Dioceses collaborate on vaccination campaign

By Dawn Prosser & Anne Marie Cox

Out of a concern for their neighbors, the Rosmann family in Shelby County shared their COVID-19 stories as part of a four-diocese communications collaboration. The Iowa Catholic Conference and the ratholic dioceses of Iowa launched a statewide video campaign to encourage use of the COVID-19 vaccine. In a partnership with Catholic Cares, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Iowa Department of Health, the campaign features Iowans from across the state who share their reasons for supporting vaccinations.

The Rosmanns — Daniel and Ellen; his brother David and his wife, Becky; and parents Maria and Ron — are among those featured in the campaign sharing their COVID-19 stories along with a pastor from Storm Lake, a student at Buena Vista University, a factory worker and her grandson in Storm Lake, and a businessman in Davenport.

Iowa currently ranks 22nd in fully-vaccinated residents as compared to the rest of the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Also, the percentage of rural

The faithful in the Diocese of Des Moines are generous in helping others around the state, country and world when disaster strikes.

Now, the Diocese is establishing a way for the faithful to help their fellow Catholics and parishes when one faces a major struggle.

The Parish Solidarity Fund serves the people of God in the 23 counties of the Diocese of Des Moines when a need arises and the most local parish or faith community has exhausted resources and abilities to meet the need.

The most current need is at St. Mary Parish in Hamburg in the far southwest corner of the diocese. Sandwiched between the Missouri River and the Nishnabotna River, the church experienced a major flood in 2019. The area has seen minor flooding in the past but nothing as damaging as what happened in 2019. The Flood of 2019 significantly damaged the church

A new beginning

Diocese takes time to stop, listen

By John Gaffney
Contributing Writer

Last May, Pope Francis invited bishops from every diocese in the world to begin a process, called a synod, to spend time with the Catholic faithful reflecting upon communion, participation, and mission.

The term “synod” means to be on the same path with other disciples who follow Jesus Christ, the Way who leads us to abundant life.

This phase of the process in our diocese runs through April 2022. The first step in this process is listening to the faithful within parishes, schools, hospitals, and other church-related ministries, and to those on the margins of the Church and society; in order to deeply hear from our sisters and brothers with various perspectives about the future of our local Church.

Pope Francis has shared the following vision and goals for this process.

• Vision: “By walking together, and together reflecting on the journey made, the Church will be able to learn from what it will experience which processes can help it to live communion, to achieve participation, to open itself to mission.”

• Goals: To listen, as the entire People of God, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. We do this by listening together to the Word of God in Scripture and the living
Ah, la indelible experiencia de walking into a house where Thanksgiving dinner is being prepared! Even for someone as olfactive challenged as I am, the singular cornucopia of smells that conveys the idea of this day—swede potatoes adorned with marshmallows and cinnamon, the scalloped corn, twisty rolls, the baked rolls, the cranberry sauce, mushroom green beans, sage stuffing, assorted pumpkin, pecan, and take-your-pick fruit flavored pies—and of course, the great smell of the center of it all—it create an aroma that evokes memories and stir the heart to prepare for the onslaught of scents that await us when we finally sit down at the table.

For most of us, the smells of this year’s Thanksgiving feast will be ever more vivid—set against real past year’s COVID-19 induced fast—from food, and from the company of family, friends, and new acquaintances. These scents contribute their unique and complementary array of scents. For scientific researchers such as Rachel Herz have pierced some of the mystery surrounding the reasons why we do not detect and interpret smells in a very personal way, but also emit our own personal way, but also emit our own.

For it seems there is a genetic complex of genes tied to our immune system that gives rise to our eminently unique and inimitable “fragrance” among the human community (identical twins excepted, of course). Our primary, grasshopper, grasshopper, teenage cousins and young couples, toddlers and newborns with their fresh tender skin give rise to a pleasurable effect, and a dirty diaper can only temporarily suppress: all contribute to the privileged sensation of being together in the same household for Thanksgiving.

In a spiritual sense, there is another Thanksgiving feast that is not limited to the fourth Thurs. day of November, but is perpetually and frequently available to persons of faith: the Eucharist. By God’s intention, the celebration of the Eucharist is a graced composite of many noble things, impinging upon our consciousness, our appetites. It is both gift and sacrifice, medicine and food for our appetites.

Among the inspiring and motivating reasons for exclusion from communion at Thanksgiving, the Church pointed out: “For the Son of man will come in the splendor of his kingdom and will gather all the nations and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will assign to the nations their place: to one will he give possession of a kingdom of glory. And this is my life’s program.” “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.”

The Eucharist is a fra- grant offering, meant to rise like incense to the throne of the heavenly Father. The re-presentation of Christ’s Body and Blood at Mass is the catalyst for us to journey to earth and form us into a pleasing household of faith. We become a communion of vessels, pouring out the earth where the varied degrees of personal holiness participate di- versely in a body whose immense organization is not to sinful, rather than to one another.

At this writing, our U.S. Catholic bishops are engaged in a dialogue about the sense that many in our pews are a bit more sensitive to prejudice and injustice than ever before and are seeking to be a “dance of the Eucharist through the internet.” It ema- nated joy and humility to others whom he accepted and drew into friendship. Amid the wave of distractions that confront us each day, including teenagers perhaps more than any others, he focused on the main course of life: “To al- ways be united with Christ: This is the program.” “...The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.” His sudden illness and death did not spoil the recipe of his youthful sanctity, but seasoned it to perfection. Likewise, José Sánchez del Río, from Guadalajara, Mexico, was filled with the love of Jesus and his Church. He was impressed and essentially mar- tyred at the age of 14 because he would not renounce Christ and his Kingship. Others helped to spread the Blood of the Eucharist into his cell along with a basket of food, strengthening him to pray for the conversion of his persecu- tors. He resolutely declared, “My faith is not for sale.” St. José Sánchez del Río was canonized in 2016.

Blessed Carlo Acutis was an Italian teenager and computer “geek” who died at the age of 15 and was beatified in 2020. He attended daily Mass and paid special homage to the Blessed Sacrament. He was also fascinated by Eucharist miracles and created a website detailing these. He suffered an effect becom- ing an “apostle of the Eucharist through the internet.”

The Catholicbishop William Joensen has made the following statement: “The Beato Carlo Acutis was an Italian teenager and computer “geek” who died at the age of 15 and was beatified in 2020. He attended daily Mass and paid special homage to the Blessed Sacrament. He was also fascinated by Eucharist miracles and created a website detailing these. He suffered an effect becom- ing an “apostle of the Eucharist through the internet.”

