Diocese begins yearlong celebration marking its 100th anniversary

By Anne Marie Cox

The Iowa Catholic Conference announced its priorities for the next legislative session.

Homeless shelter expansion

St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter is now twice the size it was with new amenities thanks to generous gifts and an I-JOBS grant. See a picture from the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Cardinal Arinze focuses on family, Eucharist during visit

Cardinal Francis Arinze was the keynote speaker. Others included Bishop Richard Pates, Matthew Kelly, Marino Restrepo, Renee Bondi, Father Rick Wendell and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

The attendance was estimated at 5,000, said Marilyn Lane, of St. Augustine Parish in Des Moines.

Aside from conference planning and the choir, 104 volunteers worked at the conference, she said.

"If we take into consideration all the volunteers, the presenters offered their unique stories of how they answered God’s call with faith and how, through the Church, they experienced the blessing of Christ in their lives. The attendance was extended to the Catholic Church in the United States of America.

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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

November 19, 2010

Vol. 44, No. 11

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A Journey Together Celebrating Evangelization: Past, Present and Future

The Catholic Mirror

1911-2011

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No Room at the Inn

Catholic Charities is adding a new feature to its annual No Room at the Inn exhibition, which raises awareness of homelessness. This year, the artist who does the Iowa State Fair butter sculptures will sculpt the nativity out of butter.

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Dec. 8 Holy Day

Dec. 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holyday of obligation for Roman Catholics. The feast celebrates Mary being conceived immaculately (or without original sin). This dogma was defined by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1854.

This feast is also the patronal feast of the United States (Mary, immaculately conceived is the patron saint of the Catholic Church in the United States of America).

By Lisa Bourne

The Christ Our Life Catholic Conference held at Wells Fargo Arena Oct 16-17 drew about 5,000 people from across the Midwest.

An event planned over two years and conducted entirely by volunteers, the Christ Our Life conference offered international lay and clerical presenters, music, Mass, the rosary, reconciliation and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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Bishop’s Schedule

**Sunday, November 21**
- Des Moines – Communal penance, Christ the King, 7:30 a.m.
- Monday, November 22
- Tuesday, November 23
- West Des Moines – Thanksgiving Mass, Dowling Catholic High School, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 24
- Thursday, November 25
- Saturday, November 27
- Sunday, November 28
- Monday, November 29
- Des Moines – Annual meeting of Dowling Investment Committee, Principal Financial, 10 a.m.
- **Tuesday, November 29**
- Des Moines – Confirmation, St. Patrick, 8:30 a.m.
- Des Moines – Groundbreaking for senior housing complex, Christ the King, 3:30 p.m.
- Des Moines – Serra Club Annual Bishop’s Appreciation Dinner, Des Moines Golf & Country Club, 5 p.m.
- Des Moines – Vocations Team Meeting, Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.
- Des Moines – Diocesan staff meeting, Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 23
- West Des Moines – Thanksgiving Mass, Dowling Catholic High School, 10 a.m.
- Des Moines – Finance Council meeting, Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, November 25
- Des Moines – Thanksgiving Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10 a.m.
- Friday, November 26
- Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, KWKY Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 10 a.m.
- Saturday, November 27
- Des Moines – Mass followed by Vespers and Eucharistic Adoration for National Life in union with Pope Benedict XVI and Catholics throughout the world, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.
- Monday, November 29
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**Wednesday, November 30**
- Tuesday, December 7
- Saturday, December 11
- Tuesday, December 17
- Friday, December 10
- Des Moines – In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, KWKY Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, December 21
- Des Moines – Midnight Mass for parishioners of Our Lady of the Americas, Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Ambrose Cathedral
- Tuesday, December 14
- Des Moines – Youth Outreach for Homeless lunch sponsored by St. Mary’s Apostle, Norwalk, Noon

**Wednesday, December 15**
- Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee meeting, Pastoral Center, 10:30 a.m.
- Des Moines – Diocesan Finance Council meeting, Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

**Thursday, December 16**
- Council Bluffs – Annual priest's Christmas dinner with Mary Queen of Apostles, Noon
- Friday, December 17
- Des Moines – In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, KWKY Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 10 a.m.
- Griswold – Retreat for men (from senior in high school to age 40) interested in learning more about priesthood, Creighton Retreat Center, 7 p.m. concludes Sunday, December 19th, 9 a.m.

**Bishop receives Umila Award**

Bishop Richard E. Pates was honored Nov. 12 with The Umila Award by the Pontifical North American College for his dedication to the sanctification of faith, life-long work in priestly formation and generosity towards the North American College. Since 2002, the college has honored those who have shown outstanding support and collaboration in the noble cause of priestly formation. A letter of commendation was extended to Bishop Pates for his generous support of the college and for his vision and generosity to the college. Bishop Pates received his award during the college’s 95th anniversary dinner and celebration.

**Official**

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- Des Moines – Communal penance, Christ the King, 7:30 a.m.
- **Tuesday, November 30**
- Tuesday, November 30
- Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee meeting, Pastoral Center, 10:30 a.m.
- West Des Moines – Adoration Reconciliation, Dowling Catholic High School, 11:15 a.m.
- **Wednesday, December 1**
- Wednesday, December 1
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' national国防部, Justice and Peace Committee, all day
- **Friday, December 3**
- Friday, December 3
- Des Moines – In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, KWKY Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 10 a.m.
- Des Moines – Catholic Charities' No Room at the Inn, Pastoral Center, 6 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 4**
- Saturday, December 4
- Des Moines – Dinner auctioned at St. Augustine Auction, 6 p.m.
- Sunday, December 5
- Sunday, December 5
- St. Mary’s – Installation Mass of Father Ray McHenry as Pastor of Immaculate Conception, Des Moines – Catholic Charities’ No Room at the Inn, Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
- Indiana – Mass, Simpson College, 5 p.m.
- **Monday, December 6**
- Monday, December 6
- St. Paul – Vespers at St. Paul Seminary and St. John Vianney Seminary
- Tuesday, December 7
- Tuesday, December 7
- St. Paul Vespers at St. Paul Seminary and St. John Vianney Seminary
- **Wednesday, December 8**
- Wednesday, December 8
- Des Moines – Technology Advisory Committee, Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
Shenandoah woman to share mission experience with CRS

By Patti Brown & Lisa Bourne

Kathy Regan recently returned from a 10-day mission trip to Bolivia and Peru. Her trip was designed to provide short-term experiences for adults working in Catholic youth ministry.

The trip was organized by Called to Witness, a nationwide program supported by Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Kathy’s trip focused on poverty and its impact on families and youth, health and food, and water security in the La Paz (Our Lady of Peace) region.

“I am living with a heart overflowing with gratitude at the amazing work of our Church and its international emergency and development agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which stand shoulder to shoulder in the midst of joy and adversity with our global brothers and sisters,” Kathy Regan plans to share what she learned on a mission trip with youth ministers.

Regan said, “I saw lives changed forever for a simple community of 44 families in El Alto, Bolivia, with a water project. "Their only water source was a polluted creek bed a three-hour walk away," she said. On Aug. 24, Regan witnessed water flowing through pipes and down the Andes Mountains into their village. "There was laughter and tears, there was dancing and celebration, and most of all, rejoicing," said Regan.

Colorfully dressed indigenous women gathered around the faucet. “Their fingers danced amid the running water. They splashed like children playing in the rain,” she said.

“Life forever changed in this Andean community, and my life is forever blessed," she said. Regan, who lives in Shenandoah, said, “I was able to bring home her experiences of global solidarity and share it with our diocese. I am pleased for her and pleased for the diocese,” she said. 

