DECEMBER 2009

the Respect Life

Ministries, Diocese of Amarillo

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The TRUE Gift of Christmas…Christ!

What would you like for Christmas?...What to give what to give?? Everywhere we go these days there is so much for sale so much advertised, 50% off here and there.

Let us not get caught up in the hype and truly enjoy the anticipation of the Greatest Gift. "**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**" Isaiah 9:6

Save the Date!

Walk for LIFE
January 23, 2010
Amarillo, Join us in this tremendous display of Respect for ALL Life!!

World Marriage
February 14, 2010
WM Day, visit wmd.wwme.org for great ideas to celebrate this day!!

RLM Banquet
March 21, 2010
Amarillo Civic Center, Heritage Rm. See you there!!

A Christian Family

"Proclaiming the Gospel and doing service to their fellowman in the love of Jesus Christ. Missionaries, in the true and proper sense, of love and life." ~ Pope John Paul II

RLM focuses on Marriages…

We would like to ask for your continued support and most of all your prayers. Respect Life will be focusing more on Family Life, this coming year.
All our Prolife efforts are established and the dedication will continue to be there, but as I have shared with many of you our Lord has called upon a redirection, a focus on Family, beginning with Marriage. Before, After and most of All DURING.
Please keep all efforts in your prayers and let us together do what we can to begin cultivating LIFE back into the Sanctity of Marriage!!!

"The Role of the Christian family in the Modern world."~ Pope John Paul II

"Particularly today, the Christian family has a special vocation to witness to the ***paschal covenant of Christ*** by constantly **radiating the joy of love** and the **certainty of the hope** for which it must give an account: "**The Christian family loudly proclaims both the present virtues of the Kingdom of God and the hope of a blessed life to come."**
"The absolute ***need for family catechesis*** emerges with particular force in certain situations that the Church unfortunately experiences in some places; "In places where anti-religious legislation endeavors even to prevent education in the faith, and in places where widespread unbelief or invasive secularism makes real religious growth practically impossible, "**the Church of the home**" remains the one place where children and young people can receive an authentic catechesis."

"the Church" ~ Bishop Patrick Zurek, in his Pastoral Letter

"Pope John Paul II called for every family to be a "school of prayer" (NMI). **How would I like to see Christian couples pray together so that when children come, it is a natural part of their life together.**
In the absence of daily prayer, frequent reflection on the Word of God, especially the Gospel and Sunday Eucharist, <u>many</u> have grown weak in Christian spirituality and witness."

NEWS & EVENTS

More on Healthcare reform…

Bishops Call Vote a Grave Mistake and Serious Blow to Genuine Reform Say the Senate Should Not Support Bill in its Current Form Hope That House Provisions on Abortion Funding Prevail

BISHOPS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY SENATE VOTE TO TABLE NELSON-HATCH-CASEY AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON—"The Senate vote to table the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment is a grave mistake and a serious blow to genuine health care reform," said Cardinal Francis George, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "The Senate is ignoring the promise made by President Obama and the will of the American people in failing to incorporate longstanding prohibitions on federal funding for abortion and plans that include abortion."

Full story go to www.usccb.org

"Joy comes from receiving God's love, not lots of things," pope says

Real joy is feeling that one's personal and social life "is touched and filled by a great mystery, the mystery of God's love," he said Dec. 13 before his midday recitation of the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

On the third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, the pope said Advent helps people "rediscover the meaning and pleasure of Christian joy, which is so different from that (joy) of the world."
Full story at www.catholicnews.com

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat February 5-7, 2010

"I wish and wish that I could erase those hours."
~"Deseo una y otra vez poder borrar esas horas."~
Rachel's Vineyard is a healing retreat for those who have suffered an abortion, miscarriage, or the loss of a loved one. For more info. Call Christina Casas (806) 679-3370

Calling all Women of Grace

"Re-igniting the culture of life in our families and society. Forgiveness, healing and call to holiness."

St. Thomas the Apostle, Altar Guild
Invites you to a Women's Retreat
January 9, 2010
Special Guest: **Johnette S. Benkovic**
Founder & Director of
Women of Grace

Cost: 20.00
Time: 8AM – 2PM
Place: 4100 S. Coulter, Amarillo
Reg. Deadline: Jan 4,

More info call (806) 352-0831

"Walk for LIFE" January 23, 2010

Are you ready and willing to be a witness to the gift of LIFE God has graced you with? Spread the word and let us go out in BIG Numbers professing and testifying to our gratitude for this GIFT of LIFE!! Save the Date!!

Marriage, a Blessing a Gift a Joy?...Let's talk Retrouvaille.

Recently my husband and I went away for a weekend. He and I have both been on retreats in the past and served on team as well, but never had we taken a retreat together.

This was a first, let me begin by informing you that up to this point we had received healing and forgiveness for lotts that we had done to tear our marriage apart. We had overcome a lot… let's just say we as a couple had been pulled out of the dark and brought forth into His merciful light. But we found communication still a challenge.

We had the tendency to hear one another's **thoughts**, *opinions*, this brought tension when we disagreed which would lead to conflict. Lotts of it, guilt feelings lingered after our sounding displays. This was not good, not healthy, and definitely not reflecting Jesus and his Bride the Church.

Funny how God knows just what we need at just the right time…Retrouvaille was fast approaching, and we thought it would be a good idea to take a look into a program in our diocese that offered help for couples, you know for "other couples". (BTW it is not only for troubled marriages…)

We were excited, we were open to receive whatever God wanted from us, after all when it came to communicating with one another we knew we needed help.

It was a heart opener, my husband and I suffered a lot of what these couples had suffered and we sought out healing and forgiveness individually, but these had come together, desperately seeking something, anything, searching high and low for any sign of life, a glimmer of hope.

It took us both to the time when we too felt like many who sat before us now…this made us both grateful to God for the gift of His forgiveness and most of all of His merciful love.

Then something happened, we were both able to see how much and how far we had come as a couple and how we yet seemed to fail at truly hearing one another. Each time that we argued and had conflict I felt as a true failure, all I kept visualizing was Jesus weeping over us. It made me feel ungrateful for all that He had given us thus far and what was yet to come.

See up to now, I had not even been in tuned with why and how much it pained me each time after a spat. For the first time ever we were able to expose our feelings. TRUE feelings, which most of the time, I had no words for. I could for the first time identify my feelings and give them a name. Before this weekend it was not possible I would not dare allow myself the feeling, for fear of seeming weak, becoming vulnerable, and most of all becoming a burden to others.

This journey, our marriage our vocation is far more than something we do it is something we who are called to marriage should LIVE for. Truly be ALIVE in LOVE, ***loving our creator through the love of our spouse***. I pray that many will take the chance and look into Retrouvaille and Rediscover!!

For more info go to www.helpourmarriage.com

Pray with us…

Maranà, Thà
Come, Lord Jesus!
Come in your way,
in the ways that you know.
Come wherever there is injustice and violence.
Come to the refugee camps,
in Darfur, in North Kivu, in so many parts of the world.
Come wherever drugs prevail.
Come among those wealthy people
who have forgotten you, who live for themselves
alone. Come wherever you are unknown.
Come in your way and renew today's world. And come into our hearts, come and renew our lives, come into our hearts so that we ourselves may become the light of God, your presence. In this way let us pray with St. Paul: Maranà, thà! "Come, Lord Jesus!" And let us pray that Christ may truly be present in our world today and renew it. Amen.

USCCB Advent Calendar

Respect Life Ministries,
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Merry Christmas!

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