By Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

OXFORD, England (CNS) -- Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian teenager who used his computer skills to foster devotion to the Eucharist was beatified in October, offers a model of sanctity for Christians in a new era of lockdowns, a British Catholic who lived with his family said.

"What's struck me most is the exceptional simplicity of his formula for becoming a saint: attending Mass and reciting the rosary daily, confessing weekly and praying before the Blessed Sacrament," said Anna Johnstone, a professional singer and longtime friend of the teen's family.

Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15, was to be beatified Oct. 10 in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. He died in 2006 at age 15.

Beatified Italian teenager a ‘model of sanctity’

"Since April, everyone who receives food assistance has been getting the maximum possible benefit. So for some people, that's been a huge increase," Elzinga added.

A new population of individuals began using the food pantry, though, in the wake of layoffs and shutdowns. But as the economy improves, they are using it less, or not at all.

The CARES Act also meant an increase in unemployment benefits for a period of time, which could have temporarily skewed the number of people in need, he added.

Continued on page 8

Feeding the hungry

Churches and non-profits work together to feed those in need amid COVID-19

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis signed his new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, source of the document’s title and inspiration.

Pope Francis set the text on the altar under the tomb of St. Francis and signed it on Oct. 3.

Pope Francis, in his social encyclical released Oct. 4, sees the need for human fraternity as more than just an abstract concept, but as a concrete path toward peaceful coexistence in a world fraught by war, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

Cardinal Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the document shows that “fraternity is not a trend or a fashion which develops over time or at a particular time, but rather is the result of concrete acts.”

"In fact, if weapons -- and with
We must beware the tendency of our mindset that would prey on those medically activist, transgender minds. But it should not fool us of space and our own habits of slip beyond the normal limits of a mystical experience. We have with the Risen Lord in Mass and the celebration of sacraments, or in unique moments where we know God has broken into our lives in ways similar to what Mary Magdalene or the apostles experienced, from properly mystical experiences. In a mystical experience, “the human spirit is momentarily drawn aloof out of itself and perceives the reality of the divine love only to return then to the normal horizon of its existence.”

A mystical experience helps us slip beyond the normal limits of space and our own habits of mind. It should not fool us into thinking that we can disregard the God-given significance of our bodies (as occurs in the medico-therapeutic, activism, transcendent mindset that would prey on those medically activist, transgender minds). But it should not fool us into thinking that we can disregard the God-given significance of our bodies (as occurs in the medico-therapeutic, activism, transcendent mindset that would prey on those medically activist, transgender minds).

Santa Teresa de Avila, una de las cuatro mujeres doctores de la Iglesia es una de las guías más profundas que podemos consultar para aprender sobre la función de la oración y de las obras del Espíritu Santo. De hecho, me atreviera a decir que la oración es el más importante de las cuatro virtudes místicas que la Iglesia ha concedido a la Virgen María y sus deseanos. Ella ayuda a “mantenernos en la relación con el Señor Resucitado.”

She knew the need to pray in solitude, no matter whose the Church appoints as pastors, confessors, and spiritual directors. She quickly sensed which priests could discern the genuine promptings of the Holy Spirit versus the work of unholy spirits—who would infuse their flock with an imaginary or corporeal, is the only way to become mystical. A mystical attitude pits “my” experience of Jesus against the un-folding story of St. Teresa, and God’s friends discovered at upper realm of God’s self-revelation. It means to be a ‘mystic’ versus a ‘gnostic’ as briefly as I can, because I think that one of the dangerous side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that afflicts us is the rise of a sort of gnostic attitude within the church, let alone outside the company of the faithful.

The Catholic Mirror October 16, 2020

The unholy spirit pits faith against reason; in contrast to a secular gnostic that trusts only scientific knowledge to distinguish between the form of spiritual gnosticism ex pats faith to the extent that it casts good sense and the natural virtue of prudence aside. The unholy spirit urges us to be gnostics, rather than set on the path that, by God’s mercy, might lead us to become mystical. A gnostic attitude pits “my” experience of Jesus against the unfolding story of St. Teresa, and God’s friends discovered at upper realm of God’s self-revelation. It means to be a ‘mystic’ versus a ‘gnostic’ as briefly as I can, because I think that one of the dangerous side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that afflicts us is the rise of a sort of gnostic attitude within the church, let alone outside the company of the faithful.

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This month, Emily Hoffman celebrates her seventh year as a cancer survivor. Since battling cervical cancer, she has lobbied government officials for research funding, shared her patient perspective with healthcare professionals and mentored other cancer patients and survivors. During Respect Life Month, she’s being honored with the Cervivor Spark award, from the national cancer survivor group Cervivor. “The Cervivor community of cervical cancer survivors understood me like no one else did when my treatment ended and I felt so lost,” she said. “Cervivor also taught me how to share my story effectively and the importance of being a patient advocate.”

Reaching out to other survivors didn’t come quickly. It took two years from being declared cancer-free that she felt comfortable sharing her story. Every year, 13,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States and 4,000 will die from it. “I could easily have been one of those 4,000 women in 2013 at the age of 30 because I had no symptoms,” she said. “It was only by the luck of me scheduling my annual exam, like I had done every year since high school, that my cancer was found.”

Within a year, a tumor had grown on her cervix, leading to a stage two cancer diagnosis and six months of chemotherapy and radiation. “That means no more women would die from this disease or suffer the same long-term side effects from treatment that I do,” she said. “I still have days when I wish I could unload my advocacy responsibility and not be ‘the girl with cancer,’” she said. The encouragement of friends, family and the Cervivor community motivate her to keep her moving forward.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Cancer survivor advocates for others fighting for life

Emily Hoffman

This month, Emily Hoffman celebrates her seventh year as a cancer survivor. Since battling cervical cancer, she has lobbied government officials for research funding, shared her patient perspective with healthcare professionals and mentored other cancer patients and survivors. During Respect Life Month, she’s being honored with the Cervivor Spark award, from the national cancer survivor group Cervivor. “The Cervivor community of cervical cancer survivors understood me like no one else did when my treatment ended and I felt so lost,” she said. “Cervivor also taught me how to share my story effectively and the importance of being a patient advocate.”

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Within a year, a tumor had grown on her cervix, leading to a stage two cancer diagnosis and six months of chemotherapy and radiation. “If I hadn’t been scheduling routine exams, the outcome could have been very different,” Hoffman said. Now that a vaccine has been developed that could eradicate this type of cancer and five other types, she’s become a patient advocate to educate others on cancer prevention to ensure no one else has to experience what she’s gone through. “That means no more women would die from this disease or suffer the same long-term side effects from treatment that I do,” she said. “I still have days when I wish I could unload my advocacy responsibility and not be ‘the girl with cancer,’” she said. The encouragement of friends, family and the Cervivor community motivate her to keep her moving forward.
¿Mística o Gnóstica?

