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St. Albert School has new president
Bishop Richard Pates appointed a 1975 graduate of St. Albert School to be its new president.

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Ordination/Vocations
Everyone is invited to the ordination to priesthood of Deacon Guthrie Dolan on June 3 at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral. A reception follows at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Read about why Deacon Dolan, of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines, chose the diocesan priesthood while Brother Dominic McManus, of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines, chose to be ordained for the Dominican community.

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"On a Journey Together" brings a woman closer to her faith
Take a look into one woman's experience with the centennial evangelization initiative.

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Easter Octave
Formation Days
Read about diocesan workshops on the new Roman Missal.

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Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil photos
See images from Holy Week liturgies.

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May 20, 2011

Vol. 45, No. 5

The primary task of a diocesan newspaper is to "serve the truth with courage, helping the public see, understand and live reality with the eyes of God." - Pope Benedict XVI, Nov. 25, 2006

A Journey Together Celebrating Evangelization: Past, Present and Future

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

1911-2011

New parish named Corpus Christi

By Lisa Bourne

The Council Bluffs-area parishes of Holy Family, Queen of Apostles and Our Lady of Carter Lake will merge on July 1 to form a new parish called Corpus Christi.

The name Corpus Christi was chosen because it means Body of Christ,” said Bishop Richard Pates. “The name speaks to who we are, what we do and what we desire to become. The name itself is unifying.”

“We were very happy with the decision to name the parish Corpus Christi,” said the pastor of the three parishes, Father Dan Kirby.

Corpus Christi Parish will continue to operate from the three worship sites and each site will maintain its respective name, while the pastor will have one Finance Council and one Pastoral Council and also consolidation of administrative issues.

Continued on page 12

Crows push to see Pope John Paul II beatified

By Anne Marie Cox

Lisa and Joel Schmidt might have missed the beatification of Pope John Paul II if they had stuck with their plan.

As it turned out, the couple, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, stayed up all night shortly after arriving in Rome and managed to be in the thick of the crowd for the historic May 1 beatification of the late Holy Father.

“Until his death, Pope John Paul II was the only pope I knew,” said Lisa. “When he came to Living History Farms in 1979, I was just three years old and I don’t have any memories of his visit. Then in 1993, I regretfully declined traveling with my church’s youth group to see him at World Youth Day in Denver. No more regrets this time. I wasn’t going to miss his beatification for anything.”

They had begun their pilgrimage on Saturday, April 30 by touring some of the major sites in Rome, then having dinner with their travel group. Their plan: catch a couple of hours of sleep, then gather at 4 a.m. to head for St. Peter’s Square for the beatification.

But on their way back to the hotel, the plan changed.

“Around 11 p.m., while going around the streets blocked off for the 1 million-plus people expected to cram the streets for the beatification, …”

Continued on page 14

On a Journey to roll out fifth season in the fall

By Lisa Bourne

On a Journey Together, the evangelization process initiated by Bishop Richard Pates for the diocesan centennial, is culminating with a fifth book leading up to the November centennial celebration.

To date, On a Journey Together has been a four-part program, each part, or season, with seven-week small group sessions.

The four seasons have been:
• Awakening to Christ
• Following Christ
• Living in Christ, and
• Witnessing to Christ.

Companions on the journey is the fifth book.

“This discussion guide will look at some of the people who have gone before us in the diocese and from whom we still draw inspiration, forming our faith and putting it into action,” said Dr. Cheryl Fournier, diocesan director of Adult Faith Formation. Dr. Fournier wrote the material. “It will be more personal to the diocese.”

The other four books looked at variety of people who have offered excellent examples of lived faith around the country and globe, said Dr. Fournier, whereas the fifth edition will be rooted in people from the Des Moines diocese.

"Evangelization is not only about what we do and what we desire to become. The name itself is unifying.”

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Continued on page 12

Priest reassignments

By Lisa Bourne

Bishop Richard Pates has made the following priest assignments effective July 14.

Father Donald Bruck from pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Glenwood to retirement.

Father Bruck was ordained by Bishop Frank Greteman in Des Moines in 1968. He was a associate pastor for All Saints, Christ the King and St. Augustine in Des Moines and for St. Patrick in Council Bluffs. Father Bruck served on the faculty of Dowling Catholic and the St. Joseph Educational Center. He was

Continued on page 7
I frequently have the opportunity to be with young people at their schools, activities, retreats and programs. A feature of our gatherings is the opportunity for them to ask questions about the church—why they are not in it, why you don’t believe thing about being bishop? Why do I like the Minnesota Vikings? How old are you? Why do you wear that little red hat, the zucchetto? Frequently asked, is how I like the Minnesota Vikings? Why do I like the Minnesota Vikings? What’s my favorite team? My favorite team is Minnesota. I frequently have the opportunity to have had over the years to be with the first Polish pope. In office 26 plus years, he was the third longest serving Pope in history. Providentially, particularly the Deacon Guthrie ordination celebration. Above all, I am historically used to be highly instrumental in the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. Bishop's Schedule remote parts of the globe. He canonized so many saints that he challenged the total number canonized by all the popes previous to him. Because of his long tenure and political accessibility, millions had the opportunity to have contact with him during his pontificate. I was fortunate to have direct encounters with him at his retreats and on his service, midway and finally in his waning days as pope. The first encounter was in 1979 when I was serving as a priest secretary in the Apostolic Delegation in Washington, D.C. The Apostolic Delegation at the time was the informal representation of the Holy See (Vatican) to the United States government and the Apostolic Delegate served as well as the personal representative of the pope to the Catholic Church in the United States.

Washington, D.C. was the last stop on the pope’s first trip to the United States which included a speech at the United Nations, meetings with President Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale and, of course, the historic visit on Oct. 4, 1979, in Iowa featuring Irish Settlement and the Mass at Living History Farms.

He stayed with us at the Apostolic Delegation, enjoyed meals and had meetings with his staff and meetings with others who had arranged appointments. In his late fifties he was vibrant and energetic. One particular incident was telling. At the conclusion of supper, he asked if there was a “micro” that could be activated to speak to the large crowds that had assembled in
While St. Albert School’s new president is a man who’s already well-known in Council Bluffs community, the choice of having a businessman lead the school is a departure from the norm of a professional educator.

St. Albert alumnus Joe Connolly has held his new role of president May 1.

The Council Bluffs native has nearly 23 years of experience at Mutual of Omaha, beginning part time in college and most recently as senior vice president of special risk.

He’s also been general manager for The Sunderbruch Corporation, working in Medicare and Medicaid utilization and quality assurance review.

Connolly was director of policy administration for National Fidelity Life Insurance Company.

This isn’t the first time Connolly has been employed by St. Albert. He was director of operations and finance for five years in the 1990s.

Alumni and parent are the two roles that matter just as much as his business background as he undertakes his new position.

“I have a great love and passion not only for St. Albert, but for Catholic schools,” he said.

Changes in his job at Mutual of Omaha meant a crossroads in his career, and it signaled to him that he was ready for a change.

“I wanted a role with more involvement with people, more front line,” said Connolly. “I wanted something more personally and spiritually fulfilling.”

