DEACON DAVID MONTGOMERY, CHIEF OF STAFF
The office hours for the Chancery and Catholic Messenger will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. effective December 1, 2016. This change is made to better meet the needs of visitors. Appointments should be made in advance for the noon to 1:00 p.m. time period when possible.

OFFICE CLOSINGS
The Diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed December 26-January 2 for the Christmas holiday.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE
Shop Fair Trade this Holiday Season: The Year of Mercy has closed, but you can continue to show mercy to your brothers and sisters around the world by purchasing Fair Trade items this holiday season. The new SERRV Fall/Winter consignment catalog is now available. Go here to buy fair trade handcrafts and gourmet food items from disadvantaged producers around the world. If your parish is interested in hosting a CRS Fair Trade Consignment Sale please contact Lori and Clare Ferris, Fair Trade Ambassadors at 563-888-4211 or guerrero@davenportdiocese.org.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD): Thank you for participating in this year’s collection. Your generous support will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes. If you missed the collection, it isn’t too late to still make your donation by making a check payable to the Diocese of Davenport and marked CCHD Collection. You may submit it to your parish or mail it directly to the Diocese of Davenport, 780 West Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804-1901.

50th World Day of Peace is January 1. The theme for Pope Francis’ Annual World of Peace is “Non-Violence: a Style of Politics for Peace.” For resources and information please go to here.

2017 National Migration Week will be held January 8-14. This year’s theme is “Creating a Culture of Encounter.” Help spread awareness around during the week. Materials are now available, please click here.

National Prayer Vigil for Life January 26-27: This is an all-night pro-life prayer vigil held on the eve of the March for Life each January. It is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. For more details go to the USCCB website.

CRS Rice Bowl Collection is March 1.
- Lent may still be a few months away, but we want to make sure you have all you need to plan a faith-filled Lent experience for your faith community. This is your last chance to order your free CRS Rice Bowl 2017 materials: go to http://www.crsricebowl.org/ or call 800-222-0025. If you have any questions about the collection please contact Loxi Hopkins at 563-888-4212 or hopkins@davenportdiocese.org. Materials will be shipped on January 9.
- Rice Bowl Kick-Off Breakfast Events: We are working on the 2017 Rice Bowl Kick-off Breakfast events and are looking for host parishes. If your parish is interested in hosting a Kick-off Breakfast event contact Loxi Hopkins, 563-888-4212.

The Iowa Institute for Social Action will be held January 15-16 in Altoona. The Institute is our leadership-training event for advocates of the human life and dignity teachings of the Church. Brian Corbin, Executive Vice-President of Membership Services at Catholic Charities USA, will present the keynote address. Breakout sessions will feature the latest on the social concerns of the Church, including poverty, immigration and protecting the vulnerable. For up-to-date information go to the Iowa Catholic Conference website.

The Iowa Catholic Conference has approved the 2017 Legislative Concerns and Priorities. Go here to view. If you would like a copy please e-mail Esmeralda Guerrero.
St. Vincent’s Home: Just a reminder that spring grants are no longer awarded. The next grant deadline will be September 15, 2017. For more information please go here.

Project Rachel services for those wounded by abortion are:
- Dedicated Helpline: 563-333-4107 (calls answered personally Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm.) Voice messaging available all other times.
- Dedicated e-mail: projectrachel@diodav.org
- Dedicated national website: www.hopeafterabortion.org
- Confidential referrals for individualized counseling with a Project Rachel priest or counselor

How you can help promote Project Rachel in your parish:
- Distribute the free brochure, “Peace Starts Here.” Call 563-888-4212 to receive.
- On your parish website put a link to the Project Rachel website
- Pray for women and men that have been affected by abortion
- Include weekly bulletin announcements

There are two ways to support Project Rachel:
1. “Humble Angel Honey”: For parishes who are interested in having “Humble Angel Honey” for sale at their parish please contact Kent Ferris or 563-888-4210 to make arrangements.
2. Make a financial contribution, payable to the Diocese of Davenport and mail to Diocese of Davenport, Project Rachel, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804-1901.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
Calling Youth To Mission – Equipping Young Disciples: February 16, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church in Iowa City. Ever get the feeling that what’s worked in the past doesn’t seem to be working all that well today with our youth? Pope Francis has a sense of why this might be as he continues to call us to form missionary disciples. But what does he mean by “missionary disciple”? Calling Youth to Mission – Equipping Young Disciples (the workshop originally scheduled for the August Gathering) explores this concept and provides insights on how to shift our ministry towards forming missionary disciples. The presenter will be Tom East, Director of the Center for Ministry Development. Cost, registration information, and more can be found in the attached flyer and is available at www.davenportdiocese.org/mission.