Continúa de la página 1

Tampoco debemos ignorer las formas en que estamos obligados a cuidar del Cuerpo de Cristo – ya sea el vecino de al lado o aquellos a quienes Dios ha encomendado como pastores y maestros. El espíritu profético nunca nos llama a ignorar los preceptos de la Iglesia, a enfrentar nuestra libertad subjetiva contra la libertad que concede la gracia y que nos viene por hacer lo que la Iglesia hace en sus prácticas de culto, profesa su fe, o pone en práctica la caridad. El Espíritu Santo en un agente de pertenencia y de unidad, contrario a la preferencia de siempre hacer las cosas a mi manera. El espíritu maligno nos tienta, como observa el Papa Francisco, a que tengamos preferencia por “un Dios sin Cristo, un Cristo sin la Iglesia, una Iglesia sin su gen- te” (ver Gaudete et exultate n. 37). El espíritu maligno enfrenta nues- tras fe contra la mía; en contraste al gnocismo secular que confía únicamente en el conocimiento científico y que desecha la fe, una forma invertida de gnocismo espiritual exalta la fe de tal forma que crea un buen sentido acopla- do del ámbito de la virtud de la prudencia.

El espíritu maligno empuja a ser gnósticos, en vez de colocarnos en el camino que, por la misericordia de Dios, nos pueda llevar a convertirnos en místicos. Una actitud gnóstica confronta “mi” experiencia de Jesús contra la reveladora histo- ria de que Santa Teresa y los amigos de Dios descubrieron a un Dios de personas que piensan igual y a quienes buscan tanto per- sonalmente como en las redes sociales cuando se nos reta a hacer sacrificios por amor, para admitir que no tenemos todas estas respuestas. Hacemos bien en escuchar respetuosamente a per- sonas con quienes no estamos de acuerdo. Sabemos que, al igual que muchos otros, necesitamos una conversión de mente y de corazón continua. No queremos ser gnósticos, menos aún au- tonombrarnos como místicos, profetas, visionarios o expertos espirituales. Seguramente Dios desea revelar su rostro a cada uno de nosotros, pero no para que nos distingamos o nos pongamos por encima de los demás. Por medio de nuestra humildad, de nuestra docilidad con los pastores de nuestra Iglesia y de los jueces. Principalmente entre ellos se encontraba San Juan de Ávila. Al revisar sus manuscritos con cariño, San Juan le escribió una carta elogiando su enseñanza sobre la oración, incluyendo su descripción de comunicaciones interiores y exteriores por par- te de Dios. San Juan descifra comunicaciones auténticas que vienen de Dios y que llegan en momentos de necesidad, que nos fortalecen en casos de tentación o de duda, o para prevenirnos de algún peligro que nos acecha. Tales favores genuinos siempre son consistentes con las Santas Escrituras y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. Pero él le advierte: “Las visiones, tanto imaginarias como corporales, son las más engañosas”, nunca debemos desearlas y debemos resistirlas activamente. “Debemos suplicar a Dios que no nos permita caminar por lo que venimos, pero que voltemos a la revelación de Él mismo y de Sus santos hasta que alcancemos el Cielo.” Debemos entonces preferir la forma ordinaria que está disponible a todo el pueblo de Dios, cultivando la humildad, porque incluso entonces se en- cenderá en nosotros nuestro amor y afecto hacia Dios, y nuestra vol- untad de tolerar los sufrimientos de nuestras vidas como signo de penitencia – es la oportunidad que se nos ha ofrecido a todos en el medio de una pandemia. Debe- mos adorar a Cristo, especialmente en el Santísimo Sacramento, más que cualquier comodidad o consuelo, incluyendo a aquellos que atienden las visiones, ya que éstos pueden ser engañados fácil- mente por el padre de la mentira, el espíritu gnóstico de las tinieblas, de las perturbaciones y de la división.

Continúa de la página 1

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Parishes in the growing Des Moines’ suburbs of Altoona and Norwalk are expanding.

“I just think when the people see the building, there’s an excitement,” Father Kir- by said. “It’s an opportunity to serve the parishioners, but also the wider community.”

The project is expect- ed to be complete in February 2021.

Expansion underway at two growing metro parishes

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Parishes in the growing Des Moines’ suburbs of Altoona and Norwalk are expanding.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Father Fitzgerald said. “The parish started a conversa- tion about it 15 years ago,” he continued. “The parish hall is not big enough, and the current hall and offices were the original 1985 building when the parish was about 200 households – now it’s about 900 households.

The parish has out- grown its current space, which is a “happy problem,” he added.

The new hall is under construction between the current social hall and faith development center.

“It will be connected to the current hall building,” Father Fitzgerald said. “There will be a walkway connecting to the Faith Development Center.”

The new $3 million, 6,000-square-foot parish hall will be used for parish gatherings, meals, socials, the Knights’ fish fry and more.

Expected completion is Easter 2021.

“It will serve the parish needs into the next generation,” Father Fitzgerald said. “This month is the parish’s 97th anni- versary.”

Father Dan Kirby, pas- tor of St. John Parish in Nor- walk, said they, too, are excited about expanding to better meet the needs of the growing com- munity.

“In the community of Norwalk housing is exploding all around us, and you de- scribe do see that the community is growing,” he said.

There are currently about 750 households who at- tend St. John.

The parish’s $3 million project includes renovating the offices, building a new day chap- el for daily Mass, small funerals, weddings and Eucharistic adora- tion, as well as building a new youth room. They will also pave a new access road for improved traffic flow and a covered drop off.

“Just when think that the people see the building, there’s an excitement,” Father Kir- by said. “It’s an opportunity to serve the parishioners, but also the wider community.”

The project is expect- ed to be complete in February 2021.

Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona (left) and St. John Parish in Norwalk (right) have construction projects underway.

Cultivating a culture of vocations

Taylor Hawkins (right) of Christ the King Parish was accepted into the novitiate for the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln. On her day of reception, she was given the name Sister Benedicita.

National Vocations Awareness Week is Nov. 1-7

National Vocations Awareness Week will be celebrated Nov. 1-7. Please pray for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God’s gift of a vocation.

Follow the Office of Vocations - Diocese of Des Moines at Facebook.com/DMVocations
Veterans reflect on service

Portsmouth veteran recalls service in Navy

by Kelly Mescher Collins

Navy veteran’s faith comes full circle

Kevin Cox

Kevin Cox lacked direction after graduating from St. Aloysius College in Council Bluffs.

