Welcome to the newest members of the Catholic Church

227 come into full communion at Easter

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

At the Easter Vigil, the Diocese of Des Moines welcomed 227 candidates and catechumens into the family of the Catholic Church. These individuals experienced months of classes and preparation through the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) program at their parish. Below are a few of their stories.

Kristen Shelton
St. Boniface Parish in Waukee

Kristen Shelton was born and raised Methodist in northern Iowa, and admitted that it was “a lot of going through the motions as a kid.”

After marrying her husband, a fallen away Catholic, they began attending Hope Church in West Des Moines for a while. “[Eventually], we said our cup isn’t full,” Shelton said. “We were wanting more.”

They decided to start going to Mass at St. Boniface Parish in Waukee – a return to her husband’s faith.

“We started going there and never really looked back – we loved it,” she said. “We loved the families.”

They started attending every Sunday and felt much more fulfilled.

Continued on page 12

Bishop announces priest assignments

Bishop Richard Pates announced the following assignments, which take effect July 11.

Father Trevor Chicoine will move from parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines to pastoral administrator at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita.

Father Chicoine was ordained in 2017 by Bishop Richard Pates at St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines.

The summer after his ordination, Father Chicoine served St. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic and St. Mary Parish in Anita before returning to Rome in the fall to complete his studies.

He has been serving at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines since 2018.

Father Chinnappan Devara, known as Father Chinni, will move from pastor at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita to pastor at St. Boniface Parish, Waukee.

He joined the Franciscan Friars and was ordained in 1994 in India. After serving as formator in the seminary for six years, he came to the United States to pursue a graduate degree in Franciscan theology. He offered spiritual care at Lourdes Noordeen McKeen in West Palm Beach, Florida, which is a mission of the Carmelite Sisters for the aged and infirm.

He came to the Diocese of Des Moines in 2017. He holds degrees in English, philosophy and Franciscan theology with a special emphasis on ecumenism and interreligious theology.

Deacon James Downey, a transitional deacon, will be ordained a priest June 21. After ordination he will serve as parochial vicar at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny from July-September, 2019. Then he will go to the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome for the school year for graduate studies in moral theology. He will live at the North American College.

Continued on page 10

Priest, historian, Renaisssance man dies

Father Gordon Gittins died April 17 at age 77.

Originally from Guthrie Center, he studied engineering for a year at Iowa State University before moving to Conception Seminary in Missouri and Mt. St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque to answer his calling to be a priest.

Father Gittins was ordained to the priesthood in 1968 at St. Ambrose Cathedral.

“He was very knowledgeable about many things: music, history and politics,” said Monsignor Larry Beeson.

“He was brilliant. He had a very high IQ,” said Monsignor Ed Hurley.

Father Gittins will be remembered as never having known a stranger.

“Father Gittins would talk with anybody,” said Monsignor Beeson. “He was very engaged with people.”

Father Gittins liked to read and had a large library of books.

“He had more books than libraries have, and they were not low level books. They were all graduate level books and he’d read them all and knew what was in them,” said Monsignor Hurley. “I don’t know if he had a photographic memory, but I tell you what, he remembered everything. He knew history really, really well, and he knew theology very well.”

In fact, he earned a master’s degree from Drake University, said his good friend, Father Al Sherbo.

“It was amazing his range of knowledge and what he could talk about,” said Father Sherbo.

Continued on page 3

Knights of Columbus leader visits Iowa convention

The head of the Knights of Columbus celebrated growth, faith and charity while visiting the Iowa Knights’ convention in Des Moines on May 4.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said Iowa membership stands at more than 31,000, with contributions of more than $2.4 million to charity and more than 1.1 million service hours.

“Iowa’s contributions are an important part of our worldwide success,” he said.

“In ways great and small, we win hearts, change minds and transform lives,” he added.

The organization focuses on faith in action, including advocacy for life.

The Knights of...
A public position that I have consistently taken is 100% advocacy of referenda or bond issues that are in support of public education. I do so because solid, quality education is at the core of our American democracy and economy. It is vital that we invest in that sector which contributes to community and human flourishing.

While education of all is of foremost consideration, I naturally want the best for the 12,000 young people of the Diocese of Des Moines who benefit from public schools.

In the same moment, I encourage the support of reputable institutions that are able to attain an equal or better outcome in the schooling enterprise. It is a given expectation that the state has the responsibility to provide opportunity for all its citizens to be educated. But the vehicle for the delivery of that education is not exclusively defined.

Many applaud the vision of Gov. Kim Reynolds who advancing legislation that gave birth to School Tuition Organizations (STOs) in Iowa. They provide a tax credit of 65 percent for those who donate to a qualified STO to provide scholarships to non-public schools. The legislature, recently adjourned, approved legislation that now allows for $15 million in tax credits for qualified donors which takes effect in 2020. Translated into actual student benefits this amounts to $23 million in aid.

For the 6,222 students in the Diocese of Des Moines schools, tax credits provide assistance of approximately $3,300,000. It is distributed to those families who are at the lower end of the income stream and who find the parochial style of education highly valuable for their children. An example of this would be Holy Family School in Des Moines, which has 230 students, $221 non-Caucasian. They received an aggregate of $327,912.50 in financial aid this past year from STOs.

Holy Family School has a graduation rate of 99 percent from high school and further advanced achievement ranks very high. The school is equipping its students to be highly productive in their adult years and expanding the experience of higher education to a whole new generation.

Now that the legislature has adjourned for the year, I suggest it is opportune to lower the tone of partisan positions and reflect, in the final analysis, what are the best education opportunities for our children and families.

Some Considerations:

• The State of Iowa has the responsibility for the education of all its children. Is it not one of its foremost if not the foremost obligation?
• Those of us who are promoting assistance for non-public schools are not wanting to take money from public schools. What we do advance is the expansion of the pool of money for all of education in order that the state is able to fulfill its obligations to all of its kids.
• Aid to non-public schools has passed constitutional muster.

• Already, school choice is a reality with the movement from district to district and the CMS scheduled for educational savings accounts (ESA). These are grants to families who have children in non-public settings. They eventually will rise to the amount that the state provides for public school students. The parents will then be able to utilize these funds in choosing the most appropriate setting for the education of their children.

The bottom line in all of these considerations is not the goal of taking money from public institutions. It is a question of expanding the pool of resources, in graduated measure, so that all of our children can pursue an education that benefits their deepest desires and needs while produc- ing solid citizens committed to the American tradition.

Bishop Richard Pates has made the following appointments.

Effective June 1, 2019

Father Enrique García — in addition to his service at Conception College Seminary appointed weekend sacramental minister at Corpus Christi Parish, Council Bluffs.

Effective July 11, 2019

Father Thomas DeCarlo — as Chaplain at Bishop Drumm Care Center to retirement.
• Father Vincen Rosonke — as Pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Waukee to retirement.
• Father David Polich — as Pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Osceola, St. Patrick Parish, Grand River and St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Ayr to retirement.

Father Ly Chu — term extended as Pastor at St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community, Des Moines until July, 2025.

Father Ray McNary — term extended as Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines until July, 2025.