He’d been aware of the opening at St. Albert but he didn’t know the specifics until he had a discussion with his pastor, Father Chuck Kottas of St. Peter Parish.

“I had worked with Joe when he was operations manager of St. Albert some 10 years ago,” said Father Kottas. “In working with him, we had eliminated the $1 million debt that St. Albert had incurred and he had done great work in balancing the budget at St. Albert.”

“Acholic for vocations will help the school begin in August. The community over six months,” said Connolly.

“People recognize that St. Albert is a significant business. We have a large budget that needs to be managed,” said Connolly.

Connolly said, “I just think that he comes to this job with a great passion for St. Albert. He’s always had a place in his heart for St. Albert.”

Connolly’s roots at St. Albert are deep.

His grandfather was involved in the effort to raise funds to build the school in the mid-1960s.

Cindy Connolly has worked in the school hot lunch program for 16 years, and now directs it.

For the last five years he and Cindy have worked with the girls’ basketball team, and for the last 10 years they’ve helped run the clock and scoreboard for football games.

“We do it together,” Connolly said. “We enjoy it.”

He comes in just as consulting for focus groups is commencing on the long-term vision and plan for St. Albert.

“I haven’t created a vision of my own necessarily,” he said. “I want to hear what the community has to say.”

Activities abound at St. Albert

A lot has been happening at St. Albert School in Council Bluffs.

Bishop Richard Pates appointed Joe Connolly as the new president of the school system at the recommendation of the Area Board of Catholic Education.

Connolly, a 1975 graduate of St. Albert, former chief financial officer of St. Albert and longtime supporter of the school, began May 1.

In addition, consultant Jeff John has been retained to conduct a series of focus groups, with a variety of St. Albert Catholic community members and the Council Bluffs community over six months beginning in August.

The results will help the school board, foundation and administration develop a long-term vision plan for the school’s future.

The school will be offering new programs at the elementary and secondary levels in the fall.

Examples are a new pre-K-sixth grade Spanish program and a mentoring program at the high school level.

This past February, the school was accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the only Catholic K-12 system in the Midwest to hold that distinction.

Students have been offered record-breaking scholarship dollars this year.

The school is also experiencing spiritual renewal.

A scholastic for vocations program has been successful, the elementary section received a new chapel named for longtime supporters Maurice and Marie O’Neill. Eucharistic adoration occurs two days a month and high school students are performing hundreds of community service hours.

The Office of Marriage Ministry of the Diocese of Des Moines is extending a heartfelt invitation to celebrate your marriage with Bishop Richard Pates at Queen of Apostles on June 26 at 11 a.m.

Mass. Refreshments will be served afterward at the pastoral hall. See the ad on page 15 of this issue of The Catholic Mirror.

Deacon Dennis and Sarah Luft

Certificate Programs in Ministry

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— Fall 2011 course —

“Finding God in Daily Life: Prayer and Discernment”

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Instructor

Rev. Richard Heuser, S.J.
S.T.L. Theology (St. Louis University)
Ph.D. Religion (The Catholic University)

Author, professor of theology and director of the Masters Program in Christian Spirituality at Creighton University

Registration (5:00) Initial sessions (6:00-9:00)
Friday evening, August 26.
Six Saturdays (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.),
August 27, September 17, October 8 & 29,
November 12, December 3

Scholarships and matching funds available; plus tuition grants for first-time registrants.

For information or brochures:

Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry • Diocese of Des Moines
formation@dmdioce.org • www.dmdioce.org
611 Grand Avenue • Des Moines, IA • 50309
315-227-2038

St. Albert alumnus to lead the school
need, a provider normally has to demonstrate a demand for the service and a benefit to the community. In fact with SF 534 it may well be difficult for Dr. LeRoy Carhart or other late-term abortion provider to be granted a certificate of need.

We know that human life is precious and should be protected in our laws. We still prefer House File 657 as a better solution, but the creation and passage of legislation under the best of circumstances is never an easy process and sometimes incremental steps ultimately save lives. We have not given up on HF 657.

Senator File 534

The Senate version of House File 649 spends about $1.45 billion from the state’s general fund for the Department on Aging and the Departments of Public Health, Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, and the Iowa Veterans Home. The single biggest part is about $800 million for Medicaid (health insurance for low-income people).

Two amendments which would have prohibited late-term abortion were ruled “non-germane” (in other words, not relevant) to the bill, which meant the amendments were not voted on. Unfortunately, the Senate added back into the bill several categories of pregnancy that Medicaid pays for. Please look at the pregnancy categories. One pregnancy that result from rape, incest, and pregnancies where the “fetus is physically formed, mentally deficient, or afflicted with a congenital illness.”

Senator File 533

The House Appropriations Committee passed an amended version of SF 533, but removed the increase in the public school funding. The Senate version of SF 533, which had been found in the Senate bill (tied to an increase in public school funding, which was also voted on, has been eliminated. We will work to get the STO tax credit increase back in on the floor if necessary.

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, which is the public policy arm of the four dioceses in Iowa.

Letters to the Editor

The Catholic Mirror welcomes letters to the editor. Please keep letters short, 250 words or less. Letters must also include a telephone number for verification purposes. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. Guest commentary letters (approximately 500 words) are also welcomed.

Please address your letters to: mirror@dmdioce.org, or to the editor, The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309. Letters may also be faxed to (515) 327-5070.

As of press time, there appeared to be no end in sight for the legislative session. Once budget agreements are made between the governor and the House and Senate, the end of the session could come quickly.

Senate File 534

The Senate has passed Senate File 534, 26 to 23 on a party-line vote. All Democrats supported the bill and all Republicans were opposed. The bill now goes to the House. The bill says that new clinics providing abortions after 20 weeks will have to have a certificate of need and be located near an Iowa hospital with a neonatology center, such as in the cities of Des Moines, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Davenport. It would not include the city of Council Bluffs, where a late-term abortion provider has threatened to open a clinic.

SF 534 is intended as an alternate to House File 657, which would ban abortions after 20 weeks.

Before receiving a certificate of

Volunteers will then pick up the dogs and, through a series of 100 mile relays, re-locate them to shelters that had agreed to take them. Amy, even before

 bestselling book, which would ban late-term abortions.

They are all God’s creatures

Take a break with Deacon Mike

To the Diocese of Des Moines:

I want to extend a most sincere and heartfelt thank you for your recent contribution of $2,000 to NCRCL. Your contribution from the Diocese of Des Moines will provide us with the support necessary to continue our mission to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ for the present day, the economic, and spiritual development of rural America with responsibility for the care of God’s creation.

We hope those responsible for rural life in your diocese will look to us for guidance and will do all they can to express their particular needs to us. We will also keep your staff informed about relevant food, agriculture, community

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Legislative update

Capitol Comments

By Tom Chapman

House File 649

The Iowa Senate passed its version of the education appropriations bill, House File 645. The Senate version of House File 649. Many line items received a 3.1 percent cut, including money allocated for textbooks for nonpublic school students. In addition, the Senate took out the governor’s “preschool voucher” plan that was found in the House bill.

