“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, cruts 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.

Continued on page 5

By Mary Purtle
Contributing Writer

Saint’s relics coming to Des Moines

Flooded parishioners supporting eachother

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

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

Continued on page 13

Bishop releases list of priests with substantiated allegations

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 breachers 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

Continued on page 10

A Letter from the Bishop – April 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

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.

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

Continued on page 11
There is a very striking, free-standing statute that occupies the sanctuary behind the altar and at the same time there is also an energy of resurrection, coming to new life. We recall 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 keep 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, openly and take responsibility for this evil, we see that death is occurring and new life is sprouting 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 the possibility for this evil, we see that with deep sorrow, identify and take responsibility in our Church community as we address this problem.

And so it seems that a similar experience is happening 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 even 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 Cathedral has darkened our path, purification is coming about. We are developing an even 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.”

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

Death is occurring and new life is sprouting forth. Part of the transformation also involves the prime attention we give to victims – seeking forgiveness, offering remedies for ongoing support and healing, taming the 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 adopted an early policy to counter the sexual abuse of minors by clerics. It has taken hold since the last reported sexual abuse of a minor 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 substantial single 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 for 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 abuse 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 around 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 even 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 Cathedral throughout our entire life experiences.
Successful businessman and Hispanic priest forge friendship

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

By Kelly Mescher Collins

When Father Fabian 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’d been at the Cathedral Bluffs 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 is the largest Catholic church in Iowa and specifically Des Moines.

“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.”

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.
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 very much in love and naively 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 downturns; disagreements over money, life arrangement, 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 each other very much, we decided there was no other way, we really had no idea how to actually do it, not well at least.

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

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 the fabric of their communities. Each parish was different. All good. All showing action as the face of the Church.

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

Many parishioners that I talked to 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 often7 stereotype a strong, silent 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-manShip 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 living and the dead are a reason for one of our most important acts of service 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 stretched upon the cross for his salvation, and we ask Jesus to receive him into his loving embrace.

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.

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 midst of marriage. 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, divorce, and getting married.

As Catholics we believe our prayers for the dead truly make a difference.

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.

Keep the casseroles coming

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 is for 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 Indianapolis.

Top image by Tim Chicoine.

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 lifetime for couples who could use a little help like we needed. The Third Option is my ministry that I have in my family, and it is run by Adam Storey from the Marriage & Family Counselling Network.

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

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.

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**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.

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

Des Moines diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bondy will become the head school 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.

Bondy 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 the Great Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs are implemented.

She also positioned the Catholic schools to apply for national accreditation with AdvancEd, which requires continu- al improvement processes be in place. “Heartfelt thanks are extended to Dr. Tracy Bon- dby for her four years of dedicated service to 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 im- plementing of the plan, which will have a dramatic effect on our schools’ progress in critical areas in the years ahead. Our best wishes are extended to Dr. Bon- dby as she continues her generous service to Catholic Education.”

Ursuline Academy of New Or- leans, founded in 1727 and sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters, is a Catholic school for girls offering a strong educational environ- ment from early childhood through a college preparatory secondary program. The Diocese of Des Moines will create a search committee to find a schools superintendent.
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 LaFonnde at 515-988-7791.

April 28 Sunday Performance by Dominican Sister DES MOINES – St. Augustine Parish Performing Arts Committee is presenting a one-woman performance by Dominican Sister Nancy Murray at St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Augustine 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 Chiado is celebrating the second annual St. Pregrine Solemn Healing Masses Mondays, May 1 and 8 at St. Anthony Church. Everyone is invited. St. Pregrine medals will be handed out along with an invitation for anointing with blessed St. Pregrine 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 LaFonde at 515-988-7791.

May 7 Tuesday Salud supper and card party DES MOINES – The Altar & Rosary Society of the Basilica of St. John will host its annual spring Salud 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 URBANDALE – DES MOINES – Relics of St. Pio, also known as Padre Pio, will be on display for veneration from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. A free-will offering at the door. For more information contact Judy LaFonde at 515-988-7791.

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 Sperazey. For more information, contact Judy LaFonde at 515-988-7791.

May 18 Saturday Reception for Dr. Dowdle DES MOINES – In celebration of 52 years as principal, St. Augustine School is hosting a retirement reception for Dr. Nancy Dowdle from 2-4:30 p.m. in the St. Augustine Parish Hall. Please RSVP to https://www.staugustineschool.org/dowdlememories.

May 23 Thursday St. Vincent de Paul Charity Golf Outing URBANDALE – The annual charity golf 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. Golf 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 515-448-1030. 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 Edson 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.