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM
MFP Courses: Classes are held at the Chancery in Davenport from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or participants may instead choose to join one of the video small groups held at various locations throughout the diocese. Each small group location will determine its monthly meeting time. An application form and additional information may be found on the MFP website. For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact Marianne Agnoli or 563-888-4242.

2016-17 Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1/21/17</td>
<td>Liturgy I: Deacon Frank Agnoli</td>
<td>12/17/16: Old Testament II: Dr. Matthew Coomber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/21/17</td>
<td>New Testament I: Dr. Matthew Coomber</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/20/17</td>
<td>Canon Law: Fr. Paul Appel</td>
<td>2/18/17: Liturgy II: Deacon Frank Agnoli</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/15/17</td>
<td>Intro to Catechesis: Dr. Corinne Winter</td>
<td>4/22/17: New Testament II: Dr. Matthew Coomber</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16/17</td>
<td>Spiritual Themes: IlaMae Hanisch</td>
<td>6/17/17: Intro to Theology: Dr. Corinne Winter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
Promoting Peaceful Dialogue: Promoting peaceful dialogue in our families, parishes and communities can be a challenge, especially when one is encountering heated divisions within our society. In Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis calls dialogue “essential” for family life. His guidelines on dialogue are easily applicable to civil society as well. Click here to view “10 Tips on Dialogue from Pope Francis: A Challenge to Families…and Candidates?”
**Amoris Laetitia Webinar Series: The Pastoral Response in Accompanying Families in Faith:** The Strong Catholic Families National Partnership invites ministry leaders, teachers, parents and clergy to join together with others around the globe in a four-part webinar series focusing on the pastoral implementation of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the family, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). Four Master Teachers will be speaking to different aspects of a family’s faith journey over the next several months. Each month, two live panels will convene to reflect on the master teacher presentation and to discuss the pastoral issues, concerns and effective practices related to that month’s theme. Times are 1:00 or 6:00 p.m. each day.

- **Theme 3 (December 7): Assisting Families in Discerning God’s Movement** presented by Julianne Stanz, Director of New Evangelization, Diocese of Green Bay
- **Theme 4 (January 8 & January 25): Engaging for Mission** presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington

[Click here](#) to register. An informational flyer is attached.

**Sponsor Couple Training Workshop:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 at St. Mary, Pella, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Area parishes are invited to send any married couples for training as **Sponsor Couples**. Sponsor couples are married couples who are trained to assist engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Using the marriage preparation workbook *For Better & For Ever* and their own experiences of Christian marriage, the sponsor couple journeys with the engaged couple during this important time of preparation and throughout the couple’s first year of married life. If you plan on sending couples for the training please contact Marianne Agnoli, 563-888-4242 by December 19 in order to insure that the couples have sufficient time to receive the necessary training materials and to complete the pre-training assignment.

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

**Courage and Encourage Support Groups are currently meeting in the Diocese of Davenport.** *Courage* is a support group for Catholic men and women who experience same-sex attractions and desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. *Encourage* is the Courage affiliate support group for family members, spouses, and friends of men and women experiencing same-sex attraction. Sample bulletin announcements are attached to help you let your parishioners know about these diocesan support opportunities. In addition, a variety of printable informational brochures can be downloaded in both English and Spanish from the [Courage website](#). For more information, contact:

- **Family Life Coordinator** – Marianne Agnoli, 563-888-4242, agnolim@davenportdiocese.org
- **Courage (English)** – Fr. Thom Hennen, 563-888-4255
- **Encourage (English)** – Fr. Tony Herold, 563-888-4363
- **Encourage (Spanish)** – Fr. Joseph Sia, 319-728-8210

**Marriage Preparation**

An overview of the revised diocesan marriage preparation policies will be presented in each deanery during the workshops to introduce the new Order for Celebrating Matrimony. The workshops are intended for those who preside at weddings and/or are involved in ministry to couples preparing for marriage, such as priests, deacons (especially those who will not be able to make it to the deacons’ fall convocation), coordinators and team members in marriage preparation programs, music ministers, and parish wedding coordinators. Remaining workshops are:

- Dec. 2 - Chancery (St. Vincent Center), Davenport
- Dec. 3 - Chancery (St. Vincent Center), Davenport

Registration and other information is available on the diocesan website on the “[New Order of Celebrating Matrimony](#)” page. You can directly access the registration form [here](#).
The Diocese of Davenport offers several marriage preparation program formats: Sponsor Couple (through your parish), One-day, Weekend (two-day), and Online (under special circumstances-with parish approval).

