

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Bishops of Iowa voice concerns about gun laws

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

In the wake of legislation being introduced in the state, the Iowa Catholic Conference, is voicing concerns.

A proposed state Constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 2009, would subject restrictions on the right of the people to keep and bear arms to “strict scrutiny.”

The Iowa Catholic Conference opposes the bill because it would make regulating any firearms difficult. It could also put current state law regarding background checks and permitting at risk, said Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

In a December letter to legislators and the general public, signed by the four bishops of Iowa – Archbishop Michael Jackels of the Archdiocese of Dubuque; Bishop Richard Pates of the Diocese of Des Moines; Bishop Thomas Zinkula of the Diocese of Davenport; and Bishop Walker Nickless of the Diocese of Sioux City – they expressed their concerns.

“We believe that weapons increasingly capable of inflicting great suffering in a short period of time are simply too accessible,” the letter said. “The right to bear arms as found in our Constitution must be balanced against the safety and well-being of the populace as a whole. The Supreme Court has held that such restrictions are fully compatible with the Second Amendment.”

The Iowa Catholic Conference is also opposed to the recently passed Stand Your Ground Law, which expands the lawfulness of using deadly force.

“Previously it was lawful to use deadly force to defend your place of business or your home,” Chapman said. “The legislature expanded that and removed any duty to retreat if you felt threatened.”

“In our reflection, we are also guided by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which teaches that the commandment to love oneself justifies self-defense within moral limits against an un-

Continued on page 15

Congratulations, Father Ryan Andrew

Des Moines native was ordained a priest on Dec. 14



Photo by Ken Seeber



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

A standing-room-only crowd filled St. Ambrose Cathedral for the ordination of Father Ryan Andrew. He will serve as a chaplain at Dowling Catholic High School and associate pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale.

U.S. bishops issue pastoral letter against racism

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- The U.S. bishops overwhelmingly approved a pastoral letter against racism Nov. 14 during their fall general meeting at Baltimore.

The document, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love -- A Pastoral Letter Against Racism,” passed 241-3 with one abstention. It required a two-thirds vote by all bishops, or

183 votes, for passage.

“Despite many promising strides made in our country, racism still infects our nation,” the pastoral letter says.

“Racist acts are sinful because they violate justice. They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbors Christ calls us to love,” it adds.

Bishops speaking on the pastoral gave clear consent to the letter’s message.

“This statement is very important and very timely,” said Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky. He appreciated that the letter took note of the racism suffered by African-Americans and Native Americans, “two pieces of our national history that we have not reconciled.”

“This will be a great, fruitful document for discussion,” said Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, in whose diocese the violence-laden “Unite

the Right” rally was held last year. Bishop Knestout added the diocese has already conducted listening sessions on racism.

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, what he called “ground zero for the civil rights movement,” said the pastoral’s message is needed, as the civil rights movement “began 60 years ago and we’re still working on achieving the goals in

Continued on page 13

In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

Busy, busy this holiday season

The code word that is abroad in these days before Christmas is *busy*. Activity ramps up fueled by shopping, exchange of cards and frequent parties. Much of this is good because it signals valuable human connections which give meaning to our lives.

Although I can identify with and even enjoy this busyness, I find it vital to take time to reflect on that which is foundational to our beliefs. It is coming to grips with God's intervention which has changed the course of history, obviously but importantly my own. It is overwhelming to think of this God, responsible for the immensity of creation, stepping into time as one of us.

What is even more astonishing is that God does this purely out of love for each of us. He cares so much that he reaches beyond his self-sufficiency and engages us in relationship demonstrating the intrinsic value he attributes to each of us. It is in responding to this outreach that you and I come in touch with happiness, with a sense of peace, with being very comfortable in our own skins.

We talk about those things that are important to us. Everyone knows of our children and grandchildren, our interests and hobbies. Shouldn't others also be aware of the centrality of Jesus in our lives?



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

Among the most satisfying memories of my service as a priest was when I had the good fortune of celebrating the 4 p.m. Christmas liturgy at St. Ambrose of Woodbury in Minnesota. It was a brand new parish with an average age of "four." For that particular Mass, people would begin arriving at 2:30 p.m. to stake out their seats in a church that accommodated 1,500.

The focus of the Mass was when 300 or so children gathered around me as I recounted the Christmas story, that very beautiful retelling of Jesus' birth which stimulates our imagination. For the most part, the kids tuned in.

Following the Scripture reading, I inquired about what the young people were expecting this Christmas. They cited the popular toy of the year and other items that they expected Santa to grace them with. Eventually, we did get around to Jesus. They were excited to share what they knew of him and what his purpose was in coming to the world. They had firm hold of the revelation, confidently recounted it and put their

fingers on its enduring legacy.

I then asked them for a favor – would they, in the next day or so, share that story with their grandpas and grandmas, with their aunts and uncles and especially with their cousins and good friends. Of course, they responded, they would! Being a trusting individual, I presumed they did.

I am fortunate because my job description entails telling the Christmas story as widely and as enthusiastically as I can. In so many ways, that is why I very much like what I do.

But as a Christian, you share with me the same job expectation. And this identity includes telling others about the incredible story of Christmas, sharing what

is of consequence to you. Who will receive your outreach and when will you do it? It will surely be a new moment for the fortunate recipient of your conviction.

Merry Christmas, my friends! May 2019 unfold abundant blessings for you and your loved ones.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

Bishop Richard Pates blesses Karla Contreras, a sixth grader at St. Joseph School in Des Moines, during a school Mass on Nov. 29. Bishop Pates wanted to visit all of the diocesan schools before he retires.

Bishop's Schedule

Friday, December 21
Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Council Bluffs – Priests'

Christmas gathering, St. Peter Parish Hall, noon

Friday, December 21 – Saturday, December 22

Griswold – Bishop's priesthood vocation retreat, Creighton Retreat Center, 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 23
Atlantic – Seminarian and family Christmas celebration, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, noon

Monday, December 24
Des Moines – Christmas Eve Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25
Des Moines – Christmas Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, December 28
Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, December 29
Silver Thorn, CO – Wedding of Dominic Alvis and Emilia Thompson

Tuesday, January 1
Des Moines – New Year Day Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 2 – Tuesday, January 8
Mundelein, IL – U.S. bishops' spiritual retreat, Our Lady of the Lake Seminary

Friday, January 4
Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, January 8
West Des Moines – Mass and reception for "The Veil Removed" supporters, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 6 p.m.

Friday, January 11
Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, January 12
Audubon – Installation Mass of Father David Nkruman, St. Patrick Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 13
Exira – Installation Mass of Father David Nkruman, Holy Trinity Parish, 8:30 a.m.
Audubon – Installation Mass of Father David Nkruman, St. Patrick Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 14
Des Moines – Opening Day Prayer, Iowa State Senate, 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 17
Des Moines – Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, noon

Friday, January 18
Des Moines – "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates," Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, January 19
Avoca – Installation Mass of Father Seth Owusu, St. Mary Parish, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 20
Avoca – Installation Mass of Father Seth Owusu, St. Mary Parish, 8 a.m.

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



**The New
Moment
OFFICIAL**

Effective November 1, 2018

Father John Harmon – from Parochial Vicar of St. Pius X Parish to retirement. In retirement, he will enjoy affiliation with St. Pius X Parish.

Effective December 14, 2018

Father Samuel Danso – a priest of the Diocese of Konongo-Mampong, Ghana, to Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Chariton, St. Brendan Parish, Leon and St. Francis Parish, Corydon.

Effective December 15, 2018

Father Ryan Andrew – newly ordained to Chaplain, Dowling Catholic High School and part-time Associate Pastor, St. Pius X Parish, Urbandale.

Effective February 1, 2019

Father Zach Kautzky – from Chaplain, Dowling Catholic High School and Parochial Vicar at St. Augustin Parish, Des Moines to interim assignment as Associate Pastor at Corpus Christi Parish, Council Bluffs until permanent assignment as Chaplain, U.S. Air Force takes place.

Richard E. Pates

Bishop Richard Pates
Bishop of Des Moines

Jason Kurth

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

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The New Moment

Refugee community focuses on outreach and being a welcoming community

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

In today's secular world, many people turn to social media to feel connected.

At the same time, many aren't cracking open their Bible to connect to God. Prayer and quiet time are often drowned out by the 24/7 news environment.

