Men: Get out of the house and connect with other guys
Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference is Saturday, March 30 in West Des Moines

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Men – mark your calendar for an event created just for you.

The seventh annual Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference will be March 30 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

This year’s theme is “Glorify the Lord by Your Life,” said conference coordinator and event emcee Deacon Tom Bradley, of St. Mary of Nazareth Parish.

The conference runs from 9 a.m-3 p.m. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Catholic author, speaker and co-host of EWTN’s “Morning Glory,” will be giving two talks.

“The first talk is about encountering Christ….” Deacon Burke-Sivers said. “[The second talk] focuses on Ephesians Chapter 4.

A memorial service will be Feb. 24 from 3-5 p.m. at the chapel at the Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston.

Jesuit Father Gene Merz, a co-founder of Emmaus House, died at age 87

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Father Gene Merz entered the Jesuits in 1948, professing final vows at Emmaus House in Des Moines in 1977.

After his studies, he served at St. Francis Mission in South Dakota and taught theology at a high school in Wisconsin before becoming a spiritual director.

In 1974, he moved to Des Moines where, with Father Gary Brophy, he created Emmaus House to offer spiritual direction, retreats, and counseling.

Father Merz served in Des Moines until 1979, when he became a master of novices for Emmaus.
Do we need Jesus?

By Bishop Richard Pates

Central to the vision, The New Moment is Jesus. He is the center of history. He is the Father’s revelation of love. He provides the guideposts to our ultimate destiny of salvation.

On the personal level with each of us, he is the source of peace. It is the assurance of his unfailing companionship that we manage the disappointments, the struggles, the complexities of life. At the same time, rooted in a mutual relationship, he sparks the joy, the hope that emerges as we embrace the revelation that constantly unfolds before us in the Gospel. We recognize how essential his presence is at all moments. We do need Jesus.

This same dependent spirit generated in Jesus engages the immediate circle we associate with. We are encouraged by the support and sacrifice of those who constitute our personal community. When we are sick or in trouble, their compassion, their selflessness and outreach in true human solidarity touch us deeply. We need these friends because they point the way to that which is truly meaningful. Through them, we come to see ourselves as related together in faith with them, we build God’s kingdom. We do need Jesus.

In the broader community eventually expanding to embrace the entirety of the human family, we benefit from the vision that comes from the teaching of Jesus – that which recognizes each individual as created in the image and likeness of God. All are our brothers and sisters requiring assurance of their life and dignity.

Within the social fabric so many of the “signs of the times” are discouraging:

• How many of our fellow humans suffer from hunger, exploitation, violence, corruption, extreme poverty?

• So many of our school children live in fear and uncertainty caused by the availability of weapons to those who would inflict pain on others.

• Traced to the very roots of our country, the plague of racism remains to be overcome. We are yet called to fully implement the truth of the founding documents of our country and its ongoing legislation. We assert the fact that all people are equal. Our consciences, hearts and minds have yet to fully actualize this reality.

• 90% of the world’s scientists attest that there is climate change owing to human behavior. An epidemic of universal suffocation is now anticipated within decades, if the present activity remains unabated.

• As we reflect on these and other signs of the times, it seems ever so evident! We do need Jesus!

Very recently, the signs of the times have become even more distressing. In response to the liberalizing abortion legislation recently enacted by the New York State legislature and signed into law by Governor Cuomo, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York wrote: “I am thinking of, for example, the ghoulish radical abortion bill . . . this chilling law, if you have not heard, insists on the demand for an abortion up to the moment of birth, drops all charges against an abortionist who allows an aborted baby, who somehow survived the scissors, scalpels, saline and disembowelment, to die before his/her eyes; mandates that to make an abortion more convenient and easy, a physician need not perform . . .”

No longer does there exist a so-called justifying argument of a certain time in gestation as to when life begins. In fact, all of us began our journey of life at conception. Moreover, around every corner in the United States there are lines of loving couples eagerly desiring to open their homes to adoption. There will never be a shortage. Light conquers darkness. Life overcomes death.

No one, neither Bishop Pates nor Governor Cuomo, has the power to legislate the death of a vulnerable human being depriving that individual of the foundational human right: The right to life.

Do we need Jesus?

Bishop’s Schedule

Friday, February 15
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Des Moines – Confirmation and reception, St. Joseph Parish, 7 p.m.

The Catholic Mirror

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The New Moment
OFFICIAL

Effective February 28, 2019

Father Guthrie Dolan – from Pastor, St. Joseph, Earlville and St. Peter, Defiance to Associate Pastor of St. Anthony, Des Moines.

Father Dan Gehler – from Parochial Vicar of St. Anthony, Des Moines to Pastor, St. Joseph, Earlville and St. Peter, Defiance.

By Bishop Richard Pates

Friday, March 1
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 2
Audubon – Confirmation, reception, St. Patrick Parish, Audubon and Holy Trinity Parish, Extra, St. Patrick Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 3
Woodbine – Confirmation, Sacred Heart Parish, 9 a.m.

Dunlap – Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, 11 a.m.

Harlan – Confirmation, reception, for St. Joseph Parish, Earlville, St. Peter Parish, Defiance, St. Michael Parish, Harlan, St. Mary Parish, Portsmouth, and St. Boniface Parish, Westphalia at St. Michael Parish, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6
Des Moines – Ash Wednesday Service, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, March 7
Des Moines – Catholic Elementary School Strategic Planning, Pastoral Center, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 9
Panora – Mass with Confirmation candidates, St. Thomas More Center, 3:30 p.m.

Council Bluffs – Rite of Election, Corpus Christi – Queen of Apostles Life, 7 p.m.


At the heart of the Christian tradition is love. Jesus clearly assured us: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.” (John 15:9). This attribute is further extended: “I will command you: love one another.” (John 17)

This love has an objective dimension insofar as civil governing. The standard for such is based on truth, justice and peace. As Gov. Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Gregg take on the executive reigns of Iowa government may they lead in such a way that government is transparent with the outcome that trust is built on every level of society; . . . in justice embodying the unbending teaching that all people are equal. They stand before God as children and with us as brothers and sisters. May all injustice and inequality be erased within the Iowa family; . . . in peace quashing debilitating fear so widespread today because of the presence of evil and the exercise of self-serving dominance.

Christian love is also experienced on the level of the individual person. May the Governor and Lieutenant Governor work to establish community that is anchored in the human reality that we all have need. Because of this universal condition, we benefit from compassion, mercy, kindness and understanding. So very often a second chance is called for in order to take hold of the strength and discipline that lies hidden within each person.

