April 18, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., University of Iowa Newman Center, Iowa City. This is a day of spiritual enrichment for young adults and a workshop on understanding and developing young adult ministry in a parish or regional setting for pastors and parish ministry leaders. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tim O’Malley from Notre Dame University who will also present the track for young adults. Doug Tooke, Director of Catholic Formation Services for the Diocese of Helena, will present the pastors and ministry leaders’ track. Information is available on the [Young Adult Ministry webpage, http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Young%20Adult%20Ministry.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Young%20Adult%20Ministry.htm).

**Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies:** Do you work in youth ministry, or know someone who does? The Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies is perfect for all who work with middle and high-school aged youth! Presented by the Center for Ministry Development since 1979, this certificate program equips youth ministers and workers with the skills, experience, and tools for vibrant youth ministry in parishes, schools, and communities. The certificate can be completed in as few as two summers (eight courses) at St. Ambrose University, with an option for undergraduate or graduate credit. Four courses offered this summer on June 11-12, June 13-14, July 9-10, and July 11-12. A great program for youth ministers, high school ministers, retreat directors, and anyone who works with youth. Contact Chris Clow at 563-333-6189 or [ministry@sau.edu](mailto:ministry@sau.edu) to learn more!

## **MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM**

### **Basic Year II:**

**On-Site Format Schedule:** All courses held at the Diocese of Davenport, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

	<b>3/7/15: Called &amp; Gifted Workshop</b>
<b>3/21/15: Canon Law</b> , Fr. Bill Reynolds	<b>4/18/15: New Testament I</b> , Dr. Matthew Coomber
<b>5/9/15: New Testament II</b> , Dr. Matthew Coomber	<b>6/6/15: Theology I</b> , Fr. Ed Dunn
<b>7/18/15: Theology II</b> , Fr. Ed Dunn	<b>8/1/15: Catechesis</b> , Marianne Agnoli
<b>8/15/15: Civil Law</b> , Dc. Bob Glaser	<b>9/19/15: Spiritual Themes</b> , Fr. Marty Goetz

### **DVD/YouTube Format Schedule:**

The order of courses is as stated above; however each group will determine its monthly meeting time.

An application form and additional program information may be found on the diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org) (Chancery-Faith Formation-Lay Ministry-MFP Forms). For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact Marianne Agnoli, [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnolim@davenportdiocese.org), 563-888-4242.

## **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

**Lineamenta:** Diocesan responses to the questions posed by the Synod have been reviewed and a final report is being sent to the USCCB. A copy of the diocesan report will then be forwarded to the Holy See. Thank you for expressing your thoughts on these important marriage and family concerns.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** May 1-3, Iowa City. This marriage enrichment program is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their relationship. The emphasis of the weekend is on communication

between husband and wife. Couples are able to spend quality time together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life to concentrate on their marriage. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a positive, renewing experience for couples that have a good marriage, but want to make it even better! See the attached flyer for more information.

**World Meeting of Families:** September 22-27, Philadelphia. Registration is open for attendance at the World Meeting of Families. Go to <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org>. Preparatory Catechetical Resources on the ten themes of family church teaching are available at the site above by clicking on “The Catechesis.” Pope Francis is scheduled to be in attendance and is expected to celebrate a public Mass on September 27 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

**Natural Family Planning Link:** A complete Billings Ovulation Method NFP course is available on line at <http://learnnfponline.com>. Engaged couples are encouraged to begin NFP instruction four to six months prior to the wedding date. A certificate of completion will be issued. Additional information and NFP contacts can be found on the diocesan website, <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>.

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

**Marriage Preparation:** The Diocese of Davenport offers several marriage preparation program formats: One-day, Weekend (two-day), Sponsor Couple (through your parish) and Online (under special circumstances-with parish approval)

**Weekend and One-day**

- April 25-26, 2015: Williamsburg, St. Mary, *registration deadline is April 17*
- August 8-9, 2015: Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, *registration deadline is July 31*

The fee is \$125 per couple and is now also payable by credit card/PayPal. 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](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org).

**Online:** Go to <http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/>.

**ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY, DAVENPORT**

“*Charismatic Women: Witnesses of Peace*”: March 19, 7 p.m., Rogalski Center, St. Ambrose University. Margaret Pfeil from the University of Notre Dame will speak about charismatic women of faith during this year’s St. Ambrose University Wilber Symposium on the Christian Tradition lecture. She will focus on Dorothy Day, social activist and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement; Sister Helen Prejean, a leading American advocate for the abolition of the death penalty; Sister Dorothy Stang, an outspoken advocate for the poor and the environment; and the four U.S. churchwomen murdered in El Salvador while engaged in work with refugees. This is a free public lecture with a reception to follow. For more information, contact Rev. Brian Mielot, professor of philosophy, at 563/333-6129.

