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Bulletin Announcements

Prayer for Life, 3:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 in Bronson Park, downtown Kalamazoo. Join Bishop Bradley, your Christian brothers and sisters and all people of good will. Participants are invited to bring donations of diapers and baby wipes to support Caring Network and Alternatives of Kalamazoo. Light refreshments will be available afterward at the Crowley Center at St. Augustine Cathedral. In case of inclement weather, the prayer will take place at the Crowley Center. Please check the diocesan website, www.diokzoo.org or call 269-903-0177 to confirm the location.

On Monday, Jan. 22, 2018 Bishop Bradley will celebrate a 6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral in observance of the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Participants are invited to bring a donation of diapers or baby wipes to support the ministry of Caring Network.

March for Life Chicago: Sunday, Jan. 14th, 2018

This March is becoming the Midwest version of the March held in Washington, DC, with the goal of being a visual reminder that the people of the Midwest stand for LIFE. Trip will include a motor coach leaving from Kalamazoo at approx. 9:00 a.m., with a pick-up at St. Bernard's in Benton Harbor at 10:00 a.m. Then Mass in Indiana, box lunch, the Chicago March from 2:00 – 4:00p.m. (Central time) at the Federal Plaza, dinner stop on the way back, with tentative arrival back in Kalamazoo at 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$60 (motor coach, driver tip, box lunch and dinner). Minimum of 40 people needed. Contact Lisa Irwin, lirwin@diokzoo.org or 269-903-0177 or visit www.diokzoo.org for more information. Deadline Is Jan. 3, 2018.

LIFE is a GIFT – Catholic Families Student Contest – entries due by February 15th!

Pope Francis calls us to be "*sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death.*" What does this look like in your family?

Over the Christmas holiday you may wish to make a video about the gift of your family life celebrating the greatest gift of all: the child Jesus!!!

Only two short months left for students in grades 4th – 12th to send in your fabulous and unique creations in ART, WRITING, MUSIC or VIDEO depicting this year's contest theme: "Life is a Gift" ("Vida es un Don" – Spanish). **DEADLINE for entry submissions (to be eligible for prizes) is February 15th, 2018.** For more information: <https://diokzoo.org/student-art-contest> or contact Socorro at struchan@diokzoo.org (269) 903-0199

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Hope for Marriages in Crisis: Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking only make it worse?

Rediscover healing and love and find hope by attending Retrouvaille (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i). The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. **The next Retrouvaille weekend begins March 23, 2018.** Please don't wait. The next weekend is not scheduled until September 28, 2018.

For more information, to register or to sponsor a couple:

Phone 616.752.7004 | retrograndrapids@gmail.com | retrouvaille.org
P.O. Box 26 Grandville Michigan, 49468

Discovering Our Deepest Desire – new session begins March 1, 2018

The D.O.D.D. marriage enrichment series has been very well received by many married couples in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Some comments from couples participating in the 12-week series help to emphasize the importance of providing these marriage enrichment opportunities in every parish. Some of the comments are: "I gained more than I expected. I/we have a lot of tools to help our marriage grow and strengthen" and "I liked the emphasis of taking personal responsibility for making a marriage strong; instead of the blame game" and "I feel I have a lot of practice to do to change the patterns and will need to be patient with my spouse as we move forward in our sacramental life of marriage. Thank you all!" The sessions will be at St. Ann Parish in Augusta, MI, every Thursday, starting March 1st (except Holy Thursday - skipping March 29) and finishing on Thursday May 24, 2018. To register online: <http://www.diokzoo.org/marriage-enrichment> For more information, please contact Keith and Hope Marotti at 269-353-1213 or Socorro Truchan at 269-903-0199 – Limited to 12 couples.

