CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Rev. Michael Phillips: 212 Sweeny Ave., Burlington 52601-6246; Cell: 319-530-5957

RENEWING THE MISSION – PRISON & JAIL MINISTRY
June 28, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.: The Office of the Diaconate and the Office of Social Action/Catholic Charities is sponsoring the Summer Study Day for deacons & wives, deacon aspirants & wives, priests and others interested in prison & jail ministry. The study day will provide a broad view of prison and jail ministry. The deadline to register is Monday, June 9. The schedule is attached. There is no fee and lunch will be provided. To register go to www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/. For more information contact Deacon David Montgomery, montgomery@davenportdiocese.org, 563-888-4222 or Kent Ferris, ferris@davenportdiocese.org, 563-888-4210.

FINANCE OFFICE
Effective August 1, 2014, the Social Security Administration will discontinue providing Social Security Number printouts in its local offices. Additionally, effective October 1, 2014 Benefit Verification Letters will no longer be issued at the local offices, except in emergencies. If you need proof of your Social Security Number and can’t find your card you must go online to request a new card. If you need a benefits verification document that too, is obtained online. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT
Please consider promoting estate planning on your parish website and in your parish bulletin and newsletter. Refer parishioners to www.cfddgift.org which is part of the diocesan website and contains a great deal of information on estate planning and vehicles to use. This can benefit your parish, your Catholic school and the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport.

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE
Servant Leadership Workshops: October 17: Servant Leadership Day and October 18: Servant Leadership Facilitator Training at St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Be a better leader at work, at home, in your parish and community by following Jesus’ own teaching and example. Owen Phelps of the Yeshua Catholic International Leadership Institute will facilitate. More information will be forthcoming.

LITURGY OFFICE
Diocesan Liturgy Day of Renewal: September 27, 2014: Have you ever heard “Mass is boring” or “I don’t get anything out of going to church on Sunday”? Those of us who have experienced the transformative power and awesome drama of the liturgy cringe when we hear such complaints. We claim that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives as Catholics, yet attendance at the Sunday liturgy is decreasing—and even those who are there are not always fully engaged. How can we help the members of our communities return to and more fully immerse themselves in the Eucharist? How can we help our parishioners become re-energized and re-enthused about gathering on Sunday as a worshipping community? Gathered, how might we be changed and moved to be salt, leaven, and light in the world? Come and find out...! Visit the Liturgy Events webpage on the diocesan website for more information or to register for the event: http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE
Immigration Workshop: Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA), Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. St. Vincent Center, Davenport. Immigration Program Staff will answer questions relating to the renewal of the DACA policy. This informative session is an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Registration deadline is Friday, June 20 at 3 p.m. To register call: Immigration Program Office, 563-324-1911. Attendance is limited.

Diocese of Davenport Volunteer Program: This revised program is being reintroduced in the diocese. Join us June 10, 7 p.m. at SS. Mary & Mathias, Muscatine to hear about it and the medical mission work of Ben Pohl, a
The Volunteer Program has its origin in the Papal Volunteers for Latin America program. Volunteers for Latin America was launched in 1961 by Bishop Ralph L. Hayes and the program’s first director was Father Louis Colonnese. Our diocese at that time was responding to a request from St. John XXIII asking Catholics throughout the world to help alleviate the suffering of our Latin America neighbors. In the 50 years that followed, the Volunteer Program supported a wide variety of volunteers with connections to the Diocese of Davenport in Latin America, around the world and in the United States.

**Rural Life Webinar:** June 10, 12:15 -1:15 p.m. Fr. Jacob Greiner, SS. Mary & Mathias, will share with the audience what Rural Life means to him and what he sees as the biggest challenges. Sr. Margaret Wick will talk about an innovative approach to learning more about the rural life experience in the diocese. Teresa Dunbar, our Field Representative for Catholic Relief Services will share information about a USAID program, *The Farmer to Farmer Program* that CRS is promoting. Please see the attached flyer for registration details.

**Respect Life Materials:** Parishes interested in receiving a free Respect Life Packet are to submit their order request no later than June10 to Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org. Please include the following information in your e-mail. 1) parish name and address, 2) contact name, 3) contact phone number and 4) contact email address (if not the pastor or office contact).

**The Social Action Summer Institute (SASI):** July 20-24 at Washington University, St. Louis. We are trying to make arrangements for travel for those attending from the diocese. If you are interested contact Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org.

