Capital campaign gets the green light
Launch held until pandemic nears its end

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Bishop William Joensen has approved a proposed capital campaign after research showed 72 percent of those polled would be willing to support one.

The project won’t begin in parishes, though, until the Diocese of Des Moines nears the end of the pandemic and the faithful can gather for celebration of the Eucharist without some of the restrictions currently in place.

The Steier Group, a Catholic fundraising and development firm in Omaha spent three months last fall getting feedback from more than 1,200 Catholics via personal interviews, mail and online surveys.

Potential campaign goals tested included establishment of an endowment to provide more financial aid to Catholic school families, additional funding for the Diocese’s growing number of seminarians, priest retirement, and faith formation, as well as support for local parish needs. The Steier Group reported its findings to Bishop Joensen and key groups of diocesan leadership in late November 2020.

After many weeks of discernment, and in consultation online. The world stopped in its tracks. With necessary restrictions on public gatherings in order to keep the most vulnerable safe, the Church had to find new ways to celebrate Christ’s light in the widening darkness. And find the way it did. One year later, it’s plain to see how much the people of the Des Moines diocese have grown.

Missing Mass and each other
Bishop William Joensen suspended publicly celebrated Mass and sacraments while keeping churches open for prayer, small intimate religious gatherings such as weddings, baptisms, and reconciliation.

Parishioners realized going to Mass was more than a habit. It was something they loved. Last spring, Bree Townsend, of St. Mary of Nazareth Parish in Des Moines, began the longest stretch she’s ever experienced without receiving the Eucharist.

When weekday Masses resumed for the public last summer, Townsend and her four

Continued on page 3

The Steier Group

Launch held until pandemic nears its end

By Anne Marie Cox
Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writers

Think for a moment about what you were doing a year ago today. The World Health Organization had declared a COVID-19 pandemic just days earlier.

Schools closed. Sports ceased. Some businesses shuttered and others shifted

Continued on page 8

Military chaplain and devoted priest dies

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Retired diocesan priest Father James Kleffman of Council Bluffs, who served both his country and parishioners, passed away Feb. 16.

Father Kleffman was the youngest of 10 children and born on a farm near Portsmouth, though the family moved to Council Bluffs while he was still young.

Father Kleffman graduated from St. Francis High School in Council Bluffs in 1952 and attended one year of college at Creighton University before entering seminary at Loras College in Dubuque, where he became good friends with fellow seminarian Monsignor Larry Beeson, who called his friendship “a blessing.”

Monsignor Beeson visited Father Kleffman a variety of
times over the years, including in Washington, D.C. and Germany, where he was stationed as a military chaplain.

Monsignor Beeson was always impressed by Father Kleffman’s strength and faith. His priestly service included some tough experiences, including shutting down his home parish of St. Francis Xavier in Council Bluffs, which was demolished shortly thereafter.

It also included a very traumatic experience while serving in Vietnam, he recalled.

“He was called upon to give the sacrament to a dying soldier, and it was his nephew,” he said. “That was very difficult for him. I don’t know how he did it.”

Father Kleffman’s niece, Lori Mages, recalled the death of her older brother Billy, 19, in Vietnam.

“He gave Last Rites to my brother a month away from his 20th birthday,” Mages said. “And Father Jim was just 35.”

Father Kleffman escorted Billy’s body home.

“He never really talked about how difficult it was to face us when he got here until the last few years,” Mages added. “[Father Kleffman] went to a lot of different camps – he wasn’t just stationed in one camp.

“I have all of my brother’s letters [from Vietnam] and I’ve read them all,” she continued. “And in every one he always mentioned Father Jim [and whether they had seen him or spent time together]. One of the last pictures we have of my brother Billy is with Father Jim. He was always very avid with a camera, and we always appreciated having those last pictures of him.”

His faith was relentless – no matter what he dealt with, it was absolutely a total trust,” Mages said.

Father Kleffman received military honors at his funeral.

“The faith was relentless – no matter what he dealt with, it was absolutely a total trust,” Mages said.

Father Kleffman was a kind, giving “rock of faith” for their very large family, she added.

“I always remember that he would pray sitting with his hands open to the sky, anxious to receive God’s grace,” Monsignor Beeson added.

Father Kleffman attended major seminary at Mount St. Bernard Seminary, and was ordained to be a priest for the Diocese of Des Moines on June 5, 1960. His assignments from 1960-1968 included: Atlantic, Earling, West Des Moines and a teaching assignment at Dowling Catholic High School. In 1968, he entered the United States Army Chaplaincy, serving at Fort Riley, Kansas; Tay Ninh, Vietnam; and Bremerhaven, Germany until 1972. Returning to civilian life, Father Kleffman served in Des Moines and Council Bluffs.

In 1979, he returned to the Army Chaplaincy and was assigned to Worms, Germany and later Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Camp Humphreys in South Korea; and Fort Ord, California.

He returned to civilian life in 1995, serving parishes in Missouri Valley, Red Oak, and Iomoge until his retirement in 2003.
A death usually signifies the end of a life. But if Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.

If Lejeune can be said to have lived his own life twice, it could be said the end of his life has just begun. Lejeune, who had devoted his life to discovering and fighting Trisomy 21, came forward during a celebration on March 21: the tenth annual World Down Syndrome Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. The day paid tribute to Joseph Lejeune, who brought attention to Down Syndrome. The enduring goal is to prolong the life of persons with Down Syndrome.
Continued from page 1

Two seniors among candidates for top honor

Two Catholic school high school seniors are among 4,500 candidates nationally for the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Anna Schewe, of St. Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs, and Aileen (Lele) Nigg, of Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, were selected from nearly 3.6 million students who are expected to graduate from U.S. high schools this year.

Candidates are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities. Inclusion in the program is one of the highest honors for graduating high school seniors.

Each year, up to 161 U.S. Presidential Scholars are chosen. A panel of educators will select about 600 finalists in early April and finalists will be announced in May.

Schewe is a parishioner at Corpus Christi Parish/Carter Lake. Nigg is a parishioner at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines.

Seminarians take next step toward ordination

Seminarian Luis Cabrera was instituted as Lector on Feb. 9 at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Cabrera was one of 16 theology seminarians installed as Lectors, the second of four distinct rites that lead up to ordination to the priesthood.

