

Catholic Charities

DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

Brian R. Corbin, Local Disaster Response Coordinator.....(330) 744-8451 ext. 320
Executive Director of Catholic Charities Services
144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503—charities@youngstowndiocese.org

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown reports that as of December 2006 over \$480,955 has been collected locally for recovery efforts in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Donations (both *Hurricane Disaster Relief* and/or *New Orleans Build a House*) are being accepted and may be sent to:

Catholic Charities Disaster Funds
144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503

please make your check payable to:
Catholic Charities Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund, or
Catholic Charities New Orleans Build a House Fund

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE—HISTORY

Many tens of thousands New Orleans residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005 are still homeless. Large numbers of neighborhoods stood submerged under four to twelve feet of water for several weeks in the storms' aftermath. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans is working hard to restore their homes through a program known as Operation Helping Hands. This operation asks volunteers from across the nation to travel to New Orleans to help residents whose health, age, and finances prevent them from repairing the damage themselves.

To date the Youngstown Diocese, acting through volunteers from 23 parishes, from Walsh University Community, as well as from some other local churches have sent 17 teams of volunteers totaling over 4,888 volunteer hours of service (not counting travel time) to Operation Helping Hands and to the New Orleans Jesuit Outreach Ministries.

Until now our volunteers have participated in assessment and the

gutting of over a thousand moldy, storm-ravaged houses. Currently there are 900 houses that are repairable and sit unused as the homeowners await materials and skilled re-builders.



Many of the displaced reside in far-away cities and in cramped camping trailers that were provided by FEMA. Depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder have been widely observed among many of the New Orleans Catholic Charities clients. They pray daily in gratitude for the help they already received, however are still trapped in a seemingly insurmountable goal of getting their families together in their homes.

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE—HISTORY

Take Action Daily

- Pray for the displaced homeowners, for volunteers to respond, and for donors of funds for travel and building materials
- Work locally by meeting with planning teams coordinated through Fr. Edward Brienz, New Orleans Disaster Liaison, (330) 205-8632, erbrienz@yahoo.com.
- Consider sharing your God-given talent for this project.
- Encourage someone with these skills to step forward and join the effort.
- Make a donation in Youngstown to: “New Orleans Build A House” Fund.

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE—PRESENT

Volunteers from across the Youngstown Diocese who have rebuilding skills are needed immediately to travel to New Orleans and volunteer for at least 5 days at a time. Catholic Charities has committed to providing these skilled volunteers to rebuild at least two families’ houses before Labor Day of this year.



A gutted home ready to be re-built.

The trades in demand are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ✓ Rough Carpenters | ✓ Roofers |
| ✓ Finish Carpenters | ✓ Floor Covering Installers
(mostly vinyl, some carpet) |
| ✓ Dry-wall Installers | ✓ Helpers for the above skilled trades |
| ✓ Electricians | |
| ✓ Plumbers | |

For more information please contact:

Father Edward Brienz, our New Orleans Disaster Liaison, at: 330-205-8632 erbrienz@yahoo.com,
or Rick Walker, Catholic Charities Services at: 330-744-8451 rwalker@youngstowndiocese.org

VISIT OUR Website: www.catholiccharitiesyoungstown.org

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for July / August

July 1, 2007 (13th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul provides a wonderful one-sentence summary of Christian Stewardship: "...serve one another through love."

July 15, 2007 (15th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbor's need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges his hearers – and us – to go and do the same.

July 29, 2007 (17th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's Gospel, "...ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you." But it should also be the description of us as Christian Stewards – those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others.

August 5, 2007 (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man who stored his bountiful harvest for himself. Jesus warns against storing up earthly treasures for ourselves. Instead, we should share our gifts and build up treasure in heaven. Good stewards try to live this Gospel teaching daily.

August 19, 2007 (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

July 8, 2007 (14th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"The harvest is abundant," Jesus tells the seventy-two in today's Gospel, "but the workers are few." The situation is the same today. How can I help with God's harvest? Am I called into the field? Am I one who could provide food or shelter or wages to those who toil in the fields of the Lord?

July 22, 2007 (16th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's readings speak of hospitality. Abraham, who cheerfully did for his guests all that desert hospitality required, was rewarded with his heart's desire – a son. Martha also busied herself with all the details of hospitality, but grudgingly and with complaint. Am I a cheerful or a grudging giver?

August 12, 2007 (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Am I waiting for the "right" time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents "later"? Today's Gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared- "at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

August 26, 2007 (21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself - my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God - is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Bulletin Briefs
June 2007

June 30 – July 1

Mika Gissler and his colleagues analyzed medical records of 1,347 women of reproductive age in Finland who committed suicide between 1987 and 1994. They discovered the suicide rate in the 12 months following birth was a low 5.9 per 100,000 women, while the suicide rate in the 12 months following an abortion was 34.7 per 100,000 women — a rate nearly six times higher.

July 7-8

I thought I would feel less guilt [over my abortion] as time went on. Instead, the guilt turned into anger, the anger to sadness, and it just seems to get worse with time. I need your help God! I don't want to feel alone anymore. I don't want to take revenge on myself for what I've done. I have to change! ... It still hurts so bad inside when I think about [my baby]. I can sometimes hear my soul breaking when I cry. I would not wish this experience on my worst enemy. But I know that I have to get better for my baby. Be a better woman. A good role model. And maybe one day, if I'm lucky, a good mother. I can assure you I will try.

