

OFFICES CLOSED

The Diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 18.

COMMUNICATION OFFICE

Windows XP End of Life: Please be aware that after April 8, 2014, there will be no new security updates, from Microsoft for Windows XP machines. Your Windows XP computers will still function after April 8 but will no longer get monthly security updates. For security reasons, if you have a Windows XP computer you need to plan/budget for either upgrading the computer to Windows 7 or for the eventual replacement of that computer if it is too old to upgrade. Windows 7 Pro upgrade licenses are available through the Diocese for \$69 per computer.

Please contact Rob Butterworth if you have questions, need assistance budgeting for a new computer, or require upgrade support, butterworth@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4223.

POSTAGE REMINDER

Over the last years the US Postal Service has changed the way it prices large and padded envelopes. It used to be that an envelope was weighed and that determined the amount of postage to apply. Now not only the weight of an envelope is considered, but so is the shape of the envelope. What this means is that no large (8x10 or 10x13) envelope goes for one stamp nor does any padded envelope containing an irregular shaped object, e.g. USB key, pins, etc. So when mailing a large or padded envelope please take it to the post office for the correct postage. We can no longer say, "I think one stamp is enough!"

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

By way of introduction, I am Miguel Moreno, the Coordinator of the Multicultural Ministry in our diocese. It is my task to begin to organize the Hispanic members of our diocese. Initially, a ministerial goal is to form a Diocesan Hispanic Pastoral Council (Consejo Pastoral Diocesano Hispano). With the Hispanic Pastoral Council, we are going to organize and implement programs, workshops, activities, etc. The intent would be for the Council to meet three times per year. A meeting location has not yet been chosen.

Please assist me in this formation initiative. If you have a Hispanic presence in your parish, please nominate two or three Hispanic parishioners to represent your parish and to participate in our meetings. You may send the parishioners' names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses to moreno@davenportdiocese.org. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

On Friday, **September 19**, Owen Phelps of the Yeshua International Catholic Leadership Institute and former director of communications for the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois will conduct a one-day leadership seminar in Iowa City. This event will be sponsored by the Diocesan Stewardship Commission. More information will be forthcoming.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Social Action Newsletter: The Diocesan Social Action office will distribute a newsletter via e-mail beginning in April with information about upcoming events and deadlines; calls to action and social justice news and views. If you are not already a member of the Social Action mailing list and would like to be included, please e-mail socialaction@diodav.org.

Available Grants: Grant requests must be postmarked by May 31

- **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>.

For questions call Loxi Hopkins at 563-888-4212.

Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl! Your parish helped make a difference in the lives of millions of people around the world suffering from poverty and hunger. To ensure your donations will be put to use as soon as possible parishes are asked to remit Rice Bowl contributions by **May 31**. Thank you for your generous support.

Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Catalog: The spring/summer 2014 catalog is now available at the CRS website: <http://www.serrv.org>. Purchasing a fair trade item helps increase the income of a farmer or artisan in another country, giving them a better chance at self-sufficiency in their homeland.

Flood Preparation: As we are bounded by major rivers on the east and west and well blessed with smaller rivers and streams throughout the state, parts of Iowa are always potentially at risk of floods, particularly in the spring. Ice jams have caused only minor flooding to date, but the temperatures to the North are only beginning to moderate and the speed with which our record snows melt and the yet unknown rainfall may yield damaging floods once again.

For any emergency, pre-planning is important. While flooding usually progresses at a rate that allows for more protective action than a tornado, pre-planning is important...we may have only hours of warning. Some questions to consider:

- How quickly can we get to necessary insurance policies, deeds, lists of possessions for long term recovery?
- Do we have protected copies of critical prescriptions, medical histories, and do we have plans for any critical medical devices we must use at home?
- Where do we presently store photographs, souvenirs and other valued family materials?
- How will we get together if we are separated at school, work, when disaster hits?
- How will we do this if the phone lines and cell-phone tower go down?
- Are we prepared for a power outage of a day, a week, longer? (refrigerators, freezers, water supply if pumped, etc).
- Do we have secondary hazards in the event of flooding, such as water getting into electrical circuits (outlets, junction boxes, motors) that may be below water in the basement, making it hazardous to enter?
- Do we know what to do if water threatens furnaces or water heaters, gas or electrically powered?

St. Vincent's Home Corporation Grants: Spring grants are no longer awarded. Grants are awarded once a year in the fall. The next grant deadline is **September 15** and all applications must be postmarked by that date. Applicants are to be located within the 22 counties of the Diocese of Davenport or serve children within the diocese. The grant application and criteria are available at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/sastvincenthomecorporation.htm#applygrants>.

