

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 53, No. 1

January 18, 2019

Iowa crowd Marches for Life

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Nearly 200 Iowans from across the state participated in Friday's annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 18.

The caravan included students from Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, St. Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs and Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll, said Maggie DeWitte, executive director of Iowans for LIFE, the local Catholic pro-life organization that coordinates the bus trip every year.

Though attending this event affects each person differently, DeWitte has seen many profoundly impacted throughout the eight years she's led the trip to Washington, D.C.

"I feel like it's an experience that has changed lives in more ways than we will ever know," DeWitte said. "It's ...suffering, prayer and sacrifices – and it's a true pilgrimage in that sense.

"I do feel the reason more and more young people are pro-life is because of the March for Life," DeWitte continued. "I feel like when they attend, they are really struck by the numbers of people across the country that are proudly pro-life, and they realize they are not alone in this movement, and that empowers them to come back to their community and make a difference. It's very impactful and important, and I always look forward to the opportunity every year to influence our youth in this way."

The bus ride includes prayer, discussion and educational movies, which are eye-opening, DeWitte said.

The event itself includes many powerful, dynamic speakers, DeWitte added.

"I think that sticks with them in such a way that they really see the impact of what abortion has done to our society and especially for the young people, knowing that so many of their peers are not here because of abortion," DeWitte said.

The day of Friday, Jan. 18 was planned to start with the Mass for Life, hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

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Retreat director: Go to Scripture

Holy Father's retreat director encourages U.S. bishops to focus on their role as shepherds in helping Catholics heal from abuse crisis



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the official preacher of the papal household, delivers the homily to U.S. bishops during Mass Jan. 3 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mundelein Seminary during the bishops' Jan. 2-8 retreat at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Illinois, near Chicago.

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Although the weeklong retreat for U.S. Catholic bishops emphasized quiet reflection, several bishops spoke out on social media during the retreat and after it wrapped up Jan. 8 with positive reaction about it and to give shoutouts to the retreat leader, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, who has preached to popes and top officials of the Roman Curia for nearly 40 years.

One bishop said listening to Father Cantalamessa was akin to being in the presence of the early Christian theologians.

"Clear, intensely filled with the Holy Spirit, and all for the Kingdom of God," Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Boulette of San Antonio said in a tweet. "Let us continue to pray for one another,

our church and our world. A blessing to be here!"

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Anchorage, Alaska, tweeted that the retreat leader was a "true instrument of the Lord" and that the Holy Spirit was at work during the retreat.

Bishop Lawrence T. Persico of Erie, Pennsylvania, described Father Cantalamessa's talks and homilies as "powerful and engaging."

He tweeted that he was glad they had time to reflect and pray about their role as shepherds, stressing: "We must start there to be able to offer healing. I am taking this very seriously but feeling positive."

Boston Auxiliary Bishop Mark W. O'Connell said it was a "truly blessed experience" to be on retreat with Father Cantalamessa and fellow U.S. bishops.

"The Holy Spirit was

powerfully present, and I was quite moved," he tweeted. He also thanked the pope for giving the bishops this gift.

Pope Francis suggested the bishops hold the retreat and offered the services of the 84-year-old Father Cantalamessa, who has

served as preacher of the papal household since 1980. The time of prayer Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago was planned largely in response

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Mercy Health Network introduces MercyOne

Mercy Health Network (MHN), a leading health care system, announced it will soon become MercyOne. With the name change set to officially launch Feb. 1, the system will unify its statewide footprint by implementing a strategic brand initiative to connect the many points of care across the state and surrounding regions.

Formed in 1998 by Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and Trinity Health, MHN has grown into a leading provider of hospital and related health services. The system includes more than 43 owned, joint venture and affiliated medical centers and hospital campuses, along with more than 230 primary care clinics and other health facilities, all generating more than \$3 billion in combined revenue and employing more than 20,000 people.

The new name, MercyOne, was selected after a comprehensive external review and selection process.

In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

Catholic education looking to future

The history of the Catholic Church in the United States attributes much of its institutional strength to its schools. They have taken relatively uneducated wave after wave of immigrants and transformed them into productive citizens ever so loyal to the best of American ideals.

This tradition of excellent education and formation in a religious and solidly ethical base continued on for second, third and fourth generation Catholics. At the core of the schools' success were selfless religious women and men and the unwavering commitment of our parishes, dioceses and religious orders.

To this very day, the Diocese of Des Moines benefits enormously from the activity of our Catholic schools. Only profound gratitude can adequately express the indebtedness we owe to those who have sacrificed and contributed so much and continue to do so in service to this enterprise.

Our 17 diocesan schools with their enrollment of 6,222 students today play a critical role in the evangelization and catechetical mission of the contemporary church. One of the significant changes that has occurred in the last 50 or 60 years is the involvement of religious men and women. Where they are still present in limited numbers, these committed men and women exercise a powerful influence. At the same time, the administration and educational components in our schools have been essentially assumed by talented and committed lay persons.

Our diocesan schools are yet strong, productive, innovative and committed to supporting the development of students who are Christian disciples. The witness of these young people is critical in a highly secular society.

While we are grateful for all that Catholic schools have been and continue to be, we cannot rest on our laurels. It is only logical that we assess strengths and challenges and develop a strategic plan that will enable them to continue the pursuit of excellence for decades to come.



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

The Diocese of Des Moines, with the foregoing objective in mind, in March 2018 undertook a study in conjunction with an advisory firm, Meitler, which specializes in such initiatives. The goal of the undertaking was "A Vision for Excellence in Catholic Education Inspired by a Caring, Committed, Faithful Community."

Leading the study from the diocesan community are Dr. Tracy Bonday, diocesan superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Jerry Deegan, former president of Dowling Catholic High School. They are joined by a 24-member Blue Ribbon Task Force representing stakeholders from all categories in diocesan Catholic schools.

The work of the study has

been to gather extensive data, engage in widespread consultation with stakeholders, do an objective analysis of strengths and challenges and to begin developing components of a vision that will guide our school operations for the next 20 to 30 years. It is anticipated that a preliminary draft of a strategic plan will likely emerge in the March timeframe.

Preliminary dimensions of the vision are beginning to emerge:

- Commitment to a strengthened Catholic identity. Included in this plan are three considerations in the goal of "making disciples."

- Engagement and involvement of parents in a partnership of religious education.

- Ongoing spiritual development of teachers, staff and coaches through Faith Journey in order to establish an environment which allows a faith illumined by the Gospel to flourish.

- Utilization of well-developed texts and materials which convey Catholic teaching and moral standards.

- Developing a more sys-

tematized diocesan participation in the schools' operations. This is required from almost every perspective but especially from financial, enrollment, and academic viewpoints.

- Continued development of academic excellence. The schools will use formative and summative assessments for data-driven decisions on instruction.

Finances

In keeping with committing availability of Catholic education to all families in our diocesan community, financial structures need to be in place to make this possible. Emerging elements in such a plan:

- Provide financial assistance and scholarships on a need basis through a diocesan delivery system.

- Seek financial aid through state of Iowa support. Presently, Catholic schools subsidize the state's responsibility for education. Suggested vehicles for state participation:

- Catholic Tuition Organization. Today \$3 million are distributed to students in our Catholic

schools on a need basis. Donors to the organization benefit from state tax credits.

- Educational Savings Accounts. This is an active proposal in the state legislature whereby parents would be granted the state's appropriation for each student and utilize the grant at the school of choice.

The proposed plan also addresses additional topics, namely – governance and leadership, operational vitality which includes enrollment proposals.

I am excited and optimistic about the progress of the schools' study thus far. I believe a version will eventually emerge that will set us on a pathway that will both insure and enhance the essential mission of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Further information of the study may be obtained from:

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Bishop Richard Pates will install Father Seth Owusu as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Avoca and St. Patrick Parish in Walnut on Jan. 19-20. When the bishop installs a pastor, he blesses the relationship between the priest and the faith community. Pictured above is Father Owusu with youth from his parishes.

Bishop's Schedule

Friday, January 18

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

Saturday, January 19

Avoca – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, St. Mary Parish, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 20

Avoca – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, St. Mary Parish, 8 a.m.

Walnut – Installation Mass for Father Seth Owusu, St. Patrick Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 22

Atlantic – Priests' Study Day, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, 10 a.m.

Council Bluffs – Strategic planning, St. Albert Schools, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 23

Des Moines – Building Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Friday, January 25

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

Saturday, January 26

Norwalk – Installation Mass for Father Dan Kirby, St. John the Apostle Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 27

Norwalk – Installation Mass for Father Dan Kirby, St. John the Apostle Parish, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, January 29

West Des Moines – Mass for Catholic Schools Week, Dowling Catholic High School, 10 a.m.

Des Moines – School strategic planning, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

Wednesday, January 30

Des Moines – Mass for Catholic Schools Week with school personnel, St. Augustin Parish, 2 p.m.

Omaha – Clergy dinner, basketball game, Creighton University, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 31

Council Bluffs – Mass for Catholic Schools Week, St. Albert Schools, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 1

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

KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, February 2

Des Moines – Mass of Presentation, renewal of vows, brunch with vowed religious, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10 a.m.

Elkhart – Installation Mass for Father Andrew Windschitl, St. Mary Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 3

Maxwell – Installation Mass for Father Andrew Windschitl, Holy Cross Parish, 8 a.m.

Elkhart – Installation Mass for Father Andrew Windschitl, St. Mary Parish, 10 a.m.

Adel – Confirmation, St. John Parish, 1 p.m.

Monday, February 4

Harlan – Vocations Mass, Shelby County Catholic Schools, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 5

Des Moines – Vocation Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 7

Des Moines – Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, Catholic Pastoral Center, 7:30 a.m.

Davenport – Sacred Heart Cathedral's Red Dinner, 4 p.m.

Friday, February 8

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

Saturday, February 9

Des Moines – Josefa Valdes and Kenn Yu Wedding, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1 p.m.

Council Bluffs – Confirmation, St. Peter Parish, 6 p.m.

Sunday, February 10

Des Moines – Confirmation, reception, St. Augustin Parish, Noon

Tuesday, February 12

Des Moines – Bishop's Council, Des Moines Embassy Club, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, February 15

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

Des Moines – Confirmation, reception, St. Joseph Parish, 7 p.m.

