

### **BISHOP AMOS**

Spiritual Mentorship Program: I have been asked by Archbishop Joseph Naumann from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas to inform you of a new spiritual mentorship program being offered in their Archdiocese. This is a two-year program that combines distance learning with four week-long sessions in Kansas City. Applications are being accepted for Session One which starts in May 2013. There are four sessions with a fee of \$1500 for each session. For additional information visit [http://www.schooloffaith.com/curriculum/Spiritual\\_Mentorship.asp](http://www.schooloffaith.com/curriculum/Spiritual_Mentorship.asp).



### **COMMUNICATION OFFICE**

**Attention Diodav.org email users:** On January 15, 2013 users accessing the Diodav.org email website using Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 (IE8) will see the following changes:

- Gmail will automatically forward users to basic HTML view (<http://support.google.com/mail/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=15049>). Users will have the option to revert to regular view for each login session.
- Users on IE8 can only compose email in Gmail using basic HTML. Features such as the new compose experience in Gmail will not work in IE8.

This change will mostly affect Windows XP users who access their email directly from the Diodav.org website. If you forward your email to a non-Gmail address or download your email into Outlook or Outlook Express you are not affected. If you are running Windows Vista, Windows 7 or Windows 8 you should be running Internet Explorer 9 or later and are not affected by this change.

If you are using Windows XP and Internet Explorer 8 please download Chrome to use as your day-to-day browser. Chrome can be downloaded from this link: <https://www.google.com/chrome>. While you can continue to use Internet Explorer 8 with its limited features, you are urged to install Chrome as it is a more secure browser which is updated regularly.

Contact Rob Butterworth, 563-888-4223 or Laurie Hoefling, 563-888-4220 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

**Diocesan Webinars:** Members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will present the following webinars at 2:00 p.m. on these Tuesdays:

- February 5: Seasonal Liturgical Decoration for Lent
- March 5: Seasonal Liturgical Decoration for Triduum/Easter
- May 7: Liturgical Music

Email invitations will be sent to parishes and parish leaders as the dates approach. If you have a suggestion for a webinar topic please contact Laurie Hoefling, [hoefling@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org).

### **PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

**To report child abuse contact:** Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator: 563-349-5002, [vacdav@attglobal.net](mailto:vacdav@attglobal.net) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

### **FINANCE OFFICE**

**Social Security:** Social Security deduction from employees' paycheck is back to 6.2% as of January 1, 2013. If you are using QuickBooks payroll, be sure you have the latest update (#21302). Review the paychecks to ensure they are correct. If you are not using QuickBooks payroll, be sure you are using the right percentage.

**Acknowledging Charitable Contributions – Calendar Year 2012:** It’s that time of year when we remind you of the need to issue proper and timely acknowledgements for charitable contributions. According to the IRS, the donor must have a bank record (such as a cancelled check) or written communication from the charity for any monetary contribution to claim a deduction on his/her tax return. The donor must have a written acknowledgement from the charity to claim any single contribution of \$250 or more, or one acknowledgement, such as an annual summary, that may be used to substantiate several single contributions of \$250 or more. Written statements must contain the following language:

1. Name of the organization
2. Amount of cash contributions
3. Description (but not value) of non-cash contribution
4. Statement that no goods or services were provided by the organization, if that is the case
5. Description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services, if any, that the organization provided in return for the contribution
6. Statement that goods or services, if any, that the organization provided in return for the contribution consisted entirely of intangible religious benefits, if that was the case.

Here is specific language to include on the statement for monetary contributions: *“This acknowledgment of your contribution to (your parish/school name) is provided pursuant to section 170(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code and must be kept as documentation of your contribution for income tax purposes. (Your parish/school name) in no manner provided any goods or services in connection with this contribution. We may have provided you with intangible religious benefits in exchange for this gift. Keep this correspondence with your tax records. For gifts of \$250 or more, the IRS requires that the donor obtain a written acknowledgement from the charitable organization to support their charitable deduction on their income tax return. A canceled check alone will not substantiate their deduction.”*

For example, in 2007, a family claimed a charitable contribution deduction for cash contributions to their church. After questioning by the IRS, they produced a letter from their church acknowledging the contributions, as well as canceled checks supporting the amounts of the claim deduction. The IRS declined to accept the acknowledgement on the grounds that it did not contain the required statement under Sec 170(f)(8) regarding whether goods or services were received in consideration for the contributions. The IRS disallowed the deduction. A second written acknowledgement was sent from their church with the required language but the IRS disregarded it because wasn’t sent at the time of the filing.