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Lifelong advocate, Deacon Bray dies

Deacon Robert Bray was born into a family that didn’t have much.

That upbringing influenced the direction of his life as he devoted time and energy to helping the poor, those unrepresented and those who were underserved, said his wife of 63 years, Kathleen Bray.

Deacon Bray died Oct. 1 at the age of 84.

Born in Manilla, Iowa, he married Kathleen when she was 19 and he was 21 in 1958. He graduated from Creighton Law School in 1962, where Kathleen said he was influenced by the Jesuits.

He went into private practice and became the assistant county attorney.

Deacon Bray attended a Cursillo retreat, which was life changing.

It gave “a different focus for what you believed in. I think it did affect a lot of the deacons we know,” said Kathleen.

Deacon Bray became a part of the first group of men to be ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese in 1972. They were among some of the first in the country to be ordained to the diaconate, which was established following the Second Vatican Council.

He continued his passion for helping the needy.

“He was born into a family that didn’t have much and he always had a keen affinity for poor people and people who were unrepresented and underserved, particularly minorities,” said Kathleen. “He always just wanted to help them. That’s been a thrust of what he’s been about.”

He was instrumental in bringing Legal Services Corp., which later became Iowa Legal Aid, to Council Bluffs.

“He gave up on his regular practice of law to become a lawyer for folks who didn’t have a voice,” said Deacon Bob Howe, who studied with the first deaconate cohort. “He was passionate about helping people overcome whatever their situations were in life and have a chance at something better.”

“After a while, he began to feel like he was applying Band-Aids to all the problems,” Kathleen said.

The Bray family moved to Des Moines, where Deacon Bray could lobby for clients of Legal Aid.

“I think that’s where he felt like he could be more influential, talking to legislators about laws they were passing and bills and explain to them how it affected the underserved. He wasn’t intimidated by power and position at all,” said Kathleen.

Deacon Bray attended the University of Dayton, where he studied with the first diaconate program, which later became Iowa Legal Aid, bringing Legal Services Corp., to Council Bluffs.

A celebration of life on Nov. 6 in Des Moines, Deacon Bray and his family and friends were invited to a celebration of life on Nov. 6 in Lenexa.

His obituary said: “While he was an avid fly fisher, a man and a passionate reader, his greatest joy was being happily married to Kathleen O’Neill for 63 years.”

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Mass
Mon, Nov 29 7:00 pm
Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Church, Ankeny
Presider Bishop William Joensen

Catholic Charities Breakfast with the Bishop celebrated decades of service.

Catholic Charities Breakfast with the Bishop in Council Bluffs was a celebration of more than 30 years of service in southwest Iowa.

“I truly have been blessed to work for Catholic Charities,” said the retiring Diane McKee, who saw the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program grow from a staff of one to 20 full time and eight-10 part-time staff over the past 32 years. The program annually serves about 1,400 individuals in nine counties in west and southwest Iowa.

Catholic Charities Executive Director Barbara Deckert thanked supporters for their financial assistance and many hours of volunteer help.

“You’re glimmers of light, bringing hope to people,” said Bishop William Joensen.

Catholic Charities suppor
Your gift can change someone’s life

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

In a spirit of Thanksgiving, there are countless opportunities available for individuals, families and businesses to make a difference in someone’s life by making a contribution before the end of the year: cash and noncash gifts.

For individuals and families that qualify, there may be tax advantages as well.

Gifts can benefit seminarians, students, parishes, schools, ministry and outreach programs.

For instance, the late Jeanine Rothermel, who through her estate, left funds for her parish, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph Educational Center and the Diocese of Des Moines Deaf Ministry. It was a gift that did not cost her anything in her lifetime, but will help many in her memory. As a direct result of her generosity, a child who is hearing impaired was able to go to Catholic Youth Camp for the first time aided by interpreters and an assistant.

There are multiple ways to make a gift. Donors can speak with their local parish to learn of the greatest needs. For diocesan ministries, a donor can go to dm diocese.org/give. There, one can find opportunities that range from a general disaster relief fund to the seminarian special collection, and more options.

If you prefer electronic giving, gifts may be made online through credit card, through a donation of grain or stock, IRA distributions, memorial gifts or planned gifts. With grain at an all-time high, a gift of grain can help reduce your income. For more information, contact the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

For gifts such as stock, it typically takes a few days to process, said Sue McEntee, executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. It’s recommended that such gifts are initiated by Dec. 23 to ensure they are fully executed by Dec. 31.

For those who are interested, the foundation is offering a webinar Dec. 2 on creative ways to use noncash assets as a giving tool. To register, go to cftwi.org and click on “webinars” at the top of the homepage.

Catholic Charities is grateful for donations it has received throughout the year and welcomes end-of-the-year gifts for its general fund that supports its shelters, counseling program, food pantry and refugee resettlement program.

“We thank all of our friends and colleagues who have provided support to Catholic Charities this past year, including financial contributions, in-kind donations, and volunteer service,” said Barbara Decker, executive director. “This expression of dedication and hope to help others in need enables Catholic Charities to serve our 23 counties in southwest Iowa. We appreciate the ongoing commitment by many to advance our mission to empower individuals and strengthen families.”

The Catholic Tuition Organization has had an exceptional year in the Des Moines Diocese. It has used all of the tax credits earmarked for the Diocese in 2021. CTO is accepting pledges for the 2022 calendar year to help families afford a Catholic school education for their children. With a recent change in Iowa law, 75 percent of a donation to the CTO is returned in the form of Iowa tax credits.

Options for making an end-of-the-year donation: dmdioce.se.org/giving cftwi.org
catholiccharitiesdm.org svdpdsm.org/donations

Join Bishop William M. Joensen and the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa

Experience an authentic and faith-filled adventure in several of Italy’s most exciting destinations

During our nine nights in Italy, we will visit Assisi, Florence, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Rome. This exciting program will include daily Mass at local churches and basilicas. In the Eternal City, we will specifically visit the North American Pontifical College, go to the Papal audience, and join the Scavi Tour, and so much more! Participants should expect to walk during many of our tours as this tour will certainly help you get your daily steps in!

The trip price per person for the land portion of the program is $4,785 and includes roundtrip accommodations for 9 nights (based on double occupancy), breakfast and dinner daily, 3 lunches, ground transportation within Italy, all gratuities, entry tickets to iconic monuments and sights, and expert guides provided by our travel partner, Authentic Explorations. Airfare will be priced separately and trip insurance will be made available to participants who wish to purchase it at an additional cost. Single supplements available.

