

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Build authentic relationships

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

What can individuals do amid the public outcry to end racism following the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis?

Floyd, an African American man, died during an arrest after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Demonstrations since then have pushed for an end to institutional racism.

Religious leaders urged the faithful at a prayer rally June 13 to build relationships with others and to pray for healing.

“My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life,” said Pope Francis on June 3.

Pastory Billy Ray, of Reconcilers Church, said building relationships will help race relations.

He shared his experience with the civil rights movement in the 1960s and said after those marches, relationships were lost.

“The love of God is not just spread in the air,” he said. “You have to spread the love of God by loving people who don’t look like you, don’t act like you. What kind of God would he be if we’re all the same?”

“He is so magnificent — 10,000 humans all have different fingerprints. Look what God did. He did not want us to be rubber-stamped,” he said.

Racial reconciliation will hap-

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Abortion 24-hour waiting period approved by Iowa lawmakers

Iowa lawmakers approved a bill that will require a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has 30 days to sign the legislation.

Pro-life leaders had been advocating for the Protect Life Amendment, which would have reversed a 2018 Iowa Supreme Court ruling that said the state’s constitution protects the right to abortion. The amendment would have taken the constitution back to when it was neutral on abortion.

The amendment had been a top priority of pro-life leaders. The 24-hour wait period proposal arose when it appeared there weren’t enough votes to pass the amendment, said Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

“We’re disappointed the amend-

ment didn’t

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COVID-19 survivor says near death experience deepened his relationship with Christ

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Rich Rondeau, of Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, remembers well when he first thought he might have contracted COVID-19.

“When the symptoms first appeared, it was basically extreme body aches and a low-grade fever,” said Rich.

More symptoms emerged over the next week, including a dry cough, increased fever, loss of taste and smell. It quickly progressed to a shortness of breath.

“We went to the emergency room,” Rich said.

They did a swab test, ruling out flu and rhinovirus. They also swabbed for COVID-19, but told Rich it would be 3-7 days before they’d have his results back.

They also did a chest X-ray, which showed “no areas of concern,” Rich said.

“They told us we need to go home and self-monitor,” he added. “Unless you are gasping for air or your lips become blue or purple, then stay home. And yes, you may continue to struggle to breathe.”

Rich and his wife, Kelly, returned home to Ankeny at about 6 a.m. His breathing gradually worsened throughout the day. His shortness of breath became so labored that his wife eventually called the ambulance.

“If I had been home on my own, I would have probably just passed out and went into respiratory arrest and died,” Rich said. “Fortunately, my wife was here and she’s a trained medical professional.”

This time – 13 hours later – the chest X-ray showed



Rich Rondeau and his wife, Kelly, of Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, both contracted COVID-19 in March. Rich’s case was so dire he was put in a medically induced coma and ventilator. He didn’t think he would make it.

a very different picture with decreased function in the lungs. Rich was admitted to the hospital and put in the pulmonary COVID area where he was put on oxygen and started on the antibiotic Zithromax.

Though his numbers looked okay, Rich felt like he was hanging on by a thread.

“I was fighting to survive...,” Rich said. “[I thought], ‘I don’t think I can do this anymore. I think I’m out of gas.’”

A medical team

moved Rich to the intensive Continued on page 4

Parishes across the diocese resume public celebration of Mass

By Stanley Asjes
Staff Writer

Parishes across the diocese are beginning to resume the public celebration of Mass with precautions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

On May 21, parishes across 15 rural counties in the diocese were able to resume daily Masses, and many have already opened for Sunday Mass. For these parishes, this ends a two-and-a-half-month period without public Mass.

“It seems like it’s been forever,” said Jo Ann Poepppe, from St. Mary in Anita.

Dave Sullivan, from St. Joseph in Winterset, described return-

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The Blessed Sacrament on display at St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines.

Father's Day - and Night



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

At the end of the rally against racism June 1 on the west side of the State Capitol, Iowa Rep. Aki Abdul-Samad invited those present to kneel down in prayer. I joined with the thousand or so folks present by going to both knees on the pavement. It was a simple gesture where in my mind we were invoking God to draw us out of the present social turmoil to a place where justice is served, human rights are recognized, and where brothers and sisters can at last live in peace.

Kneeling before God is a familiar posture at Mass and beyond for Catholics, who believe that God alone is to be adored, for he holds sole claim to our lives, purchased by the blood of Christ on the Cross. Yet in these past weeks there's been a whole lot of kneeling going on in our country by people with diverse faiths and intentions: kneeling as a way of defusing tensions between protestors and police, whether as a gesture of solidarity in the common desire to live in harmony with each other, or as call that civil authorities forswear the arms they bear and yield to protestors' right to free speech and assembly throughout the day and night. Kneeling can also remind us of the lethal

act whereby George Floyd was asphyxiated by the police officer who pinned his neck to the ground for nearly nine minutes; it calls us to alternatively identify ourselves by our complicity with oppressors or solidarity with the oppressed in our society.

Kneeling can also be viewed through the lens of submission, which likewise has varied motivations: I might toone more powerful than myself, to whom resistance is futile and ultimately perilous. Submission can be a prelude to an exchange where I forsake my claim in hopes that I stand to benefit in the long run, a prudential calculation of what is and is not worth standing our ground. Or it can be an awe-inspired gesture of tribute and praise before our Great God appreciated for his beauty, goodness, mystery, and mercy.

Jesus, the Son and supreme gift of the Father, offers us his heart as the wellspring of grace, mercy, healing and

peace in the face of what afflicts us. Pope Francis invites us this month—which includes the Feast of the Sacred Heart—to prayerfully pursue the “Way of the Heart: that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.” Mindful of the rich graces and unfathomable suffering coursing through the Sacred Heart, St. Paul counsels us not to “lose heart over my afflictions,” but rather to unite with him and others as we “kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.” Our hope is that we, “rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth”—and thereby extend the far-reaching dimensions of Christ's love (Eph. 3:14-19).

We are called to bear radical witness to the love that is the complete form of justice embodied in Jesus' Sacred Heart. We reflect back to sisters and brothers of every race, color, ethnicity, religion or national origin the truth that they reveal God's profile in a way no one else can capture. We have seen how peaceful protests have sometimes turned ugly at night. Jesus antic-

ipated moments when “night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4). In the long night of the global pandemic and national racial tensions that we continue to experience, we can feel as if even God is stymied in his work by the forces in play in this spiritual darkness.

Catholic Christians kneel before Jesus, because as Son he did not cling to equality with his Father, but emptied himself, even becoming like a slave for our sake (Phil. 2:6-9). A holy woman mystic reminds us that when the Lord himself or a Christian is not accepted in sharing the Gospel, we can always pray, even if the hurt of rejection is there. We suffer for the Father's sake because the truth of his Son is rejected, though still the wound is enfolded in God's love.

In this conflicted time in our nation's history, we sense all too well how Jesus felt in his passion. It seemed even for Jesus that the way to the Father became clouded for a time because the Father appeared to withdraw his face. Yet, like Jesus, we do not turn away from God in despondency as he reveals his pierced heart on the Cross. For a brief time, day gave way to night, and then the darkness of death

became the prelude to a day that will never end.

We are constant in our solidarity with our hurting neighbors, especially those who have suffered the yoke of racism for so long. We are unceasing in our prayer for victims of unjust violence, for law enforcement officials sworn to public peace, for those who publically advocate for justice, and those charged to make laws that conform with the heart and mind of God, shown in the love of God poured out in Christ. As we approach July 4, the national holiday where we celebrate all that is true and good about this country, we pray for the ascendance of peace and justice as our liturgy proposes, before the God who stands watch over the day and the night:

“O God, who show a father's care for all, grant, in your mercy, that the members of the human race, to whom you have given a single origin, may form in peace a single family and always be united by a fraternal spirit. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”

Día – y Noche – del Padre

Al final de la marcha en contra del racismo el pasado 1ero de junio en la fachada oeste del Capitolio Estatal de Iowa, el representante Aki Abdul-Samad invitó a todos los presentes a arrodillarse en oración. Me uní a las aproximadamente mil personas presentes en el evento arrodillándome con ambas rodillas en el pavimento. Fue un gesto sencillo y en mi mente estábamos invo-

cando a Dios para que nos llevara de nuestra presente situación de agitación social a algún lugar en donde se cumple con la justicia, se reconocen los derechos humanos y en donde hermanos y hermanas pueden finalmente vivir en paz.

El arrodillarnos frente a Dios es una posición muy familiar en la Misa, y más allá de los católicos, quienes creemos que solamente Dios es digno de adoración, porque solamente él tiene posesión sobre nuestras vidas, las cuales compró con la sangre de Cristo en la Cruz. Sin embargo en estas semanas pasadas ha habido muchos arrodillándose en nuestro país; personas de diversas profesiones de fe y con diferentes intenciones: el arrodillarse es una forma de reducir tensiones entre manifestantes y la policía, ya sea un gesto de solidaridad por el deseo común de vivir en armonía unos con otros, o como un llamado a las autoridades civiles de que bajen las armas que portan y cedan ante los derechos que tienen los manifestantes de libertad de expresión y de libre congregación todo el día y toda la noche. El arrodillarse también puede recordarnos sobre el acto letal en donde el oficial de policía asfixió a George Floyd cuando retenía su cuello sobre el suelo durante casi nueve minutos; esto nos llama a identificarnos a nosotros mismos alternativamente debido a nuestra complicidad con los opresores o a nuestra solidaridad con los oprimidos de nuestra sociedad. El arrodillarse también puede verse por medio del lente de la sumisión, el cual probablemente tiene varias motivaciones: puede

demostrar ser más poderoso que yo mismo, para quien la resistencia es inútil y ultimadamente peligrosa. La sumisión puede ser el inicio hacia un intercambio en donde yo renuncio a mi demanda esperando que pueda lograr beneficios a largo plazo, un cálculo prudente de lo que vale y de lo que no vale la pena al mantenernos en nuestra posición. O puede ser un gesto que inspira admiración de tributo y alabanza ante nuestro Gran Dios a quien apreciamos por su belleza, su bondad, su misterio y su misericordia.