If you received a grant in the past you must also submit your progress report by September 15. New funding applications will not be considered until Progress Reports regarding previously awarded grants have been submitted. For questions or information contact the office of Social Action at guerrero@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4210.

FAITH FORMATION

Living the Ups and Downs of Our Faith: Dark Nights and Doubt, a Failure of Faith or a Failure of Imagination? April 5, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Hiawatha (Cedar Rapids greater area), cost is \$25. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI is the presenter. This conference is open to any and all interested persons. Sponsored by the Diocese of Davenport, Diocese of Des Moines and the Archdiocese of Dubuque. For a registration flier go to: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/LibraryFF/Rolheiser%20registration%20flier%202014.pdf>.

Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies: Start earning your Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies this summer at St. Ambrose University! The Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies is a ministry education program presented by the Center for Ministry Development, a Catholic organization that has been training youth ministers since 1979. This Certificate is designed to give those who work with youth the skills, experience, and tools needed to create and sustain youth ministry in our parishes, schools, and communities. Perfect for all those who minister with youth, whether they are new in the field, seasoned veterans, or anywhere in between. Earn your certificate in only two summers, or eight total classes. Classes are offered this summer on June 12-15 and July 10-13. Visit http://www.sau.edu/Campus_Ministry/Learning/Certificate_in_Youth_Ministry_Studies to download the application, or contact Chris Clow at 563/333-6189 or ministry@sau.edu to learn more.

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

Track	Date	Course
Basic: Year 1	April 26	Confirmation: Don Boucher
Basic: Year 1	May 17	Matrimony: IlaMae Hanisch
Basic, Spanish	April 27	Baptism: Fr. Bernie Weir
Basic, Spanish	May 18	Matrimony: Rev. Troy Richmond

For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact IlaMae Hanisch, hanisch@davenportdiocese.org or 641-791-3435.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage and Parenting Resource: Attached is the April 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) and Online.

Weekend and One-day

- April 26-27: Williamsburg, St. Mary, *registration deadline is April 18*
- August 9-10: Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, *registration deadline is August 1*
- October 18: Muscatine, SS. Mary & Mathias, *registration deadline is October 10*

The fee is \$125 per couple. 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 or IlaMae Hanisch, hanisch@davenportdiocese.org.

Online: For information go to <http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/>.

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, vacdav@attglobal.net or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Mount Mercy University (Cedar Rapids) is offering the Catherine McAuley Scholarship. The scholarship provides free tuition to Iowa students whose family income is \$45,000 or less annually and who meet some other basic criteria. These scholarships are renewable for up to four years. For more information go to www.mtmercy.edu/free-tuition.

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

Presentation on Teilhard de Chardin: Scientist, Priest, Mystic (1881–1955): April 4, 7 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, Davenport. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin has become one of the most influential thinkers of the twentieth century. Professionally he was a paleontologist who studied fossil formation and theories of evolution. As a Catholic priest committed to his Christian faith he worked to integrate evolution with the theology of creation, or science and religion. But he may be most remembered as a mystic, someone who helped to shape a spirituality for the future. His cosmic vision and his Christic sense offer us both a new cosmology and a renewed Christology which can have an impact on all our lives. Presented by Father Don Goergen, OP. He is a Dominican priest, teacher, lecturer, and author. His most recent book was *Fire of Love, Encountering the Holy Spirit*. He has taught, lectured and given retreats in Asia, Africa, and throughout North America. His doctorate is in systematic theology, his dissertation on Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, and his current interests include contemplative traditions, East and West, the evolution of consciousness, and the thought of Thomas Aquinas as a spiritual master. Among other honors awarded him, he is the recipient of the 2010 Yves Congar Award from Barry University in Miami. Fee: \$10 before March 28, \$15 at the door. To register email olpretreat@gmail.com or call 563-336-8414.

Come to the Quiet - Awakening Spring: Tues., April 1, 9:30am – 3:30pm. Savor solitude, see nature renewing herself, and enjoy the coming of Spring. Fee: \$20

Bible in Iraq: Wed., April 2, 10am – noon. Mini-Retreat with Father Bill Kneemiller. Mass at 10am, followed by program and lunch following. Fee: \$8 for lunch. (Come early, stay late!)

Thomas Merton: A Contemplative Prophet: April 5-6, presenter: Rev. Donald Goergen, OP. Thomas Merton was a monk, a writer, and a conscience for his world. Committed to contemplative living, to social consciousness, and to dialogue with Eastern religious traditions, he spoke to the hearts of 20th century concerns. Integrating contemplative practice with reflection on these themes in Merton's life and writings, the retreat will attempt to bring home a deeper integration of action and contemplation in our own lives. Fee: \$125

Taize' Vigil Service: Sun., April 6, 5pm. Taize' is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified and compassionate prayer. Friends of The Prairie and churches of all faith traditions in the area are invited to participate. Supper following. Free will offering.

