Deacon Ryan Andrew, who grew up attending Christ the King Parish on Des Moines’ south side, will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Des Moines on Friday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

The public is invited to attend.

Deacon Andrew, who teaches at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, said he’s looking forward to bringing Christ to the people of God in the Eucharist.” Deacon Andrew said, “I’m really looking forward to hearing confessions, to be an instrument and a ministry of God’s forgiveness to people.”

It took a lot of prayer and courage to step out after first hearing God's call.

“When I first realized I was called to be a priest…I was afraid,” Deacon Andrew said.

“What would this mean for the people that I know? How will they react to me? How will they react to me wanting to be a priest?”

He was also afraid because it’s so countercultural.

“The Lord just kept calling me and said, ‘Trust in me, have faith,’” Deacon Andrew said.

Though fears kept creeping in, Deacon Andrew kept moving forward.

“I said, ‘I gotta do this – the Lord’s calling me...’” he said. “And here I am today to be ordained a priest. I am so glad I said ‘yes’ to the Lord. He’s given me many blessings and I’m just very grateful, joyful and just very happy that the Lord gave me the strength to say ‘yes’ to him and be a minister of his.”

Deacon Andrew’s mother, Jane Andrew of Christ the King Parish, said the family is looking forward to his ordination.

“Our family is very excited and happy for him and he just expanded [our faith],” she said. “He’s God’s instrument...” Jane said. “I think he’s going to be a wonderful priest.”

Deacon Andrew will begin his first official priest assignment as Dowling Catholic’s chaplain in January. He’ll also serve St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale part-time.

St. Theresa School to get 3-D printers with STEM grant

St. Theresa Catholic School in Des Moines was named one of 13 schools in Iowa to receive a grant of up to $25,000 in materials and professional services by the Iowa Governor’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council.

The grants were awarded for STEM BEST (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) projects.

Matching funds from the school were required to receive the grant, which were raised at their annual gala, said principal Ellen Stemler.

The STEM BEST Program fosters a learning environment where students are able to participate in real workplace projects designed by business professionals and teachers and apply K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics to skills, knowledge and behaviors needed for STEM careers.

St. Theresa currently has a partnership with Dowling Catholic High School and the following seven business partners:

• Kemin Industries
• Accumold
• Stone Path Engineering

St. Theresa School to get 3-D printers with STEM grant

The public is invited to attend.

Deacon Andrew, who teaches at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, said he’s looking forward to bringing Christ to others.

“What I’m looking forward to most about being a priest is celebrating Mass to bring Christ to the people of God [in the Eucharist],” Deacon Andrew said. “I’m really looking forward…to hearing confessions, to be an instrument and a ministry of God’s forgiveness to people.”

It took a lot of prayer and courage to step out after first hearing God’s call.

“When I first realized I was called to be a priest…I was afraid,” Deacon Andrew said.

“What would this mean for the people that I know? How will they react to me? How will they react to me wanting to be a priest?”

He was also afraid because it’s so countercultural.

“The Lord just kept calling me and said, ‘Trust in me, have faith,’” Deacon Andrew said.

Though fears kept creeping in, Deacon Andrew kept moving forward.

“I said, ‘I gotta do this – the Lord’s calling me...’” he said. “And here I am today to be ordained a priest. I am so glad I said ‘yes’ to the Lord. He’s given me many blessings and I’m just very grateful, joyful and just very happy that the Lord gave me the strength to say ‘yes’ to him and be a minister of his.”

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Introducing Deacon Downey

Des Moines native takes final step before becoming a priest in June 2019

Deacon James Downey, of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines, was ordained a transitional deacon on Sept. 27 at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. He is pictured above second from right. After he finishes his studies in Rome, he will be ordained a priest with Deacon Mark McGeary, who is currently studying at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. Their ordination is slated for June 21 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

The Vatican asked U.S. bishops meeting in Baltimore this past week to hold off on voting on reform measures related to the sexual abuse of children by clergy until a meeting of bishops’ conference presidents from around the world in February.

Vatican weighs in on abuse reform proposals

The Vatican asked U.S. bishops meeting in Baltimore this past week to hold off on voting on reform measures related to the sexual abuse of children by clergy until a meeting of bishops’ conference presidents from around the world in February.

See story on page 13.
It seems nearly everyone is breathing a sigh of relief with the conclusion of the elections on Nov. 6. The unfortunate negativity of contemporary political campaigns wears thin. The repetitive advertising grows tedious. The rhetoric divides rather than unites.

The new moment affirmed by the cessation of political overload hopefully does not signal a return to stagnation. May the opportunity inspire a commitment to the common good — seeking to benefit all God’s people.

The pursuit of the common good, in the present, pertains both to us in the Church as well as in secular society.

In the Church
The revelations of the grand jury report from Pennsylvania on clerical sexual abuse, while detailing a period of 70 years, is woefully discouraging. Such behavior cannot be condoned. Permanent reform must be undertaken.

In confronting the scourge, the recurrent trauma of the victims needs to be addressed. Essential to the healing process is a listening posture, counseling, therapy opportunity and bottomless compassion that will move those hurt to the eventual road of wellness.

The evolution in the Church in the understanding of pedophilia led to the 2002 adoption of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” This move over subsequent years has eventuated in a dramatic decrease by Church personnel in sexual abuse of minors. It has virtually flat lined. We are grateful for the extensive, preventive steps that have been taken.

Encouraged by the positive return achieved over the past 16 years, we now must boldly attend to the next stage with regard to Church leadership and blessed of participation in the life and accountability. Such possibility and with appropriate determination can be achieved.

In the meanwhile, we are called to engage in the primary mission of the Church, in the new moment of our world: to form the sacramental life and prayer in our parishes and institutions of the Diocese of Des Moines. When we highlight and dedicate ourselves to these central dimensions of divine life, we are blessed indeed in experiencing the common good.

In Secular Society
On the basis of being initiated into his very life through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders, Jesus challenges us to be light and salt to the world.

Remarkably, this means God lives in and through us!

The new moment is an opportunity to move beyond that which has been debilitating, hypocritical and squandered into the sunshine of the common good. A renewed beginning point might be what President George H.W. Bush described as a kinder, gentler nation.

Monday, November 19
Des Moines — Catholic Pastoral Center and Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, November 20
Des Moines — Diocesan Finance Council, Pastoral Center, Noon
West Des Moines — Legatus Mass, Dinner and Mother Assumpta Presentation, St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Des Moines Golf and Country Club, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 21
Des Moines — Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Thursday, November 22
Des Moines — Thanksgiving Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.
Des Moines — Luncheon with International Priests, Embassy Club, Noon

Friday, November 23
Des Moines — “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, November 24
Winterset — Installation Mass of Father Thomas Dooley, St. Joseph Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 25
Irish Settlement — Installation Mass of Father Thomas Dooley, St. Patrick Parish, 8 a.m.
Winterset — Installation Mass of Father Thomas Dooley, St. Joseph Parish, 10 a.m.

