

# THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 53, No. 11

November 15, 2019

Synod of young people, the faith and vocational discernment

## Young people encouraged to build community

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

The Synod of Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment last year was a “listening exercise,” said Paul Jarzembowski, secretariat of laity, marriage, family life and youth for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Jarzembowski was in Des Moines on October 29 to share Pope Francis’ message with church staff and young people at two separate events.

During the process leading up to the synod, the Church came to “learn about some of the realities that young people are facing,” he said.

### Realities of young people

The realities include violence and exploitation of young people – even in the United States and western Europe, Jarzembowski added.

“Young people feel used – they feel like they are a consumable product,” he said. “Even by religion – there was a push back because even in church circles with the disaffiliated and the nones, it was a consumer mindset of ‘you need to be in our pews.’”

Young people have a feeling of not being seen for who they are, Jarzembowski added.

Another issue that came to light – migrants and immigrants have the feeling of being either invisible or persecuted. “They weren’t sure which one was worse,” he said.

The Church concedes that it should not have taken this long to

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## Cabins down at Catholic Youth Camp

New cabins will be erected before Summer 2020



Thousands of youth over the years have stayed in the cabins at the St. Thomas More Center in Panora, home of Catholic Youth Camp. As part of a capital campaign to improve the center, the old cabins came down this fall and new ones are expected to be constructed at camp by summer. To learn more about the capital campaign, go to [stmcenter.com](http://stmcenter.com).

## New group encourages young adults to become disciples of Jesus Christ

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

A new Catholic group for young adults has started in Des Moines called i.d.9:16.

The goal is creating intentional disciples – the i.d. stands for “identity as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ” and references 1 Corinthians 9:16: “If I preach the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for necessity has been laid upon me. Woe

to me if I do not preach the Gospel.”

“We are a young adult ministry – 20 and 30 somethings, single, married, with and without kids, working alongside Young Catholics of the Diocese of Des Moines to bring engagement and catechesis to this population in the diocese,” said Amanda Finneseth, the Des Moines chapter leader.

The Des Moines i.d.9:16 chapter is run entirely by local young adult volunteers for young adults, Finneseth added.

The group has two primary ways of doing this.

One, there are men’s and women’s discipleship groups that meet bi-weekly. This helps fill the hunger young adults have for small groups. Five to eight people meet to dig deeper into their faith with their peers while building relationships, Finneseth said. These small groups typically take place at individuals’ homes, usually after a dinner and socializing and include a 15-minute video and discussion.

Two large gatherings

are held the first Thursday of each month at St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines called Disciples’ Nights. Their next large gathering is Dec. 5. The monthly format includes confession at 5:30 p.m., Mass at 6 p.m., followed by a free dinner and theological speaker at 6:45 p.m.

Blake Riffel, a member of the leadership team, said young adults are welcome and encouraged to attend the gatherings and find support from like-minded peers.

“There are just a lot of

attacks on our faith and, especially for young adults, it can be really hard if we don’t have that support in the community,” Riffel said. “We just want to continue to do what the diocese has already done and provide opportunities to [encounter] Christ.”

To learn more about the local chapter of i.d.9:16 visit [Facebook.com/id916dsm](https://www.facebook.com/id916dsm) or email [id916dsm@gmail.com](mailto:id916dsm@gmail.com). Learn more about the organization at [id916.com](http://id916.com).

# Beauty and the best

Beyond Thanksgiving, November in the Des Moines diocese affords us several moments to take a step back, ponder, and focus on what really matters in life.

The Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Conference hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Parish, with its theme, "The Soul of the Matter," with presentations on spiritual purification, Eucharistic faith, and living a soul-sourced life, was one. And the Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral, where all liturgical musicians are blessed and commissioned in their distinctive vocations to help lift our hearts and offer God a sacrifice of praise, is another. The recognition of vocal and instrumental performers follows closely on the heels of the Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> Feast of St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians (and in my young bishop's reckoning, still a top five patron saint among our young people being confirmed!).

Not everyone who travels to Rome ventures across the Tiber River to visit the Church of St. Cecilia. Those who do are inevitably enchanted by the confessional crypt of the martyred young wife, who, despite torture and threats of death, is said to have "kept a song alive in her heart" to God. After centuries of being entombed in the catacombs, Cardinal Sfrondrato in 1599 re-opened her grave and found her still incorrupt. The cardinal had enlisted the artist Stefano Moderno to be present at the unearthing of her body, and to give witness in words and in marble to what he experienced: a lithe, modest, and graceful form with extended fingers pointing to the Holy Trinity, and her exposed neck bearing the fault line of her decapitation. Yet violence yields to virtue; beastliness is superseded by beauty; hostility toward her tenacious faith cannot quench holiness. Cecilia the martyress and Moderno the sculptor are artists in their own right of what is most true, good, and worthy of our beholding. They realized their vocations to point beyond themselves to the God who is eminently attractive, fascinating, soul-stilling. Our beautiful God impresses and inspires us all in varied ways, though we rely heavily on artists of all stripes to awaken, enkindle, and expand our aware-



By  
Bishop  
William  
Joensen

ness of what our souls most desire: the God who alone satisfies the yearnings of our voracious hearts.

In his 1999 "Letter to Artists," St. John Paul II acknowledges that not all are called to be artists. Yet artists, when conscious of their gift, are led to see "the whole of creation with eyes able to contemplate and give thanks, and to raise to God a hymn of praise" (nn. 1-2).

Artists (including poets, writers, sculptors, architects, musicians, and actors) commune with beauty as a vocation bestowed by God as a sort of divine spark. The Holy Father continues: "Society needs artists, just as it needs scientists, technicians, workers, professional people. . . teachers, fathers and mothers" (nn. 3-4). Genuine artists evoke the ultimate sentiment acclaimed by St. Francis in his ecstatic experience with Christ: "You are beauty!" And the early Christian humanist Paulinus of Nola captures the same sentiment: "Our only art is faith and our music Christ" (nn. 6-7). When done well, in the key of Christ, our faith feeds our music, and our music feeds our faith. We might ponder that wisdom the next time we access Spotify.

Thank God for our liturgical musicians in parishes across our diocese! They are not technicians plunking out notes, vocalists giving lip service to the score set before them. They are realizing a sacred vocation given by God, giving expression to an energy kindled in their hearts, and expanding our awareness of just how beautiful and marvelous God is. Each Sunday and beyond, we are given a chance to "let our praise loose" in response to the beauty we have encountered—in the face of which the ugliness of life pales. Whether historians will credit St. Cecilia with actually being a musician in her own right, we know with her that there is a song always lurking in our hearts, an underlying hum we can barely constrain: our God is beautiful—the best life can offer!

# Bella y bestia

Más allá del Día de Acción de Gracias, en la Diócesis de Des Moines noviembre nos presenta varias oportunidades en que podemos detenernos, pensar, y enfocarnos en lo que es verdaderamente importante en nuestra vida. La 2da Conferencia de Mujeres este noviembre, que se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, con su tema, "El Alma de la Materia," con presentaciones sobre purificación espiritual, fe Eucarística, y llevando una vida con una fuente espiritual, fue una de estas oportunidades. Y la Misa Dominical del 24 de noviembre en la Catedral de San Ambrosio, en donde se bendice y se comisiona a todos los participantes de la música litúrgica en su muy distintiva vocación ayudando a elevar nuestros corazones y ofrecer a Dios el sacrificio de la alabanza, es otra oportunidad. El reconocer a los músicos vocales e instrumentales sigue muy de cerca los pasos de la fiesta del 22 de noviembre, Fiesta de Santa Cecilia, patrona de los músicos (¡y en mi temprana experiencia como obispo, una de los cinco santos patronos favoritos de los jóvenes que se están confirmando!).

No todos los que viajan a Roma se aventura a cruzar el Río Tiber para visitar la Iglesia de Santa Cecilia. Aquellos que la visitan quedan indudablemente encantados por la cripta confesional de la mártir joven esposa quien, a pesar de la tortura y amenazas de muerte, se dice que "mantuvo una canción viva en su corazón" hacia Dios. Luego de siglos de haber sido enterrada en las catacumbas, el Cardenal Sfrondrato volvió a abrir su tumba en 1599 y la encontraría aún incorrupta. El cardenal contrató al artista Stefano moderno para que estuviera presente cuando se sacó el cuerpo de la tierra y dar testimonio de en palabra y en mármol de lo que había atestiguado: la forma flexible, modesta y graciosa con sus dedos extendidos señalando hacia la Santísima Trinidad, y su cuello expuesto que mostraba la línea que dejó su decapitación. Aún así la violencia lleva a la virtud; la bestialidad es superada por la belleza, la hostilidad hacia su tenaz fe no puede contener la santidad. Cecilia, la mártir y Moderno, el escultor son artistas en su propio estilo hacia lo que es más cierto, bueno y merecedor de nuestra admiración. Ellos se dieron cuenta de que sus vocaciones señalaban mas allá de ellos mismos hacia Dios quien es inminentemente atractivo, fascinante, impresionante. Nuestro hermoso Dios nos impresiona y nos

inspira a todos de varias formas, a pesar de que nos basamos ampliamente en artistas de todas las estirpes para despertar, encender y extender nuestra consciencia sobre lo que las almas más desean.: el Dios que por sí mismo satisface las necesidades de nuestros voraces corazones.