Charitable organizations relying on the goodwill and financial contributions of donors should pay particular attention to the requirements of Sec. 170(f)(8), ensuring that documentation is provided in a timely manner and meets every requirement, no matter how trivial, to substantiate deductions for their donors.

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

**Lay Ministry Formation Opportunities:** The Ministry Formation Program is offering Basic Year II (in English and Spanish) and a specialization track on Catechesis. More information can be found on the diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org) [Chancery>Faith Formation>Lay Ministry (MFP)] or contact IlaMae Hanisch, 641-791-3435 or [hanisch@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hanisch@davenportdiocese.org).

Upcoming courses are:

<b>In English</b>	<b>In Spanish</b>	<b>Catechetical track</b>
Introduction to Theology: Jan. 5 & 19	No session	Faith & Human Development: Jan 13- Feb. 16
New Testament: Feb. 2 & 16	No session	

**A Natural Family Planning** three-part series will be held January 14, February 18 and March 18 in the Fanning Room at Mercy Medical Plaza, Iowa City. Persons attending are asked to sign up online at [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org). For more information contact the Pastoral Care office at Mercy Hospital, 319- 339-3556 or the course instructors, Gary and GERALYN Ward, 319-360-4964. Sessions are sponsored by Mercy Hospital and the Couple to Couple League.

**Marriage and Parenting Resource:** Attached is the January issue of “Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers.” This is produced by Susan Vogt and she has excellent resources to support couples and families: <http://www.susanvogt.net/index.html>.

**Marriage Preparation Weekend:**

- January 26-27: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline is January 18* (space is limited so register early)
- February 23-24: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, *registration deadline is February 15* (When registering be prepared with an alternate weekend as this weekend is very popular and fills up fast... so early registration is a must!)
- April 27-28: Williamsburg, St. Mary, *registration deadline is April 19*
- August 10-11: Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, *registration deadline is August 2*
- October 12-13: Muscatine, SS. Mary & Mathias, *registration deadline is October 4*

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date

The registration form is on the diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org) (Chancery>Faith Formation>Marriage and Family). Registration is \$125 per couple. For more information contact Barb Butterworth, 563-888-4240 or [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org) or IlaMae Hanisch, [hanisch@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hanisch@davenportdiocese.org).

**A Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)** retreat will be held Feb. 16-18 at St. Joseph’s Parish in DeWitt. TEC is a three-day retreat for high school juniors and seniors that focuses on the Paschal Mystery and guides them at a time of discernment in their lives. The application packet and a publicity flier can be found at <http://davenportdiocese.org/faithform/TEC.htm>. The application deadline is Feb. 5. **Team members for Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) #70** are being sought. Adults are needed for key leadership roles and as small group mentors. Younger adults and recent TEC candidates can serve in support roles. For the team application, go to <http://davenportdiocese.org/faithform/TEC.htm>.

“Signed. Sealed. Delivered.” is the theme of the **2013 National Catholic Youth Conference**, to be held Nov. 21-23, 2013, in Indianapolis. NCYC is a biennial gathering of more than 23,000 youth and their adult leaders for three powerful days. Go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Youth%20Ministry.htm> for resources for promoting NCYC at your parish (including links to promotional videos), along with helpful information about costs, deadlines and other factors. The initial estimate deadline has passed, but parish groups interested in joining our diocesan pilgrimage can contact Barb Butterworth, [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org) or 563-888-4240.

The diocesan **Junior High Youth Rally, “How Do You Measure,”** will be held Sunday, March 17, at Regina Catholic Education Center in Iowa City. The keynote act will be 5thousand, featuring the comedy and music of Mike and Bryan, two great guys from South Carolina. Registration information was sent December 19 to parish leaders.