“College didn’t really click with me, and so I just didn’t really have any direction...” Cox said. “I was always interested in the military...” My oldest brother was in the Navy and he told me about the Navy life and things you get to do and how there are pretty good technical fields to learn, so when you get out it would translate well, so that’s why I made the decision to join the Navy!”

While Cox is a proud veteran, the hardest part of his 28 years of service were the deployments – he did six of them. Most of that time was spent in the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield and the Global War on Terrorism.

“Basically you leave everybody and everything behind and you leave the states and you live and eat and breathe and work on the ship for six to nine months,” Cox said. “It’s something about it.”

He was stationed to the U.S. East, where he worked in the engine room as a BMG machinist mate, second class. His was the first Navy ship to have steam catapults put on at that time, so planes had a 129mph takeoff. He felt grate-ful having a Catholic priest on the ship with them.

“We had Mass every day and on Sunday they had Mass on the hanger deck,” Heller said. “The ship I was on was 942 feet long – the size of about four football fields. We had 92 planes.”

He also met a celebrity on this ship – Neil Armstrong – who was a Navy pilot.

“And he got shot down in North Korea, and our helicopt-er went over and picked him up in the ocean and brought him back to the ship,” Heller said.

Peace deal was brought to an end out of the Air Force unit that put so much pres-sure on the North Vietnamese that they went back to signing a peace deal.

“Finding time to focus on faith was difficult during his time in the military.

“It was an ordeal just to get to Mass,” Hunter said.

“Most of us were working 12 hours a day. At the time they held Mass at the end of the run-way every Saturday or Sunday.”

Mass was eventually celebrated in a 10-minute time frame.

“That’s how we did it,” Hunter said.

“Here were several Catholic priests on the base and they would take turns celebrat-ing the Masses – because the op-eration was so intense there wasn’t always time.”

Upon Hunter’s return to the states, he and his fellow service men were not welcomed home.

“I was let out at Travis Air Force base in California on a bus to the San Francisco air-port,” he said. “There was an anti-war demonstration going on and they were calling us names and somehow threw a Molotov chic bottle and it hit me in the head.”

His faith became in-creasingly important to him after his time in the military ended. It helped him deal with many of the post-traumatic stress disor-der symptoms he had after the war.

“I think what happened was the belief in God became more true for me as time went on,” Hunter said.

“And I had to learn to let go a lot of baggage of bad things that we did and that happened. It took probably the better part of 20 years to get there.”

“During his interview on Making it Personal with Bishop Joensen on Iowa Catho-lic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio network, Father Kautzky studied church felt like ‘home.’

“And for me, it was the idea that the priest is going be-tween God and man – bringing God to people through the sac-raments,” Father Kautzky con-tinued. “My uncle was certainly an inspiration, as we were a mixture of holy priests in our diocese.”

Father Kautzky was ordained in 2010 by Bishop Emeritus Richard Pates. One of his first assignments was serv-ing as a chaplain at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines.

While on a retreat he recognized God’s “call within the call.”

“The retreat center was next to the Marine base, and I kept bearing those explosions in the middle of the retreat,” he said. “And I asked the monk [what those noises were.]”

Camp Pendleton was right next door, where the Ma-rine conduct weapons training.

“And I remember see-ing those Marines and walking around town and thinking they looked like high schoolers from Dowling,” Father Kautzky said. “I wonder, ‘Who is look-ing out for them? Who is help-ing them, especially after they get out of high school?’”

Young adults fresh out of high school are facing lots life changes, opportunities and temptations as they step out on their own. He felt God calling him to be there for these young men and women serving our country.

“I was really affirmed by the number of quality stu-dents [I knew in Des Moines] going off to the military, and a lot of them are staying in touch with me. And the Lord placed that in my heart a few years ago.”

Father Kautzky is cur-rently serving in the U.S. Air Force. He went through eight weeks of training; the first two of which were basic training.

“It was really a culture shock getting up at 4 in the morning,” he said, with drill sergeants yelling at you and marching in uniform.

“We have other chaplains teaching us how to func-tion in the military as a chap-lain,” he continued. “How to be faithful to our faith background while also realizing that we’re an officer and we’re working within a pluralistic organization within the government and how to navigate some of those tricky situations.”

Father Kautzky arrived at Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, Louisiana just a few weeks ago, and he and his wife Joni be-came widespread, where he is a pastor on the on-base chapel, celebrates weekend and daily Masses and helps with parish life activities.

He also serves police officers, firefighters and active duty military and more embedded within the unit.

There is a shortage of priests serving in the military, he added, with 75,000 Catholics in the Air Force and only about 55 priests serving them worldwide.

“For me as a chaplain, I’m happiest when I’m hearing confessions of Catholics and reaching out to our airmen,” he said. “Many of them have stopped practicing their Catho-lic faith... That’s where a priest can really be helpful – bringing some of those people back and inviting them into the communi-ty – focusing on evangelization and reaching out to the Catho-lics.”

Kevin Cox

Navy veteran’s faith comes full circle

Continued on page 15

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Virtual rosary aimed to unite Catholics in ‘moment of prayer’ for nation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The USCCB host a virtual rosary event Oct. 7, which was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Des Moines Bishop William Joensen prayed the Our Father for the intentions of the Holy Father in the virtual event. “The faithful are encouraged to join in this prayerful moment of unity for our country, to seek healing and to ask Our Lady, on her feast, to pray for us and help lead us to Jesus,” according to a statement from the USCCB.

Mercy College names new academic deans

Ryan “Bud” Marr, Ph.D., is returning to Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines as its new academic dean. Kristy Irwin, director of assessment and accreditation has been named associate dean of academics.

Marr spent the last three years as the director of the National Institute for Newman Studies in Pennsylvania. In that role, he worked to promote knowledge of the life, work and influence of St. John Henry Newman.

Marr served at Mercy College from 2014-2017 first as the director of Campus Ministry, then as assistant professor of philosophy. Prior to coming to Des Moines, he served as campus minister and professor of theology at St. Louis University and as a chaplain in North Carolina. He cohosts a radio show called “UnCommon Good” on Iowa Catholic Radio with Bo Bonner, director of mission and ministry and assistant professor at Mercy College.

Marr holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Brown University, a master’s degree in theology from John Brown University and as a chaplain in North Carolina. He cohosts a radio show called “UnCommon Good” on Iowa Catholic Radio with Bo Bonner, director of mission and ministry and assistant professor at Mercy College.

