**The Catholic Mirror**

**Vol. 54, No. 2**  
February 21, 2020

**Almost time for Lent**

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 26) and Good Friday (April 10) are days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

For fasting, those who are between the ages of 18 and 59 are to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Fridays during Lent.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

---

**Persons with disability ministry started at diocese**

**Patty Origer hired in new part-time role**

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

Patty Origer has been hired as coordinator for Persons With Disability Ministry, a newly created, part-time position at the Diocese of Des Moines.

The goal is to help people with disabilities feel welcomed and included in worship and social activities in our church communities.

"We need to set the example for everyone," Origer said.

The welcoming atmosphere and sense of inclusion were evident at St. John Parish when Origer’s family moved to Adel.

"We visited the parish before we moved there, and one of the first things we noticed was that there were six to five individuals with a disability involved in Mass," said Origer, who cares for her young adult son who has a disability. "We thought, ‘This is a welcoming parish.’

"It takes a village to raise any child," Origer added. "But to raise a child with a disability – having the support of family, friends and church is really important."

John Gaffney, director of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, said Origer is the right person for the job.

"Patty’s life experiences create an authenticity which will be received well by the Diocese of Des Moines.

"Patty’s life experiences create an authenticity which will be received well by the Diocese of Des Moines, and she is realistic about the immense effort needed to reach out and be there for these individuals and families, so together we can all grow in our faith and relationship with God," Origer said.

---

**Devoted STEM teacher honored**

St. Theresa Catholic School teacher Ronda McCarthy won the 2020 IOWA STEM Teacher Award sponsored by Kemin Industries.

The middle school teacher was honored for going above and beyond to inspire student interest in and awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

McCarthy believes STEM education is vital for all students no matter their learning style. She incorporates STEM education in hands-on activities, problem solving and collaboration. She connects students with STEM professionals in the area and through Skype.

She has attended teacher training with the U.S. Naval Academy and brought a SeaPerch program, which involves underwater robotics, to St. Theresa School. When Bishop William Joensen visited her classroom during Catholic Schools Week, she taught him how to fly a drone.

McCarthy received $1,500 to use for her classroom and $1,500 for personal use. She was nominated by her principal, Ellen Stemler.

---

**Wednesdays are fun days in Atlantic**

**Top: Engaging in a game of Jenga during play time at the After School Program is Vince Freund, Tessa O’Brien, Maddie McLaren, Makenna Schroeder and Monte Smith. Right: A St. Valentine’s photo booth was set up for the After School Party. Annabelle Meyer and Addie Freund had fun showing their best sides.**

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish has become the go-to hot spot for kids on Wednesday afternoons in Atlantic.

That’s because the parish has filled a need in the community, opening their doors to the kids every Wednesday afternoon after their early school dismissal for teachers’ professional development.

It has become popular with parents and students alike.

It’s also given the parish an opportunity to reach kids they may not have been reaching before, said Father Trevor Chicoine, pastor.

“From a very practical standpoint, it’s become a bridge and has allowed us to get the kids into the faith formation that we wouldn’t otherwise get,” said Father Chicoine. “We have a place where they can send the kids. And in that gap of time, we provide some good faith formation that’s lined up with what they’re doing in class,” he added. “That really extends that afternoon of catechesis.”

Dawn and LaNette Freund, volunteers who created the after school program, said the kids arrive at the parish center at about 2 p.m. They have two hours of time scheduled for homework, reading, a faith lesson, snack and playtime before religious education starts at 4 p.m. Parents pick the kids up at about 5:15 p.m.

Approximately 30-45 kids participate in the after-school program.

“We think it’s important because it offers them a safe place to be,” Dawn said. “The kids can know that they can have fun at church and it helps the parents. Once they get them on the bus, it gets them right to the church.”

It eliminates worries parents might have had about their kids getting home OK.

“Kids hate missing it. ‘The kids are pretty enthusiastic and we get pretty excited when they run in,’ Freund said. ‘They look forward to it, and I think the parents appreciate it too.’”

Volunteers keep things interesting with different church teachings – the rosary, liturgical calendar and the saints and service projects, including coloring pictures for the elderly and making Christmas cards for soldiers serving abroad.

“I think the kids feel it’s a fun and tangible way to encounter the faith,” Father Chicoine said. “I think that they’ve started to see church as not just a dull place. It really launches them into their afternoon faith formation class much more prepared and ready to engage.”
While visiting with Pope Francis, Bishop William Joensen mentioned that he’s a former philosophy teacher. Pope Francis replied: “At last you’ve come down to earth!” As Bishop Joensen departed, he promised to keep his feet, faith and commitment to the people of the Des Moines diocese firmly fixed at ground level.

The week was part working retreat with Masses at four major basilicas and time spent in prayer and reflection, and partly taken with appointments and conferences with the staff of the various Vatican congregations and councils that represent the administrative extension of the pope’s executive role and ministry. There was also the grace opportunity to get to know my brother bishops and our Des Moines seminarians more deeply. There’s too much to recount in detail, but I offer some highlights.

First, despite some rumblings of misperceptions of the U.S. Catholic Church by our European counterparts, we encountered a largely appreciative and affirming estimate of American Catholicism by several of the groups we met. The Congregation for Education applauded the general state of our K-12 parochial schools with ongoing dedication by diocesan laity who staff and support schools often once operated by religious communities, while also recognizing that we must continue to be intentional in forming lay administrators and teachers who are “missionary” in their approach to their educational vocations. Similarly, the Council for Promoting New Evangelization applauded the American spirit that is willing to adopt innovative strategies for bringing the Gospel to bear on the lives of young people and others. While the accent is more upon proclaiming Christ than upon reasserting doctrinal truths, the pending completion of a revised national catechetical directory will ensure that the integrity of the faith is respected while bearing the joy of the gospel to the “nones” and others who’ve yet to encounter Jesus.

The solid cultural values sown in the Heartland were acknowledged in our time with Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Canada, prefect of the Congregation of Bishops. Successful initiatives to promote priestly and religious vocations among men and women on campuses and within dioceses were toasted, with the need to foster Hispanic vocations and ministry in the spirit of the 5th Encyclical of the faith is respected while bearing the joy of the gospel to the “nones” and others who’ve yet to encounter Jesus.

The solid cultural values sown in the Heartland were acknowledged in our time with Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Canada, prefect of the Congregation of Bishops. Successful initiatives to promote priestly and religious vocations among men and women on campuses and within dioceses were toasted, with the need to foster Hispanic vocations and ministry in the spirit of the 5th Encyclical tro were points of emphasis.

The recent canonization of Cardinal Newman can enliven the centers at universities – such as at Drake – that bear his name. Our personal witness as bishops to greater simplicity of life and prophetic presence to our people in the face of racism, opioid and other addictions, and natural disasters such as flooding, is vital.