The Catholic Church in South America

The immersion experience was filled with encounters with people making a difference with the help of CRS, Regan said. “But there were horrifying moments as we witnessed environmental contamination that is killing thousands of people in La Oroya, Peru,” she said.

Iowa Catholic Conference’s outlines priorities

Last month the Iowa Catholic Conference board of directors, including the four bishops, approved its list of legislative concerns and priorities for the 2011 legislative session.

The list is too lengthy to include here, but is available on the ICC’s website at www.iowacatholicconference.org. Some of the issues on the list include:

• Supports expanding tax credits for individuals, businesses, or financial institutions who contribute to a “school tuition organization” that provides scholarships to low- and middle-income children who want to attend a nonpublic school.

• Supports amending the Iowa Constitution to recognize marriage only as a union of one man and one woman.

• Supports efforts to provide women with a choice to be fully informed about abortion.

• Supports legislation to limit predatory lending practices.

• Supports measures to preserve, protect, and improve the quality of the air, water, and land in Iowa.

• Supports state initiatives which would make health care more readily available and affordable to all Iowans, including immigrants and their children.

• Supports prohibition of abortion funding and mandates in the implementation of federal health legislation.

• Opposes efforts to make state and local policies responsible for the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

By Tom Chapman Contributing Writer

Election Day brought a lot of change to the political landscape in Iowa.

The Republican Party made a comeback in Iowa by winning the governor’s race, taking control of the Iowa House and gaining seats in the Iowa Senate.

Former Gov. Terry Branstad (R) defeated Gov. Chet Culver (D) by a vote of 53 to 43 percent. Republicans gained 16 seats in the Iowa House and hold a 60 to 40 margin. This is compared to 56-44 Democratic control in the past session.

Pending recounts, the Iowa Senate will be controlled by the Democrats by a count of 27-23 or 26-24, or it might end up a 25-25 tie.

Elsewhere on the ballot, the question of whether to hold a constitutional convention in Iowa lost 67 to 33 percent. The Iowa Catholic Conference had supported a convention as a way toward moving a marriage amendment. The lack of a single, strong pro-amendment campaign and fears about other measures a convention might take up contributed to its defeat.

The ICC did not take a position on the retention of three Iowa Supreme Court judges who were targeted for the court’s decision legalizing same-sex marriage. All three judges were voted out of office.

One notable aspect of the 84th General Assembly when it convenes in January will be the number of new faces. There were nearly 20 open seats up for election and around 18 incumbents lost their re-election bid.

Part of the work of the ICC is to avoid getting caught up in the ongoing Republican vs-Democratic partisan battles. The ICC’s focus will continue to be on applying Catholic social teaching to the concerns of society and bringing its recommendations to the public square.

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the ICC.
Women deserve better

Editor’s Note: The Iowa Board of Medicine is reviewing its policies on telemedicine and the issue of “teleled” abortions. These abortions are conducted by video conference, where the doctor is on one end of the connection and the doctor on the other. The doctor dispenses two abortion pills by pushing a button and a drawer opens on the other end. The mother takes one pill right away and one later. The mother generally delivers a dead baby later at home.

Four years ago, I helped my daughter and her friend with their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project. The 10-year-old girls studied Dr. Nancy Hill, a first female physician in this country, for their National History Day project.

The idea of Blackwell becoming a physician was suggested by a friend dying of cancer, who told her, “If I could have been treated by a lady doctor, my worst sufferings would have been spared.”

Blackwell saw that women were not getting the same care due to archaic Victorian standards of modesty that kept physicians from adequately examining a patient. Layers of clothing were preventing doctors from seeing what they needed to see in order to assess and treat their female patients. Ridiculously, even mirrors were used instead of a doctor looking directly at a female body in need of examination and diagnosis.

I thought about these things as I attended the Iowa Board of Medicine meeting on Oct. 22 in Des Moines. I listened as speakers voiced concerns about an illegal practice going on in our state which allows a woman to receive medications which will kill the developing baby within her and then send her into labor while at home, delivering her dead baby there.

I wondered what Dr. Blackwell, suffragists Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other of our foremothers would think of the shoddy way women in Iowa are being treated by this vending machine approach to gynecological care.

Women that are not examined by a doctor are at an even higher risk as they may be experiencing an ectopic pregnancy or be unsure of the gestational age of their baby. Failures and complications exponentially increase when the doctor does not examine her patient.

These feminist foremothers worked for equality without apologies. These brave visionaries struggled for an America where women had the right to be in the workplace, school and home. They believed women did not need to sacrifice their children to be anywhere.

Stanton, the first champion of women’s suffrage and a mother of seven, said, “When you consider that women have been treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit.”

What makes perfect sense to me is that the remote-control abortion system discussed at the Iowa Board of Medicine meeting victimizes women further with substandard care. Women deserve better.

Jean Bishop is a parishioner at St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines.

Submissions Policy

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 space and clarity. Guest commentaries (approximately 500 words) are also welcome. Please address your letters to: mirror@dmdiocese.org, or to the editor, The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309. Letters may also be faxed to (515) 237-5070.

Seminal sheds light on Church’s voice, range of theological issues

“The Church Up Close: Covering Catholicism in the Age of Benedict XVI” is being presented as a professional seminar for journalists who attended in Rome in early September.

We had a rigorous schedule of expert speakers and top-level Vatican officials.

Father Robert Gaul, of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, presented on “Stem Cells, The Catholic Church and Humanae Vitae.”

He detailed mainstream media misconceptions and explained that the real promise is found in adult stem cell technology.

In addition to umbilical cord blood, baby teeth are a source of adult stem cells. His presentation challenged the notion that great potential to be life-giving.

In his pastoral letter, Father Gaul faced a challenge based on the assumption the Church doesn’t hold the same regard for children conceived through in vitro fertilization as those given life naturally and that he couldn’t possibly understand the powerful feelings of parenthood as a celibate priest.

Father Gaul gently explained that each child is a gift from God, made in his image; yet, this earthly gift is temporary, and both parents and priests have the responsibility to lead souls to heaven by teaching the truth of God’s plan for sexuality and the gift of life.

Italian Americans Andrea Tornielli and Paola Rodari spoke about their recently released book, “Attack on Ratzinger: Accusations and Scandals, Prophets and Plots.”

The lights shone on pointed fingers at secular media for its often distorted portrayal of the Church. Yet they contend the problem of “Church perception” extends to both external and internal factors. I am anxious for the book to be translated into English.

A most memorable presentation came from Msgr. Fortunatus Nwachukwu, who is head of Protocol of the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Msgr. Nwachukwu told us he didn’t prepare his talk on Africa. He spoke extemporaneously, and he did not disappoint.

He talked of Africa’s biblical roots and the dramatic increase in vocations to the priesthood there today.

Msgr. Nwachukwu said that while we should celebrate our differences we should celebrate our differences we should celebrate our differences we should celebrate our differences.

As he spoke about tribalism in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects, I thought of Africa’s biblical roots, and that the tribal system in Africa, and its extreme divisive effects.

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Catholic Daughters celebrate 90th anniversary

COUNCIL BLUFFS — Catholic Daughters Court St. Anthony #330 of Council Bluffs celebrated its 90th anniversary in October. The celebration included honoring 50-plus year members of the court. They are: Eunice Ott (74-year member), Josephine Garafalo, Angela Cash, Luana Paluka, Anita Ruffner, Marie O’Neill, Darlene Morrow, Margaret Mulvihill, Mary Tedesco, Helen Dixon, Evelyn Seidler, Josephine Goeser and Rose Spoto.

