New book tells compelling story of our birth and growth

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The new book “The Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa” is a story of the founding and growth of the Diocese of Des Moines and much more. It’s about imperfect saints. And it’s about giants who fought for the creation of schools, churches, hospitals and spoke up for the vulnerable in the community.

Around the time of the diocese’s 100th anniversary, Father Steven Avella, a teacher at Marquette University in Milwaukee, decided to pull together the anecdotes and short histories into a book that would tell the complete story of Iowa’s youngest diocese. In this definitive historical publication, Father Avella wove together memories, references and old letters into a tome that will be referenced for years to come.

Continued on page 15

Family commits to growing in faith together

Ernesto Lemus Jr. and his sister, Bibiana, are typical busy young adults, focused on college studies and their jobs.

So it came as a little bit of a surprise when their parents, Alicia and Ernesto Lemus, said they signed up the whole family for an 18-month process that would help them grow in their faith and give them leadership skills.

“I was in shock,” said Bibiana.

The process would require a monthly weekend trip from Council Bluffs to Des Moines, reading, writing reports and projects.

“What are you talking about?” the 21-year-old asked her parents. “I’m a busy person.”

While she initially had her doubts, three months into the process Bibiana has changed her mind.

She wants to be prepared to welcome more youth into Corpus Christi Parish. So, she balances her studies at Buena Vista University with the time she needs to grow in faith and give them leadership skills.

Her 19-year-old brother, Ernesto Lemus Jr., also changed his approach. The Iowa Western College student says he Likes the activities and interacting with other people.

Their parents wanted their whole family to go through the program together and be prepared to serve as leaders in different ministries.

And they were willing to put their resources behind their commitment. Alicia and Ernesto were ready to pay for a hotel room for two nights every month through the 18-month program so they could join their classmates and grow in faith together.

Next St. Patrick Church in Council Bluffs is dedicated

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

The new St. Patrick Catholic Church in Council Bluffs is now open.

Bishop Richard Pates commissioned author and historian Father Steven Avella, a teacher at Marquette University in Milwaukee, to pull together the anecdotes and short histories into a book that would tell the complete story of Iowa’s youngest diocese.

Father Avella wove together memories, references and old letters into a tome that will be referenced for years to come.

Continued on page 13
In the coming months the Diocese of Des Moines will experience the announcement and installation of its 10th bishop.

The arrival of the new shepherd is the occasion for a more intense focus on the diocesan priority of evangelization. Pope Paul VI taught, “The Church exists to evangelize.”

With that in mind, the Diocese of Des Moines has launched into a period titled: The New Moment. It originated from the diocesan participants attending the Catholic Leadership Convocation in Orlando last year. Given the current religious landscape in the United States, the convocation leaders pronounced: As American Catholics, we do not live in an era of change but a change of era. It is a dramatic time of action for us.

This conclusion was reached in light of the numbers of American people who are abandoning religion entirely. For us Catholics, particular attention was drawn to the Millennial generation (ages 18-35). Among these, it is predicted only one in four will continue affiliation with any religious denomination.

Our diocesan delegation after much prayer, thought and conversation emerged with establishing the movement: The New Moment. In this period of change, three dimensions were identified:

• Jesus
• Missionary Discipleship
• Pivot to the Millennials

In the instance of Jesus, it is a return to the heart of our faith: devotion to the relationship with the Lord of life. Each of us personally has as well as together as the community of believers. With Peter we attest: “You are the Son of God. You have the words of life.”

The second feature of The New Moment is missionary discipleship. Because the teachings of Jesus hold the key to life’s meaning we wholeheartedly follow his way. The intention of God is not to keep these relationships exclusive but to expand them to be totally inclusive of all our brothers and sisters.

In the third place, the signs of the times point us to the millennials to share with great conviction in the benefit of our faith journey. As I move around the diocese, visiting our parish communities, I am impressed as to how our parishes are reaching out to our sisters and brothers in the millennial generation.

Realizing we depend on prayer in all of our activity and in anticipation of the arrival of our new bishop, I am asking all of our parishes, communities and diocesan institutions to pray the following two prayers at the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful each Sunday until our new bishop is with us sometimes in the coming months.

I am grateful for the unity of prayer throughout the Diocese of Des Moines as we anticipate and embrace the future God has in store for us. Our cooperation in welcoming his unfailing providence will unfold many rich blessings.

The New Moment Prayer

O God, of all times,
In this New Moment, help us to deepen our relationship with Jesus as we engage our calling as His disciples. May we bravely go out in witness to the Lord’s compassion and mercy, in order to touch all generations, especially the millennials.

Give us insight into your intimate love and grant us courage to embrace The New Moment. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ. Amen

By Bishop Richard Pates

Embracing the future with prayer

Bishop’s Schedule

Friday, June 15
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Sunday, June 17
Des Moines – Confirmation, St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, June 18
Des Moines – Catholic Climate press event

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19
Des Moines – Hispanic Pastoral Commission, Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 21
Des Moines – Meiller School Study Key Findings Presentation; Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Friday, June 22
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Sunday, June 24
Des Moines – Candidacy Mass and reception, St. Augustine Parish, 10 a.m.

Des Moines – Retirement reception for Deacon Chuck Puthrese, Christ the King Parish, 1 p.m.

Irish Settlement – Anniversary Mass, St. Patrick Parish, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, June 27
Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 28
Des Moines – Finance Council, Pastoral Center, Noon

Des Moines – Novos, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 6 p.m.

Friday, June 29
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Sunday, July 1
Norwalk – Father John Ludwig retirement celebration, St. John the Apostle Parish, 4 p.m.

Monday, July 2
Des Moines – Vocations Team, Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 3 – Friday, July 6
Vacation with the exception of the following:

Friday, July 6
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, July 7
Norwalk – Holy Family School Golf Outing, Echo Valley Country Club, 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 8
Des Moines – Msgr. Frank Boghnan Mass, retirement celebration, Christ the King Parish, 11 a.m.

Ankeny – Father Larry Hoffmann retirement celebration, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 1 p.m.

Friday, July 13
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, July 17
Des Moines – Cathedral Concert Series, Zimpelman Family Plaza, Pastoral Center, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 19
Norwalk – Holy Family School Golf Outing, Echo Valley Country Club, 11 a.m.

Friday, July 20
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

By Bishop Richard Pates

The Catholic Mirror celebrated Mass on Memorial Day at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines.