Monday, November 26
Des Moines — Diocesan Building Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27
Council Bluffs — Blessing of New Ultrasound Machines, Gift of Knights of Columbus, Assure Women’s Center, 5 p.m.
Red Oak — Blessing of New Ultrasound Machines, Gift of Knights of Columbus, Pray for the Miracle Center of Southwest Iowa, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28
Des Moines — Mass with Students, Holy Trinity Parish, 8:30 a.m.
Des Moines — Priests’ Personnel Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
Cedar Falls — Mass and Dinner with students, University of Northern Iowa, 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 29
Des Moines — Mass with Students, St. Joseph Parish, 8 a.m.
Ames — Mass and pizza with students, Iowa State University, 6 p.m.

Friday, November 30
Des Moines — In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, December 2
Mt. Ayr — Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, 8 a.m.
Ankeny — Mark Stephen Ors’s retirement celebration, Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish, 1:30 p.m.
Des Moines — Mass, St. Anthony Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 3
Des Moines — In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Monday, December 4
Des Moines — Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5
West Des Moines — Installation of Father Thomas Dooley, St. Joseph Parish, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, December 6
West Des Moines — “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Thursday, December 7
Des Moines — “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Friday, December 8
Des Moines — “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, December 9
Des Moines — Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 8:30 a.m.
Ankeny — Installation Mass of Father Adam Westphal, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 10
Ankeny — Installation Mass of Father Adam Westphal, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11
Des Moines — Vocation Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
Reno — Bishop’s Council, Embassy Club, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12
Des Moines — Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Ambrose Cathedral, Midnite

Thursday, December 13
Des Moines — Blessing of Chalice of Deacon Ryan Andrews, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 12:10 p.m.

Friday, December 14
Des Moines — “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, December 15
Des Moines — Installation Mass of Father Ray Higgins, St. Therese Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 16
Des Moines — Installation Mass of Father Ray Higgins, St. Therese Parish, 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.
Des Moines — Priests’ Christmas Celebration, Bishop’s Residence, 5 p.m.

Monday, December 17
Des Moines — Hispanic Pastoral Commission, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18
Des Moines — New Moment, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19
Des Moines — Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 20
Des Moines — Catholic Pastoral Center Christmas Mass and Luncheon, St. Ambrose Cathedral and Pastoral Center, 12:10 p.m.
Des Moines — Vespers Service and Christmas Dinner with Religious Sisters, St. Ambrose Sisters, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, December 21
Des Moines — “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” on Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Council Bluffs — Priests’ Christmas Celebration, St. Peter Parish Hall, Noon

Friday, December 21
Griswold — Bishop’s Priesthood Vocation Retreat, Creation Retreat Center, 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 23
Atlantic — Seminarian and Family Christmas Celebration, St. Peter and Paul Parish, Noon


Saturday, November 17
Des Moines — Open House, School of Mary Montessori, 11 a.m.

Lacona — Confirmation, Holy Trinity Church of Southeast Warren County, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 18
Indianola — Mass and Dedication, Phase III offices and Classrooms, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 10:15 a.m.

Des Moines — Serra Club’s Bishop’s Appreciation Dinner, Latin King, 5 p.m.

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Des Moines — Catholic Pastoral Center and Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.

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Monday, November 26
Des Moines — Diocesan Building Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27
Council Bluffs — Blessing of

Bishop’s Schedule

By Bishop Richard Pates

Seeking the common good
Atlantic religious community comes together in wake of man’s death

Community helps bury the dead — a Corporal Work of Mercy

Rudy Moses, left, making his First Communion earlier this year at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Rudy Moses, 21, was a young man who could be found on Sunday mornings at Mass at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic.

Locals would also find Moses, a native of the island country of Micronesia, riding his bike around town and near the church. He had moved to Atlantic in 2017 to live with his aunt.

“He was very friendly and he would ride his bike by here all the time,” said Mary Jo Robinson, secretary of the parish. “He always stopped and made the sign of the cross when he went by the church.”

“He had just received his first communion in August and he was a very devout Catholic,” Robinson continued.

Unfortunately, it was while riding his bike just outside the church that Moses was hit by a car and died as a result of his injuries.

“No body knows what happened,” Robinson said.

The family wanted to send the body back to Micronesia so his parents and sister, still in their native country, could see him to rest.

“We knew there was going to be some financial issues [sending his body back],” Robinson said. “And so the funeral home sent out letters to various churches [seeking donations] and we mentioned it at Mass.”

“First communion[...],” said Father Chinnappan Devaraj, better known as Father Chinna.

“We see Jesus constantly attending those in the margins, those ostracized, and those weak and vulnerable, offering health and offering them a place.”

After the funeral Mass was celebrated by Father Chinna in Atlantic.

“Reflecting on fragility, Xavier le Pichon can’t emphasize enough of the fact that the health and strength of a community is determined by the way it cares for the vulnerable, the suffering and the marginalized,” Father Chinna said.

“We see Jesus constantly attending those in the margins, those ostracized, and those weak and vulnerable, offering health and offering them a place.”

St. Theresa receives STEM grant

Continued from page 1

• 515 Des Moines Maker Space
• Bayer U.S. Crop Science (formerly Monstanto)
• NeXTI Inc.
• Kreg

“Our business partners have vouched in inviting us to their business to come out and tour what a real STEM professional would do,” said Ronda McCarthy, a middle school science teacher at St. Theresa. “And we get to talk to them about what they do in their job so our students can maybe see themselves in one of their professions. We get to learn all about their company.

“Some of the business partners are also pledging their support...” McCarthy added. “So that if we do projects here at school then we can go there and present to them and they’ll give us feedback on those projects.”

The grant money and matching funds will be used to purchase two 3-D printers, electronics, create several different workspaces and more. The area will be fitted with sewing machines and robotics.

Eighth grader Chloe Burrows helped build an under-water drone with four other girls.

“It was cool learning how to do this,” Burrows said.

Sixth grader Ben Kladsiv has been building a game in a program called Unity. He enjoys the freedom to select an activity he’s interested in.

“I think programming games in Unity is fun because it’s a creative outlet.”

“This really is validating what the school has been doing for years and strengthening the possibilities for these kids...” Stemler said. “We’re incredibly grateful to the governor’s STEM council, the Drake STEM Hub, business partners and especially the parish family of St. Theresa.”

St. Theresa receives STEM grant

Conference helps bury the dead — a Corporal Work of Mercy

Hosted by Father Andrew Windschitl
Pastor of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to France: Lourdes, Paris and Normandy June 14-23, 2019!

Cost: $4,799
Includes round-trip airfare, hotel, all breakfasts & dinners, transportation in Europe, museum entrance fees & local guides. $100 discount if paid by Jan. 1.