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May is Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness month. Many know it as Lou Gehrig’s disease, but don’t really know much about it. Unlike cancer or many other diseases, there is no real treatment or cure. Once you receive the diagnosis, it’s all about coming to terms with it and managing the losses as they occur during the next two to five years doctors say you may have. The disease attacks the motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord which leads to muscle weakness. As the disease progresses, it causes severe impairment of mobility, speech, swallowing and respiratory function.

Statistics say the disease strikes one in 100,000. Those odds don’t apply to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny (population 45,000). In the past two years, our parish has had six members stricken with this disease. Five of these members have lost their battle and my husband, Frank Wright, is the “last man standing.” Since being diagnosed in 2009, he has fought this disease with grace and courage. He is along with there are so many others who have fought and are still fighting their battle with ALS. While this is not a journey any family would choose, we have experienced numerous blessings along the way. I’ve always believed that God puts people in our lives for a reason. We’ve been surrounded with a fabulous faith family at OLHJ in addition to our own families & friends. Father Steve Orr is at the top of the list for providing comfort and support for us and all of these families.

He made such an impression on my husband that, after attending Mass for some 15 years, he was baptized at Easter two years ago. That was just one of many blessings on this journey.

Other blessings include being accepted into a clinical trial through the University of Kansas in December, 2009. That gave us a year of hope and allowed us to travel and make wonderful memories. Our local ALS association and MDA chapters have also provided guidance and tools along the way. Without these organizations and the prayers and visits of family and friends this journey would not be possible. For that we are forever grateful.

Our goal is to build awareness and ask people to pray for a treatment and a cure for this horrible disease. For those living with this disease, try to live life to the fullest as long as you can. Keep your trust in God that he is with you on this journey as he has been on all the journeys leading to this point. Most of all, continue to pray for a cure!

This column was submitted April 28. On April 30, Frank passed away unexpectedly after falling at his home. Teresa said, “While we mourn our passing, we know he is no longer suffering and is in God’s loving hands smiling down on us.”

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**Blessings inside a nightmare**

During the month of April, sixth grade Catholic school students across the diocese have participated in Vocation Awareness Day. In order to prepare students for the day, teachers have been using lesson plans focused on the “Vocations Tree.” Lesson plans have helped students understand their baptismal vocation, the call to holiness, that each of us receives from God. Students have also learned about their personal avocations (talents, gifts, interests) and the three states of life vocations (laiety, ordained, consecrated). While at Vocations Day, students participated in a panel discussion with those who are living their state of life vocation. Two other activities were offered to students to help them further their understanding of vocations and their call to holiness. The following are just some of the poems written during one of the activities that focused on recognizing your person avocations and how they are called to use those talents and gifts to build up the Body of Christ.

**By Teresa Wright**

I am an uncle.
I like to play soccer and other sports.
I love to dance.
I live my baptismal vocation when I help my Mom out when she needs it. I am an aunt.
I like to play basketball. I love to dance.
I live my baptismal vocation when I help my Mom out when she needs it.
I am Russian.
I try to use my personal avocations to work hard, help others and to serve God and others.
I am a good leader and good with children and animals too.
I am Mikayla.
I like to play basketball and ride my bike.
I am a sister.
I help my Mom out when she needs it.
I am a daughter.
I love to play sports and hang with friends.
I live my vocation by serving Friday Masses for St. Pat’s and donating money to my Church. This helps me build the Kingdom of God because I help the church grow.
I am the camping cousin, the kind aunt serving choir singer.
I am the strong, singing grandson.
I am the smart son of which my father Steve Orr is at the top of the list for providing comfort and support for us and all of these families.
I am a sister, daughter, and friend.
I do like to play basketball.
I live my vocation by serving Friday Masses for St. Pat’s and donating money to my Church. This helps me build the Kingdom of God because I help the church grow.
I am the hard-working brother that cooks for his own.
I am the smart son of which my parents are proud.
I am a server of the Lord.
I am a son.
I am helpful and listen to others. Also I am the camping cousin, the kind aunt serving choir singer.
I am the strong, singing grandson.
I am the smart son of which my parents are proud.
I am the creation from which God has made.
I am the sister, daughter, and friend.
I do like to play basketball.
I live my vocation by serving Friday Masses for St. Pat’s and donating money to my Church. This helps me build the Kingdom of God because I help the church grow.
I am the hard-working brother that cooks for his own.
I am the strong, singing grandson.
I am the smart son of which my parents are proud.
I am the creation from which God has made.
I am the sister, daughter, and friend.
I do like to play basketball.
I live my vocation by serving Friday Masses for St. Pat’s and donating money to my Church. This helps me build the Kingdom of God because I help the church grow.
**May 11 - Saturday**

CAST (Catholic Adult Singles Together)

DES MOINES — The monthly area singles dance will be held at St. Mary Church, 414 13th St., from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. $15 per couple or $10 per person. For more information contact Roger at 515-271-9652 or http://sites.google.com/site/castsdesmoines/home.

**June 12 Sunday**

QUAD-CITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUBURN – All are invited to the 40th anniversary of ordination of Father Wayne Gubbel. Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church in Auburn followed by an open house open to the public at St. Patrick Patrick Center.

**June 12 Sunday**

Regional Centennial Celebration

RED OAK — The nine parishes of the Red Oak Region (SWPU) are having a Regional Centennial Celebration at St. Mary Church in Red Oak, beginning with a 4 p.m. Mass with Bishop Pates. After Mass, there will be a potluck picnic at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to this special centennial celebration. The nine parishes in the region are:

- Sacred Heart Church, Bedford
- St. Clare Church, Creston
- Our Lady of Grace, Griswold
- St. Mary Church, Hamburg
- St. Patrick Church, Imogene
- St. Mary Church, Red Oak
- St. Timothy Church, Reno
- St. Mary’s Church, Shenandoah
- St. Joseph Church, Villisca.

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**Priest anniversaries**

**Father Michael Berner**

Father Michael Berner celebrated the 25th anniversary of his priestly May 15.

Father Berner is originally from Council Bluffs and was ordained in 1996 in Des Moines by Bishop Gerald O’Keefe.

He has been associate pastor for Holy Spirit, Creston, St. Edward, Afton and St. Patrick, Lenox.

Father Berner served as parochial vicar at St. Anthony, Des Moines, and Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, Ankeny.

He was pastor for St. Patrick, Audubon, Holy Trinity, Exira, St. Joseph, Earlston and St. Peter, Defiance.

Father Berner became administrator at St. Anne, Logan and Holy Family, Mondamin before becoming pastor for St. Anne and St. Patrick, Missouri Valley.

He observed his anniversary with family.

**Father James Polich**

Father James Polich celebrates 40 years as a priest May 29.

Father Polich, originally from Des Moines, was ordained in Harlan in 1971 by Bishop Maurice Dingman.

He was associate pastor for Visitation, Des Moines and chaplain for Glenwood State School in Glenwood. Father Polich was pastor at St. Mary, Hamburg, St. Mary, Avoca and St. Patrick, Walnut.

