OFFICES CLOSED
The Catholic Messenger and diocesan offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE
Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities: September 9. In response to the summer’s racially-charged shootings in Baton Rouge, Minneapolis, and Dallas, Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has invited all dioceses across the country to unite in a Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities on Sept. 9, the feast of St. Peter Claver.

In Notes for Neighbors, the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development has provided resources for observation of this Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities. It is our hope these will inspire our parishes and communities to not only make September 9 a day of prayer, but a beginning of real peace in our communities. Please click here to find those resources.

Faithful Citizenship: The 2016 election season is well underway. Voting begins at the end of September and continues through Election Day, November 8. This time offers an excellent opportunity to help parishioners understand the importance of acting in the political arena with a properly formed conscience. They have already begun their decision-making process. This is a time when we can help parishioners learn and take to heart the moral and social teachings of the Church.

Please find attached the English- and Spanish-language versions of Faithful Citizenship for Iowa Catholics from the diocesan bishops of Iowa. Bishop Amos requests that each parish include this document in your parish bulletin and distribute the material in other ways as well but no later than the weekend of September 9-10.

The Church does not endorse or oppose any candidate or a particular political party. Advocacy for or endorsement of a particular candidate or party is not permitted and jeopardizes the tax-exempt status of our Catholic churches. No signs or materials supporting a particular party or candidate can be placed on or distributed within church/institutional property.

If you have any questions, please contact Kent Ferris, 563-888-4211 or Tom Chapman, Executive Director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, 515-243-6256. The voice of informed Catholics is needed more than ever. Thank you for your assistance with this effort.

September 15 is the application deadline for St. Vincent’s Home Corporation Grant. For consideration at the October board meeting, applications must be postmarked by September 15. Applicants are to be located within the 22 counties of the Diocese of Davenport or serve children within the Diocese of Davenport. The grant application and grant criteria can be found at the Social Action grant page.

All organizations that work with children must document their efforts to perform background checks for employees and volunteers that work or have direct contact with children, in order to be eligible for funding. If an organization received a grant in the past, a Progress Report must also be submitted by September 15. New funding will not be considered until the Progress Report has been submitted.

October is Respect Life Month. “Moved by Mercy,” the theme for the upcoming Respect Life Program begins October 2, the start of Respect Life Month and continues through September 2017. Many thanks to those who ordered materials! If you have not submitted an order, but would like to do obtain a free packet contact Esmeralda Guerrero, 563-888-4210. Please use and display your Respect Life month packet materials. If you received a packet and would like to order additional materials please go to the USCCB website.
Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD):

- **The Annual Collection** will be held November 19 and 20. The diocese retains 25% of the proceeds to fight poverty within our own diocese.

- **Promotional Materials** for parishes will arrive in early October: posters, envelopes and bulletin inserts that are adapted to our diocese. If your parish does not receive materials, you need more materials or have questions contact Loxi Hopkins, 563-888-4212. Check your parish materials upon arrival to ensure you have enough. If you have questions or concerns about the materials contact Loxi immediately. Please insert your parish bulletin and display the poster the weekend of November 12-13.

- **The 1st Ever CCHD Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, October 15, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. at SS. Mary & Mathias in Muscatine. CCHD is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs. Participants will learn how parishes could benefit with becoming involved with existing CCHD funded groups and how a new funded group would become organized in your area. If you are interested in attending the luncheon please RSVP by October 10 to Esmeralda Guerrero, 563-888-4210. See the attached flyer for more details and feel free to distribute to those who might be interested. Your assistance in promoting this year’s collection is essential to its success.

Diocesan Volunteer Program: The primary focus of the volunteer program grant is to assist in providing support to individuals for short-term mission work and to support new and existing global projects and partnerships within the Diocese of Davenport. For those interested in applying please visit our website to obtain a copy or the grant criteria and application. Grants are open to any Catholic or parish within the 22 counties of the Diocese.

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.

2017 & 2018 Events:

- **Catholic Social Ministry Gathering:** There will be no Gathering in 2017 due to the large national convention that the USCCB will lead in Orlando from July 1-4. Click here for more information. The 2018 Gathering returns to Washington, D.C. on February 3-6.

