

# THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 53, No. 2

February 15, 2019

## *Lent kicks off soon*

Ash Wednesday on March 6 kicks off Lent, a period of 40 days of prayer, fasting and charity, which prepares the faithful and newcomers to the faith to celebrate Easter with renewed hearts.

At Ash Wednesday services, people are traditionally marked with the ashes of burnt palm branches as a sign of their recognition of their human frailty as well as sinfulness and need for repentance in their lifelong journey of conversion.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (April 19) are days of fasting within the Church for those between the ages of 18 and 59. They may eat only one full meal and two other meals consisting of substantially less food. There should be no food taken between meals. Anyone whose health is threatened by fasting is exempted.

Catholics age 14 and older also abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.



**Father Ross Parker helped distribute ashes last year.**

### **The New Moment**

## Chariton woman teaches girls 'lost arts' in the name of charity

**By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer**



**Back row: Renee Pederson and Vicki Nace hold the quilt the group sewed. Front row: Hannah Schlutz, Jessica Metzger and Haddon Anderson**

Sewing, crocheting, and crafting has bonded a small group of young girls and their leader at Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton. And it's all done in the name of charity and faith.

Their leader, Vicki Nace, created the group over five years ago.

"The idea is to teach them different skills," Nace said. "The purpose is to teach them lost arts, but it's also for charity."

They meet weekly in the basement of the church after school.

One of their early projects was crocheting lap blankets to give to the elderly in the nursing home. They also made rosaries out of tough yarn for soldiers and held bake sales to raise money for the poor. Recently, they undertook their biggest project yet – sewing dresses out of pillow cases for girls in foreign countries. They donated them to the organization, Little Dresses for Africa.

"The girls really enjoyed this sewing project," Nace said.

They are creative with their supplies and endeavors.

"We are currently working on mats for the homeless using plastic grocery bags," Nace said. "We loop [the bags] into a chain and weave it to-

Continued on page 12

## 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 Par-

ish in Des Moines.

The day will begin at 8 a.m. with Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Pates. 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 Chap-

Continued on page 10



**Keynote Deacon Burke-Sivers**

## Father Gene Merz, co-founder of Emmaus House, dies at age 87

**By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer**

Jesuit Father Gene Merz, a cofounder of Emmaus House, died on Jan. 16 at age 87. He was a Jesuit for 70 years, and a priest for 57 years.

"Father Gene was a loving servant of God," wrote Claudette McDonald on an Emmaus House memorial page. "His heartfelt listening, and keen insights guided me to deep self-understanding and interior freedom. May all those whom he touched carry forth his rich legacy."

A memorial service will be Feb. 24 from 3-5 p.m. at the

chapel at the Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston.

Father 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

Continued on page 12

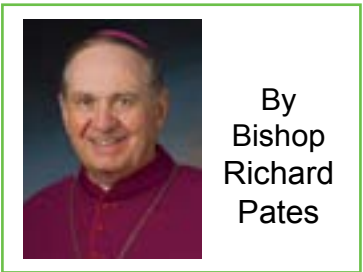
# Do we need Jesus?

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 our coming 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



By  
Bishop  
Richard  
Pates

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 in the era of mass shootings caused by the availability of weapons to those unfit for their possession.

- 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 worlds’ 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’m 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, scalpel, saline and dismemberment, to die before his/her eyes; mandates that to make an abortion more convenient and easy, a physician need not perform it . . .”

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 Richard Pates on Jan. 17 delivered a prayer from the Christian tradition at a dedication service for Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, pictured above with Bishop Pates. The prayer is as follows.

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: “This I 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 truth so 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 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

## 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.

### Saturday, February 16

**Des Moines** – Catholic Daughters Mass, breakfast for vocations, All Saints Parish, 9 a.m.  
**Chariton** – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, Sacred Heart Parish, 4:30 p.m.  
**Corydon** – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, St. Francis Parish, 6:30 p.m.

### Sunday, February 17

**Leon** – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, St. Brendan Parish, 8 a.m.  
**Chariton** – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, Sacred Heart Parish, 10:30 a.m.  
**Indianola** – Mass, Simpson College, 5 p.m.

### Monday, February 18

**Des Moines** – Iowa Catholic bishops’ meeting, bishop’s residence, 5 p.m.  
**Des Moines** – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 19

**Des Moines** – Legislative breakfast, Iowa State Capitol, 7:30 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – Meeting with Gov. Kim Reynolds, Iowa State Capitol, 1:30 p.m.  
**Des Moines** – Hispanic Pastoral Commission Meeting, Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.

### Wednesday, February 20

**Des Moines** – Christ the King Senior Housing Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

### Thursday, February 21 –

### Friday, March 1

Vacation

### Friday, February 22

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

### 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 for St. Patrick Parish, Audubon and Holy Trinity Parish, Exira, 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, Earling, 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** – Summit on School Strategic Planning, Pastoral Center, 6:30 pm

### Friday, March 8

**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.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 site, 7 p.m.

Continued on page 3

## THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

**Bishop Richard E. Pates**  
Publisher  
bishop@dmdiocese.org

**Anne Marie Cox**  
Editor  
acox@dmdiocese.org

**Kelly Mescher Collins**  
Staff Writer  
kcollins@dmdiocese.org

The Catholic Mirror (ISSN 0896-6869) is published monthly for \$20 per year by the Diocese of Des Moines, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines. POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE CATHOLIC MIRROR, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

PHONE: (515)237-5046  
EMAIL: mirror@dmdiocese.org  
DIOCESAN WEBSITE: www.dmdiocese.org



## The New Moment

## OFFICIAL

Effective February 28, 2019

**Father Guthrie Dolan** – from Pastor, St. Joseph, Earling 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, Earling and St. Peter, Defiance

Bishop Richard Pates  
Bishop of Des Moines

Jason Kurth  
Chancellor

## 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, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, 9:30 a.m.

### Wednesday, March 13

**Des Moines** – Bilingual Andrew Dinner, Christ the King Parish, 5 p.m.

### Thursday, March 14

**Des Moines** – Vocation Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

**Des Moines** – Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

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

### Friday, March 15

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

## 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 Bonday 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.”



**Dr. Nancy Dowdle, an icon in Catholic education in the Des Moines metro area, will retire at the end of the school year from St. Augustin Catholic School.**

# Passing on faith is like apprenticeship

My wife is a tremendous cook and host, and I'm happy to say that I can already see these 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!"

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

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

## Marriage & Family Life

By  
Adam Storey



he's delighted in a recipe that went just right. He's been able to ask questions, wrestle with challenges and learn tricks of the trade.

Most importantly, he's experienced my wife's love of baking up close, he's seen her joy, and he's grown to desire it too.

I'd argue that the way parents pass on our faith is no different.

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, it's about devotions, and 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 as relevant for adult children as it is for small children. There is never a time where 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 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org.*

# Adventure by Catholic terms: 'You were made for greatness'

All afternoon I had been hunkered over my MacBook, perched above a frozen lake and watching the sun cast pink into the clouds. I was thinking about what lie dormant and all the possibility below, waiting to thaw.

My task at hand: editing a cover story about three Catholic families who had taken radical leaps of faith. One couple moved to Costa Rica with their baby to do mission work. One man felt called to head up a floundering radio station. Another family set aside their jobs and rented out their home to embark on a year-long cross-country RV trip, prodded by a sensation many of us recognize.