Father Dan Siepker — term extended as Pastor at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, Glenwood until July, 2025.

By Bishop Richard Pates

Celebrating God’s mercy

Bishop Richard Pates celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday at Christ the King Church in Des Moines on April 28.

OFFICIAL

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Father Chinnappan Devaram — as Pastor at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita to Pastor at St. Boniface Parish, Waukee.

Rev. Mr. James Downey — as seminarian dean for the Diocese of Des Moines and following priesthood ordination, June 21, 2019, to Parochial Vicar to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, July-September, 2019 and assigned thereafter for school term 2019-20 to Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas for graduate studies in moral theology with residence on North American College.

Father Bede Inkwere — of the Diocese of Okigwe, Nigeria, from CPE training at St. John’s Seminary in Unités First House to Chaplain at Bishop Drumm Care Center.

Rev. Mr. Mark McGarry — as seminarian dean for the Diocese of Des Moines and following priesthood ordination, June 21, 2019, to Parochial Vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines.

Father Luis Mejia Mejia — from Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, West Des Moines to Pastoral Administrator at St. Patrick Parish and School, Perry.

Father Protas Opondo, SJ — from assignment in Eastern Africa to Pastoral Administrator of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Catholic Student Center, Drake Newman Community.

Father Mark Owanu — from Pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Des Moines and Director of Campus Ministry to assignment in Ghana.

Father Chris Reising — from Pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Des Moines and School, Perry to Pastor at St. Patrick Parish, Osceola, St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Ayr and St. Patrick Parish, Grand River.

Father Nipin Searlai Thakkipuraputh — of the Diocese of Kunjiyapally, India to Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, West Des Moines.

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In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

Education - A first priority

Education is at the core of our American democracy and economy. It is vital that we invest in that sector which contributes to community and human flourishing.

While education of all is of foremost consideration, I naturally want the best for the 12,000 young people of the Diocese of Des Moines who benefit from public schools.

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Bishop’s Schedule can be found on page 14

Celebrating God’s mercy

Bishop Richard Pates celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday at Christ the King Church in Des Moines on April 28.
Destiny’s children rely on her kindness, companionship

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

Destiny Welsh of St. Ambrose Parish raised funds to purchase a van so she could take more disadvantaged children on adventures such as Catholic Youth Camp, visits to local parks and more.

Growing up in northeast Iowa, Destiny Welsh prayed to God frequently about her future.

“I would constantly be praying to God to lead me to where he wanted me to be,” Welsh said. “And many times the songs that we would sing at Mass, I would think he was talking directly to me.”

After college, Welsh did some traveling and realized God was pulling her closer to cultures beyond her own.

“I wanted to know more,” Welsh said. “I wanted to know the people of all ages, but especially the children. I wanted to know about their lives.”

Welsh always thought she was going to be married and start a family of her own.

“And it wasn’t happening,” Welsh said.

“And then I realized God was leading me to other children - maybe not my own but in a completely different way than I thought my life would go,” Welsh said. “The older I got the more I prayed, ‘God, lead me to where you want me to go. Lead me to the people you want me to know.’ And I would sit in church and pray about it.”

As the years went by, Welsh started teaching at a new school.

“And I started to meet some amazing children through the school and also through [my parish] St. Ambrose,” Welsh said.

Many are from refugee families. Since many of the parents do not have vehicles and/or work unique hours, the kids don’t get out to experience new adventures very often.

“I’ve realized that my little input in their life involves getting them out into the community - seeing what’s out there,” Welsh said.

“I’ve been getting to know families and taking the kids camping or hiking,” Welsh said. “And many times the kids have also heard amazing things about Catholic Youth Camp, and wanted to see if there was a way she could get these kids out to camp through sponsorships and donations.

“I approached one of the directors at the camp and told her my idea….and she was complete-ly on board,” Welsh said.

In 2017, Welsh helped raise enough money for 14 kids to attend Catholic Youth Camp. In 2018, she helped 17 kids attend camp. She’s doing the same for 2019.

“All of them had an amazing time growing closer to Jesus and getting to meet other Catholics from around the state and beyond the state as well,” Welsh said. “And they have amazing things to talk about and are telling their friends. And so each year I can see it growing more and more. And some of the older kids are even talking about wanting to continue going so they can be counselors at some point.”

Watch Destiny Welsh’s story at YouTube.com/dmdioce.se.

Destiny Welsh of St. Ambrose Parish raised funds to purchase a van so she could take more disadvantaged children on adventures such as Catholic Youth Camp, visits to local parks and more.
On June 2, we’ll celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

This is an invitation to reflect on a central mystery in our Catholic faith. How is it that Jesus has returned to his Father in heaven to prepare a place for us (John 14:2-3) and yet remains with us always (Matt 28:20)?

We are called to wait and long for Christ’s return, and yet we are called to live in relationship with Christ today. If Jesus is still with us, it’s important to ask ourselves where, and how we come to know him.

Most profoundly we know that Jesus remains with us in the Eucharist, and that it is through the Eucharist that Jesus remains in us and we in him (John 6:56).

Most profoundly we know that it is through the Eucharist that Jesus remains in us and we in him (John 6:56). That is why it is important to ask ourselves how we know Jesus remains with us, it’s important to ask ourselves where, and how we come to know him.

A person who is known as a breath of fresh air is one who is original, optimistic, and new, rather than pessimistic and negative. We have the opportunity to live as this title declares every day. To me, a breath of fresh air sounds like the reflection of Christ. What gets in our way to live like this?

Let’s consider the angle of the small things in life, such as: Why should I have to do what I don’t want to do? “Dad, why should I have to do this homework when I’ll never need it?” Come on now, this question did not just come from my kids; it has belonged to kids of all generations. As children, little did we realize that geometry would exist in our every day world or that we would age into actually appreciating history and the desire to learn more of it’s significance in life.

I remember studying New Testament Greek in college and wondering if this would ever have any value to my future life. Well, hardly a day goes by when I'll never need it? “Come on now, this question did not just come from my kids; it has belonged to kids of all generations. As children, little did we realize that geometry would exist in our every day world or that we would age into actually appreciating history and the desire to learn more of it’s significance in life. Why should I have to do what I don’t want to do?

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Throughout this spring, I have thought deeply about the word breath. It seems that with each day, life comes out of its slumber and awakens. “Awake, awake, o sinner, arise from the dead and let the “Son” shine upon you.” Our land takes a breath. Many of my farming friends refer to this as “the earth waking up.” Something new is about to begin; it is a breath of fresh air.

