

### **2016 First Step Programs**

**During this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Mercy, we are called to renew our relationship with God and the Church. Attempting to pick up the pieces of one's life after the tragedy of divorce is an area that can impact a person's relationship with God and the Church. One of the significant issues that a person faces is their place in the Church.** Does the Church still care about me even though I am divorced? Am I allowed to go to Mass? Can I receive Communion? How can the Church help me heal? If I decide to marry again, what do I have to do? The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland, especially during this Jubilee of Mercy, offers its First Step Program in order to help individuals deal with these questions in order to renew and/or strengthen their relationship with God and the Church. **This program is offered to help anyone learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage.** Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will also be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced. Everyone is welcome to deepen knowledge of the Church's teaching on marriage, learn about the Church's ministry to the divorced/separated in the Diocese, hear about the annulment process and how to submit a case, and discover a path to healing after divorce in order to strengthen and/or renew a relationship with God and the Church. In any endeavor, taking the "first step" is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure. **The 2016 general meetings schedule is: Tuesday, March 8 at St. Peter Parish, Lorain, at 7pm; Thursday, May 19 at St. Noel Parish, Willoughby Hills, at 7pm; Tuesday, September 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cuyahoga Falls, at 7pm; Tuesday, October 18 at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm. Note that the Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process.** For testimonials about the program from past participants and for more information visit [www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal) or call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525 x4000.

### **Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry**

The Saint John Vianney Parish Support Group for Families and Friends of Gay and Lesbian Catholics and the Cleveland Diocesan Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry will co-sponsor a presentation by Eve Tushnet on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 10am, at the Saint John Vianney Father Kline Social Center, (7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor, OH). Eve Tushnet is the author of a recently released book entitled Gay and Catholic: Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, Living My Faith. The presentation is open to all. **Eve will share some of her experiences of the challenges and joys of living as a same-sex attracted individual who is deeply attached to her Catholic faith. She will also share some practical tips for helping same-sex attracted individuals, their friends and family.**

*Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.*

### **Camp Christopher Winter Family Camp**

Take a break this winter and join us at **Camp Christopher** for a fun-filled family camp weekend, **January 15-18, 2016!** Children can enjoy activities with their parents, as well as activities designed just for them. Program options include snowshoeing, sledding, the ropes course (weather permitting), arts & crafts, and more. Alternatively, you may prefer to relax by the blazing fire with a good book! Accommodations are in heated cabins. Cabins are equipped with bunk beds and are of varying sizes. Participants are responsible for bringing their own blankets, pillows, linens, and towels. Enjoy delicious, hearty, and well balanced meals family style in the St. Francis Dining Hall. A one-of-a-kind family get-away where adventures abound and where friendships are made to last a lifetime. **For more information and to register, visit [www.campchris.org](http://www.campchris.org) or call 1-800-296-2267.**

### **Help The Needy in Northeast Ohio**

**The Cleveland Furniture Bank provides basic home furnishings to people in need who are trying to rebuild their lives.** They are in need of couches, chairs, kitchen tables and dressers to provide to over 3000 people referred to them each year. **If you are downsizing, remodeling, redecorating or just have furniture items you no longer need, call 216-459-2265 x101 or visit [www.clevelandfurniturebank.org/donate](http://www.clevelandfurniturebank.org/donate) to schedule a pickup of your furniture.** If you have other items such as clothing, household goods, pots and pans, dishes, etc. they will pick those up at the same time. **Mention Mother of Sorrows Parish and they will waive the pickup fee.**

### **Keeping Warm**

The Ozanam Center, run by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, is still in need of coats for the needy. **If you, or someone you know, has a coat they would like to donate (especially men's and children's), please bring it to Mother of Sorrows Parish and your donation will be dropped off at the Ozanam Center.** If you have more than one we would be happy to help you bring them in. **Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

### **Have An Old Car?**

Wondering what to do with that old car? Help a neighbor in need by donating it to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Your used car can become food, medicine and rent for the poor in our community.** And when you donate your late model car, truck or boat to SVDP Cleveland, not only will you receive a **tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law**, you will be free from the troubles of insuring, licensing, repairing and selling your vehicle. We will even provide free towing within 24 hours. **To donate, please call 800-322-8284 or visit [www.svdpusa.com](http://www.svdpusa.com).**