Departure is Tuesday, October 18, 2022 and we return on Friday, October 28, 2022.

With only 45 spots available, this trip will book fast. If you would like more information, or to guarantee your spot(s) for this trip, email Gary Portuesi at Authentic Explorations at gary/AuthenticExplorations.com or call 646-767-0089

It’s for community, family, friends. Get vaccinated.

Daniel and Ellen Rosmann farm near Harlan, Iowa. From working the organic Rosmann Family Farms with Daniel’s father and brother to managing their farm-to-table restaurant in town to parenting their children, Daniel and Ellen approach it all with a focus on others. That’s why they chose to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and encourage others to do the same.

It’s not too late to make a difference. Find resources and Daniel and Ellen’s full story on video at iowacatholicconference.com/getvaccinated.

Paul for the Iowa Catholic Conference and the Catholic Dioceses of Iowa. Made possible in part by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.
Diocese takes time to stop and listen

Continued from page 1

Tradition of the Church, by listening to one another, and especially to those at the margins, and discerning the signs of the times.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Bishop William Joensen has already entered into a strategic visioning process that already incorporated a great deal of what Pope Francis and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked of dioceses for the synodal process. The challenge was aligning the Diocese’s processes with those outlined in the instructions that were received.

A few of the ways the Diocese of Des Moines will be able to align the synodal process with strategic visioning include:

• Using the strategic visioning process as our primary synodal process. The visioning process is deeply rooted in the movement of the Holy Spirit. It includes one-on-one deep listening sessions, focus groups, and monthly peer listening sessions from the strategic visioning steering committee members to those they know who are active and inactive in the Catholic faith. This process includes voices from all around the Diocese, every age group, those actively engaged and those on the margins.

• Using a survey tool to include those who were not able to participate in the strategic visioning process, but whose voice can help prioritize the needs of the diocesan community.

• As the strategic vision and core values of the Des Moines Diocese is formed, the synodal process will be an excellent model to help parishes, schools, hospitals, and other church-related ministries in creating a pastoral plan for implementation.

One of the hopes and expected fruits of the visionary process is that we will discover and offer ways in which we are already a synodal church who consults and accompanies one another, lay people, religious, and clergy alike.

Through these processes, rooted in the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church of southwest Iowa, we look forward to beginning a journey of growing authentically towards the communion and mission that God calls us to live out in the third millennium.

Parish Solidarity Fund paves way

Continued from page 1

hall and the basement of the rectory, where religious education classes occurred. Insurance covered the repair and remodeling of the church hall. The rectory, built in 1895, posed a problem. The cost to repair and bring it up to code was too extensive.

Earlier this year, St. Mary Parish tore down the rectory and still hopes to build a Religious Education Center.

The parish has been saving for this project for years but kept suffering setbacks. Despite significant fundraising efforts (more than $700,000 in cash and pledges), unavoidable delays due to the 2019 flood and 2020 pandemic resulted in higher construction costs and delays due to supply shortages.

The Diocese is committed to seeing this mission territory of the state flourish and to constructing the Religious Education Center so that all might be nurtured in their faith. The Diocese has committed $100,000 to support the project and seeks $300,000 from the 79 parishes and faith communities to be contributed to the Parish Solidarity Fund to support St. Mary Parish.

“We have a long history of helping fellow parishes in our diocesan faith family,” said Maureen Kenney, director of Stewardship.

• Parishes and parishioners rallied behind Holy Family Catholic School in Des Moines when it faced closure.

• Sacred Heart in West Des Moines and St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale provided substantial support for the start of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

• Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny offered substantial support upon the start of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, also in Ankeny.

• The faithful contributed $50,000 during the height of the pandemic to help the parishes most affected by the virus. Grants of various sizes were made to 10 parishes or schools within the Diocese, including St. Mary Parish.

“We are asking the faith community to take St. Mary Parish under their wing, and adopt this sister parish in our Diocese,” said Kenney. “We have proven our resilience and faith in God’s provision time and time again. Our support makes present our care for a member of the Body of Christ,” said Kenney. Find more information and online giving to the fund at dmdioceze.org/hamburg.

Children at St. Mary Parish in Hamburg need help building a religious education center.

To keep our students on the road to success, Dowling Catholic High School relies on the generosity of those who support the We Are Maroons Annual Appeal. The Annual Appeal helps ensure our students and teachers have the resources they need to be successful and impacts every aspect of the DCHS experience, including faith and academic programming, student activities, athletics and the arts.

Now is the perfect time to make a gift to DCHS. As we approach the end of the year, we are seeing more and more supporters choose to donate:

• Shares of stock
• Donor Advised Funds
• Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA (donors 70 1/2 and older)

These options may provide favorable tax benefits with the flexibility to support DCHS!

Your support can truly make a difference in preparing Leaders for Life, Centered on Christ. To donate, please visit www.dowlingcatholic.org/donate or mail a check to Dowling Catholic High School, 1400 Buffalo Road, West Des Moines, IA 50265.
Nov. 20 Saturday
Holiday Bazaar
WINTerset – St. Joseph Parish is hosting a holiday bazaar from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lots of unique craft items made by our parishioners and a bake sale. Breakfast and lunch available.

Christmas Gala
WEST DES MOINES – Iowans for LIFE will host a pro-life Christmas Gala, The Holy Family at Hy-Vee’s Run Pearl Center. The evening consists of a cash bar, a dinner, auction items, and Christmas entertainment featuring top talent including Gina Gleder and Tony Valdez. Massage Frank Choo will be on the importance of the pro-life movement. Tables of ten/$600; $65 each Order online today: www.IowansforLIFE.org.

Nov. 21 Sunday
Musicians Mass
DES MOINES – Musicians, liturgists, pastors and guests are invited to join the Des Moines Diocesan Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians at a Mass and reception that begins at 3 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral. A blessing of St. Ambrose Cathedral. A blessing of the Musicians Mass
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Formation should attend an informational session at the Parish Hall on Mondays for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer from 5-6 p.m. Evening prayer will be livestreamed at https://facebook.com/dmdioce.se.org for details.

Cathedral Holy Hours
All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer from 5-6 p.m. Evening prayer will be livestreamed at https://facebook.com/dmdioce.se.org for details.

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Friends, Romans, Iowans podcast Be sure to check out the Diocesan young-adult focused podcast “Friends, Romans, Iowans.” Currently in the second season, this podcast aims to connect the Diocese by hosting casual conversations with Catholic leaders from around southern Iowa. Episodes can be found wherever you get your podcasts, or at Facebook.com/dmdioce.se.org.