Mass and vigil for all human nascent life

DES MOINES — In union with Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Pates will celebrate a Mass and vigil honoring all those who await the opportunity to be born. He will celebrate the regularly scheduled 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral immediately followed by special evening prayer service with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Wilfred Marie (Helen) Dusek dies at 92

ADRIAN, MICH. — Dominican Sister Wilfred Marie Dusek, formerly known as Helen Dusek, died on Oct. 17 at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She was 92 years of age and in the 76th year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

She spent 40 years ministering in education in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and the Diocese of Des Moines. Sister Wilfred Marie was a teacher at St. Augustine School in Des Moines from 1948-1949. Memorial gifts may be made to Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, Mich., 49221.

Teacher Sister Jean Elizabeth Loretz dies at 89

DUBUQUE — Sister Jean Elizabeth Loretz, 89, died Nov. 12 at Cardinal Center in Dubuque. Burial was at the Mount Carmel cemetery in Dubuque. Sister taught at St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines from 1949-1956. She entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation, (also known as the BVMs), in 1941 and professed final vows in 1949. Memorials can be sent to the Sisters of Charity, BVM Support Fund, 1100 Carmel Dr., Dubuque, IA 52003 or online at www.bvmcong.org/whatnew_obits.cfm.

What’s new in the new Missal?

Beginning this Advent season and continuing through Christmas, parishioners may be seeing a series of bulletin inserts that are meant to prepare people for the new Roman Missal. This first step helps foster a deeper understanding of Roman Catholic worship and includes information about the process of translation and then walks through the parts of the Mass.

The flyers will be posted online at www.dmdiocese.org/worship/romanmissal and for educational use by the parishes and institutions of the diocese.

Church leaders are looking at the Missal as an opportunity to renew people’s experience of liturgy. To help this renewal get off to a good start, the Office of the Bishop and the Office for Worship will provide each parish with a copy of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy’s new resource, Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ, and a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops resource for parish leaders.

For the next year, a column in The Catholic Mirror will focus on some aspect of the new translation. Kyle Lechtenberg, director of the Office for Worship, will respond to some reader questions or concerns about the Roman Missal.

Anyone with questions may contact Kyle at 515-237-5046 or worship@dmdiocese.org.

Next month’s topic: Music and the new Missal

Knights support Catholic radio

The Knights of Columbus gave Bishop Richard Pates a check for $37,508.40 to support Catholic radio. Bishop Pates had asked the Iowa Knights in February 2009 to raise $37,000 to help pay for the costs of building a studio for KWKY Catholic radio in the Catholic Pastoral Center. Donations were made in 2009 and 2010 by 16 councils, one Fourth Degree Assembly, individual Knights, the State Council of the Iowa Knights of Columbus, the Iowa Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and the 2010 State Convention Planning Committee. Donation amounts ranged from $50 to more than $5,700. Photo by Lisa Bourne

Catholic Charities’ homeless shelter expansion complete

Nancy Galeazzi, executive director of Catholic Charities, cuts a ribbon opening the newly expanded St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, the only shelter in Polk County that keeps the family unit together. With her is Bishop Richard Pates, donor Tom Moreland and Catholic Charities Board Chairperson Nancy Anstoetter. The project became a reality with a $1 million gift from St. Jude Enterprises led by Moreland, an I-JOBS grant, and contributions from the community. The shelter doubled its capacity, created handicap-accessible rooms and made other improvements. Last year, the shelter provided housing for 136 children and 125 adults. To see how to support the St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, go to www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org. Photo by Lisa Bourne

Sacramental Marriage

Love For a Lifetime

Sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Church Altar & Rosary Society

Saturday, December 4
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
St Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center
Hwy 92 & R63, West of Indiana

*Cookies and candles selected by you and festively packaged for gift giving for just $5.50 per pound.
*Hand painted sugar cookies a specialty at the event
*Homemade cinnamon rolls and coffee served in our Cafe
*Craft Vendors on hand for your holiday shopping

* Cookies and candles selected by you and festively packaged for gift giving for just $5.50 per pound.
* Hand painted sugar cookies a specialty at the event
* Homemade cinnamon rolls and coffee served in our Cafe
* Craft Vendors on hand for your holiday shopping

Detailed information will be available in the December issue of the Catholic Mirror but mark your calendars now to attend. Questions? Contact Deb Culp at doubl@doublingcatholic.org.
**Around the Diocese**

Nov. 20 Saturday
**“Come Home for the Holidays” DES Moines – St. Anthony Parish invites you to their 2010 auction in the parish hall at 15 Indiana Road. Preview and hors d’oeuvres will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m., the auction will be at 6:30 p.m. and a silent auction will be from 5:30-9 p.m. Admission is $10.

CAST (Catholic Adult Singles Together) DES Moines – The monthly dance for area singles will be held November 20 at St. Mary of Nazareth, Ryan Hall, 4600 Meredith, from 7-11 p.m. 21 music, snacks, soft drinks, wine, beer for a $10/member, $7/member admission. For more information contact Roger at 515-271-9562 or http://sites.google.com/site/castiusalesmoineshome

Catholic Daughters of the Americas DES Moines – Court Ave Maria No. 302 will meet at noon at the Basilica of St. John for Mass celebrated by Chaplain Msgr. Robert Chamberlain. Luncheon and business meeting will follow. Bingo will complete the afternoon. Members will bring white elephants for Bingo prizes. For information or reservations call 515-279-8050.

Nov. 21 Sunday
Quo Vadis WEST DES MOINES – High school-age men gather for food, prayer and discussion on what God calls them to be. Starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Dowling Parish Residence. Contact Father David Muenchrath for more information, dmuenchrath@dmdiocese.org.

Nov. 27 Saturday
Mass and Vigil for All Necasant Human Life DES Moines – In union with Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Pates will celebrate a Mass and vigil honoring all those who allow the opportunity to be born. Regularly scheduled 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral immediately followed by special evening prayer service with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Dec. 4-5 Sat. & Sun. Christmas Potpourri DES Moines – The Altar & Rosary Society of the Basilica of St. John will hold their annual Christmas Potpourri on Saturday, 3-6 p.m. & Sunday, 9 a.m. -2 p.m. in the Father Daniel Mulvihill Hall below the church, 1915 University Ave. Admission is free. Quiet raffle, holiday gifts and baked goods. Soup and sandwiches will be available after 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday and cinnamon rolls and lunch available on Sunday. Questions? Call Bev Chiccelly at 515-277-7994.

Vendors still needed for the Christmas Potpourri Vendor tables are 50. Interested vendors should call Chiccelly or Nancy Richter at 515-277-1695.

Dec. 4 Saturday
Advent Recollection DES Moines – The Basilica of St. John will have an Advent recollection conducted by Benedictine Father Ephrem Carr, of St. Meinard Archabbey and the president of the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy at Sánt’ Anselmo in Rome. The recollection will begin at 1 p.m. with a conference, followed by private prayer. There will be a second conference at 2 p.m., followed by confessions at 2:45 p.m. and the vigil Mass at 4 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

St. Theresa Parish Bazaar DES Moines – St. Theresa’s annual Altar & Rosary Society Church Ladies Bazaar is at 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. Shop among about 20 vendors offering “Cookie Walk,” and baked goods. Lunch will be available.