Tonight Gov. Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Gregg, we wish you only the best as you undertake the governing of the State of Iowa. May love and its roots in Christianity be a vision which guides you.

And so we pray:

O God, your message through Jesus is one of love intended to be carried out by his disciples in their particular vocation. Tonight we come to seek your blessing on Governor Reynolds and Lieutenant Governor Greg Gregg as they respond to your calling expressed through electoral voices.

May their service be characterized by Christian love, exercised on behalf of your children, O God, all of whom are our brothers and sisters in the human family.

Amen.
the excellence we all worked so hard to earn.”

Catholic Schools Week celebrated

Bishop Richard Pates celebrated Catholic Schools Week with Mass (top picture) at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines on Jan. 29 and St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs on Jan. 31. Pictured above are St. Albert School students Maddie Moody, Michael Rosloniec, Rowan High-Horse, Mila Gaul, Brock Markel and McKenna White.

Catholic educator retires after 47-year career

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

After 47 years in Catholic education, 32 of them at St. Augustin Catholic School in Des Moines, Dr. Nancy Dowdle has decided that when the school year ends, she will begin a new phase of her life in retirement.

“There is a time for everything,” she said in a letter to the St. Augustin Board of Education. “I leave with a heavy heart, but I know too, that I will remember forever not what I gave to St. Augustin School, but what St. Augustin School gave to me.”

Raised in Council Bluffs and a graduate of St. Albert Catholic Schools, she earned her bachelor’s degree in music from Clarke University in Dubuque and taught music for a while. She earned her master’s degree and doctoral degree at Loyola University in Chicago. She worked as a counselor before coming to Des Moines to work at St. Augustin.

“I came to Des Moines in June 1987 with no experience as a principal. I had not been in an elementary school since I left one in 1963. I had to take classes at Drake in the evenings/summer to be certified,” she wrote.

It didn’t take her long, with seasoned office staff, to be up and running. During her time as principal, the school saw growth in enrollment and academics. A new school was built and, she said, great, experienced teachers educated the students.

Father Christopher Pisut, pastor of St. Augustin Parish, has appreciated her experience and strengths.

“She has no doubt left her mark on St. Augustin School, and the parish as a whole, with her steadfast leadership, which has helped to grow the school and make it a model of academic excellence,” he said in a letter to the parish. “While we will no doubt miss her, we thank her for all she has done and wish her well as she embarks on this new phase of her life that she has no doubt earned.”

Diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bondy describes Dowdle as an icon. The Dowdle family has been a mainstay in Catholic education in Des Moines. Dr. Dowdle’s husband, Dr. Jim Dowdle, retired from 29 years as principal at Dowling Catholic High School three years ago and last spring retired from teaching there part time. They have a daughter who serves at Dowling Catholic.

School board president Christy Sullivan said it will be hard to imagine the school without its longtime principal.

“For 32 years, she has practiced her faith and inspired her staff,” Sullivan said. “She has held her students and faculty to the highest standards and supported them tirelessly when they faced challenges. She has listened to countless parents and adapted to changing times.”

Dowdle leaves the school with hope for the future: “With your continued strong support, I know that the next principal will be able to continue the excellence we all worked so hard to earn.”

Schools summit concludes initial strategic planning phase

The diocesan Catholic Schools Strategic Planning Blue Ribbon Task Force invites the public to a summit on March 7 at which the results and recommendations of a study will be shared.

Pastors, pastoral leaders, principals, board of education members and those interested in improving the diocese’s schools are invited to the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave. for the summit from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

“For the past 15 months, many people have been involved in forming a strategic plan for our diocese,” said Bishop Richard Pates in a letter to leadership at the schools. “Data analysis, interviews, planning committee work and discussions at many levels have been taking place. We have now reached a place where a draft of the plan is ready for a wider consultation that involves all our Catholic school leaders.”

In the last year, representatives of Meitler Consulting have visited all 17 diocesan schools, examined demographic, finance and enrollment data and talked with parents, educators and school leadership.

Following the conclusion of this initial phase, work will begin on implementing the vision of the strategic plan. Breakout sessions at the summit will focus on making disciples, financial viability and funding models, and enrollment management for the schools.

Bishop’s Schedule

Continued from page 2

Sunday, March 10
Des Moines – Rite of Election, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12
Atlantic – Priests’ Study Day, St. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 13
Des Moines – Bilingual Andrew Dimière, Christ the King Parish, 5 p.m.

Thursday, March 14
Des Moines – Vocation Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

Des Moines – The New Moment, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.

Des Moines – Priests’ Study Day, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Atlantic

– Rite of Election, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.

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Passing on faith is like apprenticeship

By Adam Storey

My wife didn’t ask Gabriel to study cookbooks or memorize recipes, she invited him to participate in something that brought her joy.

Parents are the primary evangelists and catechists of our children, and to me the best image of passing on the faith is one of apprenticeship.

It’s about parents living out their faith passionately, in their devotions, in acts of service, and wrestling with hard truths. And then it’s as simple as inviting your children into that, to see your joy and to experience it.

Through these experiences the faith becomes more than a concept, it becomes a lived reality, a personal encounter with Jesus that can change our lives.

Practicing this apprenticeship of faith formation is relevant for adult children as it is for small children. There is never a time when we can’t share the joy of our faith with our family.

It’s important to remember that our children are also free and that we can’t always see the grace of God acting in someone’s life. We can’t force our children to embrace our faith. What we can do, by the grace of God, is be transformed ourselves. We can grow in intimacy with God, and love of him, and we can invite others to participate in that relationship.

Adam Storey is the diocesan director of Marriage & Family Life. He can be reached at 515-237-3056 or astorey@ddiocese.org.

Guest Column

Patty Mayer is the director of Adult Faith Formation at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny. Her reflections are invited him to participate in something that brought her joy.

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Adventure by Catholic terms: ‘You were made for greatness’

By Christina Capecchi

Twenty Something

When the year is over, they’re determined to apply their lessons from the road. They plan to do a homeschool hybrid — two days at a local charter school and three days at home — rather than the traditional school their son had attended. They vow to camp monthly to continue the intense family bonding begun in their RV. And they pledge not to overcommit, to do mission work. One man felt called to Costa Rica with their baby and the other to Patagonia. He’d just been at a party down to the bottom of South America to take in Patagonia. He’d just been at a party where they were swapping definitions of adventure, Stephen told me. For him, it involved the new, “going into the unknown.” I’ll be following his travels through Instagram while putting up days after he hits the road, I’ll be going into labor.