He has served on the faculty of the St. Joseph Educational Center, Fordham University in New York and Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo.

St. Mary Polich has been pastor of St. Augustin in Des Moines since 2000.

He will celebrate with a reception after weekend Masses at St. Augustin on May 28 and 29, and with evening prayer at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 29, followed by an invitational dinner in the parish hall.

**Father Bob Aubrey**

Father Bob Aubrey will celebrate his 40th anniversary of ordination on May 22, the date of his ordination, at 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Des Moines. Celebrating his retirement and anniversary, he will have an open house June 5 from 2-5 p.m. at the White Oak Vineyards in Elkhart.

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**Around the Diocese**

**May 21-22 Sat.-Sun.**

Christ Renews His Parish

Catholic Daughters

May 21-22 Sat.-Sun.

Chamberlain, and basilica pastor, Mass will be celebrated by the a.m. at the Basilica of St. John.

The group visits six altars, to pay homage to God with prayer, song and benediction.

**May 21 Saturday**

Catholic Daughters

DES MOINES — Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Ave Maria No. 302 will meet at 9 a.m. at the Basilica of St. John. Mass will be celebrated by the chaplain, Msgr Robert Chamberlin, and basilica pastor.
Priest reassignments effective July 14

Father Emmanuwal Agwuoke
Father Howard Fitzgerald

Continued from page 1

pastor at St. Peter in Defiance, St. Joseph, Neola, Shenandoah School and parochial vicar of Our Lady of Carter Lake. In 2009, he began serving at Sacred Heart, West Des Moines, as parochial vicar.

Father Paul Cuong Hung Nguyen, SVD from St. Joseph the Worker, West Des Moines. He is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in Vietnam, was ordained in 1992 by Bishop William Bullock in Des Moines. After ordination, he served at the diocesan offices for a short time before becoming parochial vicar at St. Patrick, Missouri Valley. In 1993 he became parochial vicar at St. Theresa in Des Moines. Three years later, he was named pastor at St. Patrick, Bayard and St. Joseph, Jamaica. In 2004, he was named pastor of St. Patrick, Corning and St. Patrick, Lenox.

Rev. Emmanuel Agywooke, C.S.Sp. From parochial vicar of St. Augustine, Des Moines to administrator of St. Patrick, Auburndale and Sacred Heart, Woodbine to pastor of Our Lady of the Americas, Missouri. Originally from Vietnam, Father Komo was ordained by Bishop Pates in 2007. After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at the parishes in Iowa.

Father Zachary Kautzky from parochial vicar of St. Francis, West Des Moines to parochial vicar of Sacred Heart, West Des Moines while remaining chaplain at Dowling Catholic High School, West Des Moines. Father Kautzky was ordained by Bishop Pates in 2010. After ordination, he began serving St. Francis, West Des Moines, as parochial vicar, and Dowling Catholic High School as chaplain.

Father Peterson Onuora, C.S.Sp from pastor of Holy Trinity Church of SE Warren County to pastor of St. Patrick, Dunlap, Holy Family and Sacred Heart, Woodbine. Father Onuora was ordained in 1998 by Archbishop Albert Obiefuna in Nigeria and is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. He began serving the Diocese of Des Moines in 1996 at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines. Since 2002 he has been pastor for Holy Trinity of SE Warren County.

Father Christopher Reising from administrator to pastor of Our Lady of the Americas, Des Moines. Father Reising was ordained in 2006 by Bishop Joseph L. Charbon, C.P.P.S. He was parochial vicar for Queen of Apostles and Holy Family, Council Bluffs, and Our Lady of Carter Lake in Carter Lake. Father Reising completed studies in Spanish language and culture in Mexico. He has been at Our Lady of the Americas since 2008 as first parochial vicar. Then as administrator.

What is a parochial vicar? Every year at this time, The Catholic Mirror is asked the meaning of the term “parochial vicar.” It is a term used in canon law for an associate pastor.

The Catholic Mirror, May 20, 2011

www.dmdiocese.org

Diosces News
paths to priesthood

within two months, two des moines men will be ordained, one for a religious order and one for diocesan priesthood. read in their own words why they made their respective choices on how they will serve god and his people.

by brother dominic mcmanus

q: where did the idea of a priest hood come from?

i don’t remember a time when i didn’t want to be a priest. oh, there were certainly times, especially in high school, when i didn’t want to be a priest, but something was always there; a sort of certain intuition about god and the church and the way in which i should relate to both. i just couldn’t shake it.

i had good priests growing up at st. theresa: fathers gene koch, lyle peters, tom dooley, bob hoelter, tan van truy, and i’m sure others. by the time i got to dowling catholic high school, father john acrea had become the diocesan vocations director and had started a vocations group for high school students which was very important for me. it was through this that i met my first male religious (i’d known some sisters growing up, but no religious brothers). i went on a weekend retreat to concepcion abbey and fell in love with it: the soaring chanted, the intellectual conversation, the simplicity of the life, the quiet dignity of the habits. the thing that didn’t settle well with me, however, was monastic stability. i just couldn’t really see myself living in rural missouri for my whole life.

that same summer i found a copy of g.k. chesterton’s lovely little book on thomas aquinas called “the dumb ox.” his first chapter is devoted to the founding of the franciscans and dominicans, and after reading it i thought, “well, if these guys are still around that’s precisely what i’m looking for.” i met my first dominican later that year, father david santoro, who was working in des moines at the time. he became an important mentor and a good friend to me.

as college approach ed, however, i discovered that the dominicans didn’t have a college program and so i ended up in the seminary at lores college with other men studying to become diocesan priests. i had a wonderful time at loras and remain deeply indebted to fathers scott bullock, phil gibbs and bill joensen who ran the program at the time.

ironically enough, it was they who more than anything else formed my vocation to religious life. i loved seminary, and especially those things about seminary that diocesan seminarians often don’t find burdensome: i loved praying together with the other men three or four times a day. i loved living with other people and sharing our lives together. i loved to study. i loved a great deal, especially of philosophy and theology, and i loved all of the little customs which in religious life we call “observances.” that, coupled with what my professors saw as real intellectual gifts, it was suggested that i look more closely into religious orders, and especially those dedicated to the intellectual life. i visited the dominicans and never really looked back.

what was it about the dominicans in particular?

like most religious orders, we have a rule and constitutions which govern our lives, but we basically organize our lives around three pillars: prayer, common life, study and ministry.

of course, these are all essential elements of the christian life in general, but in the dominicans, these elements have been lived out among the dominicans that attracted me.

the commitment to prayer is palpable in each of our houses. in our larger communities where we have the voices to sustain it we can chant the whole divine office, but even in our smaller houses the brothers are very committed to praying together at least two or three times a day.

the common life itself was a major draw; i knew that life as a priest in iowa almost inevitably meant living alone in a rectory which was not something i wanted to do (though i’m glad there are people who do). we tend to live in communities of around 6-12, though sometimes they get much larger.