These notes were echoed in our meeting with Cardinal Peter Turkson (familiar to Des Moines folks from his presence here in conjunction with receiving the World Food Prize), Cardinal Michael Czerny and their staff on the Council for Promoting Integral Human Development. Their scope of responsibility is wide, including advocacy and outreach to migrants and refugees, victims of human trafficking and the distinct category of “internally displaced” persons within countries, including those estranged from homes and native cities by the effects of climate change and overall food insecurity.

While we were repeatedly told at the outset of our sessions that Vatican officials and staffs were poised to listen rather than talk, Roman laicism sometimes prevailed, with mild frustration that we could not more fully engage experts such as Dr. Linda Ghisoni. She combines bioethical expertise with great passion for promoting marriage and family life, including new movements of spirituality and solidarity among young people.

There were more sober moments, including our time with the Secretariat of State where issues of religious freedom, the accusation against the Catholic Church and the Chinese government, and the disposition and disclosure of funds entrusted by donors to the Papal Foundation and Peter’s Pence collection were discussed. But there were also frequent opportunities to be grateful for the support of Vatican officials—including several American priests from various dioceses working tirelessly behind the scenes—to address head-on the effects of clerical sexual abuse and other malfeasance by clergy, whether by the Commission for the Protection of Minors, or the Congregations of the Doctrine of the Faith and for the Clergy. Their efforts to work with survivors, to form and educate church ministers and the faithful, to provide more comprehensive guidelines and norms to safeguard our young people—and to apply church law appropriately to sanction and remove perpetrators or those guilty of misconduct from ministry, are encouraging, even as more needs to be done.

My one-on-one conversations and meals with our seminarians—Reed Flood, Alex Kramer, and Michael Mahoney—assured me that we are heading the counsel of the Congregation for the Clergy that we should aim for quality men rather than numbers.
Aunque ya con anterioridad había lanzado monedas a la fotografía de Trevelin basado en la leyenda popular de que eso garantiza el volver a viajar a la Ciudad Eterna, el viaje de enero pasado a Roma fue definitivamente único, en el sentido de la Nueva Evangelización, un misionero...
Show your love every day

Love lived in a profound way

Mary Patricia Heithoff

She was born with Down syndrome, and at that time there were no pamphlets, no early intervention centers, no support groups, no anything to help her parents.

Despite this, her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love. They believed there was value in every life.

She had a special bond with her younger sisters, her nieces and nephews, but she particularly doted on her little brother eros. She loved singing, El coco, Diet Coke, and dancing, El mal de ciego, El mal de la tierra! The simple and warm story is: when I said that I was going to do something, he declared: “I will not let you!”

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love. They believed there was value in every life.

Her smile could make one feel like the most important person in the world. The Heithoffs were twice blessed when another child with Down syndrome was born into their family in 1973.

Mary loved her brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews, but she particularly doted on her little brother eros. They had a special bond that was a joy to witness.

She attended Dr. Lee Martin Therapy Center, volunteered at Rose Kennedy School, and worked at St. Albert Catholic School.

Mary is survived by her loved ones and talking with every person lucky enough to know her: to live joyfully, to laugh, to love. She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met. Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love. She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.

Her family did not dwell on what Mary could not do—instead they taught her all they could and delighted in her love.

She was a trailblazer for all those born after her with Down syndrome.

She showed them by example that they could live a full and extraordinary life—thats their extra chromosome did not have to limit them but in fact was their superpower.

Mary was a strong, happy, and optimistic woman who positively impacted the life of everyone she met.
2. Consider what we have- ings and gifts God has given us, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Not in the priest’s own name.)

Q. Why does God allow bad things to happen to people?

A. I’ll bet you might think the answer is registered with the State of Iowa, Seller of Travel ID# 1392

Q. Did you ever not believe in God?

A. Not really. I’ve had times in my life when God seemed distant and hard to reach. What I’ve come to realize is that I can’t know ev- erything. One big help for me is meditating on the ways that Jesus taught and healed. Check out the gospels, which are filled with them.

Got a question for “Ask a Priest” and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to: communications@dmdiocese.org.

Q. I haven’t gone to confession in Council Bluffs.

A. Reconciliation is meditating on the ways that Jesus taught and healed. Check out the gospels, which are filled with them.

Q. Infractions of life’s mysteries. There

Q. I haven’t gone to confession since my first reconciliation. Father, I still am not sure how a priest can forgive sin? Can you help me better understand?

A. Reconciliation gives us a chance to look over our lives and:

1. Be grateful for the bless- ings and gifts God has given us, and
2. Consider what we have failed to live up to and begin again.

I’m sure that a priest will be happy to help you since it’s been a while since your first reconciliation. I should point out that God forgives sin; the priest is there to proclaim that, but it’s been a while since your first reconciliation. I should point out that God forgives sin; the priest is there to proclaim that, and also to be of help to you to follow the Lord more inten- tionally. The prayer of absolu-

Q. Are you proud to be a priest?

A. Yes.

Q. You’re a priest, do you always have to work at a church or can you be a priest in other ways?

A. Priests serve the Church in many different ways. Some are teachers; some are chaplains at hospitals or in the military; some serve in diocese- san offices; some are mission- aries. But almost always, in churches or chapels, they cele-

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
15 Indiana Rd. Des Moines, Iowa

Invites YOU to attend the 99 Experience

LENTEN PARISH MISSION
Your life WILL be changed forever!

March 8th, 9th, 10th 2020

St. Anthony Catholic Church - Parish Hall
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Mass, Dinner & Program
See full schedule online

CHILDREN’S PARISH MISSION
There is also a Mission for the children!
K - 7 Lower Church / Ages 1 - 4 Lower Church

Cost: Freewill donation—MUST SIGN UP
Each participant will receive a free "99 Experience" book and mission materials.

Sign up to reserve your space and invite a friend!
Go to: StAnthonyDSM.org or call the Parish Office: 515-244-4709

Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

Presented by Collins Travel and Pilgrimages

Act fast - just a few spots left!
Space limited to 20 people!

Hosted by Father Andrew Windschitl and Jason Collins, pastor of St. Mary /Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart in the Diocese of Des Moines...of St. Francis Parish, West Des Moines
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to Germany and Austria July 24-August 2, 2020!

Things we’ll do in Germany
* Watch world-renowned “Passion Play”
* **Play held only once every 10 years***
* Tour unique and ornate churches
* Explore historic Munich city center
* Visit Dachau Concentration Camp
* NEW - Hitler’s Nazi Eagle’s Nest
* Take exciting ride into majestic Alps
* Visit and mission materials.
* Discover unique and beautiful Salzburg
* Experience famous Hofbraushaus
* Dine on local cuisine and beverages
* Engage with local Austrians

Trip includes daily Mass, confession, time for shopping & relaxation!

