

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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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



The Purdum family entered into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil at Holy Spirit Parish in Creston. Casey and Jenny Purdum with their four children Jace, Hadley, Ryleigh and Jolie.

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 Ss. 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 Ss. 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 Devaraj, known as Father Chinna, will move from pastor at Ss. 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 Noreen 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, Renaissance 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

Continued on page 5



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

Iowa Knights of Columbus State Deputy Antonio Banuelos talks with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson during the state convention May 6.

Education - A first priority

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 first 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 if not higher 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. Tom Vilsack who advanced legislation that gave birth to School Tuition Organizations (STO) 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



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

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 level 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 enrollment of students in different schools within the same district.

- Does not healthy competition between qualifying systems stimulate progress? Is it not the American way?

- Are not parents entitled to choose an education for their children which meets all the state's requirements yet reflects parental values and costs no more than public schools?

- Non-public schools welcome the mission to work with underprivileged, poor, and distressed children. Our investment, as data demonstrate, eventually leads to strong, independent and value-oriented lives.

- If the cost of non-public education continues to spiral upward basically driven by providing just wages for teachers, are these institutions going to become havens for the elite?

- Parents of children with special needs plead with non-publics to educate their chil-

dren and become visibly upset when we are unable to oblige because of the lack of financial wherewithal.

The evolution in government assistance for all Iowa's children is taking further shape in 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 producing solid citizens committed to the American tradition.

Celebrating God's mercy



Photo by Mark Purtle

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

Bishop's
Schedule
can be found
on page 14

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Effective June 1, 2019

Father Enrique Garcia – 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 Vince 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 McHenry – 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.

OFFICIAL

Bishop Richard Pates has made the following appointments.

Father Trevor Chicoine – as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines to Pastoral Administrator at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita.

Father Chinnappan Devaraj – as Pastor at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita to Pastor at St. Boniface Parish, Waukee.

Rev. Mr. James Downey – as seminarian deacon 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 at North American College.

Father Bede Inkwere – of the Diocese of Okjgwe, Nigeria, from CPE training at Methodist/Unity Point Hospital to Chaplain at Bishop Drumm Care Center.

Rev. Mr. Mark McGeary – as seminarian deacon 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 East Africa to Pastoral Administrator of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Catholic Student Center, Drake Newman Community.

Father Mark Owusu – 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. Patrick Parish and School, Perry to Pastor St. Bernard Parish, Osceola, St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Ayr and St. Patrick Parish, Grand River.

Father Nipin Scaria Thakipipurath – of the Diocese of Kanjirapally, India to Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, West Des Moines.

Bishop Richard Pates
Bishop of Des Moines

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

The New Moment

Destiny's children rely on her kindness, companionship



By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

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 travelling 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. "Some days just for a walk around the neighborhood. It could be something so simple as that. Sometimes we go to different restaurants and talk about being courteous and manners and just being responsible and respectful of others."

Welsh had 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



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.

sponsorships and donations.

"I approached one of the directors at the camp and told her my idea...and she was completely 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/dmdiocese](https://www.youtube.com/dmdiocese).

Feast of Corpus Christi *Grotto Mass and Eucharistic Procession*

JOIN US FOR THE 1ST COMBINED CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Saint Anthony Church & Christ the King Church

15 Indianola Rd. in Des Moines, IA on Sunday, June 23 11:00 p.m.

Please honor us with your presence for this first joint celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This bilingual Mass at the Grotto combines the St. Anthony 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and Christ the King's 3 p.m. Mass. After Mass you are welcome to join us in our long held tradition of processing with the Most Blessed Sacrament throughout our neighborhoods followed by lunch and the St. Anthony Pillar of the Parish Award recognition with Christ the King to honor Sister Maria R. Huerta Amezcua.



Father Gittins dies at 77

Continued from page 1

And yet, he added, Father Gittins was always down to earth.

Music, too, was important to him. He had an extensive collection with several interpretations of specific tunes he liked.

Father Gittins had a great love for his hometown. He enjoyed finding people with a connection to Guthrie Center, whether they were from the town, visited the town or knew someone there, said Monsignor Beeson.

In his 40 years of ministry, Father Gittins served in education and pastoral ministry in both rural and urban areas of the diocese.

He served Visitation Parish (now called Our Lady of the Americas) in Des Moines and St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines before moving to St.

Patrick Parish in Imogene. He taught at St. Albert High School in Council Bluffs and served St. Columbanus Parish at Weston. He was a chaplain at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs.

Father Gittins returned to Visitation Parish, and then served three parishes in the southern part of the diocese: St. Clare in Clarinda, St. Joseph in Villisca and Sacred Heart in Bedford. He also served St. Michael Parish in Harlan and offered pastoral care for St. Mary in Anita, St. John in Adair and St. Joseph in Casey.