study was the real innovation in dominican life, historically speaking. before that monks had divided their day between prayer and manual labor. study replaced manual labor for the dominicans as a way to prepare for the entire life of prayer. study is not only about being credentialed or informed in certain areas, but is a very real and disciplined spiritual exercise. because i knew that and because of their fidelity to the truth, i really believe that every encounter with truth, whether that’s the nuances of trinitarian theology or the basic composition of corn pollen is in fact a personal encounter with the living god.

that’s why so many of our brothers wind up with advanced degrees in things apart from philosophy and theology (though all of our men are competent in these areas, too).

finally, the practice of ministry, whether that’s preaching, pastoral work, teaching, hospital chaplancy, internet presence, filmmaking, direct service of the poor, or any number of other things gives our life together an outward orientation. all that we do, the very lives we live together, are for “preaching and the salvation of souls,” as st. dominic used to say. so our words and our actions, our prayer and work, our common life and our work all pour forth into a kind of holistic preaching that i found so compelling. i knew i had to join.

how does one discern religious life, by deacon guthrie dolan

q: where did the idea of priesthood come from?

i was born catholic, and my family regularly attended mass on sundays and holy days. consequently, i’ve known priests and their ministry my whole life. i had a sense from when i was very young that i was supposed to be a priest. however, growing up i forgot about this desire as i attempted to fit in at school.

this idea of priesthood returned to me when i was in middle school and met the vocations director of the diocese, who was planting the seeds for priestly vocations. upon entering high school, i became part of a group of other high school men who were considering entering the seminary to discern whether god might be calling us to the priesthood. after getting to know these men, seeing how normal and good they were, i began to become friends with them. we would visit college seminaries, and i knew that was where god was calling me.

did the idea of religious life ever “pop in your head?”

oh, certainly! living a life devoted to prayer and study is not only about being credentialed or informed in certain areas, but is a very real and disciplined spiritual exercise. because i knew that and because of their fidelity to the truth, i really believe that every encounter with truth, whether that’s the nuances of trinitarian theology or the basic composition of corn pollen is in fact a personal encounter with the living god.

why did you choose diocesan priesthood?

fundamentally, it really was because in my own prayer i knew god was not calling me to life as a religious. he wanted me in the diocesan seminary and to continue to follow the path towards diocesan priesthood. i thought god made me to relate with people in their concrete, everyday existence and to bring the sacraments and love of god to them.

how did you find a vocations director?

really, father john acrea found me. it was his initiative to come and talk to my class in seventh grade that put me in contact with him. and, he didn’t give up on me. he continued to support my discernment and growth and has continued to do so until today. it really is the witness of the priest that enables a man to start talking seriously about a vocation to the priesthood.
Brother McManus on vocation to religious

Continued from page 8

especially for a young man also considering diocesan priesthood?

First of all, there’s no such thing as a generic vocation. No one has a generic vocation to marriage; you simply have a call to marry this person as opposed to that one.

Likewise, there is no generic call to priesthood. A call to priesthood always happens within the context of a particular Christian community, a local church or diocese, so that you are called to be a priest in Des Moines, or Dubuque, or wherever.

“The important thing to recognize is that a vocation to religious life and a vocation to diocesan priesthood are distinct, and in important ways, very different realities.” - Brother Dominic McManus

Likewise, with religious communities, if the charism or the way of life of the community appeals to you, then call them up and ask to visit. Neither the community nor the inquirer can really get a very good read on the candidate in any other way.

The important thing to recognize is that a vocation to religious life and a vocation to diocesan priesthood are distinct, and in important ways, very different realities. Both are ultimately about service to particular communities, but the life of the community and the gift or charism of that community winds up being what is really essential to the religious, even if that religious is a priest. Whereas priestly life and ministry to a particular community is what is really essential to a diocesan priest.

Religious life is ultimately about witness. Blessed John Paul II called us “eschastological signs,” or reminders of the life to come. Perhaps a former Dominican Master-General, Timothy Radcliffe, put it best. He asks, when you notice a person waiting at a bus stop looking down the road what can you reasonably conclude? A bus is coming. Well religious are notice a person waiting at a bus stop looking down the road what reminders of the life to come. Perhaps a former Dominican religious community on May 14 in St. Louis. He will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish of St. Therese in Des Moines on May 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Brother McManus was scheduled to be ordained a priest for the Dominican religious community on May 14 in St. Louis. He will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish of St. Therese in Des Moines on May 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Students at the event held at St. Mary of Nazareth include: Rita Oburak of Holy Family, Natalie Pitz of St. Francis, Cate Freeman of Holy Trinity, and Ally McLaury of St. Francis.

A panel of people discusses vocations at St. Mary of Nazareth during Sixth Grade Vocation Day. Pictured are: Deacon Marvin Bewer and his wife, Nicki, Sister Joyce Blum, Benedictine Brother Etteneaud Huard and diocesan Vocations Director Father David Muenchra.

Promoting Vocations

The Serra Club of Des Moines promoted World Day of Prayer for vocations by sponsoring billboards in five locations in the Des Moines metro area. The billboards will be up for about three months. Find them at 56th and Hubbell, Bennett/MLK Parkway, Park/Valley Drive, Army Post Road/SW 14th St. and McKinley/SW 9th St.

Nun Run, June 14-18

The second annual Nun Run sponsored by the Diocese of Des Moines Office of Vocations is scheduled for June 14-18. The event is for young women in high school and college who are interested in religious life or just curious about learning more about the lives of religious sisters and nuns. Three religious communities will be visited: Our Lady of the Mississippi in Dubuque, Community of St. John in Princerville, Ill., and Carmelites of the Divine Heart of Jesus in St. Louis. Women of high school age and older are invited to participate in the trip. The cost is $75 per person to cover gas and a small donation to the religious communities that are visited. No one will be turned away because of the cost of the trip, but we encourage those who sign up to do some kind of fundraising activity together to lower the cost.

Space is limited. The deadline for signing up for the trip is June 1. For more information, contact Father David Muenchra at the Office of Vocations at 515-237-5050 or muenchra@dmdioce.se.org. Also, check out the Facebook group: Des Moines Nun Run 2011.

Fairway Fathers, June 20

Planning is underway for the annual Fairway Fathers event held June 20 at a H. Blank Golf Course on the south side of Des Moines. Tee-off time is 10 a.m. This is the fourth year for Fairway Fathers, which is a joint venture sponsored by the Office of Vocations, Serra Club of Des Moines, and the Knights of Columbus. The tournament is open to golfers ages 16 to 40 who team up with priests in our diocese, including Bishop Richard Pates. The purpose of Fairway Fathers is vocations awareness, not competition. Lunch and prizes will be provided. There is no cost for young men to participate.

For further information, call Darlene Oliver at the Office of Vocations at 515-237-5014 or email doliver@dmdioce.se.org.