"Life was starting to rule us, not the other way around," the 40-year-old mom said she had realized one Wednesday evening during her son's karate class. "We felt we were losing time."

Their travel is reshaping them. Worshipping at tiny desert churches and ancient cathedrals has made them appreciate the universal church. And the time together in tiny quarters, the experience of truly putting family first has been restor-

## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



ative.

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 never agree to something on the spot but rather say, "That sounds great; let me get back to you after talking to my spouse."

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, dulling in any paraphrase: ad-

venture. 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." I'll be following his travels through Instagram while staying put. 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?

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.

Each of these three losses were significant in their own way. After the final one, I went into Mass on Sunday to sing with the choir.

As my friend began to proclaim the psalm, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" I lost it.

I ended up sitting on the bathroom floor sobbing and asking this question over and over until my question evolved from abandoning me to how could a loving and merciful God "do this" to me.

The only answer I could come up with was, "He wouldn't."

So as I continued to sit there on the floor in the bathroom my question became "So, is there a God?" I was in a period of deep desolation.

I knew the best thing to do would be to stay the course – do what I've been doing and not to change anything. St. Ignatius would have agreed!

I continued to go to Mass, I con-

## Guest Column

By  
Patty Mayer



tinued to sing in the choir, I continued to go to work and do the good things I did there, all the while questioning where God was in the midst of this deep sorrow and darkness.

Then, I saw the movie "The Passion of the Christ." Just when I wanted to yell "enough already" during the scourging scene, I met the eyes of Jesus and I knew his physical beating paralleled my emotional beating.

I knew that as I sat there with him in his desolation, he sits with me in mine. I knew that he had been with me through it all!

As I reflected back, here's what I remembered about that six months.

The night before my dad died my

mom, my five sisters and I gathered to pray the rosary. This was the first time I heard my mother ask us to pray for the strength to deal with whatever happens rather than prayers that dad would be better.

We had invited Jesus into our situation and the next morning Jesus was with us at the hospital as we sat with dad in his final hours.

Months later, I was driving to work and felt a strong urge to go to church and pray. As I entered and knelt I didn't know what to do, I'd never done this before. So I said "I guess I will just ask that you give me what I need to get through today."

I entered work to find out about my colleague. I had invited Jesus into my day and he was there with me as I calmly worked with others through that day and the days to come.

Finally, I took some time for myself and went on a silent retreat at the local retreat center. I spent two days there praying for healing and strength. Inviting Jesus into my brokenness. It was after this retreat that I received the call about my client. Once again, Jesus was invited in and

he was there.

This was a moment for me that opened a path to deeper desire to know God, entering into prayer, and recognizing Jesus walking with me, opened my eyes and my heart in new ways.

Daily prayer became a desire and through the ups and downs of finding what worked and what didn't I found God in new and exciting ways.

So when I look back on this time of great sadness in my life I don't focus on the sadness. I see it as a point of conversion, when I finally saw Jesus truly as my companion, the ONE who is always by my side. God doesn't "do" anything to us, but he walks with us through the storm!

*Patty Mayer is the director of Adult Faith Formation at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny. Her reflections are based on the book: "Busy Lives & Restless Souls: How Prayer Can Help You Find the Missing Peace in Your Life" by Becky Eldredge, which was given to parishioners last Christmas.*

## 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. HMMM.** Lots of ground to cover in your question. Indulgences were not known by the apostles and the early Church. The gospels don't mention them, and the writings of St. Paul don't refer to them.

In medieval times many people thought of indulgences in a very mechanical way: If I do this, then God will do that. We were starting with OURSELVES rather than with GOD. Since Vatican II, especially in its return to Scripture, we have moved somewhat away from that approach. "In 1967, St. Paul VI substantially revised the practical application of the traditional doctrine on indulgences, to make it clear that the Church's object was not merely to help the faithful make due satisfaction for their sins, but chiefly to

induce them to a greater fervor of charity. Under the new discipline, the number of plenary indulgences was greatly reduced, and it was emphasized that no plenary indulgence could be gained without a total conversion of heart from all sin. Partial indulgences are no longer reckoned in days and years; they simply supplement the remission which the people performing the indulgenced action have already gained by the charity and contrition with which they do it." (*The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 1983, p. 700.)

You ask if the Church still teaches this. We can say that the Church certainly doesn't emphasize them today. Indulgences became one of the main focuses of the Protestant Reformation in 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](http://usccb.org).

*Got a question for "Ask a Priest" and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to [communications@dmdiocese.org](mailto:communications@dmdiocese.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.

CFM is an international organization that helps individuals

and families live the Christian faith in everyday life and improve society through actions of love, education, and service.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or finding out more about CFM, can contact the Hoenigs at 515-231-5653.

# Legislative update for 2019

**By Tom Chapman  
Contributing Writer**

Here is a short summary of legislation that the Iowa Catholic Conference is following in Iowa. For more information or the latest news, go to [iowacatholicconference.org](http://iowacatholicconference.org).

## 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 or when *Roe v. Wade* is struck down or if federal law is modified.

The ICC encourages Iowans to contact their senator in 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 BlinC. The university had "deregistered" the group for violations of a human rights policy. The university had also put

the Catholic Newman Center on an extensive list of student groups to possibly be deregistered for violations of the university's human rights policy.



**Tom  
Chapman**

## Weapons

Many bills are in play to loosen restrictions on gun ownership or carrying of weapons. The ICC testified last week in opposition to House Joint Resolution 3, which would apply "strict scrutiny" to any restrictions on gun rights. It would make any future regulation difficult and we believe it would put current regulations in peril.

Other bills include Senate File 165, which would eliminate state permits to acquire weapons and allow "permit-less" carry, and Senate File 213, which would bar employers from prohibiting an employee from carrying a gun to work, if the employee has a carry permit and the gun is out of sight and in a locked vehicle.

## School Tuition Organization

The ICC is continuing to meet with legislators about the importance of a substantial increase in the School Tuition Organization tax credits, currently set at \$13 million annually. This program helps private schools raise money for scholarships for lower-income students.

Meanwhile the legislature is working quickly to establish an increase in public school funding this year. The proposals would increase basic state aid by 2.06 percent, as well as provide more equity in transportation and other costs per pupil, for a total of an \$89.3 million increase for K-12 schools. In Iowa, more than \$7 billion is spent on K-12 education – more than \$14,600 per student when all sources of funding are considered (federal, state, local property taxes).

*Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference. He can be reached at [tom@iowacatholicconference.org](mailto:tom@iowacatholicconference.org).*

# Young priest pays tribute to his late father

**The homily of Father Trevor Chicoine at the funeral Mass for his father, Tim Chicoine, is printed at the request of Bishop Richard Pates. This is part one. Read more in subsequent issues of The Catholic Mirror.**

One of the greatest gifts my father ever gave me was that of letting his son see him cry.

Whether it was at the death of his own father, at my ordination, with pride at something one of my sisters or I achieved, in witnessing another's pain, or simply, every time he dropped one of us off at the airport knowing it would be some months before we saw each other again, Dad taught me men do not have to fear tears.

I trust, dear friends, you will forgive me if I have to apply his lesson at some point in the next minutes.