"We live in a time when many are leaving the Church, not practicing their faith and not having time to read the Bible or pray," Father Ambrose Ladu Daniel, parish refugee coordinator at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines, wrote in his *The New Moment* report. "Regrettably, the world in which we live in this 21st century is a home to [many groups who have fallen away from their faith]."

In his report, Father Daniel referenced Drew Dyck, author of *How to bring back young adults who have left the faith*.

According to Dyck, there are a number of people who have left the church that fit different categories.

The postmoderns are people who value experience as a way of discovering truth, which is different for each person.

The author states that recoilers are those who have left Christianity because of pain they may associate with a pastor or Christian.

The moderns do not believe in anything beyond the physical world and do not believe in a soul, according to Dyck.

The neo-pagans sense sacred in creation, but end up worshipping God's creations rather than God himself.

The rebels are people who leave Christianity because they are more attracted to sinful pursuits than moral standards. They may still have Christian beliefs, but are not willing to live them out.

Finally, the drifters are a group of people who have drifted away from God because they aren't investing time in their relationship with him.

"This is a fact that should concern all of us as the body of Christ," Father Daniel wrote. "This should as well be a concern that should move all of us in this New Moment to action. Remember the Lord himself left the 99 sheep on the hills to go and look for the one that wandered off."

"In this New Moment, it's our turn now to go out as a parish and particularly as a refugee community to share the great gift we have been given – the gift of our Catholic faith – and renew the face of the earth," Father Daniel wrote.

The St. Ambrose Refugee Ministry Office is responding to *The New Moment* invitation by the Diocese of Des Moines in a number of ways.

This includes celebrating Easter and Christmas Masses

together in a combination of their native languages, riding in the bus with refugee children for their religious education program, packaging meals, helping in the RCIA program with translations, picking up and delivering furniture for refugee apartments, collecting Christmas gifts from St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines for the children, forming a joint choir, Eucharistic adoration, picnic and a pilgrimage, Bible sharing and the rosary in people's homes.

Since St. Ambrose Cathedral is a diverse community of people that do not all speak the same language, many activities are held in each community in their native language. The communities represented at the parish include Burmese, Eritrean and South Sudanese.

Deacon Francis Chan, assistant refugee coordinator for the cathedral's refugee outreach, and Father Daniel, both have a deep understanding of what their refugee community has lived through – they were both once refugees themselves. Both of them were born and raised in South Sudan and fled. They recognize the trauma many of their parishioners have lived through.

"I left my country because of the Christian faith persecution in my country," Deacon Chan said. "I was a teacher...I was accused of converting a Muslim girl into Christianity and because I refused to become a Muslim."

Deacon Chan fled to Lebanon and his family joined him three years later before coming to the United States.

Parishioner and former refugee Margaret Niang Mang, originally from Burma, said she is grateful for the St. Ambrose community.

"When we come here, we feel like this is our home," Mang said. "This is where we are supposed to come every Sunday."

"Everybody is so happy to be here and would like to spend time here and worship here," Mang continued. "It's helped us deepen our faith more and especially we understand that it's a universal church."

Parishioner Nasir Kemi, former refugee originally from Eritrea, said he is grateful for St. Ambrose Cathedral.

"It felt like my home," Kemi said.

He received all of his sacraments at the church and appreciates their helping hand.

"I have a right to ask for what I need," Kemi said.

The parish helps refugees find jobs and puts them in touch with other agencies and non-profit organizations that can help.



Volunteers Doug and Mary Kay Moore of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines and Catherine Swoboda of St. Ambrose Cathedral helped Deacon Francis Chan distribute gifts to children in the refugee community on Sunday, Dec. 16. Deacon Francis Chan is assistant refugee coordinator for St. Ambrose Cathedral's refugee outreach.

"It should be clear that Christ calls all of us to evangelize, welcome strangers, heal the sick, offer forgiveness and express his eagerness to give rest to the weary and the burdened," Father Daniel wrote. "He also wants us to experience the urgent vigilance of the father of the prodigal son so that as we anxiously await the return of missing family and friends, we will be ready to run to greet and embrace them."

The New Moment

is a period of change in which Catholics focus on growing their relationship with Jesus, expand on that relationship through missionary discipleship, and sharing with millennials the benefits of our faith journey.



Photo by Doug Moore

Congratulations

Fr. Ryan Andrew

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www.saintpaulseminary.org

Anxious? Follow the advice of St. Paul

Don't we all get tired of the classic repetitive questions this time of the year?

"What are your holiday plans?"

"So, are you all ready for Christmas?"

"What's your New Year's resolution?"

Aren't there already plenty of reasons around us to be anxious? Seldom will anyone even care about the answers to these questions let alone the upkeep of any impulsive resolution. While not necessarily intended, these types of questions may evoke anxiousness inside of the person being asked.

There are many individuals who invisibly, and most often silently, suffer from some form of anxiety.

More than 18 percent of U.S. adults and 10 percent of our teens suffer from anxiety. While these numbers seem low, they represent over 50 million people.

Statistically, this means that we all know someone with anxiety.

Whether through various therapies and/or medications, there is help for those who suffer from anxiety, yet sadly, less than two-thirds of this population ever receives help.

Let's Get Psyched

By Deacon
Randy Kiel



It is common that an external factor may trigger an onset of anxiety for a person, but anxiety is usually internally generated within the brain.

There are five main categories that anxiety disorders fall into, but I'll save that level of clinical information for the "office."

Please realize that anyone is able to develop anxiety, but I want you to know that this type of mental suffering is not to be fought alone. Anxiety can be mild or it can become crippling or even deadly.

As a Catholic counselor, I have had many people ask me: If they pray correctly, or enough, will God make the anxiety go away? After all, the Bible does say to "be anxious for nothing."

We do believe in the supernatural power of our divine Savior, but he is not a magician. Miracles and healing do occur, but not by our ability to exercise incantations. Faith is an integral factor for all healing. Anxiety can either rob someone of their faith or it can help lead a person into their faith.

Let's take a look at the latter. Imagine what it was like for St. Paul to be once again imprisoned and know that his life could be taken if he did not renounce Jesus as the Messiah.

Yet while in jail, he wrote a letter to the new church in Philippi to encourage them about their distress and anxiousness. "Be anxious for nothing," Paul told them.

I have worked for years to help people untangle the guilt from this commonly misinterpreted Bible verse. Paul is not telling us that if we have anxiety that we are in sin, nor is he telling us that there should be no reason for anxiousness.

He proceeds to tell us that he wants us to focus on things from above when life on Earth becomes really hard.

Anxiety has the ability to form thoughts that are distorted, emotions that are exaggerated, and sometimes even

converts truths into lies.

It is important that we know how to respond to anxious thoughts. These important verses in Philippians chapter 4 are as though St. Paul is saying to us, "C'mon people, hold your chin up and think on the following things: Whatsoever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good reputation, virtuous, and praiseworthy, direct your anxious thoughts in these ways".

Through this passage, Paul has given to us a set of instructions on how to best re-direct any anxiousness.

Whether from prison cell, a disgruntled church, a lonely bedroom, or a disturbing work environment, we can always reduce the amount of anxiousness by allowing our thoughts to be focused and centered upon these words of goodness and wisdom. This New Year, let's decide to follow more of what Paul told us to do. He knew that if we "think on these things" that the results would stand out as miraculous.

Deacon Randy Kiel, of Kardia Counseling in Clive, is a licensed therapist. He serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines.

God in the messy areas of our lives

Every Advent I think of the beginning of the gospel of Matthew, and a piece of wisdom a priest once shared with me.

Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus, a monotonous litany of who begot whom. Not exactly a page-turner, but if you know the stories of the bible, you will recognize people like Tamar, and Rahab, and David and "the wife of Uriah."

In other words, you'll recognize stories of deception, dishonesty, prostitution and adultery.

This is the story of Israel, this is

Marriage & Family Life

By
Adam Storey



the family of Israel, and it's a messy family.

I once heard a friend reflect on this passage and point out that at Christmas Jesus joined not only the Holy Family,

he also joined the family of Israel. In his genealogy, Matthew reminds us just how messy that family was.

Israel had a long history of sin and betrayal, and yet this is precisely where Jesus breaks into our world.

God comes into Israel's family as a sheer gift, not because they earned it but just because he loves them. This should give all of us hope. If Jesus wanted to join that family, with all its dysfunction, then he must want to join mine.

Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation, where we invite Christ to come into our hearts and lives.

At times we're all tempted to think, *not my heart* or *not this part of my life*. Christ is coming to heal our hearts, our families, and our world. And just like he wanted to come into the family of Israel, he wants to meet us in the most messy areas of our lives, in our brokenness and in our shame.

All we have to do is allow him in.

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

Catholic boot camp kickstarts spiritual life

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to interview a young Catholic man who recently graduated from high school, joined the U.S. Marines, and was four days removed from bootcamp when we met.

When recruits join the Marines, they submit themselves to the will of their superiors for their first 13 weeks in order that they might become the best soldiers they can be.

The physical and mental challenges they push themselves through lead them to places they never dreamed they could get. Strength. Discipline. Fortitude. All of these, and many more, are discovered and developed in 90 days.

We, as Catholic men, need a spiritual bootcamp.

You need it.

I need it.

Last year I challenged the men of this diocese to join me for the Exodus 90 program. A 90-day journey to freedom. Freedom from addiction to sin, and more importantly, the freedom to choose the good. Freedom from spiritual laziness, lust

Guest Column

By
Joe Stopulos



and pornography, dependence on alcohol; whatever is keeping you from living out your call to holiness. Many men responded to that call, and many lives were changed.

What does it look like? Well, it is basically Catholic bootcamp. In short, 90-days of:

- cold/lukewarm showers,
- no alcohol,
- no desserts or sweets,
- no eating between meals,
- no soda,

- no television or movies,
- no televised sports,
- computers for research, work only,
- regular exercise,
- weekly group meetings, and a few more fun activities.

You probably have the same reaction as I did (and many other men, as well): "Not...a...chance," which is the logical response, quite honestly.

That said, I have seen the lives of many men transformed by responding to this call.

If it weren't life-changing, I wouldn't be preparing for my third one and encouraging you to join me.

Here is a quote from a man who read this article last year and took up the challenge:

"I've done everything under the sun to grow in my faith – conferences, retreats, pilgrimages, mission trips, degrees, small groups, books, more books, new ways, old ways – but nothing has made a deeper and more lasting effect than Exodus 90."

If you start your Exodus on Jan. 21, you will finish on Easter Sunday (April 21), and Ash Wednesday will be your half-way point.

If you are looking to become the man God has called you to be, here is your opportunity. If you are struggling with a habitual sin you want to overcome, or you just want to be pushed to grow in your faith, here is your opportunity. Form a small group (preferably four to seven), hold each other accountable, and enjoy the fruits of the hardest 90 days of your life.

And yes, the cold showers are brutal.

Visit Exodus90.com to register for this life-changing experience.

Joe Stopulos is a co-host of "Man Up!" a weekly radio show and podcast for Iowa Catholic Radio. He is a parishioner of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines.

Ask a Priest

Q. I attended parochial elementary school during the '50s. Among my classmates were families who had priests as their parental father. They were full-time parish priests serving our community. Our parish was Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic. Please explain how we continue to insist on priestly celibacy?

A. CELIBACY HAS AN interesting history in the Church. Scripture scholars indicate that St. Peter and many of the apostles were married. Down through the centuries, various reasons have been given for insisting on celibacy for priests of the Roman Rite. Some of them were financial, others spiritual.

The Church was a thousand years old before it definitively took a stand in favor of celibacy at the Second Lateran Council held in 1139, when a discipline was approved forbidding priests to marry. In 1563, the Council of Trent reaffirmed the tradition of celibacy.

Priestly celibacy is rooted in tradition, not Catholic dogma. Speaking to journalists during a return flight from the Holy Land in 2014, Pope Francis said there are married priests in the Eastern rites. "Because celibacy is not a dogma of faith, it is a rule of life which I highly esteem and I believe is a gift for the Church," he said.

Today, most Roman Catholic priests are celibate. But there are exceptions. Some priests who once served as Lutheran pastors, Anglican or Episcopalian priests, and some others have joined the Catholic Church as married men. Permission has been given case by case. We also have more than 50 years of ordained permanent deacons, most of who are married men. So the discipline is not ironclad. Some South American bishops have suggested that married men could be admitted to the priesthood, with Vatican

approval. That hasn't happened so far.

Q. What are favorite websites for retreats, readings of the day, spiritual exercises, thoughts of the day, Mary's apparitions, etc.?

A. TWO WEBSITES COME to mind immediately: the Vatican vatican.va and the U.S. Bishops' Conference at usccb.org. However, many publishers, universities, and dioceses have websites to help you find what you are looking for.

Many Jesuit universities have reflections for the day, commentaries on the daily scripture readings, spiritual exercises, etc. You can try St. Louis University, Loyola University, Marquette University, Creighton University, etc. Publishers like *America Magazine*, *U.S. Catholic Magazine*, *The National Catholic Reporter* also have websites with helpful information. Use a search engine to find specific things.

Q. What is the cost of an annulment? What is the process and does it vary in each diocese?

A. IN MANY DIOCESES an annulment is cost free. Our diocese is one of them. A few years ago, Pope Francis recommended that there be no charge for those seeking an annulment, and many dioceses have taken his advice. The process does vary somewhat from diocese to diocese, but the practice is substantially the same. There are many circumstances and "grounds" on which to base an annulment. Your best bet is to speak to your local priest or pastoral minister to learn more and begin the process.

Got a question for "Ask a Priest" and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to communications@dmidiocese.org or *The Catholic Mirror*, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.

Priest honored at retirement

"You have made a difference in people's lives"



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

Msgr. Stephen Orr was honored with a Superman cape during a prayer service in celebration of his retirement, as shown above with Deacon Jeff Boehlert. His leadership went beyond paying off debt and facilities improvements, said Michelle Tremmel, chair of the parish Pastoral Council. In addition to being with people during celebrations and their time of need, he went the extra step. He wrote notes to newcomers. At Christmastime, he hand-delivered a rose to every parish family who lost a loved one during the year. And, he encouraged young people with a personal note when he saw their names in the newspaper and attended nearly all of their graduation open house parties.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

A prayer service for the retiring Msgr. Stephen Orr on Dec. 2 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny was a celebration of his answer to a vocation call and of his gifts and talents in education, administration and pastoral care.

"He has given his all" as an educator, a seminary rector, the founder of the largest parish in the state, a diocesan administrator and a pastor, said Bishop Richard Pates.

Msgr. Orr -- he prefers to go by Father Steve -- first began his ministry at the parish in 2005 and is the longest-serving pastor and the first to retire from the parish.

The following are excerpts from the homily by Deacon Jeff Boehlert.

"I have to say this gospel this afternoon, what we just heard, could not more accurately describe the ministry of service of sacrifice and love and leadership that we've seen with Father Steve.

"Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an act of love. He calls each of us to do likewise for one another. That model,

an example of sacrificial love, has been and is what we have witnessed throughout more than 40 years of dedicated priesthood in different roles and assignments from around the world.

"In Father Steve, as a son, as a brother, as a priest, as a mentor, as a friend, he has epitomized, in my judgment, the humble servant, authentic leader, a faith-filled man unafraid to share himself with others.

"There are simply inadequate words to fully express the tremendous gift, Father, you have been to thousands of people to different generations in every aspect of life. As bishop mentioned, you have faithfully served this diocese, different parishes, teaching institutions and shared happy and joyful memories and memorable times with many people. But you've also touched people in their most vulnerable moments when they needed the presence of God. ...

"Earlier this week, you praised the staff and many parish organizations for teamwork, unity and some of your success.

"But the truth is, success in any organization begins at the top with leadership.

"Trust, and respect are qualities in character that don't come without hard work and sacrifice and consistency. You've been a model of Christ in our lives and the legacy you are leaving is truly amazing.

"We have been blessed in countless ways. Our parish and our families are stronger, healthier, more vibrant and better for your leadership because

of the example of care, your compassion, your love.

"It should not be lost in this moment that the Catholic community is not the only one to benefit. We've all had countless neighbors and visitors and friends of every denomination of faith tell us how you have touched them: listening to one of your homilies or messages, hearing your words of encouragement to their kids, seeing the comfort you've given to someone at a funeral or the words of joy and support you give to a couple at marriage or special occasion. ...

"Now is a time for transition and new beginnings for you and hopefully, a more quiet and peaceful life being GUS, Great Uncle Steve, to your grandnieces and nephews.