Andrew Dinner dates set

The Andrew Dinners that will occur this fall in all regions of the Des Moines diocese have now been set. The dinners are an opportunity for our young men in high school and college to meet many of the priests of our diocese as they share their vocation story or the joys they have experienced in their own call to priesthood. The Andrew Dinners are scheduled annually in each region of the diocese, with two scheduled for Des Moines due to its size. The scheduled dates are:

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adair</td>
<td>St. Cecilia Church, Panora</td>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
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<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>St. Joseph Church, Earling</td>
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<td>Ossceola</td>
<td>St. Bernard Church, Ossceola</td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Church, Ankeny</td>
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<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>St. Mary Church, Shenandoah</td>
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<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>St. Augustin Church, Des Moines</td>
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<td>Council Bluffs</td>
<td>St. Patrick Church, Council Bluffs</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
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Upcoming celebrations

June 12
Red Oak Regional Centennial Celebration
The nine parishes of the Red Oak Region (SWIPU) are having a Regional Centennial Celebration on June 12 at St. Mary Church in Red Oak, beginning with a 4 p.m. Mass with Bishop Richard Pates.
After Mass, there will be a potluck picnic supper at 5:30 p.m. with St. Mary Parish furnishing the meat, drinks, and table service, with the other regional parishes providing the salads, and desserts. There will be games for all the children.
Each parish in the region will also have a display of a brief history of their parish.
Everyone is invited to this special Centennial Celebration.

Sept. 11
Council Bluffs Prayer Service in celebration of the Centennial
The Council Bluffs region will hold a prayer service and an ice cream social on Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. at St. Albert High School in celebration of the diocese’s 100th anniversary. Mercy Hospital, a part of the community for nearly 125 years, is sponsoring the ice cream social.

Happy anniversary
The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, at its annual convention in Atlantic, presented Bishop Richard Pates with a cake honoring the diocese’s 100th anniversary.

Treasure the final moments ...
Mercy Hospice offers comfort, dignity and quality care to individuals and families facing life-limiting illnesses. The focus of hospice care is not to cure disease but rather to keep pain and other symptoms controlled. Mercy Hospice offers many specialized services designed to improve the quality of life for our patients and their families.
Care is provided in the home, in a nursing home setting or in the comfort of our beautiful hospice facility, Mercy Hospice-Johnston. Services provided are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private health insurance plans.

To learn more, please call (515) 942-6000 or visit us on the web at http://www.mercyesbosmoines.org/comm_resources/hospice.cfm

Centennial News
www.dmdiocese.org

The Catholic Mirror, May 20, 2011
Humility sisters pass away

Humility Sister Mary Kathleen Krebsbach, 100, died April 16 at Bishop Drummond Retirement Center in Epworth. Funeral Mass was April 20 in Davenport, with burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Davenport.

Humility Sister Veronica McAndrews, 99, died April 7 at Bishop Drummond Retirement Center in Epworth. Funeral Mass was April 20 in Davenport, with burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Davenport.

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Humility Sister Mary Yackshaw was born in 1922 in Clinton, Iowa to Thomas and Lucy Fitzpatrick McAndrews. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary, professing vows in 1934.

On Dec. 31, 1931 she entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary, professing vows in 1934. She earned a doctorate from Ohio State University and taught primarily Marycrest College, Davenport, where she was professor of home economics for nearly 40 years. She retired in 1988, living at Marycrest and then at Humility of Mary Center.

Funeral Mass was April 20 in Davenport, with burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Davenport.

Informed Choices Medical Clinic opens June 5

DES MOINES — Informed Choices Medical Clinic, 1355 5014 in the Office of Vocations.

Parishioners held a fundraising auction and dinner the next evening to benefit vocations.

Other parishes use practices to promote vocations

For a complete list of best practices to promote vocations in your parish or school, contact Darlene Oliver at 515-237-5014 in the Office of Vocations.

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Three parishes to merge creating Corpus Christi

Continued from page 1

By Lisa Milbrath Contributing Writer

Kit Cudmore was out of work for seven months. Her unemployment and family finances brought her to faith “because I couldn’t do it alone,” she said. “It was not a substitute Catholic and faithfully.”

Cudmore grew up Catholic and faithfully attended mass and church. Cudmore’s children are active in their faith, and that brought people together and encouraged the parishes to grow into communities of faith every moment.”

“Parishioners have welcomed this process, the members of the tri-parish community. It’s an amazing blessing within our parishes will use this in the upcoming year. The process is developing ways to continually assess the three parishes’ mission and goals, the future of the three parishes, and their sense of community, their sense of building up a stronger Catholic faith community,” said Bishop Pates.

According to the Gospel, “Our lives had caved in,” she said. “I felt like I had so much on my shoulders.”

“I believe the process brought people together and gave them the opportunity and place to share faith with others,” Dr. Fournier said. People often find themselves attending Mass each week without really knowing the people around them, she said. “This process, I believe, has assisted our parishes to grow as communities of faith who are able to share their love of God with others and where they feel safe in sharing their joys, hopes and fears in this age.”

As the fifth book in the process emerges, Bishop Pates said it is important to realize that the journey parallels the process the members of the early Church went through in their own development of faith. “It is a classical method that emerged in apostolic times and remains as relevant as ever,” he said.

“I am grateful for the blessings I have already witnessed in our parishes and I know the process is a blessing,” Bishop Pates said. “Parishioners have repeatedly brought this to my attention.”

On a Journey is scheduled for release in early September.

“On a Journey brings woman closer to her faith”

Bishop Pates said, “The mission of this parish is to enable the parishes to keep their own identity by the three sites, so that you have diversity and unity, which is very much a characteristic of the Catholic Church across the board. They will come to keep their own identity by virtue of being able to celebrate in their own community.”

On a Journey Together so far, with approximately 10,000 people have participated in On a Journey Together so far, with many of those repeat participants.

“Folks have found the conversations to be good and their sense of community heightened,” she said. “Many have found their faith strengthened and supported in ways they did not expect.”

“These conversations will again lead us to opportunities for ongoing collaboration as we attempt to discern how we can more fully live our lives according to the Gospel, especially as we carry on for the example of so many who have established a formidable foundation over these past 100 years,” said Bishop Pates.

Faust recommended trying On a Journey Together. She did. Cudmore started going to church and her son started religious education. “That fall a temporary contract position became available in Omaha. Taking it would mean Cudmore would soon again be unemployed. She also had a promising full time offer in Kansas City. Relocating would mean leaving the farm. She really heard everything. That particular session was especially powerful,” she said of her first Journey group.

By the following Journey season, Cudmore had been employed. The family was still on the farm; she chose the temporary position offer and was shifted to a permanent full-time position.

“You can really see a new chapter in their faith life,” said her pastor, Father Dan Kirby. “I believe the process brought people together and gave them the opportunity and place to share faith with others.”

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Faust recommended trying On a Journey Together. She did. Cudmore started going to church and her son started religious education. “That fall a temporary contract position became available in Omaha. Taking it would mean Cudmore would soon again be unemployed. She also had a promising full time offer in Kansas City. Relocating would mean leaving the farm. She really heard everything. That particular session was especially powerful,” she said of her first Journey group.

By the following Journey season, Cudmore had been employed. The family was still on the farm; she chose the temporary position offer and was shifted to a permanent full-time position.

“You can really see a new chapter in their faith life,” said her pastor, Father Dan Kirby. “I believe the process brought people together and gave them the opportunity and place to share faith with others.”

