



# Call to Action of Michigan Newsletter

# Spring 2006



P.O. Box 12161, Hamtramck, Michigan, 48212

[www.cta-mi.org](http://www.cta-mi.org)

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## GOOD CATHOLIC GIRLS

By Arnie Messing

Angela Bonavoglia just completed her whirlwind tour of Michigan! (Whirlwind "-- small rotating windstorm -- marked by an inward and upward spiral motion--") Angela's tour started in Kalamazoo on March 15 and continued to Royal Oak, to Westland, to Ann Arbor to Lansing, ending finally in Saginaw on March 19. A total of more than 350 people attended her presentations. More than 200 copies of her book, "GOOD CATHOLIC GIRLS: How Women Are Leading the Fight to Change the Church", were left in her wake to be read and used in discussion groups. Thank you, Angela, for your refreshing presence, your inwardly and upwardly inspiring message.



Angela told story after story of brave, faithful Catholic people, especially of women, who refused to remain silent when church authorities were determined to silence them. Her book is filled with biographical and anecdotal material from feminist authors such as Joan Chittister, Frances Kissling, Elizabeth Johnson, Jeannine Grammick, Christine Vladimiroff, Mary Ramerman., Barbara Blaine, just to name a few, who stay in the Catholic Church and continue to fight "for the soul of the Catholic Church", despite all kinds of indignities and threats from their male "superiors", whether on a diocesan level or the Vatican itself. Angela states unequivocally that these and other women worldwide are rethinking Catholic theology, changing the face of ministry and resurrecting the lost lives of female church leaders. She shows how this is happening and adds in a playfully provocative manner, "the hierarchy ignores them at its peril".

Was Angela's visit to Michigan timely, or what? Throughout the month of March the Detroit Free Press and News reported repeatedly on the closing of parishes and the shortage of priests. Some parishioners are angry and sad, while others are defiant and still others are "just resigned". The articles present "---harsh news about church closings and mergers and the need to share a dwindling number of priests across the six-county Archdiocese." One parishioner shared a thought about his church, "By any other standard---by the standards of business or politics or school administration---this kind of announcement would be judged a complete failure".

*Continued on page 3*

## METRO DETROIT UPDATE

By Eileen Burns

### Mark your calendars:

**April 20** - Book Club Discussion of "Good Catholic Girls" at Julia Archer's House, 22239 Morley, Dearborn. Contact Julia at judyarcher@aol.com or 313-562-2423

**April 25** - Book Club Discussion of "Good Catholic Girls" at St. John Fisher Parish Activities Center 7:00 p.m. Contact Mary Jean Shoettle at adogpurrrson@aol.com

**May 6** - Book Club Discussion at Beth Rindler's House at 7:00 p.m. Contact Beth at [bethrin@prodigy.net](mailto:bethrin@prodigy.net) or 313-891-2192.

**June 3** - Prayerful demonstration at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 9:00 a.m. (Ordination) followed by a gathering at Gail Hafner's house

**July 22** - Mary Magdalene celebrations at SS. Simon and Jude (also at St. John Fisher)

**August 12** - CTA Picnic/Liturgy at Mary Hennig's

**September 17** - CTA-Metro meeting at Gerry Sellman's at 2:00 p.m.

**October** - Pre-Synod Conference

Any ideas for our next book club selection? Let me know at 313-963-0448 or [eb120246@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eb120246@sbcglobal.net).

## NEWS FROM SAGINAW

By Rosemary Moon

We're still glowing with happiness that Angela Bonavoglia's visit was a great success. Saginaw gave Angela a standing ovation, her first, she said. We had great media coverage and over 125 people attended at St. Andrew Catholic Church, her second Catholic facility to deliver her message of the brave work of women in the church.

Our Saginaw group is getting an early start planning our 7<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Mary Magdalen, as well as more heroic women who bring hope to the church.

Following our last meeting, the entire group traveled to Midland to a healing service sponsored by Voice of the Faithful for victims of clergy sex abuse, held at Blessed Sacrament Church. It was led by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit and Karon VanAntwerp, pastoral administrator at St. Mary's parish in Mount Pleasant. This is the sort of experience that enriches and moves us to greater depths in our faith, and hope for our church. Bishop Gumbleton should be a model for bishops everywhere!