Marr holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from John Brown University, a master’s degree in divinity from Duke Divinity School and a doctoral degree in historical theology from St. Louis University.

Irwin holds two Master of Science degrees from Emporia State University in educational administration, supervision, and evaluation and curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in curriculum leadership. She will be responsible for providing academic oversight for academic programs and will continue to have oversight for Mercy College’s assessment and accreditation activities.

National Association of Church Personnel Administrators names Valdez as president-elect of board of directors

Alexandria, Virginia — The National Association of Church Personnel Administrators has named Eileen Cull Valdez, director of Human Resources for the Diocese of Des Moines, as president-elect of its Board of Directors.

The announcement was made by Elizabeth Allen, director of Human Resources of the Diocese of Portland, Maine and president of NACPA’s board.

“We’re grateful to Eileen for accepting this leadership role in our association,” said Allen. “Eileen’s experience in the Diocese of Des Moines and her exceptional service on the NACPA Board of Directors are great credentials that will help the association move forward as we mark our 50th anniversary next year.”

Valdez has served the Diocese of Des Moines since 2011. As director of Human Resources, she is responsible for the operational and technical personnel duties of the HR office in the diocese. Prior to this position, Valdez was a human resources professional for 14 years with Merit Resources Inc.

NACPA represents human resource directors, finance directors, chancellors, school administrators and other Church leaders in arch/dioceses nationwide and has as its mission “to promote justice in the workplace.”

Got a story idea?

We are looking for people and stories of faith, hope and inspiration! Tell us your idea and we may feature it in an upcoming issue of The Catholic Mirror. Email Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org.
Anne Rohling will become the new president of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs beginning Nov. 2. A graduate of the school and native of Council Bluffs, she brings a wealth of business and legal acumen to the role, having guided strategic initiatives and negotiated multi-million dollar contracts for a number of Fortune 500 companies. After her time in corporate America, Rohling opened an independent legal practice in Council Bluffs, where she practiced patent law and advocated on behalf of the elderly. Her legal experience includes prosecution, business operations, regulatory compliance and litigation management.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Business Administration degree from Creighton University and Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law.

A parishioner of St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs, she has served as the director of religious education for the last few years. “Anne Rohling is steeped in the experience of Catholic education in her own life path, and in her own commitment to parish religious education,” said Joe Narmi, school board president.

For Rohling, this role is personal. “My father passed away when the eldest of my six siblings was 10 years old,” she said. “My mother sacrificed to provide all of her children with a Catholic education, each one attended parish schools and graduated from St. Albert High School.”

“This model of sacrifice and passion for St. Albert and Catholic education,” said Joe Narmi, school board president.

Anne Rohling is moved by the Spirit to embrace this great personal and professional sacrifice by making this momentous transition at this point in her career on behalf of St. Albert Catholic School and I am profoundly grateful,” he said.

Rohling will be the first female president at the cradle-to-college school.

“Anne is a tremendous addition to the strong and diverse leadership at St. Albert,” said Jeff Lenz, St. Albert Foundation president.

**St. Francis receives National Blue Ribbon designation**

St. Francis Catholic School in West Des Moines is among six Iowa schools to be named a National Blue Ribbon School this year. The elementary school was nominated for exemplary high performance. Begun in 1982, the program recognizes both public and private elementary, middle and high schools based on overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Since 2001, five diocesan schools have been named Blue Ribbon Schools: Sacred Heart in West Des Moines, 2000/2001; Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, 2003; St. Augustin in Des Moines, 2004; Holy Trinity in Des Moines, 2008; and St. Francis in 2014. Schools can reapply for the designation after five years.

At the Oct. 7 press conference, Anne Rohling was introduced as the new president of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs. Rohling attended St. Albert as a child and is the first female president.

Anne Rohling will be the new president of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs beginning Nov. 2. A graduate of the school and native of Council Bluffs, she brings a wealth of business and legal acumen to the role, having guided strategic initiatives and negotiated multi-million dollar contracts for a number of Fortune 500 companies. After her time in corporate America, Rohling opened an independent legal practice in Council Bluffs, where she practiced patent law and advocated on behalf of the elderly. Her legal experience includes prosecution, business operations, regulatory compliance and litigation management.

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Anne brings many years of experience in the business world, has very deep roots in the Council Bluffs and south-west Iowa communities, and has an abundant enthusiasm and passion for St. Albert and Catholic education,” said Joe Narmi, school board president.

For Rohling, this role is personal. “My father passed away when the eldest of my six siblings was 10 years old,” she said. “My mother sacrificed to provide all of her children with a Catholic education, each one attended parish schools and graduated from St. Albert High School.”

“This model of sacrifice and the experiences St. Albert afforded me, opened my eyes to the beauty of Catholic education and the profound desire to support and promote Catholic education in my community,” she added.

Bishop Joensen said she’s a natural leader. “I believe she is moved by the Spirit to embrace this great personal and professional sacrifice by making this momentous transition at this point in her career on behalf of St. Albert Catholic School and I am profoundly grateful,” he said.

Rohling will be the first female president at the cradle-to-college school.

“Anne is a tremendous addition to the strong and diverse leadership at St. Albert,” said Jeff Lenz, St. Albert Foundation president.

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Feeding those in need

Continued from page 1

Another factor making it difficult to determine the need is the influx of support from the community. “From the Midwest standpoint, we all want to chip in when people are down,” said Leslie Van Der Molen, poverty reduction program manager at Catholic Charities. “So when COVID-19 first hit and schools closed for the year, we saw an increase in pop-up pantries in the community through church groups and other organizations. Because of additional surplus, it was really hard to gauge the need.”

With COVID-19, mobile food pantries have become more popular.

“A trend we’ve noticed is that we are seeing less people are out at brick and mortar food pantries, but more at our mobile food pantries,” Elzinga said. “Despite the fact that our pantries implemented a drive-up, people still seem to feel more comfortable going to outdoor places to pick up food.”

In response to this concern, DMARC started a delivery program so that the processors and distributors would find a way to get food to the people who needed it most.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service quickly created the Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

By partnering with national, regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, it became possible to purchase up to $4 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products from American producers of all sizes.

The program has been supplying food boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meat products and a combination box of fresh produce, dairy or meat products. Distributors package these products into family-sized boxes, then transport them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need. Each box contains approximately 20 pounds of food which is a win on multiple levels,” Comito said. “It is a win for U.S. growers, for the companies and their employees assembling the food boxes, for the non-profits such as DMARC, and for the people in our community that need food assistance.”

