

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Congratulations!

Largest community of permanent deacons ordained



Bishop Pates ordained 17 men to the permanent diaconate on Aug. 4 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. Find the full list of assignments on page 2.



Photos clockwise: Bishop Richard Pates lays hands on Deacon Kelly Stone, asking the Holy Spirit to ordain him. Deacon Terry Schleisman puts a diaconal stole on Deacon Michael Huntman. Deacon wives Stacy Halbach and Julie Shannon stand with their husbands' vestments; the group of newly ordained with their wives, Bishop Emeritus Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S., and Bishop Richard Pates.

Rural Life Mass near Guthrie Center

Mark your calendar to join Bishop Richard Pates for a unique outdoor liturgy celebrating rural life.

The eighth annual Rural Life Mass will be Sunday, Aug. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the farm of Marty and Debbie Arganbright, near Guthrie Center.

The outdoor Mass offers an opportunity for urban and rural residents to come together to show solidarity with rural Iowans and celebrate their important role in the diocese.

Previous Rural Life Masses have been held on farms in Shelby County, near Chariton, Cumming, Stuart, Perry, Indianola and Osceola.

This year's Mass will be at the Arganbright farm, 2414 Redwood Ave., near Guthrie Center (two miles south of Highway 44).

The guest speaker is Joan Wooters Fumetti, with the Food Resource Bank, an organization that links agriculture communities around the world to farmers in developing countries to find solutions to hunger.

Farm animals and large agricultural machinery will be at the Rural Life Mass as well.

Deb Arganbright said they are excited for people to come to their farm.

"The big thing is just sharing with other people the joy of living on a family farm and enjoying the beauty of nature every day," Arganbright said.

"This farm has been in this family for close to 150 years," Arganbright added.

Lunch will be available after Mass.

The diocese is grateful to the parishes of St. Cecilia in Panora, St. Mary in Guthrie Center and St. Patrick in Bayard for sponsoring the Rural Life Mass.

For more information, contact Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at 515-249-1327 or tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com.

Dowling grad in El Salvador reports on fears, desperation

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

A Dowling Catholic High School graduate (Class of '04) is a journalist in El Salvador, a country that has one of the highest murder rates in the world.

She's been living in the Latin American country for almost 10 years, telling stories of violence, poverty and desperation.

Her stories give the world a look at the deadly vio-

lence and abject poverty facing Salvadorans. And her stories explain why so many leave their country seeking safety and a chance at a better life through asylum in the United States.

The U.S. bishops have called attention to the plight of those trying to enter the United States. They've argued for comprehensive immigration reform and treating people with dignity.

Mackey moved to El Salvador after graduating from St. Louis University in 2008 with degrees in political science and

international studies. She holds a master's degree in global journalism from New York University and is a senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism.

She has been writing in-depth stories on gang violence, politics and social justice. Her stories have appeared in a number of national publications, including "The Atlantic," "The New Yorker," "The Intercept" and "New Republic."

After years of investigating and reporting, Mackey

said the people of El Salvador mostly want to stay in their home country.

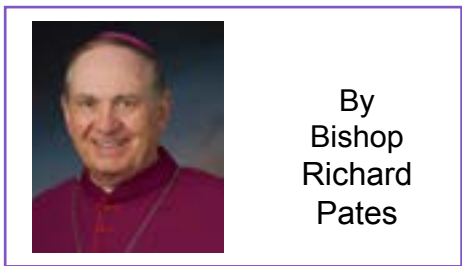
But because of tremendous gang violence and police brutality, they often feel they have no choice but to flee. It's the only certain way to leave threats behind.

Jobs in the United States also offer a way to make enough money to support family members who have stayed behind. Sometimes the families have debts that

Continued on page 10

In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

Blessed with 17 new deacons



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

August 4 was a banner day for the Diocese of Des Moines. Seventeen men were ordained to the permanent diaconate.

Ours was one of the first dioceses to restore the reinstituted diaconate nearly five decades ago. As a result, the corps of deacons has grown to 90, 59 of whom are active. The remainder have retired.

Similar to many pursuits in life, deacons first receive an inkling of such a vocation by attraction to the activity of deacons they observe. The deacon assists at the altar. He preaches and presides at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Possible candidates also sense in these times, when priests are stretched in so many directions, that they might be of valuable assistance to the priests.

As the diaconal candidates grow in their formation, there evolves a deeper sense of purpose. They are blessed with insight to see themselves morphing into the very person of Jesus. They take on his



When a diaconate candidate puts his hands in those of the bishop, he promises obedience to the bishop and his successors.

being, they identify themselves with the Christ, the icon of service. Diaconate was instituted in the early Church when the Apostles pinpointed the need among their members for assistants who would serve at the table. Eventually, the Apostles prayed over and laid hands on seven men of good character and reputation. Thus, began the Order of Deacons.

The deacons are not “little” priests. They are an order unto themselves and comprise an identity which provides meaning and engagement in mission for the Church. Their ministry is centered on three anchors.

The Word: The deacon is immersed in the Gospel, in the Word of God which gives voice to his prophetic character. During the ordination rite, the deacon is handed the Book of the Gospels by the bishop with the accompanying guidance: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach.”

The Scriptures communicate the mind and heart of God. The ministry of the deacon seeks to plant this Word in the hearts of the faithful.

The Liturgy: The deacon is called for service at the altar. In this role, he witnesses the reality that Jesus is the bread of life. It is he who provides the sustenance for the ongoing journey. This Eucharistic Jesus points the way to life that will never end and to which all of us should direct ourselves. It is the likes of deacons who lift our eyes and point the way.

“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For in him, the Father, God has set his seal.” (John 6, 27)

Charity. The deacon is to guide us in the pathways of love in the practical, down-to-earth tasks comprising his routine. Leading others, he finds the way to jails and prisons, to the habitation of the homeless, to the treacherous routes of refugees and immigrants, to the lonely, sick, abandoned, to the desperately poor, hungry for attention, a soothing word, even a hug. He fulfills the mandate of love espoused by Jesus, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Accompanying the deacons in the four year course of preparation are their wives. They, to a person, acknowledge the benefit they have experienced as partners in formation. To some degree, they will also share in the ministry of the deacon. Otherwise, they exercise their significant talents in different outreach and service. They are an invaluable gift to the life of the Church.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to our 17 new deacons and their wives. In The New Moment they bring a fresh burst of the Spirit enlivening our diocesan family.



The New Moment OFFICIAL

Effective August 4, 2018

Deacon	Parish Assignment	Ministry of Charity
Rev. Mr. Eric Bertrand	Holy Trinity of SE Warren County/ Sacred Heart	Rural Life, Hospital Chaplain, Deliverance
Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Boehlert	Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, Ankeny	Legal Assistance to elderly and military
Rev. Mr. Thomas Bradley Coordinator of Deacon Council	St Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines	Campus Minister, Spiritual Direction
Rev. Mr. Darri (Scott) Brooks	St. Patrick, Neola	Child Abuse Ministry
Rev. Mr. Mark Burdt	All Saints, Des Moines	Marriage Ministry, Homebound/Nursing Ministry
Rev. Mr. Juan Bustamante	St. Anthony, Des Moines	Prison Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Homebound
Rev. Mr. Mark Campbell	Basilica of St. John, Des Moines	Addiction Recovery, Outreach to the Poor
Rev. Mr. Michael Carney	St. Patrick, Missouri Valley	Hospice, Elderly Outreach, & Interfaith
Rev. Mr. Francis Chan	St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines	Refugee ministry
Rev. Mr. Rick Condon	St. Theresa Parish, Des Moines	Pro-Life Ministry
Rev. Mr. Fred Cornwell Associate Director of Permanent Diaconate	St. Luke the Evangelist, Ankeny	Assisting the elderly, Bible Study
Rev. Mr. Ed Garza	Sacred Heart, West Des Moines	Ministry of Healing
Rev. Mr. Matthew Halbach	St. Luke the Evangelist, Ankeny	St. Joseph Educational Center
Rev. Mr. Kevin Heim	St. Augustin, Des Moines	Hospital Chaplaincy
Rev. Mr. Kurt Heinrich	St. Augustin, Des Moines	Prison Ministry
Rev. Mr. Randy Horn	Sacred Heart, West Des Moines	Marriage Ministry, Substance Abuse
Rev. Mr. James Houston	St. Pius X, Urbandale	Marriage Ministry, Faith Formation
Rev. Mr. Tom Hunkele	St. Anthony, Des Moines	Diocese Core Team
Rev. Mr. Michael Huntsman	St. Theresa, Des Moines	Chaplaincy
Rev. Mr. Laurence Kehoe	Christ the King, Des Moines	Pro-Life Ministry, Outreach to sick and poor
Rev. Mr. Randy Kiel	Holy Trinity, Des Moines	Parish Missions, Hispanic, Homeless Ministries
Rev. Mr. Gregory Kolbinger	Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart, Ankeny	Hospice, homebound, hospital chaplain
Rev. Mr. Darwin Kruse	Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs	Hospital Ministry
Rev. Mr. Reinhold Kunze	St. Brendan/Leon	Pastoral Care
Rev. Mr. Frank Lopez	Basilica of St. John, Des Moines	Sick and homebound with focus on Hispanic families
Rev. Mr. Dennis Lovell	Holy Family, Mondamin/ St. Anne, Logan	Hospice, Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Dennis Luft	SS John and Paul, Altoona	Homebound, Hospital Ministries
Rev. Mr. Randy Lynch	St. Joseph ,Des Moines	Homebound,Connection Café, pro-life
Rev. Mr. Bob McClellan	Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs	Jail Ministry
Rev. Mr. Monty Montagne	Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs	Hospice, Homebound
Rev. Mr. Ron Myers Director of Formation, Permanent Diaconate	Sacred Heart, West Des Moines	Marriage Ministry , Outreach to poor
Rev. Mr. James Obradovich Director of Permanent Diaconate	Holy Trinity, St. Ambrose, Des Moines	Sight Impaired Ministry
Rev. Mr. Dave O’Brien	St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianola	Homeless
Rev. Mr. Dennis Patrick	St. Patrick, Perry	Chaplain, Marriage Ministry
Rev. Mr. John Pfenning	St. Patrick, Council Bluffs	Youth Ministry, Hospital/Care Center Ministry
Rev. Mr. Steven Reed	Christ the King, Des Moines	Addictions Ministry, Outreach to the hungry
Rev. Mr. Douglas Renze	Holy Trinity, Des Moines	Marriage Ministry, Underprivileged youth
Rev. Mr. William Richer	St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines	Emergency Assistance Ministry
Rev. Mr. Thomas Schenk	Assumption, Granger	Homeless
Rev. Mr. Terry Schleisman	St. Mary – Holy Cross, Elkhart	Bishop Drumm Ministry
Rev. Mr. David Schmidt	St. Theresa, Des Moines	Prison Ministry
Rev. Mr. Joel Schmidt	St. Pius X, Urbandale	Perinatal Loss Ministry
Rev. Mr. Donald Shannon	St. Luke the Evangelist, Ankeny	Hospital Ministry
Rev. Mr. Patrick Snook	St. Peter, Council Bluffs	Hospice
Rev. Mr. Raymond (Rob) Stark	St. Pius X, Urbandale	Hospital and American Legion Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Kelly Stone	St. John the Apostle, Norwalk	Natural Family Planning, Pro-Life
Rev. Mr. Sam Sullivan	St. Joseph, Winterset	Jail Ministry
Rev. Mr. Troy Thompson	Our Lady of the Americas, Des Moines	Hispanic Ministry, Christian Family Movement
Rev. Mr. Luke Tieskoetter	Basilica of St. John, Des Moines	Homebound and Hospital Ministry, Rural Life
Rev. Mr. Emmet Tinley	St. Patrick, Council Bluffs	Hospital, Nursing Home Ministry
Rev. Mr. Quan Tong	St. Anthony, Des Moines	Pastoral Care
Rev. Mr. Paul Tran	St. Peter Vietnamese Community	Outreach to the hungry
Rev. Mr. Steve Udelhofen	Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart	Pastoral Care
Rev. Mr. Tony Valdez	Christ the King, Des Moines	Ministry to Divorced
Rev. Mr. Dennis Wright	Assumption, Granger	Jail Ministry
Rev. Mr. Ly Pao Yang	St. Ambrose Cathedral	Pastoral Care