Prayer for our New Bishop

O God, Gentle Shepherd, you lead your Church to The New Moment with loving care,

You have blessed our diocese time and again with good, wise, and holy bishops. We are grateful for Bishop Pates’ dedicated ministry to us. We ask you to bless him as he completes his service to the Diocese of Des Moines.

Grant us another Bishop who will inspire the clergy, religious, and laity of our community to work generously with him so that we might grow together in your love and continue the good work you have begun in us for the sake of all people.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Father Monahan reinstated

Bishop Richard Pates announced that the suspension of Father Paul Monahan from priestly ministry is fully lifted. The reinstatement became effective with the filing of a “Procedendo,” a legal document, on June 4 in the case of Father Mo- nah. The filing finalized the reversal of an earlier conviction.

Bishop Pates encourages prayer for healing of all involved.
Answering God’s call a family affair

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Answering God’s call and serving the church is a family affair for the Stark family, who call St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale home.

Rob and Carol Stark are in the formation class for the diaconate. Rob will be ordained a deacon on Aug. 4 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

Their son, Nick, is currently discerning the priesthood, and is a seminarian for the Diocese of Des Moines at Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He will be ordained a priest in 2021.

Both have a love for God and the Catholic faith.

Both felt called, though Rob jokes about the drastic differences in their calling.

“[Mine] was so unlike Nick’s, who Christ led along,” Rob said. “He winds up a 2X4 one afternoon on a Saturday and serving alongside his dad at Mass.”

Rob Stark’s calling

“We were at Mass [early] one afternoon on a Saturday evening,” Rob said. “I was doing praying and sat down and started staring at the crucifix and started wondering why we did the things we did to [Jesus] and all of the things he endured.”

Those ponderings turned into something more.

“As I am thinking about all of these things the outside world is starting to close off and I am really focusing on the crucifix and the altar and not paying attention to what is going on around me,” Rob continued.

It was then that Rob believes Jesus spoke to him.

“I hear a man’s voice telling me that he would like me to do a little bit more,” Rob said.

At the time Rob was already quite involved in a good number of ministries at church and wondered what else he could possibly do.

“Now I recognize this [voice] to be Jesus,” Rob added. “And I am laser focused on the crucifix and staring at it.”

So focused, in fact, that Mass had started without Rob realizing it. His wife nudged him to snap out of it as the priests processed in.

It was during that Mass when the deacon read the Gospel and started preaching that Rob realized Jesus was calling him to the diaconate. Rob agreed he would take the leap if God could just give him one more sign.

A few months later at a ChristRenews His Parish retreat weekend, Rob had a conversation with a deacon, who asked him if he had ever considered becoming a deacon.

Rob jokingly accused him of asking everyone that question as a recruiting tactic. The deacon insisted he had asked no one else – just Rob. It was then that Rob confided about that day at Mass.

Nick Stark’s calling

Nick Stark attended St. Pius X Catholic grade school and Dowling Catholic High School. He always enjoyed religious classes at school and being an altar server. He also had stipings here and there prompting him to consider the priesthood.

But by high school, he had drifted, setting his sights on biology and becoming a veterinarian.

That all changed after attending a Kairos retreat his senior year of high school.

“It got me to refocus on my priorities and refocused on what God wanted me to do with my life,” Nick said. “I was starting to think about what I wanted to do instead, and so I was reoriented. God gave me quite a clear call.”

Father John Harmon, parochial vicar at St. Pius X Parish, also had an influence on Nick.

“I told him I was going to Loras College [to study theology and philosophy] and he informed me there was a seminary and they would be studying a lot of the same stuff. He said, ‘So maybe you should give it a shot.’

“And so that was a pretty clear signal, I thought, and I really felt it,” Nick said. “And so I decided to give it a shot.”

Nick enjoys the spiritual atmosphere of seminary, which includes daily, structured prayer time, regular spiritual direction, classes and the community of fellow seminarians.

“I feel stronger now than ever in my call and it’s gotten stronger as time has progressed,” Nick said.

Serving Others

Rob’s wife and Nick’s mother Carol Stark said she is extremely proud of the two men in her life.

“Rob has a special place in my heart and Nick is the one else – just Rob. It was then that Rob confided about that day at Mass.

Carol cited for the two men in her life.

“Both Rob and Nick say the time of formation has helped shape them into the men Christ wants them to be. Both look forward to serving others.”

Rob has a special place in his heart for youth and young people, and can often be found volunteering as chaplain at ChildServe in Des Moines. He is also retired military and is chaplain for the local American Legion. He hopes that work will continue in some capacity after he is ordained.

“I look forward to the continuation of service and to be put in situations where I can be (God’s) hands and feet,” Rob said.

Nick looks forward to the sacraments, counseling others and serving alongside his dad at Mass.

“My dad with me on the altar – that’s one thing I’m really looking forward to...,” Nick said.

“The Holy Spirit clearly came to our house and got both of us,” Rob said. “Clearly we have the innate feeling that we are called to serve others, and wholeheartedly believe that and we’ve done that and we have a desire to continue that service.”

Congratulations 2018 graduates!

Bishop Richard Pates participated in the baccalaureate Masses and graduation ceremonies at both Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines and St. Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs. Congratulations to them and all 2018 graduates.

FR. JOHN LUDWIG’S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Vespers Service at 4 pm followed by reception

Sunday, July 1, 2018
ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH 720 ORCHARD HILLS DRIVE NORWALK, IOWA
One of the greatest gifts I have received in my life is my father.

I am so blessed to have a father who is still my hero, a man who is certainly human and not perfect, but a man I can still aspire to resemble.

Study after study has shown how important fathers are in the lives of their children, they are vital for the psychological, emotional, and spiritual health of their sons and daughters.

When I was in seminary, our rector Father William Baer used to challenge us by saying constantly that the world needs strong fathers, and that every man, regardless of biological children, is called to be a father.

He taught us that fundamentally a father provides, protects and establishes his children.

For every goodbye, there is a hello.

For every goodbye, there is a hello.

By Randy Kiel, of Kardia Counseling, is a licensed therapist, a member of St. Francis William Schafer is a parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Panama.

Patience of God’s people; in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in the elderly religious who never lose their smile. Very often it is a holiness found in our next door neighbors, reflecting God’s presence. We might call them “The middle class of holiness.”