Speakeasy. For more information, contact Judy LaFonde at 515-988-7791.

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 RCC 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. The $5.1 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, KYVS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Urbana – 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 Dobelman 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, KYVS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Sister Bethany, CFRE, MBA

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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 reverberates 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.SBenedictCenter.com
Giving is more than a good idea or a nice thing to do, but part of the identity of Catholicism.

“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 meeting their individual goals with their ministry,” Kenney said. “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 even not 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.
Laura Downey (now Sister Mary Esther) teaches at Notre Dame High School in Peoria

By Kelly Meacher 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 Church at a religious order of women who so evidently love Jesus Christ as his beloved bride.

“When I met a religious sister for the first time, it was about seven years old, she was so happy,” 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.

“When 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 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.

“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 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.”
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 have.

The girls learned more about the vocations 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 habitated order.”

They are also both attracted to the idea of serving others.

To learn more about the next Nun Run, contact Barry at dbarr@stfranciscchurch.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 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.

Siman Zanami

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.

Seminarian Simon Zanami (left) with his older brother at a family wedding in his home country of Nigeria.
Priests with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priest</th>
<th>Year of Ordination</th>
<th>Number of Allegations</th>
<th>Gender of Victim</th>
<th>Approximate Date of Abuse</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Parishes &amp; Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Connolly</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Deceased, 2007</td>
<td>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, DCCW and Hospitals, 1959-70; Spiritual Director to Bishop Drumh 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Howard Fitzgerald | 1978 | 2 | Male | Late 1970s and late-1980s | Laicized | St. Albert High School Council Bluffs, 1978-83; St. Paul Parish 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, Maly, 1990-95; St. Patrick Church, Duxlap and Sacred Heart Church, Woodbine, 1995-98; St. Michael Church, Harlan, 1998-2001; St. John and Paul Church, Altoona, 2001-08; Subsidiary, 2009; St. Joseph Church, Earlham, 2010; St. Peter Church, Defiance, 2010; St. Patrick Church, Duxlap, 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 Aquin Church, Independance, Immaculate Conception, St. Marys, 2013-14; Campus Ministry, Simpson College, Independence, 2013-14; Initial report alleged 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. Augustine 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, 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, 1951-57, Sacred Heart Church, Mondamin, 1951-75; St. Auri's Church, Pilsan, 1971-75; Allegations reported to the diocese, early 2000s; Allegations substantiated, 2005; Died before incarceration |

John Ryan | 1950 | 6 | Male | Early 1950s to 1980s | Deceased, 2010 | Our Lady of Fatima Church, Portown, 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, 1995; 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; Basilia 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. Benice Church, Westphalia, 1956-57; St. Peter and Paul Church, Atlantic, 1957-58; St. Francis Church, Council Bluffs, 1958-60; St. Patrick Church, Perry, 1961-64; St. Thomas More Church, Portown, 1962-65; All Saints Church, Des Moines, 1965-69; St. Mary Church Rosemount and St. Augustine Church, Milti, 1969-75; St. Benice 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, 2005; Died before incarcuration |

Francis zach | 1932 | 5 | Male | Early to mid-1970s | Deceased, 1995 | St. Augustine Church, Des Moines, 1932; Director of Catholic Charities, Des Moines, 1933-55; 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, 1945; Chaplain, Child Home Home, 1955; Moderator of N.C.C.W., 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. Benice Church, Westphalia, 1960-61; St. Peter Church, Council Bluffs, 1961-62; Faculty at Holy Trinity Church, Des Moines, 1962-69; St. Peter Church, Des Moines, 1988-1995; Holy Spirit Church, Creston and St. Edward Church, Allou, 1996-2008; Subsaticcal, 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 that 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. Only after law enforcement authorities have completed their investigation of an accusation of abuse will the Diocese of Des Moines proceed with an investigation of the allegation.

If the allegations are found to be true, the priests will be removed from public ministry. If the allegations are found to be unfounded, the priests will continue to serve the faithful of the faithful and the universal Church. I encourage everyone to keep our faith and to pray 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 leaders acknowledge 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 have been 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 above, 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 determination on whether the priest often had an advocate to provide for his defense, accorded by church law. Following each determination on whether the priest was to be found to be guilty of abuse, the substance of the findings was made public. For more information, please see the FAQ.

Aside from the name of the priest, sometimes years would have passed. In some cases, a single accusation made years 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 and 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 and decades after the alleged abuse.

In one case, these allegations were made publicly. In that case, the allegations were made publically. 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:


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 sexual 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 report.


Among their key findings were:

• 4% 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 1980.