Go to: StAnthonyDSM.org or call the Parish Office: 515-244-4709

www.CollinsTravel.biz and click on “Pilgrimages.”
Sign up to reserve your space and invite a friend!

View full itinerary & videos at www.CollinsTravel.biz and click on “Pilgrimages.”

Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.

2. Consider what we have- ings and gifts God has given us, and 

SS John and Paul Parish
1401 First Ave. S, Altoona
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Time: 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Cost: $10 for adults;
$5 for children (ages 6-12);
free for children 5 and under.

Menu: Fried and baked fish, baked potato, potato salad, green beans, mac & cheese, cheese pizza. Four shrimp on a stick is available for $4 more. Take out and drive-thru are available. There will also be a youth desert table.

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH
15 Indiana Rd. Des Moines, Iowa

Invites YOU to attend the 99 Experience

LENTEN PARISH MISSION
Your life WILL be changed forever!

March 8th, 9th, 10th 2020

St. Anthony Catholic Church - Parish Hall
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Mass, Dinner & Program
See full schedule online

CHILDREN’S PARISH MISSION
There is also a Mission for the children!
K - 7 Lower Church / Ages 1 - 4 Lower Church

Cost: Freewill donation—MUST SIGN UP
Each participant will receive a free “99 Experience” book and mission materials.

Sign up to reserve your space and invite a friend!
Go to: StAnthonyDSM.org or call the Parish Office: 515-244-4709

Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

Presented by Collins Travel and Pilgrimages

Act fast - just a few spots left!
Space limited to 20 people!

Hosted by Father Andrew Windschitl and Jason Collins, pastor of St. Mary /Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart in the Diocese of Des Moines...of St. Francis Parish, West Des Moines
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to Germany and Austria July 24-August 2, 2020!

Things we’ll do in Germany
* Watch world-renowned “Passion Play”
* **Play held only once every 10 years***
* Tour unique and ornate churches
* Explore historic Munich city center
* Visit Dachau Concentration Camp
* NEW - Hitler’s Nazi Eagle’s Nest
* Take exciting ride into majestic Alps
* Visit and mission materials.
* Discover unique and beautiful Salzburg
* Experience famous Hofbraushaus
* Dine on local cuisine and beverages
* Engage with local Austrians

Trip includes daily Mass, confession, time for shopping & relaxation!

Go to: StAnthonyDSM.org or call the Parish Office: 515-244-4709

View full itinerary & videos at www.CollinsTravel.biz and click on “Pilgrimages.”

Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.
**Lenten Fish Fry Calendar**

**Des Moines Area**

**All Saints**
- Served from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is $5/adults, $3/children under age 12; Alternate: grilled cheese sandwich, mac and cheese.

**Basilia of St. John**
- Served from 4:45-6:45 p.m. Cost is $1/adults, $0.50/children ages 4-10; free/children under age 13 and under; Alternate: egg rolls, Spanish rice, mac and cheese.

**Christ the King**
- Served from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is $10/adults, $5/children ages 0-12; free/children under age 3; $40/family. Alternate: cheese pizza and fish tacos.

**Sacred Heart, West Des Moines**
- Served from 5:30-7:15 p.m. Cost is $10/adults (ages 13+), $5/children ages 6-12; free/children under age 6. Alternate: cheese pizza, mac & cheese. Scouts will host a dessert fundraiser (priced a la carte).

**St. Anthony**
- Served from 5-7 p.m. Cost is $10/adults, $5/children.

**St. Augustine**
- Served on March 27 and April 3 from 5-7 p.m. Cost is $5/adults and $2/teens, free/children age 12 and under; $40/family. Alternate: taco & salsa bar, fish & chips, grilled cheese sand-wiches, cheese quesadillas.

**St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines**
- Served from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost is $5/adults ($3/children); $3/children under age 12; $40/immediate family. Alternate: tuna noodle casserole, mac and cheese.

**St. Mary of Nazareth**
- Served from 4:30-7 p.m. Cost is $10/adults; $5/children ages 60 and older; $5/children under age 12. Alternate: macaroni and cheese.

**St. Theresa**
- Served from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost is free will offering. Alternate: Fish tacos, veggie and cheese pizzas, mac and cheese and assorted home baked desserts.

**Lunch on Fridays**
- St. Ambrose Cathedral
- Served from noon to 1 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is $5. Menu: fish sandwich, chips, fruit, water.

---

**Reconciliation opportunities**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** - Recognizing and repenting for one’s own sins and errors is difficult, but essential, Pope Francis said.

“To understand (one’s) sin is a gift from God, it is the work of the Holy Spirit who helps each person realize “the evil I have done or that I may do,” the pope said Feb. 12 discussing his weekly general audience.

The following is a list of communal reconciliation services in the Des Moines metro area. Contact your local parish for individual reconciliation times.

**March 27-29**
- **Friday-Sunday Library Book Sale**
  - DES MOINES – Christ the King Parish. The library book sale will be open March 27, 4-7 p.m.; March 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and March 29 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

**March 28 Saturday**
- **Bishop Dehmen Peace Award**
  - DES MOINES – Cath- olic Peace Ministry’s 25th annual Bishop Dehmen Peace Award banquet will be held at Holy Trinity Church. Food and fellowship will be a part of the parish hall at 6 p.m., speaker and award program in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $50. Scholarships are available. This year’s peace award recipient is Carla Dawson and the keynote speaker is Johnny Zokovitch, executive director of Pax Chris- ti USA. For more information or to request more tickets contact Godwin McKee at 515-883-1352 or email catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com.

**March 29 Saturday**
- **DCCW Conference**
  - ATLANTIC – The 91st annual Des Moines Dioce- san Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) conference will be at St. Peter and Paul Parish Hall. All women are invited. Keynote speaker is Barbara Heil. Bishop William Joensen will be our cel- ebrant at Mass. Registration is at 8 a.m.; conference begins at 9 a.m.; event ends at 3 p.m. There is a $25 fee due by March 18 which includes continental breakfast and lunch. More information go to the website: desmoinesdccw. org or contact Carolyn Smith at 712-522-4366 or Connie Suppers at 712-623-2269.

**July 18 Saturday**
- **Ignatian Retreat Day**
  - DES MOINES – The 5th annual Ignatian retreat day with Jesuit Father Bob Dubuff will be held at St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Registr- ation will begin at 8:15 a.m. The cost is $50 (scholarships are available). For more information and to register visit the Emmaus House website: themaunhouse. org/Ignatian-retreat-day or contact Kevin O’Donnell at 515-282-4839, kevin@themauhouse. org.

---

**Around the Diocese**

**Feb. 23 Sunday**
- **Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner**
  - CHURCHVILLE – An- nual dish of all-you-can-eat spaghetti lenten dinner in the Churchville Assumption Shrine Hall, two miles northwest of Martensdale, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is $8/adults, $3/child- ren ages 5-12; there will be a silent auction.