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The Catholic Mirror (ISSN 0896-6869) is published monthly for \$20 per year by the Diocese of Des Moines, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines. POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE CATHOLIC MIRROR, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

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Mercy Medical Center celebrates 125th anniversary

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Mercy Medical Center is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year by cherishing its rich legacy.

“We have a wonderful year of events planned – things that are reflective of our heritage and things that are forward looking as we carry that legacy of the Sisters of Mercy going forward,” said Laura Wenman, chief mission officer at Mercy Medical Center. “They have entrusted us as lay people to do the work that they began.”

Mercy Medical Center was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1893 and is the longest, continually operating hospital in Des Moines.

The Sisters of Mercy, devoted to providing compassionate care for the poor and suffering, came to Des Moines from Ireland and made Hoyt Sherman Place the first, temporary location for Mercy Hospital. It opened Dec. 8, 1893 – the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

On April 23, 1895, the first dedication of many was held at the opening of the permanent location of Mercy hospital.

In 1899, the Mercy School of Nursing formally opened, which offered a two-year degree. Today, the school is known as Mercy College of Health Sciences.

In 1987, the House of Mercy opened its doors in Des Moines, which provides a home for women and children facing challenging circumstances, such as domestic violence, homelessness, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

House of Mercy is Iowa’s largest provider of transitional housing for women undergoing treatment for substance abuse.

“We have our own vocation to care for people, and especially the vulnerable, which was their premise,” Wenman said. “Their charisma was to demonstrate hospitality to all people, and that’s really what they have challenged us to do.”

Vulnerability comes in many forms, Wenman added.

“In a health care setting, people immediately think about people who are financially poor or financially vulnerable,” Wenman said. “But there are people who are suffering, people who are mourning, people who are frightened, and we cover the breadth of that. When we talk to staff, it’s important to remind them of that.”

Deacon Dave O’Brien, director of pastoral care at Mercy, is passionate about his work.

“Because we are faith-based and a Catholic hospital, it’s a mission field....,” he said. “People of all kinds of backgrounds come here.”

Their focus is health – mind, body and spirit, Deacon O’Brien said.

“When Jesus says, ‘Show compassion,’ that means walk with their suffering,” he continued. “You immerse yourselves in their lives to help take care of them – body, mind and spirit. That’s really important for us and it was important for those [Sisters of Mercy] nuns.”

Deacon O’Brien is proud of their strong Catholic identity, which includes daily Mass, two priests who are chaplains, a chapel with Eucharistic adoration, prayer twice a day over the intercom, statues of saints and Catholic artwork and writings on the walls throughout their buildings.

Dr. Barbara Decker was president of Mercy College of Health Sciences for 12 years and administrator of Mercy Medical Center of human resources for four years.

“I came to Mercy because of its mission, values and faith traditions,” Decker said. “I was drawn to the mission and its legacy very early on, and then I was really blessed to work with the Sisters of Mercy and the dedicated professionals at both the hospital and the college.”

Mercy Medical Center started out as just one hospital. Today, it has four campuses that offer 875 total beds. This includes Mercy Medical Center and Mercy Children’s Hospital and Clinics, Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes, Mercy Medical Center – Centerville and Skiff Medical Center in Newton.

Mercy Clinics is also celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, with more than 60 primary, pediatric and specialty clinics.

In the 2018 fiscal year, Mercy had 34,743 admissions, 254,769 outpatient visits and 4,203 births. Mercy Clinics had 1,027,940 patient visits.

The year of anniversary activities include:

- Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds proclaimed Dec. 8 (the day Mercy Hospital opened) as Spirit of Mercy Day in Iowa

- An online anniversary resource center was launched in December 2018, featuring a historical timeline, virtual photo album and growing list of “125 Reasons to Celebrate.” The site



In 1899, the Mercy School of Nursing opened, which offered a two year degree. The student nurses processed outside from Mercy to St. Ambrose Cathedral as part of their graduation celebration.

will be updated throughout the year with new content.

- Mercy launched the “MyWhy” campaign, in which colleagues, physicians and volunteers submit their stories of why they chose a career in health care and why they enjoy working at Mercy. All stories are used in internal and external communication outreach efforts.

- Mercy’s senior leadership will commemorate the anniversary with the “125 Secret Surprise Giveaway.” Each leader is given a variety of unmarked

packages to give colleagues at their discretion to show appreciation for contributing to Mercy’s 125 years of success. The contents of the package are a surprise, ranging from candy to snacks and wellness items.

- Mercy Medical Center ads were featured in the Des Moines Business Record’s special publication, “Let’s celebrate 35 years / Let’s make Des Moines Greater.” These were distributed statewide in December, with two Mercy ads celebrating the 125th anniversary. The artwork is also

on display throughout Mercy’s facilities for colleagues, patients and visitors to enjoy.

- Throughout the year, Mercy will host a traveling treat cart to visit colleagues throughout the organization. Leadership will “drive” the cart and distribute refreshments to teams and departments to express appreciation and gratitude for employees’ hard work and commitment to Mercy’s 125 years of success.

Learn more about Mercy’s history and services at mercydesmoines.org.



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IOWA CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE
Saturday March 30th
8am Mass, conference 9am-3pm
 St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, West Des Moines.
 \$25 Adults, \$15 Students
 Keynote Speakers: Deacon Harold: author, evangelist and preacher, and Deacon Randy Kiel, marriage and family counselor.

For more information and to register for the event visit iowacatholicradio.com/events.

Don't forget to download the Iowa Catholic Radio App from the Apple App store or Google Play.

Ladies’ MOSAIC Luncheon
Thursday Feb. 21, 11:30am—1:00pm
Location TBD

Enjoy a complimentary lunch with your friends while listening to an engaging talk by international speaker and author John Pridmore. Registration for this luncheon series opens **February 1st**.

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Build relationships without screens, typing

Technology can be a great resource. But at times people use technology to the point where they become socially inept.

This is something I've noticed, especially in myself when I was in high school. And now I see it with my two little brothers. I'll come back home after spending a whole nine months in Rome and say, 'Hey Vinnie, how's it going?' And he'll be on his phone. He'll briefly look up and say, 'Oh, it's good,' and then go right back to texting his friends.

And it's not that he's trying to be rude. He's authentically happy that I'm back home. But it does send off a message

Guest Column



By Max Carson

that his attention is not fully towards me and that there's something more important going on. I know we've all heard this, but it's true. When you're texting while someone is talking to you, you're treating them as if something on your phone is

more important. Even if we don't feel that way or think that way, that's the message that's being put across.

My advice is to just be attentive to what's going on around you. And be attentive to the people who are around you. Because those faces – those people around you – are more important and real than the screen you're interacting with.

The whole point of Catholicism and Christianity is to come into a relationship, a personal relationship, with Jesus Christ. And within a personal relationship, there's speaking and listening. There's not typing and responding. I feel it's very important to communicate with

other people – our friends and our family – without screens and without typing. Because the most important relationship that we want to continue to develop is with Jesus Christ – and he doesn't have a cell phone. (Trust me – I've checked.)

It's much easier to go into a relationship with Jesus Christ when we're used to face-to-face time with family and friends in relationships that we can see.

Max Carson is a seminarian for the Diocese of Des Moines who is studying in Rome. He is from St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines.

No matter how messy, we are loved

I'm just going to put this out there. My house is often messy.

It's not uncommon to find a few dishes that need to get washed, or some toys strewn about, or the occasional (my wife might say frequent) stray sock of mine.

I am guessing I'm not the only parent of small children who feels like he's living in a state of perpetual chaos, and yet at times I do feel quite alone. You see, somehow every time I visit a friend's house I notice washed dishes, clean rooms, and virtually zero stray socks!

I've reflected on this experience, and I've come to realize that my family can put on a pretty good show, too. We're masters of the 30-minute cleanup which means hiding all evidence of a house that's lived in. We have said those prayers to St. Jude requesting that our guests can be just 10 minutes late; please Lord let me have

Marriage & Family Life



By Adam Storey

the vacuum put away before they get here! With enough heads up, we can always present well. (My mom had a saying for this; she would say, "If you're coming over to see me, you're welcome at any time. If you're coming over to see my house, schedule an appointment!")

I think this is true of our homes, but it's also true of our lives as well. In my role, I have the incredible privilege to be invited into the messy parts of many couple's lives. The parts they hide from

almost everyone else. Almost universally I hear things like, "Why are we the only ones going through this?" or "Why does everyone else have it put together?"

I've known enough couples, (and know enough about myself) to know that's never true.

I think this is important because Satan loves to cause shame. He loves to isolate us, and turn us in on ourselves. But Christ taught us that wounds heal in the light.

In the light, there is freedom and healing. In the light, we get to experience the fact that no matter how messy our lives are, we are loved and chosen by God.

I think it is vital for every person to have somewhere to go to talk openly, to share all their struggles and warts. Not to celebrate or exaggerate our wounds and certainly not to further wound our spouse or family, but we need places and people

with whom we can be honest, to whom we can reveal our hearts, so that we can experience healing and peace.

In marriage, the first and vital place to share all of yourself is with your spouse. Spiritual directors and close friends are also a profound gift, and it is important to have a place to talk and grow as a couple.

If you don't yet have a place to share your heart (individually or as a couple) I'd challenge you find someone. We need to be able to open our hearts, because it is only when someone sees all of me that I can experience the profound gift of being loved unconditionally.

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

A generation of life

The Church calls us to be instruments of God and to seek out those who are vulnerable. According to Pope Benedict XVI during a 2008 Mass, "The church...is called to proclaim the gift of life, to serve life, and to promote a culture of life."

Today, the pro-life generation is my generation. Although culture tells us differently, we need to look past society's norms and live out God's truth.

As a member of the younger generation, I need to know why abortion is wrong, how to defend my position, and understand the beliefs of others who disagree with me.

When I encounter someone who claims to be pro-choice, I should aim to understand their views on human life, so I can defend my beliefs. I need to know if a pro-choice advocate disagrees with the science that life begins at conception or with the dignity of the fetus or unborn child. I need to advocate the immorality of abortion.

We can also look at the source of the pro-abortion movement through Planned Parenthood's founder, Margaret Sanger. In her book, *The Pivot of Civilization* she writes, "The most urgent problem today is how to limit and discourage the over-fertility of the mentally and physically defective."

In order to be able to promote life to those I encounter, I first need to be con-

Guest Column



By Barbara Reed

sistent in how I treat others.