Registration for CYC open
PANORA – Registration for Catholic Youth Camp at the St. Thomas More Center is open. For information on how to register or apply for sponsorship, go to stmconcalls.org. For more information about CYC, visit stmcen.org.

Schedule of Feast Our Lady of Guadalupe

FIESTA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

COUNCIL BLUFFS
CORPUS CHRISTI
Dec. 1 – Dec. 11 Rosary at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 6 a.m. Malambitas and Mass 11:30 a.m. Rosary 12 p.m. Mass 1 p.m. Reception

DES MOINES
BASILICA OF ST. JOHN
Saturday, Dec. 11 5:30 p.m. Rosary 6 p.m. Mass
CHRIST THE KING
Saturday, Dec. 11 Rosary 11 at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 10:30 a.m. Mass 11:30 a.m. Rosary with dancers and接收 Mass 3:15 p.m. Mass presided by Bishop William Joensen 4 p.m. Mass in English Reception with food, dances, representation of the apparitions 6 p.m. Rosary 11 a.m. Mass After Mass, there is a procession to the church 11:30 a.m. - Mass 12:30 p.m. - Reception at school’s gym featuring food and dances by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

ST. ANTHONY PARISH
Novena Dec. 3-11 at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 6 p.m. Rosary 7 p.m. Mass. After Mass, there is a procession to the hall and a reception Sunday, Dec. 12 7 a.m. Malambitas con Mariachi – Salon Portosol 8 a.m. Mass

WEST DES MOINES
SACRED HEART PARISH Sunday, Dec. 12 11 a.m. – Procession around the church 11:30 a.m. - Mass 12:30 p.m. - Reception at school’s gym featuring food and dances by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

DEC. MOINES
CATHOLIC LEADERS from around southern Iowa. Episodes can be found wherever you get your podcasts, or at Facebook.com/dmdioce.se.org.

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Saturday, Dec. 11 5:30 p.m. Rosary 6 p.m. Mass
CHRIST THE KING
Saturday, Dec. 11 Rosary 11 at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 10:30 a.m. Mass 11:30 a.m. Rosary with dancers and接收 Mass 3:15 p.m. Mass presided by Bishop William Joensen 4 p.m. Mass in English Reception with food, dances, representation of the apparitions 6 p.m. Rosary 11 a.m. Mass After Mass, there is a procession to the church 11:30 a.m. - Mass 12:30 p.m. - Reception at school’s gym featuring food and dances by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

ST. ANTHONY PARISH
Novena Dec. 3-11 at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 6 p.m. Rosary 7 p.m. Mass. After Mass, there is a procession to the hall and a reception Sunday, Dec. 12 7 a.m. Malambitas con Mariachi – Salon Portosol 8 a.m. Mass

WEST DES MOINES
SACRED HEART PARISH Sunday, Dec. 12 11 a.m. – Procession around the church 11:30 a.m. - Mass 12:30 p.m. - Reception at school’s gym featuring food and dances by Los Jóvenes Embajadores

Winter Feast Days
WHAT TO CELEBRATE & WHEN

December

25: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
1: Twelfth Night of Christmas / Epiphany Day
8: Epiphany Day
15: Annunciation
22: Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple
29: St. John the Baptist
30: Holy Family
31: Holy Innocents

A FANTASTIC SHOPPING EVENT
IOWA’S LARGEST ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
November 19-21

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

ADM. Just $8.00 (Children & senior free)
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North Parking Lot on ADM. Just $8.00
$8
FREE PARKING - Free Shuttle Service from
North Parking Lot on
Shuttle Bus Service from
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FREE PARKING - Free Shuttle Service from
Callahan Promotions, Inc.
Callahan Promotions, Inc. 563-652-4529

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10 Purchase undated Advance Tickets and For A Chance To Win $50 Gift Certificates, Visit Our Facebook Page at Callahan Promotions, Inc.
From AM station to a network, ICR positions for more growth

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Iowa Catholic Radio Network is celebrating 15 years of growth.

The network welcomed Executive Director Matt Willkom, who came to the station last February. A former seminarian with a master’s degree in pastoral theology, his background in radio and diocesan communication helps him see how the station could grow in new directions.

Fifteen years ago, under St. Gabriel Communications, Iowa Catholic Radio consisted of one station: KWKY 1150 AM. The best way to reach people now, Willkom said, is on the FM dial.

“Study after study has shown over 90 percent of radio listenership is on the FM dial,” he said. “In order for us to remain relevant and lay the groundwork for the next 15 years and beyond, we need to look at enhancing FM coverage in whatever way possible.”

“One way for the current network of Iowa Catholic Radio stations – 1150AM, 94.5FM, and 88.5FM – is to expand southwest by acquiring KLOX 90.9 FM in Creston.

“Through generous local support in the Creston area we were able to obtain that station,” Willkom said. “At 500 watts, the station covers rural communities. However, the station’s power could be increased to 100,000 watts, the largest FM station we could have in that area of Iowa.”

Advent Family Faith resources available

How do you talk to your kids about Advent?
Find dmdioocese.org/Advent2021 for a wealth of ideas and suggestions for little ones to teenagers.

The Diocese of Des Moines, in conjunction with the St. Joseph Educational Center, has created Advent family resources that offer hands-on activities, suggested conversation topics for the dinner table, and more.

“These simple ideas provide meaning to family traditions while incorporating prayer and acts of kindness,” said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

There are three parts to the resources:
- Living Advent provides how-to guides with opportunities for the whole family.
- Advent Faith Conversations offer a brief adult reflection and daily questions to spark family conversations of faith around the Advent wreath or dinner table.
- Additional resources include a blessing for the Advent wreath, a family prayer called Making Room for Jesus, Fostering Faith at Home suggests ways to live acts of love at home, a Jesse Tree Bible study guide, and more.

Greece and the Greek Isles
In the Steps of St. Paul, the Apostle
11 days: November 1-11, 2022
hosted by Rev. Robert E. Harris
All Saints Catholic Church
Visiting: Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Syros, Santorini, Delphi, Kalambaka, Thessaloniki
Including a 3-day cruise to the Greek Isles @ Turkey
$1979 PER PERSON FROM DES MOINES
(Air/land tour price is $3479 plus $520 government taxes/airline surcharges)

For information & a brochure, contact: Fr. Robert Harris: 515-265-3003 ext. 202 / Email: bharr7923126@aol.com

SPACE IS LIMITED AT THIS SPECIAL PRICE!!

