

# THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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May 21, 2021

## ***Pope: Being a catechist is a vocation, establishes formal ministry***

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Calling for formal recognition of “those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis,” Pope Francis has instituted the “ministry of catechist.”

“The Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Christian faith,” the pope wrote in “Antiquum Ministerium” (Ancient Ministry), his document released at the Vatican May 11.

In addition to releasing texts of the document in Italian, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish, the Vatican distributed a video of the text translated into Italian sign language.

Pastors must support laypeople in answering the Spirit’s call and “enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the ‘penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors,’” the pope said, quoting what he had written

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## **Welcome to the table of the Lord**

*First Communion a celebration for parishes, families*



**Parents Mike Wunn and Jenny Kleiman with sons Eli Wunn, the First Communicant, and his older brother Ethan at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.**

### *Diocese to focus on renewing understanding, love of the Eucharist*

The Diocese of Des Moines is joining a national, renewed focus on the Eucharist.

The Spirit-led effort will reconnect the faithful to their baptismal call and focus on how important the Eucharist is

to our identity as Catholic Christians.

The Eucharist is central to the Catholic faith. A Vatican II document (Lumen Gentium) described it as the “source and summit of our Christian faith,”

and the Catechism of the Catholic Church says the Church “draws her life from the word and the Body of Christ.”

A plan from the U.S. bishops invites dioceses to enact a three-pronged approach

to the initiative that includes catechesis and apologetics; devotion and worship; and conversion and mission. The Diocese of Des Moines is adapting the

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## **Priests celebrate silver jubilees**

The following priests are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their priestly ordination.

### **Father Ambrose Ladu John Daniel**

Father Ambrose Ladu John Daniel, was born in 1967 in the predominantly Islamic country of Sudan, where Christians are persecuted and not allowed to worship publicly.

His father was a photographer at the Archdiocese of Juba’s printing press before joining a movement to liberate South Sudan from the Islamic oppressive government. The family moved several times from one town to another, which later Father Ambrose saw as God preparing him for missionary work.

He felt called to be a priest at age 12, and was encouraged by an uncle, who was a priest, and his mother.

He was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Juba on

April 28, 1996. He served as an associate pastor, pastor, chancellor, youth chaplain, vocation director and parish administrator in the Archdiocese of Juba. In 2001, Father Ladu went to South Africa to pursue degrees in Computer Science (I.T), civil and Canon law. While in the Diocese of Pietersburg, he served as an associate pastor and pastor.

In 2012, he was invited by the Diocese of Des Moines to serve at St. Ambrose Cathedral as associate pastor and refugee coordinator.

“I lift up the broken hearted, shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, console the sorrowful and encourage them to discover their strength, dignity and joy in Christ,” he said during his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration May 1.

Often, late into the night, one can see his office light on at the rectory of St. Ambrose Cathedral’s office. There, he spends

hours translating the sacred texts and liturgical books of the Catholic faith into the language of his native community: Lokoya. Only about

10,000 people around the world – 9,000 of them in Sudan – speak it, he said.

He built a website, [www.lokoyaofsouthsudan.org](http://www.lokoyaofsouthsudan.org), YouTube account, Onyok odonge lomoli and Facebook account, Lokoya Community through which he publishes the translated texts. He’s working on the Lokoya dictionary (698 pages) and the Old Testament in Lokoya. The Roman Missal is completed and ready for print. He is looking

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Father Ambrose Ladu John Daniel

## **Parish focuses on sin of racism, makes resources available to public**

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

After last year’s shocking death of George Floyd, videotaped for the whole world to see, people were given insight into the realities people of color face on a daily basis.

Many white people confessed they were unaware of the level of racism and discrimination that people of color faced daily.

Father Michael Amadeo, pastor of Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, had been thinking about the death of George Floyd, the subsequent protests and racism in our country with a heavy heart.

It was while listening to the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishop’s fall meeting when he pondered what he could do in response.

“One of the conference of bishops’ priorities is to deal with the issue of the sin of racism,” Father Amadeo said. “So that sparked my interest. And then having a conversation with the leaders of AMOS (a local organization that helps find solutions for the most vulnerable in the community), as well as our Peace and Justice Committee [it solidified my decision] to bring this issue to our parish during Lent.”

Spending time in study and prayer seemed to be a reflective way of contemplating this human dignity and social justice issue that was also extremely timely and top of mind for many.

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# Catholic Beyond Borders

Iowa bishops working through the Iowa Catholic Conference have found areas of common ground where we supported positions advanced by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds. Nonetheless, her unwillingness to explore options by which a limited number of extra-national children at our border might be relocated to Iowa is sorely disappointing. Beyond whatever pragmatic or political considerations underlie her decision, as Catholic Christians and citizens of our state, faith both stretches our sense of the possible and commits us to seek means where we might extend hospitality and charity to these fellow human beings in collaboration with the governor, persons of other faiths, and good-willed citizens.

Children, like all of us, find themselves in difficult situations beyond their control. Children face problems, but children themselves are not “problems,”



By  
Bishop  
William  
Joensen

political or otherwise. Children manifest the God-given dignity and immeasurable worth bestowed on all persons by our Creator God. Jesus of Nazareth rebuked his own disciples and others who were relegating children to a reduced station in life, enjoining, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). And he offers implied criticism of religious leaders and others who pass by rather than recognize and reach out to a victimized individual in distress, commending instead the Samaritan who instinctively grasps what

it means to be truly neighbor to another.

I am aware of the charge often lobbed at Catholics and others who oppose abortion and support the right to life of all human beings from conception to natural death: we are perceived to care only about prenatal babies and then disregard them once they are born. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Viable alternatives for housing children should be pursued without further delay. I am aware that many people, including children living in our state, have been impacted by economic and social challenges made worse by the pandemic. I commend our government officials

for the practical steps already taken to alleviate their situation. Yet I also think that the situation of displaced children presently dwelling near our country’s southern border is an existential challenge that once again gives us the opportunity to define ourselves as Iowans who step up and seize the moment to do good for others.

I am reminded of the scene in the classic film, *Monsieur Vincent*, depicting the life work of the apostle of charity, Vincent de Paul, who as a young priest enters a plague-stricken village and comes across a bedraggled orphan girl scrounging for food on the deserted streets. He draws her into the main square and cries out to the villagers hiding be-

hind locked doors and windows in words to this effect, “Who will take this poor daughter of God into their home? I do not seek someone who is rich, dwelling in comfort and abundance. I beseech the poor woman or man who already has too many mouths to feed, who knows how to stretch the soup and make ends meet. Give me such a poor person who knows that one more mouth to feed is of little consequence, who is rich in faith and trust in God.”

When it comes to the situation of children lying not all that far from our doorstep like Lazarus at the rich man’s home, God help us if we do not respond in love. If we do nothing and claim that it is someone else’s problem, we show ourselves to be both humanly and spiritually impoverished, to an extent that no amount of government assistance, let alone a drink of water, will bring us relief.

“When it comes to the situation of children lying not all that far from our doorstep like Lazarus at the rich man’s home, God help us if we do not respond in love.”

“Cuando la situación trata sobre niños que sufren no tan lejos de nuestras propias puertas, así como Lázaro en la casa del hombre rico, que Dios nos ayude si no respondemos con amor.”

## Católicos Más Allá de las Fronteras

Los obispos de Iowa han encontrado áreas de interés común en su trabajo a través de la Conferencia Católica de Iowa en donde hemos apoyado las decisiones que ha promovido la Gobernadora de Iowa, Kim Reynolds. A pesar de eso, su falta de interés sobre la exploración de opciones por medio de las cuales pudiera reubicarse un número limitado de niños extranjeros retenidos en la frontera es una gran decepción. Más allá de cualquier consideración pragmática o política en que haya basado su decisión, como cristianos católicos y como ciudadanos de nuestro estado, la fe extiende nuestro sentido de lo posible y nos compromete a buscar medios por los

cuales podamos ofrecer nuestra hospitalidad y caridad hacia los demás seres humanos en colaboración con la gobernadora, personas de otras prácticas de fe y ciudadanos de buena voluntad.

Los niños, al igual que todos nosotros, se encuentran en situaciones difíciles más allá de su propio control. Los niños enfrentan problemas, pero los niños mismos no son “problemas,” ni políticos ni de ningún otro tipo. Los niños manifiestan la dignidad y el valor inmensurable concedido por Dios nuestro Creador a todas las personas. Jesús de Nazaret reprendió a sus propios discípulos y a los demás que estaban confinando a los niños a una estación de vida reducida, diciendo, “Dejen que los niños vengan a mí y no les impidan que se me acerquen; porque el Reino de los Cielos pertenece a los que son como ellos.” (Mateo 19:14). Y ofrece una crítica implícita a los líderes religiosos y a los demás que pasan de largo en vez de reconocer y extender su mano a individuos y víctimas con problemas, reconociendo por otro lado al Samaritano quien por instinto comprende lo que significa ser un verdadero prójimo hacia los demás.

Estoy consciente de los cargos que se lanzan frecuentemente hacia los católicos y a los demás que se oponen al aborto y que apoyan el derecho a la vida de todos los seres humanos desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural: se nos percibe como personas que solamente nos preocupamos de los bebés antes de nacer y nos olvidamos de ellos una vez que nacen. Nada puede estar más apartado de la verdad.

Se deben perseguir sin tardanza algunas alternativas viables de vivienda para niños. Estoy consciente de que muchas personas, incluso niños que viven en nuestro estado, han sido afectados por los retos económicos y sociales que se han agravado por la pandemia. Felicito a nuestros oficiales de gobierno por los pasos prácticos que han tomado para solucionar esta situación. Pero aun así pienso que la situación de los niños desplazados

con la que vivimos en la frontera sur de nuestro país en un reto existencial que nos da una vez más la oportunidad de definirnos a nosotros mismos como habitantes de Iowa que saben levantarse y aprovechar la oportunidad de hacer el bien hacia los demás.

Esto me recuerda la escena en la película clásica, *Monsieur Vincent*, que describe la obra de vida del apóstol de la caridad, Vicente de Paul, quien cuando era un joven sacerdote entra en una villa azotada por la plaga y se encuentra con una niña desaliñada que desesperadamente busca comida en las calles desiertas. Él la lleva a la plaza principal y grita a los habitantes de la villa quienes se esconden detrás de puertas y

ventanas cerradas con palabras tales como, “¿Quién llevará a esta pobre niña de Dios a su hogar? No busca a alguien que sea rico, viviendo en la comodidad y la abundancia. Suplico a la mujer o al hombre pobre que ya tiene demasiadas bocas que alimentar, que sabe como hacer rendir la sopa y sacar el día. Denme a esa persona quien sabe que una boca más que alimentar no es gran reto, quien sea rico en fe y confianza en Dios.”