Jesús, el Hijo y supremo don del Padre, nos ofrece su corazón, así como el manantial de su gracia, misericordia, sanación y paz frente a aquello que nos affige. El Papa Francisco nos invita este mes – el cual incluye la Fiesta del Sagrado Corazón – a buscar dentro de la oración – el “Camino del Corazón: que todos aquellos quienes sufren puedan encontrar rumbo en sus vidas, permitiendo que el Corazón de Jesús les toque.” Teniendo en cuenta las abundantes gracias y el inconmensurable sufrimiento que vive el Sagrado Corazón, San Pablo nos aconseja que no “no se desanimen ante mis aflicciones,” pero mejor aún únense a él y a los demás al “arrodillarnos ante el Padre, por quien son nombradas todas las familias en el cielo y en la tierra.” Nuestra esperanza es que, “arraigados en el amor y en él puedan edificarse. Que sean capaces de comprender, con todos los creyentes, cuán ancho, y cuán largo, y alto y profundo es,” – y por lo tanto que puedan recibir toda la plenitud del amor de Cristo (Ef. 3:14-19).

Estamos llamados a dar

testimonio radical del amor que es la forma plena de justicia que se forma en el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Reflexionamos pues a los hermanos y hermanas de toda raza, color, etnicidad, religión o nacionalidad la verdad de que ellos revelan el perfil de Dios de una forma que nadie más puede lograr. Hemos visto como las protestas pacíficas en veces se tornan feas en la noche. Jesús anticipó momentos cuando “vendrá la noche, cuando nadie puede trabajar” (Juan 9:4). En la larga noche de la pandemia global y de tensiones raciales en la nación seguimos viviendo, seguimos sintiendo, incluso si Dios parece estar obstaculizado por las fuerzas en juego en esta oscuridad espiritual.

Los católicos cristianos se arrodillan ante Jesús, porque como Hijo el no se aferró a la igualdad con su Padre, sino que se vació a sí mismo, incluso convirtiéndose en esclavo por nosotros (Fil 2:6-9). Una santa mujer mística nos recuerda que cuando al Señor mismo o a un cristiano no se le acepta al compartir el Evangelio, siempre podemos orar, incluso si el dolor del rechazo está allí. Sufrimos por el Padre porque la verdad de su Hijo ha sido rechazada, pero aún así el amor de Dios envuelve la herida.

En este tiempo de conflicto en la historia de nuestra nación, podemos sentir verdaderamente lo que Jesús sintió en su pasión. Parecía incluso para Jesús que el camino hacia el Padre estaba nublado en veces porque parecía que el Padre le había retirado su rostro. Aun, así como Jesús, nosotros no nos

alejamos de Dios en nuestra frustración cuando nos revela su atravesado corazón en la Cruz. Por unos momentos, el día se rindió ante la noche, y luego la oscuridad de la muerte se convirtió en el preludio de un día que no terminaría jamás.

Estamos en constante solidaridad con nuestro prójimo que sufre, especialmente aquellos que han sufrido bajo el yugo del racismo por tanto tiempo. Estamos en incesante oración por las víctimas de la violencia injusta, por los oficiales de las autoridades civiles que han tomado un juramento en favor de la paz pública, por aquellos quienes públicamente promueven la justicia y por aquellos que están a cargo de redactar leyes que estén a tono con el corazón y la mente de Dios, demostradas en el amor que Dios derramó en Cristo. Nos acercamos al 4 de julio, la fiesta nacional en donde celebramos todo lo que es bueno y verdadero de este país, y oramos por el aumento de la paz y la justicia como lo propone nuestra liturgia, ante el Dios quien está siempre vigilante en el día y en la noche. “Oh Dios, que muestras el cuidado de un padre ante todos, concédenos, en tu misericordia, que los miembros de la raza humana, a quienes has dado un origen único, puedan crear la paz en una sola familia y que puedan siempre estar unidos en un espíritu fraternal. Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, y es Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.”

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Bishop William Joensen
Publisher

wjoensen@dmdiocese.org

Anne Marie Cox
Editor

acox@dmdiocese.org

Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

kcollins@dmdiocese.org

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PHONE: (515)237-5046

EMAIL: mirror@dmdiocese.org

DIOCESAN WEBSITE:
www.dmdiocese.org

Transitional deacons

Three men take major step before ordination to priesthood next year



Photo by Stanley Asjes

Deacons Reed Flood, Jake Epstein and Brad Robey were ordained transitional deacons for the Diocese of Des Moines by Bishop William Joensen on June 12 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. The three men will be ordained priests next year.

Deacon Brad Robey

Deacon Jake Epstein

Deacon Reed Flood



Growing up, my parents ensured that the four of us were raised in the faith. We attended Mass at St. Joseph in Des Moines and four of us kids were enrolled at St. Joseph School and then attended Dowling Catholic. There, I was involved in the Legion of Our Lady, a young men's prayer group dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Through this group, the Lord opened me up to the possibility that he was calling me to be a priest.

The idea of becoming a priest was something that had been in my mind for much of my life. When I was young I drew a lot and recall drawing pictures of myself as a priest. Throughout middle school, I became disinterested in being a priest, yet the idea remained in the back of my mind. It was during my time at Dowling, joining the Legion and going on seminary visits, that the Lord opened me up more to the possibility of priesthood. Realizing this, there was a sense of peace I felt within me.

I look forward to getting to know the communities throughout southwest Iowa. Another thing I look forward to is serving the diocese alongside the many good priests here in the diocese.

A couple key things that have been fruitful for my vocation have been devotions to the Blessed Mother (the Legion of Our Lady), and a devotion to praying at the Blessed Sacrament.

I grew up at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Chatham, Illinois. Father Robert Franzen was the pastor there and was a big inspiration to me: I always saw how happy he was to be a priest, and he taught me how to pray, which I would say is really the root of any vocation, that consistent habit of prayer. My parents and brother also taught me to pray every day growing up. When we moved to Urbandale we were parishioners at St Pius X. There, again, I always saw how joyful Msgr Joe McDonnell was. It was clear to me from his preaching how much he loved the Lord, and that was very attractive.

I first experienced being called to be a priest when I was confirmed in 8th grade. I chose the Archangel Gabriel as my confirmation saint because I wanted to announce the good news to the world, just like Gabriel announced our salvation to Our Lady. Of course everyone is called to do that, but priests do it "full time", so that planted a seed in my mind, that maybe I was called to be a priest. I certainly didn't welcome that thought at the time. I had my own plans to be an engineer, and everyone and everything around me told me all the time how great that was, which was important to me. But God was very persistent with me. What changed is that over time I grew to trust more in the Lord, that if being a priest was what he was calling me to then it would really be the best thing I could do.

Both my parents were converts to the faith. My Mom was a member of the Episcopal Church and Dad was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. My Dad was baptized six months after my first communion – so we've been in the faith journey simultaneously. I was an altar server for Holy Trinity Parish and was a member of a Catholic men's group at Dowling Catholic High School called The Legion of Our Lady. My older brother Kurt was a strong influence on my faith, and often prayed in front of me and my brother Ty after football practice. Father Zach Kautzky was another huge influence as my high school chaplain. He would hear my confession before every football game – even on the sidelines.

I always knew that every good man should at least discern if he's called to the priesthood, so that's what I did. I felt called to join seminary the summer after high school. It wasn't actually until my second year of seminary that I felt called to become a priest. I remember praying from the very beginning that I'll try out this seminary thing, but I'll leave if I feel like it's not working out. Regardless if God had called me to married life or priesthood, joining seminary was the best decision I have ever made in my entire life.

I look forward to celebrating the Mass as a priest. There is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. The priest lays down his life at every Mass In Persona Christi Capitis – which is in the person of Christ himself. For me, everything else is really secondary to that.

Support The Catholic Mirror

The Catholic Mirror invites readers to support its annual subscription campaign that launches at the end of June.

The diocese has maintained a longstanding tradition of delivering the newspaper each month to every registered Catholic household. In this way, it is an evangelization tool that delivers Bishop William Joensen's monthly column on faith, inspiring stories of hope and love along with news about the Catholic Church.

The publication has been particularly helpful in

the last few months, when the faithful could not gather for worship every week.

Readers learned about the Beacons of Hope effort to highlight individuals who found ways to be light to others during the dark days of the pandemic.

Stories spotlighted workers on the front line of the pandemic, religious education programs that met the stay-at-home guidelines with speed and grace, and the Catholic schools' swift turnaround to distance learning.

