

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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A priest you could count on

Father Eugene Koch died at 85

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Attracted to the priesthood from grade school on, Father Eugene Koch devoted 60 years of his life to serving others through teaching and serving as a parish priest.

He died Oct. 3 at the age of 85.

The Benedictine sisters who taught him in Panama – a town in Shelby County that produced many priests and religious women – encouraged his vocation.

“He remained a lifelong friend to those sisters,” said his brother, Father Paul Koch. “There was no doubt about it, when he went to high school that he was going to go to the seminary.”

He loved Conception Seminary, and became lifelong friends with many of the monks there.

His siblings and former parishioners remember him as someone they could count on.

“He enjoyed helping other people,” said his sister, Mary Lampe. “He was always available to the family when we needed him. He was always available to anybody who needed his help. He never shied away from that.”

During the wake service and after the funeral, people told Father Paul Koch how his brother served them.

“He went out of his way time and time again to serve people, to meet their religious needs, to encourage them and they had such good words to say about him, that he was a priest they could count on,” said Father Paul. “They knew he would be there for them. I knew he was a priest from top to bottom, but these things that were said by the people surprised me.”

Though his brother was two years older, Father Paul said Father Gene didn’t boss him around.

“He didn’t tell me what I could or

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Our new shepherd

Bishop William Joensen is the 10th bishop of the Des Moines diocese

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

For the first time in more than 70 years, the Diocese of Des Moines witnessed the ordination of its shepherd.

Before a crowd of about 1,600 at St. Francis of Assisi and many more watching online on Sept. 27, Father William Joensen became Bishop William Joensen.

The diocese’s three previous leaders came to Des Moines after serving as auxiliary bishops in the Twin Cities and Bishop Maurice Dingman, who served before them, had been ordained in Davenport.

Though the ordination, in some respects, resembles the coronation of a prince, the ordination of a bishop has a much deeper meaning in the Catholic Church according to the Gospel, said Dubuque Archbishop Michael Jackels.

The ring symbolizes the Church as spouse, the miter as a crown of holiness and the staff represents servant leadership after the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

“Maybe that’s why the Gospel book is held over the candidate’s head before a miter is placed on his head,” said Archbishop Jackels, “to show that having a crown placed on your head, even a crown of holiness, is less important than having the mind of Christ recorded in the Gospels in your head.”

The mind of Christ means to be humble, he said.

“So if we are raised up, clothed in rich vesture presented with a ring, a crown, a staff, seated on a throne, accompanied by songs of praise of God, according to the mind of Jesus, in response, we go correspondingly low in humble service: Preaching Good News, healing the afflicted, providing for the poor. May it be so.”

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Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bishop William M. Joensen was ordained on Friday, Sept. 27 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines before a crowd of about 1,600 people.

400 pro-life supporters gather for support, encouragement & plan for the coming year

By Kara Storey
Contributing Writer

After 15 years of infertility and a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, EWTN radio personality Gloria Purvis was ecstatic to discover she was pregnant. But at her first appointment her excitement turned to disbelief, she said, when her doctor suggested termination.

Although ultrasounds found no concerns for the baby, multiple medical professionals suggested termination along the way due to her age and medi-

cal history, she said.

Purvis, who converted on her own to Catholicism at age 12, shared her story Oct. 3 at the ninth annual Iowans for LIFE banquet, held at Prairie Meadows Ballroom in Altoona. Herself an African-American woman, she spoke of “Racism, Abortion and Medical Care: One Woman’s Testimony” to a crowd of 400.

It was only after the birth of her healthy baby girl, Purvis added, that a nurse informed her that on one of the days she was encouraged to consider abortion, a 50-year-old Caucasian wom-

an also came into the clinic and was given resources to help her carry her baby to term.

“The numbers you see of abortions in the African-American community aren’t because we’re an abortion-loving community, we’re abortion targeted,” Purvis said. “I can’t tell you how many of my girlfriends have had similar experiences of being pressured by their doctors to abort.”

She said she’s come to realize that if her experience is typical, then she’s not surprised by

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Photo by Kara Storey

Gloria Purvis at the Iowans for LIFE banquet.

Tree House

Given the abundant gestures of hospitality, welcome and the promises of prayers and support offered to me in the weeks before and after my ordination and installation as your 10th bishop, if I don't recall the feeling of being overwhelmingly loved for the next—God willing—16 years, then there's something wrong with me! I remain truly indebted and grateful to all who in any way planned, volunteered, and participated in what were truly sublime and Spirit-led liturgies. I know many guests and friends from outside the Des Moines diocese were tremendously impressed with what they experienced. I also realize it will probably take me months and maybe years to comprehend what transpired as I was ordained a successor to the apostles and was grafted into this local church as its shepherd.

I was privileged in early October to celebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. John to commemorate the 30th anniversary of this church being elevated to the distinction of a minor basilica—which took place 10 years after the historic visit of now St. John Paul II to Living History Farms. I was prompted to recall the work of German forester Peter Wohlleben, in his book, “The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate.” He explores the social life of trees in terms drawn more from anthropology than horticulture: trees have “social needs, pass on knowledge to the next generation, and grow old with dignity.” But in order to do so, they must cooperate not only with each other, but with other species, as is the case with the vast root networks, where trees depend on fungi for the delivery of nutrients in the “wood wide web” of underground relations that is likened to a nervous system. And at the upper level of life, community membership is taken into account. “The average tree grows its branches out until it encounters the branch tips of a neighboring tree of the same height.” It doesn't grow wider, encroaching on space and light already spoken for, but reinforces branches it has already extended—not a competitive shoving match, but a sort of natural friendship where each is careful not to take away from the other—while likewise remaining connected at the roots until they might even die together.

Not only the basilica, but every parish community, with all its beautiful features, represents a sort of niche forest.



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

the strength of what they've already developed, and some trying simply to survive—all are vital to the life of the church. Each member has the unique capacity to make sacrifice and serve God to a degree

that matters more than any costly building materials. In God's eyes, people are the most precious ornaments decorating a church; Jesus himself continues to nourish us, extend the branches of his Spirit life and tender his love to us, and fortify us with the strength to bear the Gospel to the world—a world that often seems like a tangle of apathy, unbelief, violence and fear. In the Mass and other liturgies, we collaborate with Christ in his saving act of loving unto death on a cross. He feeds us not with organic nutrients but with his own Body and Blood in a profound act of gratitude that the Father has given us to him.

The Church's pastors taught about the nature of the Church in the Second Vatican Council's “Lumen Gentium/The Light of Humanity” [LG]. I paraphrase slightly, but they urge us to appreciate that upon all the baptized laity rests the noble duty of working to extend the divine plan of salvation to persons of every epoch and land. . . . They do so by offering spiritual worship for the glory of God, as well as by their prayers and endeavors, by married and family life, daily occupations [including study], physical and mental relaxation if carried out in the Spirit, and even in the hardships of life. All of these are spiritual sacrifices linked together in the spiritual, worldwide web enacted in the Eucharist, consecrating the world itself to God (see LG nn. 34-35).

Whether we belong to the basilica or another urban parish, or to a rural faith community, we resist any tendency to think that we are special, or any urge to get in a “shoving match” with other trees, other niches in the “forest” that is the Diocese of Des Moines. Maybe we are a bit taller (or even wearing a pointy miter!), older, more widely extended, or come from different genetic or cultural lines, but we are humbled when we recall that these distinctions are not to set us against each other; they are meant to contribute to the vitality of all the members of the community. This happens when we heed what St. Paul II commended us to do 40 years ago: to share the fruit of our labors, to contribute to others the knowledge we have gained, to promote development and defend the right to work of both rural and city folks alike. We bring ourselves and engage a loving community where nature is revered, burdens are shared, and the Lord is praised in gratitude.