En su "Carta a los Artistas" en 1999, San Juan Pablo II reconoce que no todos están llamados a ser artistas. Aún así, los artistas, cuando están conscientes de sus dones, son guiados a ver "la plenitud de la creación con ojos que pueden contemplar y agradecer, y elevar a Dios un himno de alabanza" (nn 1-2). Los artistas (incluyendo poetas, escritores, escultores, arquitectos, músicos y actores) hacen comunión con la belleza como una vocación que les concede Dios en una forma de chispa divina. El santo Padre continúa: "La sociedad necesita artistas, al igual que necesita científicos, técnicos, trabajadores y personas profesionales... maestros, padres y madres" (mm 3-4). Los artistas genuinos evocan el máximo sentimiento aclamado por San Francisco en su estática experiencia con Cristo: "¡Tú eres la belleza!" Y el antiguo humanista cristiano Paulino de Nola captura el mismo sentimiento: "Nuestro único arte es la fe y nuestra música Cristo" (nn 6-7). Cuando se hace bien, en seguimiento de Cristo, nuestra fe alimenta nuestra música y nuestra música alimenta nuestra fe. Podemos pensar sobre esa sabiduría la próxima vez que escuchemos música en Spotify.

¡Gracias a Dios por nuestros músicos de liturgia en todas las parroquias de nuestra diócesis! Ellos no son técnicos sacándonos notas, vocalistas dirigiendo a los grupos que están delante de ellos. Ellos están llevando a cabo la vocación sagrada que les ha confiado Dios, dando una expresión de una energía que surge de sus corazones, y ampliando nuestra consciencia de lo hermoso y maravilloso que es Dios. Cada domingo y más allá, se nos da la oportunidad de "liberar nuestra alabanza" en respuesta a la belleza con que nos hemos encontrado—enfrentando a todo lo que palidece lo feo de la vida. Sin importar si los historiadores dan crédito a San Cecilia de haber sido ella misma una música, sabemos que siempre hay una canción brotando en nuestros corazones, un murmullo profundo que apenas podemos contener: nuestro Dios es hermoso – ¡lo mejor que ofrece la vida!

THE CATHOLIC

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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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**Nov. 15** - InnerVisions Healthcare

**Nov. 22** - Catholic Charities' No Room at the Inn

**Nov. 29** - Thanksgiving Holiday, Best of Bishop Joensen

**Dec. 6** - Catholic author George Weigel



**Bishop Joensen wants to hear from YOU! How has your faith been impacted recently? Text us at 515-223-1150 using #Bishop.**

# Creighton, St. Joseph Ed Center team up to bring back certificate program

Curriculum of 20 credit hours culminates in Certificate in Theology and Ministry

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

After an eight year hiatus, Creighton University and the St. Joseph Educational Center have again teamed up to offer a Certificate in Theology and Ministry.

This time, though, classes will be almost entirely online.

“The digital approach allows people to participate who would otherwise be unable,” said Tom Quinlan, SJEC executive director. “Students can participate when and where convenient for them.”

Participants will be able to communicate and learn from one another and the instructor via the online classes, Quinlan said.

There will also be a few opportunities for gathering together as a group on Saturdays.

The tuition has been highly discounted by Creighton University and parishes are encouraged to sponsor students from their parish so costs are minimal, Quinlan added.

The program, which is 20 credit hours for completion, is expected to launch in the spring.

A range of people are encouraged to consider this program.

“Parish staff who want to either just raise their skill level or maybe work towards a degree” are encouraged to participate, Quinlan said. “Those in parish ministries – maybe they would like to step into the professional ministry.”

Catholic school teachers, catechists, and even non-Catholics should consider this program.

“We have a lot of really gifted people doing some amazing ministry,” Quinlan said. “A lot of them are not parish staff per se, but some don’t have the theological background. That only takes their game to a higher level.

## Courses for earning certificate

The St. Joseph Educational Center and Creighton University are offering the Certificate in Theology and Ministry. This six-course program is designed to deepen knowledge of Catholic faith and enrich one’s pastoral skills.

Classes included in this 20-credit curriculum are:

- Old Testament – 3 credits
- New Testament – 3 credits
- Ethics – 3 credits
- Spirituality – 3 credits
- Christology – 3 credits
- Sacraments – 3 credits
- Orientation – 1 credit
- Pastoral Skills Seminars – 1 credit

“These are people with great pastoral skills who know how to serve people and help them,” Quinlan said.

Adding a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith adds a richness to their ministry, he added.

“That’s a powerful combination,” Quinlan added. “We’re hoping to have people who already have skills in ministry and may not have as much theology. That’s frequently the case. We want good talented people who are not educated in the faith.”

Graduates of the program had positive things to say.

Patsy Carlson, of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny, said the program gave her confidence to be more impactful in her job as director of religious education.

“I realized that if I wanted to be more effective with catechists I needed to beef up my own knowledge, and so I went into the program because it was so convenient,” Carlson said.

She also enjoyed learning more about who Jesus was as a person.

“I think it enhanced my own spirituality and helped me to have the relationship you strive

for [with Jesus],” Carlson added. “The classes really do invite you into a spiritual life.”

Mary Jo Purlicek, of St. Boniface Parish in Waukee, recommends this to others for learning, but also deepening their connection to God.

“My passion has been in Scripture and it just brings everything to life... and seeing how it was written over 2,000 years ago and how it actually applies today,” Purlicek said.

Tamara Barrett, of St. Boniface Parish in Waukee, said she enjoyed being active at church but wanted a better understanding of the teachings.

“It was challenging, but that was one of the good things about it because it made me really dig into what I had to do to get the assignments done,” Barrett said.

The classes gave her more confidence in leading Bible studies and serving on the RCIA team – and “absolutely, 100 percent” deepened her faith, Barrett said.

Learn more at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org).

# Hundreds attend Iowa Catholic Women’s Conference



Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins

Top: St. Thomas More Center staff Kelly Ruby and Alex Kautzky, executive director, hosted a booth at the Iowa Catholic Women’s Conference. The St. Thomas More Center is home to Catholic Youth Camp. Above: More than 400 women came out for the Iowa Catholic Women’s Conference on Saturday, Nov. 2 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

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## OPINION

# “Honey, let’s put up the tree”

“Honey, let’s put up the tree.”

“But it’s not even Thanksgiving, let alone Advent!”

Instantly, there is stress. Throughout the year, there are expected as well as unexpected stressors that come into our lives. Even the pressure to live a “stress-free life” causes stress.

Now, enter the holidays. It is important to accept, that for most, the holiday season increases stress.

This may seem to some to be a negative statement, but it is actually positive.

Acceptance is one of the first steps in reducing stress, including the acceptance of what is here and what is happening.

The second step is to express the presence of stress, but be careful with whom you choose to share your stress. No matter how well intended some may be, comments such as, “Let it go,” “Don’t be so stressed,” and “Just focus on the true reason for the season” will only add to a person’s internal broiling stress.

Not to mention that the spiritual shame from that last comment is now on top of the stress.

While we long for all the joy that the holiday traditions can bring, joy will

## Let’s Get Psyched

By  
by Deacon  
Randy Kiel



also be accompanied by other emotions and stressors. Whether from bumper traffic, spending too much money, perfect present searches, or even family get-togethers, stress will not only happen, it will inevitably multiply.

Stress affects our emotions, but it is not an emotion; it is a physiological matter. It is a condition of distress happening within a person’s body.

What happens to us when we experience stress?

The chemical composition of our stable brain becomes altered. Our coping mechanisms, whether functionally or dysfunctionally programmed, begin to take over. With stress, we can become vulnerable and sometimes unstable. If one is prone to anxiety or depression, it is time to be on high alert with self-awareness. While it is said that faith can move mountains, stress

can turn depression and anxiety into volcanoes.

Be sure to identify what you know about yourself and your stressors. If visiting family brings too much stress, then limit the interaction and know that you are taking care of yourself.

Now try to resist the temptation to feel holiday guilt. Don’t allow yourself to get caught up in the wrong conversations during these days. Let the holidays be what they are intended to be: one, a day of giving thanks for all the blessings and the other, a celebration of the birth of the only person that has ever brought his own gift to the party. This is the gift of salvation. Salvation is our ultimate remedy for our ultimate stress.

If stress causes you to overeat, overdrink, overreact, overspend, or overindulge in any fashion, then plan a time to do this indulgence after the stress subsides, not during it.

Whichever the vice, you’ll find that you will not indulge nearly as much as you may have earlier if responding to a plan instead of a stressful impulse.

Stress may also come from loneliness during your holiday season.

It is valuable to acknowledge your loneliness with someone and it is even

more important to express this in prayer.

We are all spiritually lonely deep within, simply due to our natural longing for the Father. Know what the rest of your loneliness is from. It may be from the melancholy of the season, too many somber Christmas carols, or the loss of loved ones throughout your life.

Loneliness is normal.

It hurts because we love; therefore, find ways to give love to people in your every day.

Keep loving!

Let’s remember Christ’s words of comfort. “Remain in me and I will remain in you.” We always have companionship with Christ.