The newspaper also shared stories of families

that endured challenging times and came out of them stronger in their love for God.

Readers will receive a letter from Bishop William Joensen asking them to take a subscription and, if they can, provide the gift of a subscription to a fellow Catholic family in need. Subscriptions can be paid through dmdiocese.org/giving. Questions can be directed to communications@dmdiocese.org.

COVID-19

Unconventional fundraising proves successful

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When the pandemic stopped all social gatherings, leaders at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Des Moines were concerned.

"We have an auction every year," said Father Mark Neal, the pastor at Holy Trinity. "It's the school's biggest fundraiser, and it's actually budgeted for, so we were a little nervous about that."

The school counts on the \$65,000 it raises every year from the auction; it's in the budget.

"We had already lost a large sum of money with our biennial garage sales – about \$11-12,000," said Andy Negrete, parish office and facilities manager. "We're like, 'Oh my gosh, we can't lose another fundraiser.' So that was a little worrisome for us."

After consulting with Dowling Catholic High School on its annual Bash fundraiser's move to an online format, Holy Trinity took the advice and brought the Gala Auction online. This included a silent auction and a live auction featuring bigger ticket items. Staff were featured on Holy Trinity's Facebook live event Saturday night to talk about the items and the ways the money would support Holy Trin-

ity.

"I think us popping in all the time [on Facebook] was very important...to be able to encourage people to keep bidding," said Negrete, noting that staff celebrated the parish's 100 year anniversary, dressing up in costumes to represent a variety of generations. "I think it helped a lot."

Despite this the pandemic, the school exceeded its goal by raising more than \$70,000.

"We were very happy and pleased with how our parishioners supported us and continued to support us during this time," Negrete said. "So we are very thankful to them."

Dowling Catholic High School's annual Bash on Buffalo also shifted to an online format.

"We decided to take a look and [and wondered] 'How is this pandemic affecting our parents? How is tuition assistance going to be affected?'" said Carolyn Burch Kirchoff, development manager for Dowling Catholic. "A lot of people are unemployed, so we decided this year to have the proceeds more for tuition assistance and for kids that might be in need."

They also focused on raising money to purchase Chromebooks for classrooms. Support was overwhelmingly positive and the school was able to purchase 80 of the electronic devices.

"I didn't know if that would be something that shook a nerve with our parents and donors," Burch Kirchoff said. "It was outstanding."

The online event included a virtual auction and videos created by students that were distributed on social media.

Alumni from across the country participated.

"I was just thrilled," she said. "I really enjoyed seeing people that hadn't been engaged in years – people that were out of state that would normally not participate – had come back in and got involved and that was really exciting."

"We definitely raised more than last year," Burch Kirchoff continued. Parishes have also been using new ways to reach the laity during this time of social distancing.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, we realized the importance of needing to ask the parishioners to consider giving



The Holy Trinity Annual Gala and Auction was forced to be entirely online this year because of COVID-19. The support was tremendous, said Andy Negrete, parish office and facilities manager. The school surpassed their goal of raising \$65,000.

online," said Father Dan Kirby, pastor of St. John Parish in Norwalk and administrator of the Shrine of Assumption Parish in Churchville.

The parish finance council encouraged him to write a letter to the faithful, eliciting a "great response," Father Kirby added.

"We have been blessed that people have responded not just with tithing but also with our Annual Diocesan Appeal," he said. Though the pandemic has proved to be trying, people were brought

together through the pastor's livestreams of the Mass, Scripture reflections, the rosary and his new online "talk show" called In the Sacristy.

"The people really witnessed the importance of their faith and how important their parish is," Father Kirby said. "They realize we're all in this together and we're a team. When we work together and when we pray together and when we trust God, [he] continues to shower blessings."

COVID-19 survivor says virus deepened his relationship with Christ

Continued from page 1

care unit where they started him on forced air before eventually realizing that it was not enough – they would need to put him in a medically induced coma and on a ventilator.

Meanwhile, Kelly – who had a much less severe form of COVID-19 – was unable to visit. Ironically, she is a cancer survivor, immunocompromised and has asthma. While she "should" have been hit hard, it was Rich who exercised frequently and "should" have been ok.

Father Michael Amadeo, pastor at OLIH, frequently checked in on Kelly to get updates on Rich.

"I was not able to give an anointing of the sick and [I felt] somewhat helpless," Father Amadeo said. "I couldn't even go to visit Kelly because at that point we didn't know her COVID status."

He prayed with Kelly and offered moral support.

"A lot of it is just walking with people," Father Amadeo continued. "It's not so much anything I said. It's just walking with them and being present to them, even if that presence happened to be through a text message or a phone call, just to let them know that they're not alone in this."

Eventually, it was time to pull Rich off the ventilator.

"The next thing I remember is being woke up enough to help with the extubation and they pull that tube out of my lungs..." Rich said. "The best way I could describe it is that it felt like someone was ripping my head off my shoulders."

Feeling confused and struggling to breathe on his own, he suddenly heard an eruption of clapping and cheers.

"It's all of this cheering and exuberation as if someone had won the Super Bowl," Rich said. "One of the medical staff leans over to me and says, 'We know that you don't feel good. Unfortunately, it's probably going to be this way for a while. Everyone is so excited that you are the very first COVID-19 patient that we've successfully gotten off the ventilator.'"

It was a moment of encouragement for medical staff – the first of many in witnessing Rich's recovery.

Meanwhile, Kelly spent her days in quarantine pray-

ing for her husband. One day, while pulling into the driveway and fighting back tears, Kelly thought God seemed to answer her prayers that Rich was going to be okay when his favorite Christian song (that she often thought he played ad nauseum) came on the radio.

"Three days later I walked out of the hospital breathing only the air in the environment," Rich said. "Only through the grace of God can I imagine that happening."

Rich has a strong appreciation for our "healthcare heroes."

"When you are the person that's lying there in that bed, unable to move and knowing that you are highly contagious...to witness seeing another person putting on everything they need to protect themselves, but doing everything they can to care for you – it's beyond overwhelming," he said. "Because they are putting themselves at risk and their families at risk. But they do it anyways, because they are selfless and they love and care."

After leaving the hospital, Rich walked through the doors of his house in Ankeny sobbing tears of joy and relief. He thought there was a very real chance he would not be returning home.

After praying and reflecting on his experiences, Rich



Rich Rondeau of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny thought he might die from COVID-19.

felt God offered insights about his immense love for us.

He said he heard God say: "I provided every last thing that was needed to care for and save your life – including human beings," he said. "Though they were not your family, they were reaching out to you with love, care and compassion. And don't

think I forgot about your loved ones, because I took care of them as well."

Though the Rondeau family's faith was tried and tested, the outcome was positive:

"We are all so much closer to Christ and one another than we were before."

24,000+
Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Iowa

650+
Number of Iowans who died from COVID-19

Diocesan staff to take two-week furlough

Diocesan staff of the Catholic Pastoral Center will be on furlough July 11-24 to exercise prudent financial stewardship and stand in solidarity with parishes and schools, which are sacrificing due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

Since early April, Bishop William Joensen has worked closely with diocesan leadership of the Catholic Pastoral Center to examine the initial financial impact of the pandemic and to take steps to identify additional revenue and adjustments to spending for fiscal year 2021, which begins July 1. This group worked closely with various diocesan consultative bodies to develop a strategy.

Budget directors of diocesan programs had already cut spending in the last four months of fiscal year 2020 (which ends June 30), and reduced the fiscal year 2021 budget by 5 percent by significantly scaling back travel and professional development, eliminating annual compensation increases, and other reductions. Priests throughout the diocese are also seeing their wages frozen for the next fiscal year.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal, which supports diocesan services including the bishop's office; marriage and family life ministries; youth, young adult and adult faith formation; Hispanic ministry; schools; vocations and administrative support such as finance, human resources, stewardship and communications, provides more than two thirds of the annual revenue to the diocese.

Since the onset of the pandemic coincided with the suspension of public Masses, this year's appeal – which would be used for next year's expenses – is down by 15 percent. Since March, parish tithing across the diocese has dropped by 20 percent.

"The pandemic has affected us all, and we're no exception," said Jason Kurth, chancellor of the Des Moines diocese. "Like families, businesses and parishes, we have re-examined our budget. Our goal is to be responsible stewards of the extraordinary generosity of our people during this time of economic uncertainty. By smartly reducing expenses and taking advantage of the tools at our disposal, such as furloughs, we can maintain our mission as servants to the people of God in southwest Iowa."

In addition to expense reductions, the diocese will have been given the ability to use a modest increase in its annual distribution from diocesan min-

istries endowment funds held at the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa if needed, as well as other sources available. During the furlough, the entire diocesan staff – with one or two exceptions – at the Catholic Pastoral Center will be unable to work or able to work only in response to essential tasks and emergencies. If parishes, schools or the general public need assistance in the case of an emergency, out of office emails and phone messaging will provide information on how to receive support. All furloughed employees will be eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, which the diocese pays into annually.

"Through good stewardship, we will come through this crisis intact and financially healthy," said Kurth.

Bishop Joensen worked closely with Catholic Charities and the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

Catholic Charities participated in a similar yet separate review process to assess and project the financial impact in anticipation of its new fiscal year 2020-2021.