Things we’ll do in Lourdes:
• Grotto where Our Lady appeared
• Participate in candlelight procession
• Participate in Blessed Sacrament procession
• Mass in the Basilica
• Opportunity to bathe in Lourdes water
• Childhood home of St. Bernadette

Things we’ll do in Paris:
• Visit the Notre Dame Cathedral
• Famous Mona Lisa at Louvre Museum
• Take in Paris from atop the Eiffel Tower
• Mass at Sacre Coeur, hilltop photos after
• Historic Champs-Elysees Boulevard
• Catacombs of Paris
• Wonderful French cuisine and wine

Things we’ll do in Normandy:
• Visit the D-Day Beach
• Pray at the American Cemetery
• Visit the Mont-Saint-Michel
• Mass on the island
• Explore city of Bayeux
• Visit Lisieux, home of St. Therese

This trip includes daily Mass, opportunity for confession, time for shopping and relaxation! SPACE LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE. Find day-by-day itinerary and short, 90-second video at www.CollinsTravel.biz and click on “Pilgrimages.”

NEW: Pilgrimage to Poland, September 2019 with Father Joe Pins, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Des Moines

Trip includes visit to historic sites of St. Faustina, St. Maximillian Kolbe and Saint Pope John Paul II. More details coming soon! Sign up for our newsletter at www.CollinsTravel.biz for updates on this trip and other pilgrimages. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and travel tips! Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.
**God draws us in community**

By Adam Storey

**Marriage & Family Life**

Just as the stories of the saints are important for our growth in the faith, I think the stories and lives of those who are closer to us are vital in our formation in the life of discipleship.

My family has the great blessing of living right next to Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, and so every day on my way to work I’m reminded of the local men and women who I am called to pray for, and who I believe can intercede for me.

I often pray for the repose of the souls of all those buried at Glendale, and I ask for the intercession of those who have joined God in eternal life.

It’s a particular gift to ask for the intercession of Father Jim Kienman, or my sister Rachel, who passed away weeks after her birth, or even my own stillborn daughter, Zita. With hopeful confidence in their salvation, it is a great consolation to have their support in my own journey.

By remembering and telling their stories, we weave our lives closer together, a reminder that God draws us to himself not in isolation, but in community.

So this month, as we pray for the holy souls in purgatory, I want to invite you to deep prayer with those who have gone before us. Tell their stories, ask for their help, and most importantly, pray for them!

Adam Storey is the diocesan director of Marriage & Family Life. Contact him at 515-237-5556 or astorey@dmdiocese.org

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**Three points of contact**

By Bill Sheridan

**Guest Column**

This coming Dec. 12, we will be celebrating the apparition and miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, when at the foot of the Tepeyac mountain near Mexico City, a new race: the mestizo. She asked for a colorful skin that would bring the birth of the sons of the true and living God in their midst.

Moreover, The Virgin Mary at the Tepeyac was much different than the other major Marian apparitions such as the one at Lourdes and Fatima. The apparitions in Europe were about peace and the conversion of sinners. Guadalupe brought a message of motherly love and comfort in this life.

Do not be afraid. Am I not here, who am your mother? Aren’t you under my shadow? Aren’t you my health? These words came more in tune with the Aztec cultural and religious context of the time. Our Lady of Guadalupe’s words came more in line with the Aztec respect for their mother gods.

As a young adult, I taught English at Catholic high school in Iowa. I lectored on Sunday and was once president of the PTA. We sent our three sons through 12 years of Catholic school education. And then, to the surprise of friends and family, I left the Catholic Church for five or six years. But the story of that sabbatical, a short retreat in Guadalupe, Mexico, and the cottage on a hilltop near the temple where her children could worship that had risen from death with a new race: the mestizo.

We believe that this is a sign of the times for non-Catholics. It is a sign of the times for the Church, which is called to be both familiar and prophetic to them. Her message continues warming the hearts of Christians of all the Americas.

The miracle of Guadalupe marked the beginning of the largest peaceful conversion to Christianity in history.

The Spanish missionaries of several religious orders (Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits) had tried for almost ten years to bring the native Aztecs to the light of Christ’s Gospel. They were trying to overcome a well-developed religion and fear in our environment, when things seem to get worse and the horizon presents a great challenge. The horizon presents one of deepening evil and fear in our environment.

When we face anger, confusion, and fear in our environment, when things seem to get worse and the horizon presents itself with dark clouds, let us remember the message of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelization for all the Americas, the message of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelization for all the Americas, and let it penetrate our heart…do not be afraid.

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Q. Is an extraordinary place of the Lord. It's hArd to sAY.

V. How do you feel about the work of resettling refugees. Thirdly, the need of more volunteers. To get readyed 101 for work. 55 children and 84 adults. The program set up 48 apartments, placed 88 refugees in jobs and readied 101 for work. Catholic Charities is in need of more volunteers. To get involved, contact Rotich at cro-tich@catholiccharitiesdm.org or call 515-237-5095.

Volunteer, local businessman act as angels to refugee family

Paulette Valdez of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale and Larry Hunt Jr., owner and operations manager of Roto-Rooter Des Moines, who came to the aid of a Burmese family. Pictured are the father, Kyaw Pi, and mother, Ka Nu. Their children are Ka Muie Paw, Mar Saw Paw, Eh Lwel Htoo, Eh Tha Phey Paw, Anna Pi and Lucy Pi. Missing is their oldest son Ku Kpaw Htoo.

By Kelly Mescher Collins

St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale. ("When they're) fleeing from persecution and possible death in their home countries while summoning the courage to begin again in a place they have never even visited with a language and way of life completely foreign to them."

As a volunteer for the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program, Valdez was asked to help the family of nine get acclimated and take them to medical appointments. The official volunteer duties ended after the family had been in the United States for three months, but Valdez kept in touch with the family, continuing to help them whenever necessary. They've become good friends - practically family, Valdez said. "I see them several times a month - sometimes several times a week," Valdez said.

So when the family had a major plumbing problem in their nearly 100-year-old house, they didn't have a vote on matters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, but they do not have a vote on matters before the group.

Q. A. Most of our Attention is e verY bIshop and do they act in an advisory manner.

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

Q. Who leads the diocese when the bishop leaves if he has not been appointed?

A. If a bishop dies, retires, or is incapacitated, there are two ways to temporarily answer the need for the leadership of a diocese. The first is that the Vatican can appoint a temporary administrator. The second, if that option is not exercised, is for the diocesan consuls to elect someone to serve as administrator. (Consulters are appointed for five-year terms in each diocese to serve the bishop in certain matters.) In both cases, the administrator serves until a new bishop is appointed.

Q. How are priests supporting each other through the priest scandal and how can we support them?

A. Most of our attention should be focused on those who have suffered because of abuse from a priest. Secondly, those who are guilty of abuse should be held accountable and removed from ministry. Thirdly, the large majority of the rest of the priests should be encouraged by one another and by the faithful. It's a sad state of affairs. Suffering involves all three groups. Many priests belong to priest support groups that meet regularly. Those gatherings allow priests to share the trials and burdens of ministry with one another.