In order to be fully pro-life, we need to acknowledge other pro-life issues, including euthanasia, the death penalty, poverty, immigration, and any other issue pertaining to the seamless garment of life.

This garment is symbolic for the immeasurable dignity of all human beings from conception to natural death. We are not upholding a culture of life when we are using others as objects, instead of people made in the image and likeness of God. By showing love to those around us, including women who are considering abortion, we can lead through Christ's example and prevent them from considering abortion as an option. True feminism is supporting women through their pregnancy and telling them they are capable of overcoming their circumstances and choosing life for their child.

Abortion is one of the most prevalent issues among my generation and it is time that we open our eyes to the truth. We do not need to be cardinals to support a culture of life; we only need to seek to understand the Catholic Church's teaching in order to spread its message of life to those

around us. If we can spread Christ's light to those who feel abortion is their only option, we will open their hearts to the choice of life.

Barbara Reed is parishioner of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Des Moines.

Ask a Priest

Q. Is an extraordinary communion minister allowed to bless children that come up with their hands across their chest?

A. Yes. It's a lovely practice. Children can feel included as they approach the Lord's Table with their families. It's also a nice practice for parents to bless their children as they prepare to go to bed. Parents can help them say their prayers and then trace a cross on their daughter's or son's forehead.

Q. Where do bishops go when they retire? What responsibilities do they have and do they act in an advisory manner?

A. Every bishop is different. Some retire in the area where they served as diocesan bishop. Others move closer to members of their families. Some for health reasons will go south; others to retirement centers. Some bishops make themselves available to diocesan bishops to help with confirmations and ordinations. Some give retreats and days of recollections for parishes or priests' groups. They are still members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, but they do not have a vote on matters before the group.

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

Longtime supporter of Catholic education, Jim Berens, dies

Jim Berens, a retired corporate lawyer and leader in the Diocese of Des Moines, died Jan. 7 at home in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was 72.

"He didn't wear his religion on his sleeve, but he worked hard on it behind the scenes," said his wife, Lois.

The Berenses were honored in 2013 with the Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice, the highest honor that can be given to laity for distinguished service to the Catholic Church.

"Jim was an extraordinarily active and generous supporter of Catholic education, with special dedication to Holy Family School and Dowling Catholic High School," said Bishop Richard Pates.

A product of Catholic education, Jim married Lois, a Lutheran.

"We married in December and by August I was Catholic," she said.

The couple moved to Iowa after he graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Law to become general counsel at Dial Financial Corporation. He eventually became president of Wells Fargo Financial Co. and enjoyed a successful career, retiring in 1999.

While in Des Moines, he was a leader in Catholic education, having served as the treasurer and then president of the Holy Family Inner City School Foundation, a member of the Dowling Catholic High School Foundation Board and a founding member and president of the Des Moines diocese's Catholic Tuition Organization. He also served as a board member of Birthright.

For many years, he taught eighth grade religious education at St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines.

"He was a busy man but he thought this was a valuable use of his time," Lois said.

He became involved with Holy Family School and loved it, she added.

"He turned it around and put it on sound financial footing and he tutored fourth graders in reading," Lois said. "He always related to kids. He didn't talk down to them. He just talked to them on their level and they just related to him."

"With few limits, he gave of himself in time and from his resources," said Bishop Pates.

"The fruits of his efforts are seen today in the highly educated refugees and immigrants contributing successfully in society," he said. In addition, Jim "reminds us that we are stewards of the resources God has given us. We do not own them. They are meant to be used for the good of others."

"Jim Berens served as a spark in all of his initiatives," said Dr. Dan Ryan, president of Dowling Catholic High School.

"His ability to quickly understand a situation and share this vision with a group spurred his peers into action. Fortunately for us, Jim frequently used his talents to benefit Catholic schools in the Des Moines area. We have been truly blessed to have him with us for 40 years."

After retirement, Jim and Lois moved back to Minnesota, where he continued to devote his energy to Catholic education.

"His heart was always focused on the children and, once he moved to St. Paul, he focused his energies on helping to rebuild their parish Catholic school," said Jeanne Wells, executive director of the Catholic Tuition Organization.

Jim was a big fan of the Minnesota Twins.

"Jim and Lois each year invited me to Minneapolis for a game between the Yankees and Twins to enjoy their 'championship' seats," recalled Bishop Pates. "Unfortunately, the Twins never won. Perhaps Jim is in a more influential spot to help the Twins finally come up with a victory."

Jim would want people to know there is joy in giving, Lois said.

"The most fun you can do in life is to make someone's life better," she said. "That's what he'd want to be remembered for is how much joy there is in giving to someone else."

Jim's Mass of Christian burial was Jan. 10 at St. Agnes Church in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Memorials can be made to Holy Family School in Des Moines or St. Agnes School in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Bishop Emeritus Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S., Jim and Lois Berens, and Bishop Richard Pates in 2013 when the couple was honored with the Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice Cross.

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LIFE IS PRECIOUS DAY

BREAKING THE BONDS OF HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

WHO:

Speakers:
1. Michael Ferjak, "I Know a Guy" CEO/Chief Trainer & Consultant
2. Kellie Markey, Dorothy's House founder
3. Fr. Patrick McManus, Pastor of Christ the King

WHEN:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2019
8:50AM-NOON

WHERE:

CHRIST THE KING PARISH
6711 SW 9TH ST.
DES MOINES, IA 50315

WHAT:

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS ISSUE IN OUR COMMUNITY, HOW TO HELP VICTIMS AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS, AND GET YOUR COMMUNITY MORE INVOLVED IN STOPPING THIS INJUSTICE AGAINST THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON. A SMALL BREAKFAST BAR AND CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 2ND AT WWW.CHRISTTHEKINGPARISH.ORG CLICK ON THE "LIFE IS PRECIOUS DAY" LINK AND COMPLETE THE FORM.

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Around the diocese

Jan 27 Sunday

Oblates of Conception Abbey

DES MOINES -- Oblates of Conception Abbey meet monthly to study the Rule of St. Benedict as a means of fostering their own spiritual growth. Anyone interested can join the January meeting when Benedictine Father Daniel Petsche presents. Come 2:30-5 p.m. at the Basilica of St. John Parish Hall for a potluck (bring a dish to share), discussion and Vespers. Questions? Contact George Appleby at jess8spen@aol.com

Jan. 31 and February 7 Dreams and Spiritual Growth Workshop

DES MOINES - During this Emmaus House workshop, you'll begin exploring the symbolic language of dreams, how God communicates with us through our dreams, how to work with our dreams, and how working with our dreams can

help us grow in greater wholeness and in deeper relationship with God. This two-part workshop meets on successive Thursdays (January 31 & February 7) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.00. Learn more and register at www.TheEmmausHouse.org.

Feb. 7 - Thursday

Theology on Tap

COUNCIL BLUFFS - Celebrate Valentine's Day early with a social and presentation from Dr. Sheryl Overmyer, associate professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University. Her presentation is on how "Charity Changes Everything: How Christian love takes shape in marriage and singleness. The event will be held at Tish's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 8 Friday

Theology on Tap

WINDSOR HEIGHTS -

Celebrate Valentine's Day early on with a social and presentation from Dr. Sheryl Overmyer, associate professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University. Her presentation is on how "Charity Changes Everything: How Christian love takes shape in marriage and singleness. The event will be held at the Sherwood Forest Event Center in Windsor Heights at 7 p.m. and drinks will be available with purchase. Parish childcare is available with RSVP. Contact Adam at the diocese to learn more.

Feb. 9 Saturday

Sex trafficking education

DES MOINES - Learn more about this issue in our community, how to help victims and support survivors and get more involved in this injustice. Event is 8:30 a.m.-noon. Small breakfast bar and childcare will be provided. Register by Feb. 2 at ChristTheKingParish.org and click on the "Life is Precious

Day" link. Speakers are Kellie Markey, founder of Dorothy's House, Michael Ferjak, and Father Patrick McManus, pastor of Christ the King

Green Gala

ANKENY -- St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School is hosting the third Annual Green Gala on Feb. 9. The evening will include dinner, dancing, wine pull, live auction and silent auction. Visit slte-school.org/greengala to buy tickets and for more information on event sponsorships.

Trivia Contest

WINTERSET -- Join St. Joseph Church for its eighth year of trivia contests starting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9. There will be a variety of questions with an overall Dr. Seuss theme. Go to saintjosephchurch.net for registration form and more information.

Feb. 10 Sunday

Deep Maroon Serenade

WEST DES MOINES -- Come for an afternoon of music, fun and festivities presented by Dowling Catholic High School Band at the Sheraton Inn. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and the show begins at 2 p.m. Admission is free; optional reserved seating is available. For more information please contact Karen Ball at 515-556-0386.

Feb. 15-17 Friday-Sunday

Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) for Men

ANKENY -- The Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply "experience" themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. A men's CEW will be held at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church Feb. 15-17. For more information, contact Curt Carlson at curtcew2019@gmail.com and/or 515-783-3819. You can also visit olih.org/cew-retreats/

Feb. 16 Saturday

Morning reflection

ALTOONA -- Enjoy a morning of reflection, discussion and inspiration using Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron's program "The Mass, Mystery and Majesty" at Ss. John and Paul Parish, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus #13109. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., presentation is 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Deacon Tom Maly, 515-957-0185.

March 2 Saturday

Center for Social Ministry Trivia Night

DES MOINES - Join the Center for Social Ministry Trivia Night 6-9 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Recruit friends, family, co-workers, your JustFaith group, or book clubs to form a team. There will be games and prizes. Dinner, beverages, and snacks are included. The winning team members will receive a prize, and of course bragging rights. Team registrations are appreciated by February 15. \$200 for a table/team of eight. Individual tickets are available for \$25 each. Learn more and register at CenterforSocialMinistry.org.

Latin Mass

DES MOINES -- The Latin Mass at St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines is at 5 p.m. on Sundays in the main church.

Wednesdays

Divine Mercy Chaplet

DES MOINES --The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at St. Augustin Chapel.

Center for Social Ministry offers JustFaith in the Des Moines area

JustFaith is designed for people who want to live more simply, love more compassionately, and make a difference by responding to the needs of the world. Three stand-alone, eight-week sessions can be taken individually or together, in any order. Each session has eight meetings that are two hours in length and include prayer, engaging readings and videos, and thought-provoking dialogue. Each session of the JustFaith program is \$80 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. To learn more, please call 515-782-3054 or email centerforsocialministry@gmail.com.