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

**Touch a life... Become a Hospice Volunteer.** Hospice is a philosophy of care, not a place. We care for our patients wherever they call home. As a vital part of our team volunteers come from all walks of life, and have a variety of skills, talents and abilities. Opportunities to serve are diverse: visit patients and families to provide companionship, socialization, and comfort, help with legacy work, transportation, light housework, meal preparation, run errands, make phone calls, help with clerical work, attend health fairs, make a presentation. Volunteers with specialized professional qualifications and training are also needed: attorneys, licensed hair dressers, Massotherapists, pet therapy dogs and their handlers. Volunteer education is held frequently throughout northern Ohio. Teen and most volunteers not having contact with patients take 4 hours of training while patient care volunteers have 16 hours. **Visit us at [www.hospicewr.org](http://www.hospicewr.org) for more information or call us 800-707-8922 x6881.**

### **Engaged Encounter**

**Catholic Engaged Encounter** is a comprehensive weekend of marriage preparation held three times a year at the **St. Leonard Retreat Center, 4076 Case Rd., Avon, OH 44011.** Call Alex and Lily Fuentes at 216-849-3769 with any questions. **Cost is \$185 per couple.** Dates for 2016 are **February 12-14, May 20-22 and October 14-16, 2016.** Visit [www.clevelandencounter.com](http://www.clevelandencounter.com) to register or for additional information!

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

**Married Couples** - Do you know that more than 1,500,000 couples in over 92 countries have experienced a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? They found something worth passing on. The **next weekend is scheduled for February 12-14, 2016** at the **Clarion Inn & Conference Center, Hudson, OH 44236.** For more information, please call **330-305-9963** or visit [www.greatmarriagesohio.org](http://www.greatmarriagesohio.org).

### **Cleveland Retrouvaille**

Someone once said "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressure that you neglect your spouse? The Retrouvaille program can help you put your troubled marriage back on track. This program is supported by the Catholic diocese of Cleveland. **The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held January 15-17, 2016.** A registration fee of **\$150** is required to confirm your reservation. **For more info concerning the program, or to register, call Diane or Al Miskinis in complete confidence at 330-665-3506 or (from a 216 or 440 area code) 1-800-470-2230 or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).**

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*Hello Everyone,*

*The monthly statistics for the Fr. Hilbert Ozanam Center for December 2015 are as follows:*

#### **Food Pantry**

*Total number of people served was 1059  
Total number of households served was 306  
Total number of children served was 480  
Total number of seniors served was 86*

#### **Clothing Bank**

*Total number of families served was 213  
Articles of clothing given away: 2122  
Winter coats given away: 136*

#### **Furniture Bank**

*Total number of clients served was 20  
Couches given away: 5  
Armchairs given away: 4  
Mattresses/box springs: 11  
Dressers given away: 6  
Misc. given away: 24*

*We were open three Saturdays during December and the average numbers were good. The total number of winter coats given out so far this winter totals 374. As the weather grows colder the demand will increase. Thank you all for the great work that you do.*

*Jim and Cathie Perusek*

### **Opportunity for Service**

**Response 2016, the most comprehensive guide of faith-based service opportunities is now available.** Volunteers serve full-time for periods of one week to one year or more across the United States and in more than 100 countries worldwide. Summer and school break opportunities are also available. **Our volunteers are from all walks of life.** Contact Catholic Volunteer Network to receive your free copy/copies of Response 2016 at **800-543-5046** or [info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org](mailto:info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org). You can also visit [www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org](http://www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org).

### **Attention Young Adults**

Looking for **social, spiritual, and service activities for young adults?** Visit the **Northeast Ohio Catholic Young Adults Meetup Group** at [www.meetup.com/Northeast-Ohio-Catholic-Young-Adults](http://www.meetup.com/Northeast-Ohio-Catholic-Young-Adults). The group is free to join and the online interactive calendar is easy to use! If you have any questions, please contact **Jennifer Sullivan** at [groundsforfaith@yahoo.com](mailto:groundsforfaith@yahoo.com) or 330-217-1064 (home).