- **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. Attached is the Save the Date Flyer.
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Falling Into You – a Retreat Day for Ministry Leaders: Tuesday, September 13, 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m. St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Join the world-renowned musician, singer, composer, and master storyteller Jesse Manibusan for this exciting day. Jesse will help us re-connect with our call to ministry through storytelling, prayer, reflection, and sharing. The day will close with the celebration of the Eucharist. The retreat is open to anyone involved in any ministry. For more information and to register by September 8, visit the Retreat webpage or see the attached flyer.

Diocesan Orientation Day for New DREs, CREs, and Coordinators/Leaders of Youth Ministry. All new parish staff in Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are invited to the Chancery on Monday, September 19, from 10 AM – 3 PM. The day provides new staff an opportunity to meet others in similar roles in the diocese, discover a bit more about the responsibilities of their position in a larger Church context, become familiar with the various offices and services of the diocese that can support and resource their ministry, and meet many of the chancery staff. Bishop Amos will open the day with a welcome and lead the opening prayer. If you are a new staff member and have not received an invitation please contact Barb Butterworth, 563-888-4240.

Going to the Christ Our Life Conference? Be sure to stop by Booth 40 and check in with the Office of Faith Formation staff. Don Boucher and Marianne Agnoli, with Luke Ebener and friends from CYAN (Catholic Young Adult Network) will be there sharing information on Office programs and young adult ministry. Stop by, visit, get a treat, enter the drawing, and check out the O.F.F. Use this location as a meeting spot for your group. We’re right next to the Hot Dog Nation concession stand!

NCYC 2017 Preliminary Number Estimates Due by October 4: It’s over a year away, but planning for NCYC 2017 begins in earnest. Hotel needs will be submitted in early October, and your estimated numbers are needed. Please submit your best realistic guess by completing the online form at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCYCestimate no later than October 4.

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM
Live 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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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass: At the request of Bishop Amos, the Office of Faith Formation is sponsoring a diocesan celebration for all couples who are celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. A Mass and informal reception will be held at St. Mary Church in Pella on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 2 p.m. Contact your parish to confirm that they have submitted your names and address. Invitations were mailed August 22. (Parishes received an email from Barb Butterworth butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org on June 1 which provided the necessary information about how to submit couple’s names and addresses.)

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

**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 1 (September 18 & October 12): Listening to the Joys and Hungers of Families** presented by Dr. Tim Hogan, Director of Grace Counseling Center, Detroit
- **Theme 2 (October 16 & November 2): Accompanying Families** presented by Bishop Richard Malone, Diocese of Buffalo
- **Theme 3 (November 6 & December 7): Assisting Families in Discerning God’s Movement** presented by Juliann 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 for each panel and/or to download and distribute the informational flyer.

**Going Natural - A Healthy Choice**

Friday, October 7 at St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Registration begins at 8:30am and conference runs from 9am-3pm. This conference will present a scientific analysis of sex, fertility, and relationships. Speakers include Vicki Thorn, M.S., Jamie Rathjen, M.A., Monica Minjeur, D.O., Robert Pranger, M.D. and Fr. Ray Atwood. Everyone is welcome! CEUs offered for medical professionals. $25 for conference, materials, lunch and CEU credits. $15 for students and financial scholarships available. Registration deadline: Sept. 30. An informational flyer is available on the [Marriage and Family](#) diocesan webpage.

**An Invitation to Love – God’s Plan for Sexuality and Marriage**

Saturday morning, October 8 at St. Patrick Church, Iowa City. Continental breakfast and registration begin at 7:45am and conference runs from 8:30am-12:15pm. Topics include: Marriage- A Reflection of the Trinity, What They Didn’t Tell You in Sex Ed, From Chaos to Restoration - Building a Culture of Life and Love, and NFP personal testimony. Speakers include Vicki Thorn and Fr. Corey Close. Everyone is welcome! Freewill donations accepted. RSVP by Oct. 1. An informational flyer is available on the [Marriage and Family](#) diocesan webpage.

**Courage/Encourage**

Support groups for Catholic men and women who experience same-sex attractions and desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church (Courage) as well as support groups for their family members, spouses, and friends (Encourage) will be meeting in the Diocese of Davenport. Printable informational brochures and a series of sample bulletin announcements will be sent out to parishes this month. For more information, contact:

- Family Life Coordinator – Marianne Agnoli, 563-888-4242, [agnolim@davenportdiocese.org](mailto: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. The schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 3 = Ottumwa Deanery (St. Patrick, Ottumwa)
- Sept. 17 = Keokuk Deanery (McAleer Hall, Holy Family, Fort Madison)
- Oct. 1 = Grinnell Deanery (Sacred Heart, Newton)
- Nov. 5 = Clinton Deanery (St. Joseph, DeWitt)
- Dec. 3 = Davenport Deanery (site TBA)
In addition, this material will be the topic of the Deacon Convocation on October 15-16.

