

OFFICE CLOSING

The diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed on Memorial Day, May 25.

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Two diocesan policies have been updated: *Policies Relating to Sexuality and Personal Behavior* (March 10, 2015) and *Policies Relating to Parish Councils and Finance Councils* (April 8, 2015). Both policies are attached and in the Library on the diocesan website, <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/library/index.htm>. Please discard all previous versions and use these current ones.

COMMUNICATION OFFICE

Diocesan Website: The Department of Communication is in the process of redesigning the diocesan website: www.davenportdiocese.org. Your input is appreciated. To complete the online survey from Survey Monkey go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQPJL2S>. Thank you.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Available Grants: Application Deadline is May 31. The Social Action Department is accepting grant applications for the local share of the CRS Rice Bowl and Catholic Campaign for Human Development collections. All grant requests must be postmarked by May 31. For questions call Loxi Hopkins at 563-888-4212.

- **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl:** For those providing/supporting direct services to people who are hungry (first foot of social justice). If your parish or community would like to apply go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/saoperationricebowl.htm>
- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD):** For those organizations and projects that promote systemic change (second foot of social justice). To apply please send your request in a 1-2 page letter along with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grant Agreement. To view grant criteria and obtain a copy of the agreement go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/sacchdapplyingfoagrant.htm>

CRS Rice Bowl 2016 Materials: CRS has mailed the ordering information for the 2016 CRS Rice Bowl Lent Materials. It is not in an envelope, but it is a self-mailer and could be mistaken as advertising. See the attached file as to what it looks like. Review and update your order quantities as needed otherwise you will be sent the same quantity of materials you received in 2015. If you don't have any changes you still need to mail the postcard back to CRS.

Social Action Parish Contact: We have begun calling parishes about a contact for social action - possibly a parish council member or someone active within the parish. As one astute, retired priest put it, we "want to make sure our communications get to someone who will do something." To help us out, if you know who that person is (or if it is you), please send an email with the person's name and any contact information to Amy Kersten, kerstena@diodav.org.

2015 Respect Life Materials: Parishes interested in receiving a free Respect Life Packet must submit their order request by June 10 to Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org. Provide 1) parish name and address, 2) contact name, 3) contact phone number and 4) contact email address (if not the pastor or office contact).

Social Action Summer Institute: The Archdiocese of Portland will host the annual Social Action Summer Institute (SASI) on human and natural ecology July 19-23 at the University of Portland. SASI offers education, professional development and advocacy training for diocesan and parish social action ministers. Registration is now open at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eas7u2ni10959588&llr=lvf4lulab>.

CCHD Intern Announced: Rachael Dunlap has been selected as the new Catholic Campaign for Human Development Intern for the 2015/2016 school year. Rachael is studying Psychology and Theology at St. Ambrose in Davenport. She will be working with Quad Cities Interfaith during her internship. Rachael will be attending CCHD training in Washington, D.C. in May as preparation.

Fair Trade:

Ambassadors Announced: Congratulations to Lori and Clare Ferris who were selected and received certification to be Fair Trade Ambassadors for Catholic Relief Services representing the Diocese of Davenport. To learn what a Fair Trade Ambassador is go to <http://www.crsfairtrade.org/crs-and-fair-trade/ambassadors/>. If you would like to promote Fair Trade at your parish and need assistance please contact Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org.

Catalog: The SERRV Spring/Summer 2015 catalog is available. For a chance to buy Fair Trade handcrafts and gourmet food items from disadvantaged producers around the world, go to http://www.serrv.org/crs_handcraft?c=crs and click on the image next to Our Catalog.

The Justice and Peace Advocacy Team (JPAT) continues working on rebuilding the Justice and Peace Advocacy Team (JPAT) within the Diocese of Davenport. The group will share what is going on in our parishes and deaneries and form action plans to address injustice or gaps in service. We will work on the issues affecting you and your neighbors by communicating needs to legislators and proposing solutions. Local leadership will likely take charge of relevant issues with the rest of JPAT and the Social Action Office assisting as needed.