2019 Red Dinner

DAVENPORT - New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan will be a special guest at the 2019 Red Dinner sponsored by Sacred Heart Cathedral in the Diocese of Davenport on Feb. 7 at the Rhythm City Convention Center. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. with a social hour at 6 p.m.. Cost is \$75 per person. To make reservations: shcdavenport.org/red-dinner-reservations. For more info: 563-324-3257 or davsacredheart@diodav.org.

Bishop visits seminarians in Rome



Bishop Pates visited our diocesan seminarians studying in Rome in late 2018. Here he's pictured with seminarians Alex Kramer, Max Carson, Deacon James Downey and Reed Flood, as well as Sister Mary Ignatius, Sister Emmanuel, Sister Maria and Sister Gianna Marie.

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Lenten fish fry dinners

Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines will host a Lenten fish fry dinner every Friday, March 8 to April 12 in the school gym. \$9/adults, \$5/children ages 3-10, free for children under 3. Family maximum cost \$35. Alternatives: mac and cheese, cheese pizza, fish tacos.

Parishes can send their Lenten fish fry dinner information to communications@dmdiocese.org. List dates, time, location, cost and if there will be any alternatives to fish served.

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 An advertisement for EDEN Parish Fundraising Consulting. The word "EDEN" is written in large, bold, black letters with a green cross symbol to its right. Below it, in smaller text, is "PARISH FUNDRAISING CONSULTING IN THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES". A circular portrait of Eric C. Heiningger, CFRE, is shown on the left. To the right, a list of services is provided: "HELPING RAISE MONEY FOR: -New Churches, -Parish Halls, -Catholic Schools, -Renovations, -Debt Reduction, -Parking Lots". At the bottom, contact information for Eric C. Heiningger, CFRE, is given: www.EdenPlus.org | 515-705-3336.

Priest's father died doing what he loved

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Tim Chicoine, of Immaculate Conception Parish in St. Marys, was doing what he loved when he passed away on Jan. 5.

Taking advantage of the unseasonably warm weather that day, Chicoine and a good friend went kayaking at Lake Red Rock near Pella.

Chicoine was an experienced, responsible and safe kayaker, with a Level 2 certification from the American Canoeing Association. In fact, he taught others about safety and proper technique. He had paddled all over the North American continent, said his son, Father Trevor Chicoine, parochial vicar of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

"These guys were so safety focused," Father Chicoine said.

So it came as a shock to everyone who knew Chicoine that he and his friend had somehow got caught in a strong current or riptide that "sucked them where they didn't want to be," Father Chicoine said.

Their kayaks were carried up to the dam, where Chicoine died. His friend survived.

Father Chicoine takes solace knowing his father died doing what he loved.

"If he had to write an early exit ticket, this would have been it — doing what he loved with a friend he cherished," Father Chicoine said.

It was Chicoine's love of nature and God's creation that drew him to kayaking, Father Chicoine said.



Father Trevor Chicoine pictured with his parents, Tim and Shannon, and sisters Kaley and Naomi. This photo was taken at Father Chicoine's first Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in St. Marys the day after his ordination in 2017.

"He loved the outdoors, he loved the water, loved being close to nature," Father Chicoine said. "[With kayaking] there was a real closeness to creation and in many ways his whole life he was very connected to the earth. He was an agronomist for DuPont — worked in agriculture his whole life and really had a close connection to God's creation."

He was also a man of great faith who lead by example.

"I witnessed his own devotion, his own commitment

to getting the family to Mass on Sunday," Father Chicoine said. "And then I think beyond everything else, he taught me what it was like to be a father. Anytime someone called me father, it was only through his example."

His father also led at church, serving as grand knight for the local Knights of Columbus chapter at his parish.

"Dad really showed me what it meant to be a father, how one cares for and keeps the flock going forward and in line, and

also one that can be very tender with the flock," Father Chicoine said, noting that he wasn't afraid to express his emotions. "I saw him cry multiple times. He taught me how to cry and showed me how to be a man and a father."

He was dedicated in all aspects of his life.

"[I hope people remember] a man who deeply loved his family, who put deep roots in his community and was a great man of integrity," Father Chicoine said. "I never saw him do any-

thing less than 100 percent. He knew where his priorities lied, and they lied chiefly with family, friends and faith."

Tim Chicoine's funeral was held Saturday, Jan. 12 at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola and he was buried in St. Marys. Father Chicoine gave his father's eulogy.

Chicoine is survived by his wife, Shannon, Father Chicoine, and daughters Kaley and Naomi.

Valentine's Day social and presentation

Celebrate Valentine's Day early with a social and presentation from Dr. Sheryl Overmyer, associate professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University, on how *Charity Changes Everything: How Christian love takes shape in marriage and singleness*. The event will be held in Council Bluffs on Feb 7th and Des Moines on Feb 8th. Drinks will be available for purchase. Parish childcare is available with RSVP. Contact Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org to register for childcare.

Council Bluffs: Tish's Restaurant, 1207 S 35th Street, in Council Bluffs. Doors will open at 6 pm and the event starts at 6:30 pm on February 7th.

Des Moines: Sherwood Forest Event Center, 7400 Hickman Road, Windsor Heights. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the event starts at 7 pm on February 8th.

For more information visit our website at dmdiocese.org



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- Wawel Castle Grounds in Krakow
- Our Lady of Czestochowa (Black Madonna) icon
- Shrine of Divine Mercy
- Birthplace of Karol Wojtyla (Pope St. John Paul II)
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A Vision for Excellence in
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Schools proposal to be unveiled in spring

After months of school visits, interviews, Blue Ribbon Task Force discussions and data mining, a strategic plan for diocesan schools will be shared in March or April

By Dr. Jerry Deegan
Contributing Writer

The Meitler group has been working with us on the strategic plan for almost a year now.

That sounds like a long time, but everyone believed from the beginning that a careful, detailed, complete examination of Catholic education in the diocese was important and would take time if an effective plan, including input from a wide variety of constituents, was to be produced.

The process included:

- Visiting every school,
- Interviewing key individuals and collecting data to determine key findings for each school,
- Creating a Blue Ribbon Task Force made up of constituents that meet every six weeks to share data, get feedback and input to create clarity and priorities, and

• Creating working groups on discipleship/Catholic identity, finance/governance, enrollment/marketing and academics/programming to dig deeper into the key findings, data and input to determine recommendations for the task force.

We met with pastors with schools in the Des Moines area as a group and individually. We met with other pastors and groups of school leadership around the diocese for input and feedback. We met with the Presbyteral Council, the Bishop's Council, the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, and the diocese's Finance Council. More meetings are scheduled.

We believe it is essential that the final strategic plan include the voices and input from many constituents across the diocese.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

St. Augustin Catholic School Principal Dr. Nancy Dowdle gives a Meitler consultant a tour of the Des Moines school as part of the diocesan-wide strategic planning process.

cese.

The planning process is nearing an end with the goal to have a strategic plan to present to the public in March or April. The plan will provide broad recommendations in the four areas listed above. Some, but no means all of the general areas the plan will address are:

- Our schools must be a place where students, staff, and parents are on a faith journey together as members of the school and parish. The parish and school relationship should be first and foremost focused on building a

community of faith and discipleship together.

- There has been no talk of closing schools. The conversation has been how we take the good schools we have and help each become a great school.

There has been no talk of closing schools. The conversation has been how we take the good schools we have and help each become a great school.

- Our academic programs must be strong across all schools and support every student to fully realize his or her academic potential. To have excellent academic programs schools have to have vertical alignment of cur-

riculum and make data driven decisions. That is present but needs to be enhanced.

- We will need to focus on new ways for schools and parishes to work together collaboratively. The most effective organizations plan well, define roles and responsibilities, set clear expectations, and have healthy checks

and balances.

- Schools must be able to hire and maintain excellent staff. In order to reach that goal, compensation must be fair, just and competitive. Staff compensation in many of our schools is below what it will take to achieve our goal of excellence.

- Our schools and parishes must address the current funding model in a way that allows both the parish and school to thrive.

• Support for families who need tuition assistance to attend our schools is essential to our mission. The Catholic Tuition Organization is fundamental in this effort but additional avenues of support need to be researched to realize full support of families who need assistance.

Much more will be included in the plan.

We look forward to completing the plan in the next few months and sharing it with you in the spring.

Much more work is ahead after that!

Thanks to everyone for your input, feedback and patience during this important process.

Dr. Jerry Deegan, former president of Dowling Catholic High School, chairs the Blue Ribbon Task Force.



Left: Consultant Alan Meitler shares key findings at a diocesan leadership gathering last fall. Above left, Dowling Catholic High School Principal Matt Meendering. Above right, Laura Donahoo, chair of Christ the King Catholic School Board, meets with consultants.

St. Patrick Church and School in Perry nearing capital campaign goals

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

In October, St. Patrick Parish and School in Perry launched the Forward in Faith capital campaign to address their budget shortfalls to ensure solid financial footing for the future.

The parish will also use the funds to build a handicap ramp for the church, said Father Chris Reising, pastor.

The parish and school's goal is \$475,000. They have already raised \$343,000.

"The community is behind it," Father Reising said. "There are people pledging to it and we are going forward."

"It's an essential thing," Father Reising added. "We have to be healthy spiritually and financially. And there are a lot of people who believe in the campaign because they believe in the school and parish."

Kandice Roethler, principal at St. Patrick, said the capital campaign will help the school move forward into the future.

"[The capital campaign] needed to happen to stay viable within the community for many years to come," Roethler said.

The parish and school received planning assistance from Meitler, the company managing the long-term strategic planning for all Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools.

Eric Heining, manag-

ing director of EDEN+, a fundraising and consulting firm based in Des Moines focused on Catholic causes, partnered with St. Patrick to help them achieve their fundraising goals.

"The families of Perry have proven they are clearly invested in the future of St. Patrick's Church and School," Heining said. "Their vision for the future and dedication is truly inspiring."

"Families have considered St. Patrick's their spiritual home for over a century and they want to see that continue for another century," Heining continued. "They are setting themselves up to grow ministries decades from now by building a strong foundation today."

Parishioners Ben and Martha Williamson are volunteers for the capital campaign, and have been making phone calls and asking for pledges. They are passionate about preserving the long-term vitality of the parish and school.

