

# THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 52, No. 9

September 21, 2018

*Bishop invites parishes, schools to pray, fast in September*

Bishop Richard Pates invited parishes and schools in the Diocese of Des Moines to set aside the four Fridays of September as special days for the faithful to enter into prayer and fasting in reparation for the sexual abuse of children.

The bishop suggests parishes may bolster their prayer and fasting with Eucharistic adoration through a holy hour and penitential prayer service. He led a holy hour and penitential prayer service on Sept. 7 and Sept. 14 at St. Ambrose Cathedral.

The call for these special days comes in response to Pope Francis's Aug. 20 letter addressing the atrocities of abuse detailed in a Pennsylvania grand jury report. "The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way," wrote Pope Francis. "Today, we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit."

*Read more about the local response to the abuse crisis in Bishop's column on page 2. The national response is on page 13.*

## Report and delete suspicious emails

**By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer**

If you've received an email from your parish priest requesting gift cards or money, report it and delete it.

Father Mark Neal, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, and Father Dominic McManus, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, were both targeted.

Someone sent out emails to parishioners and parish staff pretending to be the priests using their names and email address (or an alias email) requesting iTunes gift cards.

The priests quickly got the word out, letting people know it was a scam.

"I made an announce-

Continued on page 15

## Students head back to school



**Students across the diocese headed back to school in August. Left: Students are all smiles on the first day back at St. Patrick Catholic School in Perry. Top right: St. Joseph Catholic School students Noah Jay, fourth grade, and Faith Jay, second grade, get to work on their first day. Bottom right: A grandfather leads his grandkids back to school on their horses at St. Patrick Catholic School in Perry.**



## Christ Our Life conference needs volunteers

Behind it all—the Mass, reconciliation, adoration and benediction, speakers, inspirational music and faith-filled fellowship—the Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference relies on up to 225 volunteers, dozens of priests for confessions and many donors or in-kind services to keep ticket prices low.

With an estimated 8,000 attendees anticipated at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, on-site assistance is sought Sept. 29 and 30 with some pre-event help needed Sept. 28.

"We have been blessed with the time, talents and treasures of supporters since 2008, when we began our preparations for the first-ever Christ Our Life. The laborers for the Lord have been plentiful," says co-chair Marilyn Lane of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

### Priests

Priests serve as confes-

sors and concelebrate either of two Masses: 9 a.m. Saturday or 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Registration is free for priests.

Priests can choose any timeframe from the reconciliation schedule of 7 a.m.-8:15 a.m., and noon-5:30 p.m., Saturday or 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Sunday. The schedule allows them to hear Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron speak at 11 a.m. Saturday. Marianne Wadle will work with priests to meet home parish responsibilities. Contact her at: marianne.wadle@gmail.com.

### Pre-Event/Onsite Volunteers

Volunteers assist with setup, tear down, program books and signage, and serve as greeters, ushers, Eucharistic escorts, or guides for reconciliation, the adoration chapel, speakers or orchestra.

The greatest need is for Saturday morning ushers. Volunteers can help and still see and

hear the speakers. Sign up at: [ChristOurLifeIowa.com/volunteers](http://ChristOurLifeIowa.com/volunteers) and receive a \$15 discounted ticket and a free t-shirt. Questions can be directed to our volunteer co-chairs Bruce and Debbie Mehlhop at [ddmehlhop@colcc.org](mailto:ddmehlhop@colcc.org).

### Choir Members

Free music, online recordings and five rehearsals are provided for choir members.

Choral leaders Scott Rieker and Stefanie Harper will work with those who cannot make all rehearsals. To sign up, contact Stefanie at [sharper@colcc.org](mailto:sharper@colcc.org).

### Sponsors

Additional donors and pro bono services are needed to defray expenses and keep ticket prices affordable.

Joe Lane

and Justin Doyle welcome businesses, foundations and individual financial contributions. Lane can be reached at: [joelanesr@icloud.com](mailto:joelanesr@icloud.com) or 515-975-4020. Donate directly at: [ChristOurLifeIowa.com/donate/](http://ChristOurLifeIowa.com/donate/)

It's considered one of the most affordable of its kind. Tickets are only \$25 for the entire weekend. Students/youth and volunteers pay \$15 while clergy, seminarians, deacons and religious may attend for free. People may attend all or any part of the event.

### Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference

**When:** Sept. 29-30  
**Where:** Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines  
**Cost:** \$25/ticket, sold in parishes, online and at the door  
**Details:** [ChristOurLifeIowa.com](http://ChristOurLifeIowa.com)



In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

# Sexual abuse crisis in the Church

The report of the Grand Jury investigation of six dioceses in Pennsylvania on sexual abuse by priests and other Church personnel sent a shock wave through the Catholic Church in the United States in the last few weeks.

The number of perpetrators and victims was very disconcerting. In sum, over a period of 70 years it represented a tragic moral failure on the part of perpetrating clerics and church leadership in “cover-ups.”

Obviously, this type of behavior and the culture in which it existed cannot be condoned. At the same time, words which categorize the behavior as unacceptable are empty unless there is an accompanying commitment to reform.

Our first attention needs to be directed to the victims who suffered this abuse. Heartfelt apologies are extended to them. No effort should be spared to help with the healing process for each one of them. They need to be listened to so that they can convey the pain and suffering they have experienced. Professional counseling and therapy should be provided where called for. Prayer and fasting need to be undertaken by us seeking God’s intercession in their healing process and demonstrating our solidarity with them.

The Pennsylvania report essentially covered the same time frame regarding the incidence of sexual abuse as did *The Boston Globe* series at the turn of the millennium. In response to that, the bishops of the United States in 2002 adopted “The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” implemented by the accompanying “Essential Norms.”



By  
Bishop  
Richard  
Pates

Bishop Emeritus Joseph Charron before me and I have implemented the Charter in the Diocese of Des Moines as a matter of highest priority. The result is the following provisions:

1. Any report of sexual misconduct of a Catholic Church worker is immediately reported to law enforcement followed by an appropriate civil/ecclesial investigation. The person to whom the allegation is directed is suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.
2. Any Church worker credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor is removed from office until the investigation is completed.
3. Victims are encouraged to contact the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Advocate, Sam Porter, at 515-286-2015 or email [advocate@dmdiocese.org](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org) or [samporter@polkcountyiowa.gov](mailto:samporter@polkcountyiowa.gov). He can help victims file a complaint and seek counseling. Victims can also call Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services at 515-286-3600. The agency will provide advocacy with the diocese regardless of where the victim is living.
4. In the last 15 years, the diocese has been served by an Allegation Review Committee. The present composition is: a police chief, a counselor, a civil judge, a lawyer (who currently serves as chair), a teacher, a permanent deacon and a

priest. This body advises the Bishop on all reports of sexual misconduct and diocesan sexual behavior policies.

By way of prevention, the following practices have been initiated:

1. A criminal background check is conducted of every individual who undertakes a volunteer, paid or clerical ministry in the diocese. Since 2002, the diocese has completed 18,525 background checks.
2. Ministers (volunteer and compensated) need to sign a “Code of Conduct” which they agree to abide by.
3. Visiting clergy are required, through their diocese, to submit a “personal statement of suitability.”
4. Since 2002, 18,525 people have completed safe environment training. All ministers in the diocese are required to complete monthly “Virtus” readings which highlight dimensions of abuse/boundary issues.
5. All youth participating in Church programs are required to participate in education programs alerting them to possible abuses/behaviors.
6. There is an annual audit currently conducted by Stonebridge Business Partners. Every third year this exercise is on-site. The other two years it is done in writing. For the 14 years the audit has been conducted, the Diocese of Des Moines has been found to be in compliance with the Charter.
7. An independent, third party conducted an audit of all diocesan files of living priests in July, 2014.
8. The matter of sexual abuse of minors is governed

nationwide by the National Review Board.

Since my coming to Des Moines ten years ago, one priest has been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor (for a situation several years before). He has been laicized and removed from any ministry. Moreover, credible allegations of sexual abuse throughout the country have declined dramatically since the implementation of the charter. This was acknowledged by the Pennsylvania Report. Actual statistics are available on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

In approximately the same timeframe, serious concerns surfaced with regard to Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and sexual abuse allegations brought against him. In this regard, I stand with Cardinal Daniel DiNardo who in a statement on Aug. 27 stated:

*“On August 1st, I promised that USCCB would exercise the full extent of its authority, and would advocate before those with greater authority, to pursue the many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick. On August 16th, I called for an Apostolic Visitation, working in concert with a national lay commission granted independent authority, to seek the truth. Yesterday, I convened our Executive Committee once again, and it reaffirmed the call for a prompt and thorough examination into how the grave moral failings of a brother bishop could have been tolerated for so long and proven no impediment to his advancement.”*

I believe that Cardinal

DiNardo’s action will lead to the truth eventuating in steps to prevent recurrence of such behavior.