Cuando la situación trata sobre niños que sufren no tan lejos de nuestras propias puertas, así como Lázaro en la casa del hombre rico, que Dios nos ayude si no respondemos con amor. Si no hacemos nada bajo la excusa de que es el problema de alguien más, estaremos mostrando tal nivel de pobreza humana y espiritual, de modo que no habrá cantidad de ayuda gubernamental, ni siquiera un trago de agua, que puedan aliviarlas.

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### Bishop Pates to assist Crookston Diocese

Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Michael Hoepfner of the Diocese of Crookston and has appointed retired Bishop Richard Pates as the apostolic administrator sede vacante.

Bishop Pates, a former auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, was named bishop for the Diocese of Des Moines on April 10, 2008. He was installed May 29, 2008 and served until Bishop William Joensen was installed on Sept. 27, 2019.

Just a few months after retiring, on Dec. 27, 2019, he was named apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, where he served until the installation of Bishop Ronald Hicks until last September.

The resignation of Bishop Hoepfner and appointment of Bishop Pates were publicized in Washington, D.C. on April 13 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The Diocese of Crookston is comprised of 17,210 square miles in the state of Minnesota and has a total population of 277,689, of which 34,649 are Catholic.



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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](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org).

## Veteran school administrator retiring

By Nicole Evans  
Contributing Writer

Jane Kinney, administrator at Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines, will retire this July after more than 32 years in education.

Kinney served 24 years at Sacred Heart, having served as a principal, assistant principal, religious leader, student support specialist, and third-grade classroom teacher.

"Jane is a person of faith and this faith has been lived out in her dedication to Catholic education," said Father Chris Hartshorn, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.

"Jane has a passion for excellence and she has always been an advocate for what is best for our students," he said. "She has been a blessing to our school at Sacred Heart Parish and she will be missed."

Passionate about meeting the needs of all learners, Kinney's legacy includes expanding diverse learner support at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

She partnered with the West Des Moines Community School District to provide special education and Title 1 services directly to students at Sacred Heart Catholic School.



Under her leadership, the school incorporated Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for students with diverse learning needs.

Kinney earned her Master of Science in Education from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota and a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Drake University.

She holds professional licenses as a pre-kindergarten-12 administrator and PK special education supervisor with endorsements in K-8 reading, K-12 English as a Second Language, K-8 mildly disabled, and K-8 mental disabilities mild/moderate.

Her professional affiliations include the International

Reading Association, National Catholic Education Association, Association for School Curriculum and Development, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Iowa Talented and Gifted, Special Education Advisory Committee, ELL Advisory Committee with Heartland AEA, and Student Teaching Advisory Team member for Upper Iowa University.

Kinney and her husband are the proud parents of four daughters and the grandparents of twelve grandchildren. When she's not at school, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, sewing, and watching movies with her husband.

As the school year winds to an end, the Diocese of Des Moines honors and thanks all the faculty and staff who are retiring.

These individuals represent more than 400 years in the field of education. Join us in wishing a fond farewell to these outstanding educators for their tireless service and commitment to our Catholic schools.

### Christ the King

- Becky Johnson, teacher and former administrator – 36 years in Catholic education, 28 years at Christ the King

### Dowling Catholic

- Ron Gray, teacher and coach – 43 years in education at Dowling Catholic
- Judy Chamat, teacher – 35 ½ years in education
- Tracy Sandbothe, teacher – 18 years in education
- Jeff Morris, teacher - 25 years in education

### Sacred Heart

- Jane Kinney, school administrator – 32 years in Catholic education, 24 years at Sacred Heart
- Tiffany Bayless, librarian – 32 years in education, 12 years at Sacred Heart

### Saint Albert

- Diane Shanno, school administrative manager – 32 years in education
- Lynne Johnson, preschool teacher – 27 years in education

### Shelby County

- Yvonne Gaul, teacher - 40+ years in education

### St. Anthony

- Mary Barney, teacher – 46 years in education, 36 years at St. Anthony

### St. Augustin

- Maureen Casey, teacher – 26 years in education

### St. Francis of Assisi

- Louise Mistry, teacher – 28 years in education, 13 years at St. Francis of Assisi
- Kim Aarsvold, teacher – 23 years in education, 2 years at St. Francis of Assisi

### St. Malachy

- Jan Lesan, teacher – a lifetime in education, 5 years at St. Malachy

### St. Patrick

- Maureen Becker, a lifetime in education

### St. Pius X

- Nancy Zaletel, teacher – 28 years in education at St. Pius X

## Longtime catechetical leaders retiring from three parishes

Three longtime leaders of religious education programs are retiring.

Joyce Clawson, of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, served 31 years.

Debbie Chalik, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, is retiring after 22 years.

And Jane Rychnovsky, of St. Patrick Parish in Corning, is stepping down as religious education director but will continue to work with youth preparing for confirmation.

"The Diocese of Des Moines has been blessed with these women working in their parish communities and the many ways they have shared faith and ministry with many colleagues along the way," said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis

Clawson began when her former pastor, Father Richard Gubbels, invited her to be an assistant to the director of the religious education program. She eventually became responsible for the elementary religious education program.

"It has been the most rewarding experience I've ever had," she said. "It wasn't really like a job for me. It almost felt like it was a calling."

She's worked with wonderful parishioners, great priests and catechists.

"She's a good, faithful and shining witness for Christ and his church," said Tom Primmer, director of the parish's religious education program.

Chalik has shared mul-

iple talents with her parish.

"Debbie is a faith-filled person, a gifted writer and a dedicated servant in helping parents pass on the gift of faith and the rich traditions of the Catholic Church to their children," said Father Chris Hartshorn, pastor of Sacred Heart.

Chalik had been volunteering for the program when she was invited to join the staff

in 1999. She and catechetical leaders Kayla Richer and Marcia Schaul grew close and saw the program evolve over the years.

"We've changed a lot of the retreats and parent meetings," she said. "We've always tried to focus on educating parents as well as the kids. It can be a challenge with busy lives, but that's always been important to us."

She said: "My job has

never been a job. It's what I loved. It was a passion and that makes a difference," she said.

Jane Rychnovsky is retiring after 12 years of leading the religious education program at St. Patrick Parish in Corning, though she'll continue to teach.

"She does everything in a beautiful way," said Father Lito Thomas. "She loves being with the kids. She has so many ideas

for helping kids grow in faith."

A retired teacher, Rychnovsky said the first class she prepared for First Communion graduated high school so she felt it was time to move on.

Serving as a catechist has helped her own faith life.

"When you teach, you learn," she said.



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We are grateful for the many ways the community has come together to support our students throughout the last year. As we focus on fulfilling our mission, support of the We Are Maroons Annual Appeal is more important than ever before. The impact is reflected in the following ways:

**Technology:** New SMART Boards in every classroom and a Chromebook for each student.

**Faith Development:** Religious retreats and daily prayer, Mass and reconciliation. Small group ministry and faith mentoring are offered through Ut Fidem, a program focused on developing high school students into intentional disciples who will keep the faith for the rest of their lives.

**Tuition:** DCHS is committed to serving the Greater Des Moines community and making a Catholic education accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. Your gift ensures that every DCHS student receives a tuition reduction or tuition assistance.

**Christian Service:** DCHS prepares students to become Leaders for Life, Centered on Christ. The Christian Service program ensures that students are seeking to serve the community, the world at large, and to see Christ in all people.

**The Annual Appeal serves the interests of our students and provides the opportunity for each of them to fully participate in the Dowling Catholic experience. Your support truly makes a difference. To donate, please visit [www.dowlingcatholic.org/donate](http://www.dowlingcatholic.org/donate) or mail a check to 1400 Buffalo Road, West Des Moines, IA 50265.**

## May Day basket deliveries surprise sisters



The St. Serra Club of Des Moines honored 40 sisters in the Diocese of Des Moines with a May Day basket on May 1.

Typically, the Serrans host an annual event for the sisters but last year, because of the pandemic, the tradition changed to May Day gifts.

Each sister received a basket with personal care items, snacks, wine, chocolate, cheese, and a spring flower along with a financial gift. Donations

include items from Ashworth Vision Clinic, Beavertdale Confections, Boesen the Florist, Craig Dental Center, The Cheese Shop, and cookies made by Mike Mahoney.

The Serrans chose to present May Day baskets to the sisters in recognition of their faithful and dedicated service to the Diocese of Des Moines and all that they do to serve their community and the Church.

**Top photo: St. Serra Club delivery team: Jo Helling, Bill Cook, Bill Ehm, Larry Schmitz.**

**Right: Sister Joan Clare Nyoroka and Sister Rosaria Njura, both minister at MercyOne in Des Moines.**

**Far right: Little Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Sister Justeen Karvala, Sister Elsy Xavier, Sister Rini Simethy and Sister Shiji Marttakal outside their residence with their May Day baskets. They minister at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston.**



## School Sisters of St Francis celebrate jubilees

Two School Sisters of St. Francis who served the Des Moines Diocese are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries as women religious this year.

### Sister Marianne Kuhn

Sister Marianne Kuhn was born in Fort Atkinson, Iowa. She served as a teacher/choir director at Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines (1968-1971) and at St. Joseph School in Earling (1987-1991).

She also served as a teacher and organist in a school in Minnesota, and a teacher and organist in six schools in the Archdiocese of Omaha and principal at a seventh. She was a teacher/organist in the Dioceses of Denver and Colorado Springs. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, she served as a driver/secretary. She is currently a volunteer at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee.

### Sister Carol Ann Jaeger

Sister Carol Ann Jaeger, of Campbellsport, Wisconsin, became an educator and served as a pastoral minister at St. John Parish in Adel from 1991 to 1996.

She spent a significant amount of her years of ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as a teacher, vocation director for her religious community, and in various religious education and pastoral roles in parishes.

She also served in the Dioceses of Madison and Winona.

Sister Carol Ann currently volunteers at a local convent in Milwaukee.