To date, nearly 100 million food boxes have been distributed.
Hospitality becomes more important during pandemic

Left: Ushers Maren and Audrey Trettin welcome guests to Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines. Usher Kevin Wittrock cleans pews after Mass at St. Patrick Church in Audubon. Darrell and Nancy Wittrock enter St. Patrick Church in Audubon while their son, Kevin, holds the door open for them.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

As churches began to reopen for public worship after closing due to COVID-19, there were many more tasks to consider.

Who would encourage everyone coming to wear a mask to prevent spread of the virus?

Who would clean the church after each gathering?

Who would offer hand sanitizer and help people find the baskets where they could put their tithing gifts?

The role of ushers has changed at St. Patrick in Audubon, had been an usher at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs for about 35 years and said he has additional responsibilities as a hospitality minister since COVID-19. He and fellow ushers encourage parishioners to use masks and social distance. Ushers dismiss people from church so there isn’t a crowd at the doorway. They also spray the pews and wipe door handles.

“There is a new normal for what going to Mass looks like and it can be intimidating,” said Trettin at Sacred Heart. “It’s the usher’s job to help put people at ease and make things run as smoothly as possible so that parishioners can focus on participating in the Mass. It’s a bonus if you can put a smile on their face at the same time.”

Outdoor Mass draws a crowd

Father David Nkrumah, pastor of St. Patrick in Audubon and Holy Trinity in Exira, celebrates an outdoor Mass twice per year for parishioners. The last outdoor Mass in Audubon drew some worshippers who are vulnerable to the coronavirus and felt safer worshipping outside than in a church.

Kurt Petersen has been an usher at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs for about 35 years and said he has additional responsibilities as a hospitality minister since COVID-19. He and fellow ushers encourage parishioners to use masks and social distance. Ushers dismiss people from church so there isn’t a crowd at the doorway. They also spray the pews and wipe door handles.

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COVID-19 impacts clergy

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

For one weekend in mid-September, about 20 Des Moines metro area priests were under quarantine because they’d been near someone who had COVID-19. Among those quarantined were eight priests in active ministry and 12 priests who are retired.

Due to the fact that many priests unavailable to assist with Masses, there was a scramble to ensure that sacraments were celebrated and worship services were held. Many of the retired priests the diocese relies on to assist when a pastor is unavailable were also under quarantine.

Ultimately, the Masses were covered, there were no interruptions and the priests returned to their regularly scheduled ministries.

This served as a reminder that even ministers of the Church are vulnerable to the virus. Bishop William Joensen was among those in quarantine last month.

“I feel a little bit like I’ve been liberated from my time of self-isolation after coming into contact with one of our priests who tested positive for COVID-19,” said Bishop Joensen in video posted on social media afterward. “Thankfully, Father is doing well, has observed his own period of time before returning to his active ministry. But it reminds us how precarious our lives are.”

The bishop later added: “These experiences continue to orient us to our ultimate horizon of eternal life in Christ Jesus.”

The diocese highly recommends all those on church or Catholic school property wear a mask, observe social distancing and wash their hands frequently as a charitable means of protecting others from the spread of COVID-19.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

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The bishop later add-
The Christ Our Life Conference held Sept. 26-27 drew nearly 2,000 people in-person at Wells Fargo Arena. All attendees were required to wear face masks in common areas and observe social distancing guidelines.

Another 1,400 connections were made by viewers online. “I think it was just full of the Holy Spirit,” said co-chair Marilyn Lane of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. “I have been told so many stories…. God graced the shortcomings that COVID caused.”

“It was like everybody was so joyful to be together – being tighter as a faithful community,” said co-chair Ellen Miller, of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis. “We were also thirsting for it. We were fed and it was beautiful.”

With the new online option, parishes across the state hosted watch parties, and people joined the conference from the comfort of their homes from at least 12 countries.

“There’s a woman [I know who livestreamed the event] and she grabbed me and said, ‘I have to tell you, that was my first conference and it was the most amazing thing. I am so on fire,’” said Lane. “[My friend said] ‘I can’t imagine being there, but … I felt everything like I was there.’”

Another woman shared that while livestreaming, she turned to see her youngest child, under the age of two, kneeling in front of the television as the priests kneeled. As a result of positive feedback and the ability to reach homebound, and those with mobility issues or unable to travel, they will offer the online ticket option again for the next conference, Sept. 24-25, 2022.

Christ Our Life will be posting 2-3 minute clips from some of the best moments at this year’s conference on its Facebook page in the weeks to come at Facebook.com/ChristOurLifeIowa. Organizers started a blog, Christ Our Life Everyday, which can be found at ChristOurLifeIowa.com.

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Online option draws viewers from a dozen countries to faith conference

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

This conference attendee livestreamed from Canada.

Mary Ann Borg and Tania Attard, sisters from Malta, streamed the conference.

People attending the conference were required to wear masks in all common spaces.
Pope Francis’ encyclical letter

Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at the University of Durham, England, speaks at a press conference for the release of Pope Francis’ new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” in the synod hall at the Vatican Oct. 4. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Continued from page 1

changing not only the structure of the international community but also the dynamics of relationships within it.”

Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at the University of Durham, England, noted that “this letter has its roots in a specific interfaith encounter” and seeks to rally action in the name of the truths proclaimed by faith, beginning with the truth that all people were created by God.

“Faith is our well-spring,” she said. “It is part of how we can name and move beyond the grieving indifference of our age.”

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the encyclical.

“On behalf of the Catholic Church in the United States, I welcome the Holy Father’s new encyclical letter on human fraternity. Like ‘Laudato Si’ before it, ‘Fratelli Tutti’ is an important contribution to the Church’s rich tradition of social doctrine.”

“Pope Francis’ teaching here is profound and beautiful: God our Father has created every human being with equal sanctity and dignity, equal rights and duties, and our Creator calls us to form a single human family in which we live as brothers and sisters,” said Archbishop Gomez.

“God’s plan for humanity, the pope reminds us, has implications for every aspect of our lives — from how we treat one another in our personal relationships, to how we organize and operate our societies and economies. “In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person,” the archbishop said.
Imperfect prayer is still worth doing

October is a month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Pope Francis encouraged all of us to “rediscover the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries.” I took Pope Francis’ invitation to heart, because honestly this hasn’t been a strong devotion in my prayer life in recent years. My personal prayer time is usually filled with other things, and while I’ve always been attracted to the concept of the family rosary, with four small children at home this devotion has remained just that: a concept.

It’s not that my family doesn’t try to pray the rosary. It’s just that usually we can get through half a mystery before someone wanders off, a couple kids are fighting, someone is distracted (me as often as anyone), or there are tears. After all that struggle it is easy to feel like it’s just not worth it.

