

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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June 21, 2019

Two will become priests on June 21

All are invited to 7 p.m.
ordination at
St. Ambrose Cathedral

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Transitional Deacons James Downey and Mark McGeary will be ordained into the priesthood Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines. All are invited to attend the ordination Mass and reception to follow across the street at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Their new assignments will begin July 11.

Deacon Mark McGeary will serve as parochial vicar at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

Deacon James Downey will serve as parochial vicar at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny from July-September, 2019. Then he will attend 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.

Before ordination, Deacon McGeary studied at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois and Deacon Downey studied at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City.

It was a lengthy road to get to ordination – one Deacon McGeary wishes he would have started a long time ago.

"Listening to God's voice, slowing down the outside world allowed me to really hear what God's will for me was," Deacon McGeary said. "This has been a very challenging [time] of my life having been away from college for so long, but the reality is that it's been the most rewarding [time] of my life. I've grown tremendously with my relationship with Christ, which is the most important thing in the world."

He admits he didn't always see things that way. At one time, Deacon McGeary worked in a fast-paced career in advertising.

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A new beginning

As graduates leave their familiar schools for the next phase in their lives, they reflect on the people and values that have influenced them.



Brian Martinez, of Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs, graduated this spring from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs. He celebrated his graduation with mother Francisca Ramos and sister Sonia Martinez Ramos. He will be fighting forest fires this summer on the West Coast, and plans on attending Iowa Western Iowa Community College before transferring to the University of Nebraska - Omaha. He dreams of opening his own business after college. He enjoys his parish community and appreciates the Spanish Mass.

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

In May, hundreds of young people across the diocese marked one of life's biggest milestones: graduating high school. A few young adults shared their thoughts and reflections on their parishes, high school careers and what's next as they embark on early adulthood and college.

**Brian Martinez
Corpus Christi Parish, Council Bluffs**

Brian Martinez recently graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School, and will take on a big job this summer fighting forest fires on the West Coast.

"I will be a wildland firefighter..." Martinez said. "My uncle's company is based in Oregon."

He'll be extinguishing flames in Oregon, Washington and California.

In the fall, he'll begin attending Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs. He'll study there for two years before transferring to the University of Nebraska – Omaha to earn his bachelor's degree in business.

"I want to be a business owner," Martinez said.

He has fond memories of high school.

"The teachers and friendships and bonds you create [were the highlights]," he said. "I really enjoyed my time there. There's definitely a lot of staff that truly care about furthering the education of their students."

Martinez is happy he'll be able to continue attending Corpus Christi Parish.

"I really enjoy going to church," he said. "I like that they've always made an effort to have a Spanish Mass. There are a lot of Hispanics in the area and I like that they take the initiative."

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Graduates express gratitude for support, love and faith

These speeches were edited for space. Go to dmdiocese.org to read the full speeches.

**By Henry DeAngelis
Pax Christi
Commencement Speech
Dowling Catholic High School**

Dowling's mission is for us to be Leaders for Life, Centered on Christ and while Dowling nurtured us for four years, succeeding as Leaders for Life, Centered on Christ in the future takes intentionality.

This toothpick bridge was built by Jackson Fischer and me in sixth grade, and since then it has traveled with me, through numerous moves, and rested on many a bookshelf. It may not be

the prettiest, and is in dire need of repair, but it has stood the test of time, and for the last few years

has represented not only Jackson to me, but what he was best at doing, making friends. A project that asked us to build a toothpick bridge out of hot glue, cardboard, and of course, toothpicks, ended up being the project where we would build our friendship.



**Gracie Springman
Class of 2019
St. Albert Catholic School**

Today is the day most of us have been waiting for since the first day of senior year. It almost seems unreal that our high school years have come to a close. Many lessons have been learned from both successes and failures that we have experienced with our time at St. Albert. It is hard to think that this graduating class of 2019 will be facing new triumphs and struggles in the months to come.

To this point in our lives, it is important to look

back and express gratitude towards the people that paved the path to where we are now. All of our successes and accomplishments could not have been made possible without the people around us. I would like to thank our parents, teachers, grandparents, and guardians for the sacrifice you have made for each one of us. I would also like to thank



Continued on page 14

The Father Jim Kiernan Initiative:

Guiding Principles on Compensation

Bishop Richard Pates, upon the positive recommendations of the Presbyteral and Finance Councils of the Diocese of Des Moines, establishes as Diocesan Policy for all parishes, schools and institutions of the Diocese of Des Moines effective July 1, 2019, "The Father Jim Kiernan Initiative: Guiding Principles on Compensation."

Father Jim Kiernan had scheduled appointment with me a few days after he died on May 15, 2016. His purpose was to advocate a living wage for all employees in our Catholic parishes, schools and other operations in the Diocese of Des Moines.

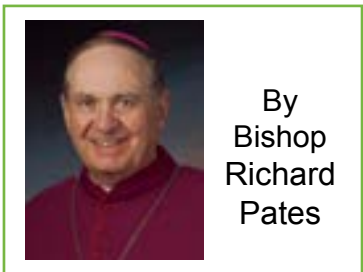
This advocacy was assumed by his nephew, Peter Kiernan, and Father Dave Polich. Consultation was conducted with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council as well as the Diocesan Finance Council. The outcome was a document entitled "Guiding Principles on Compensation." It was approved by both councils and recommended to me for implementation.

With this communication, I call for the full adoption of these principles by each parish and school by July 1, 2019. As a full commitment to this aspect of social justice, all of us Catholics desire that those who serve us be accorded the dignity that is theirs by providing just wages. Moreover, through this initiative, we are desirous of bringing a moral witness to the

broader society.

The aspirational goal is to move toward paying church workers a minimum of \$15/hour. Finding it important to model this goal, the Diocese of Des Moines, with the exception of a high school worker, has achieved this minimum rate among our lay employees. Our particular focus these last 10 years, at the diocese, has been to steadily upgrade the compensation scale for those at the lower end of the pay range. To some degree, this has been achieved by our reaching the minimum \$15 pay scale. We are committed to continue moving forward in this direction so that our valuable employees can provide for themselves and their families.

This initiative also embraces those employees who serve our institutions on a contracted basis. Father Kiernan felt compelled to take up the cause of decent pay for them when he learned of the grossly insufficient wage of a person who was employed by a contractor in service of an institution in which he lived. He personally benefited



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

from the assistance of the worker.

I am fully aware that these new regulations may require additional generosity and some initial strain on finances. The Diocese of Des Moines, though, has been blessed by extraordinary generosity. The aggregate parish income has grown by 32% since 2010. Thus, ostensibly, there are some available funds to address the issue of compensation.

All of us want to do what is necessary to provide resources for our Church employees that recognize their dignity and value. I am grateful to Father Jim Kiernan and subsequently to his nephew Peter and Father Dave Polich for faithfully pursuing the justice which should characterize our institutions. Further applause is directed to the Finance Council of the Diocese of Des Moines and its Presbyteral Council for developing and espousing church financial practices that will achieve these goals.

I feel privileged and fortunate to establish "The Father Jim Kiernan Initiative" as policy for the Diocese of Des Moines.

Diocese of Des Moines Father Jim Kiernan Initiative Guiding Principles on Compensation

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

— St. Teresa of Avila

Since its establishment by Christ, the Catholic Church has been called to preach the gospel to all people, inviting them to walk in ways of faith within the Christian community. The charge to preach the gospel brings with it the responsibility to live and give witness to the gospel, being responsive to the basic human rights of people, among which are the right to employment and just wages.

1. Every employee has a right to a just compensation that provides for the ordinary needs of workers. These include not only the bare necessities like food, shelter, clothing, and health care, but also other items to permit a person to live in dignity.

2. All persons also have a right to security in the event of sickness, disability, unemployment, and old age.

3. The dignity of workers requires adequate health care, healthful working conditions, weekly rest, periodic holidays, vacation for recreation/leisure and reasonable security against arbitrary dismissal.

4. It is only in the context of Christian stewardship that the Catholic Church can realize its responsibility for just compensation of its employees. Stewardship also implies that the local community exercise sound management and fiscal responsibility (e.g. development of a budget) of the resources to which it has been entrusted and communicate through transparency.

5. Compensation packages are in response to the economic conditions and cost of living in an area, as determined by reviewing external criteria available from public and private sources. In addition, these packages are non-discriminatory and consistent with teachings of the Catholic Church including current federal, state, and IRS regulations and guidelines.

6. Compensation is ordinarily determined through the application of the Catholic Church's social teachings, basing one's compensation upon educational level, experience, level of competence of the individual, and assigned responsibilities as these relate to the position.

Bishop's Schedule

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.

Saturday, June 22

Des Moines – Confirmation, Christ the King Parish, 5 p.m. Sunday, June 23

Des Moines – Christ the King and St. Anthony Parishes' Corpus Christi Celebration, St. Anthony Parish, 11 a.m.

Thursday, June 27

Des Moines – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

Thursday, June 27 –

Saturday, June 29

Omaha, NE – Catholic Climate Covenant Conference, Creighton University

Friday, June 28

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

Saturday, June 29

Des Moines – Mike Mahoney

and Jason Lee Rite of Candidacy Mass, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 30

Des Moines – 10th Anniversary Mass, St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community, 10:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Sending Mass for Hispanic Lay Formation Class, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, July 2 – July 24 Vacation

Friday, July 5

Des Moines – "In the Heartland

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

Friday, July 12

Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates", Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines;

KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Friday, July 19

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

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Correction

Father Chris Hartshorn's celebration of his 25th anniversary of ordination to priesthood is July 27 with 4 p.m. Mass and a cookout following Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. The Catholic Mirror printed an incorrect date in the May edition of the newspaper.



Bishop Richard Pates celebrated Mass at St. Theresa Church in Des Moines



Father James Ahenkora celebrated Mass at St. Patrick Cemetery near Massena.

Catholic Charities resettling refugees

Despite drop in refugees entering the United States, the Des Moines Catholic Charities office is reuniting families

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

The number of refugees entering the United States for resettlement has dropped significantly in the past few years as a result of changes in the annual presidential determination, which occurs each October.