Cards and donations in honor of the sisters' years of service may be mailed to the sister's attention, c/o Jubilee Committee, School Sisters of St. Francis, 1545 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215.

## Free Citizenship Class by telephone

This free citizenship class will prepare you to pass your US immigration citizenship interview.

Experienced teacher will conduct this class bilingual – English and Spanish. Please contact local instructor Jim Supina at (515) 961-2026.

The Catholic Mirror is looking for stories of faith and inspiration. Contact Kelly Mescher Collins at [kcollins@dmdiocese.org](mailto:kcollins@dmdiocese.org) with a story idea.

THE CATHOLIC

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# Three honored as outstanding role models



Left: Sister Sandra Rodemyer with Dowling Catholic High School President Dr. Dan Ryan. Middle: Marthaellen Florence with Ryan.



Meghan O'Neill

Three women were honored by Dowling Catholic High School with alumni awards for serving as outstanding role models.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was given to Marthaellen Florence, class of 1975 and Sister Sandra Rodemyer, BVM, class of 1959 during the spring scholastic achievement assembly on April 28.

Honored with the Distinguished Young Alumni Award was Meghan O'Neill, class of 2002.

Florence retired in 2019 after an award-winning career in Public Broadcasting spanning more than 40 years. A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she holds a BA in Broadcast Journalism. Currently, she serves as a faculty member with the Center for Leadership Development, an agency under the federal government's Office of Personnel Management. She also serves as faculty chair for the agency's diversity, equity and inclusion

initiative working with the government on aligning the recent presidential executive orders on racial equity.

Sister Rodemyer, a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, attended St. Augustin School and St. Joseph Academy. She attended Clarke College (now Clarke University) in Dubuque. She entered the BVM community in 1961. After earning her degree from Mundelein College in 1965, she taught at St. Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs.

Six years later, she taught at Regina High School in Iowa City, then returned to the Des Moines Diocese in 1974 to begin an 18-year teaching career at Dowling Catholic.

In February of 1995, she began her ministry as the director of the Des Moines Area Religious Council Emergency Food Pantry. She retired in 2007.

She had been involved with Teens Encounter Christ retreat for high school seniors, and Residents Encounter Christ pris-

on retreat program. After 23 years of volunteer work at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, she retired in 2018.

O'Neill was awarded the Distinguished Young Alumna honor. She attended the University of Notre Dame and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, graduating in the top 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of her class in 2010.

After medical school, she completed a three-year pediatric residency in Chicago and then returned to Baltimore for a combined residency-fellowship program in neurodevelopmental disabilities. In late 2017, she returned to Chicago and works as an attending physician at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

O'Neill established the Lurie Children's Down Syndrome clinic. She specializes in the care of children with autism, developmental delays, intellectual disability, ADHD, learning disabilities, cerebral palsy and complex neurogenetic syndromes.

# St. Albert School names new principal

Stephen Eubanks has been named the new 6-12 grade principal at St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs.

Eubanks, a graduate from Omaha's Gross Catholic High School, brings more than 32 years of educational leadership experience to the role. He holds a Bachelor of Science in biology education degree with a minor in physical science and coaching from the University of South Dakota, a Master of Arts in educational administration and supervision from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and is a certified athletic administrator.

He spent most of his educational career in the Omaha Public Schools District, having served as a science teacher, coach, student assistance team coordinator, assistant principal, director of athletics, principal and director of curriculum instruction and support.

"He understands the mission of Catholic education and its value in our community," said Anne Rohling, president of St. Albert Catholic. "We are truly blessed to have such a man

of faith join our team and continue our mission of excellence."

"I am extremely excited to have Stephen leading the charge for the middle and high school students at St. Albert Catholic," said Donna Bishop, diocesan superintendent of Schools. "He is a dedicated administrator driven to ensure the academic achievement and social-emotional health of every student. We are blessed to have him join our team."

Eubanks helped increase student performance at each grade level on state assessments in reading, writing, science and math in Omaha schools.

"My tenure in education has taught me that a strong focus on empowering others and cultivating the ideals of pride, unity, and community will maximize achievement and define a culture of excellence," he said.



Stephen Eubanks

## Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of 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.



# CORPUS CHRISTI EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

## JUNE 6, 2021

11:00 am Bilingual Mass

DIOCESAN SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & DIVINE MERCY

## GROTTO

All are invited to the St. Anthony annual Corpus Christi bilingual Mass Sunday, June 6 at 11am at the Grotto. The Blessed Sacrament procession, established in 1913, will begin following the Mass.

Lunch is provided in the parish hall following the Eucharistic procession. *Chairs available for Mass—feel free to bring a lawn chair or a blanket as back up.*



## Around the Diocese

### June 6 Sunday Corpus Christi Processional

DES MOINES – St. Augustin Parish is having a Corpus Christi Processional at 3 p.m. Dinner to follow in the parking lot, everyone is welcome to join as they process through the neighborhood. All area Knights of Columbus are invited to dress in their regalia.

### June 13 Sunday Retirement

DES MOINES - Father John Bertogli will retire from active ministry on July 8. He will preside at the 11 a.m. Mass, June 13. A reception will be held in the cathedral parish hall from noon-2 p.m. following the Mass. All are welcome.

### June 14 Monday Holy Family Catholic School Foundation 2021 Golf Classic

NORWALK - The Holy Family Catholic School Foundation golf outing opens at 9:45 a.m. and starts at 11 a.m. at The Legacy Golf Club. All donations go to Holy Fam-

ily Catholic School. Your registration includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, a golf cart, a player gift, and more. You can register as an individual or a team of four. Can't play? You can donate a player or team for priests, teachers, or Dowling Catholic students. Visit <https://hfcdm.org/foundation/golf/> for more information and to register.

### June 19 Saturday Hawaiian BBQ Fundraiser

ANKENY – St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School is fundraising with a Hawaiian BBQ. Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt or grass skirt if you dare. Social hour is from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and dinner is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 19. This event is in lieu of our annual Green Gala that we were not able to hold this year due to COVID-19. We hope to host the Green Gala in the winter of 2022 again. Tickets are \$50 which includes dinner and drinks. Tickets are on sale now until June. Get your tickets here: <https://events.handbid.com/auctions/green-gala-2021>. 50/50 raffle tickets available. Must be 21 to attend event.

### Rosary For The Unborn

Join prolife advocates by praying the rosary for the unborn each Saturday at 10 a.m. in front of Planned Parenthood, 1040 E Army Post Road.

### Cathedral Holy Hours

All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer. These Holy Hours are 5-6 p.m. Evening prayer will be livestreamed at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

### Friends, Romans, Iowans podcast

Be sure to check out the diocesan young-adult focused podcast "Friends, Romans, Iowans." Currently in the second season, this podcast aims to connect the Diocese by hosting casual conversations with Catholic leaders from around southwest Iowa. Episodes can be found wherever you get your podcasts, or at [www.dmdiocese.org/fripod](https://www.dmdiocese.org/fripod)

## KCs reunite at annual statewide convention

By Dawn Prosser  
Contributing Writer

The onset of the pandemic in the spring of 2020 led to the Knights of Columbus annual convention's cancellation and a small online event taking its place. The Iowa KCs were pleased to gather in-person with their brother Knights at the Sioux City Convention Center April 30 to May 2.

"I'm really enjoying being back in-person," said Jeff Wellink of Story City in the Archdiocese of Dubuque and district marshal for the Fourth-Degree Knights.

Organizers noted the in-person attendance was down from the typical 250 Knights to 127 with about 50 participating via livestreaming. The reduced numbers did not dampen enthusiasm of the convention-goers.

"You can do all the

business you want by phone and Zoom, but to get together in-person at convention is what it's all about," said Mike Gaspers, who is a parishioner from St. Mary Church in Danbury and a district master of the Fourth-Degree KCs. "The KC involvement as a group is to build community ... even with the shortened agenda, I heard lots of appreciation to be able to see people again."

## Local KCs bring home honors from convention

Several Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Des Moines left the Knights annual convention with honors.

Todd Misel, of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, was named Grand Knight of the Year.

He was recognized for his tireless work and leadership, particularly during the pandemic.

He developed a plan with the help of the Knights of Columbus in his parish reach out to the 2,300 households to let them know their church cared for

them.

He set up a dedicated phone line answered 24/7 for parishioners in need of assistance. In the final months of 2020, they took 150 calls and logged more than 2,000 hours of community service.

Rob Ryan, of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines, was named Knight of the Year.

Described as "a model of what every Knight should be" and "the glue that keeps us together," Ryan encourages all members of the Knights of Co-

lumbus to be active, get involved and lead by example.

Father Mark McGeary was named Chaplain of the Year for the Des Moines Diocese.

Father McGeary "has done an outstanding job assisting his council," according to Council 12422. He attends meetings, shares updates about events and parish concerns, shows a strong devotion to Mary and encourages his parish to come to him with issues by saying he wants to be their priest.

## Sister Simonini was "an ambassador for new life"

Longtime educator and Des Moines native Sister Joanne (Lisbeth) Simonini died April 24 in Dubuque. A Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM), she died at age 89.

She will be remembered for listening to the voices of her students, for her fun-loving nature, her generosity and her commitment to keeping in touch with friends.

Sister Joanne was born Aug. 12, 1931 in Des Moines. She attended St. Ambrose Elementary School and St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines. She entered the BVM congregation on Sept. 8, 1951 from Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. She professed first vows on March 19, 1954 and final vows on July 16, 1959.

She taught in Missouri and California, before returning home to Des Moines to teach.

Sister Joanne began at St. John School in Des Moines in 1974 as a teacher, then became the principal the following year.

One day, she was asked to meet with the pastor and Father Stephen Orr, who was the chancellor of the Diocese at the time. He had taught for four years before going to the chancery and he wanted to get back into teaching one day a week. Thus began their 40-year friendship, he said.

She served six years at St. John until the school consolidated with others to form Holy Family School in 1981. She became its first principal.

That's when kindergarten teacher Janet Holms met her. Holms had been teaching at the former Visitation School.

"She was just so easy to work with and supportive, always smiling and never raised her voice," Holms said. She fondly remembered when some teachers took Sister Joanne and other religious women to a horse track in Omaha. The teachers assumed the sisters knew how to place bets and realized that might not be correct when the sisters said they wanted to "vote" for certain horses.

She served as principal through 1988.

From 1990 to 2000, she was the director of religious education at St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines.

She continued to volunteer at the parish and Holy Family School through 2012.