Seminarian Michael Mahoney received the Ministry of Acolyte on March 7. Mahoney is in his second year of formation at the Pontifical North American College at the Vatican. He has two more years before being ordained to the priesthood.

Capital campaign will begin when pandemic ends

The Planning Study, a two-year, $5 million study conducted by the Steier Group, has led to the formation of a Clergy Committee, which will determine and finalize policies and procedures for the campaign. The campaign was launched in mid-January and will result in recommendations for Bishop Joensen to review and approve.

There are in favor of a campaign, will make a personal gift

- 153 personal interviews with clergy and laity
- 1,038 surveys were completed via, mail, online and virtual listening sessions
- 61% are in favor of a campaign
- 72% will make a personal gift
- 185 respondents indicated that they would assist with personal solicitations of gifts on behalf of the campaign
- 66 clergy and lay leaders respondents indicated that they would serve on a diocesan-level clergy or campaign committee
Legislative roundup from the Capitol

By Tom Chapman
Contributing Writer

During the next couple of weeks, the House and Senate will be focusing on debating bills passed by committee.

Housing
The House Judiciary Committee passed HF 442, a bill which would provide additional legal protections for mobile home park residents. An amendment was approved which makes the bill just a blank placeholder for future negotiations as they work something out.

Education
The same committee also passed a bill regarding fundamental parental rights (HF 714). The bill is intended to codify current case law in Iowa that the right to direct the care and education of a child is a parent’s fundamental right.

HSB 240 passed the House Education Committee. The bill doubles the tuition and fee scholarship program, HSB 243, passed by committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

The ICC continued to lobby against SF 492 and HF 754, which would but unemployment insurance benefits for bigger families and institute a one-week waiting period for benefits. A new fiscal note predicts that the one-week waiting period itself would keep more than $23 million in benefits from workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own.

The House passed and sent to the Senate several bills supported by the ICC.

• HF 452, which would provide authorities with additional resources to complete investigations of trafficking in humans.

• HF 318, providing a state-funded preschool opportunity for “younger” five-year-olds.

The Iowa Senate has passed and sent to the House SF 451, setting up a task force on human trafficking.

• SF 522, outlawing elder abuse in the areas of theft, consumer fraud and neglect. The thinking on this is to protect adults who are made vulnerable by age, much as we do children.

• SF 577 passed the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

• SF 541, providing a state-funded preschool opportunity for “younger” five-year-olds. HF 294, which requires insurance companies to pay the same rate for a prescription. A pharmacist is required to check a prescription accurately by the patient. It might be tough to adequately assess a patient’s risk.

The Iowa Senate has passed and sent to the Senate several bills supported by the ICC.

• SF 451, setting up a task force on human trafficking.

St. Anthony Catholic Church in Des Moines is on its final leg of a journey toward being added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The parish awaits word from the National Park Service to decide if St. Anthony Church can carry the historic title.

St. Anthony Parish seeks the historic designation because of its design as a Lombardy Romanesque Revival church. Magr. Frank Chioldo spearheaded the effort.

The parish has long served the immigrant community. It has deep roots in the Italian community, having been started in 1906 as an Italian missionary church. Italian immigrants came to Des Moines in the early 1900s to work on the railroad. Today, the parish welcomes Hispanic immigrants.

The parish maintains a school that offers an innovative Spanish immersion program. Other properties in the diocese that are on the registry include: St. Patrick Church in Imogene, St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia, St. Patrick Church and rectory in Perry, the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines, St. Ambrose Cathedral and rectory in Des Moines, the Catholic Pastoral Center in Des Moines, St. Patrick Church in Irish Settlement and St. Peter Church and rectory in Council Bluffs.

Education Committee. The program would offer state-funded scholarships for some public school students to attend a nonpublic school. A diverse number of parents were present to speak in favor of the bill. Two students from Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines also did a great job speaking to legislators.

What the Legislature finally passes regarding parental choice in education has not yet been decided.

The Iowa House has passed and sent to the Senate several bills supported by the ICC.

• HF 452, which would provide authorities with additional resources to complete investigations of trafficking in humans.

• HF 318, providing a state-funded preschool opportunity for “younger” five-year-olds.

The House Education Committee passed HF 442, a bill which would provide additional legal protections for mobile home park residents. An amendment was approved which makes the bill just a blank placeholder for future negotiations as they work something out.

The same committee also passed a bill regarding fundamental parental rights (HF 714). The bill is intended to codify current case law in Iowa that the right to direct the care and education of a child is a parent’s fundamental right.

HSB 240 passed the House Education Committee. The bill doubles the tuition and fee scholarship program, HSB 243, passed by committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

The ICC continued to lobby against SF 492 and HF 754, which would but unemployment insurance benefits for bigger families and institute a one-week waiting period for benefits. A new fiscal note predicts that the one-week waiting period itself would keep more than $23 million in benefits from workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own.

The ICC is also working against HF 434, which would allow for over-the-counter access to contraceptives. The legislation will undercut the physician-patient relationship. Any prescription medication carries risks, which is why they require a prescription. A pharmacist is also relying on a questionnaire that may or may not be answered accurately by the patient. It might be tough to adequately assess a patient’s risk.

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

The bill doubles the tuition and fee scholarship program, HSB 243, passed by committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

The ICC continued to lobby against SF 492 and HF 754, which would but unemployment insurance benefits for bigger families and institute a one-week waiting period for benefits. A new fiscal note predicts that the one-week waiting period itself would keep more than $23 million in benefits from workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own.

The Iowa Senate has passed and sent to the House SF 451, setting up a task force on human trafficking.

• SF 522, outlawing elder abuse in the areas of theft, consumer fraud and neglect. The thinking on this is to protect adults who are made vulnerable by age, much as we do children.

• SF 577 passed the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

The House Education Committee passed HF 442, a bill which would provide additional legal protections for mobile home park residents. An amendment was approved which makes the bill just a blank placeholder for future negotiations as they work something out.