Elsie Rotich

In 2017 approximately 110,000 refugees were allowed into the United States, said Elsie Rotich, refugee resettlement program manager at Catholic Charities in Des Moines.

In 2018, it was set at 45,000 across the country. The presidential determination for refugee admissions for fiscal year 2019 was set at 30,000 refugees.

"It's really slowed down," Rotich added. She estimates about 100 Catholic Charities organizations have closed their refugee offices."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is the largest of the nine voluntary agencies that have contracts with the federal government for processing refugees for resettlement in the United States. Catholic Charities Des Moines is a recognized USCCB provider in offering refugee resettlement services.

The Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Office in Des Moines, which focuses almost entirely on family reunifications, has felt the effects of these changes, Rotich added.

"We used to resettle about 213 people every year,"

Rotich said. "We had people from Congo, Burma, Eritrea, Bhutan and Somalia."

"I feel really bad about the Somali clients – that really affects family reunifications and their families cannot join them," Rotich added.

Members of the family awaiting reunification sit in refugee camps for years to get word when they will be coming to the United States to be reunited with relatives already here in Des Moines.

"They were separated in a refugee camp, or because of the war people fled to different countries," Rotich said.

Some people lose hope they will be able to come to the United States after waiting for years, and they take advantage of opportunities to leave camps and be resettled in Australia or Canada, despite their families being here.

The refugee resettlement community is working hard on advocacy, talking to legislators about the humanitarian crisis and the need for programs to help refugees, Rotich said. They also advocate for funding to provide English classes for the refugees already here.

"There's a lot of uncertainty in the refugee resettlement world," Rotich added. "Agencies are closing and this is really destroying the infrastructure that has been there for a long time. Once they close it's difficult for them to come open again."

The future remains uncertain for those waiting to find a place to call home.

"It's a huge humanitarian crisis," Rotich concluded. "About 65 million around the world are waiting to be resettled."



Dah Poe was reunited with her sister Paw Ah in March at the Des Moines airport. The sisters fled their home country of Burma because of persecution. Wasan Waham, case manager at Catholic Charities (left), assisted with the reunification.

Dr. Barbara Decker, executive director of Catholic Charities in Des Moines, said they will continue to welcome and serve those refugees coming to Des Moines.

"While we have experienced fewer refugees coming to Des Moines in recent years, for 2019, we were notified by US CCB of an increase of refugees to Catholic Charities and to our community," she said.

"At Catholic Charities, we initially welcome all refugees at the airport, and for the next few months we help settle them in their new surroundings. No matter the numbers set by the annual presidential determination, our staff demonstrates a deep and personal commitment to all refugee families, providing needed education and overall services with dignity and compassion," she said.

To date, the program has welcomed 131 of the anticipated 175 clients this year.

Since 1975, Catholic Charities, in partnership with the Bishop and the diocese, has assisted in the resettlement of refugees fleeing to the United States

from war and other dangers.

Learn more about the Des Moines Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program and how you can help at catholiccharitiesdm.org/our-services/refugee-resettlement.

Opportunity to lend a helping hand

Catholic Charities of Des Moines is looking for partners for its Refugee Resettlement program. Come to a meeting July 23, 5-7 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center to learn more.

A few teams of three to five volunteers are needed to meet with refugee families for four months after their 90-day settlement with Catholic Charities has ended.

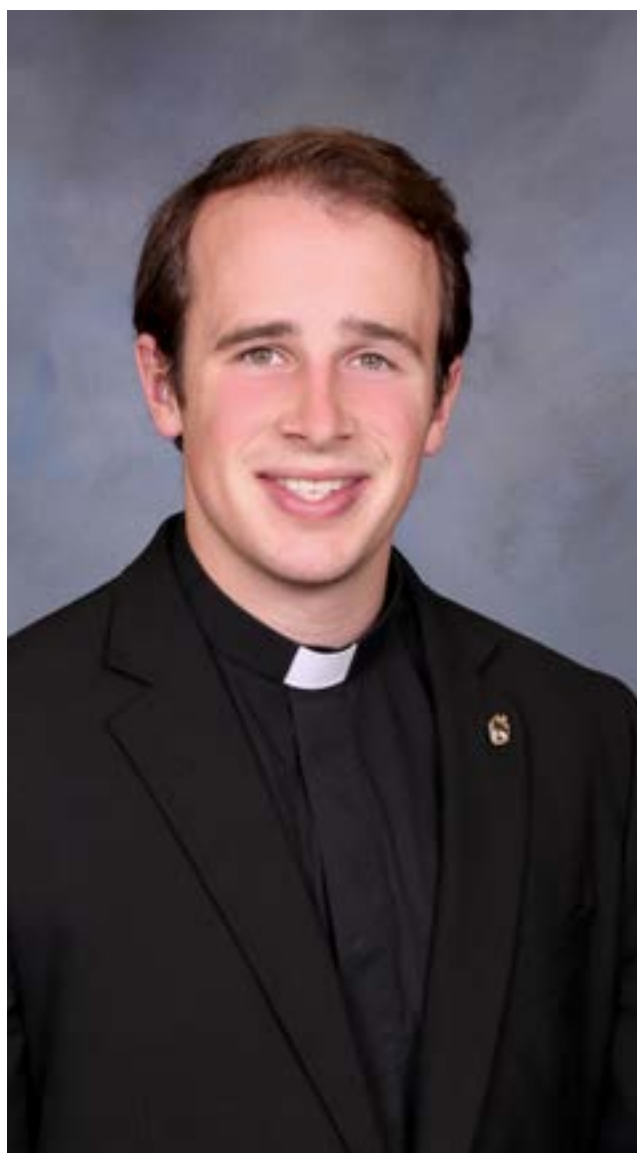
The opportunity to welcome the newcomers to the community could mean teaching the refugee family about Des Moines and surrounding area, practicing English, learning about different cultures in central Iowa and helping the family meet its goals to become self sufficient.

Interested? Contact Monica Sodergren at msodergren@catholiccharitiesdm.org or call 515-237-5068.

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Honor flights offer healing to vets

For one year beginning in June 1968, I was a paratrooper combat infantryman in the Vietnam war.

I went as a naïve young Iowa boy, and returned as a bitter, hardened individual, as did many soldiers at that time.

All the typical demons of those who served our country were carried on the backs of the newly discharged. For the veterans who served in Vietnam in combat situations, it was difficult to stay employed and out of jail.

It was a crazy war, as are all, it seems!

Despite the anger and resentment for being in the war, and anger for living a life mostly outside the law, and resentment for the effects of the war, I felt called to be a deacon in 2006.

I was eventually ordained a permanent deacon by Bishop Richard Pates in August 2010. My ministry is serving at the Bishop Drumm complex that serves the elderly and I served the veterans at the Veterans Administration hospital for eight years.

On Tuesday, May 21, I joined 240 other veterans on a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the various memorials of the various conflicts.

There were veterans from World War II, from the Korean War, and from the Vietnam war on the flight. It was a one-day whirlwind event that touched a lot of hearts.

The Honor Flight trip shed a new light on the experiences of many of the veterans. We shared stories, shed tears and had moments of joy. It brought about healing, much like reconciliation does.

When veterans like me returned from Vietnam, we were to a significant degree treated as outcasts, dregs of society for our participation in a war we did not start or condone.

It was normal for those returning from Vietnam to take on the stigma of being

Guest Column

By Deacon Terry Schleisman



bad or unworthy for following the orders of our superiors.

The Honor Flight lifted that stigma.

The trip was a healing event, relieving us of the bad self image most of us had carried for decades. We unendingly encountered people who spoke of their thankfulness for our service to our country and our defense of freedom as we know it.

When we arrived at Dulles International Airport in DC, we were met with a double line of people who thanked us and wanted to shake our hands or give us a hug in appreciation for our service. This line weaved through the entire lobby of Dulles airport! The reception we received in a town not our hometown was amazing. How did all these people know? What brought them out here to do this?

It will take a while to process all that happened that day.

My first reaction is that God was rewarding me for being faithful to him through these 50 years. It strikes me that Vietnam and all I did, and all I saw, was the training for me to being a deacon.

Thank you, Jesus, for my faith and for that day.

Deacon Terry Schleisman has been assigned to St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart for seven years and charitable ministry at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center. He served at Drumm for 20 years as volunteer with nine of those years as a deacon. He was ordained in August of 2010.



Top photo: Deacon Terry Schleisman, on the May 21 honor Flight to Washington, D.C., kneels at the Vietnam Memorial wall with his hand on the etched names of Charles Brazier and Theodore Mendez, who were killed by a white phosphorous grenade a week after Deacon Schleisman left the country. Brazier was his Jeep driver and Mendez was his mentor.

Above: Deacon Schleisman with Kevin Hudachek, the manager of a HyVee in Ankeny. HyVee was a major sponsor of the trip. Hudachek helped veterans who needed assistance.

How to accept criticism:A spiritual exercise

More than 19 million people tuned in to watch the final episode of “Game of Thrones” May 19, making it the most viewed show to ever air on HBO.

Yet many were dissatisfied with what they saw, hurling gripe after grouse online. The finale didn’t fit the ethos of the show, they insisted. It was overly sentimental. It tarnished the show’s legacy. More than 1 million people signed an online petition to re-make the show’s final season.

Several “Game of Thrones” actors took umbrage, including Sophie Turner, who called the criticism “disrespectful” and defended the show’s writers and filmmakers.

Whether the many critiques are fair remains subject to debate, but one fact gives me pause: the petition was drafted

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



before the show’s finale aired, meaning a million people lobbied for a re-made season before seeing how it would resolve.

We live in an unfortunate era for online criticism. Critics fling insults they would never dare utter face to face. Defendants – typically privileged public figures – bristle with self-righteousness, dubbing their critics “haters,” earning praise for “clapping back” in their own defense.

I wonder if we’re growing too defensive. When we clap back so fiercely, do we take the time to consider the criticism? Are we cooling down enough to find the teaching moment in the hot exchange? Or are we digging our heels in and sticking our fingers in our ears?