Bishop Richard Pates
Bishop of Des Moines

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Bishop Richard E. Pates
Publisher
bishop@dmdiocese.org

Anne Marie Cox
Editor
acox@dmdiocese.org

Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

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See
Bishop’s
schedule on
page 15

Torch is passed to new leader of Inter-Faith Response

Organization is operated by volunteers and helps those in need in Council Bluffs

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

The volunteers at Inter-Faith Response in Council Bluffs are grateful for their role in helping clients.

"We get tears, we get hugs, we get thank yous. Sometimes the kids will send us thank yous," said volunteer Mary Mason of St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs.

Mason felt attracted to the work of Inter-Faith Response years ago. And volunteering gave her a way to show compassion and help those who are struggling.

"I think I was certainly trying to find a way to express my faith," Mason said. "And I appreciate the value in serving the poor, having been poor myself at a time."

Mason, who has been volunteering at Inter-Faith for nearly 25 years in a variety of roles, will soon take over as director. The torch will be passed from good friend and Council Bluffs native Sister Claudia Robinson, who is retiring. Sister Robinson has been director for almost 25 years.

Inter-Faith Response is a volunteer run organization that offers assistance to those in need in the community.

It receives funding from

nearly 20 local churches. Over the past two years, Inter-Faith Response has distributed \$825,785 in assistance to its clients.

Clients typically receive assistance with rent and utilities. But help can come in a variety of ways.

"We've bought tires for vehicles, car parts, birth certificates, driver's licenses..." Mason said.

They've also helped out with gas vouchers, paying for prescriptions, wheelchair batteries "and even a wedding dress once for \$12," Mason added.

But their services go beyond paying the bill.

"Our clients will tell us, 'You don't treat me like a number,'" Mason said. "And the folks that come back to us again and again, they are our friends. They remember us. And when we see an obituary that a client has died, we cry for them and grieve for them. There's a quality of community."

Some people will always need a little assistance from Inter-Faith Response, and that's okay, Sister Robinson said.

"Some of our clients are handicap, elderly, have mental illness or developmental disabilities," Sister Robinson said. "We have abused women and women with children that have been abandoned [without child support]. These are complex issues



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Sister Claudia Robinson has been director of Inter-Faith Response in Council Bluffs for nearly 25 years. She's passing the leadership torch to good friend and fellow volunteer Mary Mason of St. Patrick Parish. Mason will begin duties as director in September.

with addiction and mental illness and chronic poverty and just not enough money to live.

"When you are drawing \$700 a month in disability and paying \$500 in rent, [it's difficult]," Sister Robinson continued. "And if you're a single person and collecting only \$16 in food

stamps, you see the chronicness of their situation."

Inter-Faith Response has a positive impact on its clients, but the clients are also teaching the volunteers about dignity and suffering.

"These clients are great teachers on how to face adversity

with a lot of grace," Mason said.

To learn more or volunteer, contact Inter-Faith Response at 712-322-0531.

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In the midst of chaos: Glimpses of heaven

“But Randy, I don’t know where to begin telling you my story.”

“Just start in the middle,” I answer. “Start exactly where you are today.”

This is the perspective with which we are most familiar, the perspective of today. From this point, together, we can put order to the past and prepare for the future.

Many times, we have heard it said, that perspective is reality. When I hear this spoken, I cringe. It is most often a feeble attempt to reconcile a certain position regarding a conflict. If reality is simply one’s perspective, we should expect to be in continual relational chaos and domestic upheaval. Reality is always larger than a single perspective.

Perspective can be defined as one’s personal view based upon a limited amount of information gathered from a lifetime of personal experiences and dreams envisioned for the future.

We are always limited within our own minds; therefore, we need the additional perspectives of many others or we will inevitably become narrow minded and see all life as chaos.

Let’s Get Psyched

By Deacon
Randy Kiel



Nobody really likes chaos.

There are many writings on scientific theories indicating that order is present within all chaos. Whether it is a dripping kitchen faucet, a blowing winter blizzard, or stressful marital conflict, somehow there is an order to what is happening.

At times we have all said, “Would someone please help me find the order within my chaos?”

This too was my own pleading request last month as we prepared for our daughter’s wedding, yet out of this chaos it all fell together.

Order did not arrive simply due to happenstance, but because the chaos was put into order. My wife, Cheryl, and I were

in utter chaos until 2:57p.m. for the 3 p.m. wedding.

Fortunate for us, many friends and relatives stepped in to create magical décor, set beautiful tables, and calm tensions on this chaotic day. These were truly acts of mercy. Mercy can be seen as the willingness to enter into the chaos of another.

Isn’t that beautiful?

Can you hear Jesus in that definition?

It is important to recognize that our view of life is always a limited perspective.

When the prophecies were foretold of a coming Savior and we were excited, our view was limited.

When the new King was crucified, and we thought his body was stolen, we were scared and grieved, but our view was limited.

When he ascended to the Father and we felt abandoned, our view was limited.

When we feel hopeless, overwhelmed, and in chaos, our view is always

limited.

What we have been able to see throughout our Christian history is that God puts everything in order. Through the eyes of the Father, life is never in a state of chaos. Life was not even in chaos while he was creating it. He sees life in all of its entirety. Isn’t that good news?

As Catholics, we can deeply appreciate God’s design in life through order. God’s order in the chaos of life is, in itself, holy. From the Ten Commandments, to the order of the Mass, and to the sacraments of holy matrimony and holy orders, God offers us glimpses into heaven.

Heaven is the rest of the story for all of us. In recognizing that heaven is the future of our story, may we pray that we see Christ enter with his mercy and bring his order into the midst of our daily chaos.

Randy Kiel is the founder of Kardia Counseling and is a deacon serving Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him email randy@kardiacounseling.com

Community thrives when we need each other

I’ve noticed in the Church that we spend a lot of time talking about building community. We reflect on ways to bring new people in and to help others get involved. That’s a great good, and I’m encouraged to hear these conversations!

I’ve also noticed that in our culture we spend a lot of time finding ways to be independent. We passionately avoid relying on each other. Whether it’s self-checkout, online banking, or road-side assistance technology, we’re developing more and more ways to avoid each other.

In my mind, these two impulses are at odds with one another.

Marriage & Family Life

By Adam
Storey



I think more than anything, authentic *community* is based on *need*. We need each other, and it’s only when we recognize and embrace this need that we form the bonds that make communities

meaningful.

I can think of no better place to learn this than the family. Children need their parents completely and totally, spouses need each other in all sorts of ways, and parents need not only their kids, but a whole network of extended family to rely on as they navigate raising children.

And while our society tells us that we should work to become more independent of these needs, the Gospel tells us we must become *more needy* (Matt 18:3-4)!

So, I believe that as a Church we must be committed to building community,

but the only way to do so is to work hard at becoming more vulnerable, which is simply putting ourselves in a position of need.

We need to be needy!

And thank the Lord, he has shown us how in the family. This month, I hope you’ll join me in trying to be a little more vulnerable, a little more open to others and, hopefully, a little more rooted in our communities!

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

To the friends I’ve known

Recently, reading “Commonweal” magazine, I was struck by this line by Jerry Ryan, a Little Brother of Jesus: “I have lost contact with so many people who meant a lot to me at different stages of my life, people I loved dearly and really cared for and who had given me so much and made me what I am.”