Again, I have been blessed to be grafted to you; may we continue to offer to others the same receptive attitude that you extended to me, so that all might flourish in the forest of Christ's life.

Casa del Árbol

Dados los abundantes gestos de hospitalidad, bienvenida y las promesas de oración y apoyo que me han ofrecido en las semanas antes y después de mi ordenación e instalación como su 10^{mo} obispo, si no recuerdo el sentimiento de ser extremadamente querido por los próximos – Dios mediante – 16 años, ¡entonces algo no me funciona bien! Sigo verdaderamente en deuda y en agradecimiento con todos aquellos que de alguna forma planearon, sirvieron y participaron en unas liturgias muy verdaderamente sublimes y guiadas por el Espíritu. Se que muchos invitados y amigos que vinieron de fuera de la Diócesis de Des Moines estaban tremendamente impresionados con la experiencia. También me doy cuenta de que probablemente me va a tomar meses o tal vez años el comprender lo que sucedió cuando se me ordenó como un sucesor de los apóstoles y se me confirió a esta iglesia local como su pastor.

Tuve el privilegio de celebrar Misa en la Basilica de San Juan a inicios de octubre para conmemorar el 30 aniversario de cuando esta iglesia fue elevada a la distinción de basilica menor – lo cual se llevó a cabo 10 años antes de la histórica visita del ahora Santo, Papa Juan Pablo II a Living History Farms. Se me vino a la memoria el trabajo del silvicultor alemán Peter Wohlleben en su libro, *La Vida Oculta de los Árboles: Qué Sienten, Cómo se Comunican* (The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate es su título en inglés). Él explora la vida social de los árboles en términos basados más en la antropología que en la horticultura: los árboles tienen “necesidades sociales, transfieren conocimiento a las siguientes generaciones y envejecen con dignidad.” Pero para poder lograrlo, deben cooperar no solamente los unos con los otros, pero también con otras especies, como es el caso con las amplias redes de raíces, en donde los árboles dependen de los hongos para recibir nutrientes en la “red amplia maderera” de relaciones bajo tierra que se asemejan a un sistema nervioso. Y el nivel superior de vida, en donde se toma en cuenta la pertenencia a una comunidad. “El árbol promedio extiende sus ramas hasta que se encuentra con las puntas de las ramas de un árbol vecino de su misma estatura.” No crece a lo amplio, acaparando el espacio y la luz que ya han reclamado otros, sino que refuerza las ramas que ya ha extendido – no en una competencia de empujones, pero de una cierta amistad natural en donde todos tienen cuidado de no tomar del otro – y a la misma vez permaneciendo conectados en la raíz hasta que ellos puedan ultimadamente morir juntos.

No solamente la basilica, en

toda comunidad parroquial, con sus hermosas características, representa algún tipo de típico bosque. La gente de todas las edades – aquellos quienes aún están creciendo, tratando de extender sus ramas, o aquellos que buscan reforzar la fortaleza que ya han desarrollado, o aquellos que simplemente tratan de sobrevivir – todos son vitales para la vida de la iglesia. Cada miembro tiene la capacidad única de hacer sus sacrificios y de servir a Dios al grado que importa más que cualquier costoso material de construcción. En los ojos de Dios, la gente es el adorno más hermoso que decora una iglesia; Jesús mismo nos sigue nutriendo, extendiendo los brazos fe su Espíritu de vida y ofreciéndonos su amor, y fortaleciéndonos con la fuerza para ser portadores del Evangelio para el mundo – un mundo que frecuentemente parece estar enredado en la apatía, incredulidad, violencia y miedo. En la Misa y en otras liturgias, nosotros colaboramos con Cristo en su obra salvadora de amor hasta la muerte en una cruz. Él nos alimenta no con los nutrientes orgánicos sino con su propio Cuerpo y Sangre en un profundo acto de gratitud que el Padre nos ha dado en Él.

Los pastores de la Iglesia enseñaban sobre la naturaleza de la Iglesia en el Lumen Gentium | La Luz de la Humanidad [LG] del Concilio Vaticano Segundo. Parafraseándolo un poco, nos exhortan a darnos cuenta de que sobre todos los laicos bautizados recae la noble tarea de trabajar para ampliar el plan divino de salvación a las personas de todo tiempo y territorio. . . . Y lo hacen ofreciendo alabanzas espirituales para Gloria de Dios, lo mismo por medio de sus oraciones y sus obras, por los casados y en la vida familiar, las ocupaciones diarias [incluyendo los estudios], reposo físico y mental cuando se hacen dentro del Espíritu e incluso en las dificultades de la vida. Todos estos son sacrificios espirituales conectados juntos en la red mundial espiritual que se lleva a cabo en la Eucaristía, consagrando el mundo mismo a Dios (ver LG nn 34-35).

Ya sea que pertenezcamos a la Basilica o a otra parroquia urbana, o comunidad rural de fe, nos resistimos a cualquier tendencia de pensar que somos especiales o a cualquier tentación de entrar en “luchas de empujones” con otros árboles, otros arbustos en el “bosque” que es la Diócesis de Des Moines. Tal vez somos un poco más altos (¡o incluso usamos una mitra puntiaguda!) mayores, más ampliamente extendidos o venimos de líneas culturales o genéticas diferentes, pero nos llenamos de humildad cuando recordamos que estas distinciones no están hechas para enfrentarnos los unos con los otros; ellas están allí para contribuir a la vitalidad de todos los miembros de la comunidad. Esto sucede cuando tomamos a consciencia lo que San Juan Pablo II nos ordenó a hacer hace 40 años: compartan los frutos de su trabajo, para contribuir con los demás el conocimiento que hemos obtenido, para promover el desarrollo y la defensa al derecho del trabajo por igual de quienes viven en el campo y en la ciudad. Nos presentamos y nos conectamos a una comunidad de amor en donde se da reverencia a la naturaleza, se comparten las preocupaciones, y se alaba al Señor en gratitud.

De nueva cuenta, he tenido la bendición de ser asignado a ustedes; que sigamos ofreciéndonos los unos a los otros la misma actitud receptiva que me ofrecieron a mí, para que todos podamos florecer en el bosque de la vida de Cristo.

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Bishop William Joensen
Publisher
bishop@dmdiocese.org

Anne Marie Cox
Editor
acox@dmdiocese.org

Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer
kcollins@dmdiocese.org

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Women's conference offers fellowship, inspiring speakers

Theme is "The Soul of the Matter" for the Nov. 2 gathering

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

This year's Iowa Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, Nov. 2 – the feast of All Souls Day – is titled "The Soul of the Matter."

"Every woman needs to go," said conference coordinator Leslie Teeling. "I really think it's for women of all ages. I think every woman will find something that will speak to them."

A prelude to the conference, free and open to the public, will be held Friday night after the All Saints Day Mass at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. Men, women and families are invited. Author and speaker Susan Tassone will talk Friday night about purgatory and St. Faustina.

The conference kicks off at St. Francis with Mass celebrated by Bishop William Joensen on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with the conference to follow.

The day includes confession, vendor booths and lunch. Cost is \$30 for adults; \$20 for students.

The conference will focus on God's mercy, forgiveness, purgatory and the Holy Spirit.

Speakers include:

- Susan Tassone: an EWTN speaker and author of 12 books, who will talk about purgatory, St. Faustina and divine mercy. "Susan's called the 'Purgatory Lady,'" Teeling said. "She actually had three other invitations for Nov. 2 and prayed about it and really felt like she was being led

to Des Moines."