Q. How do you feel about burying St. Joseph when selling a house?

A. It's CRAZY. If it "works," well, good. If it doesn't, well, too bad. Sometimes religious objects or rituals become superstitious, and they are to be avoided. I'm not sure where or when that practice began, but St. Joseph is not a real estate saint. Let's give him the dignity he deserves as the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus.

Q. What is the connection between Halloween and All Saints Day?

A. The word "Halloween" comes from an older version of English which means "All Hallows Eve" - the day before All Saints Day. In a time of superstitions, the treatment of deceased saints led to ghosts and goblins. It can be a fun holiday, but the Feast of All Saints (and All Souls the next day) are times for us to reflect on our limited time on earth and the ways that we can respond to the gospel in our lives. When we see Halloween costumes and masks, maybe we could mentally dress up as disciples of the Lord.

Q. When is the pope coming again to visit in the U.S.?

A. It's hArd to SAY.

Q. Is the word "Halloween" a house?

A. It's hArd to SAY.
Nov. 19 Monday
Catholic Widows and Widowers
DES MOINES
-- Luncheon at Barranti’s Restaurant at 12:30 p.m. For more information and reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Nov. 29 Thursday
An Advent Evening of Reflection
WEST DES MOINES
-- Experience an inspirational evening of learning and prayerful reflection from 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the parish hall and sanctuary as we prepare to enter the season of Advent. Our presenter will be popular speaker, teacher and radio guest Katie Patrizio. Register by calling 515-988-7791. Limited childcare available.

Dec. 1, 2 Saturday-Sunday
Annual Craft & Bake Sale
DES MOINES – St. Anthony Altar & Rosary Society annual craft and bake sale will be Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Variety of handmade crafts and delicious baked goods. Raffle. For more information email St. Anthony Altar & Rosary at stanthonyaltarandRosary@gmail.com.

Dec. 1 Sunday
Cookie Carnival
LENOX - St. Patrick Parish is having its annual Cookie Carnival from 10 a.m. until gone. Homemade cookies and candy for $10 per box. Free delivery in town or phone in order to pick up at 641-333-2565. Assumption Holiday Market & Craft Fair GRANGER – Shop with unique crafters and direct sales vendors in the Assumption gyn from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Assumption Catholic Women’s Club will have their Holiday Cookie Walk. Drawings will be every 30 minutes for $10 Vendor Bucks certificates to be used during the fair. Must be present to win. New vendors welcome; call Brenda at 515-999-2239.

Bazaar, Breakfast with Santa
DES MOINES – St. Theresa Parish is having its annual Altar & Rosary Society Church Ladies Bazaar from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. featuring more than 20 vendors. Cookie walk and lunch available. “Breakfast with Santa” seatings 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. 2 Sunday
Celebration for Father Steve Orr
ANKENY – Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart is hosting a Celebration of Service for Father Steve Orr. Prayer service and recognition at 1:30 p.m. followed by a reception in the social hall, 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Church. All are welcome.

Dec. 8-9 Saturday-Sunday
Fair Trade Sale
COUNCIL BLUFFS – The public is invited to a Catholic Relief Service Fair Trade Sale, at St. Patrick Church, 4 Valley View Drive, Dec. 8 from 7 – 11 a.m. and after the 5 p.m. Mass; and Dec. 9, after the 7:30, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses. For additional information, contact Kathleen Tinley, 402-677-0863, kathleen.tinley@gmail.com.

Dec. 9, 16, 23 Friday
Beginning Experience
DES MOINES – Beginning Experience Open House will meet on three Friday nights; Dec. 9, 16 and 23 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church Hall.

Dec. 12 Wednesday
Ablaze
COUNCIL BLUFFS – Ablaze is praise, worship, and adoration of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus founded by Father Michael Vinhthofer, of the Omaha archdiocese. Ablaze evenings are filled with praise, worship, and adoration of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi Parish/Queen of Apostles Church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Children, youth and people of all generations are welcome.

Dec. 15-19 Advent Mission
INDIANOLA/S.T. MARY’S – Viencentian Father Dick Gielow will present an Advent mission with the theme: Aspire to Inspire Before You Expire. Dec. 15-16: At all weekend Masses Dec. 17: 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish in St. Mary’s Dec. 18: 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas in Indianapolis Dec. 19: 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Latin Mass
DES MOINES – The Latin Mass at St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines is at 5 p.m. on Sundays and in the main church.

On Nov. 7, the Diocese of Des Moines presented Prairie Meadows a small gift in gratitude for its $200,000 Legacy Grant that made the Prairie Meadows Community Room possible at the newly renovated Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines. The gift is a small piece of the original paver that lined the plaza around the Catholic Pastoral Center prior to the renovation. Pictured from left to right are Maureen Kenney, diocesan director of stewardship, Julie Stewart, Prairie Meadows director of community relations, and Jason Kurth, diocesan chancellor.

“A Clash of Creeds” theatrical production penned by Tom Quiner took the stage during the annual fundraising dinner for Iowans for LIFE. Pictured above are: Jill Ziegler as Ann Rand, Jackie Schmildien as Margaret Sanger, Frances Patrick as St. Teresa of Calcutta, and Alex Tillinghast as G.K. Chesterton. Iowans for LIFE had its largest turnout, up 30 percent from last year.

Thank you
On Nov. 19, the Des Moines Register’s Lifebeat section will feature a profile of the diocesan faith formation director, Diane Taft. The article will reflect on her twenty years of service to the diocese, and her many accomplishments in faith formation, including the recent launch of the diocese’s adult faith formation website, www.adultfaithformation.org.

Theatrical production a hit for prolife group
Hundreds of youth were Boldly Sent to live their faith in confidence after the youth rally at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. At left are youth from St. Michael Parish in Harlan. Bottom left are youth from the Des Moines area. Bottom right are youth from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.

Boldly Sent youth rally draws hundreds

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The diocesan strategic planning process for Catholic schools is moving forward with conversations between the Blue Ribbon Committee and a number of different organizations in the diocese.

A vision statement is being developed that is intended to provide an overall long-term vision as well as outline the foundational beliefs that will drive the plan and the work of the strategic plan.

In addition to the vision statement, planning leadership -- the chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee, Dr. Jerry Deegan, along with diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bondy and consultant Alan Meitler -- have been meeting with a variety of diocesan groups to get their feedback.

“We have had some very good meetings over the past few months,” said Deegan. They met with the Presbyteral Council, the diocesan Finance Committee, and the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

“Each meeting produced great discussion and provided wonderful input and feedback,” he said. “These groups have a key role in helping develop the details of the final plan.”

In addition, there was a Blue Ribbon Committee meeting and a gathering with pastors of the elementary schools in the Des Moines metro area.

“These meetings have also produced wonderful input and feedback,” Deegan said. “We’re having conversations about what options exist for working more collaboratively,” said Bondy. Meitler Consulting and the Blue Ribbon Committee will meet again in January. The goal is to have a final plan to share in March.