Father served as parochial vicar at St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines before retiring in 2008.

"I'll always remember that wherever he was assigned by the bishop, he went and did a great job," said Father Sherbo.

Find Jesus in our homes

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 he 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).

Jesus also tells us that we will meet him in the least among us (Matt

Marriage & Family Life

By
Adam Storey



25:40).

As the diocesan Marriage and Family Life director, I think the Ascension of the Lord is a reminder to us that we should look for Jesus in our homes. As Catholics we call the family the domestic church, and that's a fancy way of saying that Christ is present to us in our homes in the ordinary, the mundane and the messy.

This is vital for us to realize, because it reminds us that the key to growing in our faith is not discovering some new secret, or seeking out new experiences or insights. What is key to growing in our faith is being attentive to what is right before us. The circumstances, the relationships, even the trials that we encounter every single day.

Jesus does remain with us and he is present to us every day.

It's our job to be attentive and docile to him, and to seek him where he already is: At Mass and in the vulnerable, and in our homes.

The Ascension of the Lord is followed closely by Pentecost, when we ask again for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Through the Holy Spirit we come to know Jesus, and so we should beg the Father to send his Spirit to each of us.

In our world today, we desperately need the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Spirit. I hope you'll join me in asking the Father to fill our hearts and our homes with his Holy Spirit!

Through his Spirit we will recognize his Son, and we'll learn to love each other with God's love.

Adam Storey is the diocesan director of Marriage & Family Life. He can be reached at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056

Here comes a breath of fresh air

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 that I do not teach someone a word in Greek. I do this teaching, not only to

Let's Get Psyched

By Deacon Randy
Kiel



understand a word's origin and intent, but also to enhance communication. Further knowledge of the original language of our Scriptures helps us to grow further in our understanding of one another as well as Jesus and his Word. The Greek word *pneuma* means spirit/breath/wind. When God sounded as a great wind rushing upon the Apostles, he was expressing himself as Spirit. When God breathes upon mankind, he is also expressing himself as Spirit. He in- Spirits us. What a great way to understand the verb to inspire or the noun inspiration.

Throughout this spring, I have thought deeply about the word breath. It

seems that with each day, life comes out of its slumber and ceases hibernation. "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. Jesus comes to his disciples to 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 exhale, 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 Kardiac Counseling and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him, email randy@kardiaccounseling.com.

Congratulations to our newest lay leaders

Congratulations to the Lay Leadership class for their graduation.

A group of 41 leaders from our diocese received a certificate in Lay Leadership Formation from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

This is an 18-month Lay Leadership Formation Program in Spanish

Guest Column

By Mayra Moriel de Banuelos

that we are providing in collaboration with El Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral since 2013.

We have had three cohorts with a total of 90 students.

El Instituto is a part of the University of St. Mary of the Lake. They have provided theological, pastoral, human and spiritual formation in Spanish for more than 30 years to develop parish leadership in Hispanic Ministry throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Some of the purposes of the formation are to forge missionary disciples of Christ rooted in faith and in the tradition of the

Catholic Church, and to form leaders who are committed to the service of a diverse, multicultural, and multi-generational local church.

The program follows a methodology of "See – Judge – and Act" and it is rooted in culture since culture is an integral part of personal identity. During the formation, we help the lay pastoral leaders to attain growth in personal, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral dimensions.

From the 41 participants in this third class:

- 18 participants are from Our Lady of the Americas (Des Moines),
- 11 from Christ the King (Des Moines),
- 4 from Corpus Christi (Council Bluffs),
- 2 from St. Anthony (Des Moines),
- 2 from St. Patrick (Perry),
- 2 from Basilica of St. John (Des Moines),
- 1 from St. Luke the Evangelist (Ankeny) and
- 1 from Sacred Heart (West Des Moines).

As a requirement for their graduation, they had to develop a pastoral project that will be implemented in their parishes in the next three years.

The projects came from a personal analysis they made of their local parishes and the current situation and needs in their parish community.

Mayra Moriel de Banuelos is the diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry. She can be reached at mmoriel@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5011



A young couple that began the program together graduated with their newest family member.

To the Editor:

Sincere thanks for your diocesan check of \$56,374.74 in support of the 2018 Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to your parishioners for their ongoing support of senior religious and their communities. Since the collection was launched, contributions from your diocese have totaled \$2,763,664.88.

We are very grateful to you and your parishioners for your generous support of our mission.

Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM
Executive Director
National Religious Retirement Office

Ask a Priest

Q. How is a Catholic chaplain designated for Armed Forces?

A. A PRIEST CAN request from his diocesan bishop or religious superior permission to serve the armed forces. Some bishops are reluctant to grant the permission because of the needs within their own dioceses. But other bishops recognize that the needs of the Church extend beyond the borders of any particular diocese.