With these thoughts, may we manage our upcoming holiday stress a bit more healthily when hearing those words that inevitably ring out the end of this joyous season,

“Honey, let’s take down the tree!”

God bless you in this holiday season.

*Deacon Randy Kiel is the founder of Kardia Counseling and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him, email [randy@kadiacounseling.com](mailto:randy@kadiacounseling.com).*

## Being resourceful: I can read! I can pray!

“We ate our honey. We ate a lot. Now we have no honey in our honey pot.”

With those 17 words, averaging just three letters in length, Jan and Stan Berenstain launched their legendary book series. They were using the methods Dr. Seuss had coached them on: rhyme, repetition, short sentences.

As head of Random House’s new publishing house for children’s book, Theodor Seuss Geisel (better known as Dr. Seuss) was an eccentric, exacting boss, and the 1962 publication of their book “The Big Honey Hunt” marked the completion of a two-year editing process that had begun with the manuscript for a completely different book, “Freddy Bear’s Spanking.”

It was also a beginning, the birth of a franchise that would feature more than 300 titles and sell more than 260 million copies. The 38-year-old artists from Pennsylvania – the parents of two sons – had already enjoyed commercial success as magazine cartoonists when they dreamed up their bear family.

They had come far from their meeting on the first day of Miss Sweeney’s

## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



drawing class at the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art, when Stan complimented Jan’s charcoal sketch.

She smiled brightly and inquired about his rendering of Zeus. “How did you manage to do all those curls in two hours?”

He had been resourceful, as had she. It was a trait that would earn their mutual admiration – and growing success as young artists.

And when it came time to tell the story of Papa Bear, a fumbling father in blue overalls – “a little like Stan,” he would later write – and Mama Bear, a wise mother “very like Jan” wearing a polka-dotted dress and dust cap, they channeled that resourcefulness at the typewriter,

artfully spinning those three-letter words to empower new readers with a limited set of sight words and a big imagination.

“How are you doing? Are you getting a lot? Are you getting much honey? Or are you not?”

That was the purpose of Beginner Books, which debuted in 1957 with Dr. Seuss’ “The Cat in the Hat.” It drew from an editor’s list of 379 words known by early readers and used only 236, zig zagging them together into a 1,626-word book.

The 5-year-old recipients demonstrated great resourcefulness of their own by learning to read: to assign sounds to shapes, to commit them to memory and then speak them aloud, following a trail of black strokes until a story emerges.

I’ve been thinking about the value of being resourceful. By definition, it is to deal with new situations or difficulties. In action, it is to make like Dr. Seuss: to create a masterpiece from a small list of short words, to do a lot with a little. A teacher making the most of a small budget. A host opening up his modest home. A cook improvising with a half-empty fridge.

A bedridden pregnant woman parenting from the mattress.

To be resourceful is to glorify the Creator, using our God-given gifts to full effect, like the servants who double their talents in Jesus’ parable.

A retired archbishop here in St. Paul proved resourceful in prayer, using three words to utter a Beginner Book-like invocation that is as simple as it is profound: “Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus, come.”

There is much to learn here – for one who might expect an archbishop’s prayer to be as ornate as his garb, for one who never prayed or no longer prays or puts off prayer. Like the empowered 5-year-old reader, he hears the archbishop and realizes: I can pray!

To pray those three words is to do a lot with a little.

They are the final words of the New Testament, the archbishop told me. “It’s been the prayer of my life.”

*Christina Capecchi is a writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota*

## An abundance of gratitude

### Marriage & Family Life

By  
Adam Storey



My wife has a banner she hangs from time to time in our dining room which simply reads “gratitude.”

She has it up right now, and I have to say, I always loving seeing it. I love the reminder to be grateful.

So often, I find myself on auto-pilot and I forget about all the abundant ways I’ve been blessed.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I have been thinking about gratitude more often, and especially how receptivity plays into gratitude.

As Christians our gratitude comes from knowing that everything we are and have is a gift. God created us freely and out of love, so life itself is a gift.

Beyond our lives, God has freely given us our communities, our families,

and our individual talents that bless our communities.

Even the things that I feel I earn, like my job, my house, or my savings account; these too are gifts.

So, we can and should remind ourselves often that everything is a gift. Yet it’s also true that we have a part to play. God is so generous with us that he allows

us to participate in his creation, to play a part in his story, and this is where receptivity comes into play.

Everything we are and have is a gift, and God invites us to receive that gift and steward it. To care for those gifts we’ve received and to assist in their growth, like the faithful stewards entrusted with talents (Matt 25: 14-30).

We lack gratitude when we neglect the gifts God has given us, and we can also lack gratitude when we try to control our gifts, or claim them for our own. Gratitude reminds us that we are not masters but stewards, and that our role in life is to generously receive what is offered and collaborate with it, rather than trying to control or dominate the gifts we’re given.

As Thanksgiving approaches,

let’s say a prayer that we can all grow in gratitude.

Let’s ask the Father to send his Spirit, so that we might see more clearly the gifts that we’ve received.

Let’s ask for the grace to recognize any gifts that we may have neglected in the past, or tried to dominate in our own will, instead of receiving in God’s will.

And most important, let’s remember to say thank you for all the gifts we’ve received!

*Adam Storey is the diocesan director of Marriage & Family Life. He can be reached at [astorey@dmdiocese.org](mailto:astorey@dmdiocese.org) or 515-237-5056.*

**Ask a Priest**

*Q. We were talking about the communion of saints at our youth group last week. Is my friend who died, who was baptized in a different Christian faith, among the communion of saints?*

**A. WE ARE ALL** one by virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ. In the early Church there were no “denominations” as we know them today. If your friend was a believer and tried to follow the Gospel of Jesus, I think your friend is indeed among the communion of saints.

*Q. What is the origin of some of these Catholic traditions, i.e. stained glass windows, ringing the bells at the consecration, Catholic calisthenics (up and down) at Mass?*

**A. (1) NOT ALL** churches have stained glass windows—even today. For example, many people are surprised to learn that St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome does not have any stained glass. In centuries past, the windows served not only as a way to beautify liturgical space but also to catechize the faithful who were unable to

read and write.

(2) Ringing the bells as the consecration at Mass began as a way to alert the faithful to attention: not only was the Eucharistic prayer spoken in Latin, but for all practical purposes silently. The bells indicated a solemn moment in the Mass. The bells are no longer needed since Mass is celebrated in the language of the people and loudly enough that all can hear.

(3) Catholic calisthenics! Even when Mass was celebrated in Latin, the faithful were expected to stand, kneel, and sit at particular times. Professing our faith, hearing the gospel, etc., called for people to stand together. Still today, those attending Mass are expected to participate, not merely watch, what is happening. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council mandated “full, conscious, and active participation” from clergy and laity alike.

*Got a question for “Ask a Priest” and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to: [communications@dmdiocese.org](mailto:communications@dmdiocese.org).*

**West Des Moines parish celebrates communal wedding for Hispanics**



**Congratulations x 8!** Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines celebrated its first communal wedding for eight couples on Oct. 26. Father Luis Mejia, when he served at the parish, discovered each couple had pastoral needs. Working with Karla Vaquerano Willis, the parish’s director of Hispanic Ministry, the needs were met and the couples celebrated together.

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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@polkcountyia.gov](mailto:Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov).

**CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH**

**Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death**

*O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death.*

*In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence,*

*and protect me by your power against the enemies of your salvation.*

*Into your sacred hands, living and dying Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.*

*Amen*



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## Around the Diocese

### Nov. 23 Saturday

#### Holiday Hop

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

### Dec. 1 Sunday

#### Country Style Breakfast

INDIANOLA - The Indianola Knights of Columbus will be hosting a country-style breakfast from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall. Adults and carry-outs/\$5; children (6-12)/\$3. Children 5 and under are free. This event is also open to the general public.

### Dec. 5 Thursday

#### Advent Taize Prayer Service

WEST DES MOINES – St. Francis of Assisi Parish is holding Taize prayer service from 7-8 p.m. in the church. All are welcome. Details at [eventbrite.com/e/advent-taize-prayer-service-registration-75319168661](http://eventbrite.com/e/advent-taize-prayer-service-registration-75319168661) or call 515-440-1030.

### Dec. 7 Saturday

#### Cookie Walk and craft fair

INDIANOLA – St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Altar and Rosary Society is hosting this annual event from 8-11 a.m. Holiday treats and unique, local treats. Santa Claus will be there and there is a dine in or carry out coffee & rolls bake shop.

### Dec. 7 Saturday

#### Holiday Craft Fair, Cookie & Candy Walk

GRANGER – The Assumption Catholic Women's Club holiday cookie and candy walk will be in the Assumption gym from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Drawings will be every 30 minutes for \$10 Vendor Bucks certificates to be used during the fair that day. Must be present to win. New vendors welcome; call Brenda at 515-999-2239.