**Feb. 25 Tuesday**
- **Catholic Widows and Widowers**
  - WEST DES MOINES – Business meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. For more information contact Judy Lalonde at 515-985-7791.

**March 1 Sunday**
- **Country Style Breakfast**
  - INDIANOLA – The Knights of Columbus will host a breakfast fundraiser at the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. featuring pancakes, egg bake, sausage, ham, hash browns, biscuits and gravy. $5/adults and carry-outs, $3/children. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

**March 8 Sunday**
- **Lenten Taio Prayer Service**
  - WEST DES MOINES – Tai'o meeting at 7:8 p.m. in the St. Francis of Assisi church sanctuary. Details at sainttaiociscoc.org or 515-480-6617 or Dana Reed at 515-975-3745.

**March 15 Sunday**
- **Fried Chicken Dinner**
  - NOKESVILLE – St. John the Apostle Parish is hosting a fried chicken dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is $15/adults, $5/children ages 6-12 and free for children age 5 and under.

**March 20, 27, 3 April 3 Fridays**
- **Fridays Without Border, or Separated?**
  - DES MOINES – Beg- inning wide and generous grant intended for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. Open house is 7:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church. Questions? Contact Carol Schuman or Schuman at 515-418-1938, Daryl Stahl at 515-480-6617, or Dana Reed at 515-975-3745.

---

**Catholic Daughters raffle**
- COUNCIL BLUFFS – All six Fridays of Lent, Feb. 28-April 3, the Catholic Daughters Court St. Anthony #330 annual Lenten fish fry will be at two fish fry locations: St. Patrick and Corpus Christi, both in Council Bluffs. Both dinners run 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Main raffle item at both sites is a $14 ASUS Chromebook, along with several other prizes. Separate ticket collection boxes for each event will be offered. Each ticket or 6/$5.
Christ the King expands daily Mass and confession times

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

To better meet the needs of the community, Christ the King Parish changed its daily Mass and confession schedule.
The parish now offers daily Mass five days a week – Monday through Friday at 5:30 p.m., said the pastor, Father PJ McManus.

Previously, the most well-attended Masses were at 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays. Their one morning Mass – 8:40 a.m. Wednesdays – typically had low attendance, fewer than 30 people.

“So it seemed pretty obvious what we ought to do,” said Father McManus, who serves the parish alongside associate pastor Father George Komo. Hispanic chaplain Father Jose Reynaldo also serves the parish part-time.

“Daily Mass is the heartbeat of a parish,” Father McManus said. “While the bulk of our people live week-to-week on the Sunday Eucharist, the Church herself comes together every day so that ‘from the rising of the sun unto its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.’

“Having Mass available daily, and having Mass available in as convenient a way as reasonably possible for the largest number of people, is a serious obligation on the part of the Church,” he continued. “Of course, the local Church is more than just my parish, which is why I consulted with other pastors before making the change.”

People are responding positively to the change.

“Attendance is up at all the Masses,” Father McManus said. “I would say we average around 80 people. Some nights more, some nights less.”

The parish has also been flooded with people attending confession.

“We keep getting more and more business for confession,” he said. “So the two [time periods offered previously] were Tuesday night at 6 p.m. and then Saturday morning. We would habitually be hearing confessions for three hours Tuesday night and four hours Saturday morning.”

The parish expanded, offering the sacrament every evening at 6 p.m. after Mass Monday through Friday.

“If you build it, they will come,” Father McManus said. “It’s a good hour and a half of confession every night.”

The parish also offers confession Saturday evenings at 4 p.m. before their 5 o’clock Mass and again on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. after the Spanish Mass.

Attendance at the adoration chapel has also been up.

“We wanted to draw a clear connection between Mass celebrated as a whole and the adoration chapel,” Father McManus said. “So at the end of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the church. The remnants from that Mass are exposed and it’s put out for about an hour before benediction.

“On Saturday, about an hour before Mass, the sacraments are brought out of the chapel and put in the church for an hour of adoration,” he continued. “And so what happens in the chapel is just an extension of what happens at Mass.”

“The response to the new schedule has been positive.

“People really like the idea of having Mass and confession every day,” Father McManus said, noting that he likes the idea of planning strategically with neighboring parishes to best meet the needs of the people.

Parishioner Carlos Arreola Duran enjoys the new schedule.

“Whenever I go to Mass, I end up going to confession, even if I went the day before,” Duran said. “I feel at home whenever I go there.”

Diane Stringer said she attends Mass as often as possible.

“I’m really happy and grateful to have all the 5:30 Masses,” Stringer said. “It’s really great for those of us in the workforce that can’t go to morning Mass, and so this is like a dream come true.”

Debbie Mathis was born and raised at Christ the King. She and her husband, Mike, remain parishioners there, despite their 10 years living in Ankeny. The pair typically attend Mass at least five times a week.

“My husband and I are very fortunate in many, many respects of our lives,” Mathis said. “And we just feel it’s a wonderful way to give thanks to God.”

The Catholic Mirror
www.dmdioce.org
February 21, 2020

New schedule:

Confession
Monday - Friday
6 - 7 p.m.
Saturday:
4 - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday:
4:15 - 5 p.m.

Mass
Monday, Tuesday
5:30 p.m.
Wednesday - Friday
8:40 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 5 p.m.
Sunday - 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.,
3:15 p.m. Spanish

First Friday - 7 p.m.
and other parishes to best meet the needs of the people.

Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Father PJ McManus is pastor of Christ the King Parish.
Support is critical for priests of diocese

By Kelly Meacher Collins
Staff Writer

Contributions to the Annual Diocesan Appeal are used to support active and retired members of the clergy.

The Diocese of Des Moines pays 100 percent of the health care premiums for all active and retired priests – an expense of more than $700,000 per year. About half of the $700,000 comes from the Diocesan Priests’ Medical Endowment Fund and the remainder of the expense is covered by the ADA.

An additional $60,000 is set aside for the Priests Pension Fund from the ADA. The Priests Pension Fund supports the financial needs of 34 retired priests and two retired religious of the diocese.

Retired priest Monsignor Ed Hurley, who serves as vicar of finance for the Diocese of Des Moines, said it’s extremely important to support our retired priests.

“These guys work 50 years serving our faith community and they deserve to retire and have their needs taken care of – part of the deal is offering a pension to them,” he said.

Many people may not realize the retired priests continue to serve despite their “retired” status, he added.

“We really rely on our retired priests for help with coverage.” Monsignor Hurley said. “Most of them are pretty darn busy doing coverage. If you’re halfway healthy, you’re busy. The parishes still rely on you for help.”

Father Larry Hoffman, co-vicar for retired priests, said the retired priests’ current way of life would not be possible without the generous support of the people of the Diocese of Des Moines. Priests would be in financial trouble without the assistance of the ADA and other generous donors.