Realizing that the Church is not a corporation, a NGO, a private or public institution, or a fraternal organization but a communion of believers deeply committed to solidarity with one another in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, I asked that prayer and fasting be instituted communally and individually on the Fridays in September. Jesus taught us: “Some demons can only be excised through prayer and penance.” I am very grateful to all who have joined in this movement.

While I strongly support effective action to pursue the truth through the charter and Archbishop DiNardo’s initiative, I am also convinced that our prayer and fasting will be extremely efficacious.

I am fully conscious of the upset, embarrassment and pain of so many in our Catholic community. Especially is this true of the vast majority of our faithful clergy, ministers, lay staff and generous volunteers. My wholehearted support, understanding and encouragement are with you at this time.

Without hesitation, we have to be dedicated to widespread, ongoing, and authentic reform. This will require the involvement of many players, especially the laity. If we hold a steady course in reform, will we not be a stronger church when we emerge from this extended crisis? With mutual support, healing, sustainable action forward, combined with solidarity and God’s ever present grace, I believe we will.

## Bishop’s Schedule

- Thursday, September 20 – Sunday, September 23**  
**Grapevine, Texas** – National V Encuentro, Gaylord Texan Resort Hotel and Convention Center
- Friday, September 21**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.
- Monday, September 24**  
**Des Moines** – Diocese of Des Moines Board of Directors, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – Feast Day for Mercy Mass and annual celebration, Mercy Medical Center, Noon
- Tuesday, September 25**  
**Ankeny** – Mass and classroom visit, St. Luke the Evangelist School, 8:30 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – New Moment coordinating committee, Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 26**  
**Des Moines** – Diocesan all staff gathering, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, September 27**  
**Des Moines** – Emmaus House luncheon, Bishop’s residence, 11:30 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – Inauguration Mass and reception for Mercy College of Health Sciences President Dr. Douglas Fiore,

- St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1 p.m.
- Friday, September 28**  
**Harlan** – Mass, Shelby County Catholic School, St. Michael Church, Harlan, 9:30 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.
- Saturday, September 29 – Sunday, September 30**  
**Des Moines** – Christ Our Life Conference, Wells Fargo Arena  
**Sunday, September 30**  
**West Des Moines** – Confirmation, reception, Sacred Heart Parish, 4 p.m.
- Sunday, September 30 – Thursday, October 4**  
**Kansas City, Missouri** – Diocese of Des Moines’ priests’ fall workshop, Four Points Sheraton Hotel
- Thursday, October 4**  
**West Des Moines** – Confirmation, reception, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 5**  
**West Des Moines** – Mass, Sacred Heart School, 8:45 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.  
**West Des Moines** – Confirmation, reception, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 6:30 p.m.

- Saturday, October 6**  
**Des Moines** – Holy Family School Barn Bash, 6 p.m.
- Sunday, October 7**  
**West Des Moines** – Confirmation, reception, Sacred Heart Parish, 4 p.m.  
**Des Moines** – Bishop Pates’ farewell celebration, international community, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 6 p.m.  
**Des Moines** – Blue and Gold Gala, St. Joseph School, Downtown Embassy Suites, 8 p.m.
- Monday, October 8**  
**Des Moines** – Serra Club Priests’ Appreciation Cookout, Walnut Woods Shelter House, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 9**  
**Des Moines** – Hispanic Pastoral Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.  
**Des Moines** – Confirmation, St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 10**  
**Des Moines** – Catholic Charities Board of Directors, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – Meitler Steering Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, October 11**  
**Des Moines** – Mass, Christ the King School, 8:40 am  
**Des Moines** – Diocesan Executive Committee Meeting, Pastoral Center,

- 1 p.m.  
**West Des Moines** – Andrew Dinner, Sacred Heart Parish, 6 p.m.
- Friday, October 12**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.  
**West Des Moines** – Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem fall dinner, Des Moines Golf & Country Club
- Saturday, October 13**  
**Waukee** – Confirmation, reception, St. Boniface Parish, 10 a.m.  
**Council Bluffs** – Bishop Pates’ farewell celebration, St. Patrick Parish, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, October 14**  
**Des Moines** – Mass, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 10:30 a.m.  
**Des Moines** – Bishop Pates’ farewell celebration, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.
- Monday, October 15 – Thursday, October 18**  
**Chicago** – 2018 Extension Society Mission Bishops’ Conference
- Friday, October 19**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.  
Washington, D.C. – Catholic Climate Covenant, 9 a.m.

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## Young couple says marriage makes them better people



**By Kelly Mescher Collins**  
Staff Writer

When Colin Riemersma first laid eyes on Katelyn, he knew she was the one.

Colin had just discerned out of seminary, transferred to Benedictine College in Kansas and was attending a welcoming banquet for all new students. He sat down at the first empty seat he could find near his friends. When he turned to his left, there was Katelyn.

Afterwards, he said, “I met her, man. I met my future wife.”

A few months later, they started dating. He proposed a year later on their one-year anniversary.

The couple recently

celebrated their five-year wedding anniversary. They have two daughters and a baby boy due in January.

Their commitment to their Catholic faith and beliefs gave them reassurance and eliminated any fears before walking down the aisle.

“Because you know that this is where you’re going to be for the rest of your life,” Katelyn said. “And so I think having that knowledge really helped.”

Marriage has made each of them better people, they agreed.

“Marriage helps bring about self-sacrifice for the sake of the other....,” Colin said. “I literally don’t think there’s any other way – apart from formation in the priesthood – in which boys become men.”

There have been many joys in their marriage, but heartache as well.

“We’ve lost a couple of babies in this marriage,” Katelyn said. “That has definitely been the biggest struggle in this marriage. But there’s an intercession and grace that pulls you though.”

Their community of Catholic friends helped a great deal as well.

Adam Storey, diocesan director of Marriage and Family Life, said gifts can be found in the struggles of marriage.

“Faith gives us a context for our struggles,” Storey said. “It gives us strength to persevere. It gives us hope that things get better and reminds us that our suffering can be meaningful and fruitful.”

## Couples honored, marriages blessed

*Bishop Richard Pates honored couples celebrating milestone anniversaries and blessed their vocation to marriage during Masses at St. Ambrose Cathedral and St. Mary Church in Red Oak.*



**Top: Jodi and Tim Caton, of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. Maria and Ron Rosmann, of St. Boniface Parish in Westphalia, on their 40th wedding anniversary at Mass.**

# CATHOLIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE CHRIST OUR LIFE

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# What happened to keeping vows?

This summer has been painful for Catholics in the United States.

It breaks my heart to see the wickedness that we are capable of. Hearing more stories of unthinkable abuse and cover-ups is just crushing.

Yet, I am hopeful because I know that wounds only heal in the light, I know that Christ remains with his Church, and I know that this pain can be a purifying fire.

Many people have been looking for the root causes of this crisis, and I'm certainly not informed enough, or qualified, to try to answer that question.

Still, in my work as the diocesan Marriage and Family Life director, I can identify a problem that at least contributes. In our culture today, there is a great aversion to, and little respect for *keeping*

## Marriage & Family Life

By Adam Storey



our vows.

Fewer and fewer people are getting married, and in part, that is due to a great fear of vows. Young people often see marriage as something that would stifle them, something that would trap them.

In the back of the minds of many couples, there is a fear that they are incapable of keeping their vows, or

that they're committed only as long as the marriage is deemed rewarding. As a culture, we not only accept this attitude, we encourage it as something liberating.

The mistake is that we miss Jesus' promise that *vows are freeing* (Mk 8:35). Our vows set us free, because they give us a context in which we can truly love unconditionally, where we can give our lives away.

Next time you see someone who has lived their vows well (whether as a priest, religious or married) ask them about it. I'm willing to bet no one will say it's easy, but they'll all say there is a deeper joy that only the persevering know.

I am reminded of one of the best essays I've ever read, G.K. Chesterton's "*A Defense of Rash Vows*." The essay is

online and I highly encourage you to read it.

It would be a great gift to our Church and our world if we once again stood up for keeping our vows.

It would be foolish and insulting to say that this is a comprehensive answer to the wounds before us. Beyond prayer, penance, fasting, and tears there is no such answer.

And yet, I am convinced that a recommitment to our vows will bring light into this darkness, and I'm convinced that both the laity and our priests can be a great witness through their vows.

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

# Breaking up with your phone

I've been emailing my friend Becky, a newspaper editor in South Dakota, about our growing desire to unplug. We used to compare notes on "Dancing With the Stars," but lately we're both watching less TV.

"My eyes have started to reject going from screen to screen," she emailed me. Instead, she said, she's been reading, cooking and walking her dog, which led to the discovery of downtown trails and encounters with bison, deer and bighorn sheep.

"I notice a difference," she wrote. "It has gotten to the point where my phone is strictly for texting and calling people on Sundays. I can't keep up with it all, and I'm not sure it's worth trying."

I told her about my week-long hiatus from social media, which retrained my thumb from tapping on Instagram feeds. I used that free time online to enjoy personality profiles and read substantive articles on mental illness, gender identity and child development. I found myself looking up the definition of words like

## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



ersatz, which means artificial or synthetic, an inferior substitute used to replace something natural or genuine.