### Dec. 7 Saturday

#### St. Theresa Church Ladies 2019 Bazaar

DES MOINES – The Annual Altar & Rosary Society Church Ladies Bazaar will be from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and feature more than 20 vendors, cookie walk, and lunch available. Breakfast with Santa is at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Children will have a small breakfast, participate in an activity, and have some time with Santa. Seating is limited. Make reservations by calling 515-255-2876

### Dec. 7 Sat

#### What is God's call in your life?

WEST DES MOINES – St. Francis of Assisi Parish is sponsoring a workshop on discovering spiritual gifts from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (light lunch included) in the St. Clare Room. Suggested donation is \$25. Writer and spiritual director Deb Richards, director of Faith Formation at St. Mary of Nazareth, will

facilitate the workshop. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/discovering-spiritual-gifts-registration-75318259943](http://eventbrite.com/e/discovering-spiritual-gifts-registration-75318259943) or call 515-440-1030.

### Dec. 7-8

#### Holiday Bake Sale

DES MOINES - The Basilica of St. John Altar and Rosary Society will host a holiday bake sale on Saturday from 3 - 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the church hall downstairs. Jewelry and Christmas items will be available. Elevator accessible.

### Dec. 7-8 Saturday-Sunday

#### Annual Craft & Bake Sale

DES MOINES - St. Anthony Altar & Rosary Society annual craft and bake sale will be held on Dec. 7th from 9 a.m. -6 p.m. and Dec. 8th from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Handmade crafts and baked goods. For more information email St. Anthony Altar & Rosary at [stanthonyaltarandrosary@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonyaltarandrosary@gmail.com)

### Dec. 15 Sunday

#### Posada

ANKENY – Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church will hold a Posada from 4-6 p.m. in the multipurpose room. After a short reenactment of Joseph's and Mary's search for shelter, there will be a reception with food and games for the children.

Nuestra Iglesia, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church celebrará una "Posada" el domingo 15 de diciembre, de 4-6 p.m. en el salón de usos múltiples. Después de las procesiones tendremos comida y entretenimiento para los niños. La tradición de Las Posadas se celebra durante el Adviento para conmemorar este viaje de José y María en busca de un lugar en donde el Niño Dios naciera.

\*\*\*

### Sundays

#### Alpha

WEST DES MOINES – The next series at St. Francis of Assisi will be offered Sundays from 5-7 p.m. beginning Jan. 12. The purpose of Alpha is to help bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing the Good News of the gospel. Alpha is open to all adults. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/alpha-registration-70765466415](http://eventbrite.com/e/alpha-registration-70765466415) For more information, email [SFAAlpha@saintfrancis-church.org](mailto:SFAAlpha@saintfrancis-church.org) or contact the Adult Faith Formation office at 515-440-1030.

### Wednesdays

#### Divine Mercy Chaplet

DES MOINES – Come join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7 p.m. at St Augustin Chapel.

### Sundays

#### Latin Mass

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

## Young Ankeny parishioner uses costume to raise money for sick kids



Carson King came to visit Sam Hall at his house in Bondurant after learning of his Halloween costume on social media. Sam, a member of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, has since raised over \$16,000 through his Venmo account. Like Carson King, he will donate all the money raised to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

When 9-year old Sam Hall of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny was debating what to be for Halloween, he had to look no further than a local news broadcast for inspiration.

"He said, 'I want to be Carson King,'" said Sam's mother Cindy.

"He heard people talking about it on the news and what a cool thing it was that Carson was donating the money to the children's hospital," Cindy added.

Carson King became famous in Iowa for holding up a sign during the nationally televised live broadcast of ESPN in Ames before the Iowa State versus University of Iowa game in September.

King's sign read, "Busch Light supply needs replenished" and listed his Venmo account username so people could make donations on the digital app.

The money accumulated so quickly that King soon announced that he would be donating all funds to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, located in his rival's town - Iowa City.

King ultimately raised and donated \$3 million to the children's hospital.

Sam's mother, Cindy, was touched her son wanted to dress up as Carson King, but had reservations about him carrying a sign around asking for beer money.

They modified, and Sam's sign read, "Root beer supply needs replenished" alongside his Venmo account username and #ForTheKids.

"His uncle donated money and I thought it would get a few donations from friends and family, but it turned into a much bigger deal," Cindy said. "He's very humble and very low key about it, but also very excited and thrilled as the money started adding up."

Their first trick-or-treating event was the week before Halloween at the businesses in uptown Ankeny, Cindy said.

"Owners and people commented what a cool thing it was and a couple of people asked to take a picture with him," she added. "And then I always post pictures of the kids on Facebook with their costumes. It didn't take long before people were tagging Carson King."

"And so that night pretty late after Carson got off work he made a donation and posted a comment," Cindy said.

The next day Carson reached out to Cindy, asking if he could stop by their house over the weekend to meet Sam and drop off some candy and root beer.

Cindy kept it a secret so Sam would be surprised when Carson arrived at their house while carving pumpkins.

"Oh my goodness - he was just so surprised and I'd never seen a bigger smile on his face," Cindy said. "He had the biggest grin. He asked him questions and Carson was just so kind and made Sam feel like he was doing such a cool thing. Carson stayed for probably 45 minutes."

Sam learned that one little thing you do for others can make a big impact, Cindy said.

"And to always be kind and generous and help spread that generosity and kindness to others," she added.

Sam has one more thing to be excited about yet this fall, Cindy continued.

"He's been invited to go with Carson and a guy in the Quad Cities to deliver toys to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital on Dec. 15," Cindy said. "They asked if Sam would go along and so our family is going and we are planning to bring candy and root beer."

They'll also bring a check for the money Sam raised, which currently sits at over \$16,000. Donations will be accepted before Dec. 15 at Sam's Venmo account, Sam-Hall-85.

The family is thankful for everybody's generosity and kindness.

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Contact Kelly at  
[kcollins@dmdiocese.org](mailto:kcollins@dmdiocese.org) or  
call 515-237-5054 to learn more.

## Nationally recognized educator, advocate for those in need dies

Sister Donna Schmitt (Mary Angelita), 90, died Oct. 25 at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston.

Donna Jean Schmitt was born in 1929, in Des Moines. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1947, professing vows in 1950.

Sister Donna taught and was principal in elementary schools in Minnesota and Iowa for 36 years with more than 10 at St. Theresa School in Des Moines. She also taught at Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines. Other schools where she taught were Melrose Public, Ottumwa, Oskaloosa and Marshalltown.

In 1978 she received the National Catholic Education Association Presidential Award for outstanding service to Catholic education, especially through science teacher in-service programs.

Other ministries included assistant housing coordinator and apartment manager for Anawim Housing, Inc. in Des Moines. She served her community as director of the Humility of Mary Center, coordinator of the volunteer program, and on many community committees.

Sister Donna loved to explore spiritual teachings and

offer help to less privileged persons. She spent years volunteering at Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, leading the women in experiencing a deep connection between art and spirituality.

In Des Moines, Sister Donna displayed patience and kindness as she helped clients with mental health issues find value in work experiences. As a member of the New Hope experimental community, she prepared delicious meals on short notice and had a gift for hospitality. Her story telling brought delight and kept the community history alive and exciting.

In 2013 she retired to Humility of Mary Center until health concerns brought her to Bishop Drumm Care Center in 2017.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 2 in Magnificat Chapel in Davenport, with burial following.

Memorials may be made to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary.



## International priests

### Indian priest serving West Des Moines parish

*Multilingual parochial vicar assists with Hispanic community*

**By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer**

Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines recently welcomed their newest parochial vicar – a young Indian priest who speaks Spanish and whose uncle – Father Tom Thakadipuram, is already serving our diocese as pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs.

Father Nipin Scaria is one of the diocese's newest international priests.

Father Nipin grew up on a farm in India with his six siblings, parents and grandparents. They grew cardamom, coffee and pepper.

His parents and grandparents taught him prayers growing up and priests were revered.

During his time in seminary, Father Nipin had the opportunity to study and serve in Rome and Spain, where he learned Italian and Spanish.

After his priestly ordination in September 2016, he worked in the chancery in the Diocese of Kanjirapally for two and a half years as secretary to the bishop.

"My bishop told me you are free to go anywhere in the world to do ministry [upon completing his assignment]," he said.

Since Father Nipin has two sisters living in the United States and an uncle in the Diocese of Des Moines, he wrote a letter expressing his interest to Bishop Emeritus Richard Pates, who was serving at that time.

"He accepted me and that's why I came to Des Moines,"

Father Nipin said. "I feel very much welcomed here – especially at Sacred Heart. The people love me a lot and I feel that I am loved."

Because of the time Father Nipin spent in Spain learning and serving, he is assisting the sizable Hispanic community at the West Des Moines parish.

"It's a wonderful experience working with the Hispanics," Father Nipin said.

He particularly enjoys Spanish baptisms, quinceañeras and the first Spanish communal wedding that occurred recently.

Mayra Moriel de Banuelos, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines, said she is grateful for Father Nipin's service.

"The Hispanic population of Sacred Heart parish is increasing," Banuelos said. "This is a diverse, vibrant and young community. There are many children participating in the Mass in Spanish"

Father Nipin is serving the community with great joy, she added. He is also very approachable and is always willing to col-

laborate with other parishes too. In fact, he helped with reconciliation services recently at a Spanish retreat at St. Anthony Parish.

"He speaks Spanish and he is very enthusiastic to learn about the diversity of the community," Banuelos added. "The community of Sacred Heart needs to be able to connect deeply with their faith as it is such an important part of their lives. Father Nipin is delivering to this need of his community while he brings the two faith communities in the parish closer together."