“Without help with the cost of healthcare and without the pension, Social Security wouldn’t begin to cover the costs of hardly any of those things,” he said.

“The retired priests are very appreciative and thankful for the ADA so they can care for themselves well into their retirement and not become a burden in other ways,” Father Hoffmann said.

Most people work for many years to enjoy the last few in the comfort of retirement. In the case of our priests, they work until they are 70 if their health remains good.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the ADA to support our priests in active and retired ministry today. A growing number of aging priests in our diocese require additional funding to ensure the Priests Pension Fund and Priests’ Medical Endowment Fund can meet the full need into the future. Please also prayerfully consider a bequest or beneficiary designation for one or both of these funds.

Catholic Charities emarks ADA funds for operation costs not covered by grants

Catholic Charities, with the valuable assistance of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, helps 25,000 people in 2019 through its mission of empowering individuals and strengthening families.

Catholic Charities serves our most vulnerable neighbors in their time of greatest need. It is through the generosity of others that Catholic Charities can provide this help.

So forty-eight percent of Catholic Charities funding comes from individuals and matching company dollars.

Catholic Charities has five programs covering a wide range of services. They provide care and advocacy for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence, professional counseling, shelter, food, refugee resettlement, and more.

“In all of the diocese’s 23 counties, we are either providing direct support or working with very generous people who want to offer donations to those in need,” said Dr. Barbara Deck, executive director of Catholic Charities in the Des Moines diocese.

Grants and donations are often earmarked for specific outreach efforts. With this fund-raising going to direct client service, how does Catholic Charities pay for the administrative costs associated with offering these services?

This is where the Diocese of Des Moines comes in. With a gift from the ADA, Catholic Charities receives funds that can be directly applied to operations.

“The Annual Diocesan Appeal makes a difference in covering those costs that aren’t otherwise covered by specific grant programs funding,” said Deb Powers, development director for Catholic Charities.

The diocese was the largest individual donor to Catholic Charities last fiscal year. The funding provided about 7.2 percent of the Catholic Charities’ annual budget.

“In the future, we hope to leverage this funding for matching dollars in our grant requests,” Powers said. “By supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we can have a hand in supporting the ministry of Catholic Charities to those who need our help.”

Your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal makes an impact!
Encountering Christ

Youngest among us are contributing to the ADA

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When Father Chris Hartshorn encouraged his congregation to give to the annual diocesan appeal at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines last fall, even the smallest of ears were listening.

Jill Kinnison was at Mass that day with her 10-year-old daughter, Amanda, who was keenly attuned to his message.

“I went into the pitch about the appeal and all of the areas it impacts—vocations, health care for priests, Catholic Charities and helping those in need,” Father Hartshorn said. “We can’t do it ourselves and we need to support the diocese and Catholic Charities to do what we do.”

Hearing that a portion of the funds collected through the ADA went to Catholic Charities, which supports some of the most vulnerable in our diocese, prompted Amanda to act.

She donated her own $5 to help.

“Amanda was listening to his messages and decided that’s what she wanted to do,” Jill said. “She wanted to help whoever it could.”

Her good deed did not go unnoticed. In fact, she received a letter of gratitude from Bishop William Joensen.

“Your donation will help your parish and me tell the people of southwest Iowa about Jesus!” Bishop Joensen wrote. “Thank you for acting as a good steward of the gifts God has given you and for recognizing them at your young age of ten. God takes delight in you.”

“My prayer is that you continue to learn about your faith and share it with others through acts of charity and service. You are meant to be a saint, Amanda, and your parents, school teachers, and pastor will help you become one,” Bishop Joensen continued in his letter.

“The saints in heaven, especially our Blessed Mother, Mary, will also help you, and I encourage you to pray to them often. I look forward to when I can join you in celebrating the sacrament of confirmation at Sacred Heart in just a few years,” Bishop Joensen concluded.

The entire Kinnison family was excited about the personal note from Bishop Joensen.

“We felt like it was a big honor that she received the letter and we actually showed it to our grandparents, too,” Jill said.

The letter from our bishop meant “a lot – because I’m on the path to being a saint,” Amanda said.

“I liked it,” Amanda added. “It felt good.”

Father Hartshorn said he’s constantly amazed by the generosity of others—including the youngest of donors.

“When you present the need and the solid case of what we need and why we need it, [I’m amazed] at how generous people are,” Father Hartshorn said. “And it’s beautiful that a young person responded in that way. It’s a beautiful sign for all of us and what we are called to do as disciples of Jesus.”

Supporting Local Communities of Faith

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs recently surpassed its goals for the Annual Diocesan Appeal, leaving the parish with an unexpected windfall of $12,000.

The money will be used to help pay down the loan on the construction of a new church.

“This is kind of ‘unexpected’ money that we would not necessarily expect to be receiving anyway,” said Darin Hecker, the parish manager. “I also think that our parishioners appreciate the pay-down of the building loan.”

Matt Gronstal, chair of the finance council, said the new church has been extremely positive for the St. Patrick community.

“Our new church is a beautiful new worship site with plenty of parking and a wonderful parish hall,” he continued. “It also includes classroom spaces and meeting rooms. We have positioned St. Patrick’s Parish to be able to thrive for decades to come.”

Parish support has always been high, but this year was exceptional.

“I believe the ADA was successful due to the strong momentum created when we moved to our new church building,” Gronstal added. “Our membership has seen a strong increase and we now have approximately 1,000 families.”

Parishioners have embraced the quick and convenient online giving option, Hecker added.

Gronstal also credits the strong leadership of Father Glen Wilwerding and now Father James Ahenkorah.

The outpouring of support for the ADA was extremely positive, Hecker added.

“I think that this is good news for our St. Patrick community, because it shows how deeply our parishioners are committed to their Catholic faith,” Hecker continued. “I think it also shows how much our parishioners appreciate what the Diocese of Des Moines does for us and how much value they provide our parish.”

The parish was regularly encouraged to give to the ADA, which assists in educating our seminarians, caring for our retired priests as well as assisting those in need.

“I am certain that the weekly announcements and encouragement from our priests help with the donations,” Hecker said.

Parishioners also know and expect the ADA appeal each year, and plan their donations accordingly, Hecker added.

“I think that our parish is so successful every year because they do understand what the diocese does for our parish,” Hecker said. “It truly amazes and inspires me how, even with the commitment that our parishioners have made to our capital campaign, they still dig deep into their pockets and continue to support the ADA.”

Ten-year-old Amanda Kinnison of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines received a letter of gratitude from Bishop William Joensen for her ADA donation.
Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Bishop William Joensen celebrated Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs.

St. Joseph middle school students packed food at Meals from the Heartland as a service project during Catholic Schools Week. They are: Michael Thacker, Richelle Dolores, Grace Meeves, Abby Flaherty, Denise Sanchez, Addison Schaefer, Melissa Marin, Kaelynn Jay, Karla Contreras.