To all of you: To the family who have gathered from the four corners of our country, 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 Bishops (Richard) Pates and (Joseph) Charron, and to our fellow parishioners 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 humbles me.

I've been asked what a son would say about his Dad from the pulpit. After assuring a few of the family that I wouldn't collapse up here-and-truth 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 preaching set in: I do not have to make up the message. Sacred Scripture and tradition have done that for us.

And the readings Mom and the girls choose 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 love because of the life and love of Jesus Christ.

In times such as these, in moments such as these, a common question often raised is, "How could a merciful, compassionate God let something like this happen?"

It's a fair question.

We know God doesn't micromanage his creation. That's not how he works.

I do not believe he wills accident or events such as we have seen these last days any more than he wills tornados 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 Newark.

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 help us find our way back to God and back to right relationship with one another.

Ultimately, we have a God who was born, lived among us, taught us, and then mounted the wood of the cross; A God who himself felt pain and loss. He suffered



**Father Trevor Chicoine with his father Tim.**

with us. He died. And then we believe he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven opening for us the gates of eternity.

That is our God. Not a passive God who watched us suffer in pain, but a God who intimately knows pain, the sense of tragic loss, and who offers us hope of eternal life.

That is where my hope lies, my faith lies in him. I believe he knows our pain. I believe his promise is true. I believe his love lasts, our love for Dad sure lasts and so, too, Dad's love for all of us endures.

*Father Trevor Chicoine is parochial vicar of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.*

# Around the diocese

**Feb. 16 Saturday**  
**Prayer for Persecuted Christians**  
DES MOINES – The Knights of Columbus at St Anthony will be hosting a prayer service at 6:30 p.m. to raise awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians. The program 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 6 p.m. BINGO decks start at \$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-area churches are hosting a talk by former gangster John Pridmore.

- Feb. 18 – St. Francis, Mass at 5:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m. in the gathering area
- Feb. 20 – St. Ambrose Cathedral, 5:30 p.m. Mass, 6:15 p.m. at Catholic Pastoral Center
- Feb. 21 – Iowa Catholic Radio hosts at St. Augustin Parish Hall, 12-1 p.m.
- Feb. 22 – Sacred Heart Parish, West Des Moines, 5:30 p.m. Mass, 6:15 p.m. talk in the parish hall

**Feb. 22 Friday**  
**Catholic Widows and Widowers**  
JOHNSTON -- Lunch at Texas Roadhouse at 11 a.m. For more information and reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

**Feb. 23 Saturday**  
**Mardi Gras**  
DUNLAP – St. Patrick Parish is hosting a Mardi Gras party from 6-9 p.m. in the parish hall which will include dinner, drinks, games and a live auction. Cost is a free will offering. Warm Hearts Warm Hands Fundraiser.

**Feb. 23 Saturday**  
**Catholic Culture Lecture Series**  
DES MOINES -- The Catholic Culture Lecture Series featuring Andy Milam, will focus on shrines and why they're part of the Catholic faith. Milam is the coordinator of the Grotto of the Redemption at West Bend. Social hour and refreshments start at 7 p.m. at St. Augustin Parish hall with presentation at 7:30 p.m. For more information go to dmcatholicculture.org or contact jhuynh@dmdiocese.org, 515-237-5006.

**Feb. 24 Sunday**  
**Memorial for Father Merz**  
JOHNSTON -- Jesuit Father Gene Merz, one of the founders of Emmaus House, died on Jan. 16. The staff and Board of Directors of Emmaus will hold a memorial service from 3 to 5 p.m. at the chapel at the Bishop Drumm Care Center. All are welcome. Please share condolences, prayers and reflections at theemaushouse.org/gene-merz-memorial.

**Birthright Anniversary**  
COUNCIL BLUFFS – Birthright of Council Bluffs will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with a prayer service at St. Peter Church in Council Bluffs at 1:30 p.m. A reception will follow in the parish hall. The public is welcome to attend.

**Spaghetti and meatball dinner**  
CHURCHVILLE – The Churchville Altar and Rosary Society is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat Italian spaghetti & meatball dinner from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Churchville Assumption Shrine Hall, located two miles northwest of Martinsdale. Cost is \$8/adults and \$3/children ages 5-10. A silent auction is included.

**Feb. 26 Tuesday**  
**Catholic Widows and Widowers**  
WEST DES MOINES -- Business meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church featuring speaker Jeff Hartshorn, of the West Des Moines Police Department. For more information,

contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

**March 1 Friday**  
**Catholic Widows and Widowers**  
DES MOINES -- First Friday Mass at noon at the Basilica of St. John. Lunch will follow at the Drake Diner. For more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

**March 2 Saturday**  
**Trivia Night**  
DES MOINES -- Recruit friends, family, co-workers, your JustFaith group, book clubs to form a team for the Trivia Night benefiting the Center for Social Ministry. Dinner is at 6 p.m., trivia at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Register at centerforsocialministry.org. Team registrations by Feb. 15. Questions? Contact the Center for Social Ministry office at 515-782-3054.

**Tenderloin dinner**  
DES MOINES – All Saints is having a tenderloin dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12 and no charge for children under age 6.

**Devotion to Holy Face of Jesus**  
DES MOINES – St. Anthony will have a speaker talk on the devotion to Holy Face of Jesus. It begins with Mass at 8:30 a.m. with the talk at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

**March 5 Tuesday**  
**Mardi Gras Potluck**  
GREENFIELD – St. Patrick Parish will have a Mardi Gras potluck at 6 p.m. in the parish hall.

**March 9 Saturday**  
**St. Patrick's Gala**  
WEST DES MOINES -- Join us 6-10 p.m. at the Ron Pearson Center for the Catholic Charities annual St. Patrick's Gala. Charities Champion honoree is MercyOne. Clergy invited at no charge. Email bgibbins@catholic-charitiesdm.org or call 515-237-5078 to reserve a ticket or order online at CatholicCharitiesDM.org.

**March 12 Tuesday**  
**Catholic Widows and Widowers**  
DES MOINES -- Planning meeting at 12:30 p.m. at Chicago Speakeasy. For more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

**March 16 Saturday**  
**Catholic Widows and Widowers**  
WEST DES MOINES -- St. Patrick's Day lunch at 1 p.m. at Maxie's Restaurant. For reservations or more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

**March 18-20 Monday-Wednesday**  
**Nun Run**  
KANSAS CITY -- A road trip for ladies in grades 9-12 will give them a sneak peek into religious life by visiting Little Sisters of the Poor, Servants of Mary, Sisters of Charity, and Mt. St. Scholastica, plus the campus of Benedictine College. For more information, email vocations@dmdiocese.org.

**March 22-24 Friday-Sunday**  
**Leadership Training in Spanish**  
DES MOINES -- Iowa AMOS invites the Hispanic community to a Leadership Training in Spanish. Email mmoriel@dmdiocese.org with questions.

**March 30 Saturday**  
**Iowa Catholic Men's Conference**  
WEST DES MOINES -- The Iowa Catholic Men's Conference is at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$25/adults, \$15/students. Register at iowacatholicradio.com/events.

**April 6 Saturday**  
**Sponsor Couple Training**  
DES MOINES – Sponsor Couple training is at the Catholic Pastoral Center, from 1-5 p.m. Register by calling Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or email astorey@dmdiocese.org.