Q. What is the process for decommissioning a church?

A. WE LIVE IN a world of recycling. Many material things we make use of can be recycled for new purposes. So too with older church buildings.

It's important to remember that a physical building is simply the "home" of the church, the worshiping faithful. I have not found a specif-

ic rite for decommissioning a church building.

In the past a church would lose its consecration or solemn blessing in two principal cases. One case was through the destruction of the building.

Another case is if the local bishop reduces the building to nonreligious use, as is still foreseen in Canon 1222 of the Code of Canon Law.

Many dioceses have reduced the number of parish churches because the population no longer sustains the use of a building which once served a lively parish community.

Even a once well-loved church building can outlive its usefulness.

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

Longtime advocate Sister Talarico dies

Longtime educator and juvenile justice advocate Sister JoAnne Talarico died May 10 after spending more than 60 years with the Sisters of Humility.

She will be remembered for "her intense ministry for people who didn't have support," said Humility Sister Catherine Talarico. "That really was a passion with her -- doing anything in education and advocacy, helping people make better lives."

Sister JoAnne donated her body to Des Moines University.

"She's still giving even in death, for any kind of education for those young people and any kind of research," Sister Catherine said.

Born in 1936 in Des Moines, Sister JoAnne entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1954 with the religious name Sister Mary Rose Nicholas. Her first profession was in 1957.

Sister earned degrees from Marycrest College in Davenport and the University of Notre Dame.

She taught elementary education in Iowa and Illinois, served at Ottumwa Heights

College and did pastoral work in parishes.



She had just begun pastoral ministry at St. Patrick Church at Irish Settlement

when St. John Paul II visited. Bishop Maurice Dingman brought the pope to her pew and she shook his hand.

She was a consultant with Iowa Religious Media Services and an office manager at St. Catherine Catholic Student Center at Drake University.

While visiting at a women's prison, she met a person who was convicted of murder at age 17. Weekly, she visited the woman and became a juvenile justice advocate.

She also was involved with Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down, which offers supplies and services to the homeless.

She is survived by her brother, Nick, and sisters, Humility Sister Catherine Talarico and Patricia Chambers, and additional family members.

Services will be at the end of June. Details are pending.

KC state leader reflects on growing participation of immigrants, students

Antonio Banuelos, of St. Ambrose Cathedral 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 think personally it means 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.

I understand you were the first man with a Mexican heritage to hold the state deputy position. What does that mean to you?

Actually, I am the second. Joe Ramirez was state deputy seven years ago and he is a third generation Mexican.

I am the first Mexican immigrant (first generation you would say) to become a state deputy in Iowa.

I think that has helped us as an order to become a symbol of diversity and integration. Considering that Iowa is 90 percent Caucasian, having an immigrant as the leader of the group sends a very visual message about how we are all welcome to join this wonderful Catholic order.

The Des Moines and Sioux City dioceses are braking the 30 percent in Hispanic membership and the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Diocese of Davenport are rounding the 20 percent.

About 1 in 4 Catholics in Iowa is Hispanic so we need to make sure they are welcome in our Church and Church organizations and make sure they start taking an active role in leading and shaping the future of our parishes and Catholic communities.

Why is it important for the Knights to have diversity and other local Hispanics involved?

The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 to support the families of Catholic Irish immigrants who had the hardest,



Antonio Banuelos

most dangerous and lowest paid jobs. There was also a large anti-Catholic sentiment at that time.

The way I see it today, the Hispanic, Eritrean, Burmese, Vietnamese, Sudanese, etc. Catholic communities are in the same situation that were the Irish in 1882.

The insurance our order offers is an excellent way to protect the financial stability of our families, especially now that families depend on at least two incomes.

At the same time, the fraternal side of Faith in Action in our local parishes is a great venue for integration of the immigrant and refugee communities.

Many Catholics in the United States don't realize that we come from very ancient Catholic societies: Mexico will turn 500 years old in 2021 and 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.

We as 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 experience 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 Burmese, Sudanese, Eritrean, soon the Vietnamese and of course the Hispanic community has been wonderful.

The interaction 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 with 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 on homework, tests, and ACTs.

I will now be able to be active again in my parish, St. Ambrose, and finally be able to commit to a Mass ministry without having to cancel at the last minute.

Supreme Knight visits

Continued from page 1

Columbus commissioned a Marist Poll Feb. 25-March 4 of adults in New York. The poll showed abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy is opposed by three out of four people, Anderson said.

He urged consensus on these key areas among presidential candidates.

