

The Pastoral Visitor

March/April 2008

Volume 10, No. 3

Dear Coordinators,

As you probably know, the Archdiocese of Boston is celebrating its Bicentennial this year. On the “Journey Together in Christ” calendar created for this celebration, each month is dedicated to a different ministry. The month of April, dedicated to Health Care and Social Services, reads as follows, “This month we honor the charitable services of the Archdiocese of Boston. Historically, the Church has provided a wealth of services to the poor, the needy and those in pain – reaching out far beyond our own membership. Through our hospitals and social services we have answered the call of Christ to serve and not be served. We honor all those involved in this important contribution to the mission of the Church.”

Health Care Ministry in the Archdiocese is celebrating two important events in April: the Annual Gathering of Pastoral Visitors on Saturday, April 26, and the Mass of Hope and Healing on Sunday, April 27. We encourage you to attend these two events. Further information is contained in this newsletter.

It is so good to gather to “drink from the well” and receive support for your ministry at the Annual Gathering. How important it is to be attentive to our own spiritual needs in order to be Christ for others. This year we will reflect on Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth with Celia Sirois, a teacher of Scripture.

In all three of the synoptic Gospels, we read of those who lowered the paralytic through the roof to place him in front of Jesus for healing. In imitation of these faith-filled friends, we invite you to bring those in need of healing to the Annual Mass of Hope and Healing, which will be celebrated by Cardinal Seán O’Malley, OFM Cap. Those who have attended this Mass in the past have been deeply touched.

Pastoral Visitors in the Archdiocese are fulfilling Christ’s call to serve and not be served in a very profound way. Your ministry to the sick and homebound is an extension of the healing ministry of Christ. We are very grateful for all that you are and all that you do.

Gratefully,

Joanne Gaffney



*Pastoral Care
to the Sick and Homebound Workshop*

St. Timothy, Norwood

Thursdays: March 27 to May 1

10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Instructor: Kelly Dunn

Registration forms are available from the Office of Parish Outreach Ministries. Call 617-746-5843.

Retreats

“Come, Rest Awhile: A Day of Rest, Reflection and Renewal” will be offered on Sunday, **April 13**, 9:30 to 3:30 at St. Joseph Retreat Center in Cohasset. This day is being offered for all those who spend time caring for others—at home, in professional settings or as volunteers. Nan Bouche, chaplain and spiritual director, will facilitate the day. For more information, call the retreat house at 781-383-6024 or visit the web site at www.csjretreatcenter.org

“The Road to Emmaus”, a post Easter retreat weekend, will be held at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, **April 11 to 13**. For further details, refer to the website: www.easternpoint.org or call 978-283-0013.



Share this newsletter with parish volunteers by making copies or by downloading additional copies from the website at: www.rcab.org; **Open Offices/Ministries link; Select Health Care on scroll down list; select Publications; Click on *The Pastoral Visitor*** for the latest editions.

Save the Date!

**4th Annual Gathering
of
Pastoral Visitors**

*“A Reflection
on
Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth”*

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Join us for a breakfast meeting at

St. Jude, Waltham

9:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Presenter: Celia Sirois

Scripture Teacher



MARY AND ELIZABETH

Cost: \$10

Checks payable to:
Office of Parish Outreach Ministries
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, MA 02135

(A letter of invitation will be mailed in the near future.)

Office of Life and Family Ministries
Archdiocese of Boston

When a Child Dies

Our Pastoral Response and Ongoing Care for Families

A Workshop for all who Minister to Families

Monday, May 12 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration and Morning Coffee begin at 8:30 am

Peterson Hall

2121 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton

Registration forms for this workshop are available at
familylifeboston.com or by calling Joanne Curry at 617-746-5820.

Morning coffee and lunch will be served.

Registration fee is \$20 per person.

**"There are things that can only be seen with
eyes that have cried." Archbishop Christopher Munzihirwa**

Five families have generously offered to open their hearts and share the most painful loss we can imagine and their thoughts for this ministry.

The Ministry of Hospital Chaplains

Martha Sullivan, Caritas St. Margaret Center

Mary Fitzgerald, New England Medical Center

"Circle of Caring" Pediatric Palliative Care Program

Jeannine B. Hight, Hospice of Boston

Immediate Parish Response

Fr. Patrick Armano, Parochial Vicar St. Joseph Needham

Fran Hauck, Pastoral Associate Holy Name West Roxbury

Ongoing Parish Care

Jane Kuklis, Youth Minister St. Mary Scituate

Mary Gallagher, Pastoral Associate St Agatha, Milton

Sr. Mary Corripio, Coordinator Office of Cultural Diversity

Support Group Resources

Compassionate Friends ~ Richard Mirable, Regional Director

Pieta ~ Catherine Russell, Coordinator

Caritas Good Samaritan Hospice ~ Margo Steinberg, Bereavement Coordinator

The Children's Room ~ Barbara Clarke, Executive Director

“Jesus, like no one before, proved he had the ultimate power, the control over his death. He could rule forever because no earthly force could make his death permanent. The conquering of death was indeed his Easter message. He came back, proving the truth of his promise: ‘I am with you always.’ He kept his promise to his followers that he would be with them ‘to the end of time’.”

—Antoinette Bosco
from Lent: An Uncommon Love Story
The Joyful Noiseletter April 2006



A National Ministry Summit Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership

*Groundbreaking Emerging Models Project research
 will be presented and discussed
 at the National Ministry Summit!*



April 20 - 23, 2008
Orlando, Florida

Sponsored by the
National Association for Lay Ministry
Conference for Pastoral Planning
and Council Development
National Association of Church Personnel Administrators
Nationals Association of Diaconate Directors
National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association
National Federation of Priests' Councils

For more information: 800-893-7951

Register online at:
www.emergingmodels.org/summit

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