A sense of peace washed over me as I listened to Stephen. I know my next adventure ordained by God is about to begin, and though mine centers on a rocking chair and a dimmed nursery, it is no less thrilling. What greater adventure could there be than raising a child?

I felt happy for both of us, thinking in that space beyond comparison, where you see how unique and worthy each path is and would never hold them up together.

That night I Googled quotes on adventure for the back of the magazine, circling around words from Helen Keller and the ever-quotable G.K. Chesterton. Suddenly the answer flashed in my mind: a statement from Pope Benedict XVI: “The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

That’s the true meaning of adventure, whether you’re in Patagonia or in pajamas at home: the times you push beyond comfort to achieve your greatness designed by God.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Where is God during a crisis of faith?

By Patty Mayer

Fifteen years ago I went through a crisis of faith.

In less than six months I had suffered multiple deaths including my father, a colleague and a client.

My son’s love of baking got me thinking about how this quality first grew in his heart. Since he was two, he’d often be found standing on a chair next to my wife, helping her mix ingredients in a bowl, or roll out dough, or (Lord help us) crack eggs.

He’s seen recipes go wrong, and

My wife is a tremendous cook and host, and I’m happy to say that I can already see those gifts flourishing in my son, Gabriel.

Just last weekend we were having friends over, and Saturday morning Gabriel passionately exclaimed, pumping his fist, “Get ready dad! Today we’re going to bake! Bake! BAKE!”

I’m not a baker, but since I get to enjoy the fruits of this work, I gave my wholehearted assent.

As my friend began to proclaim one, I went into Mass on Sunday to sing with the choir.

As I kicked around cover lines for the story, I considered phrases like “leap of faith” and “bold journey.” But one word felt most apt, dindiuing in any paraphrase: adventure.

Somehow it contains both courage and motion, stretching long like an open highway and propelled by the v.

Webster’s defines it as “an exciting or remarkable experience” and “an undertaking usually involving danger.”

It originates from the colloquial Latin word adventura, “what must happen,” which conjures a sense of destiny — the thing with burning urgency that can no longer be delayed or denied.

That evening my friend Stephen came over to discuss the epic road trip he was about to begin: driving from Minnesota down to the bottom of South America to take in Patagonia. He’d just been at a party where they were swapping definitions of adventure, Stephen told me. For him, it involved the new, “going into the unknown.”

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Opinion

Through these experiences the faith becomes more than a concept, it becomes a lived reality, a personal encounter with Jesus that can change our lives. Practicing this apprenticeship of faith formation is relevant for adult children as it is for small children. There is never a time when we can’t share the joy of our faith with our family.

It’s important to remember that our children are also free and that we can’t always see the grace of God acting in someone’s life. We can’t force our children to embrace our faith. What we can do, by the grace of God, is be transformed ourselves. We can grow in intimacy with God, and love of him, and we can invite others to participate in that relationship.

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Ask a Priest

Q. We were taught in grade school that even though a Catholic may have confessed a serious sin and completed the penance given by the priest in confession, in terms of God's justice additional punishment for the committed sin, called temporal punishment, might be required of the individual in purgatory. Now does the Church still teach this? And that a plenary indulgence if gained either lessens or removes the purification required of that soul in purgatory? Could you explain what a plenary indulgence is and how is one gained? -Jolene, Harlan, IA

A. Bishop. Lots of ground to cover in your question. Indulgences were not a part of the Church's teaching history up to the 15th century, with the early Church's discussions around the early formation of the 1500s. At that time, it appeared to some - and they may well have been correct - that indulgences were being sold. Clearly, this was a terrible abuse. The Catechism of the Catholic Church devotes only a few pages to the subject of indulgences, paragraphs 1471-1479 and 1498. You might want to check the Catechism to see if you find it helpful. The Catechism is available free online through the U.S. Bishop's Conference website: usccb.org.

Got a question for "Ask a Priest" and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send us an email to communications@dmdioce.org.

Two from Des Moines diocese attend CFM board meeting

Rick and Sandy Hoenig, of St. Joseph Parish in Winterset, recently attended the winter board meeting for the Christian Family Movement held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. C FM is an international organization that helps individuals attend their parishes of Immaculate Conception and religious who join us this morning, to the priests, deacons, seminarians places who grace us with your presence, to the many friends from many countries, to the many friends from many places who grace us with your presence, to the priests, deacons, seminarians and religious who join us this morning, especially to Bishop (Richard) Pates and (Joseph) Sullivan, and to our fellow parishes of Immaculate Conception St. Marys (this is after all, as I told Lyle & Lesa when we planned this funeral liturgy, this is a St. Marys show-on-the-road), to all of you, thank you for being here.

Your presence is a comfort to Mom, my sisters, and I, and it truly hurts my heart.

I’ve been asked what a son would say about his Dad from the pulpits. After assuring a few of the family that I wouldn’t collapse up here-and-true to be told. Mass would go on if I did (after all, this sermon’s typed and all these gentlemen up here can read), the joyful reality of Catholic preying set in: I do not have to make up the message. Sacred Scripture and tradition have done that for us. In the readings today Mom and the girls chose could not have been better.

It’s a simple message really: love conquers all. Love lasts. Death does not have the final word. As Catholics and Christians, we know that we can hope in eternal life and the life of love of Jesus Christ.

In times such as these, in moments when God is present with us, God is with us, as we have sent these last days any more than he wills toward us to destroy houses, floods to wash out crops, or United Airlines to lose Dad’s luggage in what he thought was a simple return trip from Tel Aviv to Des Moines by way of a 24-hour meeting in Los Angeles with a layover in New York. No. God did not will this or any other tragedy.

In what, then, are we to place our faith? I think our faith lies precisely in God’s compassion. Remember, compassion literally means “to suffer together.” We do not have a God who stood outside his creation and watched us suffer such painful tragedies. Rather, we have a God who stepped right into the midst of his own creation, took on flesh, walked among us, living the very life we live.

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, we remember that baby who was born in the manger in order to open the door for lower-income students.

Abortion

A proposed amendment to make our state Constitution “abortion-neutral,” Senate Joint Resolution 9, passed a Senate subcommittee last week.

This past summer, the Iowa Supreme Court discovered a fundamental right to an abortion in the state Constitution. Now and in the future, a “strict scrutiny” standard will be applied to any regulation of abortion or efforts to restrict its public funding.

The ICC testified in support of the amendment. Without this change, abortion will remain a fundamental right in Iowa if ever Roe v. Wade is struck down or if federal law is modified.