Matt Willkom, who came to Iowa Catholic Radio last February, brings experience to the network as a diocesan communications director and program manager/producer at Spirit Catholic Radio Network.

Dias Festivos en el invierno
que celebrar y cuándo

Deciembre

5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Diciembre

11 – Viajamos fue: El regreso de Adviento a las 4 p.m.
12 – El Tercer Domingo de Adviento. Este es el día de la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Se requiere que las lecturas del día sean del tercer domingo de Adviento. HIMnos Marianos, oímos and se recomienda mencionar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la eucaristía.
19 – La fiesta de la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José.
26 – La fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción.
31 – La fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción.

Enero

1 – La fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción. Año nuevo es con la eucaristía de la Inmaculada Concepción.

Space is limited at this special price!!
Good ideas spread. The folks who use Connection Café in downtown Des Moines benefit from one such idea.

A member of the St. Vincent de Paul group at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines heard about another group that filled shoeboxes with personal care items and distributed them to the needy.

The local SVDP group adopted the idea and started saving shoeboxes. Bill Ehm, who headed the project, didn’t realize how well people would respond. "When you come up with an idea, you got to get out of the way," he said. "They just really jumped all over this."

Members gathered 15-17 personal care items ranging from gloves to warm socks, soap, toilet tissue, bus tokens and more. They filled 50-75 boxes and wrapped them with holiday gift-wrap for their first distribution in 2019. Included in the box was a small card that explained who the shoebox came from and what the St. Vincent de Paul conference does.

The group prepared another 50 boxes in the summer and prepared more for distribution this month, their third fall shoebox give away. "It’s been a real good project," Ehm said.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Anthony #330 gathered Oct. 24 at St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs for its 100th anniversary one year afterward.

The court began on Oct. 31, 1920.

Current officers of the court welcomed CDA Regent Rita Carlson, CDA Secretary Julie Marlow, Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh, chaplain Deacon John Fleming (St. Patrick), and former chaplain Father Chuck Kottas (St. Peter). Thirty-two members gathered to observe the occasion.

Four Catholic Daughters with the longest membership were honorees, receiving a purple amethyst CDA rosary and a certificate. They are: Evelyn Seidler of Denton, Texas, member since Nov. 6, 1955; Josephine Goeser of Council Bluffs, a member since Nov. 3, 1957; Marcella Lee of Bradenton, Florida, a member since Nov. 18, 1967; and Mary Alice Wickham of Council Bluffs, an active member in the court since Nov. 2, 1969. Wickham has given 52 years of charitable and prayerful work to the court.

The court serves all the Catholic parishes of Council Bluffs, St. Albert School, and nearly all the charitable organizations of the city. The reception was held to honor Wickham and the hundreds who have come before. Carol Hollenbeck is the Court St. Anthony #330 Regent.

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Thinking about priesthood?

Bishop William Joensen is offering a unique opportunity Dec. 17-19 for men who are high school seniors or older and thinking about priesthood. Come to Bishop’s Discernment Retreat and learn more about what discernment is and what life as a diocesan priest is like. Email Vocations Director Father Ross Parker at vocations@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5050 for more information.

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Plan now to apply for tuition assistance for 2022-2023

1) Choose the best Catholic school to fit your child’s needs... find them at https://www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/find-a-school-near-you

2) Complete your CTO application for tuition assistance at https://fairapp.com School code: 450 Password: cto450

Tuition Assistance Available!

The first qualification for families to receive tuition assistance is income. State law requires families to be at or below the following income guidelines. Once a family qualifies, they can receive tuition assistance based on their financial need.

*Family **Maximum Income** *Family **Maximum Income**
Size Size
2 $89,880 5 $124,160
3 $73,740 6 $142,920
4 $106,000 7*** $160,480

* Add $15,180 for each additional dependent

3) Upload your tax return online at the end of your CTO application

Applications for tuition assistance begin February 1st

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Parish musician retires after 70 years of service

By Kathy Graeve
Contributing Writer

Wilhelmina (Willy) Eckrich played the piano and organ for St. Patrick Church in Neola for more than 70 years before retiring this past September.

Eckrich began playing when she was 14 years old, having learned to play the piano from her high school sweetheart, Louis Eckrich, and they raised a family in the parish where she herself had been baptized. He would help her put the song numbers up every Saturday night when she played the keyboard for Mass and helped where needed.

The number of weekend and daily Masses she served, the weddings and funerals, prayer services and more are countless. The parish is grateful and celebrated Eckrich’s many years of dedicated service at a Saturday evening Mass and at the fall Staley’s Chicken Dinner where she was surrounded by family and friends. Honoring her were keyboard artist Ronn Keramer and vocalist Heather Turner, who performed “Servant Song” in her honor.

Each note she played was surrounded by family and friends. Honoring her were keyboard artist Bonnie Kramer and vocalist Heather Turner, who performed “Servant Song” in her honor.

“Church isn’t really complete without music,” she said.

Anyone wishing to send a card or prayer to Eckrich can address it to her in care of St. Patrick Church, 311 3rd St., Neola, Iowa 51559.

Women’s conference focuses on family

Remain strong in praying for your family, said speakers at the Iowa Catholic Radio Women’s Conference on Oct. 14.

“Sometimes, we’re thinking why isn’t God talking to me, and the Lord is saying I’ve been talking to you and I’ve been hearing you. You need to get a little closer so you can hear what I’m saying,” said Barbara Heil.

Kathleen Beckman, author of A Family Guide to Spiritual Warfare, said she sees a need to focus on the domestic church.

“Never give up, even if you’re the only person in your family still walking with the Lord,” she said. “You are the person God chose to be the vessel of faith.”

There are challenges and obstacles put in the way of living a faithful life, she said.

“If you believe that you’re going to draw close to God, you want to develop a prayer life, you want to develop a sacramental life, if you think you’re going not to do that without any resistance, you’re wrong,” she said.

But spiritual leaders encourage us to maintain the course.

Pope Francis said families are the domestic church where Jesus grows, said Beckman.

And she referenced St. Teresa of Calcutta in encouraging families to focus on the need within: “Perhaps they’re not hungry for a piece of bread, perhaps our children, husband or wife are not naked or dispossessed, but are you sure there is no one there who feels unwanted or deprived of affection?”

Organizer Leslie Teeling was pleased with the turnout.

“The subject matter was timely for a lot of people,” she said. “We had really good positive feedback.”

The event gave women something to think about as the pandemic continues.

“I think that people felt that there was something they could do about the distress they’re feeling with the power of prayer, and the power of reconciliation,” she said. “I think people walked away feeling they had some spiritual tools.”