We need not wonder who is called to holiness; the Holy Father makes it clear that all of us are called and have the God-given gifts to reach holiness. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. We are each called in our own way. We should not be tempted to copy others’ holiness because that would lead us astray from the specific path that the Lord has in mind for us.

14 “We are frequently tempted to think holiness is only for those who withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend time in prayer.” That is not the case.

We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. This is living. This is real work. How freeing that God is calling us right where we are; we don’t have to set the world on fire, only our part of it.

23 “...listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs he gives you.” What a beautiful expression of the call to mission in holiness for each of us. This is the actual language of the exhortation. If you have never read an exhortation, perhaps this is the one.

Holiness does not make you less human; it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God’s grace.

The Holy Father calls us to begin the walk into the arms of Jesus.

Begin the walk, download the exhortation from the Vatican website and give yourself permission to read something that might just change your life and the lives of those around you.

William Schafer is a parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Panama.
Q. Is there an easy way to find out what time Masses are celebrated in our diocese?
A. Yes, search online www.MassTimes.org. It’s not always up to date, but the website lists parishes all across the country. You can also find the times for reconciliation and other liturgical services.

Q. Is it “good form” to ask my pastor whether it is OK for a relative or a friend who is a priest to witness a wedding or conduct a funeral for our family? I don’t want to be pushy.
A. As you might guess, it depends on your pastor. Some pastors feel responsible to personally celebrate those liturgies. Other pastors are amenable to welcoming another priest or deacon to step in. Some- times, pastors are delighted to conduct the service.

Q. I learned as a youngster that only bishops can preside at the sacrament of confirmation, but at the Easter Vigil, our pastor confirmed those joining the Church. Help me out.
A. Right now the general prac- tice is for the bishop to confer the sacrament. However, when an adult is joining the Church, the priest who conducts the baptism (or the reception into the Church for someone already baptized) is also authorized to confirm that person.

In a related situation, the bishop can delegate another priest to conduct a confirmation Mass for young people in certain circumstances. If the bishop is ill or has been called away for some reason, he can ask that the pastor celebrate confirmation.

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

For 30 years, Tim McCarthy persuaded state lawmakers to approve legislation that would help the poor, the unborn, private school children, distressed farmers and others.

The former executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, who served from 1966-1999, died May 22 at the age of 88.

“Tim was somebody who stuck up for low-income people, who helped immigrants find their voice, and advocated for others who supposedly didn’t ‘deserve’ our help,” said Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.


In 1994, he received a papal appointment as a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. And last November, he was honored with the Gov. Harold E. Hughes Award from Iowans Against the Death Penalty for his successful efforts to keep the death penalty from coming back to Iowa.

McCarthy was in the first generation of Catholic Conference directors, a position that emerged after the Second Vatican Council, said Chapman.

“I have been privileged to see the fruit of many of the seeds that Tim planted during his time at the state Capitol,” said Chapman.

“Tim was truly one of the nicest and most respected conference directors; politically savvy and dedicated to the Church and his bishops,” said Jim Cunningham, recently retired Nebraska Catholic Conference director.

“Tim was both a friend and a mentor for me during my earlier years at the U.S. bishops’ Conference,” said Frank Monahan, a longtime lobbyist for the Catholic bishops in Washington, D.C.

Tom Feld, who succeeded McCarthy at the Iowa Catholic Conference, said, “He was a gentleman, gracious and welcoming. I admired his patience and diligence and, most importantly and simply put, he was a good man!”

Tim McCarthy at the Iowa State Capitol

World-Class Speakers:

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Bishop Robert Barron
Father Leon Pereira, OP
Steve Ray
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A. As you might guess, it depends on your pastor. Some pastors feel responsible to personally celebrate those liturgies. Other pastors are amenable to welcoming another priest or deacon to step in. Sometimes, pastors are delighted to do so, especially if they don’t know the bride and groom very well. In larger parishes, pastors have more than enough work to do and are happy to have the extra help. In any case, if you ask your pastor personally, I’m sure he’ll permit a friend or a relative conduct the service.
June 21 Thursday
Catholic Widows and Widowers WEST DES MOINES – Join us in Valley Junction for the Farmers Market at 4 p.m. Meet in front of The Tavern Restaurant. They also have a band playing. For reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

June 24 Sunday
Anniversary celebration STUART – All are invited to attend the celebration of the 25th priesthood ordination anniversary and farewell for Father Ray Higgins at All Saints Church, 216 All Saints Drive. Luncheon served from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. There will be a program at noon.

June 26 Tuesday
Catholic Widows and Widowers WEST DES MOINES – Business meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

July 6 Friday
Catholic Widows and Widowers NORWALK – First Friday Mass at 10 a.m. at Regency Care Center. Breakfast will follow at Winn's. For reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

July 10 Tuesday
Catholic Widows and Widowers WEST DES MOINES – Planning meeting at 12:30 p.m. at Chicago Speakeasy. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

July 18 Wednesday
Catholic Widows and Widowers INDIANOLA – The Mish Mash Tea Room, 113 E. Salem, at 10 a.m. For reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

July 22 Sunday
“A Call to Holiness” Concert DES MOINES – This concert, presented by Chuck and Alicia Brock and Julie Carrich will be hosted by St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlisle and Christ the King Parish at 6:7-20 p.m. with a reception after.

August 10 Friday
Beginning Experience DES MOINES – Beginning Experience open house will meet on three Friday nights Aug. 10, 17 and 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church Hall. This is for those who have lost a spouse through death, divorce or separation. The open house offers healing and an invitation to attend our week end of Sept. 14-16. If you wish to know more about the healing process, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losse 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Seth Pauley and Brock Gross, of St. Patrick Parish in Neola, were working June 7 to set up for a parish garage sale so they could raise funds to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in the fall.

The Catholic Youth Conference in the fall.

It’s not too early to start fundraising for NCYC

Granger parish seeks partner for its Salvadoran mission

By Tom Carney
Contributing Writer

Back in 2005, a small delegation from Assumption Parish in Granger traveled to El Salvador to meet with an organization that helps parishes and other groups connect with Salvadoran communities needing support.

They attended a meeting of residents of the rural, coastal community of Tamanique where the question was raised: “What kind of help would you seek from an American parish?”

A debate ensued. Some wanted seed and fertilizer. Others wanted help with water purification.