Given that Catholic Charities remains open during the pandemic, other strategies unique to its operations were identified, including reduction in pay and work hours to occur from July through December.

Catholic Charities programs have and will continue to serve clients in both family shelters located in Des Moines and Council Bluffs respectively, mental health counseling via tele-therapy, food pantry and refugee services in Des Moines, and the domestic assault, sexual assault and human trafficking services in Council Bluffs.

"Through this guided planning process coupled with a stewardship focus, we conducted a comprehensive review of how this virus has and may affect us in the future," said Barbara Decker, executive director. "We recognize our dedicated Catholic Charities staff during this challenging period, and appreciate the support of our Board Executive Committee, Bishop Joensen, and the diocese."

A portion of the Catholic Foundation will participate in the furlough. During that time, the foundation can still be contacted via its main number 515-237-5044.

The Catholic Tuition Organization, which has offices in the Catholic Pastoral Center, is not participating in the furlough. CTO staff will be accepting calls and answering email.

COVID-19 Relief Fund has helped 77 individuals or families



Gifts to the COVID-19 Relief Fund help families that have lost jobs and have immediate needs.

By Maureen Kenney
Contributing Writer

Thanks to generous donations to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, 77 families and/or individuals have received financial support through Catholic Charities to get through challenges posed by the pandemic.

In April, the Des Moines diocese and Catholic Charities partnered to create the relief fund, a Catholic response in southwest Iowa to the coronavirus crisis. Contributions to the fund support individuals and families through Catholic Charities and the most pressing needs in parishes and schools through the diocese.

Among those who were helped is a woman with five children between the ages of 16

years old and 15 months old, who was struggling after losing her job at a local restaurant.

Her husband had been deported to Mexico in October of 2019 and she has been caring for her family on her own ever since.

By the time the family had applied for assistance from the COVID-19 Relief Fund, the single breadwinner had been out of a job for 10 weeks and she could not keep up with her expenses even with the help of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, and the federal Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC.

The COVID-19 Relief Fund went toward relieving some of the mother's burden by paying a portion of her monthly

rent payment.

Her story can be repeated dozens of times. Catholic Charities is working quickly to provide assistance for those in immediate need due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Seventy seven families/individuals have been helped. There are funds remains to assist 203 more families thanks to the support of so many across the faith community. To make a donation, go to dmdiocese.org/giving. Questions can go to Deb Powers at dpowers@catholic-charitiesdm.org.

Maureen Kenney is director of Stewardship for the Diocese of Des Moines.

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515-273-5044 | www.catholicfoundationiowa.org

Reach 35,000 households by placing an ad in The Catholic Mirror. Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org to learn more.

Around the Diocese

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

AMES, IA – St. Cecilia Parish is hosting a Catechists of the Good Shepherd Level One formation course. It will be the complete course offered one weekend a month, beginning Friday 5:30 p.m. and concluding Sunday at 4 p.m. Oct - April. For more information please contact Melissa Tegatz, Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator at mteggatz@stceciliaparish.org or (515)232-3514

Note from the editor:

We are accepting calendar events again. Please send the name of the event, date, cost and contact information to communications@dmdiocese.org.

Find spiritual resources, the latest news and information at dmdiocese.org/coronavirus

Corpus Christi Sunday

Des Moines parish celebrates Corpus Christi Sunday with Blessed Sacrament motorcade



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines celebrated the Corpus Christi procession and blessing on Sunday, June 14. A motorcade was lead by the pastor, Monsignor Frank Chiodo. As part of the route, Monsignor Chiodo stopped at the EMC Overlook at MacRae Park in Des Moines to bless the city. He prayed for peace among all people and races and for relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. Des Moines Police Chief Dana Wingert was invited to join them for the prayers and blessing.

Catholic Youth Camp adapts to COVID-19 closure

By Stanley Asjes
Staff Writer

Campers and parents were disappointed when they learned that Catholic Youth Camp would not be open this summer due to the risks associated with COVID-19.

Makayla Beeck, a parishioner at St. Patrick Parish in Dunlap, went to CYC as a kid and now sends her children to camp.

“Obviously that was the right decision, she said Combined with the cancellation of school and many sports, “the constant disappointment for the kids was so heartbreaking.”

But even without campers, CYC staff, contractors, and volunteers have not been idle. Through generous donations, they have been busy laying a parking lot, re-building the cabins, adding a Marian shrine (a labor of love by Deacon Dennis Patrick), and are about to begin renovations on the camp’s kitchen.

CYC is abuzz with building projects and renovations, but what will die-hard campers and fans of CYC stuck at home do this summer? CYC will continue to reach out to campers and parents, said Alex Kautzky, executive director of the St. Thomas More Center.

“One of the things that we’ve always believed here is that our summer program is really about what our campers can learn and the resolve they can find to go back home and be a light for Jesus in a world that needs them. That hasn’t changed,” she said.

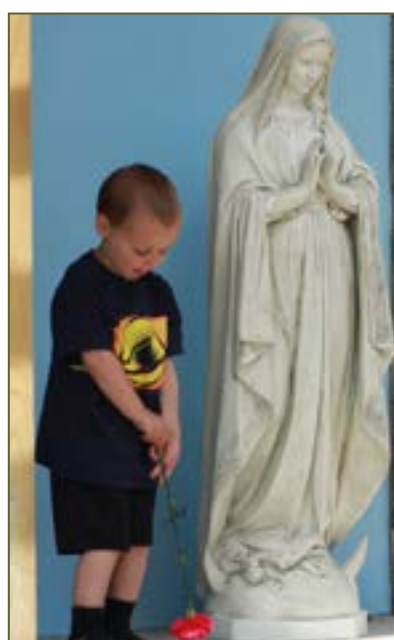
CYC is planning to host virtual and at-home programs. Camp will not be completely inaccessible to visitors. On June 6, families were able to drive through camp to see the completed cabins and make a prayerful visit to the new Marian shrine.

“There a number of events which we are working on now where we’ll be able to have families out here in a socially distanced capacity,” said Kautzky. Campers can look forward to many virtual and in-person camp activities, including a drive-in movie night planned for July. Watch for updates on Catholic Youth Camp’s Facebook page.

Right: The St. Thomas More Center - home of Catholic Youth Camp - posted these photos of their new cabins to Facebook April 29.



The St. Thomas More Center - home of Catholic Youth Camp - held a drive through open house and prayer event on June 6.



Emmaus House acquires new building for ministry

By Stanley Asjes
Staff Writer

After almost 33 years in its Sherman Hill location, Emmaus House is moving to a new building in Urbandale, the culmination of a 5-year search for a suitable location.

Since the current location was adapted from a home, its layout is less-than-ideal, and makes it difficult to carry on multiple ministries at the same time, said Kevin O'Donnell, co-director of the retreat center.

The walkway from street parking to the front door includes stairs, which make Emmaus House inaccessible for some visitors.

Many of the spiritual direction rooms and guest accommodations are also on a second floor which is inaccessible except by stairs.

O'Donnell explained how the new building in Urbandale offers several improvements over the limitations of the current location.

Its first floor is fully accessible from the parking lot, and the larger, more functional layout will allow more activities to happen at the same time without interrupting each other.

Although the current location is in the historic Sherman Hill neighborhood near Downtown Des Moines, Em-

maus House staff are excited to move into a new location which is more centrally located and will be closer to current and future supporters of the spiritual center.

An interior redesign is underway at the Urbandale location, and renovations are planned for the fall.

Eileen Denner, an Emmaus House board member who helped find the new location, described how the search was a real challenge. Since the Emmaus House needs to provide over-night accommodations for retreatants, the new location had to meet special conditions under city zoning ordinances.

After a 5-year search, which included examining more than 40 other possible locations, Denner described the Urbandale location as "a needle in a haystack." Denner gives the Holy Spirit credit for bringing them to the new location.

She also explained how the board of directors worked to help secure the new location.

"We have a board that works really well together."

The Emmaus House staff hope the new location offers solace.

Denner said; "In this challenging time, God is preparing a place for many new visitors."

COVID-19

Perpetual light still shines during dark times

Funeral practices modified to minimize virus spread

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Funeral homes across the Des Moines diocese were forced to respond quickly to state guidelines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The change was drastic over a short period of time," said Matt O'Neill, co-owner and funeral director of Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home in Council Bluffs. "The hardest thing was asking for and deploying a social distancing plan."

John Wild, general manager of Iles Funeral Homes in Des Moines, said he's thankful for the quick response of the Catholic bishops of Iowa who provided information during this uncertain time.

"It really helps us guide our families," Wild said. "There's so much information out there from the governors, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and so many recommendations."

The pastors also help inform funeral directors on how they present options to families.

Most funeral homes provide hand sanitizer stations; some encourage the use of face masks and gloves. They've also

made changes to visitations to accommodate families.

"We're providing prolonged windows of time for visitations," O'Neill continued. Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home in Des Moines has done the same, staggering visits.

"Larger families are coming in at different times [for visitation]," said co-owner Mark Parrish. "We're keeping it 10 people or less at a time to give everyone ... that closure."

Saying goodbye to a loved one is difficult and emotions are heightened. Funeral directors understand and want to offer compassion to the people they serve.

"During these stressful times we have been the listening friend and the reassuring voice that their loved one can and will have a respectful remembrance," O'Neill added.