**Though Father Nipin Scaria was born and raised in India, he speaks Spanish and helps serve the Hispanic community at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.**

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## Catholic Charities Update

2019

# no room at the inn

All are invited to the annual No Room at the Inn fundraising reception. Kick off the holidays and help homeless families!

**Friday, December 6, 2019 • 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

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## Empower Individuals | Strengthen Families



# Annual Appeal: The Future of Catholic Charities!

We are excited to share our Catholic Charities Inaugural Annual Appeal to help you, our valued donors, impact the mission of Catholic Charities!

### What are you investing in?

Donations to the Annual Appeal go directly into action serving our less fortunate neighbors. Every Catholic Charities program, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, support our most vulnerable community members. Our programs serve the hungry, homeless, distraught, and downtrodden individuals and families with their most immediate and critical needs daily.

### How can you help?

Give generously from your heart by making a payment or pledge (to be paid on your schedule throughout the year) to this Annual Appeal. We believe in:

- informing our donors with where their funds are most needed and best utilized,
- asking once each year for gifts from the heart, and
- realize that our donors have choices in their investment decisions.

Our Development Director is available to answer your questions and make your investment in Catholic Charities programming fit your philanthropic goals. **You can reach Deb Powers, Development Director at 515-237-5064 or [dpowers@catholiccharitiesdm.org](mailto:dpowers@catholiccharitiesdm.org).**

Thank you in advance for your support of Catholic Charities.

### SUCCESS STORIES

#### One Tire

When a humble person loses everything, service providers have to read between the lines.

That is what Debra Powers, Catholic Charities Development Director, found herself doing throughout a long day of helping flood victims apply for relief grants in Mills County in June of 2019.

The awards were small, averaging \$500, but enough to possibly replace a furnace or cover a power bill.

A single mother of two sat down in front of Debra and explained that she needed one tire. The woman had lost almost everything, but that day she felt that all she needed to move forward and take care of her sons was one tire.

Assessing the situation, Deb explained to the young mother that she probably needed a set of four new tires. After some encouragement, the woman agreed. An automotive service nearby received the grant check and installed better tires than requested and ensured all fluids and belts were in safe working condition.

**Over \$100,000 in flood grants were issued due to the generosity of people in the Diocese of Des Moines.**



#### Ready to Work

Saleh Laini fled Eritrea (a northeast African country on the Red Sea coast) with his family when he was only two years old. He grew up in Shemelba Refugee Camp in Ethiopia, attending school through 8th grade, before needing to stay home full-time to care for his family.

In October 2018, he travelled alone to the U.S. with little formal education and no work experience. Shortly after he arrived, he was enrolled in Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines Matching Grant (Employment Services) Program. Program participants receive six months of rent and utility assistance, English tutoring, U.S. cultural orientation, and finally, help to find a job.

Saleh attended Work Wise at the Bureau of Refugee Services, a five-week, intensive Employment Readiness class and attended three sessions of Cultural Orientation at Catholic Charities. He proved to be an active student who embraced all the information in preparation for working and becoming self-sufficient in the United States.

**Due to this preparation and with support of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement staff, four months after arrival, Saleh was employed at DeeZee Manufacturing where he now works full-time.**



## How the Emergency Family Shelter Strengthens Families

Empowerment and support enable family to thrive.

by Leslie Van Der Molen, Poverty Reduction Manager

In a leap of faith, Sara and Dan left their small tourism city in Missouri in the hope of finding a better life in Des Moines. Dan, a human services worker, was in a job with no chance of promotion. His wife Sara had been staying home to watch their youngest of two children. They left on the advice that Des Moines had a better cost of living and better housing opportunities.

With nothing more than a basic plan and a desperate need for change, they found themselves homeless for the first time in their lives in a city where they had no family or friends.

Sara had been able to find a job as soon as the family arrived in Des Moines. They enrolled their oldest child in school. Yet after five days in a motel, the family's money ran out. They requested shelter through Primary Health Care. They were put on a waiting list and were fortunate to receive vouchers to remain in the motel until shelter space opened. Seven days would pass until a room opened at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter.

Dan found a job by the end of their second week in Des Moines. He was able to work opposite hours from Sara to avoid childcare expenses. Once the family settled in the shelter, our case manager was

able to help them with their challenges. The couple had been denied child care assistance because their income was "too high." They had not accounted for the fact they were living in an emergency family shelter. With this information, the family received assistance.

While waiting to enroll their youngest in childcare, Dan became the primary caregiver. This was a new role for him. Catholic Charities staff were able to offer guidance and support as he navigated challenges and frustrations. He learned new skills and could truly co-parent with Sara.

Because Sara and Dan were proactive in seeking housing and saving income, they were granted a 30-day extension beyond the standard 30-day shelter stay. During this time, Sara received her second promotion to a supervisor position. Dan found a better-paying job at a different agency.

After struggling through a roller coaster of acceptance and rejection from housing programs, our case manager was able to work with the couple to find an apartment through Anawim Housing. It was a happy day when this determined family moved from our shelter to permanent housing.

...they found themselves homeless for the first time in their lives in a city where they had no family or friends.

## Empower Individuals | Strengthen Families



## Catholic Charities Update

## Help us reunify families.

An appeal to maintain Iowa and the U.S. status of helping refugees.

Dear Friends,

This letter is to provide an update on the status of refugee resettlement through Catholic Charities. We are one of only two refugee resettlement organizations in Iowa providing this service. In this ministry, Catholic Charities provides life-changing family reunifications, cultural orientation, education, and employment opportunities to new refugees.

## Who is a refugee?

Refugees are individuals who are forced to flee their home countries to escape persecution, war, or violence. Once an individual is determined to be eligible for refugee status, usually by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, they are referred to a resettlement program. Less than 1% of all refugees worldwide gain access to the U.S. resettlement program. People wait in refugee camps from two to more than 20 years.

## How is a refugee approved to enter the U.S.?

Each person is extensively vetted. The process includes eight U.S. government agencies, six separate security databases, five background checks, fingerprints, biometric checks, and three in-person interviews. The agencies involved in the screenings and processes include the National Counterterrorism Center, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, State Department, Department of Defense, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Additional security precautions during travel include U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Transportation Security Administration. At the airport, they are met by their resettlement agency, Catholic Charities, and begin 90 days of resettlement services that include establishing a home, cultural orientation, school enrollment, employment services, health screenings, and more.

## How do refugees contribute?

Since 2007, nearly 10,000 refugees fleeing persecution from

37 different countries have resettled directly into Iowa, where they have become essential to thriving economies and culturally-rich communities. Iowans who have come to the state as refugees and immigrants annually earn \$4.1 billion for the state economy and contribute \$349 million in state and local taxes every year (State of Iowa Proclamation, World Refugee Day, June 20, 2019).

## What is the history of refugees and Catholic Charities in Iowa?

The Refugee Resettlement program at Catholic Charities has a rich and diverse history in Central Iowa. Beginning in the 1940s, they resettled displaced groups to the United States as a result of World War II. In the 1970s and subsequent years, Catholic Charities through the Diocese of Des Moines engaged refugee resettlement among the Southeast Asian, South Sudanese, and Bosnian communities. From 1995 to 2010, Lutheran Social Service and Catholic Charities joined their refugee programs to resettle many new refugees.

Beginning in July 2010, the Refugee Resettlement office of Catholic Charities transitioned to an independent program focused on new refugee arrivals. Over the past nine years, Catholic Charities has welcomed and settled more than 1,600 new refugees, including a variety of racial and ethnic groups from diverse international countries. They include Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Nepal, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan.

Through the Catholic Social Teaching, we are called to embrace human life as a sacred foundation filled with dignity of

## Why does Catholic Charities work with refugees?

Through the Catholic Social Teaching, we are called to embrace human life as a sacred foundation filled with dignity of



Barbara Q. Decker, J.D., right, congratulating graduates of Catholic Charities Cultural Orientation.

the human person, as we demonstrate the virtue of solidarity in "loving our neighbor" in all encounters, locally and globally.

## Recent Events

There have been two recent events affecting refugee resettlement. One is the annual Presidential Determination which sets the number of new refugees who can arrive in the U.S. For FY20 new arrivals will be 18,000, which is the lowest reported number. This is compared to the two prior years new refugee arrivals, 30,000 and 45,000 respectively. The Presidential Determination is set as a ceiling for the number of refugees to be allowed into the country any given year.

The second event is a new Executive Order which requires states and cities to provide written consent prior to refugee resettlement. This new standard may adversely impact family reunification for our Central Iowa refugee communities.

In the coming weeks, you will hear more through your parishes about how you can help and provide advocacy to these endeavors.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support to Catholic Charities mission and programs to empower individuals and strengthen families.

**To all people of good will who are working for social justice: never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity!**  
- Pope Francis

Blessings,

Barbara Q. Decker, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines

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## Catholic Charities Services

## Counseling Program

Stress and anxiety are part of our daily lives, but what do you do when it gets to be too much? Professional therapy is one way to work through stress and anxiety. Our licensed, professional therapists work with clients of all faiths and backgrounds to address issues including depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse, and more. For an appointment call: **Des Moines 515-237-5045 • Council Bluffs 712-328-3086**

## Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault Program

Sometimes the victim is the last one to know they need or deserve help. Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program provides services to anyone faced with these issues through a 24-hour crisis phone line, emergency shelter, court advocacy, empowerment education, support groups, and outreach to under-served populations. **Our program serves nine counties in southwest Iowa:** Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby.