The ICC encourages Iowans to contact their senators for support, particularly if he or she is a member of the Senate State Government Committee. A version of this amendment was introduced in the Iowa House as House Joint Resolution 5.

Religious Liberty

The ICC supports a bill to protect the free speech and religious liberty of students on the campuses of Iowa’s public universities.

Senate Study Bill 1099 passed a Senate subcommittee and was scheduled to be considered by the Senate Education Committee last week. The bill would allow student groups (including religious ones) to choose their leadership in alignment with their belief and conduct standards.

In a related matter, the University of Iowa is being required by a federal court to reinstate the Christian student group BlingC. The university had “deregistered” the group for violations of a human rights policy. The university had also put...
Lenten fish fry dinners

This is the church/community center that is envisioned to serve the families in the Kianqua outstasion of Tantania's Diocese of Mosh. Families have therefore already started donating money for the project and carrying stones for the foundation.

Feb. 16 Saturday
Prayer for Persecuted Christians
DES MOINES – The Knights of Columbus in the diocese will be hosting a prayer service at 6:30 p.m. to raise awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians. The event will be bilingual Spanish and English.

BINGO Saturday
DES MOINES – St. Anthony Parish is hosting Bingo in the parish hall starting at 6 p.m. Early bird starts at 5:30 p.m. and looks start at 5:15. There will be free childcare and food for purchase.

Feb. 18-21 Monday
Former Gangster Shares His Story
WEST DES MOINES – Several Des Moines Catholics will be joining Father John Pridemore, a former gangster, for a talk by former gangster John Prisemore. For more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Feb. 19 Monday
Marquis Fish Fry
DES MOINES – The Catholic Cultural Center features Andy Milian, who will focus on shrines and why they’re part of the Catholic faith. Milian is the coordinator of the Grotto of the Visitation at West Bend. Social hour and refreshments start at 7 p.m. at St. Augustin Parish hall with pre-registration at 515-293-1910 and free information to dcatholicculture.org or contact jmilian@dmdioce.org.

Feb. 20 Monday
Memorial for Father Meen
JOHNSTON – Lunch at Texas Roadhouse at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Judge Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Feb. 23 Monday
Catholic Widows and Widowers Luncheon
WEST DES MOINES – The Catholic Cul- ture Lecture Series featuring Andy Milian will focus on shrines and why they’re part of the Catholic faith.

Feb. 24 Sunday
Memorial for Father Meen
JOHNSTON – Lunch at Texas Roadhouse at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Judge Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

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“The Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa” by Steven M. Avella was published last year by Liturgical Press. The 433-page book includes a detailed history of the birth and growth of the Diocese of Des Moines through the end of the service of Bishop Maurice Dingman. The book is available online.

Near the beginning of his fine history of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines, Steven M. Avella, a historian and priest who teaches at Marquette University, notes that Catholics have always been a distinct minority in southwest Iowa. Examining statistics regarding population and religious affiliation, Avella finds that “Catholics were never more than 14 percent of the total population. Where people did claim a religious affiliation, they were predominantly Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, and occasionally Mormon” (xvi).

Indeed, southwest Iowa is the least Catholic portion of Iowa.

The Des Moines diocese was the last Iowa diocese to be created (1911), after the dioceses of Dubuque (1837), Davenport (1881), and Sioux City (1902), an order of diocesan formation that represents not only settlement patterns but also the preponderance of Catholics in the eastern and northern portions of the state.

Yet Avella, the author of a number of books on Catholicism in the Midwest and West, has transcended the comparatively narrow scope of Catholics in the state’s southwest quadrant to offer a compelling, richly analytical history of Catholic institutions in Des Moines, its suburbs, and in rural areas to the south and west of Iowa’s capital.

Avella is particularly adept at reconstructing high church politics, notably the personalities and administrative styles of bishops and their interactions with clergy and with the Vatican, along with the political maneuvering involved in their appointments and their key decisions while holding the office of bishop.

His portrayal of the life and times of Bishops Austin Dowling (1912-1919), Thomas Drumm (1919-1933), and Maurice Dingman (1968-1986) are particularly striking. Indeed, the book seems to reach its high point in several chapters on the Dingman years, a pivotal era coinciding with the dramatic ecclesiological reforms of Vatican II and the social shifts of urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s and the Farm Crisis of the 1980s as well as shrinking numbers of clergy and an increase in the Catholic population (particularly in the Des Moines metropolitan area).

Avella offers a thoughtful, balanced portrayal of Dingman as a “people’s bishop” who felt compelled to speak out in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment and in support of farmers ravaged by shifts in the agricultural economy and against nuclear proliferation, but also as a sometimes overtly deliberative administrator who frustrated clergy who worked under him. Dingman’s years as bishop also coincided with Pope John Paul II’s October 4, 1979, visit to St. Patrick’s Church, Irish Settlement (one of the oldest parishes in the Des Moines diocese), and to Living History Farms, an event that drew a crowd estimated at nearly 340,000.

Avella effectively reconstructs the papal visit as a key moment in the history of Catholicism in Iowa and the Midwest.

Avella nicely balances attention to church politics with the development, growth, and eventual closing of Catholic institutions such as parish churches, schools, hospitals, and retreat centers.

The diocese’s urban centers of Des Moines and Council Bluffs are well treated, as are rural areas, including the Catholic enclave of Shelby County and the challenges of Catholic ministry in Methodist-dominated, Ku Klux Klan-ridden southern counties (such as Wayne) in the 1920s.

Avella offers superb attention to the significant roles played by women religious – women who were members of Catholic religious orders – in the history of Catholicism in the region.

Avella also notes the important role of ethnic Catholicism in southwest Iowa in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including ministry to Irish, German, and Italian Catholics into the 1920s and the recruitment of clergy from Ireland into the 1930s, but his analysis of ethnicity feels thinner here than in his magisterial history of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, “In the Richness of the Earth” (2022).

Certainly, however, “the rich, ethnic Catholicism played a lesser role in southwest Iowa than it did in Wisconsin or even in eastern Iowa.”

In his epilogue, Avella surveys recent shifts in the religious landscape in Iowa and in the United States and crucially notes the challenge posed by “the legacy of clerical sexual abuse. . . . How earlier bishops received these painful revelations and what they did with them was not available in the archival sources at present. The pain suffered by the victims of this abuse and the ethic of official silence and disbelief are a blot on the history of Des Moines Catholicism as they are of the universal church today” (361-62).