Heidi Hilman, co-owner of Roland Funeral Service in Atlantic, said the pandemic has, in some ways, drawn people together.

"Our hearts continue to be with our families as they have been trying to find creative ways to memorialize [loved ones]," Hilman said. "It's changing, but we're working to support and nurture each other."

Brothers John and

Mark Parrish said funeral livestreaming gives people consolation.

"That's really helpful for families when we have a 10 person or less [limit] and people are out of state," Mark said. "I think that's going to be here to stay and I think it's a good thing."

The homebound and elderly who are unable to be physically present, or those choosing not to attend because of COVID-19 concerns, also appreciate the livestream.

"We've done a lot of things to accommodate families the best we can," Mark said.

It's important to reach out to friends and family experiencing a loss, even if you can't be physically by their side, Wild added.

"Send them a card or use online condolences," Wild said. "It's appreciated by families and they need that support. They may not be able to see you in person, so it's important for them."

The coronavirus has created challenges, but communities will get through it together, funeral directors agreed.

"This COVID-19 pandemic will end," O'Neill said. "And until then, trust in God's amazing grace."

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Accepting pledges with payment by December 15, 2020



The bottom line? It's for the KIDS and their futures!

Catholic School Delivers Beyond a Parent's Expectation

Teachers have long been respected for their dedication and hard work. Their entire profession is committed to instructing and growing their students. Just like any parent, Angela Goodrich expected this devotion from her daughters' teachers when they first enrolled at St. Pius in Des Moines.

She was blown away when she saw just how passionate and committed her children's teachers really were. From the very beginning, she couldn't have been happier with her St. Pius experience. Not only are the teachers excellent, her fellow parents are very involved in the school.

A Well-Rounded School Community

"I went and toured multiple public schools in the area before deciding on St. Pius," Angela said. "I just wasn't impressed with the way things were run or organized [at other schools]. I also felt there was a lack of parental involvement."

Angela works in the health care field and is a single parent to twin girls going into third grade this fall. "I understand hectic and busy schedules. I still try my best to sign up for field trips and class visits. I think it's so important for a school community to have parents involved. I wanted to send my kids to a school where parents wanted to be involved like I do."

When she toured St. Pius, she immediately felt that community where parents wanted to be involved. Angela says, at St. Pius, parents are a resource



Reece and Riley celebrating their last day of school at St. Pius.

and source of help for teachers. This was a key factor in why she chose the school.

Moreover, Angela is impressed with the high quality education her twins receive. "Just in their general education, I think their learning is much further along than other kids their age. I feel they are at a higher level."

Drawn Toward Mass and Prayer

Now that her daughters are a little older and can understand better, Angela says Ash Wednesday was a very special time for her family. She said the girls were excited to participate because it meant they were Catholic. It was touching for Angela to see this.

"The prayer aspect has impacted our lives too," Angela said. "The girls are excited to be the one to say prayer at meals and go to Mass."

Angela has sacrificed many things to be able to afford a Catholic education: cable television, downsized a vehicle, etc. She always tells her daughters, "Mom will do whatever she needs to do to make sure you can stay at Catholic school." And despite all the sacrifices, she knows she is not depriving her children of anything. Rather, she feels she's giving them so much more—a Catholic education.

COVID-19 Impact

All schools, students and parents were impacted when Coronavirus began to spread in Des Moines and schools were closed. Angela was shocked at how quickly St. Pius adapted to distance learning. "I was ecstatic with the extra work the teachers and school did to prepare," Angela said. "They all put in so much effort."

Immediately after spring break, their school was up and running with online learning. There was no gap in lessons. "I have a nephew in public school, and his schooling didn't resume until the end of April."

And of course, her daughters were excited to see their teachers and friends in the parades and various things the school organized to provide a little social interaction. "The girls were especially excited to see their teachers when they came around to everyone's houses on the last day of school," Angela said.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

MercyOne staff join national observance for black lives



MercyOne Central Iowa physicians, medical staff, faculty and colleagues joined a national observance at noon on June 5, kneeling for 10 minutes in remembrance of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Nina Pop and countless others. #WhiteCoats4BlackLives

What does the Church say?

The following are some resources regarding what the Catholic Church teaches about racism.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops statement on the death of George Floyd and national protests: <http://usccb.org/news/2020/20-83.cfm>

Pope Francis on the death of George Floyd and racism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ou2owd-efm4&feature=youtu.be>

Canadian Conference of Catholic bishops statement "God created humankind in his image and likeness: Respect for the other is a must": <https://www.dmdiocese.org/files-images/Social%20Justice/Racism/Canadian%20Catholic%20Conference-2.pdf>

Resources on combatting racism: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm>

Prayer rally calls for building relationships with all people



Photos by Anne Marie Cox

Pastor Bill Young said there was hope after the civil rights protests of the late 1960s because relationships had been formed among people of all different backgrounds. But those relationships fell by the wayside. He encouraged Christians at a prayer rally June 13 to build relationships as a means of reducing racism. Bishop Joensen also spoke at this event.

Continued from page 1

pen, said Jamel Crawford, pastor of New Life Church, at a prayer rally at the capitol on June 13.

"Even though we're experiencing the pandemic of COVID-19 and as we experience some other racial injustices and even the hatred that follows that, God, we stand as the body of Christ," he prayed. "We ask God, that you will bring healing to the situation."

Bishop Joensen also said building relationships is key.

The U.S. bishops in 2018 released the pastoral letter "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love" which says "every racist act – every such comment, every joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity or place of origin – is a failure to acknowledge another person as a brother or sister, created in the image of God," he said.

Further, "Racism can often be found in our hearts—in many cases placed there unwillingly or unknowingly by our upbringing and our culture. . . The cumulative effects of personal



sins of racism have led to social structures of injustice and violence that makes us all accomplices in racism," he said, quoting from the pastoral letter.

"Certainly this is the case over the centuries within the Catholic Church, where complicity with slavery and the evil of racism extends well back to the 15th century, and persisted far too long after that," said Bishop Joensen.

"Subsequent witness and messages by Catholic pastors and the people of God have gone partway toward making amends in accord with the truth of the Gospel, but we are still in need of conversion personally and communally," he said. "We need God's grace to live as Jesus taught, to love our sisters and brothers with hearts made whole by his mercy and reconciliation. We must boldly go forward, reaching out and forging authentic relationships where we seek Jesus' face and see each other as he see us. And from there, we continue to examine where we as a society fail one another, where we perpetuate inequity, and we can work together to make things right."

Diana Bauman, of Des Moines Fellowship, helped organize the prayer rally because she wanted to do something to help those striving for racial justice.

"I wanted to bring the church together to do the one thing we know can actually change things and that's praying," she said. "The one thing that brings us all together is Christ."

The rally drew Susan Sacco, of St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community, who was also wondering what she could do.

"I've been praying for all of the civil unrest. I wasn't sure what I could do other than pray the rosary," she said.

When she heard about the rally, she thought, "I could do that."



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Dowling Catholic organizes #9LapChallenge in honor of George Floyd

School supporters encouraged people to walk, run or bike nine laps around the school or just walk nine minutes to honor the last nine minutes of George Floyd's life



Dowling Catholic High School assistant football coach and theology teacher Aundra Meeks organized the #9LapChallenge, encouraging school supporters and others to walk, run or bike nine laps around the school or just walk nine minutes to honor the last nine minutes of George Floyd's life. Meeks was helped by Jarred Herring, student support specialist and also a coach at Dowling Catholic.

Grant Bousum, dean of students, with #9LapsChallenge founder Aundra Meeks.



ORACIÓN PARA SUPERAR EL RACISMO


María, amiga y madre de todos, a través de tu Hijo Dios ha encontrado un camino para unirse a todos los seres humanos, llamados a ser un solo pueblo, hermanas y hermanos entre sí.

Pedimos tu ayuda al recurrir a tu Hijo, buscando el perdón por las veces en que hemos fallado en amarnos y respetarnos.

Pedimos tu ayuda para obtener de tu Hijo la gracia que necesitamos para vencer el mal del racismo y construir una sociedad justa.

Pedimos tu ayuda para seguir a tu Hijo, para que el prejuicio y la animosidad no infecten ya nuestras mentes o corazones sino que sean reemplazados por el amor que respeta la dignidad de cada persona.

Madre de la Iglesia, el Espíritu de tu Hijo Jesús alienta nuestros corazones: Ruega por nosotros. Amén.



PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.

Read the U.S. bishops pastoral letter on racism at
[USCCB.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf)



Father Adam Westphal, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston, celebrates Mass.

Resuming public Mass

Continued from page 1

ing to Mass by saying, “It’s like coming home.”

Father Tom Dooley, the pastor of St. Joseph Church, is relieved to be face to face with

parishioners once again, and not worry about camera angles for a livestream in an empty church.

Of course, parishioners aren’t returning to exactly

the same Mass they left. Where Masses have resumed, special guidelines have been put into place that are meant to reduce the risk of infection. Adam Storey, coordinator of the diocesan regathering team which included lay people and priests from across the diocese, said: “Our goal was to bring Catholics to-

gether for communal worship as soon as prudentially possible, while observing social distancing practices and hygienic practices that have been shown to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.”

When asked about what Mass is like with these new practices in place, parishioners tend to say the same thing: It’s different.