“I believe the process brought people together and gave them the opportunity and place to share faith with others,” Dr. Fournier said. People often find themselves attending Mass each week without really knowing the people around them, she said. “This process, I believe, has assisted our parishes to grow as communities of faith who are able to share their love of God with others and where they feel safe in sharing their joys, hopes and fears in this age.”

As the fifth book in the process emerges, Bishop Pates said it is important to realize that the journey parallels the process the members of the early Church went through in their own development of faith. “It is a classical method that emerged in apostolic times and remains as relevant as ever,” he said.

“I am grateful for the blessings I have already witnessed in our parishes and I know the process is a blessing,” Bishop Pates said. “Parishioners have repeatedly brought this to my attention.”

On a Journey is scheduled for release in early September.
Easter Octave Formation Days focus on liturgy

By Kyle Lechtenberg
Contributing Writer

More than 600 people took advantage of the recent four days of events with internationally known liturgical experts Father Michael Joncas and Father Paul Turner. Held during the Easter Octave (the eight days from Easter Sunday to the following Sunday, inclusive), these speakers had a full experience of the Diocese of Des Moines: all eight events took place outside the city limits of Des Moines.

By the numbers, the eight events held in seven locations over four days were led by the two speakers and were organized by the Office and Commission for Worship and the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, particularly the Office of Adult Faith Formation. The presenters’ materials are available on the diocesan website at www.dmdiocese.org/easteroctavedays.cfm.

What’s happening? What’s not happening?

In short, English-speaking Catholics are getting an updated book of prayers for Mass, and those prayers have all been translated from Latin into English.

People have occasionally remarked that the new translation means that we are returning to the requirement that prayers be spoken exclusively in Latin. That is not a result of the Roman Missal. This Edition.

However, the Church is going back for a closer and deeper reading of the Latin original texts to try to bring out the original meanings more clearly in English.

Father Turner said, “I will admit that I was among those who thought that it was a bad idea [to change the people’s parts of Mass that they know so well]. But I have come around and think that the translation we’re getting will often more beautifully express these prayers in English.”

The teachers

Participants in the workshops commented on the fact that the two speakers are “truly teachers.” Each is a musician and is able to speak knowledgeably about the musical aspects of the new Missal.

Each studied at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute at Sant’Anselmo in Rome.

Pastoral Study Day

The April 28 day in Atlantic was designed with the collaboration of priests and their staff and volunteers in mind.

Teaching about the new Missal will be a team effort in each parish, with pastors, music directors, deacons, liturgy committee, school administrators, catechists, and teachers working together to help people understand the changes.

First, however, they need to come to understand the changes. About 45 parishes were represented, and most who were there had more than one person representing their parish.

The day was video-recorded by Bob Perron of the diocesan Office for Youth Ministry, and can be viewed in segments on the Easter Octave Days website.

The presentations focused on different parts of the Mass, with each speaker commenting on the changes. Each prayer of each Sunday Mass, which includes the opening prayer or “collect,” the prayer over the gifts, the prayer after Communion, as well as each Eucharistic Prayer, has been subject to the new translation guidelines.

Some new prayers have been added, such as those for new saints that have been added to the calendar.

Deacon community evening

Approximately 75 members of the diocesan community met in Atlantic on April 29. The event focused on the evening was the parts of the Mass that are the deacon’s responsibility. It happens that many of the deacon’s parts of Mass may be sung. Father Joncas provided tips for how deacons might chant the new texts.

Music Ministry Day

Father Joncas ended his time in the diocese at All Saints Parish in Stuart, taking about 130 music ministers through the musical parts of the new Missal.

Father Joncas advocates the use of the new chants in the Roman Missal.

“I think the hope with these chants is that they can become something that everyone can sing, anywhere in the English-speaking world,” he said to music ministers on April 30.

This day was also video-recorded and is available on the website.

How to change a light bulb, Roman Catholic Edition

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How to change a light bulb, Roman Catholic Edition

These days could not have run as smoothly as they did without the collaboration of the host parishes.

As always, please contact me with any questions at worship@dmdiocese.org.

And now, the joke of the week at the Easter Octave Formation Days:

Sister Mary: How many Catholics does it take to change a light bulb?

Father Flannigan: (laughing hysterically) Change? A sense of humor goes a long way when experiencing change.

Lichtenberg is the diocesan Director of Worship.
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**Youth Ministry Director**

St. Patrick, a parish of 1350 families in Cedar Falls, IA with an active, enthusiastic, well established youth ministry program, seeks a full-time director. Responsibilities include: faith formation for grades 10 – 12, preparation process for Confirmation of high school aged young adults. Work hours/schedule will vary. A college degree in theology/religious studies or related area as well as previous experience in youth ministry preferred. Applicants must be practicing Catholics. Benefits are available. Submit resume and references by May 15, 2011 to: Rev. Everett Hemann, St. Patrick Church, 705 Main Street, St. Patrick, IA 52761. Position available immediately.

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**Classified Ads**

Director of Youth and Adult Ministry - Ss. Mary & Mathias Catholic Parish (www.muscatinecatholic.com) in Muscatine, IA (active, 1200 household parish) seeks a full time Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry to provide vision and leadership for an established comprehensive parish youth ministry program and developing young adult program (www.mycrn.net). Successful candidate will be an active, practicing Catholic with knowledge of church teachings and youth ministry practice, strong interpersonal communication skills and ability to relate to youth. Bachelor’s degree in related field and at least 3 years experience required. Competitive salary & benefits provided. Send a letter of introduction and resume to YM Search Committee, Ss. Mary & Mathias Catholic Church, 215 West 8th Street, Muscatine, IA 52761. Position available June 1, 2011.

Thank you, Saint Rita, for your intercession on my behalf through my novena. My prayer was answered and I believe that it was granted because of your intercession.

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**Victim Assistance Advocate**

The diocese’s Victim Assistance Advocate is Mary McCoy, a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. She helps victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services. She can be reached at 515-286-2024 or advocate@dndioce.org.

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**Holy confusion?**

**Beatification, canonization are different**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The slight differences between a beatification and a canonization are easy to miss, especially when one pope beatiﬁes another pope.

Just three weeks before Pope Benedict XVI was to beatiﬁy Pope John Paul II, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments issued a decree designed, in part, to maintain the distinction.

The decree dealt with one of the three main differences: the number and location of dioceses that can hold annual public liturgical celebrations in the holy person’s honor.

The other two differences are less noticeable and they deal with who ceremonially requests the pope to act and the level of papal authority involved in the petition.

During a beatification ceremony, the bishop of the diocese where the person dies asks that the candidate be declared blessed; at a canonization, the prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes speaks in the name of the whole Church and asks that the candidate be declared a saint.

Beatification is an “administrative act” by which the pope declares a person worthy of veneration publicly in places closely associated with his or her life and ministry.

A canonization is a formal papal decree that the candidate was holy and is now in heaven with God. It also means that churches can be dedicated to the person without special Vatican permission.

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of Blessed John Paul the Great, we encountered a group of Polish pilgrims,” they said on their blog, www.ThePracticing Catholic.com. “They were singing hymns and carrying banners and, as early as it was, they would still be lining up miles from St. Peter’s Square.”