"We want to keep the school going," Martha said. "We've got to educate our little ones – it's just so important."

Attending Mass in Perry at a church that is handicap acces-



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

St. Patrick Parish and School in Perry has already raised \$343,000 of their \$475,000 goal. Reducing their debt will help ensure long-term success for the St. Patrick community.

sible is also very important to the Williamsons.

"The entrance we have now is at the back of the church, its small and the only wheelchairs that can get through it are small," Ben said.

Mike Wilson, the campaign chair, has been attending St. Patrick Parish his entire life. His two kids attended the school for eight years. He was happy to

get involved.

"I love the parish – it's been the foundation of my faith and my Catholic beliefs through the greatest times of my life and also I've had family losses too," Wilson said. "My mom and my dad are both buried here in Perry and both had their funeral services here. My brother – we tragically lost him 20 years ago and he was a member of St. Patrick."

"I've lived here and without the support of the parish..., I don't know how I would have endured some of those things...", Wilson added. "I would like other people to experience the same blessings and experience that love and Christ's love right here."

Learn more about the parish at stpatsperry.com and the school at stpatricks-perry.ia.org.

Leadership model changes at St. Albert Catholic Schools

A team of Catholic educators at Saint Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs shared with the school board and parents on Tuesday, Dec. 18 a plan that is forming to breathe new life into the schools and set it on course as the best choice for an education in

the Council Bluffs area.

Under the guidance of the Diocese of Des Moines and Meitler Consultants, a strategic planning process has produced a new organizational structure that promotes new thinking, improved student, faculty and alumni en-

gagement, and fosters financial viability.

The research, surveys and conversations that have taken place over the past months have identified critical areas of focus that will be led at an advanced level. These include roles in Academics, Campus Life, and Marketing/Alumni Relations. These areas of focus further filter into specialties such as

Curriculum, Technology, Mission & Ministry, Fine and Performing Arts, Athletics, and STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art & Mathematics).

The Director of Academics will be charged with the scope and sequence of the entire educational program, providing a cohesive strategy and vision for the intellectual well-being of every student in every grade from the beginning of their Saint Albert career to their post-secondary education.

The Director of Mission and Campus Life will lead the creation of a social and emotional environment that cultivates and maintains high standards for student behavior, learning, attendance, safety, faith formation and Catholic identity.

The Advancement Team will foster long-term alumni relationships, create and promote the St. Albert brand, and ensure that a consistent message of the benefits of student, family, faculty and administrative life at Saint Albert is communicated to the community. The head of the school will be re-



Anne Jensen, principal of the elementary school at St. Albert Catholic Schools, talks with consultant Alan Meitler.

made into the position of Executive Director. This is exciting and critical to putting the school on a visionary path toward the future. The Executive Director will have an unrivaled passion for Saint Albert, will possess a deep understanding of the needs and operations of the school, and most importantly, will focus on creating a culture of philanthropy and advancement for Saint Albert.

A new structure will support innovative programming while also securing the funding necessary to achieve success.

Most importantly, the new structure promotes teacher and staff leadership teams to partner with the school administration where teachers will have direct responsibility for planning and directing school programs.

The goal will be to hire the Executive Director, Director of Academics, and Director of Mission and Campus Life for the 2019-2020 academic year.

All questions can be directed to diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday at tbonday@dmdiocese.org.



Some students at St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs have desks on wheels.

Bishop grateful for donations to further ministries, outreach

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am very grateful for your gifts to the Church of southwest Iowa. Heartfelt thanks for your donations to the Sharing God's Gift campaign and your annual parish contributions.

Investment balances increased by 5 percent last year and many facilities have been modernized or expanded. The final touches are being made on the Catholic Pastoral Center renovation project to allow it to serve the Church for another 50 years. By following meticulous guidelines, we are in the process of qualifying for historical landmark tax credits. Funds received from the credits will be restricted for future repairs to the building.

The diocese is particularly grateful for your ongoing and generous support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. These funds support the hard work of diocesan ministries, including vocations and seminarians, Catholic education, marriage and family life, Hispanic ministry, the Communications office, the Stewardship office, Marriage Tribunal, Catholic Charities, priest health insurance, and contributions to priest retirement funds. Your generosity is making a difference!

The Priest Pension Board meeting took place in December. Thanks to the donations from the SGG campaign and strong investment returns, the plan is at an 89 percent funded rate. It will be important to maintain such funding.

In my role as Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, I have come to rely on many groups that assist me in administrative matters. These groups are made up of members drawn from various parishes with a specific expertise. Included in this effort is the Diocesan Finance Council with its 14 members. Our diocese is blessed by their efforts.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines



Latest audit shows diocese reports income, expenses fairly

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The Diocese of Des Moines continued its long streak of positive audit results with its most recent audit of the 2017/2018 fiscal year that ended last June 30.

"Thanks to the generosity of our diocesan parishioners, the health of the Des Moines diocese is strong," said Dan Kinsella, chair of the diocesan Finance Council.

The firm Brooks Lodden, P.C., which performed an audit of the diocese last fall, issued a letter that said, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the administrative offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines as of June 30, 2018..."

Expenses of the diocese center on services to 80 parishes and 17 schools in central and southwest Iowa. Services range from vocations and religious development, youth through religious education and schools, pastoral services and direct assistance to Catholic Charities.

Over the past 10 years, the Diocese of Des Moines has worked at increasing local parish understanding of accounting and increased transparency on local and diocesan levels.

Two diocesan Finance Department staff members – Paul

Carlson, director of Finance, and Christine Rice, controller – are in the process of visiting all 80 parishes to review their accounting and recommend best practices. Visiting parish Finance Committees in the evening and crunching numbers by day, the pair have been to 43 parishes and hope to see the rest over the next three years.

Carlson and his team also lead Business Office Forums in the spring and fall for parish staff on both the east and west sides of the diocese to share up-to-date information, train staff and hear feedback to better diocesan services.

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa was created to provide sound investment options to parishes and donors while ensuring that funds are invested in vehicles that are in harmony with Catholic Social Teaching principles.

And, Bishop Richard Pates has invited top finance experts in the community to serve on diocesan committees that review budgets, investments, capital and operations plans. Their expertise helps the diocese follow best practices.

The bishop has increased transparency by encouraging parishes to publish an annual report, publishing diocesan annual report information in The Catholic Mirror and sharing audit results

ASSETS	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	Change
Cash	\$362,848	\$895,468	(\$532,620)
Building Renovation Cash	\$383,531	\$3,275,428	(\$2,891,897) (a)
Diocese Investments	\$5,651,058	\$4,692,511	\$958,547
Annuity Investment	\$0	\$1,029,515	(\$1,029,515) (d)
SGG Pledge Receivable	\$1,687,224	\$5,702,520	(\$4,015,296) (b)
Pastoral Center Campaign Receivable	\$2,113,686	\$2,690,765	(\$577,079) (a)
Property, Plant, & Equipment, Net	\$10,656,552	\$5,732,352	\$4,924,200 (a)
Self-Funded Property Insurance	\$1,480,685	\$1,331,105	\$149,580
Other Assets	\$520,588	\$339,549	\$181,039
Total Assets	\$22,856,172	\$25,689,214	(\$2,833,041)
Liabilities			
Sharing God's Gifts Payable	\$2,234,604	\$5,130,233	(\$2,895,629) (b)
Current Liabilities	\$1,719,752	\$2,424,065	(\$704,313)
Annuity Payable	\$0	\$1,002,019	(\$1,002,019) (d)
Priest Pension/Medical Liability	\$5,354,102	\$5,225,298	\$128,804 (c)
Total Liabilities	\$9,308,458	\$13,781,616	(\$4,473,157)
Net Assets	\$13,547,714	\$11,907,598	\$1,640,116
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$22,856,172	\$25,689,214	(\$2,833,041)

(a) During FY2018, the Diocese renovated the Catholic Pastoral Center with non-operational (non-ADA) funds

(b) In FY18, \$4 million was collected on SGG pledges and \$2.8 million was paid out to recipient organizations. The remaining funds were used for the renovation.