"You are a priest for life and I know we will see you again from time to time. Until then, we all hope you will take time for yourself. You earned it. We are grateful for all you have done and meant to us. We wish you nothing but the very best for the future. You've already heard a lot of thanks, and best wishes and I know you're going to hear some more.

"What I truly hope you hear, and take with you, is something that is simple ... You left an indelible mark on our hearts because you have made a difference in people's lives and, for that, we thank you.

"We love you.

"God bless you in the years ahead."



1150 AM | 88.5 FM | 94.5 FM

Rosary	5:05 pm
Holy Mass	5:30 pm
Mexican Feast Program	6:20 pm
	6:45 pm

Tuesday, January 15th
Our Lady of the America's Catholic Church,
1271 E. 9th St.,
Des Moines.

MANUP DES MOINES | ¡SEA HOMBRE! | JAN. 15, 2019

"United we stand. Divided we fall." - This phrase is as true for our Church as it is for the United States.

What keeps cultures divided here in the Des Moines Diocese? Is it language barriers, social traditions, or fear of our differences? Why do we continue to see such resistance to cross-cultural outreach? These questions and many others will be explored by a highly-interactive discussion panel in the first-ever bilingual Man-Up Des Moines event.

In addition to courageously tackling this relevant topic, a delicious, authentic Mexican feast will be served to all attendees. Come and see that all of your brothers are dealing with the same challenges that you do. Let's break through this cultural barrier!

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Around the diocese

Dec. 21 Friday Beginning Experience

DES MOINES -- Beginning Experience Open House will meet at 7 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church Hall. This is a group for people who have become widowed, separated or divorced. Members of Beginning Experience have walked this journey and are willing to accompany others through the grief. The open house gives beginning steps of healing and is also an invitation to attend a weekend retreat Jan.18-20. If you wish to know more about the healing process, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Jan. 4 Friday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- First Friday Mass at St. Catherine of Siena at noon with lunch following at Smokey Row Restaurant. For more information and reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Beginning Experience

DES MOINES -- Beginning Experience Open House will meet at 7 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church Hall. This is a group for people who have become widowed, separated

or divorced. Members of Beginning Experience have walked this journey and are willing to accompany others through the grief. The open house gives beginning steps of healing and is also an invitation to attend a weekend retreat Jan.18-20. If you wish to know more about the healing process, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Jan. 8 Tuesday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- Planning meeting at 12:30 p.m. at Chicago Speakeasy. For more information and reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Jan. 15 Tuesday

Catholic Widows and Widowers

ALTOONA -- Movie at Cinemark Theater near Adventureland. Meet in the lobby at 12:30 p.m. Following movie perhaps a snack at Culver's. For more information and reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Jan. 18-20 Friday-Sunday

CEW for women

ANKENY -- The Christian

Experience Weekend, also known as CEW, is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply "experience" themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. A women's CEW will be held at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church Jan. 18-20. For more information, contact Nicole Vortherms at nicole.vortherms@gmail.com and/or via phone at 515-423-6040. Visit olih.org/cew-retreats/

Jan. 27 Sunday

Oblates of Conception Abbey

DES MOINES -- Would you like to learn more about Benedictine spirituality for the laity? Oblates of Conception Abbey meet monthly in Des Moines to study the Rule of St. Benedict as a means of fostering their own spiritual growth. Anyone interested is invited to this meeting to hear Benedictine Father Daniel Petzsche from 2:30-5 p.m. at the Basilica of St. John Parish Hall for a potluck, discussion and vespers. For more information, email George Appleby at jess8spen@aol.com

Feb. 9 Saturday

Green Gala

ANKENY -- St. Luke the

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

Feb. 15-17 Friday-Sunday CEW for Men

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

Sundays

Latin Mass

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

Wednesdays

Divine Mercy Chaplet

DES MOINES -- Come

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

JustFaith Opportunities

JustFaith is designed for people who want to live more simply, love more compassionately, and make a difference by responding to the needs of the world.

This small group program will help you explore today's issues through the lens of your faith and formulate a personal/group response.

Through prayer, engaging reading, thought-provoking dialogue and relationship building, you'll share a journey of faith that invites you to consider how you can "be the change" in our world.

JustFaith is made up of three stand-alone, eight-week sessions that can be taken individually or together, in any order. Each session of the program is \$80 per person.

Scholarships are available for those who qualify. To learn more, please call 515-782-3054 or email centerforsocialministry@gmail.com.

Knights offer needed coats



Knight of Columbus Brent Hoelsing delivers a box of winter coats for needy children to elementary school Principal Robyn Holtz.

Knights of Columbus in Missouri Valley, (Council 999), have been providing winter coats for needy children in the community for as long as Grand Knight Brian Otterpohl can remember.

"In these small towns, there's always a lot of need," he said. "We're all about the kids. They are our future. We want to help."

As in years past, the council recently provided a box of girls' coats and a box of boys' coats to a school in Missouri Valley and to West Harrison Community Schools.

The Knights' annual barbecue raised funds for the coats.

Solidarity Walk travels to Shelby County



The Solidarity Walk prayer and display from Catholic Relief Services was on display at all six of the Shelby County churches and two nursing homes/retirement centers during November.

The Solidarity Walk is an opportunity to experience a short, local prayer and meditation with images of people from around the world. It has been to about a third of the parishes in the diocese.

It's a chance to "unite ourselves with our brothers and sisters from around the world," said Franciscan Sister Joyce Blum, who helped bring the display to Shelby County.

The Solidarity Walk will next be available at the Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines during the early part of January for National Migration Week.



Top photo: Franciscan Sister Joyce Blum shows an image from the Catholic Relief Services Solidarity Walk to parishioners in Shelby County. Above, Marybeth Zimmerman, of St. Joseph Parish in Earling, prays the Solidarity Walk.

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Photos by Jane Bissen

Our Lady of Guadalupe honored



Photo supplied to The Catholic Mirror



Photo by Bob Nandell

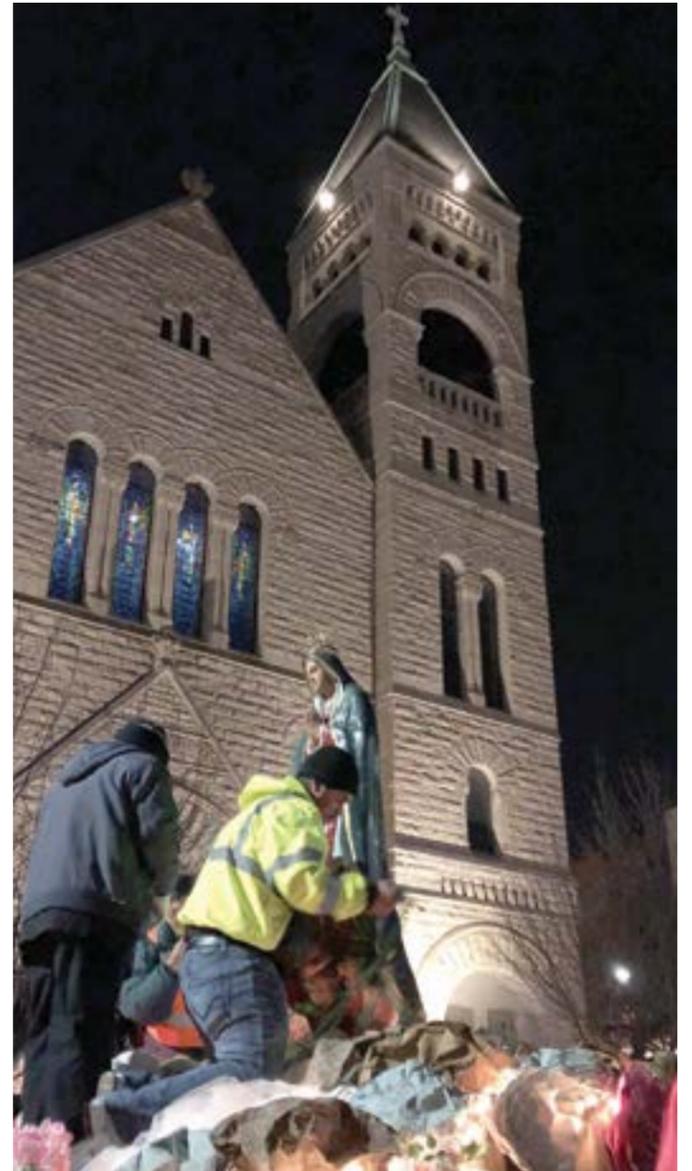


Photo by Anne Marie Cox

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated in the diocese around her feast day of Dec. 12. Above left: Girls gather with Sister Rosario Amezcua Huerta, at Christ the King Parish in Des Moines. Top right: A girl is dressed as an Aztec dancer for traditional dances at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines prior to a Mass. Far right: After following a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe on a walk from Our Lady of the Americas Parish to St. Ambrose Cathedral, the statue was carefully taken from a flatbed trailer and brought into the cathedral for the rosary and midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Pates. Below: Bishop Pates blesses a new statue gifted to the St. Joseph Chapel at Dowling Catholic High School by the Class of 1978.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

