

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

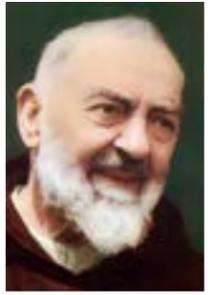
Vol. 53, No. 4

April 19, 2019

Saint's relics coming to Des Moines

By Mary Purtle
Contributing Writer

“Pray,” “Hope” and “Don’t worry” are among the more famous quotes from mystic and miracle-worker St. Pio of Pietrelcino – also known as Padre Pio.



On May 8, the relics of this saint will be available for viewing from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

The relics include: St. Pio’s glove, crusts of his wounds, cotton gauze with his bloodstains, a lock of his hair, his mantle and his handkerchief soaked with his sweat hours before his death.

Visitors may touch the relics and touch a religious item (rosary, medal, prayer card) to the relics, but are asked not to pick up or kiss the reliquaries. St. Pio’s mantle may not be touched.

Confessions will be available during the veneration time in English and Spanish.

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Chrism Mass draws diocese together



Chrism Mass is the diocese’s annual liturgy at which Oil of the Sick and Oil of the Catechumens (used with the Elect and infants who will be baptized) are blessed and Sacred Chrism (used for baptism, confirmation and ordination) is consecrated for sacraments that will be celebrated in the coming year. Top photo: Bishop Richard Pates breathes over the Sacred Chrism as a sign of the Holy Spirit’s action in consecrating the oil. Lower l-r: Altar servers assist at the Mass; Hung Vo, of St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community proclaims a reading; a parishioner receives oils for her parish from Bishop Pates.

Flooded parishioners supporting each other



St. Mary Parish in Hamburg, one of the communities hit hardest when the Missouri River levees failed.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Michael Gallagher found himself in a Red Cross shelter after being rescued by a boat during catastrophic flooding in his town of Hamburg in the far southwest corner of Iowa.

With breaches in the levee by the nearby Missouri River, swollen with spring rain and melted snow, Hamburg sustained more water than most people could remember. Farm equipment was covered, buildings were filled nearly to their roofs, and Interstate 29 was closed with

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Bishop releases list of priests with substantiated allegations

On April 4, Bishop Richard Pates released a list of priests with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of children.

In an email to parishioners the previous day, Bishop Pates said, “Any expression of heartfelt regret without reform is not genuine,” and he explained the steps the diocese has taken toward

prevention and healing.

The last reported incident of clerical sexual abuse of a minor in the Diocese of Des Moines occurred 22 years ago. The diocese encourages victims to come forward, no matter when their abuse occurred.

The following is the bishop’s letter of April 3. See page 10 for the list.

A Letter from the Bishop – April 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On Thursday, I will release a list of nine priests who have substantiated allegations of sexually abusing children while serving in the diocese. All but two of the names on the list have already been shared publicly. The incidents of abuse occurred from the 1950s to the 1990s.

On behalf of the Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa, I apologize

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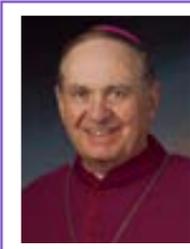
Dying and rising

There is a very striking, free-standing statue that occupies the sanctuary behind the altar and ambo at St. Ambrose of Woodbury Catholic Church in Woodbury, Minnesota. The statue is titled "The dying and rising Christ."

The sculptor seeks to capture the paschal mystery, hence the placement of the piece on the altar platform where the very paschal mystery is made present every time the Eucharist is celebrated. "Do this in memory of me."

What is expressed is that from the seemingly futile death of Jesus on the cross there is also an energy of resurrection, of coming to new life. Recalled is the teaching in the Gospel of John: "Amen, amen I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, but whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." (Jn. 12:24-25).

And so it seems that a similar experience is happening in our Church community as we address the sad history of clerical sexual abuse. As we come forward, identify and take responsibility for this evil, we see that death is occurring and new life is springing forth. We need to firmly attest – this behavior cannot be condoned, it is a sin and a crime and all must be done to extinguish it in the life of the Church. Part of the transformation also involves the prime attention we give to victims – seeking forgiveness, offering opportunities for ongoing support and healing, taming the



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

trauma they have undergone.

And once we make a commitment to transparency and change, new perspectives emerge. For it becomes obvious that regret is empty unless it is accompanied by reform. The first steps to this pathway began in 1988 as the diocese adapted an early policy to counter the sexual abuse of minors by clerics. It has taken hold since the last reported sexual abuse of this kind took place in 1997, 22 years ago.

Reform and stronger policies accelerated in 2002 with the adoption of "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" legislated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Among the effective policies that were implemented:

- "One strike and you're out." A single substantial claim of sexual abuse of a minor by a church worker results in the exclusion of that individual from church ministry on a permanent basis.

- All reports of such action are referred immediately to law enforcement for disposition.

- An Allegation Review Committee, which present constitution in the Diocese of Des Moines is a judge, a chief of police, a lawyer, a counselor, a school teacher, a deacon and a priest who advise the bishop on

all matters regarding clerical sexual abuse.

In addition, initiatives have been undertaken to prevent further occurrences:

- 18,000 background checks have been conducted in the Diocese of Des Moines of all church workers;

- 16,000 persons have been involved in safe environment trainings;

- The diocese undergoes an annual audit by a national agency to insure compliance with these policies. Also, our church workers participate in monthly training on the prevention of this and other abuses in a program titled: "Virtus."

The identification and implementation of these measures can be painful insofar as they involve difficult revelations and coming to grips with the truth. It is a form of death to old ways.

But what is inevitably experienced simultaneously is the coming to new life, of resurrection.

The very message that is abroad this Sunday, "He is risen. He is risen indeed," becomes real in our circumstances and highlights the meaning and purpose of living the Christian life. In the aftermath of this extensive trial that has darkened our path, purification is coming about. We are developing an ever clearer focus of the mission entrusted to us as church, as beloved disciples: "To make Jesus Christ known and loved in our time by choosing to live out the Gospel at every moment."

The message of the sculpture in St. Ambrose of

Bishop installs priests



Photo by Ken Seeber

Bishop Richard Pates installed Father Michael Amadeo as pastor of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny on March 24.



Bishop Richard Pates on March 31 installed Father Dan Gehler as pastor of St. Peter Parish in Defiance and St. Joseph Parish in Earling.

Woodbury Church is not applicable only to the present crisis but an invitation to make our own the "dying and rising of Christ"

throughout our entire life experience.

Bishop's Schedule

Friday, April 19

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

Des Moines - Good Friday Service, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 12:10 p.m.

Saturday, April 20

Des Moines – Easter Vigil, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 21

Des Moines – Easter Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 23

Des Moines – Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa Giving Thanks Event, Catholic Pastoral Center, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24

Council Bluffs – Easter Joy Mass, St. Albert Catholic School, 9:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Presentation of the 2019 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award to Father Steven Avella, author of "The Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa: A History of the Diocese of Des Moines," Governor Reynolds' Office, State Capitol, 1 p.m.

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

Neola – Confirmation & reception, St. Patrick Parish, Neola and St. Columbanus, Weston, St. Patrick Parish, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 25

Ankeny – Confirmation & reception, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 26

Des Moines – "In the Heartland with

Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Ankeny – Confirmation & reception, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

Des Moines – Confirmation & reception, St. Theresa Parish, 10 a.m. Greenfield – Confirmation & reception, St. John Parish, 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

Creston – Confirmation & reception for St. Edward Parish, Afton and Holy Spirit Parish, Creston, Holy Spirit Parish, 9 a.m.

Carlisle – Confirmation & reception, St. Elizabeth Parish, 1 p.m. Des Moines – Divine Mercy Mass, Christ the King Parish, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 29

Norwalk – Confirmation & reception, St. John Parish, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30

Des Moines – Confirmation & reception, Basilica of St. John, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1

Winterset – Confirmation & reception for St. Joseph Parish, Winterset and St. Patrick Parish, Irish Settlement, St. Joseph Parish, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 2

Des Moines – Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 7:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Confirmation & reception, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 3

Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m. Indianola – Confirmation &

reception for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Indianola and Immaculate Conception Parish, St. Marys, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4

Des Moines – Mass, 118th annual convocation of the Iowa Knights of Columbus, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 8 a.m.

Des Moines – Confirmation, Our Lady of the Americas Parish, 11 a.m. Missouri Valley – Confirmation & reception for St. Patrick Parish,

Missouri Valley and St. Anne Parish, Logan St. Patrick Parish, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 5

Des Moines – Mass, 118th Annual Convocation of the Iowa Knights of Columbus, Marriott Hotel Ballroom, 8 a.m.

Des Moines – Confirmation & reception, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.

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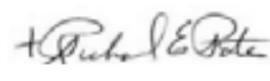


OFFICIAL

Bishop Richard Pates has made the following appointments effective July 11, 2019.

Father Kenneth Halbur – from Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Creston, St. Edward Parish, Afton and St. Malachy School, Creston to Pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Ankeny.

Father Adam Westphal – from Pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Ankeny to Administrator of Holy Spirit Parish, Creston, St. Edward Parish, Afton and St. Malachy School, Creston.


Bishop Richard Pates
Bishop of Des Moines


Jason Kurth
Chancellor

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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.

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Successful businessman and Hispanic priest forge friendship

Bob Myers, past chairman and CEO of Casey's, helps Father Fabián Moncada at Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When Father Fabián Moncada was ordained a priest, his first assignment was as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

It was there that he struck up a friendship with local businessman Bob Myers, past chairman and chief executive officer of Casey's General Stores.

"We joined for coffee different times," Father Moncada said. "He came and visited me when I was assigned in Council Bluffs and then I was reassigned as pastor at Our Lady of the Americas.

"From the beginning of my ministry, he was involved," Father Moncada continued.

"He took an interest in the Hispanic community and began attending the Spanish Masses and attended all three festivals at Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines."

Myers enjoys spending time with Father Moncada and the Hispanic community.

"I like him – I think he's a great priest," Myers said. "And I'm just impressed with his depth of spirituality. He seems to be a magnet where the Latinos gravitate towards him, and so I find that very heartening."

So when Father Moncada sought Myers' assistance, he was naturally eager to help.

Our Lady of the Americas Church has a lot of building repair needs, including a roof replacement, tuckpointing and masonry, lighting upgrades, water damage refurbishment and much more. Total costs are expected to reach close to \$1.5 million.

But the parish was not in a position financially to fix the problems. Many of the mostly Hispanic parishioners work long hours and two or three jobs just to make ends meet, Father Moncada said.