# Dowling students participate in March for Life



Students from Dowling Catholic High School participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January.

Photos by Jeanne Wells

## Lenten fish fry dinners

This is the church/community center that is envisioned to serve the families in the Kiangaa outstation of Tanzania's Diocese of Moshi. Families there have already started donating money for the project and carrying stones for the foundation.

The following are parish Lenten fish fry dinners on Fridays during Lent, March 8 to April 12 except where otherwise noted.

**Adair, St. John**  
Dinners are Fridays, March 15, 29 and April 12, in the parish hall, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is a free-will offering. Alternate menu is mac and cheese.

**Adel, St. John**  
Dinners are March 8, 29 and April 5 from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall, Cost is \$8/adults, \$5/children with a \$25 immediate family maximum. Alternative: grilled cheese sandwich and fries.

**Altoona, Ss. John and Paul**  
Dinners are Fridays, March 1-April 12 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is \$10/adults; \$5/children 6-12; no charge for children under 6. Alternative: cheese pizza, mac and cheese. Drive up is also available for the same price.

**Ankeny, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart**

Dinners are Fridays, March 15, 29 and April 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Alternate: grilled cheese and tater-tots for kids. Free-will offering to support local charities.

**Atlantic, Ss. Peter and Paul**  
Dinners are in the parish center from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is \$9/adults and \$4/children ages 12 and under or \$25/family. Alternate: mac and cheese. Additional donations can be made for homemade desserts to support youth group.

**Audubon, St. Patrick**  
Dinners are in the parish center from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8/adults and \$4/children ages 6-12; no charge for children under 10, no cost for pre-k children.

**Avoca, St. Mary**  
Dinners on Fridays, March 15 and April 12, in the Avoca Legion Hall, from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is \$9/adults and \$4/children age 10 and under.

**Carlisle, St. Elizabeth Seton**  
Fish fry dinners on March 1, 15, 29 and April 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is \$9/adults and \$5/children, no charge for children age 5 and under. Ten percent goes to birthright and 10 percent goes to church hall addition capital campaign.

**Corning, St. Patrick**  
Fish Fry dinners on March 8 and 22 from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$8.00/adults, \$5/children 5-14 and free to children under 5.

**Council Bluffs, St. Peter**  
Shrimp boils at 5:30 p.m. on March 15 and April 12. Cost is \$15/adults and \$10/children under age 10.

**Dunlap, St. Patrick**  
Dinners on March 8 and March 29 from 5-8 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is \$8/adults and \$4/children ages 10 and under.

**Elkhart, St. Mary-Holy Cross**  
Dinners will be March 8, 22 and April 5, in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. Cost is a free-will offering.

**Glenwood, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**  
Dinners will be in the parish hall, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$9/adults and \$3/children. Alternate: mac and cheese.

**Granger, Assumption**  
Dinners are 5:30-7 p.m. in the Assumption gym. Cost is a free-will donation. Alternatives: homemade veggie or cheese pizza, fish sandwiches.

**Hamburg, St. Mary**  
Dinner will be served on Friday, April 5, in the parish center, from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost is a free-will donation. Alternate: mac and cheese.

**Indianola, St. Thomas Aquinas**  
Dinners are 5:30-7 p.m. at the parish hall. Cost is \$10/adults & carry-outs; \$5/children ages 6 to 12. Children 5 and under are free. A dessert table is also available with a free-will donation.

**Logan, St. Anne**  
Dinners are in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Alternate menu is Grilled Cheese.

**Missouri Valley, St. Patrick**  
Fish fry dinners are in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. with take outs and delivery for homebound available. Cost is \$8/adults, \$7/with a Harrison County Food Pantry donation, \$4 for children age 4-10, and no cost for children under 4. Alternative: mac and cheese.

**Neola, St. Patrick**  
Dinners from 5 -7 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is \$9/adults, \$4/children ages 5-10, no charge for children under 5. Alternative to fish: grilled cheese sandwich.

**Norwalk, St. John the Apostle**  
Dinners are in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. Alternative: cheese pizza, mac and cheese. Cost is \$8/adults, \$5/seniors, and \$3/children age 12 and under.

**Osceola, St. Bernard**  
Dinners are in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$9/adults, \$4/children ages 4-12. Discount for families.

**Perry, St. Patrick**  
Dinners from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick School. Cost is \$8/adults, \$4.50/children age 10 and younger, maximum \$25 for family with children. Alternatives: shrimp for \$2 more, fish tacos, Father Chris' Special each week.

**St. Marys, Immaculate Conception**  
Dinners are Fridays, March 15, 22, March 29 and April 5, in the St. Marys Hall, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$9/adults, \$5/children, not to exceed \$25 for immediate families. Alternate: mac and cheese.

**Waukee, St. Boniface**  
Dinners are in the parish hall from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost \$10/adults and \$5/children ages 3-10, no charge for children ages 3 and under. Alternate: fried shrimp, spaghetti with three different sauces, cheese pizza.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Des Moines Area**  
**Des Moines, All Saints**  
Dinners are from 5-9 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is \$9/adults, \$4/children ages 6-12 and no charge for children under age six. Alternatives: grilled cheese and mac and cheese.

**Des Moines, Basilica of St. John**  
Dinners are in the parish hall from 4:45-6:45 p.m. Cost is \$10/adults, \$3/children ages 4-10, no charge for children ages 3 and under.

**Des Moines, Christ the King**  
Dinners served are in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$8/adults, \$4/children Alternate: cheese pizza. Desserts will be available as a fundraiser for the youth group.

**Des Moines, Holy Trinity**  
Dinners served Fridays, March 8, 29 and April 12, in the parish hall from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$9/adults, \$5/children age 5-11 no charge for children under 5, and \$35/family. Alternate: mac and cheese.

**Des Moines, St. Ambrose Cathedral**  
Dinners served in the parish hall from 12-1 p.m. Cost is \$5.

**Des Moines, St. Augustin**  
Fish bake at 5 p.m. on April 5. Cost is \$15/adults, \$5/children age 11 and under with a family maximum of \$40.

**Des Moines, St. Mary of Nazareth**  
Dinners are in the parish hall from 4:30-7 p.m. Cost is \$10/adults, \$9/seniors age 60 and older, and \$5/children under ages 12. Alternate: mac and cheese. Desserts are available for a free-will donation.

**West Des Moines, St. Francis of Assisi**  
Dinners are from 5:30-7:15 p.m. Cost is \$10/ages 13-adult; \$5/children ages 6-12 (under six is free). Alternate: mac and cheese and cheese pizza.

# Bishop installs priests



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins



Photo by Anne Marie Cox



Photo by Catherine Tardieu Schroder



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. 29. Father Seth Owusu was installed as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Avoca and St. Patrick Parish in Walnut Jan. 19-20. Father Dan Kirby was installed as pastor of St. John Parish in Norwalk Jan. 26-27.

# Iowa journal reviews diocesan history

*“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 Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, and occasionally Mormons” (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 comparative dearth 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 portrayals 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 ‘70s 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 era).