Sister Joanne was known for her telephone ministry.

"She loved to visit and she was very social," said Monsignor Orr. She called family, friends and the homebound.

"Joanne called me at least once a week ever since she's been here at Mount Carmel," he said at her funeral Mass. "She knew my calendar better than I did!"

She loved to provide hospitality and she enjoyed a good laugh, he said.

"Joanne often told me how proud she was to be a part of this family of sisters," Monsignor Orr said. She was "proud of the way this congregation has stood for peace and justice, has stood with solitude with immigrants, reaching out in care for the poor, tending to the needs of children, children who were educated by the sisters at all levels, and so much more. She told me the witness of her sisters in religion always gave her new life."

"In the end," he said, "she was kind, hospitable and loved people. She was an ambassador of new life. In so many quiet, gentle ways, she lived up to the gospel of the beatitudes."

Her Mass of Christian Burial was May 3. Burial was in the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Dubuque. She is survived by a niece, cousins and the Sisters of Charity, BVM, with whom she shared life for 69 years.

Memorials may be given to the BVM Support Fund, 1100 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003 or online at [https://www.bvmsisters.org/support\\_donate.cfm](https://www.bvmsisters.org/support_donate.cfm).



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# Chariton church to celebrate landmark anniversary

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Chariton was a couple of months in to a yearlong celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding just as the pandemic arrived.

This year, the parish is

celebrating “150 plus one” years on June 13. Bishop William Joensen will celebrate Mass, confirm youth and preside at a Corpus Christi procession.

The parish has evolved over the years, first being called St. Anne, when Mass was celebrated in a home. Then it was St. Mary and in its first building. In 1915, it was Sacred Heart and the

current parish church was constructed.

“There has been transition from generations, from grandmother of our Lord, Jesus, to mother of our Lord, Jesus, and now to Jesus Christ himself,” said Father Samuel Danso, the pastor.

The parish honors the generations of parishioners who built and supported the parish. Behind the altar are statues of St. Boniface and St. Patrick, representing a tribute to the Irish and German traditions of those who started the parish. A statue of St. Anthony of Padua is also in the church for Italians of the parish.

Gloria Lee has been a parishioner for all of her 85 years. She was baptized and married at Sacred Heart Church and her children were baptized and raised in the parish. She has fond memories of a beautiful baptismal font, priests who served there, and a time when boys sat on one side of the church and girls on the other in front.

She said the church has been a cornerstone in her life.

“My church has always been my family,” she said. “If you need something, just come to one

of them and they’ll do anything for you.”

She compiled the history of the parish with a book on the early days of the church that her father had plus photos and papers from the parish office.

The church was updated a little more than 20 years ago. But parishioners didn’t get around to rehabbing the windows, eight of which are from the former church building. When parishioner Jaynane Hardie was next door to the church pumping gas into her car at the Casey’s General Store, she glanced up at the bell tower of the church to see that a window had fallen out.

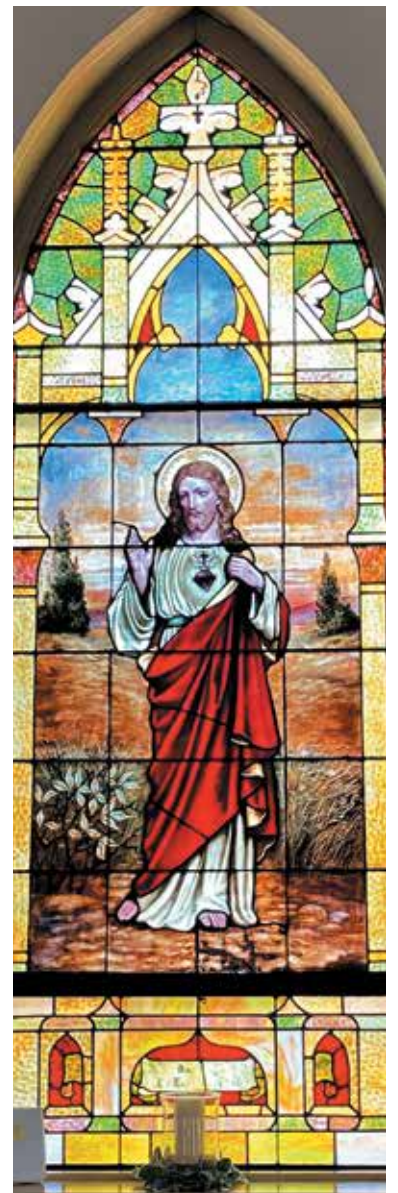
“We decided it was time to do something,” she said. The parish raised the funds and repaired the windows and put a protective storm window by the windows on the east side of the church that didn’t have them. The work was finished last year.

The next project may be restoring a light in the bell tower.

Hardie said: “People tell me it makes them feel like God is at home.”



Sacred Heart Church in Chariton was built in 1915.



Sacred Heart Church in Chariton refurbished its windows in time for its 150th anniversary.

# Four priests celebrating silver jubilees this year

Continued from page 1

for donors and people of goodwill to assist in printing this Missal.

## Father Mathew Antony

Father Mathew Antony, born in 1966, comes from a strong Catholic family in the southwest part of India in the province of Kerala. This part of India was evangelized by St. Thomas the

Apostle in 52 A.D. He has two older brothers and two younger sisters. After high school, he went on to study for the priesthood and was ordained on May 2, 1996.

He served St. Francis School in the southern part of India before going to the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas. There, he had several assignments. He came

to the Diocese of Des Moines in 2015, where he served St. Patrick Parish in Audubon, Holy Trinity Parish in Exira. Currently, he is the pastor of All Saints Parish in Stuart and St. John Parish in Adair.

The most rewarding part of being a priest is being with people at different stages of their lives, joyous moments as well as sad moments, he said. The best part, though, is having “the grace to bring Jesus’ Real Presence to them in the Holy Eucharist, and being an extension of Jesus in the sacrament of reconciliation.”

Father Mathew celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with family, relatives and friends on April 24 in Kerala, India. A local celebration at All Saints Church in Stuart will be June 13.

## Father David Nkrumah

Father David Nkrumah,

born in 1963 in Wawasi, in the central region of Ghana. He was ordained on July 20, 1996 in the Diocese of Sekondi Takoradi.

After ordination, he served as an associate pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish, where he was responsible for 24 communities, or stations, connected to his parish.

“Three times I had accidents, once I was bitten by scorpion, many times I passed the night in a car because not all the stations have rectories,” he said. “Many times I was beaten by rains. But in all these I came to realize that God from day one never promised me that the journey would be easy.”

He became pastor of a parish in the western region of Ghana, where he focused on the intercession of Mary to help resolve a conflict among chieftains. Then he returned to his first par-

ish, where he built a grotto and perpetual adoration chapel to enhance the spiritual life of parishioners.

He served one more parish in Ghana before coming to the Diocese of Des Moines in 2018, where he serves as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Audubon and Holy Trinity Parish in Exira.

Father Nkrumah is glad he followed his vocation calling.

“My love for the people of God and joy in living the Gospel have brought me great fulfillment as a priest and unworthy servant of God’s people,” he said. “The people I have worked with, the lives I have influenced and the ensuing experiences have enriched my life in many ways.”

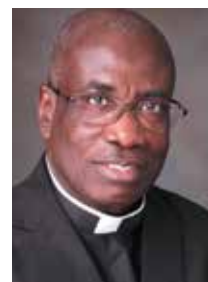
Father Nkrumah will celebrate his silver jubilee on July 25 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass in Audubon.

## Father Robert Harris

Born in 1954, Father Bob Harris attended Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee and Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corner, Wisconsin before being ordained on Dec. 14, 1996 at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny by Bishop Emeritus Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S.



Father Mathew Antony




Father David Nkrumah



Father Robert Harris

## Cathedral Holy Hours




Join Bishop Joensen  
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5-6 PM each Monday

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# Three seminarians to be ordained deacons

*Transitional diaconate ordination is the final step before becoming priests*

by Kelly Mescher Collins

Three diocesan seminarians will be ordained transitional deacons this year. Alex Kramer, currently studying at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City, will be ordained in the fall in Rome. Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros and Nick Smith will be ordained Friday, June 11 at 5 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. This Mass and liturgical celebration, while closed to the public to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, will be livestreamed at Facebook.com/DMDiocese. This is the final step for the three men before they are ordained priests in 2022.

## Alex Kramer

Holy Trinity Parish, Des Moines  
Studying at Pontifical North American College, Vatican City



Alex Kramer said stirrings in his heart for the Church came early.

"While in kindergarten, I watched a documentary about the Vatican and the pope," Kramer said. "I didn't really understand everything that was going on in the documentary, but I knew that it was about the Church and it was beautiful. Starting from that point and on, I wanted to be the pope."

Looking back and thinking how unrealistic that was, Kramer said many benefits came from this desire.

"First, I wanted to learn as much as I could about the pope and the Church," he said. "Secondly, I was fascinated and really in love with the Church."

"I was able to nurture that attraction to the Church at Catholic school," Kramer continued, recalling the impact becoming an altar server had on him and his faith.

"When I was in fourth grade at Holy Trinity, I had the opportunity to be an altar server," he said. "I excitedly volunteered and was even allowed to miss a few minutes of school every morning to serve daily Mass. This brought me closer to the sacraments and especially the role of the priest at Mass."

Attending Dowling Catholic High School helped Kramer better understand his Catholic faith in the classroom and deepen his relationship with Jesus on retreats, such as Kairos and Radix.

"I started looking realistically at what a career in the Church is," Kramer said. "I had the opportunity to attend events like an Andrew Dinner, where young men meet with priests and have a meal together just to talk about what it means to be a priest."

"I was able to be an altar server at Dowling, which is a different atmosphere than when serving at a parish, and got to know other Christ-centered men," he continued. "These were great gifts that I am so thankful for receiving from my time at Dowling."