A media executive once offered a handy guide on when to take criticism to heart. Ask yourself two questions about your critic, she said: Can you trust that this person is acting in good faith and not on some ulterior motive? Does this person have some knowledge of this particular situation that I do not?

If the answers are yes, then heed their words. If the answers are no, make like Taylor Swift and shake it off.

Lately I’ve been struggling to determine when to be gentle with myself and when to push myself to a higher standard. In my sleep-deprived days with an infant, it’s easy to justify the former. But there are moments I look at my choices and I know I can do better. More green smoothies, earlier bedtimes. Less binge TV, fewer donuts. I know it’s all connected: sleep, sugar, the limits of my patience, the frequency of my prayer.

I used to cling to St. Francis de Sales’ quote: “Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself.” It is so tender, so loving.

But I’d been missing his subsequent statement, meant to be taken as a whole, to moderate the first part:

“Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them. Every day begin the task anew.”

This is a high bar: address a shortcoming “instantly.”

St. Francis’ charge is two-fold, pointing us to a middle ground: to both be patient with yourself and to consider your imperfections.

Catholic spirituality equips us with the tools for an examination of conscience and asks us to do so bravely, honestly, daily. This may be harder to do than ever before, in this time when social media makes our personal lives feel public, and we sink in the quicksand of fearing others’ judgment while too readily casting judgments of our own.

It may be harder to do than ever before but also more important. We must learn to cast aside unfounded criticism while accepting difficult feedback from trusted sources: a sibling or spouse, a spiritual director, a confessor. And then, with courage and humility, we can “set about remedying” and find a path toward progress. Again and again, sunrise, sunset – we can begin anew.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

We have received your recent check for \$5,847.46, which we posted to the 2018 Catholic Home Missions Appeal. We also received your recent check for \$24,173.66 for the 2018 Disaster Special Collection. I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in your diocese.

Sincerely
Nicole Germain
Office of National Collections
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Ask a Priest

Q. What are your thoughts/comments for people that feel compelled to walk out of Mass after taking communion – or those that don't stay long enough for the recessional song to be finished? – Carol, Des Moines.

A. YOU HIT A NERVE with people who love the liturgy. What's the minimum I can do?

If your child had a nice birthday party, how would you feel if all the kids left right after having some of the birthday cake? Tacky, isn't it?

Or think of it this way: You prepare a wonderful Christmas dinner and schedule it for 5 p.m. When the clock strikes 5, many of the invitees have not yet arrived. When they do arrive, they just come directly in to the dining room with their coats on and sit at the table. After eating some of the meal, they get up and rush out the door. Would grandma think they were worthy guests? I suspect not.

Every analogy limps somewhat, but you get the idea. Of course, occasionally people need to leave for good reasons, but if it's a chronic pattern of behavior, they need to take some lessons in basic etiquette.

Q. Pope Francis has said that many of the problems in the Church are caused by clericalism. What does he mean?

A. CLERICALISM IS THE mistaken notion that some people in the Church are better than others, that some people are more worthy, that some people are more important.

Clearly that was not the vision that Jesus showed to his followers.

Over the centuries, clerical dress made the divide more obvious.

Looking through the New Testament, we never encounter the disciples wearing anything that distinguishes them from others.

Jesus didn't know what a Roman collar was.

St. Paul writes about the diversity of gifts that can be found in the community of believers. No one is more important than anyone else. Every gift or charism is given for the good of all.

Several times, Pope Francis has taken to task the Roman Curia (those who work in Vatican offices) about acting high and mighty. Instead, Francis reminds them that they are there to serve the greater Church, not themselves. One of the titles of the Bishop of Rome is "servant of the servants of God." Some clerics have gotten it just the other way around.

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

A new beginning for graduates

Continued from page 1

Elsie Schafer
St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Ayr



Elsie Schafer of St. Joseph Parish in Mt. Ayr, graduated Mount Ayr Community High School this year. She's looking forward to attending Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota to study psychology. She hopes to one day go to medical school and study psychiatry or neurology.

Schafer was active throughout high school in individual and large group speech and group.

She's also a singer.

"I sing for all of our home athletic events – football, basketball, sometimes track and softball and baseball," Schafer said.

She sang for FFA, the Iowa State Fair and even sang the National Anthem at Principal Park in Des Moines.

Schafer's been involved in local plays throughout her time in high school and had the opportunity to be Mary Poppins for the school play, Schafer said.

She's also active at her parish, St. Joseph in Mt. Ayr.

"I'm a Bible school teacher," she said. "I teach kindergarten and first grade Catholicism with a fellow classmate. We

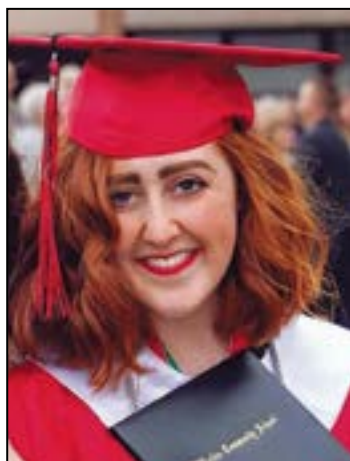
get students accustomed to what's going on at church and help them understand the basics."

She's a lector and volunteers with the parish.

Schafer said she's looking forward to her independence, but will miss her parish community and hometown.

"We're a pretty close knit family there and everybody knows everybody," Schafer said. "When you move to a larger town that's not always the case."

Caitlin Bissen
St. Michael Parish, Harlan



Caitlin Bissen of St. Michael Parish in Harlan recently graduated from Harlan High School. She plans to attend Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois to major in theater and minor in music.

"My career goals or aspirations after college is to work for a theater company – whether that's community theater or professional theater," Bissen said. "I want to work in that capacity in some way, whether it's a writer or producer or director."

She shared her theater talents with the local community growing up. Bissen was president of the drama club and helped start the community theater in Harlan.

"I got to be an assistant director for our Hairspray musi-

cal and also got to student direct a spring play and do all the casting," Bissen continued.

She graduated in the top 10 of her class and gave a speech at the graduation ceremony.

"[In my speech] I alluded to the point that in kindergarten we planted the seeds in the milk cartons and how those grew," Bissen said. "And then when they grew they all looked similar. And I made that connection to all of us – how we are graduating. We were planted in the Harlan community, had the same support, and even though we all bloomed differently into our passions, we all shared the same roots in that we came from Harlan."

She has been actively involved at her parish with singing, faith formation, service projects, fish fry dinners and liturgical events.

"My faith is important to me, because it's taught me to love everybody you meet," Bissen said. "I think that's very important as you go to college when you meet people with different backgrounds. I try to be understanding with them and love them as God has loved you. And in that way I know I am doing what God wants me to do. That's important. I know that no matter what trials I face...he's there for me to show me the way."

Tessa Powers
Holy Spirit Parish, Creston



Tessa Powers of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston recently graduated Creston High School. She was valedictorian of her class.

She plans to attend Southwest Community College in Creston in the fall and eventually transfer to one of the four year colleges in Iowa to study something in the field of science.

Powers was involved in band, speech team, the National Honor Society and 4-H.

Though she'll miss some of her friends, Powers is happy her family and parish community will be close by while she's attending community college.

"I definitely enjoy going to church," Powers said. "It's nice to see people in the community there, and my faith has definitely helped me through school."

"My faith will definitely guide me in the future and keeps me on the right track," she concluded.

**Aug
4th**

10:30AM to 9:00PM

OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1271 E 9TH Street Des Moines, Iowa 50316

OLOAFestival 2019

August 4 from 10:30am to 9:00pm

latin food entertainment live music dances family activities

Henry DeAngelis speech

Continued from page 1

It was reflecting back on how Jackson and I became friends that I realized how good he was at making friends, after all - it's what he did. And through this great skill he taught us, as a class, how to build OUR bridge.

So, over these four years, we as a class became the living embodiment of this toothpick bridge. We all started off as separate toothpicks, ready to be built, but not knowing how we would fit together or what we would create. And Dowling is the cardboard on which we built our bridge. Giving us the solid support we needed to build upon.

Our relationships and connections are the glue that holds us all together.

Each moment of adversity is the bridge being tested. Over the years we as a class have faced a lot of adversity, from all trying to pass that one class we just didn't quite get, to shoveling our cars out of the snow, to all the personal battles we've fought inside our heads.

Each bit of adversity is a test. And the question during these tests is always the same. Will we stick together as a community? Or will we crack under the weight?

Now, each time we struggled, or made a mistake a little glue strand might have broken off, or a toothpick might have shifted its place, but overall our bridge still held, because those people, or relationships, still had other toothpicks and glue strands to lean on.

But sometimes there are tests that put the entire bridge under stress. From world events, to the passing of someone in our community whether it be Jackson Fischer, or Reubin Alcoy, Trevor Schwager, Mrs. Swanson, or any of the other members we lost during our time at Dowling.

Every time our community has gone through one of these events, though, it has been Dowling and our faith, that has kept us upright, Dowling that has only ever let our bridge bend to a knee in prayer.

So, although we are all leaving Dowling I will be leaving this toothpick bridge that has represented Jackson Fischer to me for so many years at Dowling, as a way for our class, and the school to remember him for years to come.

As we leave Dowling, we will once again become individual toothpicks, who will go to a new school that will become our cardboard, and will build new relationships that will become the glue that will hold our new structures together.

Watch DeAngelis give his speech at: [youtube.com/watch?v=C-9oABb5S68&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-9oABb5S68&t=12s)

Walking in Wonder July 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Schuyler, NE



In the challenging times of today, the **labyrinth** of old invites us anew into engaging more deeply with our loving God, navigating through confusion to greater clarity, all the while encircled in God's mystery. **Margie Walker**, as teacher, spouse, and mother of six, has been a spiritual director and retreat leader for 30 years. Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com

BLOOM: Because Loving Ourselves and Others Matters July 27, 9 a.m. - July 28, 12 p.m. Schuyler, NE



This **retreat** for mothers and daughters, ages 11-14, will deepen communication for growth into mature womanhood. Sessions connect faith, relationships and healthy loving in ways that are rooted in gospel teaching. Includes outdoor activities, weather permitting, and Mass. Directors: **Julie Delkamiller, Ph.D., Deb Waskowiak** and team. Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com

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

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
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402.352.8819

Around the diocese

June 17-30

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

LOGAN -- St. Anne Church is hosting an exhibit from Spirit Catholic Radio of Eucharistic Miracles of the World featuring 40 detailed vinyl panels highlighting miracles. No charge. Open to the public noon to 7 p.m. Thursday through Sundays. To schedule a group visit outside those days or times, call 712-644-2520 and leave a message or email stanne@iowatelecom.net.