The Knights of Columbus have placed more than 1,000 ultrasound machines at crisis pregnancy centers nationwide in an effort to encourage women to choose

life over abortion. Iowa Knights of Columbus have placed 19 ultrasound machines.

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Around the diocese

May 18 Saturday Reception for Dr. Dowdle

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

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

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 23 Thursday Golf Outing

NORWALK -- 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 Edler, Dana Lynch, Vicki Overstreet, Lyn Bowers, Gwen Fisher, Lara Miller, Mary Jane Petersen, David Schweitzer, James 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 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 3304 4th Ave. with a multicultural circus theme featuring clowns, face painting, balloons, food, raffle, games and more. For more information, call 712-323-2916.

June 2 Sunday 60th Anniversary Celebration

WEST DES MOINES -- Celebrate the 60th anniversary of Father Gene Koch from 3-6 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 Paul Sweeney Memorial Golf Outing

ALTOONA -- Join St. Pius X Catholic Church and School for golf by registering at spxgolf.com or emailing rmontgomery@onmediadsales.com. At Terrace Hills Golf Course from 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 bobmont0513@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 limited space so please register by May 30 at saintfrancischurch.org/adultfaith/events or 515-440-1030. 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 and tours 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 grotto will combine the St. Anthony 11 a.m. and 1 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 50th Class Reunion

WEST DES MOINES -- The St. Joseph Academy and Dowling High School class of 1969 will hold its 50th class reunion: Friday will be at Blank Golf Course Club House from 6-11 p.m. Lunch for the St. Joseph Academy will be at 11 a.m. at Tavern Pizza and Pasta Grill in West Des Moines. On Saturday meet at Pal Joeys in West Des Moines. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Dowling Catholic High School chapel.

October-May

DES MOINES -- Training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for Level One, parts one and two, will begin in the fall at St. Augustin Church. Training will be led by Mary Heinrich. For more information go to cgsusa.org or email MaryHeinrich@cgsusa.org.

The Well announces summer gathering Team welcomes volunteers interested in helping

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Mark Saturday, July 20 on your calendar and plan on attending the next The Well event at Franklin Junior High School in Des Moines, said Lisa Schmidt, founder and executive director of The Well.

"It's going to be a new format for us," said Schmidt. "A little more of a conference with keynotes and breakout sessions. It's definitely a come and go type of conference."

More details will be announced at TheWellDesMoines.com as the event gets closer.

The team is also looking for helping hands.

"We are always looking for volunteers," Schmidt said. "If people want to share their gifts -- whether that be event planning, writing, speaking, music, hospitality, internet design -- we see volunteers with open arms and anyone can be a part of The Wellies [team]."

The team welcomes women who have gifts to share and are drawn to women's ministry.

To contact Schmidt about volunteering, email underhillsschmidt@gmail.com or call 515-291-2590.

Relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcino visit Des Moines



Andrea Rice, of St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines, shows relics of St. Pio to Nicholas and Anna. The relics were available for viewing on May 8 at St. Ambrose Cathedral. An estimated 2,000 people viewed the relics and attended a Mass in honor of the saint.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

John Edwin Marley and Alice Ann Zimmerman will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 25 at St. Bernard 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 Briar 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 thoroughbred horseracing, farming, casino business, antiques, 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, Marley and John. They live in Woodbine. Son, Joel, is married to Melissa 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

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

Iowa Catholic Men's Conference drew hundreds



Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins
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 Urbandale and founder of The Well, speak about being joyful women. Honored for outstanding service to church and community were: Ana Gil, of St. Michael Parish, Harlan; Marilyn Alfes, of St. Patrick Parish, Neola; Karen Wingert, of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Panama; Mardi Brower, 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 Kinney, of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Griswold (not pictured). The next conference is in Atlantic 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 Chiodo, is Italian and was born and raised in the parish community.

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

"Father France Victor Romanelli was brought here [from Italy] by the bishop of Davenport," Monsignor Chiodo 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 background 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 Chiodo 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 marshal those funds," Monsignor Chiodo 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 Chiodo 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.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Monsignor Frank Chiodo was born and raised in St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines. His grandfather, Natale Chiodo, 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 Chiodo as a child. Missing are his mother Rose and brother, Ned.



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SUNDAY, JULY 7 | 9 AM

ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL AT
DOWLING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

No Registration Required • Please Drive Your Antique/Collectible Car to display after Mass
For additional questions, please contact Peter Kiernan at peter.k@q.com.



Empower Individuals | Strengthen Families

Catholic Charities Update

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!
Does your family have a plan?

DES MOINES



Sharon Bandstra
LISW



Nese Larsen
LISW



Harmony Linden
LISW



Amanda Wentworth-
Puentes, MA, LMHC



Betty Mond
en Español

COUNCIL BLUFFS



Pat Curran
LISW

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.