The same committee also passed a bill regarding fundamental parental rights (HF 714). The bill is intended to codify current case law in Iowa that the right to direct the care and education of a child is a parent’s fundamental right.

HSB 240 passed the House Education Committee. The bill doubles the tuition and fee scholarship program, HSB 243, passed by committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

The ICC continued to lobby against SF 492 and HF 754, which would but unemployment insurance benefits for bigger families and institute a one-week waiting period for benefits. A new fiscal note predicts that the one-week waiting period itself would keep more than $23 million in benefits from workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own.

The ICC is also working against HF 434, which would allow for over-the-counter access to contraceptives. The legislation will undercut the physician-patient relationship. Any prescription medication carries risks, which is why they require a prescription. A pharmacist is also relying on a questionnaire that may or may not be answered accurately by the patient. It might be tough to adequately assess a patient’s risk.

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

The bill doubles the tuition and fee scholarship program, HSB 243, passed by committee. It provides the opportunity for grieving parents to receive a certificate of non-viable birth for a child who was born but not alive outside the womb.

The ICC continued to lobby against SF 492 and HF 754, which would but unemployment insurance benefits for bigger families and institute a one-week waiting period for benefits. A new fiscal note predicts that the one-week waiting period itself would keep more than $23 million in benefits from workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own.

The ICC is also working against HF 434, which would allow for over-the-counter access to contraceptives. The legislation will undercut the physician-patient relationship. Any prescription medication carries risks, which is why they require a prescription. A pharmacist is also relying on a questionnaire that may or may not be answered accurately by the patient. It might be tough to adequately assess a patient’s risk.

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.
Walk for clean water

The global pandemic has highlighted a critical need in parts of the world for access to clean water. To raise awareness of global water issues and to raise funds for the Sisters of St. Francis’ Sister Water Project, the sisters invite the public to “Walk for Sister Water” now through March 22, in honor of World Water Day on March 22.

The Sister Water Project was launched in 2006 by the Sisters of St. Francis and their associates to bring safe water to the villagers of Tanzania and Honduras. Here’s how the walk works: Dedicate time to walk the distance of 5K (3.1 miles) any time through March 22. This can be in a neighborhood, park, trail or even on a treadmill. It can be done all at once or over the course of several days. While walking, consider that this is the distance that some men, women, and children in parts of the world have to walk daily to obtain clean water.

After your walk, consider making a donation to the Sister Water Project by mail: 3390 Osfdbq.org/sisterwaterproject.

Donate to Bishop Wilosfdq.org/sisterwaterproject. at 9786 or leach@osfdbq.org. Visit www.dmdiocese.org for more information.

For more information, contact Sister Maureen Leach at 3390 Osfdbq.org/sisterwaterproject.

Impact on Catholic schools

In nearly half of the schools in our diocese, more than 50% of the student body receives CTO and those families rely on CTO to afford tuition. But what if CTO wasn’t available to those families?

What would happen if half the student body could no longer afford tuition and had to leave? What would happen to Catholic schools?

How can you help?

Donors can give online at CTOIowa.org or print a donation form and mail with a gift to the Catholic Tuition Organization, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Instructions for giving appreciated stock are also at CTOIowa.org.

Lauren Elliott is a staff member at the Catholic Tuition Organization.

Tax time is a good time to consider the CTO

In nearly half of the schools in our diocese, more than 50% of the student body receives CTO and those families rely on CTO to afford tuition. But what if CTO wasn’t available to those families?

What would happen if half the student body could no longer afford tuition and had to leave? What would happen to Catholic schools?

How can you help?

Donors can give online at CTOIowa.org or print a donation form and mail with a gift to the Catholic Tuition Organization, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Instructions for giving appreciated stock are also at CTOIowa.org.

Lauren Elliott is a staff member at the Catholic Tuition Organization.
Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

The following are parish Lenten fish fry dinners on Fridays during Lent until March 26 except where otherwise noted. All diners are drive through only unless otherwise noted.

Adair, St. John – 515-523-1943
Dinners are available Feb. 26, March 12 and 26 from 5-7 p.m.
Cost is $10 per meal. Please approach from the west through the alley north of the parish hall.
Alternate: shrimp

Adel, St. John – 515-993-4482
Dinners are available on Feb. 9, 26, March 5 and 26 from 5-7 p.m.
Cost is a free-will donation.
Alternate: grilled cheese sandwich

Ation, St. Edward - 641-782-5278
Dinners are available on March 5 and 19 at the Afton Community Center, 240 N. Douglas St., from 5:30-7 p.m. Drive in from the west side of the community center and pick up will be at the north door in the alley.
Cost is a free-will donation

Albosta, SS John & Paul - 515-967-3796
Dinners are available from 4:30 – 7 p.m. Suggested donation is $10 per meal. Teens will sell small bags of cookies for a free will offering to support Youth Ministry service trips.

Ankeny, Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart - 515-964-3038
Dinners are available on Feb. 26, March 12 and 26 from 5-7 p.m. Cost is a free will donation.
Alternate: grilled cheese

Atlantic, SS Peter & Paul – 712-245-4721
Dinners are available from 5-7 p.m. Cost is $10 per meal. Alternate: mac and cheese. Pie will be available for a free will donation.

Council Bluffs, Corpus Christi – 712-323-2916
Dinners are available on Feb. 19, March 5 and 26 from 4:30-7 p.m. Cost is a $10.

Creston, Holy Spirit – 641-578-2777

April 10 Saturday

DCCW Conference

The Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Spring Conference is open to all Catholic women for a virtual encounter to renew and refresh in these difficult times. Featured speaker is Barbara, a former Presbyterian and now a Catholic speaker who will talk on “Women of the Kingdom, Living as Daughters of God.” Bishop William Joensen will be joyful about the event. It will be a morning only event (9:30-11:30 a.m.) and it is free. Register on the diocesan website and a link will be sent to you to join us. This might be a great opportunity to have a watch party at your church hall or just tune in at home. Grab a cup of coffee or hot cocoa and enjoy the meeting with other Catholic women around the diocese. Register in advance for this - https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZfYqf-tqTJExZS mwMkDvSNvSbTeFVYA9y

April 16 Friday

Tear of Joy COUNCIL BLUFFS – Arrow Osborne, a former marine and Ohio policewoman, will share her story of Our Lady of the Tear of Joy at 5 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish. For more information, go to tearofjoy.net or call Kathy Graeve at 602-480-4730.