(c) Based on the Actuarial reports, the unfunded liability increased in FY2018

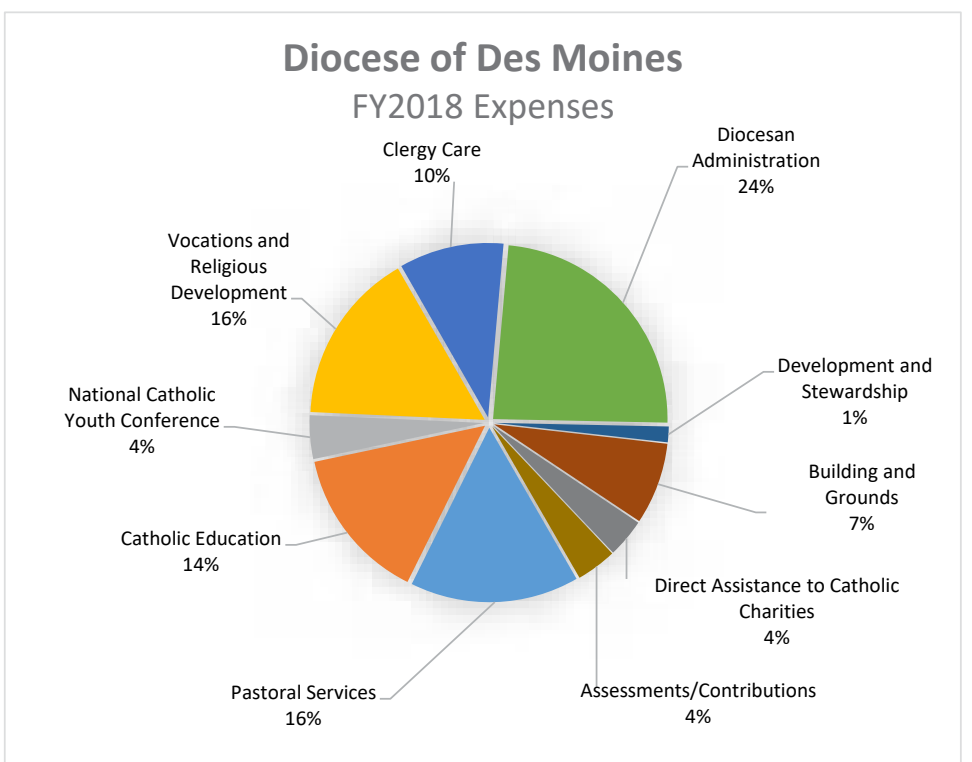
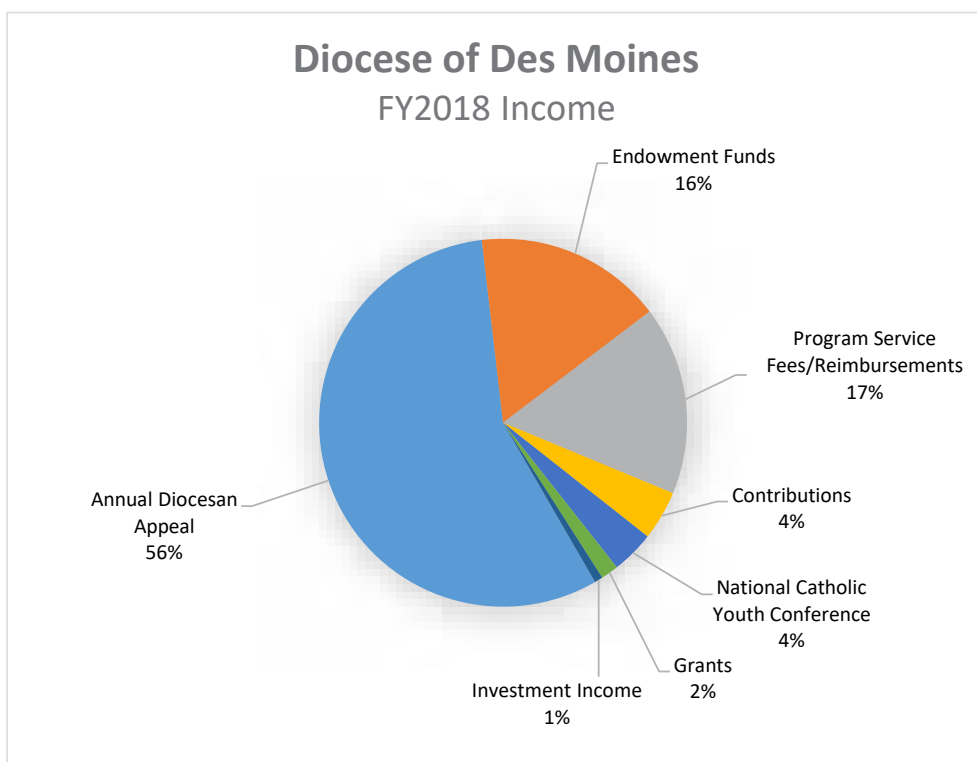
(d) The Charitable Gift Annuity program was moved to the Catholic Foundation of SW Iowa

online (dmdiocese.org).

"With the leadership of Bishop Pates, Paul and Christie, the parishes have continued to strengthen their financial and

technology controls, which is paramount in the current environment," said Kinsella. "We really are in a very good, strong position."

Former Finance Council chair, Terry Lillis, said, "Through Bishop Pates' leadership, the financial future of the diocese is in great shape."



Priests thankful for pension fund

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

As Msgr. Larry Beeson celebrated his 85th birthday Jan. 9, he reflected on how grateful he and the other retired priests are for the pension provided to them by the diocese.

"We priests talk about that. We are so grateful that we have a pension. There are many people who don't have pensions," he said.

For many senior citizens, they have to make a choice: food or medicine. "They don't have money for both," he said.

The monsignor has been retired for 15 years now yet he keeps a busy schedule.

"It's no goal of mine to sit in a rocking chair," he laughed. "I always tell people it keeps me out of the tavern and off the roads."

Since he retired, he has served as chaplain for the Knights of Columbus assembly covering the Des Moines parishes of Christ the King, St. Anthony, St. Ambrose and Our Lady of the Americas.

He knows enough Spanish that he can help with hearing confessions in Spanish and substitutes for priests on vacation by celebrating Mass in either language. He has also celebrated a weekend Mass for five years at Christ the King Parish.

He's a spiritual director, vicar for retired priests, serves on the liaison committee for the priests' residence by Dowling Catholic High School and, until recently, has been a voice on Iowa Catholic Radio.

He just handed the chaplaincy role for the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre to the newly retired Msgr. Steven Orr. Msgr. Beeson held that role for 35 years.

While priests are working at parishes, their transportation, housing and food costs are covered by the parish.

Once priests retire, they're responsible for those costs. Their retirement income consists of Social Security, their diocesan pension and any savings



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

Msgr. Larry Beeson, retired 15 years ago, keeps his hand in a number of ministries and activities, following the path of his mentors. Thanks to the diocesan Priests Pension Fund and health insurance plan, he can live comfortably without having to choose, as many senior citizens do, whether they can afford rent and medicine.

they may have.

The diocese invested \$12 million for priests' retirement plus \$1 million from the Sharing God's Gifts capital campaign. Supplemental funding comes from the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

The diocese pays for health insurance for all priests including the Medicare supplemental plan for retired priests.

"I just think that the retired priests really do feel that the pension is a great blessing, the health plan and all of the ways the diocese supports us," said Msgr. Beeson.

His own parents died when they were young. His mentors were priests from the time he was a student at Dowling Catholic, to when he was in active ministry. Many of those friends

served in one capacity or another until they died or could no longer continue.

"I think it's very obvious that I enjoy being a priest," he said. "They say if you enjoy what

you do you never have to go to work."

DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

Statement of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2018

Revenues	Actual	Budget	Variance
Annual Diocesan Appeal	\$4,230,058	\$4,230,058	\$0
Endowment Funds	\$1,236,951	\$1,236,951	\$0
Program Service Fees/Reimbursements	\$1,241,824	\$1,153,023	\$88,801
Contributions	\$326,265	\$301,000	\$25,265
Grants	\$115,351	\$152,464	(\$37,113)
Investment Income	\$54,646	\$0	\$54,646
Total Revenues	\$7,205,094	\$7,073,496	\$131,599

Expenses

Pastoral Services	\$1,147,436	\$1,200,984	(\$53,548)
Catholic Education	\$1,050,077	\$1,033,043	\$17,035
Vocations and Religious Development	\$1,171,709	\$1,150,865	\$20,844
Clergy Care	\$710,802	\$733,232	(\$22,430)
Diocesan Administration	\$1,750,883	\$1,794,473	(\$43,590)
Development and Stewardship	\$106,290	\$183,313	(\$77,023)
Building and Grounds	\$554,969	\$565,222	(\$10,254)
Direct Assistance to Catholic Charities	\$262,263	\$262,263	\$0
Assessments/Contributions	\$272,768	\$150,100	\$122,668
Total Expenses	\$7,027,197	\$7,073,495	(\$46,298)

Operations

	\$177,897	\$0	\$177,897
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Non-Operational Funds

Priest Health and Retirement Liability	(\$128,804) (a)
Sharing God's Gifts	(\$100,267)
Pastoral Center Campaign	\$1,885,999 (b)
Other Changes	(\$194,709) (c)

Total Non-Operational Funds **\$1,462,219**

Increase in Net Assets **\$1,640,116**

(a) Based on the Actuarial reports, the unfunded liability increased in FY2018

(b) The Diocese conducted a campaign to raise funds for the renovation of the Catholic Pastoral Center.

(c) In FY2018, restricted funds collected in a previous year were spent

Diocese appreciative for financial support

The Diocese of Des Moines is grateful to generous supporters whose gifts were used for the mechanical updates made to two elevators at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The elevators, original to the building, had been grandfathered in when newer codes were put in place. But that protection was set to end next year, said Laura Hofstrand, of the diocesan Finance Department.

With gifts from the Sharing God's Gifts capital campaign, the Catholic Pastoral Center campaign and bequests, there were funds available to bring the mechanical system in the elevators up to code, including making them handicapped accessible.

A full copy of the audit of the Diocese of Des Moines can be found at dmdiocese.org/resources/finance/fy18-financial-report

InnerVisions HealthCare to open second clinic in Des Moines

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

InnerVisions HealthCare, an unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease medical clinic in West Des Moines, is expanding and opening a second clinic on Des Moines' south side.

The goal is to have the clinic open sometime this summer.

InnerVisions, which opened its doors in 2011, offers free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and confidential counseling for women facing an unplanned pregnancy. InnerVisions also offers adoption information, comprehensive referrals, PAP tests, sexually transmitted disease tests and sexual health education and information.

InnerVisions saw that there was a need for services on Des Moines' south side, said Theresa Welch, executive director.

"You've got Simpson College in Indianola and DMACC South at Southridge Mall, and that age range is the age we are really seeing a lot more abortion-minded patients," Welch said. "Plus, there's nothing on the south side that these people could go to other than Planned Parenthood, so we want to have this there to capture those women and offer other choices."

The InnerVisions board and staff prayed for months about finding a building that would be a suitable match. The building they found could not have been more perfect, said Bryan Gonzalez, director of development.

The space is in the same building as St. Vincent de Paul on Army Post Road.

"The way it all came about was through divine providence," Gonzalez said. "And to be able to partner with St. Vincent de Paul is pretty unique."

The clinic will be located at 520 Army Post Road where St. Vincent de Paul has its thrift store, food pantry and clothing closet. It's also located on the bus route.

"They were looking for a medical clinic and we were looking for a place with a thrift store and job placement," Gonzalez said. "God certainly had a hand in bringing those two desires together."

The new clinic will be located just 19 blocks away from Planned Parenthood.

InnerVisions launched Giving Hope, a \$700,000 capital campaign in 2018, to raise money for the renovation of the new space, medical equipment, clinic furnishings, technology, staff and marketing. At press time, they had raised about \$230,000.

The new InnerVisions South clinic will have over 5,400 square feet and offer more than three times the space currently available at InnerVisions West. The building interior will be remodeled to create a professional and welcoming atmosphere, Welch said.

InnerVisions South will have ultrasound, counseling, and exam rooms, in addition to classrooms, conference space and even a chapel. These rooms will accommodate InnerVisions' expanded outreach and support programs, such as education, coaching and mentoring for mothers, fathers and siblings.

Now is a good time to expand, Gonzalez said.

"Our patient traffic numbers have increased 75 per-

cent over the past three years," he said. "We are in a stable financial position and there's certainly a need in the community."

Gonzalez is anxious for this second clinic to open.