Hear the voices of restorative justice from the perspectives of victims, offenders and community members; Deepen your understanding through lectures, workshops, and tracks on (1) Restorative Justice or (2) Catholic Social Teaching; Immerse yourself in a wide spectrum of restorative justice efforts and ministries with day trips to community organizations; Witness CCHD working on the margins through community and economic development projects; Network with Social Action and Parish Social Ministry colleagues. This is open to people of all faiths interested in social justice and restorative justice. For more information go to [http://catholicroundtable.org](http://catholicroundtable.org).

**Fair Trade** - the supporting of artisans and farmers for fair wages in keeping Catholic Social Justice in action across the globe!

- Attached is the first issue of the diocesan Fair Trade Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to highlight what’s happening around our diocese in reference to fair trade.


**2015 CRS Rice Bowl materials:** Parishes are to watch the mail for the CRS Rice Bowl Lent 2015 renewal card. The bottom portion is an order form and includes information about your 2014 order. Please mark and return to CRS.

**St. Vincent’s Home Corporation 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](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**

**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.

June Institute, Naming and Claiming the Challenges of Parish Ministry Today: June 24, 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Alphonsus, Mt. Pleasant. All interested persons are invited to attend. Registration deadline is June 17. See the attached flyer for more information.

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

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<td>July 19</td>
<td>Holy Orders: Bishop Amos, Fr. Thom Hennen, Deacon David Montgomery</td>
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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 June 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
  • 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.

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

Thurs, June 12 | 9:30am – 3:30pm
Come to the Quiet - Busting Out All Over
Savor solitude; enjoy the warmth and beauty of June in the Prairie; relish early summer. Fee: $20

June 20-22 | Fri, 5pm – Sun, 10am
Swirling Table Runner
Maria Delsing, CHM Associate
During the weekend you will have the opportunity to create a swirling table runner, and if time allows, make placemats that coordinate with the runner. Bring quilting supplies and a sewing machine. (List of quilting supplies will be sent to you upon registration) Fee: $125

**July 7-12 | Mon, 5pm – Sat, 10am**
**Private or Directed Retreat**
Claire Marie Czerwiec, SSND & Sandra Weinke, SSND, Directors
Come for days of quiet reflection alone or with others. Directed retreats are personal prayer on the scriptures given by a director who meets with the retreatant daily. Share prayers, rituals and nutritious locally grown seasonal food. Any combination of days. Massage extra. Fee: $50/day; optional spiritual direction, $50/session; optional massage, $45/hour.

**July 27-Aug. 1 | Sun, 5pm – Fri, 10am**
**Centering Prayer Retreat (Post intensive)**
Kathryn Ann Kobelinski, SSND
Kathryn Ann, commissioned by Contemplative Outreach as a presenter of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, will lead this retreat. 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. Fee: $300.

**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](http://www.eagleswings.ws). Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

**Healing Mass: June 10, 1 p.m.**

*Unbound*: A DVD series by Neal Lozano. If you find yourself struggling with the same habit or sin area time after time and sometimes feel helpless in overcoming them in spite of your best efforts, then you will want to learn more from Neal Lozano. An introductory session will be held on July 19, 9:30–11:30 a.m. This morning will include a few brief DVD presentations as well as some personal sharing on the effectiveness of Unbound prayer. Registration for the morning is $10. Please call to register.

The complete series of *Unbound* training, 4 full Saturdays, will begin on August 16 and continue through November for those who have prior experience or training in the area of healing ministry. Cost for the individual Saturdays is $35 or registration for the series is $100. We are unable to offer make up sessions or refunds if you miss a class.

Eagles’ Wings is available for individual or small group retreats. Please call to arrange.

**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.

**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 SPIRITUALITY 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

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. $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. $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.

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

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Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.
SUMMER STUDY DAY

RENEWING THE MISSION – PRISON & JAIL MINISTRY

“in prison and you visited me” (Matt 25:37)

JUNE 28, 2014
ST. VINCENT CENTER
780 WEST CENTRAL PARK AVENUE, DAVENPORT

THE OFFICE OF THE DIACONATE AND THE OFFICE OF SOCIAL ACTION/ CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS SPONSORING THE SUMMER STUDY DAY FOR DEACONS & WIVES, DEACON ASPIRANTS & WIVES, PRIESTS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN PRISON & JAIL MINISTRY.

SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00 Doors open 3rd floor Bishop Franklin Conference Room
9:00 - 9:20 Morning Prayer Chapel – 1st floor, South Wing
9:30 - 9:35 Welcome 3rd floor Bishop Franklin Conference Room
10:35 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - 11:00 Jail & Prison Ministry in the Archdiocese of Dubuque – Deacon Bill Hickson, Jail & Prison Ministry Coordinator, Archdiocese of Dubuque
11:00 - 11:15 Volunteer Opportunities & Procedures in Local Jails – Sgt. William Boyd, Inmate Programs, Scott County Jail
11:15 - 11:45 Prison Ministries & R.E.C. in Missouri: 30 Years of Service – Deacon Troy Egbert, Residents Encounter Christ – Missouri REC Program
Noon - 12:15 Diocesan & Catholic Charities Services Available – Kent Ferris, Director of Social Action & Catholic Charities, Diocese of Davenport
12:15 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)

The deadline to register is Monday June 9. To register go to: http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/
The registration form can also be printed and sent to the Office of the Diaconate, Diocese of Davenport at the address listed above.
For more information contact Deacon David Montgomery, montgomery@davenportdiocese.org / 563-888-4222 or Kent Ferris, ferris@davenportdiocese.org / 563-888-4210
Rural Life Presentation Webinar

Tuesday, June 10, 2014
12:15—1:15p.m.
Diocese of Davenport
780 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport

Speakers:

Rev. Jacob Greiner, SS. Mary & Mathias, Muscatine recently attended a Rural Ministry Conference. Fr. Jacob will share with the audience what Rural Life means to him, and what he sees as the biggest challenges.

Sister Margaret Wick will talk about an innovative approach to learning more about the rural life experience in the Diocese.

Teresa Dunbar, Field Representative for Catholic Relief Services, out of the Chicago office, will provide information about a USAID program that CRS is promoting, “The Farmer to Farmer Program”.

Free Event: You may attend via webinar or in person.

Webinar Registration: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/504815200

To attend in person: Please RSVP by noon, June 5 to guerrero@davenportdiocese.org or complete the registration form below.

Mail to Diocese of Davenport, Social Action Office, 780 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804-1901
**Ss. Mary & Mathias-Muscatine**  “We have mainly sold fair trade coffee and chocolate regularly after masses for several years now. We tried consignment sales of fair trade crafts a few times but found that we didn't sell enough to make the work worth it. However, we just did a community order for the craft items and that went over well. I think the fact people could take a catalog and pick out what they want made it more successful. Personally, I think the craft items are so unique and such good quality at reasonable prices they are hard to beat.”  -Cathy Henry

Email: cjhenry@iowatelecom.net

**Jesus Christ Prince of Peace-Clinton**  “My name is Barb Foster and I am a member of the Jesus Christ Prince of Peace Parish in Clinton, I became the chair person of the Peru Taskforce and Fair Trade coffee Sales in 2009. We sell the fair trade coffee from James at Providence Coffee in Faribault, MN. We sell it on a couple weekends a month and our parish office also sells if people need it. It is to help in sending funds to our sister Parish Sapillica Peru. We are usually able to send $3000.00 to $4000.00 twice a year from what people give in a special envelope each month at church, coffee and donut Sundays and our coffee sales to provide for medical care, stipend for priest and deacon in our sister Parish in Sapillica and for insurance for them. Sometimes we can provide help for supplies for the children there for notebooks and pencils etc. It is a project my husband and I do together since the unpacking and lifting and putting several pounds in bags and put on shelves is hard for me with a bad back to do. If some people are getting together in diocese to network I would be interested in their ideas and thoughts.”  Barb Foster  bfoster48@mchsi.com

563-259-1315h  563-321-0023c

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**Catholic Social Justice**

In the gifts we choose Is Fair Trade.
Click on links below for interesting information off the Fair Trade website.

**Chocolate Cocoa Bean Report**

Enjoy!

**Fair Trade Recipes**

Pinterest

**Wife supporting her husband through hard times**

---

Julie Suhl

**St. Ann’s Long Grove**

What does it take to have a Fair Trade sale?

What are the benefits?

Julie is happy to take your questions and give you information from her experiences and parish efforts. She is very positive about the seen and unseen benefits Fair Trade sales bring a parish!

Phone: (563) 370-4400

Email: suhlfamily4@gmail.com
Expansions

What priest that you may know would benefit to learn more about Fair Trade?

How do you think Fair Trade could expand to other parishes?

Email your thoughts and we can look to develop these contacts here at the social action office of the Diocese!