That’s so true for me and, I suspect, for most of us. People enter our lives, friendships develop, and then some of those friends disappear from our lives. Sometimes we move away, sometimes they move away, sometimes things change and we drift apart, or sometimes the affective bonds that held us together disintegrate and they, and we, move on. To the degree that we’re sensitive, there’s always some pain and guilt in this. It’s not an unhealthy thing to feel the loneliness of that loss, nor is it unhealthy to feel that somehow we’ve failed and been less than attentive.

Indeed sometimes we have been less than faithful, but mostly the blame for that (to the extent that some applies) lies inside our inculpable inadequacy. Only God is adequate. Only God has a heart big enough to be attentive to everyone personally and intimately at the same time. Only God never moves away or grows tired. And only God has the strength to forever be faithful. We cannot not be inadequate.

I struggle mightily with that inadequacy. Being a missionary, given the work I do, and given the quirks of my personality, I find myself perennially overwhelmed

Guest Column

By
Father Ron Rolheiser



by my inadequacy in the area of staying close to family and friends, including very dear friends. The task isn’t easy.

First, I come from a very large family which through the generations has expanded into a virtual tribe. It could be a fulltime job just staying in touch with family. Next, I’ve been ministering for more than forty years and during that time have lived inside various Oblate houses with almost two hundred different people. Community is family and, again, it would be a fulltime task just staying in meaningful touch with them all. Then, during my years of doing graduate work, I had the privileged opportunity to develop long-lasting friendships with a number of classmates from different parts of the world. Finally, during all those years of ministry, I’ve met hundreds of students in classrooms and thousands of people doing workshops and retreats. Most of those encounters were temporary and casual, but through

the years a good number of meaningful friendships developed there as well. And, while all this was happening, I’ve lived and worked in four different countries and made friends in each of those places.

Then today there’s the further struggle to stay in touch with all the contacts that one necessarily has to deal with on social media.

How does one keep meaningful contact with everyone? How does one not betray friends by simple neglect?

Even as I’m deeply thankful to have so rich a treasury of family and friends, not infrequently I’m overwhelmed with the task of staying in meaningful contact with them and at those times I feel some guilt about forever being out of touch with so many people I was once close to. Sometimes friends whom I have been out of touch with remind me, and not always delicately, of my neglect of our friendship. But as the years go by and the problem grows larger rather than smaller, I am making more peace with my inadequacy and guilt – if not always with some of my neglected friends.

What helps is to remind myself constantly of what a great grace it is to have so large a family and to have such a large number of friends. There are few things for which to be more grateful. Next, I do try to stay in meaningful touch with them to the extent that time, energy, and distance allow. Most importantly, though, given my inadequacy, I try to meet my family and

friends at a place where time, energy, and distance are eclipsed by an immediate, intimate presence. There’s one place where we’re not inadequate, where we can be at more places than one at the same time and where we can love countless people individually and intimately, namely, inside the Body of Christ.

Scripture tells us that, as believers, we form together a body that, as much as any living body, is a true living organism, with all parts affecting all other parts. Inside that body we’re present to each other, not fully consciously of course, but deeply, truly, actually. And to the extent that we’re living our lives faithfully and sharing honest friendship and fellowship with those who are immediately around us, we’re not only healthy enzymes helping bring health to the body, we’re also present to each other, affectively, in a way that touches us at the deepest level of our souls. There is a place where we are not neglecting each other.

And so, to all my friends: we’re still together!

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted through his website ronrolheiser.com. Now at [facebook.com/ronrolheiser](https://www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser).

Ask a Priest

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 practice 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.

Q. I heard that Pope Francis has issued a new document called an "apostolic exhortation" called Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad). What is an apostolic exhortation, and how can I learn more about this?

A. An apostolic exhortation is much like an encyclical letter. Usually such an exhortation is meant to encourage the faithful in their daily life. This recent document from Pope Francis reminds us that everyone is called to holiness, not just "official" people like priests and deacons and sisters. The Second Vatican Council said that the call to holiness is universal. Notice, we're not called to be perfect but to be holy. You can check the Vatican website www.vatican.va or the United States Bishops' Conference website www.usccb.org. You'll also probably find it if you use a search engine and type in Gaudete et Exsultate.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The priest committee* serving in coordination of the transition between Bishop Richard Pates and his successor cordially invite you to save the following dates.

* Father Michael Amadeo
Father Larry Hoffmann
Father Joe Pins
Father James Ahenkora
Father Luis Meija
Father Ross Parker

**Farewell to Bishop Pates
and in celebration of his
50th anniversary of priestly ordination**

Sunday, Oct. 7 – Mass at 6 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, with special invitation to the international community – Hispanics, South Sudanese, Eritrean, Burmese, Vietnamese, Hmong and all others. An international celebration will follow at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Saturday, Oct. 13 – Mass at 5 pm at St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs, followed by a reception in the parish hall. This gathering is for Council Bluffs and western regions of the diocese.

Sunday, Oct. 14 – Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, followed by a reception at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Diocesan-wide celebration.

More details to follow. For any particular questions, contact Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdioocese.org.

Oblates share Benedictine way of life

**By Barbara and George Appleby
Contributing Writers**

Just two-plus hours by car from Des Moines (closer for the rest of our diocese), there is a Catholic jewel in the rolling hills of northwest Missouri.

Conception Abbey, a Benedictine monastery of 65 or so monks, was founded in 1873, nearly 150 years ago, by monks from Engelberg Abbey in Switzerland. Conception Abbey is a thriving monastery and seminary college, training seminarians from dioceses around the country and training deacons from our diocese. It is also a resource for lay Catholics who are welcomed as guests to participate in its rich spiritual life.

The abbey is 20 miles east of Maryville, about an hour north of Kansas City, in rural Nodaway County. The twin spires of its beautiful basilica, consecrated in 1891, are visible on approach from miles away. In addition to the basilica, the monastery itself, and the seminary, there are two guest and retreat centers, the newer one, St. Gabriel Hall, having been completed in 2015.

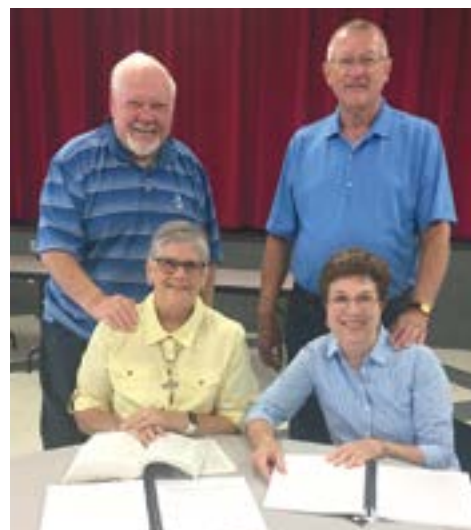
Everything at the abbey is geared to enhance two important Benedictine charisms so badly needed today, namely, hospitality and prayerful peace. Seminarians, visitors and retreatants are encouraged to feel "at home" and join the monks at prayer and get to know them personally as well as enjoy the open spaces of the campus. Benedictine hospital-

ity is ecumenical and welcomes all. Laity, including those of other denominations, are welcomed to relate to the Abbey as guests, or as oblates.

Benedictine monasteries have a centuries-long tradition of non-professed laity who feel a special call to a closer spiritual relation with the monks at prayer and in their witness to the world. These individuals are called oblates. It is estimated that there are more than 25,000 oblates worldwide. Conception Abbey has 375 active oblates. Benedictine spirituality is well suited to be lived in the world as well as in the monastery.

The oblates of Conception Abbey form a close and supportive community among themselves and as they renew their ties with the abbey. They meet there for two annual oblate retreats and for special "Pray and Work" weekends. They also meet in monthly gatherings in local chapters (there is one in Des Moines), where they share their attempts to live the Holy Rule of St. Benedict and share personal prayer needs and join in the common prayer of the Church, namely The Liturgy of the Hours.

St. Gabriel Hall and Marian Hall are the guest houses at the abbey and are available to retreatants throughout the year. Guests are welcomed for both private and group, theme-related retreats. Abbey retreats include



Dave and Pamela Meis (left) and George and Barb Appleby (right).

reflection days for Lent and for Advent, as well as longer weekend retreats around topics that range from calligraphy and gardening to aspects of spiritual life and prayer.

A monastery is always "a place set apart." For those who live in the world, but are welcomed as guests or oblates, Conception Abbey provides an opportunity to experience a space with a different sense of time, where there is silence to listen for God's voice, and where one can be spiritually nourished and strengthened.

For more information on Conception Abbey or oblates, go to Conceptionabbey.org.

Barbara and George Appleby are members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

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8th Annual Pro-Life Fundraising Banquet

a CLASH of CREEDS

An evening with:

Margaret Sanger, Ayn Rand, & Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Moderated by GK Chesterton



Margaret Sanger



Ayn Rand



St Mother Teresa



GK Chesterton

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Around the diocese

Aug. 17 Friday Beginning Experience

DES MOINES -- Beginning Experience open house will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church hall. This is a ministry for those who are widowed, separated or divorced organized by those who have experienced this loss. Retreat weekend is Sept. 14-16. For more information, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Aug. 23 Thursday Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES – Meet at St. Augustin Church at 10 a.m. to carpool to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Lunch will be at the Copper Kitchen in Prairie City. For reservations contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Aug. 24 Friday Beginning Experience

DES MOINES -- Beginning Experience open house will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church hall. This is a ministry for those who are widowed, separated or divorced organized by those who have experienced this loss. Retreat weekend is Sept. 14-16. For more information, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Aug. 26 Sunday Rural Life Mass

GUTHRIE CENTER – The eighth annual rural Life Mass will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Arganbright farm, 2414 Redwood Ave., two miles south of HWY 44. Lunch follows Mass. Questions? Contact Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at 515-249-1327 or tiskoetterluke3@gmail.com.

Aug. 28 Tuesday Catholic Widows and Widowers

WEST DES MOINES --

Business meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Speaker will be a pharmacist from HyVee. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 7 Friday Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- First Friday Mass at 8 a.m. at St. Augustin Church. Breakfast at Waveland Café after Mass For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 9 Sunday Family Festival

DES MOINES – St. Anthony Bilingual Grotto Mass and Family Festival. Games, Hispanic food and festival music.