**Youth Retreat Dates:**

- Feb. 16-18: Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat for high school juniors and seniors at St. Joseph, DeWitt
- March 2-3: Quest Retreat for high school freshmen and sophomores at St. James, Washington
- March 8-10: Christ in Others (COR) retreat for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors at St. Joseph, DeWitt
- March 15-17: Christ in Others (COR) retreat for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors at Holy Trinity Parish in Keota
- June 8-10: Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat for high school juniors and seniors, location TBA
- June 30-July 2: Catholics in Action service retreat for high school youth, location TBA

For information about youth ministry events and resources go to [www.davenportyouth.org](http://www.davenportyouth.org).

**BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL**

All events held at Benet House Retreat Center, 2200 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649. To register, contact Sr. Jackie Walsh at 309-283-2108 or [retreats@smmsisters.org](mailto:retreats@smmsisters.org).

**The Word Among Us:** Read, reflect, pray and share with other committed Christians seeking to grow in reflecting on the challenges of Scripture for everyday life. We share a new book each month. Presenter: Sr. Charlotte Sonnevile, OSB; 2 Mondays each month, Jan. 14, Feb. 4 & 18; 6:45-8:15 pm; Fee: \$65 for the series or \$5/session & cost of books. For more information call 309-283-2109.

**Centering Prayer:** Join others in a weekly practice of this method for fostering a deeper relationship with God. Leader: Sr. Catherine Cleary, OSB; Wednesdays 1-2 pm; Free Will Offering

### **Friday Night at the Movies**

Jan. 18: Freedom Writers (2007). Enjoy popcorn and a good movie with a spiritual message followed by insightful conversation. Participate every time or as often as your schedule allows. Presenter: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB, MA Religious Education and 8 years' experience as Vocation Director. 6-9 pm; Fee: \$5/session.

### **Vatican II Revisited**

Sat. Jan. 19, 9 am-12 pm. It has been 50 years since the epoch-making ecumenical Council of Vatican II (1962-65). We will look at the Council's central role in challenging each of us as the People of God to live out the major Decrees of the Council. Presenter: Rev. Michael Schaab, Pastor of St. Pius Parish, Rock Island; STL from Catholic University of America and Doctor of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary. Fee: \$20, plus an option for lunch \$8.

### **The Wisdom of Vatican II (a follow-up to Rev. Schaab's presentation)**

Jan. 31, 7-8:30 pm. In our time, religions contribute to intolerance and violence globally. In the U.S. since 9-11, we have ever greater need for knowledge of the Vatican II Document *Nostra Aetate* (The Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions). As Church and as individual Christians we are called to forget past hostilities and "strive sincerely for mutual understanding." Presenter: Sr. Helen Carey, OSB. Fee: \$5.

### **Silent Directed Retreat: "Do Whatever He Tells You"**

Sun. Jan. 20, 4 pm registration-Wed. Jan. 23, 4 pm. A retreat designed to help you deepen your relationship with God, these days allow time to ponder the Scriptures, such as Mary's almost audacious request, "Do whatever he tells you." In addition to daily Eucharist and a conference with a Spiritual Director, there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, centering prayer, personal prayer, silence, rest and walking the grounds. Spiritual Directors: Sr. Catherine Cleary, OSB; Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB; Fr. Mark DeSutter. Fee: \$265.

### **Valentine Evening: Bring Out the Best in Your Relationship**

Feb. 8, 6:30-9:30 pm. Rekindle your love and commitment during our annual Valentine program. We will share on the topic "the ten best decisions a couple can make." Bring the evening to a close while relaxing with a candlelight dessert. Facilitators: Deacon Aaron and Elaine Hoste, St. Patrick's Church, Colona; Deacon Art and Cindy Ries, St. Malachy Church, Geneseo. Fee: \$30 per couple. Couples may stay overnight at Benet House for an additional \$50.