"What's at stake?" he said. "Lives are at stake. We know that lives are being snuffed out every single day on the south side and we feel that God has put this on our hearts to do this.... We know that there are people who don't have a place to go. That's what's driving us to wake up every day."

The clinic cares not just about the unborn, but also has a "radical dedication" to patients, Gonzalez added.

"Our nurses respond to texts, phone calls and emails 24 hours a day," he said.

They often respond right away, regardless of the day or time, and let the woman know everything is going to be ok.

"We start that rapport building at 3 in the morning or 2 p.m. on a Saturday – whatever that may be," Gonzalez said. "We start that process right away. We want people to come to us and let them know that we care about them."

They also help the women overcome the hurdles they are facing in life – whether that be finding a job or a car to help with rent or groceries.

"We want to get to know them and accompany them," Gonzalez said.

Over the past seven years, InnerVisions has helped empower nearly 750 abortion-minded women to choose parenting or adoption for their unborn babies.

Learn more about InnerVisions HealthCare at ivh-care.org.



The two executive directors, Theresa Welch of InnerVisions HealthCare and Steve Haveman of St. Vincent de Paul, pose in front of the sign for the new InnerVisions South location on Army Post Road.

March for Life

Continued from page 1

at the Capitol One Arena, followed by a rally with a variety of speakers before the march.

Those who could not make the bus trip are invited to follow along on the Iowans for LIFE Facebook page to see photos and videos of the group's activities.

Young people from around the diocese said they were looking forward to this year's march.

Landry Cormier, a senior at St. Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs, will be attending his second March for Life this year.

"I feel very passionately about the issues and it's a really great experience....," Cormier said. "When I went [the last time] it was almost magic seeing the sheer amount of people who cared as much as I did, and that's why I wanted to go again."

Cormier particularly enjoyed the Mass for Life.

"It was easily the biggest Mass I had gone to, and it was also the one that people

seemed the most invested in....," Cormier added. "Everyone was there in spirit and participating and into it."

Yana Zivcak, a senior at Dowling Catholic High School and president of Dowling's Students for Life club, said she looks forward to attending her first March for Life to fight for the cause and make memories with her peers.

"I'm very passionate about life, and I believe that everyone has dignity and everyone matters, no matter who they are," Zivcak said.

Luke Posegate, a junior at Dowling, said he looks forward to attending his first march.

"I just think it's a great opportunity to be able to show in a public, outward way that there's a lot of people in our generation that care about life and I think it's important for young kids to get involved in



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Students from Dowling Catholic High School marched alongside Father Chris Reising, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Perry, at the 2017 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

this."

DeWitte asks those attending the march to not let that be the only pro-life thing they do all year.

"Most importantly –

what are they going to do when they come back and how are they going to impact their community, church and school?" DeWitte said. "In what ways can they positively influence their circle of

people to the pro-life message?"

Learn more about Iowans for LIFE at IowansForLife.org.

Spiritual directors help people understand how God is working in their lives

Lent is time to go to the desert and focus on God

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

The beginning of Lent is just around the corner.

And that means a time of self-denial and deepening one's relationship with God.

Spiritual directors walk with people on that journey by helping them better understand how God is working in their lives.

"[Spiritual direction] is a companion relationship where the director is what we would call a holy listener," said Amy Hoover, director of the Creighton University Retreat Center near Griswold. "People bring what's going on in their lives – mostly what is going on in their prayer. It's really just being a listener and allowing them to talk through what they are hearing and what they are frustrated with."

It's not counseling or problem solving, Hoover points out.

"It's listening to the voice of the spirit, the voice of God..." Hoover said. "Sometimes people are discerning, and so we're listening for direction, for what moves their heart and moves their soul. But we're doing it together – it's a companionship."

Kathy Regan, a spiritual director, who attends St Mary Parish in Shenandoah, has done this work for 25 years. She says it's a calling.

"A spiritual director is a trusted companion," Regan said. "It's attending to the presence of God with ears to listen and hearts to hear the small still voice within the directee."

The spiritual director does not answer the directee's questions, but helps with discernment and reflection.

"Part of it is that listen-

ing process – speaking back what you hear – for them to seek the answers to those questions, because the answers are within..." Regan said. "I always feel like I am a conduit between God and the directee."

The spiritual director provides the opportunity to uncover and become aware of where God is active, present and working in the directee's lives.

"It helps the directee to name those God experiences," Regan added.

Kevin O'Donnell, spiritual director and co-director of Emmaus House in Des Moines, said he was trained in Ignatian background, which focuses on consolation and desolation.

"Consolation is an increase of faith, hope and love and desolation is the opposite of that," O'Donnell said. "We're always paying attention to how God is there in those movements, our thoughts and experiences."

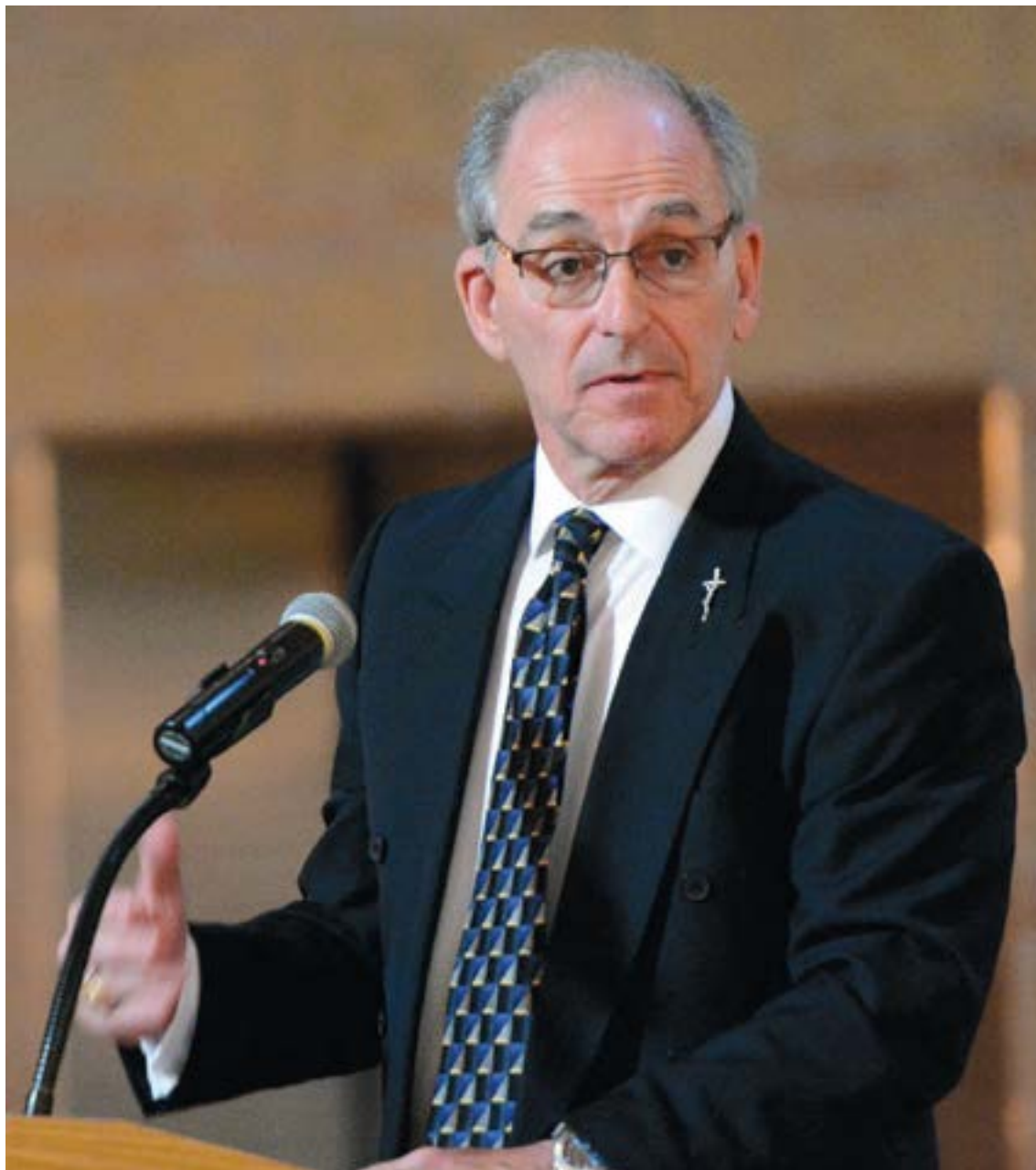
It's always great to work on your relationship with God, O'Donnell said. But Lent in particular is a time when Jesus intentionally went out into the desert to seek out God.

"It's a time when we let go of things that are holding us back from a deeper relationship with God, so we can be free," O'Donnell added.

It's a time when things are stripped down so we can get back to basics.

"We empty the baptismal font, everything is bare and some of the fluff is gone," Hoover said. "There's an invitation to slow down, to go to the desert."

Find a list of all spiritual directors in the Diocese of Des Moines at dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/adult-faith-formation/spiritual-directors-in-the-diocese-of-des-moines.



Deacon Tom Bradley is one of many spiritual directors located in Des Moines. A full list of spiritual directors in our diocese can be found at dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/adult-faith-formation/spiritual-directors-in-the-diocese-of-des-moines

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Victim Assistance Advocate

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

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Educación Católica viendo hacia el futuro

La historia de la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos le atribuye mucho de su fuerza institucional a sus escuelas. Éstas han tomado ola tras ola de inmigrantes relativamente sin educación y les han transformado en ciudadanos productivos siempre leales a los ideales americanos.

Esta tradición de excelente educación y formación en una base religiosa y de ética sólida que ha continuado a segundas, terceras y cuartas generaciones de católicos. El centro del éxito de las escuelas fueron las abnegadas mujeres y hombres religiosos y el incomparable compromiso de nuestras parroquias, diócesis y órdenes religiosas.

Al día de hoy mismo, la Diócesis de Des Moines se beneficia enormemente de la actividad de nuestras escuelas católicas. Solamente podemos expresar nuestra profunda gratitud a la deuda que debemos a aquellos quienes han sacrificado y contribuido tanto y que siguen haciéndolo en servicio a esta empresa.