He sought Myers' help "because he's well connected, a person with experience. He's deeply Catholic and he's a natural leader...and he's been very persistent with the people to help us," he said.

With Myers' help, the parish has now raised close to \$250,000 and hopes to be blessed with a \$250,000 matching grant from a local organization.

Myers also pulled together a group of well-connected Catholic friends from various industries to form the Our Lady of the Americas Grassroots Committee. The following people serve:

- Bob Myers, past CEO of Casey's General Stores
- Rick Ball, managing member of Ball Team, LLC Construction Services
- Rick Thompson, partner at Gilcrest/Jewett Lumber Company
- Terry McGonegle, Sr. VP / CFO of Wright Tree Service
- Wendy Ingham, vice president of development at Orchard Place



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bob Myers, former CEO of Casey's General Stores, with his friend Father Fabian Moncada, pastor of Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines.

- Jason Kurth, chancellor of the Diocese of Des Moines
 - Father Moncada
 - Enrique Pena Velasco, president at International Marketing Communications, Inc.
 - John McIlhon, president at Image Solutions LLC
 - Angel Grubb, Jerry's Homes
 - Chris McCarville, executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa
- Our Lady of Americas Foundation was created with an endowment started at the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. McCarville, executive director of the Catholic foundation, serves as a resource for the committee.
- "What I am impressed

most of all with this project is the sincere desire from folks like Bob Myers and others who have a lot of other things they could be spending their time on and they have really dedicated themselves to see this be successful and help out a sector of the diocese that really needs it," McCarville said.

Rick Ball, a managing member of Ball Team, LLC Construction Services, said it's important to give back.

"We are called to give of our time, talents and treasures, so I have really focused my energy the last 20 years on Catholic-based needs," Ball said. "I am also in the construction business, which has benefitted from the many Hispanic families that reside in Iowa and specifically Des

Moines. I think it only appropriate that I should assist those families with their church.

"If the parish as a whole has less worries about the resources needed for the building, hopefully they can enhance their ministry outreach, education and a true sanctuary from daily life," Ball added.

It's been rewarding to see some of the improvements already taking place.

"I was blown away..." McCarville said. "I was there before Christmas and I came back and that whole main floor of the parish offices has been redone and the upstairs had been redone. They've created new meeting spaces."

The help from local

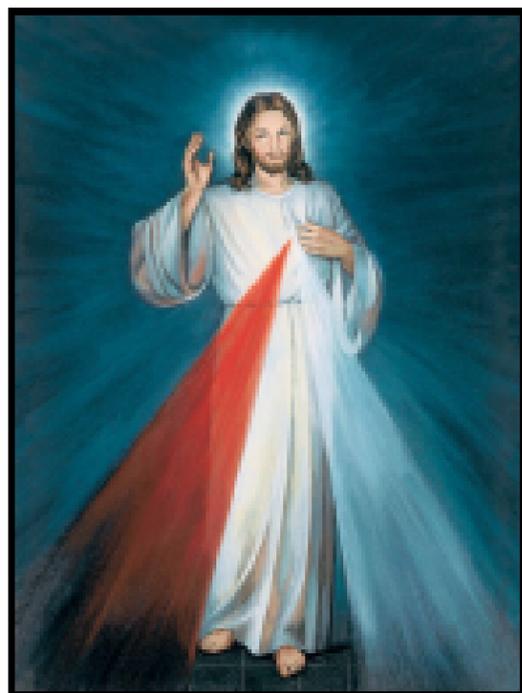
business leaders has helped forge relationships between the communities, Father Moncada added.

"One of the things that's very helpful is that Bob is a great builder of relationships between Anglos and Hispanics, even if he doesn't speak Spanish..." Father Moncada said. "He's willing to work with people.

Our Lady of the Americas Parish is "home" to nearly 1,800 families.

"We can work together," Father Moncada concluded. "And this is what it means to be a universal Catholic Church."

If you would like to make a contribution to the Our Lady of the Americas Foundation, visit catholicfoundationiowa.org.



The Diocesan Celebration of *Divine Mercy Sunday*

Sunday, April 28th

Christ the King Catholic Church
5711 S.W. 9th Street

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet: 3:00 p.m.

Mass 3:30 p.m. celebrated by
Bishop Richard Pates

Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Hall

Sponsored by Divine Mercy Des Moines Committee

For more information visit our website at

www.divinemercydesmoines.com

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 the conclusion of the homily printed in three consecutive editions of The Catholic Mirror.

What Dad loved most of all was family. You see, Dad taught me how to love as a father.

My sisters and I have said over and over that he and Mom were never more in love than they have been in these last months and it shows. What a grace!

One of the greatest graces of my life was to preside as they re-committed themselves to their wedding vows in Rome this past spring as they celebrated 30 years together.

Dad adored Mom. And he wasn't afraid to say it or show it, even if sometimes in a clumsy sort of manner! He taught me what it meant to be a father and what it meant to be a man.

In an age where masculinity is often stereotyped as the strong man who can bully his way through life on the one hand, or when it is totally divorced from any sense of responsibility or fatherhood

on the other, Dad in his gentle, yet firm way, showed me what it meant to be a man. And in his love and even in his discipline for my sisters and I, he showed me what it meant to be a father. The balance, the patience, the self-sacrifice. The only way in which I merit the address "Father" is because he was first one to me.

Now, after all that, Dad wasn't perfect, so you'd better pray for him.

He had his own flaws, and we got to see those too...and no, I'm not just talking about the ceaseless puns, witty jokes, Dad jokes, one-upping back and forth one-up-man-ship jokes with his good friend Rick Shannon...no he had his flaws—we loved him in and through them, too.

As Catholics we believe our prayers for the dead truly make a difference for them, and that their prayers in turn for us are very powerful as they stand close to the seat of God.

Today, we hand our dear Dad, our dear brother, uncle, friend, co-worker, neighbor, Grand Knight, we hand Tim back into those arms which were outstretched upon the cross for his salvation, and we ask Jesus to receive him into his loving embrace.

We pray that his sins be forgiven him and he be welcomed into the halls of heaven.

Our Gospel today spoke of how the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread: the last time the five of us (Mom, Dad, my siblings and me) were gathered together was for a celebratory dinner we shared New Year's Eve, on his birthday.

It was truly a beautiful evening. Just as surely as we saw each other through the bread broken that night, so, too, we know we have communion and union with Dad and each other in the bread to be broken at this altar.

In a few moments, we will pray my favorite text of the funeral liturgy.

It comes in the preface, that great beginning to the Eucharistic Prayer which captures in a few poetic lines the particular celebration which the Church is celebrating in the particular Mass.

The funeral preface presents us with these lines: "Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an



Father Trevor Chicoine with his father, Tim.

eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven."

Nothing could better capture my hope, my prayer, my faith today: Tim Chicoine's life has, albeit unexpectedly changed.

It has not ended.

We commit today his earthly body to that same earth from which he helped feed so many. We pray that the one who will offer us his body upon this altar, the Lord Jesus, will receive Dad into that eternal dwelling, where we, too, one day may be reunited with him in heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Father Trevor Chicoine serves St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

Lifeline available to couples that need help

When I was just 15 years old, I met the love of my life, my best friend, and the man who would later become my husband.

Mark and I got married when we were 21 and 22 years old.

We were madly in love and naïvely thought that love would easily carry us through anything that could possibly come our way. Within the first 10 years of our marriage, we were given many chances to test that theory.

Unmet expectations turned into downright disagreements on money, living arrangements, faith, future plans, you name it.

Pile on top of those issues; several years of infertility, alcohol addiction, broken trust, financial debt, and we had a recipe for disaster.

We had plenty of reasons to justify a divorce. When that 'D' word was put on the table, we were both shocked that things had spiraled out of control so much. While we both loved the idea of being married, we really had no idea how to actually do it, not well at least.

By the grace of God, I am here today to tell you that we learned, we grew, and overcame those rocky years.

Guest Column

By Maria Campbell



Unfortunately, we had to learn the hard way.

We began picking up the pieces and re-honoring our commitment to God and each other. It was a grueling battle as we invited our heavenly Father to become a welcome part of our life, individually and as a couple. Somehow, we found the strength and solid foundation that we needed to build on and to go forward together.

We often think that we only have two options: Stay and be miserable, or get out. His way, or her way.

There is a Third Option.

There is a lifeline for couples who could use a little help like we needed. The Third Option is a ministry that my husband and I, along with several other couples, and Adam Storey from the Marriage & Family

Office of the Des Moines diocese, are offering as a free service to any married couple in the diocese.

Our group meets twice every month, on the first and third Mondays, from 7-9 p.m. at Mercy College in downtown Des Moines. It is a confidential, non-threatening approach to growing as individuals, learning practical communications skills and improving marriages.

The Third Option tackles 14 topics throughout the year like respect, listening, conflict resolution, forgiveness, trust and more. We discuss ways that these issues affect our relationships and we teach practical ways to improve ourselves in each area which will in turn improve our marriages.

This is not group therapy, it is not counseling, it is a beautiful opportunity for us to learn from each other how to find and maintain peace in our marriage vocation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1641) refers to Christ as the source of grace in the sacrament of matrimony. Christ dwells with spouses, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him.

This year Mark and I will celebrate 22 years of marriage. The last 12

years have found us taking up crosses and overcoming more even challenges; having a stillborn baby, closing the family business, deacon formation and Mark's ordination, changing parishes, new job, new business, new responsibilities, new ministries, homeschooling, caring for aging parents, and more.

But in the past several years of our marriage, we have also found joy, peace, mutual respect and a renewed sense of commitment in knowing that not only will our marriage survive until death parts us, it will thrive, because we continue to be intentional and give it the attention it needs and deserves.

The Third Option is not just for couples who are having problems. It is for any couple that is willing to learn and grow together.

For more information on The Third Option, contact Campbell at 515-419-1697 or email maria.campbell@msn.com.

This column is an edited version of a podcast offered through The Well. Maria Campbell is a parishioner of the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines.

Keep the casseroles coming

Guest Column

By Ken Bresnan

I was often asked in my years working for Catholic Charities in parish outreach: What were the basic acts of service that a parish can do?

My first response was always that parishes are called to do many things. Each parish was different. All good. All showing action as the face of prayer.

But now, to the answer to the original question. Possibly the most basic mission that I saw in every parish was the funeral dinner.

Most parishioners that I talked to never thought of that event as special. To most, it was just a natural thing to do.