“Breakfast with Santa” for children ages 2-7 years will be available. Children will have small breakfast, a few activities to participate in, along with some time to take a photo with Santa. The seating times are 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Seating will be limited, cost is $6. For breakfast reservations call 515-255-4606.

*CoS, Walk, Sweets Shoppe and Craft Fair INDIANOLA – St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is holding its annual Cookie Walk, Sweets Shoppe and Craft Fair from 9 – 11 a.m. at the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center, at Highways 92 and R63. Treats are $5.50 per pound. Also available are craft and vendor booths.

Dec. 5 Sunday
Quo Vadis DES Moines – CECIL, BLUFFS – High school-age men gather for food, prayer and discussion on what God calls them to be. Starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Queen of Apostles Rectory. Contact Father David Muenchrath for more information, dmuenchrath@dmdiocese.org.

No Room at the Inn DES Moines – Catholic Charities’ “No Room at the Inn” explores the awareness of the plight of the homeless runs from 1- 5 p.m. in the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave. See more than 300 nativity scenes, hear local choirs and new this year is the nativity scene sculpted in butter. For more information, contact Trish at trish@dmdiocese.org or 515-277-8078.

Also consider touring the newly expanded St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter from 1 - 5 p.m. Contact Trish for details.

Dec. 11 Saturday
Birthright Shower DES Moines – The Catholic Women’s League annual Christmas Luncheon and Birthright Shower will be at 11 a.m. at Willow Creek Country Club, S.W. 6th and Army Post Road. Lunch and Music by Laura Dressel, a baby shower gift for Birthright.

All Catholic women are welcome. To make reservations, contact Christ Christie at 515-971-5314. For information contact Porch Society Women’s League, go to www.catholicwomansleague.com or call 515-971-5314.

Jan. 21-23 Fri.-Sun.
Beginning Experience This peer ministry is for widowed, divorced or separated people. The program is designed to start healing the grief associated with the loss. The weekends are Jan. 21-23 or April 1-3 at St. Thomas More Center in Panora, Iowa. For further information and/or to register contact Susan Schoeman 515-981-9426 or Father Bob Schoeman 515-418-1938.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations**

Several parishes in the Diocese of Des Moines plan a celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

**Sacred Heart Parish** in West Des Moines plans a procession to Mass lead by the folkloric kids dance group Los Ninos de Tepeyac, along with Sacred Heart children. There will also be a re-enactment of the Lady of Guadalupe story led by Sacred Heart School fifth-grade students. Los Ninos de Tepeyac will dance after the Mass in the parish center in honor of our Lady of Guadalupe. Hot chocolate and Mexican sweet bread will also be served in the parish center.

The Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines will celebrate the feast with a reception on Dec. 11, including a re-enactment of the story of Juan Diego.

**Our Lady of the Americas Parish** in Des Moines will observe the feast on Dec. 11 with a 1:30 p.m. movie on Guadalupe, confession from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Mass, confession from 5:30-10 p.m., 6:30 Mass, 7:30 p.m. rosary, dances, 8 p.m. movie, ending with a procession leaving at 10 p.m. and arriving at St. Ambrose Cathedral at 12 a.m. for Mass.

**St. Patrick Parish** in Perry plans to celebrate Mass on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. followed by a potluck including sweet bread, tamales and hot chocolate.

**Patrick Parish** in Lenox will have a novena leading up to the feast day, which will be observed at the 4 p.m. Sunday Mass with special prayers and flowers, as well as a potluck after Mass. Mary Pope Parish in Red Oak will observe the feast with the special music at the regular 1 p.m. Sunday Spanish Mass.

Several other parishes are planning events. Details were unavailable at press time.
around the state and region, we had well over 250 people involved,” said Lane.

In his keynote address, Bishop Pates said the event provided evidence of the emergence of the laity as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council.

“While there is clerical participation, the Christ Our Life Conference was conceived by the laity, organized and carried out by the laity,” Bishop Pates said. “We owe heartfelt appreciation to the array of individuals for their admirable courage and tireless efforts in making this event a reality.”

Keynote presenter Cardinal Arinze spoke about the significance of the catechism.

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church is the most comprehensive and authoritative presentation of our Catholic faith in our times,” he said. “It is most fitting that what it can do to help build up the faith in our families be given careful consideration during this Christ Our Life Catholic Conference for our searching souls.”

He also spoke about the significance of the Eucharist for the path to eternal life.


Surveys from the Christ Our Life Conference indicated the conference was a success.

“Incredible! That is my description of the Christ Our Life Conference,” said Joan Miller of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. “It was indeed a proud weekend to be Catholic. The speakers were inspiring. I’ve shared something about the conference with someone each day this week.”

“I can’t imagine missing the next one,” said Jean Kudrna, of Sioux City. “I loved the holy water at the entrances, the Knights (of Columbus), the bishops, the singers, the bell choir and all the little Catholic touches that you added to put us in the mood to receive the graces of the Holy Spirit. Your prayers and efforts were surely answered.”

People have continued to process what they heard in small groups.

The Catechism and Coffee group that meets on Wednesday mornings consisting of members of several Des Moines area parishes spent a session discussing the conference.

In addition, a follow up conversation was held at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny in early November.

Various parishes have talked about continuing discussions, including St. Mary of Nazareth and Christ the King in Des Moines, and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola.

To share feedback on Christ Our Life, visit the conference blog at http://christourlifeiowa.wordpress.com/. For information on organizing or attending a subsequent conference, e-mail info@christourlifeiowa.com.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, visited Des Moines in October for the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference. Cardinal Arinze remarked several times to Bishop Richard Pates how amazed he was that the conference, which drew up to 5,000 people, was organized by lay people.
Homelessness among families
focus of weekend events Dec. 3-5

Joel is a truck driver trying to support his family of five while his wife recovers from heart surgery. Army veteran Marvin, is struggling with the high cost of living and low wages. And Rose, mother of three, is trying desperately to find work in a scarce job market.

All of these people have been guests at St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter and represent just three of the 14,068 people in families living in Iowa who found themselves homeless this past year.

There are a number of reasons why a family may find itself without a place to call home. According to the 2009 Annual Snapshot of Service and Shelter Use by the Iowa Council on Homelessness, the top causes last year were economic and medical difficulties. The report also states that more than 60% of families who were homeless last year were homeless for the first time, and 54% were under the age of 18.

The issue of homelessness is not one that is going away anytime soon. As part of Catholic Charities work with this vulnerable population, the agency will host its annual No Room at the Inn event Dec. 3-5 at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 6th and Grand Ave. in Des Moines.

For years, the Iowa State Fair has awed fair-goers with the butter cow, a butter Shawn Johnson, even the butter Last Supper.

Following the same tradition of giving, Catholic Charities annual No Room at the Inn event will feature a butter nativity to accompany the more than 300 other nativities that will be on display at 6th and Grand Dec. 4 and 5.

“We are continually finding ways to make our messages about complex social issues like homelessness fresh,” said Nancy Galeazzi, executive director of Catholic Charities.

The depiction of the nativity scene in any medium is awe-inspiring, said Galeazzi, and the butter sculpture represents an Iowa tradition that will also peak interest.

“When our committee member came to us with the possibility we felt it could really spark some attention and get people to think about homelessness.”

The butter nativity, along with the rest of the nativity exhibition will be open for public viewing Sat., Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to Noon and Sun., Dec. 5 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 6th & Grand in Des Moines. Admission to the event is the gift of a personal care item or cash donation to St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter.