### **Discerning Read**

Mondays, Feb. 11, 25; Mar. 11, 25; April 8, 22; 6:30-8 pm. Searching for something more in your life? Wondering where God is leading you? Seeking to know how God is working through you? Edward Little's book, *Ears to Hear: Recognizing and Responding to God's Call*, will direct our focus on these questions. Facilitator: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB. Fee: \$5/session or \$30 for the series (you supply the book) or \$48 for the series and we provide the book.

### **Men's Retreat: Becoming a Better Christian in This Busy World**

Fri., Feb. 15, 7 pm-Sun. Feb. 17, 12:30 pm. Just as Jesus went into the desert seeking a place of quiet and prayer, retreat this year into your heart seeking and finding Jesus Christ who calls you. Abbot Philip Davey will lead you into quiet and discernment as you ponder how you can live and work in this busy world and still respond to God's call. Director: Abbot Philip Davey, OSB. Fee: Register and pay in full by Jan. 15: \$165 (private room), \$150 (shared room). Registrations after Jan. 15: \$175 (private room), \$160 (shared room).

### **Lenten Day of Prayer: Our Life Journey and a Burst of Light**

Feb. 21, 9 am-12 pm; Our journey of life is one of sacrifice, prayer and a call to continuous openness to God, the sacredness within us. During Lent we prepare for the resurrection, that moment when we experience a burst of light, realizing that the tomb is empty. Through a morning of prayer and reflection, we invite you to come to recognize that moment in your life. Presenter: Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB. Fee: \$20, plus an option for lunch \$8.

### **Morning at the Monastery**

Feb. 28, 10 am-1 pm; Enjoy reflecting and sharing on Scripture and the monastic way of life followed by Noon Day Prayer and lunch with the monastic community. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Murphy, OSB. Fee: \$15.

## **OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND**

Visit [www.chmiowa.org](http://www.chmiowa.org) to learn more about Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat. For direct inquiries: 563-336-8414 or [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com).

### **Thursday, January 17 – New Beginnings Come to the Quiet**

**9:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Come to the Quiet and savor, solitude, nutritious food, and winter at The Prairie. Fee: \$20

### **Wednesday, January 23 - Weaving Prayers and Baskets**

**9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Kathleen Storms, SSND**

Learn simple basket weaving in the context of prayer and meditation. Fee: \$30

### **Saturday-Sunday, January 26-27 – Winter Play**

**Sat. 10:00 am – Sun. 10:00 am**

**Lisa Martin**

Enjoy a day – hiking or maybe cross-country skiing, snow shoeing or sledding in the crisp winter air and hopefully SNOW! Also included: hearty, healthy foods, a warm fireplace and connecting with friends old and new. Bring your own equipment. Fee: \$60

### **Sun., February 3-Taize' Vigil Service**

**5 pm**

Leader: Sister Kathleen Storms, SSND

Taizé is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified prayer. Friends of The Prairie and churches of all faith traditions in the area are being invited to participate. Future services will be held the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm followed by a soup supper. Free will donation.

### **Wed., February 6-Mini-Retreat (come early stay late)**

**10 am – noon**

Leader: Fr. Bill Kneemiller

Take a break the first Wednesday of each month. Mass, input, time for quiet and a light lunch. Fee: \$8

### **Thurs., February 14-A Prairie Valentine**

**11:30am – 1:30pm**

Enjoy a nutritious and special lunch for you and your loved one. Stay for a quiet walk in the beauty of The Prairie. Fee: \$30 for two

### **February 15-17, Fri. 7pm – Sun. 10am**

**Prayer: Emerging Love**

Leader: Janet Mallak, SSND

Love and compassion wear many faces, so true of our faith journey with God. Learn to pray in times of searching, letting go, darkness, embracing change and delighting in love. “Countless are the paths leading us to our heart where our Beloved God anticipates us.” *Joyce Rupp paraphrased*. Fee: \$150

### **Tues., February 19-Lenten Come to the Quiet**

**9:30am – 3:30pm**

Come to the Quiet and savor solitude, nutritious food and Lent at the Prairie. Fee: \$20

### **March 1-2, Fri. 7pm – Sat. 3pm**

**What is Pilgrimage?**

Leader: Pastor Dianne Prichard, Community Church of Toronto, IA

Pilgrimage is a series of three overnight retreats for discovering and deepening our sensitivities to God's presence in our lives, helping the lives of others, and strengthening our discipleship in the world.