School-based Appointments

Amanda Wentworth-Puentes and Nese Larsen are currently working with students, families, and school faculty at Dowling Catholic High School, St. Luke the Evangelist School, Holy Trinity Catholic School, St. Theresa's Catholic School, and St. Anthony's Catholic School. Having a mental health therapist in your school reduces the amount of time a student misses class for appointments. Catholic Charities therapists collaborate with the school and parents for permission in accordance with HIPAA. Contact Amanda at 515-237-5023 or awentworth@catholic-charitiesdm.org. Contact Nese at 515-237-5093 or nlarsen@catholic-charitiesdm.org.

Family Mental Health Plan

In today's world we plan ahead for natural disasters, fire, first aid, and many other potential dangers. A tool to help you think about facilities and services in your area, as well as who might be part of your support system is included with this issue. Cut out the form and do some research about the coverage your insurance provides, if counseling is something that could be beneficial now to avoid a crisis situation, and more.

Go to www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/our-services/counseling/ to print out the Family Mental Health Plan worksheet and learn more about our counseling services!

By the Numbers¹

- Nearly one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness.
- 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition.
- 10% of youth have a behavior or conduct disorder.
- The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years.
- One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three-quarters by the age of 24.
- Nearly 1 in 25 (10 million) adults in America live with a serious mental illness.

1. This document cites statistics provided by the National Institute of Mental Health. www.nimh.nih.gov.

Call Catholic Charities for an Appointment Today!

- Des Moines, Ankeny, & Council Bluffs
- All major insurance plans accepted
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To schedule an appointment:

Des Moines 515-237-5045

▪ en Español 515-237-5018

Council Bluffs 712-328-3086



FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

Most of us don't consider the possibility of mental health care until we are in crisis. Just as we plan for storms and other emergencies, taking a moment to consider what to do in the event that you or a family member requires mental health treatment. The more information you have (and keeping track of it) is a very important part of a successful treatment plan.

Learn about local hospitals and facilities.

You might be surprised how many people in your life are already engaged with mental health providers. Your friends, family and physician can give you ideas and perspectives on where to look for services and share insights on providers. Consider ages of family members, where facilities are located, etc. Be aware that you may not always get to choose where you are cared for if there are no available beds.

hospital: _____ phone: _____

hospital: _____ phone: _____

notes: _____

Understand your insurance.

If you have insurance, find out what coverage they provide for mental health services and what hospitals and facilities they work with. Anything from therapy to full hospitalization. Have their contact information handy in case of emergency. If you don't have insurance, take time to learn about county and state resources.

provider: _____ phone: _____

webpage: _____ fax: _____

coverage notes: _____

Therapy - not just for a crisis.

Visiting a therapist can be helpful during intense times, but it is also a beneficial resource to consider for more everyday challenges. Connecting with a therapist can be an easy way to become familiar with mental health services and a way to maintain mental wellness.

CONTACTS

Who will you want to contact?
Family? Friends? Childcare?
Employers? Consider who you
might need in a crisis.

RESOURCES

Catholic Charities
Counseling Program
Des Moines: 515-237-5045
catholiccharitiesdm.org

NAMI Iowa: namiiowa.org
NAMI's National Information
Helpline: (800) 950-NAMI

Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
(800) 273-TALK or
(800) SUICIDE

Find a Therapist:
psychologytoday.com

Polk County Health Services:
polkcountyiowa.gov/healthservices/about-pchs/

Iowa Department of Human
Services:
polkcountyiowa.gov/healthservices/about-pchs/



Empower Individuals | Strengthen Families

Catholic Charities Update

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/.



Scott Caldwell Named New Director of Programs



Catholic Charities welcomes Scott Caldwell as the new Director of Programs replacing Pat Nestvedt who retired in December.

Scott graduated with a Bachelor's of Art (B.A.) degree from St. Ambrose University in

Davenport, Iowa and earned a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree from the University of Iowa. He is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW, State of Iowa) and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW, State of Illinois).

Scott joins us from his position as Outpatient Therapy Manager at Vera French Community Mental Health Center in Davenport. His employment includes 22 years of experience in clinical social

work with an extensive and varied background in social services, including administration and supervision; grant writing; new program development; program budgets; contract management and compliance; clinical services; case management; school-based mental health services; and community planning and collaboration. Scott is currently serving as a Peer Reviewer for the Council on Accreditation (COA), and through that certification, serves as a member of the University of Iowa School of Social Work and the Quad Cities Professional Advisory Committee.

We welcome Scott and his wife Carol to Des Moines and the Catholic Charities team!

