



Missouri Catholic Conference

Good News

July 2014 Vol. 33 Issue 6

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri.

MCC Annual Assembly to Address Marriage and Family Concerns

This year the Missouri Catholic Conference Annual Assembly will examine the many challenges facing married couples and families in the 21st century. There is a lot to discuss and a lot to think about.

Federal courts across the country are ruling that civil marriage is no longer solely a union of one man and one woman. Many marriages end in divorce. Increasingly, couples cohabit but don't marry and babies are born out of wedlock. Unmarried fathers drift away and lose contact with their children.

A class divide appears to be opening up between the well-educated and everyone else. College graduates are marriage minded and tend to have children after they marry. But the poor and the middle working class are putting off marriage while non-marital births are rising.

Family scholars say that children do better as adults if raised by their mother and father, but single parent households are common, as are families that include the parent and a live-in partner. Children can be very resilient but so many transitions can cause confusion and lead to trouble in school and even juvenile delinquency.

What do all these trends mean for our country? Can marriage and family life be revitalized? How can our Church respond? Do our current laws and public policies promote or undermine marriage and family life? This year's MCC Annual Assembly will address these questions in a strong line-up of thought-provoking workshops.

In this *Good News* you will find a brief description of all the workshops on tap for this year's assembly, which is set for Saturday, October 4, at the State Capitol. From the changing demographics of marriage and family to the role of pets in family life, these workshops

will cover a lot of ground.

Lunch is free and the day ends with a Mass at St. Peters Church. It should be a special day and a day to learn more as we examine our theme of "Marriage and Family at the Crossroads."

You can register for the MCC Annual Assembly by completing the form in this *Good News* and mailing it back to the MCC; or you can call us at 1-800-456-1679 or email us at mocatholic@mocatholic.org. Don't miss this special event!

Will Your Legislator Protect Women and their Unborn Children?

On September 10 state legislators will convene in Jefferson City for their annual veto session. On tap will be the question of whether to override the governor's veto of HB 1307. This bill provides a 72-hour waiting period before an abortion can take place.

An abortion ends a babies life and leads women to a lifetime of regret. Women should have sufficient time to reflect and consider alternatives to an abortion. Three days can save a human life; three days can help a women avoid a lifetime of regret; three days can make a positive difference for both mother and child.

Please contact your state senator and state representative and urge them to attend the veto session and vote for HB 1307. If you don't know who your legislators are, visit the MCC's Web site at www.mocatholic.org and follow the instructions or call 1-800-456-1679.

2014 Annual Assembly Workshop Line-Up

The “Baby-Daddy” Dilemma: Why Fathers Need to be Husbands

The cultural detachment of fatherhood from marriage has disfigured the meaning and reality of family life. Too many fathers remain “absent without leave” and too many children and moms are paying the price. The great “yes” to being a dad is designed to be an echo of the great “yes” to being a husband—so how do we go about helping men reclaim the true meaning of fatherhood? This workshop will outline the crucial steps needed to re-establish the inseparable link between fatherhood and marriage.

Presenter: Jim Russell, Deacon, Family Life Coordinator, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Back to the Future: Putting Children and Families First

In 1991 the U.S. bishops issued a prophetic document, *Putting Children and Families First*, that detailed the challenges facing families and possible remedies to assist families in overcoming these stresses. How much has changed since that document was issued? What can we learn from this pastoral document to assist families in our times? This session will take a fresh look at this important document.

Presenter: Jude Huntz, Chancellor, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Kansas City, MO

The Blaine Amendment: The School Choice Barrier from the State of Maine

In 1875 James G. Blaine, a U.S. Representative from Maine, proposed a constitutional amendment prohibiting public funds from going to religious schools. The amendment failed; but similar versions were subsequently adopted into state constitutions, including Missouri’s. The Blaine amendment remains one of the biggest barriers to establishing a private school choice program in Missouri. This session will discuss the Blaine amendment, the failed Children’s Education Initiative, and the future of school choice in Missouri.

Presenter: James V. Shuls, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Missouri—St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

The Changing Demographic Portrait of the American Family

From Ward Cleaver (*Leave it to Beaver*) to Jay Pritchett (*Modern Family*), the stereotypical image of the American family has changed over time. Does data support these TV portrayals? This workshop will focus on data from the U.S. Census to examine the demographic transitions for the American family over the past 50 years. Data will be presented for the U.S., Missouri, St. Louis and Kansas City.

Presenter: J.S. Onésimo Sandoval, Associate Professor, Director of Sociology, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO

Crisis Pregnancy: Supporting Women in their Choice for Life

Pregnancy should be a happy time in a woman’s life, but for women in a crisis pregnancy life can be difficult. This session will examine the many challenges faced by women in crisis pregnancies and how pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes across Missouri offer a broad range of support to these women, making it easier for them to choose life for their unborn child. Come learn what additional resources are needed and what you can do to support the choice for life.

