

DIOCESAN COLLECTION DATES

2010

	<u>National Date</u>	<u>DOY DATE</u>
The Church Overseas Combined Collection		February 21, 2010
• Aid to Eastern Europe	February 17, 2010	
• Catholic Relief Services	March 14, 2010	
• Holy Father/Peter's Pence	June 27, 2010	
• Latin America	January 24, 2010	
* Rice Bowl	February 27-April 4, 2010	April 1, 2010
Holy Land	April 2, 2010	April 2, 2010
* Annual Appeal		announcement: April 18 commitment: April 25 follow-up: May 2 & May 9
The Church at Home Combined Collection		June 6, 2010
• Campaign for Human Development	November 21, 2010	
• Catholic Communications	May 16, 2010	
• Catholic University/Newman Apostolate	September 5 or 12, 2010	
Mission Sunday Combined Collection		October 17, 2010
• Propagation of the Faith	October 24, 2010	
• Home Mission		
(Catholic Home Missions Appeal	April 25, 2010	
and Black & Indian Missions)	February 21, 2010	
Retirement Fund for Religious	December 12, 2010	November 28, 2010

* Annual Appeal and Rice Bowl are not included on the list sent to the envelope companies because they do not supply that envelope; nor does their list include the national collection dates.

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for March / April 2009

March 15, 2009 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer society. As Christian stewards we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that *all* is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

March 22, 2009 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord, "For we are His handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."

March 29, 2009 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be." In what ways is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

April 5, 2009 (Palm Sunday)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ – emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

April 19, 2009 (2nd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced *total* stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything for their own, but held everything in common and distributed to each other whatever was needed.

March 15, 2009 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT **(Cycle A Readings)**

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives.

March 22, 2009 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT **(Cycle A Readings)**

The blind man in today's Gospel was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the blind man or the Pharisees?

March 29, 2009 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT **(Cycle A Readings)**

When Jesus heard about the illness of Lazarus, He said "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Every aspect of our lives- sufferings as well as our gifts - can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings for ourselves and others.

April 12, 2009 (Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.

April 26, 2009 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The two disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those in need, we too, will discover Jesus in our midst.



The Gift of Lent 2009

Resources for Discussion and Reflection Cycle B

Prepared by the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission of the
Northeastern Ohio Lutheran Synod of the ELCA &
Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

WEEK ONE

Genesis 9:8-15 1Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

Both Noah and Jesus have one thing in common. They listen and obey. Noah, in spite of ridicule and absurdity, built the ark and saved life as God asked of him. Jesus, following his baptism, is asked to go into the desert. Jesus listens to this call and obeys. God the Father vindicates both Jesus and Noah and they come through their experience untouched, but not unchanged.

In your life, what was a time in spite of pain, confusion, or absurdity you listened and obeyed the call of God and, like Jesus, “angels came and ministered” to you?

What a gift Lent is. Forty days in the desert to sit back and put ourselves in the position of Jesus. We go into the desert to pray, to trust, to encounter our deepest self and our God. The Church offers us traditional and new practices of prayer, worship, ashes, conversion, confession, and calls us to remember. We are invited to journey with Jesus, identify reality in a new way, examine our lives, and accept God’s grace to resist temptation.

*In past Lents how have I used these gifts?
Right now, this Lent, what do I think would be most helpful?*

WEEK TWO

Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31-34 Mark 9:2-10

In the story we usually focus on Abraham. For a moment let us focus on the action of God after Abraham’s obedience. Scripture says God promises, “I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing...” Abraham is given a role to play in salvation history, and will be remembered throughout history as a blessing. Three world religions have their roots in him. All this because of love and obedience.

*Abraham, in obedience, is asked to sacrifice his son, his only son.
What is the part of your life, “your child” (the part of yourself that you are attached to),
God is asking you to “put a knife through”?*

This is the second week of Lent. Take a moment now to reflect on your Lenten prayer and practices so far.