“We want to thank the many people we have met with and for the exceptional feedback we have received,” said Deegan. “Making a great plan takes time and patience and we appreciate that people across the board have generously given both.”

A separate strategic plan will be developed for St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs and there is a discussion on whether the plan should separately address rural diocesan schools from Des Moines metro-area schools, said Bondy.

St. Patrick School in Perry is working on short-term and long-term planning.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A TIME OF THANKS

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities:

It is with gratitude we share our story about Catholic Charities in this issue of the Catholic Mirror. November is a special month in giving thanks and extending blessings to all whom we encounter. At Catholic Charities, helping those in need is fundamental to our mission and Catholic Social Teachings.

Our mission is to provide family-centered services that empower individuals and strengthen families. Through our programs, we strive to touch the lives of families and individuals by providing basic care and needs in service to our most vulnerable populations.

• We advocate for those who are hungry through our Food Pantry and Outreach Center.
• We advocate for those who are homeless through our Emergency Family Shelter.
• We advocate for those who experience emotional or mental distress through our Counseling Center.
• We advocate for those who are new to Iowa through our Refugee Resettlement Office.
• We advocate for those who suffer from domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking through our Council Bluffs facilities.

At Catholic Charities, we open our hearts and healing hands to each person with dignity and respect. We are blessed by an engaged and committed Board of Directors who provide leadership and vision to Catholic Charities. Our staff and volunteers demonstrate a passion and compassion for all we serve in sharing their time and talents. Our friends and donors share their many gifts and generous spirit, as demonstrated through our parishes and from our community.

Working together, we offer our services to all individuals and families in need...because we all need a little help along the way. We ask for your prayers and for your support in our advocacy efforts to advance Catholic Charities to sustain our social services ministry, and to serve all who need our services. Thank you and Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your families.

Barbara Q. Decker
Executive Director

Catholic Charities Services

Counseling Program
Stress and anxiety are part of our daily lives, but what do you do when it gets 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, eating disorders, behavior problems, trauma, abuse, and more. For an appointment call: Des Moines 515-237-5045 • Council Bluffs 712-328-3085

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program (formerly Phoenix)

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, 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 (formerly St. Mary Family Center)
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 (formerly St. Mary Family Center)
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.
Catholic Charities and those we serve! Both will retire in late December. Congratulations and many thanks to Ken and Pat for their dedicated service to the mission of programs.

Currently he oversees accreditation, compliance, grants, and ties for over 15 years. His role evolved over the years. Currently, he oversees accreditation, compliance, grants, and ties for over 15 years. His role evolved over the years. Cur

Pat Nestvedt, Director of Programs has been with Catholic Charities for over 8 years. He has contributed many hours on the road visiting parishes, coordinating volunteer and collection drives, and advocating for those in need.

Two of our long-standing staff members have announced their retirement from Catholic Charities this winter. Ken Bresnan, Parish Outreach Liaison has been with the agency for over 8 years. He has contributed many hours on the road visiting parishes, coordinating volunteer and collection drives, and advocating for those in need.

Pat Nestvedt, Director of Programs has been with Catholic Charities for over 15 years. His role evolved over the years. Currently, he oversees accreditation, compliance, grants, and programs.

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, and the therapists in Catholic Charities Counseling Program provide the insight and support needed to manage life problems in a more productive way.

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. We specialize in treating couples and families, with a focus on observing the patterns among family members and helping each member to make changes in how they relate to one another.

- Des Moines, Ankeny, and Council Bluffs
- all major insurance plans accepted
- sliding fee scale available for uninsured

To schedule an appointment:

- Des Moines 515-237-5045
- Council Bluffs 712-328-3086

You can also reach us online at www.catholiccharitiesdm.org

Love All. Serve All.
Family centered services that empower individuals and strengthen families.

Executive Team:
The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates, President & Chairman
Barbara Decker, J.D., Executive Director
Steve Kramer, Finance Committee Chair
Stephanie Sarcone, Executive Committee Member

Welcome to Iowa!

Refugee arrivals are always exciting. As Catholic Charities staff, family, and friends gather at the Des Moines International Airport, anticipation grows as they wait for planes to land. The weary travelers are happy, relieved, and a bit disoriented from a long day of life-changing travel. The day after they arrive, the process of setting up a new home, cultural orientation, and lots of paperwork (just to name a few) begins!

Counseling Program

Provides a safe, clean environment for families to live while they seek permanent housing, along with employment, childcare, and education during their stay.

The shelter provides a private room for each family, three meals and two snacks daily, laundry facilities, and necessary personal care items, as well as transportation assistance through bus tokens or cab vouchers at no cost to our guests.

As the largest family shelter in the area, we offer a 30-day emergency shelter stay that can be extended based on individual needs. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Last year, we served more than 300 guests with approximately 60% who were children.

The circumstances facing our families who come to the shelter vary. Yet all are experiencing the prospect of homelessness, hunger, and of insecurity in our Central Iowa community. Providing them with essential life-sustaining needs begins to rebuild and strengthen their lives and the lives of their children.

By participating in this event, you will help us to help families in crisis.

REGISTER TODAY!

No Room at the Inn
A holiday reception benefiting Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter

Friday, December 7 • 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309

NATIVITY RAFFLE
$20 per ticket
Benefiting Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter
Drawing to be held at No Room at the Inn Holiday Reception on Friday, December 7. Need not be present to win.

In the spirit of giving, we invite you to participate in this event that will build and strengthen their lives and the lives of their children.

To schedule an appointment:

- Des Moines 515-237-5045
- Council Bluffs 712-328-3086

You can also reach us online at www.catholiccharitiesdm.org

Love All. Serve All.
Family centered services that empower individuals and strengthen families.
When Tessa Roberts and her husband, Mack, discovered they would be parents of their second child, Tessa could barely contain her excitement. In fact, she quickly shared the news with friends and family on Facebook, who shared in their elation.

Their first child, Rex, is 3-years-old. But their joy and excitement quickly turned to worry and fear when their first appointment at the doctor’s office did not go as planned.

“I could just tell by the doctor’s voice,” Roberts said. The doctor had been having trouble finding a heartbeat. Finally, he found a faint one, though not strong enough to record.

Sensing that something was wrong with her pregnancy, Roberts spent the next few weeks begging and pleading with God.

When the couple returned for a second ultrasound, the technician could not find a heartbeat and they were told the pregnancy was “lost.” Roberts said the entire experience, including labor and delivery, was traumatic.

The couple named their baby Alma. She is entombed at the Memorial to the Unborn at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

“I’m incredibly grateful that my faith was strong to begin with, because I knew I could turn to Jesus with my anger… and knowing that I could come to him with all of my emotions,” Roberts said. “Sometimes I have yelled.”