We are presently concerned about the employment policies in our diocese. A letter was issued to all church employees in January that they have virtually no job security and can be terminated for any reason at any time. We see this as glaring injustice in an institution that is based on justice and righteousness. Hopefully, Bishop Carlson will respond positively to a letter we're sending to him regarding this issue.

Happy Spring, and may Easter be a resurrection of hope to everyone.

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## FROM LANSING

On Ash Wednesday eve some CTA-Lansing members joined with a Pax Christi sponsored group for a Holy Hour of repentance at the St. Mary's Cathedral parish hall. We wished to demonstrate our concern for the church's silence and complicity about the war in Iraq.

As people entered for ashes we handed them a card with a prayer for world peace by Joan Chittister, OSB and invited them afterwards for song, litany of repentance and resistance, and segments from a video: Arlington West, a meditation on the human cost of the Iraq war.

In Lansing Angela Bonavoglia's presentation on "Good Catholic Girls" was incorporated into our regularly scheduled Sunday home liturgy which was well attended and received.

Joe Droste ([drosteja@yahoo.com](mailto:drosteja@yahoo.com))

## A NEW CTA NORTH METRO GROUP ...

is in formation under the guidance of Michael and Jeannine Daly. Our group's next gathering will be at the Daly's home Sunday, April 23, from 3-5 PM. At this meeting we hope to discuss future plans for the year and additional activities planned by other CTA groups. We decided on the name CTA North Metro at the CTA Board meeting held in March.

An initial gathering took place January 22, in Rochester Hills hosted by Mary Jean Schoettle. Mary Jean agreed to take responsibility for group activities in the Daly's absence. She assisted with Angela Bonovoglia's book tour and scheduled a book discussion session on "Good Catholic Girls" which takes place at 7:00 PM, April 25, at St. John Fisher Chapel.

CTA members are committed to keeping the Catholic Church focused on the goals identified during the Second Vatican Council. This spring's activities include participation in the silent protest outside the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral during ordination ceremonies slated for June 3.

Contact Mike and Jeannie Daly at 248-651-7075 or [mikedaly@tir.com](mailto:mikedaly@tir.com) if you are interested in participating in the CTA North Metro group. We look forward to hearing from interested members.

## NEWS FROM THE NEW NORTH METRO GROUP

North Metro CTA welcomes all persons interested in helping our church incorporate ideas formulated by the members of the Second Vatican Council.

Metro Detroit CTA members shared a prayer service and watched Rev. James Lawson's keynote speech from November's National CTA conference. About 20 members enjoyed the hospitality of Mary Jean Schoettle in Rochester Hills.

The Spirit is moving and having a group in the northern suburbs will facilitate more involvement and programs. Our initial meeting is scheduled for April 23, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Daly's home in Rochester Hills. The new groups name and contact information now appear in the new Michigan CTA brochure.

*Michael Daly* ([mikedaly@tir.com](mailto:mikedaly@tir.com))

### *Good Catholic Girls - Continued from page 1*

Cardinal Maida is quoted as warning Catholics in blunt terms not to hold out hope for any rapid expansion of the priesthood. "The ordination of married men, or women, is not open for discussion at the Vatican". He said, "I just got back from Rome --- and I can tell you, the issue is not on the agenda ..."

Try to imagine for a moment what Angela (and/or the whole list above) would say to Cardinal Maida? Maybe they would ask first of all why go to Rome, except maybe to DELIVER a message. Maybe its time for Rome to change. Read "Rome Has Spoken" by Maureen Fiedler and her list of official statements that reveal the historic EVOLUTION of ROMAN CATHOLIC TEACHINGS or "Faithful Dissenters: Stories of Men and Women Who Loved and Changed the Church" by Robert McClory. Most importantly, maybe they would ask how much longer can the official Church continue to squander the gifts and charisms of so many. How much longer can willing and dedicated women and married men, highly educated, with deep faith and love for their Catholic Church, be denied ordination to the priesthood? (quoted in one of the News articles: "If celibacy were optional for diocesan priests, there would be an estimated fourfold increase of seminarians and the priesthood shortage would be over", Dean Hoge, Theologian, Catholic University)

Thank you, Angela, for coming to Michigan at this time. Thank you, CTA of Michigan people, who have helped bring her and her hope-filled and inspirational message. Special thanks go to you, Sr. Beth Rindler, CTA President, and to you, Eileen Burns, Board member. You made it all happen. Thanks, one and all.

