

Welcome New Staff Member

Mrs. Cindy Samson has joined the staff in the Project Rachel Grand Rapids office. She and her husband, Joe, have two daughters, 5 and 8 years old.

They worship at St. Patrick's Church in Parnell. Cindy brings experience from her volunteer work at Cornerstone Crisis Line and a background in business, including program management and marketing communications.

Msgr. John Zenz



Tenth Anniversary

An anniversary celebration was held to mark Project Rachel's 10th year of service in the Grand Rapids Diocese. The event included an address by Linda Riva, formerly with Project Rachel in Newark, N.J., and present director of a Mother's Home in Darby, Pa. Recognition was given to Bishop Robert Rose for his encouragement and support and to Dr. Hank Milanowski, was also honored at the event.



Bishop Robert Rose accepted a framed pencil sketch of The Good Shepard from Patricia Ryan at the anniversary celebration.

Bless You, Father

Fr. Blair Raum is seriously ill. Please remember him in your daily prayers. Fr. Blair is Project Rachel Director in Baltimore, MD. He has trained hundreds of priests, deacons, therapists and volunteers in post-abortion ministry.

We appreciate the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo diocesan priests who serve our clients.

We welcome all priests to be part of our network. Call our office at (616) 243-0491 to schedule a training.

Gospel Of Life Conference

The Christian Service Department, Archdiocese of Detroit, held its first annual Gospel of Life Conference in January, 2003, at Sacred Heart Seminary, Plymouth, Michigan. Msgr. John Zenz, moderator of the Curia and Cathy Cleaver, USCCB Pro-Life Program Director were keynote speakers.

In his morning address, Msgr. Zenz, stated: "Truth, Justice and Peace are discovered, not created. They are gifts of God that descend from Him - gifts that require a response of prayerful gratitude.

"At times, being prophets of peace and justice will mean being bold in our patient acceptance, but at other times, it will require our decisive words and deeds to bring about change; at all times, discernment and personal integrity are necessary."

Ms. Cleaver's talk "Campaign in Support of Life" urged attendees to work in their parishes and communities as a people of life and a people for life. "Our silence does interpret itself", she said.

Prison-jail ministry, crisis pregnancy centers, and programs to assist persons with disabilities were discussed by a panel of experts. Faith Offman, Project Rachel, Detroit, explained the healing and Reconciliation programs offered to men and women struggling with abortion aftermath.