**OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL, FR. TONY HEROLD**

The 2017 annual meeting of the Parish Corporate Boards will be held on Sunday, October 8 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at sites in each deanery. **Pastors and lay directors are required to attend** one of the dates in order to have a quorum. More details will be coming by email soon.

**SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE**

**Mottet Leadership Institute:** Father Marvin Mottet believed that action on behalf of social justice is a necessary part of a moral life. Charity and justice are the two steps in his “two feet” approach. Too many people walk on one foot, but it takes both feet to walk in the footsteps of justice. Stepping for justice is something that requires training. That is the goal of the Mottet Leadership Institute. See the attached fliers, English and Spanish, for complete details. Information in Spanish can be found at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/social-action>

**The Diocesan Immigration Program** is a non-profit program that provides immigration counseling to help reunite families split by immigration, and assists immigrants in adjusting their status and advocates on their behalf. The Immigration Program focuses on family reunification cases. Our diocesan immigration counselors are certified by the Department of Justice. They work in close conjunction with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Please see the attached updated brochure for more information and feel free to distribute to those who might be interested.

**CLINIC - Emergency Planning for Immigrant Families:** CLINIC has released a new web-based resource to help guide immigrant parents and their representatives as they put legal protections in place for families in case parents are detained or deported. To learn about those resource that might be helpful to your community [go here](https://cliniclegal.org/emergency-planning-for-immigrant-families).

**St. Vincent’s Home Corporation Grant Deadline September 15:** For consideration at the November 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. Also, if your organization received a grant in the past you must submit a progress report along with your application. The grant criteria, application and progress report can be found [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/st-vincents-home).

**October is Respect Life Month:** Please remember to use and display your Respect Life month packet materials at your parish and in your bulletin. This year’s theme is ***Be Not Afraid.*** Shipping has begun therefore materials should start arriving by early September. If your parish missed the notice to order materials, please contact Esmeralda Guerrero. USCCB is working on updating its website materials and they will soon be available at <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/index.cfm>. USCCB Respect Life designs may not be altered in any way other than size.(Alterations include, but are not limited to, cropping, changing the shape, changing color, adding a special effect, etc.)

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection:** Help Catholics “take poverty off the map” by encouraging them to begin planning now for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection! This year’s collection will be held November 18 – 19. Please [click here](http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/collection/index.cfm) to learn more about the collection.

Promotional materials will be mailed to your parish in October, including posters, envelopes and bulletin inserts adapted to our diocese. If your parish materials don’t arrive by mid-October, you need more materials, have any questions, or would like a speaker at your Mass on or before collection day please contact Loxi Hopkins, hopkins@davenportdiocese.org or 563-488-4212 . Please use the insert for your parish bulletin the weekend of November 11-12 and display the poster.

**Project Rachel** is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion. To learn more please go [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/project-rachel-ministry). 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
* Two ways to financially support Project Rachel: “Have a “Humble Angel Honey” Sale at your parish. Contact Kent Ferris or 563-888-4210 to make arrangements. 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.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

**The last** Safe Environment Webinars are in September. They will be beneficial in learning and understanding what the diocesan requirements are. This is designed for the local Safe Environment Designee, pastor and principal.

**Session 1 webinar** will be reviewing the Diocesan requirements, polices, and procedures of the Safe Environment Program. Some topics covered will be: who is required to do Safe Environment, scenarios on how to handle certain situations, what do you do when someone wants to be an employee or volunteer at your location, using free resources to get more information, Circle of Grace curriculum going forward. Do you know there is a policy and procedure if a parent or family member is on the sex offender registry? How do you handle this? Liability situations when someone uses your facilities. 3rd party businesses: what do you require from them to meet our Safe Environment requirements. To register click below.

*September 19*: 8:30 a.m. – Noon: #1, Option 3: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6490425217501938177>

**Session 2 webinar** will be on managing the VIRTUS database and Stonebridge Audit. How do you run reports? How do you know if someone is compliant in VIRTUS? What does the Red Caution check box mean? What numbers do you report on the Stonebridge Audit? What if I have a person that is active in Sept. but no longer active for our location, what do I do? Questions and demonstrations will be reviewed during these sessions. To register click below.