No Room at the Inn, held at the beginning of the Advent season, reminds us that people here in our community lack basic needs and to reflect on our calling to bring hope to them,” said Kathy Avery, co-chair of the fundraising reception committee.

New to the nativity exhibition this year is a hand-sculpted butter nativity by local artist Sarah Pratt. Pratt is the current artist behind the butter art featured at the Iowa State Fair and will create a butter sculpture of the holy family in front of a backdrop depicting the traditional nativity scene with a modern twist.

No Room at the Inn helps to increase awareness of the plight of homeless families in our community and includes a weekend of festivities centered around an exhibition of more than 300 nativity scenes from all over the world that serve as a reminder that there is often no room at homeless shelters like Catholic Charities’ St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter.

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Charities

Holidays bring out the best in ‘givers’

While volunteers and donations are needed all year round, Catholic Charities sees an increase in people wanting to help during the holiday season says Pat Nestrvedt, Associate Director and coordinator of volunteers at Catholic Charities.

The desire to help this time of year is great. People truly want to do something that benefits others—the holidays bring out the best in givers."

If you are still looking for a holiday service project consider one of these opportunities that fulfill some of the greatest needs.

1. Help set up an apartment for a refugee family who has relocated to Iowa from a war-torn country through the Refugee Resettlement Program.
2. Shop the St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter Gift Registry and purchase new items for the renovated homeless shelter for families. Items can be purchased in-store from the Target Gift Registry or online at www.target.com ( Persist Name St. Joseph Shelter, Last Name: Catholic Charities).
3. Collect personal care items like shampoo, toilet paper, feminine products, and soap—basic necessities that can mean a lot to a family struggling to make ends meet.
4. Educate yourself about what it is like to be a low-income person trying to survive month to month.
5. Take part in a Poverty Simulation to be held on Sat., Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The simulation is a hands-on experience that helps people understand the real-life struggles of living in poverty.
6. Donate bus tokens to St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter. Transportation remains one of the biggest issues for homeless families.

Volunteers help set up an apartment for a family coming to the U.S. through Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program. Volunteers are needed to help set up apartments for newly arriving refugees who, many times, come from their war-torn countries with nothing more than the clothing on their back. Almost 40 people have been resettled since June.

Phoenix House begins serving two additional Iowa counties

The Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program in Council Bluffs has extended its services to two additional counties. Along with Harrison and Pottawattamie, the Phoenix House will now cover the counties of Mills and Fremont making domestic violence and sexual assault services available to 22,000 more Iowans. The changes became effective July 1, 2010 and include support and educational services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

It is essential that these services are available to people in rural areas," said Diane McKee, program coordinator for the Phoenix House. "We are pleased that we can provide help in these counties."

The Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter and Sexual Assault Program is a service of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Des Moines. Services include a 24-hour emergency shelter and crisis phone line, court advocacy, educational groups and outreach to underserved populations.

Volunteer needs, program information, special events, advocacy opportunities and more! Find us at www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org. Subscribe to the blog or become a Fan of Catholic Charities' Facebook page, Catholic Charities, Des Moines Diocese.

Outpouring of support surrounds refugee resettlement program

Local individuals, businesses, parishes and a number of other groups are showing overwhelming support of the refugee resettlement program and are helping in multiple ways to welcome these newcomers to Iowa.

One such business is Restonic Mattress located in Toledo, Iowa which has provided Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program with 100 mattresses, box springs and frames at a significantly discounted cost. The beds will be given to the 130 plus refugees that will be resettled through Catholic Charities this year.

A “good night’s sleep is so important, especially for children,” said Restonic Mattress owner Ken Akers. “We are proud to be associated with the program. It is just a good thing to do.”

In July, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program became the only agency in Iowa to resettle refugees after a successful collaboration with Lutheran Services for more than 15 years. Refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their homeland due to persecution because of race, religion, ethnicity or political affiliation.

"Gifts like these from Iowa businesses are part of what makes Iowa such a great place for refugees,” said Catholic Charities Executive Director Nancy Galeazzi. "Iowans are welcoming, caring and always willing to help someone in need.”

Resettlement efforts include assisting with housing, food, transportation, cultural orientation and job placement for the first 90 to 180 days of arrival. Catholic Charities works with volunteer churches, businesses and individuals in an effort to reestablish families and provide the best welcome possible to their new community.

Celebrating continuation of refugee resettlement in Iowa

The home of Gerry and Mary Lou Neugent was filled with the rhythmic sounds of an Iraqi “Peace” band, the smells of Persian, Afghan and Nepalese cuisine, and stories of strength, courage and heart during a celebration of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program, a program that's future was in question just six months ago.

"This is what we are called to do,” said Nancy Galeazzi, executive director of Catholic Charities, about the Board of Directors decision in May to continue the program independently.

"Thank you to Bishop Pates who was so supportive in the continuation of this program which is so important to so many.”

Dil Stubba, a refugee from Bhutan, was at the gathering with her husband and two children. Stubba spoke about their life in a refugee camp for 18 years and her gratitude for programs such as Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program. Patrick Myer, a case manager with the Refugee Resettlement Program and a former refugee, also spoke about his journey from The United Republic of Congo to a refugee camp, imprisonment, his opportunity to come to the U.S. as a refugee and his enthusiasm to join the U.S. Army. "I wanted to show my appreciation and was proud to fight for this country and for the freedom we experience here,” said Myer.

More than 50 people were in attendance at the late afternoon gathering hosted by Gerry & Mary Lou Neugent in Des Moines. Attendees celebrated the contributions of refugees in Iowa, discussed opportunities for the program moving forward and stood in solidarity with those suffering because of war and persecution.

Battle help along the way.
Diocese begins centennial celebration

People have gathered in small faith-sharing groups to share their knowledge and love of God and talk about how they live the Gospel every day. Archbishop Harry Flynn, archbishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, will be the keynote presenter at the concluding Nov. 6, 2011 celebration and Mass. In the early 1800s, the Diocese of Des Moines was a small part of the Diocese of Louisiana, which was comprised of the territory from the Gulf of Mexico up to Canada and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. With the expansion of the Catholic Church in the West, the Diocese of St. Louis was created, and from that came many other dioceses, including the Diocese of Dubuque which was created in 1837. At the time, the Dubuque diocese included not only all of what is now Iowa but much of the western United States. Iowa became a state in 1846, and growth continued with German and Irish settlers. By 1911, when Pope Pius X established the Diocese of Des Moines, there were 54 parishes, 28 missions, 68 priests and 17 Catholic schools within its boundaries. In 1925, Bishop Thomas Drumm announced the creation of the Des Moines Catholic Charities and the founding of the Christ Child Home, which offered a temporary home and refuge for children for 41 years. On Oct. 4, 1979, Pope John Paul II accepted a request from farmer Joe Hays, of Truro, Iowa, to visit Iowa. He spent 42 minutes at St. Patrick Church near Irish Settlement and then celebrated a Mass before the largest crowd in Iowa history. A logo representing the seasons, fields and seeds planted was created for the event and continues to be the diocesan logo used today. Since the 1970s, the Diocese of Des Moines has been welcoming refugees and newcomers. The effort began with refugees fleeing from Vietnam and Laos, and continued by including refugees from Bosnia, Sudan and other African countries. Currently, refugees from Afghanistan are being helped by the diocese. In addition, the diocese has worked to meet the pastoral and social needs of immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala and other Central American countries. The Diocese of Des Moines today serves about 130,000 people, including newly arrived Hispanic Catholics, in 23 counties in the southwest quadrant of the state. You are invited to join the celebration of our journey together, celebrating evangelization in the diocese’s past, present and future on Nov. 6, 2011 at HyVee Hall in Des Moines.