Just as soon as I had landed on this snazzy new word – a word that says so much in six letters and has that novel z ending– I uncovered an application for it, one that got to the root of my iPhone addiction. Our screen time provides stimulation that is ersatz to real human connection.

Social-media apps purports to connect us with others but actually impair and isolate us, turning us into the kind of people who don't answer a phone call but

text the caller shortly later, only to enter into a rapid-fire exchange that feels urgent but not fulfilling.

It was time to turn to Catherine Price's 2018 bestseller "How to Break Up with your Phone: The 30-Day Plan to Take Back your Life." Reading this book was like eating broccoli: I knew I was doing something good for myself. It offers an eye-opening assessment of the mental, social and physical effects of extended phone use – the way it fractures our attention spans, hinders our ability to form new memories and undercuts our sleep.

The biggest takeaway, for me, was the fact that we do not think critically about the impact of our phones. How do certain apps make us feel? Why is it hard to put down our phones? What are they doing to our brains? Who benefits from our addiction? I was disappointed in myself for being lulled, like an unblinking toddler, into all the scrolling and swiping.

Heeding Price's advice and cutting back on phone time has made me feel more in control, more engaged with

my life. It empowers me to tackle other off-balance areas as I head into fall, which will be a season of change. I'm setting better sleep habits and healthier snacking, replacing Dove milk chocolates with peanuts and pecans. One positive change begets another.

I recently read about a priest who hits the gym several times a week and weight lifts 350 pounds. "It gets you used to doing hard things," he said. "And when you're doing hard things in this controlled environment, it's way easier to do hard things elsewhere in your life."

When praying is hard, I focus on the simple prayers that ground me, beginning and ending my day.

But I'm also realizing that being disciplined can turn the day into one continuous prayer: an act of appreciation for life, for God's gifts, a love for something greater than self. And that's a good reason to set aside the phone.

*Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.*

# Encuentro: An encounter for the Church and Hispanic community

The Diocese of Des Moines was planning to present at the V National Encuentro of Hispanic Latino Ministry on Sept 20-23 in Dallas. The organizers expect more than 3,000 leaders in Hispanic Ministry from all over the country at this historic event.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' subcommittee of Hispanic Affairs convened the Hispanic community to engage in a multi-year process of Encuentro (Encounter). This process was led by Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda, San Bernardino Bishop Gerald Barnes, Cleveland Bishop Nelson Perez, and San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller.

The encuentro process became a priority in the U.S. bishops' strategic plan for the 2017-2020. The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church.

The theme of the V Encuentro is "Missionary Disciples, Witness of God's Love."

The Diocese of Des Moines is serving as an anchor for region nine in

## Guest Column

By Mayra Moriel de Banuelos



this process. The region includes all 15 dioceses of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

The Des Moines diocese formed a team of 20 representatives from different parishes in the diocese. Eight parish Encuentros followed by a diocesan Encuentro, in October 2017, where held to determine how the Church in the United States could better serve the Hispanic community, and how the Hispanic community could help the Church.

We participated with 12 representatives of the diocese in the regional Encuentro in Kansas City, Kansas on April 2018.

In the last two years, we were able to reach out to people and listen to them, their struggles, their hopes, and their needs. At the same time, we encouraged them to

integrate and fully participate in the life of the church in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Five representatives are going on behalf of our diocese to the national gathering, a culmination of years of hard work. They are: Bishop Richard Pates; Father Enrique Garcia, who accompanied the diocesan team throughout the process; Jessica Maciel-Hernandez, coordinator of Youth Hispanic Ministry and diocesan chair for the Encuentro process; and

Wilfrido Matamoros, business manager of Our Lady of the Americas and member of the diocesan team.

As coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines, I will be part of the diocesan delegation that is bringing the voice of Hispanic Catholics from the diocese to this event. The result? We expect this process will affect the near future of Hispanic ministry in the United States and the broader Catholic Church.



The Des Moines diocese held an encuentro in 2017 to gather local feedback to bring to this week's national event.



## Ask a Priest

*Q. I've noticed that a few priests elevate the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine very high over their heads after the consecration. Other priests elevate the sacred elements, but not so dramatically. Can you comment on this, please?*

**A. Liturgists remind us** that the Roman Missal indicates that there are three “elevations” during Mass: A. At the preparation of the gifts. B. After the consecration. C. At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, just before the Amen and Lord’s Prayer.

For the preparation of the gifts, the priest holds the bread and the chalice “slightly above the altar” and says in a low voice: “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation...”

After the consecration, the priest “shows the consecrated host to the people,” then genuflects; and the same with the consecrated wine. Notice, it does not say he holds it high above his head for a long period of time. This was the case when Mass was celebrated facing away from the congregation. Today there is no call for a “high” elevation at this point in the Mass.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest holds the consecrated bread and wine together while he sings (or says) “Through him, and with him, and in him...” So there are three elevations: the first just above the altar; the second high enough for the people to see; the third, higher than the other two.

*Q. I'm wondering why we are to raise our hands during the Our Father and/or hold hands? I've heard it's not correct to do this anymore, and noticed they don't do it in other countries. Thanks! -Judy*

**A. It's the “orans” position** of praying. I'm sure you've noticed that when the priest says the Opening Prayer, the Prayer

over the Gifts, the Eucharistic Prayer, and the Prayer after Communion, he always holds his hands up. For a long time, the people stood for the Lord’s Prayer, but they didn’t raise their hands like the priest. At some point, people in the pews began holding the hand of the person next to them – rather nice, I must say. But a number of years ago, the Church began asking the faithful to pray in the same way as the priest celebrant, with upraised hands. You’ll find an Old Testament version of this in Exodus 17:8-13. Moses prayed with upraised hands in a battle with Amalek.

*Q. I have long remembered that when Pope John Paul II was placed in his tomb, the priest narrating the events spoke that in keeping with tradition, a white linen cloth was placed over his face. Exactly what is this tradition? Is it reserved for the papacy or the clergy in general? Could you please enlighten me on this tradition: its meaning, origin, etc. I'm one of the “ole” Catholics from the days of the Latin Mass, Catholic grade school, high school. Thank you for your time. - Charles*

**A. You might want** to take a look at the Gospel of John 20:4-10. It refers to the burial cloths at the tomb of Jesus. It makes a specific reference to the cloth covering his head. I have conducted the funerals of people whose faces are covered with a small cloth when the casket is closed. It’s called a shroud. Not every funeral home makes use of the shroud. I’m not aware of any special shroud custom for the burial of popes. You certainly don’t have to be a pope to have a shroud covering your face for burial.

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

## Software conference draws 160



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

More than 160 parish staff from the Dioceses of Des Moines and Sioux Falls, South Dakota gathered at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Des Moines on Sep. 11 for a road show, in which software developer ParishSOFT presented features of the database system. Left to right: Carol Nelson, from Risen Savior Parish in Brandon, South Dakota; Julie Eakin, of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota; and Paul Knickelbein, ParishSOFT general manager.

## Rain or shine, Cathedral Concert rocks



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

A rainy evening didn’t stop the second Cathedral Concert Aug. 28, where two bands got people dancing and visiting at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Above, Ben Cohen and Mary Settle dance. At right, Abby Hanson and friends enjoy the night.



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# Around the diocese

## Sept. 21-23 Friday-Sunday Garage Sale

DES MOINES -- The Basilica of St. John will have a garage sale in the parish hall Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 23 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Large assortment of items including kitchen items, linens, books, furniture and more. Enter through parking lot door at the northeast corner of the church. Elevator available.

## 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 and for more information go to [fopwalk.org/event/2155](http://fopwalk.org/event/2155).

## Sept. 23 Sunday Chicken and Ham Dinner

LENEX - St. Patrick Church is hosting its annual Chicken and Ham dinner from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in their Parish Center. Cost of the tickets are \$8.50/adults \$5/kids 6-12; age 5 and under eat free. For

free delivery call 641-333-2565 after 10 a.m.

## Fall Dinner

OSCEOLA -- St. Bernard Parish is hosting its annual fall dinner from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the parish hall. Menu includes turkey, ham and all the trimmings. Cost is \$9/adult and \$4/children ages 4-12. No charge for children ages 3 and under. Takeout meals are available.

## Emmaus Open House

DES MOINES -- Open house at Emmaus House from 2-4 p.m. to meet and greet Kevin O'Donnell, the new director.

## Sept. 25 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. 26 Wednesday 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 (CHM) 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. 6 Saturday St. Luke School Fundraiser

ANKENY -- The Green Par-Tee, St. Luke's School Fundraising Golf 4-Person Best Shot at Copper Creek Golf Course in Pleasant Hill. Check-in starts at 8 a.m. Registration deadline is Sept. 26 and registration forms are available at [slte-school.org](http://slte-school.org). For more information, contact Nicol at [nicoljones@gmail.com](mailto:nicoljones@gmail.com) or 515-231-6999. All are welcome.