Remaining faithful and taking part in the sacraments will strengthen individuals for their families and the broader community, Beckman said.

“That Eucharist we just received, that rosary we just said, it’s meant to affect change in us. They should see some growth in our virtue. We should not be acting the same after receiving Holy Communion or praying the rosary if we’re really internalizing those prayers, if we’re not just saying them with our lips, but living them in our hearts,” she said.

from the choir loft down stairs over several days to carry pipes a whole new organ,” she said. “We learn more in-depth things about the Bible,” Mike said, noting that it goes beyond memorizing Scripture verses.

“We’ve learned why the people did what they did. And we can see the parallels in the Old and New Testament and the Church today and how it’s all built on tradition. It’s a good time,” Mike continued. “There’s a lot of interaction at the Bible study.”

Everyone seems to agree that Father Kottas does an excellent job preparing notes and explaining things in a down-to-earth and easy-to-understand way.

“It makes me understand the world today and makes me understand human nature a little better,” Mike continued. “It makes me understand why Jesus was here and why he had to sacrifice and be crucified.”

Parishioners in attendance range from 30-somethings to 80-year olds. They enjoy gathering together for faith, fellowship, desserts and listening to Father Kottas.

“He’s a phenomenal teacher,” Rohling said. “He is very educated. And he studies it and works hard to present it in terms that we understand and also in a very pleasant [way].”

Longtime members Mike and Jean Thomas agree. “We learn more in-depth things about the Bible,” Mike said. “It’s a good time,” Mike continued. “There’s a lot of interaction at the Bible study.”

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“He’s a phenomenal teacher,” Rohling said. “We’re very, very fortunate that we have him at St. Peter. He treats all people the same – he doesn’t care if you’ve got a million bucks or nothing. He is an outstanding priest and he loves his people.”

Bible study is an opportunity to see everyone – especially those you often miss because of attending different Mass times. The sense of togetherness and community of ten feels like one, giant family, they agreed.

“Father Chuck has this unique ability [to reach people],” added Jean. “He knows every person in this parish, knows where their kids go to school, what they do, and he can re-member their names.

And so when Father Kottas speaks – you listen, Jean added, because it’s like a family friend is filling you in on something you want to know.

People often walk away feeling confident and equipped to share what they’ve learned with others, added Mike. The Bible study has enabled him to be a better witness to his faith. Mike notices it most at Legends, a local restaurant where he’s a breakfast regular. He and fellow Catholics and non-Catholics alike share in food, but also thoughtful discussion about faith, religion and politics.

“And [knowing the Bible] helps you to keep on the narrow and straight path and hopefully you get yourself into heaven,” Mike concluded.
Milestone marriages honored

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

How do you make a marriage last?
Monte Clark, of St. Anne Parish in Logan, says it all comes down to sharing everything 50-50. His wife of 64 years, Joan, added, “He never leaves without kissing me goodbye. Never.”
The Clarks were among 61 couples celebrating landmark anniversaries across the diocese with Bishop William Joensen at Masses at St. Anne, St. Mary in Red Oak and St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

Ace and Mary Schrunk, of St. Patrick Parish in Missouri Valley say the key to their 57-year marriage continues to be communication.
“One thing you do have to do, you have to talk,” said Ace. “If you don’t talk about things you aren’t going to make it.”
The Schrunks met at a dance and got engaged just three months later. His brother said it wouldn’t last; they needed more time to think about it.
“We said we thought about it and here we are,” Mary said. They got married, welcomed four children into the world and now look forward to reaching 60 years of marriage in just three years.
Bishop Joensen said love requires a deep faith and trust.
“To grasp what love asks of us is a profound brand of faith and trust that can’t be download- ed or accessed from an app,” he said. “Love’s demands must be disclosed in a life lived patient- ly, dutifully and in collaboration with the Holy Spirit. It entails a form of poverty of spirit, if not material poverty, that allows God’s abundance to be revealed.”

At the Mass at St. Anne Church, Merle and Theresa Knel, of St. Patrick Parish in Missouri Valley, celebrated 67 years of marriage. Among all three Masses across the Diocese, a total of 2,870 years of marriage were honored. The celebrations were for anyone celebrating 1, 25, 50 or more years of marriage.

“Talk about a prophetic counter-cultural witness in a time when enduring commitment is more rare and hence, more preciou- s than bitcoin,” said the bishop.

“On behalf of the Church of the Diocese of Des Moines, as part of God’s harvest, we say thank you and congratulations,” he said. “May God continue to grant you many years and may you continue to inspire young people and not-so-young people to desire the sacrament that leads all spousal lives up the ladder to heaven and also inspires us to see and be seen by God as you are, saints-in-the-making and citizens of the kingdom of God.”

Photo by Adam Storey
Couples with milestone anniversaries were honored at a Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Oct. 30.

Weekly Mass in Extraordinary Form
allowed to continue at St. Anthony

After prayerful discern- ment, Bishop William Joensen will allow St. Anthony Catholic Church in Des Moines to contin- ue its weekly Latin Mass using the 1962 Missale Romanum, for- merly referred to as the Extraordi- nary Form.
Bishop Joensen sent a letter to the pastor, Monsignor Frank Chioldo, and Father Guthrie Dolan on Sept. 21 explaining his decision, which is in accord with Pope Francis’ apostolic letter Tra- ditionis Custodes.

Pope Francis revised rules on when the 1962 Missale Romanum could be used. The Holy Father was responding to perceived discord and division manifested in some parts of the Church that was attributed to the use of the 1962 Missale Roma- num. The new norms affirm that it is the diocesan bishop, who guards the liturgical life of the Diocese and can authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his Diocese.

Bishop Joensen’s letter noted that in the Diocese of Des Moines, there has not been con- spicious liturgical discord and division.

“St. Anthony Parish has demonstrated a great devotion both to the sacred liturgy and to communion with the greater Church in the weekly Sunday celebration of Mass according to the 1962 Missale Romanum,” he wrote. “For the good of the faith- ful who attend that Mass, I desire this means of spiritual edification for all participants – lay and clerg- ily alike – to continue.”

The St. Anthony Mass that uses the 1962 Missale Roma- num is celebrated on Sundays at 5 p.m. The Mass can be celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation and other feast days, but not during the Easter Triduum.

“The Diocese is blessed with diversity of liturgical styles and expression, yet remains unit- ed in our adherence to the same liturgical rite,” wrote Bishop Joensen.

“We witness the fruit of deepened communion, rather than division, among us.”