In Memory: Pat McManus 1930-2018

We wanted to honor a special Catholic Charities volunteer and friend who recently passed away. Pat McManus was a lively and dedicated volunteer! She signed up to help in Refugee Services in 2015, but found a calling for special events. This would not surprise those who knew her, and her love of a good party. Pat and her dear friend Nancy Rice collected auction items for Catholic Charities, No Room at the Inn, supporting the Emergency Family Shelter, for the last four years. We will miss working with Pat, who turned in her last auction items just a week before she passed away. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.



With our love and gratitude,
Beth Gibbins, No Room at the Inn Event Committee,
and Barbara Decker, Executive Director.

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As part of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Ss. John and Paul Catholic Church will host an evening conversation about the urgent issue of human trafficking happening right here in Iowa and the Des Moines Metro Area.

The evening is free and open to the public. No reservations required. Time will be given for questions and answers, and further discussion will follow the presentation.



Featured Speakers

Kellie Markey is the Founder and Director of Dorothy's House. Dorothy's House provides a safe place for the practice of life for those teen and youth girls whose lives have been interrupted by the sex trafficking industry.



Mary Kate Leister is the VOCA Specialist at Teens Against Human Trafficking. Teens Against Human Trafficking provides schools and students with the training, tools and information they need to lead prevention efforts within their communities.

In addition, local law enforcement representatives will speak about the history of human trafficking in our community and their efforts to respond to this issue.

Monday, January 21, 2019 | 6:30 pm

Ss. John and Paul Parish Hall | 1401 1st Ave S | Altoona IA



515-967-3796 | ssjohnpaul@ssjohnpaul.org | www.ssjohnpaul.org

Save the date

While setting up the 2019 calendar, save the date for these upcoming events.

YOUNG ADULTS COUNCIL

Young adults looking to help lead their peers through various ministry efforts are invited to be a part of the 2019 Young Adult Council. Contact Justin White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5098 for more information.

YOUTH

Radix Retreat

For high school seniors, there are retreats slated for March 1-2 and April 5-7 at the St. Thomas More Center in Panora. Registration is at dmdiocese.org/radix. Contact Justin White for more information: jwhite@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5098.

NCYC

The National Catholic Youth Conference is Nov. 21-23 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. More than 25,000 are expected for the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the country. Prayer, community and empowerment are on the agenda for Catholic teenagers through speakers, workshops, live music, reconciliation and more. Talk to a parish youth minister for details.

Prayer & Action

A mission program is kicking off this summer in the diocese. Youth will reach out to those most in need in Atlantic and Shenandoah to paint, clean, do yard work and perform other meaningful tasks for the poor, disabled and elderly. In an atmosphere free of distractions, participants can foster their faith, inspire charity and grow closer to Christ. Registration is through parish youth leaders. Open to all high school students. College students who want to be on the mission team as leaders are welcome to apply now: dmdiocese.org/prayerandaction. For more information, contact Justin White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5098.

Putting faith into action

From visiting nursing homes to helping children and making neighbors' spirits bright, youth in religious education programs around the diocese put their faith into action this Advent season.

There are more than 6,000 youth in religious education programs across the diocese.

#FaithinAction



Youth from St. Patrick Parish in Dunlap adopted children from the parish's angel tree. The youth are pictured wrapping presents for the children. They also volunteered to help with the parish's Christmas program.



Youth at St. John Parish in Greenfield joined youth from the Greenfield United Methodist Church on Dec. 1 to carol in the community. Above are: Maddax, Rose and McKynli.



Confirmation candidates from St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlisle delivered Christmas cards made by grades 5-10 to the residents of the Carlisle Care Center.



Penelope Webster, of Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona makes a card for nursing home residents.



Campus Ministry

Students from Drake University and Des Moines University received personalized spiritual direction during a Busy Students Retreat at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center. The retreat included extra personal prayer time, adoration, reconciliation and a candlelight Mass together. Spiritual directors were: Monsignors Larry Beeson and Ed Hurley; Fathers Gene Koch, Ken Gross and John Ludwig; Deacon Rick Condon; Victoria Carver and Tom Green.

Pictured at left with Monsignor Ed Hurley are Michael Bracco and Kate Hagenbucher.



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AT THE ST. THOMAS MORE CENTER

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This summer, hundreds of families will journey to Panora, Iowa to take part in the Catholic Youth Camp experience. Since CYC was founded in 1960 and the purchase of 25 acres on Lake Panorama, thousands of young people have followed the long and winding road that leads to Catholic Youth Camp. In its 58th year, this place is dedicated in a special way to the spiritual growth of young people in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Campers will take part in 6 days of adventure, fellowship and prayer. This summer we will continue our tradition of Faith & Fun as we welcome 1400 campers and 200 volunteers. We can't wait for your family to join us as we create memories, build friendships, and experience God's profound love.

- Endorsed by Bishop Pates
- Includes daily Mass and Catholic faith programming
- Staffed by young adults who are examples of vibrant discipleship

For more information, visit **STMCENTER.COM**

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WHERE?

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HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration is conducted on a "first come, first serve" basis and is done exclusively online. If you need to register in a language other than English or do not have access to a computer, please contact us at 515-309-1936

SPONSORSHIP?

Catholic Youth Camp strives to make camp available to ALL families. If you need financial assistance for fees, please visit the Sponsorship tab of our website or call the office

Follow Us On...



Bishop installs four new pastors around diocese

Bishop Richard Pates formally installs each priest named as a pastor of a parish in the Diocese of Des Moines.

In doing so, he blesses the relationship between the pastor and the community he serves.

Bishop Pates recently installed four new pastors:

- Father Adam Westphal, pastor at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny;

- Father Tom Dooley, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Winterset and St. Patrick Parish at Irish Settlement;

- Father Antony Mathew, pastor of All Saints Parish in Stuart and St. John Parish in Adair;

- Father Ray Higgins, pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines.

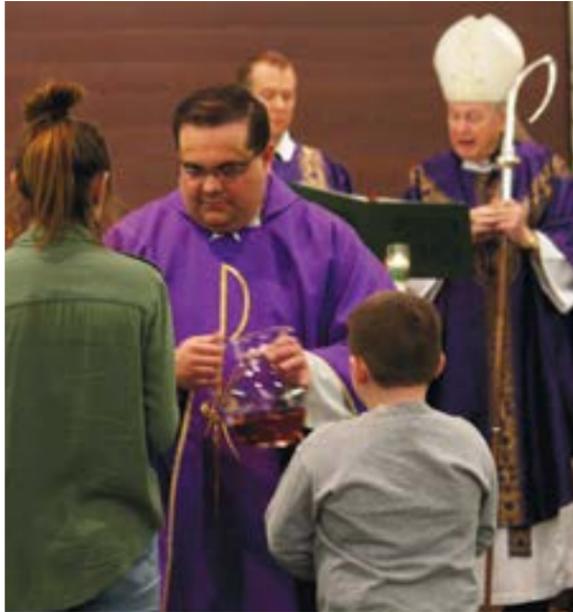


Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Father Adam Westphal was installed at St. Luke Parish in Ankeny the weekend of Dec. 8-9.



Photo supplied to The Catholic Mirror

Father Antony Mathew was installed as pastor at two parishes on Oct. 20-21. Above he is pictured with the youth at St. John Parish in Adair.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox



Photo by Jan Lyons

Father Tom Dooley was installed as pastor at two parishes on Nov. 24-25

Far left: Father Ray Higgins was installed at St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines the weekend of Dec. 15-16. Father Adam Westphal was installed at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny the weekend of Dec. 8-9.

