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 Macron, 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

Priests serve as confessors 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 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.

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.

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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 magnitude of perpetrators and victims was very disconcerting. In sum, over a period of decades, they have perpetrated a tragic moral failure on the part of church leaders and clergy 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 correction and change.

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 be consoled in their 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’s report in 2002 on the Archdiocese of Boston and the implementation 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.”

I am fully conscious of the fact that USCCB would exercise the full extent of its authority, and would advocate before the particular and general crises, to pursue the many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick. On August 16th, I called for an Apostolic Visitation, working in concert with a national lay mission 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 Daniel DiNardo’s action will lead to the truth eventuating in steps to prevent recurrence of such behavior.

By Bishop Richard Pates

Bishop Emeritus Joseph Carroll 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 misconduct of a Catholic Church worker is immediately reported to law enforcement followed by an independent civil/cclesial 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 515-289-2015 or email advocate@dmdioce.se or samporter@polkcounty.iowa.gov. He can help victims file a complaint and seek counseling. Victims can also call Polk County Victim and Advocacy Services at 515-286-3600. The agency will provide advocacy with the diocese regardless of where the victims reside.

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.

5. Every third year this exercise is done in writing. For the first time, this year’s 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.


8. The matter of sexual abuse of minors is governed nationally by the National Review Board.

By Bishop Richard Pates

Saturday, October 6 – Des Moines Holy Family School Barn Bash, 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 7
West Des Moines – Confirmation, First Friday, Heartland Parish, 4 p.m.
Des Moines – Bishop Pates’ farewell celebration, international community, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 6 p.m.
Des Moines – Blue Gold Gala, St. Joseph School, Downtown Embassy Suites, 8 p.m.

Monday, October 8
Des Moines – Serra Club Priests’ Appreciation Cookout, Walnut Woods Shelly House, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9
Des Moines – Hispanic Pastoral Center, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
Des Moines – Confirmation, St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10
Des Moines – Catholic Charities Board of Directors, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.
Des Moines – Meiter Steering Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

Thursday, October 11
Des Moines – Mass, Christ the King School, 8:40 a.m
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
West Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, 4:45 p.m.
Des Moines – Bishop Pates’ farewell celebration, St. Patrick Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 14
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, October 6
Waukee – Confirmation, reception, St. Boniface Parish, 10 a.m.
Des Moines – Bishop Pates’ farewell celebration, St. Patrick Parish, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 14
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, 4:45 p.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, 4:45 p.m.
Des Moines – Sacred Heart Parish, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 20 – Sunday, September 21, 2018
St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 28
Hartlan – Mass, Shelby Catholic Church, 9:30 a.m.
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, 9 a.m.

Saturday, September 29 – Sunday, September 30
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, 9 a.m.

Monday, September 30
Des Moines – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates,” Iowa Catholic Radio, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, September 30
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, College of Health Sciences President Dr. Douglas Fiore,

St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1 p.m.
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 through.” 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.”

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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.

World-Class Speakers:

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Bishop Robert Barron
Father Leon Pereira, OP
Steve Ray
Renée Bondi
Matt Fradd
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow
Steve Angrisano
Jimmy Belabre
What happened to keeping vows?

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’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 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 purport to connect us with others but actually impair our ability to communicate. I found myself looking up the definition of words like 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.

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Breaking up with your phone

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecci

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 has the gym several times a week and weighs 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 prayer 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 Capecci 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 a problem Vatican City’s constituents. In our culture today, there is a great aversion to, and little respect for keeping their vows, or the idea 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 firming (Mt 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 Rush 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.

I 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 515-237-3056 or astorey@dmdioceose.org.

Guest Column

By Mayra Moriel de Banañez

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.
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 holds 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 celebrates with his hands raised. 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. 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 or The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.
The Catholic Mirror  September 21, 2018 www.dmdiocese.org

Around the diocese

Sept. 21-23  Friday-Sunday Garage Sale

DESMOINES – 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 fwpwalk.org/event/2155.

Sept. 23  Sunday

Chicken and Ham Dinner

LENOX – St. Patrick Church is hosting its annual Chicken and Ham dinner from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in their Parish Center. Cost of the tickets are $8.50/adults $5/kids

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 Pat-Teer, 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 site-school.org. For more information, contact Nicole at nicoljones@gmail.com or 515-231-4099. All are welcome.

Catholic Woman’s League Luncheon

DESMOINES – The Catholic Woman’s League luncheon will be held at 11:30 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, 1901 Beaver Ave, 5030, Des Moines, IA 50310.

Fundations Health Care 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. ilvshare.org/donate/ or to the clinic InnerVisions HealthCare, 1355 50th 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

Fall Dinner

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.

Fishbleter Fest

COUNCIL BLUFFS – Corpus Christi’s first-ever Fishbleter 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 runs 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/child 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

DESMOINES – Join the 2018 Public Square Rosary Crusade at noon on the corner of 42nd 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 – 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 – JOHNSTON

DESMOINES – Christ the King Altar and Rosary Society annual craft show will be Nov. 3, 10 a.m. – 6 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 Linnette Boden at 515-865-8533 or linetteboden@yahoo.com.

Bishop installs three priests

Catholic Charities holds successful Bishop’s Golf Class

Proceeds helps those in need in community

Bishop Richard Pates greets the Rupprecht brothers.

Bishop Richard Pates installed Father George Komo as parochi- al 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 Par- ish in Des Moines, his home par- ish, on Aug. 18.