*What has your Lenten experience been like?
What would be helpful to you in the form of recommitment?
What temptations have you been facing to give up your Lenten journey?*

WEEK THREE

Exodus 20:1-17 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25

Jesus in today's gospel expresses himself in opposition to a sinful practice occurring in his time. He was not a man who stood by and let evil go unchallenged. Notice that he used forceful measures but not violence to speak the truth. Jesus presents, in his example, a call to us to risk speaking the truth even when to do so is uncomfortable and costs us something. This is an example of appropriate anger.

How well do I deal with anger situations?

If I am timid and have been unable to speak out, what might help me?

Can you think of an example where you were able to speak the truth in love and stayed in right relationship with the person you addressed?

Anger is a powerful emotion. Sometimes we express anger to silence or control another to get what we want. Sometimes our challenge of another is not done with respect.

In my life how do I express my anger?

Does it resemble Jesus' model?

How can this time of Lent help me?

WEEK FOUR

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

Today's reading speaks about Jesus being lifted up to save the world. Jesus did not come into the world to condemn but to save. He came ultimately to save us for eternal life but also to save people from destructiveness, distortion, and mediocrity in their lives. He longs to bring every human activity to fulfillment, to make the ordinary sacred. Life with Jesus brings a new light, a new perspective to everything.

Name one ordinary aspect of your life (work or home) that is elevated to a higher level by seeing it through the light of Jesus.

The Church often take stands that challenge the accepted practices of the world. Focus on one moral teaching of the Church that you might find difficult to accept or follow. Examine this teaching in the light of the value it seeks to defend.

Three situations that the world accepts as permissible are: pragmatic war, abortion, and racial or sexual discrimination. Choose one of these issues for reflection.

Why does the Church speak out against the world's thinking?

What the value the Church seeks to respect?

When you view this issue through the light of Jesus, what needs to change in your life?

March 1st**A Pro-Life Prayer for Our President and Public Officials**

Lord God, Author of Life and Source of Eternal Life,

Move the hearts of all our public officials and especially our President to fulfill their responsibilities worthily and well to all those entrusted to their care.

Help them in their special leadership roles, to extend the mantle of protection to the most vulnerable, especially the defenseless unborn whose lives are threatened with extermination by an indifferent society.

Guide all public officials by your wisdom and grace to cease supporting any law that fails to protect the fundamental good that is human life itself, which is a gift from God and parents.

You are the Protector and Defender of the lives of the innocent unborn. Change the hearts of those who compromise the call to protect and defend life. Bring our nation to the values that have made us a great nation, a society that upholds the value of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

Mary, the Mother of the living, help us to bear witness to the Gospel of Life with our lives and our laws, through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

March 8th

If you judge people you have no time to love them.

-Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

March 15th

The desire to uphold the common good is founded on the belief that man comes into the world as a gift of the Creator. It is from God that all men and women—made in his image—receive their common inviolable dignity and their summons to responsibility.

-Pope Benedict XVI, Address to New Zealand's Ambassador to the Holy See, June 16, 2005

March 22nd

The human being is created in the image of God, and God himself is love. It is therefore the vocation to love that makes the human person an authentic image of God: man and woman come to resemble God to the extent that they become loving people.

-Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Ecclesial Diocesan Convention of Rome, June 6, 2005

March 29th

The family is ... a school which enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity. The experience of being loved by their parents helps children to become aware of their dignity as children.

-Pope Benedict XVI, Address at the Vigil of Prayer, Fifth World Meeting of Families, July 8, 2006

Intercessions for Life March 2009

March 1st First Sunday of Lent

For those whose selfishness
leads them to sin against life:
that the grace of God
might turn their hearts
from the ways of darkness and death
and make them disciples of the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

March 8th Second Sunday of Lent

For those who await death in prisons, hospitals, and at home:
that we might remember them in prayer,
beg God's mercy for their sins,
and love them as Christ loved us;
We pray to the Lord:

March 15th Third Sunday of Lent

For those who are old and sick and in pain:
that they might seek solace in the cross of Christ,
and trust every day in our love and respect
for the great gift which they are to us;
We pray to the Lord:

March 22nd Fourth Sunday of Lent

For all who teach young children:
that by their lives and by their words
they might teach the beauty and value of life
from conception to natural death;
We pray to the Lord:

March 29th Fifth Sunday of Lent

For all who suffer from the memories of abortion:
that the mercy of God might bring peace
to all who have turned from their sins;
We pray to the Lord:

Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Ministry
Diocese of Youngstown
Natural Family Planning Bulletin Quotes

March 1st

In 1996, I became exposed to contemporary natural family planning when I attended a California conference for NFP professionals. I learned for the first time – after twenty years in OB/GYN – that NFP was not the Rhythm method, and that it worked 98-99% of the time!

