



2008

Office of Justice and Pastoral Outreach

Faithful Citizenship

Disability Issues

Operation Rice Bowl Helps Flood Victims

Learning about Healing from

More Welcoming of the Stranger and Disabled

Abortions



Faithful Citizenship

Speakers from around the diocese have volunteered to help lead parish discussions on the Faithful Citizenship materials, so call or e-mail the office if you would like to schedule an educational event. The Faithful Citizenship DVD called "A Matter of Conscience" is available from our office or from uscbbpublishing.org (800-235-8722). There are 10 minute segments for adults in English and Spanish and a separate 10 minutes for teens. We have some copies that we can lend for your review and use.

The website for Faithful Citizenship is <http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/> There are encouraging suggestions for families, such as "Talk to your children about how important it is to vote." There are ideas for schools and parishes too, such as:

"From Simple to Sophisticated:

Parish involvement in faithful citizenship efforts can range from simple bulletin or pulpit announcements to full voter registration campaigns and extensive distribution of voter

education materials. The best efforts will be those integrated into ongoing parish activities and resources such as Sunday worship, school and religious education programs, weekly bulletins, and meetings of parish organizations."

Keep in mind that materials from the USCCB and the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) are approved for use. Guidelines for parish involvement are available at the WCC website, www.wisconsin.nasccd.org

Operation Rice Bowl Helps Flood Victims

The simple Lenten sacrifices of sharing through Operation Rice Bowl has just made a major impact for flood victims. The generous giving from around the diocese is flowing back in the way of 222 tons of food to be distributed where needed by Catholic Charities' mobile food pantry. I encourage you to consider re-instituting this for Lent 2009. If you need any information or would like to be sure you will receive materials, please contact us.

More Welcoming of the Stranger and Disabled

Immigration Issues

The National Migration Conference took place in late July. Cardinal Mahoney, of Los Angeles, laid out a blueprint for engaging these difficult issues in his keynote address. By the time you get this newsletter, that information should be posted on the USCCB website. It is very important the the Church's position on legislative reform be understood: we favor a reform that provides a path for legalization and

protects people from unduly harsh punishments.

We are called to welcome the stranger in a foreign land. If you have had success in this, would you be willing to share your story? We have materials for Quinceneras, Weddings, catalogs and other materials. Let us know if we can help.



Disability Issues

The National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities provides large print Sacramentaries and Lectionaries and several alert readers order some. The response is overwhelmingly positive! Four priests are now using them. If you have people in your parish who struggle with vision problems, this could be the solution. CD's will soon be available so that you could print out what was needed for any individual. This is a way to welcome those with vision difficulties, so let us know if your parish could use this. These materials are available at no charge to the parish through our office. Another way to welcome people with disabilities is to invite them to take part as lectors, greeters, or to serve on committees in the parish. People with disabilities have said they would prefer not to have things done for them, but to be able to join with others. A third, very easy way, to be more welcoming, is to be sure that all your meeting notices let people know if there is handicap access, assisted listening or other accommodations available. These logos are available at the Office of Worship website

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And finally, usccbpublishing.org has a free download of "Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities" with 10 points to help your parish be more inclusive. The National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities has stated that great strides have been made in including disabled people, yet this two page (large print) summary is worthy of some thought and discussion.

Learning about Healing from Abortions

A mailing is coming your way on several ways to learn more about post-abortion healing. Please watch for it and post the brochures (or better yet, hand them to people you would like to attend).

The highlights are:

September 8 and 9: Reclaiming Fatherhood, a seminar on how abortion affects men, Oak Brook, IL

September 11: Project Rachel Training with Vicky Thorn at St. Mary's, Platteville.

September 19 and 20: Rachel's Vineyard Regional Seminar, Bishop O'Connor Center, Madison

November 14 - 16: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, Madison area.

You, your staff, your parishioners, are all welcome to these. Information is on our website, but if you have additional questions, please call or e-mail us.

If you've gotten this far, please let us know what you think of the new e-mail format and how we can improve.

Send any comments to Susanna Herro at Susanna.Herro@straphael.org.