- Sonja Corbitt: Author of *Unleashed: How to Receive Everything the Holy Spirit Wants to Give You* and host of *The Bible Study Evangelista* podcast, will talk about mercy and preparing one's soul. "Sonja is a young mother who's on fire for her faith," Teeling said. "She's very relatable."

- Father Wade L. J. Menezes: A member of the Fathers of Mercy and a regular on ETWN, will talk about the importance of reconciliation.

- Anna Nuzzo: A Catholic singer and songwriter, will sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet at both the Friday night event and conference on Saturday.

Tassone will spend time talking about the importance of praying for our deceased loved ones.

"Purgatory is the number one most often asked question that people want to know more about than any other topic in the faith," Tassone said, citing a Pew Research study in conjunction with *Our Sunday Visitor*. "I'll talk about what purgatory is and what it isn't and what's in it for you and why it's important."

She'll also talk about the messages Jesus conveyed to St. Faustina.

"[I'll talk about] why Faustina is relevant for women today," Tassone said. "And her beauty secrets – what make her so beautiful... Her message is very timely – be merciful to ourselves and everyone else."

Convert Sonja Corbitt



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Hundreds of women turned out for the most recent Iowa Catholic Women's Conference at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

will talk about purgatory and its biblical references.

She'll also talk about cooperating with the action of the Holy Spirit, the fire of God's love and trials people encounter here on earth.

"[We cooperate with the Holy Spirit] by leaning into the sufferings that you experience," Corbitt said. "We can add to it by works of penance... God will send us that purification... We understand that we aren't being punished, we are being purified."

At the conference she'll

delve into why people should welcome those trials and suffering.

Corbitt encourages women to attend because "they will get tools to help them work through toxic relationships and self-medicating habits and repeating circumstances – those negative messes we get in and think there's no way out. They will get tools to work through those. And then of course you have the community of other women to help support each other."

Tassone encourages

women to not miss out on this opportunity to get away for a day, deepen their faith and become closer to God "because they really get a Catholic perspective on issues that affect them and how they can transform their life and society."

"It's a great place to renew your excitement about your faith," she said.

Learn more at iowacatholicradio.com/womensconference.

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OPINION

Abundant gratitude shared

People frequently ask me: "How's it going?"

Let me tell you. It is going great. I am amazed at this wonderful community of St. Albert School in Council Bluffs.

The generosity of the people here renders me speechless.

(Maybe that's the goal?)

Let me just give you a small glimpse into what I have witnessed since I began my position here as executive director.

Volunteers work hard. We needed flower beds cleaned up because they were really overgrown with weeds. Volunteers pulled the weeds and put fresh mulch down to beautify the campus before the start of school. It took a couple of different work sessions, but we got it accomplished. Donors helped us with the cost of the mulch as well.

I decided to replace the concrete sidewalk into the main entrance of the school. A donor stepped forward and covered the cost.

Guest Column

By
Deacon Vernon
Dobelmann



Someone liked the new concrete sidewalk so much they asked how much it would cost to do the rest of the sidewalk. They subsequently donated the funds to do it. That work was scheduled for completion in early October.

Someone donated new uniforms for our cross country runners.

A music teacher wanted a new stereo system for the classroom. A donor graciously provided it.

Teachers made a wish list of things they wanted/needed for their classrooms. I cannot believe how much of it has ap-

peared due to the generosity of many folks.

We received three pianos for our music room as a donation. One of the pianos is a grand piano. The cost of moving the pianos was also covered by another donor.

We have had multiple cash donations to both the school and the foundation.

As always, the foundation continues to support our endeavors financially and with targeted outreach.

Recently, we acquired a new mower. Once again, this piece of needed equipment was made possible by donors stepping forward to make it happen.

One of my big concerns when I accepted this position was whether or not we could raise the necessary funds to truly be a thriving institution.

While we still have a lot to do, especially in regard to building upkeep and maintenance, there is no doubt in my mind that this community will make it happen.

I am blessed to be a small part of the rich tradition of St. Albert.

As we prepare for the annual appeal this fall, it is my hope that we will make even greater strides in accomplishing the many tasks sitting before us by raising the needed funds to tackle more projects.

The beginning stages of the spring auction are also getting underway. We want to continue the great momentum and success from last year to have another phenomenal experience in 2020. If you would like to have a leadership role in auction planning, we would love to have you step forward.

Let me simply conclude by saying thank you to each of you connected to St. Albert in any way. You are an instrumental part in building the kingdom of God here in Council Bluffs. Thank you.

Deacon Vernon Dobelmann is the executive director of St. Albert School in Council Bluffs. This is from his blog, deaconvernon.com, and reprinted with permission.

Take time to share mercy

During her nearly 40 years in pastoral ministry, most recently as pastoral minister at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny, Mercy Sister Susan Widdel shares mercy as she tends to the needs of parishioners and their families.

She visits the sick, helps families get involved in the parish, celebrates their good times and helps them through challenging ones.

Until recently she has taught the RCIA program there.

Mercy Sister Karen Yarkosky spent her first 37 years as an elementary school teacher in the Des Moines and Omaha dioceses.

For the past 22 years, she has been with Bishop Drumm Care Center as retirement coordinator for Mercy sisters and mission outreach coordinator sharing the charism of mercy with staff and residents.

Most recently, she is serving as a volunteer.

These are two examples of the many ways our Mercy sisters are making mercy real in the Des Moines area and

Guest Column

By Mercy Sister Susan
M. Sanders



around the world.

Today, more than ever, we need mercy in our world.

It's time to replace what seems to be daily news of violence and divisiveness with compassion and mercy.

As part of our celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, the Sisters of Mercy, an international community of Roman Catholic vowed women religious, is again offering a challenge: Find a way, every day, to Make Mercy Real.

The word mercy comes from the Latin word misericordia – cor, which means heart, and miseri which means suffering.

Mercy involves both compas-

sion and action. Understanding a person's pain and doing something about it.

So, each of us, in our own way, can show mercy and make this world a better place.

It can be as simple as complimenting a stranger, visiting someone who is sick, doing a favor for a person in need or donating clothes you no longer wear.

The possibilities are endless. If we all join together to Make Mercy Real, we enrich the lives of those around us and bring joy to those we meet. Perhaps we can change the focus from what divides us to what brings us together.

As we make this challenge, we are following in the footsteps of our founder Catherine McAuley. On Sept. 24, 1827, she opened the first House of Mercy in



Mercy Sisters Karen Yarkosky and Susan Widdel

Dublin, Ireland, to minister to women and children in need. It remains a symbol of her legacy of mercy to the world.

So join us in keeping her legacy alive by finding a way to #MakeMercyReal in your world and encouraging others to do the same. While the challenge may seem simple, the impact will be immense.

Sister Susan M. Sanders is on the leadership team for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, West Midwest.

Saints' stories teach us about the family of God

October is a month with a lot of great feast days, beginning with St. Therese of Lisieux, followed by St. Francis, St. John XXIII, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John Paul II and many more.

October has someone for everyone, but just in case, November begins with All Saints Day, when we celebrate all of the Church triumphant.

One way my wife and I try to celebrate the feast days of this month is to pass on their stories to our children: To tell the story of St. Francis kissing the leper, or St. Therese of Lisieux's hidden life of love, or even St. John Paul II's visit to Iowa.

Marriage & Family Life

By
Adam Storey



We tell these stories because they are our stories, the story of our family and they help us know our own vocations.

I am convinced that our lives are profoundly shaped by stories.

Stories help us know who we are.

This is true in our own families. I tell my kids about their great-grandfather who built planes in his spare time, or their great-uncle who once held the world record for fastest man on a motorcycle, or even just stories of growing up with my brothers and sisters.

These stories shape our identities, and the lives of the saints are no different. Just like our own stories, their lives are challenging, amusing, and inspiring. They help us find our own place in the larger story of salvation history.