This is truly the "heart" of the parish at work. This is one of the interpretations of the Corporal Works of Mercy: To bury the dead.

Let's take a brief look at what this

mission is. A parish community comes together to serve a family in their midst. It is a time when a family needs friends to lean on and their parish is there for them.

One of the missions of parish is to be there for each other. It is face-to-face ministry as Pope Francis wants our Works of Mercy to be.

Many of the parishioners are talking to that family. Others are welcoming their guests and extended family.

The parish is offering its buildings, its food and its friendship as the face of its prayers to the family. The parish rejoices as the children and their families

return to their home parish to unite as one family.

Food warms and nourishes. Casseroles heal. Parishioners serving and cleaning up are there for the families, not only to provide those services, but to continually welcome the family's guests and the family members.

I have a distinct memory following my mother's funeral of being in the kitchen at the end of the meal after the dishes were done.

There, on one of the counters, were all of the empty bowls, Tupperware containers and pans that parishioners had brought filled with casseroles, salads, homemade breads and desserts.

I turned one over and saw masking tape with the name of the family that had prepared that item for the dinner.

I had moved away from my hometown decades ago. But turning each and every one of those pans to look at the names of the families that I grew up with, as well as the generosity of those names that I did not know, was a very moving experience for me.

When all of relatives and friends have left and the family is in the process of leaving, the hugs the family receives and gives to their fellow parishioners are among the most revealing signs of God's love.

I cannot think of a more perfect work of mercy that parishes do than when they are present collectively for one of their grieving families.

Ken Bresnan is a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola.

Ask a Priest

Q. What's the difference between a Basilica and a Cathedral?

A. EVERY DIOCESE has a cathedral. It is considered the bishop's church.

Some dioceses, though by no means all, have a basilica as well. A basilica is so designated by the Holy See. Often the basilica has an historic or architectural dignity.

There are certain requirements for a church to be selected for this honor. In some dioceses, the cathedral can also be named a basilica.

Q. When do you call for a priest for the sacrament of the sick?

A. WELL, IT USED to be that when sick people saw the priest coming, they thought to themselves, "I'm a goner!"

Before the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Sacrament of the Sick (then referred to as Extreme Unction) was conferred only once in a person's lifetime. That restriction has been removed.

Now, many parishes celebrate the Anointing of the Sick at weekend Masses throughout the year. When in doubt, make the request to your pastor.

Q. Have any popes visited nations during time of war?

A. IN MEDIEVAL TIMES, when there were still the "Papal States" popes actually led troops into battle. Thank God that's no longer the case.

In more recent times, Pope Pius XII was in Rome during World War II. Italy was aligned with Germany and Japan against the Allies. So Pius didn't have to make a visit anywhere else. He was in the midst of the war.

Happily, popes today try to prevent war in whatever ways they can. Pope John Paul II commented, "When we go to war, everyone loses."

Q. How often should a person go to confession?

A. IN THE EARLY DAYS of the church, confession as we know it today was not available.

Baptism and the Eucharist were the chief ways for Christians to experience the forgiveness of the Lord and reconciliation with the Church.

The sacrament of penance has a long and varied history.

The earliest forms were public rather than private.

Once, it was available **only one time** in a person's life. If the person didn't reform, they weren't eligible for a second opportunity.

Today, the sacrament is available in parishes and schools, and there is no limit to the number of times a person can be reconciled.

How often should a person go to confession?

The short answer is: as often as he or she feels the need.

Most parishes have seen a decline in the frequency of confession. That's not necessarily a bad thing. For many, confession had become rather routine.

Now, even if people go less frequently, they take those opportunities to be renewed in their commitment to be followers of Jesus.

Got a question for "Ask a Priest" and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to communications@dmdiocese.org.

Two priests changing assignments

Bishop Richard Pates has made two priest appointments effective July 11.

Father Ken Halbur, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston, St. Edward Parish in Afton and Canonical administrator of St. Malachy School in Creston will become the pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny.

Father Adam Westphal, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny, will become administrator of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston, St. Edward Parish in Afton and St. Malachy School in Creston.

Father Halbur, ordained by Bishop Pates in 2009, attended East High School in Des Moines, Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Conception Seminary College in Conception Missouri and Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois.

After ordination, Father Halbur served St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines until 2011, when he

became chaplain at St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs and parochial vicar at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs.

In 2012, he received his current assignment serving parishes in Creston and Afton and St. Malachy School in Creston.

Father Westphal, ordained by Bishop Pates in 2013, attended Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

After ordination, Father Westphal served St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines as parochial vicar for two years. In 2015, he became parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

In 2016, he studied Canon law full time.

He was appointed associate pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in 2017 and became pastor in 2018.



Diocesan Schools Superintendent to lead oldest Catholic high school in the country

Des Moines diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday will become the head of high school at Ursuline Academy in New Orleans on July 1. She has served the Diocese of Des Moines for the last four years. Her last day in Des Moines will be June 14.

Bonday brought to the diocese a vision for continuous improvement and long-term planning to ensure a strong future for Catholic education in the diocese's 17 schools that serve more than 6,000 students.

A hallmark of her four years in Iowa was her leadership and oversight of a strategic planning process for the diocese's schools. She brought together experts in the education, business and parish communities who will collaborate to ensure the strategic plans for the Des Moines metro area schools and St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs are implemented.

She also positioned the Catholic schools to apply for national accreditation with Advanc-Ed, which requires continuous improvement processes be in place.

"Heartfelt thanks are extended

to Dr. Tracy Bonday for her four years of dedicated service for the Diocese of Des Moines as Superintendent of Schools," said Bishop Richard Pates. "A lasting legacy she leaves us

will be the inauguration of 'The Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools.' Her energetic guidance of the study has led us to the implementing of the plan, which will have a dramatic effect on our schools' progress in critical areas in the years ahead. Our very best wishes are extended to Dr. Bonday as she continues her generous service to Catholic schools."

Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, founded in 1727 and sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters, is a Catholic school for girls offering a strong educational environment from early childhood through a college preparatory secondary program.

The Diocese of Des Moines will create a search committee to find a schools superintendent.



New head of school named for St. Albert

Vernon Dobelmann has been named the executive director of a newly established leadership model at St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs, effective June 23.

The executive director position was created following a diocesan schools strategic planning initiative and subsequent, more focused strategic planning process specifically for St. Albert Catholic Schools.

Leading the school in his new position, Dobelmann will be responsible for institutional advancement, strategic plan development and promoting the fundamental values of a Catholic school. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminal justice from Truman State University. He attended Paul VI Pontifical Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies and was ordained a permanent deacon in June, 1999.

His experience includes teaching theology and serving as the varsity basketball coach at Valle Catholic High School in Ste. Genevieve, Mo. and serving as an interim principal at Assumption Parish in O'Fallon, Missouri and superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Dobelmann is excited to come to Council Bluffs: "I will do my utmost to implement the strategic plan in cooperation and collaboration with everyone involved. Working together will enable us to put St. Albert's on solid ground for decades to come."



Padre Pio relics in Des Moines

Continued from page 1

A special Mass in honor of St. Pio will be celebrated at 5 p.m. by Bishop Richard Pates, during which the prayer intentions written in the envelopes provided will be included in the intercessions. There will be no veneration of the relics after Mass.

Tour groups and school groups are welcome and should reserve their time by contacting Mary Purtle at MarkP3006@aol.com or calling 515-865-3861 to request a reservation form and other information about planning a visit.

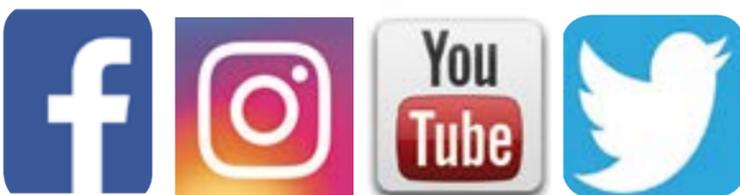
The Catholic Pastoral Center will serve as a gathering place for tour groups.

It will also include information about Padre Pio and religious items from the St. Pio Foundation for sale to support its charitable work.

The relics tour is sponsored by the Saint Pio Foundation of New Rochelle, New York, and was requested by Bishop Pates. The Saint Pio Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to promoting awareness of St. Pio and his mission by working with institutions and individuals who share the same vision to serve "those in need of relief of suffering."

Funds raised by the foundation are used to provide grants to American Catholic healthcare, educational, social, religious and cultural partner organizations. More information about the Saint Pio Foundation can be found at saintpiofoundation.org.

Stay Connected!



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Around the diocese

April 23 Tuesday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

WEST DES MOINES -- Business meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

April 28 Sunday

Performance by Dominican Sister

DES MOINES -- St. Augustin Parish Performing Arts Committee is presenting a one-woman performance by Dominican Sister Nancy Murray as St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Augustin at 4 p.m. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

April 28 Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday

DES MOINES -- The diocesan celebration of Divine Mercy will be held at Christ the King Church with reconciliation at 2 p.m., Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 p.m. and Mass at 3:30 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Richard Pates. Refreshments follow in the parish hall.

May 1, 8 Wednesdays

Healing Masses and Novena

DES MOINES -- Monsignor Frank Chiodo is celebrating the second annual St. Peregrine Solemn Healing Masses Wednesdays, May 1 and 8 at St. Anthony Church. Everyone is invited. St. Peregrine medals will be handed out along with an invitation for anointing with blessed St. Peregrine oil. The novena prayers will be May 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9 at 8:30 a.m.; May 3 at 7 p.m. and May 5 at 11 a.m.

May 2 Thursday

Concert and Book Tour

URBANDALE -- "I Will Bring You Home" is an evening of songs of prayer and stories of faith with David Haas at St. Pius X Parish from 7-10 p.m. A free-will offering at the door. Visit davidhaas.us/calendar/ to see when he will be near you.

May 3 Friday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

URBANDALE -- First Friday Mass at 8 a.m. at St. Pius X Parish. Breakfast following at IHOP. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

May 7 Tuesday

Salad supper and card party

DES MOINES -- The Altar & Rosary Society of the Basilica of St. John will host its annual spring Salad Supper and Card Party. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., buffet at 6:30 p.m. Questions? Call Chris Killough 279-6774.

May 8 Wednesday

St. Pio Relics

DES MOINES -- Relics of St. Pio, also known as Padre Pio, will be on display for veneration from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Call Nancy at 515-288-7411 ext. 201 for details or tour information.

May 11 Saturday

Tony Melendez concert

RED OAK -- Come be inspired by musician Tony Melendez at 7 p.m. at the Wilson Performing

Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling 712-623-3183. Proceeds will benefit the Pregnancy Center of SW Iowa.