The JPAT team meets via Go To Meeting and you can participate by phone or using your computer. We have plenty of help to get you connected by the easiest method for you. If you have any interest in serving with JPAT please contact Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org.

Project Rachel is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion. Brochures are available by contacting Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org. You may contact Project Rachel staff by calling the local Helpline: 563-333-4107 or email, projectrachel@diodav.org.



There are two ways to support Project Rachel:



Purchase “*Humble Angel Honey*” at \$10 bottle. (The bottle is shaped like an angel and is 100% pure premium quality produced honey by Midwest beekeepers.) To purchase contact Esmeralda Guerrero or stop by St. Vincent Center at 780 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport.

Make a *financial contribution*, payable to the Diocese of Davenport. In the memo line write Project Rachel and mail to Diocese of Davenport, Project Rachel, 780 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804

FAITH FORMATION

Evangelizing Families & Empowering the Domestic Church: June 13, St. Mary Church, Solon, 10:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. \$10. Registration deadline is June 5. Join Joan Weber of the Center for Ministry Development for this workshop on reaching out to parents and families to help them grow in faith at home. See the attached flyer for details.

Applications for the 2015-2016 DYMC now available. If you have a high school student who is interested in going deeper into their faith and who wants to serve, then invite them to consider being part of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee. This group plans our major diocesan youth events, advises the diocese on youth issues, and contributes to the development of youth ministry in our diocese. The full description of the Committee and all application materials are available on the [DYMC webpage](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/DYMC.htm), <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/DYMC.htm>. Application deadline is May 22.

Catholics In Action to be held June 28-30. Publicity and registration materials are now available on the [CIA webpage](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/CIA.htm), <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/CIA.htm>. This 3-day service learning retreat brings together

high school youth to serve those in need and to reflect on Jesus' call to justice. Parishes must submit the "Intent to Participate" form by May 15. Please see the webpage for complete information and all registration materials.

Christian Leadership Institute: CLI forms and equips high school youth to be effective servant leaders in their church and in their life. Consider inviting your young leaders or potential leaders to consider attending this 5-day program on July 12-17 at St. Ambrose University. Brochure and registration materials can be found on the [CLI webpage, http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/CLI.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/CLI.htm).

NCYC: At present, 825 spots have been reserved! The Diocese of Davenport will once again have one of the largest delegations in the country at this great experience of our Catholic faith. There is still time to reserve your places. Contact Barb Butterworth, butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org, 563-888-4240 for more information.

Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies: Do you work in youth ministry, or know someone who does? The Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies is perfect for all who work with middle and high-school aged youth! Presented by the Center for Ministry Development since 1979, this certificate program equips youth ministers and workers with the skills, experience, and tools for vibrant youth ministry in parishes, schools, and communities. The certificate can be completed in as few as two summers (eight courses) at St. Ambrose University, with an option for undergraduate or graduate credit. Four courses offered this summer on June 11-12, June 13-14, July 9-10, and July 11-12. A great program for youth ministers, high school ministers, retreat directors, and anyone who works with youth. Contact Chris Clow at 563-333-6189 or ministry@sau.edu to learn more!

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

Basic Year II:

On-Site Format Schedule: All courses held at the Diocese of Davenport, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

5/9/15: New Testament II , Dr. Matthew Coomber	6/6/15: Theology I , Fr. Ed Dunn
7/18/15: Theology II , Fr. Ed Dunn	8/1/15: Catechesis , Marianne Agnoli
8/15/15: Civil Law , Dc. Bob Glaser	9/19/15: Spiritual Themes , Fr. Marty Goetz

DVD/YouTube Format Schedule: The order of courses is as stated above; however each group will determine its monthly meeting time.