April 17 Saturday

Choosing Our Way NEOLA – Arrow Osborne will present his story of Our Lady of the Tear of Joy at St. Patrick Parish beginning at 6:30 p.m.

April 20 Tuesday

Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege

The Center for Social Ministry’s eight-week program awakens small groups to economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. The first half of the module introduces a framework for understanding and recognizing racial disparities in power and privilege.

April 23 Friday

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd AFTON – St. Edward Parish in Imogene at 2 p.m. Cost is a $10.

April 24 Saturday

Meeting/Register:  https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqf--tqTIjEtZS mwMkDvSNvSbTeFVYA9y

April 26 Saturday

Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will host “A Day of Renewal & Reformation.” Bishops William Joensen and Thomas Dorffel will bring messages of grace and renewal during this Women’s Spring Conference online. The event is free and open to all Catholic women. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZfVf-6gqv4EZT55y1oqTMW06Gy98qZm4Gy4

Walking the Stations of the Cross in Your Home: A Walk through Scripture and Tradition. You are invited for this weekend of prayer and reflection on the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and his Church so that they may focus on cultivating our roots in Christ and his Church. It is not open to the public due to the pandemic. The faithful are invited to watch the livestream through the parish’s social media or on its website, santojospehwincent.net. Find resources for the year’s celebration at dmdioce.org/resources/bishop-initiatives/year-of-st-joseph.

May 1 Sunday

A Family Rosary Retreat

The DCCW Spring Retreat Focus on Family Rosary. Registration is still open but filling fast for April’s Retreats or treat for high school seniors. All high school seniors of the Diocese are invited for this weekend of prayer focused on cultivating our roots in Christ and his Church so that they may focus on cultivating their roots in Christ and his Church that they can remain strong after high school. Go to dmdioce.org/radix for information and registration.

For more information on Lenten activities for families, prayer, fasting and service, go to dmdioce.org/Lent

Sessions 5-8 take a deeper dive into specific issues related to power and privilege.

The program is offered online from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, or to register, go to csm.desmoines.org.

April 23 Friday

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd AFTON – St. Edward Parish in Imogene at 2 p.m. Cost is $10.

April 24 Saturday

Meeting/Register:  https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqf--tqTIjEtZS mwMkDvSNvSbTeFVYA9y

April 26 Saturday

Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will host “A Day of Renewal & Reformation.” Bishops William Joensen and Thomas Dorffel will bring messages of grace and renewal during this Women’s Spring Conference online. The event is free and open to all Catholic women. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZfVf-6gqv4EZT55y1oqTMW06Gy98qZm4Gy4

Walking the Stations of the Cross in Your Home: A Walk through Scripture and Tradition. You are invited for this weekend of prayer and reflection on the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and his Church. It is not open to the public due to the pandemic. The faithful are invited to watch the livestream through the parish’s social media or on its website, santojospehwincent.net. Find resources for the year’s celebration at dmdioce.org/resources/bishop-initiatives/year-of-st-joseph.

May 1 Sunday

A Family Rosary Retreat

The DCCW Spring Retreat Focus on Family Rosary. Registration is still open but filling fast for April’s Retreats or treat for high school seniors. All high school seniors of the Diocese are invited for this weekend of prayer focused on cultivating our roots in Christ and his Church so that they may focus on cultivating their roots in Christ and his Church that they can remain strong after high school. Go to dmdioce.org/radix for information and registration.
Faithful grow closer to Jesus through St. Joseph

Last fall, when Betty Foxhoven’s mother was dying, Betty was in the middle of a 33-day process of consecrating her life to St. Joseph.

“She had a very peaceful death,” Foxhoven said of her 94-year-old mother. “I came back that night to my daily consecration to St. Joseph and finished on Nov. 1.”

Foxhoven, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Earling, is confident that the support and intercession of her parish’s patron saint helped her through that tough time.

“I have to say, I felt a closeness of St. Joseph during that time of my mother’s last days on earth and getting me through the grieving process,” she said. “Yep, I guess I kind of got hooked” on St. Joseph.

Foxhoven’s parish is among several that are offering a process to parishioners for consecration to St. Joseph. Pope Francis renewed interest in the foster father of Jesus when he declared this the Year of St. Joseph, that the faithful can do a consecration to Mary and St. Joseph because through them, one can grow closer to Jesus.

Vickie Shepherd, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines, was thrilled when her parish began a consecration.

“We’ve seen so many conversions through Mary in our family and with some of our friends, it’s just been amazing in the last year,” Shepherd said. “I’m excited to see what happens as we go through this consecration to St. Joseph.”

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis is kicking off a Year of the Family beginning March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

In Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis addressed the challenges families face, the love that exists within families, and pastoral care of families following two synods on the family held in 2014 and 2015.

The Diocesan Celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday Sunday, April 11th
Christ the King Catholic Church
5711 S.W. 9th Street
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy Chaplet: 3:00 p.m.
Mass at 3:30 p.m.

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

Celebrate in spirit
Bishop William Joensen will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph at 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Winterset. View the Mass on the parish’s social media or on its website saintjosephwinterset.net.

Year of the Family starts March 19

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis is kicking off a Year of the Family beginning March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

In Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis addressed the challenges families face, the love that exists within families, and pastoral care of families following two synods on the family held in 2014 and 2015.

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION - MOBILE BIDDING
$10K IN RAFFLE DRAWINGS
Visit dowlingcatholic.org/events or call Carolyn at 515.222.1095 for more information.

SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE BASH ONLINE BEGINNING AT $500.
Visit dowlingcatholic.org/events or call Carolyn at 515.222.1095 for more information.
What have we learned?

Ss. Peter and Paul, Atlantic

Above(l-r): Second grader Joseph Yock said, “I like learning about people from the Bible with my brother. There are fun activities and pictures to color. I also get to learn about first reconciliation and first communion.” His brother, kindergartner Jonathan, said, “I like the coloring pages and reading about people from the Bible.”