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New parish addition blessed



Bishop Richard Pates on Nov. 18 blessed a new \$1.8 million addition of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola. The 7,600-square-foot space includes six new classrooms, offices and a multi-purpose room adjacent to the gathering space.



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Nephew carries on work of his late uncle, Father Jim Kiernan

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Before Father Jim Kiernan passed away in 2016, he had set up a meeting with Bishop Richard Pates to discuss fair and just wages.

Father Kiernan lived at the Dowling priest residence, and would often visit with the people contracted to clean his home, said nephew Peter Kiernan of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines.

"He came to find out what they were being paid," Kiernan said, noting that their salary was low. "And that's how it spurred everything."

This was a cause Father Kiernan was very passionate about, Kiernan added.

"I would see [Father Kiernan] on a regular basis," Kiernan said, and they had long discussions about the topic of fair wages. "It's one of the better conversations we had prior to his passing."

Father Kiernan had been gathering material for his meeting with Bishop Pates.

"He did a lot of research and had a lot of things printed off," Kiernan said. "He had some Wall Street Journal articles and so he definitely was doing his due diligence."

With a high regard for the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church, Father Kiernan was "adamant" about fair and just wages, Kiernan said.

"He was a firm believer that we shouldn't wait for the state

to set the wage – that the Catholic Church needed to...set the example," Kiernan added.

Father Kiernan passed away about a week before his meeting with Bishop Pates. After the funeral, the bishop offered some words about Father Kiernan and mentioned his passion for just wages. The work would continue on despite Father Kiernan's passing, Bishop Pates said.

Hearing those words was all it took to spark the flame for the nephew to continue his uncle's work.

"I knew it was definitely time to help out and get this accomplished," Kiernan said.

A small committee was formed to address these issues

Father David Polich, pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Osceola, serves on the committee.

"Before Father Jim Kiernan died he called me expressing his concern about just wage issues," Father Polich said. "He didn't have a computer and needed someone to do some work. But he also knew that I've been involved in a lot of justice issues over the years, particularly some labor issues."

The committee distributed a survey to all the parishes of the diocese and created a document of principles of compensation for guidance, at the request of the Presbyteral Council. (See sidebar)

"I've often commented in homilies that the works of mercy are not extra credit for Catholics," Father Polich said. "We treat them that way but they are not. And my dad was a coal miner



L-R: Peter Kiernan of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines with his daughter, Katherine, son James, Peter's father, Gary Kiernan, and Father Jim Kiernan. In 2013, Peter Kiernan invited his family to see a 1940's Farmall M that was used on his wife's family farm in Booneville, Iowa. Peter had the tractor restored.

and factory worker and I was very much aware of how much workers have struggled over time to get any sense of fair wages, respect and dignity."

"The memory of Father Kiernan lives on through the good work of the Presbyteral Council and the Finance Council of the Diocese of Des Moines," Bishop Pates commented. "Each council has taken deliberate action on these issues. I will be please to implement their proposals in the near future."

Paul Carlson, director of finance at the Diocese of Des Moines, said it's an important

cause that the diocese will continue to address in this year's budget process.

It is important to look at the entire benefits package, Carlson added, including paid vacation for full-time people, health insurance, sick time and retirement.

"It's a question of priorities," Father Polich said. "What do we have enough money for? The things that we prioritize – we go get the money. It's my experience that when we want a building to go up, we go find the money."

Improving wages for diocesan employees and contract-

ed staff is a part of Father Kiernan's legacy, his nephew said. It's something he wants to get accomplished for his uncle.

"This was one last thing he really wanted to get done and to get through..." Kiernan added. "I look forward to the day when I see Father Jim again and he tells me, 'Job well done.'"

"The upcoming action of the diocese represents the good will of our parishioners," Bishop Pates said. "They are in sync with Father Kiernan in their desire and commitment to treat fairly those who work on their behalf in the church."

Guiding principles on compensation for the Diocese of Des Moines

Principles inspired by the late Father Jim Kiernan, who was passionate about just pay

The following are the guiding principles on compensation approved by the Presbyteral and Finance Councils of the Diocese of Des Moines. They were inspired by the work of the late Father Jim Kiernan, a retired priest for the Diocese of Des Moines, who had a passion for making sure all diocesan employees – including contracted help – are paid a fair and just wage.

"Since its establishment by Christ, the Catholic Church has been called to preach the

gospel to all people, inviting them to walk in ways of faith within the Christian community. The charge to preach the gospel brings with it the responsibility to live and give witness to the gospel, being responsive to the basic human rights of people, among which is the right to employment.

"Every employee has a right to a just compensation that provides for the ordinary needs of workers. These include not only the bare necessities like food, shelter, clothing, and health

care, but also other items to permit a person to live in dignity.

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

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

"It is only in the context of Christian stewardship that the Catholic Church can realize its

responsibility for just compensation of its employees. Stewardship also implies that the local community exercise sound management and fiscal responsibility (e.g. development of a budget) of the resources to which it has been entrusted and communicate through transparency.

"Compensation packages are in response to the economic conditions and cost of living in an area, as determined by reviewing external criteria available from public and private sources. In addition, these packages are

non-discriminatory and consistent with teachings of the Catholic Church including current federal, state, and IRS regulations and guidelines.

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

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Parishes across the diocese creating emergency operations plan

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Every parish throughout the diocese is working on creating an emergency operations plan as part of a safety initiative coordinated by the Diocese of Des Moines.

When active shooters started targeting churches across the United States, parishes took notice and expressed concern.

Though active shooters gain attention from news outlets, the emergencies that are most likely to occur at your church is a health incident or natural disaster, said Jane Colavecchi, owner of JHC Associates, LLC, who was hired by the diocese to help with parish emergency operations planning.

"We talk about active shooter scenarios and it's in the news and in our face, and so we have a concern about it and I think we need to address it because of the prevalence that is placed in the news," Colavecchi said. "But the reality is that in Iowa, in any day [of certain seasons], we have 27 tornadoes. There's a much more likely chance of being hit by a tornado than an active shooter. The top of our list doesn't involve active shooting events.

"It's dealing with things we know are a high probability event in Iowa," Colavecchi continued, including blizzards, ice storms, dangerously cold weather or a fire.

Colavecchi has a long

history of working in emergency preparedness. She's held roles in that arena since Sept. 11, 2001. She has served as the director of the Iowa Department of Public Health and held roles in the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA.

There are specific steps that need to be taken by the parishes in order to have an effective emergency operations plan in place, Colavecchi continued.

"There are standards, there are techniques," Colavecchi said. "There's a school of practice – it's actually a discipline."

That is why the Diocese of Des Moines hired Colavecchi to offer assistance. She is hosting monthly webinars which are posted to the diocesan website, along with planning worksheets and templates.

All diocesan parishes who participate can expect to have a completed emergency operations plan by June 2019. The webinars and templates guide people every step of the way, Colavecchi added.

Six training workshops were also held across the diocese in September for those identified as an emergency planning lead at their parish or school as well as team members of parish staff. A guide for developing a high quality emergency operations plan for houses of worship were distributed.

"Jane is a terrific resource, but we have her for a limited amount of time," said Paul Carlson, diocesan director

of finance. "So I'm urging all parishes to take advantage of her while we have her."

Technical support and assistance from Colavecchi ends in June 2019.

Father Ray McHenry, pastor of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines and chair of the diocesan Crisis Management Task Force, said the parish has already posted emergency evacuation plans around the church in case of a fire or tornado and ushers are being trained on how to best evacuate the church.

"If you have an emergency, you need to have a plan," Father McHenry said. "So that when something happens, we know what we're going to do so we're not panicking."

It's important to note that while some people might carry weapons for self-defense, churches and schools have been declared weapon free zones. The only exemption is for active peace officers, including when they are off duty.

"It's not just a suggestion – it's the law," Father McHenry said. "Even though there's a right to carry law, if you're within 1,000 feet of a school you cannot carry."

For parishes who have questions or need assistance with their plan, they can contact Colavecchi at jane@mhcassociates.com or call 515-491-6088. The video webinars and templates can be found on the Diocese of Des Moines website at <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/safety/emergency-operations-planning>.