This is a vital acknowledgment and one manifestation of Avella’s thoughtful approach in this highly effective analytical history of the Catholic church in southwest Iowa.

Reprinted with permission from The Annals of Iowa 78 (Winter 2019), 105-7. The book can be purchased at litpress.org.

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**Iowa journal reviews diocesan history**

**Bishop installs priests**

Father Andrew Windschitl (top) was installed as pastor of St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart by Bishop Richard Pates the weekend of Feb. 2-3. Father Ryan Andrew was installed as chaplain of Dowling Catholic High School on Jan. 19-20. Father Dan Kirby was installed as pastor of St. John Parish in Norwalk Jan. 26-27.
The Catholic Mirror  February 15, 2019 www.dmdiocese.org

Marriage and Family Ministry

The diocesan Tribunal and the and retired priests. It supports and health insurance for active and monthly and ongoing formation for all of our deacons. Last August, we were blessed with 17 new deacons whose outreach in the community and assistance within our parishes is invaluable.

Support for the ADA helps youth and young adult programs like the Diocesan Youth Rally, attended by more than 600 youth and more.

The ADA supports the diocese’s safe environment program, through which thousands of people have been trained and experienced background checks so we can ensure a safe environment for our children.

The most recent audit reports and financial statements can be found on the diocesan website: dmdiocese.org/diocese-accountability.cfm

Individuals and families can give through their parishes or online by going to dmdiocese.org and clicking on “Giving.” Select the designation the Annual Diocesan Appeal and the sub-designation as the parish.

ADA an opportunity to work together

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is kicking off March 2-3 in the Diocese of Des Moines.

The ADA is the yearly major fundraising effort of the diocese that helps our 80 parishes work together to provide for ministries, programs and services in education, charity, spiritual formation, pastoral ministry, parish assistance and more.

The diocese has three major sources of revenue: The ADA, grants and contributions, and investments and fees.

The ADA is an opportunity for everyone in the diocese to share their gifts to support the collective ministries of the diocese.

The appeal provides crucial funding. It helps support the diocese’s 16 seminarians (at a cost of about $40,000 per year per seminarian). It helps the Schools Office provide our schools with professional development, curricula suggestions and more.

Gifts to the ADA help the diocese to provide retirement and health insurance for active and retired priests. It supports the diocesan Tribunal and the Marriage and Family Ministry office, which prepared hundreds of couples for marriage in the last year and prepared new sponsor couples who help the engaged understand the sacramentality of marriage.

The ADA supports ongoing formation for recently ordained deacons, who meet AD Prayer

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we thank you for the many gifts you have given to us and we invite your presence in our lives at all times. We know that it is from your goodness that we have received all that we have.

Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

Through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, help us to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. In this new year of our diocese, may our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

Through your son, Jesus Christ, make our prayer to you one of faith, hope and charity for all of your people.

Amen.

The ADA is an opportunity to work together

Deacon Michael Huntsman, of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines, is one of 17 newly ordained permanent deacons serving the diocese.

Comprehensive formation and continuing education is offered for all deacons and deacon candidates with financial support from the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

ADA Prayer

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Catholic Charities and those in need supported by ADA

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Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter keeps homeless families together during a very difficult time in their lives. The experienced staff understands that homelessness is not a simple issue. While each family is expected to follow the same rules and expectations at the shelter, they are all provided individualized case management. The goal is to help each family leave the shelter with stable housing, financial stability, and empowerment to live a successful, sustainable life. The Annual Diocesan Appeal is one of the many sources Catholic Charities depends on to maintain high quality programs.

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Amen.
ADA supports marriage preparation for engaged couples

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Peter and Sonia Schulte got married at the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines on May 20, 2017.

The pair said meeting with their sponsor couple, Adam and Kara Storey of the Basilica of St. John Parish, was a very positive and helpful experience during their Catholic marriage preparation.

“Having the sponsor couple was by far the most valuable…. Sonia said. “[The sponsor couple] was familiar and friendly, yet objective, and able to pull things out and facilitate that full discussion and prayer. It was so much more valuable than we could have expected.”

In fact, they connected so well that the Schultes asked their sponsor couple to play an important role in their wedding Mass, representing Sonia’s Hispanic background.

“They were the couple that placed the lasso on both of us – it’s a symbol of a strong marriage,” Sonia said.

Their sponsor couple was very honest and genuine about the positive and challenging parts of their marriage, they agreed.

“They did not hesitate to speak from their experience and I could hear what they have struggled with and gone through,” Sonia said. “It’s humbling and empowering and definitely reassuring…. And they didn’t hesitate to be brutally honest about those things.”

“It helped a ton with preparation,” Peter said. “It’s totally different when you’re living separate lives and then you’ve got a new roommate that’s going to be a roommate for the rest of your life.

“It’s not going to be just rainbows and butterflies,” Peter added. “In a way, this is a sacrifice and you’re giving yourself up for this person.”

The couple valued their time with their sponsor couple, and are still friends to this day.

Dave Langer and Donna Langer of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines have been a sponsor couple for 31 years.

“It’s nice to see these couples that are newly in love and are interested in getting married in the church,” Dave said.

“And that’s a part of the discussion – why are they getting married in the church and then talk about the importance of that with them.”

“It’s a learning process for the couples as well.

“We learned that you have to meet them where they are at,” Donna said. “Many of these couples don’t know where they are at spiritually and they are still just exploring and trying to figure it out. We have to just be glad they are getting married in the Catholic Church and going through marriage prep.”

“The Langers always let couples know that the marriage process is there to help them.

“This process is really about them – it’s not about us,” Dave said. “We may offer some experiential insight and talk about communication…”

The Langers agree that the most important work as a sponsor couple is to facilitate their discussion, encouraging them to go deeper into all of the topics.

Joe and Evie Nemec of the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines enjoyed being a sponsor couple so much that they stuck with it for nearly 50 years.

“We could just see the value of it, and it was enjoyable to see the couples open up…,” Evie said. “We have just felt really good about working with the couples.”

Adam Storey, director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life at the Diocese of Des Moines, is grateful for the support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which funds marriage ministry programs, including marriage prep.

“The sponsor couple ministry helps us accompany couples in a very concrete way,” Storey said. “I hope that this experience can help couples become more rooted in their parish communities and see the great gift that Christ offers in the sacrament of marriage.

