

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Special Edition  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World

April 28, 2016 Edition

**Powerful and profound letter from family whose son caused a horrific accident while he was driving drunk:**

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Beary family of Knoxville Iowa had to face the news no parent ever wants to experience: the loss of a child. Furthermore, the events leading up to their son's death also caused great heartache and pain for three other families and many other friends and colleagues. Their open letter to the public upon the results of the final investigation into the cause of the accident is heartbreaking. I can't imagine the strength and humility it took for them to share their pain with the larger community. I don't know if they are Catholic but their point about loving the whole person is a profound message not only in this tragic event but also for all of us as we encounter the brokenness of others. My hope is that you can share this with your families digitally so perhaps their loss and their message can be helpful for others in our community.

*“Our family is deeply saddened by the circumstances surrounding the accident that took the lives of Carlos Puente-Morales, Susan Farrell, Tosha Nicole Hyatt, and Ben Beary himself. In our hearts we had hoped for a different explanation for the night's events. But the reality is that Ben's level of intoxication led a good person to make a choice that left a wake of grief for our family and, unforgivably, three others as well,” Beary's family said in a statement.*

*“Nothing can excuse the mistakes Ben made that night, and our hearts are broken with the knowledge that he caused so much sorrow. To love, we must love the whole person, not just what is easy or convenient. Our family will always love and remember Ben, but it is difficult to accept that the person we will remember is also the one who caused this heartache to our community.*

*No one will ever count the number of times he made the safe choice, because this time he didn't, and that's all that matters now. It only takes one time, one mistake, to change the course of your life. Please protect yourself, protect your loved ones and those who could be left in your wake; make a plan before you drink so you are never in a situation where you might drive. No one wishes more than we do that Ben had done that on March 26th.”*