May 14 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.

May 18 Saturday

Reception for Dr. Dowdle

DES MOINES -- In celebration of 32 years as principal, St. Augustin School is hosting a retirement reception for Dr. Nancy Dowdle from 2-4:30 p.m. in the St. Augustin Parish Hall. Please RSVP to <https://www.staugustinschool.org/dowdlememories>.

May 23 Thursday

St. Vincent de Paul Charity Golf Outing

NORWALK -- This year's outing will be held at Echo Valley Country Club. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. Golfer registration is \$125. This includes hosted food and beverages as well as a raffle ticket for one of ten cash prizes. All proceeds will go to help us provide critical services to those most in need in Des Moines and surrounding areas.

June 8 Saturday

Discovering Spiritual Gifts

WEST DES MOINES -- St. Francis of Assisi parish is offering an opportunity to explore and begin the process of discovering

God's call in your life from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Serra Room. Lunch is included. Register by May 30 at saintfrancischurch.org/adultfaith/events or 515-440-1030. Suggested donation is \$25

June 28-30 Friday-Sunday

50th Class Reunion

WEST DES MOINES -- The St. Joseph Academy and Dowling Catholic High School Class of 1969 will hold its 50th class reunion on June 28-29. Friday will be at Blank

Golf Course Club House from 6-11 p.m. with appetizers, music by the Echoes Five, and cash bar. Lunch for the St. Joseph Academy will be at 11 a.m. at Tavern Pizza and Pasta Grill in West Des Moines.

On Saturday meet at Pal Joeys in West Des Moines for sandwiches, etc. and a cash bar.

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Dowling Catholic High School chapel.

Legislative update

By Tom Chapman

The pace of debate on the floor of the Iowa legislature slowed down some last week as leaders from both chambers spent time behind closed doors working on the budget.

The Iowa Catholic Conference has updated its action alerts opposing the legalization of sports betting and the provision of contraception without a prescription. Go to voterVOICE.net/icc/home and send a message to your legislators.

The ICC is also advocating for an increase in tax credits that help raise money for scholarships to attend a nonpublic school.

The Iowa House passed the human services budget bill, HF 766, and sent it to the Senate. It spends more than \$1.9 billion for health and human services including the state's portion of Medicaid, public health and TANF (welfare). There was an amendment, which was withdrawn, that would have "defunded" abortion providers from Title X family planning money.

The Iowa Hunger Coalition is advocating for a sales tax exemption to nonprofit emergency feeding organizations. The Iowa coalition estimates that exempting emergency feeding organizations from sales tax would provide 1.375 million more meals in Iowa through food banks alone.

Bishop's schedule

Continued from page 2

Elkhart -- Confirmation for St. Mary Parish, Elkhart and Holy Cross Parish, Maxwell, St. Mary Parish, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

Adel -- CLADD Mass and Celebration, St. John Parish, 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, May 8

Des Moines -- Mass, Relics of St. Pio, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 5 p.m.

Granger -- Confirmation & reception, Assumption Parish, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 9

Council Bluffs -- Presbyteral Council, Corpus Christi Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, May 10

Des Moines -- "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Urbandale -- Confirmation & reception, St. Pius X Parish, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 11

Des Moines -- Mary's Meals Run, Holy Trinity Parish, 9 a.m.

Glenwood -- Confirmation &

reception, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 12

Des Moines -- Confirmation & reception, St. Peter Vietnamese Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 13

Council Bluffs -- Visit and introduction of Deacon Vernon Dobelmann as Executive Director of St. Albert Catholic Schools, St. Albert School, Noon

Tuesday, May 14

Des Moines -- Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

Thursday, May 16

Des Moines -- Vocations Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

Des Moines -- Confirmation & reception, All Saints Parish, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 17

Des Moines -- "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

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Spiritual Resistance

June 13, 6 p.m. - June 16, 1 p.m.
Schuyler, NE



We will be praying with and reflecting upon the various ways we resist Jesus' relating with us. The basic belief is that God reverences and labors with our human resistances as a sculptor reverences the resistance of the clay. **Father Larry Gillick, SJ**, from Omaha, is a sought after retreat master around the country. Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com

St. Benedict Center
www.stbenedictcenter.com
Retreats@stbenedictcenter.com
402.352.8819

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Giving is part of Catholic identity

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Giving is more than a good idea or a nice thing to do, but part of the identity of Catholics.

"It's important to give because it's in the very fiber of our being," said Maureen Kenney, diocesan director of the Stewardship Office. "The whole concept of stewardship is that we see everything we have in our lives – including our lives themselves – as gifts from God.

"We are asked to give an investment of those gifts in the form of time, talent and treasure," she said. "The bishops' conference said in their pastoral letter on the subject, 'Once one has chosen to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option.'"

If we're truly Catholic, our actions must correspond, Kenney added.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is one such way Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines can give.

"The Annual Diocesan Appeal consists of work that betters our ability to serve the Catholics in southwest Iowa in ways that no person or parish can do alone," Kenney said.

Seth and Mary Sojka, active members of the Basilica of St. John Parish, believe strongly in supporting priests, deacons, the bishop and more through the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

"The ADA is a necessary aspect of the church," Seth said. "One way or another, we are all asked to support those around us. The ADA goes a long way to fulfilling our call.

"I think it's important to understand that we're part of a larger, global church beyond just our parish, beyond just our families, beyond just our diocese," he added.

Every diocese around the country needs the support of

its people.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal provides for the Des Moines diocese in many ways, including:

- Health insurance and benefits for clergy members, including 75 active priests and 37 retired priests. "This expense is approximately \$600,000 per year," Kenney said.

- Priests' pension fund.
- Education for seminarians. "Last year's cost for seminarians' schooling was about \$500,000," Kenney said. The diocese currently has 16 seminarians.

- Ongoing formation for 107 deacons.

- Living expenses for the bishop and bishop emeritus. "The diocese assists them with their living needs, transportation



needs, administrative assistance, health insurance, retirement benefits over the length of their life. And that's really the least we can do after they've given us so much with their ministry," Kenney said.

Parishes have reached 40 percent of their Annual Diocesan Appeal goals, totaling \$4.4 million across the Diocese of Des Moines.

"That's a really significant achievement, because not even a month into the campaign we reached the \$1 million mark," Kenney said. "Sixty percent of parishes are doing better in meeting their individual goals than they were at this time last year."

To make your donation online, visit dmdiocese.org/giving.

Father Chinna celebrates 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood

India native is pastor of parishes in Atlantic and Anita

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Father Devaraj Chinpan (known as Father Chinna) celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to priesthood at his parish of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic last month.

Father Chinna is also pastor of St. Mary Parish in Anita.

He wanted to have a celebration as a way of giving thanks to God for his "many, many blessings over the last 25 years."

"It's my gratitude to God....," he said. "I have so much to be thankful for through these years and so many people helped me, so I really wanted the people to just come and join me. It's a thanksgiving. It definitely turned out to be the best celebration for me."

Close to 300 people came to help Father Chinna celebrate.

"They were very happy to come and thank the Lord and that was very palpable," he said. "And it created an opportunity to spend time together as a parish family. That was an important thing for me. I was really, really grateful to the diocese and grate-

ful to my brother priests."

Bishop Richard Pates concelebrated the Mass with Father Chinna.

Father Trevor Chicoine, parochial vicar of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines, preached the homily. Retired Monsignor Larry Beeson was also in attendance. Both of them had served the Atlantic and Anita parishes.

Father Chinna grew up on a small farm outside a tiny village in southern India and remembers having the desire to become a priest at a very young age.

He joined the Franciscan order and was ordained in India. He came to the United States to serve with the Carmelite Sisters in Florida who ran a facility



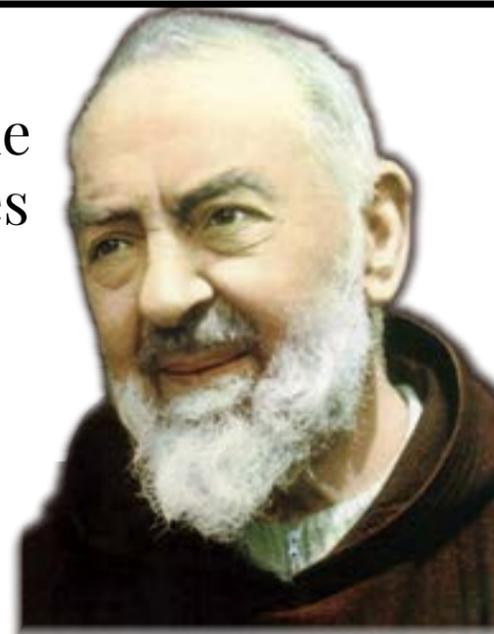
Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Father Chinna wanted to show God his gratitude for his 25 years as a priest.

for the aged and infirm. He came to serve the parishes in Atlantic and Anita in 2017.

"It's been an incredible experience," Father Chinna said.

Saint Pio Comes to the Diocese of Des Moines



Wednesday, May 8, 2019
From 8:30am to 4:30pm

St. Ambrose Cathedral
607 High Street in Des Moines, IA

For information about the public veneration,
please call: (515) 288-7411,
or email: nancy@saintambrosecathedral.org

A mass in honor of Saint Pio will be celebrated at 5pm by
The Most Reverend Richard Pates, Bishop of Des Moines

Sponsored by the SAINT  PIO FOUNDATION



St. Anthony Catholic Church
15 Indianola Road, Des Moines

Holy Thursday – April 18th

5:30 pm Bilingual English/Spanish Mass with washing of feet.

7:30 pm Solemn High Latin Mass - Ancient Usage (EF) with Solemn Procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

Following the Latin Mass - Stripping of the Altars & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 pm.

Good Friday – April 19th

3:00 pm Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross and Veneration True Relic of the Cross.

Easter Vigil – Saturday - April 20th

7:30 pm Solemn Easter Vigil Mass with Baptism and Confirmation of new members.

Easter – Sunday April 21st

8:00 am Mass

9:30 am Solemn High Latin Mass - Ancient Usage (EF).

11:00 am Solemn Mass

1:00 pm Spanish Mass

Dowling graduate finds joy as a sister

Laura Downey (now Sister Mary Esther) teaches at Notre Dame High School in Peoria

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When Laura Downey of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines was about seven years old, she met a religious sister for the first time.