When we think about the beginning of the Church, we commonly think of Acts 2 and the coming of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire descending upon the Apostles’ heads. We can also see the Church in her beginning through another version of the Pentecost story in John 20. Already Jesus has to his disciples “Send them out to be his first ministers representing his authority, but first he breathes upon them, commanding them to receive the Holy Spirit. They are now breathing with Holy breath. This next thought takes me personally to an exciting place. At Mass, we experience the divine “Breath of fresh air.” Every time the priest or deacon opens up the Word of God, Jesus’ gentle and intimate breath comes to us. We then breathe him in as we inhale and breathe him back out as we exhal, proclaiming his Word. The congregation subsequently breathes him in as the Word is delivered. At final blessing and proclamation, we are all commissioned to breathe him back out to the world as we glorify him with our lives. Isn’t that bigger than cool? It is with this breath, that we go about the chores of our daily lives, some of which we consider routine and others spectacular. Perhaps the most spectacular act of any day is through the loving breath of forgiveness. How much closer to Christ could we possibly be than when we forgive somebody? Our risen Christ has given us his own Spirit of love and forgiveness. His Spirit is closer to us than our own breath. To breathe words of forgiveness on someone, now that’s a breath of fresh air!

Deacon Randy Kiel is the founder of Kardia Counseling and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him, email randy@kardiacounseling.com.
KC state leader reflects on growing participation of immigrants, students

Antonia Banuelos, of St. Ambrose Catholic Parish in Des Moines, is completing two years of service as the head of the Iowa Knights of Columbus.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

What did it mean to you to become the state deputy for the Iowa Knights of Columbus?

It was a great achievement considering the importance that the Knights of Columbus has as an institution in the Catholic Church and in the community in general. I never in my wildest dreams ever thought I would be leading a group on this level.

I personally think that the members of the Knights in Iowa trusted in some of the vision I had for the order to bring it closer to the new wave of Catholics in our state. This has helped me to have a greater commitment to developing my own spiritual and personal relationship with God as I was leading the strong right arm of his Church.

As the leader of the group sends a very visual message about how we all welcome to join this wonderful Catholic order. The Catholic faith was the foundation of the country. Eritrean Catholics trace their roots back to the early Christian Church of Alexandria where St. Mark was the first bishop.

As we immigrants bring a lot of experience and tradition about our Catholic faith that sometimes can be unappreciated due to our language barriers. That’s what integration is about: I learn from you and you learn from me so we both grow in Christ’s love and bring God greater glory.

What were some of the highlights during your time serving as state deputy?

When I started two years ago I had audiences with the four bishops of Iowa. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to sit down with the shepherds of our Church and talk about plans, vision, and ask them for advice on how to make our order stronger and to have greater impact in our parishes.

I have traveled a lot across our wonderful state. I had time to share with my family while driving across the state and in many occasions alone with my son. This gave me wonderful father-son moments in our three to four hour, one-way drives.

I think the greatest highlights have been the connection with our immigrants and refugees. Also the growth with the Hispanic, Burmese and Eritrean, since the Vietnamese and of course the Hispanic community has been wonderful.

The connection with college Knights has also been a great experience for me and my family.

What will you be doing now with all this free time?

For the next two years, I will continue serving in an advising capacity to the new state deputy.

I will also continue being involved in some of the councils in the Des Moines metro area, specifically those with Hispanic Ministry.

At the same time, I will be more present at swim meets, cross country events, and sitting down with my children to help with homework, tests, and ACTs.

I will now be able to be more present at the Iowa Knights of Columbus. I have traveled a lot across our wonderful state.

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I will now be able to be active again in my parish, St. Ambrose, and family. I am committed to a Mass ministry without having to cancel at the last minute.
**Around the diocese**

**May 18 Saturday**

_Retirement Reception for Dr. Dowdle_

**DES MOINES** – In celebration of 32 years as principal, St. Augustine School is hosting a retirement reception for Dr. Nancy Dowdle from 2-4:30 p.m. in the St. Augustin Parish Hall. Please RSVP to staugustinatschool.org/downloadseries.

_Virtus Training in Spanish_

**DES MOINES** – The diocese’s safe environment program, Virtus, will be shared in Spanish at the Catholic Pastoral Center from 3:30-6 p.m. Call 515-237-5011 to register.

**May 22 Wednesday**

_Virtus Training in Spanish_

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**May 23 Thursday**

_Golf Outing_

**NORMAL** -- This year’s St. Vincent de Paul Charity Golf Outing will be held at Echo Valley Country Club. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. Registration includes hosted food and beverages as well as a raffle ticket for one of ten cash prizes. All proceeds will go to provide critical services to those most in need in Des Moines and surrounding areas.

**May 23 Thursday**

_Farewell Celebration_

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** – St. Albert Catholic School invites you to join in a farewell celebration honoring Allison Baldwin, Rachel Eiler, Dana Lynch, Vicki Overstreet, Lyn Bowers, Gwen Fisher, Lara Miller, Mary June Petersen, David Schweitzer, Carney, Anne Jensen, Beth O’Neil, Ken Schreiber. The celebration will be held in the St. Albert High School Gym from 4-6 p.m. Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

**June 1 Saturday**

_Summer Fest_

**DES MOINES** – All Saints Parish’s annual Summer Fest starts at 5 p.m. in the northeast parking lot of the church and includes music, dancing, kids’ activities, entertainment featuring comedy magician and entertainer Mikayla Oz. Food for purchase. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. In case of rain, it will be held in the parish hall.

_Parish Festival_

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** – Corpus Christi Festival will be held 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 3304 4th Ave. with a multicultural circus theme featuring clowns, face painting, balloonists, food, raffle, games and more. For more information, call 712-323-2916.

**Golden Wedding Anniversary**

John Edwin Marley and Alice Ann Zimmerman will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 25 at St. Benedict Church in Blencoe with a 6 p.m. Mass and open reception following. No gifts, please. Your presence, thoughts and prayers are the best gifts.

John and Alice were married while still Brian Cliff College students, at Nativity Church in Sioux City, Iowa, on May 31, 1969. Along with attaining bachelors and masters degrees, the couple embarked on careers that included thouroughbred horseracing, farming, casino business, antiquing, teaching and parenting.

Brian and Adam were the first and second of the four children. They are heaven’s residents now. Daughter, Laura, is married to Russell Hansen and they have two children, Gianna and Mae. The Marley family resides in Waterloo, Nebraska.

Alice and John live on the “Century Farm” that was established by John’s grandparents, John & Sarah Marley in the 1880s. The Marleys wish to thank family, friends, church and community for their continued help and support through the years.

**Seeking God Together**

_June 28, 7:30 p.m. – June 29, 4 p.m._

_Schuyler, NE_

**Spiritual formation is part of life for monastics, married couples, parents, and members of faith communities. Kathleen Norris will bring stories of her own formation, as well as those of monastics, and invite participants to share their stories. Norris is an award-winning poet and author of _New York Times_ bestsellers like, _The Cloister Walk_. Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com.**

**June 2 Sunday**

_Anniversary Celebration_

**WEST DES MOINES** – Celebrate the 60th anniversary of Father Dougherty’s death from 3-4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish. A prayer service will be followed by an open house.

_Corpus Christi Procession_

**DES MOINES** – St. Augustin Parish will hold a Corpus Christi procession at 3 p.m. For more information call 515-988-2489.