**Sponsor Couple:** It is preferred that those preparing for marriage meet with a trained parish Sponsor Couple. Contact Marianne Agnoli to schedule a training in your parish to serve in this important ministry with couples preparing for marriage.

**Weekend and One-day:**
- **January 21, 2017:** Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, registration deadline is January 13
- **February 25, 2017:** Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, registration deadline February 17

Additional 2017 dates TBA.

Registration fee: $150 per couple. The registration form and more information can be found on the [Marriage and Family webpage](#). If you have questions contact Barb Butterworth or 563-888-4240.

**Online:** Go [here](#) – to be used only under special circumstance with parish approval.

**Natural Family Planning**
Participation in a diocesan approved *Introductory NFP Instruction* will be required for all engaged couples of child bearing age that begin preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony in the diocese after December 31, 2016.

Both general information as well as method specific content is offered in a variety of formats:
- Individual couple or group on location instruction
- Live or self-paced online instruction
- One-on-one Skype instruction
- Video instruction and study guide

Couples may select to participate in one or more of these resources based on their individual level of interest or particular life circumstance. Most instruction is available in both English and Spanish.

Engaged couples are encouraged to start NFP instruction at least four months prior to their wedding date.

Diocesan approved NFP online and local instructional resources can be found [here](#).

**SISTERS OF HUMILITY, DAVENPORT**

8th Annual CHM Holiday Gift Swap: Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Humility of Mary Center, Davenport. Cost: Free. All are welcome to attend. Why buy new stuff? As a way to reduce, reuse and recycle everyone is invited to bring new or gently used items that are perfect for RE-gifting … then shop the swap for that perfect gift for one or more on your list! Everyone, including children, are sure to find gifts for people on their list! Leftover items will be donated to Humility of Mary Housing and Shelter programs. Also…enjoy homemade goodies and visit with the sisters! *Before the swapping begins, enjoy a short presentation sure to inspire hope for Earth!*

**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 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. 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).

**Come to the Quiet: The Gift of Peace:** Tues, December 6 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, the gift of peace provides the holy tranquility of spirit. The gift of peace offers a holy, quiet calm of heart and soul. Sharing the gift of peace with family and friends truly is the gift of the season. Pat Shea. Fee: $20
Advent Taize’ Vigil Service: Mon, December 12 | 6:30pm. Taize’ is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified and compassionate prayer. All people of faith are invited to participate. Pre-registration encouraged. No fee.

Come to the Quiet: Wed, January 11 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Thomas Merton invites us to forget ourselves on purpose, cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join in the cosmic dance. Merton shows us that nature’s profound wisdom can guide us in abundant and compassionate living. Pat Shea. Fee: $20

The Enneagram…A Tool for Deepening Understanding of Ourselves and Others: Wed, January 25 | 9:00am – 4:00pm. You will have an experiential introduction to the nine personalities of the enneagram. Through the characteristics of each type and in this process you may discover your own type. Meg Bolich and Alice Martin. Fee: $30.

Sabbatical for Sisters – a Five Week Experience: Thurs, January 26 – Tues, February 28 | Travel Dates. A sabbatical program that offers an extended contemplative experience. Take time for rest and renewal. Enjoy the silence and solitude of The Prairie in late winter. Reflect on the beauty of your life, the beauty of the Creator within and around you. Uncover all the beauty that your life holds for you, the church and the world. Deepen a sense of your connectedness to all life. Discover what is still inside you that begs to be born. This experience includes morning ritual, presentations, and videos. Take the time to practice new learnings, commune with nature, and learn from others retreating with you. Fee: $2,500 Non-Refundable Deposit: $100. Registration Deadline: January 15.

Mini-Sabbatical Experience: Attend one or more with those who are on the full sabbatical. Join in community life with sisters; learn from their experience of prayer, communal dialogue and support. Enrich the dialogue with reflection on your spiritual journey. Registration Deadline: January 15. Fee: $600/week. Non-Refundable Deposit: $100. See details on www.chmiowa.org website under “Retreats”

- Week One: January 30 – February 3: Contemplative Seeing through the Arts
- Week Two: February 6 – 10: Current Christology and Theology of Religious Life
- Week Three: February 13 – 17: Our Sacred Universe
- Week Four: February 20 – 24: Wellness and Wholeness

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.