"I remember my dad leaning down to me in that moment and saying, 'Maybe you'll grow up to be a sister.' And something in my little seven year old heart whispering in response, 'Yeah, I'll grow up to be a sister!'" Downey said.

This encounter jump-started a desire in Downey to belong to Jesus as his bride – a desire that remained in her heart all the way through grade school.

"I thought that being married to Jesus was the most romantic idea in the world," she said. "I emotionally pushed that desire to the back-burner during high school, but it never went away."

Downey graduated from Dowling Catholic High School in 2007 and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English education from Benedictine College in Atchison Kansas.

She taught at Dowling Catholic for one year.

During her time teaching she went on a weekend discernment retreat with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist at their motherhouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"Part of the retreat in-

volves Eucharistic Adoration," Downey said. "And it was during that silent time with Jesus in the chapel that I laid before Him my urgent need for 'an answer.'"

Jesus surprised her with an "unexpected clarity that echoed through my heart," she said.

"He wanted me in this community and he wanted me to be a teacher," she continued. "The answer was not the one I had anticipated, but I had a certainty that this was his plan and that I wanted to say 'yes.'"

She is now known as Sister Mary Esther. She teaches theology to sophomores at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Peoria, Illinois.

She'll make her final vows in July 2020.

"I am very happy," Sister Mary Esther said. "I love religious life. I love belonging to Jesus Christ as his beloved bride. I love that I get the amazing blessing of not doing this on my own, but, rather, of doing this as a member of a religious family of women who so evidently love Jesus and who help keep me faithful in ways that I very well may have neglected on my own."

Life isn't always sunshine and roses, but it's a life she wouldn't trade for the world.

"Who could possibly deserve a life as great as this?" Sister Mary Esther continued. "That doesn't mean every day is filled with warm fuzzies, but it does



Dowling Catholic graduate Sister Mary Esther (left) was a chaperone for Peoria Notre Dame High School at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. this past January. Sister Maria Suso (right) is in the same community and teaches biology at Peoria Notre Dame.

mean that every day is filled with joy."

Sister Mary Esther's mother, Susan Downey, said she is very happy for her daughter.

"She loves it," Susan said. "She's like all of the other sisters – you hardly ever see them with a neutral face – it's always happy."

Susan said it's been important for her and her husband, Bob, to allow their daughter to follow her calling.

"From the parental point of view, it's important to facilitate for your kid a time where they

can step back and be quiet," Susan said, adding that the Kairos retreat offered at Dowling was a "real turning point" for her.

Personal quiet time with God is very important, not just for Sister Mary Esther, but also for her brother, Deacon James Downey, who will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Des Moines in June 2019.

Personal quiet time helped her "listen to the voice of God and for direction," Susan added. "And she would say that's important."

"Get to know the one

who holds the treasure map," Sister Mary Esther said. "God has awesome plans for your life and he knows how to get you to the 'X' that marks the spot."

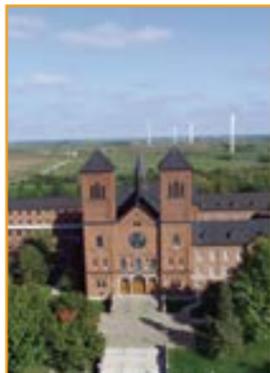
"Spend time with him daily at Mass and in the silence of Eucharistic adoration," she added. "Meet him on the pages of the Gospels. If he nudges you toward a discernment retreat or come and see event, courageously respond, knowing that whatever he desires for you will lead to your joy."

One Bread, One Cup

July 15-19, 2019 at Conception Abbey and Seminary College

"One Bread, One Cup" is a five-day liturgical leadership conference for high school youth and their leaders. OBOC focuses on the Word, Sacrament, and Mission of the Roman Catholic Church for high school youth groups and their campus and youth ministers. The conference focuses on community building, leadership development, catechesis, liturgical and spiritual formation, and theological reflection.

We are excited to reach more dioceses, parishes and high school groups by holding a conference at Conception. We invite you to attend a "One Bread, One Cup" conference near you!



www.conception.edu/seminary/oboc



CONCEPTION
Living the Benedictine Tradition

Teen girls attend Spring Break Nun Run

High schoolers interested in learning more about being a sister take road trip to visit orders

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

A group of high school girls went on a spring break Nun Run last month with Deb Barry, director of high school faith formation at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

She coordinated the event with support from the Diocese of Des Moines Office of Vocations.

The Nun Run took seven girls to the Kansas City area, where they visited four different communities before capping off their trip with a tour of Benedictine College in Kansas.

Their three-day trip included visits to:

- Little Sisters of the Poor in Kansas City, Missouri
- Sisters of the Servants of Mary in Kansas City, Kansas
- Sisters of Charity Mother House in Leavenworth, Kansas
- Sisters of Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas

"The point is to step into their daily life, and so we were able to do that," Barry said.

They learned about the different religious communities' charisms and day-to-day life. Some of the sisters care for residents in a nursing home, while others beg for everything they



From left: Rosie Tatz, Madelyn Barten, Nsanzimana Regine (Regina), Emma Schechinger, Maeve Maher, Hazel Helm, and Maria Sherman went on the Spring Break Nun Run in the Kansas City area to learn more about the sisters and their religious orders.

have.

The girls learned more about the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience from the sisters.

They also noticed their tremendous joy.

"All of the young ladies noticed they were just so happy," Barry added.

Hazel Helm, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, and Madelyn Barten, of the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines,

were two of the girls on the spring break Nun Run.

"I really liked it," Helm said. "It was a good experience. I like a lot of the orders."

The Nun Run offered different perspectives and gave the girls insight into community life.

"There was one order that was definitely not for me, otherwise it was a really neat experience to meet all of the different

types of orders," Helm added.

Barten said the closeness to Jesus is what attracts her to the life of a sister.

"I think the idea that you would be so close to God [is appealing]," Barten said. "Jesus is your spouse and I really like that idea of being so close to God, but also the community of women that are that close to God as well."

Helm is attracted to the life of a sister because "your main

focus of love can just be Christ," she said.

"You don't have all of the other distractions...It would be easy to witness with your life, especially if you are in a habited order."

They are also both attracted to the idea of serving others. To learn more about the next Nun Run, contact Barry at dbarry@saintfrancischurch.org.

Meet our two newest seminarians



Luis Cabrera

My religious vocation started early in life at 15 years of age in Manila (the Philippines). I had a lofty goal back then, become the next St. Francis of

Luis Cabrera

Assisi! I tried to join the Capuchin Franciscans but was told that I was too young (seems ironic now). Evidently, God had other plans as I ended up joining the Salesians of St. John Bosco. The Salesians gave me my first true experience of religious formation. I stayed with the Salesians through my senior year of high school and two years of College-Seminary where I learned about Don Bosco's love for God through service and education for disenfranchised and neglected young people.

I immigrated to the United States (New York City) in 1980 at age 18 where I attended St. John's University. I also joined the Capuchin Franciscans as a non-resident postulant for another three years of formation while attending St. John's until I earned my Bachelor of Science degree. After graduating from St. John's, I decided not to continue with the Capuchin Franciscan novitiate program and instead started working in New York City where in 1988, God led me to meet a wonderful woman named Rae, a native of the south side of Des Moines. She

converted to Catholicism and we became active parishioners in the Jesuit parish of St. Francis Xavier in New York where we got married in 1992.

In 1997, I accepted a job working for the Public Information Department of one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Rae and I moved to Geneva, Switzerland for my UN job where she and I lived and travelled the world together for ten years. My UN work contract ended in 2007 and Rae and I moved to her native Des Moines where I accepted a job working for the Communications Department of the Iowa Department of Human Services (the Iowa Medicaid Program). Sadly, my beloved wife and best friend, Rae, died suddenly on December 15, 2016.

St. Thomas Aquinas believed that when something bad happens to us - like losing someone we love profoundly - we often miss the merciful grace and redemptive gift that God wishes to bestow amid the grief and sorrow that we feel. I miss Rae every day with all my heart. But I truly believe that God has used my profound loss of her physical companionship as a means to draw me closer to himself in prayer and in his service. The beauty of this grace from God is that I do not feel that my relationship with Rae ended with her death but rather, it continues to live and to grow in answering God's call to love and serve him. I can only hope and pray that in my time of formation at St. Paul Seminary, God will continue to reveal to me why he thinks I am worth calling back to his service.



Seminarian Simon Zamani (left) with his older brother at a family wedding in his home country of Nigeria.

Simon Zamani

I cannot remember when the idea of becoming a Catholic priest first entered my head. It seems it has always been with me. Growing up in Nigeria, my Dad always supported my aspirations to become a priest, but unfortunately, he died when I was young. After he died, I stopped thinking about becoming priest for many years.

While studying in secondary school, I earned a scholarship to go to the United States for one academic year. I spent my junior year studying in Mt. Ayr, Iowa and received the sacrament of confirmation while I was here. I also got to attend a Catholic youth conference in Des Moines where Bishop Richard Pates was present. He spoke about people my age aspiring to become priests. I was able to speak with him and my dream of becoming a priest was revived.

I finished secondary school in Nigeria, but kept in touch with Bishop Pates and others I met while in the U.S. I am so happy to be attending St. John Vianney Seminary to continue my discernment of the priesthood. If tomorrow I never get to become a Catholic priest, I still hope God gives me the opportunity to evangelize and preach salvation and do that for which he has called me.