“Suddenly, we realized that we needed to move up our schedule by several hours in order to have any hope of actually being in St. Peter’s Square for the event,” they wrote. “So, we hastily gathered our group and headed out by 1:45 a.m., most of us having not slept.”

At 2 a.m., Lisa blogged: “Sitting outside St. Peter’s Square with, oh, probably at least a million others waiting for the beatification Mass for Pope John Paul. The crowd, comprised of people (from) all over the world, is energized and eager. We are blessed to be here, witnessing this moment in history.”

For the next six hours, the couple intermittently walked slowly while being squeezed and pushed and generally crowded to the point where some of our group left to watch the beatification from the comfort of a hotel room or café,” they wrote. “However, we were also invigorated by the joy and energy of so many people who refused to consider being anywhere else. So we waited, and slowly the crowd around us grew more numerous until we were jammed against the cobblestone street, slowly inching our way ever closer to the piazza.”

By the time the sun rose on Rome, we were tired, thirsty, hungry, and bruised. Many of us who stayed considered leaving at one time or another.

However, we were again buoyed by the presence of so many of the Polish pilgrims. They sang hymns as we squashed on our feet — they gave us strength. If we could joyfully accept their suffering, so could we,” they wrote.

Inching closer to St. Peter’s Square, the crowd became more anxious and pushy, and the Schmidts noticed people were being treated for broken bones in first aid stations. There was genuine danger of being hurt or trampled. Joel prayed for the intercession of Blessed John Paul to keep the group safe.

Still uncertain of getting into the piazza, he also prayed that their group wouldn’t be separated.

Eventually, the group was swept through the gate with the last wave of pilgrims allowed in. Being ﬂexible with the plan and showing determination, the couple celebrated the beatification Mass with the estimated 1.5 million people present.

Some pilgrims have said the late Holy Father worked many small miracles at his beatification. Lisa and Joel wrote: “Had we not changed our plans in the middle of the night, we wouldn’t have even gotten close. Small miracles, indeed!”

“We are blessed in Des Moines to be able to freely celebrate Mass and receive the Eucharist on any given day of the week,” they said after returning home. “Many Catholics around the world don’t have this freedom. Experiencing what we did as we waited to get into St. Peter’s Square gave greater appreciation for all those who literally put their lives on the line every day simply because they are Catholic. The temporary pains we experienced in order to celebrate Mass and receive Eucharist consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI were all worth it.”

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**Local couple celebrates beatification Mass**

Lisa and Joel Schmid
Con frecuencia tengo la oportunidad de estar con los jóvenes en las escuelas, en sus actividades, retiros, visitas a la catedral, etc. Algo que distingue estas reuniones es la oportunidad que tienen los jóvenes de hacerme preguntas. Ellas no muestran timidez al hacer sus cuestionamientos. Algunas de sus preguntas son - ¿en dónde vivo? ¿Cuáles son mis cosas favoritas de ser Papa? Con motivo de la reciente beatificación del Papa Juan Pablo II, me puse a reflexionar de la oportunidad que tiene el joven de estar con el primer Papa polaco. Estaba vivo. Con motivo de la oportunidad que tienen los jóvenes de estar con el primer Papa polaco, me puse a reflexionar de la oportunidad de estar con él durante su pontificado. Tuve la fortuna de tener encuentros directos con él al inicio de su servicio, a mediados de su período y finalmente en los días en que su papado veía el ocaso.

El primer encuentro fue en 1979 cuando yo servía como sacerdote secretario en la Delegación Apostólica en Washington, D.C. La Delegación Apostólica era en ese tiempo la representación informal de la Santa Sede (del Vaticano) ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. La Delegación Apostólica servía también como el representante personal del Papa ante la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos. Washington, D.C. fue la última escala del primer viaje del Papa a los Estados Unidos, el cual incluyó un discurso ante las Naciones Unidas, reuniones con el Presidente Carter y el Vicepresidente Mondale y, por supuesto, la visita histórica del 4 de Octubre de 1979 a Iowa con destinos en la Colonia Irlandesa y la Misa en Living History Farms. Él se quedó con nosotros en la Delegación Apostólica, disfrutó de comidas y tuvo reuniones con su personal y con otros que habían programado audiencias. Con una edad acercándose a los sesenta años, él era vibrante y energético. Un evento en particular daba muestra de ello. Al finalizar la cena, preguntó si había un “micro” que pudiera activarse para hablar a la gran multitud que se había reunido al frente del edificio de la Delegación Apostólica en la Avenida Massachusetts Cuándo se le informó que no teníamos el equipo, él y su secretario fueron a la habitación donde se estaba hospedando.

Unos 15 minutos después, apareció preparado para salir y saldar a la multitud personalmente. El Arzobispo Paul Marcinkus, Coordinador del Vaticano en este viaje, lo detuvo después de que había bajado la primera sección de las escaleras y le aconsejó al Papa muy directamente en italiano que no saliera ya que la multitud se formara esencialmente de gente haciendo protestas. El Papa escuchó cuidadosamente. Y simplemente respondió “Vanoso” “Vanoso,” salió y se ganó el corazón de los que se habían reunido al frente. A mediados de su pontificado, fue parte de un equipo responsable de lo que se conocía como el “Estudio Seminariales Papal.” Es efecto, era lo equivalente a lo que se refiere como un “estudio de acreditación.”

El Papa Juan Pablo II mismo inició el estudio y pidió que se le entregara anualmente un reporte sumario. Durante tres años, cuatro de nosotros de cada equipo se reunió con él durante una hora anualmente para entregarle el reporte. Era un gran sentimiento de ansiedad para cada uno de nosotros, al menos en el primer año. Lo que recuerdo es algo que él me escuchaba atentamente, pedía aclaraciones y comparaba la información que recibía del estudio con las experiencias que había obtenido a nivel mundial.

Una característica de estas visitas anuales durante tres años fue la invitación a con celebrar Misa con el Papa en su capilla privada. Nos uníamos a él en meditación, durante la cual él entraba visiblemente en contacto con su Dios. Las Misa eran siempre cantadas e incluían una reflexión breve. Mi última experiencia...
En las Tierras Centrales

Recordando al Beato Juan Pablo II

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Personal con el Santo Padre fue en Diciembre del 2004. Se esperaba que los Obispos de todo el mundo que hicieran visitas “ad limina” a Roma y al Santo Padre aproximadamente cada cinco años. El grupo al visita antes de que Juan Pablo II de la Conferencia Episcopal hacía cinco años. El grupo al visitaba antes de que Juan Pablo II de la Conferencia Episcopal hiciera “ad limina” a Roma y al mundo que hiciera esperaba que los Obispos en Diciembre del 2004. Se personal con el Santo Padre fue en Diciembre del 2004. En las Tierras Centrales

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Palm Sunday Mass

Gov. Terry Branstad and his wife, Chris, attended Palm Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Americas in Des Moines. Bishop Pates presented them with flowers and a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Photo supplied to The Catholic Mirror

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