Part-Time Director of Music Ministry

St. Mary’s Church in Pella, IA is a vibrant Catholic parish of 300 households seeking to hire a part-time Director of Music Ministry. This position is respon- sible for planning and coordinating the parish’s music ministry in order to facilitate the full and active par- ticipation of the assembly in the liturgical life of the Church. Candidates must have a high degree of profi- ciency in the use of the piano, an understanding of the Catholic Liturgy and the role of music in the Liturgy, familiarity with a wide range of music genres from traditional to contemporary and “Praise and Worship,” be a capable choir director, and possess good organi- zation and people skills. Hours will vary depending on the liturgical season, averaging approximately 10-20 hours a week. Compensation to be based on candidate’s experience and educational background. Position must be filled by March, 2022. Please mail cover letter, resume, and references to: Director of Music Ministry Search Committee, St. Mary’s Church, 726 218th Place, Pella, IA 50219.
Let’s GetPsyched

By Deacon Randy Kiel

The yearning of love

sult of man’s fall from grace through sin, thus, hatred is not contingent upon itself, but is contingent upon its source - sin. Similarly, we can look at love. Love is not contingent upon itself but is contingent upon its source - God.

Love exists because of God. He created us in his image therefore we humans are the “lovingest” creatures of all his creation.

Love is not just love itself, but rather love is God and God is love.

The only thing or creature that has ever existed on this earth that was not contingent to something else was the person of God as man, Jesus Christ.

While we can see the innumerable ways that love is expressed and demonstrated among us, what love is even more than we even saw evidenced.

Love is more than feelings of affection, instant romance. It is a reality TV competition where someone is forced to decide and be given to. Love yearns to be given away.

Love is more than we as humans can ever express.

If we think carefully, we might even remember a time when the love inside felt so large and so strong that it could have burst.

When we are totally yielded to the will of God, it is then that we know the truth of love. Love is not simply a noun but a proper noun. It is and was firstly a “who” before it was ever a “what”. Love is God. Love is Jesus. He is yearning to give his life away for the sake of all of us. And he did!

Love is giving a compliment when feeling the urge to criticize. Love is healing the wounded when feeling the urge to wound.

Love is extending patience when tolerance feels urgent, but ultimately unimportant things, we are able to be patient to each other, and attuned to God.

This retreat was Kara’s idea, but I’m so grateful that she signed us up! My prayer for the couples of the Diocese of Des Moines is that we’ll all regularly make time for our marriages. I’m confident that it will bear great fruit now, and eternally!

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

Her new book “Grow Slow” and accompanying Bible study explore this in depth, drawing on the wisdom she’s gleaned from farming.

“This is the important work of cultivation – learning to trust the One who is in charge of the growth,” Jennifer writes. “If you’re like most people, you want things faster, sooner, easier. But life isn’t a reality TV competition where someone is suddenly discovered in front of a live audience. As I reflect on God’s cultivating work in me, I believe that the quality of the fruit I produce is directly proportional to the time God takes to shape me.”

I want God to take his time shaping me. I’m working on the patience and perspective that make way for perseverance. I’m trying to see red lights as yellow lights, to hear “no” as “not yet.” Maybe something better is around the corner. If I’m happy, if I’m ready, when the time is right.

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

Rejection letters and the spiritual life

Twentysomething

By Christina Capcechi

Pitching the show was no easier. Prospective investors and actors found the plotline implausible. Then the coronavirus brought us closer to our mortality and underscored the public-health repercussions of the wealth gap.

“The world has changed,” Dong-hyuk told The Wall Street Journal. “All of these points made the story very realistic for people compared to a decade ago.”

Dong-hyuk is now in good company, among literary superstars like Louise May Alcott, Agatha Christie and J.K. Rowling, all of whom faced repeated rejection early in their careers.

I’ve been thinking about Dong-hyuk’s story as “Squid Game” continues to make news. It’s hard to admit, but I don’t possess the same kind of persistence. An exciting new creative pursuit presented itself last spring that, by its nature, has a slowTimeline. Not 10 years, but much longer than my typical writing. And I’ve let it slide to a back burner that conveniently allows denial and good intentions to keep simmering.

The church teaches that there are four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Fortitude is defined as forming habits with courage – bravely press on. It’s a virtue we sorely lack in this Insta-age: Instagram for an instant telegram, Instacart for an instant grocery cart. We expect same-day deliveries, immediate results, click and procure. Anything slower feels irrelevant. Isn’t that a shame?

Because spiritual growth doesn’t happen on the first try. Good things are worth waiting and at waiting. For them mean more.

Jennifer Dukes Lee, a Christian writer from Iowa, is reminding me of this. Her message feels like a permission slip to drop out of the hustle culture: “You were not made for speed.”
By Udaya Kahabdi, MD

When I was around 10 years old, my Dad made me read a book with messages of wisdom. I remember two of them vividly.

One: There were two neighboring families. One family was having a big party, a lavish celebration because the head of the household got promoted to a new job. No bounds to their happiness and joy!

In contrast, there was extreme sadness in the household next door because the bread winner was fired from the same job that the neighbor was promoted to.

Thus, the extreme happiness in one family was compensated by the extreme sorrow in the other. Where is the perfect happiness?

Two: There were two families. Arrival of a newborn baby into a family is a very joyous occasion. But when the family is extending one more lady, it is an extremely joyful occasion.

A huge celebration! At the same time, friends next door were preparing to bury the head of the household. Once again, where is the perfect happiness?

On a personal note, myself and Mary were abundantly happy and joyful when our older son was born. But we never forgot that this very joyous occasion neutralized the extreme sadness of yester year when we had lost a beautiful baby girl.

I believe even Jesus wept with both sadness and happiness. There is no flowering spring without gray winter, no sunrise without dark of the night, no flowering spring without gray winter, no both sadness and happiness. There is no flowering spring without gray winter, no sunrise without dark of the night.
Bishop Zinkula and deacon candidates go to the U.S.-Mexico border

By Barb Arland-Fye
The Catholic Messenger

Thirteen-hundred miles from home, a group from the Diocese of Davenport on a border immersion trip encountered a young woman with two kids and a car flat tire in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

The group, which included five deacon candidates, their formation director, diocesan bishop and immersion experience leaders, stopped to change the tire.

The unexpected encounter reinforced the purpose of the lows’ journey: to witness life on the border, to learn about the experience of migrants, and to better minister to migrants back home.

“It is one thing to hear their stories, but it is quite another to see their experience of migrants, and to better understand the complex migration reality and of the community,” said Bishop Thomas Zinkula.

