

Save the date

Nov.
21

10th annual racial justice unity banquet and awards

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary will hold its 10th annual racial justice unity banquet and awards event at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21 in the Grand Ballroom of the Airport Hilton Hotel, 4747 28th St., Grand Rapids. The event recognizes people and organizations in West Michigan for their work in diversity and social justice.

- **Rich Liberatore:** vice president of agency impact, community investment, Heart of West Michigan United Way.
- **Mabel Williams:** community organizer in Baldwin.
- **The Grand Rapids Times:** corporate awardee. The event also raises money for scholarships. For more information or for reservations, contact Kathy Carnegie at rjubkpc@gmail.com.

Dec.
1

The Annual Bishop's Dinner

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 6:00 p.m., the Serra Club of Grand Rapids will host The annual Bishop's Dinner in the Wege Conference Center at Cathedral

Square. Proceeds from this event are used to support priests actively serving the diocese to continue their education and enhance their ministry. Rev. Msgr. William Duncan will deliver the keynote address. For tickets or sponsorship information, contact Joe Westdorp at **616.866.6024**

Catholic Foundation of West Michigan

The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan (CFWM) was established as a non-profit organization in 1995 to financially assist the religious, charitable and educational works of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, its parishes, schools and ministries. As of June 30, 2009, the Foundation's assets have grown to \$29,779,000, representing funds received primarily from our parishes, schools and programs. During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, \$1,299,000 is available for distribution to the participants. Bishop's Angels is an important funding component of the CFWM. Annual contributions from individual "angels" help to promote the Foundation, grow individual funds and enable effective communications with donors and members funds throughout the year.

Types of Funds within the Foundation

- Unrestricted Funds
- Designated Funds
- Scholarship Funds
- Memorial Funds
- Support Organization Funds

Ways to Give to the Foundation

- Cash
- Appreciated Securities
- Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Life Insurance
- Variety of Trust Instruments



For more information contact The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan office, **616.243.0491**.



Love bears and endures all things

>> Msgr. Gaspar F. Ancona is a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.

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hen the Apostle Paul penned his first letter to the community of Christians in Corinth, he gave them some

important Gospel teaching and a scolding or two, along with a soaring ideal of love that he said they should all pursue. His ideal was embodied in Christ's love for his heavenly Father, and in Christ's example of service and love – even to his death on the cross.

In a second letter to the same community, St. Paul detailed where the love of Christ had led him, even if, he explained, it made him sound like a boasting fool. In enumerating his imprisonments and "countless floggings," he listed three beatings with rods, a stoning that left him nearly dead, three shipwrecks, dangers from rivers, bandits, his own people and from Gentiles, and dangers in the city as well as in the wilderness, from false brethren, with many a sleepless night, often without food or clothes. All this and his daily anxiety for all the churches – for which he had no medication to make him feel better. Ah, the glamorous life of an apostle!

It was all worthwhile for St. Paul, even a privilege; not because he loved the aggravation, but because he loved Christ. Anybody who has loved a wife or husband, a child or a friend, or even one's country, leading to the ultimate act of patriotism, understands: Genuine love doesn't dwell on the sacrifice. It knowingly and willingly bears what otherwise sounds unbearable. It endures what otherwise seems intolerable. This kind of love never gives up. It will not stop. That was the way Christ loved his Father. It was the way he loved us to the end.

This, too, is the way the saints loved, however different their personalities, the era or country in which they lived. Whether they are well-known and celebrated, or known only to God or to the ones who cherished them on earth, they became faithful and generous vessels of Christ's enduring love. They could have compiled their own list, like Paul's, of all that burdened or obstructed them. But they endured. They persevered.