They teach us about what it means to be a member of the family of God. And

they remind us that all of us have a place within the family, and a part to play.

A beautiful devotion we could all undertake as we approach All Saints Day is to learn, and then tell, one more story from the lives of the saints.

What a gift it is to have these members of our family, to learn from, to be inspired, and to help pass on the living faith that we have received!

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

Ask a Priest

Q. In the ordination of our new bishop, why didn't the nuncio ordain the new bishop since he represents the pope? Why didn't the retired bishops from our diocese – Bishop Joseph Charron and Bishop Richard Pates – do the consecrating with Archbishop Jackels?

A. THE NUNCIO, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, announces the selection of the new bishop by the Holy Father.

The archbishop metropolitan (in this case, Archbishop Michael Jackels) rightly presides at the ordination of a bishop in a suffragan diocese.

Iowa has three suffragan dioceses (Des Moines, Davenport and Sioux City) and one archdiocese (the Archdiocese of Dubuque).

In keeping with Pope Francis' call for cooperation and "synodality," the Iowa dioceses work together for the common good in the state of Iowa.

Bishop Pates and Bishop Charron (along with 15 other bishops) do a laying on of hands on the new bishop, much like the priests in attendance do for a newly ordained priest.

Q. During the ordination of Bishop William Joensen, two deacons held a book over his head. What does that mean?

A. THE BOOK USED in this part of the ordination ceremony is a Book of Gospels – the same book that most parishes use each week to proclaim the gospel.

It's a wonderful gesture that reminds the bishop and all present that the authority which a bishop exercises is always under the authority of the gospel, not his own.

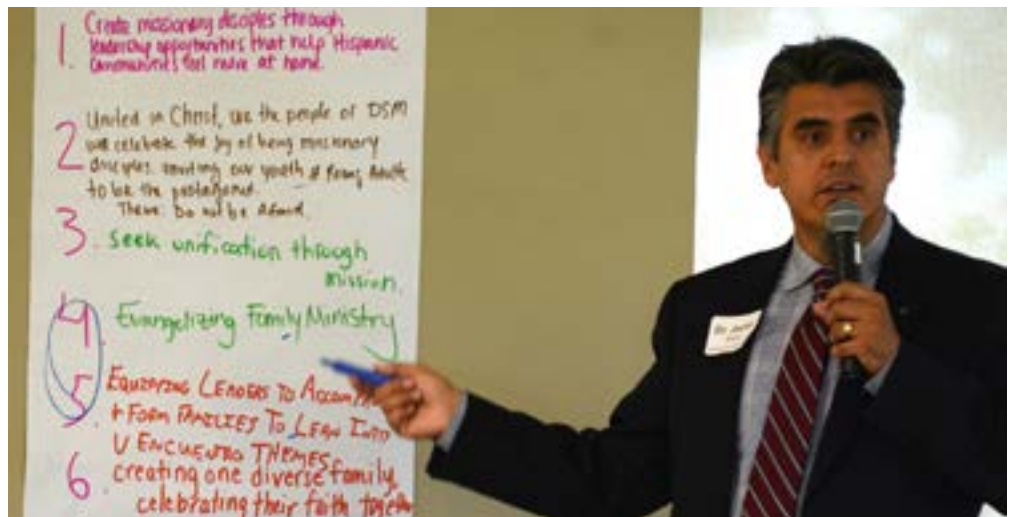
Q. What is the age when priests have to retire?

A. The ordinary mandatory age for priests is 75.

However, the bishop can allow a priest to remain in ministry longer if that seems appropriate. Many priests retire at age 70 with the permission of their bishop.

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

Parishes collaborate on Señales project



The Señales project is a two-year project intended to map a strategic plan for Hispanic Ministry in the diocese. Top photo: Wilfrido Matamoros, of Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines, collaborates with representatives of various parishes with Hispanic Ministry. Above: Dr. Javier Orozco, of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, facilitated the first meeting on Oct. 9. The foundation of the Señales project is the grassroots feedback from the Hispanic community through the recently completed V Encuentro.

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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 Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.

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Around the Diocese

Oct. 18 & 25

Fall Fish & Chicken Dinners

INDIANOLA – The Indianola Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken dinners from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish hall. \$10/adults and carry-outs; \$3/children. Desserts available with a free-will donation.

Oct. 22 Tuesday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

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

Oct. 27 Sunday

Church bazaar

ATLANTIC – Ss. Peter & Paul Parish is holding a dinner and bazaar at the church featuring roast turkey and more. Cost is \$10/adults; \$6/children ages 6-11 and no charge for children age five and under. Bake sale, raffle and more.

Oct. 27 Sunday

Staley Chicken Dinner

STUART – The Knights of Columbus from All Saints Parish will host their annual chicken dinner from 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m. featuring Staley's chicken. Cost is \$10/adults,

\$4/children (4-12) and no charge for children five years and under. Carry-outs are available.

Oct. 27 Sunday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

WAUKEE – Turkey dinner at St. Boniface Church. Meet at the church at 10 a.m. Cost is \$10. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Nov. 1 & 7 Fridays

Fall Fish and Chicken dinners

INDIANOLA – The Indianola Knights of Columbus will be hosting their Fall Fish & Chicken dinners from 5:50-7 p.m. at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall. \$10/adults and carry-outs, \$5/children. Desserts are available with a free-will donation.

Nov. 1 Friday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES – First Friday Mass at 8:40 a.m. at Christ the King Church. Brunch at Perkins afterward. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Nov. 4 Monday

Divorce Survival Guide

DES MOINES – These Monday meetings will be held at Holy Trinity Parish from 6-8 p.m.

Registration cost is \$30 and includes a personal "Divorce Survival Guide." Scholarships are available. For more information contact Bill or Ann Moore at 515-480-3314 (Bill) or 641-425-0109 (Ann) or moorefamlydsm@gmail.com. Visit the website at CatholicsDivorce.com

Nov. 7 Thursday

Appreciation Dinner

COUNCIL BLUFFS – During National Vocation Awareness Week the Council Bluffs region of the National/Des Moines Council of Catholic Women and neighboring regions, Serra Club and Knights of Columbus are hosting our annual Mass and dinner for our priests, sisters and deacon couples at 5:50 p.m. at St. Patrick Church. Meet and greet with Bishop William Joensen. Cost is \$10/person and \$25/families. RSVP Linda White 712-323-7063.

Nov. 12 Tuesday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES – Planning meeting at 12:30 p.m. Chicago Speakeasy. Contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Nov. 23 Saturday

Holiday Hop

WINTERSET – St. Joseph Parish is hosting a craft and bake sale from 8:30-1:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch available.

Wednesdays

Divine Mercy Chaplet

DES MOINES – Come join us for The Divine Mercy Chaplet on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at St Augustin Chapel.

Thursdays

Alpha at St. Francis of Assisi

WEST DES MOINES -- Alpha sessions meet Thursdays through Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m., Serra Room. Retreat day, Oct 19, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Serra Room. Details and registration at saintfrancischurch.org/adultfaith/shareyourfaith.

Sundays

Latin Mass

DES MOINES – The Latin Mass at St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines is at 5 p.m.

Life Chain a tradition in Respect Life Month



Father David Fleming, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, and Sister Susan Mwende, who serves at MercyOne, participate in a silent witness for life on Life Chain Sunday.

Donations needed at Catholic Charities



Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program is in need of donations of laundry detergent, pillows, toilet paper, diapers sizes four-six, diaper wipes, 30-gallon trash bags, bath towels and pre-packed meals such as macaroni and cheese. For more information, contact Linda Robicheau at lrobicheau@catholiccharitiesdm.org or 712-256-2059 ext. 109. Pictured are members of Hazel Dell Church with their donation of personal items and more.