Presenters: Maureen Zink, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director, Birthright Counseling of St. Louis, and Peggy Forrest, Executive Director, Our Lady’s Inn Maternity, St. Louis, MO

The Doctor is In: Healthcare for Missouri Families

The Affordable Care Act has changed the healthcare landscape in the country. While some states are now using available federal money to expand Medicaid in their states, Missouri is not. How has this decision impacted individuals and health care providers? What health challenges do Missouri’s poor now face? This workshop will explore these questions from the perspective of a provider who is on the frontlines of healthcare delivery.

Presenter: R. Wayne Cooper, M.D., Central Ozarks Medical Center Camdenton, Lake Regional Hospital, Medical Missions for Christ Community Health Center, Camdenton, MO, former MO State Representative, District 155

Health Care and Long-Term Care: Options for Seniors

Meeting the health care needs of an elderly family member can be a challenging and emotional experience. What types of services are available? Who pays for them? How do you qualify for the care? How do you access care? What can you expect from the provider of your care? This workshop will focus on the various options seniors and their families have for healthcare in the home.

Presenter: Mary Schantz, Executive Director, Missouri Alliance for Home Care, Jefferson City, MO

A Lifetime of Faith for a Happy Marriage

Using his recent Pastoral Letter on The Spiritual Life, Archbishop Carlson will discuss the blessing marriage receives when the couple develops a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Through prayer, understanding, and generosity the couple is invited to walk with Jesus and by their witness encourage others to journey with Christ as well. Married couples, single people and religious men and women will all benefit as the journey of faith formation is never-ending. Each participant in the workshop will receive a copy of the Archbishop’s Pastoral Letter.

Presenter: Most Reverend Robert Carlson, Archbishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Managing Stressors of Family Life

School events, sports teams, work schedules, medical issues—family stressors have been defined as challenging events, positive or negative, that occur in the family and the family's ability to manage those demands. This workshop will explore the impact that these stressors can have on family life and how a family can effectively cope with these challenges. Don't miss this informational workshop!

Presenter: Nancy Hoey, M.Ed., L.P.C., Grace Counseling, Jefferson City, MO

The Next Clash of Absolutes:

Religious Liberty and LGBT Sexual Liberty

Emboldened by the Supreme Court's majority opinions in *Romer*, *Lawrence*, and *Windsor*, judges, government officials and LGBT activists are seeking to redefine marriage, sexuality and gender identity in law and public policy. This workshop will explore how these redefinitions intersect with the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment, Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, and related state laws and policies.

Presenter: Matthew Kacsmark, Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of Direct Litigation, Research and Education, Liberty Institute, Dallas, TX

Parenting the Child with Special Needs

Parenting can be challenging under the best circumstances, but add a child with special needs and life takes on a new meaning. Come hear parents of children with special needs talk about the struggles and rewards of raising a family with unique challenges. Don't miss this powerful workshop!

Presenters: Todd Mayfield, Robin McClay, parents, and Mary Beth Hoey, teacher of early childhood special education, Jefferson City, MO

Pets: The Newest Member of Your Family

From cats, dogs, gerbils, to a baby calf—animals can play an important role in our family life. Pets are more than just companion animals, they help improve family life, they can strengthen family bonds and they teach responsibility. They are truly members of our family! This workshop will explore the various roles of pets in family life. Emphasis will be given on how to cope with the loss of a pet, and how this event can impact family life.

Presenter: Beth Luebbering, D.V.M., Veterinarian, Horton Animal Hospital, Columbia, MO

Prison Blues: The Impact of Incarceration on Families

More than two million children in America have a parent behind bars today. This session will discuss what research tells us about these children and their caregivers, resilience factors, positive interventions and community resources. Personal stories of those who have lived this experience will be shared.

Presenters: Jackie Toben, SSND, former Executive Director, Let's Start, St. Louis and participants in the Let's Start program, St. Louis, MO

Strengthening Families through Responsible Father Engagement

Fathers are essential to the family unit. This workshop will discuss one model developed to strengthen families, through the engagement of the father, and to re-connect fathers with their children. The workshop introduces effective parent skills that strengthen fathers and families.

Presenters: Halbert Sullivan, Founding President/CEO, Fathers' Support Center, and Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C. Parenting Specialist, Father's Support Center, St. Louis, MO

Strengths, Challenges and

Resiliencies in Contemporary Black Families

In 1965 the *Moynihan Report* focused on the crumbling urban black family. This workshop will look at the historical structure of the Black family, including the newly released, *Moynihan Report Revisited*. It will explore the social issues and resiliency factors related to family structure and stability, trends in health status and violent death rate within social, historical and political contexts. Various social and public policy implications for the Black family will be discussed.