*September 28*, 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.:#2, Option 3: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1325106507187016193>

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

**Want your middle school youth to know and understand the Mass more deeply?** Then be sure you and they *Come to the Feast!*Junior High Rally 2017.5 (there already was a Rally 2017 last March)will explore the awesomeness and the power of the Table in our lives. The day will *begin* with Mass celebrated by Bishop Zinkula, and the three breakout sessions will delve into the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Mission. Bishop Zinkula will be interviewed by members of the DYMC, take questions from participants, and talk to participants about their important role in the Church. [Mathias Michael](http://www.mmichaelmusic.com/) will share his music and his witness in a keynote session. Participants will also discover a little bit more about some of our Saints as they move through the day in their Saints Squad. All participants are asked to bring 1-2 food items to be donated to Iowa City area food pantries/food banks to share the Feast with those in need. Junior High Rally is open to all 6th-8th graders and their adult leaders, and takes place on Sunday, October 15, 2017, at Regina Educational Center in Iowa City. Publicity materials, participant forms, and registration materials are now available on the [Junior High Rally webpage](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/jhrally). For more information, contact the Office of Faith Formation at 563-888-4240.

**The FORUM for Catholic Youth Leaders:** Watch your inbox during September for more information on this exciting congress-style event that will help shape the future of adolescent faith formation in our diocese. The event will take place February 16-18, 2018, at St. Ann parish in Long Grove. Each parish and high school are invited to send a *delegation* consisting of 2-4 high school youth, 1 parent, and 1 adult leader in youth ministry/religious education to attend this event. [Mike Patin](http://www.mikepatin.com/), a well-known and highly respected speaker and “faith horticulturalist,” will serve as the event’s chief motivator and keynote speaker. More details coming soon.

**Preparing GenZ for Confirmation:** As we move forward in our re-visioning adolescent faith formation process, Confirmation looms large in the scope of our ministry. On November 7 at St. Patrick’s in Iowa City, join Tom East from the Center for Ministry Development for an exploration of Generation Z and how to effectively shape our preparation for Confirmation for this generation of youth. All those involved in adolescent faith formation (DREs/CREs, CYMs, youth ministry volunteers, catechists, parents, etc.) are invited. All details and instructions on how to register can be found on the workshop webpage [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/genz) (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/genz>).

**Living as Missionary Disciples - Catechetical Sunday is September 17.** This is the US Bishops’ annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those individuals who will serve as catechists in the parish for the next year. Resources to aid in the celebration, including a Commissioning Service, Prayer Cards and Certificates are available [here](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/living-disciples/index.cfm).

**Understanding How Kids Learn: Multiple Intelligences and Faith Formation:** September 23, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., St. Patrick Parish Hall, Ottumwa. Each child learns differently, yet we often teach only one way. Come explore different ways of teaching and learning to be more effective in sharing the faith with our students. Based on the research of Howard Gardner, the session will discuss the theory of Multiple Intelligences, as well as provide time to practice and examine different activities that help everyone be engaged in faith formation. For a flyer and to register by September 21 click [here](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/kidslearn). For more information, contact Rosina Hendrickson, 563-888-4244.

**Engaging the Family in Faith Workshop:** September 30, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., St. Anthony, Davenport. Combined with an in-service on the Pflaum Gospel Weekly Faith Formation materials, catechist and educator Sue Grenough will offer insights on how to engage the family in faith and bring faith into the home. For more information or to register, contact Rosina Hendrickson, 563-888-4244.

**Reimagining Faith Formation with Children and Youth:** Join Faith Formation leaders from across the country to explore, imagine and apply information about Faith Formation with Children and Youth in a three-day symposium dedicated to this topic. Held October 26-28 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, MN, the Symposium will bring together leaders to explore new ways of handing on the faith to our children and youth. For more information, contact Rosina Hendrickson, 563-888-4244 or visit <http://www.lifelongfaith.com>.

**Vibrant Faith University:** It’s time to rethink and revision our Faith Formation/Youth Ministry efforts. The Certificate in Lifelong Faith Formation from Vibrant Faith University is an opportunity to engage with your colleagues to examine, explore and put into practice new ways of approaching faith formation, so that it reaches our 21st Century families. Beginning in January 2018, the Diocese will support a cohort for this formation opportunity. Delivered online, this formation is designed for the experienced DRE/Youth Minister who wants to engage with others in re-visioning formation and strengthen/adapt their programming. For more information, contact Rosina Hendrickson, 563-888-4244 or go [here](https://www.vibrantfaith.org/certff21/).