## Catholic Woman's League Luncheon

DES MOINES -- The Catholic Woman's League fall luncheon will be held at Christopher's Restaurant. Social begins at 11 a.m. with the business meeting beginning at 11:30 and lunch at noon. The speaker is Joan Bindel, senior director of development for Mercy Foundation. Cost is \$21. Send reservation by Oct. 3 to Sue Goodwin, 3001 Beaver Ave. #308, Des Moines, IA 50310.

## InnerVisions HealthCare dinner and dance

NORWALK -- The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a steak dinner with a silent and live auction and dance from 6:30-10 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Parish. The cost is \$50/person or \$400/table of 8. RSVP

by Sept. 24 online at <https://www.ivhcare.org/donate/> or to the clinic: InnerVisions HealthCare, 1355 50<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 400, West Des Moines, IA 50266.

## Oct. 6-7 Sat.-Sun. Our Lady Exhibit

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- The St. Patrick Altar and Rosary Society will host the Vatican display "Appeals of Our Lady" in the parish social hall. The free exhibit will be Saturday from 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The exhibit features 20 panels that illustrate worldwide Marian apparitions.

## Oct. 7 Sunday Life Chain

DES MOINES -- Mark your calendar for Life Chain, 2-3:30 p.m. This is a visible, prayerful stand for life. Meet in the parking lot at St. Theresa Catholic Church.

## Fishtober Fest

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- Corpus Christi's first-ever Fishtober Fest Auction and Fish Fry will be held at the Queen of Apostles Activity Center. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with the start of a silent auction. Dinner will follow at 5:30 p.m. and the fun ramps up at 6:30 p.m. with the start of the oral auction. The Knights of Columbus will be providing the same great meal that they deliver during Lent. Cost is \$15/fish fry plate or \$8/hot dog meal. Meal tickets will be sold at the door only. Raffle with \$5,000 in prizes. Tickets are \$5/each or 5 tickets for \$20. The winner will be announced during the oral auction but you need not be present to win. For more information contact Corpus Christi parish at 712-323-2916

## Oct. 13 Saturday Rosary Crusade

DES MOINES -- Join the 2018 Public Square Rosary Crusade at noon on the corner of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Grand Avenue in Des Moines at St. Augustin Church. For more information, contact John Temme at 515-202-3676.

## Oct. 14 Sunday Oktoberfest

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- St. Peter Parish's annual Oktoberfest is 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, sauerbraten, bratwurst with sauerkraut, noodles with buttered crumbs and more. Country store, craft bazaar, raffles, bingo, kids' carnival, kids' raffles, car raffle.

## Oct. 19 Friday Fall Fish & Chicken Dinner

INDIANOLA -- The Knights of Columbus is hosting a fish and chicken dinner from 5:30-7 p.m. in the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall. Bring the whole family for an enjoyable meal and evening.

## Nov. 3-4 Saturday-Sunday Craft Show

DES MOINES -- Christ the King Altar and Rosary Society annual craft show will be Nov. 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Nov. 4, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. There will be a variety of crafters and vendors along with food both days including cinnamon rolls. Raffles for a quilt, amazing baskets and for filling punch cards while visiting crafters. For more information contact Linette Boden at 515-865-8553 or [linetteboden@yahoo.com](mailto:linetteboden@yahoo.com).

## Priest departs

Bishop Richard Pates has accepted the request of Father Carlos Gomez Pineda, ordained in 2016, to depart the Diocese of Des Moines, effective immediately, to return to his home diocese of Zacatecoluca in El Salvador.

Father Pineda has been on administrative leave from ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines since Feb. 20, 2018. To date, there have been no criminal charges, civil claims, or canonical convictions against Father Pineda.

## Catholic Charities holds successful Bishop's Golf Class

Proceeds helps those in need in community



Bishop Richard Pates greets the Rupprecht brothers.



Catholic Charities Executive Director Barbara Decker awards the winners from Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines with the coveted Church Challenge bobble-head trophies.

This year's first place team was Wild Rose Entertainment with 47, second place went to Nyemaster Goode with 50 and third place was Ryan Staiert Design with 51. Thanks to all of the sponsors and golfers.

## Bishop installs three priests



Bishop Richard Pates installed Father George Komo as parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines (above) and Father Dominic McManus (top right) as pastor of the parish on Sept. 1.



When Bishop Pates installs a pastor, he blesses the relationship between the priest and the congregation.

At right, Father Mark Neal was installed pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, his home parish, on Aug. 18.





## New director for St. Thomas More named

Alex Kautzky was named the new executive director of the St. Thomas More Center, home of Catholic Youth Camp effective Sept. 17.

Kautzky has been involved with the St. Thomas More Center, at Lake Panorama, for the past four years. She served as an intern in early 2014 organizing CYC retreats and then joined the staff later that year as program director. She became the director of camps and retreats in January, 2017. She has been responsible for all CYC programming, hiring and

management of staff, volunteer recruitment and camper management. She has developed faith programs involving both communal and individual prayer opportunities for worship and prayer.

Prior to coming to the St. Thomas More Center, Kautzky served as coordinator of the faith formation program at St. Pius X



Parish in Urbandale, and served on the staff of Legendary Lodge, the Diocese of Helena's summer youth camp.

Kautzky graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas and holds a bachelor's degree in theology with minors in philosophy and sociology.

"Each time I have visited the St. Thomas More Center I have been impressed with the energy Alex brings to the camp along with her organizational skills and understanding of our faith," said Bishop Richard Pates.

## Emmaus House director selected

On behalf of the Emmaus House community, Bishop Richard Pates, chair of the board, announced that Kevin O'Donnell became the new co-director of Emmaus House on Sept. 17.

O'Donnell's primary responsibilities will include spiritual direction, leading retreats and developing programs.

He comes to Des Moines from Michigan. He earned his master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University, as well as a graduate certificate in spiritual direction and directed retreats. O'Donnell holds his bachelor's degree in psychology from Oakland University.

The Emmaus House Search Committee was impressed with O'Donnell's background and

education, but also his great listening skills, passion for helping others find Christ and ability to connect to young adults.

Bishop Pates said. "Kevin's strong interest in Ignatian spirituality, helping others deepen their faith and interest in reaching out to young adults is a great match for our community."

Father Dan Krettek, co-director of Emmaus House and member of the search committee, said O'Donnell will help a new generation of Catholics interested in knowing and deepening their faith.



"Kevin will reach out and provide services to the younger generations that don't realize the opportunities and community that await at Emmaus House," Father Krettek said.

Mary O'Brien, chair of the board for Emmaus House and search committee member, said, "Kevin has great listening skills, an openness to learn and a passion for spiritual direction and the Ignatian exercises that will continue to further the mission and vision of the ministries offered at Emmaus House in the Diocese of Des Moines."

A welcome and open house to meet and greet O'Donnell is Sunday, Sept. 23 from 2-4 p.m. at Emmaus House, 1521 Center St. in Des Moines.

## Kenney becomes diocesan stewardship director

Maureen Kenney, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, became the new diocesan director of Stewardship effective Sept. 4.

In her new role, she will oversee all of the diocese's efforts to help parishioners in 80 parishes in central and southwest Iowa support the work of the Catholic Church through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, the annual seminarian appeal, *The Catholic Mirror* subscription drive and more.

She will also increase understanding among parish leaders of how to grow stewardship within parishes.

Kenney has served as the marketing and communications manager at the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa since September, 2017.

"We're blessed to have Maureen join our staff,"

said Bishop Richard Pates. "She brings both a background rich in communication and leadership

plus experience from her time at the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. Maureen is going to be of great assistance to parishes with the Annual Diocesan Appeal and other special collections."

Kenney holds a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University with majors in journalism and marketing.

She's currently working towards a Master of Business Administration degree through the University of North Texas.



## 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 p.m. 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@dmdiocese.org](mailto:astorey@dmdiocese.org).



## Faith Formation Opportunity for Children with Special Needs at Saint Francis of Assisi

### Religious Education for All Children (REACH)

REACH is a Youth Faith Formation program at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in West Des Moines, Iowa. The REACH program is a multi-age classroom for children with special needs that provides small group learning and one-on-one attention. This classroom setting provides support and structure for children whose faith formation needs are not met by the general, faith formation classroom model.

**REACH is now accepting registrations for children from parishes around the Des Moines Diocese. Youth Faith Formation Staff are encouraged to contact Jess Streit for information on how to become a "Member Parish," allowing children from your parish to participate in this unique opportunity.**

[For more information, contact:](#)

Jess Streit, Special Needs Ministry Coordinator  
Saint Francis of Assisi

(515) 440-1030 Ext. 155 or  
[jstreit@saintfrancischurch.org](mailto:jstreit@saintfrancischurch.org)



*"All human beings are equal in dignity in the sight of God. Moreover, by reason of their Baptism, all Catholics also share the same divine calling."*

-Revised Guidelines for the Celebration of Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, USCCB, 2017



# Seminarians: A missionary disciple exudes joy to others



**Diocese of Des Moines seminarians (l-r) Max Carson and James Downey said a missionary disciple exudes joy and lives a life anchored in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Carson and Downey are both studying in Rome. Downey will be ordained a transitional deacon this month in Rome and ordained a priest in June 2019 in Des Moines.**

**By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer**

Seminarians Max Carson and James Downey, both currently studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, say a missionary disciple is a positive witness of Christ who exudes joy.