Presenter: Tashel C. Bordere, PhD, CT, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, State Extension Specialist in Youth Development, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

Zombies, Tattoos and Surrogate Motherhood:

45 Years after *Humanae Vitae*

In essence, *Humanae Vitae* warned of the consequences that would come from the attempt to separate the soul and the body. Pope Paul VI was able to foresee some of the particular consequences of that separation. Others he could not have guessed. But we live in the midst of the consequences—foreseen and unforeseen. This workshop will examine what *Humanae Vitae* did warn would happen, how have predictions—and more—come to pass, and most importantly, where do we go from here?

Presenter: Ed Hogan, PhD, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, and Director, Pontifical Paul VI Institute of Catechetical and Pastoral Studies, Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO

Missouri Catholic
Conference
PO BOX 1022
Jefferson City, MO
65102-1022

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: (573) 635-7239
Fax: (573) 635-7431



Missouri Catholic
Conference



MOcatholic

Online at
MOcatholic.org

Board of Directors

Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis

Most Rev. John R. Gaydos
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City

Most Rev. Robert Finn
Vice Chairman
Bishop of
Kansas City/St. Joseph

Most Rev. James Johnston
Bishop of
Springfield/Cape Girardeau

Most Rev. Edward Rice
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of St. Louis

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jefferson City, MO
Permit #42

MCC Annual Assembly

Saturday October, 4, 2014—Missouri State Capitol

Youth Schedule—6th Grade and Up

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Senate Chamber

Insta-World: Growing Up Digital

In a world that wants to be “liked”, we are hard-wired to share our lives at the click of a button. But do you know the difference between your virtual identity, and your actual reality? This workshop will explore the good, the bad, and the ugly of social media, and give you some tips on staying smarter than your smartphone!

Presenter: Laura Thomson, Interactive Media Specialist, Communications Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis

11 a.m. - Noon

Legislative Scavenger Hunt

The State Capitol contains a wealth of history about Missouri and the legislative process. What a perfect place for a scavenger hunt! Don't miss this opportunity to have fun while learning about our state government. Prizes will be awarded.

12:15 p.m. Lunch (free)

1:15 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Senate Chamber

Mock Legislature

Join other youth from around Missouri in debating controversial bills that have been discussed in the Missouri General Assembly. Youth are asked to follow all rules and procedures that Missouri Representatives and Senators follow day-to-day in the Missouri General Assembly.

Adult Schedule

9:30 a.m.	Registration
10 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
11:15 a.m.	Morning Work-shops
12:15 p.m.	Lunch (free)
1:15 p.m.	Afternoon Work-shops
2:30 p.m.	Closing Session
3:15 p.m.	Closing Mass, Concelebrated by Missouri Bishops, St. Peter Church



MCC Annual Assembly Registration

Saturday, October 4, 2014—State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO

Three ways to register:

1. Mail this form to: Missouri Catholic Conference, P.O. Box 1022, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1022.
2. Register online at MOCatholic.org.
3. Call 1-800-456-1679.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Parish & City: _____

Email: _____

Total # in family attending: _____

Total # preferring vegetarian

meal: _____

Faith and Issues on Tap

Join us after the closing Mass at a local establishment for small group discussions and networking on how our Catholic faith intersects with issues in today's society.

Please Mark if Interested in Attending _____

Child care

☐ My children will participate in child care. Names & ages: (5-12)

☐ My children will attend the youth activities. Names & ages: (6th grade and up)

Transportation

I am driving.

☐ Will drive others.

I need a ride:

☐ Bus from Kansas City, Springfield area, or St. Louis (fees may apply)

☐ Add my name to a carpool list

Disability

☐ I have a disability and would like assistance.

Please rank your workshop selections (1-4):

_____ The "Baby-Daddy" Dilemma: Why Fathers Need to be Husbands

_____ Back to the Future: Putting Children and Families First

_____ The Blaine Amendment: The School Choice Barrier from the State of Maine

_____ The Changing Demographic Portrait of the American Family

_____ Crisis Pregnancy: Supporting Women in their Choice for Life

_____ The Doctor is In: Healthcare for Missouri Families

_____ Health Care and Long-Term Care: Options for Seniors

_____ A Lifetime of Faith for a Happy Marriage

_____ Managing Stressors of Family Life

_____ The Next Clash of Absolutes: Religious Liberty and LGBT Sexual Liberty

_____ Parenting the Child with Special Needs

_____ Pets: The Newest Member of Your Family

_____ Prison Blues: The Impact of Incarceration on Families

_____ Strengthening Families through Responsible Father Engagement

_____ Strengths, Challenges and Resiliencies in Contemporary Black Families

_____ Zombies, Tattoos and Surrogate Motherhood: 45 Years after *Humanae Vitae*

Be Sure to Preregister to be Entered in the Family Basket Give Away!

*A winner from each diocese will be drawn during the closing session (4 winners total); must be present to win!

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

at the crossroads



MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, October 4, 2014, Missouri Capitol
Register at MOcatholic.org or call 1-800-456-1679