**Certificate in Ministry Studies:** All DREs, youth ministers, catechists and youth ministry team members are invited to join the Office of Faith Formation in a formation process to discover more deeply the practices and foundations of ministry. Sponsored by the Center for Ministry Development, the Certificate in Ministry Studies offers 8 courses to deepen our understanding of ministry. Courses will begin in January 2018. For more information contact Rosina Hendrickson, 563-888-4244.

**ADULT FORMATION COURSES**

**Courses** are held at the Chancery in Davenport from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. For information regarding the courses contact Rosina Hendrickson, 563-888-4244.

**2017 Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 9/16/17 **Spiritual Themes:** IlaMae Hanisch | 11/4/17 **Ecclesial Ministry:** IlaMae Hanisch |
| 12/2/17 **Baptism:** Dr. Corinne Winter |  |

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

**50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass:** At the request of Bishop Zinkula, the Office of Faith Formation is sponsoring a diocesan celebration for all couples who are celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. Couples that were unable to attend any prior celebrations are also welcome to participate. A Mass and informal reception will be held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Davenport on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2 p.m. Contact your parish to confirm that they have submitted your names and address. Invitations will be sent in September. (Parishes received an email from Barb Butterworth, butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org on June 26 that provided the necessary information on submitting couple’s names and addresses.)

**SAVE THE DATE:** *Radical Listening in the Family*, October 28, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., St. Wenceslaus Church, Iowa City.  **All parish Sponsor Couples** ministering in the Diocese of Davenportare encouraged to attendthis first annual diocesan Sponsor Couple Enrichment Event. This workshop, facilitated by Barb Schwery, Executive of the Befriender Ministry, will help couples enhance their listening skills for the benefit of their marriages, families and the engaged couples they serve. The cost is $30 per couple and includes hospitality, lunch and all materials. An informational flyer is available [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2017/6/Radical%20Listening%20workshop%20flyer.pdf).

**New: Diocesan Sponsor Couple Training/Refresher Workshops:**

* Bettendorf - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center - September 25, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
* Mt. Pleasant - St. Alphonsus Parish Hall – October 29, 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
* Bettendorf – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center - November 5, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
* Farmington – St. Boniface Church Basement – November 12, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

To register please contact Marianne Agnoli at agnolim@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4242 at least one week prior to the scheduled training session.

**Diocesan Marriage Preparation Policies and Procedures:** The new diocesan marriage preparation policies were promulgated on December 30, 2016 and apply to all couples beginning marriage preparation in the diocese after December 31, 2016. This policy is available on the diocesan website [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/marriage-preparation). Note that the diocesan Prenuptial Investigation form has been revised to reflect the new marriage preparation requirements. Access a fillable PDF form in English [here](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2017/1/Prenuptial%20Investigation%20Form%20_fillable.pdf) and the Spanish fillable form [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2017/1/Spanish%20Prenuptial%20Form_fillable.pdf).

**Marriage Preparation:** In the hope of helping to build a solid foundation for an enriching life-long marriage, engaged couples beginning preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Diocese of Davenport after December 31, 2016 will participate in the following preparation activities:

1. Initial personal interview with the priest, deacon or pastoral minister

2. Completion of an approved Premarital Inventory: FOCCUS, REFOCCUS or PREPARE/ENRICH

3. Follow-up meetings as determined by the minister.

4. Participation in a Marriage Preparation Instructional Program:

* [Sponsor Couple](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/marriage-preparation#SponsorCouples) (preferred option)
* [Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Day/Weekend](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/marriage-preparation#Weekends) - see dates below
* [Approved Online option](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/marriage-preparation#Online) (only under special circumstance – requires parish approval)

5. Participation in an approved Introductory Natural Family Planning Instruction-see options below

6. Completion of the pre-nuptial investigation form.

7. Post-wedding couple contact plan.

**Marriage Preparation Instructional Programs:** 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.

**One-day:**

**October 7, 2017:** Muscatine, SS Mary and Mathias, *registration deadline September 29*

**February 17, 2018:** Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline February 9*

**April 21, 2018:** Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline April 13*

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

**Online:** Go [here](http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/) – to be used only under special circumstance with parish approval.

**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.

**Natural Family Planning:** Participation in a diocesan approved *Introductory NFP Instruction* is required for all engaged or civilly married couples of child bearing age preparing for marriage in the diocese. General information as well as method specific content is available in a variety of formats in both English and Spanish. A listing of diocesan approved NFP online and local instructional resources can be found [here](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/8/NFP%20Resources%208-23-16.pdf).