It's a quality that grabs attention, they say.

"Joy is so attractive to people," Carson said.

Both Carson and Downey remember when they were students at Dowling Cath-

olic High School in West Des Moines and were attracted to two joyful Dowling staff members – teacher Adam Storey (now diocesan director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life) and Father Zach Kautzky.

"There was something about this guy (Storey) being ex-military and ex-seminary," Downey said. "We knew something was different with this guy."

"His attitude and his demeanor was that he was so convicted in his beliefs and so secure in himself and that he was able to share his Catholic faith easily – even despite many high schoolers

arguing with him," Carson continued. "And he was always able to help us out with questions – that's what I liked about him. He was always strong in his convictions but always able to help us out or [give advice about problems]."

"So here was a man who knew his faith and you could tell he believed what he said he believed and he lived by that," Downey said. "And he was anchored in his relationship with Christ."

Being anchored in Christ made him a "rock – somebody you can depend on," Downey added.

## Tips on finding joy as a missionary disciple

Seminarians Max Carson and James Downey, currently studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, have tips on finding joy as a missionary disciple.

"To be an example of joy, you need to pursue it and pursue it with others," Downey said. "In order to become an example of this joy you need to pursue the will of God for your life and pursue that relationship with God. You need to be with Christ and be close to him, who is that source of joy."

Others will see something in you that they want, Carson and Downey agreed.

"Some practical ways to pursue the joy is to trust the Church and live the life of the Church and live the way the

church teaches and holds us to a higher standard," Carson said.

This includes:

- Going to Mass every Sunday
- Going to confession regularly
- Spending time in prayer and Eucharistic adoration
- Reading scripture

"This is meant to be lived in community," Downey added, noting that someone should not try this as a "lone wolf."

"Find those groups – people your age who have the same priorities," Downey said.

Your joy will attract others, they said.

"Joy is so attractive to people," Carson concluded.

Carson and Downey said their teacher's model attracted the attention of many young men in high school.

"A lot of guys saw him and said, 'That's a man I would like to be like,'" Downey said.

As a result, they were also attracted to the group Storey and Father Kautzky formed at Dowling called Legion of Our Lady.

"It drew us to pursue the will of God and be examples of that faith, of that stability and of that joy to the lives of others,"

Downey said.

You can keep searching, but you'll only find lasting fulfillment and joy in Christ, Carson added.

"Everyone wants to be joyful and totally fulfilled, but that fulfillment is not fulfilled in anything other than a relationship with Christ," Carson said. "And Christ promised this to us in the Gospel, John 15:11: 'I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.'"

## Seminarians learn about mercy at Iowa Seminarian Convocation

**By Lindsey Steele  
The Catholic Messenger**

IOWA CITY -- Before heading back to seminary for fall studies, seminarians from the four Iowa dioceses had the opportunity to socialize and recharge at the annual Iowa Seminarian Convocation.

The annual convocation "brings together the seminarians of the state for a time of fraternity, especially as we anticipate they will be working together in the future as priests," said Father Joseph Sia, Davenport diocesan director of Vocations. "It is also used as a spiritual retreat."

Every four years, the Diocese of Davenport takes a turn hosting the convocation. This year's convocation took place Aug. 7-9 at St. Patrick Parish in Iowa City and was paid for through a large donation from the Iowa Knights of Columbus, Father Sia said.

Each day, the 70-plus seminarians and vocation directors celebrated Mass, ate meals together and listened to presentations on Divine Mercy by the event's speaker, Father Michael Gaitley. He is the director of evangelization for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception in

Southbridge, Mass., and director of Formation for the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy. He is also the author of several books and booklets, including "33 Days to Merciful Love," "Divine Mercy Explained" and "You Did It to Me: A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action."

In his presentations, Father Gaitley explained that sainthood is possible despite weakness and sinfulness. He expanded on that by using examples of saints, such as St. Therese of Lisieux.

He noted that St. Therese's "little way" turned traditional Catholic theological teaching on its head, challenging the idea that only the purest souls could enter heaven immediately upon death. "She shows us that holiness is attainable ... Jesus doesn't just want 'good' people," Father Gaitley explained. "We can receive mercy more when we recognize our brokenness."

The "little way" is not an excuse to continue sinning without regret, however. "You can't receive absolution unless you are sorry," he said. Father Gaitley challenged the men to avoid "cynicism," or the idea that they will never become saints because they aren't good enough. "You have to keep trying."



**Seminarians from across the state gathered at the annual Iowa Seminarian Convocation in Iowa City in August. Diocese of Des Moines seminarian Chris Grow is on the far left.**

The final presentation of the convocation focused on having a personal relationship with Jesus, something Father Sia believes is especially important for priests. "We are called to celibacy so there is sometimes that sense of loneliness and missing out on the idea of having a wife and children. ... (Father Gaitley's) last message was to not be afraid to come to Jesus and know him as a friend."

Father Sia appreciated the opportunity to talk with other vocation directors at the convocation, especially since he is new to the position. "We had a session of sharing with each other, offering advice, (discussing) how we do things and planning for

events that we can do together."

He met one-on-one with the seminarians from the Diocese of Davenport at the convocation "so I could get to know them a little more."

Father Sia noted that the seminarians from the Davenport Diocese don't always have the opportunity to see each other, especially if they attend different seminaries and come from different hometowns. The convocation was a chance to form friendships.

Davenport seminarian Isaac Doucette said he appreciated Father Gaitley's message, and also enjoyed having Deacon Michael McAndrew serve at Mass. Both Doucette and Deacon McAndrew

are from Iowa City, though Deacon McAndrew is in priest formation with the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Doucette will begin his second year of pre-theology studies at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois this fall.

Scott Foley, who will return this fall to the North American College in Rome after a pastoral year, said it is a "great blessing" to be able to participate in the statewide convocation each year. "It is a wonderful time to get together with seminarian friends across Iowa."

*This article was reprinted with permission from The Catholic Messenger.*



# Keep our seminarians in your prayers



Photo by Chelsea Dellaca

Pictured with Bishop Richard Pates are front row L-R: Max Carson, Brad Robey, Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros, Stan Asjes, Chris Grow and Mike Mahoney. Back row is diocesan Vocations Director Father Ross Parker, Nick Stark, Nick Smith, Jake Epstein, Deacon Mark McGeary, Vinh Le Nguyen and James Downey. Not pictured are: Deacon Ryan Andrew, Reed Flood, Alex Kramer, Hoa Nguyen, Deacon Ephraim Udouso, and Pablo Rodriguez. If you think God may be calling you to priesthood or religious life, contact Father Ross Parker at 515-237-5050 or email [Vocations@DMDiocese.org](mailto:Vocations@DMDiocese.org).

## Seminarians admitted to Candidacy at Masses



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Three seminarians are one step closer to ordination. They made a promise to continue their study toward ordination. Bishop Pates then admitted them to Candidacy for Holy Orders. On June 24, Candidacy Mass was celebrated for seminarians Alex Kramer and Nick Smith (left with Bishop Pates) at St. Augustin Church in Des Moines. On Aug. 5, Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros was admitted to Candidacy at St. Bernard Church in Osceola. At right, he is pictured with Father David Polich and Bishop Pates.



Photo by Brad Robey

## Welcome newest seminarian

Growing up in a Catholic family, I have always felt a deep love for the Church, in her community, sacraments, and history.

The possibility of the priesthood was always present at home, but up until about my junior year in high school, I never took it very seriously.

At the beginning of high school, the idea kept coming up when I got the chance to pray before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar. This nudged me in my junior year of high school to seriously consider going into college seminary.

The more I read, the more I felt that the priesthood was for me, and the faster my fears and doubts about the subject

vanished. The idea of administering the sacraments, taking on parish life, and being there for people in tough times fills me with joy. At the end of 2017 I got in touch with Father Ross Parker who helped me apply to St. John Vianney Seminary.

I won't know for sure if I am truly called to be a priest until my ordination, but at the moment I can only trust in God's plan, and take advantage of the excellent formation and education at St. John Vianney.

College seminary is a great opportunity for me to grow as a Catholic person through formation and continued discernment.



**Stan Asjes is a college freshman at St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He grew up attending the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines.**

## Iowa woman makes first vows

An Iowa woman is professing first vows as a Sister of Life on Aug. 4 in Connecticut.

Sister Zélie Maria Louis (formerly known as Lizzy Schmitt) was raised in Waterloo and attended Sacred Heart Parish.

She graduated from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Catholic studies and political science, and a minor in philosophy.

Prior to entering the Sisters of Life, she worked in

human resources at Assessment Associates International in Wayzata, Minnesota.

The Sisters of Life, a religious congregation founded in 1991 by New York Cardinal John O'Connor, is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of human life.

Sister Louis will profess her first vows at Villa Maria Guadalupe in Stamford, Connecticut. Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport will celebrate the Mass of Profession.