Zinkula added her creative and technical expertise to the campaign.

The five deacon candidates — Kent Ferris, Ryan Burchecht, Andy Hardigan, Gary Johnsen and Andrew Reif — began and ended each day with prayer and theological reflection with their formation director, Frank Agnoli, and Bishop Zinkula.

They met with Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the El Paso Diocese, a vocal advocate of immigrants and refugees who most recently opened up space at the chancery for Afghan refugees.

When Ferris asked Bishop Seitz about opening up the chancery to refugees, the bishop responded, “Why not?”

The deacon candidates visited a Catholic church in El Paso just blocks from the border bridge that connects El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. They learned stunning details of prejudice against Mexicans in the first half of the 20th century. They met with Bishop Ap. Guadalupe Torres Campos of the Ciudad Juarez Diocese to hear his assessment of the border situation.

Clergy and lay people who work with migrants spoke with passion and knowledge about the difficult lives of people in transit.

The dioceses organized a border Mass to “remind us, misisonary disciples of Christ, that we are primarily called to live in communion,” the El Paso Diocese’s Facebook page states. “For our Catholic faith, there is no ‘us and them,’ but one family of God.”

The campaign origins

Kent Ferris, social action and Catholic Charities director for the Diocese of Davenport originally had the idea of working with faith leaders to encourage vaccination after conversations with the University of Iowa Medical Center staff and Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

The group decided to apply for a Catholic Cares grant to assist with the campaign.

The goal of the campaign, explained Ferris, is to raise awareness among rural Iowans about the vaccine by offering real human experiences that are calm and thoughtful on a topic that has become controversial.

“Our messages are grounded in the Catholic and Christian belief in the common good,” Ferris explained. “For those who still have questions about whether or not getting the vaccine will make a difference, we want people to know that their friends and neighbors across Iowa believe in the vaccine … It’s not only a personal decision, but a decision for the families, customers and friends of our businesses.

Meléndez shared that she was encouraged to receive the vaccine to continue her volunteer work in local schools. The college student said she also wanted to protect the health of her family, including her father, Ricardo Meléndez, who has some health issues.

“Mi fe no está en las vacunas, está en la fe,” she proclaimed.

[Continued from page 1]

Iowa residents vaccinated lag behind the state’s urban centers. As a result, Catholics are slightly above the average when compared to other segments, yet some Catholics still struggle with the decision.

Campaign origins

Kent Ferris, social action and Catholic Charities director for the Diocese of Davenport originally had the idea of working with faith leaders to encourage vaccination after conversations with the University of Iowa Medical Center staff and Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

The group decided to apply for a Catholic Cares grant to assist with the campaign.

“We realized that might be something the four bishops would be interested in together. They knew they had put together their comment statement last December. All of them were very enthusiastic to project and encourage people getting the vaccine with the understanding that some people would decline. We thought we could position the campaign to contribute to this effort and help the voices of regular Iowans to be heard.”

“The idea be it is that the campaign would move a few people who are resistant for various reasons and nudge them along to get the vaccine and possibly get the vaccine for their family. The bishops were pretty clear, encouraging everyone to do what they believe is a positive for the common good,” he said.

“Why not?”

The diocese formation class for the Diocese of Davenport accompanied their bishop and diocesan staff members to the U.S.-Mexico border to learn about faith-based programs and complex migration issues.

Aromas de Acción de Gracias

Continued from page 2

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El Beato Carlo y San José se unen al resto de los san
tos de Dios alrededor del mundo. Tenemos el privilegio de contarles entre los miembros del hogar de nuestra familia de fe, de que ellos intensifican el rico aroma de nuestra celebración y nuestra capacidad de ser agraciados por lo que Dios nos ha concedido en su Hijo. Jesús nos acompaña mis
terio y se unió a la compañía de todos los que participen.

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tos de Dios alrededor del mundo.
As international climate discussion goes on, local parish studies ‘Laudato Si’

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

From Scotland to Iowa, climate change mitigation is at the top of people’s minds.

World leaders gathered earlier this month in Scotland to negotiate ways to cut greenhouse gas and find other ways to protect the earth from destructive climate patterns.

At St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola, about a dozen parishioners, with a copy of Laudato Si’, began a “Cyclical on Becoming Proactive in Parish Life” Ministries group. The group’s meeting was held Sept. 17, where members read a chapter or two in the encyclical. They then broke those present into small groups to discuss reflection questions.

One part of the encyclical that motivates her says: “A seven-year journey that will see our communities committed in different ways to becoming totally sustainable, in the spirit of integral ecology,” the pope said.

Keep up with the latest news and inspirational stories in the Diocese of Des Moines at dmdioce.se.org.

As international climate discussion goes on, local parish studies ‘Laudato Si’

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

The Vatican’s seven-year-plan to widen the reach of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical on the environment is just what the church needs in a time of global climate change in the mind of Father Emmet Farrell, a retired priest living in San Diego.

“The church is very serious about what we need to do to address climate change,” Father Farrell, volunteer director of the Creation Care Ministry of the Diocese of San Diego, said of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform that launched Nov. 14.

The pope introduced the initiative in a video May 25, asking the world to join a new global grassroots movement to create a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

The Vatican is launching an initiative in a video May 25, asking the world to join a new global grassroots movement to create a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.

The ambitious San Diego diocese joined the pope’s initiative because failing to act to stop global warming,” Bresnan said.

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A new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our lifestyles, our relationship with the resources of the earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life,” he said.

Father Farrell is working on the effort with a team of lay leaders. The diocesan ministry has developed a “Creation Care Action Plan” that includes numerous actions – from the simple to more complex – that individuals, parishes and wider society can take to promote sustainability.

The ambitious San Diego plan falls in line with the diocese’s aspiration of building an integrated global effort to promote creation for future generations. The Vatican platform is meant to help those who want to increase their commitment to bringing the encyclical, Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” to life by promising to carry out a set of actions for seven years.

Father Farrell told Catholic News Service Nov. 11 his diocese joined the pope’s initiative because failing to act to stop global warming is not an option.

“Laudato Si’ is a spiritual and moral document. It’s not political,” he said.

Laudato Si’ Action Platform set to integrate encyclical into church life

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The pope introduced the initiative in a video May 25, asking the world to join a new global grassroots movement to create a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.

Coordinated through the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, the platform is “a seven-year journey that will see our communities committed in different ways to becoming totally sustainable, in the spirit of integral ecology,” the pope said. We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our lifestyles, our relationship with the resources of the earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life,” he said.

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