Engaged couples are encouraged to begin NFP instruction at least four months prior to their wedding date and may select to participate in one or more of the options based on their individual level of interest or particular life circumstance. All diocesan NFP instructional resources are updated regularly with the latest version accessible through this [diocesan website](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/natural-family-planning). This link will also provide a list of any upcoming NFP instruction opportunitiesscheduled in the diocese. A current listing of these opportunities can also be found below.

**Introduction to NFP:** This free instruction is held at the Chancery, 780 West Central Park Ave., Davenport. All sessions are from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on October 1 and December 3. Couples may register to attend one of these sessions by contacting Marianne Agnoli at 563-888-4242 or agnolim@davenportdiocese.org.

**NFP Postpartum Instruction:** CCL now offers the Postpartum Class in a self-paced online option. Teaching couple is Dr. Matt and Franchelle Jaeger, of Little Rock, Arkansas. Postpartum Class was transformed into a series of video modules. There are mini-quizzes after each module to test for comprehension, as well as sample charts that the students interpret. All students also have access to a Teaching Couple for assistance. Questions? Contact Director of Promotion & Enrollment Angela Exner at 800-745-8252, ext. 1050.

**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.

**ST. AMBROSE UNIVERISTY, DAVENPORT**

**Pastoral Charism of St. Ambrose of Milan:** April 8, 2018, 2:00-4:00 p.m., St. Ambrose University. The university invites the clergy, parish ministers and the laity to attend this workshop. It will be presented by Mons. Cesare Pasini, Prefect of the Vatican Library and Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, Director of the Augustinian Institute at Villanova University. The fee is $25 per person. Registration will be available on the SAU website in the near future.

**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).

**Solstice Taize’ Vigil Service:** Special Davenport location, Humility of Mary Center. Sun, September 10 | 6:30pm – 7:30pm. Taize` is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified and compassionate prayer. All people of faith are invited to participate. No fee but register to attend.

**Cooking Up a Storm:** Tues, September 12 | 9:30am – 2:00pm. Kathleen Storms, SSND. Shop in The Prairie gardens and prepare Earth-friendly 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! Fee: $30

**Visio Divina through Film**: Tues, September 12| 5:30pm light supper followed by 6:00pm film. Film: *The Legend of Baggar Vance*. Directed by Robert Redford, this is a film that celebrates the power and potential of the human spirit. It is the tale of a local hero with a promising future whose hopes are shattered on the battlefields of war. Forgetting about winning and following the advice of his caddy brings healing and a renewed spirit. (127 minutes)

Fee: $15

**Come to the Quiet:** Thurs, September 14 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Pat Shea. St. Hildegard of Bingen, Doctor of the Church, inspires us with her holy visions and music: Fire of the Holy Spirit, life of the life of every creature, holy are you in giving life to forms. Her visions and teachings urge us, in communion with all life, to live fully and purely in union with Divine Life. Come to the Quiet for a day of peaceful reflection. The day begins with a short message from a wise, holy person who exemplifies an abundant and compassionate life. Time for quiet, a nutritional seasonal lunch, more silence and a closing reflection summarizes the day. Fee: $20

**VANG, a Drama about Recent Immigrant Farmers: Presented twice.** It isn’t possible to witness this play and not be changed by the gut-wrenching experiences of these recent refugees and immigrants, by their ability to survive in the face of the horrific. With our current immigration policy debate, this play gives us much food for thought. Free and open to the public. Please use the attached flyer to promote in your parish.

*Thurs, Sept. 14* | 7:00pm, DeWitt Opera House Theatre. Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton

*Fri, Sept.15* | 6:30pm Humility of Mary Center, Davenport. Co-sponsored by the Sisters of Humility

**Lectio Divina through Current Writers:** Sun, September 24 | 2:30 – 4:30pm. Linda Clewell, Oblate of St. Benedict. Book for Lectio: *Welcome to the Wisdom of the World: Universal Spiritual Insights Distilled from Five Religious Traditions* by Joan Chittister. Using her great story-telling skills, Joan Chittister shares wisdom from the five major religious traditions to answer timeless questions on living in the present, free from concern of the past or the future. Fee: $15

**Come to the Quiet:** Wed, October 4 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Pat Shea. **Francis of Assisi** gave up his life of wealth for a life of service to all creatures of God. His *Canticle of Creation,* inspires us to embrace the abundant love of God expressed in all creation, *all praise is Yours… Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures.* Fee: $20