## SOME ADDED THOUGHTS

President Dwight Eisenhower in his Farewell Address, Jan 1961: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from an iron cross".

Living Wage: More than 130 cities, counties and states have enacted some form of the Living Wage. For example, Louisville KY, \$10.20 per hour; Dayton OH, \$9.30; Bozeman MT, \$9.73; Rochester NY, \$9.43. All are with benefits and/or are indexed to inflation. --The Hightower Lowdown Feb. 2006

A few timely thoughts from FUTURE CHURCH: Winter 2006 - "With the May 19th release of "The DaVinci Code" movie, casual conversation will once again turn to speculation about the true role of Mary of Magdala. In many ways, Dan Brown's book has done a disservice to the historical Mary of Magdala and the early women church leaders who saw themselves in apostolic succession to her. While The DaVinci Code conveys a beautiful ideal of the essential unity of male and female, it is ultimately subversive to women's full and equal leadership in the Catholic Church. It does not focus on the FACT of Mary of Magdala's leadership in proclaiming Jesus' resurrection to the male disciples, but on the FICTION of her marital status."

If you are interested in serving as a media contact and/or sponsoring a celebration of St. Mary of Magdala--please contact [magdala@futurechurch.org](mailto:magdala@futurechurch.org).

All the publicity for the movie makes this a great time for those committed to an inclusive Church to share the truth of women's invaluable leadership both in the past and in the present."

## IN THE SPIRIT AWARD

CTA of Michigan, CTA-MI, offers an award called "In The Spirit" to someone who lives the ideals of CTA. Previous recipients of this award are Fr. Tom Duffy, Mary Hennig, and our "Founding Foremothers," Marge Orlando, Eileen Burns and Delphine Tessmar, Helen Casey, Jane Wohlford Hughes, and Sr. Agnes Mary Mansour. The CTA-MI Board needs to hear from you with your nomination for the award. You will need to tell how this Catholic Michigander:

- Loves and follows the teachings of Jesus.
- Is devoted to the progressive ideals of the Second Vatican Council as proclaimed in the Ash Wednesday, 1999, signature ad in The New York Times and also is knowledgeable and supports the ideals of the CTA-MI Vision Statement (see the CTA-MI brochure).
- Perseveres if under duress from injustice by the church hierarchy.
- Is an inspiration to friends and the wider community around her/him.

Based on the above, describe why your nominee is deserving, include yours and their name, address, phone and Email #s and mail to CTA of Michigan, P.O. Box 112161, Hantranck MI 48212 by August 1, 2006. The Board will select the awardee and make the presentation at the State conference.

## CTA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2006 - *Save the Dates for Milwaukee!*

Start planning now to join 3,500 + of your closest CTA friends on November 3 -5, 2006 at the beautiful Midwest Convention Center in Milwaukee for the 2006 Call to Action national convention.

The fiery and always inspiring Sister Joan Chittister will be the keynote speaker. This 2006 convention will mark the 30th anniversary of the US bishop's first Call to Action so it is sure to be a memorable experience. Any CTA member who has been to a national convention will tell you that it is one of the best things about CTA and that one always leaves with one's spiritual and church reform "battery" fully charged.

Milwaukee also has proven to be a great spot for the convention. All of the sessions and the two main hotels are connected by skywalks so one can almost come without a coat, regardless of the weather forecast. We look forward to seeing many there.