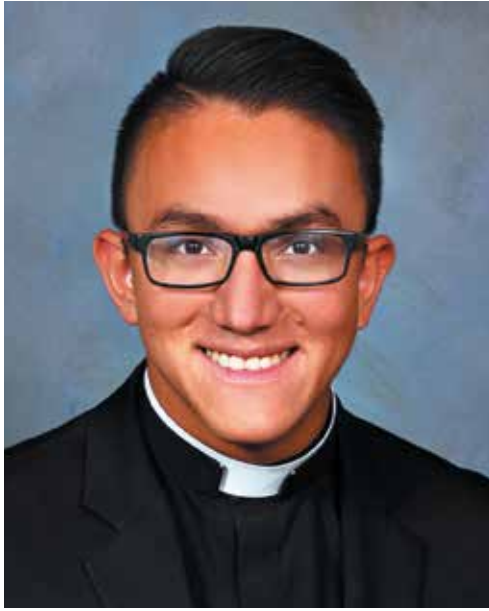
Dowling Catholic's chaplain at the time, Father Zach Kautzky, and local priests, including Monsignor Gerald Stessman, Monsignor Frank Chiodo and Father Michael Amadeo were wonderful examples of how the Church is young and vibrant.

Looking at the young men from his diocese who were already attending seminary helped Kramer seal the deal.

"They are all joyous and Christ centered, which is something I strive for," Kramer concluded. "When I was considering joining the seminary there were many young men who were answering the call."

## Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros

St. Bernard Parish, Osceola  
Studying at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota



"When I was six years old one of my favorite pastimes was planting jalapeno and cilantro seeds," said Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros, who is originally from Mexico and moved to the U.S. when he was 11-years old.

He also enjoyed spending his free time cutting plants and growing them next to each other at the expectancy of "new and weird creations." He also liked mixing the pollen from different small flowers, attempting to create new ones.

"I was a curious boy," Landeros said.

His mother recognized her son's interest in plants and seeds, and used those interests to help Landeros better understand God.

"One day my mom told me a story -- a story of how God had created all plants and living things," he said. "She said plants were manna stored in a shell that when planted and fed water, sprouted leaves and a stem and later created new manna. Through her words and story, I depicted yellow powder preserved inside the seeds which later appeared as pollen. I then wondered if I could actually create something new considering God had already created them as they were."

She proceeded by telling Landeros how God had a plan for all of us -- a perfect plan.

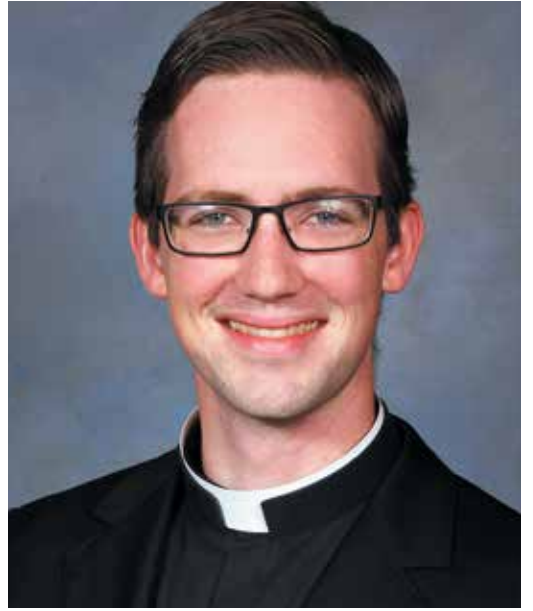
"As for the seeds, they too play a role, the role of creation of God," Landeros said. "At that instant she planted a seed in me, constantly wanting to sprout but oppressed. But I knew that a seed, unless rotten, will eventually sprout. The preserved manna in the seed was not pollen but a plan, fed by faith and words."

Landeros recalled pivotal events that took place on a special birthday, March 13, 2013.

"I was paying special attention to the news that day, and then I saw what I had been waiting for -- a new pope had been elected: Pope Francis," said Landeros of the fellow Latin American. "For the rest of the day, classes, academics and teachers were deprioritized. I spent the rest of my birthday searching everything about the new pope and watching live broadcasts from Vatican City. March 13, 2013 was definitely a life-changing day. I finally decided to pursue God's plan, a plan that had been sprouting for a long time. I decided to become a priest."

## Nick Smith

St. Augustin Parish, Des Moines  
Studying at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota



Nick Smith grew up as the oldest of seven children in Des Moines, attending St. Augustin Catholic School and Dowling Catholic High School.

While their Catholic faith was a deep foundation for his family, Smith had never seriously considered the priesthood, despite nudges from family and adult friends.

"My parents and other people at school and church would encourage me to think about becoming a priest," Smith said.

His faith was important to him though, thanks to guidance from family and others in the Catholic community.

"I enjoyed serving Mass, something I began in the fifth grade and continued all the way through high school," he said. "In addition, my family would pray together regularly and I would even join my Mom and Dad on occasion for their weekly adoration hour. These were the initial seeds of a priestly vocation before I had even begun to discern."

As a sophomore at Dowling, then chaplain Father Zach Kautzky asked Smith if he would be willing to serve daily Mass on the scheduled three mornings per week at school.

"I willingly agreed, and so I began to wake up three mornings a week at 6 a.m. to serve 7:15 a.m. Mass before school," he continued.

It became Smith's weekly routine, which led him to attending confession more frequently, taking more time for daily silent prayer.

"Throughout the next several months, I felt closer to the Lord than I had ever been," he said. "I even attended a seminary visit, although I did not feel particularly called to the priesthood at that time. My faith began to become a personal relationship, not merely a theoretical ideal or moral system."

In the fall of his junior year in high school, Smith had a profound experience that changed his perspective on seminary.

"I was in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament when, in the silence, gazing upon the priest doing benediction, I felt a movement in my heart saying 'That is where I want you to stand,'" Smith said. "In this moment, I heard Jesus' invitation to me to stand in the place of the priest -- to be his priest -- in order to give him to his people."

"I discerned this call throughout the rest of my junior year with the help of priest mentors, attended another seminary visit, and by the summer before my senior year, I was ready to apply for the seminary," Smith said. "Discerning and receiving a priestly vocation has been a life of abundance. Jesus calls seminarians and priests to a unique and intimate relationship with himself that, even amidst the difficulties, is filled with the peace and joy that every heart desires."

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# Sponsorships make CYC possible for everyone



Kids from the St. Ambrose refugee community raise money and find sponsors to attend Catholic Youth Camp.

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

“Money should never be a reason kids don’t get to go to camp,” Alex Kautzky, executive director of Catholic Youth Camp, has said for years.

That’s why CYC never turns away any child who would like to attend camp.

Opportunities to attend camp are made possible by CYC’s sponsorship program, donors and fundraisers.

There are 32 kids attending this summer from the refugee community at St. Ambrose Cathedral Parish in Des Moines. They are originally from Eritrea, a country many have fled due to persecution.

Destiny Welsh Teixeira, a member of St. Ambrose Cathedral, has helped the kids raise money and find donors for several years.

“We have third grade students through seniors attending this year - 12 elementary and middle school students and

20 high school students,” Welsh Teixeira said. “We invite students from all communities within our parish, but the ones attending this year are all from the Kunama community.”

Positive word of mouth spreads - the group keeps getting bigger every year.

“One high school student recently told me, ‘I love how we go to Mass every day and sing,’” she said. “Many of them have mentioned they feel closer to God and have grown in their faith because of CYC. They really enjoy all of the activities, but sharing their faith with those around them is a life-changing experience.”

The group still has nearly \$5,000 to raise to send all 32 youth to camp - they’ll be raising money through yard work and fundraisers.

If you would like to make a donation to this group, contact Welsh Teixeira at [dwelsh8@gmail.com](mailto:dwelsh8@gmail.com) or make a Venmo donation to [@Destiny-Welsh](https://www.venmo.com/@Destiny-Welsh).

# Catholic Youth Camp welcomes kids back for faith, fun



Spaces are filling up quick for this summer’s camp. Learn more and register at [STMCenter.com](http://STMCenter.com).

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

After the cancellation of almost all activities in 2020, staff at Catholic Youth Camp are ready for this summer.

“We are so excited to get kids back to camp,” said Alex Kautzky, executive director of CYC. “Having their joyful noise back on our campus will be so wonderful.”

But don’t wait to get your kids signed up - spaces are

extremely limited, already surpassing registration numbers at this time in 2019.

“We are trending higher than we ever have before,” Kautzky said. “We are full or nearly full on all of our camps.”

“When we cancelled summer 2020, we immediately set our eyes on 2021,” Kautzky continued. “It could be the most important camping season of our children’s lives, and we are really gearing up for the first normal activity that kids are going to be able to be involved in since the

vaccination roll out.

“There is a huge demand and huge value,” she added. “Parents are seeing the value even now more than ever.”

Staff members are ready and raring to welcome them, hiring double the staff for the 2021 season.

“It just allows us to do more in terms of faith programming and [unique opportunities],” Kautzky said.

This year CYC will be offering a Spa Night in the girls’ cabins and Pirates at the Pool for the boys.

CYC will also offer 15 outdoor activities, including a new foam zone and an entirely reimagined week for high schoolers that will include inflatables and laser tag.


Camp incorporates the Catholic faith component multiple ways, including the celebration of Mass every day, faith programming, confession and a renewed focus on the Eucharist. This year, they will highlight the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teenager who had a love for Jesus and spent his free time building a website to document Eucharistic miracles around the world. He died in 2006 at age 15.


A diocesan priest will continue the tradition of serving at camp for the summer. Three diocesan seminarians will also inspire youth, interact with the kids and serve as a joyful witness to their faith, Kautzky said.

“We feel confident it’s going to be an amazing and safe summer with all of the faith and the fun that we have always offered,” Kautzky concluded. “I think it’s going to be the best ministry we’ve offered at CYC, and we are excited to get the summer underway.”


Learn more and register at [STMCenter.com](http://STMCenter.com).

*Making it Personal*  
with Bishop Joensen

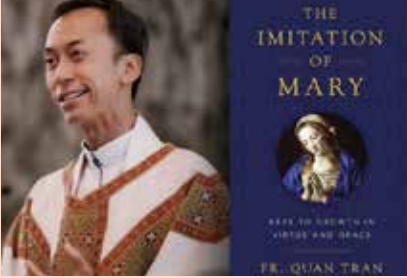




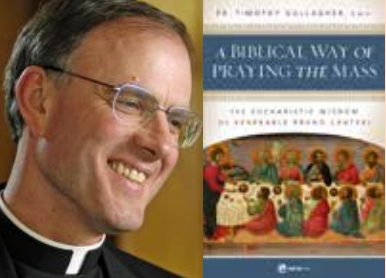
Jonathan Pageau, French Canadian iconographer, podcast host




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# Parish creates vision plan to engage and welcome the faithful

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

During the 2020 pandemic, leadership at St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines saw the need to create a vision and strategy to inspire people to return Mass and faith formation activities when it was safe.