Priests with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of children

Priest	Year of Ordination	Number of Allegations	Gender of Victim	Approximate Date of Abuse	Current Status	Parishes & Institutions
Paul Connelly	1950	1	Female	1964	Deceased, 2007	St. John's Church, Des Moines, 1950-53; St. Francis Church, Council Bluffs, 1953-56; St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1956; Diocesan Director, Catholic Charities, Des Moines, 1956-70; Assistant to Bishop as Chaplain to St. Vincent de Paul and DCCW, Des Moines, 1956-70; Diocesan Director, DCCN and Hospitals, 1959-70; Spiritual Director to Bishop Drumm Home, Des Moines, 1961; Co-Pastor Team Ministry, Leon, Osceola, and Woodburn, 1971-76; Immaculate Conception, St. Marys, 1977-81; Diocesan Rural Life Director, 1978-81; St. Joseph Church, Winterset, 1981-83; St. Patrick Church, Missouri Valley, 1983-84; Harrison County Catholic Team Ministry, 1984-88; St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1988-93; Allegation reported to diocese, 2006; Allegation substantiated, 2007; Died before penalty could be imposed
Howard Fitzgerald	1978	2	Male	Late 1970s and late 1980s	Laicized	St. Albert High School, Council Bluffs, 1978-83; St. Pius X Church, Des Moines, 1983-84; Pastoral Team, Panama, Portsmouth, and Westphalia, 1984-86; St. Peter Church, Council Bluffs, 1986-89; Holy Spirit Church, Creston; St. Edward Church, Maloy, 1990-95; St. Patrick Church, Dunlap and Sacred Heart Church, Woodbine, 1995-98; St. Michael Church, Harlan, 1998-2001; Ss John and Paul Church, Altoona, 2001-08; Sabbatical, 2009; St. Joseph Church, Earling, 2010; St. Peter Church, Defiance, 2010; St. Patrick Church, Dunlap, 2010-11; Holy Family Church, Mondamin, 2010-11; Sacred Heart Church, Woodbine, 2010-11; Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Glenwood, 2011-13; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Indianola, and Immaculate Conception, St. Marys, 2013-14; Campus Ministry, Simpson College, Indianola, 2013-14; Initial allegation reported to the diocese, 2014; Removed from ministry, 2014; Allegation substantiated, 2014; Laicized, 2015; Additional allegation reported to the diocese, 2015
Phil Hobt	1992	1	Male	1997	Deceased, 2017	St. Augustin Church, Des Moines, 1992-95; St. Albert High School, Council Bluffs, 1995-2007; Allegation reported to the diocese, 2007; Removed from ministry, 2007; Allegation substantiated, 2007; Laicized, 2007
Dennis Mangan	1929	2	Female	1960s	Deceased, 1976	St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1930; Holy Family Church, Council Bluffs, 1930; Assumption Church Churchville, 1930; St. Joseph Church, Winterset, 1931; Immaculate Conception Church, Creston, 1931-33; St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1934-35; St. Mary Church, Hamburg, 1936-44; St. Patrick Church, Massena, 1944-50 Sacred Heart Church, Mondamin, 1950; St. Patrick Church, Irish Settlement, 1951; Sacred Heart Church, Mondamin, 1951-75; St. Ann's Church, Pisgah, 1971-75; Allegations reported to the diocese, early 2000s
John Ryan	1950	6	Male	Early 1950s to 1980s	Deceased, 2010	Our Lady of Fatima Church, Portsmouth, 1950-53; Dowling High School, 1953-65; St. John Church, Cumming, 1965-75; St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Des Moines, 1975-82; St. Theresa Church, Des Moines, 1982-88; Retired, 1988; Faculties removed, 1993; Allegations substantiated, 2003; Laicized, 2006
Richard Wagner	1961	1	Female	Late 1980s	Deceased, 2012	Holy Family Church, Council Bluffs, 1961-64; St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1964-65; Dowling High School, 1965-76; St. Michael Church, Harlan, 1976-82; St. Patrick Church, Council Bluffs, 1982-87; St. Mary Church, Red Oak, 1987-94; Allegation reported to diocese, 1993; Basilica of St. John (supervised, restricted ministry), Des Moines, 1994-2003; Allegation substantiated, 2003; Laicized, 2006
Albert Wilwerding	1956	25	Male	Late 1950s to mid-1980s	Deceased, 2004	St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1956; St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, 1956-57; Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Atlantic, 1957-58; St. Francis Church, Council Bluffs, 1958-60; St. Patrick Church, Perry, 1960-62; Our Lady of Fatima Church, Portsmouth, 1962-65; All Saints Church, Des Moines, 1965-69; St. Mary Church Rosemount and St. Augustine Church, Milo, 1969-75; St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, 1975-76; St. Peter Church, Council Bluffs, 1976-77; St. Patrick Church, Imogene, 1977-78; St. Mary Church, Shenandoah, 1978-80; St. John Church, Des Moines 1980-81; Catholic Worker House, Des Moines, 1980-81; Removed from ministry, 1981; Resided out of state, 1981 until death; Resided in specialized care facility, out of state, 1984-1992; Resided in specialized care facility, out of state, 1994 until death; Allegations substantiated, 2003; Died before laicization
Francis Zuch	1932	5	Male	Early to mid-1970s	Deceased, 1993	St. Augustin Church, Des Moines, 1932; Director of Catholic Charities, Des Moines, 1935-55; Moderator of National Council of Catholic Women (N.C.C.W.), 1935; Diocesan Chaplain of Boy Scouts, 1935; Director of St. Vincent De Paul Society, 1935; St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, 1935; Chaplain, Christ Child Home, 1935; Moderator of N.C.C.S., 1942; St. John Church, Cumming, 1953; St. John Church, Des Moines, 1964-72; Retired from Parish Ministry in 1972; Chaplain, St. Vincent De Paul Society, 1981; Retired, 1981; Allegations publicly reported, 1995
Leonard Kenkel	1960	1	Male	Late 1970s to early 1980s	Resides in a senior care facility in the diocese	Christ the King Church, Des Moines, 1960; St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, 1960-61; Holy Trinity Church, Des Moines, 1961-62; Faculty at Dowling High School, Des Moines 1962-89; St. Peter Church, Des Moines, 1989-1995; Holy Spirit Church, Creston and St. Edward Church, Afton, 1996-2008; Sabbatical, 2005; Allegations of unsubstantiated abuse, 2003 and 2005; Retired, 2008; Additional allegation reported to diocese, 2018; Removed from ministry, 2018; Allegation substantiated, 2019; Diocese is referring the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for resolution

A letter from the bishop

Continued from page 1

for the pain experienced by those abused by our priests, as well as the pain this has caused to all the faithful and those in our broader society. I share the anger and frustration of recent reports of clerical abuse of minors and young people. It is my sincere hope the release of this list facilitates healing, encourages additional victims who have faced abuse to come forward and begins to restore trust.

However, any expression of heartfelt regret without reform is not genuine. We have to do more, and we are

working toward that. We have made significant progress, but we are not finished with this important work. Over the last 17 years, the Church has undertaken reform with the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The first step we take when receiving an allegation of abuse is to call law enforcement authorities to undertake their normal processes. In addition, we have implemented background checks for all members of the clergy, ongoing training for church employees and volunteers and have a zero-tolerance policy for abuse of any kind. Entitled "One strike and

you're out," the policy basically addresses "repeat abuse." Once a substantiated allegation is established any further abuse within the context of the Church is precluded. In the Diocese of Des Moines, there has not arisen a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse against a minor by a cleric actually happening in real time since 1997.

This is a significant moment for us as a diocese, and for the Catholic Church. In January, I joined more than 200 bishops on retreat at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Pope Francis has encouraged us to enter into prayer and focus

on our relationship with God as we grapple with a collective broken heart and pain inflicted by past scandals of sexual abuse of children and young people.

Since returning home, I have been asking that God bless our diocese and the universal Catholic Church with the graces of conversion, forgiveness and healing. Now, we put our faith in God that he will lead his Church through this time. As the history of the past 20 years indicate, we are emerging steadfast in our commitment to children and more faithful in our relationship with Jesus.

Would you join me in

fervent prayer for the healing of victims and our continuing personal conversion as disciples of Jesus? We know this is essential to full healing and recovery.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend
Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines

Addressing clerical sexual abuse of minors

Prayers, healing and prevention

Introduction

The Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa mourns the abuse suffered by children and young people at the hands of those who were to lead them to Christ, but instead violated this sacred trust. The pain experienced by the victims, their families, and faithful Catholics can be very difficult. Bishop Richard Pates and all church leadership in the Diocese of Des Moines offer apology to all victims for their hurt and the impact abuse has had in their lives.

Rationale for Compiling a List

More than apologies, what the victims and faithful deserve is a full accounting, to the best of our knowledge, of the extent of abuse. For victims and our broader community, healing will be more possible as church leadership acknowledges the transgressions of our clergy. Further, we hope the sharing of this list will encourage other victims to come forward to report abuse. Toward that end, the Diocese of Des Moines has prepared for release a list of those priests who have had allegations of sexual abuse of minors substantiated.

Methodology: Criteria Used

It is important to note that in all but two cases, the names on the list were released publicly as victims' allegations surfaced, were studied, and actions were taken.

The Allegation Review Committee – a group of mostly laypeople who provide consultation and recommendation to the bishop in matters involving the protection of children, including, as the name suggests, allegations against priests – has **substantiated** the allegations against these priests. By substantiated, we mean they have determined there to be “sufficient evidence to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred.” We have developed a document, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), to provide more information on this and related issues of our methodology, which can be found at dmdiocese.org/victim-assistance.

As referenced prior, most of the priests on the list had allegations made against them while they were living, and the diocese was able to study the allegations in a thorough process involving interviewing the complainant, other witnesses, and the accused. The accused priest often had an advocate to provide for his defense, accorded by church law. Following each investigation, the Allegation Review Committee made a determination on whether the allegation could be substantiated.

In some cases, a single allegation was reported to the diocese only after the death of the priest, sometimes years after his death and decades after the alleged abuse. Since

these single claims cannot be fully substantiated, they are not included. We are including, however, priests with multiple allegations made after death. In one case, these allegations were made publicly. For more information, please see the FAQ.

Beyond the names of this list, it is important to understand the particular context and history within which abuse was perpetrated, as well as the reform the American Church, including this diocese, has been committed to for almost 20 years.

History

Examining this issue in our diocese and nationwide, we can discern three noticeable movements or timeframes:

1. The decades before 2002 -- the period between 1940 and 2002 which the *Boston Globe* series in the early 2000s and Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report in 2018 cover

2. From 2002 to present day -- beginning with the enactment of United States bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

3. Most recently, there is the revelation in the past year of the criminal behavior of Theodore McCarrick

Before 2002

The overwhelming majority of sexual abuse by clergy occurred between 1940-2002. Such behavior cannot be condoned. The abuse, as well as the failure by some church leaders, is a source of shame for the Church.

The John Jay College of Criminal Justice provided analysis and insight of this era and we encourage your consulting this carefully documented record.

The Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States 1950-2002, published February 2004

The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010, First printing, May 2011

Among their key findings were:

- 4 percent of all priests in ministry in the United States between 1950 and 2002 were accused of sexually abusing minors.

- More abuse occurred in the 1970s than any other decade, peaking in late 1970s and sharply declining by 1985.

- There is no single cause of sexual abuse of minors by priests but “Social and cultural changes in the 1960s and 1970s manifested in increased levels of deviant behavior in the general society and also among priests of the Catholic Church in the United States.”

The history of abuse in our diocese follows a similar

trajectory:

- Of the number of priests who have ministered in the Diocese of Des Moines, 1.7 % have substantiated allegations of abuse. However, we know one substantiated allegation is one too many.