## Diocese launches strategic planning initiative for St. Albert Catholic School

Springing from a long-term strategic planning initiative for the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines, Bishop Richard Pates is launching a secondary strategic planning effort specifically for St. Albert Catholic School system.

Nationally known Meitler Consulting will lead the process involving representatives of parents, educators, parishes and the community at large.

"I am pleased with the work and results we've seen thus far with the diocesan strategic planning initiative," said Bishop Pates. "We want to capitalize on the energy and vision we're experiencing by asking the consultants to take a special look at the St. Albert Catholic School System.

"We're proud of the long tradition and history, of the dedication and sacrifices made to provide Catholic education in the

Council Bluffs region," added the bishop. "We want to invest the time and resources to support the school and ensure that St. Albert continues to provide a top-notch education in a faith-filled environment for generations to come."

A steering committee will be appointed by Bishop Pates this month. The committee will work with Meitler Consulting over the next 9-10 months to develop the strategic plan, which is anticipated in April or May. Following the development of the plan, an implementation process will be developed with goals and accountability measures built in.

The strategic planning committee will focus on the school's mission and Catholic identity, governance and leadership, academic excellence and financial operations.

"As we are looking at a long-term vision for making the best Catholic schools system

diocese-wide, it seems the perfect time to focus in a particular way on the Council Bluffs region, where we have a unique cradle-to-college opportunity for families," said Dr. Tracy Bonday, diocesan schools superintendent.

An initial Meitler assessment indicated a need to go back to a president/principal model of leadership. The search process for a new president of the school system will begin shortly.

The Council Bluffs Area Board of Catholic Education and the St. Albert Educational Foundation will have opportunities for input during the strategic planning process.

David Schweitzer, head of St. Albert Catholic School, said, "We welcome the diocese's offer of professional assistance to guide us in dreaming of the possibilities, setting goals for St. Albert School and helping us create a plan to achieve them."

## Rural Life Mass celebrates farmers, God's creation



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

Bishop Pates celebrated the Rural Life Mass at the Arganbright farm near Guthrie Center. A crowd came out to the celebration despite the rain to enjoy God's creation, pet the animals, check out the tractors and enjoy each other's company. Above, Bishop Richard Pates petted one of the farm animals brought up during the offertory. Baby Adam Weisz checks out a nearby tractor while dad, Joe Weisz, looks on.

## Couples start formation for diaconate

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

Just one month after 17 men were ordained permanent deacons, a new group of men and their wives are discerning the vocation.

They are:

- Daniel and Evette Dombrsky – St. Francis Parish, West Des Moines
- Tracy and Cindy Jone – St. Mary Parish, Red Oak
- Dan and Kelly Maxcy – St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, Des Moines
- Steven and Vivian McGee – St. Joseph, Des Moines
- Eric and Monica Pugh – St. Joseph, Winterset
- Oran and Marilyn Struecker – St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines

• Stephen and Lisa Tatz – Basilica of St. John, Des Moines

The wives play an important role, attending all of the classes and formation.

Often, they are involved in their husband's chosen ministry after ordination.

This year's formation process includes one new element – the Faith Journey Catechetical Institute.

The Faith Journey Catechetical Institute is an ongoing formation resource for Catholic adults who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith and further their spiritual formation.

As part of the faith journey, the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" is treated as a road map. Each of the four modules in the program focuses on one of the four pillars of the catechism.

The new group will start attending the Catechetical Institute classes, which meet weekly. These classes



John Huynh

ease the couples, who have typically been away from the academic setting for many years, back into learning complex topics of the faith. The sessions also provide a setting for faith sharing and communal growth.

"The new cohort will undergo the Catechetical Institute to prepare them for the theology courses that they will take at Conception" Seminary, in Conception, Missouri, said John Huynh, director of Faith Journey.

"It requires some training to read the theological material that they will be presented with at Conception," Huynh continued. "The Catechetical Institute will provide a good foundation for them to become acquainted with the structure and styles of these types of writings."

The institute sessions will give the couples discerning a vocation to the diaconate a unique opportunity to interact in small groups with other lay leaders in the diocese, hear their concerns and learn the realities of the parishes, Huynh added.

"That will hopefully prepare them to enter the ministry once they are ordained," Huynh said.

God willing, the men will be ordained deacons in 2022.

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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](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org).

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# “Faithful Citizenship for Iowa Catholics” released

The Iowa Catholic Conference has released its “Faithful Citizenship for Iowa Catholics” letter for distribution in advance of the 2018 general election.

The Catholic Church does not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties.

However, it contributes to the political process by encouraging Catholics to take action in the political arena with a properly-formed conscience.

For more information, including the Spanish-language version of the letter, go to [iowacatholicconference.org](http://iowacatholicconference.org).

As Americans, we celebrate our hard-won rights, often secured at the price of life or limb. Among these is the cherished right to vote.

As a matter of principle, when there is a right to something, there is also a corresponding duty. And so, we have a duty to exercise our right to vote.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, commenting on the Fourth Commandment, teaches that the duty to vote is a moral obligation (2240).

The duty to vote includes the responsibility to be informed about issues so as to vote conscientiously.

For the sake of the formation of conscience, the Catholic Church has an extensive body

of social teachings that translate the Gospel into daily living.

Catholic social teaching is based on the foundational principles of respect for human life and dignity, and the common good. No human person, whether a prisoner guilty of a capital offense, an infant in the womb, or a person disabled due to sickness or old age, can be stripped of or lose his or her dignity.

Being created by God is the basis of human dignity. But the root of human dignity goes deeper with the belief that people are created in the image and likeness of God, that they are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that God takes personally whatever we do (or don’t do) to any other person (see Matthew 25:30).

Human dignity is defended by the pursuit of the common good. It is the responsibility of a government, and of its individual citizens, to care for all people, especially those who need help to secure the things needed to live in dignity: productive work, fair wages, food, shelter, education, health care, and protection from harm.

We might disagree about how people access these things, but not about whether all people have a right to them.

And for that reason, pursuit of the common good includes

ensuring that people have the right to migrate when the things needed to live in dignity are unavailable in their homeland.

But to be clear, advocating for human rights, like work, wages or immigration, doesn’t make any sense if we don’t defend the fundamental right to life of all people.

When it comes time to cast a vote, it may well be that no candidate lines up with both respect for human life and dignity, and the common good. So, what is a voter, with a conscience rightly informed by the teachings of Christ and his Catholic Church, to do?

There will never be a perfect candidate, but that’s no excuse not to vote, which would let some other force or voice fill the vacuum left by opting out. Rather, choose the candidate whom you believe will do the least harm, or who has potential to do the most good for the most people.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis, in his exhortation on holiness, “Rejoice and Be Glad,” warns us against the error of separating religious practice and social engagement. He teaches that “we cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice” (paragraph 101).

The right and duty to cast an informed vote is an important Catholic social teaching, and a



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Archbishop  
Michael  
Jackels**



**Sioux City  
Bishop R.  
Walker  
Nickless**



**Des Moines  
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**Davenport  
Bishop  
Thomas  
Zinkula**

great way for us to have an impact on all aspects of public life. Voting and other forms of political engagement are as much a duty of our religion as is daily prayer and Sunday worship.

For more information on the social and moral teachings of the Church as they relate to our involvement in political activity, go to the “Faithful Citizenship” link at [www.iowacatholicconference.org](http://www.iowacatholicconference.org).

## Pastoral Center’s renovation work honored

Preservation Iowa announced the historic renovation of the Catholic Pastoral Center was awarded the Sustainability in Preservation award.

Preservation Iowa is a statewide organization that honors historic preservation projects annually to inspire others to preserve, protect and promote Iowa’s historic resources. Eleven awards were presented in nine categories at the annual “Preservation at Its Best Awards” gathering at the Historic Elks Lodge in Waterloo Iowa WHEN.

The Catholic Pastoral Center renovation project was recognized for rehabilitating a world famous, modernist-style Ludwig Mies van der Rohe-designed building at 601 Grand Ave in Des Moines while bringing elements up to code and adding enhancements. For example, the original ¼” plate glass windows were failing and had been altered with a tinted film, the mechanical systems were operating nearly 50 percent below energy code requirements and exterior

travertine wall panels were cracked, broken or shifted out of their original position. Renovated and handicapped accessible restrooms were added and new lighting throughout the building makes it more energy efficient.

The building is one of only two designed by Mies van der Rohe in Iowa. The Catholic Pastoral Center is an example of his modernist style, particularly when looking at the grids in the lighting and flooring from the interior to the exterior of the building and ornamental use of steel and glass.

The Catholic Pastoral Center was originally designed as a savings and loan with tenants who would lease space on the second and third floors. It recently underwent an \$8.5 million renovation to address maintenance needs. Bishop Richard Pates convened a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the needs and make recommendations. The committee recommended the building be restored and that the diocese continue its operation at

the heart of the city.

The building is ideally located with easy access to public transportation and sits across the street, just south of St. Ambrose Cathedral.