The Boston Classical Trio

DES MOINES – St. Augustin Parish Performing Arts hosts a concert by The Boston Classical Trio at 4 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Cost is a freewill offering.

Fall Festival

DUNLAP – St. Patrick Parish is having its annual fall festival from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. featuring fried chicken by Staley’s Catering. We are so proud that it will be our 40th year for this event! All are invited.

Sept. 11 Tuesday Catholic Widows and Widowers

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

Sept. 14 Friday Bingo Night

DES MOINES – Join St. Anthony Church for Bingo. Doors open at 5 p.m., free child care at 6:30 p.m. and Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Food for purchase. Learn more at StAnthonydsm.org.

Golf Outing

DES MOINES – Register

now for the St. Antony Golf Outing at Blank Golf Course. Go to StAnthonydsm.org to learn more and to register.

Mini Golf

DES MOINES –Bring the kids for Mini Golf Blank Golf Course 4 - 6 p.m. \$5/person \$25/family. Learn more at StAnthonyDSM.org

Sept. 14-16 Friday-Sunday Beginning Experience

DES MOINES -- Beginning Experience healing retreat for widowed, divorced or separated. For more information, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Sept. 16 Sunday Catholic Widows and Widowers

INDIANOLA--Summerset Winery at 2 p.m. Cost is \$5/person or \$15/car load. Bring snacks & drink, buy wine & beer at the winery if desired. Meet at St. Augustin at 1 p.m. to carpool or parking lot at SE 14th & Army Post Road at 1:15 p.m. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 18 Tuesday Praying the Mass

WEST DES MOINES – Celebrate Eucharist at St. Francis of Assisi Parish with Father Ray McHenry and learn about the things we use in the Mass, the parts of the Mass, historical and Scriptural background of the Mass and more. Invite a friend (Catholic or non-Catholic). All are welcome. No registration is required.

Sept. 22 Saturday Friends of the Poor Walk

CARLISLE -- The seventh annual Friends of the Poor walk will be hosted by Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Elizabeth Seton Carlisle Conference, from 9-11 a.m. To donate, register & for more information go to fopwalk.org/event/2155.

Sept. 23 Sunday Chicken and Ham Dinner

LENOX - St. Patrick Church is hosting its annual chicken and ham dinner from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the parish center. Cost of the tickets are \$8.50/adults; \$5/kids 6-12; age 5 and under eat free.

Sept. 25 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.

Sept. 26 Wednesday An Evening with One of the Lost Boys of Sudan

ELKHART - St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish is hosting a presentation “An Evening with One of the Lost Boys of Sudan” at St. Mary’s Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. Teens and adults are welcome.

Sept. 29 Saturday 2018 Jubilee Celebration

JOHNSTON – The Congregation of the Humility of Mary will celebrate the jubilees of sisters and associates at a special Mass of celebration at 9:30 a.m. at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston.

Oct. 7 Sunday Life Chain

DES MOINES -- Mark your calendar for Life Chain from 2-3:30 p.m. Join us for a visible, prayerful stand for life. Meet in the parking lot on University Avenue at

St. Theresa Catholic Church Bishop’s Farewell

DES MOINES – Mass at 6 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral with special invitation to the international community as we prepare for Bishop’s retirement. Reception follows at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Questions? Contact Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org.

Oct. 13 Saturday Bishop’s Farewell

COUNCIL BLUFFS – Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish followed by reception in the parish hall. Questions? Contact Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org.

Oct. 14 Sunday Bishop’s Farewell

DES MOINES – Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral followed by a reception at the Catholic Pastoral Center. This is a diocesan-wide celebration of Bishop Pates’ service as he prepares for retirement. Questions? Contact Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org.

Oktoberfest

COUNCIL BLUFFS – St. Peter Parish is sponsoring its annual Oktoberfest from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at St. Albert High School. Cost is \$10/ adults and \$5/children under 12. Featured will be homemade German food. Country store, craft bazaar, raffles, bingo, kids’ carnival, kids’ raffles and more.

Foundation welcomes new members



Don Coffin



Tim Dunbar



Connor Flynn



Christine Long



Jim Wallace

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, in its seventh year, announced new board members to help lead the foundation assisting parishes, schools and Catholic organizations in the diocese secure long-term financial support.

The board is comprised of up to five corporate members and 12 at-large members. Board members can serve three, three-year terms for a total of nine years of service.

The newest members of the board are Don Coffin and Christine Long. Coffin is the chief executive officer and president of Bankers Trust and a parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. Long is an attorney and shareholder at Bradshaw, Folwer,

Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C. and a parishioner at St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines.

Board members agreeing to a second term include Tim Dunbar, Connor Flynn and Jim Wallace. Dunbar is the executive vice president and chief investment officer of Principal Financial Group while a parishioner at Sacred Heart in West Des Moines. Flynn is chairman of Lessing-Flynn Advertising Co. and a long-time member of St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines. Wallace is also a parishioner at St. Augustin in Des Moines and retired from his role as chairman and chief executive officer of GuideOne Insurance.

Beginning his third and last term with the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa is

Msgr. Ed Hurley. He is retired yet continues to serve as the diocese’s vicar for finance.

Other board members are: Bishop Richard Pates, Dennis Purdum, Nancy Anstoetter, Father Michael Amadeo, Jason Kurth, Bryan Boesen, Nicolette Keough, Sharon Krause, Steve Lacy, Matthew Madsen and Peter J. Wenstrand.

The foundation manages transactions, stewards the investment of assets in accordance with Catholic values investing principles and distributes grant and endowment funds. It also offers individuals and couples a way to create a uniquely Catholic legacy through planned gifts and charitable fund management. For more information, visit catholicfoundationiowa.org.

Mercy Game Show Gala breaks record



Monica Friedman and Denis Frischmeyer at the 2018 House of Mercy Game Show Gala, which raised a record-breaking \$356,888.

Car show in memory of Father Kiernan



A July 29 Mass and car show at Dowling Catholic High School in honor of the late Father Jim Kiernan drew about 80 attendees. Organizer Peter Kiernan is grateful for all who attended and those who brought a car. Plans are in the works for holding the event next year. Funds collected during the Mass will be donated to St. Theresa Church and school to help with repairs following recent storms.

Couple celebrates 75 years of marriage



Fred and Gertrude Matthies, of St. Patrick Parish in Walnut, say there's no secret to being married 75 years.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Seventy five years ago, Fred and Gertrude Matthies were married on a rainy Monday at a local parsonage.

Their long marriage, blessed with four children, was celebrated June 10 with family friends.

"Seventy five years of being husband and wife is a pretty important milestone," said Father Tom Dooley. "We see the love and the care and compassion they have not only for each other but for their family," he said.

It all began with a sleigh ride.

Gertrude had moved with her family from Audubon to a farm near Walnut, about a mile and a half away from Fred.

"We had a neighborhood party," said Fred. "She got to telling about a bunch of sleigh rides. I said I wouldn't mind going out on a sleigh ride."

One Sunday, she called and invited him on such a ride. A few months later, he invited her to a show "and that's how it

happened," Fred said.

They became engaged when they realized he was heading with the U.S. Army to the South Pacific, where he spent more than two years.

Home on furlough for a few days, they married and she went with him to Orlando, Florida, where he was stationed.

"I was home long enough to get married," he said.

Now at 96 years old, they are surrounded by photos from their long life together and the many family members they love.

"They've been active in the community for all these years," said Father Dooley.

Fred and Gertrude say there's no secret to having a long marriage.

"We never struggled too much but we worked pretty hard," said Fred.

Thinking back to that first time she told her husband about sleigh rides, Gertrude said, "Mom, she always made popcorn for us. He thought that sounded fun. That's why I called him ... After 75 years, I guess it was a good thing."

Bishop to honor couples

Bishop Richard Pates is celebrating all married couples, particularly those with milestone anniversaries (five year increments and 50+ years).

Aug. 25 -- 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral
Sept. 16 -- 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary, Red Oak

Register for reserved seating & certificate of blessing.
Contact Adam Storey, 515-237-5056
or astorey@dmdiocese.org to register.

Beloved Council Bluffs athletic trainer dies

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

It's estimated that about 3,000 people attended the visitation and funeral at St. Albert Catholic Schools for Jill White, who died July 30.

"It was hard to be in that gymnasium for the funeral, but it was comforting to know that was her favorite place in the world to be," said her husband, Kevin White.

Jill spent 20 years as a school athletic trainer, helping athletes and coaches.

"She had a remarkable ability to work with students and parents," said St. Albert School President Dave Schweitzer.

Yet, she was so much more to the St. Albert community.

"Her office kind of became the place where students would come not only for medical treatment but,

honestly, treatment of their soul," Kevin said. "If they were having difficult days, even if they weren't hurt, many students I've heard from in the last couple of weeks let me know how they were always comfortable confiding in Jill if they were dealing with struggles in their daily life."

One student gave her a t-shirt that referred to her as the team mom.

Jill had stepped away from her work with schools so she would have more flexibility to attend her own children's activities.

"I just want people to know that she loved what she did when she was an athletic trainer. She took the difficult decision to step away from full-time training in order to give her schedule flexibility to go attend our children's activities," Kevin said. "I know that was something that was difficult

for her but she knew it was the right thing to do."

St. Albert Coach Dick Wettengel tweeted: "Jill was gracious yet humble. She never would have wanted notoriety. Yet she was a light to so many."

Tributes poured out online with the hashtag #livelikeJill.

"Colleague and friend, Jill took care of all of us and people loved her for that," tweeted Wettengel. "Didn't matter if you were a friend or foe of (St. Albert), all communities embraced her. That is rare."

She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Council Bluffs.