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:**
- **October 15, 2016:** Muscatine, SS. Mary & Mathias, *registration deadline is October 7*
- **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 an approved 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.

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.

**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.

**Cooking Up a Storm:** Wed, September 14 | 9:30am – 2pm. Prepare Earth friendly and healthy foods from scratch. Have fun trying recipes with quinoa, using fresh produce from the garden, and learning the basics of making great soups and bread. Let’s prove to the world that many cooks do not spoil the soup! Kathleen Storms, SSND. Fee: $30

**Come to the Quiet: The Gift of Wisdom:** Tues, September 20 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. With the gift of wisdom we come to appreciate more fully the mystery of life and the Spirit. Pat Shea. Fee: $20

**International Day of Peace, Origami of Peace:** Wed, September 21 | 9:30am – 2pm. “This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.”(Sadako Sasaki Memorial, Child of Hiroshima, Victim of Atomic Bomb). Experience the peace and joy of paper folding, the art of origami. Patricia Gade, Japan Fulbright Memorial Awardee. Fee: $30

**Autumnal Equinox Taizé Vigil Service:** Thurs, September 22 | 6:30pm. You will have the opportunity for quiet reflection upon one of the many generous gifts given by the Divine Giver of Gifts. The day consists of a morning
reflection, quiet time to ponder, a nutritious seasonal lunch and a time for sharing. Pre-registration encouraged. No fee.

Hildegard of Bingen, Doctor of the Church: A Woman for our Time: September 23–24 | Fri 5pm – Sat, 4pm. Spend a day immersed in the story and spirit of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)—a woman for our time and for all time. Weaving together presentations, ritual, individual and group reflection and a viewing of the film, “The Unruly Mystic,” we will encounter one of the most significant women in the history of Christianity! Mary Kaye Medinger. Fee: $100

Knit One, Pray Too!: Thurs, October 13 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Seasoned knitters and novices are invited to bring their latest projects for a relaxing day of knitting, sharing, praying and enjoying the peace of The Prairie. Karen Brooke, Ann Green & Anne Johnson. Fee: $20

Come to the Quiet: The Gift of Patience: Tues, October 18 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Such a wonderful gift that helps us remain calm, even in very difficult situations. Through prayer and good works, we use our gift of patience to respond kindly and generously to others, even as we live through our own problems and difficulties. Pat Shea. Fee: $20

The Promise of Restorative Justice: October 21 – 23 | Fri 5pm – Sun, 10am. The program will compare and contrast restorative justice with the traditional justice system; chart the history of restorative justice in the United States; introduce the participants to basic restorative practices; and engage the participants in conversation on where we are now and where we need to go. Fred Van Liew, Author of “The Justice Diary - An Inquiry into Justice in America”. Fee: $125

A Day of Respite and Retreat for Those Who Care For People with Dementia: Sat, October 29 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Caring for people with dementia is stressful and draining, but can be inherently rewarding. This retreat will offer caregivers an opportunity to be refreshed and renewed in their courageous efforts to love people affected by cognitive diseases. The day will be filled with inspiration and ample time for contemplative reflection and interaction with others walking the same journey. Jerry Schroeder, Senior Program Specialist, Alzheimer Association. Fee $20

BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER/ST. MARY MONASTERY, ROCK ISLAND, IL
Contact Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108, retreats@smmsisters.org or online at www.smmisters.org/retreats/retreats-and-programs to register for programs mentioned below.

One-Stop Vocation Retreat: Sep 3, 10:00 AM - Sep 5, 10:00 AM. Learn about the right religious community for you at this unique discernment weekend for single Catholic women 18-50 years old. It includes Sisters who live in apostolic, monastic and cloistered communities such as Benedictine, Franciscan and Trappistine. The weekend features quiet time, presentations, and personal interaction with Sisters. There is no cost; you are our guest!