An application form and additional program information may be found on the diocesan website, www.davenportdiocese.org (Chancery-Faith Formation-Lay Ministry-MFP Forms). For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact Marianne Agnoli, agnolim@davenportdiocese.org, 563-888-4242.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Sponsor Couple Training: June 20, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf. Join Fr. Robert Ruhnke, author of *For Better & For Ever: A Resource for Couples Preparing for Christian Marriage* as he conducts a workshop for new and experienced Sponsor Couples. For registration information and a promotional flyer go to: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>.

Coordinating a Parish Sponsor Couple Program: June 21, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. St. Vincent Center, Davenport. Fr. Robert Ruhnke, author of *For Better & For Ever: A Resource for Couples Preparing for Christian Marriage* will provide a workshop for those currently coordinating and those interested in establishing a Sponsor Couple Program in their parish. For registration information and a promotional flyer go to: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>.

World Meeting of Families: September 22-27, Philadelphia

- **Pilgrimage Opportunities:** The Diocese of Des Moines is offering two pilgrimage options. Both will include partial attendance at the World Meeting of Families and celebration of the Papal Mass. For information about the *Family Express Bus Tour* and the *Des Moines Airline Tour* go to <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>. Note that the bus tour is scheduled to make a pick-up stop in Davenport and may be open to adding additional stops along I-80 if there is a request.
- To register go <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org>. Preparatory Catechetical Resources on the ten themes of family church teaching are available at the site by clicking on About the Event>Catechesis.

Natural Family Planning Link: A complete Billings Ovulation Method NFP course is available on line at <http://learnnfponline.com>. Engaged couples are encouraged to begin NFP instruction four to six months prior to the wedding date. A certificate of completion will be issued. Additional information and NFP contacts can be found on the diocesan website, <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>.

Marriage and Parenting Resource: Attached is the May issue of “Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers.” These may be used in parish bulletins or as links on parish websites.

Marriage Preparation: The Diocese of Davenport offers several marriage preparation program formats: One-day, Weekend (two-day), Sponsor Couple (through your parish) and Online (under special circumstances-with parish approval)

Spanish One-day

new **May 23, 2014:** St. Joseph, West Liberty, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Contact Miguel Moreno, 563-888-4217 or moreno@davenportdiocese.org to register.

Encuentros Pre-Matrimoniales: La Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural realizará un Encuentro para todos aquellos que están preparándose para el matrimonio. Esto será el sábado 23 de mayo en la parroquia de San José, West Liberty de 9:00am a 5:00pm. **Los interesados, por favor, llamar a 563-888-4217 ó escribir al moreno@davenportdiocese.org.** ¡Los esperamos!

Weekend and One-day

- August 8-9: Mt. Pleasant, St. Alphonsus, *registration deadline is July 31*
- October 24: Muscatine, SS. Mary & Mathias, *registration deadline is October 16*

The fee is \$125 per couple. The registration form and more information can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm>. If you have questions contact Barb Butterworth, 563-888-4240, butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org.

Online: Go to <http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/>.

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, vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

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 or 563-324-7263, <http://www.eagleswings.ws>. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

Healing Mass: May 12, 1 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:00. Reconciliation available before Mass.

One-Day Pilgrimage to St. Therese Shrine in Darien, IL on October 10. The National Shrine of Saint Therese has the largest collection of Little Flower relics and memorabilia outside of Lisieux, France. The day includes Mass in the St. Therese Chapel and an interactive talk on the life of St. Therese with Q&A time given by one of the Carmelite staff. Enjoy 40 acres of lovely grounds with a lake, a delicious home-cooked meal, a video on the life of the Little Flower, the Rosary Way, a closing prayer service and blessing and the extensive Carmelite Gift & Book Shop. Deluxe motor coach departs 7 a.m. and returns by 7 p.m. Fee: \$65 per person. Send fee, name and contact information to above address.

Eagles’ Wings is available for your individual or small group retreat. We have three bedrooms, large kitchen/gathering space, chapel and nine spacious acres. Our spiritual directors are trained in Ignatian Spirituality and are available to guide directees through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. We are available to come to your parish or group for a workshop or retreat. We also offer Christian counseling on a sliding scale and free will offerings are accepted for spiritual direction.