--- Sr. Beth Rindler, [bethrin@prodigy.net](mailto:bethrin@prodigy.net)

## A Thank You from Bishop Gumbleton

April 13 2006

Dear Call To Action-Metro Detroit Friends,

I know that you all lead busy lives, so I am grateful that you were able to help out at our soup kitchen recently. The baked chicken and all the trimmings smelled delicious. I also appreciate how you managed to help us out in other ways as well. The clothes closet walls got a new coat of paint; clothes got sorted and folded; the library shelves started to get organized and our medical clinic received needed supplies. In addition, I am very grateful to Call To Action of Michigan for the very generous donation of \$400. Since our State funding was cut, your gift will help us continue to feed the nearly 300 people we feed daily five days a week.

I am delighted that CTA-Metro Detroit integrates social justice and the corporal works of mercy into your philosophy of Church reform. May God continue to bless your good work.



Please keep me in your prayers. Peace,  
*Bishop Thomas Gumbleton*

cc: Daretta Williams, Director, St. Leo  
Soup Kitchen

*Photo: Keon Williams, son of soup kitchen Executive Director,  
Daretta Williams, helps paint the walls of the Clothes Closet.*



*CTA-Metro Detroit cooked and served a hearty meal, painted the "Clothes Closet" and sorted clothes for distribution.*




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## From Ray and Vivienne Kell ---

We, the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings. Our mission promotes the health and well being of homosexuals through: support of families, education of the public and advocacy for equality and civil rights.

Vivienne and I have been members of P Flag Detroit since 1988 when our gay son David, then 23, came out to us. Fortunately, P Flag was there to help us understand that being homosexual was not a choice, preference or alternative life style. This is the way God made him. Dave, now 40, knows we love him dearly. Living in San Diego, CA, Dave and Angel Chavez made commitment vows on July 23, 2000 and live happily together despite and without the many civil rights guaranteed to heterosexual couples.

A few years ago P Flag members started the program, "Putting a Human Face on Homosexuality". This wonderful program, which is non-confrontational, has been presented in over 35 churches, mostly Catholic, but also at any organization open to learning. The program consists of two parents, and a gay and a lesbian who tell their story in approximately 10 minutes each and then lots of time for questions. The program is an effort to create a better understanding of the lived experiences of gays, lesbians and their families. (28306 Agler Ave., Madison Heights, MI 48071 Tel: 248-541-8005)

**P FLAG**  
DETROIT

## Support for a Synod of Lay Christian Faithful

*Excerpt from a presentation by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton:*

The "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church" (Lumen Gentium, Nov. 24, > 1964) gave a whole different understanding of the Church from what we had through the decades ever since the First Vatican Council in 1871, where we had a Church that was described as a "Perfect Society". It was a self contained Church, a Church that seemed to have all the answers, and that seemed not to need to be very active in the world. The Vatican Council taught us that the church is rather a community of disciples. It's a pilgrim Church. It's a Church that's filled with sinners. It 's a Church that has to keep on growing, developing, understanding truths about God, truths about ourselves in relation to God. It's not a perfect, complete institution. And that was a profound change.

What the Church, the People of God, needs to do is to insert itself into the world and transform the world into the reign of God, not isolate itself from the world. (On that note please consider what Sr. Joan Chittister has to say after 50 years a professed Benedictine nun. She came to understand that being nun in 2001 "---was a way of being IN the world. It wasn't a way of being OUT of the world.")

Everything said about the People of God as Church applies equally to the laity, religious, and clergy. All are endowed with the charisms for the up building of the Church. Among all the People of God there s a true equality, a genuine freedom, a profound dignity, a sense of vocation, and a personal union with Jesus and his mission. Everyone in the Church shares in the whole mission of the Church.

When taken seriously it means people are truly respected as adults. It's not a relationship of parent-child, which so much of the Church has been prior to the Council, and which sadly

continues to define the relationship of too many 'adult' catholics today.

Cardinal Dearden was the greatest example and teacher of this decree from the Council. When Bill Kinzle was the editor of the Michigan Catholic he once wrote an editorial that was quite critical of something Cardinal Dearden had done. Well, the Cardinal called him up and said he wanted to discuss this with him. After some discussion Cardinal Dearden said, "well fine, but what do you think I should do now"? because he didn't agree with the editorial. Bill said, "Well, write a letter to the editor". I guess there was laughter by both at this point. Cardinal Dearden did. He didn't fire Bill Kinzle. He wrote a letter to the editor and set forth his thinking on the issue. What a clear example of how, if you respect people as adult members of the Church, you don't crack down on them.