Father Trevor Chicoine, who serves parishes in Anita and Atlantic, explained the hurdles to reopening Mass: Creating a seating plan which respects social distancing, exploring ways to disinfect the church after Mass, and incorporating facemasks and hand sanitizer.

While these measures have put a damper on the community aspect of Mass, parishioners recognize the necessity for precautions. Dan Schreiner, who was recently able to return to Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul in Atlantic, said, “It went really smoothly. The hardest part was ushering people into and out of Mass.”

“People are being smart” when it comes to respecting the measures being taken to stem the spreading the virus, said Father Chicoine.

“These changes are an act of love for our neighbor, helping each other reduce the risk of infection, not something driven by fear,” added Storey.

On returning to Mass, parishioners are most excited to be able to receive communion again.

“From an earthly standpoint, the community aspect seems missing, but the Mass is the Mass—we still get to receive the sacrament,” said Marilyn Klein of St. Joseph in Winterset.

Jo Ann Poepppe agreed. “What we go for is to adore the Lord and receive his Body and Blood,” she said. “The important thing is that we’re back in the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist.”

Check dmdiocese.org for more information on the guidelines for resumed Masses.



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Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

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

War hero, devoted parishioner dies

By Stanley Asjes
Staff Writer

Carl Salvo, a World War II hero, died on May 19 at the age of 95.

Born and raised in Council Bluffs, Carl joined the U.S. Army at 18 and served in Normandy as a medic.

On a cold January day during the Battle of the Bulge, he ran into enemy fire in order to save several wounded soldiers in the wreckage of a tank. He administered first aid to three soldiers who had made it outside the tank.

After getting them to cover, he returned to the burning tank and aided two more soldiers who were still inside.

When Carl returned home in 1945, he received the Silver Star and Purple Heart for

his acts of valor in combat. He settled down in Council Bluffs with his first wife, Rose, and went to school on the GI bill to be a tailor. They raised nine children together. Carl was successful, retiring in 1989 as the head tailor of JCPenney in Omaha.

He kept in touch with his Italian heritage as a member of the Marconi Society in Council Bluffs, and made a trip with Rose in 1964 to visit their ancestral homes in Italy and Sicily.

Rose died at 66. Carl married Josephine Keldgord and they lived happily until 2012, when she passed away.

Carl spent the years after Josephine's death with his daughter, Diann, and then at Country House Memory Care. He is survived by his nine children, 21 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

Father Dan Kirby, a

longtime friend of Carl, preached at the funeral Mass and said, "Above all, we are commending a man who loved the Lord and loved his faith, who had a beautiful devotion to our Blessed Mother."

It was Carl's faith which was the foundation of his tremendous love for family and country, said Father Kirby.

"Carl, as we all know, was a great tailor, but he sewed more than suits. His best work was that he sewed his love for Rose and Josephine; he sewed love for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; he sewed faith and virtue; he sewed patriotism in his heroic service," Father Kirby said.

Mike Salvo, the Carl and Rose's eighth child, shared how his father faced great suffering in his life and made many sacrifices for his family. Carl

learned that Rose had cancer just a few months after the birth of their ninth child.

"When we were young, he had two jobs to make ends meet with nine kids," Mike said. "All the things he did and had to go through in his life were something else. He was a humble man, never a guy to talk about himself."

Diann shared how Carl was a great dancer and a real gentleman.

"He was very humble," she said. "We never knew he had a Purple Heart and a Silver Star when we were younger."

Carl, a 4th degree Knight of Columbus, was devoted to his faith, said Father Tom Thakadipuram, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish. Carl was a charter member of the former Queen of Apostles parish, which became Corpus Christi. Since he was a 4th degree knight, the Knights of Columbus are giving a chalice to Reed Flood on behalf of Carl. He wanted a chalice to be given to a seminarian in the Des Moines diocese, said Father Thakadipuram.

Director of Religious Education, Immaculate Conception Parish, Colfax

The Director of Religious Education is a member of the parish staff. The Director has overall responsibility for the parish's faith formation of children and adolescents, having oversight of the Youth Coordinator. The director organizes schedules and oversees faith formation programs for children (K-6th grade). Also organizes, schedules and oversees sacramental preparation for first Communion and first reconciliation. In addition, the director oversees the parish's annual Vacation Bible School. High school diploma/GED, and minimum of two years leadership experience in faith formation, religious education, catechetics and/or youth ministry. Active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church. Preferred - Basic Formation Certificate from the Diocese of Davenport and training in Lifelong Faith Formation; those without either of these will be supported by the parish to work toward these credentials. Entails some weekend work and frequent evening work. The work includes time with adults as well as active children. Part-time, 5 hours/week. August 15 through May 15, with additional time for special activities June-July. Please send resume and references to:
DRE/YM Search Committee
c/o Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
305 E. Howard Street, Colfax, Iowa 50054

Youth Coordinator Immaculate Conception Parish, Colfax

The Youth Coordinator is a member of the parish staff. The coordinator has overall responsibility for the parish's faith formation of adolescents. The coordinator organizes, schedules and oversees faith formation programs for adolescents (7th -12th grade). The includes the junior high, young high school and older high school youth groups. Also organizes, schedules and oversees sacramental preparation for confirmation and is responsible for the parish's annual summer activities and programs for adolescents. Minimum - High School Diploma / GED and a minimum of two years leadership experience in faith formation, religious education, catechetics and/or youth ministry. Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Preferred - Basic Formation Certificate from the Diocese of Davenport and training in Lifelong Faith Formation; those without either of these will be supported by the parish to work toward these credentials. The position entails frequent evening (Wednesdays) work, as well as other times. The work includes time with adults as well as adolescents. The work does require the ability to occasionally drive to places beyond the parish boundaries. Part time, 5 hours/week. August 15 through May 15 with additional time for special activities June/July. Please send resume and references to:
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God has invited us to something meaningful during quarantine

As June progresses, it's been a joy to ease back into a communal life, whether that's by going out a little more often, the gift of being able to worship publically again, or in seeing what feels like "long-lost friends."

The process is cautious and slow, which I think is prudent, and I know that any "new normal" will look very different from our old normal, but still it is a gift and welcome experience.

Our new normal will look different in part to mitigate the ongoing risk of contagion, and yet I hope our new normal will look different in part because we've grown.

Marriage & Family Life

By
Adam Storey



I hope I don't forget that I did just fine without much of the busyness I once thought was essential.

I hope that I don't resume much of the noise that was a part of my life three months ago.

I hope that I have a greater appreciation for hugs, and smiles, and the ways we ordinarily show our love.

And I hope that I continue to think about, and love, my neighbor even when it's no longer as easy as wearing a mask or limiting my trips to the grocery store.

There have been a lot of unknowns in the past few months, and I don't think anyone has a good idea of what our future will look like.

But there is one thing I am certain of: It is that God has been working during this time. He's invited each of us to something meaningful and personal during our

quarantine, and now he is inviting us each to something meaningful and personal as we begin to regather.

Lord, give us the grace to recognize your invitation in this time, and give us the grace to say yes!

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

God is our hope in this pandemic

HO HUM:

Never in my life have I seen anything like this Covid Pandemic and its consequences. I wondered what it could be compared to help understand it. Then when I saw a news report that showed a street in New York, empty of people and cars, a scene from a science fiction movie came to my mind of the very same thing, streets empty of cars and people. You know how science fiction goes. The aliens come secretly. They begin to sicken and kill people. Nothing works to stop them. The earthlings are helpless. In fear they seek shelter inside their own homes. Streets are empty, Businesses close. School and playgrounds are deserted.

This pandemic has been like an alien invasion of a sci-fi movie. The invaders are the coronavirus. They kill, they multiply, they spread across the world. Every weapon we have is useless in the fight against them. The only natural defense we have is to hide in our homes, close schools, shutter most businesses, wash our hands, and wear a face-mask, isolate. But, even if we don't get sick, the side effects of this Carona virus invasion extends far beyond the devastating physical sickness it causes. Emotionally and spiritually it causes havoc in our lives.

WHY?

I would like to write about the thoughts and feelings that this pandemic brings to many of us. Now, our thoughts and feelings get all tangled up and can't be neatly separated, but we all know that emotionally and spiritually we have been changed by the pandemic. Let us look at some of those changes.

FOR INSTANCE:

I put fear of catching the virus first on my list. I am 84, have weak lungs, and heart disease. For people like me catching the coronavirus is a death sentence. But you don't have to be 84 to fear dying. With the numbers of people dying in the news each day, you can't help but think of your last hours, the state of your soul, the four last things: Death, judge-

Guest Column

By Father
John Acrea



ment, heaven, hell. If fear leads to deeper considerations, it is a good thing.

I think that the possibility that people we know might die strikes fear also. It could be someone close, mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grandma, grandpa, friends. Our imagination of life without them is bitter and painful.

Anger is another feeling that comes upon us. We can be mad at the government for a poor response, at China, at God who would permit such a thing as this to strike us. We can be angry with those we are stuck at home with, husband, wife mom, dad, brothers, sisters. There can be fighting, yelling, name-calling, pouting. We can be angry that the picture of all the things we were planning for the spring, summer, for our jobs, for our kids, have fallen apart. Many high schoolers are upset that social relationships are much less, plans for prom, graduation, college, sports, was really a jig saw puzzle and now and the pieces have been thrown into a heap of confusion and nothing fits together anymore. We can be angry at ourselves because in these confinement situations we fail so often in our desires to do our part, be forgiving, understanding, prayerful. Anger can be directed at our weakness towards temptation in times of boredom.