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND

To register contact: 563-336-8414 or olpretreat@gmail.com. All programs include a delicious homemade meal prepared with local and organic ingredients. To learn more about Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat visit www.chmiowa.org

4th Annual Be the Change: Growing and Serving Great Food: Wed, May 6 | 9:00am – 4pm. Local Growers and Prairie Staff. Join us for an inspiring day of dialogue with local growers and enjoy delicious locally grown foods. Plan your spring garden using heirloom seeds. Fee: \$25

Come to the Quiet: Tending the Heart Fire: Thurs, May 7 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. May Day and May Fest celebrations acknowledge the fuel of life and love. The three elements necessary for a fire – fuel, oxygen and spark – are necessary for love. What fuels our love of self, others and God and breathes life and ignites us in love? Fee: \$20

Generous Love: Sat, May 9 | 10am – 2pm. Honor women who generously share love as mothers, mentors and models. Open to families and friends. Share a day of reflecting on the gift of motherhood, bask in God's nurturing nature and enjoy a festive meal together. Fee: \$25

Catch your Breath: May 15–17 | Fri, 5pm – Sun, 10am. Pat Shea. In our busy, multi-tasking lives, there are times when taking a moment to catch a breath is necessary for body and soul. This retreat offers breath to soul, through quiet time, guided meditations and other spiritual opportunities. Enjoy breath to body renewal through sleep, delicious meals and open spaces. Fee \$100

Knit One, Pray Too!: Tues, May 19 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Karen Brooke, Ann Green & Anne Johnson. The rhythm of knitting encourages contemplation and invites openness to the spirit. We will knit and pray together, share “yarns” of our lives, and enjoy the beauty at The Prairie. Price includes lunch. Fee: \$20.

Marriage Spirituality: Sat, May 30 | 9am – 4pm. Deacon Daryl and Pat Fortin. A day of reflection on what it means to live out your marriage vocation with God as the third partner. A day for prayer, talks, walks and conversation on how to grow together spiritually as a couple. Day concludes with Mass at 4pm with Msgr. Frank Henricksen. Fee: \$40/ couple

Meet GK Chesterton: Sat, June 6 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Jerry Schroeder. Become familiar with the most quotable and exuberant defender of Catholic Christianity of the modern era: GK Chesterton. His wit, humility and humor are magnetic, matched only by his masterful common sense and intellectual levity. We will explore a small sampling of his astonishing body of literature. Fee: \$25

The Labyrinth Walk Unfolds: Wed, June 10 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. Sherry Nauman and Pat McLaughlin. Learn about the history of the Labyrinth and explore the three stages of a labyrinth walk: Purgation (Releasing), Illumination (Receiving), and Union (Returning). There will be time for group discussions, a labyrinth walk, reflection, journaling and sharing. Fee: \$20

Come to the Quiet: Standing Still: Tues, June 16 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. *Solstice* comes from two Latin words meaning “sun” and “standing.” In this midsummer season, reflect on the brilliance of light standing still. Stand still in the blessings of light and ponder how daylight connects us to the Holy. Fee: \$20

Summer Solstice Taize' Vigil Service: Wed, June 17 | 6:30pm. Taize is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in compassionate prayer. All people of faith are invited. Pre-registration encouraged. No fee.

Honoring the Fathers in Our Lives: Sat, June 20 | 10am – 2pm. Celebrate our fathers, mentors and guides by sharing with them the importance of their presence in our lives. Come to The Prairie to meander the trails, enjoy a cookout and listen to words of wisdom. Fee: \$25

BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER/ST. MARY MONASTERY, ROCK ISLAND, IL

Events held at Benet House Retreat Center or Sr. Mary Monastery, 2200 88th Avenue West, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649. To register, contact Sr. Jackie Walsh at 309-283-2108 or retreats@smmsisters.org.