Pope Francis has reminded me, it’s worth it! Our Father receives and cherishes all our prayers, those prayed with great devotion, and those prayed while we are distracted, tired, and even at times rushed (no judgment)!

Often times at home I’ll ask my kids to participate in some chore or task around the house. And their help is always a mixed bag. They sometimes work imperfectly, or they slow me down, or I find myself acting as a referee. Yet even if I feel like I could do the job more quickly, or better, without their help, I still delight in their participation. As a father, it’s a joy to share my work with my kids, and in that time together we share our lives with each other. This is how God looks at us when we pray! It’s imperfect, certainly, and yet He invites us to participate in His work, and it is how He shares His own life with us. This month Pope Francis has reminded us that our prayers matter, and that the rosary is an especially powerful prayer, especially in times of difficulty and trial.

So no matter how often, or how imperfectly, you pray the rosary I hope you’ll join me in responding to the invitation of Pope Francis. Let us grow in this beautiful devotion, so that as we reflect on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, “we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise!”

Adam Storey is the diocesan director of Marriage and Family Life. He can be reached at astorey@dmdiocece.org or at 315-237-5056.

Faith, courage and humility

By Kelly Mescher Collins

My father, Paul Mescher, was a veteran and a proud member of the local American Legion in Carroll County. When we buried him this past May in my hometown of Halkirk, he received military honors. During the playing of Taps, the 21-gun salute and folding of the American flag that had draped his casket before presenting it to my Mom, there was not a dry eye in sight.

My sister, Lieutenant Colonel Amy Price, also served for 26 years.

I have a strong respect and admiration for our veterans and military – and really anyone who embodies truth and justice and displays bravery and conviction to do what is right – especially in the face of peer pressure, judgment or worse.

History is filled with examples of courageous people of faith.

St. Joan of Arc was a young, pious teenage girl who felt called by God to lead the French army to its victory at the Siege of Orleans over the English in the 15th century. She was eventually captured, burned at the stake at just 19 years old.

The movie Hacksaw Ridge tells the story of U.S. Army Private First Class Desmond Doss, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in World War II. Despite being mocked by his peers and pressured by superiors, he held steady to his beliefs, refusing to bear arms while serving as a medic.

World War II. Despite being mocked by his peers and pressured by superiors, he held steady to his beliefs, refusing to bear arms while serving as a medic. Without a weapon to defend himself, he still saved 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa.

And who can forget the pivotal scene in the movie Braveheart and Mel Gibson’s scenes pep talk to Scottish warriors before later screaming, “T-e-e-e-e-e-d o-m-m!” He portrayed William Wallace, considered one of Scotland’s greatest heroes and chief inspiration for Scottish resistance to King Edward in the 13th century. Wallace was eventually captured, condemned to death, hung, disemboweled, quartered and beheaded.

Most of us have never engaged in military battle. But there’s not a human on this planet who has avoided battle with the unseen enemy – the evil one.

As Dan Burke writes in his book, Spiritual Warfare and the Discernment of Spirits, “the battle is unavoidable.”

Kelly Mescher Collins’ father, Paul Mescher, was a proud veteran and received military honors at his burial earlier this year.

Marriage and Family Life

By Adam Storey

In Ephesians, St. Paul says: “For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.”

The Church offers protection and a place of retreat. The sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation, lighten our load and give us strength.

Great theologians, including St. Vincent de Paul and former soldier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, have pointed to humility as part of a strong arsenal.

“Humility and abandonment to the will of God in every moment is one of the most powerful weapons in our dispos- sals in our daily spiritual battles for peace,” Burke writes. “The reason for this is if we are humble, and we are open to whatever the Lord brings, we are thereby attached to very little, and the enemy has little room to tempt us.”

Keeping my Bible at the ready and trusting in God are key for getting through life – though none of us ever really get through it completely unscathed.

“In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” it says in Ephesians: 6: 16-17.

I regularly take up my rosary, which St. Padre Pio called “the weapon against the evils of the world today.”

I find comfort knowing faithful people have been praying the rosary for the Virgin Mary’s intercession for centuries.

In fact, Oct. 7 was the anniversary of the Holy League of 1571’s victory over the Ottoman Navy at the Battle of Lepanto, marking the entire month of Oc- tober as the month of the rosary. Catholics celebrate Oct. 7 at the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (formerly known as Our Lady of Victory). A song by my favorite Christian band, Red Collective, sums up my approach. “When I stand accused by my regrets, and the devil roars its empty threats, I will preach the Gospel to myself, that I am not a man condemned – for Jesus Christ is my defense.” “When the doubt and shame hang over me… like the arrows of the enemy. I will run again to Calvary – that rugged hill of hell’s defeat – my fortress and my victory.” (Red Collective, Nailed to the Cross, off the album, Good News)

Kelly Mescher Collins is multimedia journalist for the Diocese of Des Moines. She can be reached at kmescher@dmdiocece.org.

OPINION
The Catholic Mirror October 16, 2020

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Q. Did God really create the universe in seven days?
A. Almost certainly not. The story of creation is meant to indicate that God is at the very beginning of the universe. It’s not intended to solve geologi- cal or astronomical or his- torical issues. In fact, in the book of Genesis, there are two stories of creation. One is in chapter one; the other in chapter two. Look it up to see the differences. For early be- lievers, these stories helped to form a people of faith in a God who loved them and cared for them from the very start.

Q. How does the religious history of the world and the scientific history of the world match up?
A. We are constantly learning more. Every generation adds to our knowledge in many subjects. Religion and science are not rivals for our votes. A crazy comparison might ask how does mathe- matics influence language? It doesn’t. Science offers us insights into space, medi- cine, astronomy, and chemis- try. Religion attempts to con- nect us with God and with one another. Prayer and worship don’t preclude the advances in science. Rather, science often assists us in helping one another to live more complete and more loving lives.

Q. If you go to purgatory, then how do people go to hell?
A. Oh my. We hope that that’s the case with the earth, imagine how much more mind-boggling is trying to conceptualize heaven or hell or purgatory. We think of heaven as “up” and hell as “down,” but those terms really don’t work when we know the earth is not flat. Heavy stuff, eh?

Q. Is our life determined be- fore we are born?
A. No. Some things are determined: where we are born, what language we speak, what kind of educa- tion we are lucky enough to receive, what color our eyes and hair and skin are. But we also believe that we have free will to make decisions about our lives. We’d like to think that we are COM- PLETELY free, but we know our lives would be very dif- ferent if we grew up in a differ- ent country with different parents and a different kind of government and a different language. Even our DNA de- terms if we are susceptible to certain diseases or other conditions. We are free in many ways, but not in every way.