A spiritual director has helped Roberts in dealing with all of her emotions, “Sometimes I have yelled. I used to cry out, ‘It’s not fair’,” Roberts said. “Sometimes I was so angry.”

She has also had a tremendous amount of support at her parish, St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines, where she serves as adult faith formation director.

“Sometimes I have yelling.

She also felt compelled to share the loss on Facebook, especially since she had already made public that they were expecting.

“Sometimes I have yelled. I used to cry out, ‘It’s not fair’,” Roberts said. “Sometimes I was so angry.”

She also started blogging about her experience at InHisPassion.blogspot.com, in the hopes that it would help other women.

“So many people have confided in me,” Roberts said, noting that miscarriage is common; it happens to nearly one in four women.

“I got a letter from my grandma about a miscarriage she had that my dad didn’t know about,” she continued. “So I’ve had responses from women my age but also older women have found courage to speak about it. It was such a different culture.

“I am so thankful for the people I knew who had the courage to share and gave me the courage to share,” Roberts added. “And even having all of that... there’s still this constant spiritual al lie whispering in my ear that I shouldn’t talk about it.”

In fact, it happened the day before attending the All Saints Day Mass, a day of significance for Roberts since alma is now a saint in heaven.

Someone asked Roberts if Rex was her oldest or youngest child.

“And I said ‘He’s my only so far.’” Roberts said. “And instantly it was like my heart broke because I knew it wasn’t true.”

A number of resources have been a source of support for Roberts, including:

Catholic Miscarriage Support:
http://www.catholicmiscarriage.org/

• Facebook support group

“Mommy To A Little Saint - Catholic Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support”

Roberts’ husband Mack said these are challenging times.

“It’s difficult sometimes to surrender everything entirely over to God,” Mack said. “We think that we have far greater powers over our own lives than we actually do. This unfortunate loss, as much as it hurt… helped me to remember this. God is in control. We only need to trust Him and love him, even in the difficult moments that we don’t entirely understand.

“I know that everything will be okay. ...” Mack continued. “He holds us in His loving hands, and will bring good from this loss. We now have a precious little saint interceding for us in heaven.

God’s love for us shines through those painful moments, and is there through it all waiting for us on the other side, as the pain fades.”

The diocese has offered pregnancy and infant loss Masses several times in the past in both Des Moines and Council Bluffs, coordinated by Deacon Joel Schmidt, to provide healing.

“Often when a mother has lost a baby to miscarriage, what she needs most is permission to grieve,” Deacon Schmidt said. “However, that’s precisely what society denies her. Well-intentioned comments like, ‘There was probably something wrong, anyway,’ or ‘You’re young; you’ll have more,’ marginalize and commoditize the life lost by suggesting it wasn’t a life worth living or can simply be replaced.”

“This invalidates the pain of a mother’s wounded heart silently crying out, ‘But I loved THIS baby! I miss THIS baby!’” Deacon Schmidt continued. “This is why it is incumbent upon the Catholic Church, as society’s last bulwark of human dignity at all stages of life, to step into the breach and offer opportunities to both grieve the life lost and celebrate the life lived, even if only for a short time inside the mother’s womb.”

Dates have not yet been set for the next pregnancy and infant loss Masses.

Adam Storey, diocesan director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life, agreed that it’s important for the church and community to help people going through these difficult times.

“Losing a child at any stage is one of the most painful experiences a family can go through,” Storey said. “In these moments, especially when so many families suffer in silence, it is important for the Body of Christ to be present, and accompany our families in their grief. The loss of a child is a reminder that Jesus did not come to remove all suffering, but to be with us in our suffering, and to transform our suffering so that it can be a part of his redemptive plan.”

Storey said. “God hates death, and we should, too. The loss of a child at any stage is a searing reminder that death remains in this world. And yet, as Christians we can have hope because we know that Christ has conquered death.”

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Tessa Roberts encourages women to find a spiritual director to help with healing

Woman’s blog about miscarriage helps others

The Catholic Mirror  November 16, 2018 www.dmdiocese.org

Executive Assistant Position
Seeking an Executive Assistant from the staff accountant, banking or trust officer fields to support Executive Director of a private foundation. This position is ideal for a second career and making a difference in the community. Strong written and oral communication skills are required. Seeking a candidate to work independently and in coordination with the Executive Director. Full time work from home position is offered at a competitive salary. This faith based private foundation prefers a candidate with a strong understanding of the Catholic faith and the needs of the poor. Please send resume and reference to info.dfeoffice@yahoo.com.

Parish Life Director

St. John’s Catholic Church and a Parish of the Archdiocese of Omaha on the Jesuit campus of Creighton University is seeking a full time Director of Parish Life. The primary responsibility of this position is to enable ongoing parish life including faith formation, pastoral care, to collaborate with the liturgical formation of the community and administration. To carry out the mission of the parish with the Pastor, the staff and the parishioners of St. John’s. Preferred candidates will have a Bachelors or Master Degree in the area of Theology, Pastoral care/ministry or a parish ministry background. Experience working in a Parish setting is highly recommended. Familiarity with Ignatian spirituality and ongoing Christian formation is greatly appreciated and celebrated at St. John’s. For a complete job description or to submit a resume, please contact Fr. Lorri J. Snow, S. J. at lornsnow@creighton.edu or St. John’s Church at Creighton University 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.
Catholic foundation grants fund various projects

By Rachel Seidl
Contributing Writer

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, founded in 2012, made its first grant just two years later.

In the four years since that first grant, the foundation has watched its grant program grow. In its initial year of grant giving, the foundation awarded one grant to Faith Journey, a catechetical program for educators in the diocese’s Catholic schools.

Since then, the number of grant applications has increased to 33, and the amount of money given in grants has increased to $50,000.

In just four short years, this grant program has helped several parishes.

St. Clare Parish in Clarinda received a grant in 2017 for a new sound system in its church.

“The old system had many ups and downs and challenges. Sometimes when we’d be celebrating Mass, you’d get echoes, deafening echoes, from nowhere. People would be closing their ears because the sound was jarring,” said Father Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, pastor at St. Clare’s. “You could trip over it and get injured, and the church would be in trouble.”

The parish is now equipped with eight speakers spread throughout the upper and lower levels of the church along with wireless microphones.

“We are happy with the results. So are our ears,” said Father Eze.

In the same year, the foundation gave a grant to the St. Thomas More Center that has helped to pay for safety equipment such as life jackets, and high ropes safety equipment like harnesses and helmets.

“That was crucial to everything that we do here,” said Alex Kautzky, executive director of the center. The grant award also funded equipment that encourages participants to sing along during Mass and follow along with the readings.

This year, the St. Thomas More Center, in Panora, received a grant for a camera that has and will continue to digitally promote Catholic Youth Camp, based at the center. Additionally, the grant helped sponsor campers who come from lower-income families and refugees. The youth learned about and grew in their faith through their week at CYC.

Any Catholic parish, school, or organization within the Diocese of Des Moines is able to apply for a grant through the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. Once applications are collected, award recipients are selected by the foundation’s Board of Directors.