Sunday Brunch at The Monastery: First Sunday of each month; Lauds 9:30 am; Mass 10:30 am; Brunch 11:30 am. Single, Catholic women 18-50 years of age are invited to join Sr. Stefanie at St. Mary Monastery for liturgy, brunch and conversation about life as a Catholic Sister. Brunch will be served in the Sisters' dining room overlooking the lake. You will have the opportunity to be with other women who are exploring religious life. Guests are invited to stay longer and use campus amenities for further prayer and reflection. There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or vocation@smmsisters.org

Benedictine for a Day: Experience life as a Benedictine Sister with other single, Catholic women 18-50 years of age. Enjoy prayer, meals and conversation with the Sisters. Join the Benedictines as they serve God with personal and communal prayer in a lively monastic community and hear about their ministries in the outside community. Come for one or more of the following weekends and take the step you need to discover whether God is calling you to Benedictine religious life. May 16-17; Sat. 9 am-Sun. 1 pm; there is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or vocation@smmsisters.org.

Young Adult Day of Reflection: God's Story, Our Story, My Story: Sat., May 16, 10 am-2:30 pm. Bring deeper meaning to your life! Spend time with other young adults reflecting on your gifts and life experiences as a means of viewing yourself in the greater story of God. The day includes an opportunity to meet with a spiritual companion, select from different prayer stations and have meaningful conversations with your peers. Bring a lunch and enjoy our company! Fee: \$15. Contact Luke Ebener at davstpaulym@diodav.org or Sr. Bobbi at rbussan@smmsisters.org (309.283.2109) to make reservations.

Pizza and Prayer: Interested in learning more about religious life and the Sisters of St. Benedict? Single Catholic women 18-50 years old are welcome to join us for pizza and prayer. Last Wednesday of each month through June 24. There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or vocation@smmsisters.org.

SHALOM SPIRITUALTY CENTER, DUBUQUE

To register call 563-582-3592 or send check payable to Shalom Spirituality Center with your contact information to: 1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001. www.shalomretreats.org, info@shalomretreats.org

Fly While You Still Have Wings - A Mini-Retreat with Joyce Rupp: Tuesday, May 5, 7:00 – 8:30pm. Director: Joyce Rupp OSM. This retreat is based on Joyce's latest book, *Fly While You Still Have Wings*. Joyce will speak about some of the topics in this memoir of her resilient mother's aging and dying process: ancestral grief, living with regrets, letting go, the aging process, and the gift of faith as a source of strength in times of significant transition. Includes: communal prayer, presentation by Joyce, and group response. Book-signing following the retreat. Offering: \$5 for mini-retreat only. \$20 for mini-retreat and *Fly While You Still Have Wings* book. Registration not required. Pay upon arrival.

Putting an End to War: Monday, May 11, 7:00 – 8:30pm. Presenter: Dave Cochran, Loras College. Drawing on his book, *Catholic Realism and the Abolition of War*, Cochran will show why war is always immoral and why humanity can abolish it, just as we have with other forms of institutionalized violence, such as slavery or dueling, once thought both moral and inevitable. Offering: \$10. Register & prepay by Friday, May 8.

Longer Retreat: Jesus – A Dangerous Memory: Monday, June 22, 5:30pm – Saturday, June 27, 9:00am. Director: Nancy Schreck OSF, D.Min. This retreat will seek to peel back some of the ways we have tamed the radical teachings of Jesus by using parables and miracles to probe the richness and challenge of his way. Participants are invited to do the inner work of applying these teachings to their lives. Daily Eucharistic liturgy. Offering: Overnight \$450, Commuter \$425. \$25 early bird discount if registered by May 22. A \$75 nonrefundable deposit secures your registration and is credited to the offering for the retreat. Registration deadline: June 17.

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	Parish Life Coordinators	

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.



16M1

40th ANNIVERSARY

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YOUR COMMUNITY CHANGED LIVES THIS LENT.

Now it's time to turn your fast into a feast.

SEND your CRS Rice Bowl donations to your diocese at **crs.org/contact** or to Catholic Relief Services at **crsricebowl.org/give**.