Jill White

Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

Presented by Collins Travel and Pilgrimages

Hosted by Jason Collins, M.A., founder of Collins Travel and Pilgrimages member of St. Francis Parish, West Des Moines.

...and Father Adam Westphal, pastor of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to Germany and Austria March 14-23, 2019!

Things we'll see in Austria <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Eucharistic Miracle in Seefeld*St. Stephen Cathedral*Vienna's City Center*Melk Abbey*Salzburg Sound of Music Tour*Hofburg Palace*Schonbrunn Palace	Things we'll see in Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Neuschwanstein Castle*Dachau Concentration Camp*Munich*and much more!	Cost: \$3,999 <p>Includes round-trip coach airfare, hotel, all breakfasts & dinners, transportation in Europe, museum entrance fees and local guides. Sign up by Oct. 1 for \$100 discount.</p>
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This trip includes Daily Mass, confessions and will allow time for shopping and relaxation! Contact Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133. Visit www.CollinsTravel.biz and click on "Pilgrimages" to watch 90 second video on this trip and see day-by-day itinerary!

JUST ANNOUNCED: Pilgrimage to France: Lourdes, Paris and Normandy is June 14-23, 2019 with Father Andrew Windschitl, pastor of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart. See full itinerary at www.CollinsTravel.biz.

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Strategic planning process reveals successes, opportunities



Consultant Alan Meitler shares the findings of months of demographic studies, research and interviews with school leadership from throughout the diocese.

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

The next step of the diocesan Catholic schools strategic planning process is underway.

“The Blue Ribbon Task Force has been divided into four working groups and they are working to create goals and strategic objectives,” said Dr. Tracy Bonday, superintendent of schools at the Diocese of Des Moines.

The four working groups are putting efforts into these major areas of focus:

- Enrollment Management
- Funding
- Discipleship
- Academics.

“Their first charge was to get some kind of idea about the current status,” said Dr. Jerry Deegan, chair of the Blue Ribbon

Task Force.

That means taking all of the information collected by Meitler Consulting and digging deeper, Deegan added.

Earlier this year, Meitler Consulting visited all 17 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines during the research phase of the strategic planning process, collecting data and examining strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The working groups are also looking at research that has been done on these topics in order to devise an effective strategy.

“Is there anything out there that will inform us on how to approach these issues?” Deegan said. “Is there research that can validate [our decisions] or best practices?”

One of the working groups has reached out to Cath-

olic schools in cities across the United States, including Kansas City, Richmond, Virginia and Atlanta to learn more about funding options.



St. Malachy Catholic School Principal Jennifer Simmons, Father Ken Halbur, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston and St. Edward Parish in Afton, and Dennis Purdum, a member of the board for the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, discuss the findings of Meitler consultants.

“We have reached out to a number of dioceses to look at what their funding models look like, how they are charging tuition, what their advancement efforts look like at the school level or diocesan level and what the parish support has looked like to see what they are doing in order to maintain long-term viability,” Bonday said.

These discussions also offer opportunities for strategizing.

“Is there anything we can cherry pick or model?” Deegan said.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force is pleased with the progress thus far.

“I would say I just feel like we’ve got great involvement,” Deegan said. “People are truly giving it their all. I’ve attended all of the meetings and people are very much engaged and coming up with good questions and good answers to those questions.

“I’m just really impressed with people’s commitment and work,” Deegan added.

They have gathered a lot of information and will be looking at what’s next for the Catholic schools.

“I think the process has been very comprehensive and I think we’ve garnered significant feedback from stakeholders,” Bonday said. “I think that everybody realizes that for long-term viability there’s going to have to be some sort of systemic change, and what that looks like is yet to be determined. But I do think people are aware that that there’s going to need to be some changes.”

Changes could apply to a number of areas, including a potential boost to marketing and re-branding efforts, Bonday said. A meeting to present the strategic plan in final form is tentatively scheduled for March 7 from 2-5 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Des Moines.

When the plan is released, it’s critical that all schools are properly resourced to effectively implement that plan, Bonday added.

Moving forward, all parties must be faithful to the strategic plan objectives and work collaboratively to successfully implement if they want long-term viability for our diocesan schools, Bonday concluded.

Schools, parishes experience flooding

A few Catholic schools and churches were hit hard by the widespread flood that hit Des Moines on June 30.

St. Theresa, Des Moines

“We had extensive damage in the school office and a couple other middle school classrooms,” said Principal Ellen Stemler.

Two to three inches of water were running down the hallways of both the main floor and the basement, Stemler said.

“Lights have been replaced, new ceiling tiles, new carpet,” Stemler said. “The entire school has been painted and we had to order lots of furniture for downstairs.... We lost a lot of

furniture, posters, teaching materials. ... We were very lucky technology was minimal. A few teachers who had been in their rooms for over 20 years lost all of their materials and supplies.

“We’re very lucky we didn’t have a roof collapse and we are counting our blessings,” Stemler said.

The church and rectory also had damage.

Holy Trinity, Des Moines

Just one week after completing a \$30,000 media center remodel at Holy Trinity, the floods destroyed it, said Dr. Anne Franklin, principal.

“We had to completely gut it again, had to take out

all the furniture, all the bookshelves, strip the carpet down,” Franklin said.

The school also lost over 1,000 books and had to replace baseboards, drywall and flooring.

The church also sustained damage in the lower level, including the bride’s room, bathrooms and storage.

St. Mary-Holy Cross, Elkhart

The church and rectory in Elkhart sustained damage, said Father Andrew Windschitl, pastor.

“It wasn’t a whole lot of water but it doesn’t take a lot to do damage,” he said. “In the office area the sewage backed

up with the water so that made it definitely disastrous. They came in and cleaned it and sanitized it and they cut off about two feet of drywall from the floor up.”

The rectory basement also sustained water damage. Drywall had to be cut up to two feet from the floor. The air conditioning



Pat Stuekerjuergen painting the walls of St. Theresa Catholic School with a number of volunteers, including Joe Dols and Pat and Erica Niggermeyer.

and water heater stopped working for a time before parts were replaced.

Schools' partnership launches unique camp

St. Anthony Catholic School partners with Drake University for Spanish-language STEM camp

About 75 students, University's campus for the first year, the students are in St. Anthony School's Spanish immersion program, a unique offering for English-speaking children who want to become bilingual with Spanish.



camp, Campamento STEM, in June and July.

During the school year, the students are in St. Anthony School's Spanish immersion program, a unique offering for English-speaking children who want to become bilingual with Spanish.

"STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) camps are not that unusual, but a Spanish immersion STEM camp is an innovative idea that doesn't occur that often," said Tom Buckmiller, Ph.D., who is on the education faculty at Drake University.

Marisol Guerra, a kindergarten teacher at St. Anthony School, reached out to him with idea of a partnership with Drake.

"This is a great opportunity for the Drake University School of Education to partner with a local Des Moines school to create worthwhile learning opportunities for students," he said.

Guerra, a native of Honduras, along with teachers Ana Rodrigo and Carlos Marquez,



used the STEM materials and translated the curriculum into Spanish for the pilot program.

The objectives of the camp were to build confidence in the students' ability to generate and understand concepts in science; experience excitement, interest and motivation to learning about phenomena in the nature and physical world; and use scientific activities and learning practices with others using scientific language and tools in Spanish.

"The students loved STEM camp because they had the opportunity to design and create things they see in real life such as plane, trains, parachutes, automobiles and more," said Guerra. "The fact that they could design it, test it, and then improve it was a great way to help develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills."

Drake's Collier-Scripps

building houses the School of Education and was the host for the camp.

"It was nice to use the spacious classroom with 4 interactive boards and all the resources available to us," Guerra said. "Everyone at Drake was great to work with. I hope we can have more collaborations and partnerships with Drake in the future."

Guerra thanked Sara Derry, Ph.D., who is the south-central STEM hub regional manager, for her help with the camp. "Sara and her staff were wonderful," Guerra said.

Camp organizers are considering opening up Campamento STEM to other Spanish-speaking elementary students in the future.

For more information on the Spanish immersion program at St. Anthony School call 515-243-1874.

Welcome to six new Catholic school administrators



Jon Aldrich

Jon Aldrich
Assistant Principal
St. Francis Catholic School
West Des Moines

Jon Aldrich was most recently an eighth grade science teacher for Southeast Polk Junior High School.

He will be graduating from Drake University with a master's degree in educational leadership this month.

Aldrich lives in Altoona with his wife, Nicole, and two sons.

Alex Baranosky

Assistant Principal
St. Pius X Catholic School
Urbandale

Alex Baranosky has spent his life embedded in the Des Moines diocese's Catholic schools.



Alex Baranosky

He attended St. Theresa and Dowling Catholic High School and has spent the last six years teaching at Dowling Catholic.

He is looking forward to getting to work with the faculty, staff, students, and community at St. Pius X.

Baranosky, his wife, Alice, and their two dogs live in Des Moines.

Kristel Kautzky

Assistant Principal
St. Augustin Catholic School
Des Moines

Kristel Kautzky is beginning her sixth year at St. Augustin Catholic School.

Before taking a leadership role, she taught middle school mathematics classes for five years.

She graduated from



Kristel Kautzky

Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and endorsements in mathematics and reading in December, 2011.

In May 2018, she completed a master's degree in educational leadership from Creighton University.

Kautzky grew up on a farm near Perry with her parents and three older sisters.

Outside of school, she enjoys baking, playing sports, reading, spending time with her family, and playing with her dog, Flynn.

Jennifer Raes

Principal
St. Anthony Catholic School
Des Moines

Born and raised in Urbandale and St. Pius X Parish and school, Jennifer Raes began



Jennifer Raes

her education career 27 years ago at St. Pius X teaching middle school language arts for six years.

She became the middle school math teacher and served as assistant principal at St. Pius X School for three years. She has served as assistant principal of St. Francis School in West Des Moines for the past six years.

Kandice Roethler

Principal
St. Patrick Catholic School
Perry

Originally from Algona and a graduate of the Bishop Garrigan School system, she has worked at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Des Moines, where she was the assistant principal for two years.