- **Retreat I: March 1-2** Develop a greater sensitivity to God's presence and inspiration, learn basic spiritual disciplines to nurture your relationship with God, and experience ways to read Scripture.
- **Retreat II: April 19-2** Acquire additional pilgrimage tools and discern discipleship. Practice the discipline of humility and solitude for an extended time of "silent with-ness."
- **Retreat III: June 21-22** Reflect on God's presence in the ordinary and in the arts.

Fee for entire series: \$300 (A commitment for all three weekends is required.)

### **EAGLES' WINGS COUNSELING AND RETREAT CENTERS, DAVENPORT**

To register, for questions or information about obtaining a spiritual director, or Christian counseling contact Marcia Moore, [marcia@eagleswings.ws](mailto:marcia@eagleswings.ws) or 563-324-7263, <http://www.eagleswings.ws>. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

**SWAP:** Soaking With a Purpose prayer meeting, Friday, February 8 and 22 at 7 p.m.

**Healing Mass:** Tuesday, February 12, 1 p.m.

**Biblical Counseling Course** (video) from the American Association of Christian Counseling (AACC). First training day will be Saturday, February 9 beginning at 9:30 AM and concluding by 3 PM. This course includes 30 lessons to be given over a period of several months.

Participants have two options as this course is being offered:

1. Take the entire course and receive Certification from the AACC. Contact the AACC and register for the course (\$165). Receive a workbook and test sheets and be graded by them. These tests are fairly easy and all the material you will need is included in the videos. In addition, you will be asked to read and prepare a short book review on each of the five sections of training. A donation of \$15 to Eagles' Wings for each training day will be requested.
2. Or take some or all of the video courses but choose not to become certified. Registration will be \$40 for each day you attend.

**New Spiritual Director:** Eagles' Wings welcomes Jim Connell. Jim is certified in spiritual direction through the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio in cooperation with the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence School for Spiritual Directors in Clearwater, Florida.

Jim, a retired police officer experienced in crisis negotiation is a graduate of St. Ambrose University. He completed the two-year Ministry Formation Program from the Diocese of Davenport and is a trained facilitator and interviewer for the 'Called and Gifted' program, helping others to discern their God-given gifts. Jim participated in the Healing Ministry workshops held at Eagles' Wings completing the course 2012. He has been a facilitator for the Life in the Spirit program and is active in the healing ministry.

Jim is available to see new directees on Tuesdays and Thursdays at our office at 2803 McKinley in Davenport.

If you would like more information or would like to make an appointment you can reach Jim at 563-357-2560.

## **SHALOM RETREAT CENTER, DUBUQUE**

To register call 563-582-3592 or send check payable to Shalom Retreat Center with your contact information to: 1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001. [www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org), [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

### **Story-Catching: The Art of Telling, Writing and Listening to Life's Stories**

**Mondays, Jan. 21, Feb. 4 & 18, and Mar. 4**

**2:00 – 4:00pm**

**Instructor/Facilitator: Eileen Miller OSF**

In her book *Storycatcher*, Christina Baldwin says, “Every person is born into life as a blank page – and every person leaves life as a full book...Story is the narrative thread of our experience – not what literally happens, but what we make out of what happens, what we tell each other and what we remember.” This series is based on that idea. We will spend time telling stories and writing stories, mostly our own, but also the stories of others who have influenced us in big or small ways. We will also spend time listening to one another and to those in our daily lives. In the process, we will learn to become “storycatchers.”

Offering: \$40/series. Includes coffee & cookies. Register/prepay by Wednesday, Jan. 16.

### **Spirituality of Presence Retreat - THE PRESENCE OF GOD - A Reflection from the Biblical Tradition**

**Feb. 1, 7:00pm - Feb. 2, 1:00pm**

**Nancy Schreck OSF, D.Min., President, Sisters of St. Francis**

*Suggested reading prior to retreat - BOOK: Journey to the Common Good* by Walter Brueggemann.