**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](mailto:marcia@eagleswings.ws) or 563-324-7263, <http://www.eagleswings.ws>. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

**Healing Masses:** March 10 and April 14, 1 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:00. Reconciliation and prayer available before Mass.

***Listening with the Ears of Your Heart:*** April 11, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Davenport. Participants will view a series of short videos on the importance of being a good listener. Included are demonstrations and opportunities for you to ‘practice’ your newly discovered listening skills. You will learn: What it means to be a good listener; Why listening is important; Your style of listening; What ‘Ivory towers’ are and which ones you have and Learn to listen to God and others in a noisy world. Who should come to this workshop? This is open to all...anyone who wants to have a better understanding of how to help others as Jesus

did. Fee is \$25 and includes lunch. To register contact: Judi Droll 563-340-6196 or 563-322-3665 or [judikdroll@mchsi.com](mailto:judikdroll@mchsi.com).

**Introduction to Unbound Prayer:** April 18, 10 a.m. – Noon. In his book, *Unbound*, Neil Lozano tells us that God has a plan for our lives and so does Satan. Through years of experience in praying for others Neil has given us a non-threatening way of praying to bring freedom. The Unbound method of prayer gives five keys to being liberated from spiritual bondage. In this introduction to Unbound Prayer you will view a video in which Neal explains the basics of prayer and hear testimonies from people who have experienced freedom. You will have an opportunity to request ministry from a trained team at a later date. Fee: \$10 and send to Eagles' Wings, 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804. For questions: call 563 324-7263 (please leave a message) or email [marcia@eagleswings.ws](mailto:marcia@eagleswings.ws).

Eagles' Wings is available for your individual or small group retreat. We have three bedrooms, large kitchen/gathering space, chapel and nine spacious acres. Our spiritual directors are trained in Ignatian Spirituality and are available to guide directees through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. We are available to come to your parish or group for a workshop or retreat. We also offer Christian counseling on a sliding scale and free will offerings are accepted for spiritual direction.

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

To register contact: 563-336-8414 or [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.chmiowa.org)

Tues, March 17 | 9:30am – 3:30pm

#### **Come to the Quiet: Thawing**

Celtic spiritual writers remind us that sacred water and sacred wells connect us very intimately to the Holy. Ice and snow melting into running water – who knows where one will find sacred water. The Divine uses the most ordinary to surprise us and comfort us! Fee: \$20

March 27–29 | Fri, 5pm – Sun, 10am

#### **Take up Your Cross: A Retreat for Men**

Fr. Michael Schaab

Father Michael returns to The Prairie to reflect with men on these questions: What is the cross and how does one take it up? What is the relationship between hardships and everyday difficulties of life? How do they compare to what Jesus is talking about in “Take up your cross?” Fee: \$100

Wed, April 8 | 9:30am – 3:30pm

#### **Come to the Quiet: New Life**

Growing daylight, budding trees, blooming flowers; all of nature celebrates burgeoning life. This month invites us to recognize and celebrate the new life blossoming within and around us. The ancient Celtic lands saw the “*ripple of green fire spread through the woods.*” Mara Freeman (2000) Fee: \$20

Thurs, April 16 | 7pm

#### **Songs of the Universe: Peter Mayer in Concert**

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport

**Peter Mayer** is a full time singer, songwriter who performs in folk music venues and church communities around the country. His music stretches the boundaries of folk, transcending to a realm beyond the everyday love song, to a place of wonder at the very fact of life itself. Peter just released his tenth CD. The concert is co-sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran, the CHM Care of Earth Committee and The Prairie as a fund raiser for Prairie programs. Fee: \$20

April 17–18 | Fri 9am – Sat Noon

#### **Songs of the Universe Retreat**

Peter Mayer

Singer songwriter **Peter Mayer** will be leading meditations and conversations about the story of the universe as we have come to understand it through science. It is an epic that awakens awe and wonder, and can be a deep source of wisdom and inspiration. Explore a vital narrative that begs to be learned, as we seek our right relationship with planet earth. Fee: \$75



Mon, April 20 | 6:30pm

### **Easter Earth Taize' Vigil Service**

Taize is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in compassionate prayer. All people of faith are invited. Pre-registration encouraged. No fee.