## 24-Hour Crisis Line:

**712-328-0266 or toll-free at 888-612-0266**

**Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline 1-800-284-7821**

## Emergency Family Shelter

Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter keeps homeless families together during a very difficult time in their lives. Our goal is to help each family leave the shelter with stable housing, financial stability, and empowerment to live a successful, sustainable life. Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter is part of Centralized Intake.

**All families seeking shelter should contact Primary Healthcare Outreach, the Centralized Intake agency in our community - 515-248-1850.**

## Food Pantry

**Open to all Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM**  
**1815 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316**

We are part of the DMARC Pantry Network and provide nonperishable food items, along with daily donated food items. Please call 515-262-7290 or visit our website to find out about qualifications.

## Empowerment Services

**1815 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50316**

Find classes, resources, services, and local agencies to help get around barriers in your life! From basic financial management to professional counseling, we want to help anyone in need to succeed!

## Refugee Resettlement

Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement works through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. State Department. Resettlement services include case management, employment assistance, transportation, cultural orientation, and assistance navigating local offices and services to achieve self-sufficiency and a stable home in their new community.

## Adoption Search Services

A service for those adopted through Catholic Charities or Christ Child Home. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines maintains the records of all those placed for adoption throughout its history. To request an adoption search call 515-244-3761.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**catholiccharitiesdm.org**

# Furry friends welcomed in ministry

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

There are a couple of four-legged helpers making ministry just a little bit easier in Des Moines.

St. Augustin Catholic School's principal, Kristel Kautzky, is bringing her dog, Flynn, to school these days.

And Christ the King Parish's Father PJ McManus is planning to train his puppy, Reggie, so that the furry friend can come to various events.

Both say their dogs seem to put people at ease, lighten up a stressful day and, in general, just help people smile a little more.

Kautzky got Flynn, a golden doodle, for personal reasons, but with 10 nieces and nephews excited for time with her pet, she knew he was going to be

good with kids.

"I just saw the way he interacted with them," she said. "It was eye opening. He could help so many other students and teachers. I just know how he's helped my family with everyday things."

Flynn is a registered therapy dog, spends his days in Kautzky's office where there is a gate, and is on a leash when they walk through the halls or classrooms.

"The first week of school, I took him into all of the rooms and explained he's a therapy dog" and she explained the difference between therapy dogs and service dogs to students.

If Flynn was a service dog, who would he be there for, she asked. Students pointed to her.

If he's a therapy dog, who is he there for, she asked.

Students pointed to each other. Asked how that made the students feel, they said safe, extremely happy and filled with joy.

When the idea of bringing Flynn to school crossed her mind, she expected some push-back.

"I sent out a letter (to parents) to explain he's coming and what he had to do to be a registered therapy dog and for us to be a team," she said. "I can't tell you the overwhelming support I've had from parents and students."

"One of my favorite things is when we're in the hallway and a class is passing us to go somewhere. Every kid just pats him a couple of times and keeps on walking," she added. "His purpose isn't to distract from education but to know you have somebody on your side. He's always on your side."

Father McManus, on the other side of town, had some similar experiences while serving as "puppy sitter" for a friend's dog, named Reagan.

"He was good-tempered and very friendly, and the staff and parishioners here at Christ the King began to tease me about my disposition being better when Reagan was around," he said. "But it wasn't just me. Father George (Komo) was very fond of the dog, too, and the schoolchildren love him, and the elderly people at daily Mass. I began seriously discerning getting a dog."

"Now, I recognize that language sounds a bit inflated," he said. "Surely, you don't discern getting a pet in the same way you discern a vocation, do you? While the gravity of the situation



St. Augustin Catholic School first graders Jenna, Michael, Delaney and Ross are visited by 3-year-old Flynn, the principal's golden doodle.

might be different, there is a lot to weigh in such a decision, and they're not really questions with a clear right or wrong answer."

On the one hand, he regularly works about 80 hours a week and is constantly on the go. On the other hand, he noticed when he watched his friend's dog, he had to slow down. When his friend moved away, he did research and found a goldendoodle, which poses a low risk of allergic reaction.

Father McManus' long-term goal is to train his dog, Reggie, for therapy.

"It was important for me that if I got a dog that it was

not simply mine, but properly the parish's puppy," said Father McManus. "So I chose the name Reggie because *rex, regis* is Latin for 'king' and he's the Parish Puppy at Christ the King. It also honors my own Dominican background as Blessed Reginald was one of the first companions of St. Dominic."

In a few weeks, Reggie will be ready for puppy school.

"In the meantime, he already visits the school occasionally as a guest, and has even come with me to visit some homebound parishioners, at their request," said Father McManus.



Father PJ McManus, of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, brought his puppy, Reggie, to greet students at the parish's school on the first day of classes.

## Synod on young people

Continued from page 1

respond to the mass exodus of young people.

"The crisis of disaffiliation has caused us to pay more attention, but it shouldn't have gotten to this point to begin with," Jarzembowski said.

### Reaching young people

But there are ways each of us can help young people become more engaged in their faith.

"Paying attention to the moments of return," Jarzembowski said. "On the whole there is some disaffiliation, but there are key moments that do draw young people back into the Church, such as Christmas and Easter and Ash Wednesday and Lent. These are popular moments, especially in the United States."

"Weddings and baptisms and friends' weddings and baptisms and moments of grief — those moments where they may reconnect with the church for a day," he added.

These are opportunities, Jarzembowski said, to engage and encourage young people.

We also need to start integrating the culture and faith, he added.

"And by culture I mean sports, the arts," Jarzembowski

said. "So Pope Francis' method for engaging young people is not to complain that people are giving up faith for sports or culture, but why don't we accompany them in their sports events and in their culture — instead of wondering why they are choosing to work instead or sleep instead."

"Instead of being mad, Pope Francis' method is to go out to those secular environments and finding God in all things, including the secular settings and accompanying them back," he said.

### Accompany young people

Reaching young people in a sincere way can also happen through accompaniment, or mentorship, Jarzembowski said.

"Young people lack mentors today and lack older adults to walk with them, and so a culture of mentorship might need to be developed," he said. "We do that very well with sponsor couples or even in RCIA, but beyond sacramental moments, how is the notion of mentorship being developed in our parish and communities?"

These relationships should occur naturally and shouldn't always have the goal of "dragging them maybe kicking and screaming" back to church, he added.

"Instead go to them and

accompany them and that presence will ideally draw them back into a community," Jarzembowski said. "Those are just some things that were raised in the synod and Pope Francis would affirm those are things we can do in the United States."

Jarzembowski challenges young people to build community.

"And when you feel like you have a community, grow again and form a larger community..." he added.

"You are meant to be selfless, meant to think outside of yourself and grow from there."

### Young people react

Sarah Sheerin of Sacred Heart Parish was at the Theology on Tap event and felt called as a young person to reach out to her peers.

"For a young person to witness to another young person really makes a big difference," Sheerin said, citing examples from her ministry work in Ireland.

She also thinks young people should not wait for formal opportunities to be a witness for their faith.

"I think where young people need to minister is in their daily lives and not always at an organized thing," Sheerin said.

## Schedule for Our Lady of Guadalupe 2019

### FIESTA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

#### BASILICA OF ST. JOHN

##### Wednesday Dec. 11

6 p.m. Rosary  
6:30 p.m. Mass

#### CHRIST THE KING

##### Novena Dec. 3-11 at 6 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 12  
5:30 Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe with Mariachi  
6 a.m. Mass with Mariachi  
6:30 p.m. Rosary  
7 p.m. Representation of the Apparitions  
7:30 p.m. Procession  
8:00 p.m. Mass  
9:20 p.m. Dances and Reception.

#### OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS

##### Novena Dec. 3-11 at 6 p.m.

Dec. 11  
5 p.m. - 5:30p.m. Rosary  
5:30 p.m. - 6:45p.m. Mass  
7 p.m.-7:15p.m. Mariachi

#### OLOA

7:20 p.m. -7:50 Representation of Apparitions  
8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Dances by Danza la Morenita  
8:30 p.m. -9:15 p.m. Banda Perla del Sur  
9:30 p.m. -10:30 p.m. Procession to St. Ambrose Cathedral  
11 p.m. - 12 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Joensen  
12 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Mañanitas  
Dec. 12:  
12 p.m. Bilingual Mass  
6 p.m. Rosary  
7 p.m. Mass

#### ST. ANTHONY PARISH

##### Novena Dec. 3-11 at 6 p.m.

Dec. 12  
5 p.m. Rosary  
5:30 p.m. Representation of the Apparitions  
6 p.m. Mass  
7:20 p.m. Procession, reception and dances

#FaithinAction

# Flood-recovery parish showered with gifts

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

The parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Hamburg have had a rough year.

First, spring flooding pushed the Missouri River over its banks and through town. Muddy river water reached the top step of their church, inundating the parish hall in the basement of the church.

Parishioners lost property, businesses and a sense of peace.

After drying out, putting new drywall in and thinking the worst was over, the church basement flooded a second time.