Display the enclosed poster in a gathering space to celebrate your community's Lenten journey!

Your spiritual journey changed lives **FOR LENT**. Where will that journey take you **FOR LIFE**?

Diocese Of Davenport
Esmeralda Guerrero
780 W Central Park Ave
Davenport, IA 52804-1901



3383



Evangelizing Families & Empowering the Domestic Church

June 13, 2015

St. Mary Catholic Church
1749 Racine Avenue NE, Solon IA

Join **Joan Weber** of the Center for Ministry Development for this workshop on reaching out to parents and families to help them grow in faith at home.

We will explore the following:

- Parents of today—their faith journeys;
- The challenges and opportunities for faith-sharing in contemporary family life;
- Evangelizing families, not just individuals;
- Ways to strengthen family faith in the parish;
- Key strategies for supporting families in sharing faith at home.

Utilizing the most current research from a survey of Catholic parents, the workshop will engage participants in conversation on being more family-friendly faith communities.

Registration/coffee 10:00

Prayer & Introductions 10:20

Presentation begins at 10:30

There will be a short lunch break – sandwiches and chips will be provided.

We should conclude by 1:30

Workshop Cost: \$10

Registration deadline: June 5th

A copy of this flyer and link to the online registration can be found at:

www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/index.htm

For more information, contact Barbara Butterworth butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org (563) 888-4240



Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers May 2015

FOR MORE extended marriage and parenting articles, plus archived Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers, go to: www.SusanVogt.net ***BLOG:** *Living Lightly.* www.SusanVogt.net/blog

TWITTER: [@Vogt_Susan](https://twitter.com/Vogt_Susan) ***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"). When used on a website, please also link to my website: www.SusanVogt.net

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

622. May 4: If you're too busy to have a weekly date with your spouse, you may be too busy. Tonight choose several hours next weekend that you can devote just to each other. This week the wife plans what to do, next week it's the husband's turn. [Click here](#) for ideas.

(<http://www.susanvogt.net/PDF/52%20Weeks%20of%20Creative%20Dates%20rev.pdf>)

623. May 11: "This I command you: love one another." (John 15:17) Love is such a squishy emotion. During good times it comes easily. When do you find it hard to love your beloved? Talk it through. Love anyway.

624. May 18: Praying together as a couple can be a deep and perhaps awkward form of intimacy. It takes great trust to pour out your heart to God in the presence of your spouse. A first step may be praying for each other even if not in one another's presence. A second step may be silent meditation in each other's presence. Take a step this week. [More ideas.](#) (<http://www.susanvogt.net/PDF/PDF%20M-Who%20Me%20Pray%20With%20Her1.pdf>)

625. May 25: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23) Which of these is your beloved's strongest quality? Sure, he/she may have many, but pick one and share it.

PARENTING POINTERS

622. May 1: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15) Just as God gave us commandments, healthy families have rules that help keep order and keep the peace. What are some of your family rules? Do you need any new ones? Let go of outdated ones? Discuss together.

623. May 8: Generally, a mother's love for her child is assumed and hopefully reciprocated. Yes, show love for your mother (or someone who has been like a loving mother to you) this weekend. Identify and share an act of sacrifice made on your behalf by your mother. What a gift!

624. May 15: Ascension: As we remember Jesus ascending into heaven, perhaps you and your child could "lift up" in prayer the memory of deceased relatives who have gone to be with God. Even though we don't know where "heaven" is, children can watch a balloon or kite ascend toward the heavens - and pray.

625. May 22: Pentecost "We are inhabitants of Egypt...Libya...Rome...Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues." (Acts 2:8-11) As we increasingly become a global community, how much do your children know about other cultures. Pick one. Google it. Learn at least one new word in a foreign language this weekend.

626. May 29: June 1 is [National Go Barefoot Day](#). Have fun together as a family being silly and carefree. But, why not make a difference to those who don't have shoes to take off. Count your shoes and check out Soles4Souls.org