Evening for Grandparents and Grandchildren: Bridges: Sep 13, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Throughout the centuries a sacred relationship has always existed between grandparents and grandchildren. However, in today’s fast-paced world it is easy for a generation gap to develop. This evening will help bridge that gap. Following a spaghetti dinner there will be stories and a choice of age appropriate activities in which both generations can share. Suggested ages: children from 3–12 yrs. and their grandparent or other senior relative or friend. However, all ages welcome. Presenters: Deacon Steve and Kathy MacDonald. Fee: Adult/child $15; $5 each additional child or adult.

Break-A-Way: Day of Prayer and Quiet: Sep 15, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Take time out from busy!! The day will begin with a reflection using the music and writings of Dan Schutte. Spend the rest of the day in quiet and prayer enjoying the walking paths, the lake area, the chapel, the library, porches, patios and other reflective places. Optional prayer will close the day. Bring your own lunch or have lunch at the Monastery. Facilitator: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB. Fee: $20/day, plus an option for lunch $8. Chair or full body healing touch available for additional cost.

Psychic Communication - Not: Effective Communication Skills and Tools for Couples: Sep 17, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Effective communication is an essential part of any relationship, but sometimes it can be a challenge with the people we know best—our spouses and families. This retreat will explore some of the pitfalls to avoid and the tools to improve our communication skills. Presenters: Ruth and Lee Skeens. Ruth spent four years as Director of
Evangelization and Adult Faith formation for three Catholic parishes. Ruth currently teaches workshops on Navigating Change and Authentic Evangelization. She also conducts retreats on strategic planning, conflict resolution, and spiritual connection. Lee has a PhD in Educational Psychology and teaches at Southeastern Community College, Burlington, IA. Fee: $100/couple.

**Prayer and Service for High School Students:** Oct 8 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The Benedictine monastic life is centered around prayer and work, “Ora et Labora.” Experience a day with the Sisters and learn about and experience our daily life of prayer and work. You will be of service in different areas of the monastery such as reading to our elderly sisters, working in the gardens, or other helping opportunities. Lunch with the Sisters is part of this day, too. There is no cost; you are our guest!

**Evening at the Monastery:** Oct 27 4:45 PM - 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. Margaret Murphy, OSB. Fee: $18.


**Expressing the Psalms with Music and Writing:** Nov 5 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Take time to more deeply appreciate the Book of Psalms in a creative way. This retreat begins with a reflection on the Psalms and how they can touch our life experiences. Then you will have the opportunity to work with a writer and a musician to express your Psalm in a prayerful manner. Maybe one specific line, verse or Psalm touches your heart and you can create a melody for it. Maybe you would find writing your own Psalm a prayer for your life. Let loose your creative side and deepen your prayer with the Psalms. Writing material provided or bring your own. Keyboards available or bring your musical instrument. No writing or music skill required!! Presenter: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB; Artists: Misty Urban, who coordinates the Writing Center at Muscatine Community College and her short story collection, *A Lesson in Manners*, won the Serena McDonald Kennedy Award and was published by Snake Nation Press; and Lori Carroll, St. Mary Monastery Oblate, a graduate of Iowa State University, has been an Iowa music teacher for 35 years and is currently teaching vocal and instrumental music at Louisa-Muscatine Elementary School, and is music director, organist, and choir director at Trinity Episcopal Church in Muscatine. Fee: $70.

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.
As faithful Catholics, we must consider every issue and candidate through the lens of God’s Word. Party and candidate talking points are often mere sound bites designed to excite the “base” and drive people to one side of an issue. Instead, the principles of Catholic social teaching – dignity of the human person, subsidiarity and solidarity, freedom, participation, the common good, and care for the poor and most vulnerable among us – must define our positions on issues and should invite reflection on the best specific response. Please review www.faithfulcitizenship.org for more information on these principles.

“Our commitment to the common good does not end with voting.”

Civic engagement is a moral obligation and we have a duty to vote if we are able. We also have a duty to inform ourselves about issues and vote conscientiously. We may decide to write in a candidates’ name, or even choose not to vote for any candidate for a particular office. Our choice of how to vote in every instance must follow our best understanding of what is the good for all, following a time of reflection and prayer. Everyone guides his or her choices by something. That something should be the teaching of Christ and his Church.

Our commitment to the common good does not end with voting. It can take many forms. We can start solving problems at the local level by organizing with others in charitable work to help meet the basic needs of individuals. Another way is to work together on legislation that addresses the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.