**June 7 Friday**

_Holy Name Pall Sweney Memorial Golf Outing_

_ALTOONA – Join St. Pius X Catholic Church and School for golf by registering at spgiolf.com or emailing rmontgomery@midamericaford.com. The fundraiser will begin at 7 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. with awards and prizes. All proceeds will support the work of St. Pius X Holy Name Society. Cost is $70 per player which includes golf fees, cart and lunch. For more information contact Bob Montgomery at bobmont513@gmail.com.**

**June 8 Saturday**

_Discovering Spiritual Gifts_

**WEST DES MOINES** – St. Francis of Assisi Parish is offering an opportunity to explore God’s call in your life from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Serra Room. Lunch is included. Discover ways to understand, recognize and begin discerning God’s call. Facilitated by writer and spiritual director Deb Richards. There is a limited space so please register by May 30 at saintfrancischurchofia.org/adultfaith/events or 515-440-1301. Suggested donation is $25.

**June 9 Sunday**

_Class Reunion_

**WEST DES MOINES** – A reunion celebration of St. Joseph Academy and Dowling Catholic High School alumni from the Class of 1969 and earlier will begin at 11 a.m. with Mass at the St Joseph Chapel at Dowling Catholic with a reception following. RSVP to Rachel Brown, 515-225-3000 or rbrown@dowlingcatholic.org.

**June 23 Sunday**

_Corpus Christi Procession_

**DES MOINES** – St. Anthony and Christ the King Parishes will have a joint procession in celebration of Corpus Christi. An 11 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony’s will combine the St. Anthony 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Masses and Christ the King’s 3 p.m. Mass. After Mass, all are welcome to process with the Blessed Sacrament through the neighborhood followed by lunch.

**June 28-30 Friday-Sunday**

_Holy Name Pall 50th Class Reunion_

**WEST DES MOINES** – The St. Joseph Academy and Dowling High School class of 1969 will hold its 50th class reunion: Friday at 6 p.m. at the St. Anthony 11 a.m., and 3 p.m. Masses and Christ the King’s 3 p.m. Mass. More details will be welcome to process with the Blessed Sacrament through the neighborhood followed by lunch.

**Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference drew hundreds**

The Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference was held March 30 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. Hundreds of men attended. Top: Steve Cashman and Dr. Jim Blessman. Bottom: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers gave a rousing talk to the men in attendance.

**DCCW conference drew 144**

The Des Moines Diocesan Council for Catholic Women’s annual conference April 6 drew 144 attendees to hear Lynnette Otero, of Norfolk, Nebraska, and Lisa Schmidt, of Bismarck, N.D., speak about being joyful women. Honored for outstanding service to church and community were: Ana Gil, of St. Michael Parish, Harlan; Marilyn Alters, of St. Patrick Parish, Neola; Karen Wingert, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish; Jeanne Kemp, of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Glenwood; Jeannette Kenny, of St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs; Connie Tielebein, of St. John the Apostle, Norwalk; and Mary Kimney, of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Griswold (not pictured). The next conference is in Atlanta on March 28, 2020.
St. Anthony Parish seeks official historic designation

Des Moines parish has rich Italian history

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

St. Anthony Parish on Des Moines’ south side is seeking a historic designation from the state and is working towards being added to the national registry of historic places.

Established in 1906, St. Anthony is known for its Italian heritage.

In fact, the parish’s pastor, Monsignor Frank Chioldo, is Italian and was born and raised in the parish community.

His grandfather, Natale Chioldo, an Italian immigrant, was one of the founding members of the parish. Natale moved to Des Moines with his wife and kids, including Monsignor Chioldo’s father, who was age 15 at the time.

“Father France Victor Romanelli was brought here [from Italy] by the bishop of Des Moines,” Monsignor Chioldo said. “Being an ethnic Italian from Italy, he spoke the language.”

Father Romanelli was an intelligent priest sent here to start the “missionary church” of St. Anthony because so many immigrants lived in the area, said lifelong parishioner Mary Quinn. She is compiling information for the parish to receive its historic site designation.

“Our first pastor was Italian and was still under the jurisdiction of the pope and Naples,” Quinn said. “A lot of the monies to build the first church came from him, because he owned an extensive art collection because his family in Italy were also artists.”

He sold many of his pieces to put toward the construction of St. Anthony’s first church in 1906.

The parishioners also gave of themselves in the 1930s to build the church that stands today.

“A lot of the work was done by the parishioners,” Quinn said. “They had their regular jobs and then would do the digging and building [of the church]. Italians had a lot of back yard in cement, masonry, terrazzo work and bricklaying.”

The bricks for the building were purchased with money raised by Italian women who sold loaves of bread they made in their outdoor ovens at home.

“Each brick is the price of the loaf of bread. This is really a Eucharistic church,” Monsignor Chioldo added, noting the symbolism of the giving of oneself and bread.

To raise money, the parish also held chicken dinners, spaghetti dinners and spaghetti eating contests.

The Irish parishioners also participated and often won the contest, Quinn said.

(The early parish had a significant number of Irish immigrants who came to Des Moines’ south side, attracted by the railroad and mining work there.)

The Italians sold bread and held these fundraisers during the Great Depression, a time of hardship for most, Quinn said.

“It was a great feat to marshall those funds,” Monsignor Chioldo said.

The church was built during the Depression and had its debts paid off by 1946 when the building was consecrated.

“It was the first church in the Des Moines diocese that was consecrated,” Quinn said. “That was a really big deal — you had to have everything paid off to actually go through consecration of the church.”

St. Anthony is not only historic, but beautiful, designed by the architecture firm Maginnis and Walsh, which also designed the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

Adding St. Anthony Church to the historic registry will make the building a more public site.

“It provides an invitation for the larger community that we have a historic gem in the area and invites them to come and see and perhaps even to find this as their parish home,” Monsignor Chioldo said. “I think we are living at a time when people can use a boost in their faith and to know that this is our family and St. Anthony is a family parish.”

Today the parish welcomes the Hispanic community with open arms. Nearly 25 percent of the parishioners are Hispanic.

Monsignor Frank Chioldo was born and raised in St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines. His grandfather, Natale Chioldo, an Italian immigrant, was one of the founding parishioners.

Natale moved his family to the United States when Monsignor’s father, Frank, was 15 years old. In the photo, Monsignor is holding is L-R: his grandmother Mary Frances; sister Frances; father Frank; brother Louie; grandfather Natale and Monsignor Chioldo as a child. Missing are his mother Rose and brother, Ned.
Stress and anxiety are part of our daily lives, yet what do we do when it becomes too much? Professional therapy is one way to work through stress and anxiety. The therapists at Catholic Charities Counseling Program provide the insight and support needed to manage life problems in a more productive way. Our licensed, professional therapists work with clients of all faiths and backgrounds to address issues including depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse, and more. We specialize in treating individuals, couples and families, with a focus on observing the patterns among family members and helping each member to make changes in how they relate to one another.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

Does your family have a plan?

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Celebrating the Green

We had a whole rainbow of fun at our 2019 St. Patrick’s Gala! From bingo, to photo booth, to so much delicious food, there was something for everyone! Many thanks to our Emerald Sponsor, MercyOne, floral sponsor Boesen the Florist, and help from Purcell Printing and Greenleaf Photography.