Introduction to Unbound Ministry: December 10, 1 – 3 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about Unbound prayer, a gentle prayer for inner healing and deliverance, is invited to this informative afternoon. Free will offering. Please call or email for more information.

Advent Retreat Day: December 13, “Waiting with Expectancy”. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Please join us for a day of retreat during this ‘busy time’ of the year. Day includes time for quiet reflection, Adoration and Mass with prayers for healing. Bring a sack lunch. Free will offering.

Eagles’ Wings is available for private or small group retreat. We offer Spiritual Direction, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and professional counseling (sliding fee scale) from a Christian perspective.

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, CLINTON
For more information call 563-242-7611 or visit www.clintonfranciscans.com.

Living Mercy, an Advent Retreat: December 3, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at The Canticle. Deepen your understanding of what living mercy means in everyday situations. The $25 suggested donation includes lunch. Call or visit the website for more information. Those who wish to spend more time in prayerful reflection should ask about additional accommodations at The Canticle, the home of the Sisters of St. Francis.
Contact Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108, retreats@smmsisters.org or online at http://www.smmsisters.org(retreats/) to register for programs mentioned below.

Christmas Manger Evening for Families with Young Children: The Real Christmas: Dec. 6, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. This evening is designed for families with infants, toddlers, preschool age, and primary age children, however, all ages are welcome. Bring your family’s manger scene/set and gather as a family to enjoy an evening of simple stories, explanations and activities about the first Christmas. If you do not have a manger one will be provided. Don’t be concerned if your children are active and noisy. Jesus was once a very young child himself. He understands and so will we!!! Presenters: Deacon Steve and Kathy MacDonald. Fee: Free will offering. Go here to register.

Silent Directed Retreat: Jesus Asked Them, Who Do You Say I Am?: Jan. 15 4:00 PM (Check-in: 4-6:30 pm; Conference: 7 pm) – Jan. 18 4:00 PM. Register now for this popular retreat which fills early. You will receive personal time with a spiritual director. In addition to daily Eucharist, there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Centering Prayer, personal prayer, silence, rest, prayer with the Benedictines and walking the grounds. Spiritual Directors: Sr. Margaret Murphy OSB; Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB; Toni Petersen; Fr. Mark DeSutter. Fee: Register and pay in full by Dec. 15: $330. Registration after Dec. 15: $345.

Catholic Sister for A Day: Jan. 21 9:00 AM – Jan. 22 1:00 PM. Experience life as a Sister with other single Catholic women 18-50 years old. Enjoy prayer, meals and conversation with the Sisters, discover how the Benedictines serve God with personal and communal prayer, and learn about the process of discernment. Come and take the step you need to discover whether God is calling you to religious life. There is no cost; you are our guest!

Catholic Princess Retreat: Jan. 28, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM. The retreat is designed to instill in K-4th grade girls a sense of their dignity as daughters of God, and to remind them of their beauty and honor God’s world. The retreat will teach the girls that every person is made in the image and likeness of God, with a unique personal beauty. Presenter: Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB. Fee: $10 for materials.

Valentine's Evening for Couples: “They Are Like Trees Planted in the House of the Lord.” Psalm 92:13: Feb. 10, 6:30 - 9:30 PM. Trees are strong, beautiful statements of life, as is marriage. The knots in the wood of a tree add to its beauty. The challenges of the world can add to the beauty of a couple. Join us for an evening of celebration of that beauty. Presenters: Deacon Steve and Kathy MacDonald; Jeff and Deb Rausch. Fee: Register and pay in full by Jan. 10: $30/couple; After Jan. 10: $45/couple. Couples may stay overnight at Benet House for an additional $75.

To support the ministry of your parish, school and the diocese these groups automatically receive the Mini-Messenger:

- Deacons
- Catholic Foundation Board
- Pastoral Associates
- Directors/Coordinators of Faith Formation
- Parishes
- Parish Lay Directors
- RCIA Parish Contacts
- Diocesan Liturgical Commission
- Priests
- Diocesan Pastoral Council
- Diocesan Board of Education
- Diocesan Planning Commission
- Sisters
- Bookkeepers
- Parish Life Coordinators
- Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.

6
The Diocese of Davenport and the Center for Ministry Development invites you to CMD’s 2016 National Workshop Series which will help ministry leaders explore in more depth Pope Francis’ call to form our young people as missionary disciples of the world and the implications for that call to our present ministry efforts.