The request that won out in this community, where few adults have finished elementary school, was: “Help us educate our children.”

That idea resonated with the people from Assumption and the Tamanique Scholarship Fund was born.

It raised $15,400 for this year’s scholarships from a Granger parish of only 530 active, registered families.

The need has now outstripped the Granger parish’s ability to cover it, however, and Assumption is asking another parish in the diocese to partner in the project.

“A principal advantage for an interested parish is a ready-made program with 13 years of experience and a willingness to share its experiences and mission,” said Jessica Conway, chair of Assumption’s Social Justice Committee that oversees the program. “We would welcome an opportunity to work with members of another parish in the diocese.”

Besides raising money for scholarships, which are about $320 per student per year, Assumption parishioners are recruited for regular trips to El Salvador to meet with their Salvadoran partners and with scholarship recipients and their families.

Parishioners from a Des Moines diocese partner parish would be encouraged to travel with the Assumption delegation on these trips.

Assumption parishioners who have made the trip are unanimously enthusiastic about them.

“They change you forever,” said Stan Smith, who has made several trips to Tamanique. “The students, many of whom would not be able to study and find jobs, and their families are so welcoming and grateful. Many of them live in extreme poverty and the trips show that a parish far away in Iowa is in solidarity with them.”

Any interested parish should contact Conway at jess.conway@gmail.com for more information.

Tom Carney is a parishioner of Assumption Church in Granger.

Members of Assumption Parish in Granger met with a scholarship recipient and her family during a 2007 visit to Tamanique, El Salvador.

The Catholic Mirror  June 15, 2018 www.dmdiocese.org

Don’t miss your chance to attend the celebration of the 25th ordination anniversary of Father Ray Higgins, at All Saints Church.

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They attended a meeting of residents of the rural, coastal community of Tamanique where the question was raised: “What kind of help would you seek from an American parish?”

A debate ensued. Some wanted seed and fertilizer. Others wanted help with water purification.

The request that won out in this community, where few adults have finished elementary school, was: “Help us educate our children.”

That idea resonated with the people from Assumption and the Tamanique Scholarship Fund was born.

It raised $15,400 for this year’s scholarships from a Granger parish of only 530 active, registered families.

The need has now outstripped the Granger parish’s ability to cover it, however, and Assumption is asking another parish in the diocese to partner in the project.

“A principal advantage for an interested parish is a ready-made program with 13 years of experience and a willingness to share its experiences and mission,” said Jessica Conway, chair of Assumption’s Social Justice Committee that oversees the program. “We would welcome an opportunity to work with members of another parish in the diocese.”

Besides raising money for scholarships, which are about $320 per student per year, Assumption parishioners are recruited for regular trips to El Salvador to meet with their Salvadoran partners and with scholarship recipients and their families.

Parishioners from a Des Moines diocese partner parish would be encouraged to travel with the Assumption delegation on these trips.

Assumption parishioners who have made the trip are unanimously enthusiastic about them.

“They change you forever,” said Stan Smith, who has made several trips to Tamanique. “The students, many of whom would not be able to study and find jobs, and their families are so welcoming and grateful. Many of them live in extreme poverty and the trips show that a parish far away in Iowa is in solidarity with them.”

Any interested parish should contact Conway at jess.conway@gmail.com for more information.

Tom Carney is a parishioner of Assumption Church in Granger.

Granger parish seeks partner for its Salvadoran mission

By Tom Carney
Contributing Writer

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Registration open for next Catechetical Institute

By Anne Marie Cox Staff Writer

Looking for a way to grow in your faith but intimidated by the catechism? Be not afraid. Brody McCarthy had always looked at the catechism as boring, too thick, and with too many big words. Now the St. Theresa parishioner is one of the 11 participants in the inaugural class of the Catechetical Institute. It’s probably the only class for which he did all the homework and truly was interested in the discussions, he said.

When he started with the institute, he was won of this a chef. He changed over time switched career gears, and now serves as the youth minister at St. Mary of Nazareth Parish in Des Moines.

“It really helped me grow as a person,” he said, and he’s looking for more certification.

Programs to continue his understanding of theology.

The Catechetical Institute is accepting applications for the next two-year process, which begins in fall. It will be available both in Des Moines and in Council Bluffs.

The program focuses on the four pillars of the Catechism: the Creed, the Sacraments, Liturgy, the Moral Life, and Prayer. The program is the Catechesis of the Catholic Church from beginning to end over the two years. Participants receive weekly opportunities for reflection and discussion of the reading material in small group settings.

Participants also receive weekly lessons taught by instructors trained in the various topics covered throughout the two years. Ultimately, participants will receive sound theological teachings and rich spiritual nourishment.

“The Institute is a program for all Catholic adults in the diocese, not just those in ministry,” said John Huyhn, director of the institute.

“When those who are in ministry will benefit greatly from this program, it is equally beneficial for those who are not,” he said.

The reason is this: when we love a person we naturally desire to know more about that person in order to fall deeper in love, as well as let the world know the many wonderful attributes of that person,” Huyhn said.

“They, as the world loves Christ and his Church, we should naturally want to know more about them in order to deepen our love and to tell the world about them. The Catechetical Institute provides this opportunity.”

The institute is a part of the Faith Journey office, whose other task is developing and implementing a faith formation program to help educators in the diocesan schools to grow in their faith.

Another graduate, Vickie Williams, of St. Joseph Parish in Winterset, described herself as a lifelong learner, particularly when it comes to the Catholic Church.

The institute changed her.

“I have gone from a Catholic, who is passionate about defending about the faith to a Catholic who is passionate about living the faith,” she said.

Williams discovered that God loves her and wants her to be happy. This epiphany came when she realized examined her own relationship. The Institute has allowed her to know deeply that God the Father has a great deal of love to offer.

“Now, I take comfort in knowing that I am loved by God,” she said.

For more information, go to FaithJourneyCI.org or call Huyhn at 515-237-5006.

News Nuggets

Highlighting people & places in the diocese

Diocesan catechist joins national leadership team

Brody Des Moines, director of FaithJourney, who leads Evangelization and Catechesis, has been elected as treasurer of the executive committee for the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership. He will serve a three-year term.