There is another emotion that comes when our plans, once solid, are broken up like that jig saw puzzle. This emotion is grief. We can be hurting, sad, sorrowful, teary, despondent.

Loneliness is another painful feeling that we might be experiencing to a degree we never had before. Person to person interaction with our best friends

has been cut back to virtual connections. The house is mostly empty. Time drags. You just miss the laughter, joking around, planning things together, sharing heart to heart our inmost thoughts and feelings. It like being stuck on an island with nobody else around. We thirst for companionship that only other people and God can fill.

SO WHAT?

So is there a way out of this tangled thoughts and emotions that plague us during this pandemic? There is no easy way out, no magic cure that is for sure. But there are ways.

First of all, pray. Now here is the thing with prayer. Pray from exactly where you are hurting. If you are angry with God, talk to him about that. Ask him what is going on? Why he let this happen. The same goes for anger towards others and yourself. Bring those angers to him. If you are lonely, tell God what that is like for you. Ask God what he wants to teach you in this pandemic. Maybe he wants your heart to be touched by the fragility of life. That our time will come and we will appear before God. He wants us to be ready. Maybe God is saying, "It is time to shape up. Life is fragile. When it is all said and done we realize that having the heart of Jesus is the most precious thing we can possess.

Next, turn your focus away from yourself and towards others. Not those far away, but the persons next to you. Forgive them and have mercy on them as God has mercy on you.

Forgive mom, dad, brothers, sisters, all those you have hurt you in some way.

Ask forgiveness from them, when you have been a pain in the butt. Get reconciled.

Forgive yourself from your heart.

Forgive that one person who has hurt you the most.

Forgive God.

Be active in your gratitude, notes, texts, e-mails phone calls. Thank people! Tell them why you cherish them.

One of the most important things

to pray for is the virtue of hope. Hope is a feeling based on our faith that things will turn out alright. There are good things to come. How do we increase our Hope?

If you think about your life so far you realize that God has done a pretty God job of taking care of you. You have memories of things that just about happened that would have been terrible. For example, most all of us have had a close call while driving. God has taken care of us and loved us during our life. This gives hope that God will take care of us in the future. He is not going to change his love.

If you listen to the words of scripture the most used words in all of the Bible are, "Be not afraid." These are the words spoken to you in these times, "Be not afraid." This is Jesus talking to you as he talked with his disciples when Jesus was heading toward death and their world was falling apart. He gave them hope and he gives you hope, "Be not afraid."

In another place in Scripture God speaks the following to a people who were losing hope of God's love in a time of trouble. God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29: 11-14)

Friends, these are hard times for us, for others and for the world. Let the Lord speak to your heart, "Be not afraid." Let God the Father speak to you, "I have plans to give you hope and a future."

Lord help us to believe in your Love for us. Help us to have Love. Help us to have Faith. Help us to have hope. Amen.

Father John Acrea is a retired priest for the Diocese of Des Moines.

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Ask a Priest

The following are questions from middle school students at Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona.

Q. Will Jesus Christ come back to Earth?

A. One of the acclamations in the Eucharistic Prayer used to say: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." That acclamation was eliminated when the English version of the Roman Missal was published about six years ago. How and when Christ will come again has befuddled us beginning with the very early believers. They assumed that the return of Christ would come during their lifetime. We still live with the mystery, but considering that God is not bound by the constraints of time and space, it's not up to us. We live our lives in the confidence that God is always with us and that we can pray to Jesus at any time, for any need.

Q. How is God able to answer/listen to all the prayers all the time?

A. We tend to think of God in HUMAN terms. We know that God is pure spirit and has no physical elements. We refer to God as "he" but we know that God is neither male nor female. It's the best we can do with the limits of language. So, God doesn't have ears or eyes or arms or legs. When we pray, we try to connect ourselves to the creator of the universe who sent us Jesus to show in concrete ways how best to live our lives. There are lots of other things we don't know, but our faith tells us that we are made in God's image and likeness.

Q. Did God really create the universe in seven days?

A. Almost certainly not. The story of creation is meant to indicate that God is at the very beginning of the universe. It's not intended to solve geological or astronomical or historical issues. In fact, in the book of Genesis, there are two stories of creation. One is in chapter one; the other in chapter two. Look it up to see the differences. For early believers, these stories helped to form a people of faith in a God who loved them and cared for them from the very start.

Q. How does the religious history of the world and the scientific history of the world match up?

A. We are constantly learning more. Every generation adds to our knowledge in many subjects. Religion and science are not rivals for our votes. A crazy comparison might ask how does mathematics influence language. It doesn't. Science offers us insights into space, medicine, astronomy, and chemistry. Religion attempts to connect us with God and with one another. Prayer and worship don't preclude the advances in science. Rather, science often assists us in helping one another to live more complete and more loving lives.

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

Guest Column

By Father
Ron Rolheiser



I grew up in a close family and one of the hardest things I ever did was to leave home and family at the age of seventeen to enter the novitiate of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. That novitiate year wasn't easy. I missed my family intensely and stayed in touch with them insofar as the rules and communication of the day allowed. I wrote a letter home every week and my mother wrote back to me faithfully each week. I still have and cherish those letters. I had left home but stayed in touch, a faithful family member.

But my life became a lot more complex and socially demanding after that. I moved to a seminary and began to live in a community with sixty others, with people entering and leaving constantly throughout my seven years there so that by the time I'd finished my seminary training I had lived in close community with over one hundred different men. That brought its own challenges. People you'd grown close to would leave the community to be replaced by others so that each year there was a new community and new friendships.

In the years following seminary, that pattern began to grow exponentially. Graduate studies took me to other countries and brought a whole series of new persons into my life, many of whom became close friends. In more than forty years of teaching I have met with several thousand students and made many friends among them. Writing and public lectures have brought thousands of people into my life. Though most of them passed through my life without

meaningful connection, some became lifelong friends.

I share this not because I think it's unique, but rather because it's typical. Today that's really everyone's story. More and more friends pass through our lives so that at a point the question necessarily arises: how does one remain faithful to one's family, to old friends, former neighbors, former classmates, former students, former colleagues, and to old acquaintances? What does fidelity to them ask for? Occasional visits? Occasional emails, texts, calls? Remembering birthdays and anniversaries? Class reunions? Attending weddings and funerals?

Obviously doing these would be good, though that would also constitute a full-time occupation. Something else must be being asked of us here, namely, a fidelity that's not contingent on emails, texts, calls, and occasional visits. But what can lie deeper than tangible human contact? What can be more real than that? The answer is fidelity, fidelity as the gift of a shared moral soul, fidelity as the gift of trust, and fidelity as remaining true to who you were when you were in tangible human community and contact with those people who are no longer part of your daily life. That's what it means to be faithful.

It is interesting how the Christian scriptures define community and fidelity. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that before Pentecost those in the first Christian community were all "huddled in one room". And here, though physically together, ironically they were not in real community with each other, not really a family, and not really faithful to each other. Then after receiving the Holy Spirit, they literally break out of that one room and scatter all over the earth so that many of them never see each other again and now, geographically at a distance from each other, ironically they become real family, become a

genuine community, and live in fidelity to each other.

At the end of the day, fidelity is not about now often you physically connect with someone but about living within a shared spirit. Betrayal is not a question of separation by distance, of forgetting an anniversary or a birthday, or of not being able to stay in touch with someone you cherish. Betrayal is moving away from the truth and virtue you once shared with that person you cherish. Betrayal is a change of soul. We are unfaithful to family and friends when we become a different person morally so as to no longer share a common spirit with them.

You can be living in the same house with someone, share daily bread and conversation with him or her, and not be a faithful family member or friend; just as you can be a faithful friend or family member and not see that friend or family member for forty years. Being faithful in remembering birthdays is wonderful, but fidelity is more about remembering who you were when that birth was so special to you. Fidelity is about maintaining moral affinity.

To the best of my abilities, I try to stay in contact with the family, old friends, former neighbors, former classmates, former students, former colleagues, and old acquaintances. Mostly it's a bit beyond me. So I put my trust in moral fidelity. I try as best I can to commit myself to keeping the same soul I had when I left home as a young boy and which characterized and defined me when I met all those wonderful people along the way.

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

'Keep that hope machine running strong'

Guest Column



By Christina Capecchi

In the face of a pandemic, people of every color and creed have responded the same way: by adding to the beauty. They perched teddy bears in windows, hung Christmas lights and colored drive-ways. They drew images that felt like an antidote to all the masks and morgues: hearts, butterflies, rainbows. They tried to tilt the scales of the universe with tempera paint and sidewalk chalk.

Mo Willems, creator of the award-winning "Elephant & Piggie" series of children's books, offered Lunch Doodles, free online drawing lessons for kids in quarantine.

"You might be isolated, but you're not alone," Mo wrote. "You are an art maker. Let's make some together."

Meanwhile, The Okee Dokee Brothers, a family-friendly, Grammy-winning bluegrass duo, released an album early to help put a spring into social distancing. The first track, "Hope Machine," was written a year ago but feels tailored to our strange new reality: "Plan what you can plan, dance when you can-can. ... Keep that hope machine running strong."