Bishop Pates declares parishes and schools as weapon free zones

This past July, Bishop Richard Pates sent a letter to priests, school administrators and deacons, saying the following would be implemented throughout the Diocese of Des Moines.

- Declare each parish/school/institution campus as a weapon free zone with only active peace officers in their official capacity exempt from any ban on weapons. This exemption includes off duty officers but not retired officers. Each school in the State of Iowa is mandated to be weapon free per Iowa Code Chapter 724.6. Current Code law provision, 716.7 allows private property owners the right to declare their properties weapon free.

- Signage needs to be posted to identify a parish/school/institution campus as a weapon free zone. The Diocese of Des Moines will review the different options for signage, provide it, and cover the expense.

- The retention of law enforcement for security at liturgies must have the specific permission of the bishop. This is not applicable for those hired for traffic management.

- Ushers are an indispensable ministry in the church and play a key role in crisis management plan. In this capacity, the usher should have adequate training, ready accessibility to contact 911 and equipment available to respond to health emergencies.

- For liturgies, parishes should utilize the same doors for entering and exiting. These specific doors should remain unlocked during the services. Attention should be paid to anything "out of the ordinary." Other doors, ordinarily locked for entry, can remain so during liturgical gatherings."

"Based on the counsel of these two bodies, I am asking each parish/school/institution to create an Emergency Operations plan that incorporates the foregoing five steps," Bishop Pates wrote. "Funding for this plan is being provided through our insurance carrier."

Bishop's letter can be read in its entirety on the Diocese of Des Moines website at dmdiocese.org/resources/safety/emergency-operations-planning.

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~Michele Belden



Mark & John Parrish, parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

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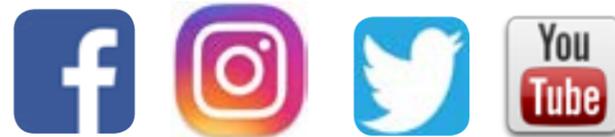
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Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services.

He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or advocate@dmdiocese.org.

Bishops overwhelmingly approve pastoral against racism

this document.”

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, said he was grateful for the pastoral's declaration that “an attack against the dignity of the human person is an attack the dignity of life itself.”

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix said the letter will be welcome among Native Americans, who populate 11 missions in the diocese, African-Americans in Arizona -- “I think we were the last of the 50 states to be part of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday,” he noted -- and Hispanics, who make up 80 percent of all diocesan Catholics under age 20.

“This is very important for our people and our youth to know the history of racism,” he added.

Bishop Shelton T. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said an electronic copy of “Open Wide Our Hearts” would be posted “somewhat immediately,” with a print version available around Thanksgiving.

“Also, there will be resources available immediately” now that the pastoral letter has been approved, including Catholic school resources for kindergarten through 12th grade, added the bishop, who also is chair of the bishops' Subcommittee on African American Affairs.

“Open Wide Our Hearts” conveys the bishops' grave concern about the rise

of racist attitudes in society,” Bishop Fabre said Nov. 13, when the pastoral was put on the floor of the bishops' meeting. It also “offers practical suggestions for individuals, families and communities,” he said.

“Every racist act – every such comment, every joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity or place of origin – is a failure to acknowledge another person as a brother or sister, created in the image of God.”

– U.S. bishops' pastoral letter

“Every racist act -- every such comment, every joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity or place of origin -- is a failure to acknowledge another person as a brother or sister, created in the image of God,” it adds.

“Racial profiling frequently targets Hispanics for selective immigration enforcement practices, and African-Americans, for suspected criminal activity. There is also the growing fear and harassment of persons from majority Muslim countries.

Extreme nationalist ideologies are feeding the American public discourse with xenophobic rhetoric that instigates fear against foreigners, immigrants and refugees.”

“Personal sin is freely

chosen,” a notion that would seem to include racism, said retired Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico, Nov. 13, but “social sin is collective blindness. There is sin as deed and sin as illness. It's a pervasive illness that runs through a culture.” Bishop Fabre responded that the proposed letter refers to institutional and structural racism.

An amendment from Bishop Ramirez to include this language in the pastoral was accepted by the bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, which guided the document's preparation.

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, said Nov. 13 the pastoral “gives us a wonderful opportunity to educate, to convert,” adding that, given recent incidents, the document should give “consideration to our Jewish brothers and sisters.” Bishop Fabre replied that while anti-Semitism is mentioned in the document, future materials will focus on anti-Semitism.

A proposed amendment to the pastoral to include the Confederate battle flag in the pastoral alongside nooses and swastikas as symbols of hatred was rejected by the committee.

“Nooses and swastikas are widely recognized signs of hatred, the committee commented, but “while for many the Confederate flag is also a sign of hatred and segregation, some still claim it as a sign of heritage.”

Foundation guided by Catholic teachings

By Rachel Seidl
Contributing Writer

Many parishes, schools and individuals across the Diocese of Des Moines choose to partner with the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa for their investment needs.

With approximately \$75 million in assets under management, it begs the question, “What makes the Catholic foundation different?”

The foundation is unique in comparison to other investment options because of the way in which dollars are invested. All funds are invested and guided by U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' teachings using Catholic values investing.

The foundation believes it is important for Catholic institutions and individuals to consider the social impact investments have on our world today. By using Catholic values investing, the foundation offers an alternative for parishes, schools, and individuals to traditional investment strategies.

“The committee has attracted some of the sharpest investment minds that reside in our diocese and it is remarkable to see the group exercise such care and diligence during the quarterly Investment Committee meetings and frequent conference calls,” said Bryan Boesen, chair of the committee.

“At the end of the day, the Investment Committee wants to ensure we are being good stewards of the CFSWIA,” he said. “We take our responsibility seriously and want to honor the trust our fund holders place in us, while at the same time provide investment excellence of behalf of the CFSWIA.”

Additionally, the foundation has retained the services of Morgan Stanley/Graystone Consulting as its investment consultants. This team of investment professionals helps to oversee the foundation's day-to-day investment needs and recommends long-term strategies to the Investment Committee.

Morgan Stanley/Graystone Consulting is also responsible for screening investments to ensure they are in accordance with Catholic values investing. This group reports to the Investment Committee on a quarterly basis the status of all investments.

The Investment Committee is one of four committees that lead and guide the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

Rachel Seidl is the communications coordinator for the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

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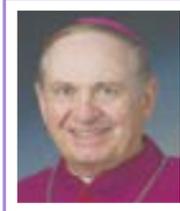


En las Tierras del Corazón Con el Obispo Pates

Temporada de Fiestas Ocupada, Ocupada

La palabra clave que está en boca de todos en estos días previos a la Navidad es ocupado. La actividad se acelera motivada por las compras, el intercambio de tarjetas y múltiples fiestas. Mucho de esto es bueno porque señala conexiones humanas muy valiosas que dan significado a nuestras vidas.

Aunque me identifico e incluso disfruto este ajetreo, encuentro que es vital el tomarse el tiempo para reflexionar en aquello que es fundacional para nuestras creencias. Es el de



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

uno de nosotros.

Lo que es aún más sorprendente es que Dios hace esto simplemente por su amor hacia cada uno de nosotros. Él nos quiere tanto que va más allá de su autosuficiencia y se conecta en una relación demostrando el valor intrínseco que atribuye a cada uno de nosotros. Es en nuestra respuesta a este esfuerzo en que tú y yo nos ponemos en contacto con la felicidad, con un sentimiento de paz, con estar tranquilos en nuestra propia naturaleza.

conectarse con la intervención de Dios, la cual ha cambiado el curso de la historia y obviamente, y más importante aún en mi propia historia. Es abrumante el pensar en este Dios, responsable por la inmensidad de la creación, el adentrarse en el tiempo como

Hablamos sobre aquellas cosas que son importantes para nosotros. Todos saben sobre nuestros hijos y nietos, nuestros intereses y pasatiempos. ¿No deberían también saber todos sobre el papel central de Jesús en nuestras vidas?

Entre las memorias más satisfactorias de mi servicio como sacerdote está la de cuando tenía la fortuna de celebrar la liturgia de Navidad de las 4:00 pm en San Ambrosio, en Woodbury en Minnesota. Era una parroquia completamente nueva con una edad promedio de cuatro. Para esa Misa en particular la gente comenzaba a llegar a las 2:30 pm para apartar sus lugares en una iglesia con capacidad de 1,500.