Blessing for Leaders: Wisdom from the Beatitudes Applied to Leadership: Sat., April 12, 9:30am – 3:30pm. Presenter: Dan Ebener, professor of organizational leadership, St. Ambrose University. The church and society are in desperate need of new leaders and new models of leadership. This retreat will involve participants in interactive exercises that reflect on Scripture, particularly the Beatitudes of Jesus and the gospel of Matthew, and apply this to leadership, specifically to servant leadership. Fee: \$25

Be the Change: Growing and Serving Great Food: Wed., April 16, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Presented by local growers and Prairie staff. Join us for an inspiring day of dialogue with local growers and enjoy delicious locally grown foods. Plan your spring garden using heirloom seeds. Fee: \$25

Two Inspirational Popes: Sun., May 4, 1:30 – 4:30pm. Corinne Winter, PhD, professor of systematic theology, St Ambrose University. We will look at Popes John XXIII and John Paul II with special emphasis on their exemplary lives, what they have taught us about faith and spirituality. Fee: \$20

Family Day for Celebrating Mothers: Sat., May 10, 10am – 2pm. Roberta Brick, CHM & Rosalind Restelli, CHM. Bring your family to celebrate your mother with a special day at The Prairie. Pay tribute to your mother by celebrating her influence in your life. Enjoy a special family meal. Listen to live jazz, explore the grounds, or just sit on the porch with your mom and watch the hummingbirds. (Please e-mail a favorite recipe from your mother's kitchen to kathleenstorms@yahoo.com before May 6.) Fee: \$40/family (indicate ages of children.)

The Jesus I Want to Know: A Women's Retreat: May 16-18, Fri, 5pm – Sun, 10 am. Sandra Weinke, SSND.

Christology for our time explains who Jesus is in a way that can be understood in today's diverse and pluralistic world. If Christology is meaningful, it will have an impact and empower love for Jesus and committed discipleship. To be faithful to the tradition, the four Gospels will be the first source of discussion about Jesus. Bring Bible or New Testament. Fee: \$125.

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 or 563-324-7263, <http://www.eagleswings.ws>. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

"A Cloud of Witnesses": A Lenten Retreat Day, Thursday, April 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Soup lunch provided, registration \$10. Retreat talks will focus on who the Cloud of Witnesses are and how they play a role in our lives. Afternoon prayer and silent meditation time in our chapel with our Relic of the True Cross, a special gift from Fr. Dan Mannhardt. Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord at Eagles' Wings this Lent. Call to register.

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, CLINTON

For more information call 563-242-7611 or visit www.clintonfranciscans.com.

Peace Soup Suppers for Lent: Soup suppers followed by discussions of peace from the perspective of religious beliefs will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at St. Boniface Center, Clinton. The remaining topics are: Islam April 1 and Christianity April 8. What do these religions believe about peace and teach about peace? You are invited to come and learn more on any or all of the dates. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis and Prince of Peace Church Pax Christi and for a flyer go to www.jcpop.org or www.clintonfranciscans.com. The series is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Call Prince of Peace parish office at 563-242-3311 or the sisters' office, 563-242-7611 with questions or for weather-related postponements.

CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH OF EASTERN IOWA

Centering Prayer Practitioners are invited to attend the following:

- Silent Saturdays: May 10, June 14, and July 12; 9:30-11:30 a.m., Humility of Mary Center, Davenport
- One-Day Retreat: April 26, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Prairie, Wheatland, \$25
- Retreat: (Post intensive - 6 day retreat): July 27 – August 1 with Kathryn Ann Kobelinski, SSND. You will have opportunity to pray in community, view videos, and experience Lectio Divina in an atmosphere of silence and solitude. Enjoy the solitude of nature and scrumptious locally grown food. Cost: \$300. To register call 563-336-8414

For information on any of the above go to <https://sites.google.com/site/easterniowaco1/home>.

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

All events held at Benet House Retreat Center, 2200 88th Avenue West, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649. To register, contact Sr. Jackie Walsh at 309-283-2108 or retreats@smmsisters.org.

Evening at The Monastery: Thurs., April 24, 4:45-7:45 pm. Do you wonder what life is like in a monastery? Come for an evening of prayer, pleasant conversation and a chance to ask the questions you have not had an opportunity to voice. Enjoy Vespers and dinner with the Benedictine Sisters followed by reflection and sharing on Scripture and the monastic way of life. Presenter: Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB. Fee: \$15.