Thurs, April 23 | 9am – 3pm

### **Bridging the Gap in Supporting Soldiers, Veterans and their Families**

Facilitated by Soldier, Veteran, Family, Resources (SVFR) of the Quad Cities

Join us for a peace filled, nurturing day at The Prairie where facilitators will suggest ways to provide support and applicable techniques for mind, body and spirit. Enjoy a nutritious meal and leisurely walks. Fee: \$20

Wed, April 29 | 9am – 4pm

### **Weaving Prayers and Baskets**

Kathleen Storms, SSND

Learn simple basket weaving in the context of prayer and meditation. Make a market basket today. Fee: \$30

## **SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, CLINTON**

For more information call 563-242-7611 or visit [www.clintonfranciscans.com](http://www.clintonfranciscans.com).

**Peace Soup Suppers in Lent:** Peace Soup is a free soup supper followed by a speaker on the Tuesday evenings in Lent. This year the Peace Soup series of discussions will be built around “do justice and love goodness” – Micah 6:8. Come to St. Boniface Hall, 2520 Pershing Blvd, Clinton at 6 p.m. on the following dates.

- March 3 a husband and wife who teach at Ashford University, Gary and Sally Deckard will present a film and a talk on happiness.
- March 10 a mother and daughter team, Laura Anderson of Franciscan Peace Center and Clinton High School student Molly Anderson will share their slides and knowledge about the environment.
- March 17 Warden at the Administrative United States Penitentiary in Thomson, IL Don Hudson, will speak about mercy and rehabilitation.
- March 24 will be Glenn Leach of the Davenport Diocese speaking about hunger in Iowa.

The event is free and open to the public. Details are available at [www.clintonfranciscans.com](http://www.clintonfranciscans.com). Please call the sisters' office with questions or for weather-related postponements. No need to register and there is no fee.

**Lenten Retreat: *Can I Be Joyful in Lent?*** March 14, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., The Canticle, Clinton. Get away for a few hours this Lenten season to reflect on the deeper meaning of Jesus in your life. Contrary to popular belief, we are called to be joyful people throughout the year, even in Lent. “Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a Person: Jesus in our midst.” - Pope Francis. The suggested donation is \$25 and includes lunch. For more information go to [clintonfranciscans.com](http://clintonfranciscans.com) or call 563-242-761. Wishing to spend more time in prayerful reflection? Ask us about additional accommodations.

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

Events held at Benet House Retreat Center or Sr. Mary Monastery, 2200 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649. To register, contact Sr. Jackie Walsh at 309-283-2108 or [retreats@smmsisters.org](mailto:retreats@smmsisters.org).

**Becoming Who God Created You To Be:** Wednesdays, Mar. 4; Mar. 11; Mar. 18; Mar. 25; Apr. 1; 6:30-8:30 pm. Experience Lent through a series of 45-minute video conferences featuring certified spiritual director, Sr. Maria Tasto, OSB. Using the lens of Scripture and inspired by the work of Fr. Thomas Keating, Sr. Maria shares what she has gleaned from walking with others and her own remarkable spiritual path. Each conference includes quiet time followed by a discussion led by Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB. Fee: \$75, plus \$10 for cost of guidebook.

**Men's Retreat: Finding God in Our Daily Lives:** Fri., Mar. 6, 7 pm-Sun., Mar. 8, 12 pm. Join with other men who want to deepen their faith and prayer life. Director: Fr. Mike Schaab, recently retired pastor of St. Pius X Church, Rock Island, STL, Catholic University of America, Doctor of Ministry Chicago Theological Seminary. Fee: \$190 (private room), \$175 (shared room).

**Sunday Brunch At The Monastery:** First Sunday of each month; Lauds 9:30 am; Mass 10:30 am; Brunch 11:30 am. Single, Catholic women 18-50 years of age are invited to join Sr. Stefanie at St. Mary Monastery for liturgy, brunch and conversation about life as a Catholic Sister. Brunch will be served in the Sisters' dining room overlooking the lake. You will have the opportunity to be with other women who are exploring religious life.