Applications for the current grant program are open and posted on the foundation’s website. Applications are due Feb. 25. For additional guidelines, important information, or the application, visit catholicfoundationiowa.org/grant-program or contact Rachel Seidl at rseidl@dmdiocese.org.

Reach 35,000 households in the Diocese of Des Moines by placing an ad in the Catholic Mirror. Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org for details.

Cookie Shoppe 
Shoppe & Craft Fair

Sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Church Altar & Rosary Society

Saturday, December 1
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
St Thomas Hall
(corner of Hwy 92 & R63)
West of Indianola

Stay Connected!

@DMDiocese

Hamburg man celebrating 100 years of life

Martin Goracke says secret to staying young is to keep moving

Martin Goracke of St. Mary Parish in Hamburg with his daughter Lois and son-in-law at his 100th birthday party.

“Keep moving every single day.”

In July, long-time Hamburg resident Martin Goracke, of St. Mary Parish, celebrated his 100th birthday.

Friends, family and the community came out to celebrate Goracke’s milestone and many more sent cards.

The town also made him grand marshal of the parade for Hamburg’s annual Popcorn Day celebration in September.

Despite his 100 years, Goracke still lives at home alone. His wife, Florence, passed away five years ago.

He enjoys keeping busy with housecleaning, laundry, mowing the yard, raking leaves, walking (and sometimes even running) on the treadmill and eating lunch at the hospital.

He’s active at St. Mary Parish as well, said longtime friend and parish secretary Cheryl Phillips.

“He is friendly to everyone,” Phillips said. He also plays an important role at church.
At least 1,000 migrants departed Nov. 5 from Cordoba, 190 miles southeast of Mexico City, hoping to make a final push to the national capital. They were joined by another group departing from Puebla -- closer to Mexico City -- where they had received assistance and slept in parishes.

One caravan set out Oct. 12 from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and mushroomed in size as it moved northward. Its participants have pushed through borders and past police blockades, slept on sidewalks and in town squares and suffered illnesses and injuries brought on by long walks in hot and inclement weather.

Catholics working on the immigration issue in Central America say caravans have become a preferred form of traveling through Mexico, where crimes are commonly committed against migrants traveling solo or in small groups. Caravans, they say, offer security in numbers and make it unnecessary to pay high fees to human smugglers. In interviews in southern Mexico, most of the migrants said they were fleeing a combination of violence, poverty and an inability to make ends meet in the northern triangle of Central America: Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, three of the poorest and most violent countries in the hemisphere.

The caravan has captured international media attention and been monitored by everyone from Mexican state human rights commissions to priests and religious to civil society organizations -- something observers say has prevented the police, wishing to avoid an embarrassing incident, from acting against the migrants.

Catholic healthcare is required. www.stanthonyhospital.org.

Caravans have fed the migrants and provided medical care. There are human rights people, nuns, the Catholic Church, the Red Cross," said Edwin Paz, 41, a mechanic who left Honduras with his wife -- two-and-a-half months pregnant -- and teenage son. Paz tried to travel through Mexico on his own a decade ago, riding atop a train known as La Bestia. He was detained by railway security in northern Mexico and asked pay $200, which he didn’t have, and was subsequently turned over to police and deported.

“Good-hearted Mexicans have been helping us,” he said at a shelter in Cordoba.

Parishes across southern Mexico have fed the migrants and collected clothes and shoes for them. Some Mexicans of humble means have offered what they can: plates of beans, rice and tortillas. Some look more trusting of people in habits. Parishioners have given them blankets and food.

“People have been generous," said Sister Antonia Becerra, leader of the religious working with migrants, as an assembly of caravan participants in the town of Pijijiapan. “And there’s nothing stronger to grab onto than Jesus Christ.”

As the caravan proceeded through the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz and a zone notorious for crimes committed against migrants, members of the Missionaries of the Assumption helped caravan participants by flagging down rides for them. Theyיעו new motorists would be more trusting of people in habits. “In the name of charity, please take two brothers,” Brother Jona- than Ortiz, dressed in his black habit and waving a red handmade scarf, asked a driver near Sayula, Veracruz. The driver did not pick up any passengers, but others were willing to help.

The religious put out a call for better shoes, blankets and sweaters as the caravan arrived in central Mexico, where the altitude tops 7,000 feet and night-time temperatures are chilly.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said the caravan will not be welcomed and sent troops to the border. But as the caravan was on the northern coast of Veracruz and a zone notorious for crimes committed against migrants, members of the Missionaries of the Assumption helped caravan participants by flagging down rides for them. Theyיעו new motorists would be more trusting of people in habits. “In the name of charity, please take two brothers,” Brother Jona- than Ortiz, dressed in his black habit and waving a red handed scarf, asked a driver near Sayula, Veracruz. The driver did not pick up any passengers, but others were willing to help.

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The recognition of the martyrdom of Brother James, or Brother Antonio, showed that the Catholic Church, the national government, and religiously oriented groups were all working toward a common goal.

Bishops applauded the decision. The final regulations provide for the establishment of the HHS mandate, which is a provision of the Affordable Care Act that requires health insurers to cover certain preventive services and treatments, such as contraceptives, without charge to plan enrollees. The mandate has been challenged by religious organizations, who argue that it violates their religious liberty.

The final regulations were published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2018, and will take effect on January 1, 2019. The new rules are intended to provide religious organizations with more flexibility in how they comply with the mandate.

The new rules allow religious organizations to designate certain entities, such as hospitals or universities, as “eligible” to receive exemptions from the mandate. These entities can then be exempted from the mandate's requirement to cover certain preventive services and treatments, such as contraceptives, without charge to plan enrollees.

The new rules also allow religious organizations to obtain additional time to comply with the mandate. For example, organizations that are exempted from the mandate can be granted up to 30 months to establish an alternative plan to provide the required preventive services and treatments.

The new rules also provide for an increased role for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in overseeing the implementation of the mandate. HHS will be responsible for reviewing and approving applications for exemptions and for monitoring compliance with the mandate.

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Vatican asks USCCB to delay vote

Baltimore (CNS) — At the urging of the Vatican, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will not vote on two proposals they were to discuss at their Baltimore meeting regarding their response to the clergy sex abuse crisis.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, informed the bishops as they opened their fall general assembly Nov. 12 that the Vatican wanted the bishops to delay any vote until after a February meeting with the pope and presidents of the bishops’ conferences around the world that will focus on addressing clergy abuse.

Affected are proposed standards of episcopal conduct and the formation of a special commission for review of complaints against bishops for violations of the standards.

Cardinal DiNardo said he was disappointed that no action would be taken during the assembly, but that he was hopeful that the delay “will improve our response to the crisis we face.”

The cardinal’s announcement came two days after Pope Francis met with Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, at the Vatican.