“It’s an incredible privilege to accompany couples in their marriage preparation process,” Storey added. “To hear their stories, to encourage them and even to challenge them to say ‘yes’ to the Gospel.”
Des Moines priest translates sacred text and liturgical books for his native people

Father Ambrose Ladu Daniel, parochial vicar and refugee director at St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines, was born and raised in Sudan. He has translated the New Testament, Roman Missal, Sunday Missal and grammar book into his native language of Lokoya for his people.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Though Father Ambrose Daniel has been away from his native Sudan for 18 years, his people are never far from his mind.

Father Daniel, parochial vicar and refugee director of St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines, thinks about them often and pays attention to the news out of his native country. And in his spare time, he’s helping them by translating sacred texts and liturgical books into their native language of Lokoya.

Father Daniel has already finished translating the Bible’s New Testament, a hymn book and a 450-page grammar book, so they can learn to read. He is also translating the catechism for adults, catechism for children, the Sunday missal and Roman missal to be used at Mass.

“The ultimate goal is to print them,” Father Daniel said. “We are working on raising the money.”

There are about 9,000 people in Sudan who speak Lokoya, he said. It’s a country with a diversity of languages, many of which are not in written form.

“One diocese [in Sudan] has 40 languages,” Father Daniel said. “Sudan is twice the size of the state of Iowa.”

Father Daniel is passionate about helping his native people have access to the Bible and learning to read.

“Father Daniel has a love for learning and has a number of degrees and diplomas, including studies of philosophy and theology from St. Paul Major Seminary in Sudan. He also has bachelors degrees in civil law from the University of South Africa and in information technology from A.T. Computer Schools in South Africa. He has a master’s degree in theology from St. Augustine College of South Africa and a licentia in sacred theology from Sacred Heart Major Seminary of Detroit, Michigan.”

“St. Augustin says we really need to hunger for knowledge, because it is only through knowledge that we can transform our lives,” Father Daniel said. “And we can also transform the lives of others and we can give better services. Without knowledge, I can’t be effective in what I’m doing.”

Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference

Continued from page 1

The Well sells out again

Popular women’s retreat has waiting list

The Well, a Catholic event for women, has sold out again.

This is The Well’s first pre-Lenten gathering, set for Saturday, March 2 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines.

The Well has had two Advent gatherings and two summer gatherings in the past, said The Well’s founder and executive director Lisa Schmidt. The pre-Lenten gathering starts with Mass at 8 a.m. followed by the event at 8:30 a.m.—12 p.m.

There is a waiting list for this event, since there are always a few people who have something come up and tickets become available, Schmidt told Bishop Richard Pates on “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio on Feb. 1.

“The Well will begin with praise and worship music,” Stacy Halbach, of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny, will serve as the emcee.

The day will include a discussion on “Searching for and Maintaining Peace,” followed by the keynote address by Katie Patrizio, adult faith formation director at St. Cecilia Parish in Ankeny.

The event also includes breakfast, family for fellowship, quiet prayer, reflection, inspirational, testimonial, and workshop opportunities, with local women and a handcrafted take-home gift.

Learn more and sign-up for the waiting list at thewelldesmoines.com.

Tune in to “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio

1150 AM, 88.5 FM or 94.5 FM in central Iowa & Spirit Catholic Radio Network

102.7 FM

Fridays 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Not near a radio? Stream it live at iowacatholicradio.com or kvss.com.
MercyOne better describes network of services, leaders said

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Mercy Health Network’s name officially changed on Feb. 1 to MercyOne, a new statewide name and unified system brand. The branding reflects the organization’s significant growth over the last 20 years and is a key step in connecting its many points of care across the state and surrounding regions. The effort will make it easier for consumers to identify care locations, enhance the coordination of medical expertise and services and ensure consistent patient care experiences across all locations.

“We are excited to bring our mission and vision to life with our new unified brand. Our transition to MercyOne allows us to be more recognizable to the people and communities we serve and celebrates the remarkable work of our teams across the state to build a better-connected system of care and services,” said MercyOne President and CEO Bob Ritz in a press release. “MercyOne represents our incredible team of over 20,000 people working together with one purpose, helping every individual we serve live their best life. The health of our patients and communities is at the center of the circle of all of our efforts.”

Two men appointed to National Advisory Council

Two men from the Diocese of Des Moines nominated by Bishop Richard Pates have been tapped to serve on the National Advisory Council, which assists the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

They are Deacon Matt Halbach, Ph.D., of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny, and Dan Kinsella, of St. Patrick Parish in Imogene.

Deacon Halbach is the director of catechetics for William H. Sadlier Publishing. In this role, he ensures that every catechetical series for grades K-6 follow Catholic Church teaching.

Previously, he served for six years as the executive director of the St. Joseph Educational Center in West Des Moines, where he provided adult faith formation events and curricula for regional parishes.

He is an author and national speaker on evangelization, adult catechesis, missionary discipleship and mercy. Deacon Halbach has assisted the U.S. bishops in the past by reviewing material for a subcommittee on the catechism.

He holds a doctoral degree in catechetical/religious education from The Catholic University of America and was ordained a permanent deacon in 2018.

The MercyOne system includes 18 owned or joint venture medical centers and hospital campuses, 25 affiliated medical centers and more than 420 ambulatory care locations, all generating more than $3 billion in combined revenue and employing more than 20,000 people.

The new name and logo speak to the work of MercyOne.

“From a theological perspective, there’s real meaning in this name,” said Colleen Walters, chief mission integration officer at MercyOne. “You are one person.”

“It’s really a call to arms for our colleagues on ways that we can journey with those who come to us in need.”

The cross in the new logo “is very strategically placed between the ‘m’ and the ‘a,’” Walters added, which spells me. “It’s up to you to carry on this mission. It’s our responsibility to care for one another. It really puts it right out front, which I think calls us to higher expectations and standards.”

Many employees gave positive feedback that they felt connected to the logo.

“I know a lot of people have worked on it,” said Sister Mary Corita Heid, a Sister of Mercy from Mason City. “I love the name and I love the logo and I think it’s going to be great.”

Bishop Richard Pates interviewed MercyOne employees Colleen Walters, chief mission integration officer, and Janell Pittman, chief marketing and digital strategy officer, on Feb. 8 on “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates.” The show airs every Friday at 9 a.m. on Iowa Catholic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio Network.

Reach 35,000 households in the Diocese of Des Moines by placing an ad in The Catholic Mirror. Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org for details.

Shrines of Fatima and Lourdes

11 Days: September 24-October 4, 2019

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Happy Lunar New Year

St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community in Des Moines celebrated the Lunar New Year on Feb. 10. Above: Don Cotran and his 2-year-old son Theo, help bring up the gifts. Top right: Father Ly Chu holds a lucky envelope while inviting parishioners to take a small scroll with Bible verses from a tree. At far right: Mani Nguyen with 2-year-old Gwendolyn.