-Mary L. Davenport, MD

March 8th

Indeed, the stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone: the Church's teaching on artificial birth control and on human sexuality was at one time the mark for me that the Church was out of touch with the modern world. Now it has become a profound source of wisdom not only for myself in my marriage relationship, but also foundational in my work as a doctor, placed here by the Divine Physician Himself to minister to His people.

-John R. Hartman, MD

March 15th

Since Kathleen and I adopted the OM (the Billings Ovulation Method), we found it very easy to learn and apply. Similarly, the couples I have worked with seem pleased to find that the method is not cumbersome. Most convincingly, the OM of NFP has been taught and implemented throughout the world.

-John T. Littell, MD

March 22nd

Concern for my patients first opened my heart and mind to NFP. I began to see a pattern where the contraceptive "help" I was prescribing to my healthy patients was not actually helping them, but potentially causing them harm. Physically, I was stunned by the many adverse reactions to hormonal contraceptives.

-H. Whit Oliver, MD

March 29th

God is exceptionally generous to those who faithfully follow His will as revealed through the teachings of His Catholic Church and there are many practical benefits for those who choose NFP (including improved communication between spouses, an impressively low divorce rate of less than 5%, freedom from the cost, bother and side effects associated with contraception), but more importantly there are the freedom and joy that come with holding back nothing from God.

-Sara Fox Peterson

“The Hollow Men”:



Male Grief and Trauma Following Abortion

by Vincent M. Rue, Ph.D.

We are the hollow men

*We are the stuffed men . . .
Our dried voices, when
We whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless . . .*

Remember us—if at all—not as lost

*Violent souls, but only
As the hollow men
The stuffed men.*

Abortion has become a personal and social eraser of choice for our unwanted, ill-timed, and “defective” offspring. With mainstream mental health professional associations encouraging this procedure by advising that it is psychologically safe, women and men have embraced abortion as a stress reliever. Yet the evidence is mounting that abortion carries serious and significant mental health risks for many women.



What about the impact of abortion on men? With some 45 million abortions in the U.S. since 1973, this is not a rhetorical question. The sheer numbers represent a potential mental health shockwave of personal and relational injury.

More than anything else, the U.S. Supreme Court has shaped the role of men in abortion. The Court has held that a woman’s right not to procreate trumps a man’s right to procreate, making his involvement in the abortion decision irrelevant. In *Planned Parenthood of Missouri v. Danforth* (1976), the Court dismissed the validity of a husband’s involvement in his wife’s decision. No state allows a husband to be informed of his wife’s impending abortion.

Emerging Awareness

Growing interest in how abortion impacts individuals, their relationships and families is evident today. The first-ever conference on men and abortion took place in 2007, 34 years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion. Since then, media reports highlighting various aspects of this subject have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation* and other publications.

His Abortion Experience

Men’s responses to abortion are varied, like men themselves. How abortion impacts men is complicated by the decision-making that precedes the abortion.

For men who pressure or encourage the women they care about to have an abortion, troublesome feelings can emerge later on. In *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II made it clear that by leaving her alone to face the problems of pregnancy, he indirectly encourages such a decision on her part to abort (no. 59).

In a national web-based study of 135 men who have experienced an abortion, 48% of men stated that they opposed their partner’s abortion and 69% reported moderate to very high stress following the abortion (Rue, Coyle, & Coleman, 2007).

What Does The Research Show?

While there is much we don’t know about men and abortion, there are some 28 studies on men’s reactions to abortion that are informative. In one study, most men felt overwhelmed, with many experiencing disturbing thoughts of the abortion (Shostak & McLouth, 1984). Research evidence suggests that men are also less comfortable expressing vulnerable feelings of grief and loss, instead either saying nothing or becoming hostile. And of course, because no abortion occurs in a relational vacuum, the consequences of these two factors have considerable implications for men’s relationships with women.