Nuestras 17 escuelas diocesanas con su planilla de 6,222 estudiantes al día de hoy, juega un papel crítico en la evangelización y la misión catequética de la iglesia contemporánea. Uno de los cambios significativos que se han llevado a cabo en los últimos 50 o 60 años es la participación de hombres y mujeres religiosas. En donde siguen presentes en números reducidos, estos hombres y mujeres



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

comprometidas ejercen una poderosa influencia. Al mismo tiempo los componentes administrativos y educacionales en nuestras escuelas han sido esencialmente llevados a cabo por laicos talentosos y comprometidos.

Nuestras escuelas diocesanas siguen siendo fuertes, productivas, innovadoras y comprometidas en el apoyo del desarrollo de estudiantes que son discípulos cristianos. El testimonio de estos jóvenes es crítico en una sociedad altamente secular

A la vez que estamos agradecidos por todo lo que han hecho y continúan haciendo las escuelas católicas, no podemos dormirnos en nuestros laureles. Es simplemente lógico que evaluemos nuestros puntos fuertes y nuestros retos para desarrollar un plan estratégico que les pueda permitir el conseguir que busquen la excelencia por muchas dadas por venir.

La Diócesis de Des Moines con el continuo objetivo en mente en marzo del 2018 llevó a cabo, junto con un despacho consejero, Meitler, que se especializa en tales iniciativas. La meta de este esfuerzo fue "Una Visión por la Excelencia en la Educación Católi-

ca Inspirado por una Comunidad Caritativa, Comprometida y Fiel."

En el liderazgo de este estudio, por parte de la comunidad diocesana están la Dra. Tracy Bonday, superintendente de las escuelas diocesanas y el Dr. Jerry Deegan, expresidente de la Escuela Preparatoria Católica Dowling (Dowling Catholic High School). A ellos se les une un grupo de 24 miembros que son parte de un Grupo Experto Listón Azul que representan a partes interesadas de todas las categorías de las escuelas diocesanas católicas.

El trabajo del estudio ha sido la de coleccionar información, conectarse con una amplia consulta con las partes interesadas, hacer un análisis objetivo de los puntos fuertes y retos y para comenzar a desarrollar los componentes de una visión que guía las operaciones de nuestras escuelas en los próximos 20 a 30 años. Se anticipa que se desarrolle un borrador preliminar sobre el plan estratégico que se espera que se haga público en el mes de marzo.

Las dimensiones preliminares de la visión están comenzando a surgir:

- Compromiso con una identidad católica fortalecida. En este plan se incluyen tres consideraciones en la meta de "hacer discípulos".
- Participación e involucramiento de padres en coparticipación en la educación religiosa.

Desarrollo espiritual continuo para maestros, personal y entrenadores por medio del Camino de la Fe (Faith Journey) para poder establecer un ambiente que permite que florezca una fe iluminada por el Evangelio.

- Utilizar textos y materiales bien desarrollados basados en enseñanzas católicas y estándares morales.

- Desarrollar una participación diocesana más sistematizada en la operación de las escuelas. Esto se requiere casi desde todas las perspectivas, pero en especial del punto de vista financiero, de inscripción y académico.

- Desarrollo continuo de excelencia académica. Las escuelas utilizarán evaluaciones formativas y sumarias para decisiones en instrucción basados en datos recabados.

Finanzas

- Siguiendo en el compromiso de una disponibilidad en educación católica para todas las familias en nuestra comunidad diocesana, se necesitan establecer estructuras financieras para que esto sea posible. Algunos elementos emergentes en este plan:

- Ofrecer asistencia financiera y becas en base a necesidad financiera que se entreguen por medio de un sistema diocesano.

- Buscar ayuda financiera por medio de apoyos del estado de Iowa. Al momento, las escuelas católicas subsidian la responsabilidad del estado de ofrecer educación. Algunos vehículos que se

sugieren para la participación del estado:

Organización de Colegiaturas Católicas. Al día de hoy, se distribuyen \$3 millones a estudiantes en nuestras escuelas católicas. Los que hacen donativos a la organización se benefician de créditos fiscales del estado.

Cuentas de Ahorro para Educación. Esta es una propuesta activa en la legislación estatal en donde a los padres se les otorgaría una apropiación del estado por cada estudiante y se utilizaría para pagar la escuela de su elección.

El plan que se propone también atiende temas adicionales, principalmente – gobernación y liderazgo, vitalidad operacional que incluye propuestas en inscripciones.

Por lo pronto, Estoy emocionado y optimista por el progreso del estudio de las escuelas. Creo que va a surgir una versión que nos mostrará el camino para que podamos asegurar y mejorar la misión esencial de las escuelas católicas en la Diócesis de Des Moines. Ustedes pueden obtener más información sobre el estudio contactando a:

Tracy Bonday
Superintendente de Escuelas
Diócesis de Des Moines
601 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 237-5040
tbonday@dmdiocese.org



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Bishop's retreat

Continued from page 1

to last summer's revelations of allegations of sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the U.S. church.

In a Jan. 8 column for Angelus News, the archdiocesan

news outlet of Los Angeles, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles said the bishops' retreat leader focused "our attention on the vocation and responsibility of bishops in this moment in the church."

"We are praying together as a visible sign of our unity as bishops and our communion with the Holy Father. There is a collegial spirit here and a firm commitment to address the causes of the abuse crisis we face and continue the work of renewing the church," he added.

The archbishop said Father Cantalamessa asked them to "trust more in the Holy Spirit. We need to have confidence that we are always living in God's loving presence."

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of

Bridgeport, Connecticut, wrote a few blog posts about the retreat with some reflection about the retreat leader's message.

He said they heard about the need to emphasize in their preaching the fundamental belief in Jesus before delving into his message and teachings.

He also said Father Cantalamessa emphasized the need to root out "love of money" and all that it implies, including material possessions, honor or power.

"If this pursuit for 'money' needs to be rooted out from our Christian lives, then we need to embrace a true spirit of detachment," the bishop wrote, adding that he would add more to that topic in the days ahead.

The theme of the U.S. bishops' retreat was "the mission of the apostles and of their successors" drawing from Mark 3:14, which says Jesus "appointed 12 -- whom he also named apostles -- that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach."

Reflections from the retreat do not seem to be about



Dubuque Archbishop Michael Jackels at the bishops' retreat.

the crisis in particular, maybe for a reason.

In an email to Catholic News Service weeks before the retreat, Father Cantalamessa said he would "not talk about pedophilia and will not give advice about eventual solutions; that is not my task and I would not have the competence to do so."

"The Holy Father asked for my availability to lead

a series of spiritual exercises for the episcopal conference so that the bishops, far from their daily commitments, in a climate of prayer and silence and in a personal encounter with the Lord, can receive the strength and light of the Holy Spirit to find the right solutions for the problems that afflict the U.S. church today," he added.



Davenport Bishop Thomas Zinkula at the bishops' retreat.

Vatican Abuse summit will underline need to end cover-ups, official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The aim of Pope Francis' February meeting on abuse and safeguarding is to clarify and underline what must and must not be done with allegations and make sure no more cases are ever covered up, said Andrea Tornielli, editorial director for the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.

"The presence of bishops from all over the world, called together for the first time to address this painful plague which has been, and is, a source of enormous suffering for victims and of counter-witness to the Gospel, will help to increase everyone's awareness of the seriousness of the crisis," he said.

The abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, "the horrific experiences of the victims, the procedures to be applied in the face of accusations and the indications to ensure a safe environment for children and young people will thus be examined from a perspective that is not solely European or American," Tornielli said about the Feb. 21-24 meeting, which will bring presidents of the world's bishops' conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches and leaders of religious orders to the Vatican.

"The purpose of the meeting is very specific: to ensure that everyone taking part in it can return to their own country being absolutely clear about what must -- and must not -- be done with regard to addressing these cases," he said

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Catholic Foundation grant supports Dowling ministry program

**By Rachel Seidl
Contributing Writer**

In July of 2017, Addie Magruder was asked to create a ministry at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines that would encourage students to keep the faith after graduation and for the rest of their lives.

Magruder, the graduate ministries coordinator, began Ut Fidem, which comes from the Latin phrase *ut fidem teneamus*, meaning, "Keep the faith."

The Ut Fidem ministry consists of same-gendered groups of five to seven high school students that are seeking to grow in the Catholic faith and personal relationship with Jesus.

Each group is guided by an adult mentor who accompanies them throughout the year. Groups are established from pre-existing friend groups with the hope to avoid the compartmentalization of the faith and the intent to help them place Jesus at the center of their lives.

In order to prepare for the ministry, Magruder attended the Fellowship of Catholic University Students missionary training in the summer of 2017. This training is catered to missionaries who are joining college campuses. Although Magruder is at Dowling Catholic, she attended and adapted what she learned to create a new ministry under the

guidance of the Holy Spirit structured for benefitting high school students.

"With the Ut Fidem ministry, students are not only gaining understanding of the Catholic faith, but they're gaining confidence in the Catholic faith," Magruder said. "As the school year goes on I see more and more students attending daily Mass, talking about Jesus in their daily conversations, and even praying together out loud."

After its third semester of operation, Ut Fidem currently has 148 students involved: 14 female groups and 7 male groups, totaling 21 groups. In addition to this current number, 44 students who graduated last May were also involved.

When selecting adult mentors, they are prayerfully discerned by both Magruder and the mentor.

In 2018, the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa awarded the Ut Fidem program with a grant.

"We stand by the belief that disciples imitate the lived example of their rabbi. As such, our groups are only as strong as their mentors," said Magruder.

With this grant, Magruder created ongoing trainings and formation sessions in order to equip Ut Fidem mentors with what they need in order to better accompany their group of high school students.

"Ministry alone will never move a soul," she said.



The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa awarded a grant to Dowling Catholic High School's program Ut Fidem. Pictured are Allie Hittner of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, Maddie Allen of St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines, Emily Braun of St. Pius X Parish and Addie Magruder of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

"Only Jesus will, which makes prayer the most important part of ministry."

Because of this, she is looking for people to join the Ut Fidem prayer team. Members of the prayer team are responsible for taking time each day to pray

for Ut Fidem students by name. If you are interested in joining, contact Magruder by emailing amagruder@dowlingcatholic.org.

Catholic parishes, schools, and organizations benefit in many different ways from the Catholic Foundation's grant

program. Parishes, schools, and organizations, are encouraged to contact the foundation about the grant program. This year's grant applications are due Feb. 25. Visit catholicfoundationiowa.org/grant-program/ to learn more.

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