Des Moines Choral Society honors diocesan centennial

Celebrate the holidays and the diocese’s 100th anniversary together by coming to St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines for “Christmas with the Choral Society” on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. This is the first of several cultural events held in honor of the diocese’s centennial year. There will be 65 singers under the direction of Dr. James Rodde in the Des Moines Choral Society production. He is the Louise Moen Endowed Chair in Music and Director of Choral Activities at Iowa State University, where he conducts the Iowa State Singers, the 150-voice State Choruses and teaches choral conducting and literature. One hundred years ago, another elaborate Christmas celebration was also planned for St. Ambrose Cathedral. “The dignity lately conferred by Rome in raising St. Ambrose from a church to a cathedral merits greater magnificence and no efforts are being spared to make the feast a long remembered one in Des Moines,” wrote the Register and Leader newspaper in a December 1911 story. “An elaborate musical programme will be rendered by St. Ambrose choir under the direction of Miss Mary Rickard, organist. To many, this will be their first opportunity of hearing the grand organ that has been recently installed in the cathedral,” the newspaper said. “To the music lover, this will be a rare treat as a glance at the programme shows…” Tickets for the Dec. 11 Des Moines Choral Society event are $20 for preferred seating, $15 for general seating and $7 for students. For general seating or for information, call 515-273-5255 or by e-mail tickets@dmschoral.org.

Religious women recognized via museum exhibit

To learn more about the religious women who played a major role in laying a faith foundation in the Diocese of Des Moines, check out a major exhibit on religious women in Dubuque. The Women & Spirit exhibit at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque will be brought to the state by the museum and Clarke University Feb. 18-May 22. The multimedia Women & Spirit is a project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents about 90 percent of the women religious in the United States. Religious women played a major role in laying a faith foundation in the Diocese of Des Moines, check out a major exhibit on religious women in Dubuque. The Women & Spirit exhibit at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque will be brought to the state by the museum and Clarke University Feb. 18-May 22. The multimedia Women & Spirit is a project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents about 90 percent of the women religious in the United States. Religious women played a major role in laying a faith foundation in the Diocese of Des Moines, check out a major exhibit on religious women in Dubuque. The Women & Spirit exhibit at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque will be brought to the state by the museum and Clarke University Feb. 18-May 22. The multimedia Women & Spirit is a project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents about 90 percent of the women religious in the United States. Religious women played a major role in laying a faith foundation in the Diocese of Des Moines, check out a major exhibit on religious women in Dubuque. The Women & Spirit exhibit at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque will be brought to the state by the museum and Clarke University Feb. 18-May 22. The multimedia Women & Spirit is a project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents about 90 percent of the women religious in the United States. Religious women played a major role in laying a faith foundation in the Diocese of Des Moines, check out a major exhibit on religious women in Dubuque. The Women & Spirit exhibit at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque will be brought to the state by the museum and Clarke University Feb. 18-May 22. The multimedia Women & Spirit is a project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents about 90 percent of the women religious in the United States.

For more information on the diocesan centennial, call 515-237-5046 or go to www.dmdiocese.org/centennial.
Diocesan Centennial Prayer

**Centennial Prayer**

Holy God, 
You have filled diocesan hearts 
with the fire of your love for 100 years. 
We know you are present with us now. 
We trust you will be with us always.

Holy Spirit, 
Continue to awaken us so that we may 
see the wonders of your presence, Jesus, 
In this moment and in the years to come.

Lord, 
Renew us constantly so that our homes, 
parishes, communities and world 
Are transformed into your kingdom on earth 
Where peace and justice reign Forever and ever

Amen

Tom Quiner, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, is working on writing and producing a new musical called “The Pope of the People: The John Paul II Musical” to be performed next year in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Des Moines.

The Pope of the People tells the story of Pope John Paul II, including his trip to Poland, his 1979 visit to Iowa and the attempted assassination.

Performances are scheduled for Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines on April 1, St. Pius X Church in Urbandale on April 2, and in the Des Moines parishes of All Saints on April 3, St. Augustine on April 9, Christ the King on April 10, and St. Francis in West Des Moines on April 17.

Currently, he’s looking for singers, actors, directors, sound people, stage design help and more. Interested people can complete a form at www.thepopeofthepeople.com, click Contact Us.

Musical produced during centennial year

Oración del Centenario

Santo Dios, 
Túhas llenado los corazones de la diócesis 
con el fuego de tu amor por 100 años. 
Sabemos que estás presente con nosotros ahora. 
Confiamos que estarás con nosotros siempre.

Espíritu Santo, 
Siguéndonos despertando para que podamos 
Ser testigos de la presencia de Jesús, 
En este momento, y en los años por venir.

Señor, 
Renovamos constantemente para que nuestros 
hogares, parroquias, comunidades y el mundo 
Se transformen en tu reino en la tierra 
Donde la paz y la justicia reinarán 
Por los siglos de los siglos

Amen

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Annual Yield on Annuities/IRAs

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Diocesan News

The Catholic Mirror, November 19, 2010
Deaf community finds a home at St. Catherine

By Jean Samson
Contributing Writer

The history of Deaf Ministry in the Diocese of Des Moines reflects rich traditions and the dedication of several parishes and individuals who have served the community over the years.

On the west end of the diocese, Father Bob Alfers had a connection with the Iowa School for the Deaf and ministered to the deaf, as did other priests.

Prior to the 1960s, Deaf Ministry for the east end of the Des Moines diocese was based at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Des Moines.

In the early 1970s, however, Father Paul Hans, who had a brother who was deaf, became pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Ankeny and wanted the deaf to be served there. The Ankeny parish began interpreting services for Mass and provided the service to about 50 members, most of whom lived in the Ankeny area. The deaf community held monthly social gatherings to strengthen a Catholic deaf community in the Des Moines area.

John and Carolyn Cool were some of the original interpreters for the deaf community in Ankeny, often assisted by Franciscan Sister Mary Helen Seivert, who coordinated Deaf Ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines for many years. She is retired and living in Dubuque.

Charity Sister Linda Roby, BVM, ministered to the deaf in the Des Moines area, said Father John Ludwig. She’s now with the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon.

Upon Sister Helen’s retirement in 2003, Peggy Chicoine became the contract coordinator of Deaf Ministry for the diocese in the Des Moines metro area. Chicoine has been providing interpreted Mass to the deaf community since 1989.

Sister Mary Helen Sievert
From 1972-2003 Sister Mary Helen Sievert was the director of Deaf Ministry in the Des Moines diocese. She traveled through the Des Moines diocese and other areas in Iowa to share her love for Jesus.

She frequently came to Des Moines to provide interpreting services as needed and to minister to the deaf, both Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Sister Helen taught religious education so that the children could receive the sacraments and she served as teacher of religious education for the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs.

In the mid 1980s Father Ludwig began learning sign language and celebrated Mass for the Deaf Ministry in the Des Moines diocese community at St. Mary of Nazareth Parish monthly. When Father Ludwig became pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish/Drake Newman Catholic Student Center, he continued to celebrate Mass for the deaf community monthly, followed by a social gathering at the student center.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish
In 2004, the Catholic deaf community of Des Moines elected to officially move their community to St. Catherine of Siena Parish, where a sign language interpreter is provided every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Since joining St. Catherine’s, the community has become integrally involved in many ministries of the parish and has enjoyed being fully included in all the activities within the wider hearing membership. In addition, a religious education for adult deaf parishioners is held every Sunday morning before Mass.