El enfoque de la Misa era cuando más o menos trescientos niños se reunían a mi alrededor cuando les contaba la historia de la Navidad, ese hermoso relato del nacimiento de Jesús que estimula nuestra imaginación. En su mayoría, los niños estaban conectados.

Luego de la lectura de las escrituras, le preguntaba a los jovencitos qué esperaban esta Navidad. Ellos mencionaban el juguete de moda de ese año y otras cosas que esperaban que Santa les trajera. Eventualmente, hablábamos sobre Jesús. Ellos estaban emocionados de contarme que sabían de Él

y sobre cuál era el propósito de su venida al mundo. Ellos tenían un firme conocimiento de la revelación, relatándola con confianza y poniendo énfasis en su permanente legado.

Entonces yo les pedía un favor – podrían ellos, en los próximos días, compartir esa historia con sus abuelos y abuelas, con sus tías y tíos y especialmente con sus primos y con sus buenos amigos. ¡Por supuesto que respondieron que lo harían! Siendo yo un individuo que confía, quiero suponer que lo hicieron.

Soy afortunado porque mi descripción laboral incluyo el relatar la historia de Navidad tan amplia y entusiastamente como pueda. De varias formas, es por eso que me gusta tanto lo que hago.

Pero como cristiano, tú compartes conmigo la misma expectativa de trabajo. Y esta identidad incluye el decir a otros sobre la increíble historia de Navidad, compartiendo que es importante para ti. ¿Quién recibirá tus esfuerzos y cuándo lo harás? Será seguramente un nuevo momento para al afortunado receptor de tu convicción.

¡Feliz navidad mis amigos! Que el 2019 les colme de abundantes bendiciones a ustedes y a sus seres queridos.



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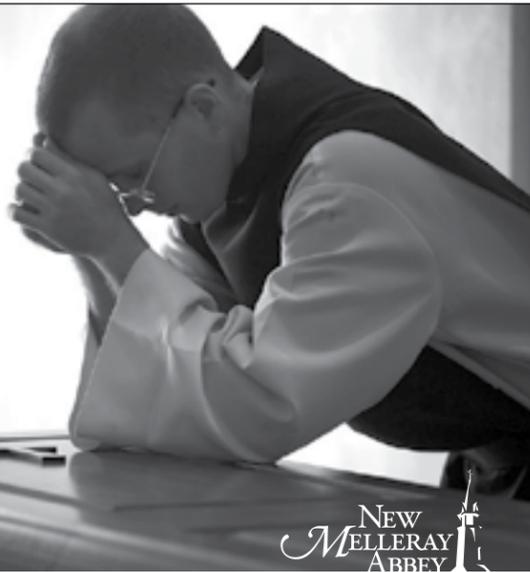
“Unidos estamos de pie. Divididos caemos”. - Esta frase es tan cierta para nuestra Iglesia como lo es para los Estados Unidos.

¿Qué mantiene a las culturas divididas aquí en la Diócesis de Des Moines? ¿Son las barreras del idioma, las tradiciones sociales o el miedo a nuestras diferencias? ¿Por qué seguimos viendo tanta resistencia al alcance intercultural? Estas preguntas y muchas otras serán exploradas por un panel de discusión altamente interactivo en el primer evento bilingüe Man-Up Des Moines.

Además de abordar con valor este tema relevante, se servirá a todos los asistentes una deliciosa comida mexicana. Venga y vea que todos sus hermanos están enfrentando los mismos desafíos que ustedes. ¡Rompeamos esta barrera cultural!

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Bishops voice concerns on gun laws

Continued from page 1

just aggressor, but also requires that deadly force be used as a last resort," the letter said.

"Therefore, we support the repeal of the recently passed Stand Your Ground law."

The Iowa Catholic Conference is asking legislators to consider the passage of a law providing gun violence restraining orders. These orders would allow persons in a close relationship with a gun owner to seek a court order that allows authorities to temporarily take guns away when there is clear evidence that the gun owner is an extreme risk and a danger to themselves or others. In that same vein, the Iowa Catholic Conference also supports the state's efforts to improve mental health care systems.

The 2019 legislative session begins Jan. 14. Learn more about these and other legislative priorities at iowacatholic-conference.org.

Congratulations to the state champions



Photo by Tony Topping

The Dowling Catholic High School football team won its sixth consecutive state football championship.

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the ongoing faith formation of presidents, principals, administrators, faculty & school staffs. The role oversees the School Office which provides programmatic support and strategic guidance for 42 schools and approx. 1200 sq. miles in 30+ public school districts. The Superintendent advises the

Archbishop in matters related to schools and Catholic education. Visit www.archkck.org/jobs for a complete job description. Qualified individuals should submit a cover letter, resume and application (available on website) to: jobs@archkck.org, title:Superintendent. Deadline is January 11th, 2019.

Staff Chaplain Position Opening

Carroll, Iowa - St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home has an opening for a Staff Chaplain. The ideal candidate will be a practicing Catholic with experience in Catholic healthcare who understands and is committed to Catholic healthcare. Must have Pastoral Care experience including at least three units of Clinical Pastoral education. A Master's degree is preferred. Board certification is required. A minimum of one to two years hospital experience in professional Chaplaincy with demonstrated ability to effectively minister to people with diverse values and beliefs is required. Knowledge of Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic healthcare is required. www.stanthonyhospital.org.



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Knights' prolife initiative benefits two health centers

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Since 2009, Knights of Columbus at the state and local levels have partnered with the Supreme Council in New Haven, Connecticut to fund ultrasound machines for pregnancy care centers.

Nationally, they have placed more than 900 units in centers or in mobile medical units. In Iowa, 19 ultrasound machines have been placed with the latest in Council Bluffs and Red Oak.

"Experience has taught us that a woman who sees an ultrasound image of her child is highly likely to keep her baby so Carroll Council 780 worked for almost a year to raise over \$16,000 to pay for half the cost of the ultrasound machine for Assure Women's Center in Council Bluffs," said Iowa Grand Knight Antonio Banuelos.

The facility, open nearly a year in Council Bluffs, has the same mission, same goal of Gabriel's Corner Pregnancy Counseling Center, just in a different part of the city, "to see women choose life," said Executive Director Toni Clarke.

The center, at 320 McKenzie, is in the northeast part of Council Bluffs so it can reach young women from Council Bluffs but also from other parts



Photo by Ken Seeber

From left: Pregnancy Center of Southwest Iowa Director Denise Bridges, Tim Schmid of Red Oak, Phil Hascall of Atlantic, Father Lazarus Kirigia, Leon McEnaney of Shenandoah and Bishop Richard Pates at a blessing of a new ultrasound machine funded with the support of the Iowa Knights of Columbus.

of Iowa that are not served by a prolife pregnancy center in their home towns, she said.

"We want to be a safe place for girls to come," she added.

Knights Council 9726 in Red Oak led the effort assisted by Council 1164 in Atlantic,

Council 1479 in Shenandoah, and Council 1765 in Corning to raise \$13,000 for the ultrasound machine recently installed at The Pregnancy Center of Southwest Iowa.

Knights Councils in the Des Moines metro area are beginning efforts to fund the 20th

ultrasound machine in Iowa for the south Des Moines location of Innervisions HealthCare.

"It is estimated that each ultrasound machine saves an average of 100 babies a year, therefore the ultrasound initiative of the Knights of Columbus is pushing for 1,000 ultrasound

machines in order to save 1 million babies," Banuelos said.

The public can make tax deductible donations to this effort by visiting www.seethebaby.org or mail checks to Iowa Charitable Foundation (Culture of Life Fund) - 7811 Twin Lakes Road, Manson, Iowa 50563.

No doubt the Virgin Mary held the newborn Christ child very close to her. But we suspect that she occasionally placed her precious child in the wooden manger. Thirty-three years later she would stand by Jesus as he hung on the wooden cross. The wood of the manger foreshadows the wood of the cross.

Consider that the manger was a trough used for feeding animals. Consider further that Jesus himself became food, eternal food for the salvation of the world.

As you attend holy Mass celebrating Christmas, and as you join your family and friends for a Christmas dinner, join the Iowa Knights of Columbus in remembering Jesus, present in our hearts and homes, and present especially in the holy Eucharist, our food, our nourishment, for eternal life.

— Rev. William E. Reynolds
State Chaplain
Iowa Knights of Columbus



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