Mass was celebrated in the church the Sunday after Easter but the hall underneath was unusable. Parishioners hoped to use their hall in July but July turned to August and August turned to September.

Back on Oct. 6, they still had a ways to go before feeling things were back to normal.

And that's when parishes also named St. Mary – one in Shenandoah and one in Des Moines – stepped in.

Linda George, of St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah, was in Hamburg for the Popcorn Days festival in September.

"That's when I saw some of the ladies in the park, after the parade," she said. "They were telling me different things they were trying hard to get."

When her Shenandoah parish ladies' guild met, George shared the story and list of items that were needed.

"That's when we decided they needed our help," she said. The ladies of the parish planned a shower, only instead of preparing for a wedding, this was more of a flood-recovery shower for their fellow faith sisters in Hamburg.

"We got them silverware for 100 people, glasses for 100 people, many, many things that they lost," George said. A woman in Shenandoah who embroiders made new aprons for the Hamburg women.

"We had three van-loads of stuff. When we started coming in, their eyes kept getting bigger. What was awesome, too, was every lady in the Hamburg church that was there got to unwrap a package," said George. "They were just overwhelmed. I've



never been hugged so many times in my life."

The women of the two parishes plan to continue to meet regularly.

When Mary Ann Van Dyke, at St. Mary of Nazareth Parish in Des Moines, saw a picture of a cross in the front lawn, made by debris waiting to be hauled away, she was moved.

"She said it just tugged at her heart and the women's association wanted to help," Phillips said.

Not only did the women's association help, but the Knights of Columbus, the parish auction and a special collection contributed to the gifts of pots, pans, aprons, cookie sheets and more.

Van Dyke, Teri Henkels and Michelle Roberts filled a car and drove about 175 miles to the opposite end of the diocese just in time for communion on Oct. 20.

"It's just a beautiful little church and a beautiful community and the people are so resilient," Van Dyke said.

"We (St. Mary of Nazareth) were in the middle of a church renovation. We've been very, very blessed. As we were blessed, we wanted to bless someone else," she said.

"It's responding to the call to be a disciple of Jesus and we all have that call," Van Dyke said. "It looks different for everyone because we all have different gifts and talents."

The neighboring St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah, and the St. Mary Parish in Des Moines were among several Catholic communities that offered help. There were Knights of Columbus councils, other churches and or-



St. Mary parishes support one another. Top: Women from St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah held a shower for sister parish St. Mary in Hamburg, which suffered severe flooding in the spring. Above left: Women from St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines drove to St. Mary of Hamburg with gifts. They are Teri Henkels, Michelle Roberts and Mary Ann Van Dyke. Above right: Youth of the Hamburg parish helped unload supplies donated by St. Mary of Nazareth Parish.

ganizations.

It has been a long road Phillips' parish has traveled this year, and it is not over as the parish grapples with

insurance issues.

Yet, "We can't say enough good things for the people," she said. "We are back to ourselves and our fellowship

and our camaraderie and cooking right now. And we only hope and pray that next spring doesn't bring this again."

## Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

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## Youth, supporters pray as high court considers their future

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

About 60 people withstood a below-freezing Nov. 7 night to pray the rosary for DACA recipients, also known as Dreamers, at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

On Nov. 12, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on three consolidated court cases that address whether the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy should remain or end.

Diego Balmaceda, of St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines, carried a large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the prayer service. A DACA recipient himself, he prayed for the whole DACA community.

"I trust in God that he has something planned for us," Balmaceda said.

His mother, Diana Balmaceda, said, "This is their country. We love it here and we know God is loving us and we never

stop praying."

There are about 3,000 young people in Iowa whose immigration status falls under DACA including Kenia Calderon, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. Originally from El Salvador, her family fled when she was 11 years old, before the violence in her home country grew.

She told the crowd that, with their fate to be determined at the Supreme Court, they cannot send letters or call the justices.

"Right now, we really have to rely on faith that they will uphold the protection that has been around for seven years," she said.

She fears for the young parents who have DACA protection and have children who are Americans.

"I'm nervous but not for me but for others, mostly parents with U.S. citizen children," she said. "I don't want any more families to be separated."

See more on page 13.



Diego Balmaceda, of St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines, came to the prayer service with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Balmaceda benefits from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA.

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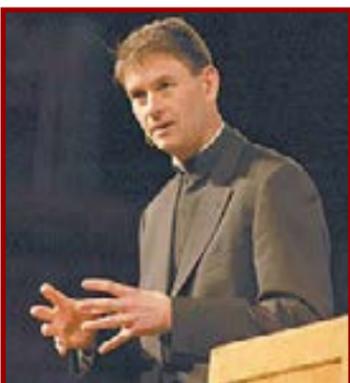
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## InnerVisions expands



InnerVisions Healthcare, a crisis pregnancy center in West Des Moines, opened a second branch at 500 Army Post Road in Des Moines on Oct. 21. Brooke Van Bruggen, a nurse and clinic manager of InnerVisions West, shows a supporter a new ultrasound machine funded with the help of the Knights of Columbus.

### CATHOLIC RADIO SHOWS IN SPANISH

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La Reina 1260AM  
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La Ley 105.5FM  
Thursdays at noon

#### No Tengas Miedo

Iowa Catholic Radio  
Domingos 10:30 a.m.

## In court briefs, Catholic leaders urge Supreme Court to keep DACA in place

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Catholic leaders joined more than 35 other groups that have filed friend-of-the-court briefs urging the Supreme Court to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, known as DACA.

Supporters of the program, initiated by President Barack Obama in 2012, want the high court to keep in place three separate appellate court rulings that have blocked President Donald Trump's 2017 order to end DACA. The program has protected about 800,000 young people, known as "Dreamers," who arrived in the U.S. as children with their parents but without legal documentation. Qualifying recipients have the ability to obtain a work permit, health insurance and a driver's license and, above all, they do not face deportation.

On Nov. 12, the justices will consider the three consolidated cases filed in New York, California and the District of Columbia against the program's closing. The challengers in each of these cases have argued that Trump's order to terminate DACA violated the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA, a federal law which governs the ways that federal agencies may make and enforce regulations.

Federal judges from the lower courts that have blocked ending the program have said the Trump administration needs to provide a clear explanation of exactly why the program should end.

Catholic leaders were part of two separate amicus briefs

in support of DACA. One brief was filed by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Health Association, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Center for Migration Studies, among others.

Another was filed by at least 20 Catholic groups joining hundreds of religious organizations. Catholics in the group included congregations of women religious and provinces of men's religious orders, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Pax Christi USA, Ignatian Solidarity Network, the Miami Archdiocese and Catholic Charities agencies in New Jersey and New York, among others.

The brief filed by the USCCB and other Catholic organizations highlighted DACA's benefits for its recipients and society at large, and it also took aim at the way the program was terminated.

"The only justification provided for rescinding DACA was a new belief that the program was unlawful," the brief said, adding that the Department of Homeland Security "failed utterly to consider and address the drastic consequences of rescission -- among them the mass-scale separation of families. This failure to consider the facts underlying the program violates the APA, and therefore the rescission is unlawful."

## Dialogue begins with empathy, not contempt, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christians who preach the Gospel must see people who do not know Christ as children of God and not as nonbelievers worthy of hostility and contempt, Pope Francis said.

The example of St. Paul's mission in Greece and his encounter with the pagan culture there serves as a reminder that Christians should "create a bridge to dialogue" with other cultures, the pope said Nov. 6 during his weekly general audience.

"Paul does not look at the city of Athens and the pagan world with hostility but with the eyes of faith," he said. "And this makes us question our way of looking at our cities: Do we observe them with indifference? With contempt? Or with the faith that recognizes children of God in the midst of the anonymous crowds?"

Continuing his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, the pope focused on St. Paul's visit to Athens, a city that "still held

the primacy of culture" and was "full of idols."

According to tradition, St. Paul preached to the Athenians at the Areopagus, an area that was not only a symbol of Greek political and cultural life but also the location of an altar to the "unknown god."

The paganism of the Greeks did not cause the apostle to flee, the pope explained. Instead, "Paul observes the culture and environment of Athens from a contemplative gaze that sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares."

"In the heart of one of the most famous institutions of the ancient world, the Areopagus, he realizes an extraordinary example of inculturation of the message of the faith," the pope said. "He proclaims Jesus Christ to idol worshippers and doesn't do it by attacking them, but by making himself a 'pontiff,' a builder of bridges."

## News from the Vatican

### Pope recommends pastoral 'closeness,' urges bishops to be courageous

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Bishops from New England shared with Pope Francis some of the joys, challenges and sufferings of the church in the Northeast and, really, throughout the United States, three of the bishops said. Nearing the end of their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to pray at the tombs of the apostles and report on the status of their dioceses, the bishops spent two hours Nov. 7 sitting in a circle in the papal library conversing with Pope Francis.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Reed of Boston told Catholic News Service later that the conversation included "the role of women in the church" and how to give them "a real seat at the table" when decisions are being made; immigration; priestly formation and the need for men preparing for priesthood in the United States to learn Spanish; the growth of secularism; and the importance of God's mercy and encouraging Catholics to avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation.

The pope allowed the bishops to set the agenda, he said,

told them they should all feel free to speak "with no pecking order" and responded to their questions and concerns with reflections based on his own experience as a priest and bishop.