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 Zacatecolulca 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 Executive Director Barbara Decker awards the winners from Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines with the coveted Cash Challenge bobblehead 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.
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 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 in early 2014 organizing CYC retreats and directed retreats.

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 in early 2014 organizing CYC retreats and directed retreats.

Kautzky will help a new generation of Catholics interested in knowing and deepening their faith.

“Kevin will reach out and provide services to the young people that provide 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.

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 encouraging to contact Jess Strelt 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 Strelt, Special Needs Ministry Coordinator
Saint Francis of Assisi
(515) 440-1030 Ext. 155 or jstrelt@saintfranciscurch.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The priest committee* serving in coordination of the transition of 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 Mejia
Father Ross Parker

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

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

Saturday, Oct. 13 – Mass at 5 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. Diocese-wide celebration.

More details to follow. For any particular questions, contact Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org.
Seminarians: A missionary disciple exudes joy to others

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Seminarians Max Carson and James Downey said a missionary discipleship 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.

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.

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 saintliness 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 said.

“Can we 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.

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. ... (Gaitley’s) last message was to not be afraid to come to Jesus and know him as a friend,” Father Sia said.

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 said.

The two-week convocation was a chance to meet other vocation directors from Iowa City and Davenport dioceses, and a chance to discuss the yearly diocesan events.

The convocation is an annual event that is a chance to get together with seminarians across the state, said Father Sia.

This article was reprinted with permission from The Catholic Messenger.
The Catholic Mirror  September 21, 2018

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.

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.

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 Schmidt) 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

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 Dombro – St. Francis Parish, West Des Moines
• Tracy and Cindy Jone – St. Mary Parish, Red Oak Diocese
• Dan and Kelly Marcy – St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, Des Moines
• Steven and Vivian Mcgee – St. Joseph, Des Moines
• Eric and Monica Pugh – St. Joseph, Wintererset
• Oran and Marilyn Struecker – St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines

Couples start formation for diaconate

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 far with the diocesan strategic planning effort,” 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.”

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Rural Life Mass celebrates farmers, God’s creation

Bishop Pates celebrated the Rural Life Mass at the Argan 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.

Victim Assistance Advocate

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

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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 and protect Iowa’s historic resources. Eleven awards were presented in nine categories at the annual “Preservation by Design 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 designed building at 601 Grand Ave in Des Moines while bringing elements up to code and adding enhancements. For example, the original 1/4" 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 place. 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 for the interior 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

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 West 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.

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.

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.

CNS photo/Roberto Escobar, EPA

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The pope and 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 “good.”

“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 creditable 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.”


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 convene 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 communiqué.

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

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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 que lo rodeaba a cualquier nivel, desde el arzobispo hasta el clero más deprimido, no es acceptable. Se les ofreció a las víctimas una disculpa de corazón. No se debe tolerar el abuso. Se les han ofrecido disculpas a las víctimas que sufrieron de un sacerdote (por una situación de vida personal), de 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 para todos los individuos que asumen autoridad voluntaria, pagado o clerical en la diócesis. Desde el 2002, la diócesis ha llevado a cabo 18,535 revisiones de antecedentes.

2. Los ministro (voluntarios) y de los que asumen ministerio 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 miembros de la diócesis hagan las lecturas mensuales de "Virtus", las cuales hacen hincapié en las dimensiones del abuso y los problemas de establecer límites.

5. Se requiere que todos los jóvenes que participan en programas de la Iglesia copien 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 la empresa Stonebridge Business Partners. Cada tercer año, la auditoría se hace en la diócesis. En 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 de Alegaciones (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 varios años atrás). El ha sido licenciado y removido de todo ministerio. Más aún, algunas acusaciones de abuso sexual 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 web de la Conferencia Episcopal Católica de los Estados Unidos en www.usccb.org

En aproximadamente el mismo período, también, han surgido 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 prometí un cambio y que persigo en inglés) ejercería su autoridad en plenitud y que buscaremos así con aquellos con mayor autoridad, a que se de investigaran las muchas preguntas que rodeaban al Arzobispo McCarrick. El 16 de agosto, solicité una investigación apostólica, trabajando en conjunto con una comisión nacional laica a la que se le otorgara la ciudadanía independiente, en búsqueda de la verdad. Ayer, llamé a nuestro "Comité Ejecutivo una vez más, entre me reconfortó el llamado a una examinación pronta y a fondo sobre cómo las graves fallas enormes de un hermano obispo que habían sido solvendas por tanto tiempo y no mostraban impunidad alguna a su avance.

Yo creo que las acciones del Cardenal DiNardo llevarán a la Iglesia, que el diálogo y la persuasión 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) o 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 apoyé firmemente una reforma 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 del dolor de tantos en nuestra comunidad católica. Esto es especialmente cierto 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 auténita. 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, más llena de confianza en sí misma y en la próxima presencia de Dios, yo creo que si.
Partida de Sacerdote

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

El Padre Pineda ha tenido un término de ausencia y buscando servicios de apoyo y consejería. Pueden comunicarse al 515-286-2028 o en advocate@dmdiocese.org.

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.

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.

“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.
The goal of the Knights is to strengthen men and their families in the faith. As members of the Order, we were reminded to constantly inform ourselves in the Catholic faith. This formation goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ.

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The bond of sincere friendship can be found in our Band of Brothers—the Knights of Columbus.

With more than $109 billion of life insurance in force, more than $1.62 billion donated to charity in the past decade, and more than 136 years of experience, the Knights of Columbus is a name you know, a company you can trust, and an organization you can believe in.