She is pursuing a doctoral degree at Drake University.



Kandice Roethler



Ervin Rowlands

In her free time, she enjoys swimming and cheering on the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Ervin Rowlands

Principal
St. Joseph Catholic School
Des Moines

Ervin Rowlands comes to St. Joseph from St. Cecilia in Ames where he served as principal the last five years.

Prior to that he served at St. Mary School in Storm Lake as principal for three years and was a superintendent and principal in northwest Iowa for over 25 years.

Rowlands and his wife, Ann, have four children and five grandchildren.

Stories compiled by Kelly Mescher Collins.

Dowling graduate in El Salvador

Continued from page 1

need to be paid, for reasons that could include gang extortion, loan sharks or money borrowed to pay people called coyotes, who take individuals across the border.

There are two major gangs in El Salvador that control territories throughout the major city of San Salvador, but they also control territories throughout the entire country including small towns and rural areas.

The most vulnerable are young people.

“[Teenage boys] are facing pressure from gangs,” Mackey said.

Some gangs forcibly recruit and other gangs might ask you to do a favor, Mackey said. But these seemingly small actions can put them in very dangerous situations.

They also face immense pressure from the police, some of whom view all young men as potential gang members.

It’s not much better for the young women.

“If you’re selected as the girlfriend of a gang leader, you have to agree to do that,” Mackey said. “If you’re chosen you...agree or you flee. Or you end up dead.”

Women are also used as objects of retaliation. Gang members and even police will rape the girlfriend, sister, wife or mother of a man they have a vendetta against.

Mothers of two boys – in grade school and middle school – told her how their boys were tortured and killed by police.

“[Torture could include] making someone drown, taking out their fingernails, simulated suffocation with bags, hanging them upside down and beating them.”

It might also include gunshot wounds and a slow bleed, Mackey added.

But the families don’t speak out for fear they too will be tortured and killed.

“So you can imagine on an emotional level what that does for the communities,” Mackey said. “The bitterness and the anger and the grief people are unable to process. There’s no justice. It’s a cauldron brewing of vengeance and violence and very little support



Dowling graduate Danielle Mackey visits with environmentalists whose loved ones were murdered in a conflict over a Canadian gold mine that wanted to operate in their community of Cabañas.

and no one trusts each other.”

When a person flees they typically live with a friend or family member first if possible if they have food to spare. Oftentimes leaving the country is their only option for long-term survival.

Mackey’s is a dangerous job.

“I can’t go into any community I want,” Mackey said. “I have to negotiate entry through a pastor or priest, who has the respect of the gangs, and he will go with me and set up meetings beforehand. And sometimes the gang leader will ask for my make and model of car and license plate number, and they will escort [me] into the community. I am operating under the terms of engagement as a journalist.”

Mackey recalled a story she wrote about a man deported from the U.S. back to El Salvador. He faced life-threatening challenges because of gangs.

Before deportation, he had a well-established life in Texas – a wife, two kids, a house, a vehicle and ran a contracting company.

“He immediately went to rural El Salvador five hours deep into the heart of the country where he had an aunt. And he doesn’t leave his home because of the gangs,” Mackey said, noting that this town is small – no more than 1,000 people. “He’s in his 30’s. No one knows who he is. They’ve never met him and so the gang members that are there could be a potential threat to him. His safety can’t be assured if he goes outside. His cousin will take him on walks to the store and to church and otherwise he is inside.”

Thankfully, he had cameras installed in their Texas home before he was deported, so he can watch his wife and kids through the computer screen.

Aside from the violence, unemployment makes life in El Salvador

difficult, even for those with a high school diploma and some college education, said Kay Andrade, born and raised in the United States, who has lived in San Salvador with her husband. She works for the Catholic Relief Services Youth Workforce Development Program.

“Businesses are afraid that the people they might hire might be connected to some illicit activity and start extorting them or their employees,” Andrade said. “So they go to extreme measures to mitigate that.”

Requirements of potential new hires include a letter from the police, a prison clearance letter stating they have never been in jail, as well as a polygraph test as an extra precaution.

“This could be [required] even for packing groceries or making your sandwich,” Andrade said.

Living in certain neighborhoods will also disqualify someone from a minimum wage job.

“Young people know this, so oftentimes they will change their address to get to the next step,” she said.

Minimum wage in El Salvador is \$287 a month for a commercial sector job, though 75 percent of the people work in the informal sector selling food or goods in a stand or marketplace.

“It’s unstable and has no benefits and you’re not covered by social security or health insurance,” Andrade said.

And that is why people are willing to risk their lives travelling through dangerous territory to escape or seek asylum. They seek asylum in the United States, but also seek asylum in Costa Rica, Ecuador and even Spain and Italy.

“People usually try to continue to flee until they’re killed,” Mackey said.

Americans were horrified when news stories circulated not so long ago of immigrant children travelling by themselves on trains to the U.S. border.

“When parents sent their children alone or with someone else, it’s the most loving thing they can do,” Mackey said. “They want to see their children live – even though it’s incredibly dangerous. But it’s less dangerous than the option of staying.”

Entering the United States legally is difficult for immigrants



CNS photo/Loren Elliott, Reuters

An immigrant from El Salvador and his 3-year-old daughter after being released from detention July 27 at a bus depot in McAllen, Texas.

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Immigrating to the United States legally is extremely difficult, especially when people are acting out of desperation.

Lori Chesser, chair of the immigration department at Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines and member of St. Augustin Parish, breaks down why coming here legally is not so easy.

“The first thing to keep in mind is that we have a very limited immigration system,” Chesser said. “You either have to have a close family member who is a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident in order to come here under the family system.

“We have a system for work visas, but we have no work visas for non-seasonal jobs like we have in Iowa,” Chesser added. “It’s just not in the system. If we had that in the system we could have addressed most of illegal immigration a long time ago.”

The work visas available are mostly for people in specialized fields with higher education.

“It really only works for a small number of people that have at least a bachelor’s degree and are doing really specialty jobs,” Chesser said.

“Now there’s some harvest jobs and some seasonal jobs that qualify for a visa,” Chesser added. “But it’s really important for people to understand that there’s not a temporary visa for most of the manual labor jobs we have in Iowa that aren’t seasonal, such as meat packing, janitorial, even ag jobs that aren’t seasonal, such as [working with] cows, pigs and chickens.”

There is also an ongoing debate about the word “asylum.”

In order to qualify as either a refugee or asylum seeker, a person must be “persecuted because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group,” Chesser said.

The persecution could come from the government, but also from a group the government can’t control, such as gangs, Chesser said.

Domestic violence is another gray area. In the United States, domestic violence is a crime, but that’s not true in other countries, Chesser added.

Domestic violence shelters that feed, clothe and house women and their children

do not exist in countries like El Salvador. That is why victims of domestic violence are seeking asylum at the U.S. border.

For those seeking asylum, they must travel hundreds of miles with their children to the border to plead their case, with no guarantees they will be let in.

As a Catholic woman who is also a lawyer, Chesser said the United States needs laws that make sense.

“That big gaping hole about no work visas – sometimes people need to come here for a little while and we have workforce needs,” Chesser said. “Immigration isn’t the whole answer, but it’s part of the answer. What we now call illegal immigration could be legal tomorrow if we make it legal.”

Kay Andrade, born and raised in the United States, has lived in San Salvador with her husband since the early ‘90s. She works for the Catholic Relief Services Youth Workforce Development Program.

She has seen firsthand the desperation of Salvadorans.

“I know there’s a lot of discussion in the United States about people following the law, but I think we need to look at whether the laws that exist are actually just,” Andrade said. “And there’s been a long history in the United States of recognizing when the laws are unjust and changing them...”

“It used to be legal to keep people from drinking from the same fountain,” Andrade continued. “It used to be legal to keep women from voting, but that wasn’t necessarily just and we’ve evolved when those unjust laws need to be changed.”

These are people in trouble who see no other options and need our help, said Chesser.

“You don’t go across the desert for a fun day out,” Chesser said. “This is a really hard thing to do.

“No one is for open borders – I don’t think that’s what we’re talking about,” Chesser added. “Let’s look at what it is – our neighbors are in trouble. How do we help them?”

“People are just trying to survive,” she continued. “And the richest country in the world can’t help a poor country?”

Bottom line: These people are our neighbors, Chesser said, referencing the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31).



(CNS photo/Roberto Escobar, EPA)

A Salvadoran woman works outside her makeshift home in Soyopango, just outside San Salvador. Many from El Salvador come to the United States fleeing violence and extreme poverty.

St. Albert makes state baseball tournament

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When the St. Albert Catholic School baseball team in Council Bluffs got their district assignments earlier this summer on the road to state, it almost seemed like a dream, said assistant coach Bobby Reisz.

"We thought, 'Oh my gosh, someone wants us to get to state,' because it was one of the easier roads that I've seen," Reisz said. "The teams we played didn't have winning records."

But they had one final game to win in order to secure a coveted – and somewhat elusive – spot at the state tournament in Des Moines, Reisz said.

Their sub-state game was scheduled in Glenwood. Only it rained that day. And despite assurances the field would be ready by game time, Reisz got the news that afternoon that the game had been moved to Harlan.

Harlan was bad news to almost everyone.

"We never have very good luck there," Reisz said.

In fact, St. Albert has a long history of losing at Harlan. Even when they should have won, they lost, said head coach Duncan Patterson.

"There was a monkey on our back [there]," Patterson said. "I think we had 11 or 12 straight losses there at that field."

Reisz was bound and determined to do whatever he could to stop the losing streak. Harlan was the only thing standing in their way.