June 25 Tuesday

Celebration of Life for Sister JoAnne Talarico

JOHNSTON -- There will be a celebration of the life of Sister JoAnne Talarico, CHM at 1 p.m. in Our Lady Of Peace Chapel in the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center.

Catholic Widows and Widowers

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

June 28-30 Friday-Sunday 50th Class Reunion

WEST DES MOINES -- The St. Joseph Academy and Dowling Catholic High School class of 1969 will hold its 50th class reunion on June 28-29. Friday will be at Blank Golf Course Club House, from 6-11 p.m. Lunch for the St. Joseph Academy will be at 11 a.m. at Tavern Pizza and Pasta Grill, in West Des Moines. On Saturday meet at Pal Joeys in West Des Moines for sandwiches, etc. and a cash bar. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Dowling Catholic High School chapel.

June 30 Sunday Concert

DES MOINES -- St. Augustin Parish performing arts presents Winner-Rivera Duo Chamber Music Concert at 4 p.m. Cost is a freewill offering.

July 5 Friday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- First Friday Mass at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity. Breakfast follows at Perkins on Merle Hay Road. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

July 10 Wednesday Marian Movement

DES MOINES -- St. Pius X Parish will be hosting Father Richard Cortese from Memphis, Tennessee, the national director of the Marian Movement of Priests. Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. with Cenacle and refreshments to follow. Contact Chris at 515-979-7813 with any questions.

July 17 Wednesday Summer salad luncheon

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #330 is holding a fundraiser

luncheon from 11 a.m. -- 1:30 p.m. at St. Peter Parish Hall. The cost of \$7 per plate goes into our charitable donations program. Carry out lunches are available. Raffle tickets for great prizes are \$1. For more information go to www.cda330.org.

July 18 Thursday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- Picnic at Union Park, 2900 Saylor Road. Bring a sack lunch and a drink for yourself. Meet at the Shelter House at 10 a.m. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

July 23 Tuesday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

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

July 25-27 Thurs.-Sat.

Rummage Sale

ANKENY -- Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish is hold its annual rummage sale: Thursday, July 25, 4-8 p.m. (Early bird entrance is 4

-- 5 p.m. with a \$5 fee), Friday, July 26, 8 a.m. -- 7 p.m. and Saturday, July 27, 8 a.m. to noon.

August 4 Sunday Chicken Dinner

ST. MARYS -- Immaculate Conception Parish is holding its annual chicken dinner from 12:30-5:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. Doors will open at noon. Cost is \$10/adults and \$5/children ages 3-10. No Tip. Take-outs available at the east door. Bingo and quilts of valor displayed.

Cavins Visit

ANKENY -- Jeff Cavins nd the God Squad will be at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish 6:30-8 p.m. Preceding the presentation, the OLIH Foundation will offer a pulled pork dinner. Sign up for the dinner at olih.org under Parish Events. Childcare available for those who register ahead of time.

Sunday evening Mass

GREENFIELD -- St. John Parish will have low-key Sunday evening Masses at 5 p.m. from the 1st Sunday of June through the last Sunday of August.

St. Jean Vianney relic draws crowd for veneration



Photo by Clare Heinrich

Many people came to view the relic of St. Jean Vianney during its visit to St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines on June 1.

By Clare Heinrich Staff Writer

The incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney visited St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines on June 1.

This first-class relic from the Shrine of Ars, France, has been travelling with the Knights of Columbus on a nationwide pilgrimage across the United States from November 2018 to June 2019.

St. Jean Vianney (also known as St. John Vianney) was

born in 1786 in Dardilly, France and died in 1859. In a time when many were indifferent to the Catholic faith, St. Jean Vianney transformed the small parish of Ars through prayer, fasting, and penance. He was so devoted to the conversion of souls that he would offer the sacrament of reconciliation for 12-16 hours a day. Upwards of 20,000 pilgrims would journey to Ars to listen to him each year.

Parishioners from across the Diocese of Des Moines were honored to venerate the relic.

"It's not every day you get to see something like this," said Nicholas Bigelow, member of St. Augustin Parish.

The Knights provided prayer cards of St. Jean Vianney to touch to the heart, turning them into third-class relics, and invited others to bring holy objects like crosses and rosaries to do the same. Many visitors were content to simply see the relic, offering short prayers in veneration.

"Never pass up an opportunity to have a holy moment," said Colleen Boatwright, member of St. Augustin Parish.

For more information, email vianney@kofc.org.

Rally

Sunday

Commemorative Mass

FOR FR. JIM KIERNAN WITH CAR SHOW

SUNDAY, JULY 7 | 9 AM

ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL AT
DOWLING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

No Registration Required • Please Drive Your Vehicle Collectible Car to display after Mass
For additional questions, please contact Peter Kiernan at peter.kiernan@gmail.com.

Catholic Daughters convention



The Iowa Catholic Daughters of the Americas held their 53rd biennial convention April 26-28 in Okoboji.

National Regent Elect Sherry Nilles, of St. Patrick Parish in Sheldon, returned to her home state for the event.

Nilles explained how the Catholic Daughters have changed over the 116-year history of the group. They'll continue to evolve and embrace change, she said.

New officers installed are: 1st Vice State Regent Rita Carlson, Holy Trinity Parish in Fort Dodge; 2nd Vice State Regent Kaye Stock Arndorfer,

St. Laurence Parish in Carroll; State Secretary Suzanne Torrey of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cherokee; and State Treasurer Sandra Burgart, of Holy Family Parish in New Hampton.

The newly elected 2021 Nomination Committee members are: Judy Block, of St. Mary Parish in Ashton, Becky Larson, of St. Peter & Paul Parish in West Bend, Julie Norland, of St. Cecilia Parish in Algona, Christina Rosch, of Holy Trinity Parish in Fort Dodge, Brenda Vore, of St. Michael Parish in Sioux City, and alternate Carol Hollenback, of St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs.

Bishop Drumm celebrates its 80th anniversary Join in July 9

Eighty years ago, the Sisters of Mercy started Bishop Drumm Retirement Community for aging seniors in the Des Moines community supplying compassionate care and creating a history of innovation.

The Bishop Drumm community invites everyone to celebrate 80 years of service on Tuesday, July 9 at 4 p.m. with food and entertainment at 5837 Winwood Dr. in Johnston. Go to homeishere.org for details.

The Bishop Drumm community strives for innovation in providing good care. It had the first Alzheimer Care Unit in Polk County and was the second certified Assisted Living facility.

Today, CHI Living Communities Bishop Drumm Retirement Center continues that tradition of ministry by providing care that meets all levels of need from independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and rehabilitation to long-term care.

Last fall, Bishop Drumm earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Nursing Care Center Accreditation and Post-Acute Care Certification. It was the first organization in Iowa to do so.

Throughout this anniversary year, Bishop Drumm has celebrated with planned activities such as:

- 80 reflections of our history in pictures, thoughts, and prayers;
- 80 acts of random kindness throughout our community;
- 80th anniversary community celebration on July 9.

Celebration of Life for Sister JoAnne Talarico

A celebration of the life of Sister JoAnne Talarico, CHM will be June 25 at 1 p.m. in Our Lady Of Peace Chapel in the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston.

Feast of Corpus Christi Grotto Mass and Eucharistic Procession

JOIN US FOR THE 1ST COMBINED CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

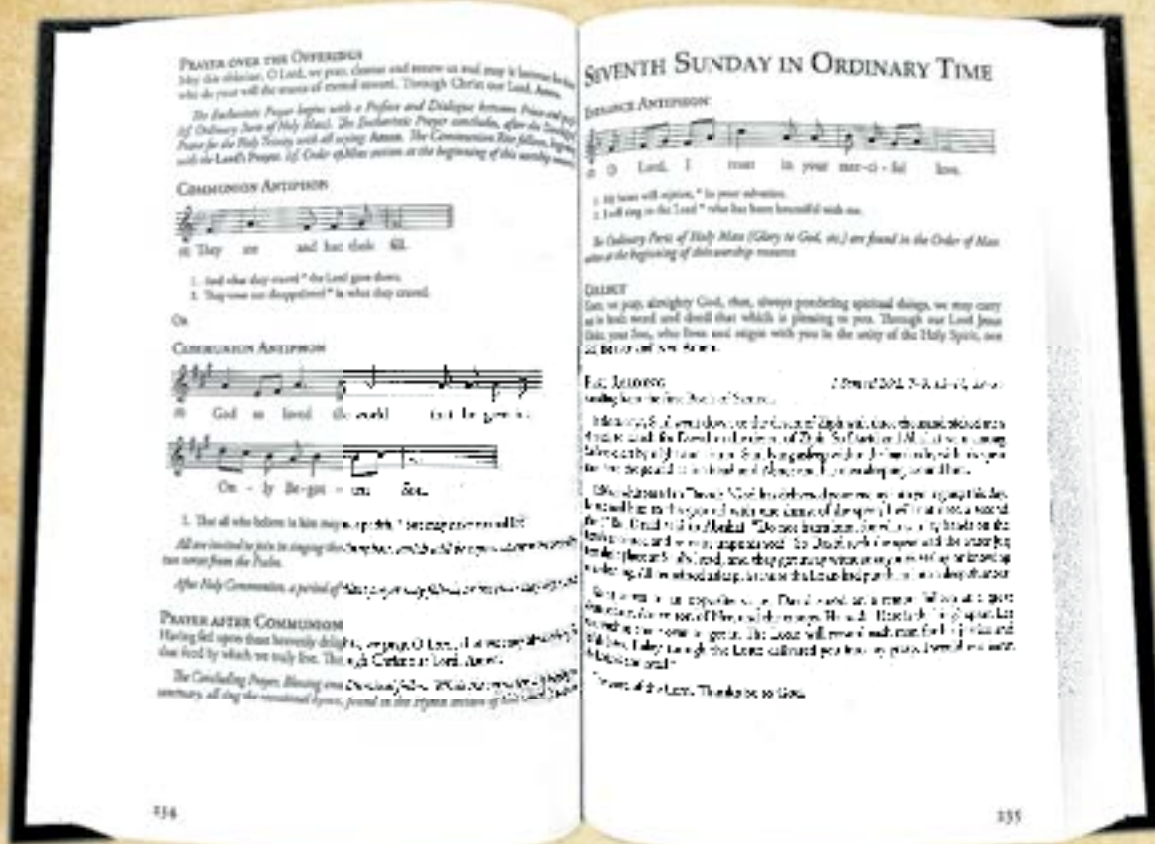
Saint Anthony Church & Christ the King Church

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



A New Missalette for Participation in the Liturgy: *Sing a New Song*



The Best Worship Resource You'll Ever Find!