At immediate right: Ben Coulter holds 3-year-old Camille with Bible verses from a tree. At far right: Father Ly Chu holds a lucky envelope while inviting parishioners to take a small scroll with Bible verses from a tree. At far right: Mani Nguyen with 2-year-old Gwendolyn.

Father Merz
Continued from page 1
the Jesuits in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1991, he returned to Wisconsin to serve his religious community. He returned to Des Moines in 2015 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Emmaus House.

“Coming to Emmaus was one of the most profound experiences in my life,” he said. “Five of the happiest years of my life.”

Father Dan Krettek remembered when Bishop Maurice Dingman invited Father Merz to Des Moines to set up a place for spiritual growth for priests. Father Merz asked the bishop if he, too, would use it.

During the funeral homily, Jesuit Father Richard Albert shared memories at theemmaushouse.org/gene-merz-memorial.

The public is invited to share memories at theemmaushouse.org/gene-merz-memorial.

Father Gene Merz
Continued from page 1
to meet people wherever they were, and to invite them to reflect on their journey, and to allow him to listen and gently point to the places where he felt the Lord was dwelling in their experience.

The public is invited to share memories at theemmaushouse.org/gene-merz-memorial.

Chariton woman teaches girls ‘lost arts’

Renee Pedersen and Haddon Anderson holding one of the dresses they made out of pillow cases for girls in Africa.

Chariton woman teaches girls ‘lost arts’

Continued from page 1
together to make a mat.”

A few years ago the girls helped the local women’s group by making May basket bags out of denim jeans. They filled the baskets with snacks, prayer cards, a rosary and holy water.

“We took them around and gave them to the shut-ins, and that was really a way to get in touch with other members of the church community,” Nace said. “They really enjoyed that and it’s a way to get the kids involved with older adults.”

The group gives the girls the opportunity to learn something new while socializing with their peers.

“The girls are very excited about what they do – they are really proud of it, I think...,” Nace said. “They get excited to learn.”

They also spend time in prayer.

“I had read a booklet on St. Philomena and shared that with the girls,” Nace said. “We say a chaplet to St. Philomena when we get together.

“I do try to tie our faith in, so they understand that everything we are doing is for the Lord,” Nace added.

Renee Pedersen, a senior at Chariton High School, has been participating in the group since its inception. She hopes to continue participating after she graduates.

“I like helping people,” Pedersen said. “I’ve always liked helping people and this way I can give back to others and help people, especially in third-world countries. They don’t have a lot.”

Her favorite project: “finishing a denim quilt that has a cross on it,” Pedersen said. “It took a while but we finally finished and it was awesome.”

Haddon Anderson, an eighth grader in Chariton, has been participating in the group for three years.

“I thought it was cool since I like church and I saw that they were helping a lot of people,” Anderson said. “That’s what got me involved.

“We learned a lot about St. Philomena,” Anderson continued. “We [pray with] 13 beads because she died when she was 13 years old...”

“I’ve gained a lot of knowledge on how to help out others,” Anderson concluded.
Priest personally invited young people to attend Christmas Mass

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

It was a late fall night when a sleeping Father John Bertogli, rector at St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines, was startled awake by a bad dream. "As music director, I reach out to some younger generations of people to see if they would answer a call to be music ministers or cantors or [play instruments]," Rohrer said. "I think it's important that we try and engage our young generations in ministries at church."

The current generation will eventually age and retire, Rohrer said, so it's important that the younger generations are interested, engaged and willing to volunteer of their time and talents.

"I think you start to talk to young people about different areas of the church that they may become involved in — maybe [even] just committees..." Rohrer continued. "I think it's really important to have that perspective as you're looking at how you can keep your church and community strong."

Young people often have busy schedules and other commitments, so it's important to meet them where they're at, she said.

"The Catholic Church of the future has to be built now, and we have to try and involve them in whatever way we can," Rohrer concluded.

The New Moment

Monsignor Steve Orr.

That pastor was retired priest Monsignor Orr said he is getting the sense that younger people aren't as involved in a community and perhaps "good outreach" and one-on-one contact can help attract those who are away from the church.

Debbie Rohrer, who has many roles at St. Ambrose Cathedral, said she makes inviting young people to activities at the parish a priority.

"As music director, I reach out to some younger generations of people to see if they would answer a call to be music ministers or cantors or [play instruments]." Rohrer said. "I think it's important that we try and engage our young generations in ministries at church."

The current generation will eventually age and retire, Rohrer said, so it's important that the younger generations are interested, engaged and willing to volunteer of their time and talents.

As director of the sacrament of marriage, Rohrer regularly meets with young, engaged couples.

"I think if you start to talk to young people about different areas of the church that they may become involved in — maybe [even] just committees..." Rohrer continued. "I think it's really important to have that perspective as you're looking at how you can keep your church and community strong."

Young people often have busy schedules and other commitments, so it's important to meet them where they're at, she said.

"The Catholic Church of the future has to be built now, and we have to try and involve them in whatever way we can," Rohrer concluded.

Father John Bertogli, rector at St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines, was startled awake by a bad dream last fall. After that he started making a concerted effort to reach out to young people and invite them to Mass.

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**Youth Minister**

Location: St. John the Apostle Parish, Norwalk, IA.  
Job Description: St. John the Apostle is seeking a part-time Youth Minister who will continue to build a comprehensive program for our high school and junior high youth. The YM will be responsible for recruiting, training and working with a Core Team of adults in promoting spiritual growth, developing leadership, and drawing young people into the life, mission and work of the faith community.

Interested applicants should submit resumes and two letters of recommendations to: Melissa Hill, Director of Religious Education atmelissahillstjohns@hotmail.com

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**Victim Assistance Advocate**

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

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**See What Our Catholic Families Are Saying**

"From the first call to the graveside service, Mark and John demonstrated complete compassion for Father Jim Kiernan and for our family."

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~Family of Father Jim Kiernan

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Este mismo espíritu de- pendiente que se genera en Jesús nos conecta al círculo inmediato con el cual nos asociamos. Nos motiva el apoyo y sacrificio de aquellos que constituyen nues- tra comunidad personal. Cuán- do estamos enfermos o tenemos un problema estamos seguros de su consistente ayuda en una ver- dadera solidaridad humana, nos tijeras, al bisturí, a la salina, o al gas de desinfección. Nunca habrá escasez. Nadie, ni el Obispo Pates ni el Gobernador Cuomo, tiene el poder de legislar la muerte de un ser humano vulnerable, privando a ese individuo de ese derecho humano fundamental. El derecho a la vida.