In a review of how abortion impacts relationships, Coleman, Rue & Spence (2007a) reported: (1) men tend to exert greater control over the expression of painful emotions, intellectualize grief, and cope alone; (2) men are also inclined to identify their primary role as a supporter for their partners, even after an abortion, and even if they opposed the decision; (3) men were more likely to experience feelings of despair long after the abortion than women; and (4) men are more at risk for experiencing chronic grief.

Hope and Trust in Life!

The best evidence indicates that a minimum of 10-30% of women who undergo an abortion report pronounced and/or prolonged psychological difficulties attributable to the abortion. These adverse psychological outcomes include guilt, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbance, relationship problems, substance abuse, symptoms of post-traumatic stress, and increased risk of suicide. Male responses to a partner's abortion include grief, guilt, depression, anxiety, feelings of repressed emotions, helplessness/ voicelessness/ powerlessness, post-traumatic stress, anger and relationship problems (Coyle, 2007).

Psychological injury in men following abortion is likely underestimated due to men's propensity to avoid self-disclosure. Preliminary findings in a new study found four out of ten men experienced chronic post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, occurring on average 15 years after the abortion. Certain factors predict whether men are more likely to experience abortion as traumatic: where the pregnancy was desired by them or their partner, where someone else pressured their partner into abortion, where the abortion occurred against



his wishes or he didn't know about it until afterwards (Rue, Coyle, & Coleman, 2007).

Research evidence suggests that men are more likely to feel despair after a pregnancy loss, including a pervasive sense of hopelessness, one of the signs of chronic grief (Stinson et al., 1992). It is apparent that men's lives contain greater attachments and are more profoundly affected by fatherhood than has usually been assumed.

Risks to Masculinity & Relationships

Contemporary reliance on abortion as a "contraceptive back-up" may in fact be promoting male detachment, desertion and irresponsibility. According to Morabito (1991), abortion can actually encourage sexual exploitation of women. In this scenario, the male may view his partner's pregnancy as a "biological quirk corrected by abortion."

When a male/female relationship experiences an abortion, it is likely that the following occur:

- (1) a reduction in self-disclosures by both partners, which decreases the intimacy necessary for relationship survival;
- (2) increased use of defensive communication behaviors (e.g., interpersonal hostility);
- (3) the development of partner communication apprehensiveness (fear translated into avoidance behaviors), the erosion of trust, and the evolution into a closed system of interaction as opposed to an open and dynamic one;
- (4) a loss of spiritual connectedness to God and to one's partner with the advent of guilt, shame and isolation.

There is a considerable price for both men and women when men feel they cannot talk about their experience of a partner's abortion.

One of the sad realities of abortion is how caring men, who try not to hurt the women they love, in fact hurt them by saying nothing when abortion is first mentioned in the crisis decision making process. Wanting to please, these men are rejected because they were judged deficient in true love for their partners.

Conclusion

Abortion leaves indelible footprints in the texture of masculinity, in the recesses of a man's heart, and in his reproductive history. A father is a father forever, even of a dead unborn child. In the aftermath of abortion, the real choice for men is whether to accept this biological reality, grieve the loss and seek forgiveness, or to continue denying what is inwardly known and swell the ranks of the hollowed men. Irrespective of the law, both man and woman co-created the pregnancy, and both will live with the aftermath, regardless of how some may try to celebrate "choice."

Vincent Rue, Ph.D. is co-director of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss, Jacksonville, Florida. He is a practicing psychotherapist, researcher, lecturer, and author of a book and numerous articles in professional journals on post-abortion trauma, for which he provided the first clinical evidence in 1981.

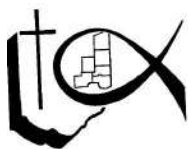
Word, Worship & Service

Connecting Parishes with the Diocesan Offices of Catholic Schools, Worship and Catholic Charities

Word, Worship & Service is a quarterly publication distributed through *Communiqué* and on the web at www.cathdoy.org. Its purpose is to provide information on how the Diocesan Offices of Education, Worship and Catholic Charities are serving you—our parishes, Catholic Institutions and friends in the Diocese of Youngstown.