Sing A New Song is a Catholic worship resource combining new music settings for the Entrance and Communion Antiphons of the Roman Missal with the Readings and Psalms of the Lectionary for Mass to provide a comprehensive and reusable resource for the Mass. The music settings are arranged and composed by **Rt. Rev. Marcel Rooney, O.S.B.**, creating melodies accessible to average parishioners. The Masses are organized by the Roman Calendar, with Liturgical Years A, B, and C each represented within a separate volume. These hard-cover volumes have the benefit of being as long-lasting as the Roman Missal and Lectionary, eliminating the need for annual, soft-cover resources.

Volumes A and C are available to order from **A-R Editions** in Middleton, Wisconsin. Volume B will be published in 2020.

To learn more about **Sing A New Song**, call Lance Ottman at 608-203-2569 or visit <https://www.areditions.com/publishing-services/sing-a-new-song.html>

“For Christians, marriage, which has its origin in God the Creator, also implies a re

Engaged couple says Catholic faith is a priority

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Their relationship began with a dance.

“Camden asked me to a dance our junior year of high school at Dowling, and we started dating a couple of months later...” said Sydney Bishop, now 22 and a lifelong member of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines. “We’ve pretty much been together ever since then.”

After graduating high school and into college, the two continued dating, though they were now hundreds of miles apart.

After attending Truman State University in Missouri for one year, Sydney returned to Des Moines to study nursing at Mercy College while Camden went to Notre Dame.

“That’s when he independently owned a Catholic identity and wanted to pursue a relationship with Jesus more,” Sydney said. “And I would say for myself that was the same.

“I think college was also the first time that I really felt like I knew the person of Jesus and wanted to pursue that more,” Sydney continued. “And so I think we grew in different ways as we got more serious and began to talk about things of a more serious nature and be more vulnerable with each other and about what was going on in our hearts and souls. We each wanted that from a future spouse.”

Maintaining a long-distance relationship wasn’t always easy, Sydney said. But they looked to Christ as their example.

“I think you learned how to be in a relationship through a relationship with Jesus,” Sydney added. “You learn communication, sacrifices and patience through a relationship with Jesus. As each of us grew in a relationship with Christ, our relationship changed.”

It’s extremely important to them both to have their wedding in the Catholic church.

“The grace that will be conferred upon us – it comes from all the sacraments,” said Camden, age 22. “But also the aspect of the sacrament relating to marriage and representing Jesus in the



Engaged couple Camden Schulte and Sydney Bishop will be married at St. Theresa Catholic Church Sept. 7, 2019. The two said their Cathlic faith is a priority.

church and the love between them.

“If we were to get married outside the church on an island, there would be this romantic love,” Camden continued. “But in the church we participate in the divine love and what Christ has for the church that I don’t think we’d get elsewhere. And it challenges us and elevates us to be better for each other.”

In this day and age, it seems like it’s easier than ever to let faith fall by the wayside, Camden said.

“It’s easy to see people our age, and everybody really, get caught up in trends, popularity and what everyone else thinks,” Camden said. “Something I really admire about the church is this solid thing – this rock where it’s not as much concerned about being popular but about doing what’s right – no matter the consequences or reactions from others.”

“My faith is important to me,” Camden said. “Both of us grew up in Catholic families. It’s really important to me to have a relationship with Christ and ...being able to encounter Christ in the Eucharist.”

The couple plan to get married Sept. 7, 2019 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Des Moines.

Sponsor couple coaches engaged to see marriage as sacrament

By Clare Heinrich
Staff Writer

It is a challenge to juggle a rich faith life with an active family’s schedule.

Matthew and Holly Harnden not only live out their vocational role through marriage, they are active in their faith and encourage other young couples to do the same.

Now celebrating 18 years of marriage and five children, the Harndens are a marriage preparation sponsor couple at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines. Formerly from Sacred Heart and St. Boniface Parishes, the couple had participated individually in ministries such as Christ Renews His Parish and RCIA, but they sought out a ministry that would allow them to work together.

During marriage preparation, the sponsor couple walks the engaged couple through several steps that will encourage them to view their marriage as a relationship with Christ, a true vocation.

“You can live the modern family life and have Christ at the center of it,” said Matthew.

Preparation work usually consists of four meetings at the sponsor couple’s house where they go through the

FOCUS questionnaire, which invites the engaged couple to look at their relationship moving forward and how they plan to incorporate Christ into their lives.

The sponsor couple then has the opportunity to share experiences from their own faith journey through marriage and parenthood.

“One of the biggest reasons we do this is because we want our kids to see the value we put on the sacrament of marriage,” said Holly.

The Harndens know how important it is to foster this relationship with Christ, especially during married life. Despite their commitments to work, school, and extracurricular activities, they prioritize this ministry because they strive to help young couples establish a solid foundation in the faith and they are touched by the stories they hear from both new couples and other sponsor couples.

“We see it as a fundamental, foundational way to impact our community and the world,” said Matthew.

The Harndens plan to remain in their ministry as a sponsor couple for years to come. They also encourage others to reach out to priests, deacons, and lay leaders for their testimonials on vocational life.



The Harnden family: Parents Matthew and Holly with children Carly, Haley, Macy, Max and Zachary.

Parishes to tackle pornography with prevention and healing

By Adam Storey
Contributing Writer

This fall, five diocesan parishes will work to address the issue of pornography in our culture.

These efforts will be in partnership with the diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis Office and the Marriage and Family Life Office.

The goal of this initiative is to provide education for families, addressing both the

harms of pornography and the powerful tools that are available for prevention and healing.

The approach will involve educational opportunities for parents, addressing the issue with the whole parish, and providing resources that can help families and communities win the battle against pornography.

St. Joseph, St. Anthony, and St. Theresa Parishes in Des Moines are tackling this issue along with St John in Greenfield and St. Patrick Parish in Massena.

As Father James Ahenkora of St. John and St. Patrick said, “The Church cannot be silent on this issue. Her prophetic voice must be heard to bring help and solace to her children who struggle with pornography.”

While pornography use is common and profoundly destructive, we are excited and hopeful about our efforts.

Father Joe Pins, of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines, said, “At its essence, pornography is a lie. It twists the truth of what

love is.”

Love is always greater than sin, and the truth is always more powerful than lies, he said.

In recent years, our understanding of this issue has been greatly enhanced, whether that be research into the harms of pornography, the development of technology to help prevent pornography exposure, or the expansion of resources that assist in healing.

The most important thing is to help people know that

there is hope and freedom, and that the Church is here to support them in healing.

God’s love is greater than this struggle, and God wants so much more for us than the counterfeit of love and happiness that pornography provides.

To learn more about the diocesan efforts contact John Gaffney at 515-237-5026 or Adam Storey at 515-237-5056. To learn more about the resources available for those addressing this issue visit covenanteyes.com.

Marriage & Family Life ministry focuses on marriage preparation, marriage enrichment and fam

al vocation to a particular state and life of grace.” (Pontifical Council of the Family)

Couple overcomes doubts as children pursue religious life

**By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer**

When parents learn their son or daughter is thinking about a calling to religious life, a number of concerns arise.

Bob and Susan Downey know them all too well. Of seven children, two are pursuing religious life.

When their daughter, Laura, said she was thinking of religious life, they weren't surprised. In third grade, she wrote that she wanted to be a nun when she grew up. Next year, she will profess her final vows with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

But when their son, James, expressed interest in the priesthood while he was still a student at Dowling Catholic High School, it caught Bob by surprise.

For real?

His first concern was whether James was experiencing a real calling.

Bob is an engineer and his dad was an engineer. He saw great potential in James to become an engineer. He pressed his son: "Do you really believe God's calling you?"

Changing mind

A second concern was what might happen if James changed his mind.

What does a person do with a philosophy degree? Couldn't James get his

engineering degree and then go to the seminary? Then he'd have a practical degree he could fall back on if things didn't work out in the seminary.

Bob reasoned that if God had been calling James to be a priest, that call existed in the past, in the present and would be there in the future.

On the other hand, there are a lot of distractions in college, Susan said. If James put his calling on hold during college, the distractions might deaden his hearing and, by not responding right away, he could eventually rationalize away a true vocation.

Church problems

A third concern was the number of the problems the Catholic Church faces in general.

"Some people look at the Church and say, 'You got problems. Why would you want to be a priest or sister?'" she said.

Yet, Susan believes the Church is in the midst of a renewal and God is calling people to religious life. Bob and Susan encourage parishioners to pray for their priests and affirm their vocation, and to pray for more vocations.

"Parents need to be encouraged," she said. "They're part of the renewal. If God's calling your child, he is calling them to a life of joy and fruitfulness for the church."

Leaving the nest

Bob and Susan had no concern about giving their children to the Church, but realize it is difficult for many parents.



Bob and Susan Downey raised seven children in a home that focused on God's love of them and their task to use the gifts God gave them.