Left: Bennie and Gavin McLaren have been working on their faith lessons with their grandmother, Melinda McDermott, on Wednesday afternoons. The boys have enjoyed it and McDermott said, “It has been a good adventure for the boys and myself!”

Above: Eleven-year-old Olivia told her mother Beverly Ginther recently, “They were so quiet and reverent. We started a family rosary. It was just beautiful, and it was something new that we probably encountered.”

Right: “I do more spiritual reading. I spend about an hour each day. The times that I cry while doing my readings, I know God is closer to me then,” said Jan Divin.

“The McGrath family, of Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs, also missed their Sunday morning routine. So parents Neal and Kendall, and their children Tori, Karly and Daniel, created a new tradition.”

“As we actually would still get up on Sunday mornings and get ready, but then we’d go to our parents’ house and we’d go to a computer screen to watch Mass and have lunch afterwards,” said Kendall.

In the adjustments like these families made, Father Trevor Chicoine, diocesan director of the Worship Office, sees a “general appreciation of our faith more.”

“In many ways, prior to the pandemic, I think a lot of us were ‘box-punching’ Catholics. That is to say, we did what we needed to do to fulfill obligations,” he said. “Suddenly, we’ve been forced to choose — choose to engage with our faith, choose to practice. Nobody’s forcing us. Many folks have had to think about what will work for them, find what feeds them.”

“There’s definitely a certain reflectiveness that permeates us, which perhaps didn’t penetrate so finely before.”

“They say that as more people get vaccinated, they’re seeing more people appear at Mass. On a recent weekend, Monsignor Frank Chiodo saw more people at St. Anthony Church than the week prior. Deacon Randy Kiel, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, saw a larger crowd recently.

“It was wonderful!” he said.

Finding God in the silence

With choirs and congregations silenced and parishioners separated for their own safety, Catholics had to try harder to hear God speaking to them.

“One of the things I noticed was that gradual acceptance that we couldn’t escape or change the pandemic, so people had to gradually learn how to surrender and be in the midst of it,” said Kevin O’Donnell, spiritual director and co-director of Emmaus House.

“We were acknowledging our vulnerability and dependence on God. There was a deepening sense of trust in God,” he said.

In the silence and solitude people experienced, they could be “aware of God’s gentle voice guiding them,” O’Donnell said. “Gradually, people shifted from asking if the pandemic would end to listening to God and being present to how God is present to them right in the midst of it. Even in surprising ways — ways they might not have expected.”

Without the busyness of everyday life, people who visited with spiritual director Tom Green, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, struggled with a feeling that they should be praying more.

“I tried to help them see that there is not an increased expectation that we pray more during times like this, but that we pay attention in prayer to what’s stirring in us, whether it’s loss or confusion or doubt or even despair,” he said.

One question his own spiritual adviser recently asked: What will he miss about the pandemic?

“That’s a pretty powerful, insightful question,” Green said. “Most people are trying to get away from the pandemic, but there are some things that we probably encountered.”

Prayer became more prominent in many homes.

His four children, two nephews and a niece at his home, Joe Tallman, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, suggested they say a rosary together when the pandemic began.

“They are all praying this rosary with a candle on the dining room table. I had to take a moment to appreciate the gift it was to pray with them,” he said. “They were so quiet and reverent. We started a family rosary. It was just beautiful, and it was something new that we probably encountered.”

Seeing blessings in the cloud

Technology became a saving grace during the pandemic, keeping people employed, connecting family and friends, and helping the faithful attend Mass virtually. It allowed parishioners to reach people in new ways that are likely to stick around long after the pandemic ends.

Tech-savvy parishioners stepped up to help their pastors use smartphones or tablets to livestream Mass so people could worship via Facebook, YouTube and parish websites.

Kendall McGrath said her husband, Neal, is not in a faith tradition, but he’s now watching Mass online and has discovered some Bible study groups.

“It has been able to allow us to have those religious conversations,” she said. “We’re doing a Bible study right now that’s on the Gospel of Mark. That’s kind of cool that we were able to do that because of creating that tradition of finding things online.”

Green, the Holy Trinity spiritual advisor, and his wife,
The pandemic afforded the faithful an opportunity to revive the practice of spiritual communion, said Father Fabian Moncada, pastor of Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines.

Chad, did a rotation of watching Mass at five different parishes they have attended in the past: two local, one in California, one in Chicago and one in New York. "That’s a real joy," Green said. "It created not only a desire to return to Mass but to return to Mass at our home parish."

Leaders realized the importance of staying connected digitally for maintaining community and prayer. Digital connections facilitated the building of new relationships, too.

Diocesan-wide retreats were offered on Zoom, religious education and youth ministry sessions were held online, faith-sharing groups gathered while participants sat at their own kitchen tables, and training continued for pastoral leaders.

"What has been wonderful for these opportunities has been the cross-section of ages and participants from many different areas of the diocese," said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis. "It’s been fun to see people make new connections and build relationships with those they would have never made contact with normally.

Parishes now see a future ministry in livestreaming. They’re installing permanent streaming equipment and envisioning digital communication as a way to reach beyond parish boundaries.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines was not streaming at all before the pandemic. Now, the parish can’t imagine not streaming.

Fathers Ray McHenry and Mark McCready call it both a challenge and a benefit.

"It has enabled us to extend the Church’s reach beyond the building for parishioners who have not felt safe to return to Mass, for those in care facilities or in remote locations. That has translated to all our liturgical practices including weddings and funerals.

By making streaming more a permanent part of outreach, "we will not only survive post-pandemic, but thrive, by sharing God’s love and mercy to those who would never darken the doorstep of a church building," Gaffney said.

Staying strong in schools
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines paved the way for continuing education throughout the pandemic.

"The Catholic schools were, hands down, the leaders when the pandemic started. They knew what they were doing," said Joe Tallman, a parent and teacher at St. Pius X Catholic School in Urbandale.

"The pandemic has challenged all of us in new ways," said Schools Superintendent Donna Bishop. "We are grateful for the partnership that has been strengthened with faculty and parents in the efforts to work together in providing continuous learning for our students.