***Visio Divina* through Film:** Wed, October 4 | 5:30pm light supper followed by 6:00pm film. Film: *The Color of Paradise*. Academy Award nominee Majid Majidi explores the world of a gifted blind boy at the mercy of his father’s crippling sense of shame. You will “hear and see” differently after viewing this film rich in sound and imagery. (90 minutes) Fee: $15

**Knit One, Pray Too!:** Wed, October 11 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Karen Brooke, Ann Green & Anne Johnson. Seasoned knitters and novices are invited to bring their latest projects for a tranquil day of needlework, sharing and praying while enjoying the seasonal serenity of The Prairie. Fee: $20

**The Enneagram…A tool For Deepening Understanding of Ourselves and Others:** Tues, November 7 | 9am – 4pm. Alice Martin and Meg Bolich. You will have an experiential introduction to the nine personalities of the enneagram. You will be shown the characteristics of each type and through this process you may discover your own type. Suggested preparatory reading: *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* by Don Riso and Russ Hudson. Fee: $30

**EAGLES’ WINGS, DAVENPORT**

For inquiries call or email: 563-324-7263 or Marcia@eagleswings.ws; 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804

**Monthly Mass with Prayers for Healing:** Sept. 14 and Oct. 12 1:00 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at noon. Reconciliation available.

***Resisting Happiness*** by Matthew Kelly: Beginning September 19, 1 – 2 PM. This is an eight-week small group book review with Jane Campagna. Registration: $20 includes book. Must register ahead so books can be ordered. Please email or send registration via US mail.

**“A Heart for Art”:** September 28, 6:30 – 8 PM. Come join us for a fun evening! Create 1 or 2 unique floral paintings. No artistic ability needed, just a desire to awaken your creativity and have fun. Bring a friend and enjoy refreshments and fellowship. Supplies included. Registration $20. Due to limited space, mail registration early.

**Eagles’ Wings 25th Birthday Celebration:** October 22, 2 to 4 pm. You are invited to join us for a celebration of 25 years in ministry. We will share a running slide show of some of our past events and share what’s ahead. Please come and bring a friend.

**A Day on Discernment, What’s it all About?** November 4, 9:30 AM-3 PM. St. Ignatius sets forth a clear set of ‘rules’ to help us understand the ups and downs of our spiritual journey. Although Ignatius may seem a bit daunting at first. People who have taken this class in the past comment: “Why haven’t we heard this before?”  “This makes sense!”  “I wish I had heard this sooner!” and “I can see how this works in my life.” Please join us for this fulfilling day. Bring a sack lunch. To register, mail name, phone and email along with your fee of just $35.

***Unbound Prayer Ministry*** is a gentle way of helping individuals pray through areas where they may feel “stuck”, bringing inner healing and freedom. Available times in the morning, afternoon or evening. Call to schedule your prayer today!

Remember that Eagles’ Wings offers:

* Counseling from a Christian perspective on a sliding scale
* Certified Spiritual Direction
* Spacious grounds and a retreat room for your individual retreat
* Daytime retreat space for your small group
* Prayer ministry

**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 <http://www.smmsisters.org/retreats/> to register for programs mentioned below.

**Expressing the Psalms With Music and Writing:** Fri., Sept. 8 (Arrival: 6:15-6:45 pm) 7-8:30 pm – Sat. Sept. 9, 9 am–3:30 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 and Lori Carroll, St. Mary Monastery Oblate. Fee: $118 (single), $111 (double), $65 (commuter). Commuter fee includes Saturday lunch.

**Celebrating Four Gifts of Autumn: Beauty, Harvest, Letting Go, and Hope:** Fri., Sept. 15 (Registration: 4:30-5:15pm; Soup Supper: 5:30; Opening of Retreat: 7pm) – Sun. We can learn much about our spiritual life from the four seasons of the year. This weekend retreat, nestled in mid-September, celebrates four gifts the season of autumn wishes to give us: beauty, harvest, letting go, and hope. Using scripture, nature, videos, music, stories, and humor, Sister Melannie will lead us in exploring ways this beautiful season can enrich our love for God and others. Presenter: Sr. Melannie Svoboda, Sister of Notre Dame, teacher, student, author, speaker, listen, friend, poet and farm girl.

**"The Way, The Truth, The Life" (John 14:6): A Workshop for All Who Preach:** Sept. 26, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Christian preaching continues the ministry of Jesus. The challenge for the preacher is to preach the WAY Jesus preached, to preach the TRUTH Jesus preached and to call people to live the LIFE that Jesus lived. Thus, listeners are challenged to embrace Jesus as their way, truth and life. All of this is the work of God’s Spirit. Join Fr. R. Michael Schaab, STL, DMin. and other preachers to pause, reflect and more deeply connect with the ministry of Jesus Christ. Fee: $70.