While reflecting on the history of this community, Gus Cordero, a parishioner of St. Catherine, said the hearing and deaf communities are close together.

“We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to be fully included and active in the liturgy and ministry of our church, through serving as readers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, gift-bearers, liturgical environment coordinators and coming to the many other social activities,” he said.

The deaf community has hosted coffee and donuts for the parish after Sunday Mass and has hosted student suppers Sunday evening for the Drake students.

It is not unusual at Sunday Mass to have hearing parishioners join in signing Alleluia or Amen with the deaf community.

As a gift to the parish, two members of the deaf community, Donna Kern and Marlene Kautzky, taught student and resident parishioners beginning sign language in a class in 2009.

In January, deaf parishioners of St. Catherine’s will again offer a class to student and resident parishioners and any others interested.

“After many years of transition, it has been a blessing to the deaf community to finally find a home parish; where they can actively participate in Mass without barriers or exclusion,” Chicoine said.

“The community at St. Catherine’s has been and continues to embrace deaf people and often seek out the interpreter, when they need to visit with them or to schedule the interpreter for a future event. The awareness that the hearing people want to get to know the deaf personally and to have them participate fully in every aspect of Church has been and continues to be wonderful,” she added. “This is what Christ has asked us to do, to remove our differences and to see Christ in all people.”

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M.A. Theology (Scripture), University of Notre Dame

Registration (5:00 pm) and first session (6:00-9:00 pm) Friday, January 14
Six Saturday sessions (9:00 am-3:30 pm) January 22, February 5 & 26, March 19, April 9 and May 7
Scholarships and matching funds available; plus tuition grant for first-time registrants.

For information or brochures:
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515-237-5058

I thought you said…” or “I thought you meant…” or, “Ready for what?”
Have you ever had a conversation that started out like that? Most of us have. Communication is vital to building and continuing a successful marriage relationship. It is one of the most complicated interactions between married and engaged couples. When communication is effective in a relationship, it can be the number one reason that couples grow closer together. When it fails, it can be the very reason a marriage falls apart. So, why is it then that communication is so hard for some people and so difficult for others?

Communication is much more than just exchanging words. It is a process that fosters the expression of respect, sincerity, honesty and love for each other. While listening is a start, (in fact it’s the secret), it’s also important to participate in other ways. By expressing interest, involvement and asking questions, you can help convey a message of caring, emotional concern and empathy.

Donon Dennis and Sarah Laff

Be a fan of the Diocese of Des Moines on Facebook or subscribe to the diocese’s blogs to keep up to date on news and events in your diocese.

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New music CD to support seminarians

By Lisa Bourne  
Staff Writer

A music CD produced locally with 23 vocalists and five instrumentalists is being sold to raise funds for the education of diocesan seminarians.

“The Calling. Songs for Seminarians,” is a project of Holy Trinity parishioner Bob Weast, along with the help of Deacon Dennis Luft, of the diocesan Office of Marriage Ministry.

Several people urged me to make a recording of my trumpet with my wife Janice on piano,” Weast said. “These parishioners hear us playing solos at Masses and wanted them recorded.”

Weast is a longtime local musician and bandleader as well as professor of music at Drake University, and his wife Janice is a concert pianist who plays each week for Masses at St. Augustin and Holy Trinity.

He said their daughter wanted them to record a Christmas CD.

“What instead I decided to use singers from all 15 churches in Des Moines, the best I could get,” said Weast.

He has produced a number of CDs in the past as fundraisers for organizations such as Anawim Housing and Casa Amaparo, a shelter for girls in Mexico.

Twelve-three songs performed by the musicians and singers from 15 diocesan parishes are on the CD.

The music is a mix of traditional and contemporary, said Weast, who guarantees the CD would offer something for everyone.

The hope is that people will buy copies of the CD for Christmas gift-giving with proceeds going toward the education of the diocese’s 16 seminarians.

Weast has visited every parish in Des Moines and delivered CDs and posters for them. Individual parish offices will have information on sales of the CD after Sunday Mass in the coming weeks.

The project started as a conversation with another parishioner after daily Mass about how to put faith into action and support vocations in a tangible way.

The Knights of Columbus and the Serra club said they would help sell CDs after Mass if needed.

The CDs are available now. The cost is $15 per CD if it’s picked up, and an additional $3 for CDs to be mailed.

Parish-based, marriage building efforts begin

By Lisa Bourne  
Staff Writer

Parishes are moving forward in the spirit of recently implemented diocesan five-year, parish-centered plan to strengthen marriages, according to Deacon Dennis Luft, of the diocesan Office of Marriage Ministry.

Both the Des Moines diocese and the U.S. bishops are emphasizing marriage as a lifelong vocation, a sacrament and a covenant between a husband and wife.

A Sept 17 article in The Catholic Mirror reported on initial marriage building efforts by the diocese.

In the parishes St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines hosted, “Renewing the Heart of Your Marriage” on Oct 9.

Jeff and Melinda Dunwald, members of the parish Renewing the Heart of Your Marriage Committee, developed the idea for the retreat after participating in a Christ Renews His Parish weekend.

Roughly 66 couples enrolled in the workshop, conducted by authors and marital therapists P.J. and Claudette McDonald, who presented the four dimensions of strengthening marriage and growing together in a quest for shared spirituality.

Also working to strengthen marriages is St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale. Deacon Jim Houston, who serves on the diocesan Marriage Advisory Board, and parish Adult Faith Formation Coordinator Deb Culp are working on a three-day program Feb. 8-10 leading up to a daylong retreat on Feb. 12.

Evening presenters include Dr. Tom Neal, director of the St. Joseph Educational Center, and Catholic young adult speaker Jon Leonetti. Christian marriage ministers Jim and Maureen Otremba from the St. Cloud, Minn. diocese will lead the retreat.

The week will end with marriage blessing at the Saturday evening Mass.

St. Pius X Parish is also re-establishing Salvatore’s dinner, a regular night out for married couples founded by Father Sam Palmer.

For more information on the sacrament of marriage, and to share what your parish is doing in support of marriage call Deacon Dennis and Sarah Luft at 515-237-5056, and visit www.foryourmarriage.org.
Diocese passes audit, in compliance with charter

The Diocese of Des Moines has passed an audit of its compliance with the U.S. bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Beginning in 2003, all dioceses in the United States have been required to be in compliance with the charter, approved by the U.S. bishops in 2002.

That compliance is monitored by an independent company contracted through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Each diocese submits a detailed annual report of all activities required by the charter.

Once every three years, one or more auditors spends a week in each diocese verifying the accuracy of reports submitted and meeting with individuals regarding the compliance of the charter.

In the last seven years, many have become familiar with the components of background checks for all employees and volunteers with regular contact with children as well as training regarding protection from the possibility of sexual abuse.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, nearly 9,000 employees and volunteers have been background checked and trained in that seven-year period.

Other components of the charter which are addressed in the annual audit are somewhat less familiar to the general public. Through the audit, reports are made regarding any new allegations of abuse during the year, any settlements related to allegations made in prior years, and any ongoing counseling or other support provided to past abuse victims.

The Diocese of Des Moines hosted an auditor from The Gavin Group, Inc. during the last week of September. The auditor reviewed all records related to all components of the charter to verify the accuracy of the report submitted for 2009-2010. He met with many individuals regarding the various components required for compliance with the charter.