“I think the pandemic is a wake-up call to have a vision for the future,” Monsignor Frank Chiodo said in a video posted to the St. Anthony website. “I think we are naïve to think everything is going to be restored to pre-pandemic conditions. I think this is a turning point in our lives.”

Monsignor Chiodo and other leaders at St. Anthony gathered to discern goals, milestones, and specific activities for parish engagement throughout a three-year period to grow and transform the parish.

“This three-year plan will be the guiding document for decisions made at the parish,” Monsignor Chiodo wrote in a letter to parishioners.

With a mission to “Go and Make Disciples,” the parish’s focus is on the four pillars of prayer, hospitality, discipleship and evangelization.

“Over the course of time we looked at those four pillars and then we broke them into goals we wanted to achieve over this next three year period and the tasks needed to accomplish that,” said parishioner Jim O’Donnell, a member of the Blue Ribbon vision committee. “We want to increase the spirituality of our parishioners.”

It has pushed them to think outside the box using their creativity.

“As we look at the vision for the future, we are focusing on hospitality and prayer and evangelization and to invite others to share a relationship with Jesus Christ,” the pastor said.

Spiritual participation includes increasing Mass attendance, building a strong community of people who pray the rosary together, participation in Eucharistic adoration and engagement in parish ministries, O’Donnell said.

Parishioner Katie Fitzgerald, part of the vision team, is thrilled about plans moving forward.



**Parishioner Katie Fitzgerald was one of many Vision Plan Committee members who appeared in a video and shared excitement about their plans for the parish to build community and increase engagement.**

“I’m just really excited about what we’ve got going on....hopefully you’ll be excited too and want to get involved,” Fitzgerald said. “We’d like to get some more dinners going and fun things for us to do together to try and build relationships and create that energy and chemistry between the people.”

The people – the Body of Christ – and the relationships with one another are a big part of church. Laughing, hugging and fun conversations are things Fitzgerald is working hard to bring back now that the COVID-19 vaccine is readily available.

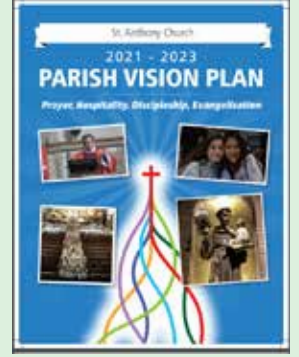
Parishioner and team member Julie Konkol said they are bringing back things from the past that made St. Anthony what it is today.

“We have great things in store for our beautiful parish of St. Anthony’s,” Konkol said.

Watch the vision plan video and learn more at [stanthonydsm.org](http://stanthonydsm.org).

## Parish sets lofty goals as part of vision plan

St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines has some lofty goals for drawing the faithful back to Mass and engaging them in a variety of opportunities as life returns to “normal” now that vaccines are available. These include:



- Increasing Mass attendance from official October 2019 Mass counts by 20 percent by October 2022
- Increasing opportunities for prayer as a community to include confession, Eucharistic Adoration and daily rosary through December 2023
- Promoting a welcoming culture by enhancing the Sunday Mass experience
- Creating opportunities to engage new parishioners and provide opportunities for fellowship weekly for the St. Anthony community
- Implementing a structured, developed youth ministry program for students in grades 9-12 that allows them to develop their faith in a peer focused setting
- Developing an Adult Faith Formation program that meets the spiritual and non-spiritual needs of our parishioners (ie: individual spiritual growth, marriage enrichment, singles, divorced, bereavement, financial, physical health, etc.)
- Increasing online interactions related to St. Anthony Parish by 100 percent from December 2020 to December 2021
- Identifying opportunities in the Des Moines metro community where parishioners can practice the faith by serving those in most need and serve as witnesses to our faith
- Selecting an international parish and/or community to establish a long-term relationship with, where parishioners can practice the faith by serving those in most need and serve as witnesses to our faith

Learn more at [stanthonydsm.org](http://stanthonydsm.org).

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### Director of Faith Formation - Adel

Director of Faith Formation – St. John Parish in Adel, a growing parish with over 400 households, is seeking a full-time catechetical leader committed to promoting lifelong faith formation for all ages. The leadership position is responsible for the total faith formation program of the parish, as designated by the pastor, for adults, youth, and children; including A) Theological B) Catechetical and C) Administrative aspects. The qualified applicant will be committed to developing the faith life of others and possess excellent organizational and interpersonal skills. Abilities to connect with people of all ages and work closely with other parish and diocesan catechetical teams are essential. This position requires flexible hours including evenings and weekends. Full description and details can be found at [www.stjohnsadel.org](http://www.stjohnsadel.org). Send resume and references by June 30<sup>th</sup> to:

St. John's Parish  
Attn.: Father Remi Okere  
PO Box 185  
Adel, IA 50003  
Phone: (515) 993-4590  
E-mail: [office@stjohnsadel.org](mailto:office@stjohnsadel.org)  
Lori Glanz, Parish Secretary  
St. John's Catholic Church, Adel, IA  
515-993-4482  
[stjohnsadel.org](http://stjohnsadel.org)

## Mary's heart and ours: Allowing joy and sorrow to coexist

My 18-month old likes to hang onto my fingers as she nurses, slowly pulling them this way and that as she drifts off to sleep. I have been savoring these moments a little more lately, knowing that this phase of our relationship will all-too-soon be over.

So the other night as Marigold nursed, I marveled at her curly hair and pudgy cheeks. But as I felt her relaxed body against my own, my mind jolted to the thought of another little girl, a daughter my arms ache to hold, but I can only carry in my heart.

June marks three years since Zita's stillbirth and still the grief seizes up unexpectedly.

I permitted the alternating waves of gratitude and grief to wash over me, gazing lovingly upon one child while simultaneously longing for another.

My reality is that Marigold would not exist without Zita's death. In fact, when I was nearing my due date with Marigold, I confided with a mentor that I was worried about what I would feel in the moments immediately following her birth.

Would I feel guilty if my instant

### Marriage and Family Life

By Kara Storey



reaction was joy?

Or would I look my new child in the face and think, "But this is not the child I wanted"?

Thankfully, she wisely counseled me to not judge my emotions, saying that whether I missed Zita or experienced the new explosion of love for Marigold, it all meant the same thing. "It means you're a mother," she said. "There is room in your heart to love both."

In these waning days of May, the month when we celebrate Mary and motherhood, I find myself pondering our heavenly Mother's heart and what it means for me to love even though a sword of sorrow has pierced my own.

All mothers endure their own

penetrating swords as they accompany their children on the Via Dolorosa of life.

Yet, a mother's heart refuses to stop loving and hoping. This co-mingling of anguish and hope in a mother's heart is acutely present in Mary.

"The sword of sorrow pierced your heart," writes Pope Benedict XVI of Mary in Spe Salvi. "Did hope die? Did the world remain definitively without light, and life without purpose? At that moment, deep down, you probably listened again to the word spoken by the angel in answer to your fear at the time of the Annunciation: 'Do not be afraid, Mary!' (Lk 1:30)."

Like Mary, we should also not be afraid to live in the tension of sorrow and hope.

Yes, it would be easier to either succumb to despair or deny that we have been wounded at all. But the Lord calls us to live in the truth, to share our hearts openly and honestly with him.

It's okay to mourn the dreams we had for our children or our motherhood while at the same time praising the Father for his perfect plan. Mysteries abound in the Christian life, not least of all that his

ways are not our own (Isa. 55:8). "Wounded, I will never cease to love" is the motto of the Community of the Lamb, a French-based group of religious brothers and sisters. I'd argue it should be the motto of mothers, too.

The evening of June 8, my family will load cupcakes, balloons and flowers into a stroller and walk the three blocks from our door to Zita's grave. We will sing and blow out candles, giving thanks to God for her beautiful life. Then, once we tire of scolding the kids to stop climbing on the headstones, we'll head home to lay our living children to rest in their beds.

Marigold and I will settle into the rocking chair for our nightly routine and as she snuggles close I know that grief and gratitude will be my companion. I will rest in the tension, knowing I can't imagine life without either of these girls.

This mama's heart has more than enough room for both.

*Kara Storey is a freelance writer who worships at the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines.*

## Shame: The thin line between sin and psychopathology

"But why can't I have my phone back now? I said I was sorry!"

Consequences are so hard to face. This is quite often due to the never-successful proclamation that all have made at times, "That's not fair!"

Just as there are both positive and negative consequences, for behaviors and decisions; there are consequences on our mental health as a result from sin. While we pursue forgiveness for our sins, the path of recovery from the sin rarely ends there. The soul is temporarily cleansed from the eternal consequence of sin, but the mental health of the individual may have still suffered. The purpose of this article is not to debate the cause-and-effect relationship between sin and mental health, rather it is to discuss the thin line of understanding between sin and psychopathology.

Let's look at the definitions of these two words, sin and psychopathology. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. In other words, sin is the desire and choice to perform a distorted good with the idea that the distorted good is better than the true good. For instance, when a person tells a lie about themselves to a friend, this person has then substituted the true good of honesty and integrity for a false perceived good, that being image or attention.

### Let's Get Psyched!

By Deacon Randy Kiel



This would be a form of greed, otherwise known as covetousness.

There are two meanings that I most often use as a mental health counselor for the word psychopathology. It is any cognitive, emotional, interpersonal or intrapersonal distress which causes some sort of significant impairment in a person's daily life. Linguistically, the word psychopathology means: the distorted patterns of thoughts and feelings that are woven into our very soul. Whew that's heavy!

How then does sin influence a person's psychopathology? To answer this, we must focus on sin's effects on human solidarity. When a person commits a sin, that sin affects both the one in the sin and those around him.

Here's an example to make this concept come to life. If a parent begins to routinely drink to excess, he or she may become belligerent towards both the spouse and the children. If such behavior continues, the children may begin

to develop a conception of relationships as abusive, and that they themselves are fundamentally bad, thus internalizing the shame of sin.

Such negative beliefs may ultimately lead to the children developing interpersonal deficits which in turn lead to psychopathologies such as depression, anxiety, and general relational troubles.

The sin, such as in this example, would need to be determined within the parent's personal examination of conscience and cannot be categorized by the definition of a single action. So, even when a person turns from sin and repents, the consequences to the family members may yet remain from the stain of the sin.