What an important time it is to be a Catholic influencing politics and government! Considering the lack of civility in our political system, the voice of informed Catholics is needed more than ever. The message of our Catholic teaching is one of hope, grounded in faith and reason. Making decisions in the light of our faith will not be easy, and it may lead us to a place we don’t want to go. But it is our life-long obligation to say “yes” to God in all things, and listen for His voice sounding in our heart.
WHAT SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR IN LEADERS?

“Those with political responsibilities must not forget or underestimate the moral dimension of political representation, which consists in the commitment to share fully in the destiny of the people and to seek solutions to social problems. In this perspective, responsible authority also means authority exercised with those virtues that make it possible to put power into practice as service (patience, modesty, moderation, charity, efforts to share), an authority exercised by persons who are able to accept the common good, and not prestige or the gaining of personal advantages, as the true goal of their work.”

(Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, No. 410).

HOW DO CATHOLICS FORM THEIR CONSCIENCE?

As the U.S. bishops note in Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, we need to form our consciences in an ongoing manner. How do we do this?

1) When examining any issue or situation, we must begin by being open to the truth and what is right.
2) We must study Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Church.
3) We must examine the facts and background information about various choices.
4) We must prayerfully reflect to discern the will of God (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, no. 18).

WHAT SHOULD IOWA CATHOLICS ASK CANDIDATES?

A list of candidates is available through the Iowa Catholic Conference. An affirmative answer to the following questions would be consistent with the positions of the Conference:

**Do you support:**
- Protecting human life from conception until natural death as a foundational principle?
- Maintaining Iowa’s ban on doctor-prescribed suicide?
- Financial assistance for parents who wish to send their children to a nonpublic school?
- Assisting poor and vulnerable people by adequately funding programs that address hunger and joblessness, and help people rise above poverty?
- Rejecting initiatives to compromise the First Amendment and its guarantee of religious freedom?
- Legislation that helps immigrants provide for their families and become participating members of their communities?
- Maintaining Iowa’s status as a “no death penalty” state?
- Just wages and labor practices by employers?
- Measures to protect and improve the quality of the air, water, and land in Iowa?

VOTING

Voting begins in late September in Iowa. For more information visit sos.iowa.gov.

JOIN THE IOWA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

You can keep updated on issues in Iowa by receiving regular newsletters and action alerts from the Iowa Catholic Conference. “Join the Network” at www.iowacatholicconference.org or at www.facebook.com/iowacatholicconference.

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/iacatholicconf.

Most Rev. Michael Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque
Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless, Bishop of Sioux City

Most Rev. Martin Amos, Bishop of Davenport
Most Rev. Richard Pates, Bishop of Des Moines

IOWA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE - The public policy voice of the bishops of Iowa.

530 42nd St., Des Moines, IA 50312 • 515.243.6256

www.iowacatholicconference.org • info@iowacatholicconference.org

This material is intended to serve an educational purpose and is not intended to support, endorse or oppose any candidate or political party.
Como Católicos, nuestra causa es la defensa de la vida y la dignidad humana y la protección de los débiles y vulnerables.

La defensa de la vida y la dignidad humana deben comenzar con el derecho fundamental a la vida desde la concepción natural hasta la muerte natural. De ahí se extiende a un acceso justo a un trabajo productivo y a un salario justo, alimento y abrigo, protección contra peligros y libertad de emigrar. Todas las personas tienen derecho a éstos y por lo tanto tenemos el deber de ayudar en la protección de la vida y trabajar por el bien común. Muy especialmente, tenemos el deber de salvaguardar la familia como la unidad básica de la sociedad, y el apoyar a instituciones tales como las iglesias y otras organizaciones caritativas que sirven de mediadores para ayudar a la sociedad a enfrentarse a sus más grandes retos.