Iowans for LIFE banquet

Continued from page 1

the African-American abortion rate because "number one, if you don't have Jesus then you're at risk; if you don't have money, a job or a husband, or are encountering an unexpected pregnancy, then that doctor can put you over the edge."

Newly ordained Bishop William Joensen attended the event and addressed the crowd, saying he was "lending his voice" to theirs as their shepherd for the cause for life. He pointed to what

St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis refer to as the "human ecology."

"A human ecology is where humans can truly flourish, not only in the human societies that we form, but also in our resonance with the environment," he said. "I think that's one of the ways we can appeal to our brothers and sisters who are maybe not immediately disposed to the message of the gospel. To speak how we are pro-woman and pro-earth in our ways and to be savvy and appealing to open their hearts and to ultimately bring them to fullness of truth."

Iowans for LIFE Executive Director Maggie DeWitte also gave an update on the organization's accomplishments from the past year. In response to Planned Parenthood's billboards, IFL launched its own statewide billboard campaign with the help of Iowa women who had been hurt by abortion. It also has continued its outreach to Catholic schools and churches via its respect life curriculum, she said.

Looking forward, IFL is preparing for its annual youth and adult trip to the national March for Life in January in Washington, D.C. However, its biggest initiative in the coming year will be to get the Life Amendment passed in Iowa's next legislative session. In 2018, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that Iowa's constitution includes a "fundamental right to abortion." The Life Amendment would undo this ruling, but needs to pass both chambers of the legislature and then go to the people for a vote, DeWitte said.

"We are going to need the help of the entire Catholic community in Iowa to get this passed," she said.



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Vespers

Diocese opens the door to newest shepherd

The Vespers service, or Vigil of the Ordination and Installation of the 10th bishop of Des Moines, was held at St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines. Following ancient custom, Bishop William Joensen knocked on the door of his new cathedral before the service. He was admitted by the cathedral rector, Father John Bertogli, who presented the bishop with a crucifix to kiss before assisting him as he sprinkled the congregation with baptismal water. Members of the refugee community from St. Ambrose Cathedral accompanied Bishop Joensen into his cathedral for the first time.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox



Photo by Mark Hommerding



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins



Our staff and show hosts would like to welcome

**Bishop
William Joensen
as our new shepherd!**

We look forward to working together with our new Bishop and supporting his mission to strengthen the Catholic faith in our diocese!

**Bishop Joensen's new show "Making it Personal" can be heard every Friday at 9 am on Iowa Catholic Radio.
1150 AM / 88.5 FM / 94.5 FM**



Photo by Mark Hommerding

Bishop William Joensen laid prostrate on the floor during the litany of the saints at his installation Mass. Kneeling are Bishop Walker Nickless of the Diocese of Sioux City, Archbishop Michael Jackels of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Bishop Thomas Zinkula of the Diocese of Davenport, and Father PJ McManus, a master of ceremonies.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bishop William Joensen showed the congregation his letter of appointment from Pope Francis during the installation Mass.



Photo by Mark Hommerding

Two deacons held the Gospel book over Bishop Joensen's head during the installation Mass on Sept. 27 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines



ST. ANTHONY PARISH OF DES MOINES



WELCOMES

BISHOP WILLIAM JOENSEN

Monsignor Frank Chiodo, Pastor
Fr. Guthrie Dolan, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Jose Reynaldo, Chaplain of Hispanic Community
Deacons Juan Bustamante, Tom Hunkele, Tony Romeo, Thomas Starbuck & Quan Tong
Ms. Jennifer Raes, Principal of St. Anthony School
with the entire parish staff and 1,800 plus households of our southside family, warmly
welcome its new Chief Shepherd.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Archbishop Michael Jackels of the Archdiocese of Dubuque placed the miter on Bishop William Joensen's head during his installation Mass on Sept. 27.



Photo by Demian Tejeda-Benitez

Bishop Emeritus Richard Pates and Bishop Emeritus Joseph Charron at the installation Mass of Bishop William M. Joensen at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines on Sept. 27. Bishop Joensen became the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bishop's ordination elicits excitement in the diocese

Continued from page 1

Pope Francis' representative to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, said the people of Des Moines look forward with hope to the leadership of Bishop Joensen.

"Your intellect and gifts are well known, and you've placed these at the service of your students and seminarians and in the service of defending human life and dignity," he said before reading the pope's letter of appointment.

"You have distinguished yourself for your closeness to young people, keeping them close to the Lord and his Church," said Archbishop Pierre. "Now, the Lord is calling you to shepherd his people in Des Moines."

The people of the Des Moines diocese couldn't be happier.

"Everything about the event was perfect! From the moment we walked in the door, the joy and faith surrounding Bishop Joensen was so comforting," said Teresa Jamison, of St. Mary Parish in Hamburg, who attended with her husband, Rick. "It was like a big family reunion welcoming its newest member."

Theresa Romens, of Holy Rosary Parish in Glenwood, said it's an exciting time in the local church to witness an ordination of a bishop and to share the story with her parish family.

Portia Washington, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale and St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines, was among the first in line to enter the doors, arriving about two

hours early. She awoke at 5 a.m. that day, and had to go to work after the ordination, but said the long day was worth it.

"It draws all of us together and it's important to be a witness to this," she said. "It will have a lasting effect on me and everyone else."

Ellen Schmidt and Marilyn Keane, also among the first to arrive, were proud to represent their parish, St. Mary of the Assumption in Panama.

Seventh grader Matthew Pierson, whose classes were canceled at St. Francis of Assisi School, attended with his grandma, Neia May.

She gave her extra ticket to him because "he is such a good person. He's kind and considerate."

"I've never been to an ordination of a bishop, so I thought it's time for me to come," said Wayne Honz, of St. Patrick Parish in Missouri Valley. He and his wife, Betty, and their friend Pat Kocour drove 135 miles in the rain to see the priests and deacons, hear the music and be a part of the celebration and fellowship afterward.

Isabella Jones, a senior at St. Albert School in Council Bluffs, served as a volunteer helping people find their way prior to the start of Mass. She looked forward to the experience.

Emma Vicker, a senior at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, said, "I wanted to come because it's a cool opportunity to see something that hasn't happened in 50 years." It has been 50 years since the Des Moines diocese has been served by a native Iowan

(Bishop Maurice Dingman). Bishop Joensen was born in Waterloo and grew up in Ames.

"I thought it would be a great experience," said Adrian Flores, of Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines. "It's a great blessing to be here. It's something that hasn't been seen in many years and it's an honor to be a part of this."

Bishop Joensen thanked Bishop Richard Pates for his service, Archbishop Pierre who himself celebrated his 24th anniversary as a bishop earlier that week, the diocesan staff, St. Francis of Assisi Parish,

the liturgy planning team and those who came from near and far to be with him on his special day.

"Things have been so splendid, you'd think they did this every four or five years!" he said.

Holy Trinity parishioner Karen Quiner said: "It was an awe-inspiring event. I could not only feel the Holy Spirit in an almost tangible way, but also the company of the saints. It felt like we were taking part in history. I love being Catholic!"

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Evangelization and Catechesis

Assisting the faithful in southwest Iowa to be joyful disciples of Christ and equipping them to be his witnesses in the world.

Christus Vivit: Focus on encounters with Christ



By Justin White &
Jessica Maciel Hernandez
Contributing Writers

“Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!”

With these words, Pope Francis begins his most recent exhortation, entitled *Christus Vivit (Christ is Alive)*.

The exhortation is addressed “to young people and to the entire people of God.”

Emerging from the 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment, *Christus Vivit* reaches out to and challenges young people, while it simultaneously speaks to those who mentor and accompany young people.