Guests are invited to stay longer and use campus amenities for further prayer and reflection. There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or [vocation@smmsisters.org](mailto:vocation@smmsisters.org)

**Benedictine for a Day:** Experience life as a Benedictine Sister with other single, Catholic women 18-50 years of age. Enjoy prayer, meals and conversation with the Sisters. Join the Benedictines as they serve God with personal and communal prayer in a lively monastic community and hear about their ministries in the outside community. Come for one or more of the following weekends and take the step you need to discover whether God is calling you to Benedictine religious life. Weekends: Mar. 14-15; May 16-17; Sat. 9 am-Sun. 1 pm; there is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or [vocation@smmsisters.org](mailto:vocation@smmsisters.org).

**Pizza and Prayer:** Interested in learning more about religious life and the Sisters of St. Benedict? Single Catholic women 18-50 years old are welcome to join us for pizza and prayer. Last Wednesday of each month through June 24. There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or [vocation@smmsisters.org](mailto:vocation@smmsisters.org).

### **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](http://www.shalomretreats.org), [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

### **Bridges to Contemplative Living Thomas Merton Series**

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21 and May 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Through reflection on our experiences with the writings of Thomas Merton, we focus on living contemplatively in our busy and active lives. Booklet: “Discovering the Hidden Ground of Love.”

Offering: \$40/8-session series includes the booklet, beverage & snacks. Register by Mar 4.

### **Map of My Kingdom – A Play and Discussion by Mary Swander on Farmland Transfer**

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Commissioned by the Practical Farmers of Iowa and written by Iowa Poet Laureate Mary Swander, the production focuses on one central character – Angela Martin, a lawyer and mediator in land transaction disputes – as she shares stories of how farmers and landowners have approached their land transitions. Some families struggled to resolve the sale or transfer of their land, dissolving relationships. Others found peaceful, rational solutions that focused on viability of the family as well as the land. *Map of My Kingdom* will resonate with those who have been or are working through challenging land transfer issues. It will inspire the hesitant and the fearful to start the conversation that cannot wait. A discussion with Mary Swander and advisors on land transfer issues will follow the performance. Registration not required. Free will offering.

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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	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](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org).



# Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**RESTORE**  
communication

**REKINDLE**  
romance

**RENEW**  
commitment

#### 2015 Iowa Weekends:

Dubuque - Feb 20-22

Ankeny - March 20-22

Iowa City - May 1-3

Ankeny - Sept. 18-20

Cedar Falls - Oct. 23-25

#### 2016 Iowa Weekends:

Ankeny - Feb. 12-14

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is a **marriage enrichment** program designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their relationship. The emphasis of the weekend is on communication between husband and wife. Couples are able to spend quality time together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life to concentrate on their marriages. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a positive, renewing experience for couples that have a good marriage, but want to **make it even better!**

All locations have limited availability so **register** today at [www.iowa-wwme.org](http://www.iowa-wwme.org)

**Questions:** Contact Jeff and Janet Francois - 563-608-305 or [jljwwme08@gmail.com](mailto:jljwwme08@gmail.com)



## **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Testimonials**

**Gene & Tricia Chilton** - Burnsville, MN - We thought we had a great marriage but we went to the weekend to appease Tricia's sister. We went with an open mind, but with all the skepticism in the world. Halfway through the second day we felt the power of the holy spirit in full force, and even now can't believe how much it's changed our lives. It was absolutely the most amazing thing we have been through. We started this off with us "thinking we had a great marriage" and that's all it was, a thought. We owe our marriage and our new lives to WWME, our love is so much deeper than anything we could have imagined. God Bless.

**Sean & Stacey Romo** - Metairie, Louisiana - This weekend was truly GREAT for us. This is the Monday after, and I can see the difference in how I look at my husband. I am excited when he called today, and when he got home I immediately got off the phone to greet him. I have a new found love and I am so excited about our new future together.

**Travis & Denise Wiese** - McCook, Nebraska - My husband and I had our weekend recently. We've been married for 5 years. and at the time I thought we had a good marriage, I never dreamed that we would have a great marriage until after our weekend. We fell in love all over again and learned a new way of being intimate. We are so grateful and feel truly blessed to be a part of WWME.

**Terry & Cara Curl** - Brandon, South Dakota - Our weekend was more than we could have asked for! We both left feeling like we had been given a second chance at life together. If we had only known we had the tools with us the whole time! WWME is the best thing that has happened to us next to the day we got married! We made new friends that we will keep in touch with that are on the same path we are and are striving for the same goal. This is very refreshing! Thank you WWME!  
**Dan & Vikki Schultz** - Antrim, New Hampshire (United States) Every married couple, young or old needs this marriage encounter. It was amazing!