We will explore ways in which Scripture may impinge upon the faith and life of the believing community as we journey together toward the common good that God desires for the world. This is a task that is never finished nor completely understood. It requires as Walter Brueggemann says “venturesome imagination that is always risky.” Understanding the Presence of God among those who suffer leads us from vision to action.

Both commuter and overnight options are available. Register by Jan. 27.

### **EMBRACING LIFE AFTER THE DEATH OF A SPOUSE**

**Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:00am – 4:00pm**

**Team: Barbara Meloy Callahan, Diane Fasselius, Pat Pierce, Molly Schreiber & Marci Blum, OSF**

If you have lost a spouse or know someone who has lost a spouse, consider attending/recommending this supportive program. Gather with others who have lost a spouse and share experiences of loss, grief, and healing. Topics include: coping with loss, making adjustments, dealing with fears, surviving and thriving.

Offering: \$35, includes continental breakfast and lunch. To register, call 563/582-3592 by Thursday, Feb. 7.

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To support the ministry of your parish, school and the diocese these groups automatically receive the *Mini-Messenger*:

Deacons	Diocesan Corporate Board	Youth Ministers	Pastoral Associates	Directors/Coordinators of Faith Formation
Parishes	Catholic Foundation Board	Sisters	RCIA Parish Contacts	Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Priests	Parish Lay Directors	Bookkeepers	Diocesan Board of Education	Diocesan Planning Commission
Seminarians	Diocesan Pastoral Council	Principals		

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, [hoefling@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org).

# MARRIAGE MOMENTS & PARENTING POINTERS

January 2013

**EDUCATORS, LEADERS, & MINISTERS:** You are welcome to reprint these MM's and PP's in bulletins, newsletters, and on your website with proper credit, ("By Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)") When used on a website, please also link to my website: [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS\*

502. Jan. 7: (Epiphany) "Behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem." (Mt 2:2), On this feast of the Epiphany, the wise still seek Jesus. What gifts of wisdom do you possess? A lesson learned from your childhood? A proverb that steers your life? A virtue to which you've struggled to be true?

503. Jan.14: Society and churches run on both money and volunteers. Generosity is a virtue but it's possible to become a "good cause widow(er)." Are you spending enough or too much time volunteering? Your answer will come from the mouth of your spouse. Try joint volunteer projects.

504. Jan. 21: "There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit." (1 Cor. 12) Which gift does your beloved have in a special way: wisdom, knowledge (of how to fix things), faith, the ability to heal, industriousness, intuition, decision making skills, communication?

505. Jan. 28: Advice for newlyweds: Often couples are persuaded to take out a house loan based on both their incomes. Resist. Consider living on one income. Use the second for one time purchases - a house down payment, furniture, a vacation, etc. This gives you the flexibility to live on one income if you have a child. Keep your options open.

*\*Marriage Moments go out to individuals on Mondays. For Sunday bulletins use the Sunday before the date.*

## PARENTING POINTERS\*

501. Jan. 4: Did your child receive a lot of toys for Christmas? Probably. This is an opportunity to help your child learn gratefulness and generosity. Introduce your child to the "one in - one out" principle of living simply. Invite them to give a previous toy away.

502. Jan. 11: Parents are genetically disposed to want their kids to be perfect - but no child is! Neither are you. Remember you are responsible for the process you use in raising your children, not the outcome. (Parenting Your Adult Child)

503. Jan. 18: When did the universe begin? When does human life begin? Scripture doesn't give details but leads us into the mystery of the beginnings of time, space, and life. Ponder how it all began with your child today. Creation of the world and humanity is certainly a marvel. We must protect it.

504. Jan.25: Are you having trouble forgiving yourself for the mistakes you've made on this perilous journey of parenting? Try hard, consult experienced parents and experts, but in the end remind yourself that you did your best with what you knew at the time.

*\*Parenting Pointers go out to individuals on Fridays. For Sunday bulletins, use the Sunday before the date.*