"Songs go where they are needed," said the guitarist Joe Mailander. "Families need a hopeful message about getting up and trying to find some light right now."

Quarantine has been a productive time for the award-winning artist Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath, a 63-year-old Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who has been drawing in the second-story studio of a rowhouse in Camden, N.J.

"I haven't spent so much time

here in years," he said.

The sought-after speaker had developed the habit of drawing a faith-based coloring page and sharing it in his e-newsletter once a week. But the pandemic has compelled him to do so on a daily basis.

Pope Francis expressed it on Palm Sunday, offering a message for Holy Week that continues to resonate: "This is what we need today: the creativity of love."

The words struck Brother Mickey, who lettered them in neon green against a crimson red, drawing palm branches in the center.

"It's a human drive to create and to bring joy," he said. "That's how I see art. We're co-creating with God."

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

It started with the Italians, whose arias rose from the balconies. They were on lockdown, but their voices rang out down empty moonlit streets. Ballads, the national anthem, improvised ditties over the barking of dogs.

Cellphone footage of the singing went viral, offering hope amid the horror.

"Italians are like their opera characters: when they suffer, they sing instead of crying," one YouTube viewer quipped.

As the coronavirus traveled the globe, pictures of other music makers emerged. A man playing an accordion on his balcony in Hungary. A husband-wife duet on their balcony in Brazil, breathing their prayers for humanity through a flute and a bassoon – woodwinds for the weary. In New York City, a group of habited nuns singing "Lean On Me," a brunette on the end clanging two spoons in syncopation. "Spoon Nun's on my apocalypse team," one New Yorker tweeted.

Road to beatification for Knights founder

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) -- Five years ago, Dan and Michelle Schachle of Dickson, Tennessee, prayed to Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, to intercede with God to save their son, still in his mother's womb, who was given no hope of surviving a life-threatening case of fetal hydrops.

When the condition, which is a dangerous accumulation of fluids throughout the body, disappeared, it triggered a long and complex process of evaluating whether a miracle attributable to Father McGivney's intercession had occurred.

"It's a strange thing to investigate, whether God has intervened in the world in an extraordinary way," said Father Dexter Brewer, pastor of Christ the King Church in Nashville and a vicar general of the Diocese of Nashville and former judicial vicar of the diocese, who oversaw the local tribunal investigating the miracle.

"It's all very formal, and very intense," Father Brewer said of the process, which involved dozens of interviews, examinations of medical evidence, months of work, and a very specific submission process to the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The process begins in the diocese where the miracle occurred, explained Brian Caulfield, vice postulator of Father

McGivney's sainthood cause.

The local bishop, which in this case was Bishop David R. Choby, appoints members of a tribunal to gather all the facts of the case. (Bishop Choby died in 2017.)

"They weren't leaving the question of is this a miracle to us," Father Brewer told the Tennessee Register, Nashville's diocesan newspaper. "We collected the information and passed it along to the Vatican. We didn't make a recommendation or judgment."

The investigation began in 2016, and it was the first time in the Diocese of Nashville's history that what was believed to be a miracle had been formally investigated.

"Basically, a miracle is defined as an extraordinary event that has no current medical or scientific explanation," Caulfield said.

To verify an event is a miracle, "you have to prove two things," Caulfield said. "The first thing is to prove this was a healing that's not explained by medical science."

The second is to clearly identify who people were praying to for their intercession, in this case, whether the intercession of Father McGivney was clearly invoked, Caulfield said.

Before the official investigation opened, Vatican officials visited Nashville to place the members of the tribunal un-



Five years ago, Dan and Michelle Schachle of Dickson, Tennessee, prayed to Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, to intercede with God to save their son, still in his mother's womb, who had a life-threatening case of fetal hydrops.

der oath and walk them through the process. At the time, said Dr. Fred Callahan, "it was top secret."

Callahan, a neurologist and close friend of Bishop Choby, was asked by the bishop to lead the medical side of the investigation.

Callahan was personally present for each of the detailed interviews with about 20 different Vanderbilt University

Medical Center physicians who cared for Michelle Schachle during her pregnancy and after the birth of Michael ("Mikey"), the Schachles' 13th child, as well as other maternal-fetal medicine specialists familiar with the case. The other key part of the investigation was whether the miracle is truly attributable to the intercession of Father McGivney. "The Vatican had very precise questions about the timing and the prayers, who prayed when, and to whom," said Father Brewer. The tribunal needed "to see if there was a correlation between the prayerful petition and the medical cure," said Callahan.

After the Nashville tribunal compiled its findings -- sealed and tied in red ribbon -- and sent them off to Rome, it was up to the Congregation for Saints' Causes to review the information and make a recommendation to

Pope Francis whether the case was indeed a miracle.

On May 27, the Vatican announced Pope Francis had signed the decree recognizing the miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney. Once he is beatified, he will be given the title "Blessed."

The beatification ceremony will be scheduled in the fall in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, where his sainthood cause was formally opened in 1997, and he was given the title "Servant of God."

In March 2008, the Catholic Church recognized the priest heroically lived the Christian virtues, giving him the title "Venerable."

Generally, two miracles attributed to the candidate's intercession are required for sainthood -- one for beatification and the second for canonization.



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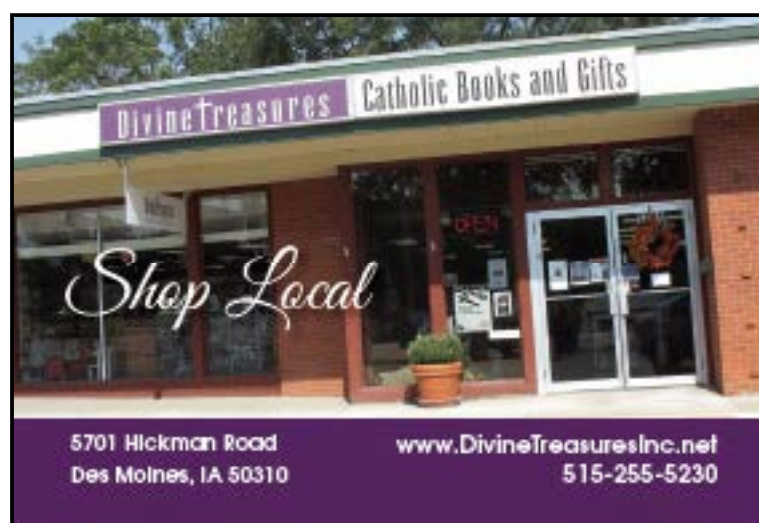
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Catholics urged to remember priests as 'spiritual fathers' on Father's Day

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) -- Stories of Catholic priests' "creativity, sacrifice and compassionate service" during the coronavirus have inspired an effort led by the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha to recognize and celebrate "these spiritual fathers" on Father's Day, which is June 21.

Priests are among "the front-line workers, especially during the pandemic and social unrest, continue to inspire us as we witness their selfless acts," said a June 8 news release.

The institute said it is calling on all people to remember their spiritual fathers by sending Father's Day wishes via a card, email, text or phone call "as an expression of gratitude

for all they have and continue to do -- especially for reminding us of God's abundant graces as we navigate these challenging times."

Over the last few weeks, the institute has heard story after story of its alumni who have found creative ways to hear confessions in parking lots during the nation's lockdown because of COVID-19, said Mary Buttell, president of the Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation.

They have livestreamed Masses to their congregations as well as consoled "disappointed couples and grief-stricken families who were allowed only 10 people to attend their wedding

or funeral services," she said.

Priests have offered support to those who have lost their livelihood due to the shutdown and been on call to anoint COVID-19 patients "and then isolate so as to not put anyone else's health at risk," Buttell added.

Priests also are ministering at this time to victims of violence, she said.

"Everyone appreciates being appreciated," she said. "So, we hope many, many people will reach out to their priests and let them know they make a difference and that their work is appreciated."

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Abortion waiting period

Continued from page 1

pass this year but a 24-hour wait period is good public policy," he said. "Most states have a waiting period. It gives people a little more time to consider an important decision like that."

Iowans for LIFE Executive Director Maggie DeWitte was disappointed the amendment did not pass. The amend-

ment needed to pass two legislative sessions and be approved by a vote of the people in order to be enacted.

"We were disappointed that that did not go through," she said. "We're hopeful that the 24-hour bill will save lives and do what the legislators feel that it could do."

Victim Assistance Advocate

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@polkcountyia.gov.

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SUPPORT BROTHER KNIGHTS

No council should leave a Brother Knight behind, fulfilling the vision of charity and unity upon which Fr. McGivney founded our Order.



SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

Councils must reinforce their Pastor and show that Knights stand ready to support him and the parish community.



Scan to learn more about the Knights

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, our duty is to lead our families, protect our parishes, and serve our communities, remembering always that where there's a need, there's a Knight.

Rise Up and Share God's Joy... Join the Knights of Columbus — visit www.kofc.org/joinus

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



Jeromy Brockelsby
402-651-7613
Council Bluffs, Glenwood, Red Oak & Shenandoah



Dan Ginther
515-460-3411
Carlisle, Altoona, Elkhart and Des Moines



Donnie Kenkel
712-579-9066
Council Bluffs, Atlantic, Stuart, Greenfield & Neola



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



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



BORMANN AGENCY

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