*( Thank you, Bishop Gumbleton)*

## CTA-Michigan prepared for a Synod of the Lay Faithful

By Eileen Burns

CTA-MI is steadily moving toward having a Synod of Lay Faithful. A planning group of about 13 CTA members have met twice. One fruit of these meetings is the formulation of a mission statement. "The Synod is an assembly of Catholic faithful whose purpose is to educate the People of God in the Spirit of Vatican II, to identify and deliberate local Church issues and to formulate recommendations for implementation."

Our next step is to broaden the base of support and invite other Catholic organizations- Dignity, Pax Christi, Voice of the Faithful, Catholics for the Common Good, religious communities, etc., to join the Planning

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## CTA – Michigan Prepared ...

*Continued from page 7*

Committee. Their input will be invaluable. Education is critical to the success of the Synod. Angela Bonavoglia was our first speaker to do a State-wide tour. CTA-MI plans to continue this format and provide other excellent speakers on the critical issues facing lay Catholics. The CTA-MI State Conference will focus on pre-Synod education as well so that when 2008 rolls around, our membership will be prepared to discuss local issues facing Catholics today and to offer recommendations that will make the Church healthier and more reflective of the Gospel values of Jesus.

The next Planning Committee is Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart in Dearborn. If you would like to attend, please contact Julia Archer at ([judyarcher@aol.com](mailto:judyarcher@aol.com)) or 313-562-2423.

For your information listed below are the basic rights of Catholics as spelled out in Canon Law:

- All Catholics have the right to follow their informed consciences on all matters. (C. 748.1).
- Officers of the Church have the right to teach on matters both of private and public morality only after wide consultation with the faithful prior to the formulation of the teaching. (C.212, C.747, C.749, C.752, C.774:1).
- All Catholics have the right to engage in any activity that does not infringe on the rights of others, e.g., they have the right to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association. (C. 212:2,3, C.215, C.223.1).
- All Catholics have the right of access to all information possessed by Church authorities concerning the former's spiritual and temporal welfare, provided such access does not infringe on the rights of others. (C.218, C.221:1,2,3 C.223:1, C.537).
- All Catholics have the right to a voice in all decisions that affect them, including the choosing of their leaders. (C.212:3).

- All Catholics have the right to have their leaders accountable to them. (C.492, C.1287:2).
- All Catholics have the right to form voluntary associations to pursue Catholic aims including the right to worship together; such associations have the right to decide on their own rules of governance. (C.215, C.299, C.300, C.309).
- All Catholics have the right, while being mindful of Gospel norms, to follow whatever paths will enhance their life in Christ (i.e., their self-realization as unique human beings created by God). They also have the right to guidance that will foster authentic human living both on a personal level and in relation to their communities and the world. (C.213).
- All Catholics, regardless of race, age, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, state-of-life or social position have the right to receive all the sacraments for which they are adequately prepared C.312, C.843:1).
- All Catholics have the right to have Church office-holders foster a sense of community (C.369, C515).

### **The Film, In Good Conscience**

The documentary film, In Good Conscience, the Faith Journey of Jeannine Gramick, SL is now available for purchase in DVD form. For further information, contact Out of the Blue Films, Inc., 799 Broadway, Suite 609, New York, NY 10003. [www.ingoodconscience.com](http://www.ingoodconscience.com) or [www.outofthebluefilms.com](http://www.outofthebluefilms.com) [info@outofthebluefilms.com](mailto:info@outofthebluefilms.com).

### **In Memory of Jean Roemer**

Call to Action of Michigan is most grateful to the family of Jean Roemer for the financial contributions that were received in her memory.

Apparently many knew of Jean's commitment and dedication to the mission of CTA-MI. Not only in life, but also in death, Jean continues to support CTA-MI through this memorial. CTA-Mi is most grateful for this remembrance.

*Call To Action of Michigan*  
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