The overriding theme was "vicinanza" or closeness, Bishop Reed said: "You must be close to God in your prayer and your personal life; you must be close to your priests as a father and walk with them; and you must be close to your people."

"I believe he offered that in a general way as the beginnings of a new way, a solution to the terrible difficulties we face in our society and in the church," he said.

At the end, Bishop Reed said, the pope told the bishops they must be courageous in their ministry. "At one point, he looked me right in the eye and my eyes filled up; this is the successor of Peter telling me as one of his bishops to be courageous."

Bishop Reed, who has been a bishop only three years, said he was a bit nervous going into the meeting with the pope.

"It was amazing. It truly was amazing," he told CNS. He was still carrying Pope Francis' white zucchetto, which the bishop had asked for as a sign of papal closeness and prayer for his two parishes: St. Mary's and Blessed Sacrament in Walpole. Of course, he gave the pope a shiny new zucchetto in exchange.

"To be ushered into a room, given a chair in a circle for a true conversation with the successor of St. Peter after you've celebrated Mass just an hour before at the tomb of St. Peter himself is an experience I'll never forget," the bishop said.

The bishops of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont -- unlike almost all the other groups of U.S. bishops who will visit through February -- stayed in "the pope's house," the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"The pope, generally speaking, is there at breakfast, lunch and dinner, in line in front of you," Bishop Reed said. "It's quite a unique experience."

## National Council of Catholic Women prepares to celebrate centennial

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The National Council of Catholic Women was established in Washington by the U.S. bishops in 1920.

In a nod to those roots, the NCCW will hold its centennial convention in the Virginia suburbs of the nation's capital next summer.

Planning for the 100th anniversary has been taking place for three years already, according to Jean Kelly, NCCW president.

"We've been getting ideas and getting thoughts together, and goals," Kelly told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 7 telephone interview from her home in suburban Milwaukee. "We also had to get our hotel that far in advance."

But before the convention convenes in Crystal City, Virginia, with about a thousand expected to attend, Kelly will represent the organization in Baltimore when the U.S. bishops

gather for their fall general meeting Nov. 11-13. And, in what is believed to be a first, the NCCW will have time on their agenda for Kelly to speak.

She said she is allotting a majority of her time for a video touching on NCCW's initiatives and projects. But "since the bishops started us a hundred years ago, we've got a lot to thank them for," Kelly added.

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## Child's wish to feed homeless leads to robust outreach, national award

MCALLEN, Texas (CNS) -- It started with a child's concern for a homeless man she saw outside a grocery store.

A stream of questions to her parents followed, and then her insistence on helping in some way. Now Emily's Meals and teams of volunteers in McAllen every day feed dozens of the homeless they call their friends.

Emily Aguirre, a fifth grader at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in McAllen, was 6 years old in 2015 when she insisted on taking action. So at that time, Emily's family decided to feed at least one person a day for the 40 days of Lent. As more people learned about their plans, they wanted to join in and help.

This help evolved into an ongoing ministry -- Emily's Meals, and every month teams of volunteers from different faiths, organizations and families sign up for a specific day to drive the streets of McAllen to feed the hungry.

Because of the impact they make on the community, the Aguirre family was named Nov. 1 as the Disney and Points of Light Volunteer Family of the Year. They were one of five finalists for the award, given for the first time this year. The award to the Aguirres was announced live on ABC's "Good Morning America." They were nominated by Juan Diego Academy of Mission, Texas.

The Aguirres receive a weeklong vacation at Walt Dis-

ney World Resort, where they will be the guests of honor at a super celebration for Family Volunteer Day. Plus, they received \$10,000 for Juan Diego Academy and an additional \$10,000 for Emily's Meals.

In an interview with The Valley Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Brownsville, Emily talked about what it is like for her to help the homeless and others in need.

"I enjoy seeing their faces light up and their smiles when we give them a meal," she said. "They are all our brothers and sisters, we are children of God and we are here to make the world a better place."

## Ahead of 2020 election, campaign stresses why civility is important

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Rancor in politics, especially these days, may be the norm, but a nationwide effort is underway to remind people that civility in political discussions is a virtue.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops introduced the Civilize It campaign Nov. 3 at parishes around the country. It stresses that respectful dialogue -- rather than name-calling and nasty barbs -- can occur among people with differing political views.

"In part, this campaign is really in response to the vitriol that we see in public discourse on both sides of the aisle," said Jill Rauh, director of education and outreach in the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

"Civility is something that we, at least in theory, should all agree on," she told Catholic News Service. "Catholics don't always come down on the same side in terms of where they discern to be voting. But everyone should agree that we can be modeling love for neighbor and we can be modeling the example of Christ."

The date of the program's introduction is significant because it is precisely one year from the 2020 presidential election.

The idea for Civilize It originated in the Social Action Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

in 2016. Its success in southwest Ohio caught the attention of the USCCB, which this year decided that the model, with a few tweaks, could be introduced nationwide.

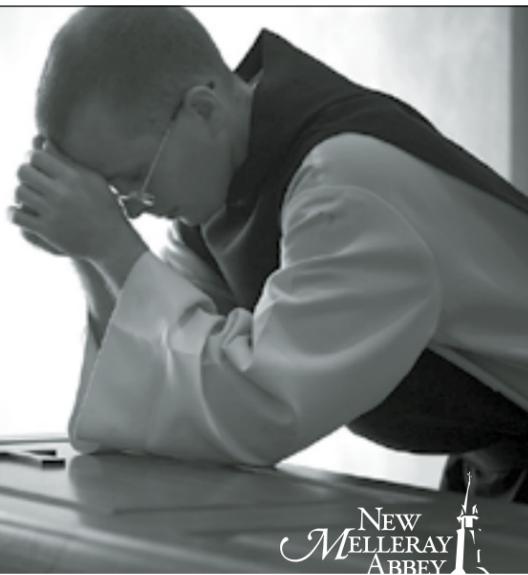
Rauh said about a dozen dioceses were expected to move quickly to adopt the campaign starting at Masses Nov. 2 and 3 with others expected to follow during the next several months.

The effort also will incorporate the U.S. bishops' quadrennial document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." The document remains unchanged this year, but the bishops will vote on a letter and four short video scripts to supplement it during their annual fall assembly in Baltimore Nov. 11-13.

Andrew Musgrave, director of the Cincinnati Archdiocese's Social Action Office, said he planned to alert parishes that the program is continuing for the next year. He said the effort there will build on the success of the program in 2016, which saw parishioners in dozens of parishes becoming involved.

The campaign's cornerstone is a three-part pledge that individuals can take to respect civility, to root political views in the Gospel and a well-formed conscience, and to encounter others with compassion.

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## USCCB assembly to review third-party reporting system, elect new officers



CNS Photo/Bob Roller

**Des Moines Bishop William Joensen listens to a speaker during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore on Nov. 11.**

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Bishop William Joensen attended his first meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as the shepherd of the Diocese of Des Moines.

The agenda for the annual fall meeting included an update to the Program on Priestly Formation, a progress report on the establishment of a nationwide, third-party reporting system for abuse or misconduct by bishops, and a vote on new leadership for the USCCB.

Gathering in Baltimore Nov. 11-13, the bishops also will review and vote to approve a short letter and five short video scripts to supplement “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” the bishops’ quadrennial teaching document for the faithful on the political responsibility of Catholics.

### Accountability

At their June assembly, the bishops overwhelmingly voted to authorize the implementation of a third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free telephone number and online.

This new national reporting system would not replace systems already in place in every diocese for the reporting of abuse by priests. It is to be operated by an outside vendor contracted by the USCCB and should be in place no later than May 31, 2020.

### Election

The “Faithful Citizenship” document traditionally has been updated and released about a year before the presidential election every four years. It was last updated in 2015. The new materials will “apply the teaching of Pope Francis to our day,” the bishops

said in agreeing to supplement the document in order to generate more interest in it.

### Hispanic Ministry

The Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church will request authorization from the full body of bishops to lead the process of developing a new formal statement and comprehensive vision for Hispanic/Latino ministry in response to the V Encuentro, or National Fifth Encuentro. The statement and vision document would be developed and approved by the bishops during the next USCCB strategic planning cycle, which is 2021-2024.

### Strategic Plan

The bishops also will vote on the USCCB budget for 2020 and give final approval to a new set of strategic priorities to guide the work of the conference from 2021 through 2024:

#### Evangelization

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Protect and heal God’s children
- Vocations
- Equipping “all Christ’s disciples for mission.”

### Leadership Changes

The bishops also will elect a new president, a vice president, a chairman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty and chairman-elect for five USCCB committees. They also will elect the new board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency.

Find out what’s on Bishop’s mind, Fridays a 9 a.m. on Iowa Catholic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio Network.

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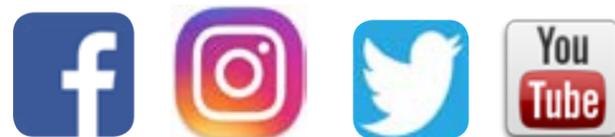


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# Food For Families



## A Higher Purpose

Help end hunger in communities across North America. Many in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food for their families. The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night.

## Overview

The Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families Program, which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food to the cause. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.



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