Estos compromisos son un desarrollo natural de las palabras que oímos en la Escritura. Que debemos amar a nuestro prójimo como Cristo nos ha amado a nosotros. (Juan 13:34). Se supone que debemos traer la “buena nueva a los pobres, libertad a los cautivos, vista a los ciegos y a liberar a los oprimidos,” como lo dice Jesús en Lucas, citando al profeta Isaías (Lucas 4:18; Isaías 61:1-2; 58:6). Vemos en el capítulo 20 del Éxodo que nos dice, “No matarás.” Este es Dios que nos habla directamente por medio de los profetas. Como Católicos fieles, debemos considerar cada asunto y candidato bajo el lente de la Palabra de Dios. Los puntos de conversación de partidos y candidatos son simplemente frases fabricadas diseñadas para animar a las “bases” y a llevar a la gente a cierto lado de un asunto. Por el contrario, los principios de la enseñanza social Católica – dignidad para la persona humana, subsidiariedad y solidaridad, libertad, participación, el bien común, el cuidado de los pobres y de los más vulnerables entre nosotros – debe definir nuestra posición en los asuntos y debe invitarnos a reflexionar en la mejor respuesta específica. Para más información sobre estos principios favor de leer www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

El involucrarse en asuntos cívicos es una obligación moral y tenemos el deber de votar si es que podemos. Tenemos también el deber de informarnos sobre los asuntos y de votar conscientemente. Tal vez decidamos marcar en el nombre de un candidato o incluso el no votar por candidato alguno para algún puesto en especial. Nuestra decisión de cómo votar en cada caso debe de seguir, en base a nuestro mejor entendimiento, de cuál es el mejor bien común para todos, luego de tomarnos tiempo para reflexionar y orar. Todos guiamos nuestras consciencias en base a algo. Ese algo deben ser las enseñanzas de Cristo y de su Iglesia.

Nuestro compromiso con el bien común no termina con el voto. Puede tomar muchas formas. Podemos empezar a resolver problemas a nivel local organizándonos con otros en trabajo caritativo para ayudar a cumplir con las necesidades básicas de los individuos. Otra forma es la de trabajar juntos en legislaciones que atienden la dimensión estructural de los problemas y sus respectivas soluciones.

¡Qué importante tiempo para ser Católicos con influencia en la política y el gobierno! Considerando la falta de civilidad de nuestro sistema político, necesitamos ciertamente más que nunca la voz de Católicos informados. El mensaje de nuestras enseñanzas Católicas es de esperanza, basado en la fe y en la razón. El tomar decisiones en base a nuestra fe no va a ser fácil y puede llevarnos a lugares a donde no queremos ir. Pero es nuestra obligación vitalicia el decir “sí” a Dios en todas las cosas, el escuchar su voz que suena en nuestro corazón.
¿QUÉ DEBEMOS BUSCAR EN LOS LÍDERES?
“Quienes tienen responsabilidades políticas no deben olvidar o subestimar la dimensión moral de la representación, que consiste en el compromiso de compartir el destino del pueblo y en buscar soluciones a los problemas sociales. En esta perspectiva, una autoridad responsable significa también una autoridad ejercida mediante el recurso a las virtudes que favorecen la práctica del poder con espíritu de servicio (paciencia, modestia, moderación, caridad, generosidad); una autoridad ejercida por personas capaces de asumir auténticamente como finalidad de su actuación el bien común y no el prestigio o el logro de ventajas personales.”

(Compendio de la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia, No. 410).

¿CÓMO FORMAN SU CONSCIENCIA LOS CATÓLICOS?
Así como lo notan los obispos de los Estados Unidos en Formando Consciencias para Ciudadanía Fiel, debemos formar nuestras consciencias de manera continua. ¿Cómo hacemos esto?

1) Cuando analicemos cualquier asunto o situación, debemos comenzar estando abiertos a la verdad y a lo que es correcto.
2) Debemos estudiar la Sagrada Escritura y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia.
3) Debemos analizar los hechos y la información de respaldo sobre varias opciones.
4) Debemos reflexionar en oración para discernir la voluntad de Dios (Formando Consciencias para Ciudadanía Fiel, No. 18).

¿QUÉ DEBEN PREGUNTAR LOS CATÓLICOS DE IOWA A LOS CANDIDATOS?
Hay una lista de candidatos por medio de la Conferencia Católica de Iowa. Una respuesta afirmativa a las siguientes preguntas sería consistente con las posiciones de la Conferencia:

¿Usted apoya:
• El proteger la vida humana como un principio fundamental, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural?
• El mantener en Iowa la prohibición del suicidio médico asistido?
• Ayuda financiera a los padres que desean enviar a sus hijos a una escuela no-pública?
• Ayudar a la gente pobre y vulnerable colocando fondos apropiadamente en programas que atienden el hambre y el desempleo y que ayudan a la gente a salir de la pobreza?
• Rechazar iniciativas que limiten la Primera Enmienda y su garantía de libertad de religión?
• Legislación que le permita a los inmigrantes proveer para sus familias y convertirse en miembros activos en sus comunidades?
• Mantener la condición de Iowa como un estado “sin pena de muerte”?
• Salarios y prácticas laborales justas para con los empleados?
• Medidas para proteger y mejorar la calidad del aire, agua y tierra en Iowa?