This result is most commonly called shame. Shame is Satan's disguise for truth and is the thin line between sin and psychopathology. Shame distorts a person's internal sense of authenticity. It is the original consequence from sin known to mankind and began in the Garden of Eden.

It is important to realize that we all carry bits and pieces of psychopathologies or "issues."

These, in and of themselves, are not the equivalent of sin; they are the mirrored reflection of our beautiful human brokenness.

Beautiful, because our broken soul is the defined purpose of God's re-

demption.

Mental health difficulties are neither some type of characterological defect as generations before have believed and many still maintain nor are they the direct result of a particular sin.

As we struggle on our own path, may we respond unto ourselves as well as our brothers and sisters with charity, grace, and empathy.

This is the pathway in which we carry our cross. Jesus told us to pick up our crosses and follow him.

"What is my cross?" one might ask.

Your cross is simply being you. Can you really think of anything harder to do than be totally and purely you? It is the most challenging journey given to mankind, the journey of Christ. The primary purpose of this journey is to dispose ourselves toward the cross of salvation.

The choice to follow our Christ in the way of the cross is a lift for many mental health ailments and may separate us further from certain psychopathologies.

Blessings to all of you on the journey of being you. Hallelujah!

*Deacon Randy Kiel is the founder of Kardiac Counseling and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him email randy@kardiaccounseling.com.*

## Listening with intentionality

I've always thought it a beautiful coincidence that the words "listen" and "silent" are spelled with the same letters. For me, it means that to truly listen is to do so with intentionality and in silence. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "listen" as to hear and understand what you've heard, and to hear something with thoughtful attention. To listen to another person requires a deeper, more intimate, even sacred, act rather than simply hearing them.

There is a distinct difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is a physical, biological act – one that you do with your ears. Listening is something you do with your heart. Listening to someone doesn't mean biding your time until you can jump in with your own solutions, unsolicited advice or opinions. Listening requires patience and complete selflessness. If you are a good listener, it is one of the

### Guest Column

By Lynn Wingert



rare times when you are not the center of attention and, typically, not the subject of the conversation.

My brother Deon died in a car accident on March 19, 2018, when he was 44 years old. The man who completed four Ironman competitions, a 50-mile trail race, and dozens of marathons was gone in an instant. The loss was unimaginable then and sometimes still is today. There are countless things I miss about my brother,

but one of the main ones was his gift of listening.

Deon and I could drive 500 miles to a race and either sing old songs (badly), talk the entire time or not speak more than a dozen sentences. When one of us wanted to talk about something important, we prefaced it with, "Can I run something by you?" During these conversations, advice was rarely requested and questions from the listener were unnecessary. The only requirements were that the person listening do so with an open heart and with a feeling of sacredness. Being asked to listen to another in this way or to be listened to by another is a gift not to be taken lightly. It comes with great responsibility, vulnerability, trust, love, and compassion. There should be no preconceived notions, no need to fill the silence or to offer solutions, and should be done with a non-judgmental attitude.

Ultimately, it is an investment in another person.

The act of listening can be a heavy burden. Sometimes, disassociating oneself from what is being said is used as a protective measure until you can bear to process what you are being told. This happens when learning of the death of a loved one, an unexpected medical diagnosis or the loss of a job. We all need someone in our lives, whether it be a family member, a spouse, a friend, a spiritual director or in prayer, to listen when we need to share bad news and good, and to help us process information. Be that person for someone.

Truly listening to another means to do it with intentionality. You are either all in or not listening at all.

*Lynn Wingert is a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.*

# Eucharist is the goal

One lesson I learned from the earliest years of my catechetical formation, which has always stuck with me, is that we are all pilgrims with our eyes fixed upon Jesus as the goal. As I grew into the faith, I learned that Jesus is not only the goal but his is also the way. And nowhere else in our faith is Jesus as viaticum and goal more real than the Eucharist, well known as the “source and summit of the Christ life” according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Eucharist is at the same time beautifully simple and mysteriously sublime. There, under the appearances of bread and wine, God is hidden. I remember once being in line for communion when my three year old daughter asked me, “Are

## Guest Column

By John Huynh



you hungry dad, are you going to get some Jesus food and water [she meant wine]?” When I responded in the affirmative, she continued, “OK, you get Jesus food and Jesus water and you will be full.” The simplicity of the Eucharist as food and drink in the materials that usually nourish our body can be grasped by a three-year-old. This is the wisdom of God.

And while the senses perceive bread and wine, after the consecration these are in substance the very flesh and blood of the Lord who gave up His life for us. In the Eucharist, God prepares a banquet of eternity for us to receive in time. This is the sort of mystery that should cultivate in us a sober humility. Thus, we must supplement reason with Faith. As St. Thomas Aquinas states the matter in *Tantum Ergo*: “Faith for all defects supplying where the feeble senses fail.”

As I watched my daughter receive her first Eucharist, placing the Lord onto her tongue and making the sign of the cross, I’m reminded of when she told me that I will be full once I’ve received Jesus. I asked her after Mass if she was full from

receiving Jesus, she responded, “I’m not full-full, but I know that Jesus gave me more energy to love him and love other people more.” I was at a loss for words. Truly, the body of Christ provides us with limitless strength and the blood of Christ brings forth in us limitless joy. In our reception of the Eucharist, God, the goal of our earthly pilgrimage, comes to us with his whole self as the food for us to love him and other people more. Our daily food may be provisional, but the Eucharist is permanent. To be on our true way towards our ultimate goal we need to return to this heavenly banquet weekly, if not daily.

*John Huynh is the diocesan director of the Faith Journey program.*



## I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

*Q. I heard someone say that at Mass not only do we focus on Christ's sacrifice, but we bring our own to Mass. What does that mean?*

**A. WELL, THE WORD** sacrifice means “to make holy.”

We usually think of sacrifice as something that we give up – say during Lent someone might give up chocolate or alcohol or dessert.

Often enough, we will give up something as a favor to a loved one. During Mass we remember that Jesus gave up his life for his followers.

If we want to be like Jesus, then we learn to give up things for others. Parents give up much of their time and energy in the process of raising their children. Spouses give up things for each other.

When we think about the sacrifices that Jesus made, we unite our own sacrifices with his. We do that not to make ourselves miserable but rather to show our love for one another.

We are willing to sacrifice for others because we love them.

*Q. Is it a sin not to get vaccinated for Covid 19?*

**A. NO. THERE IS NO** obligation to be vaccinated.

However, the vaccination can help us reach what medical experts call “herd immunity.”

Vaccinations for polio and smallpox have virtually eliminated those diseases from the world community.

Therefore, receiving a vaccination can be an act of charity and solidarity in that face a worldwide pandemic.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith also clarified last December that “those who... for reasons of conscience, refuse vaccines produced with cell lines from aborted fetuses, must do their utmost to avoid, by other prophylactic means and appropriate behavior, becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent.” They can wear a mask.

*Father John Ludwig is retired in the Diocese of Des Moines.*

## Our heart is stronger than our wounds

Ten years before his death in 1996, Henri Nouwen was beset by a depression that nearly broke him.

While in treatment, he wrote a very powerful book, *The Inner Voice of Love*, in which he humbly and candidly shared his struggles and the efforts it took to overcome them. At times, he felt completely overwhelmed by his wounds and obsessions and was on the edge of drowning, of collapse, when the only thing he could do was cry.

Eventually though, he found again his inner strength and emerged resilient, ready to re-enter his life with renewed energy. Remarking on what he learned from this inner collapse and his eventual return to health, he writes that, in the end, our hearts are stronger than our wounds.

That’s a powerful affirmation of a hard-earned truth; but is it always true? Are our hearts always stronger than our wounds? Do we always have the resources deep down to overcome our wounds?

Sometimes yes, as in the case of Nouwen; but sometimes no, as we see in the broken lives of so many. Sometimes, it seems wounds overpower the heart.

Perhaps one poignant example can serve to illustrate this. There is a sad, tragic, haunting line in the well-known song, *I Dreamed a Dream*, from the popular musical, *Les Misérables*. The story told in *Les Misérables*, as we know, is based on Victor Hugo’s classic book by that title which tells a series of stories about how poverty and oppression can break the hearts, backs, and lives of the poor.

One of Hugo’s characters, Fantine, is a single mother, abandoned by the man she loves and nursing a broken heart. She is also struggling to provide her daughter with the basic needs of life, struggling with a job and working conditions that are ruining her health, and struggling with sexual harassment from her boss that culminates in her unfair dismissal from her job. At a certain point, it’s too much, her health breaks, she collapses, and in her dying farewell sings out a lament that suggests that our hearts aren’t always stronger than our wounds; but sometimes there are storms we cannot weather. Sometimes the heart cannot weather the storm and collapses under the weight of its wounds.

Who’s right – Nouwen or Fantine? I suspect they both are, depending on one’s circumstance, inner health, and emotional resources. An old adage says, whatever doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger! True enough, providing it doesn’t kill you. Sadly, sometimes it does. Sometimes what weighs us down does kill us.

I suspect that everyone reading this has had a first-hand experience of someone you knew and loved breaking down and dying, either by sui-

## Guest Column

By Father Ron Rolheiser



cide or some other collapse of this sort, due to a broken life, a broken heart, a broken psyche, a wound that overpowered his or her heart.

Thus, when we look at the truth of Nouwen’s affirmation that our hearts are stronger than our wounds

and the (seeming) antithetical truth that sometimes our wounds can kill the heart, we need to add a further truth which embraces both sides of this: God’s grace, forgiveness, and love are stronger than our wounds, our collapses, our failures, and seeming despairs.

Sometimes in our struggles we can access the inner strength buried below our wounds which will enable us to rise above them and walk again in health, strength, and enthusiasm.

However, sometimes our wounds so paralyze the heart that we can no longer access the strength that lies deep within us.

**“What sets Christian faith apart from most other religions (as well as from all prosperity gospels) is that Christianity is a religion of grace and not primarily of self-effort (important though that is).”**

In this life, that kind of brokenness can look and feel like a terminal collapse, a sadness for which there is no healing, a despair, a wasted life.

However, whenever a collusion of bitter circumstance and mental fragility break someone, when a person’s heart is no longer

stronger than his or her wounds, we can take refuge in a deeper truth and consolation, namely, the strength that lies within God’s heart: God’s grace, understanding, and love are stronger than our wounds, our collapses, our failures, and seeming despairs.