Barbara Q. Decker Honored by Iowa Women's Foundation



Catholic Charities executive director, Barbara Decker, is featured in the 2019 Ovation: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls. Ovation is Iowa Women's Foundation signature annual publication. Barbara was sponsored by friends and colleagues for this honor. Congratulations Barbara!



- ➔ We are seeking more parish teams in 2019!
- ➔ We invite more women golfers to participate in 2019!

WILL YOU ANSWER OUR CALL?

August 26, 2019

Echo Valley Country Club, 3150 Echo Valley Dr., Norwalk, IA

11:00 a.m. Registration • 11:30 a.m. Lunch • 1:00 p.m. Shotgun start • 18 Holes • 5:30 p.m. Reception/Dinner/Awards

A day on the links, with everything provided, and all for a good cause! Your participation in the Catholic Charities Bishop's Golf Classic provides funding to make our mission possible.

Contact Deb Powers, Catholic Charities Development Director
515-237-5064 or dpowers@catholiccharitiesdm.org
for event sponsorships and team reservations.

Catholic Charities Services

Counseling Program

Stress and anxiety are part of our daily lives, but what do you do when it gets to be too much? Professional therapy is one way to work through stress and anxiety. 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. For an appointment call: **Des Moines 515-237-5045 • Council Bluffs 712-328-3086**

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program

(formerly Phoenix House)

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.

Check out our
employment opportunities
at
www.catholiccharitiesdm.org!

Priest assignments effective this summer

Continued from page 1

Father Bede Inkwere, of the Diocese of Okjgwe, 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 McGeary 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 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 2015.

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 social 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.



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

Ordained in 2016, 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.



Three priests retiring

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Three diocesan priests are retiring this year.

Father Thomas DeCarlo

Father Thomas DeCarlo, chaplain at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston, will retire.

The Dowling Catholic High School graduate was ordained on May 25, 1969 by Bishop Maurice Dingman.

Father DeCarlo served the following parishes: St. Patrick/St. Joseph in Bayard/Jamaica, St. Pius X in Urbandale, St. Joseph in Earling, and St. Patrick in Bayard.

He served the youth of the diocese by teaching at Dowling Catholic High School from 1971-1982, then serving as director of the St. Thomas More Center from 1984-1992. He also served as the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) coordinator in the mid-1980s. He became the resident chaplain at the Bishop Drumm Care Center / McCauley Terrace in 1993.

Father plans a combined retirement and 50th anniversary celebration at McCauley Terrace on June 9 from 3-5 p.m. Parking is available in the front and the rear of the facility.

He recalled 16 or 17 young men who went into the seminary the same year as him, then six were ordained.

The six were ordained on Pentecost Sunday, so he will have his reception on Pentecost Sunday. He encourages friends to come by and say hello. No cards, please, he said.



Father Vince Rosonke

Father Vince Rosonke, pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Waukee, is retiring.

Originally from New Hampton, Iowa, Father Rosonke was ordained by Bishop Maurice Dingman on May 24, 1975.

He served at Holy Spirit Parish in Creston then St. Mary Parish in Portsmouth. In 1984, he was the moderator of team ministry for three Shelby County parishes: St. Mary in Portsmouth, St. Mary of the Assumption in Panama and St. Boniface in Westphalia. In 1985, he began five years of service to Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

After a sabbatical, he served St. John and Paul in Altoona for 10 years, then Sacred Heart in West Des Moines and St. Boniface in Waukee, where he has been since 2002.



Father David Polich

Father David Polich, pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Osceola; St. Patrick Parish, Grand River and St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Ayr, will retire.

The Dowling Catholic graduate was ordained June 25, 1976 by Bishop Maurice Dingman at St. John Parish in Des Moines.

Father Polich has served the following parishes: St. Joseph in Des Moines, St. Anthony in Des Moines, St. Michael in Harlan, Immaculate Conception in Maloy, St. Joseph in Mt. Ayr, Christ the King in Des Moines and Holy Trinity of SE Warren County in Warren County.

In 2000, he studied Spanish in Bolivia. When he returned in the summer of that year, he began to serve Visitation Parish (now called Our Lady of the Americas) and Guadalupe Chapel in Des Moines, then St. Patrick in Perry. For the past six years, he has served St. Bernard in Osceola, St. Patrick in Grand River and St. Joseph and Mt. Ayr.



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.

Priest's assignment effective June 1



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 Jan. 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

Docomomo 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 I. 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 Docomomo 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.

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.

Diocesan 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 Avela, who penned "The Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa: A History of the Diocese of Des Moines."

Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Catholic Foundation awards \$50,000

By Rachel Seidl Contributing Writer

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 - \$2,320 to purchase 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
- Emmaus House Spirituality Center, Des Moines - \$1,550 to purchase a new computer and software to update administrative practices
- Holy Trinity Catholic School, Des Moines - \$3,000 to purchase various forms of flexible seating in STEM Lab
- Our Lady of the Americas, Des Moines - \$1,100 to get furniture for parish conference rooms
- Sacred Heart Catholic School, West Des Moines - \$3,000 to acquire flexible seating for 6th-8th grade classes
- St. Albert Catholic Elementary School, Council Bluffs - \$2,630 to purchase materials to expand the STEAM Lab to include grades 2 and 3

- St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines - \$3,300 to get a television, audio/visual equipment and a projector to help the 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 get new

computers for a quarter of the teachers

- St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church, Des Moines - \$3,750 to purchase a new design for the parish website to create a theme of discipleship

- St. Michael Church, Harlan - \$1,500 to update the phone system in the parish office and connect it to the school's phone system

- St. Patrick Church, Imogene - \$2,470 to acquire audio/visual equipment to improve many forms of parish evangelization

- St. Pius X School, Urbandale - \$3,000 to get flexible seating for multiple grade levels

- St. Thomas More Center, Panora - \$3,980 to update safety equipment at summer camp and year-round retreats, and purchase a new computer to better

serve those who entrust 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



Rev. James Kiernan
April 14, 1935 - May 15, 2016

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

Amen

**John & Mark Parrish,
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Welcome to the newest members of the Catholic Church

Continued from page 1

“We 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.



**Trevor Love
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.



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

“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 to 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.”

**Kevin King,
St. Augustin
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.



**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 to 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. Malachy 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,” Jen-

ny 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 Jolie, 2 all entered into the Catholic Church.

Jenny loves how St. Malachy 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

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@polkcountyia.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@saintjosephchurch.net

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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."

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.

She 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. 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.

"I get stressed 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 think 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



Dowling Catholic basketball standout Caitlin Clark said faith and family are the most important things in her life. Here she is pictured with her parents Brent and Anne and brothers Colin and Blake. The family attend St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

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.

"People 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.



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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 plan options for the schools in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Guided by Meitler 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 1,406.

"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.

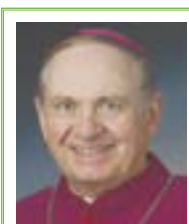
Muerte y resurrección

Una posición pública que he asumido consistentemente es el promover al 100% los referendos o la emisión de bonos en favor de la educación pública. Esto lo hago por que una educación sólida y de calidad es el pilar de nuestra democracia y economía americana. Es de vital importancia que se promueva la inversión en ese 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 12,000 jóvenes de la Diócesis de Des Moines que se benefician de la educación pública.

Al mismo tiempo, promuevo el apoyo a instituciones de reputación que pueden lograr el mismo resultado, si no mejor aún, en el sistema educativo. Se tiene la amplia expectativa de que el estado es responsable de ofrecer oportunidades a todos sus ciudadanos para que reciban educación. Pero el vehículo en que se ofrece esa educación no está exclusivamente definido.

Muchos aplauden la visión del Gobernador Tom Vilsack, quien promovió la legislación que dio origen a las Organizaciones para Colegiaturas Escolares (STO por sus siglas en inglés) en Iowa. Básicamente, lo que éstas hacen es ofrecer créditos fiscales de 65% a aquellos que donan a un STO aprobado para poder ofrecer becas para escuelas no-públicas. La Legislatura de Iowa, que recientemente terminó



By Bishop Richard Pates

su sesión, aprobó una ley que permite ahora hasta \$15 millones en créditos fiscales a donantes calificados, la cual entrará en efecto en el 2020. Traduciendo esto a los beneficios actuales que tienen los estudiantes, esto equivale a \$23 millones en asistencia.

Abeny Akec 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 \$3,300,300. Se distribuye entre esas familias que están en los niveles más bajos de ingreso y que encuentran un gran valor en la educación estilo parroquial. 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 \$327,912.50 en ayuda financiera el año pasado de parte de STOs.

La Escuela de Holy Family tiene un rango de graduación escuela preparatoria de 99% y llegan a niveles más

altos 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 tono partidista de las posiciones y reflexionar, en el análisis final, cuáles son las mejores oportunidades educativas para nuestros niños y sus familias.

Algunas consideraciones:

- 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?

- Aquellos de nosotros que promovemos la asistencia para escuelas que no son públicas no queremos quitar dinero a las escuelas públicas. Lo que hacemos 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 las normas constitucionales.

En la actualidad, la opción escolar ya es una realidad con los cambios distrito a distrito y la inscripción de estudiantes en diferentes escuelas en el mismo distrito.

- ¿No estimula el progreso la competencia sana entre sistemas calificados? ¿No es ese el estilo americano?