When Bob and Susan were in Rome for their son's diaconate ordination, it occurred to Bob that their son belongs to a larger group now.

"He belongs to a lot more people now than just us," said Bob. "I could see that."

Fear of the unknown

Their last concern was simply fear for their children.

Would their daughter and son be happy in a vocation to religious life? Every time Bob talks to his daughter, now known as Sister Mary Esther, he asks her if she has joy. Each time he asks,

she says, "Yes."

Theresa Welch, whose son, Anthony, now known as Brother Pier Georgio Frassatti, is in the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Her son's religious community lives a very poor, simple life. Welch wonders if he'll be okay. Yet she knows he needs to be in a community and living with the Franciscans suits his personality.

Cathy Robey, mother of seminarian Brad Robey, was surprised that he was discerning priesthood and, knowing that he tends to be quiet, was concerned because she thought priests

needed to be outgoing.

"Now I can't see him doing anything else," she said.

As young people discern what God calls them to do with their lives, they, too, may have concerns, Susan said. They may question whether they would be a good priest or religious woman.

She said the best thing to do is to listen, really listen, to your child and assure them that God loves them, that he has plans of great joy for them, and as their parents, you will walk with them as they search this out.

Father and son discover God's love through reconciliation

This past month, my son, Gabriel, went to confession for the first time and he received his First Communion.

I have to say that watching him prepare for these sacraments has been one of the highlights of my fatherhood. My wife does so many things well, and the way she accompanied Gabriel throughout the process, reflecting with him and inviting him deeper, was simply amazing.

One of the beautiful moments for me was watching Gabriel prepare for his first confession. He wrestled with his examination of conscience, wanting to make sure he brought all his sins.

He was a little nervous, having the same fears in his heart that all of us have experienced: "What will Father think when I say this?"

And yet he was excited, because he knew that in this sacrament he gets to hear Jesus say to him personally, "Go in peace, your sins are forgiven."

When Gabriel left the

Marriage & Family Life

**By
Adam Storey**



confessional he was beaming. He talked to me about feeling joy and freedom, and he loved the sacrament so much that he asked to go again the next week.

I wanted to share this experience because seeing his love for the sacrament of confession has renewed my love for the sacrament. I've often felt the same nervousness that Gabriel felt. I've felt frustration for having to confess the same sins over and over again.

But what a profound, amazing, unspeakable gift to be able to go to Jesus and lay my heart bare, and then audibly hear Jesus, through the priest, tell me to go in peace as my sins are

forgiven.

I am convinced that one of the most important messages each of us needs to hear is that we are loved, that we are lovable. We need to hear it over and over again, and we need to hear it no matter what situation we're in and what we're going through.

And praise God, Jesus knows that about us, so he gave us the sacrament of confession in order to hear, out loud, those words.

If you've been away from this sacrament I'd invite you to go back, and if you have found freedom and peace in this sacrament please share that experience with others.

The world needs this treasure of mercy and love, and we need to share it!

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

Diocese of Des Moines Marriage Anniversary Masses

Join Bishop Pates for his annual anniversary Masses, praying with couples celebrating milestone anniversaries! On August 3 Bishop Pates will be celebrating an anniversary Mass during the 5:15 p.m. vigil Mass at St. John Catholic Church, 303 NE Elm St, Greenfield, IA 50849, and on August 4 Bishop Pates will be celebrating an anniversary Mass during the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High St, Des Moines, IA 50309. A certificate of blessing is available with registration for couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (5 year increments and 50+ years), and a light reception will follow both Masses. Reserved seating will be available for these couples and their families during the Mass.

To register for either Mass call Cathy Gearhart at 515-237-5004 or email her at cgearhart@dmdiocese.org

Family life. For more information, contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056.

Longtime lawyer, charitable supporter and advocate dies

Faith and family were a priority for Bill Lillis

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Devout Catholic and successful real estate lawyer Bill Lillis died on May 8.

He was a member of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

Born and raised in Williamsburg, Bill received his undergraduate degree from Drake University before attending Creighton University for law school.

He married his wife, Kathleen, in 1967 and the two settled in Des Moines with their kids.

Bill began his legal career at the Polk County Attorney's office and later joined a local law firm that would eventually bear his name – Lillis O'Malley Law Firm.

"He was an excellent lawyer," said longtime friend and retired priest, Monsignor Mike Hess. "I suspect that when he walked in a meeting their blood pressure probably went up. They knew they would have to have all their ducks in order and T's crossed. He was very thorough

and good at what he did. He was excellent at it."

His brother, Terry Lillis of St. Francis Parish, agreed that "if there was any big deal to be done, Bill was probably involved."

Bill was instrumental in Des Moines University's move to West Des Moines, Terry added. He also worked on incorporating the Tanger Outlet Mall as part of Williamsburg, so the local sales tax would benefit his hometown.

He often reached out to others in his profession and never lost his composure, said Dan Manning Sr., managing partner at Lillis O'Malley.

"He was always trying to be respectful of others...even though he was involved in some very contentious zoning issues throughout his career," Manning said. "He tried to work for a common solution where everyone could be a winner."

That passion for his career extended into helping others in the community, Terry added.

Nearly 25 years ago, Bill began serving on the board for Anawim Housing – a local lead-

er in affordable housing. Anawim Housing now owns or manages nearly 740 units.

"He became a big pleader of their cause and promoter of their cause," Monsignor Hess said. "He also got people to support and help Anawim Housing. He did an excellent job of that."

Bill was also a member of the Dowling Catholic Foundation Board, and a supporter and advocate of many organizations, including United Way, Men on the Move, Des Moines Art Center, Drake University, Salisbury House, Easter Seals and Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Bill was just as good a friend as he was lawyer and humanitarian, Monsignor Hess added, noting his loyalty.

"You couldn't have a better one," Monsignor Hess said, recalling a time he drove himself to Arizona and Bill called and checked in on him every day.

"That's how he was," Monsignor Hess added.

He made the extra effort to let people know he cared, Terry added.

"He was very thought-

ful," Terry said. "He had [an old] college friend whose mother turned 100 and he called her on her birthday....He was very thoughtful on writing people notes or cards for their birthdays or when grandkids were going off to college.

"When he was in the hospital for six weeks in intensive care, there were very few moments someone wasn't coming in and asking about Bill and how he was doing," Terry added. "He left quite a legacy – he'll be missed."

Monsignor Hess said he'll miss Bill's positive personality.

"When you were around him he was very uplifting and encouraging and that's what I miss the most about him," Monsignor Hess said.

Bill was also good at showering his family with lots of love and attention.

"He would go to St. Louis to see the kids and [drive down] to see the kids and grandkids in Kansas City....," Monsignor Hess said. "He did that all the time. He kept track of them and looked after them. He never missed a birthday and always was forever giving them gifts and presents and all of that stuff."



Bill Lillis

Bill even took the whole family – including spouses and grandkids – on a trip to Italy a few years ago.

"He was very dedicated to his family and grandkids," Monsignor Hess said.

In addition to family, Bill's Catholic faith was a priority.

"He was a very strong Catholic," Terry said.

"When I was at Dowling, he would go to daily Mass," Monsignor Hess said. "He always had a rosary in his pocket. So he was very devout – a totally committed Catholic guy."

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Diocese nears conclusion of emergency operations planning

Parishes encouraged to submit plans before June 30

By Kelly Mescher Collns
Staff Writer

The nine month long emergency planning process for parishes across the Diocese of Des Moines is nearing its conclusion.

Parishes are encouraged to have their plans submitted by June 30 for review, said Jane Colacecchi, owner of JHC Associates, LLC, who was hired by the diocese to help with parish emergency operations planning. She will be reviewing the plans and offering feedback.

It was five years ago that Bishop Richard Pates endorsed a proposal to promote a safety culture at all of the parishes and schools. He asked each entity to form a safety committee and it was input from some of these groups that led to the hiring of Colacecchi to help all parishes develop their own plan on how to deal with the different emergencies that come our way, said Paul Carlson, diocesan director of Finance.

Each month parishes have had access to new online webinars and handouts to help them create their own plan. Colacecchi has also been a resource for those with questions or concerns.

Parishes are urged to finish their plans soon. If they have questions they can ask Colacecchi, who will be available to the diocese only until June 30 – the day their emergency operations plan is

due.

“And for those with accredited schools, their legal requirement is also June 30 under the Department of Education law and code,” Colacecchi added.

This fall, the diocese will gather parish safety coordinators and have them share some of the ideas from their emergency operation plans so they can learn from



Diocese of Des Moines

At the advice of the law enforcement community, Bishop Richard Pates had declared all parish and school campuses “Weapons free zones.” During May and June, decals were handed out or mailed to all parishes. Parishioners should start seeing them on the main doors.

each other, Carlson said.

Colacecchi encourages parishes to train their people.

“So for example, if you have an expectation that the ushers in your Mass evacuate the building in a fire, then their level of training

needs to be high enough to know exactly what portion of the church exits through what doors.”

They need to know some basic first aid in case people are injured trying to evacuate.

She also urges parishes to test their evacuation plan.

“I encourage parishes to at least once, actually [evacuate] at the end of Mass,” Colacecchi said. “Time yourself. How long does it take to exit the building?

And maybe follow that up with an activity on a nice day and invite the fire department to watch and give you some tips. Seems like a crazy idea, but until you actually do it you don’t know how long it’s going to take to clear your building.”

Annette Roth, parishioner and chair of the Finance Council of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Des Moines, has been drafting her parish’s plan. She is grateful for the process.

“I’ve learned a whole lot...,” Roth said. “Honestly, it makes me more aware of these things.

“I have learned more about our policies and when the doors are locked or unlocked,” Roth continued. “I’m more aware of the challenges that face us on a college campus and near a part of Des Moines that has more police activity than some other areas might. We’re learning how to be a parish and be open but we also want to keep people safe.”

Learn more the diocesan emergency operations planning at dmdiocese.org/resources/safety/emergency-operations-planning.