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 overly 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 sometimes 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, transnational 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 early 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 acknowledgement 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.*

# Poland

Presented by Collins Travel and Pilgrimages

**September 9-18, 2019**

**Price: \$4,099**  
**Double occupancy**  
**Add 3 days to Rome for \$699**  
**\$100 discount if deposit paid by March 1**

Hosted by Father Joe Pins  
Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines AND  
Jason Collins, M.A.,  
Founder of Collins Travel and Pilgrimages,  
Active member of St. Francis Parish, WDSM

**Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure!**

## Things we'll see in Poland:

- Royal castle in Warsaw
- Old Town in Warsaw
- Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw
- Cathedral of St. John in Warsaw
- Our Lady of Czestochowa (Black Madonna) icon
- Birthplace of Karol Wojtyla (Pope St. John Paul II)

- Old Town in Krakow
- Market Square in Krakow
- Wawel Cathedral in Krakow
- Wawel Castle Grounds in Krakow
- Shrine of Divine Mercy
- Relics of St. Faustina
- Auschwitz Nazi Concentration Camp
- Wieliczka Salt Mines

**SPACE LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE**

Trip includes daily Mass, plus free time for shopping and relaxation.

Visit [www.CollinsTravel.biz](http://www.CollinsTravel.biz) and click on “Pilgrimages” for short video and itinerary or email [Jason@CollinsTravel.biz](mailto:Jason@CollinsTravel.biz) or call 515-850-6133.

# Divine Treasures

Catholic Book and Gift Source

- Books by your favorite authors
- Large children's section
- Adult formation resources for parishes
- Clergy Apparel, and Church supplies
- Gifts and jewelry for all the Sacraments
- In short, all things Catholic

[www.DivineTreasuresInc.net](http://www.DivineTreasuresInc.net) | 515-255-5230

# 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



Photo by Anne Marie Cox  
**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.**

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](http://dmdiocese.org/diocese-accountability.cfm)

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

### ADA 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.

## Catholic Charities and those in need supported by ADA



**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.**

Your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal helps your church and the diocese support:

**16** seminarians with formation and tuition expenses

Outreach and ministry to  
**40,000**  
Hispanic Catholics

**37** retired Priests with medical care and retirement income

**6,222**  
school children attending Catholic school

**400**  
engaged couples undergoing marriage preparation

**75**  
active Priests with medical insurance provided exclusively by diocese

**37,782** active registered Catholics receive Catholic Mirror newspaper

# ADA supports marriage preparation for engaged couples

## Sponsor couples play big role in marriage preparation

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



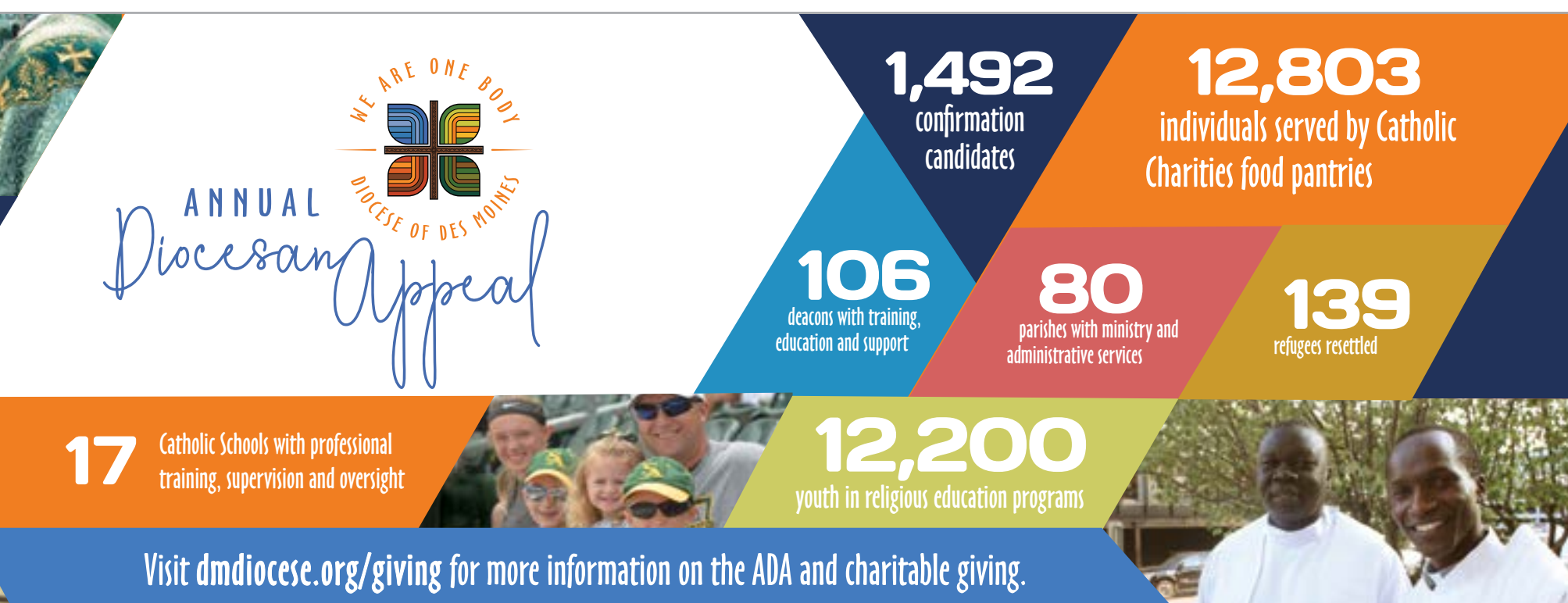
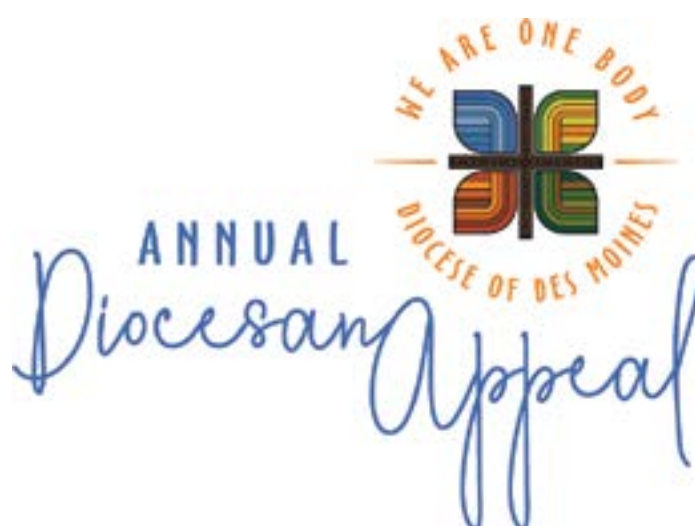
Photo by Laura Wills Photography

**Peter and Sonia Schulte got married in May 2017 at the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines. Their sponsor couple, Adam and Kara Storey, had a positive impact on the Schulte's experience. Here they are pictured together at their wedding with the Adam and Kara Storey and their children Gabriel, Cecilia and Gemma.**