Bishop Joensen receives the gifts from Ally Anderson, Erin Kleppe and teacher Nick Spike during the Catholic Schools Week Mass at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines.

Bishop Joensen and Superintendent of Schools Donna Bishop (far right) congratulated Catholic teachers and administrators with milestone anniversaries, including this group celebrating 35 years. They are Maureen Dempsey of Sacred Heart; Becky Johnson of Christ the King; Jane Brown of St. Augustin and Maureen Casey of St. Augustin.

CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH

Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death.

In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence, and protect me by your power against the enemies of your salvation.

Into your sacred hands, living and dying, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.

Amen

John & Mark Parrish, parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home & Crematory

DES MOINES’ ONLY CATHOLIC-OWNED & OPERATED FUNERAL HOME.
Bishop prays for mutual respect, the common good during legislative invocation

Bishop William Joensen offered the opening prayer at the Iowa House and Senate on Feb. 11. The four bishops of Iowa, through the Iowa Catholic Conference, gathered at the statehouse to talk with legislators.

Update on proposed legislation

By Tom Chapman
Contributing Writer

There is a blizzard of subcommittee and committee meetings taking place at the State Capitol as legislation rushes to push through their bills.

This Friday, Feb. 21, is the first legislative deadline where non-budget or tax-related bills must be passed out of committee to avoid being set aside.

One positive we’ve noticed this session is the comeback of bills sponsored by members of both parties. They have been nearly non-existent during the past decade, but this year we’ve seen bipartisan bills related to mobile home regulation and a tax exemption for food banks.

PROTECT LIFE AMENDMENT

The “Protect Life” constitutional amendment to clarify that Iowa’s constitution does not contain a right to abortion, Senate Joint Resolution 14, supported by the Iowa Catholic Conference, would amend the Iowa Constitution to restore voting rights of Iowans with felony convictions.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Several bills supported by the ICC passed out of subcommittee last week. The Iowa Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Senate File 508 passed out of subcommittee last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

• Feb. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon, Anti-Hunger Day at the Capitol
• Feb 25 Refugees Day On The Hill
• March 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Iowa Prayer Rally for Life

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

Bishop William Joensen offered the following prayer before legislators on Feb. 11.

Creative, compassionate God:

You bring order and abundance out of chaos.

You speak your Word to us, who bears wisdom, healing, freedom, and renewed hope for those who seek justice and the way of peace together.

Stir your Spirit and release your grace from the heavens upon this assembly of legislators.

May they embrace the charge extended to them by the people of Iowa with humility, integrity, and zeal for the common good.

May they use words to reveal truth, rather than conceal it.

May they engender mutual respect to the extent that they can ardently disagree, yet not dismiss or denigrate their colleagues or opponents.

May the rule of law and the intentions of this State’s and this Nation’s founders be a yoke they wear worthily, aided by your inspiration and steadfast assistance.

May we enjoy good humor so that we take our duties, and not ourselves, seriously.

And at the end of the day, may we entrust all that are able to achieve and all that remains to be completed to your Divine Providence, so that we may take your blessings home with us for reflection and rest, abiding with you who are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, always and forever. Amen.

The Diocesan Celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 19th
Christ the King Catholic Church
5711 S.W. 9th Street
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy Chaplet: 3:00 p.m.
Mass 3:30 p.m. celebrated by Bishop William M. Joensen
Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Hall

Sponsored by Divine Mercy Des Moines
For more information visit our website www.divinemercydesmoines.com

“Middendorf Insurance cares about protecting your family and assets if the unexpected occurs.

Our goal is to exceed your expectations.”

Visit our website:
www.middendorfins.com
515-252-1414

Trent and Jim Middendorf
Middendorf Insurance Associates
Members of St. Francis Parish
in West Des Moines.
there once was a parish council that gathered in a circle after every meeting to pray the Our Father.

Instead of facing in, though, they face outward while holding hands and praying.

“Now doesn’t that sound hokey? So “?O, right? But what were they saying about themselves?” asked Tom Quinlan, the new director of the St. Joseph Educational Center. “They were saying to themselves, ‘We are not about ourselves. We are not insular. We are not going to be an enclave.’

“‘There’s nothing about the gospel that says, ‘Go forth and become a closed system,’” he added. “It’s open, so this idea is that our mission is to the whole world, not to ourselves.”

“There should be conversion and not just involvement in a parish, he said. “No one is outside the reach of conversion.”

Quinlan is on a mission to persuade leadership to pursue pastoral renewal and evangelization.

The Feb. 11 workshop for parish leaders, which will be repeated on April 30 at All Saints Parish in Des Moines, was one step toward his goal. Another is reviving a formation program through Creighton University for future parish leadership.

Quinlan arrived in Des Moines last summer, and brings years of parish and diocesan leadership to the metro area parishes he serves. He also brings stories he’s picked up from around the country that illustrate the need for ongoing conversion and faith growth.

In San Diego last month, he asked faith leaders what they thought and doctors of the faith and ministry cosponsored by SJEC and Creighton University, contact sjecowa.org.

A step toward finding creative ways to foster conversion is taking advantage of workshops and opportunities to get out of parish silos to see what’s working well in other communities.

For information on the second parish leadership workshop on renewal and evangelization, or the Certificate in Theology and Ministry cosponsored by SJEC and Creighton University, contact sjecowa.org.

Walk Where Jesus Walked

January 19 – 28, 2021

Visiting: Way of the Cross, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, Cana, Nazareth, Church of Holy Sepulcher, Jordan River, Mt. Carmel and much more

Grand Tour of the Holy Land

S$3499 R/T – Chicago $3599 R/T – Omaha & Tampa

Includes: Daily Mass, R/T Air, First Class/Select Hotels, most meals, Onboard Porter, All tours, and much more!

*Includes estimated Government taxes & airline surcharges of $700 per person

Greek and the Greek Isles

In the Steps of St. Paul, the Apostle

11 days November 3-13, 2020

hosted by Rev. Robert E. Harris All Saints Catholic Church

Visiting: Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Delphi, Kalambaka, Thessaloniki

$3899 PER PERSON FROM DES MOINES (Air/Land tour price is $3459 plus $440 government taxes/airline surcharges)

For information & a brochure, contact: Fr. Robert Harris 515-265-3001 ext. 202 / Email: bha1703012@aol.com

SPACE IS LIMITED AT THIS SPECIAL PRICE!!

A FANTASTIC SHOPPING EVENT

IOWA’S LARGEST ARTS & Crafts SHOW

March 6-8

VARIED INDUSTRIES BLDG.
IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS DES MOINES, IOWA
Fri. 5-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4

ADM. Just $6.00 (In advance only)
FREE PARKING - Free Shuttle Bus Service from North Parking Lot on Both Friday & Saturday.