Hospital to address need for behavioral health hospital

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines is asking the state for approval to build a $5.5 million, 100-bed freestanding inpatient behavioral health hospital in Clive near the Mercy West clinic. The facility would serve children, adolescents, adults and seniors experiencing acute behavioral health issues. Mercy’s existing 18-bed adult unit and 16-bed child/adult unit will remain on its downtown Des Moines Mercy campus.

College wins grant for community-based health

Mercy College of Health Sciences was awarded a $1.79 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to support 54 students from across the state in its Family Nurse Practitioner Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The funds will be used to support students’ fieldwork, including compensation for students and their preceptors, as well as community education and outreach.

Blue/Red Mass


Knights of Columbus from Father Richard Gubbels Council 15603 organized the gathering with Fourth Degree Knights from Father Paul F. Hens Council 3265 contributing an honor guard during the Mass.

Representatives from law enforcement, the fire department, Emergency Management System personnel and dispatchers from several surrounding communities attended.

Ankeny Assistant Police Chief Alan Tunks on the left and Major Todd Dykstra on the right, share the sign of peace.

Faithful Citizenship for Iowa Catholics

As Catholics, our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable … the principles of Catholic social teaching – dignity of the human person, subsidiarity and solidarity, freedom, participation, the common good, and care for the poor and most vulnerable among us – must define our positions on issues and should invite reflection on the best specific responses.

On June 4, the four bishops of Iowa shared their review of the 2018 legislative session.

By Dubuque Archbishop Michael Jackels
Sioux City Bishop R. Walker Nickless
Davenport Bishop Thomas Zinkula
Des Moines Bishop Richard Pates

The Iowa Catholic Conference was pleased the legislature took steps to assist parents in nonpublic schools, including:

• Senate File 2417, the tax reform bill, included a $1 million increase in the School Tuition Organization Tax Credits to a total of $13 million. The bill also increased the number of taxpayers who could receive additional credits from an increase in the income limit to 400 percent from 300 percent of the federal poverty level. More than 10,000 nonpublic school students receive these scholarships every year.

• Another provision of the bill offers some tax benefit for paying K-12 private school tuition from 529 plans such as College Savings Account. We will provide additional information to taxpayers in the meantime – don’t make any changes without consulting your tax expert.

The ongoing impact of SF 2417 bears watching. It is expected to cut taxes by more than $2 billion during the coming years. Since Iowa’s annual budget is now about $7.5 billion, a key question is whether the tax cuts will allow for adequate revenues for public education, Medicaid, public safety, a strong safety net, and other acts of government essential to the common good.

We voiced principled opposition to Senate File 481, the new immigration enforcement law, and remain profoundly disappointed that it was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. We should be looking to help immigrants, not to harass them. We again call upon our legislature and Congress to pursue solutions that help immigrants find a welcome, and, as a consequence, strengthen our communities with their families, enrich our social fabric by their faith and their cultural heritage, and provide a good and stable workforce.

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed Senate File 359 that prohibits abortions after a heartbeat can be detected, as well as trafficking of fetal body parts. It is scheduled to take effect on July 1, but a legal challenge is ongoing. (A Polk County District Court has stopped the new “heartbeat” abortion ban from taking effect while a trial takes place. In addition, the Iowa Supreme Court’s decision on a separate challenge to Iowa’s law requiring a three-day waiting period before an abortion should be coming along soon.) We support the life-affirming intent of the provision to stop abortions after a heartbeat can be detected. As Pope Francis has said, “Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother’s womb.” We call upon the judiciary to once again recognize that all life should be protected from the moment of conception to natural death.

Also, on the positive side, bills restoring the death penalty and legalizing doctor-prescribed suicide failed to advance. We will continue our work in opposition to these proposals.

We were pleased that the final human services budget bill, Senate File 2418, included an amendment to limit “wrongful birth” claims. This prevents a parent from bringing a lawsuit against a doctor claiming a child should have been aborted because of a disability.

We support another part of SF 2418 that stipulates oversight of managed care companies to ensure providers in the Medicaid program are paid in a timely manner. The Legislature also set the stage for increasing the availability of mental health services by defining additional core services.

A utility deregulation bill, Senate File 2311, made some negative changes to Iowa’s energy efficiency requirements. “Laudato Si’,” the 2015 encyclical by Pope Francis on care of creation and care of commonwealth, raised awareness about how our future as human beings is connected to how we take care of the Earth. Energy efficiency is a relatively inexpensive way to on the care of our common home, has raised awareness about how fossil fuels and the amount of carbon we put into the air.

Finally, the legislature again failed to raise the minimum wage. We hold the opinion that, in the current circumstances, an increase to the minimum legal wage would directly or indirectly benefit more low wages than not. Therefore, we continue to advocate for an increase.
The Catholic Mirror  June 15, 2018 www.dmdiocese.org

By Kelly Mescher Collins  Staff Writer

The Third Option outreach helps couples communicate better, improve marriage

Mark and Julie Burdt of All Saints Parish in Des Moines help guide The Third Option, a lay-lead ministry that is free and open to married couples. The class helps couples improve their communication skills and increase understanding.

The Third Option Outreach helps improve marriage communications and skills taught.

By Kelly Mescher Collins  Staff Writer

Atlantic parish explores the meaning of family

Since Father Chinnappan Devaraj (more commonly known as Father Chinna) has arrived in Atlantic to serve Ss. Peter and Paul Parish and St. Mary Parish in Anita, he’s made a point of making the rounds and visiting the families in their homes.

“The course of my visits was building relationships and asking them to come and not to be worried about broken families and that I would welcome them and that they have a place here,” Father Chinna said. “They had a catered family dinner in February on a Sunday after Mass. The only things attendees had to do was bring themselves – no worries about preparing big meals and hauling large pans or crockpots into the church. Just enjoy each other, Father Chinna said.

They spared nothing, even breaking out the white tablecloths and nice silverware, said parishioner Kris Wernimont who helped organize the event. Small figurines of the Holy Family were placed at every table.

Nearly 200 people attended the family dinner, which converged on the World Day of Marriage and Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, just a few days before Valentine’s Day.

After the meal, Father Chinna encouraged young and old alike to speak to the group about what family means to them.

“I brought the kids from some of the blended families and asked them to speak about what it means to be a family and then others who have been married for a very long time and explain what it means to be a family,” Father Chinna said.

Emily Schreiner, a senior at Atlantic High School, attended with her family and enjoyed hearing what people had to say.