THE WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE ANIMATED CONVERSATION, SOLID INPUT, INTERACTIVE LEARNING, AND MULTI-MEDIA ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Calling Youth to Missionary Discipleship
- Growing in our Relationship with Jesus as Leaders
- Becoming a Disciple Building Parish
- Transforming Youth Ministry into Disciple Building
- Supporting Families of Disciples
- Knowing Young People Today
- Equipping Young Disciples
- Providing an Encounter
- Building Relationships
- Forming Faith
- Empowering for Mission
- Accompanying Youth

“The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.”

Pope Francis, Evangeli Gaudium #24, 2013

Parishes and Catholic schools are called to form young people as missionary disciples in the world. Let’s answer the call together!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The workshop is designed for all parish leaders whose ministries touch the lives of adolescents—including pastors, deacons, pastoral associates, coordinators of youth ministry, leaders in faith formation and catechists, Confirmation preparation leaders, and service/social concerns leaders.
**DATE**
Thursday, February 16, 2017

**LOCATION**
St. Patrick Church, Iowa City

**TIME**
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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**PRESENTER**

**TOM EAST** is the Director of the Center for Ministry Development and Project Coordinator for the Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies Program. He was the Director of Youth Ministry and the Associate Director for Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Tom’s morning drink is home-brewed locally roasted coffee with cream (and an occasional caramel macchiato for a treat). His definition of Missionary Discipleship is “witnessing and serving in Christ’s name.”

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**RESOURCES**

At the workshop, you will learn about resources for calling youth to mission. Resources will be available for purchase during the workshop day.

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**SCHEDULE OF THE DAY**

8:30 a.m. Registration and Hospitality
9:00 a.m. Introductions – Overview of Workshop
9:05 a.m. **Session 1: Following Christ - Mini-Retreat.** As leaders, our attention to our own conversion as disciples is the source of our ministry. This session will begin in prayer that will follow Jesus’ call and formation of the early disciples. Participants will recall their encounter, the communities that deepen their relationship with Christ, their experience of the practices of discipleship, and their engagement in mission and ministry.

10:45 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m. **Session 2: Calling Youth to Missionary Discipleship.** Through exploration of the research and shared experience of faith communities, participants will explore the process for engaging today's youth and helping them grow as disciples.

2:15 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. **Session 3: Becoming a Disciple Building Parish.** To help young disciples grow, we change the way we look at all aspects of our ministry with youth and families. Participants will reflect on their parish ministries and will imagine new ways to support families of disciples and engage in new methods for helping youth grow in their relationship with Christ. This will include presentation of tools and resources for growing disciples.

2:15 p.m. **Session 4: Disciple Building Action Plan.** Each community has what it needs to support and form young disciples. In this final session, participants will develop a step-by-step plan for accompanying youth in their response to Christ’s presence in their life.

2:45 p.m. **Session 5: Diocesan Implications.** This focus for youth ministry and faith formation has implications diocesan-wide. In this final session, participants will identify the resources and training/formation they need as well as the types of youth and family programming needed from the diocese.

3:15 p.m. Closing Prayer

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**REGISTRATION**

- $30/person; $150 maximum/parish by February 3
- $35/person, $175 maximum/parish February 4-February 13
- Includes lunch and workshop handout/resource packet
- To register, go to www.davenportdiocese.org/mission
### Amoris Laetitia Webinar Series

**The Pastoral Response in Accompanying Families in Faith**

The Strong Catholic Families National Partnership invites ministry leaders, teachers, school leaders, parents and clergy to join together with others around the globe in a webinar series focusing on the pastoral implementation of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the family, Amoris Laetitia. Four Master Teachers will present video reflections on the following themes, followed by two sets of live panels reacting to the content and discussing practical applications to various ministries.