Longtime minister retires

By Clare Heinrich
Staff Writer

Even as he prepares to retire as business manager position at St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs, Deacon Emmet Tinley plans to remain active in his community.

“I enjoy being part of what I would call the ‘operating part’ of what the Church is,” he said.

“Deacon Emmet has been an extremely valued member of the St. Patrick’s family for decades,” said Matt Gronstal, Finance Committee chair for St. Patrick Parish.

“He has been a loyal and faithful servant both as a deacon as well as the business manager. He successfully guided the church through the construction and financing of our new church building project and the related capital campaigns,” Gronstal said. “In addition, he has volunteered countless hours within the broader Catholic community in Council Bluffs including serving both Mercy Hospital and St. Albert Schools.

“He has earned a well-deserved retirement,” Gronstal added.

Deacon Tinley was ordained a permanent deacon in 2006. He and his wife, Susan, originally passed on the opportunity to journey into the diaconate in 1984. Each of them had just completed their master’s degrees and with six children, they decided they needed to spend more time at home. They waited until the next cohort, which would be the first with new formation changes that allowed both the husband

and wife to participate together.

During diaconate training, Deacon Tinley yearned to be more



involved with his faith, to be closer to the mission of the Church. He finds serving at funerals to be a powerful ministry to those in need.

“Emmet’s ministry has been that wonderful mix of holiness and humility,” said Deacon Jim Obradovich, director of Diaconate for the Diocese of Des Moines. “He offered himself in the service of the church in western Iowa so unselfishly for so many years. At our ordination Bishop hands us the book of the Gospels and tells us to believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach. Emmet did that, and did that so very well.”

Serving at different Masses has given Deacon Tinley “the opportunity to learn more about the parishioners. If you’re set on going to one particular Mass, you have no idea who goes to the same parish but at a different time,” he said. “I have the opportunity to get to know those at every Mass.”

Outside of the parish, Deacon Tinley plans to continue his role as chaplain at Mercy Hospital. He and Susan are stepping down from the leadership team for ongoing diaconate formation. They enjoyed this ministry because it allowed them to assist candidates while serving together.

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Iowa bishops respond to Iowa Attorney General

Last week (on June 3) the Iowa Attorney General asked the state’s four Catholic dioceses to submit, by Aug. 1, 2019, documents related to clergy sexual abuse so that his office can provide a credible third-party review of the response made to reports. Each diocese, in the interest of transparency and accountability, plans to comply with the Attorney General’s request. In fact, most of the information requested is already a matter of public record. Also, the efforts of each diocese to protect minors from clergy sexual abuse have for many years now been subject to an annual credible third-party review. Our compliance is inspired by the teachings

of Jesus and his Catholic Church: that it is right and good to respond to the sin and crime of clergy sexual abuse with sorrow, repentance, amendment of life, and efforts to repair the harm done. In this regard, if there have been failures in the past, it is not for lack of trying. And after discovering when and where our efforts have fallen short, we will try again; there is no perfection this side of heaven. It is our hope that the Attorney General will use the resources of his office to protect minors from the scourge of sexual abuse wherever it occurs, and not limit his focus just on the Catholic Church.

IA dioceses to comply with Attorney General’s request

Editor’s Note: This statement has been slightly revised compared to the news release that was distributed so it could more accurately reflect the last date of substantiated clerical sexual abuse of a minor case in the Diocese of Des Moines occurring in real time.

On June 3, each Catholic bishop in the four dioceses of Iowa received a letter from Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller requesting documentation regarding clerical sexual abuse. The Diocese of Des Moines, along with the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Dioceses of Sioux City and Davenport, will comply promptly and fully with the Attorney General’s request.

Each of the dioceses is already on record in releasing expansive information regarding perpetrators of sexual abuse and diocesan policies. Those records are on the website of each diocese (Des Moines diocese: dmdiocese.org).

The Catholic dioceses of Iowa have gone on record deploring the horrendous crime of sexual abuse and have taken action to address victims and their needs toward healing.

Victims continue to be the number one concern in each of the dioceses.

The dioceses offer counseling gratis so long as sought by the victim and have worked through a program of mediation in providing monetary settlements.

The Catholic Church today is focused on the healing of victims and preventing abuse from occurring.

We hope that the safety of all children throughout society is addressed. For their benefit, we expect that the scrutiny applied to the Catholic Church be broadened and applied to all organizations, public and private, that serve children.

The Diocese of Des Moines encourages anyone with allegations of abuse by clergy to contact their local police department or diocesan Victim Assistance Advocate Sam Porter, with Polk County Crisis and Advocacy. Mr. Porter serves as a third party advocate. He does not work for the diocese. He can be reached at Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov or 515-286-2015. He can assist the person with making a complaint, and with receiving support and counseling services.

Background

The Catholic bishops in the United States in 2002 issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the governing norms. Implementation of the norms related to the charter have affected the policies of each dioceses and included the following provisions.

- All allegations of sexual abuse are reported immediately to law enforcement.
- If the allegation is substantiated, the church employee is permanently removed from all church employment.
- A lay review board advises the bishops in each diocese. In the Diocese of Des Moines, the review board consists of professionals including a chief of police, judge, lawyer, psychologist, retired school teacher, priest and deacon.

The dioceses also provide safe environment training for children and all adults working with them.

In addition, national background checks are made of all staff and volunteers who work with children. The safe environment training and background checks have involved thousands of people.

Compliance with the charter and norms is determined every year by a third party auditor. In the 17 years of the charter, all four Iowa dioceses have been compliant with the charter and its norms.

The Catholic Church in the United States has worked diligently at eliminating the scourge of sexual abuse within its quarters.

- In the Diocese of Des Moines, the last substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric occurred in 1997.
- The last credible allegation in the Diocese of Sioux City occurred in 1995.
- The last report of child sexual abuse by clergy or church personnel occurring in the Diocese of Davenport was in 1988.
- The Archdiocese of Dubuque lists June 1996 as the last occurrence of a credible allegation.

Priestly celebrations



Father Tom DeCarlo, top photo, celebrated his retirement and 50th anniversary of ordination to priesthood on June 9 at McCauley Terrace in Johnston. Above, Father Gene Koch celebrated his 60th anniversary as a priest on June 2 at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

Upcoming anniversary, retirement celebrations

Father Chris Hartshorn will celebrate 25 years of priesthood on July 27 beginning with 4 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines with festivities immediately following.
Father Dan Kirby will celebrate his 25th anniversary of priesthood on June 23 with 11 a.m. Mass at St. John the Apostle Church in Norwalk, with a luncheon to follow in the parish social hall.

Father Vince Rosonke celebrates his retirement on June 23 with a reception following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass at St. Boniface Church in Waukee.
Father David Polich will celebrate his retirement on Aug. 11 at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines with a reception hosted by his family from 2-5 p.m. Open to the public.

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U.S. bishops take action to respond to church abuse crisis

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- During the June 11-13 spring assembly of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore, it was clear the bishops had to respond to the sexual abuse crisis in the church -- and on the last day of their gathering they approved a series of procedures to begin this process.

Implemented Pope's document

On June 13, they voted to implement the document "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), issued by Pope Francis in May to help the Catholic Church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

Approved Accountability

The bishops also approved the document "Acknowledging Our Episcopal Commitments" and promised to hold themselves accountable to the commitments of the charter, including a zero-tolerance policy for abuse. The document says any codes of conduct in their respective dioceses regarding clergy apply to bishops as well.

Approved Protocol

They voted in favor of the item "protocol regarding available nonpenal restrictions on bishops," which outlines what canonical options are available to bishops when a retired bishop resigns or is removed "due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act."

Hotline for Reports

Their first action was a vote June 12 to authorize the implementation of a third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free telephone number and online. The system,



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Bishop Richard Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, speaks from the floor during the spring general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore June 12.

which would be operated by an outside vendor contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, should be in place no later than May 31, 2020.

During the first day of the assembly, several speakers discussed the challenge ahead and the need for the bishops to be both transparent and reliant upon lay leadership. The bishops also examined their plans to vote on procedures and policies in response to the abuse crisis, including some they had put aside during their fall general assembly in November at the Vatican's request.

The bishops' postponement of voting on these procedures was addressed from the meeting's onset June 11 in a message from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican's nuncio to the United States.

He noted that there were "some expressions of 'dissent'" by some U.S. bishops at the previous assembly about postponing votes on items related to the reemergent clergy sexual abuse crisis, but he also stressed that "unity prevails over conflict."

"Working together provides us with the opportunity to speak and to listen," said the message from Archbishop Pierre, read by Msgr. Walter Erbi, charge d'affaires at the Vatican's

nunciature in Washington. Archbishop Pierre was at the Vatican for a nuncio meeting.

The postponement of the votes on the issue allowed the U.S. church to participate more fully at the Vatican's February summit on the protection of minors, he said.

"One of the reasons the Holy Father asked for a delay was that the whole church needed to walk together, to work in a synodal way," Archbishop Pierre said, "with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make the path forward clearer."

Moving forward was certainly a theme of the assembly, echoed by National Review Board chairman Francesco Ceseareo June 11, who called for a greater role for laity in investigating allegations of abuse or reaction to reports of abuse against bishops.

He also recommended that the charter "should be revised immediately to explicitly include bishops and demand for greater accountability."

News briefs from the recent U.S. bishops' meeting

Border bishops address crisis involving children

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- While the sex abuse crisis consumed the June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, prelates who work on the border, such as Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, have been facing a different crisis also involving children.

In less than a year, at least six children are believed to have died while in the custody of immigration officials along the border. Immigration along the U.S. southern border once involved almost exclusively men looking for work, but today women with children or entire families are now the ones regularly making the dangerous trek, fleeing poverty and violence.

"I feel that as a (bishops') conference, we must express ourselves more strongly when it comes to the dignity of immigrants, to say that they are not criminals, that they are vulnerable families and we need to invite all the governments involved, not just the U.S., to defend the migrant as a human being, to not cast the person aside as someone who doesn't matter and is a problem," Bishop Flores said.