**Anonymous** - "We fell in love all over again. Since our weekend, our lives have taken on new meaning."

**Anonymous** - Marriage Encounter gave Shirley and I the opportunity to occasion the deepest, most intimate exchange of feelings we had known in 20 years. ....it proved to be one of the highlights of my life. I just wish that everyone who trusts my opinion would now accept this advice: attend a Marriage Encounter weekend at the earliest opportunity." James C Dobson, PhD Director, Focus on the Family

**Anonymous** - "When some friends suggested that Sheila and I make a Marriage Encounter, we were shocked and more than a little hurt. We were very happily married, and frankly, it surprised us that they thought we needed 'marriage counseling.' When we finally told them how we felt, they laughed and said that they had suggested the Encounter because we were a happily married couple. Now I'm glad they did. We got an awful lot out of it precisely because we brought a lot to it"

**Joe & Betty LeBlanc** "We will be celebrating our 38th anniversary in July 1999. Our marriage was close to crumbling almost 18 years ago when we were invited to attend an ME weekend. Even after 20 years being married, we learned so much more about each other that wonderful weekend in Houston, Texas. The strength we gained has carried both of us through many ups and downs."

**Anonymous** - 20 years ago my wife drug me kicking and screaming to this Marriage Encounter Weekend and wow it was the best thing that we have ever done. It completely changed my life.. Thank God for Worldwide Marriage Encounter..

**Nicole Son - Daughter** - Phoenix, Arizona - This is a little different from the testimony that you asked for, but when I saw this page, I felt I had to write. My parents, Wes and Vicki Fach, made their weekend in 1981 in New Jersey, were a team couple for many years, and were execs in San Diego, CA. I thank God every day that my parents were encountered - their relationship has been a shining example to me and my siblings of what a marriage should be. They have been dialoguing daily for well over 10 years, and this communication has sustained them through many difficult times. A Marriage Encounter Weekend was the greatest gift my parents ever gave their children. Thanks ME!

**John & Becky MacDonald** - Bozeman, Montana - Our weekend was so much more than we thought it would be! It was just amazing that the simple exercises we did could so profoundly change our relationship. We loved how the entire weekend was so positive, and that our relationship was so honored. We felt so nurtured and supported and yes, loved. We highly recommend a Marriage Encounter weekend for every married couple!.

**Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers**  
**March 2015**

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**MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

613. Mar. 2: Holidays: What holiday customs do you bring from your family of origin? Which ones are similar and you want to retain? Which ones clash? How do you resolve the differences? What new tradition would you like to start?

614. Mar 9: "Thou shall not commit adultery" (Ex 20:14) Adultery does not start with sex. Unfaithfulness starts by demoting your spouse by making work, children, internet, hobbies, etc. a higher priority. What distracts your attention from your beloved?

615. Mar. 16: 3 Steps to apologizing well: 1. I'm sorry. 2. Please forgive me. 3. Try to make an amend. To check yourself, avoid the word "But" when apologizing. For example, "I'm sorry, but if you had only..."

616. Mar. 23: A grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die to produce much fruit. (Jn 12:24) What needs to die in you to bear fruit in your marriage? Pride? The desire to always be right? Wanting stuff your way? Avoiding decisions? Humble yourself today.

617. Mar. 30: Holy Week "Marriage is a give-and-take experience, involving hurt and forgiveness, failure and sacrifice." (*Follow the Way of Love*) It's the Paschal Mystery of death and resurrection.

**PARENTING POINTERS**

614. Mar. 6: March 6-7, 2015 is a new holiday - [The National Day of Unplugging](http://www.sabbathmanifesto.org/unplug/). <http://www.sabbathmanifesto.org/unplug/> Celebrate it by fasting from any unessential use of cell phones, internet, screens, - anything that takes you away from your family. Invite your family to sign the pledge.

615. Mar. 13: Today is Friday the 13th. Have fun with your children by joking about frivolous unlucky things that have happened in your life. Then turn it around and talk about times when you were really lucky.

616. Mar. 20: March 21 is Single Parent Day. Single parents do double duty. It's hard but it's not impossible. Your children will eventually appreciate your sacrifices. If you're not a single parent, find one and give them a break.

617. Mar. 27: This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. Before we walk into the passion of Holy Week, perhaps you could rejoice with your family about your accomplishments as a family (Toilet training? A day without fighting or complaining? An award? A healing?)