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Listening to the Joys and Hungers of Families</td>
<td>September 18-October 12</td>
<td>Dr. Tim Hogan, Director of Grace Counseling Center, Detroit</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>September 28 and October 12 at 2pm and 7pm EST</td>
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<td>Accompanying Families</td>
<td>October 16-November 2</td>
<td>Bishop Richard Malone, Diocese of Buffalo</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>October 19 and November 2 at 2pm and 7pm EST</td>
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<td>Assisting Families in Discerning God’s Movement</td>
<td>November 6-December 7</td>
<td>Julianne Stanz, Director of New Evangelization, Green Bay</td>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>November 16 and December 7 at 2pm and 7pm EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging for Mission</td>
<td>January 8-January 25</td>
<td>Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>January 18 and January 25 at 2pm and 7pm EST</td>
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</tbody>
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Register at [www.strongcatholicfamilies.org/amoriswebinar/](http://www.strongcatholicfamilies.org/amoriswebinar/) or e-mail akopp@ncea.org

Thanks to our Series Sponsor Paradisus Dei

The Strong Catholic Families Webinar Series is presented in partnership by these national Catholic organizations working together to help parents bring home the faith.
Sample Bulletin Announcements

Courage/EnCourage: Ministry to those Experiencing Same-Sex Attraction

**Courage**

If you or your loved one is struggling with same-sex attraction and want confidential Catholic support, please contact Fr. Thom Hennen at 563-888-4255.

There is a ministry in the Diocese of Davenport to help men and women experiencing same-sex attraction. For confidential Catholic support contact Fr. Thom Hennen at 563-888-4255.

Contrary to popular belief, the Catholic Church does not reject or hate persons with same-sex attraction; in fact they are loved! For confidential Catholic support contact Fr. Thom Hennen at 563-888-4255.

Are you tired of the gay/lesbian lifestyle? Disillusioned? Do you miss the Catholic faith? Do you long for the Eucharist? There is confidential Catholic support available. Contact Fr. Thom Hennen at 563-888-4255.

If you feel attraction for persons of the same sex, can you love that person and remain a faithful Catholic? For confidential Catholic support contact Fr. Thom Hennen at 563-888-4255.

**EnCourage**

Are you concerned because your child or loved one has “come out” as homosexual? There is confidential Catholic support available. Contact Fr. Tony Herold at 563-888-4363.

Does your child or family member’s same-sex lifestyle weigh on your heart? Confidential Catholic support is available through the EnCourage ministry. Contact Fr. Tony Herold at 563-888-4363.

**EnCourage (Spanish)**

¿Está preocupado porque su hijo o un ser querido ha "mostrado" su homosexualidad? Existe un apoyo católico confidencial disponible. Contacta al P. Joseph Sia al teléfono 319-728-8210.

¿Tiene su hijo o algún miembro de su familia un estilo de vida homosexual que está pesando en su corazón? El apoyo católico confidencial está disponible a través del ministerio de EnCourage. Contacta al P. Joseph Sia al teléfono 319-728-8210.

TWITTER: @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
706. Dec. 5: Many parents put a small treat in their children's shoes the night before St. Nick's Day, December 6. Consider putting a treat in your spouse's shoe (a Hershey kiss, a love note, a coupon for a favor like a backrub or a chore you'll relieve your spouse of the next day).

707. Dec. 12: "Be patient, brothers and sisters...Do not complain about one another." (James 5: 7-9). Preparation for Christmas can strain even the best relationships. Be gentle and patient with each other as you do the many tasks to prepare for Christmas.

708. Dec. 19: "A husband always prefers his wife's mother-in-law to his own." (Anonymous) Think of one trait or talent that your mother-in-law or father-in-law passed on to your spouse for which you are grateful.

709. Dec. 26: "In the beginning was the Word." (John 1:1) And the Word was made flesh. Words count. They structure our relationship with each other. They are a promise, a sign of love. What is the first (or best) word you will say to your beloved today?

PARENTING POINTERS
705. Dec. 2: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you." (Romans 15:6) As we approach Christmas many families will be planning family gatherings. What a joy it is usually to reunite with relatives. But some families are separated by war, forced immigration, or ill will. Does your family have a black sheep you need to make amends with? Does your country welcome all?

706. Dec. 9: The purpose of Advent is not to shop but to learn to wait. Teaching your child to delay gratification is an important life skill. Perhaps this W.A.I.T. acronym could help:
   W - Waiting gives us time to make a good decision or buy the right thing.
   A - Anticipation can enhance appreciation.
   I - Instant gratification is often fleeting.
   T - Take stock of your blessings. What do you already have.

707. Dec. 16: As Christmas approaches help your children prepare by urging them to choose at least one of their possessions to give away to someone who needs it more than they do.

708. Dec. 23: "Thus the total number of generations was..." (Mt: 1:17) Christmas is almost here. How many generations of your family will be present during your holidays? Listen to each other's stories. Learn about the past and future.

709. Dec. 30: The calendar year is almost over. Ask yourself and your child what you liked most and least about 2016? What are you looking forward to in 2017? What is one thing you'd like to improve about yourself?