"Where You Can Buy That Quality, Handmade Product at An Affordable Price."

Gardens Art, Oak Furniture, Paintings, Ceramics, Jewelry, Metal Art Sculptures, Pot Products, Etched & Stained Glass, Yard Art, Pottery, Blown Glass, Candles, Clothing, Floral Wreaths, Toys & Dolls, Basket, Rug, Glassware, Purse, Ornament, Food & Drink, Collectibles, Original Products, Handmade by the exhibitor.

For Purchase Discounted Advance Tickets and For A Chance To Win $50 Gift Certificates, Visit Our Facebook Page at Callahan Promotions, Inc. - 563-652-4529
Chaplain puts trust in God’s providence

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

One afternoon, Father Augustine Clement Owusu, a former pastor and spiritual director in Ghana, received a call from his bishop asking for his email address.

The next day, the Diocese of Des Moines sent him information that would start the ball rolling on immigration paperwork so that he could be a missionary to St. Albert School in Council Bluffs.

“I had no idea where I was going. It’s my first time in the United States. But I trust God’s providence,” he said.

He arrived last Sept. 21,Sparked in him an interest in a vocation to the priesthood.

He estimates about 200 will come from every corner of the United States for the convention.

Locally, there are 19 priests of the 71 in active ministry in the Des Moines Diocese who were born in Africa. Another, Father Felix Onuora, retired in central Iowa.

Locally, there are seven religious women from Africa serving in the Des Moines diocese. They serve at St. Gregory Retreat Center in Adair and MercyOne in Des Moines.

For more information on ACCCRUS, go to ACCCRUS.org.

Owusu joined St. Albert Catholic School last year. It’s his first time in the United States. He has three cousins in the seminary and a cousin who was ordained a priest in 2010.

“We grew up around the holy rosary. We attended holy Mass every day,” he said.

An international priest serving his childhood parish inspired Father Clement and sparked in him an interest in a vocation to the priesthood.

“He served the people so well. He had the people at heart,” said Father Clement.

When I grew up, I was so fascinated by him: his selflessness, his commitment to God’s people, and the love he showed. So, I desired to be like him. I left my family and comfort to be with the people of God,” said Father Clement.

After ordination in 2011, Father served as an associate pastor for one year and a pastor for three years before being assigned to a Marian grotto, where people go for retreats and spiritual direction as they seek the face of God. He served the retreat center for three years before being assigned to the Diocese of Des Moines.

Here, he found a small community of priests from his home country who also are missionary priests: Father Dominic Assim, of Assumption Parish in Granger; Father Samuel Danso, of Sacred Heart in Charter; St. Francis in Corydon and St. Brendan in Leon; Father Francis Amoako, a chaplain at Mercy Medical Center; Father Raphael Assamah, of St. Mary in Shenandoah and St. Mary in Hamburg; Father James Abenkora, of St. Patrick in Council Bluffs; and Father Philip Yaw Bempong, of St. John in Greenfield and St. Patrick in Massena.

Father Augustin Clement Owusu

National group of African priests, religious women coming to Des Moines in July for support, learning

African priests and religious women who are serving Catholics across the United States will gather in Des Moines July 22-25 for mutual support and to learn from each other.

Formed in 2004 by the U.S. bishops, the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States supports the missionary priests and religious women who come to the United States to serve or study.

“I had no idea where I was going. It’s my first time in the United States. But I trust God’s providence,” he said.

He arrived last Sept. 21 and since then has served as a chaplain, celebrating Mass and reconciliation, offering spiritual advice and being a presence among the students. He can be found eating lunch with students, joining in a choir rehearsal, and helping during sports practices in the gym.

“Father Clement’s pastoral care is present in how much he prays for our students,” said Katie Grudle, director of Mission and Student Life at St. Albert School. “I have witnessed him deep in prayer at school and on the Kairos retreat. He is also a kind individual who cares for our students whether he is inviting students to daily Mass, helping with lunch, or watching a wrestling match. Plus, his laugh is infectious!”

Father Clement grew up in a strong Catholic home. His parents and grandparents are Catholic. He has three cousins in the seminary and a cousin who was ordained a priest in 2010.

“We grew up around the holy rosary. We attended holy Mass every day,” he said.

An international priest serving his childhood parish inspired Father Clement and sparked in him an interest in a vocation to the priesthood.

“He served the people so well. He had the people at heart,” said Father Clement.

When I grew up, I was so fascinated by him: his selflessness, his commitment to God’s people, and the love he showed. So, I desired to be like him. I left my family and comfort to be with the people of God,” said Father Clement.

After ordination in 2011, Father served as an associate pastor for one year and a pastor for three years before being assigned to a Marian grotto, where people go for retreats and spiritual direction as they seek the face of God. He served the retreat center for three years before being assigned to the Diocese of Des Moines.

Here, he found a small community of priests from his home country who also are missionary priests: Father Dominic Assim, of Assumption Parish in Granger; Father Samuel Danso, of Sacred Heart in Charter; St. Francis in Corydon and St. Brendan in Leon; Father Francis Amoako, a chaplain at Mercy Medical Center; Father Raphael Assamah, of St. Mary in Shenandoah and St. Mary in Hamburg; Father James Abenkora, of St. Patrick in Council Bluffs; and Father Philip Yaw Bempong, of St. John in Greenfield and St. Patrick in Massena.

St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center
WHERE MEMORIES ARE MADE

- Ample room for up to 490 guests
- Low deposit
- Ample parking
- Flexible set-up
- Tables, chairs and bar service included

210 N 63 HWY — INDIANOLA, IOWA
515.961.3026 — bintuera@msn.com

Father Clement grew up in a strong Catholic home. His parents and grandparents are Catholic. He has three cousins in the seminary and a cousin who was ordained a priest in 2010.
Happy New Year!

Bishop William Joensen celebrated the Vietnamese New Year, also known as Tet, with St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community in Des Moines on Jan. 26. He was invited by Father Ly Chu to take a scroll, which had a biblical verse intended to guide him through the new year.

International news briefs

Hong Kong diocese cancels Masses to prevent spread of virus

HONG KONG (CNS) -- The threat of spreading the coronavirus has forced Catholic officials in Hong Kong to suspend all church programs Feb. 15-28, including Sunday Masses and the Ash Wednesday liturgy that marks the beginning of Lent. Ucanews.com reported Cardinal John Tong, apostolic administrator of Hong Kong, said the “disappointing” decision had been made “because the next two weeks will be a crucial time to suppress the epidemic.”

“Some church members may be disappointed” with the diocesan move, the cardinal said in his Feb. 13 pastoral letter. “This is not an easy decision.”

