



# Across the Diocese

News from Religious Education, Youth and Young Adults Ministry, Lay Ministry, Hispanic Ministry and REMEX

June, 2009



*Here to Serve You*

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## Lay ministry begins new journey with new director

By Michael Davis,  
Director of Lay Ministry



On May 1, I began my service with a happy heart as your Director of Lay Ministry for the Diocese of Grand Island. In addition to these duties, Bishop Dendinger has given me the additional exercise of working with parishes to implement the diocesan strategic plan: *One Future~Un Futuro*.

I look forward to attending deanery meetings and visiting with parishioners, priests, and parish leadership in the coming months as we unpack and begin this development journey. My intention is to listen and learn the unique and blessed chrism of our parish communities and strive to become a resource and catalyst in the implementation of the strategic plan. As with all new endeavors this is a journey and we will grow in our mutual understandings and discernments on how to begin and proceed in each uniquely gifted parish community.

We are in the process of updating our candidate files and history for those who are in a Lay Ministry formation program whether it is certificate-based, a bachelor's or master's degree. Please continue to identify and encourage any of our fellow Catholics who are currently involved in parish ministries and may have an interest or gift and wish to pursue further educational formation opportunities through the Lay Ministry Office.

Contact me if you are interested or wish to discuss a referral for recruitment in lay ministry. The Lay Ministry Scholarship fund can partly assist qualifying candidates in their learning and growth journey.

I look forward to working with current and future candidates who wish to work in the field of Lay Ecclesial Ministry. If you have questions or referrals please contact our office by phone at 308-532-2707 or e-mail me at [mdavis@gidiocese.org](mailto:mdavis@gidiocese.org). Being new in this office, I am grateful for Ann Lehmkuhler, the administrative assistant for Lay Ministry, who continues to be of great help and assistance. Congratulations to Ann and her husband Mike, who are the proud parents of Josie Lou Lehmkuhler born on May 18. God's creative force continues to bring new life for which we are joyful and grateful.

My hope and prayer is that we will work together to build our skills and grow in our knowledge and faith as co-workers in the vineyard of our Lord, as we serve the Diocese of Grand Island and each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.