¿Necesitamos a Jesús?

By Bishop Richard Pates

En la comunidad general que se expande eventualmente a acoger a la familia humana en su pleni- tud, nos beneficiamos de la visión que viene de la enseñanza de Jesús – la que reconoce a cada in- dividuo como una creación a im- agen y semejanza de Dios. Todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas que necesitan asegurar su vida y su dignidad.

• En la estela social, tantas de las “señales de nuestros tiempos” nos desani- man.
• Cuantos de nuestros hermanos sufren de hambre, ex- ploitation, violencia, corrupción, pobreza-extrema?
• Tantos niños en nues- tras escuelas viven con miedo e incertidumbre, en una época de disparos masivos que son conse- cuencia de la disponibilidad de armas a aquellos que no están ca- pacitados para poseerlas.
• Marcados en las raíces mismas de nuestro país, la pla- ga de racismo que aún debemos superar. Aún estamos llamados a implementar completamente la verdad de los documentos fun-

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Jueves al mediodía, La Ley 102.5 FM

Alegre la Mañana
Thursdays at 10 a.m., La Reina 1260 AM, 96.5 FM

No temas
Domingos 10:30 a.m., Iowa Catholic Radio 1150 AM, 88.5 FM, 94.5 FM

Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

El Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas es un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a víctimas de abuso sexual por parte del clero durante el proceso de la queja y buscando servicios de apoyo y consejería. Pueden comunicarse al 515-286-2028 o en advocate@dmdiocese.org.
Cybertheft investigation completed

A cyber theft at the Diocese of Des Moines last month occurred because of a misapplication of diocesan policy, according to an investigation which had external and internal components. An unknown person or group impersonating a diocesan employee requested on Dec. 13 that $45,880.90 be transferred. More than $32,000 were recovered. The diocese is working with its insurance carrier to recover additional funds and any final loss will be covered by investment earnings. 

No diocesan staff members are suspected of malfeasance. In consultation with experts in the field, the diocese under the direction of its Finance Council is implementing new procedures in order to prevent incidents like this from occurring in the future.

Conferencia Católica de hombres de Iowa

Guiados por los cuatro pilares: Conversión, Reconciliación, Discipulado y Evangelización, la Conferencia Católica de Hombres de Iowa, se dedica a formar discípulos fieles de Cristo.

Animamos y desafiamos a los hombres, a proclamar audazmente el Reino de Dios, las verdades católicas y a vivir una vida virtuosa dentro de sus familias y la sociedad.

La Conferencia Católica de Hombres de Iowa se llevará a cabo el día Sábado 30 de Marzo del 2019 en la Iglesia de St. Francis of Assisi en West Des Moines. (7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA. 50266) De las 9:00am a las 3:00pm. Celebraremos la Santa Misa a las 8:00am.

St. Joseph School in Lincoln, Nebraska is seeking a LAY PRINCIPAL for the 2019-2020 school year. Candidate will be working closely with a School Sister of Christ the King Vice Principal. Send cover letter, resume, and references to Sister Mary Cecilia via email: Sr.MaryCecilia@cdolinc.net. Contact Sister Mary Cecilia with requests for additional information.

Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference

Saturday March 30th, 7:30 am Rosary, followed by Mass and conference.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, West Des Moines. 
$25 Adults, $15 Students

Keynote Speakers: Deacon Harold and Deacon Randy Kiel, For more information and to register for the event visit IowaCatholicRadio.com/events.

To Donate visit iowacatholicradio.com

Iowa Catholic Radio Spring Care-A-Thon

Do you want to help connect people with Christ? Tune in February 18-22 for our annual Spring fundraiser. With your help we can grow Iowa Catholic Radio and reach more souls.

To Donate visit iowacatholicradio.com

Ladies’ MOSAIC Luncheon

Thursday Feb. 21, 11:30am—1:00pm
St. Augustine’s Catholic Church

Enjoy a complimentary lunch with your friends while listening to an engaging talk by international speaker and author John Pridmore.

For more information and to register for the event visit IowaCatholicRadio.com/events.

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News, events & interviews.

For more information and to register for the event visit IowaCatholicRadio.com/events.
The Catholic Church has been a mainstay for the Purdums, who moved frequently.

“We give to the Church because it has played such an important part in our lives as we have moved around the country,” says Dennis Purdum, of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston.

“The one common denominator as we went through all of our relocations, was that we could always develop a base with a church in the community we moved into,” he said.

Purdum grew up on a farm in rural southern Iowa. He became Catholic and got married during his senior year of college. Soon after, he and his wife, Connie, moved when he started work at an international accounting firm. Throughout his career, they relocated numerous times. The Purdums started in Oklahoma City and ended up in New York. Through the years, they lived in Omaha, Oklahoma City again, and Houston.

When he retired, Dennis and Connie decided to bring their family back to Iowa, and are now living in Creston.

A few years later, Bishop Richard Pates began working to create the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. When the bishop heard about Purdum’s background in accounting, he approached Purdum about using his professional expertise. Purdum accepted the bishop’s offer and became a part of the first Board of Directors for the foundation.

Today, he serves as the vice chairman of the board and serves on the Audit/Finance Committee. As a part of the Board of Directors and the Audit/Finance Committee, Purdum attends quarterly meetings and participates in many conference calls.

He’s also involved in the foundation through his family’s Donor Advised Fund. A Donor Advised Fund is a segregated account that an individual or family can use to conveniently grant dollars to a Catholic parish, school, or organization. Dennis and Connie established their fund about three years ago in the hope that they could impact Catholic education positively, along with many other reasons.

The couple was surprised with how easy it was to create a Donor Advised Fund. “Long-term, we knew we wanted a certain amount of our estate to be left for Catholic causes. However, we created the Donor Advised Fund in lieu of a private foundation,” Dennis said. “With a Donor Advised Fund, we avoid legal fees and financial reporting, and we don’t have to worry about the investment of the funds. All we have to worry about is where we want the funds distributed.”

“Another benefit of a Donor Advised Fund, is that it sends a message to our family,” he added. “It shows our children and grandchildren the importance of charitable giving and the causes we want to support.”

To do the same, contact the foundation’s office for more information on ways to give. Call Brooke Pulliam at 515-237-5080 or email her at bpulliam@catholicfoundation.org.