In a letter dated Oct. 15, Bishop Richard Pates received the results of the audit stating that the Diocese of Des Moines is in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The letter stated that this conclusion was "based on the completeness and accuracy of the information furnished by the diocese... during the course of this audit."

Compliance with the requirements of the Charter is achieved only through the commitment of each parish and school, each diocesan entity creating a safe environment for all children.

"The leaders of each of these programs and those who participate are to be congratulated for their efforts in this regard," said Sister Jude McCoy, the chaplain of the Diocese of Des Moines.

The diocesan Victim Assistance Advocate is Mary McCoy, a staff member at Polk County Human Services. She can be reached at 515-286-2024 or by e-mail at advocate@dmdioce.org.

Sister Margaret Fines

Longtime educator Sister Fines dies

Sister Margaret (Gordon) Fines, BVM, 88, died Nov. 10 at Mercy Medical Center, Dubuque, Ia. Burial was in the Mount Carmel cemetery in Dubuque.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Margaret was principal at Christ the King Elementary School in Des Moines (1979–87), and librarian at Sacred Heart Elementary School in Des Moines (1988–08). She was also a teacher/principal in Mason City, Iowa; Chicago; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Kansas City, Mo.

Sister Margaret was born in Des Moines on July 23, 1922, to Joseph and Ellen (Gordon) Fines. She entered the Sisters of Charity, BVM, on Nov. 19, 1940, in Chicago. She made her postulant vows on Aug. 15, 1941, and her initial vows on Feb. 2, 1942. Sister Margaret professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1944, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1949.

Memorials may be given to the Sisters of Charity, BVM Support Fund, 1100 Carmel Dr., Dubuque, Iowa 52003, or online at www.bvmcong.org/supportfund.cfm.

Nebraska doctor to expand late-term abortion practice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Less than a month after a Nebraska fetal pain law took effect, an Omaha doctor who performs late-term abortions announced plans to open new clinics in the Washington area and Iowa and to expand an existing clinic in Indiana.

The laws are more favorable in these other jurisdictions, and we’re going to do the maximum the law allows,” Dr. LeRoy Carhart told The Washington Post.

The first of the new clinics, called Carhart Centers for Sexual and Reproductive Health, is to open Dec. 6 in the Washington area, but Carhart declined to give an exact location.

The patients, when they call, will be told where to go,” he told The Post. “The ‘antis’ will find out soon enough, but I don’t want to help them. We will be subject to protests, but I’m not going to give them a head start.”

The other new clinic is to be located in Council Bluffs, Iowa, across the Missouri River from Omaha, and the expanded center is to be in Indianapolis.

University of Nebraska Medical Center President Andrew Josey said his hospital will work with Carhart’s organization “if it is clear that the law is constitutional.”

UNITED STATES — The law will take effect Oct. 15, 180 days after the end of the current legislative session. Supporters of the law had expected a legal challenge by opponents, but no lawsuit has been filed yet.

Julie Schmit-Albin, executive director of Nebraska Right to Life, said Carhart’s decision “shows that LB 1103 (the fetal pain law) was the right strategy.”

“It is interesting to us that Carhart needed to expand to three other states to replace the 1,000 abortions he did every year in Nebraska,” she said.

Seeking Retreat Director

For Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat (OLPR) near Davenport, Iowa. For OLPR information go to www.chmiowa.org. For job description contact sistersofhumility@chmiowa.org. Letter of application, resume, and 3 references to same email or mail to: OLPR Director, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, 820 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport, IA 52804. Applications dated by December 20, 2010, will be considered.
En las Tiendas Centrales

La celebración que marca el 100mo Aniversario de la Diócesis de Des Moines iniciará oficialmente en las 82 parroquias del Sudoeste de Iowa en fin de semana del 20 y 21 de Noviembre. La Diócesis se estableció oficialmente el 12 de Agosto de 1911 por el Papa San Pío X.

El centro de nuestra preparación para el Centenario ha sido el Programa de Evangelización: En Un Camino Juntos. El Papa Paulo VI en su reconocida encíclica, Evangelium Nuntiandi, establece que la Iglesia existe para evangelizar. Por lo tanto, la identidad central de la Iglesia para evangelizar. Por lo tanto, una muy merecida felicitación a Marilyn Lane y Ellen Miller quienes, apoyándose en la conducción de Monseñor Joe McDonnell, concibieron, organizaron y administraron este maravilloso evento. Estas dos mujeres recibieron el apoyo de donantes generosos, legiones de voluntarios competentes y la presencia del Espíritu quien fue fuente de vida. La conferencia inicio y concluyó con hermosas celebraciones de la Eucaristía.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Varias parroquias en la Diócesis de Des Moines planean celebrar esta festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 12 de Diciembre.

La Parroquia de St. Bernard en Osceola está planeando una comida después de la Misa en Español de mediodía y cantar las tradicionales, “Las Mañanitas.” La Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en West Des Moines planea a las 4 p.m. la Misa en Español con el grupo de infantil de danzas folklóricas Los Niños de Tepeyac a la cabeza, junto con otros niños de Sagrado Corazón Coro y una representación de la historia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe por parte de los alumnos del 5to Grado de la Escuela de Sacred Heart Los Niños de Tepeyac bailarán después de la Misa en el centro paroquial en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Ahí mismo se servirá chocolate caliente así como pan de dulce mexicano. La Basílica de Guadalupe en Des Moines celebrará la fiesta con una recepción después de una Misa a las 8 p.m. el 11 de Diciembre, incluyendo una representación de la historia de Juan Diego.

La Parroquia de St. Patrick en Lenox tendrá una novena en Lenoxtendrá una novena en Lenoxtendrá una novena en Red Oak, un evento para hacer oración, para proporcionar oraciones especiales, así como una comida comunitaria después de Misa. La Parroquia de St. Mary en Red Oak observará la fiesta con música especial en la Misa en Español regular del Domingo a la 1 p.m.

Muchas otras parroquias están planeando eventos. Aún no tenemos los detalles al momento de imprimir esta edición.

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Discover the Difference
Interpreting Scripture

The Question Corner

By
Father
John Dietzen

Q. Our parish has sponsored several Scripture classes in recent years. They have been enlightening and interesting but make some of us wonder how an ordinary person can understand what the Bible is saying without years of study.

What did people do before such classes were available? (Florida)

A. First, let’s be clear that one does not need advanced studies to read the Bible profitably. Few of the first Christians were scholars of the Scriptures, but it was for them that the word of God and the Christian message were written, and they understood that message quite well.

It’s the same with us. The Gospels and other New Testament writings, for example, are down-to-earth, and their meaning for our lives is open to anyone who reads them with faith and prayer.

On the other hand, there is much to gain from even a bit of study. Pope Pius XII, in his 1943 groundbreaking encyclical on interpreting Scripture (“Divino Afflante Spiritu”), noted that the sacred authors had their own ways of telling stories, using peculiar idioms of speech or exaggerated modes of expression and other elements common to the times they wrote.

In other words, ancient people did not always express their ideas in ways of speech we use today.

Scriptures in the form we have them today were written over many hundreds of years. For centuries before that, the stories were handed down generation after generation over the campfires, for example, or in family or civic and religious celebrations. Obviously, an enormous variety of cultures and changes of language underlie that seemingly simple book we call the Bible.

There’s no question, then, that the more we learn about those ancient realities, the better we can understand what the Bible is telling us.

We are blessed today to have unprecedented access to science that has uncovered vast information revealing how ancient people lived. All of this cast light on nearly every part of the Bible, from the stories of creation in Genesis to the parables of Jesus.