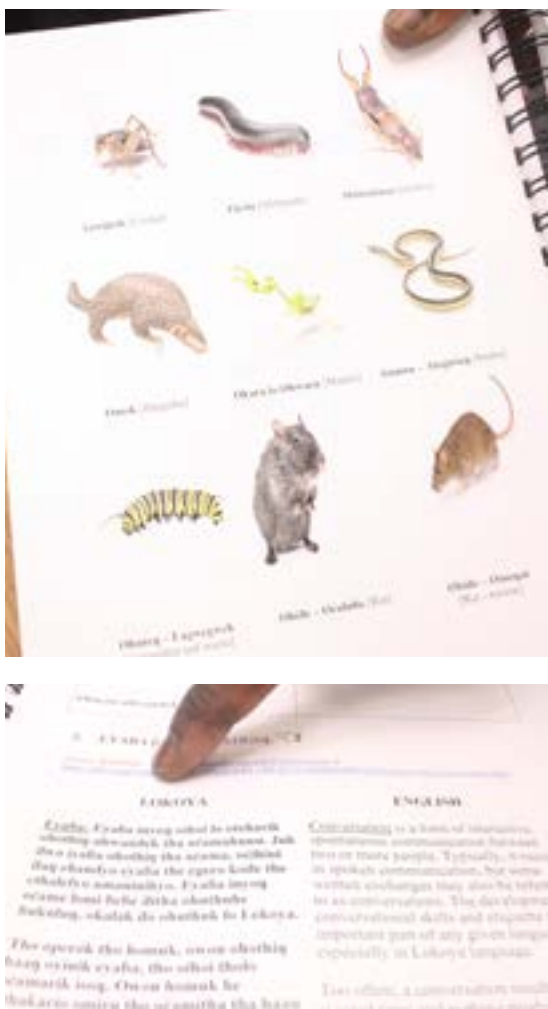
of the Office of Marriage and Family Life at the Diocese of Des Moines, is grateful for the support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which funds marriage ministry programs, including marriage prep.

"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. But more importantly, he prays for them.

And in his spare time, he's helping them by translating sacred texts and liturgical books into their native language - 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 information technology from A.T. Computer Schools in South Africa.

He has a master's degree in theology from St. Augustin 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."

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 day 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 given by Katie Patrizio, adult faith formation director at St. Cecilia Parish in Ames.

The event also includes breakfast, time for fellowship, quiet prayer, reflection, inspirational, encouraging witnesses by local women and a handcrafted take-home gift.

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

Iowa Catholic Men's Conference

Continued from page 1

ter 6 and looks at each piece of the armor of God, as Paul describes it."

He encourages men to take advantage of this opportunity to attend a conference that's just for the guys.

"It's good to separate yourself from your everyday routine and go off [and pray]," Deacon Burke-Sivers said.

When men come together as a community, they understand that "Wait a minute, there's guys here that are dealing with some of the same things I'm struggling with," Deacon Burke-Sivers said. "And despite everything going on in their lives, they are living lives in holiness. I could really learn from these guys and grow with these guys."

Deacon Randy Kiel, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, will also present. His talk is called "And it was good."

"In essence, it's about how to get a hold of the personal negativity that's inside of us and that blocks us to be the bearer of good news," Deacon Kiel said. "I hope they will take away a personal sense of freedom and a clearer identity in who they are in Christ

and that who they are is good."

A Spanish track will be offered again this year, featuring speaker Ambiorix Padilla from the Dominican Republic. Father Enrique Garcia-Elizalde will be the emcee.

Bill Sheridan of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale said he looks forward to the men's conference every year. He once took a sabbatical from the Catholic Church altogether and is glad he's back.

"I really started getting involved in reading Scripture, reading the catechism, listening to Iowa Catholic Radio," Sheridan said. "I attended the men's conference and attended confession for the first time in 10 years."

"When they make the announcement about [next year's] conference I put it on my calendar right away so I know I'm going to be in attendance," Sheridan said. "I'm a big fan of the conference."

"All three of them I have attended have been magnificent," Sheridan added.

Cost for the conference is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students and includes lunch. Learn more and register at IowaCatholicMensConference.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](http://iowacatholicradio.com) or [kvss.com](http://kvss.com).



**ROME & ASSISI**

With Jon Leonetti and Fr. Noah Diehm

**Sept. 2-12, 2019**

**\$3,995 per person**

*"Truly, this was an experience of a lifetime!"*

[www.PilgrimageToRome.com](http://www.PilgrimageToRome.com)

# Mercy rebrands with new name, logo

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."

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 speaks to the work of MercyOne.

"From a theological perspective, there's real merit 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 'e,'" 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."

## Two 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-67 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 catechetics/religious education from The Catholic University of America and was ordained a permanent deacon in 2018.

Kinsella is a partner at Deloitte, where he helps clients create and optimize their organizations. He's a leader in integrated marketing, improving clients' efforts and services.

He holds a master's degree in management information systems through the University of Nebraska at Omaha and has an undergraduate degree in accounting. He is a certified public accountant, a certified information technology professional and a certified information systems auditor.

He chairs the diocesan Finance Council and his parish's Finance Council. He led his parish's largest capital campaign, started an endowment and chaired a centennial celebration committee.

Kinsella serves on the board for Catholic Charities of Omaha and has been a community leader by helping multiple organizations.

"The Diocese of Des Moines is pleased to share the expertise, dedication and involvement of two outstanding leaders, Deacon Halbach and Dan Kinsella, with the national Church," said Bishop Pates. "Each will contribute much to the U.S. Catholic community by way of their vision and intense loyalty for the faith."



Photo by Jimmy Olsen

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](mailto:kcollins@dmdiocese.org) for details.

**EDEN**  
PARISH FUNDRAISING CONSULTING  
IN THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

HELPING RAISE MONEY FOR

- New Churches
- Parish Halls
- Catholic Schools
- Renovations
- Debt Reduction
- Parking Lots

ERIC C. HEININGER, CFRE  
[www.EdenPlus.org](http://www.EdenPlus.org) | 515-705-3336

## Shrines of Fatima and Lourdes

11 Days: September 24-October 4, 2019

Plus Lisbon, Madrid, (including world famous Sagrada Familia), Salamanca, Avila, Barcelona

Includes R/T air, first class hotels, most meals, daily Mass, Lourdes Blessing of the Sick and Candlelight Procession, Fatima International Rosary Procession, baggage handling and much more.



Chicago \$3,499.  
Omaha \$3,599.  
(double occupancy)  
Seats are limited.



For more information:

Fr John Vakulskas  
Box 347

Okoboji, IA 51355  
712.490.8047

[johnvakulskas@gmail.com](mailto:johnvakulskas@gmail.com)  
[www.carnivalpriest.com](http://www.carnivalpriest.com)

# Happy Lunar New Year



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

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 during Mass.



## Father Merz

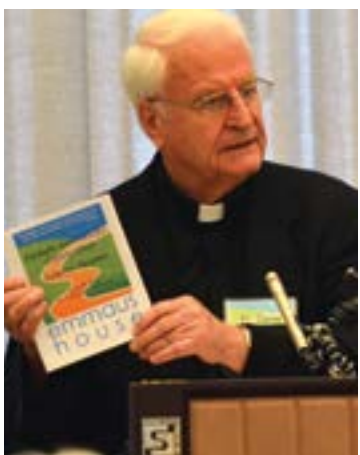
Continued from page 1

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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 said, “Nothing... I think nothing was more important to Gene than



Father Gene Merz

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](http://theemmaushouse.org/gene-merz-memorial).