JFM preparation weekends for the engaged 2018 dates

The *Joy-Filled Marriage* is a comprehensive marriage preparation program rooted in virtues as well as the *Theology of the Body*. The program incorporates rich Catholic theology with sound psychology. If you are planning to marry in the Catholic Church, one of the components for marriage preparation is experiencing a JFM weekend before the wedding day. Please register early because spaces fill up fast. 2018 weekend dates in **2017-2018** are: January 20-21, March 24-25, May 19-20, July 7-8, September 22-23, and November 17-18. Visit the website to download a registration form: <http://www.diokzoo.org/marriage-preparation> Questions about this marriage preparation weekend? Contact Socorro Truchan at (269) 903-0199 or via email: struchan@diokzoo.org

Review "Witness to Love" for Free!

[Witness to Love](#) is a powerful new approach to marriage preparation and renewal at the parish level. As a priest/leader/marriage preparation coordinator in a parish, you now have the opportunity to review the program at no cost. We will provide you with a free set of materials

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that will enable you to review the entire program to see how it could impact your current marriage preparation offering at your parish. More details/questions on marriage mentoring? Please contact Socorro Truchan directly (anytime) at 269-903-0199 or via email struchan@diokzoo.org

What is “*Witness to Love*”?

[*Witness to Love*](#) is a virtues-based, *Catechumenate* model of marriage renewal and preparation at the parish level that integrates modern principles of psychology and the virtues to help couples facilitate an authentic dialogue about their relationship on a one-on-one couple basis. What makes *Witness to Love* unique is that the engaged couple chooses their own mentor couple. This is a couple they both admire and see as a source of faith formation. This mentor couple gives them a concrete connection and integration into the parish. Through the sharing of the mentor couples’ own marriage journey, the engaged couple inherits a “lifeline” of support in their commitment to Jesus and His Church.

Creighton Model and NaPro Technology for Fertility Awareness

Are you married and interested in learning how to postpone or plan a pregnancy, naturally? Would you like to learn about NFP and the Creighton Model for Couples? For more information, please contact Socorro Truchan at 269-903-0199 or via email at struchan@diokzoo.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Rekindle the romance in your marriage and make it even better! Join a Worldwide Marriage Encounter to renew and enrich your marriage and your faith, too! For more information on these and other Weekends or to apply, please visit www.wwme.org or call Harry & Karen Porter at (888) 628-7433.

Check out the NEW Domestic Church (Marriage & Family) monthly Newsletter

The Domestic Church Newsletter is a monthly publication from the Secretariat for Parish Life and Lay Leadership – Domestic Church Ministry. It offers resources in three important areas: Marriage, Family and Prayer. It is also a place where you can share news/events going on at your family and parish community. If you have news about marriage and family activities/events and would like to subscribe to this newsletter (also available in SPANISH = “La Iglesia Domestica”) – please contact Socorro Truchan at struchan@diokzoo.org or (269) 903-0199

LA IGLESIA DOMESTICA boletín mensual

“La Iglesia Doméstica” es una publicación mensual de la Secretaría para la Vida Parroquial y Liderazgo Laico – Iglesia Doméstica Ministerio. Ofrecemos recursos en tres áreas importantes: Matrimonio, Familia y la oración. También es un lugar donde usted puede compartir noticias y eventos de su parroquia. Si usted tiene noticias de actividades para enriquecimiento matrimonial y familiar o desea suscribirse a este boletín mensual (también disponible en INGLÉS = “The Domestic Church”) - por favor póngase en contacto con la Sra. Socorro Truchan al correo electrónico struchan@diokzoo.org o por teléfono al (269) 903-0199

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Joy Filled Marriage mentoring and married couples

We are inviting married couples (5 years and longer) who would like to train as 'mentors' to walk with and/or accompany engaged couples who are planning to marry in the Catholic Church. Please contact Socorro at 269-903-0199 or via email at struchan@diokzoo.org

A report of sexual misconduct can be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo's Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: (877) 802-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the Diocese's effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within Diocesan institutions and ministries only. If you have some other concern about Diocesan schools, parishes or ministries, please contact the appropriate Diocesan school, parish or office directly.

Did you know that Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery, Kalamazoo, is the only Diocesan cemetery? Check out www.diokzoo.org/mt-olivet-diocesan-catholic-cemetery for current pricing information.