The 2018 synod provided an opportunity for the Church to take a listening posture towards youth and young adults, and to reflect on how to best accompany them.

Additionally, it introduced different ways in which young people can be more engaged in discernment of their vocational call.

In *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis hopes to guide young people towards keeping Christ alive in their lives.

Paul Jarzembowski, assistant director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that with *Christus Vivit*, “Pope Francis is telling young people and all people to rediscover hope.”

It’s akin, he said, to a Super Bowl halftime pep talk in the locker room: “The first half of the journey was a synodal process...the second half is the local implementation.”

Youth is not just a matter of age, though. In *Christus Vivit*, “Pope Francis is calling the entire Church to be young again,” Jarzembowski said. The Church is young, Pope Francis said in *Christus Vivit*, “when she is herself, when she receives

ever anew the strength born of God’s word, the Eucharist, and the daily presence of Christ and the power of his Spirit in our lives.”

The Des Moines diocese has made it a priority to pass along the message from the exhortation to all young people in central and southwest Iowa.

One means for getting the pope’s word out has been through a series of Theology on Tap evenings for young adults in the Des Moines metro area.

Carrie Gall, a young adult panelist for the first Theology on Tap, was particularly affected by the Holy Father’s emphasis on God’s love.

“*Christus Vivit* impacted the way in which I hope to convey my joy in Christ to others,” she said. “When I let the reality of Pope Francis’ message sink in, that God loves me more than I love my own children, I am overcome with a zeal to proclaim to others that Christ is alive. The present tense, that Christ is alive not was

alive, means everything and I want my whole life to be a witness to that truth.”

Pope Francis calls us in *Christus Vivit* to reflect on the reality that the experience of young people around the globe is not uniform.

He highlights the effect that migration has in a young person’s life, pointing out the “particular vulnerability of migrants who are unaccompanied minors, or the situation of those compelled to spend many years in refugee camps, or of those who remain trapped for a long time in transit countries, without being able to pursue a course of studies or to use their talents.”

Through *Christus Vivit*, young people, as well as those ministering to young people, are invited to look beyond the political aspect of migration, and shift focus to the encounter with Christ through the cultures and stories of others.

Ankeny parish hosts Christian Experience Weekend for deaf community

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Catholics in the deaf community are hungry for opportunities to get involved and participate in the Church.

So when the Christian Experience Weekend for the deaf community was held Oct. 4-6 at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, people from all over the Midwest flocked to the gathering.

“I received emails or texts or phone calls from 48 states,” said Peggy Chicoine, coordinator of deaf ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines. “They all wanted to come, but due to funding they couldn’t. Or they had just found out about it and so they didn’t have time to make proper arrangements to come.”

There’s a deep hunger among our deaf community nationwide who want to grow more in their faith and develop a deeper relationship with God.”

Forty-five deaf people came to the weekend gathering. Deaf priests from both coasts helped lead the retreat.

“It was phenomenal and a great opportunity for them to build community and see there are others who hunger for the same thing,” said Chicoine.

That can be a challenge for deaf people, since many churches do not offer sign language interpretation.

“At the CEW weekend they can communicate and not have to ask for clarification all the time, and it was so fruitful because they hunger for adult faith formation education,” she added.

When parishes don’t offer sign language interpreters, they feel left out or shunned and sometimes turn to Protestant churches who do offer services for them. When a parish does offer sign language interpretation, they are willing to drive long distances.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Des Moines offers sign language and has a tight knit deaf community, Chicoine added.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines also offers sign language interpretation at a Mass every Sunday.

“They feel the love from the hearing people there too because they realize that I do belong and they are welcome to participate,” Chicoine said.

Jake Epstein, a seminarian for the Diocese of Des Moines spent six weeks studying sign language last summer in Washington D.C. and also attended the CEW retreat for the deaf commu-

nity. He hopes to one day use that in his future ministry.

“Deaf folks share the same spiritual needs as everyone else: to live in intimacy with the Lord, to know their identity as sons and daughters of God, to live in a Christian community and witness to the world,” Epstein said. “That was the main focus of the retreat.”

“But of course, deaf folks also have a unique experience, a unique community and in a lot of ways they live on the margins of the Church, as Pope Francis talks about.”

It can be difficult for deaf people to really feel a part of the parish community when they are the only ones who cannot hear, Epstein added.

“I heard a lot about that experience from deaf folks on the retreat, and that’s definitely something I’ll carry with me.”

Epstein has a passion for helping deaf people feel embraced by their parish community.

“Deaf Catholics are fully a part of the Church by their baptism and by their communion in Christ,” Epstein



Peggy Chicoine introduces seminarian Jake Epstein at the CEW deaf retreat.

said. “Deaf people belong in the Church that Christ established to preach the Gospel to all nations. Deaf ministry exists to help deaf people experience that belonging, to live the life of the Church, to fully participate in that life and to bring their many gifts and their unique experiences to the whole Christian community.”

Youth Ministry

Excitement building for next month's National Catholic Youth Conference

Over 20,000 Catholic teenagers from across the United States will soon flock to Indianapolis to deepen their faith and have fun



Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins

A group of young people from St. Patrick Parish in Perry attended NCYC in 2017 with Father Chris Rieising.



Next month will see 500 diocesan youth from 38 parishes off to Indianapolis for another National Catholic Youth Conference.

Held every two years since 1983, NCYC draws more than 20,000 teens from around the country for three days of celebrating and growing in their Catholic faith.

Randy Henderson, who has been leading pilgrims to NCYC from Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny since 2007, has "found that the experience has unlocked many doors for those who attend," whether teens or adult chaperones.

"[They] often need what we all need: permission and encouragement to go deeper in one's prayer life, to live more generously in service to others, and to preach the gospel of good news by living a life that is contagiously authentic," he said.

Past pilgrims to NCYC from OLIH have called it "life changing," "a great experience," and the sort of thing that "made my faith new again."

Stories of faith in Christ being renewed by NCYC participation abound throughout the diocese.

Jackson Finnegan, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Glenwood, attended in 2017 and will be going again this year.

For him, keynote speakers at NCYC such as Chris Stefanick were impactful.

"I hadn't really felt very strong in my faith before NCYC," he said. "But after hearing speeches like Chris' I felt closer to God and I haven't really lost that since. My faith is a lot more evident in my daily life and I have more trust in the Lord."

As studies on youth and religion continue to point towards alarming trends -- such as nearly a third identifying as religiously unaffiliated and an average age of 13 for this disaffiliation to begin -- experiences like NCYC continue, and stories like Finnegan's are told to affirm and encourage young people in their faith.

This year's theme for the conference is "Blessed, Broken, Given; Bendito, Partido, Entregado." More information on the Des Moines diocesan pilgrimage can be found at dmdiocese.org/NCYC.

Catholic Charities financial empowerment program makes top five in national competition

Program helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking find financial success

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

The financial empowerment program offered by the Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program in Council Bluffs landed in the top five of the Innovative Practices Award competition.

Sponsored by the Council on Accreditation, the competition recognizes innovative practices by organizations serving vulnerable populations, said Michele Moray-Volk, the housing and economic coordinator at Catholic Charities.

The Council on Accreditation is an international, independent, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines, is a COA accredited agency.

The financial empowerment program was created to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking find financial independence and long-term success.

The financial empowerment program uses the Moving Ahead Curriculum developed by the Allstate Foundation in partnership with the National Network to End Domestic Violence, said Diane McKee, program manager at

Catholic Charities.

The curriculum has been academically validated by Rutgers University.

"It provides a balance of information on strategies to achieve economic self-sufficiency, but also provides specific information on economic abuse," said Moray-Volk.