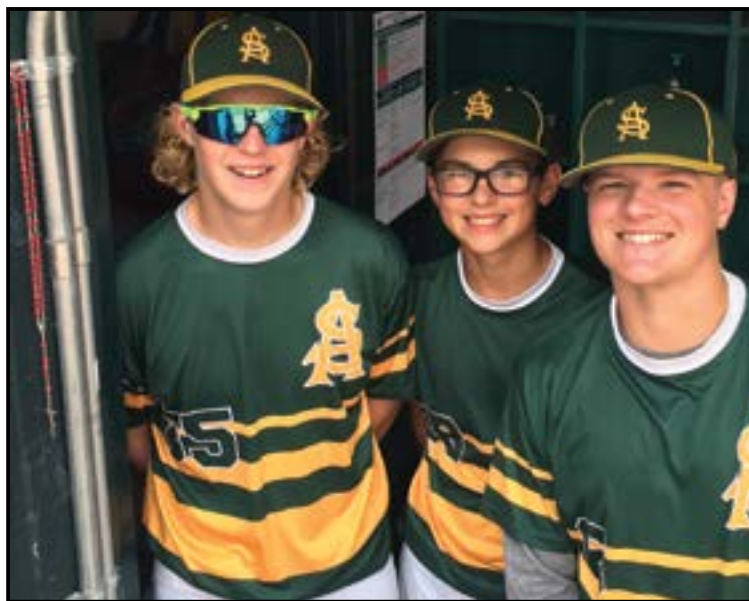
He brought along a rosary and holy water that he picked up in Rome, which had both been blessed by Pope Benedict XVI.

Before the game Reisz walked around the infield, sprinkling holy water on the first, second and third bases, home plate and the pitcher's mound. Reisz said he felt a negative energy, or resistance, before sprinkling the water.

He also gathered the boys in the dugout just before the game's start, sprinkling holy water on their fingers so they could all make the sign of the cross. Reisz hung the rosary up in a prominent spot and put the bottle of holy water on display in the dugout.

Longtime St. Albert supporter and retired priest Father Paul Monahan had also blessed all of their bats before the game and held a prayer service for them.

"Long story short – we played flawless," Reisz said. "No errors. We won 10-0 and took care of business and got out of there in



St. Albert baseball players, from left, Ian Summerfield, Luke Hubbard and Braden Scott stand next to the rosary hanging in the dugout at the state tournament.

five innings....They didn't play nervous, they didn't play tight.

"The guys were just different playing that game," Reisz continued. "We still made mistakes, but it wasn't like the old guys...We turned a double play. A month ago we wouldn't have done that – we would have made an error. But it was like textbook and that was a huge play."

The head coach agreed – there was a difference.

"You could see it in the kids – they were more relaxed," Patterson said. "It was very positive. I think it did help."

After winning at Harlan, the team switched gears and focused on state.

The St. Albert Falcons played their first round of the Class 1-A state tournament against the Martinsdale-St. Marys Bluedevils at Principal Park on July 20. St. Albert lead for most of the game but lost in a final score of 3-2.

While the players and coaches were disappointed, they had a great time together.

Four seniors are moving on – three of them will be playing at the college level. They'll always cherish the friendships and memories.

"[I'll miss] the people and the community, getting good luck texts and good game texts from parents," said starting pitcher Garret Reisz, who will be playing for Highland Community College in Kansas this fall.

Relief pitcher Jake Hubbard, who will be playing for Briar Cliff in Sioux City, shared similar thoughts.

"I think what made the whole year so special was that we had a lot of good relationships on this team," Hubbard said. "My little brother was on the team and we had a lot of good friends on the team and I think everyone

else did too."

Though they didn't walk away from this season with a state championship, they take with them their faith.

"Especially in baseball – anything can happen..." Garret Reisz said. "There are ups and downs in your life and you're definitely going to go through bad things. You can score 10 runs, but anything can happen in life. Believe in what God has for you and you should be fine."

"We're mainly just focusing on the positives," Hubbard added. "It's a positive to make it to state. We were always taught to look at the positives throughout the year. We made it to state and made some noise and played a good game. Looking at the positives helps us recover from the loss."

Local opportunity for parish office software training

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

The Diocese of Des Moines will be hosting one of the 2018 ParishSOFT 20th Anniversary Roadshows at the Catholic Pastoral Center on Sept. 11.

This is the first time in ParishSOFT's 20-year history the company is having regional trainings.

ParishSOFT is one of the top Catholic-based software systems used at churches and dioceses in the United States.

"ParishSOFT is in use at all of our parishes and offers a full suite of products that keeps track of parishioners, contact information, sacramental information, ministry schedules, tithing and religious education. In addition, we all also utilize the ParishSOFT accounting program," said Roni Argetsinger, diocesan technology manager.

The training at the Catholic Pastoral Center is an opportunity for those who can't afford to travel to a major city to attend the conference, Argetsinger said.

"It's pretty inexpensive training for a full day," she said. "We're able to offer the full day track for all three types of staff: church management, religious education or accounting. And they get to collaborate with each other too and meet and talk with their peers and see how their peers are addressing situations and using software to help."

Cost is \$25 per person with a maximum \$100 registration

charge per parish. Priests can register for free if attending with at least one staff member.

People can call 515-237-5028 to register. Deadline is Aug. 28.

The workshops start at 8:45 a.m. The day includes Mass with Bishop Richard Pates at St. Ambrose Cathedral. The day concludes at 3:30 p.m.

A special hotel rate is offered for training attendees at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus in downtown Des Moines.

Peter Relyea, bookkeeper at St. Mary / Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart attends as many ParishSOFT conferences as possible.

"Two reasons – to be sure we're up to date on any of the latest developments...and second would be the networking opportunities," Relyea said. "The networking gives you a list of people you can call if you have questions and to avoid reinventing the wheel."

Michelle Miller, facilities coordinator and pastor's secretary at Christ the King Parish in Des Moines said she makes it a priority to attend the conferences.

"The regional one is going to be even better," Miller said. "You're going to be hands on and working with people from your own diocese and you can network and get to know better."

"The networking is excellent," Miller added. "And you meet people that you can lean on and call if you need to ask people questions about the software."



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Neola women make healing pilgrimage

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

A prayer group of girlfriends from St. Patrick Parish in Neola brought one of their own on a pilgrimage of healing to Wisconsin.

The idea for the trip was proposed by Kathy Graeve. “We wanted to help Mary,” Graeve said.

Mary Baker was diagnosed with thyroid cancer five years ago.

The cancer has only been found in her lungs and neck though and doesn’t seem to be spreading.

She sees the doctor every six months, but is not undergoing treatment.

“My doctor says, ‘You’re a rare case, Mary,’” Baker said. “And I say, ‘That’s because I have a higher authority watching over me.’”

That higher authority is also helping Baker watch over her 7-year-old grand-

daughter, Grace, who is in the full-time care of Mary and her husband, Norm.

“I just keep rolling because I have a mission – the Lord has given me a grandchild,” Baker said. “I have had her since the day she got out of the hospital. And I have a mission to raise her for Jesus.”

The group left for Wisconsin on May 24.

They visited many churches and attended two separate healing Masses, one at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin – also a Marian apparition site that has been approved by the local bishop.

The second healing Mass was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill in Hubertus, Wisconsin.

“It’s very powerful,” Graeve said. “God still does miracles when the time is right, so we pray for a miracle for Mary. We want her to get healed.”

They were driving along after one of the Masses when they noticed a person’s yard full of bird houses for sale.

So they stopped.

They began telling the retired couple about their pilgrimage.

The woman who owned the shop admitted she was Catholic but had stopped going to church years ago after a falling out.

Her husband was having heart problems and had been very sick. So the women asked if they could pray over him.

“He didn’t really say anything but ‘Thank you very much and I’m so glad you ladies stopped and shared your faith with us,’” Graeve said.

Baker won’t see the doctor again until September. But she’s not focused on that.

She’s relishing the memories and time together.

“We felt like it was a holy time,” Baker said. “It was very much an infusion of faith.”

Save the date
Cathedral Concert is Aug. 28



Stop by the Zimpleman Family Plaza at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave. in Des Moines on Aug. 28 for a free concert featuring Parranderos Latin Combo and Josh & Nick Sinclair. Food and drinks available to purchase. Above, Bishop Richard Pates is pictured with Annette White, Emily Foegen and Elizabeth Nahas at the first Cathedral Concert.

70+ Iowa Catholic Daughters at convention



The 2018 Catholic Daughters of the Americas national convention in July drew more than 70 Catholic Daughters from around Iowa.

Des Moines diocesan members who attended were from Court Ave Maria #302 in Des Moines, Court Joan of Arc #428 in Creston, Court St. Anthony #330 in Council Bluffs and Court St. Maria Goretti #2498 in Portsmouth.

Three Iowans were elected to leadership positions within the organization. Sherry Niles, of Sheldon, was elected regent elect, meaning she will be the national CDA regent in 2020-2022. Rose Holschlag, of Milford, was re-elected as a national director. And, elected to the 2020 national nominating committee was Darlene Moritz, of Milford.

Pictured above are officers from Iowa: Rita Carlson, secretary, Karen Kasparbauer, first vice state regent, Jan Grundmeyer state regent, Darlene Moritz, immediate past state regent and Deb Steger, state treasurer.

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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.

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National deacon gathering inspires

Ten deacons and their wives from the Diocese of Des Moines attended the National Diaconate Congress in New Orleans from July 22-26. More than 2,800 people from 15 countries celebrated the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the permanent diaconate in the United States.

Here are some reflections from the conference participants:

Deacon Rick Condon

My wife, Jenny, and I agree that New Orleans fed us well. Of course, I'm thinking about shrimp gumbo, and creole, alligator sausage, corn bread and blackened redfish. But that's not the only way we were fed. Three-plus days of talks and seminars by cardinals, bishops, and deacons satisfied a deeper hunger and filled us with a fire that cannot be found in mere peppers and Cajun spices. The presenters took us on a diaconate journey back to Vatican II, the new beginning, then focused on the world's greatest needs today and what deacons are doing, and finally guided us toward the diaconate of the future.