What sets Christian faith apart from most other religions (as well as from all prosperity gospels) is that Christianity is a religion of grace and not primarily of self-effort (important though that is).

As Christians, we don’t have to save ourselves, don’t have to get our lives right all on our own. Indeed, nobody ever does. As St. Paul says so clearly in his farewell message in Romans 1-8, none of us ever get our lives right on the basis of our own strength. That’s also true in terms of overcoming our wounds.

All of us are weak and break down sometimes. However, and this is the point, when the storms of life overpower us, when we reach down for strength to withstand the storm only to find out that the storm is stronger than we are, we need then to reach still deeper and there we will find that God’s heart is stronger than our brokenness.

*Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook facebook.com/ronrolheiser*

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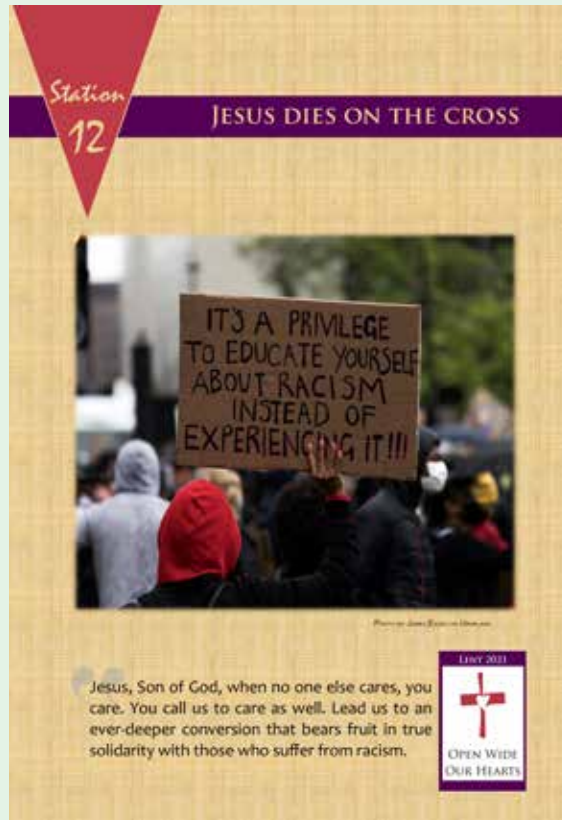
Questions can be emailed to [communications@dmdiocese.org](mailto:communications@dmdiocese.org) or mailed to The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.

## Resources for all age groups were made available to learn about sin of racism

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

For their Lenten focus on the sin of racism, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny relied heavily on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, *Open Wide Our Hearts*. The parish offered something for everyone from youth to high schoolers to adults. This included:

- The parish opened Lent with speaker Tobias Winright, associate professor of theology at St. Louis University, for a virtual gathering about the USCCB document, *Open Wide Our Hearts* – the catalyst for these Lenten activities
- A Lenten booklet was made available and converted into a blog online with additional features. This was the foundation to raise awareness of racism, take to prayer, and be introduced to Saints of Color.
- Small groups were created for those who wanted to take what they were learning from the booklet/blog and go deeper into conversation with others virtually.
- Parishioners were encouraged to watch one video per week: The Power of an Illusion series, *Driving While Black*, and *The Hate U Give* before gathering virtually on Sunday afternoons to discuss that week's video. A few sessions included guest speakers from the Des Moines area.
- The parish used the Stations of the Cross distributed by USCCB on *Combatting Racism*. "We used these prayers to hang in our



church as a 'second set of stations' with images to help us keep the sin of racism in front of us throughout the season," Mayer said. This was livestreamed every Friday night.

- Prayer services on overcoming racism were offered each Wednesday night and livestreamed each week.

To learn how each of us carries implicit bias, parishioners were directed to the Harvard Implicit Association Test, available for free at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

## The sin of racism



A variety of activities were made available to the parish to learn more about the sin of racism. They will be left up on the website for anyone who would like to use them, found at [olih.org/the-sin-of-racism-open-wide-our-heart](http://olih.org/the-sin-of-racism-open-wide-our-heart).

Continued from page 1

"And on a practical level, more people will engage in whatever we are doing [during Lent]...", said Patty Mayer, director of Adult Faith Formation at OLIH. "That's a normal timeframe to put more time and effort into your prayer and faith, and so that seemed to be the best [fit]."

Before the Lenten endeavor began, Mayer was one of three people who shared with the congregation personal experiences of racism - whether firsthand or through family members.

"I have three nephews and a niece who are all biracial," Mayer said. "I know the conversations that are happening in their house. Two of my nephews are 15 - [and I am aware] of the struggles they were having ... watching the protests and the riots and how hard life is for people of color. And there's not much they can do about it. They are going to be judged based on the color of their skin - and it saddens me, because you can't change other people's hearts and minds."

The videos made available were particularly popular amongst parishioners.

"That was one of the beautiful things about what we did... some of the videos we put out and encouraged people to watch just really brought home how engrained ... cultural racism really is," Mayer added.

Reactions to the resources made available during Lent were mixed.

"On the one hand I had parishioners and guests question why we should be looking at the sin of racism," Father Amadeo said. "Some thought it was politically motivated. On the other hand, I had both parishioners and non-parishioners who said they were grateful our parish had the courage to think about this issue and study this issue."

It was an eye-opening and reflective experience.

"Many people said the thing they heard most often was shock - parishioners did not realize what was actually happening," said parishioner Jan Brown, who is also a member of AMOS. "I would say many people's hearts were opened."

Parishioner Sue Murphy, who is also an AMOS member, said "I think one of the best remarks that was shared after our Lenten project is that 'It was like the mustard seed that was planted - now that we have been made aware we are called to action. It hopefully reminds us that we are called to love all of our brothers and sisters.'"

OLIH has kept all of its Lenten resources available online and available to anyone interested in using them, found at [olih.org/the-sin-of-racism-open-wide-our-heart](http://olih.org/the-sin-of-racism-open-wide-our-heart).

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# Catechetical instruction is a distinctive ministry of people of deep faith

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about the vocation of laypeople in his 2013 document, "The Joy of the Gospel."

Bishops' conferences will need to determine the "process of formation and the normative criteria for admission to this ministry" and devise "the most appropriate forms for the service which these men and women will be called to exercise," the pope said.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, he said, "will soon publish the Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of catechist." The congregation already is working on revised rites for the ministries of

## Several Catholic colleges will require COVID-19 vaccinations

By Carol Zimmerman  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As Catholic colleges grapple with how to reopen in the fall, many are already saying they will require their students to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and some schools are also mandating that staff members be vaccinated.

"Our goal is simple and twofold: to provide a COVID-safe environment in which our students, faculty and staff can pursue our mission; and to help protect the health and safety of our off-campus neighbors," said Jesuit Father Joseph McShane, president of Fordham University, in an April 16 letter to the college community explaining that all students need to be vaccinated -- "with some considerations for medical and religious exemptions" -- by the start of the fall semester.

The number of private colleges requiring COVID-19 vaccinations continues to grow, numbering about 75 on April 27 on a list updated by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

lector and acolyte, which Pope Francis opened to women in January.

While millions of lay men and women around the world already serve as catechists, readers and altar servers, formal institution into the ministries signifies that the service is stable, delegated by the bishop and publicly recognized by the church.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, noted how St. Paul VI wrote in 1975 about the importance of laypeople using their gifts for the growth of the entire church.

"It has taken almost 50 years for the church to come to recognize that the service rendered by so many men and women through their catechetical commitment truly constitutes a distinctive ministry for the growth of the Christian community," the archbishop told reporters at a news conference to present the pope's document.

In his document, Pope Francis noted how teachers of the faith were present from the earliest days of the Christian community and were recognized as hav-

ing a special gift of the Holy Spirit for carrying out their role within the community.

"At times," he wrote, "the charisms that the Spirit constantly pours out on the baptized took on a visible and tangible form of immediate service to the Christian community, one recognized as an indispensable 'diakonia' for the community."

In looking at the history of evangelization, the pope said, Catholics cannot overlook "the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction. Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness, who in some cases were also founders of churches



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets the crowd as he leads the "Regina Coeli" from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 17.

and eventually died as martyrs."

Still today, he said, "many competent and dedicated catechists are community leaders in various parts of the world and

carry out a mission invaluable for the transmission and growth of the faith."

## Eucharistic renewal initiative kicking off in the Diocese

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national plan to local needs.

The initiative is intended to help each of the faithful come to know and love God more deeply.

"Each one of us, as a unique member of the Body of Christ, is called to transformation through the Eucharist and then, in turn, to share that gift with others," wrote Bishop William Jonsen in a letter to parishes last month.

"Ultimately, there is nothing more essential to our life in Christ than gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist, the sacrificial banquet of thanksgiving that Jesus left us," he said.

John Huynh, diocesan director of the Faith Journey pro-

gram and coordinator of the Eucharistic renewal initiative, concurred.

"I hope this Eucharistic renewal initiative will remind us of our hunger for the only person who can satisfy our deepest longings," he said. "Jesus comes to us most intimately through our reception of the Eucharist at the Holy Mass."

Greg Samorajski, of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines, is on a diocesan committee making plans for the initiative.

"I became a Catholic in the '90s because of my growing love and understanding of the Eucharist," he said. "I joined the committee to help others learn about -- maybe for the first time -- the importance of the Eucharist in our spiritual lives. Through re-

ceiving the Eucharist we grow in love into our place in the Body of Christ."

Upcoming opportunities to reverence the Eucharist may be parish processions, Holy Hours, adoration and benediction. The following are a few processions that are planned.

- St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines on June 6 will have an 11 a.m. bilingual Mass at its grotto followed by a procession and luncheon in celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

- St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines plans a procession and dinner June 6 at 3 p.m. in celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

- Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton will hold a procession June 13 in connection with the

parish's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

- Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs will have a Eucharistic procession July 11 following its 10 a.m. Mass in celebration of the parish's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Some parishes have begun to offer Holy Hours or opportunities for adoration, when the faithful can spend quiet time in prayer and reflection in front of Jesus in the Eucharist. Bishop Jonsen celebrates a Holy Hour at 5 p.m. on Mondays at St. Ambrose Cathedral, which is livestreamed on Facebook.com/dmdiocese. Reflections on the Eucharist can be found at dmdiocese.org/holy-hours.



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