- Abuse peaked in the 1970s with 22 substantiated allegations in that timeframe, involving four priests, representing 50% of all substantiated allegations.

- In the past 30 years, the one **substantiated** allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric took place in 1997 and was reported a decade later.

For information on the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report, Commonwealth published, “The PA Grand-Jury Report: Not what it seems,” by Peter Steinfelds, March 21, 2019.

To access the resources cited above, go to dmdiocese.org/victim-assistance.

While in no way can evil behavior of certain clergy be justified, the three foregoing resources help us appreciate the complexity of the picture both in society and Church during this period of our history.

From 2002 to Present Day

With the U.S. bishops' enactment of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002 (available on our website), the American Church has taken dramatic and effective action in addressing the issue of clerical sexual abuse. The bishops remain vigilant, having updated the national charter three times (2005, 2011



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bishop Richard Pates explained why the diocese released a list of substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors and context.

and 2018).

The charter initiated mandatory actions that the Diocese of Des Moines has followed diligently. Our diocese first enacted a policy in 1988, and then revised it to comply with the charter in 2002. Our diocesan policy, updated in 2016, outlines several key practices:

- 1) Caring for the Victims
Victims are the number

one concern and the focus of diocesan outreach. The diocese is committed to the healing of the victims. Most victims are now in their 50s or older. For many, the trauma has been severe and the diocese reaches out to facilitate healing to the greatest extent possible. Counseling services are offered to victims of abuse. The diocese has settled \$3 million in claims stemming from abuse.

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CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH

Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

*O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary,
obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death.
In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence,
and protect me by your power against
the enemies of your salvation.
Into your sacred hands, living and dying,
Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.*

Amen

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

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Addressing clerical sexual abuse of minors

Continued from page 11

Sources of these funds include \$1 million from insurance coverage and the remainder from interest income from diocesan reserve funds, including proceeds and investment income from the sale of the former bishop's residence. Sources do not include diocesan operations funding (i.e. the Annual Diocesan Appeal).

2) Reporting of sexual abuse

a. The availability of a third party Victim Assistance Advocate, not employed by the Church, for reporting to ensure an investigation and due process.

b. Each accusation of sexual abuse of a minor reported to the Diocese of Des Moines is immediately turned over to law enforcement for investigation no matter when the alleged abuse occurred.

3) Zero tolerance

Any priest for whom it has been established has committed an act of sexual abuse of a minor is permanently removed from Church ministry. "One strike and you're out." Thus, the impossibility after the first report of substantiated abuse of multiplying future abuse in the Church context.

4) Transparency and Accountability to the Community

In addition to turning the allegation over to law

enforcement, the diocese removes the accused from any public ministry and makes the allegation public.

For the past 15 years, an Allegation Review Committee has served the bishop and people well by providing accountability and transparency on behalf of the community. Currently chaired by a Council Bluffs attorney, the committee includes a police chief, a district court judge, a retired teacher, a psychologist, a permanent deacon and a priest. Together, the committee advises the bishop on all matters related to sexual abuse and misconduct and regularly reviews diocesan policies and procedures.

5) Prevention

Since the establishment of the Charter in 2002, the Diocese of Des Moines has conducted **18,525 background checks and safe environment training programs for every employee, volunteer, member of the clergy or religious community, and seminarian.** This check includes county, state and national records on criminal history, watch lists, and state and national sexual abuse registries. In addition, safe environment training must be completed before being accepted into the role they are seeking. To put this into context, **almost 17% of the total Catholics in the diocese have received background screening and child protection**

training. Safe environment also includes education of children at their respective level.

All ministers in the diocese are required to complete monthly safe environment readings to continue to learn ways to identify grooming behavior, provide a safe environment for children, and appropriately respond to an allegation. In fact, during Bishop Pates' time in the diocese, safe environment awareness led parish leadership to express concerns about a priest. These concerns were provided to bishop, which led to an investigation that eventually uncovered allegations of abuse of a minor from decades ago. The priest has been laicized. This situation made clear the effectiveness of good training, receptivity by the diocese to take seriously the concerns reported, and immediate action once allegations surfaced.

Additionally, visiting deacons and priests from outside the diocese are required to submit a personal statement of suitability from their home bishop/diocese, attesting they have gone through similar background and safety screening.

Nationwide, this combination of background checks, training and vigilance is making a difference. When we look at all the accusations **nationally** in the past three years, **22 allegations (but not necessarily confirmed) of recent**



At an April 4 news conference, Waukee Police Chief John Quinn spoke. Quinn serves on the Allegation Review Committee for the diocese. Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, who oversees the diocese's safe environment program, also spoke.

abuse were reported between 2015-17. That comes from a population of approximately 72 million Catholics nationwide.

Even one instance of abuse is too many and the only acceptable number is zero. At the same time, in the state of Pennsylvania alone (where the grand jury report was released) 42 teachers lost their licenses for sexual misconduct in 2017 alone. Our prevention methods and strong zero tolerance policies are working.

6) Commitment to Compliance

We have faithfully implemented and administered the national reforms initiated in 2002. To provide accountability, the U.S. Bishops mandated annual audits for adherence to policies and procedures of the Charter. An independent, national auditor StoneBridge Business Partners provides the annual audit. Every third year this exercise is "on-site," where files are reviewed, and personnel are interviewed, and procedures tested, similar to financial audits in the business world. The other two years the audit is done in writing. This past fall, StoneBridge found the Diocese of Des Moines in compliance with the national charter. The diocese has been compliant with each review since they began in 2003.

The criminal conduct of Theodore McCarrick

While the Diocese of Des Moines, along with dioceses throughout the country, have changed through reform, we know we still need to be vigilant. Over the past year, it became public that Theodore McCarrick, a former cardinal in the Catholic Church, was guilty of sexual abuse of minors while being promoted to high offices of responsibility in the Church. This shows us our Catholic Church must remain attentive to ending the abuse of children and young people. McCarrick was "defrocked," or returned to the lay state and relegated to a private life of "prayer and penance."

Additional reform applying to bishops of the American Church has been proposed. It includes:

- A third party reporting system with no connection to the institutional church established in order that allegations will be received and acted upon without prejudice.

- Implementing a code of conduct for bishops.

- Establishing disciplinary measures for bishops found guilty of misconduct.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, met with all the presidents of the bishop's conferences throughout the world Feb. 21-24 to raise worldwide awareness in order to begin the process of global reform. The outcome was determination to overcome sexual abuse by clergy by establishing procedures already activated in the United States worldwide. Such a step is in line with the global identity of the "Catholic" Church.

Committed to Go Forward

We have made significant steps forward.

Publishing a list of those priests who have substantiated allegations of abuse against them is only one action. We remain committed and focused in our efforts to protect our children, in our parishes, our schools and throughout our community. We conduct robust background screening and have comprehensive and rigorous safe environment training.

We will continue to respond to allegations of abuse with transparency and accountability, and will update the list for the public as allegations are substantiated.

To report abuse, please contact law enforcement or Sam Porter, with Polk County Crisis and Advocacy. Mr. Porter serves as a 3rd party victim assistance advocate, he does not work for the diocese. Mr. Porter can be reached at 515-286-2015 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.

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 Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.



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Parishioners support each other

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parts under water.

While at the Red Cross shelter, Gallagher got a call from a member of his parish of St. Mary. Three parishioners had room in their homes and could take him in. He's been staying with a parishioner since then.

"I'd be living in a rescue shelter if it wasn't for the church," he said.

In addition to homes and businesses flooded, St. Mary's church building itself sustained significant water damage in its basement, ruining a new furnace, air conditioner, kitchen equipment, catechetical material and more.

A picnic bench at the back of the property floated there from the park across the street in front of the church. A porch swing was left at its front steps. No one knows where it came from.

The parish was ready to launch a capital campaign to take down an old rectory and build a new space for classrooms. But with farmers and townspeople struggling, the campaign has been put on hold.

Father Raphael Assamah, the pastor of St. Mary, had never seen such destruction. During his homily on March 31, with parishioners crowding into the library of a school in the nearby town of Sidney, he offered them hope.

"You ask yourself, how am I going to start? How am I going to bounce back," he said. "I want to encourage you. There is always time to start again."

Focus on God, for good things come from him, said the pastor.

"Even in the midst, when you're down. Never think that you are alone. God is redirecting you," he said. "God is re-addressing your needs. It's going to make you greater than what you were before."

The town knew floodwater was coming, was coping with

sewer backup water, and tried to build a barrier to hold back the river, but the levees and the barrier failed. Yet, no one expected the amount of water that covered the town.

One man has three recreational vehicles stuck in trees on his property. None of them are his; they floated downstream in the floodwater, said John Travis.

The Sheldon family lost last year's corn and bean crop that was stored in bins and they won't be able to plant this year's crop. The grain in the bins is only insurable for tornado and fire, not for flood.

"There are some people who won't be able to survive this," said Angie Sheldon.

The flood split the Goodman family for two weeks. Cara goes to Lourdes High School in Nebraska City and couldn't get back when a bridge closed. It would be 150-160 miles one way for her to get home using another bridge. Her dad, Dan, works in Nebraska and also couldn't get back. They stayed with friends and connected with mom, Lori, and daughter, Audrey, who were in Hamburg, using FaceTime on their phones.

"It's just a mess we never thought we'd see," said Travis said. "The problem is, we feel this is going to be the first time of several this summer. Every time that water comes up the Missouri River, there's nothing stopping it," he said.

Flooding hurt communities all along the Missouri River. Father Dan Siepker, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Glenwood, said 10-12 families in his parish lost farms and houses while about 410 families in the general community had been displaced.

"Unless you drive outside of town, you don't see it, you hear (about it)" he told Iowa Catholic Radio's "Straight Talk" show on March 26. "You don't have to go

Bishop encourages prayers, financial assistance for flood victims



Parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Hamburg have been offered the use of the local Baptist church, the only church in town that was not flooded.

Bishop Richard Pates celebrated Mass on Sunday, April 7 with the St. Mary, Hamburg parish at First Baptist Church in Hamburg, which graciously extended hospitality to the Catholic community.

St. Mary Church experienced severe flooding on the basement level. The water has receded and parishioners are anxious to return to their church for worship.

"Father Raphael Assamah and the entire St. Mary community are to be commended for the courageous manner in which they handled the destruction that the Church experienced as well as their outreach to one another and members of the Hamburg community in this, their worst flood in recorded history," Bishop Pates said.