Benedictine Experience Weekend "Behold, here I am." (Rule of St. Benedict and Psalm 33): Fri., April 25, 7 pm-Sun., April 27, 1 pm. Join other single Catholic women for a weekend that focuses on the importance of Scripture in Benedict's Rule. We will tour the St. John's Bible Heritage Exhibit, explore Benedictine spirituality, pray with the Sisters and talk about what it's like to live in community. Facilitator: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB, Vocation Director. There is no cost; you are our guest!

Mother/Daughter Morning at Benet House: Sat., Apr. 26, 9 am-12 pm. For a great Mother's Day gift, set aside a time for mothers and adult daughters to share tradition, relationships, trust and respect while seeing each other as individuals. The focus will be on creating a legacy and exploring what mothers and daughters can learn from each other and pass on. The morning includes a special breakfast; time together, solitude, fun time and activities. Presenters: Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB, Preschool Teacher, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, East Moline, Ill. and her mother, Kathy MacDonald, 3rd Grade Teacher, LaSalle Catholic School, Holy Cross, Iowa. Fee: Space is limited! Registration fee: \$40 per mother/daughter.

Discerning Read: A Book Club for Seekers: Mon., April 28, 6:30-8:00 pm. Join us for a rousing discussion on the final book of this year's series *Wise Irish Women: A Journey of Love, Loyalty and Friendship to Inspire the Irish Spirit*, by Patricia Connorton Kagerer and Laura Prendergast Gordon. Facilitator: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB, Vocation Director. Fee: \$5. For information contact Sr. Bobbi, OSB: (309) 283-2300.

Women's Retreat: Viewing the New Creation Story with Faith-Filled Eyes: Fri., June 20, 7 pm-Sun. June 22, 1 pm. We will view the video "Journey of the Universe" and consider how our understanding of the evolutionary story of creation relates to our understanding of God and our purpose in life. Time for quiet reflection and sharing will be included, plus the opportunity to pray with the Benedictine Sisters. Presenter: Sr. Sandra Brunenn, OSB, Prioress, St. Mary Monastery. Fee: Register and pay in full by May 20: \$175 (private room), \$160 (shared room). Registrations after May 20: \$185 (private room), \$170 (shared room).

Silent Directed Retreat: "Listen with the Ear of Your Heart": Sun., Aug. 3, 4 pm-Wed., Aug. 6, 4 pm. As Christians we all believe that God is speaking to us to teach, console and guide us. Listening on a deep level is a skill that can be learned and improved, so we hope you will join us for a few days in August. God speaks exactly what we need to hear, but we are often blocked by many factors. Come with an open heart and be amazed at what God wants to say to you. Meet daily with a certified spiritual director: Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB; Sr. Margaret Murphy, OSB; Abbot Philip Davey, OSB. A limited number of retreatants will be accepted, so call soon. Fee: Register and pay in full by June 27: \$260. Registrations after June 27: \$275.

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

Mandalas: Mirror to Your Soul – A Spirituality of Presence Retreat: Saturday, May 3, 10:00am – 4:00pm. Mandalas are an expression in art as one meditates on their spiritual journey. Join in discovering your God and yourself in this spiritual adventure. Offering: Commuter-\$40, includes lunch. Overnight stay available for \$32 per night. Register by Tuesday, April 29. Presenter: Mary Hauber OSF. She is a Dubuque Franciscan, has been drawn to mandalas as a creative form of prayer for over 30 years. Mary is a creative piano teacher in the Waterloo area and is a native of Dubuque.

Retreat Day for 7th & 8th Grade Boys: Saturday, May 10, 10:00am – 4:00pm. Spend a day sharing games, food, stories, fun and spirituality. There will be trivia contests, social competitions and open-ended discussions about what life means to this age group. Though structured to a point, the students will have a say in how the day progresses. Offering: \$40. Register/prepay by Wednesday, May 7. Director: Jim Swenson

Longer Retreat: Abide: Keeping Vigil with the Word of God: Monday, June 9, 5:30pm – Friday, June 13, 9:30am. Director: Macrina Wiederkehr OSB. Our quest for God is daily in our ordinary lives. Macrina opens fresh ways of perceiving tradition. She moves beyond our yearning for God to ways to deepen our relationship with the Divine. This involves a respect for the mysteries of God, the practice of deep listening, and opening your heart to guidance. Daily Eucharistic liturgy. Offering: Overnight \$450, Commuter \$430. \$25 early bird discount if registered by May 9. \$75 deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.