Our entertainment this year was some of the best! Mark Hurm was there with his bagpipes to greet our guests and Foy School of Irish Dance energized the room. The Stu Ryan O’Brien Band had us singing along, and The Soul Searchers got us out on the dance floor. Big thanks to Stuart Walker, who not only brought his band, but served as an amazing emcee for the evening.

Thank you to all of our guests and supporters, you made the night a success! To see more pictures of the 2018 Catholic Charities St. Patrick’s Gala, go to www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/2019/03/2019-st-patricks-gala/.

Catholic Charities Services

Counseling Program

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Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program

Sometimes the victim is the last one to know they need or deserve help. Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program provides services to anyone faced with these issues through a 24-hour crisis phone line, emergency shelter, court advocacy, empowerment education, support groups, and outreach to under-served populations.

Our program serves nine counties in southwest Iowa: Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby.

24-Hour Crisis Line: 712-328-0266 or toll-free at 888-612-0266

Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline 1-800-284-7821

Emergency Family Shelter

(formerly St. Joseph Emergency Shelter)

Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter keeps homeless families together during a very difficult time in their lives. Our goal is to help each family leave the shelter with stable housing, financial stability, and empowerment to live a successful, sustainable life. Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter is part of Centralized Intake.

All families seeking shelter should contact Primary Healthcare Outreach, the Centralized Intake agency in our community – 515-248-1850.

Food Pantry

(formerly St. Mary Family Center)

Open to all Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

1815 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316

We are part of the DMARC Pantry Network and provide nonperishable food items, along with daily donated food items. Please call 515-262-7290 or visit our website to find out about qualifications.

Empowerment Services

1815 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316

Find classes, resources, services, and local agencies to help get around barriers in your life! From basic financial management to professional counseling, we want to help anyone in need to succeed!

Refugee Resettlement

Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement works through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. State Department. Resettlement services include case management, employment assistance, transportation, cultural orientation, and assistance navigating local offices and services to achieve self-sufficiency and a stable home in their new community.

Adoption Search Services

A service for those adopted through Catholic Charities or Christ Child Home. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines maintains the records of all those placed for adoption throughout its history. To request an adoption search call 515-244-3761.

Find us on Facebook

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Priest assignments effective this summer

Continued from page 1

Father Bede Inkwere, of the Diocese of Ojikoje, Nigeria, will move from the Clinical Pastoral Education training program at Methodist/Unity Point Hospital to chaplain at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston.

Father Bede, originally from Nigeria, holds two bachelor’s degrees and two master’s degrees. He earned a doctorate in comparative religion in 2015.

He served in parishes in Nigeria, California and most recently as chaplain at the Genesis Health System in Davenport.

Deacon Mark McGearry will be ordained June 21 at St. Ambrose Cathedral. After ordination, he will serve as parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

Father Luis Mejia Mejia will move from parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, West Des Moines to pastoral administrator at St. Patrick Parish and School, Perry.

Father Mejia was ordained in June 5, 2015 by Bishop Pates at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Father Mejia has been in his current assignment since his ordination. He is a native of El Salvador.

Father Protas Opondo, a Jesuit from the Eastern Africa Province, will be the pastoral administrator of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Catholic Student Center, Drake Newman Community. He comes to the Des Moines diocese from Omaha, where he has held the Anna and Donald Waite Endowed Chair in Jesuit Education at Creighton University since 2011.

For three years prior, he was the dean of studies and lecturer at Ethiopian Catholic University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He also has served in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and the United States.

He speaks five languages: English, French, Kiswahili, Luhya and Luo.

From Boston College, Father Opondo holds a doctoral degree in theology and education, a master’s degree in pastoral work, and master’s degree in theology.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in theology from a college in Kenya and a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from a school in the Republic of Congo.

Father Mark Owusu is moving from serving as pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Des Moines and director of campus ministry to an assignment in his native Ghana.

Owusu was ordained in 2004. He came to the Diocese of Des Moines and first served as chaplain at the St. Gregory Retreat Center in Bayard before taking his current position in 2012.

Father Chris Reising will shift from pastor at St. Patrick Parish and School, Perry to pastor three parishes: St. Bernard Parish, Osceola, St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Ayr and St. Patrick Parish, Grand River.

Father Reising was ordained June 9, 2006 by Bishop Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S. at St. Ambrose Cathedral.

Father Reising has served at the following parishes: Corpus Christi in Council Bluffs, Our Lady of the Americas in Des Moines and St. Patrick in Perry.

Father Nipher Thakkipinarth Scaria of the Diocese of Kanjirapally, India will become a parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, West Des Moines.

Owusu is ordained in 161, he holds a Canon law degree from a university in Rome. He also holds bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and theology.

Father has served in a parish and in the Tribunal in the Diocese of Kanjirapally. He knows five languages: English, Italian, Malayalam, Spanish, and German.

Major priestly ordination anniversaries celebrated

Watch the June edition of The Catholic Mirror for priests celebrating major anniversaries of their ordination to priesthood.

Some of the priests are planning public celebrations. Father Gene Koch, who is celebrating 60 years as a priest, will mark the occasion on Sunday, June 2 from 3-6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

A prayer service will be followed by an open house. Celebrating his retirement and 50th anniversary is Father Tom DeCarlo. He will hold a reception on Sunday, June 9 from 3-5 p.m at McCauley Terrace in Johnston. No cards, please.

Celebrating his 25th anniversary, Father Dan Kirby will celebrate June 23 with Mass at 11 a.m. and a reception lunch afterward at St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk.

Also marking his 25th anniversary is Father Chris Hartshorn. He will have a parish pilgrimage June 17-27. A celebration on June 27 will begin with Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a cookout at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

Effective June 1, Father Enrique Garcia - in addition to his service at Conception College Seminary - has been appointed weekend sacramental minister at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs.

Father Garcia was ordained by Bishop Onesimo Cedpda Silva of the Diocese of Ecatepec, Mexico on Jun 6, 2001. He started serving the Diocese of Des Moines on March 5, 2014.

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Catholic Pastoral Center honored with architecture award

Doocoemo US, a national organization committed to celebrating the people and projects that preserve, restore and rehabilitate Modernist architecture, is presenting an award to the Des Moines Catholic Pastoral Center restoration team of BBS Architects & Engineers, Harboe Architects, Genus Landscape Architecture, Neumann Brothers (construction manager) and Jennifer J. James (architectural historian).

The Commercial Design Award of Excellence is one of several Modernism in America Awards that showcase preservation methods, efficient grassroots efforts and public/private partnerships.

Architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe designed the Catholic Pastoral Center, a three-story steel and glass Modernist building in Des Moines. It opened in 1962 as a savings and loan. The Edward and Eleanor Ochylski family acquired the building and donated it to the Diocese of Des Moines in 1992.

It’s an ideal location given St. Ambrose Cathedral is across High Street to the north. The building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, underwent extensive renovation in 2017 in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Bishop Richard Pates thanked Doocoemo US for the honor.

In preparation for the renovation, Bishop Pates convened a Blue Ribbon Task Force to study the needs and make a recommendation. He praised three groups for their dedication and service.

