

## Save the date

Register now for WYD 2011; GR Diocese deadline Aug. 1, 2010

Aug 1

Registration is now open for young adults (18 and older) who wish to make the pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain for the XXVI World Youth Day, August 15-23, 2011. Base price begins at \$2,495 and includes travel, accommodations, meals and registration to events. To view travel package details and reservation form, visit [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org).



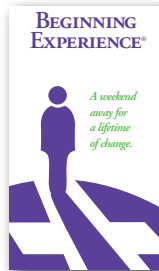
## Voice recognition

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

Beginning Experience for divorced, separated and widowed men and women

Aug. 20

The Beginning Experience ministry of Grand Rapids will host a weekend retreat from 6 p.m. on Aug. 20 until 4:30 p.m. Aug. 22 at Camp Henry in Newaygo for adults grieving the loss of a love relationship through death, divorce or separation and who are ready to come to terms with their loss and begin to move forward with their lives. To register or for more information, go to [begrandrapids.org](http://begrandrapids.org).



School kickoff event Aug. 30

Aug. 30

Catholic school employees and priests are invited to attend the annual "Back to School Kickoff" event on Aug. 30 at Cathedral Square's Wege Conference Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids.

- **Hospitality:** 8:30 a.m., Wege Conference Center at Cathedral Square
- **Keynote:** Karen Ristau, president, National Catholic Education Association, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Central cafeteria
- **Mass:** 11 a.m., Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Bishop Walter A. Hurley presiding
- **Luncheon:** Noon, Catholic Central gym

>> For additional information, contact Sue Kettle in the office of Catholic schools, [skettle@dioceseofgrandrapids.org](mailto:skettle@dioceseofgrandrapids.org) or **616.246.0590**.

2010 Conference on Catechesis "Abiding in Truth, Serving in Love"

Sept. 25

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' office for catechesis presents "Abiding in Truth, Serving in Love", the 2010 conference for catechetical leaders, youth ministers, RCIA teams, classroom teachers and catechists on Saturday, Sept. 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cathedral Square Center in downtown Grand Rapids. For more information, contact Sister Barbara Cline, FSE, at **616.551.4742** or [bccline@dioceseofgrandrapids.org](mailto:bccline@dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

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here is a lot of technology these days designed to recognize the human voice. The booming markets this technology seeks to serve extend from the military to air traffic controllers to people with disabilities to telemarketing, not to mention the ever-burgeoning business of property and personal protection.

Our voices have the unique characteristic of being as varied as we are from one another. So, any technology that tries to recognize voices has to meet and overcome the challenge of human spontaneity. We often fracture our syntax, make up our own grammar and freely create our own peculiar vocabulary. Under the stress of powerful emotions, we tend to rush our words. If tired or distracted, we may mumble and stumble our way through a sentence. Still and all, we have our own identifiable voiceprint.

So does the Lord who shepherds us and calls us by name. Jesus has said that those who truly belong to him recognize his voice and willingly follow where he leads. How do we have that voice recognition capability to decipher the accents of the Lord amidst all the other voices we hear?

If we are blessed to have parents and teachers of faith, they accustom us to the voice of the Lord. By showing us how to pray — that is, to listen for the Lord as well as to speak to him — they are attuning our ears to the Lord's voice. Sometimes Christ's voice is echoed and amplified by the love and service of his followers. Other times, our behavior is so unfaithful or sporadic that Christ's voice is barely recognizable, or not heard at all.

To discern accurately the voice of Christ calling to us, we have to develop a reliable screening technology. It's not some apparatus for sale online or in a store. It's the turning of our heart to the places and circumstances where Christ's voice is heard and understood. In the Scriptures and in the community of his disciples, we become familiar with the cadence of his voice and the truth and power of his message.