VOTEN
El voto comienza en Iowa a fines de septiembre. Para más información, visite sos.iowa.gov.

ÚNASE A LA RED LEGISLATIVA DE LA CONFERENCIA CATÓLICA DE IOWA
Siganos en Twitter en www.twitter.com/iacatholicconf.

Reverendísimo Michael Jackels, Arzobispo de Dubuque
Reverendísimo R. Walker Nickless, Obispo de Sioux City
Reverendísimo Martin Amos, Obispo de Davenport
Reverendísimo Richard Pates, Obispo de Des Moines

CONFERENCIA CATÓLICA DE IOWA – La voz pública de los obispos de Iowa.
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Este material tiene un propósito de servicio educativo y no tiene el propósito de apoyar, patrocinio o oponerse a candidato o partido alguno.
Save the Date!

Iowa Institute for Social Action

Jan. 15-16, 2017

Saints John and Paul Parish, Altoona

Keynote by Brian Corbin, executive VP of Catholic Charities USA. Breakout sessions to feature the latest on the social concerns of the Church, including poverty, immigration and protecting the vulnerable.

www.iowacatholicconference.org info@iowacatholicconference.org (515) 243-6256
Falling Into You

A Retreat Day for Ministry Leaders
(Faith Formation/Religious Education, Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Marriage and Family Ministry, Pastoral Ministry, Liturgical Ministry, Clergy, Catholic Schools, Social Action, etc.)


Tuesday, September 13
9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Church, Iowa City
Cost: $49 (includes lunch)
Register by September 8
(register by August 26 and save $5)

Register at www.davenportdiocese.org/adult-retreat

Jesse Manibusan - composer (e.g., Open My Eyes), singer/songwriter, storyteller, humorist, catechist, evangelizer and encourager. Working with any and every age group, Jesse has that knack to build instant rapport, connect to his audience, and create life-giving memories that help deepen faith and cultivate the joy that inspires service, sacrifice and the celebration of life.

Jesse earned an MA in Multicultural Ministries from the Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley, CA, and gives concerts, workshops, parish missions, and retreats. Jesse’s music is published by Oregon Catholic Press and Spirit & Song (a division of OCP). In 2014, he received the National Catholic Youth Award, for Presenter/Artist Category by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

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
691. Sept. 5: If you want to build a tower or plant a garden you need to plan ahead. So too, if you want to build a strong marriage, plan ahead. Plan a date for next weekend. Sign up now for a marriage enrichment event (http://www.susanvogt.net/Marriage.htm#MarriageLinks) sometime this year. Don't procrastinate.

692. Sept. 12: September 11, 2001 took most people by surprise. You don't know the time or the place you or your beloved will die. Take advantage of the time you have today to show your love.

693. Sept. 19: "Marriage is not 50-50. Divorce is 50-50. Marriage has to be 100-100. It isn't dividing everything in half, but giving everything you've got." (Dave Willis)

694. Sept. 26: A fiancé was thrilled to have finally found Ms. Right. Not long after the wedding, he was disillusioned to discover that her first name was "Always." Of course you can reverse the genders. Negotiating differences and letting go of my way is the art of marriage.

PARENTING POINTERS

693. Sept. 9: "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky." (Exodus 32:13) No matter the number of children you have, each one is a promise for the future. Do something to make the world better for your offspring today. (recycle, donate to a cause, make peace with someone)

694. Sept. 16: School is in full swing for most families. Even if your child is too young for school remember this maxim: It's not what the teacher says, but what the student hears, that matters. This applies to parents and children too.

695. Sept. 23: Next Monday (Sept. 26) is "Eat Dinner Together Day." (https://www.informedfamilies.org/) How many days a week should your family eat together? Experts say try for at least 4 or 5. More ideas. (http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/resources/faq/)

696. Sept. 30: When things are not going well for you or your child (and there are plenty of days like this) try reversing your attitude. Think of one thing that you are grateful for this day. Ask your child to stretch to think of something too.