“The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable.”

— *Pope Benedict XVI*
Deus Caritas Est



Thank you for helping “Keep the Kids Warm”

In December of last year, Catholic Charities initiated “Keep the Kids Warm,” a special parish and community-based campaign to raise funds for emergency utility assistance for families with children. To date, nearly \$48,000 has been collected to assist eligible low-income households throughout the diocese after other government utility assistance programs have been exhausted.

Catholic Charities wishes to thank those parishes, groups and individuals who contributed to the Keep the Kids Warm campaign. We know that many people are struggling to provide for their own families, so the concern expressed towards others is particularly uplifting during these difficult times.

Last year, Catholic Charities experienced a 35% increase in requests for emergency assistance. Efforts like Keep the Kids Warm help Catholic Charities deal with the rising number of families in need of assistance. As you can probably guess, 2009 is shaping up to be a busy year for Catholic Charities as our nation struggles through the current recession.



If your parish, school or group is still interested in taking a collection for “Keep the Kids Warm,” it’s not too late. The campaign has been extended through the month of March. More information can be found on the Catholic Charities website at www.catholiccharitiesyoungstown.org. You may also call Shellie Sabel at Catholic Charities at 330-744-8451, ext. 322 with any questions or to receive information by mail.

Catholic Charities will provide further updates on Keep the Kids Warm, including stories of how real families in your community were helped this year with help from this important campaign in future issues of this publication.



Rite of Election at St. Joseph Parish, Canton.

Prayer for Those Preparing for the Easter Sacraments

Lord God, you created the human race and are the author of its renewal.

Bless all your adopted children and add these chosen ones to the harvest of your new covenant.

As true children of the promise, may they rejoice in eternal life, won, not by the power of nature, but through the mystery of your grace. We ask this through Christ our

Lord.

Amen.

As Lent Begins

One of the most inspiring liturgical celebrations of the year, the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, occurs on the first Sunday of Lent—this year on March 1. On that day hundreds of men, women and children gather around Bishop George V. Murry, S.J. at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown and St. Joseph Parish, Canton. These individuals are anticipating becoming Catholic at the Easter Vigil on April 11, 2009. Many of them will celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist on that most holy night while others, already baptized, will enter into full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

All those men, women and children who have been preparing to become Catholic for many months—and some much longer—will be presented to the bishop on the first Sunday of Lent. The bishop will then ask the godparents and sponsors to attest to the spiritual growth of those they are sponsoring. All the Catholics present are also asked to indicate their willingness to support them in faith, prayer and example as they prepare to celebrate the Easter sacraments. This request is in actuality made of all Catholics whether present that day or not. Our observance of Lent includes a sharing in the journey of those preparing for the Easter sacraments. While the number of those coming into the Church at Easter is not yet firm, we know there will be hundreds in our diocese and thousands more around the United States. For those already Catholic this is a reminder of the working of the Holy Spirit, the gift that our faith is and the treasure that we have in the Catholic Church.

Fostering the Spirit of Collaboration

In the previous issue of *Word, Worship & Service*, the Office of Catholic Schools discussed the availability of Catholic School tuition assistance through the Mary Ellen Cushwa-Wolsonovich fund and the “Today’s Sacrifice. . . Tomorrow’s Church” Diocesan Capital Campaign. For the 2008/2009 academic term, these two major funds and some smaller endowments are responsible for providing approximately \$198,000 in tuition assistance to 304 students.

It must be recognized that were it not for the Diocesan Capital Campaign, coordinated by the Diocesan Office of Development and Stewardship and the Department of Catholic Charities, the Office of Catholic Schools would be able to serve less than half of the tuition assistance applicants.

There truly is a codependence among the various departments of our diocesan administration. While each department



has a unique function, there are shared concerns as we advance within our ultimate mission as Church. The Office of Catholic Schools appreciates the support of our confreres and echoes the expressed gratitude of the students and parents who have been assisted through our work together as the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown.

For more information about Catholic school tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities, call 330-744-8451, ext. 290.