The move comes amid global fears that the epidemic, now called COVID-19, has worsened in China against the prediction of experts. It has claimed more than 1,300 lives, with more than 60,000 confirmed cases as of Feb. 13, mostly in China.

Hong Kong, which has open borders with China, has reported 50 confirmed cases and one death. The densely populated Hong Kong city-state of 7.4 million people is on high alert to check the virus, as thousands have crossed over from mainland China to avoid the infection, ucanews.com reported.

“At this difficult time,” Catholics must “deepen our trust in God and implement our Christian love for our neighbors and all people,” the cardinal’s message said.

Pope: Knights’ generous help counters culture of indifference

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis praised the Knights of Columbus for their charitable efforts and thanked them especially for helping Christians in the Middle East.

“I thank all the members of your order for seeing in our persecuted and displaced brothers and sisters of that region neighbors, for whom you are a sign of God’s infinite love,” he said in an address Feb. 10 to members of this fraternal service organization.

A delegation led by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and including the organization’s board of directors was in Rome to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their active presence in Rome.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in the United States almost 140 years ago, and Pope Benedict XV asked if it could also work with and assist young people in Rome following World War I.

By opening educational and aid centers in the city, “your order proved faithful to the vision of your founder, Venerable (Father) Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need,” Pope Francis said.

The pope recognized the Knights’ ongoing work of “evangelical charity and fraternity in a variety of fields,” particularly “your faithful witness to the sacredness and dignity of human life, evident at both the local and national levels.”

That commitment to protect life has also led the Knights to provide both material and spiritual aid to “Christian communities in the Middle East that are suffering the effects of violence, war and poverty.”

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.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Like so many of Pope Francis’ teachings and major documents, his apostolic exhortation on the Amazon is built on a call for conversion – a new way of seeing, thinking and doing.

“We need to feel outrage,” he wrote, underlining his concern that the world has become too indifferent, too numb or too much in denial about what is happening to the environment, the world and the people in it.

In his apostolic exhortation “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia), Pope Francis urged people to recognize how much injustice and cruelty has taken place in the Amazon region, and he pleaded for attention to “current forms of human exploitation, abuse and killing.”

Following in the footsteps of “Laudato Si’,” his 2015 encyclical on the environment, the pope said people must approach the Amazon aware that “everything is connected,” which means that care for people and care for ecosystems are inseparable.

In the document, released Feb. 12, he called on political leaders and governments in the Amazon region to take more seriously their responsibility to preserve the environment and resources and to protect the rights and cultures of all its citizens.

An unusual suggestion Pope Francis made in the document was that people turn to poetry and delve into Amazonian stories to discover how unique the region is and to feel more deeply its importance.

“Those poets, contemplatives and prophets help free us from the technocratic and consumerist paradigm that destroys nature and robs us of a truly dignified existence,” he said.

Poetry helps give voice to beauty and to pain, he said, and it should help wake people up to what is under threat.

Reflection is needed to bring about the true conversion needed to hear and respond to the cry of the region’s people and the cry of the earth, he said. “From the original peoples, we can learn to contemplate the Amazon region and not simply analyze it, and thus appreciate this precious mystery that transcends us.”

“We can love it, not simply use it, with the result that love can awaken a deep and sincere concern,” he wrote. “Even more, we can feel intimately a part of it and not only defend it; then the Amazon region will once more become like a mother to us.”

The key to all of Pope Francis’ appeals in the document is to not “look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings.”

“A sound and sustainable ecology, one capable of bringing about change, will not develop unless people are changed, unless they are encouraged to opt for another style of life, one less greedy and less anxious, more fraternal,” he said.

Pope calls for action on horrors in Amazon

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

A wooden cross is seen in front of a Catholic church as a fire burns a tract of the Amazon jungle being cleared by loggers and farmers near Porto Velho, Brazil, on Aug. 27, 2019. The Vatican released Pope Francis’ post-synodal apostolic exhortation “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia) on Feb. 12.

The Catholic Mirror
February 21, 2020

No other casket company can make this claim.

As Trappists, we make our caskets in prayer and hope to bring comfort during your time of loss. Let us join you on your journey by providing personal attention and answers to all your questions.

Call us now for an immediate need or visit our website for future planning. Receive a keepsake cross with your request for our printed catalog.

trappistcaskets.com • 888.433.6934

Trappist Caskets.
Blessed and prepared by the monks of New Melleray Abbey

A FANTASTIC SHOPPING EVENT

IOWA’S LARGEST ARTS & Crafts SHOW
March 6-8

FREE PARKING - Free Shuttle Bus Service from North Parking Lot on both Friday and Saturday.

No other casket company can make this claim.

A s Trappists, we make our caskets in prayer and hope to bring comfort during your time loss. Let us join you on your journey by providing personal attention and answers to all your questions.

Call us now for an immediate need or visit our website for future planning. Receive a keepsake cross with your request for our printed catalog.

trappistcaskets.com • 888.433.6934

Trappist Caskets.
Blessed and prepared by the monks of New Melleray Abbey

No other casket company can make this claim.
Knights around the world know that the chance to roll up our sleeves and demonstrate our faith through service is as powerful as it is rewarding. Our goal is to provide you with news and information, personal and spiritual formation and a custom-built community that is strengthened by the bonds of brotherhood.

We care about your membership experience and want it to continue. This includes but is not limited to:
- New Members
- College Councils Alumni
- Military Councils Members
- Former Squires
- Parish Councils Members
- Member Benefits

Why should someone in their 20s and 30s join the Knights of Columbus?
As it turns out, participating actively at this transitional life stage is an excellent way to make lifelong friends who share your faith and values, become a part of your community and to build a professional and social network.

Make an impact bigger than yourself – and build bonds of friendship and fraternity that last a lifetime.

Peace of mind
Be confident in the protection you provide for your family.
Be confident in their future.

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Walker Bormann
Assistant General Agent
(563) 219-5800
Eastern Iowa

Jeremy Brockelsby
(402) 651-7815
Council Bluffs, Glenwood, Red Oak & Shenandoah

Derek Feller
(563) 357-7111
Grinnell, Colfax, Newton and Des Moines

Donnie Kenkel
(712) 579-8066
Council Bluffs, Missouri Valley, Atlantic & Avoca

Rob Ryan
(515) 490-8753
WDM, St. Francis, Sacred Heart, Grimes, Olive, Johnston & Ankeny

Pete Seuntjens
(712) 880-0044
Harlan, Earlham, Audubon, Dunlap & Logan

Steve Tatz
(515) 201-6568
Serving Des Moines Councils including Perry, Waukee & Urbandale

Neil Pfeifer
General Agent
Northeast Nebraska, Southwest and West Central Iowa
402-379-0180
neil.pfeifer@kofc.org

Mike Bormann
General Agent
(563) 689-6801
michael.bormann@kofc.org

Peace of mind
Be confident in the protection you provide for your family. Be confident in their future.