“It was nice to hear what little kids said, people my age said and then older people from the community,” Schreiner said.

“I thought it was really special to look around the room and see so many families in a happy mood and seeing their happy faces, and it was almost as though we were one big happy family,” Schreiner continued. “I feel as though Father Chinna has brought a lot of our church members closer together and more connected to their faith.”

Gratt Reed, senior at Atlantic High School, said he and his family also enjoyed the family dinner.

“We wanted to be a part of it and get to know some people of the parish a little bit better and communicate and visit with some people we know,” Reed said.

“We had people come and say this was very enjoyable and we need to do this more often,” Wernimont said.

“It was a success and there was so many people that told me they really felt a lot of joy and happiness,” Father Chinna concluded.
Cassi and Jonathan Fortino, of St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines, place a high value on the teachings of the encyclical letter written by Pope Paul VI in 1968 called “Humanae Vitae” or “Humanae Vitae” on the regulation of birth.

They admit abstinence and natural family planning is counter cultural. But they wouldn’t have it any other way. Their interest in “Humanae Vitae” began when they experienced a re-awakening of their faith and began making it their own as college students at Drake University.

“Of course you don’t have to look too far into Catholic Church teaching to come into “Humanae Vitae’ – that’s one of the first documents [we encountered],” said Jonathan. “My wife was considering becoming a natural family planning instructor at the time and we both read the document through and had really good conversation about it and wanted to live it out in our own lives.”

Cassi and Jonathan married October 2016 and welcomed their first son, Isaiah, in November 2017 and will happily welcome their next child. “It’s been a great blessing for us,” Jonathan said.

“Church teaches,” Jonathan continued, “that life so that I can be welcoming to God to say, ‘Yes, if I have a baby out of wedlock, I’ll find a way to re-arrange my life so that I can be welcoming and give that child the love and attention it deserves.’”

Jonathan and Cassi agree they love their son more than anything in this world and couldn’t dream of their life without him.

Cassi is also passionate about teaching other women about the Creighton Model of natural family planning. She teaches these classes part-time at Vitae Family Care Clinic in West Des Moines. That includes teaching women how some birth control pills are not only abortifacients but can also cause cancer, blood clots and other negative side effects.

“They are seeing children as a great blessing and not a hindrance to having fun in life,” Jonathan said. “It’s the trusting of God to say, ‘Yes, if I have a baby I’ll find a way to re-arrange my life so that I can be welcoming and give that child the love and attention it deserves.’”

Jonathan and Cassi Fortino of St. Augustin Parish appreciate and follow the teachings Pope Paul VI wrote about in his 1968 encyclical letter, “Humanae Vitae,” otherwise known as “Humanae Vitae.”

As the 50th anniversary of the publication of “Humanae Vitae” approaches, Adam Storey, diocesan director of the Marriage and Family Life Office, is grateful for it.

“Humanae Vitae” shares a vision of authentic love, which even when challenging, is the only vision that can satisfy our hearts, Storey said. “I think ‘Humanae Vitae’ is one of the greatest gifts Blessed Paul VI gave the Church. It is a courageous and prophetic document.”

**Reflecting on 50th anniversary of “Humanae Vitae”**

By Adam Storey
Contributing Writer

Many of us probably struggle to relate to the psalmist who sang “Oh [Lord] how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.” (Psalm 119:97)

Who enjoys meditating on laws? When it comes to God’s moral law, our initial impulse is probably to ignore it, explain it away, or choose under it. But love it? And to go so far as sing about loving it? Come on.

A few years ago, I heard a beautiful talk by Los Angeles Bishop Robert Barron in which he reflected on this very passage. He pointed out that when we really care about something, not only do we embrace the rules of the art, we even seek them out.

“Will we even meditate on them during the day and night?” he asked.

Think of learning a foreign language. We seek out the rules of grammar and sentence structure, even when we have to wrestle with those realities because the rules set us free to speak the language. Or when we become passionate about a new sport, we’ll try to master all the rules and strategies that can help us win.

I’ve even heard of some people who are so crazy about the rules of mathematics (engineers mostly) and who delight in learning their nuances. In all of these examples, we don’t see rules as restrictions to freedom, but actually as a new language can help me play that game well. Meditating on the rules of a sport can help me play that game well. Meditating on the rules of a new language can help me speak well. Meditating on the teachings of Humanae Vitae can help me love well, in a generous and total way.

The law that can set us free! The law that can bring me true joy. The law that can share in God’s own life, which is generous and total. The law that can help me share in God’s own life, which ultimately is the only thing that can bring me true joy.

And so, as the 50th anniversary approaches, I’d encourage all of us to reflect again on this beautiful document, to wrestle with it even, but to engage it not as an obstacle to freedom, but as a law that can set us free!
Retirement approaching for five priests

Stories compiled by Kelly Mescher Collins

Continued on page 11

Retirement Celebrations

Msrgr. Frank Bognanno: July 8, 11 a.m. celebration Mass with reception to follow at Christ the King Parish, Des Moines.

Father Larry Hoffmann: July 8, Mass at 10:30 a.m. with open house/ luncheon 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. There will be a program beginning at 1 p.m.

Msgr. Stephen Orr: Farewell receptions after July 7 and July 8 Masses at St. Mary / Holy Cross Parish, Ankeny.

Father John Ludwig: Farewell receptions after July 7 and July 8 Masses at St. Mary / Holy Cross Parish, Ankeny.

Father Felix Oruero, C.S.Sp.: July 8 celebration with 39th anniversary of ordination. Open invitation to attend: 11:30 a.m. gathering at Sacred Heart Parish, Chariton.

Msrgr. Stephen Orr: Celebration of Service gathering at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish, Ankeny in early December. Details to be announced.

Father Dan Krettek: Father Dan Krettek, St. Mary/Holy Cross Parish, Elkhart.

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What are you looking forward to most in retirement?
Do you have a celebration planned for your retirement? We are planning a celebration of my retirement and the 39th anniversary of my priestly ordination on Sunday, July 8 at Chariton by 11:30 a.m. It is an open invitation. We hope to inform my former parishes and to welcome everyone that will be present at the celebration.

When did you know that God was calling you to the priesthood? Out of curiosity I attended a vocations retreat during my last year in high school and presumed that the priesthood was not for me.