Jenny Condon

My favorite event of the week would have to be our witness and participation at a high-energy Mass hosted by the Office of Black Catholic Ministries from the Archdiocese of New Orleans. With representatives from 26 black Catholic parishes, the large crowd within St. Louis Cathedral jumped from their seats as the deacon's homily built to a frenzy – all before he took us right back to the altar. From raising the roof in song to kneeling in devout reverence and passion for Jesus and the Eucharist, they shared



Attending the National Deacon Congress were (from left): Kathie Obradovich, Deacon Kevin Heim, Deacon Jim Obradovich, Deacon Tom Bradley, Deacon Rick Condon (back), Margaret Bradley, Jenny Condon, Deacon Fred Cornwell, Rhonda Heim and Deacon Francis Chan.

with us many charismatic gifts displaying the love they have for their roots and the heritage of their Catholic faith.

Deacon Fred Cornwell

I have been ordained almost 33 years and the conference brought to mind the vast swing over the past 50 years from not being accepted in the parish to being collaborators with the pastor to help bring a deeper relationship between Jesus Christ and his people. The fullness of the hierarchical Church lies in the presence of the bishop, priest and the deacon who is persona Christi diaconia (the person of Christ the servant). I was left with a feeling of confidence and importance for the diaconate as we move into the next 50 years.

Deacon Tom Bradley

The impact of diaconal ministry in the Church was in full display in New Orleans. The gift of deacons to the people of God and the universal Church, especially in the U.S., was enumerated by the many archbishops who addressed the Congress. Deacons are the best bargain in the Church today.

Deacon Francis Chan

Meeting brother deacons and their wives from the Des Moines diocese's diaconate community and the whole deacons' community, was a special blessing I received that week. I was blessed by meeting coworkers in the field of Christ

the servant – deacons -- where we had chance to exchange some views on ministry.

Deacon Kevin and Rhonda Heim:

The presentations by the speakers were inspiring and empowering. It was amazing to hear the ministries of deacons around the country and how our brother deacons and their wives were bringing Christ out to the people.

Deacon Jim and Kathie Obradovich

The Catholic Church permeates the culture of New Orleans – even the food. A basic

recipe for gumbo incorporates the Trinity (onion, celery and green pepper), the Pope (garlic, shaped like his hat) and the Blessing (a sprinkle of green onion on top.) Each ingredient is stirred in at the right time so it enhances the flavor and texture of the stew without losing its individual character.

The history of the diaconate goes back to the early days of the Church but its reinstitution 50 years ago has brought out the deacon's individual character as a minister of charity and a bridge between clergy and laity. It was a blessing to be part of this historic celebration.

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Rural Iowa hosts Christian Family Movement

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The Christian Family Movement’s board came to rural Iowa in mid-July for its national meeting.

The group that has met in Miami, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Omaha and elsewhere came to St. Joseph Parish in Winterset and celebrated Mass at St. Patrick Church at Irish Settlement. CFM leaders wanted to meet families from rural America and learn about their needs and concerns.

“We like to meet with families on a Saturday night and get to know the people,” said board president John Poprac. “You really get a different feel for what they are looking for.”

Sandy and Rick Hoenig, of Winterset, are on the national board and thought it would be a good idea to bring leaders to Iowa so they see not just large urban areas but talk with families in rural communities.

Christian Family Movement is an international

organization that promotes Christ-centered marriage and family life. It works to improve society through actions of love, service, education and example. Members meet in small groups of families on a monthly basis for prayer, Scripture reflection and discussion. They build

lasting friendships with other Christian families.

Parishes that have a CFM presence include St. Francis in West Des Moines, St. Theresa in Des Moines, Sacred Heart in West Des Moines and St. Boniface in Waukee, said Sandy Hoenig.



Members of the Christian Family Movement board presented retired Chicago Auxiliary Bishop George Rassas with an honor during a Mass at St. Patrick Church at Irish Settlement.

Editor’s Note:

We were unable to provide “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates” column in Spanish for the August edition of “The Catholic Mirror.” It will return next month.



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Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa has new director of planned giving

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Brooke Pulliam has started as the director of planned giving for the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, a position that was newly created.

In this new role, Pulliam is responsible for facilitating planned giving initiatives in support of Catholic schools, parishes and organizations within the Diocese of Des Moines. Pulliam specializes in working with individuals and couples who have a desire to create a lasting legacy of financial support in our Catholic community.

“I think the most exciting thing is the impact we can have today on the diocese and on our future generations,” Pulliam said. “Planting the seed now benefits our kids and our grandkids and leaves a legacy.”

Pulliam appreciates the long-lasting impact donors can have. Planned gifts can be earmarked to go to your parish, Catholic school, seminarians, or any other Catholic entity you’d like to help.

It also makes sense to plan your gifts now, Pulliam added.

“I think people are sometimes uncomfortable talking about end of life issues,” Pulliam said. “It’s really important to have those conversations with families while everyone is living so families understand wishes and intentions.”



Brooke Pulliam

Planning gifts now helps prevent family disagreements down the road when adult children don’t see eye to eye on who their parents wanted to help.

“It’s a gift to your children by having it all on paper so there’s no question in anyone’s mind about their parent’s desires,” Pulliam added.

Pulliam grew up in Des Moines’ south side and attended St. Anthony Parish and Catholic School. She and her husband David are members of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. Their daughter Laney is a junior at Dowling Catholic High School and her son Nick is an 8th grader at Sacred Heart Catholic School. Their daughter Taylor is a senior at Iowa State University.

To learn more about how the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa can help you with planned giving, contact Pulliam at 515-237-5080 or email bpulliam@catholicfoundationiowa.org.

Catholic radio programming in Spanish

Fortaleciendo Nuestra Fe
Sabado al mediodía, La Reina 1260 AM, 96.5 FM

La Hora de Cristo Rey
Jueves al mediodía, La Ley 105.5 FM

Alegre la Mañana
Thursdays at 10 a.m., La Reina 1260 AM, 96.5 FM

No temas
Domingos 10:30 a.m., Iowa Catholic Radio 1150 AM, 88.5 FM, 94.5 FM

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@dmdiocese.org.

Bishop’s Schedule

Friday, Aug. 17
West Des Moines – Mass with Catholic School Administrators, Dowling Catholic High School, 8:30 a.m.
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 18
Des Moines – Installation Mass for Father Mark Neal, Holy Trinity Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 19
Des Moines – Installation Mass for Father Mark Neal, Holy Trinity Parish, 8:30 a.m.
Des Moines – Installation Mass for Father Mark Neal, Holy Trinity Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 20
Des Moines – Catholic Charities Social Justice Consortium, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
Des Moines – Catholic Charities Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 21
Des Moines – Hispanic Pastoral Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23
Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
Des Moines – Reconciliation, Mass with NOVOS, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 6 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 24
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.
Des Moines – Mass, dinner with FOCUS, Bishop’s Residence, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 25
Des Moines – Marriage Anniversary Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 26
Guthrie Center – Rural Life Mass, Arganbright Farm, 2414 Redwood Ave., 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 27
Norwalk – Catholic Charities’ Bishop’s Golf Classic, Echo Valley Country Club, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 28
Des Moines – Cathedral Concert Series, Zimpleman Plaza – Catholic Pastoral Center, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 29
Des Moines – Catholic Charities Board of Directors, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 30
West Des Moines – Mass of the Holy Spirit, Dowling Catholic High School, 9:50 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 31
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic

Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 1
Des Moines – Installation Mass for Father PJ McManus, Christ the King Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 2
Des Moines – Installation Mass for Father PJ McManus, Christ the King Parish, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 5
Des Moines – Confirmation, reception, St. Anthony Parish, 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 7
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 8
Imogene – Confirmation, reception, St. Patrick Parish, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 9
Avoca – Confirmation, reception for St. Mary Parish, Avoca and St. Patrick Parish, Walnut, St. Mary Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 11
Des Moines – Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 12
Council Bluffs – Mass of the Holy Spirit, St. Albert School, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13
Des Moines – Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

Friday, Sept. 14
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.
Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 16
Red Oak – Marriage Anniversary Mass, St. Mary Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18
Des Moines – Bishop’s Council Meeting, Embassy Club, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 19
Des Moines – Catholic Charities Social Justice Consortium, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
Des Moines – Catholic Charities Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

Thursday-Sunday Sept. 20 – 23
Grapevine, Texas – National V. Encuentro, Gaylor Texan Resort Hotel and Convention Center

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

Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry

The objective of the Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry is to develop a relationship with families and youth in the four parish cluster of St. Mary’s, West Point; St. Boniface, Farmington; St. James, St. Paul; and St. John, Houghton. To provide them with a variety of resources and experiences so they may grow as Disciples of Christ, deepen their faith and fully participate in the life and work of the Catholic community. This will be accomplished through a combination of parish, deanery, diocesan and national events and resources, including catechesis, service work and other faith opportunities.

- Responsibilities and Duties
- Create, organize, teach and lead a variety of events to best serve our parish youth and families.
 - Create monthly reports to the HTC school board and the 4 parish councils in regard to activities and events.
 - This position will report to the Parish Pastor(s).
 - Collect feedback from families to find the areas of need and access the parish’s success in providing the necessary resources.

- Qualifications & Skills
- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing.
 - Must demonstrate the understanding of, and support for, the Catholic Church’s teachings, mission and values.
 - Some ministry formation or catechetical training desired.
 - Previous experience in youth ministry, family ministry or faith formation preferred.
 - Must be able to communicate effectively with parishioners, staff and the Diocese through social media and other technology. Knowledge of Gmail and Google Calendar helpful.

Send resume and cover letter to:
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
Attn: Rebecca Hannum
P.O. Box 68
West Point, Iowa 52656
westpointstmarypa@diodav.org
319-837-6808



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(563) 379-9253
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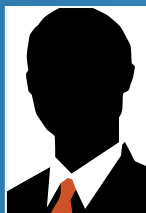
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West Des Moines, Panora, Anita,
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