DavenportJ@davenportdiocese.org

Photos: crsfairtrade.org

“Every economic and political theory or action must set about providing each inhabitant of the planet with the minimum wherewithal to live in dignity and freedom, with the possibility of supporting a family, educating children, praising God and developing one’s own human potential.”

—Pope Francis

We would like to find more parishioners in our Diocese participating with Fair Trade. Do you know of others? Let us connect them and find out their stories and fresh ideas!

Please send a note to Julie at:

DavenportJ@davenportdiocese.org

Or Call 563-888-4376

Julie Davenport, Volunteer Editor

Social Action Office

Diocese of Davenport

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Mathew 25:40
Click on link below

To read current newsletter from Catholic Relief Services

United States CRS Fair Trade

Diocese of Davenport
Social Action

davenportj@davenportdiocese.org
Naming and Claiming the Challenges of Parish Ministry Today
Diocese of Davenport’s 2014 June Institute
June 24th at St. Alphonsus, Mt. Pleasant
(607 S. Jackson Street)

This workshop is designed for: Pastors - Parish staff - DREs - Youth Ministers - Faith Formation Council members - Principals - BOE and Parish Council presidents, Campus Ministers and ...  

Topics for the day are:  

Naming and Claiming the Challenges  
Review of the Target – True Discipleship  
Mapping our Target – A unified strategy for growth  
The Changing Mission Field  
Pastoral Management at all Levels  
Practical Strategies for Moving Forward

Rich Curran has spent more than 25 years building successful programs for youth and families at both the parish and diocesan level of ministry and has worked as a counselor and outreach worker for abused and neglected children with Catholic Charities.  

Rich is known by his titles... father, husband, disciple, trainer and itinerant preacher. His passion and enthusiasm for living life fully is highly contagious. Using humor, stories and specific action steps Rich moves the audience to action and ready to make a difference. Inherent to all of his keynotes, workshops and retreats is his message of hope and invitation to embrace the gifts God has given you.

Coffee and rolls will be served at 8:45am. The program will run from 9am until 3pm.

Registration deadline: June 17th.

Workshop cost: $30 per person (includes lunch, material etc.)

Parish/School group rate: $25 per person for groups of 4 or more (form/s must be sent in together)

For more information, contact Barbara Butterworth butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org (563) 888-4240

Name/s:

Day Phone Number:  

E-mail:

Parish/School:  

Parish/School Town:

Make checks payable to Diocese of Davenport and return form and payment to:
Diocese of Davenport, attn. Barbara Butterworth, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804

JI 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


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
575. June 2: "Everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine." (Jn 17:10) Although Jesus was referring to his relationship with the Father, this also applies to sharing in marriage. What things are more difficult for you to share with your beloved?

576. June 9: (Pentecost) "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." (Jn 20:23) It's hard for us humans to forgive when we've been wronged. The person closest to us - our spouse - has the most opportunity to "wrong" us. Why not turn this around today and ponder a time your beloved could have wronged you, but didn't. Think positive.

577. June 16: "This is indeed a stiff-necked people." (Ex 34:9) In any marriage there are going to be things that you disagree about. Always hanging on in stubbornness to your way can make you a pain in the neck. If your beloved tells you that you are being stubborn about something, consider that they might be right.

578. June 23: A trip down Memory Lane: Remember the first time you saw your beloved. You probably didn't know at that moment that you would end up marrying this person. Perhaps you didn't even talk to each other. Share your earliest memory.

579. June 30: There are two kinds of complaints - useful and useless. Useful gets a mistake corrected like complaining to a clerk about a faulty product. It can also be useful to vent - once! After that it becomes useless and drags you into a spiral of negativity. Ask your beloved to help you distinguish.

PARENTING POINTERS
575. June 6: "The whole world spoke the same language, using the same words." (Gn 11:1) Does anyone in your family know a second language? How about one helpful word in a second language. As a family, learn a new word/phrase in a foreign language today.

576. June 13: (Father’s Day) What did your own father teach you about being a father. Hopefully it was positive like fidelity, loyalty, protection, unconditional love. But even if your father was absent or flawed, you can still be inspired to do better with your own child.

577. June 20: Food is important. God provided the Israelites with manna in the desert. Through bread and wine Jesus gave us a way to remember him. Families share food not just for hunger but to be together. How many dinners will you eat together this week?

578. June 27: Crops are starting to produce their fruit. Talk to your children about eating healthy and as locally as possible. Pick some food together that doesn't come from a store. Maybe it’s from your own garden or berries from a U-Pick farm.