About a couple of years later, a soldier had seriously threatened to blow off my head while regrettting that he did not blow off my knee cap at the first instance. He had fired his weapon twice already. I was bleeding from the bullet wound that he inflicted on me. I knew that he was very serious, and nobody could stop him even though a crowd had converged by then.

At that moment, I became aware of a divine intervention because he did not pull the trigger for the third time. I felt shielded by an angel for a purpose. My bones were not broken, and my life was not taken away.

Later, as I healed from the wound I still tried to run away but soon realized that one cannot outrun God. Later, a soldier had seriously threatened to blow off my head while regrettting that he did not blow off my knee cap at the first instance. He had fired his weapon twice already. I was bleeding from the bullet wound that he inflicted on me. I knew that he was very serious, and nobody could stop him even though a crowd had converged by then.

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Victim Assistance Advocate

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

Open houses draw supporters, families, architects and history buffs

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Katy Fletcher, Nancy Willis and Virginia Fletcher

Bishop Richard Pates cuts a ribbon with the help of the Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce on May 8 symbolizing the end of a major renovation of the Catholic Pastoral Center, the hub for diocesan ministry offices, Catholic Charities, the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, the Catholic Tuition Organization, and the St. Thomas More Center.

As the public enjoyed children’s games and tours of the Catholic Pastoral Center on June 3, a lady in a wheelchair, her daughter and niece went through the building, marveling at the changes.

“I was 11 when it first opened,” said Katy Fletcher, daughter of Jonathan Fletcher, president of Home Federal Savings and Loan, who commissioned famed architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe to build what has become the Catholic Pastoral Center. With her was her 102-year-old mother and Fletcher’s wife, Virginia.

“You are in an incredible building,” Katy said of the diocesan and Catholic Charities staff, who serve 23 counties from the building at 601 Grand Ave.

Visiting from Seattle, she opened the Sunday edition of The Des Moines Register, saw an article about an open house in the newly renovated building her father had constructed, and asked her cousin and mother if they’d like to go see it.

“It’s so nice to see this,” she said.

“The floor to ceiling doors is what I remember as a kid,” said Nancy Willis, who was eight years old when the building opened in 1962. “I felt like I was in the Emerald City (from the “Wizard of Oz” movie) because they were so big.”

She also remembered that the building had one of the first microwaves for its staff with color-coded trays that matched the color of the microwave buttons corresponding to how long to heat their lunch trays.

Three open house celebrations marked the end of the Catholic Pastoral Center’s renovation process. Bishop Pates cut a ribbon with civic and community leaders on May 8. A celebratory dinner was held May 15 with the open house for the public on June 3. The general open house drew former employees of the savings loan and the diocese along with architects and those interested in history of the city.

Katy remembered her father had one of the first pneumatic tubes in the business for the drive-through lane on the north side of the building.

“I’m really impressed,” she said.

Open houses draw supporters, families, architects and history buffs

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Staff Writer

Katy Fletcher, Nancy Willis and Virginia Fletcher
Bishop Richard Pates hands Dennis Purdum, of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston, a memento in gratitude for his support of the Catholic Pastoral Center renovation project. Chancellor Jason Kurth assists Bishop Pates.

Father Michael Amadeo, vicar general and pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, greets Adam Storey, diocesan director of Marriage and Family Life, during an open house.

Below, retired Fathers Ken Gross and Robert Schoemann enjoy an open house.

Teresa and Tim Dunbar talk with Maureen Kenney, of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, on the second floor near a series of portraits of the bishops who have served the Des Moines diocese.

Father Dominic Assim, of Assumption Parish in Granger, and Father Francis Aning Amoah, of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola, enjoy an open house.

Architectural historian Jennifer Irsfeld James talks with Steve King, AIA, head of the State Historic Preservation Office, about the Catholic Pastoral Center renovation, a project with which she assisted.

The public was invited to tours, family activities and more during an open house June 3. Top left (clockwise): A balloon maker entertains children by making balloon animals; Randy Kiel helps a visitor make a wax hand, a face painter entertains children; and Stu Walker and Cheryl Cibula provided music with the Stu Ryan O’Brien Pub Band;

Family commits to growing in faith together

Continued from page 1

in Des Moines for lectures and activities. The monthly gatherings begin Friday evening and run through Sunday.

The Lemus family did this for two months. The diocese gave them the option to connect online and take the classes long distance. However, they thought they would lose the experience of the interaction and experiences of their classmates. They valued interacting with people and the small group activities.

Many of their classmates wanted to offer their homes to the family to stay. "It was challenging to accommodate a family of five, but our community is very generous and wanted to help them that way," said diocesan coordinator Mayra Moriel de Bañuelos.

One of the classmates offered them her home. "I have a big house and I can accommodate them there," said Irma Lopez. "It would be a pleasure to have them in my house."

Even though there are travel expenses involved, the Lemus family is committed. "We talked about it as a family and we decided since we serve in our parish, we feel or had the need to prepare ourselves to evangelize," said Ernesto.

"The experiences we’re having and the classes are enriching and we would like more people from our community to be part of this experience or possibly bring it over there," he said.
Acogiendo el Futuro con Oración

By Bishop Richard Pates

En los próximos meses, la Diócesis de Des Moines tendrá la experiencia del anuncio e instalación de su 10mo Obispo.


Con eso en mente, la Diócesis de Des Moines ha iniciado un período llamado: El Nuevo Momento. Este se originó de los participantes de la diócesis que asistieron a la Convocatoria de Liderazgo Católico en Orlando, el año pasado. Dada la actual composición religiosa en los Estados Unidos, los líderes de la convocatoria prenunciaron: Como católicos americanos, no vivimos en una época de cambio sino en un cambio de época. Vivimos en una época de cambio, no en un dramático tiempo de cambio.


El segundo atributo de El Nuevo Momento es discipulado misionero. Dado que las señales de nuestros tiempos nos apuntan hacia los milenios para compartir con gran convicción los beneficios de nuestro camino en la fe. Conforme viaje a lo largo de la diócesis, visitando nuestras comunidades parroquiales, me ha impresionado el cómo nuestras parroquias están dando alcance a nuestros hermanos y hermanas de la generación de los milenios. A darnos cuenta de que dependemos de la oración para todos nuestros actos y en anticipación a la llegada de nuestro nuevo obispo, estoy pidiendo a todas las parroquias, comunidades y instituciones diocesanas que hagan las siguientes dos oraciones cada domingo para que trabajen generosamente con él para que podamos crecer juntos en amor y continuemos con las buenas obras que han comenzado con nosotros para el bien de todo el pueblo.

