

# THE DRIFT

## Blue Water Vicariate News

### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

SEPTEMBER, 2006

We have taken a break from vicariate meetings for the summer, but now, as in our parishes, we move forward. Through the Together in Faith process within the archdiocese, we have been discovering how important it is to work together as a Church to plan for our future. In this way we are better able respond to and work with the reality of change: in our lives, our society, our church and world. Some of the realities that we as Church are now facing include: the rising cost of operating and maintaining our facilities and programs, the skyrocketing costs of health care, a difficult economy which has led to decreased church support, the movement of peoples (suburban sprawl), the shrinking number of ordained priests and religious, the rising number of professional lay ministers, the need for a "new evangelization" of God's people, and the very secular, often anti-religious nature of our culture.

This list may seem overwhelming, but we are people of hope. We know that the Lord walks with us on our journey through life. As people of hope we are committed to moving forward. To do this, is absolutely essential for the Church to discover fresh and new ways to share resources and to better utilize the resources that we have. In other words, it can't be "business as usual". Our world now is so different from what it was in the 1950s or 1970s. Because the Church is Christ's, it will have something to say and do in every age. We take this on Jesus' own promise to us.

Here in the Blue Water vicariate, good things are happening. I believe that the Holy Spirit is guiding us as we create plans for our parishes and commit ourselves to support our Catholic schools. We are also forming vicariate committees to respond to the reality of injustice, including poverty, and the reality of multi-cultures in our Church. Contact one of your parish vicariate pastoral council reps if you are interested in being involved as we move forward Together in Faith.

**"Lord Jesus, as you comforted and challenged the disciples on the road to Emmaus, be with our Church of Detroit. Open our hearts to the wisdom of your Spirit speaking through one another as we deliberate together on the future of our parishes and schools. May all our efforts be to your glory and the building up of the Kingdom as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen"**

### Archdiocese of Detroit's 4th Annual Women's Conference

"A Journey to the Heart of Christ" will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at the Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center in Warren, MI from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$45 for adults and \$35 for full-time college or high school students, and includes lunch. Religious are free of charge, but must register.

For more information, visit the Archdiocese website at [www.aodonline.org](http://www.aodonline.org) or e-mail at [dignityofwoman@aol.com](mailto:dignityofwoman@aol.com), or call 734-459-9558.

### BLUE WATER VICARIATE

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Next newsletter issue: Nov. 19, 2006  
Article deadline: Nov. 7, 2006  
E-mail: [kenowicki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenowicki@sbcglobal.net)

**A JOURNEY THROUGH  
GRIEF**

October 16, 23, 30  
November 6  
(all Wednesdays)  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

And will be held in  
St. Mary's Church basement  
St. Clair

Our facilitator will be  
Sally Sutely, MSW, CSW,  
medical social worker with  
St. John Hospice at  
St. John River District Hospital

For information, call  
Maureen Duncan, Parish Nurse  
or Mary Paquette,  
Christian Service Coordinator.  
Both can be reached at the parish  
office 810-329-2255.

**BLUE WATER VICARIATE  
2006 PARISH EVENTS**

9/29, 30, 10/1 Fall Festival,  
St. Augustine  
9/29, 30, 10/1 Festival, St. Mary,  
St. Clair  
9/17 Roast Beef Dinner,  
St. Philip  
10/7 Tastefest, Immac. Concep.  
10/8 Harvest Dinner, Holy Cross  
10/15 Chicken Dinner, St. Joseph  
10/22 Turkey Dinner, O..L.  
Mount Carmel

**REMINDER!**

**Parish Leadership Conference**

Saturday, October 7, 2006  
St. Mary, St. Clair

Speaker: Fr. Richard Fragomeni  
"7 Gifts for Spiritual Ministry—  
Enkindling the Holy Fire"  
Call Lucy Sebastian at:  
810-982-2343

**PEACE IS POSSIBLE!**

A Series

**A FORCE MORE POWERFUL**

Thursdays, Oct. 5-Nov. 16, 2006  
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

St. Mary Catholic Church  
Community Center  
811 Orchard Street

RSVP Mary Paquette  
810-329-2255

Sponsored by the Justice and Peace  
Committee  
Free-will donation  
accepted

You are invited to join us for a  
Six-week long workshop  
Exploring the nonviolent way of  
Jesus.

A 30-minute video will be followed  
By one hour of discussion.