-A grieving mother

July 14-15

It is especially incumbent upon those who, by virtue of their social or political position, must make decisions regarding fundamental values, such as respect for human life, its defense from conception to natural death, the family built upon marriage between a man and a woman, the freedom to educate one's children and the promotion of the common good in all its forms. These values are not negotiable. Consequently, Catholic politicians and legislators, conscious of their grave responsibility before society, must feel particularly bound, on the basis of a properly formed conscience, to introduce and support laws inspired by values grounded in human nature.

-Pope Benedict XVI, Sacramentum Caritatis ("The Sacrament of Charity"), no. 83, Feb. 22, 2007

July 21-22

Respect for human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child.

-Carhart v. Gonzales (upholding the federal law making partial-birth abortion illegal), April 18, 2007

July 28-29

The Christian is continually called to be ever alert in order to face the multiple attacks to which the right to life is exposed. ... The attacks on the right to life throughout the world have broadened and multiplied, also assuming new forms. The pressures to legalize abortion are increasing in Latin American countries and in developing countries, [as well as] the liberalization of new forms of chemical abortion under the pretext of safeguarding reproductive health: policies for demographic control are on the rise, notwithstanding that they are already recognized as dangerous also on the economic and social plane.

-Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Feb. 24, 2007

Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family
Diocese of Youngstown
NFP Bulletin Briefs
July 2007

June 30 – July 1

Humanae Vitae represents a call to celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality. It reminded us that we are stewards of God's gifts of marital love and procreation. It sounded a prophetic message for people to live chastely, to welcome children and protect families, and never to treat human life as a commodity. Ultimately, it challenged the people of God to grow in Christian maturity.

“Human Sexuality from God’s Perspective”, USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, 1993

July 7-8

The cultural view is impoverished, even sad. It fails to account for the true needs and deepest desires of men and women. Living in accord with this view has caused much loneliness and many broken hearts. God’s plan for married life and love is far richer and more fulfilling.

“Married Love and the Gift of Life”, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

July 14-15

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God’s gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God’s creative power.

“Married Love and the Gift of Life”, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

July 21-22

Some argue that if a husband and wife remain open to children throughout their marriage, they need not worry about using contraception occasionally. But practicing what is good most of the time does not justify doing what is wrong some of the time.

“Married Love and the Gift of Life”, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

July 28-29

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman’s cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way. This is the principle behind natural family planning (NFP). Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it.

“Married Love and the Gift of Life”, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops **Natural Family Planning Awareness Week – July 22-28, 2007**

What does the Church teach about married love?

Marriage is more than a civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. It is an intimate partnership in which husbands and wives learn to give and receive love unselfishly, and then teach their children to do so as well. Christian marriage in particular is a “great mystery,” a sign of the love between Christ and his Church (Eph 5:32).

Married love is powerfully embodied in the spouses’ sexual relationship, when they most fully express what it means to become “one body” (Gn 2:24) or “one flesh” (Mk 10:8, Mt 19:6). The Church teaches that the sexual union of husband and wife is meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life.

What does this have to do with contraception?

A husband and wife express their committed love not only with words, but with the language of their bodies. Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God’s gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God’s creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple’s unity. The total giving of oneself, body and soul, to one’s beloved is no time to say: “I give you everything I am—except. . . .” The Church’s teaching is not only about observing a rule, but about preserving that total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity.

By using contraception, couples may think that they are avoiding problems or easing tensions, that they are exerting control over their lives. But the gift of being able to help create another person, a new human being with his or her own life, involves profound relationships. It affects our relationship with God, who created us complete with this powerful gift. It involves whether spouses will truly love and accept each other as they are, including their

gift of fertility. Finally, it involves the way spouses will spontaneously accept their child as a gift from God and the fruit of their mutual love. Like all important relationships with other persons, it is not subject solely to our individual control. In the end, this gift is far richer and more rewarding than that.

Are couples expected to leave their family size entirely to chance?

Certainly not. The Church teaches that a couple may generously decide to have a large family, or may for serious reasons choose not to have more children for the time being or even for an indefinite period (*Humanae Vitae*, no. 10).

What should a couple do if they have a good reason to avoid having a child?

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman’s cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way.

This is the principle behind natural family planning (NFP). Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it.

Living God’s design for human sexuality in marriage can be difficult. But husbands and wives have not been left alone to live out this fundamental life challenge. If you have failed to do so in the past, do not be discouraged. God loves you and wants your ultimate happiness. Loving as Christ loves is a possibility opened to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as a free gift of God. Through prayer and the sacraments, including Reconciliation and the Eucharist, God offers us the strength to live up to this challenge. Recall the words of Christ, repeated so often by John Paul II: “Be not afraid!” The Church’s teaching on marital sexuality is an invitation for men and women—an invitation to let God be God, to receive the gift of God’s love and care, and to let this gift inform and transform us, so we may share that love with each other and with the world.

Excerpt from *Married Love and the Gift of Life*.
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Life. A Gift of Married Love.



Natural Family Planning Awareness Week · July 22-28, 2007

For more information on Natural Family Planning, contact



Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
Office of Pro-Life, Marriage & Family
(330) 744-8451 ext. 289 or 273

Or contact your local NFP instructor:

Ashtabula County

Dan and Margaret Sartor
440-474-4178

Columbia County

Timothy and Ann Miller
330-424-9427

Mahoning County

Dave and Jenny Norton
330-758-6474

Stark County

Mercy Medical Center
Women's Pavilion
330-489-1329

Portage/Trumbull County

Joseph and Joanne Brookover
330-527-5196

Val and Dave Rodenbucher
330-628-3609