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St. Isidore
St. Lawrence
St. John Vianney
SS. John and Paul
St. Clement of Rome
St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Mary Mystical Rose
St. Francis-St. Maximilian
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July 2011

The Sacrament of Marriage

As I write these words, I write them especially for our young adults, as you think about what it means to unite yourself to another person in marriage. The Church has a beautiful, but challenging, understanding of what marriage is. At the Second Vatican Council in the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, the bishops call marriage between a man and a woman an intimate communion or partnership of life and love; rooted in the covenant that spouses establish through their full, irrevocable personal consent; and for Christian spouses such a covenant becomes a sacrament. Now, all of that is a mouthful, but let's look at some key ideas.

Notice the word "covenant". It immediately connects us to our Sacred Scriptures and the covenants God made with Noah, Abraham, Moses and the people of Israel, the new covenant envisioned by the prophets and the fullness of that covenant in Jesus. Marriage is not simply a legal contract between two parties. It is a covenant that reflects God's relationship to humanity and God's people. For that reason the marriage covenant is rooted in fidelity, evokes permanence, has an unconditional quality to it, and cannot be fully captured in a set of words or actions. There is no point at which we can say "Well, I've done my fair share; now it is your turn." To embrace marriage as a covenant is challenging; demanding one's full, conscious, engaged and open-ended involvement. Are you ready to make such a commitment to the person you are attracted to? Are they showing signs of that same mature ability to commit to you no matter what life brings?

Secondly, marriage is to be a communion or partnership of life and love. In the past, in order to put some clear requirements in place so that one might know definitely whether a true marriage has or has not taken place, the Church focused on the "rights" each spouse gave to the other through their vows for the purpose of marital intimacy

and the procreation of children. At Vatican II and in our current definitive understanding of marriage which flows from it, marital intimacy is for the totality of the partnership or communion. Viewed from the reverse, marriage calls for a union of more than just our bodies and the potential children that might ensue. It calls for a partnership on all levels: spiritual, economic, physical, psychological and so forth. As you think about marriage, are you and your potential spouse ready to bare not just your bodies but your minds, your past histories, your spirits, your finances, your futures and all that makes you who you are?

Finally, the reality of marriage as a sacrament. Each of our sacraments in some way unites us more deeply to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. For Christian partners, marriage is one of the key ways that Christ, in his risen life, becomes present within the world; in this case, in and through the marriage partners. Your marriage and your partner will reveal the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection to you. There will be great goodness, healing and joy in the

marriage. There will be hardship and difficulty, in a word the cross. Will you trust together that the risen Christ becomes more present to our world the more you embrace together that cross in faith and hope? The Church calls such a sacramentally married couple and their family a "domestic Church". As you think about marriage, do you and your partner pray together within the community of the Church? Do you pray with and for one another?

Marriage is not a day or an event but a lifetime. As you prepare for marriage, are you preparing for that life-long, God-given vocation? I hope the answer is yes. The Church and the world need as many such married couples as possible.

Fr. David Buersmeyer

Vicar



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Archdiocesan Finances - A letter from Archbishop Vigneron

Like many parishioners throughout southeast Michigan, the Archdiocese of Detroit is working through some serious financial challenges. You, the faithful, provide the resources with which the Church operates. I am grateful and humbled by your generosity and trust through these difficult times. In the spirit of *Sharing the Light*, I want you to know the financial health of your Archdiocese.

Shortly after my installation as Archbishop two years ago, I appointed a commission of lay financial experts and priests to assess archdiocesan finances. In September 2009, that commission and a task force I appointed to examine archdiocesan administrative operations concluded that our financial situation was in need of urgent and significant reform. To stabilize our finances, I accepted several recommendations proposed by these two work groups. When the Archdiocese reorganized operations in 2009, we eliminated dozens of positions. We cut spending and are addressing our major sources of debt. Because of the selfless efforts and sacrifices of many, the Archdiocese will operate with a balanced budget effective July 1, 2012.

Some of the problems we confronted in 2009 were caused by the recession. Regrettably, others were within our control. We have learned from this experience, and have implemented many changes in how we conduct the business of the Archdiocese.

We are striving to be good stewards of that which the Lord has given to us. I pledge to you that we will continue to address these challenges directly, openly, and thoroughly.