"Survivors learn a comprehensive amount of information."

"The curriculum starts with a discussion of financially abusive relationships and how to recognize signs of economic abuse. They learn about financial safety planning, financial management including budgeting, saving and ways to improve their credit," she said.

The women who complete the program receive a \$125 stipend. In fiscal year 2019, 85 women started the program and 62 graduated – a 73 percent graduation rate.

"Our goal is to graduate 100 percent," McKee said.

The program consists of five modules:

- Understanding financial abuse
- Learning financial fundamentals
- Mastering credit basics
- Building financial foundations
- Creating budgeting strategies

The classes are fa-

cilitated by Catholic Charities housing advocates.

"The philosophy of the curriculum is to facilitate, not teach, so survivors are sharing their stories and learning from each other," Moray-Volk said. "It is a much more engaging way of learning than the 'lecture' method."

Feedback has been positive from the women.

"One of the greatest parts was meeting other women in similar situations and hearing their stories. I didn't feel so alone and that meant so much to me," said one participant.

"This is the first thing I've graduated from anything in my life. I know it might not seem like a lot to other people, but I'm really proud of myself," another said.

"I've learned so much from the class and will use it to better my future," said a third participant.

Learn more about the Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program at catholic-charitiesdm.org/our-services/domestic-violence-shelter/. Learn about the Allstate financial empowerment program at purplepurse.com/tools/financial-empowerment.aspx. Learn about the COA at coanet.org.

Papal tweet of support for 'Saints' goes viral



Couldn't lose after this.

#Blessed and highly favored 🙏🏡

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Oct 13

Today we give thanks to the Lord for our new #Saints 🙏. They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession.

The NFL's New Orleans Saints responded to Pope Francis' tweet on Sunday, Oct. 13.

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A hashtag mix-up caused a papal tweet meant to give thanks for the Catholic Church's newest saints to be read as Pope Francis showing support for the New Orleans Saints' football team.

After the Oct. 13 canonization of five new saints, the pope's official Twitter account, @Pontifex, tweeted: "Today we give thanks to the Lord for our new #Saints. They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession."

However, the Twitter hashtag automatically uploaded a fleur-de-lis, the official logo of the National Football League team. Needless to say, the tweet caught the attention of many Saints' fans, who interpreted the tweet as invoking divine intervention for their team's game that day against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

"Big Guy telling you something for this afternoon," a Twitter user said, sharing the pope's tweet. "Adjust your bets accordingly, Vegas."

"Time to put 10k on the #Saints," another Twitter user wrote.

Other fans were elated that Christ's vicar on earth was in their corner. "Pope Francis told 18 million followers that he was #WhoDatNation. I love it," another Twitter follower wrote, referring to the New Orleans football team's "Who Dat" chant.

However, people rooting for other football teams couldn't hide their dismay. "We lost the pope!" a Twitter user tweeted to the New England Patriots.

But the reaction of the day came from the New Orleans Saints' own Twitter account after their 13-6 victory over the Jaguars.

"Couldn't lose after this," the Saints' account tweeted after sharing the papal tweet. "#Blessed and highly favored."

A Vatican official confirmed Oct. 14 that use of the hashtag to trigger the "hashflag" -- the fleur-de-lis -- was a case of "accidental evangelization," but hoped that "maybe someone who didn't know will become aware that there are other 'saints' to pay attention to."



News & Events for Faithful Listeners

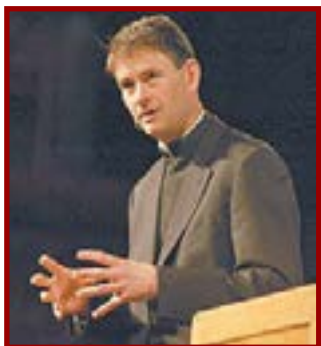


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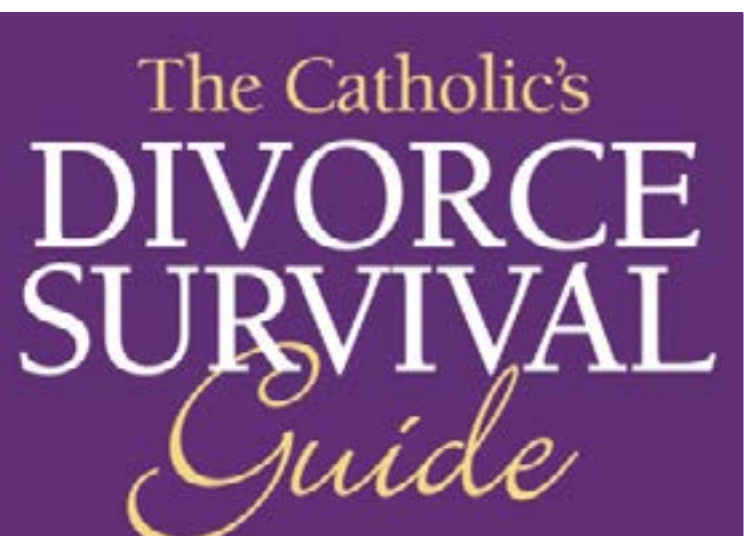
Mass begins at 8 am, with the conference to follow. Lunch is provided.

Fr. Wade L. J. Menezes, CPM: Member of the Fathers of Mercy, a missionary preaching Religious Congregation based in Auburn, Kentucky.

Sonja Corbitt: speaker and author of *Unleashed: How to Receive Everything the Holy Spirit Wants to Give You*.

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Eleven people from Des Moines join Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre



Des Moines hosted the Midwest regional gathering of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in September.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Eleven people from the Diocese of Des Moines last month joined a centuries-old, worldwide organization that promotes individual spiritual growth and supports Christians in the Holy Land.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre drew 675 people to Des Moines Sept. 20-23 from the eight-state Midwest region, called the northern lieutenantancy. About 2,000 people are members of the EOHS in this lieutenantancy that includes Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri and Kansas.

The local groups send funds to the Vatican, which then supports parishes such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, schools, hospitals and more in the Holy Land.

"The number of Christians in the Holy Land has declined by a lot," said Ron Pogge, a counselor for western Iowa. "One of the purposes is to assist them in hope that they will stay there and keep the Christian presence there."

He and his wife, Susan, joined the papal order in 2008.

"It's a way to grow spiritually and we have found it to be very true through prayers, being with fellow Catholics of like mind," he said. "Secondly, we've always been supporters of Catholic education and Catholic presence and I think that if Catholics

should be any place, they should be in the Holy Land. We think there's a need to support Christians who are there in such small numbers that they just need help to stay."

General political unease and violence that occurs in the Holy Land has prompted many Christian families to leave the area.

Dan and Carol Werner, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, joined in 2010. Today, they serve as secretaries to the lieutenantancy.

"We have found our involvement to be highly rewarding and we have greatly enjoyed our interactions with the local members of the order and with the other members of the lieutenantancy," said Dan Werner.

While in Des Moines, the members celebrated a memorial Mass for members who have died; heard from a resident of the Holy Land, Brother Peter Bray of Bethlehem University; and celebrated the promotion of members in the organization.

New investees from western Iowa include Rick and Nancy Ball, Bob and Judi Ellertson, Steve and Mary Beth Craig, Jerry and Angie Murphy, Charles and Lisa Schneider, all from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, and John Magennis, of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines.

In addition, Steve and Rose Ann Schuler, who joined in 2016, were promoted to a new rank within the order.

Father Eugene Koch

Continued from page 1

couldn't do," said Father Paul. Father Gene stayed in Iowa as a parish priest while Father Paul served for many years in South America.

"He let me be the priest that I wanted to be, and of course, he was the priest that he wanted to be," said Father Paul.