• 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 24 priests, representing 56% 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.


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 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.

Continued on page 12


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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 enemys of your salvation. Into your sacred hands, living and dying Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.

Amen

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

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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.

c. The availability of protective court orders and legal advocates.

3) Zero tolerance

A policy which, 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 priests 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 abuse were reported between 2015-17. That comes from a population of approximately 72 million Catholics in the U.S. 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 audit by StoneBridge Business Partners provides the annual audit. Every third year this exercise is “on-site,” where files are reviewed, 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, 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.”

Victim Assistance Advocate

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.

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.
Parishioners support each other

Continued from page 1

Pisut. Please submit applications by May 1st.

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

Bishop encourages prayers, financial assistance for flood victims

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 choir- ropractor, 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.”

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.

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Bishop Richard Pates celebrates 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. 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 choir- ropractor, 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.”

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St. Augus
Our artisan caskets take eighty years to make.

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

Call us now for an immediate need or visit our website for future planning. Receive a keepsake website for future planning. Receive a keepsake receipt on a momento firmemente – no puede condonar este comportamiento, es un pecado y un crimen y debe hacerse todo lo posible para extinguirlo en la vida de la Iglesia. Parte de la transformación también incluye la atención primordial a que todas 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 un reforma. El primer paso en este trayecto comenzó en 1988 cuando la diócesis adoptó una política para contrarrestar el abuso de sexualidad 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 está 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 consistía en un juez, un jefe de la policía, un abogado, un conocedor, un maestro de escuela, un diácono y un sacerdote quienes acocompañen 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 en todos los empleados de la iglesia;
- 16,000 personas han participado en entrenamiento de ambiente seguro;
- La diócesis se somete a un auditoría anual por parte de una agencia nacional para verificar que se cumple con las políticas.

Además, nuestros empleados de las iglesias participan en entrenamientos 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 abuso.

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

El mismo mensaje que elevamos este domingo, “Has sufrido, 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 extenuante 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 disciplímedos amados: “Para hacer que Jesucristo sea conocido y amado en nuestros tiempos.”

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

Muerte y resurrección

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas:

El reverendo José de la Cruz en el transcurso de toda nuestra existencia, hemos venido a través de los años con el reto de fortalecer nuestra fe en manos de Dios para que podamos, de ver en nuestra relación con Dios al enfrentar un corazón colectivo deslumbrado y al dolor provoca-do 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 fe en manos de Dios para que podamos guiarnos a su Iglesia en estos tiempos. Tal como indica la historia de los pastores, 20 años atraso, estamos sur-giendo firmes en nuestro compromiso con los niños y más fieles en nuestra relación con Jesús.

¿Pueden unirse a mí en esta oración ferviente pidiendo que sanen las víctimas y que continuemos nuestra con-vención personal como disciplíne-los de Jesús? Sabemos que esto es esencial para que podamos sanar y recuperarnos plena mente.

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

The St. Joseph Educational Center (SJEC) is seeking an engaging, positive, joyful individual who exemplifies the spirit of the Gospel to fulfill a full-time Ministry Director position. The SJEC resides at Dowling Catholic High School while focusing its efforts to serve several parishes and the broader Catholic community of Des Moines. The Ministry Director serves as a leader for collaboration and coordination sharing resources and best practices between parishes, schools and parents. Diocese and lay ministries in the Des Moines region with the understanding of a greater benefit than separate local efforts. The successful candidate will provide ongoing education opportunities for parish employees and adults through the oversight of the Certificate Program in Ministry. Qualified candidates have a Master’s Degree in Theology, doctorate degree a plus. Candidates must possess a minimum of five years of experience in direct ministry at the parish, school or diocesan level. Strong organizational skills, ability to cultivate relationships with a wide range of individuals, the ability to facilitate meetings effectively and utilize resources to enhance and further the mission of the Catholic community required. For more information, please contact Dowling Catholic High School (515)225-3000.
Jesus is risen!

Our forty day fast has ended, and now we feast for fifty days of Easter. Easter is not just a day, and it is not just a season. Easter is a way of life. Living as Easter people is to live in a profound relationship with Jesus, crucified, died, and risen. May your relationship with the risen Jesus guide and enrich your daily living of the Catholic faith. Vivat Jesus!

Rev. William E. Reynolds
State Chaplain
Diocese of Davenport

Archbishop Jackels
Archdiocese of Dubuque

Bishop Zinkula
Diocese of Davenport

Bishop Nickless
Diocese of Sioux City

Bishop Pates
Diocese of Des Moines

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Wishing you and your family a Blessed Easter