“I would like to cite and commend the Blue Ribbon Task Force, the diligent attention of the Catholic Pastoral Center staff, and the generosity of extraordinary donors who made this possible,” he said. “The award highlights the quality work of the project.”

In addition to offices for the diocese and Catholic Charities, the following organizations have office space at the Catholic Pastoral Center: the Catholic Tuition Organization, the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, and the St. Thomas More Center.

Catholic Foundation awards $50,000

Nineteen parishes, schools and organizations received grants from the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa on April 23.

Grants ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 will be used for initiatives including classroom technology, faith formation materials and safety equipment.

With these grants, the foundation has given more than $200,000 to organizations within the Diocese of Des Moines since its inception in 2012.

This year, the 19 grants are awarded to:

- All Saints Parish, Des Moines - $2,270 to purchase new audio/visual equipment to improve religious education program
- Dowling Catholic High School, West Des Moines - $1,000 to purchase enhancements for liturgical celebrations in its chapel
- St. Boniface Catholic Church, Waukee - $3,300 to get a television, audio/visual equipment and a projector to help religious education refugee students struggling with language barriers
- St. Anthony Catholic School, Des Moines - $4,000 to purchase new computers for a quarter of the teachers
- St. Boniface Catholic Church, Waukee - $1,000 to get new software, removing the hard-copy registration process, simplifying online religious education registration, volunteer sign-ups, etc.
- St. Clare, Clarinda; Sacred Heart, Bedford; St. Joseph, Villisca - $3,000 to acquire new liturgical vestments that will be used at all three parishes; these vestments will be replacing vestments still being used from pre-Vatican II
- St. Joseph Church, Des Moines - $2,000 to purchase a portable visual screen to be used by various parish groups
- St. Malachy School, Creston - $2,400 to purchase a new computer to better serve those who entrant their children to STMC year-round
- The Veil Removed, West Des Moines - $5,000 to create, market, and distribute a film that will increase Eucharistic amazement, and fund materials for creating conversation and retreats based on the Eucharist

Dioscesan history book author wins state award

Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg presented the 2018 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Published Book Award, for the most significant book published on Iowa history last year, to Father Steven Avel, who penned “The Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa: A History of the Diocese of Des Moines.”

Photo by Kelly Neucher Collins

MercyOne builds behavioral health hospital

MercyOne Central Iowa and Universal Health Services broke ground May 2 for Iowa’s first joint venture, a stand-alone behavioral health hospital in Clive. The 100-bed facility, at 1450 NW 114th St. in Clive, will address a need for behavioral health services.

The facility is expected to open in July 2020.

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Welcome to the newest members of the Catholic Church

Continued from page 1

“The knew that was the right place for us and we never turned back,” Shelton said. “And we have been consistently going for about two years and that’s where we had our daughter baptized. And then we decided that I would do RCIA so that I could help my daughter grow in her faith journey throughout life and so we could go together as a family.”

It was an experience Shelton won’t forget.

“I got a little bit emotional and I felt like I had a full sense of belonging and was excited for my new faith journey and what the future holds for me and my family as well,” Shelton said.

Kristen Shelton of St. Boniface Parish with her husband Casey and daughter Sawyer. Father Vince Rosonke holding Sawyer.

Kevin King, St. Augustine Parish in Des Moines

Kevin King was raised Protestant, but didn’t attend church regularly. He longed for something more and had always been attracted to the Catholic Church.

“I was attracted to the really deep sense of family,” King said. “As a non-Catholic I would go to Mass from time to time, but I didn’t really understand everything that was going on and so I really wanted to learn more about it. And that was part of my motivation.”

He appreciated the fact that no matter which Catholic Church you went, things were “pretty much the same wherever you go.” That’s very different from Protestant churches.

King formed new friendships at St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines while going through RCIA.

“There was an abundance of support from a lot of different people from within the church,” King said. “They were very, very knowledgeable. Many are cradle Catholics, many are not.”

Finding information to learn more about the Catholic Church is easily accessible, King added.

“There’s definitely no shortage of written material for learning about the Catholic faith,” he said.

Victim Assistance Advocate

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

Music Director

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Winterset, Iowa is seeking to employ a part time Music Director. Must be skilled at leading and developing a parish music program. Piano proficient preferred. Willingness to use digital technology. Able to schedule cantors, choir and instrumentalists. Must be comfortable in choosing music for liturgical services with guidance from OCP. 25 to 30 hours a week. Salary will begin at $15.00 an hour. Resume may be mailed to St. Joseph Church, 1026 N 8th Ave, Winterset, IA 50273 or emailed to office@stjosephchurch.net.

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Chris Palso Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines

Chris Palso was baptized Presbyterian, though he and his family never went to church growing up.

At age 35 he had a conversion experience and became a Baptist, where he was very involved in the church for many years.

But then things grew stagnant.

“About four years ago I started reading more,” Palso said. “I was in a stale place with my faith, though I had been real involved with the Evangelical church for many years.

He began diving into books about his faith background and its history, working back in time.

“I got stuck in the 16th Century and the Reformation period,” Palso said. “I had some issues with Protestantism.”

Palso began combing through Church doctrine, theology and Church history.

“The more I read the more I realized Protestantism wasn’t what I was told it was,” he said. “When I started this study period four years ago, everything kept pointing back to the Catholic Church, especially the further I went into reading history. There was one book that really put me over the top – Steve Ray’s ‘Crossing the Tiber.’”

After making the decision to become Catholic, Palso said he couldn’t wait to receive the sacraments.

“The vigil service was incredible for me – the first time I’d received the sacrament after waiting for that for four years,” he said. “Sitting in the pew and waiting and just dying to do that. And so do that the other night at the vigil service was great. It was fantastic.”

Casey & Jenny Purdum family, Holy Spirit Parish in Creston

Jenny and Casey Purdum and their four kids all entered the Catholic Church together at the Easter Vigil in Creston.

Sending their kids to the St. Malachi Catholic School in Creston showed them firsthand the love and care of the local Catholic community.

“We just loved how the school was with our kids and the things they portrayed,” Jenny said. “I started diving more into God and things like that. We wanted to raise our kids knowing who God was and going to church and the importance of that.”

A near-death experience in the family also reminded them just how precious life is and how things can change in an instant.

At the Easter Vigil, Jenny, Casey, Jace, 10, Hadley, 8, Ryleigh, 4, and Jolee, 2 all entered into the Catholic Church.

Jenny loves how St. Malachi reinforces and builds upon the things the kids learn at home.

“They make prayer important, and I feel like that’s huge for me,” Jenny said.

Casey is happy with their decision and they have felt welcomed into the community.

“There’s a sense of belonging,” Casey said. “There’s a lot of fellowship in the Catholic Church and in the community and we just look forward to being an active member of the church.”

Photo on page 1

Trevor Love with his wife Sarah and daughters Emerson and Isabella.

Trevor Love with St. Mary of Nazareth Parish in Des Moines

For years before becoming Catholic, Trevor Love attended Mass with his wife, Sarah.

“I had really not thought about the differences in my wife’s and my religious choices, even as we began our family,” Love said. “We attended the Catholic Church and participated in events without telling everyone that I had been raised Methodist.”