Father Eugene Koch was ordained in 1959 by Bishop Edward C. Daly, O.P. and earned a master's degree in education from Creighton University in 1967.

He taught at Dowling Catholic High School from 1959-1963 and taught at St. Albert High School from 1963-1967.

Father Gene served several parishes in both rural and urban areas of the diocese: St. Patrick in Neola, St. Joseph in Earling, St. Columbanus in Weston, St. Anne in Logan, Sacred Heart in Woodbine, St. Bridget in Magnolia, Christ the King in Des Moines, St. Patrick in Missouri Valley, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny, St. Patrick in Perry, St. Theresa in Des Moines, Sacred Heart in Chariton, St. Francis in Corydon, St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines, St. Ann in Woodward and Assumption in Granger, where he served for 15 years until his retirement in 2009.

Father John Ludwig, a close friend who preached the homily at Father Gene's funer-

al, said: "Our faith reminds us that because of the resurrection of Jesus, our lives and our deaths take on a whole new look. What looks at first only like defeat will be for us in the end a victory. What appears like something to mourn and grieve for, becomes something to rejoice in and celebrate. What resembles more than anything on earth like the end, is in fact, a whole new beginning."



Father Eugene Koch

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St. John Henry Newman's conscience insights are timely today

By Simon Caldwell
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) -- St. John Henry Newman's insights into the function and meaning of conscience "could not be more timely" given widespread moral confusion in the Western world, said Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher.

Speaking at an Oct. 12 symposium at the Dominican-run Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, commonly called the Angelicum, Archbishop Fisher said Cardinal Newman's theology of conscience offered an antidote to the moral relativism that was convulsing many societies.

The power of Cardinal Newman's teachings, he said, could be seen in the witness of the White Rose, an anti-Nazi movement in wartime Germany, which found the courage to defy Adolf Hitler partly after studying the new saint's writings on conscience.

Sophie Scholl, the most

famous member of the White Rose, was just 21 years old when she was beheaded in Stadelheim Prison, Munich, in February 1943 after she and her brother, Hans, flooded the famous Lichthof (atrium) of Munich University with leaflets inciting students to oppose Nazism.

He cited scholarly research to emphasize how Cardinal Newman's works influenced Sophie Scholl in particular.

"In 1942, she gave a volume of Newman's sermons as a parting gift to her boyfriend, Fritz Hartnagel, when he was sent to the Eastern Front," Archbishop Fisher said.

"Fritz wrote to Sophie from the horrors of the battlefield that Newman's writings were 'like drops of precious wine,'" words scholars identified as coming verbatim from a sermon given by Newman called "The Testimony of Conscience."

Archbishop Fisher said that on the strength of such teachings, Cardinal Newman, who was canonized Oct. 13, was already "celebrated by many people as

worthy of doctor of the church and specifically doctor of conscience."

He said that, to Cardinal Newman, conscience was not an "inbuilt sat-nav" or like the good angel who stood on the shoulder of Fred Flintstone and whispered advice into his ear.

"In our day, when an intellectual and moral relativism threatens to sap the very foundations of our society, Newman reminds us that, as men and women made in the image and likeness of God, we were created to know the truth and find in that truth the ultimate freedom and deepest fulfillment," said Archbishop Fisher.



St. John Henry Newman was canonized on Oct. 13, 2019.

His talk was the second time the symposium reflected on the White Rose.

Earlier, George Weigel of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., told how the nonviolence and Christian resistance of the movement "was formed in part by a serious spiritual and intellectual encounter" with Newman.

"There is a lot of talk in the 21st century church about conscience, and Newman is invoked by many prominent personalities in those debates," Weigel said.

"So it might be useful for all concerned to ponder on Newman's influence on these contemporary martyrs. What did the members of the White Rose learn from Newman about conscience?" he asked.

The evening of Oct. 12,

thousands gathered in the Basilica of St. Mary Major for a vigil of prayer ahead of the canonization.

Among the guests was Melissa Villalobos, a Chicago mother of seven who was inexplicably healed from a potentially fatal hemorrhage that also threatened to take the life of her unborn child.

The bleeding stopped when she prayed urgently to Cardinal Newman, and the healing was recognized as the miracle needed to canonize the saint.

Villalobos read one of the bidding prayers while 5-year-old Gemma, the daughter who was saved by the healing, watched with her brothers and sisters and David, her father.



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Longtime faithful servant of the diocese dies

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Sister Mary Margaret “Maggie” O’Toole, who dedicated her life to helping people grow in their faith, died Oct. 8.

Originally from Davenport, she entered the Sisters of Humility in 1956 (with the name Dolomarie) and taught in parochial schools and conducted religion classes for elementary and high school students.

Sister Jeannie Hagadorn, of Des Moines, entered the religious community the same year and was a classmate of Sister Maggie.

“She had a wonderful, Irish wit,” said Sister Jeannie. “She had a deep prayer life, a deep faith.”

In 1967, she was appointed coordinator of religious education for the Des Moines diocese.

In 1973, she became the director of religious education and pastoral minister at Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

In the early 1970s, only one parish had a religious education director, said Sister Jeannie, who worked with Sister Maggie.

“We traveled a lot in those days,” she said. “She and I would go around the diocese trying to do catechist formation and parent sessions. We spent a lot of hours together in the car.”

Sister Pat Scherer came to Des Moines in the late 1970s. She tried to sum up a lifetime of friendship with Sister Maggie.

“She welcomed me with open arms and we became good friends,” said Sister Pat. “Maggie was always upbeat and she knew how to have a good time. We spent a lot of time over the years going out for supper and discussing religious events and changes in the Church and our current ministries of religious education and my refugee work.”

In 1981, Sister Maggie began to serve Sacred Heart Par-

ish in West Des Moines, where she focused on liturgy and religious education.

In 1988, she became the first female pastoral associate at Sacred Heart. She was responsible for adult faith formation, developed and directed the RCIA program and began Bible study classes, according to a parish history.

“I don’t know how many people she brought into the Church and really led them to a deep faith,” said former Sacred Heart pastor, Monsignor Michael Hess. “She was just excellent at it. She had an easy way of doing it, of presenting, getting them involved in the discussion and helping them to learn about God through their own experiences, not just what she would feed to them.”

Father Vince Rosonke said he and she were kindred spirits on theology after the Second Vatican Council. They shared questions about our place in the universe and how God fits into questions of creation.

“Both her and I, over the years, have talked lots about those things,” he said. “We should always look up and see where everything is bigger, and we tend to look down and see things that are smaller,” he said. “She would say we’re not seeing a bigger picture.”

“She just had a very good heart and spirit,” said Father Tim Fitzgerald, of Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona. “She really poured herself out for folks.”

Sister Maggie retired in 2004. Her Mass of Christian burial was Oct. 14 with interment at Resthaven Cemetery.

Humility Sister Jude Fitzpatrick said: “She was certainly a faithful servant in this diocese for a long time.”



Sister “Maggie” O’Toole

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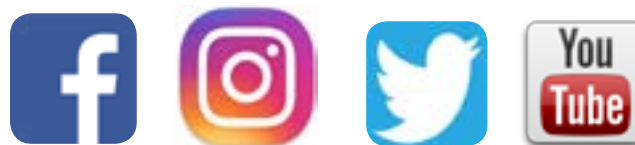
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October has many traditions. There's post-season baseball, tailgating at football games, apple picking and, of course, Halloween. But most importantly, there is the Rosary.

As decreed by Pope Leo XIII, October is the Month of the Rosary. For Knights of Columbus, this has a special significance. When a man joins our Order, he receives a Knights of Columbus rosary — at 1.9 million members, that's a lot of rosaries. And praying the rosary is an activity that our members do communally as part of council life.

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