Sacred Heart Catholic School parents Laurie and Steve told the school, "I will never forget that gray Sunday when we could hardly believe this was all happening and there you were with smiles and hope and faith."

A parent of three children at St. Patrick Catholic School in Perry said, "St. Patrick School has been extraordinary with this difficult and confusing time ... The workload not only keeps my middle schoolers busy but motivated.

And parent Desiri Wilberding, who has a child at St. Pius X Catholic School in Des Moines, said, "I think that's something we might carry on into adulthood," Bree said. "We've had fun reading and discussing books as a family. It's been a highlight of the day.

When activities stopped last spring, Tallman and his wife, Jen, found they had time to reflect on what was important in life.

"We had fallen into the trap prior to the pandemic of dividing and conquering: I'll take the kids to this and you take the kids to that. We were split as a family. Along the way, the sacrifice was that family time," he said.

"That has changed. It will be the normal: to do some things together, this isn’t appreciation for time together as a family and time together as a married couple."

Rediscovering family time
When most schools and after-school activities closed, families found they had more time on their hands. Some managed to explore how they were spending their time and decided to make changes.

Bree Townsend, the St. Mary of Nazareth parishioner, and her husband, Brad, decided to homeschool their four boys, ages 7 to 11, throughout the pandemic.

"We never would have done this otherwise," she said.

The Townsend family even used their newfound time to start their own book club.

"I think that’s something we might carry on into adulthood," Bree said. "We’ve had fun reading and discussing books as a family. It’s been a highlight of the day.

When activities stopped last spring, Tallman and his wife, Jen, found they had time to reflect on what was important in life.

"We had fallen into the trap prior to the pandemic of dividing and conquering: I’ll take the kids to this and you take the kids to that. We were split as a family. Along the way, the sacrifice was that family time," he said.

"That has changed. It will be the normal: to do some things together, this isn’t appreciation for time together as a family and time together as a married couple."

Gathering to grieve
Throughout all the cancellations, the changes, and the improvisations, one sobering truth stands out: More than 530,000 Americans have died of COVID-19. Millions have suffered due to the loss of a loved one, but because of restrictions and distancing, their grief is incomplete.

"We have all had a collective loss. We have all suffered in some way — some much more than others," said Gaffney. He and Becky Eldredge, a spiritual director and author, are creating a program, to be shared nationwide, that teaches how to help people recover from pandemic-related trauma.

"Some experienced the loss of a loved one. Some lost their livelihood," Gaffney said. "Some employees carried the weight for many of us: those in health care, education, meat processing plants, grocery stores; those who protect us like police, firefighters, and EMTs.

"Some had to parent and work in the same place. Children lost access to friends and the love of learning. This is what we will try and help clergy and lay leaders with: how the Church can accompany others out of this trauma.

"Our faith has the answer."

When will things get back to normal?
COVID precautions will continue in the Diocese for the time being.

The faithful are encouraged to check with their parish to learn if reservations are required for Triduum and Easter services. This was required in many parishes for Christmas to allow for social distancing.

Masks are required on church property at least until Divine Mercy Sunday, when the Diocese will reconsider the rule. The decision is based on protecting our ability to celebrate Mass and the sacraments and to protect the common good, and is in accord with current public health recommendations.

Church distancing also is required.

Schools are in session. Staff are working on getting vaccinated. Staff at the Des Moines metro area Catholic schools have received their second vaccination.

"As the public health situation continues to improve, the Diocese will make adjustments to our COVID mitigation efforts, in consultation with medical experts and our regathering team," said Adam Storey, vice chancellor and a member of the regathering team of priests and laity of the Diocese.

As more people receive vaccinations and feel comfortable returning to church, there is an opportunity for Catholics to invite someone to come with them.

"Emerging from the pandemic will be an opportunity for renewal," Storey said. For the latest information, go to dmdioce.se.org/coronavirus.

The faithful are encouraged to check with their parish to learn if reservations are required for Triduum and Easter services. This was required in many parishes for Christmas to allow for social distancing.

Masks are required on church property at least until Divine Mercy Sunday, when the Diocese will reconsider the rule. The decision is based on protecting our ability to celebrate Mass and the sacraments and to protect the common good, and is in accord with current public health recommendations.

Church distancing also is required.

Schools are in session. Staff are working on getting vaccinated. Staff at the Des Moines metro area Catholic schools have received their second vaccination.

"As the public health situation continues to improve, the Diocese will make adjustments to our COVID mitigation efforts, in consultation with medical experts and our regathering team," said Adam Storey, vice chancellor and a member of the regathering team of priests and laity of the Diocese.

As more people receive vaccinations and feel comfortable returning to church, there is an opportunity for Catholics to invite someone to come with them.

"Emerging from the pandemic will be an opportunity for renewal," Storey said. For the latest information, go to dmdioce.se.org/coronavirus.

The faithful are encouraged to check with their parish to learn if reservations are required for Triduum and Easter services. This was required in many parishes for Christmas to allow for social distancing.

Masks are required on church property at least until Divine Mercy Sunday, when the Diocese will reconsider the rule. The decision is based on protecting our ability to celebrate Mass and the sacraments and to protect the common good, and is in accord with current public health recommendations.

Church distancing also is required.

Schools are in session. Staff are working on getting vaccinated. Staff at the Des Moines metro area Catholic schools have received their second vaccination.

"As the public health situation continues to improve, the Diocese will make adjustments to our COVID mitigation efforts, in consultation with medical experts and our regathering team," said Adam Storey, vice chancellor and a member of the regathering team of priests and laity of the Diocese.

As more people receive vaccinations and feel comfortable returning to church, there is an opportunity for Catholics to invite someone to come with them.

"Emerging from the pandemic will be an opportunity for renewal," Storey said. For the latest information, go to dmdioce.se.org/coronavirus.

The faithful are encouraged to check with their parish to learn if reservations are required for Triduum and Easter services. This was required in many parishes for Christmas to allow for social distancing.

Masks are required on church property at least until Divine Mercy Sunday, when the Diocese will reconsider the rule. The decision is based on protecting our ability to celebrate Mass and the sacraments and to protect the common good, and is in accord with current public health recommendations.

Church distancing also is required.

