

SAVE THE DATE

CANA II

- ▶ **WHEN:** Feb. 25, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▶ **WHERE:** Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S, Grand Rapids
- ▶ **COST:** \$90 (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner)

The Cana II program is a helpful resource for individuals who wish to understand and address issues and concerns that are often a part of second marriages. Register by Feb. 20. For more information, visit: fth.pub/CANA2.

BUILDING A LEGACY MEN'S CONFERENCE: ENCOUNTER. GO. MAKE DISCIPLES.

- ▶ **WHEN:** March 11, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ **WHERE:** West Catholic High School, 1801 Bristol NW, Grand Rapids
- ▶ **COST:** \$38 (\$20 for students age 13-22). Includes breakfast and lunch. To register, visit: fth.pub/mensconference

Questions? Call Robert at 616.258.8530
The program includes Father Larry Richards, a captivating speaker, preacher, retreat leader and author. Other speakers are Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, and Father Michael Gaitley, MIC. The day will include an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation and Mass celebrated by Bishop Walkowiak.

DIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- ▶ **WHEN:** March 18, 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ▶ **WHERE:** Cathedral Square, 360 Division Ave. S, Grand Rapids
- ▶ **COST:** \$25 through March 10; \$35 after that

Join us for a day of prayer and renewal, along with a presentation by motivational humorist Sheri Wohlfert. Sheri combines her love of God and sense of humor, leaving her audiences laughing, thinking, praying and finding God's fingerprints in all corners of their life. Online registration opens Feb. 1. For more information, contact Sister Barbara Cline at bcline@dioceseofgrandrapids.org or visit dioceseofgrandrapids.org.



DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS A GREAT FAITH STORY? LET US KNOW. SEND YOUR STORY SUGGESTIONS TO PATRICIA MISH AT PMISH@DIOCESEOFGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

CAN YOU HEAR THE POUNDING?

500 years later, Martin Luther's legacy lives on for Protestants and Catholics alike

IT'S BEEN 500 YEARS since the brilliant and agitated Father Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the cathedral door of Wittenberg, Germany. The reverberations from that pounding will be heard all this year long, as his followers in the Lutheran Church observe the anniversary.

Amazingly, the Catholic Church, of which Father Luther was a learned member and chief critic, is one of the more surprising and conspicuous participants in the many commemorations. Pope Francis himself began the observances with his trip to Sweden last October, where he joined Lutherans and fellow Catholics in public prayer services. Though the Catholic Church came late to many of the reforms Luther labored for, it eventually took its place resolutely in the Reformation through the Council of Trent and, 450 years later, Vatican Council II. Yes, definitely better late than never!

Every January, the Church prays for Christian unity. These prayers have been accompanied, since Vatican II, by sincere study and dialogue among the major Christian communities to learn where our beliefs and practices are in harmony and where and why they still differ. The prejudices that arose through past quarrels and strife have not all fallen away, but many of them have long since lost their venom. Unity in God's Spirit, however, is a gift from God, and one to which all followers of Jesus need to be open. It is also the goal that Christ's love compels us to work toward.

This publication called *FAITH Grand Rapids* has for 10 years now reached the Catholic community of the diocese. It has aimed to refresh us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to communicate to one another and to interested people of goodwill how the Lord is working here in West Michigan, especially through parishes and individuals of the Diocese of Grand Rapids. We pray to be a repentant people, continually being reformed in the Lord's word and Spirit, and always celebrating the Lord's presence among us. It is Jesus who has given us the honor and the power to share in his work. That work is the ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is a graced work that leads to communion with God and with one another. †

LAST WORD



MSGR. GASPAR F. ANCONA is a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.