His mother-in-law went through the RCIA program in the early 1980s and encouraged Love to check it out.

“It all sounded like a lot of time commitment and I was unsure that I needed to do that,” Love said. “However, one day at church I was approached by a parishioner who had helped us in marriage and family preparation years before and asked me to be a part of the RCIA process.

Love agreed to go through RCIA.

“I have found that this commitment provided me with a sense of strong family and spiritual presence that has guided me in my daily life,” Love said. “Sometimes it just takes a minute to remember that when life gets hectic.”

Love is happy he took the next step.

“I guess for me it was having a better connection with God – just being able to feel his presence more and be able to really look for the small signs that he always shines out towards you,” Love said. “Becoming Catholic has really opened my eyes with that.”

Sarah.

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Continued from page 1

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Basketball standout: Faith, family most important

Caitlin Clark is weighing her options as she is pursued by state and national college basketball programs

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Brent and Anne Clark of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines noticed their daughter Caitlin had a gift for basketball when she was just five years old.

“You could just tell at that point…she really was a natural at basketball,” Brent said.

Even when balls were flying everywhere in a not so productive environment with a bunch of other 5-year olds.

“She would shoot well and dribble well,” he continued. “My wife and I knew after that short little season that we needed to move her in a little more competitive basketball environment.”

“She was playing at Dowling Catholic High School, and at first you have to ask her questions. You get the attention.

“Even when balls were flying everywhere in a not so competitive basketball environment.”

There wasn’t much for girls her age at the time, the Clarks said, so they put her on a boys’ team.

“I think it benefitted her in terms of developing her skills,” Brent said.

Anne also had older cousins she followed around whom played basketball all the time.

“And so she was always playing with them and going to their practices, and so being around it made a difference,” Anne said.

The family also went to many Drake basketball games for fun.

Anne said she’ll never forget one game when a fellow mother commented on Caitlin’s abilities.

“A mom came up to me and said, ‘We just love watching her play,’” she said.

Anne agreed that Caitlin had a natural talent.

“And the mom tapped her heart and said, ‘No, it’s inside,’” Anne said.

That’s when she really stopped to think about how Caitlin was playing.

“Not only was she really talented, but she really loved it,” Anne said. “And when you have that talent and that passion and gift come together, it’s really special.”

Caitlin, now a junior, is considered a star player not just at Dowling Catholic High School but around the country. In fact, colleges have been expressing interest since before she ever played her first high school basketball game.

By Caitlin’s sophomore year, she was already regarded as a five-star, top-10 prospect by Iowa colleges and national ones, including Texas, Notre Dame, Louisville and Oregon State have expressed interest.

ESPNW has ranked Clark as the No. 4 recruit in the country’s 2020 class. Blue Star ranks her No. 3.

Caitlin tries taking all that attention in stride.

“Sometimes it’s a stress at times, but I don’t think it’s overwhelming,” she said. “If you want to be big time, [you have to get used to the attention].”

Her parents have helped create a balanced environment for Caitlin.

“They don’t stress basketball all the time,” she said. “At some point, you have to get away, especially times in the season where I can get stressed out or feel the weight of the team is on me.”

Her parents also start to feel a little protective as the spotlight grows.

“I feel for us too this year, as she has had more and more attention and press, you really realize the people from the outside are watching,” Anne said. “And sometimes as a parent you worry about that. We’ll be at the grocery store and people will want to ask her questions. You get something in the mail at home or at Dowling, and at first you have this moment of stranger danger.

“But people say they are bringing joy or bringing memories back from when they used to play. You realize it’s really, really impactful.”

Their Catholic faith is extremely important to the family and helps keep them grounded.

“That’s so integrated into who we are that it’s almost hard to separate it,” Anne said. “At home it’s what we practice and how we live our lives.”

Even when they’re traveling for basketball games or tournaments, “Brent does a great job and he always finds where the Mass is. And that’s just part of our life,” Anne said.

“That’s just how we are every weekend if games are going on,” she continued. “Where are we going to church? We have a responsibility to them to live out their faith in their everyday life.”

They also the credit Catholic school system for helping raise their kids into upstanding people with good values and morals.

“They will say how nice they are to other people,” Brent said. “It’s our entire family, it’s the school system, the fact that we believe in Catholic education. It’s just so many people who have influenced them — it’s not just the immediate parents…. It takes a lot of those factors to make them who they are.”

In addition to faith, family is a cornerstone of their lives.

“We go to a lot of family dinners, go to Mass together,” Caitlin said. “My cousins are all close, my grandparents. We get together on holidays, go to the lake and sporting events together.”

Being a close knit family is “essential,” Caitlin said.

“Family is definitely the most important thing after faith,” Caitlin concluded.

Deegan named Schools Coordinator

Following a year-long diocesan schools strategic planning initiative, completed in April, Bishop Richard Pates named Dr. Jerry Deegan the coordinator of an implementation process that’s expected to create long-term stability and foster growth for the schools.

Deegan retired last year after serving 41 years at Dowling Catholic High School, 17 years of that service as president of the school. He holds a doctoral degree in Educational Administration from Drake University in Des Moines, He chaired the Blue Ribbon Task Force created last year to examine the needs and future plans of the schools in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Guided by Meier consultants, the strategic plan concluded that the Des Moines metro area Catholic elementary schools would benefit from working closely together versus individually, producing better results given the challenges they face. By doing so, the schools would strengthen Catholic identity and faith formation, boost enrollment, improve academics, and address governance, finance and facilities issues. The region has 11 Catholic elementary schools with 3,808 students and one Catholic high school with an enrollment of 1,466.

“Jerry Deegan is an ideal person to lead the implementation phase of the planning process,” said Bishop Richard Pates.

Deegan’s position is for one year beginning immediately.
Una posición pública que he asumido consistente y de manera constante es el promover el 100% los referencias de educación que se ofrezcan. Una posición pública que recientemente terminó sus sesiones este año, sugiere que es oportuno el reducir el tonto partidista de las posiciones y reflexionar en el análisis final, cuáles son las mejores oportunidades educativas para nuestros niños y sus familias. Al mismo tiempo,

Muerte y resurrección

By Bishop Richard Pates

A la luz de las decisiones de la Legislatura, termina su sesión, un lamento lo más alto en muy alta proporción. La escuela está equipando a sus estudiantes para que sean altamente productivos cuando lleguen a ser adultos y llevando su experiencia de una educación superior a toda una nueva generación. Ahora que la Legislatura terminó sus sesiones este año, sugiero que es oportuno el reducir el tonto partidista de las posiciones y reflexionar en el análisis final, cuáles son las mejores oportunidades educativas para nuestros niños y sus familias. Al mismo tiempo,

12,000 jóvenes de la Diócesis de Des Moines que se beneficiaron de la educación pública.

Iowa, que recientemente terminó sus sesiones este año, sugiero que es oportuno el reducir el tonto partidista de las posiciones y reflexionar en el análisis final, cuáles son las mejores oportunidades educativas para nuestros niños y sus familias. Al mismo tiempo,

Muchos aplauden la iniciativa de los padres de los niños que se promueve la inversión en el sector que contribuye con el progreso humano y de la comunidad. Aunque la educación de todos es la primera prioridad, naturalmente deseo lo mejor para los estudiantes, esto equivale a $23 millones en asistencia.