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# Newly ordained Iowa priests gather for retreat



Photo by Deacon Al Weber

Iowa priests who have been ordained five years or less gathered for a retreat in early September at the American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls. Included in the picture are Father Andrew Windschitl (front), pastor of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart; Father Luis Mejia, of Sacred Heart Parish in Wekst Des Moines; and Father Trevor Chicoine, of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. Also pictured is Father Dan Kirby, vicar for newly ordained seminarians and Deacon Ed Garza.

## Archbishop Romero: Beacon of hope and justice

### Two local priests reflect on soon-to-be canonized saint

By Jessica Maciel Hernandez  
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 23, 1977, Bishop Oscar Romero was appointed archbishop of San Salvador which is the main ecclesiastical jurisdiction of El Salvador.

It was also at this time that El Salvador was witnessing ongoing violence from government militant groups that would eventually lead to the start of its civil war, which lasted 12 years.

When Msgr. Romero was named a bishop, he was able to see firsthand the injustice inflicted on the people.

Through his homilies, he was able to instill hope to the people, and call out injustices.

Father Reynaldo H. Minero, who serves the Des Moines Hispanic community, mentions that Archbishop Romero’s homilies would be transmitted through the radio, and people would tune in to

listen.

The archbishop’s last homily before he was assassinated in 1980, was one of importance and with a significant message, said Father Minero. It spoke directly to the militant groups who, at the time, were persecuting innocent civilians, as well as people from the Church who were protecting others.

Archbishop Romero would provide shelter and aid for those who were persecuted, Father Minero said. As a result, the archbishop and the priests who helped him suffered consequences through multiple attacks.

Father Luis Mejia, also a native of El Salvador, was ordained here in the Diocese of Des Moines, and is currently the parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

He is excitingly waiting the Oct. 14 canonization of Archbishop Romero.

Like Father Minero, Father Mejia grew up during the civil war in El Salvador.



CNS photo/Roberto Escobar, EPA

People carry large portraits of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero during a rally in 2015 in San Salvador to pay tribute to the late archbishop, who was assassinated 38 years ago. Archbishop Romero has become a symbol of Latin American church leaders’ efforts to protect their flocks from the abuses of military dictatorships.

The archbishop has long been considered a saint by the people, especially because of his work and dedication to the poor and marginalized, said Father Mejia.

Both Father Minero and Father Mejia say Archbishop Romero’s ministry and legacy resonate with Pope Francis’ call to priests of our time to be “shepherds living with the smell of the sheep.”

To them, it is an honor and privilege, to have the archbishop officially recognized as a saint.

They are proud that Archbishop Romero will become the first saint of El Salvador.

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# Pope, U.S. cardinals discuss abuse crisis

The president of the U.S. bishops' conference asked for a personal meeting with Pope Francis after the latest accusations of sexual abuse.

Archbishop Theodore McCarrick was removed from ministry June 20 and resigned from the College of Cardinals to lead a life of prayer and penance following allegations of abusing minors and adult seminarians.

A Pennsylvania grand jury report on Aug. 14 accused more than 300 priests in the state of sexually abusing children over 70 years.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston struck a determinedly hopeful tone after his long-awaited meeting with Pope Francis to discuss the growing sexual abuse crisis in the United States.

"I myself am filled with hope," he said, "but I also realize all these things might take purpose and time."

The cardinal spoke following a noon meeting Sept. 13 at the Vatican. Cardinal DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was joined in his meeting with the pope by: Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors; Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB; and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference.

"The Holy Father is the important figure for us in this," Cardinal DiNardo said. "He sees the problem all over the church and throughout the world."

While the cardinal did not want to discuss the specifics of the private meeting beyond a statement released by the U.S. bishops, he did describe the encounter as "very, very fruitful."

"It was lengthy, and we shared a lot of thoughts and ideas together," the cardinal told Catholic News Service, "so I found the meeting very good from that point of view."

"The pope is well informed," the cardinal said, "and he's also very, very attentive to what has happened to abuse victims in the church in the United States."

It had been a whirlwind week for the cardinal. He arrived

in Rome Sept. 12 following a meeting with the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee, which sets the agenda for the November meeting of all the U.S. bishops in Baltimore.

Cardinal DiNardo described the Administrative Committee meeting as "sober."

"I thought there was a good deal of unity of the bishops on where we need to go" and on the fact that "we have to move into action" in terms of addressing the abuse crisis, he said. The cardinal said the bishops must be "united in purpose on solutions."

Cardinal DiNardo requested a meeting with the pope followed the release of the Pennsylvania grand jury report on sexual abuse cases in six Pennsylvania dioceses and the announcement of credible allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal-archbishop of Washington.

In his statement Aug. 16, Cardinal DiNardo said the USCCB Executive Committee had established three goals: "an investigation into the questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick; an opening of new and confidential channels for reporting complaints against bishops; and advocacy for more effective resolution of future complaints."

When asked about the three priorities after the meeting with the pope, the cardinal said: "I think we can make movement on those things. I think we have to do it step by step."

When asked where he finds hope during the current wave of scandals and controversy, he said, "Our trust is in the Lord."



CNS photo/Vatican Media

**Pope Francis meets with officials representing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at the Vatican Sept. 13. From left are Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the conference, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the conference, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference.**

## Pope: Elitist, clericalist church behind abuse crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Sexual and physical abuse by priests and religious and the scandal of its cover-up by church authorities thrive in countries where the Catholic Church is "elitist and clericalist," Pope Francis told Jesuits in Ireland in August.

"There is something I have understood with great clarity: this drama of abuse, especially when it is widespread and gives great scandal -- think of Chile, here in Ireland or in the United States -- has behind it a church that is elitist and clericalist, an inability to be near to the people of God," the pope told the Jesuits during a meeting Aug. 25 in Dublin.

Pope Francis asked the Jesuits for "special help: help the church in Ireland put an end to this. And what do I mean by put an end to it? I don't mean simply turn the page, but seek out a cure, reparation, all that is necessary to heal the wounds and give life

back to so many people."

The root of the problem, he said, is elitism or clericalism. The two attitudes foster "every form of abuse. And sexual abuse is not the first. The first abuse is of power

and conscience."

In confronting abuse and the church culture that allows it to fester, Pope Francis told the Jesuits, "Courage! Be courageous!"

## World's local bishop conference presidents called to Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis is calling the presidents of every Catholic bishops' conference in the world to Rome Feb. 21-24 to discuss the prevention of the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.

The Vatican made the announcement Sept. 12 after the pope and members of his international Council of Cardinals wrapped up three days of meetings.

After hearing from his council, the pope "decided to convoke a meeting with the presidents of the bishops' conferences of the Catholic Church on the theme of the protection of minors," the council said in a written communique.

The members present "extensively reflected together with the Holy Father on the matters of abuse" during their deliberations Sept. 10-12. Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, also updated those present with the commission's ongoing efforts.

## Coordinator/Director of Youth Ministry position

St. Cecilia Parish in Ames, IA is seeking applicants for a Coordinator/Director of Youth Ministry position. The position is full-time and oversees high school youth ministry and Confirmation preparation. Job title will depend on education and experience. For the full job posting and application process please visit: [www.catholicjobs.com/job/8307134233](http://www.catholicjobs.com/job/8307134233)



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## Crisis de Abuso Sexual en la Iglesia

El reporte de la investigación del Gran Jurado de seis diócesis en Pensilvania sobre abuso sexual de sacerdotes y de personal de la Iglesia generó en las semanas anteriores una impactante reacción en la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos.

El número de implicados y de víctimas fue muy desconcertante. En suma, durante un período de setenta años representó una trágica falta moral por parte de los clérigos responsables y del liderazgo de la iglesia en los “encubrimientos.”

Obviamente, este tipo de comportamiento y la cultura en la cual existió no se pueden condonar. Al mismo tiempo, las palabras que categorizan este comportamiento como inaceptable son palabras vacías a menos de que estén acompañadas por un compromiso a reformas.

En primer lugar, debemos dirigir nuestra atención a las víctimas que sufrieron este abuso. Se les han ofrecido disculpas de corazón. No se debe escatimar en ningún esfuerzo para ayudar a cada una de ellas en el proceso de sanación. Necesitan ser escuchadas para que puedan cargar con el dolor y el sufrimiento que han vivido. Se debe proporcionar consejería y terapia profesional cuando se solicite. Los que buscamos la intercesión de Dios en su proceso de sanación debemos hacer



By  
Bishop  
Richard  
Pates

oración y ayuno demostrando nuestra solidaridad con ellos.

El reporte de Pensilvania cubrió esencialmente el mismo período de tiempo respecto a la incidencia de abuso sexual que se reportó en la serie de el periódico “The Boston Globe” al inicio del milenio. En respuesta a este, los obispos de los Estados Unidos adoptaron en el 2002 el “Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes.” Implementada por las “Normas Esenciales” que le acompañan.