Schools are in session. Staff are working on getting vaccinated. Staff at the Des Moines metro area Catholic schools have received their second vaccination.

"As the public health situation continues to improve, the Diocese will make adjustments to our COVID mitigation efforts, in consultation with medical experts and our regathering team," said Adam Storey, vice chancellor and a member of the regathering team of priests and laity of the Diocese.

As more people receive vaccinations and feel comfortable returning to church, there is an opportunity for Catholics to invite someone to come with them.

"Emerging from the pandemic will be an opportunity for renewal," Storey said. For the latest information, go to dmdioce.se.org/coronavirus.
Sisters launch yearlong social justice series

Catholic sisters from 24 congregations in four states are launching a yearlong, live-streamed conversation series on the leading social justice issues. Each episode is free and open to the public.

Titled “Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate,” each month this series will focus on a different social issue and explore how it intersects with racism, migration and climate in a thought-provoking and engaging conversation. Three panelists from different walks of life, including Catholic sisters, will bring unique perspectives to each session.

“This series is intended to provide a forum for constructive conversation on the big issues of our day, and how each intersects with the major themes of racism, migration and climate,” says Sister La Donna Manternach, BVSM, of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque.

“We’re looking forward to lively, nuanced conversations among our panelists and to hearing what our audience members have to say on these topics.”

Topics include gender equality, care of creation, migration, racial justice, ending human trafficking, eliminating gun violence, economic justice, food security, restorative justice, affordable housing, educational justice and equitable access to health care.

The conversations will be held as a free, public Zoom webinar at 3 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Each episode will also be streamed live on YouTube. For those who want to watch or listen on their own schedule, the recordings of the episodes will be available on YouTube and as a podcast.

“Exploring Intersections” is a project of Region X of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which comprises congregations of women religious in eastern Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, joined by a few congregations in Wisconsin. Founded in 1956, LCWR represents nearly 80 percent of Catholic sisters in the United States.

“It’s support system and corporate voice for leaders of congregations of Catholic sisters, LCWR develops leadership, promotes collaboration within church and society, and serves as a voice for systemic change.

St. Luke School recognized by the state

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School in Ankeny was recognized as an Honor Plus School by the Iowa Department of Education.

The school was recognized for its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, also known as PBS, in an effort to foster a safe, positive learning environment. PBS is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, practices affecting student outcomes every day.

The PBS framework:

• Creates schools where all students succeed.
• Focuses on conditions to support learning by providing positive, predictable and safe environments.
• Reduces major disciplinary infractions and out-of-school suspensions.
• Improves prosocial behavior.
• Boosts academic achievement.
• Improves school climate.

Schools recognized as Honor Plus have demonstrated implementation of universal PBS features with fidelity. Additionally, these schools offer classroom systems and family/community involvement, and are developing Tier 2 systems to identify students who may benefit from additional support.

“I am very proud of the staff and students who have fully embraced PBS as non-negotiable expectations in our school,” said Misty Hade, school principal.

“The focus in all of our diocesan schools is to foster safe, positive learning environments,” said Superintendent of Schools Donna Bishop. “We are so proud of principal Hade and the St. Luke education team for their efforts in successfully implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.”

The newest school in the Diocese of Des Moines, St. Luke the Evangelist, opened in 2015 to support the growing Ankeny community. Students in kindergarten – eighth grade receive an education rooted in Catholic values that provides a caring, creative and quality learning environment. To learn more or to inquire about enrollment opportunities, visit www.stl-school.org, or call 515-985-7074.

BUSINESS MANAGER

St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk has an opening for a full-time Business Manager. The Business Manager assists the Pastor with the stewardship of the physical, financial and personnel resources of the parish. A Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration or Finance with a major in accounting along with business experience and management/supervisory experience is required. In addition, skills in fiscal planning and management, accounting, payroll, compliance in computer software, mathematical and reasoning are preferred. St. John the Apostle is looking for a Business Manager with vision and strategic planning experience to help align the Parish growth with the rapidly growing community of Norwalk.

The job description is available on the parish website. If you desire to work in a positive environment with a growing parish, please send your resume to Fr. Dan Kirby, St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, 720 Orchard Hills Dr., Norwalk, IA 50211-0669.

St. Luke School recognized by the state

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School in Ankeny was recognized as an Honor Plus School by the Iowa Department of Education.

The school was recognized for its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, also known as PBS, in an effort to foster a safe, positive learning environment. PBS is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, practices affecting student outcomes every day.

The PBS framework:

• Creates schools where all students succeed.
• Focuses on conditions to support learning by providing positive, predictable and safe environments.
• Reduces major disciplinary infractions and out-of-school suspensions.
• Improves prosocial behavior.
• Boosts academic achievement.
• Improves school climate.

Schools recognized as Honor Plus have demonstrated implementation of universal PBS features with fidelity. Additionally, these schools offer classroom systems and family/community involvement, and are developing Tier 2 systems to identify students who may benefit from additional support.

“I am very proud of the staff and students who have fully embraced PBS as non-negotiable expectations in our school,” said Misty Hade, school principal.

“The focus in all of our diocesan schools is to foster safe, positive learning environments,” said Superintendent of Schools Donna Bishop. “We are so proud of principal Hade and the St. Luke education team for their efforts in successfully implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.”

The newest school in the Diocese of Des Moines, St. Luke the Evangelist, opened in 2015 to support the growing Ankeny community. Students in kindergarten – eighth grade receive an education rooted in Catholic values that provides a caring, creative and quality learning environment. To learn more or to inquire about enrollment opportunities, visit www.stl-school.org, or call 515-985-7074.

BUSINESS MANAGER

St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk has an opening for a full-time Business Manager. The Business Manager assists the Pastor with the stewardship of the physical, financial and personnel resources of the parish. A Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration or Finance with a major in accounting along with business experience and management/supervisory experience is required. In addition, skills in fiscal planning and management, accounting, payroll, compliance in computer software, mathematical and reasoning are preferred. St. John the Apostle is looking for a Business Manager with vision and strategic planning experience to help align the Parish growth with the rapidly growing community of Norwalk.