Pro-lifers decry Illinois governor signing into law 'extreme' abortion bill

CHICAGO (CNS) -- Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law an abortion bill that Illinois' Catholic bishops said eliminates "even minimal limitations on abortions under previous law" and whose passage by the legislature marked "a sad moment in our history as a state."

Pritzker signed the legislation June 12.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, labeled it "an extreme measure" because it allows "for the abortion of unborn life at any stage of pregnancy and for any reason."

Across the country in Vermont on June 10, Republican Gov. Phil Scott signed a similarly expansive abortion measure into law. Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of the statewide Diocese of Burlington had said the law "goes far beyond Roe v. Wade."

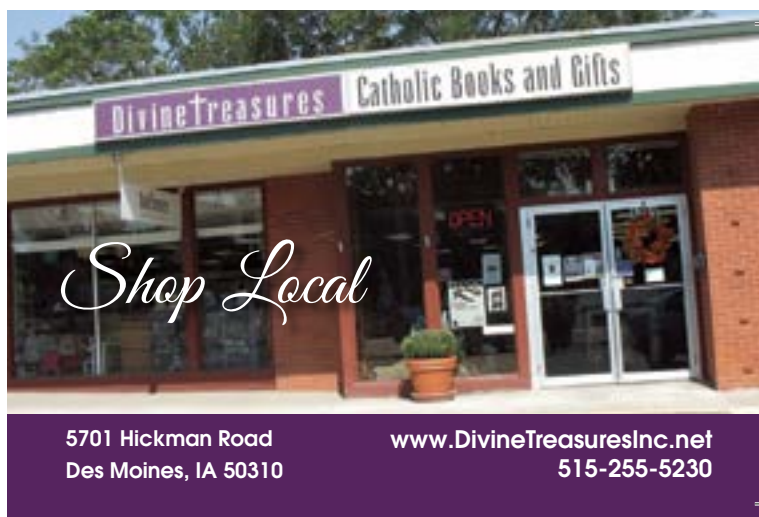
Bishops to revise U.S. catechism's capital punishment section

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- The U.S. bishops voted June 13 to revise what the U.S. church teaches about the death penalty.

The revision will need the approval of the Vatican.

Last year, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released the pope's revision to the teaching on the death penalty in the universal Catechism of the Catholic Church. It says the death penalty is inadmissible.

The bishops made plans to replace its current text in the U.S. adult catechesis with a revised statement to "keep our treatment of the death penalty in the U.S. Catechism for Adults in alignment with the revised universal catechism," Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles said.



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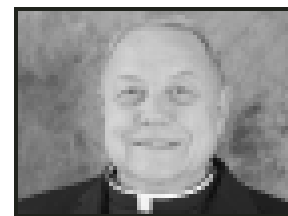
The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services. He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov.

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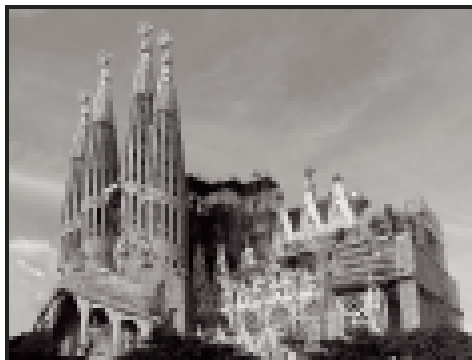
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En las Tierras del Corazón Con el Obispo Pates

“La Iniciativa del Padre Jim Kiernan” Principios Básicos en Compensación

El Padre Jim Kiernan había programado una reunión conmigo para algunos días después de su muerte el 15 de mayo del 2016. Su propósito era el de promover un salario digno para todos los empleados en nuestras parroquias católicas, escuelas y otras operaciones en la Diócesis de Des Moines.

Esta misión la asumieron su sobrino Peter Kiernan y el Padre Dave Polich. Se llevó a cabo una consulta con el Consejo Presbiteral Diocesano así como con el Consejo Financiero Diocesano. El resultado fue un documento titulado “Principios Básicos en Compensación.” Ambos consejos aprobaron el documento y me recomendaron que lo implementara.

Con esta comunicación, he llamado a que se adopten estos principios por parte de cada parroquia y escuela antes del 1 de julio del 2019. Con un pleno compromiso a este aspecto de la justicia social, todos nosotros los católicos deseamos que aquellos que nos sirven reciben la dignidad que merecen ofreciéndoles salarios justos. Más aún, por



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

medio de esta iniciativa, tenemos el deseo de traer testimonio moral a la sociedad en general.

La meta a la que aspiramos es la de avanzar hacia un salario mínimo de \$15 por hora para los empleados de la escuela. Al ver la gran importancia de esta meta, la Diócesis de Des Moines, con la excepción de un empleado de una escuela preparatoria, ha logrado este salario mínimo entre sus empleados laicos.

Un enfoque particular de estos últimos 10 años en la diócesis, ha sido el de aumentar consistentemente la escala de compensación para aquellos en los niveles más bajos del renglo salarial. Hasta cierto punto, esto se ha logrado al impulsar la escala de pago mínimo de \$15.

Estamos comprometidos con seguir avanzando en esta dirección para que nuestros valiosos empleados puedan

proveer para ellos mismos y sus familias.

Esta iniciativa también abarca a aquellos empleados que sirven en nuestras instituciones en base a contratos. El Padre Kiernan inició su compromiso con la causa de un pago decente para los empleados cuando descubrió lo ampliamente insuficiente que era el salario de una persona que trabajaba como contratista en la institución en donde él vivía. Él se beneficiaba personalmente de la asistencia de este empleado.

Estoy plenamente consciente de que estas nuevas regulaciones puedan requerir de generosidad adicional y de un ajuste inicial en las finanzas. La Diócesis de Des Moines, sin embargo, tiene la bendición de una extraordinaria generosidad. El ingreso acumulado de las parroquias ha crecido en 32% desde el 2010. Por lo tanto, claramente, hay algunos fondos adicionales para atender el asunto de la compensación.

Todos queremos hacer lo necesario para otorgar los recursos a los empleados de nuestra Iglesia que reconocen su dignidad y

valor. Agradezco al Padre Jim Kiernan y subsecuentemente a su sobrino Peter y al Padre Dave Polich por el perseguir fielmente la justicia que debe caracterizar a nuestras instituciones.

Reconocemos además al Consejo Financiero de la Diócesis Des Moines y a su Consejo

Presbiteral por desarrollar y por acoger prácticas en las finanzas de la iglesia que nos ayudarán a lograr estas metas.

Tengo el privilegio y la fortuna de establecer la “Iniciativa Padre Jim Kiernan” como política de la Diócesis de Des Moines.

St. Albert School’s Springman expresses gratitude in graduation speech

Continued from page 1

the graduating class for a great four years of high school. Thank you for the life long memories that I can also look back on. Lastly, I would like to thank my parents for shaping me to be the person I am today and for always pushing me to strive for greatness.

As we officially finish high school today, I can’t help but reflect on all the experiences and memories that St. Albert has given me. Growing up with the same people around me as given me a family outside of my own. We endured an elementary school with no air conditioning, sat in a library without real walls, were told many times to tuck in our white collared shirts, took multiple trips to Des Moines, played in countless PAL volleyball and basketball games, danced on the gym floor for homecoming, and cherished our last four years in high school together. Although our time at St. Albert is coming to an end, I know I will always have this community to come home to.

So as we go our separate ways, always remember the family that was created throughout these past years and the experiences that formed us to be who we are today.

Never forget your home on the Hill.



Bishop Pates with the Spirit of St. Albert Award recipients and graduates Reed Miller and Bailey White.

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

Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

El Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas es un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a víctimas de abuso sexual por parte del clero durante el proceso de la queja y buscando servicios de apoyo y consejería. Pueden comunicarse al 515-286-2028 o en advocate@dmdiocese.org.



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Two will be ordained to the priesthood

Continued from page 1

“I became too focused on my professional career...,” Deacon McGeary said. “But somewhere along the line I noticed I had lost focus on what was really important. Money had become important, titles at work had become important. It was around 2008 after I had gone through some very, very difficult times in my life that I finally took the time to contemplate God’s plan for me.”

“What does God want?” Deacon McGeary continued. “What is life really all about? So I did what I hadn’t done in 25 years and I went into the sacrament of reconciliation and my life slowly began to change.”

He recognized that his fulfillment was coming from his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Deacon Downey said his call to the priesthood came while in high school.

“The first notions towards the priesthood came at a very early age,” Deacon Downey said. “I considered it as one of my many options in life and I would always leave this option open, never completely rejecting it as a possibility.”

As time went on, priesthood fell down the list and Deacon Downey decided he would

follow the family legacy in engineering. During high school however, he gradually strayed further from his relationship with God.

“Eventually, sin left me blind, which made it hard to hold onto hope, because I couldn’t see the grace God was offering me,” Deacon Downey said.

During a particularly low point, God reached out through the First Reading at a Sunday Mass.

“With the words of Jeremiah 1, God broke through my blindness and discouragement and gave me the promise of a purpose,” he continued. “A few weeks later, during a high school retreat, I came back to him like the prodigal son and made the first good confession I had made in a while. In that moment of grace and prayer in front of the Eucharist, I now had no question as to what that promised purpose was: the priesthood.”

Even though this call came with an overwhelming sense of peace, Deacon Downey was slowly overcome by fears and began doubting whether he wanted to abandon the family legacy of engineering, a girlfriend, and dreams of a family. So he ran the opposite direction of God’s will.

“The problem is: running from God isn’t easy,” Deacon Downey said. “In fact, it’s impossible. Only after a full year and more than my fair share of mistakes, I realized this.”

Soon after, Deacon Downey helped lead the same retreat he attended the year before.

“It was there that I surrendered, too tired to keep running, figuring that God’s plan must certainly work better than mine had been,” Deacon Downey said. “To many of the fears and

doubts, I still didn’t have an answer at that moment, but I did have trust in God’s promise. And in the eight years since then, God has never broken that trust.”

If you think God might be calling you to the priesthood or religious life, contact Father Ross Parker, director of vocations at the Diocese of Des Moines at vocations@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5050.

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