Se lo pedimos por Jesucristo nuestro Señor, tu hijo, que vive y reina contigo y con el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Agradecemos por la unidad en oración en toda la Diócesis de Des Moines conforme anticipamos y acogemos el futuro que Dios nos tiene preparado. Nuestra cooperación en acoger su providencia inefable podremos encontrar innumerables y ricas bendiciones.

Cóncendemos otro Obispo que pueda inspirar al clero, religiosos y laicos de nuestra comunidad para que trabajen generosamente con él para que podamos crecer juntos en amor y continuemos con las buenas obras que han comenzado con nosotros para el bien de todo el pueblo.

La diócesis, visitando nuestras comunidades parroquiales, me ha impresionado el cómo nuestras parroquias están dando alcance a nuestros hermanos y hermanas de la generación de los milenios. A darnos cuenta de que dependemos de la oración para todos nuestros actos y en anticipación a la llegada de nuestro nuevo obispo, estoy pidiendo a todas las parroquias, comunidades y instituciones diocesanas que hagan las siguientes dos oraciones cada domingo para que trabajen generosamente con él para que podamos crecer juntos en amor y continuemos con las buenas obras que han comenzado con nosotros para el bien de todo el pueblo.

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Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

El Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas es un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a víctimas de abuso sexual por parte del clero durante el proceso de la queja y buscando servicios de apoyo y consejería. Pueden comunicarse al 515-286-2028 o en advocate@dmdioocese.org.
**Familia se compromete a crecer en su te juntos**

Ernesto Lemus Jr. y su hermana Bibiana son los típicos adultos jóvenes que están muy ocupados enfocados en sus estudios universitarios y en sus trabajos.

Así que les cayó de sorpresa cuando sus padres, Alicia y Ernesto Lemus, les dijeron que inscribieran a la familia completa en un programa de 18 meses que les ayudaría a ellos a crecer en su fe y en sus habilidades de liderazgo.

“Yo entre en shock” dijo Bibiana. El proceso requiere que cada mes viaje a Des Moines durante un fin de semana completo, leer, hacer tareas como escribir reportes y hacer un proyecto.

“De que me hablas” le preguntó la chica de 21 años a sus padres. “Yo estoy ocupada”

Mientras que ella inicialmente tenía sus dudas, el participar en el programa por estos tres meses la han hecho cambiar de opinión.

Ellos quieren prepararse para dar la bienvenida a más jóvenes a la parroquia. Así que ella hace un balance entre sus estudios en la Universidad Buena Vista, su trabajo, y las tareas del programa de formación de liderazgo. Su hermano de 19 años, Ernesto Lemus Jr. Tampoco estaba muy contento cuando lo escribieron en el programa, pero también ha cambiado de opinión.

El Estudiante de Iowa Western College dijo que le gustan las actividades e interactuar con otra gente.

Sus padres quieren que toda la familia tome el programa al mismo tiempo y se preparan para servir como líderes en diferentes ministerios.

Ellos estaban dispuestos a poner sus propios recursos para cumplir con el compromiso. Alicia y Ernesto estaban dispuestos a pagar un cuarto de hotel por dos noches cada mes por 18 meses, que es el tiempo que dura el programa para poder reunirse con sus compañeros de clase en Des Moines. Las reuniones mensuales comienzan el viernes y terminan el domingo.

La familia Lemus hizo esto por dos meses. La diócesis les daba la opción de que se conectaran en línea para tomar las clases a distancia. Sin embargo, ellos pensaron que perderían la experiencia de interactuar con sus compañeros y de poder hacer comunidad. Ellos valoran el poder interactuar con la gente y las actividades en grupos pequeños. Muchos de sus compañeros querían ofrecer sus casas, aunque era difícil acomodar a una familia de 5, para nuestra comunidad es muy generosa y querían ayudarles de esa manera menciono Mayra Moriel de Granger. Una de las compañeras ofreció su casa. “Yo tengo una casa grande y puedo hospedarlos a todos allí, será un placer tenerles a ellos en mi casa” dijo Irma López.

Aun cuando hay gastos de viaje, la familia Lemus está muy comprometida.

“No somos lo hablanos como familia y decidimos hacerlo y que servimos en nuestra parroquia, sentimos que tenemos la necesidad de prepararnos para evangelizar”, dijo Ernesto.

“Las experiencias que vivimos y las clases son enriquecedoras y nos encantaría que más gente de nuestra comunidad formara parte de esta experiencia e posiblemente poder traer el programa para allá,” dijo él.

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**Diocesan history book**

**Continued from page 1**

though it was officially carved from the Diocese of Davenport in 1911.

The book covers the scope of Iowa Catholicism, the religion of the native people, the emergence of Christian missionaries and the diocese in the 20th Century.

Father Avella tells of Msgr. Luigi Ligutti, who he described as a “tremendous gift of the Church of Des Moines to the universal Church” because of his understanding of the land and his work with miners in the Granger area.

Father Avella was amazed at how organizers planned for the visit of St. John Paul II with “such a short time to arrange this.”

Msgr. Frank Bognanno, Sister Miriam Mosle y Msgr. Stephen Orr were instrumental in the planning. “They did it and for my money this was the visit that was the best of all the visits to the United States” because it was simple, humble and held poignant moments, said Father Avella.

The book ends with the death of Bishop Maurice Dingman, a priest in the Davenport diocese who was significantly transformed by the Second Vatican Council.

Bishop Dingman was an “administrative type,” said Father Avella. “Then the council happened and the council kind of broke him open in a new way. Among the things he valued was listening to people, that consultation, collegiality.”

“The story has been fascinating,” Father Avella told Bishop Pates on his weekly radio show on Iowa Catholic Radio. At some point, the book will need more chapters to focus on the development of lay ministry, he added.

“My heart is filled with gratitude. I really enjoyed this work,” he said. He thanked all those who helped him, adding, “Iowa hospitality really exists and for it, I am eternally grateful.”

Books can be purchased at Divine Treasures book store in Des Moines, through Liturgical Press at LitPress.org or through Amazon.com.

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~Family of Neal McLaughlin

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