Aben Akke de Des Moines se pone su abrigo antes del almuerzo en Holy Family Catholic School el 9 de marzo del 2017 en Des Moines. (Foto: Brian Powers/The Register)

Para los 6,222 estudiantes en las Escuelas de la Diócesis de Des Moines, los créditos fiscales ofrecen asistencia de aproximadamente $3,300,000. Se distribuye entre esas familias que están en los niveles más bajos de ingreso y que encuentran un gran valor en la educación en el sector privado. Un ejemplo de esto es la Escuela Holy Family en Des Moines, que cuenta con 230 estudiantes – 221 de los cuales son de minorías étnicas. Ellos recibieron un total de $237,012.50 en ayuda financiera el año pasado de parte de STOs.

La Escuela de Holy Family tiene un rango de graduación escolar preparatoria de 99% y llegan a niveles más altos que se reflejan en la reputación que pueden lograr en el sistema educativo. Se dice que promueven el apoyo a instituciones públicas. Al mismo tiempo,

Una posición pública que recientemente terminó sus sesiones este año, sugiero que es oportuno el reducir el tonto partidista de las posiciones y reflexionar en el análisis final, cuáles son las mejores oportunidades educativas para nuestros niños y sus familias. Al mismo tiempo,

Durante el último tiempo, estudió a 135 millones en créditos fiscales a donantes calificados, la cual entraría en efecto en el 2020. Traduciendo esto a los beneficios actuales que tienen los estudiantes, esto equivale a $23 millones en asistencia.

El Estado de Iowa tiene la responsabilidad de la educación de todos sus niños. No es esta una de sus más primordiales si no es la más primordial obligación?

Aquéllos de nosotros que promovemos la asistencia a escuelas que no son públicas no queremos quitar dinero a las escuelas públicas. Lo que hace es aumentar la expansión de los fondos disponibles para toda la educación de modo que el estado pueda cumplir con sus obligaciones con todos sus niños.

La asistencia a las escuelas no públicas ya ha pasado por las normas constitucionales. En la actualidad, la opción escolar va una realidad con los cambios administrativos. En el distrito.

No estimula el progreso la competencia una empresa transnacional. ¿No es ese el estilo americano?

Richard Bishop

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

Saturday, May 18

Des Moines – Retirement Celebration for Deacon Nancy Dowdell, St. Augustine Parish Hall, 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 19

Council Bluffs – Graduation ceremony, St. Albert School, 2 p.m.

Monday, May 20

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21

Washington, D.C. – Installation of Archbishop William Gregory, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22

Des Moines – Group meeting with U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst

Council Bluffs – Confirmation and reception, St. Patrick Parish, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 23

West Des Moines – Baccalaureate Mass Dowling Catholic High, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 24

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

Des Moines – Dowling Catholic High School Graduation, Drake University Knapp Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

St. Paul, MN – 50th Anniversary Celebration with seminarians and classmats, St. Paul Seminary, 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

Osceola – Confirmation, St. Bernard Parish, 2 p.m.

Monday, May 27

Des Moines – Memorial Day Mass, Glendale Cemetery, 10 a.m.

Council Bluffs – Institute of Priestly Formation Eucharist and Dinner, Corpus Christi Parish, Queen of Apostles site, 5:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 30

Des Moines – Iftar Dinner, World Food West Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 31

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

Des Moines - Farewell dinner for Sister Rosario and Sister Maria Elena, St. Ambrose Parish Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 1

Perry – Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 2

Chariton – Confirmation and Reception, Sacred Heart Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 2 – Monday, June 3

Conception, MD – Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Conception Abbey Wednesday, June 5

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Des Moines – Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Des Moines – Ankeny Land Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, June 7

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

Saturday, June 8

Council Bluffs – Confirmation and reception, Corpus Christi Parish, 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 8 – Confirmation for Sr. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita, Sr. Peter and Paul Parish, 4:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 9

Coralville – Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, 7 p.m.

Monday, June 10

Baltimore, MD – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs Friday, June 14

Des Moines – Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18

Norwalk – Holy Family Schools Catholic Classic, Legacy Golf Club, 8 a.m.

Des Moines – Hispanic Pastoral Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.

West Des Moines – Bishop’s Council Meeting, Embassy Club West, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 19

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 20

Des Moines – Confirmation and reception, Deacon James Downey and Deacon Mark McGarvey, St. Ambrose Catholic Parish, 8 a.m.

Friday, June 21

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

Des Moines – Priesthood Ordination of Deacon James Downey and Deacon Mark McGarvey, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 7 p.m.

Bishop’s Schedule

Muerte y resurrección

By Bishop Richard Pates

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The Catholic Mirror May 17, 2019 www.dmdiocese.org

En las Tierras del Corazón Con el Obispo Pates

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AMOS trains Hispanic leaders

By Elizabeth Hall Contributing Writer

In the midst of Lent, more than 100 Latino leaders from 17 Catholic parishes gathered for a three-day weekend leadership training in Spanish at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Des Moines.

The curriculum, which blended Catholic teaching with relational organizing practices, focused heavily on understanding the mission of the church and the responsibilities of parish leaders.

Throughout the weekend, trainees reflected on Scripture, the sacraments, theological readings and participated in interactive sessions. Among the many topics, they discussed mission of the baptismal community, collective leadership and lessons from Exodus, analyzing pressures on families and communities, qualities of leaders and more.

Participants learned to lead small-group, house meeting conversations. They also shared the pressures facing their families and communities, many involving concerns relating to immigration.

By the end of the training, several of the trainees remarked that they have a new understanding of themselves as leaders, and their own capacity to act in relationship with others to address the pressures facing families.

The training closed with a Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Richard Pates. The training was made possible by the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Interfaith Education Fund, which have made a multi-year investment in the training and leadership development of immigrant parish leaders across West and Southwestern United States.

Locally, the training was hosted by the Diocese of Des Moines with support from AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy).

Similar trainings in other dioceses have led to parish house meetings, the identification and development of new leaders for ministry, and parish-initiated strategies to protect immigrant families such as a parish ID strategy in the Diocese of Dallas.

The diocese’s Hispanic Ministry office and AMOS will continue to work with the parish leaders who attended the March training, many of whom are meeting with their pastors and beginning to discuss organizing house meeting conversations in their parishes.

Elizabeth Hall is lead organizer from AMOS.

Continued from page 14

Muerte y resurrección

education that beneficie sus más

profundos deseos y necesidades a

a la vez que produce sólidos ci-

udadanos comprometidos con la

Elementary Faith Formation

St. Cecilia Parish in Ames, IA is seeking a full-time, 12 month Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation.

This position oversees faith formation sessions for PreK-5th grade, our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, and First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation. For the full job posting and directions on how to apply, please see: https://www.catholicjobs.com/job/8307136544.

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.
Lead with Faith

Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. His vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength. The majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live the domestic church. These programs, created for families by families, help us to live this call.

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