Cardinal DiNardo turned to the United States Nov. 11 in time for the first day of the U.S. bishops’ general fall assembly in Baltimore. However, at a midday news conference, Cardinal DiNardo said the request to delay action came from the Congregation for Bishops.

The assembly planned to move forward with discussion of both proposals from the bishop’s Administrative Committee.

In response, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago suggested the general assembly move forward with its discussion of the two proposals. He also called for a special assembly in March to weigh and vote on the measures after being informed by the outcome of the February meeting in Rome.

“It is clear that the Holy See is taking seriously the abuse crisis in the church,” Cardinal Cupich said, adding that the February meeting was a “watershed moment” in church history.

Cardinal DiNardo opened his presidential address pointing to the weakness within the church that has led to the clergy abuse crisis.

He called for action to lift the entire brotherhood of bishops from a place of weakness that has allowed the clergy sex abuse crisis to exist.

While there were to be no votes on specific action at the meeting, he said the deliberations the bishops would undertake would set them on the route to healing for the church and for victims of abuse.

He also held up his own weakness to victims, saying: “Where I have not been watchful or alert to your needs, wherever I have failed, I am deeply sorry.”

Cardinal DiNardo urged the bishops to root themselves in the life and teaching of Jesus to lead the church and the victims of abuse to healing.

He also called for the bishops to focus on the needs of victims so that “our example not lead a single person away from the Lord.”

He also said that the bishops must be as accountable as anyone else in ministry in the church and that they, like priests and other church workers, must adhere to the same standards of conduct identified in the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

Diocese complying with Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

The Diocese of Des Moines is complying with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Bishop Richard Pates received an Oct. 3 letter from StoneBridge Business Partners, which conducted the latest audit of the Diocese of Des Moines.

“We are writing to inform you that the Diocese of Des Moines is in compliance with the data collection requirements for the 2017/2018 Charter audit period,” according to the letter.

“We have reviewed this information and will be forwarding the documents to the Secretariat of Youth and Child Protection for use in the 2018 Audit Report,” it said.

The diocese has been found compliant with every audit regarding the charter, approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002 to ensure a safe environment in Catholic churches and schools.

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—Father Dominic McManus, OP

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Schedule of Feast Our Lady of Guadalupe 2018

FIESTA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

**Des Moines**

**BASILICA OF ST. JOHN**

- **Wednesday Dec. 12**
  - 6 p.m. Rosary
  - 6:30 p.m. Mass
  - 8 p.m. Dances and reception

**CHRIST THE KING PARISH**

- **Novena Dec. 3-11 at 6:30 p.m.**
  - **Wednesday Dec. 12**
    - 6 p.m. Rosary & representation of the apparitions
    - 7 p.m. Procession and Mass
    - 8:30 p.m. Dances, reception.

**OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS**

- **Novena Dec. 4-12**
  - 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10
    - Theatrical Representation of the Apparitions
  - 6 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 12
    - 5:30 p.m. Rosary
    - 6 p.m. Dances in the parish center with Danzas de Tepeyac
    - 6:30 p.m. Procession
    - 7 p.m. Mass
    - 8 p.m. Festivities in the gym featuring food and entertainment by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

**West Des Moines**

**SACRED HEART PARISH**

- **Novena from December 4-12**
  - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 12
    - 5:30 p.m. - Rosary
    - 6 p.m. - Dances in the parish center with Danzas de Tepeyac
    - 6:30 p.m. - Procession
    - 7 p.m. - Mass
    - 8 p.m. - Festivities in the gym featuring food and entertainment by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

**Osceola**

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**

- **Novena from Dec. 4-11**
  - 7 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 11
    - Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe
  - 10 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 12
    - 11 p.m. – 1 a.m. Mañanita with Banda Perla del Sur
  - 7 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 12
    - Mass
  - 8 p.m. Reception

**ST. ANTHONY PARISH**

- **Tuesday Dec. 11**
  - 6 p.m. Rosary & representation of the apparitions
  - 7 p.m. Procession and Mass
  - 8:30 p.m. Dances, reception.

**SACRED HEART PARISH**

- **Novena from December 4-12**
  - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 12
    - 5:30 p.m. - Rosary
    - 6 p.m. - Dances in the parish center with Danzas de Tepeyac
    - 6:30 p.m. - Procession
    - 7 p.m. - Mass
    - 8 p.m. - Festivities in the gym featuring food and entertainment by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

**West Des Moines**

**OLOA**

- **Wednesday, Dec. 12**: Noon Bilingual Mass
  - 7 p.m. Spanish Mass

**Man-Up | Event**

**Restoring Our Integrity**

**Tuesday, Nov. 13**

**All Saints Catholic Church**

- **5:20 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

Join the Man Up group for a Rosary and Mass, followed by food, drinks and a compelling panel discussion moderated by Fr. Sean Kilcawley, who is a nationally recognized speaker on Theology of the Body, Human Love and pornography addiction. He currently serves the Diocese of Lincoln as the Director of the Office for Family Life.

In this presentation and discussion, Fr. Kilcawley will draw from the wisdom of Church teaching, his professional background, and his own story of restored sonship to provide a context for hope and healing, evangelization, and freedom in Christ, so that every man has the tools to defend and protect himself and his family from the cultural distortions we face every day.

All Saints Parish will be providing a Fried Chicken Banquet, with buttermilk-battered chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a scrumptious dessert!

There will also be a drawing for two $50 gift certificates for Tumea & Sons Restaurant.

**Find the latest photos on Instagram! @DmDiocese**
Sister Carolyn Farrell, Catholic Relief Services and the late Bishop Maurice Dingman were among 14 people and organizations honored by the World Food Prize with a humanitarian award for their effort to raise funds for food and medicine sent to victims of the Cambodian genocide.

The 2018 Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award honors those who played an instrumental role between Thanksgiving and Christmas of 1979 to raise funds for life-saving food and medicine delivered to 30,000 refugees in two camps at the Thai-Cambodian border.

Iowa SHARES continued to raise funds for the next two years for the doctors and nurses serving the refugees at the border.

Sister Carolyn, originally from Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines and a graduate of St. Joseph Academy, was the mayor of Dubuque in the late 1970s. She was a regional advocate for Iowa SHARES.

Catholic Relief Services and the Msgr. Robert Charlebois, who worked with CRS, facilitated the relief for the refugees. Teresa Dunbar accepted the award for CRS, and Jim DeHarpporte, regional director of CRS West, received the award for Msgr. Charlebois.

The Diocese of Des Moines and the late Bishop Maurice Dingman were honored for their role in encouraging the Catholic community to help the Cambodian refugees. The award was accepted by Bishop Richard Pates.

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Two with ties to diocese honored for hunger alleviation

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Hunger relief effort recognized

Photo by Maharry Photography

Bishop Richard Pates, Teresa Dunbar of Catholic Relief Services, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize, Lori Dostal, an Iowan who worked for CRS in Cambodia for 20 years, and Jim Deltarpporte, of CRS.