## Chariton woman teaches girls ‘lost arts’

Continued from page 1

gether 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



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

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.

**A FANTASTIC SHOPPING EVENT**

**IOWA'S LARGEST**

**ARTS & Crafts SHOW**

**March 1-3**

**VARIED INDUSTRIES BLDG.**  
IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
Fri. 5-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4

**ADM. Just \$6.00**  
(10 & under free)  
**FREE PARKING - Free**  
Shuttle Bus Service from  
North Parking Lot on  
Both Friday & Saturday.

**"Where You Can Buy That Quality,  
Handmade Product At An Affordable Price."**  
Garden Art, Oak Furniture, Paintings, Ceramics, Jewelry, Metal  
Art Sculptures, Pet Products, Etched & Stained Glass, Yard Art,  
Pottery, Blown Glass, Candles, Clothing, Floral Wreaths, Toys &  
Dolls, Baskets, Rugs, Glassware, Purses, Ornaments, Food and  
Many More Original Products. All Handmade by the exhibitor.

To Purchase Discounted Advance Tickets and  
For A Chance To Win \$50 Gift Certificates, Visit Our Facebook  
Page at Callahan Promotions, Inc.

## The New Moment

## 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 Des Moines, was startled awake by an “alarming dream.”

“I arrived at the cathedral for the Christmas Eve Mass and no one was there,” Father Bertogli said.

“That experience caused me to ponder how and what can be done to reach out to those who, for whatever reason, are not connected with a faith dimension at Christmas,” he said.

Father Bertogli reached out to some younger, millennial parishioners and asked for the names and contact information of their friends and acquaintances who might appreciate a personal invitation to one of the Christmas Masses.

“I contacted 15 individuals, not knowing what the response would be,” Father Bertogli said. “Some were voice messages or emails. But I told them in the message to please introduce yourself if you are there and I would be out there greeting people after the [Christmas] Masses.”

Six people greeted Father Bertogli after Mass and thanked him for the personal invitation.

“I was not sure what the response would be, but I know six more people worshipped with us at Christmas than we had last Christmas,” he said. “It affirmed an important point made at one of our clergy meetings. One pastor, in discussing The New Moment, suggested this concern tells us we can no longer have business as usual.”

That pastor was retired priest Monsignor Steve Orr.

“We’ve got to come up with different approaches,” Monsignor Orr said. “The young people communicate differently. They are very involved in social media.”

Monsignor Orr said he gets 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.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

**Father John Bertogli, rector of 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.**

## 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](mailto:atmelissahillstjohns@hotmail.com)

## 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](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org).

## 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. Being a Catholic funeral home allowed for the upmost reverence during the rosary, prayer vigil and funeral. The services were remarkable due to their attention to detail and never once did the family have a concern or a worry. Our family has used this funeral home since the early 1900’s and impeccable service, quality and Catholic tradition continue to be demonstrated without exception.”*

~Family of Father Jim Kiernan



Mark & John Parrish, parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

**CALDWELL PARRISH**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

8201 Hickman Road • Urbandale • 515-276-0551 • [CaldwellParrish.com](http://CaldwellParrish.com)

**DES MOINES’ ONLY CATHOLIC-OWNED & OPERATED FUNERAL HOME.**

# ¿Necesitamos a Jesús?

En el centro de la visión, El Nuevo Momento es Jesús. Él es el centro de la historia. Él es la revelación del amor del Padre. Él ofrece las guías para nuestro destino final de salvación.

A nivel personal de cada uno de nosotros, él es la fuente de paz. Es por medio de que estamos seguros de su consistente compañía que podemos manejar las decepciones, los problemas, las complejidades de la vida. Al mismo tiempo, basados en una relación mutua, él despierta la alegría, la esperanza que surge de acoger la revelación que descubre constantemente ante nosotros en el Evangelio. Reconocemos lo esencial que es su presencia en todo momento. Sí necesitamos a Jesús.

Este mismo espíritu dependiente 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 nuestra comunidad personal. Cuando estamos enfermos o tenemos problemas, su compasión, su abnegación, y su ayuda en una verdadera solidaridad humana, nos tocan profundamente. Necesitamos a estos amigos porque ellos nos indican el camino el cual es verdaderamente significativo. Al reunirnos en fe con ellos, construimos el Reino de Dios. Si necesitamos a Jesús.



By  
Bishop  
Richard  
Pates

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

• Dentro de la estela social, tantas de las “señales de nuestros tiempos” nos desaniman.

¿Cuántos de nuestros hermanos sufren de hambre, explotación, violencia, corrupción, pobreza extrema?

• Tantos niños en nuestras escuelas viven con miedo e incertidumbre, en una época de disparos masivos que son consecuencia de la disponibilidad de armas a aquellos que no están capacitados para poseerlas.

• Marcados en las raíces mismas de nuestro país, la plaga de racismo que aún debemos superar. Aún estamos llamados a implementar completamente la verdad de los documentos fun-

dacionales de nuestro país y de su continua legislación. Estamos seguros del hecho de que todas las personas son iguales. Nuestras consciencias, corazones y mentes no han podido todavía darse cuenta de esta realidad.

• El 90% de los científicos en el mundo dan testimonio que hay un cambio climático a consecuencia del comportamiento humano. Se anticipa que en algunas décadas habrá una sofocación universal epidémica si las actividades actuales permanecen sin modificarse...

Al reflexionar en estas y en algunas otras señales de nuestros tiempos, ¿es esto tan evidente! ¡Sí necesitamos a Jesús!

En el presente reciente, las señales de nuestros tiempos se han vuelto aún más perturbadoras. En respuesta la legislación sobre la liberación al aborto que se pusieron en efecto por la Legislatura estatal de Nueva York y que el Gobernador Cuomo firmó como ley, el Cardenal Timothy Dolan, Arzobispo de Nueva York escribió:

“Estoy pensando en la mórbida ley radical sobre el aborto... Esta terrible ley, si no han escuchado, insiste en la demanda de un aborto hasta el momento del nacimiento, retira todos los cargos en contra de un abortista que permite que un bebé abortado, quien pudiese haber so-

brevivido de alguna forma a las tijeras, al bisturí, a la salina, o al desmembramiento, muera antes sus ojos,; el mandato para hacer que un aborto sea más conveniente y fácil, no es necesario que lo lleve a cabo un médico...”

Ya no es necesario que exista el llamado argumento que justifique cierto tiempo de gestación para determinar cuándo comienza la vida. De hecho, todos comenzamos el camino de nuestras vidas en la concepción. Más aún, a la vuelta de cada esquina en los Estados Unidos hay líneas de parejas cariñosas y deseosas de abrir sus hogares a la adopción. Nunca habrá escasez. La luz conquista la oscuridad. La vida vence a la muerte.

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?

## Catholic radio programming in Spanish

### Fortaleciendo Nuestra Fe

Sábado al mediodía, La Reina 1260 AM, 96.5 FM

### La Hora de Cristo Rey

Jueves al mediodía, La Ley 105.5 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](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org).



## Our artisan caskets take eighty years to make.

Trees don't grow overnight. Therefore, we plant a new tree in memory of every person who has used one of our caskets or urns. Stewardship of God's creation goes into the making of all our products.

Call us now for an immediate need or visit our website for future planning. Receive a keepsake cross with your request for our printed catalog.