I welcome your feedback and ask you to join me in asking the Virgin Mother of God to protect and advance our efforts to fulfill Christ's mission to his Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

Further questions regarding the financial position of the Archdiocese of Detroit are answered on its website at www.aodonline.org/Sharingthelight/finances

Samaritan House Annual Quilt Raffle



Have you purchased your raffle tickets yet for the 2011 Quilt Raffle? The raffle will take place in October and you could be the lucky winner of a unique piece of art work. This homemade quilt is made of antique hankies. For more information, or to purchase tickets please phone, **586.336.9956**.

Articles for the **August** issue are due by **Monday, July 18th**. Please email your article to NMVNews@yahoo.com or admin@stthereseparish.ws. If you have any questions please call **Linda Maccarone, 586.254.4433**

Healthy Living Presentation @ St. Therese of Lisieux Parish

- ♥ Thursday, July 14th - Noon to 1:30 PM
- ♥ Speaker: Dr. George Nassif, Geriatric and Internal Medicine Specialist
- ♥ Topic: **"Depression in Seniors"**
- ♥ Free Blood-Sugar Screening and BP Screening
- ♥ Refreshments provided
- ♥ RSVP to St. Therese Parish Office at 586.254.4433
- ♥ Sponsored by St. Therese Health Ministry and Henry Ford Hospital *Call to Care* Program.

Job Opportunity

- Position Title: Director of Religious Education, Part-time
- Position Location: St. Mary Mystical Rose Parish, Armada
- Qualifications:
- * Certified DRE, Degree in Religious Study, Theology Pastoral Studies, or other relevant theological studies (or working toward certification or degree).
 - * Must be a practicing and committed Catholic who upholds the Church's teaching.
 - * 3 to 5 yrs of experience in Religious Education Ministry is preferred.
 - * Good leadership and organization skills are required. Excellent computer skills are desirable; including ParishSoft and Microsoft Office application software.
- Submit Resume to: Fr. Siasoi Patau, Pastor
spatau@stmarymysticalrose.org
St. Mary Mystical Rose Parish
24040 Armada Ridge Rd., Armada, MI 48005
- Deadline to Apply: July 30, 2011

Assumption Grotto (Detroit) Grade School Reunion

All Classes invited and anyone from the old neighborhood welcome!

August 13, 2011 at Dodge Park 40620 Utica Rd, Sterling Hgts.
Noon til ??? Rain or Shine

Bring your own food and drinks or a dish to pass

For more info email: grottoreunion2009@hotmail.com
Check www.assumptiongrotto.com

St. Lawrence Vacation Bible School 2011

Registration and Volunteer Information

- Location: St. Lawrence School
Dates: July 25-July 29, 2011
Time: 8:55 AM-12:15 PM
Cost: \$25 for K through 5th Grade
Theme: SonSurf Beach Bash VBS....*where kids head to the Son Surf for a Beach Bash!*

Registration is held to the first 250 students. Registration forms are required for campers and are available on the parish website at www.stlawrenceparish.com

Adult Volunteer Information

In order to accommodate all participants, many volunteers are needed. Adult volunteers can help as catechists, aides, or assist in the craft, snack, babysitting or outdoor activities areas.

All volunteers, 18 and older, **must** complete a Criminal History Background Check Authorization form and must have attended the "Protecting God's Children Program" by July 1, 2011.

Please contact Carol at 586.247.5798 or Liz at 586.977.0143 or the St. Lawrence Continuing Rel. Ed. Office at 586.731.5072.

Ave Maria University Greater Detroit Founders Club
Invites you to

Biblical Principles for Leadership in the Family and at Work

Presented by

Bishop Michael J. Byrnes

6:30pm - Social Time, 7pm - Dinner and presentation
Radisson Hotel, 39475 Woodward Ave. Bloomfield Hills

\$30 per person if you RSVP, or \$35 at the door

RSVP to 734.930.3435 or
email: greaterdetroitfounders@gmail.com

Event is open to all!

Would you like to learn about the tradition of Catholic spirituality and how to grow in holiness?

- Sacred Heart Major Seminary is offering a class *"Introduction to Spirituality"* at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish this coming fall semester.
- Classes begin September 8-December 15, 2011 on Thursday evenings from 7pm - 9pm.
- Tuition is \$746 (it is a 2 credit hour class), plus admissions and registration fees. Financial aid is available.
- For more information, contact SHMS admissions at 313.883.8520. You can apply online at www.shms.edu.
- Application deadline is August 15, 2011
- It is never too late to learn!

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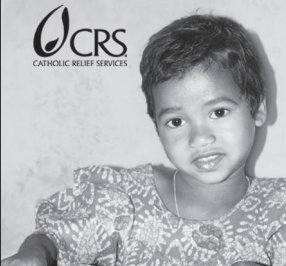
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