"St. Mary's parishioners are enormously grateful for

the support expressed in prayer, in sympathetic communications and through generous donations from their fellow Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines. It has given them the inspiration to move forward in the establishment of normalcy and the ongoing activity of their vibrant parish community," Bishop Pates noted.

far outside of town to see it."

St. Albert Catholic Schools student Abi Sherbondy led a collection that brought in 402 cases of water and \$2,100 for Glenwood.

Community dinners have been key to keeping the residents in southern Iowa, now spread out in shelters and temporary housing, together for social, emotional and spiritual support, Sheldon said.

"As bad as everybody feels, you'll still see them roll up their shirt sleeves and take this head on," said Travis.

Gallagher, a chiropractor, is trying to re-establish his business in Sidney.

St. Mary Parish in Hamburg "was a real tight community to begin with," he said. "I think this is showing how great a faith community it is, you know? Standing by everybody, but they did that before. It's just another event to demonstrate why I go to St. Mary's."

Sheldon said: "Continue to pray for everyone affected because it's not going to end when the water goes away. There's so much work to be done with the infrastructure and just the social, emotional and spiritual support people will still need."



Father Raphael Assamah, pastor of St. Mary Church in Hamburg, preached during the March 31 Mass at the Sidney grade school while the church's basement was being repaired following a flood.

St. Augustin Business Manager

St. Augustin Catholic Parish is seeking a full-time Business Manager. St. Augustin is a vibrant and growing community, providing a positive work environment to all who want to serve the Catholic Church. Typical work week is Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Occasional evening meetings and weekend activities are required. A degree in accounting or business is preferred. Experience in Accounting is required. Experience in fundraising is desirable. Compensation for the position is negotiable based on level of experience. Duties include accounting regarding the budget, though the parish does have an accountant; working in liaison with the school on budget and capital planning; placing service calls and working with contractors at the facility. This position should be seen as integral to a holistic vision of the parish and not simply a niche job. Therefore, it is desirable that the Business manager be at least engaged in the life of the parish if not an actual member. Applications may be submitted to St. Augustin Parish Office c/o Fr. Christopher Pisut. Please submit applications by May 1st.



As the floodwater receded and people cleaned their basement sand homes, piles of debris grew along the streets of Hamburg.

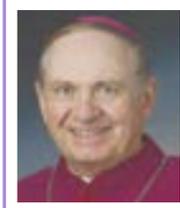
Muerte y resurrección

Hay una estatua erguida muy impresionante que ocupa el santuario detrás del altar y ambón en la Iglesia Católica de San Ambrosio de Woodbury, en Woodbury, Minnesota. La estatua se titula "Cristo en su muerte y resurrección."

El escultor busca capturar el misterio pascual, por lo que se ubica esta pieza en la plataforma del altar en donde el misterio pascual mismo está presente cada vez que se celebra la Eucaristía. "Hagan esto en memoria mía."

Lo que se expresa es que, a partir de la aparentemente fútil muerte de Jesús en la cruz, existe también una energía de resurrección, de la llegada de nueva vida. Se recuerda la enseñanza del Evangelio de San Juan: "En verdad, en verdad les digo que a menos de que el grano de trigo no cae en la tierra y muere, queda él solo; pero si muere, da mucho fruto. El que ama su vida, la pierde; y el que odia su vida en este mundo, la conservará para una vida eterna." (Juan 12:24-25).

Y al parecer estamos viviendo una experiencia similar en la comunidad de nuestra Iglesia al atender la triste historia del abuso sexual por miembros del clero. Al seguir adelante, identificamos y nos responsabilizamos por este mal, vemos que la muerte está presente y la nueva vida comienza a brotar. Tenemos que dar testimonio firmemente – no



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

se puede condonar este comportamiento, es un pecado y un crimen y debe hacerse todo lo posible para extinguirle en la vida de la Iglesia. Parte de la transformación también incluye la atención primordial que damos a las víctimas – buscando el perdón, ofreciendo oportunidades de un apoyo para su continua sanación, para reducir el trauma que han sufrido.

Y una vez que nos comprometemos a la transparencia y al cambio, surgen nuevas perspectivas. Porque es obvio que el arrepentimiento está vacío si no está acompañado por una reforma. El primer paso en este trayecto comenzó en 1988 cuando la diócesis adoptó una política para contrarrestar el abuso de sexual de menores por miembros del clero. Esta se ha mantenido firme desde el último reporte de abuso sexual de este tipo se llevó a cabo en 1997, hace 22 años.

Se aceleró la reforma junto a políticas más firmes en el 2002 con la adopción del "Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes" que legisló la Conferencia Episcopal Católica de los Estados Unidos. Dentro de

las políticas efectivas que se han considerado:

"Una falla y estás fuera." Una sola denuncia fundamentada de abuso sexual contra un menor por un empleado de la iglesia resulta en la exclusión de ese individuo del ministerio de la iglesia de forma permanente.

Todos los reportes de tal acto se refieren inmediatamente a disposición de las autoridades legales.

- El Comité de Revisión de Denuncias, cuya constitución en la Diócesis de Des Moines consta de un juez, un jefe de la policía, un abogado, un consejero, un maestro de escuela, un diácono y un sacerdote quienes aconsejan al obispo sobre todos los asuntos relacionados con el abuso sexual de miembros del clero.

- Además, las iniciativas que se han llevado a cabo para prevenir incidentes futuros:

- En la Diócesis de Des Moines se han llevado a cabo 18,000 revisiones de antecedentes a todos los empleados de la iglesia;

- 16,000 persona han participado en entrenamiento de ambiente seguro;

La diócesis se somete a una auditoría anual por parte de una agencia nacional para verificar que se cumple con las políticas. Además, nuestros empleados de las iglesias participan en en-

trenamientos mensuales sobre la prevención de este y otros tipos de abuso en un programa titulado: "Virtus."

La identificación e implementación de estas medidas pueden ser un proceso doloroso ya que incluye revelaciones difíciles y el enfrentarse a la verdad. Es una forma de morir a las formas de antaño.

Pero lo que se vive simultáneamente inevitablemente es la llegada de nueva vida, de resurrección.

El mismo mensaje que elevamos este domingo, "Ha resucitado, en verdad ha resucitado," se vuelve real en nuestras circunstancias y refleja el significado y el propósito de llevar una vida cristiana. Al llegar al final

de este extenso caminar que ha oscurecido nuestro trayecto, está por llegar la purificación. Estamos desarrollando un enfoque, aún más claro, de la misión que se nos ha confiado como iglesia, como discípulos amados: "Para hacer que Jesucristo sea conocido y amado en nuestros tiempos optando por vivir el Evangelio en todo momento."

El mensaje de la escultura en la Iglesia de San Ambrosio de Woodbury no aplica solamente a la crisis actual, pero es además una invitación a que nosotros mismos tengamos nuestro "muerte y resurrección de Cristo" en el transcurso de toda nuestra vida.

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas:

El jueves, voy a publicar una lista de nueve sacerdotes que tienen denuncias fundamentadas de abuso contra niños mientras servían en la diócesis. Todos los nombres, con la excepción de dos de ellos, ya han sido revelados públicamente. Los incidentes de abuso sucedieron de la década de los 1950s a la década de los 1990s.

A nombre de la Iglesia Católica del Suroeste de Iowa, pido perdón por el dolor que han sufrido aquellos que han sido víctimas de abuso de nuestros sacerdotes, así como el dolor que le ha causado a todos los fieles y a aquellos en nuestra sociedad en general. Comparto el enojo y la frustración de los reportes recientes de abuso del clero contra menores y jóvenes. Espero sinceramente que la publicación de esta lista facilite el proceso de sanación, exhorte a otras víctimas que han enfrentado abuso a levantar denuncias y que comience a restaurar la confianza.

Sin embargo, cualquier expresión de arrepentimiento de corazón sin reforma alguna no puede considerarse genuina. Nosotros tenemos que hacer más, y estamos trabajando para lograrlo. Hemos logrado un importante progreso, pero no hemos terminado con esta importante labor. En los últimos 17 años, la Iglesia ha implementado reformas con la implementación del Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes. El primer paso que se toma al recibir una denuncia de abuso es el llamar a las autoridades legales para que siga su proceso regular. Además, hemos implementado revisión de antecedentes penales para todos los miembros del clero, entrenamiento continuo para empleados y voluntarios de la iglesia y tenemos una política de tolerancia cero contra cualquier tipo de abuso. Titulada "una falla y estás fuera," la política atiende básicamente el

"abuso repetitivo" y, una vez que determina la existencia de una denuncia fundamentada, se previene cualquier abuso adicional dentro del contexto de la Iglesia. No ha habido una denuncia de abuso sexual fundamentada contra un menor en la Diócesis de Des Moines por parte de un miembro del clero, que haya ocurrido en tiempo real, desde 1997.

Este es un momento significativo para nosotros como diócesis, y para la Iglesia Católica. En enero, asistí a un retiro junto a otros 200 obispos en el Seminario Nuestra Señora del Lago (Our Lady of the Lake) en Mundelein, Illinois. El Papa Francisco nos ha exhortado a profundizarnos en oración y a enfocarnos en nuestra relación con Dios al enfrentar un corazón colectivo destrozado y al dolor provocado por los anteriores escándalos de abuso sexual contra menores y jóvenes.

Desde que regresé a casa, he estado pidiendo a Dios que bendiga nuestra diócesis y a la Iglesia Católica universal con las gracias de conversión, perdón y sanación. Ahora, ponemos nuestra fe en manos de Dios para que podamos guiar a su Iglesia en estos tiempos. Tal como indica la historia de los pasados 20 años, estamos surgiendo firmes en nuestro compromiso con los niños y más fieles en nuestra relación con Jesús.

¿Pueden unirse a mí en una oración ferviente pidiendo que sanen las víctimas y que continuemos nuestra conversión personal como discípulos de Jesús? Sabemos que esto es esencial para que podamos sanar y recuperarnos plenamente.

Sinceramente en Cristo,
El Reverendísimo
Richard E. Pates,
Obispo de Des Moines



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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.

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St. Mary's Parish, located in Centerville, Iowa is seeking highly qualified candidates for Pastoral Associate for Evangelization & Faith Formation. This is a full-time, benefits eligible position. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and references to: senorachocolate@gmail.com or to: Heidi Bellon, c/o St. Mary's Parish, 828 S. 18th St., Centerville, IA 52544

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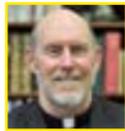
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