[trappistcaskets.com](http://trappistcaskets.com) • 888.433.6934

TRAPPIST CASKETS

Blessed and prepared by the monks of New Melleray Abbey

A FANTASTIC SHOPPING EVENT

IOWA'S LARGEST

ARTS & Crafts SHOW

March 1-3

VARIED INDUSTRIES BLDG.  
IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
Fri. 5-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4

ADM. Just \$6.00  
(10 & under free)

FREE PARKING - Free Shuttle Bus Service from North Parking Lot on Both Friday & Saturday.

"Where You Can Buy That Quality, Handmade Product At An Affordable Price."

Garden Art, Oak Furniture, Paintings, Ceramics, Jewelry, Metal Art Sculptures, Pet Products, Etched & Stained Glass, Yard Art, Pottery, Blown Glass, Candles, Clothing, Floral Wreaths, Toys & Dolls, Baskets, Rugs, Glassware, Purses, Ornaments, Food and Many More Original Products. All Handmade by the exhibitor.

To Purchase Discounted Advance Tickets and For A Chance To Win \$50 Gift Certificates, Visit Our Facebook Page at Callahan Promotions, Inc.

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 Catolica de hombres de Iowa

Guiados por los cuatros 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 llevara 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 3:00 pm. Celebraremos la Santa Misa a las 8:00am.

IowaCatholicMensConference.com



A Fantastic shopping event.

**IOWA'S LARGEST**

**ARTS & Crafts SHOW**

Over 300 Exhibitors

Bring This Ad to Show For \$1 Off Adm.

**March 1 - 3**

VARIED INDUSTRIES BLDG.  
IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
Fri. 5-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4

ADM. Just \$6.00 (10 & under free) 3-day re-entry stamp	FREE PARKING Free Shuttle Bus Service from North Parking Lot on both Fri. & Sat.
---	--

"Where You Can Buy That  
Quality, Handmade Product"

To Purchase Discounted Advance  
Admission Tickets and For A Chance To Win  
\$50 Gift Certificates Visit Our Facebook  
Page At Callahan Promotions, Inc.

Classified

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.Mary-Cecilia@cdolinc.net](mailto:Sr.Mary-Cecilia@cdolinc.net). Contact Sister Mary Cecilia with requests for additional information.

**ProximoTravel**

*Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths*

Prices starting at \$2,499 - with Airfare Included in this price from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy, France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

Call us 24/7  
Habla español  
[www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com)  
[anthony@proximotravel.com](mailto:anthony@proximotravel.com)

508-340-9370  
855-842-8001

**Iowa Catholic Radio**  
1150 AM | 88.5 FM | 94.5 FM

news & events for faithful listeners

**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](http://IowaCatholicRadio.com/events).



**Ladies' MOSAIC Luncheon**  
Thursday Feb. 21, 11:30am—1:00pm  
St. Augustin'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](http://IowaCatholicRadio.com/events).

**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](http://IowaCatholicRadio.com)**

Connecting people with Christ and His Church on their faith journey  
[www.IowaCatholicRadio.com](http://www.IowaCatholicRadio.com) | 515.223.1150

**Jordan Grove Office**  
3424 E.P. True Parkway  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
Office/Cell (515) 249-2660  
Fax 515-453-6796  
[Doris@IowaRealty.com](mailto:Doris@IowaRealty.com)

**DORIS C. WEINDEL**  
"THE LISTENER"

**IowaRealty**  
Iowa's Largest

**HAMILTON**  
LAW FIRM, P.C.  
DES MOINES - STORM LAKE - SIOUX CITY

Established in 1876, we're one of Iowa's most experienced law firms.

515.309.3536, 12345 University Ave., Clive, IA 50325

We're done in all the ways you need.  
Too, we are located nearby for your convenience.  
Through the years, we have formed close relationships with the families we serve.  
As neighbors, we are there when needed most.  
With a skilled and caring staff.  
With a warm and comforting atmosphere.  
With an array and a plethora of funeral home services.

**Iles Funeral Homes**  
Caring for you and your loved ones  
[www.IlesFuneral.com](http://www.IlesFuneral.com)

# Purdums part of the Catholic Foundation since the beginning

**By Rachel Seidl  
Contributing Writer**

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



**Dennis and Connie Purdum’s dedication to the Catholic Church has shown their family how to incorporate the Church into their lives and the importance of charitable giving. Pictured above are Dennis and Connie, far left, their two children and their spouses, and six grandchildren.**

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

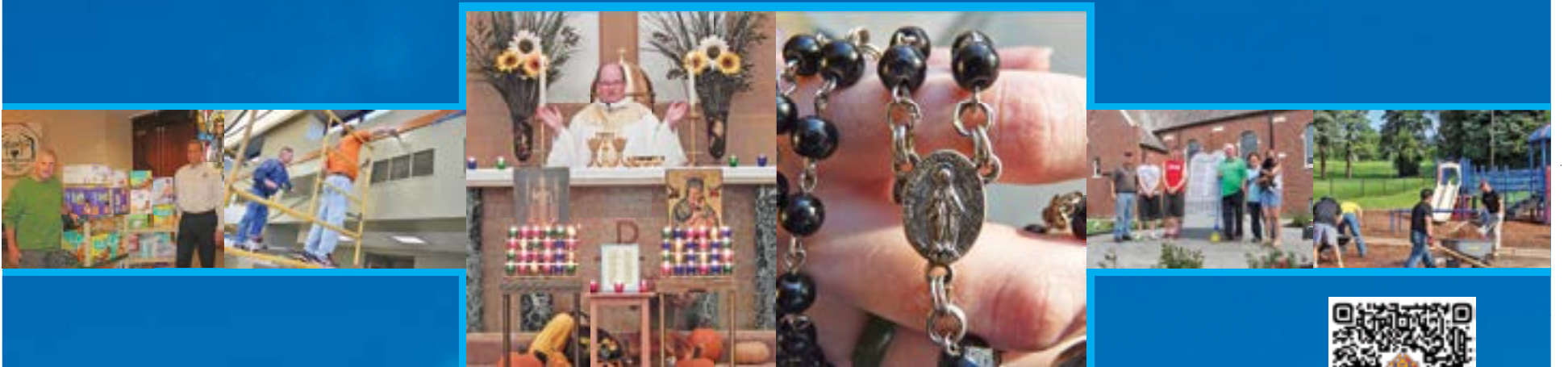
the funds. All we have to worry about is where we want the funds distributed.

“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](mailto:bpulliam@catholicfoundation.org).

## RESURRECT YOUR FAITH; SPRING UP A KNIGHT BEFORE EASTER



Now is the time for all brother Knights to stand steadfast in faith, as Catholics and as gentlemen. We will assist priests, bishops and our fellow Catholics in helping the Church chart a course for the future that puts Christ at the center, so that truly we may say, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”



Scan to Learn More

**We are Called...** Join the Knights of Columbus — visit [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)

To Learn More [www.iowakofc.org](http://www.iowakofc.org) | Follow us on [facebook/IowaKnightsOfColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/IowaKnightsOfColumbus) and [Facebook.com/caballerosdecolonaiowa](https://www.facebook.com/caballerosdecolonaiowa) | on [twitter.com/IAKnights](https://twitter.com/IAKnights)