**Friday Night in Color:** Oct 6, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Looking for a relaxing activity at the end of a busy week? Bring your coloring supplies and join others for fun and sharing. Colorful stories of faith will be shared as participants fill their evening will all kinds of color! Families and individuals of all ages welcome. Coloring leaders: Deacon Steve and Kathy MacDonald. Fri. Oct. 6 (Soup supper: 5:30–6:15 pm) 6:30-8:30 pm color time. Fee: $9 (supper); free will donation for color time.

**Catholic Social Teaching and the Current State of U.S. Politics:** Oct 11, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. (Arrival: 6:15-6:45 pm) Catholic Social Teaching has been called “our best kept secret.” Last year’s election completely upended U.S. politics. What does Catholic Social Teaching have to say about the current U.S. budget and social justice issues? How can many Catholics support the current administration, while others are part of the resistance? Presenter: As part of his sabbatical last year, Dr. Keith Soko traveled to and interviewed religious organizations working for social justice in Washington, D.C. and Davenport and Des Moines, Iowa, including the USCCB, Network: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby, the Iowa Catholic Conference, and Quad-Cities Interfaith. He will share with us his experience of Catholics and other people of faith working for social justice, his impression of the current political climate, and his concern for the violation of human rights in the U.S. Fee: $15.

**The Mandala: A Pathway to One's Center:** Oct 27, 6:30 PM - Oct 29 1:00 PM. Mandala is the Sanskrit word for circle. Today, the word mandala is used for sacred artworks in the form of a circle. Create your own mandalas and tap into the holiness of deep listening within you and in the world around you. Creating a mandala will help you gain access to the “soul-light,” the divine Spirit within. You will add luminous color effects to your mandala and learn to pray with it. This is a great opportunity for those interested in learning this form of prayer or are experienced and want to renew their art and connect with others. Supplies will be provided, but you may want to bring your own compass, ruler or black/gel/Micron pens. No experience is necessary. Presenter: Sr. Joellen Price, PBVM. Fee: Register and pay in full by Sept 28: $225 (private room), $210 (shared room). $160 includes all meals (commuter). Registration and payment after Sept. 24, $240 (private room), $225 (shared room); $175 includes all meals (commuter).

**SHALOM SPIRITUALTY CENTER, DUBUQUE**

To register call 563-582-3592 or send check payable to Shalom Spirituality Center with your contact information to: 1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001. [www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org/), info@shalomretreats.org

**Days of Quiet & Prayer: A 4-Session Series:** Wednesdays, 9:30am-2:45pm September 13, October 18, November 15, December 13. Facilitator: Eileen Miller OSF. Each session will begin with coffee and rolls at 9:30am. We will begin with prayer, and each participant will be given a booklet to aid personal reflection throughout the day. Faith-sharing and prayer will conclude each session. Book: *The Divine Dance* by Richard Rohr, with Mike Morrell. Drawing from Scripture, theology, and the deepest thoughts of mystics, philosophers and sages throughout history, Rohr presents a compelling alternative to aloof and fairytale versions of God as well as an insight into the ancient mystery of the Trinity. The Divine Dance makes accessible and practicable the Christian tradition's most surprising gift: God as Community... as Friendship... as Dance. Offering: $90 for series. Includes: book, program materials, coffee & rolls, lunch, a private room. Register and Prepay by Tuesday, September 5 to ensure you nave a copy by the first session.

**Lovers of Place & Pilgrimage: A Celtic Day of Reflection:** Saturday, September 30, 9:00am-4:00pm. Celtic Spirituality lives in an in-between space, where both the love of hearth and the call to journey, can exist simultaneously. Reflecting on the stories of wandering saints and the rooted communities they founded, we will ponder how these twin aspects of life can find expression and integration in our own experience. Through art and text, silence and discussion, the day’s activities will offer gentle invitations to rest, reflect, and pray within the beauty of this ancient tradition. Presenter: Susan Forshey, Assistant Professor, Discipleship & Christian Formation, University Of Dubuque. A retreat leader and spiritual director, Susan leads summer trips to Ireland with Museum Without Walls, focusing on religious reconciliation and Celtic spirituality. Offering: $40, Includes lunch. Register and prepay no later than Wednesday, September 27.

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