Q. Does God know what I am going to do – does he know what path I am going to take already?
A. Well, it’s a fair enough question, but we simply don’t know. Take a few min- utes when you get a chance, and take the bible off your bookshelf. Turn to the book of Psalms and look at Psalm eight. It’s not very long, but it will give you a look at how small our understanding is of the magnitude of God.

Got a question for “Ask a Priest” and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to com- munications@dmdioce.org.

We welcome Letters to the Editor

The Catholic Mirror welcomes Letters to the Editor written by parishioners of the Diocese of Des Moines. Letters should pertain to issues of faith. Please keep letters to 300 words or less. Send to communications@dmdioce.org or The Catholic Mirror

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The Hidden Face of Evil

By Father Ron Rolheiser

We tend to be naïve about evil, at least as to what it looks like in everyday life. Our pic- ture of evil has been falsely shaped by images taken from mythology, religious cults, and from books and movies that portray evil as personi- fied in sinister spiritual forces. Demons haunt houses, appear at séances, are summoned up by Ouija boards, comfort bodies, and are exorcised by the sprinkling of holy water. Whatever evil does reside inside this concept of demonic forces (and you can believe in them or not) is not indefinitely eclipsed by the ordinary face of evil which looks out at us from newscasts, is daily manifest in or- dinary life, and is manifest too in our own face on a given day.

Mostly we are blind to the hidden evil that foments inside us, tears communities apart, and eats away at God and goodness. The Gospels can help us understand this.

In the Gospels, the evil one has two names because evil works in two ways. Some- times the Gospels call the evil force “the Devil” and other times they call it “Satan”. What’s the difference? In the end they both refer to the same force (or person) but the different names refer to the different ways in which evil works. Devil, in Greek, means to slander and to tear things apart. Ironically, Satan means almost the exact oppos- ite. It means to unite things, but in a sick and malevolent way.

So evil works in two ways: the devilish works by dividing us from each other, tearing us apart, and having us habitually slander each oth- er so that community is forever being torn apart through jealousy and accusation. The satanic, on the other hand, does the opposite, with the same result. The satanic unites us in a sick way, that is, through the grip of mob-hysteria, social hype, self-serving ideologies, racism, sexism, envy, ha- téred and in a myriad of other malevolent ways so as to draw us into mob-hated, gang-rapes, lynch- ings, and crucifixions. It was satanic forces that engineered Jesus’ crucifixion.

When we look at our world today, from politics to social media to what’s happening in- side our families, communities, neighborhoods, cities, and countries. Factionalism, anger, bit- terness, distrust, accusation, and hatred are in- tensifying most everywhere, even inside our own families where we are finding it harder and hard- er to sit down together, be civil with each other, and talk through our political, social, and moral differences. Sadly, even the deadly presence of a pandemic which threatens all of us has worked to divide rather than unite us.

Where do we see the satanic at work?

Basically everywhere. Today, most everywhere, you see people sowing division, attributing false motives to others, calling for them to be distrust- ed and ostracized. Indeed, this is almost the dom- inant element we see in our politics and in our social media. The result is the breakdown of com- munity, the stalemate in our politics, the break- down of civility, the loss of trust in the meaning of truth, the smug belief that our own idiosyncrat- ic narrative functions as truth, and the near uni- versal neglect of elemental charity. Today we are witnessing a dangerous breakdown of trust and civility, coupled with a massive erosion of simple honesty. The devil must be smiling.

Where do we see the satanic at work? Everywhere as well. More and more we are re- treating into tribes, gangs, with those others who think like us and have the same self-interests to protect. While this can be a good thing, it’s not good when we unite in ways that are rooted in self-serving ideologies, economic privilege, rac- ism, sexism, false nationalism, envy, and hatred. When this happens, our group ceases being a community and becomes instead a mob, a sick one, which at the end of the day, whatever its particular idiosyncratic slogan, ends up chanting as did the crowds on Good Friday, “Cru-ciﬁy him! Cru-ciﬁy him!” It’s signiﬁcant that in the Gospels almost every time the word “crowd” is used it’s used pejoratively. Commentators tell us that al- most without exception every time the word “crowd” appears in the Gospels it could be pre- ceded by the adjective “mindless.” Crowds are mindless, sick, and generally understanding bent towards crucifixion. The renowned Czech novelist Milan Kundera highlights this when he shares his strong fear of “the great march,” the sick fever that so generally infects a crowd and, soon enough, has them chanting “Release to us Barabbas! And as for Jesus, crucify him!” This is the face of satan in ordinary life, the actual face of evil.

We need to name this today as we see the ever-intensifying and bitter polarization in- side our families, communities, neighborhoods, cities, and countries. Factionalism, anger, bit- terness, distrust, accusation, and hatred are in- tensifying most everywhere, even inside our own families where we are finding it harder and hard- er to sit down together, be civil with each other, and talk through our political, social, and moral differences. Sadly, even the deadly presence of a pandemic which threatens all of us has worked to divide rather than unite us.

Evil doesn’t ordinarily have the face and feel of the devil in Rosemary’s Baby; it has the face and feel of this evening’s newscast.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author; is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted through his website ronrolheiser.com.
Sister Jean M. (Jean Francis) Byrne, BVM died Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Caritas Center in Dubuque, Iowa. She was 94.

She was born on Nov. 13, 1925, in Chicago and entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation Sept. 8, 1943, from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Chicago. She professed first vows on March 19, 1946, and final vows on Aug. 8, 1950.

Sister Jean ministered as a secondary teacher at St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines and Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines. She was an elementary teacher at St. Patrick, Imogene, 1959-1966. She also served in Minne- sota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Nebraska and Kentucky. The funeral Mass was held at the Dominican motherhouse, Sinsinawa, Sept. 4, fol- lowed by burial of the cremains in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Born in 1927 in Urbana, Illinois, Sister Baptiste made her first religious profession as a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa in 1947. She taught in Montana and Illinois. Sister Baptiste received her BA in education from George Peabody Col- lege in 1962. She completed a corporate ministry program at St. Louis University in St. Louis.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Baptiste taught at St. Joseph School in Des Moines (1960-62). She was teacher and assistant principal at St. Pius X in Urbandale (1967-69); principal at St. Pius X (1969-71), St. Al- bany (1975-77) and St. Anthony in Des Moines (1977-81). She also served schools in Iowa in Congrove, Okoboji, Oskaloosa, Centerville, Davenport, Albion, Clinton and Musca- tine. She served a school in Min- neapolis and Benton, Missouri as well.