El Obispo Emérito Joseph Charron antes mí, y yo mismo hemos implementado el Estatuto en la Diócesis de Des Moines como un asunto de la mayor prioridad. El resultado ha dado las siguientes provisiones:

1. Cualquier reporte de mala conducta sexual por parte de un empleado de la Iglesia Católica se reporta inmediatamente a las autoridades legales seguido por una investigación civil/clerical correspondiente. La persona a quien se dirige la alegación es suspendida en espera del resultado de la investigación.

2. Cualquier empleado de la Iglesia acusado creíblemente de abuso sexual de un menor, será removido de su puesto hasta que termine la investigación.

3. Se exhorta a las víctimas a comunicarse con el Consejero para Asistencia de Víctimas de la Diócesis, Sam Porter, al 515-286-2015 o por email a [advocate@dmdiocese.org](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org) o [samporter@polkcountyiowa.gov](mailto:samporter@polkcountyiowa.gov). Él puede ayudar a las víctimas a levantar una queja y a buscar consejería. Las víctimas pueden también llamar a la oficina de Servicios de Crisis y Consejería del Condado de Polk (Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services por su nombre en inglés) al 515-286-3600. La agencia ofrece consejería para toda la diócesis sin importar en donde vive la víctima.

4. En los últimos 15 años, la Diócesis ha contado con el servicio de un Comité de Revisión de Alegaciones. La composición actual es de: un jefe de policía, un juez civil, un abogado (quien preside el comité), un maestro, un diácono permanente y un sacerdote. Este comité aconseja al Obispo sobre todos los reportes de mala conducta sexual y de las políticas de comportamiento sexual de la diócesis.

Se han iniciado las siguientes prácticas como modo

de prevención:

1. Se lleva a cabo una revisión de antecedentes penales a todos los individuos que asumen ministerio voluntario, pagado o clerical en la diócesis. Desde el 2002, la diócesis ha llevado a cabo 18,525 revisión de antecedentes.

2. Los ministros (voluntarios y a sueldo) deben firmar un “Código de Conducta” al cual aceptan adoptar.

3. Se requiere a los miembros del clero que nos visitan, por medio de su diócesis, a enviar una “declaración personal de idoneidad.”

4. Desde el 2002, 18.535 personas han completado entrenamiento de ambiente seguro. Se requiere que todos los ministros en la diócesis hagan las lecturas mensuales de “Virtus”, las cuales hacen hincapié en las dimensiones del abuso y problemas de establecer límites.

5. Se requiere que todos los jóvenes que participan en programas de la Iglesia participen en programas de educación en donde se les alerta sobre posibles abusos y comportamientos.

6. Se lleva a cabo una auditoría anual que la dirige actualmente Stonebridge Business Partners. Cada tercer año, la auditoría se hace en locación. Los otros dos años se lleva a cabo por escrito. En los 14 años que se ha llevado a cabo esta auditoría, la Diócesis de Des Moines ha sido declarado en cumplimiento con el Estatuto.

7. En julio del 2014, una tercera agencia independiente llevó a cabo una auditoría de todos los archivos diocesanos de los sacerdotes aún vivos.

8. El problema de abuso sexual de menores está gobernada a nivel nacional por el Buró Nacional de Revisiones (National Review Board en inglés.)

Desde mi llegada a Des Moines hace diez años, ha habido una acusación creíble de abuso sexual de un menor por un sacerdote (por una situación de muchos años atrás). Él ha sido laicizado y removido de todo ministerio. Más aún, las alegaciones de abuso sexual en todo el país se han reducido dramáticamente desde la implementación del estatuto. Esto lo ha reconocido el Reporte de Pensilvania. Las estadísticas actuales están disponibles en la página web de la Conferencia Episcopal Católica de los Estados Unidos en [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

En aproximadamente el mismo período de tiempo, surgieron serias preocupaciones con respecto al Arzobispo Theodore McCarrick y sobre acusaciones de abuso sexual levantadas en su contra. En respecto a esto, estoy con el Cardenal Daniel DiNardo quien

en una declaración el 27 de agosto estableció:

*“El primero de agosto prometi que la USCCB (por sus siglas en inglés) ejercería su autoridad en plenitud y que buscaría ante aquellos con mayor autoridad, a que se investigaran las muchas preguntas que rodeaban al Arzobispo McCarrick. El 16 de agosto, solicité una Visita Apostólica, trabajando en conjunto con una comisión nacional laica a la que se le confirió autoridad independiente, en búsqueda de la verdad. Ayer, llamé a nuestro Comité Ejecutivo una vez más, éste me reconfirmó el llamado a una examinación pronta y a fondo sobre cómo las graves fallas morales de un hermano obispo que habían sido toleradas por tanto tiempo y no mostraban impedimento alguno a su avance.”*

Yo creo que las acciones del Cardenal DiNardo llevarán a la verdad y como consecuencia establecerán pasos a tomar para prevenir que tal comportamiento se repita.

Consciente de que la Iglesia no es una corporación, una Organización No Gubernamental (ONG), una institución privada o pública, o una organización fraternal, sino una comunidad de creyentes profundamente comprometida a la solidaridad de unos con otros en el Espíritu del Señor Jesús, pedí que se instituya la oración y el ayuno tanto comunitariamente como individualmente los viernes del mes de septiembre. Jesús nos enseñó que “A algunos demonios sólo se les puede expulsar por medio de la oración y la penitencia.” Estoy muy agradecido con quienes se han unido a este movimiento.

Al mismo tiempo que apoyo firmemente una acción efectiva que busque la verdad por medio del estatuto y de la iniciativa del Arzobispo DiNardo, también estoy convencido de que nuestra oración y ayuno serán extremadamente eficaces.

Estoy plenamente consciente del enojo, de la vergüenza y el dolor de tantos en nuestra comunidad católica. Esto es cierto especialmente en la gran mayoría de nuestros fieles miembros del clero, ministros, personal laico y generosos voluntarios. En estos momentos les ofrezco de todo corazón mi apoyo, mi comprensión y ánimo.

Debemos dedicarnos si vacilar a una reforma amplia, continua y auténtica. Esto va a necesitar la participación de muchas personas, especialmente de los laicos. Si mantenemos un rumbo firme hacia la reforma, ¿no seremos una iglesia más fuerte cuando salgamos de esta larga crisis? Con apoyo mutuo, sanación, acciones sostenibles conforme avanzamos, en combinación con solidaridad y la siempre presente gracia de Dios, yo creo que sí.



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Be wary of scams related to parishes

Continued from page 1

ment at Mass,” Father Neal said.

He also got a chuckle from the congregation.

“I said, ‘But I will tell you that in the coming years, I will be asking for money, but never by email – and I’ll never be asking for iTunes gift cards,” Father Neal said. “If you get an email asking for anything, just delete it – it’s not me. Everything will be by mail and you’ll know it’s coming. It will be a parish effort.”

The email sent to Christ the King staff from someone pretending to be Father McManus was filled with grammatical errors – another red flag.

Both priests advise that if you’ve received an email from your priest or a parish staff person that you think might be suspicious, contact your parish immediately to let them know.

Partida de Sacerdote

El Obispo Richard Pates ha aceptado la solicitud del Padre Carlos Gómez Pineda, ordenado en 2016, para partir de la Diócesis de Des Moines, inmediatamente efectiva, para regresar a su diócesis de hogar, la Diócesis de Zacatecoluca en El Salvador.

El Padre Pineda ha tenido un término de ausencia de su ministerio de la Diócesis de Des Moines desde el 20 de Febrero, 2018. Hasta la fecha, no hay ningunos cargos criminales, reclamaciones civiles, o convicciones canónicas, en contra del Padre Pineda.

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](mailto:advocate@dmdiocese.org).

Catholic Charities distributes disaster relief to areas hit by Florence

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) -- The Carolinas were hard hit with record rainfall and flooding rivers from tropical storm Florence since it made landfall Sept. 14. And although the storm was downgraded from a hurricane to a Category 1 tropical storm, it still caused extensive water damage.

At least 24 people died in storm-related incidents, tens of thousands of homes were damaged and about 500,000 homes and businesses were still without power Sept. 17.

Prior to the storm, Catholic Charities of South Carolina was preparing to help those in need. Kelly Kaminski, director of disaster services for Catholic Charities, said the agency activated its Emergency Operations Center and disaster services team Sept. 10 and had been coordinating with county emergency management teams, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Catholic Charities USA.

It has been working with local partners to have water, cleaning supplies, baby items and other needed supplies readily available in areas along the coast. Catholic Charities USA has set up its website donation page and text-to-give platform to help individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Florence.

As it did in response to last year’s hurricanes, the agency forwards 100 percent of funds raised to the local Catholic Charities agencies that serve the affected communities.

Those wishing to donate can text CCUSADISASTER to 71777 or call (800) 919-9338.

“We are praying for those affected by the storm,” said Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA.

“Unfortunately, those most impacted by natural disasters are the individuals and families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

“But thanks to the generosity of our donors, the most vulnerable have their immediate needs met and the long-term recovery support they need to rebuild their lives,” she said in a statement.

The latest information on the situation can be found at [CCUSA.faith/disaster](http://CCUSA.faith/disaster).

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