The Changing Nature of Contemporary Spirituality: Monday, June 30, 9:00am – Wednesday, July 2, 3:00pm. Presenter: Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu. In this workshop, Diarmuid O'Murchu will explore the changing nature of today's spiritual landscape, the new challenges that ensue, and the relationship between spirituality and religion in our time. Offering: Overnight \$240, Commuter \$160. \$10 early bird discount if registered by May 30. \$50 deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.

Franciscan Mysticism and the New Cosmology: Sunday, July 6, 5:30pm – Sunday, July 13, 9:00am. Director: Fr. Norman Comtois OMI. The retreat will integrate the mystical insights of Francis of Assisi with new scientific theory and ecological understanding including our current environmental crisis. Participants will explore Francis' love of creation and its implications for our lives today. Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme's research will be integrated with Francis of Assisi's Canticle of Creation and Peace Prayer as guides. Daily Eucharistic liturgy. Offering: Overnight \$480, Commuter \$450. \$25 early bird discount if registered by June 6. \$75 deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.

Growing in Wisdom & Grace: A Spirituality for Everyday Living: Monday, July 21, 5:30pm – Saturday, July 26, 9:00am. Director: Helene Cote pm. We are invited to imitate Jesus and thus to grow in wisdom and grace. This retreat will focus on how to use the "stuff" of our everyday lives to walk faithfully on this journey towards wholeness and holiness, balancing spirituality with psychology. Some of the topics presented will include remembering our blessings, naming our losses, learning to let go, claiming our personal vocation and rediscovering the value of "waiting." Daily Eucharistic liturgy. Offering: Overnight \$480, Commuter \$455. \$25 early bird discount if registered by June 21. \$75 deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.

Detoxing the God-Image: Learning to Pray: Friday, August 1, 5:30pm – Thursday, August 7, 1:00pm. Director: Brother Don Bisson, FMS, D.Min. In our spiritual life we are invited to let go of our distorted and broken images of God. When we do that, we experience healing and loving more deeply. This silent, guided retreat weaves contemporary psychology and spirituality to help participants love and feel more deeply loved by God. Daily Eucharistic liturgy. Offering: Overnight \$500, Commuter \$470. \$25 early bird discount if registered by July 1. \$75 deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.

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.

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

April 2014

I offer you these tidbits of wisdom as prayer prompts to remind you (and your constituents) of the sacredness of marriage vows and the value of every child. The commitment to love a spouse forever, and the generous gift of life parents offer a child are indeed spiritual under-takings and cannot be done alone. May the God of Love be with you and your work. Susan

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

567. Apr. 7: *A Marriage Challenge* for couples married awhile: While you may have settled in to a comfortable lifestyle - routines can get boring. Try something new together this week - a new food, recreation, book...

568. Apr. 14: Marriage can be like Holy Week. One day it's Palm Sunday and everyone is singing your praises. But the one closest to you can betray you. All seems lost. It's not easy but faith reminds us of the forgiveness and sacrificial love, resurrection is possible. Can you believe it?

569. Apr. 21: On Easter we celebrate Christ's resurrection. May it give you new life and energy for others. This year Easter is quickly followed by Earth Day (April 22) Take your Easter energy and apply it to renewing the earth. Decide one thing you can do as a couple to renew the face of the earth. For ideas go to <http://www.earthday.org/greencities/action/>.

570. Apr. 28: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them." (John 20:23) Forgiveness (like love) is a decision, not simply an emotion. In marriage there are bound to be times when we inadvertently hurt each other. You may not be able to forget the offence, but can you decide to forgive it - and not bring it up again?

PARENTING POINTERS

566. Apr. 4: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Review basic safety rules with your child.

567. Apr. 11: April 13 is Palm Sunday. Tell your children the story of how the people praised Jesus by waving palms. Of course just a few days later we remember Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. To learn how to make a palm cross with your child go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmtg7m7lon8> .

568. Apr. 18: Good Friday "In a family you don't have to look very far to find your cross" a father observes in *Follow the Way of Love* (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/follow-the-way-of-love.cfm>). Who in your family seems to have a mission to purify YOU today, to teach you patience, to challenge you? What cross do you bring to the others in your family?

569. Apr. 25: Earth Day was April 22. Did you save any trees, compost, or reuse water bottles? It's not too late. Mother Earth is waiting for your care. Perhaps you and your child could adopt a park, street, trail, or yard to clean up this weekend.

© 2013 Susan Vogt. MAIL: 523 E. Southern Ave., Covington, KY 41015, PHONE: (859) 291-6197, FAX: (859) 291-4742, E-MAIL: SusanVogt@fuse.net, WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net