



# Family Connections



A quarterly publication of the  
**Office of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life in the Diocese of Austin**

Vol 4, No. 1 – January – March 2007

## World Marriage Day

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, is World Marriage Day, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, when couples encouraged the mayor, the governor and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day". The event was so successful, the idea was presented to and adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's national leadership.

By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day", designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. In 1993, his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day. WMD celebrations continue to grow and spread to more countries and faith expressions every year.

The Theme for WMD has been permanently adopted as "Love One Another". This phrase is the commandment given us by Jesus in John 14. It speaks to us in a simple but challenging way of how our Father wishes us to live. Loving one another is a daily decision - simple, but challenging.

A reproducible handout on "Why Marriage Matters" is included in English and Spanish on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter. This may be used to promote World Marriage Day as a bulletin stuffer or a handout at adult formation sessions. Additional resources, including homily and liturgical ideas for this week's readings, can be found on the World Marriage Day website at [wmd.wmme.org](http://wmd.wmme.org).

## Families & Faith

Vision and Practice for Parish Ministry

The Center for Ministry Development, in cooperation with the Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life Office of the Diocese of Austin, will present an all-day workshop entitled, "Families & Faith: Vision and Practice for Parish Ministry." The workshop will be held on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center, 1625 Rutherford Lane in Austin. The aim of this presentation is to shift the paradigm of household faith growth from something optional and hoped for, to something that is expected, from being extraordinary to being ordinary. Based on the new book *Families and Faith* (Twenty-Third Publications), this workshop is designed for **all** parish leaders – pastors, DRE's, youth ministers, pastoral ministers, and Generations of Faith teams – anyone whose ministry touches the lives of families.

The cost of the workshop, which includes lunch, refreshments, and workshop materials, is \$39. For more information or to register for the workshop, see the Center for Ministry Development website at [www.cmdnet.org](http://www.cmdnet.org).



### SETON COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS/ DIOCESE OF AUSTIN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SERVICE PROGRAM

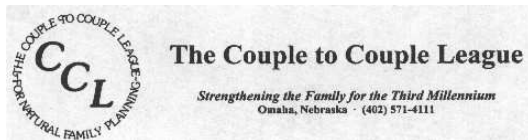
The Natural Family Planning (NFP) Service Program exists to develop fertility awareness and appreciation and to increase access to modern NFP methods.

The program:

- Serves as a clearinghouse by gathering, processing, and distributing information about Natural Family Planning;
- Coordinates educational and informational events;
- Networks parishes, individuals and NFP providers in the Diocese of Austin; and
- Develops new resources for the community.

For more information, please contact:

Clara Urías, NFP Coordinator  
 Seton McCarthy Community Health Clinic  
 2811 East Second Street  
 Austin, TX 78702  
 512-324-4930, ext. 12911  
 FAX 512-324-4929  
 curias@seton.org



## Natural Family Planning Introductory Sessions

Introductory sessions will be held in South Austin at St. Catherine's Catholic Church on the first Sunday of every month 3-4:30 pm. Registration is required by the Wednesday before and there is a \$ 5 fee. For more information or to register, please contact David and Donna Freidenfeld (512) 292-6090.

Introductory sessions will be held in North Austin at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on the first Saturday of every month at 10-11:30 am. Registration is required by the Wednesday before and there is a \$ 5 fee. For more information or to register, please contact Robert and Kelly Tavarez at 512-258-9304.

## Natural Family Planning Full Course

### NW Austin

St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
 The first of four classes will begin Sun, Feb. 11 at 1:30 pm  
 Subsequent classes March 11, April 15, and May 6, 2007.  
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 9500 Neenah Drive,  
 Austin, TX 78717 in the Dining Room Contact: Ben and  
 Kelsey Byron (512) 627-7294  
 email: kelseybyron@austin.rr.com

### Central Austin

St. Mary's Cathedral  
 The first of four classes beginning in March Subsequent  
 classes: TBA St. Mary's Cathedral 203 E. 10th Street.  
 Austin, TX 78701 Contact Dan and Barb Jaloway at 512-  
 331-9065

email: dan.jaloway@sbcglobal.net

### Central Austin

St. Theresa Catholic Church  
 The first of four classes beginning in April Subsequent  
 classes: TBA St. Theresa Catholic Church 4311 Small Dr.  
 Austin, TX 78731 Contact Roger and Celie Harden at 512-  
 331-0489  
 email: Rogeraharden@yahoo.com

### NW Austin

St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
 The first of four classes will begin Sunday, June 10 at 1:30  
 pm Subsequent classes July 8, August 12, and September 9,  
 2007.  
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 9500 Neenah Drive,  
 Austin, TX 78717 in the Dining Room Contact : Robert and  
 Kelly Tavarez (512) 258-9304  
 email: Ktavarez@swbell.net

### NW Austin

St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
 The first of four classes will begin Sunday, October 14 at  
 1:30 pm Subsequent classes Nov 11, Dec 9, and Jan 13,  
 2008.  
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 9500 Neenah Drive,  
 Austin, TX 78717 in the Dining Room Contact : TBD  
 email:TBD

### South Austin

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
 The first of four classes beginning Sat. Oct 20,2-4:30 pm  
 Subsequent classes: November 17, December 15, and  
 January 12, 2008 St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
 4800 Convict Hill Rd. Austin, TX  
 78749  
 Contact David and Donna Freidenfeld at (512)292-6090  
 email: donnafreidenfeld@sbcglobal.net

## Together in God's Image



## DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The most up to date schedule of "Together in God's Image" retreats and weekly sessions are posted on the diocesan website. For registration information and forms, please see: [http://austindiocese.org/department\\_home.php?id=11](http://austindiocese.org/department_home.php?id=11)

The mission of the office of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life is to provide services that affirm the sacredness of life, the sanctity of marriage, the sacramentality of the family, and a Christian lifestyle, through all phases of human growth and development.

For more information on supports and resources for families in the Diocese of Austin, or for information on counseling for children and adolescents, please contact Dr. Joseph White, Director of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life, at (512) 873-7771, or by e-mail at joseph-white@austindiocese.org.

For information on counseling for adults, couples and families in English or Spanish, please call Lupe Garcia at (512) 726-0405.