Sister Kathleen’s parish ministry found her in Des Moines, Iowa, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. In the Des Moines Diocese, she served Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton and St. Fran- cis Parish in Corydon (2003-08).

From 2008-2010 Sister Kathleen served as the CHM co-ordinator at Bishop Drummond Care Center in Johnston. She current- ly lives in Davenport at the Hu- mility of Mary Center where she works with Sister Rosie Restelli as ascetic, volunteers for the CHMs and visits immediate fam- ily members who suffer serious health issues.

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Sister Catherine (Ra- mona Marie) Linnenkamp was born in Sigourney, Iowa, in 1938 and entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963.

Sister Catherine received her associate’s degree in education from Ottumwa Heights College, a BA in educa- tion from Marycrest College in Davenport and an MA in educa- tion from George Peabody Col- lege for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her ministry of teaching in Iowa found her at St. Anthony School in Des Moines (1967-68). She also taught in Ottumwa, Albia and Bettendorf. She served as principal in Albia and two schools in Davenport.

Her ministry as assistant registrar at Marycrest College began in 1986. She then became registrar at Teikyo/Marycrest University.

Changing ministries in 2000, she worked in health infor- mation management at Genesis Medical Center in Davenport. Currently Sister Kathleen lives in Davenport and serves as the CHM finance clerk at Humility of Mary Center.

***

Sister Rosalind (Ma- rio) Restelli was born in 1942 in Great Falls, Montana, and entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963.

She received an associate degree in teaching from Ottumwa Heights College in Ottumwa, Iowa, and a BA in el- ementary education from Mary- crest College in Davenport. Her ministry of education found her at schools in Iowa in Marshall- town and Bettendorf. In the Dio- cese of Des Moines, she St. Pius X in Des Urbandale (1965-66) and St. Joseph School in Noela (1977-90 and 1991-94). She also taught in Wahiaha, Hawaii.

Sister Rosalind also served as a pastoral minister at St. Patrick Parish in Neola start- ing in 1994 until retirement. She was the last Sister of Humility to serve in Neola, having min- istered there for 37 years. Sister Rosalind now lives at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport where she is a sacristan.

***

Sister Johanna (Mary- ane) Rick was born in 1942 in Glendive, Montana, and en- tered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963. She received her asso- ciate degree in education from
Face mask deemed expression of faith that deepens safety precaution

It’s all black with a small white patch at the center top of the cloth, resembling the white collar on the black clerical garb most priests wear. The “cleric” mask elicits laughter, stares, double takes and curiosity, Father Lewis told Catholic News Service during a recent interview.

“I wear it proudly, not only for the shock value and because it’s funny,” he said. “It also symbolizes something that should be on full display. Wearing the mask can be a spiritual work of mercy.”

Chief’s star kicker: Catholic faith, family are priority

For the past three years, Butker’s impact on the football field is tremendous. As the kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, he was a vital component in the team’s victory in Super Bowl LIV.

But the morning after the game, as he told the attendees at the Knights of Columbus 55th annual College Councils Conference, he still had to take out the garbage.

This simple act was a humbling reminder of what we, as a society, are able to do on top of the football world.

“Outside of the bright lights of the stadium, with the fans and the notoriety that come with being an NFL player, the greatest impact that I will make with my time on this earth is remaining dedicated to my primary vocation — helping my family get to heaven,” he said.

Butker, a member of the Knights of Columbus who joined while a student-athlete at Georgia Tech, challenged College Knights to make an impact on their communities and college campuses by “showing by our actions what a Christ-centered life looks like put into practice.”

Pope Francis addresses United Nations

Pope Francis asked members of the United Nations how they think they can respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and build a more peaceful, more just world when many of their countries spend billions of dollars on military weapons and when their treatment of the unborn, of refugees and of women shows so little respect for human life.

“We must ask ourselves if the principal threats to peace and security — poverty, epidemics, terrorism and so many others — can effectively be countered when the arms race, including nuclear weapons, continues to squander precious resources that could better be used to benefit the integral development of peoples and protect the natural environment,” the pope said in his video address, which was broadcast Sept. 25 during a virtual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.N. is celebrating its 75th anniversary. On the fifth anniversary of his visit to the U.N. headquarters in New York, Pope Francis returned to themes he has repeated since the COVID-19 pandemic began: Humility faces a choice between trying to go back to an often unjust “normal” or taking the opportunity to rethink economic and political policies, putting the good of all people and the environment ahead of concern for maintaining the lifestyles of wealthy individuals and nations. The pope spoke in Spanish; a Vatican translation of his speech follows, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

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Congregation of the Humility of Mary Jubilarians

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Venerables in service

Corning native on Army service

Lynn Schafroth of St. Patrick Parish in Corning joined the Army National Guard as a senior in high school. After training, he was a platoon leader at the Red Oak Army Armory before training Vienamese officers in Ft. Benning, Georgia. Schafroth’s Catholic faith is extremely important to him, and he has made point of giving back.

He and wife, Linda, helped lead the Teens Encoun- ter Christ 3-day weekend at St. Thomas Moore Center 23 times. He helped lead a program called Quest for freshman and sopho- mores, and has also served on the National Catholic Youth Conference three separate times. He and Linda were also involved in marriage preparation, and have met with 25 engaged couples over the years.

Lynn Schafroth was raised in the military and wanted to be near his mother’s hometown when he could. As the youngest of 12, he was the logical choice,” Schafroth said.

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Miracle Approved! Father McGivney to be Beatified!

Rome – The Vatican today (May 27) announced that Pope Francis approved the promotion of a miracle attributed to the intercession of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, a Connecticut priest who served his flock during the pandemic of 1890, before he fell ill and died of pneumonia.

The pope’s action means that Father McGivney can be declared “Blessed,” the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney’s intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

“Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action,” Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. “He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1890s.

Father McGivney also remains an important role model for parish priests around the world and left us a transformative legacy of effective cooperation between the laity and clergy.

Father McGivney spent his entire priesthood in parish ministry and died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890—two days after his 38th birthday—after falling ill during a pandemic. Recent scientific evidence indicates that that pandemic—like the current one—may have been caused by a coronavirus.

Known by his contemporaries for his devotion to the faith and an embodiment of the characteristics of the “Good Samaritan,” his cause for sainthood was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997. St. John Paul II—who was pope at that time—lauded Father McGivney’s principles, stating in 2003, “In fidelity to the vision of father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of bring about the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth.”

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