- ¿No tienen derecho los padres a escoger para sus hijos una educación que cumple con todos los requerimientos del estado y que al mismo tiempo refleja los valores de los padres con un costo que no sea mayor al de las escuelas públicas?

- Las escuelas no públicas acogen la misión de trabajar con los niños menos privilegiados, los pobres, los afligidos. Nuestra inversión, según lo demuestran los datos, lleva eventualmente a

vidas fuertes, independientes y orientadas en valores.

- Si el costo de la educación no pública continúa aumentando sin control, guiada básicamente por salarios justos para los maestros, ¿se convertirán estas instituciones en cunas de las élites?

- Los padres de los niños con necesidades especiales ruegan a las escuelas no públicas

Continued on page 15

Bishop’s Schedule

Friday, May 17

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 Dr. Nancy Dowdle, St. Augustin 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 Wilton 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 seminarian classmates, 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 Evening Prayer and Dinner, Corpus Christi Parish, Queen of Apostle site, 5:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 30

Des Moines – Iftar Dinner, World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, 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, MO – Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Conception Abbey

Wednesday, June 5

Des Moines – Mass with Pastoral Center Staff, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.

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

Des Moines – Ankeny Land Meeting, Mercy One, 2:30 pm

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.

Atlantic – Confirmation for Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Atlantic and St. Mary Parish, Anita, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9

Corning – Confirmation, St. Patrick Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, June 10

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

Monday, June 10 –

Tuesday, June 11

Washington, D.C. – Bread for the World Board

Monday, June 10 –

Thursday, June 13

Baltimore, MD – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Meetings

Friday, June 14

Des Moines – Iowa Catholic Radio Golf Outing, Blank Golf Course, 8 a.m.

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

Saturday, June 15

Altoona – Confirmation and reception, Ss. John & Paul Parish, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18

Norwalk – Holy Family Schools Golf 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, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 19

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

Thursday, June 20

Des Moines – Blessing of Chalices for Deacon James Downey and Deacon Mark McGeary, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 12:10 p.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 McGeary, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 7 p.m.

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.

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE for
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St. John Vianney, a vibrant parish of 2,000 families in Bettendorf, Iowa, is seeking an experienced, enthusiastic, qualified, active Catholic to serve in collaboration with the parish staff in key ministry areas of young adults, intergenerational faith formation, spiritual enrichment, and evangelization outreach. A degree in Catholic theology or equivalent experience, such as pastoral or lay ministry, is required. This full-time salaried position, with benefits, begins August 1. A complete job description is on our website: www.sjvbett.org. Application deadline is June 15. For more information contact Rev. James Vrba (frjim@sjvbett.org; 563-332-7910), or submit your resume and three references to him @ St. John Vianney Church, 4097 18th St., Bettendorf, IA 52722.

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.

Muerte y resurrección

Continued from page 14

para que eduquen a sus hijos y se molestan visiblemente cuando no podemos cumplir debido a la falta de recursos financieros.

- La evolución en la asistencia gubernamental para todos los niños de Iowa está pareciéndose cada vez más en cuentas de ahorro para educación (ESA por sus siglas en inglés). Estas son estipendios para familias que tienen niños en sistemas no públicos. Ellos generalmente llegan a equiparar la cantidad que el estado provee para los estudiantes de escuelas públicas. Los padres pueden entonces utilizar estos fondos para escoger el ambiente más apropiado para la educación de sus hijos.

Lo fundamental en todas estas consideraciones no es la meta de quitar dinero a las instituciones públicas. Es cuestión de extender los recursos disponibles, de manera gradual, para que todos nuestros niños puedan buscar una educación que beneficie sus más profundos deseos y necesidades a la vez que produce sólidos ciudadanos comprometidos con la tradición americana.

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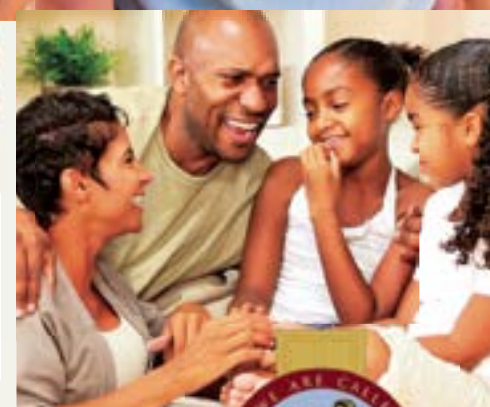


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Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. His vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength. The majority of our time is easily spent in secular 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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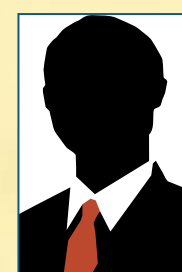
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