The job description is available on the parish website. If you desire to work in a positive environment with a growing parish, please send your resume to Fr. Dan Kirby, St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, 720 Orchard Hills Dr., Norwalk, IA 50211-0669.

We’re close in all the ways you need.
Yes, we are located nearby for your convenience.
Through the years, we have formed close relationships with the families we serve.
As neighbors, we are there when needed most.
With a skilled and caring staff.
With a warm and comforting atmosphere.
With answers and options few funeral homes can offer.

Illes Funeral Homes

Established in 1978, we are one of Iowa’s most experienced law firm.
515.309.5536, 12345 University Ave., Clive, IA 50225

Cathedral Holy Hours

Join Bishop Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral for an hour of Adoration & Prayer
5-6 PM each Monday

We’re close in all the ways you need.
Yes, we are located nearby for your convenience.
Through the years, we have formed close relationships with the families we serve.
As neighbors, we are there when needed most.
With a skilled and caring staff.
With a warm and comforting atmosphere.
With answers and options few funeral homes can offer.

Illes Funeral Homes
Receive 65% Iowa Tax Credits!!

Did you pay too much in taxes? Give it to the KIDS instead!

**BEST.GIFT.EVER.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>To Any Charity</th>
<th>To CTO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 65% Iowa tax credit is the **BEST.GIFT.EVER.** when you recognize the total tax savings!

*Assume a 32% federal tax bracket and 10% Iowa tax bracket.

This example is for comparison purposes only and does not constitute tax advice. Please contact your tax advisor for information on the impact of any charitable contribution.

Save on Your Taxes Next Year! PLEDGE TODAY!

Tuition Assistance is available!

Apply on-line at www.fairapp.com

Application deadline
April 2nd, 2021

The bottom line? It’s for the KIDS... and their futures!
OPINION

Stop taking everything so personally!

By Deacon Randy Kiel

STOP taking everything so personally, that never feels good to hear, does it? Each one of us reading this column, has been either on the giving or receiving end of this statement. While this may sound like common casual conversation, it actually can be cause for deep negative relational breakdown. This is due to the fact that at the fundamental core of who we are is a survival instinct that is in place to save the self, therefore, we take everything personally.

Need proof of this? Simply listen to that inner critical voice in your mind. The self-help industry has done a social activism that reaches far beyond our own personal and spiritual formation. We are tempted to believe that if we pray hard enough, protect them enough and do everything just “right” we’ll be guaranteed faithfulness.

The truth is, our brains process thoughts to you. I mean it! Personally! Writing these encouraging pieces and helping others to see their full hearted intention as your deacon and friend, I’ve moved my relationships with my kids! I am such a bad mom!

I have met countless people who say that they don’t care what others think about them, but in all actuality, they are bracing to be criticized. This will no longer have the power to use it as a disguise, because the other individual motivates. Moreover, there is a possibility to use it as a disguise, because the other individual.

These interpretations and clarifications are back up the “slip ‘n slide” of our mind. These interpretations and clarifications are necessary. When we take a moment to imagine what it would be like to stand in someone else’s shoes, we are much more likely to see things from their perspective — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other — by imagining what a situation is like from their point of view — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other — by imagining what a situation is like from their point of view — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other — by imagining what a situation is like from their point of view — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other — by imagining what a situation is like from their point of view — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other — by imagining what a situation is like from their point of view — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other — by imagining what a situation is like from their point of view — it becomes much harder to empathize with the other "slip ‘n slide” of our mind. These interpretations and clarifications are vital for a transformational change in thought perception, attitude and behavior. It is essential to realize that there is a reality that reaches far beyond our own personal and spiritual perception. This reality is God. He gave us a Son to show his compassion for us. We have to be able to speak the truth in order to help others to find their way back to the truth. This will require us to take on some responsibility for events, how our lives unfold.

Our job is not to stop taking things personally, rather it is to take the right things personally. Why do we think that because we are somewhat locked into our own experience and perceptions. If we say "perception is reality" (another disastrous statement), then we would have no need to ever question how we view or perceive life or others. It is essential to realize that there is a reality that reaches far beyond our own personal and spiritual perception. This reality is God. He gave us a Son to show his compassion for us. We have to be able to speak the truth in order to help others to find their way back to the truth. This will require us to take on some responsibility for events, how our lives unfold.

Take advantage of the feast day Jesus created for you

Divine Mercy Sunday is April 11 this year, a feast day created at the request of Jesus himself.

Jesus made his request to St. Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in Marriage and Family Life

By Kara Storey

Kara Storey is a freelance writer who worships at the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines.

Stop taking everything so personally!

By Deacon Randy Kiel

God’s love covers a multitude of parenting sins

By By Deacon Randy Kiel

Kara Storey is the founder of Kar- dia Counseling and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. He can be reached at randy@kardiacounseling.com.
OPINION

Who inspires you?

Guest Column

By Father John Ludwig

Q. Why was Pope Francis’ trip to Iraq so important?

A. **There are several reasons.** First, Pope John Paul II had intended to visit Iraq, but was unable to do so – partly because of the danger at that time and partly because his own health had grown weaker and weaker.

Second, Pope Francis had wanted to visit Iraq because it had suffered so much death and destruction over the past 30 years. Third, the Pope wanted to promote peace among the various religious traditions within Islam. He said that he prayed for a long time to determine if he should make the trip. He knew that there would be large crowds of people, many not wearing masks. In the end, he decided that the effort to go was worth it.

One visit from one pope certainly won’t change everything in that part of the world, but it does make a small opening both religiously and politically.

Q. Many people have not been to Mass for nearly a year. Is that a concern?

A. **Yes, it is.** In all religions, death is a reminder that we are mortal. Thus, there have been numerous obituaries have indicated that funerals and burial. Can you comment on this?

Q. During the past year, many people have died without the Mass of Christian Burial. How does one make their peace with the imperialism of one’s soul?

Q. Why was Pope Francis’ trip to Iraq so important?

A. **There are several reasons.** First, Pope John Paul II had intended to visit Iraq, but was unable to do so – partly because of the danger at that time and partly because his own health had grown weaker and weaker.

Second, Pope Francis had wanted to visit Iraq because it had suffered so much death and destruction over the past 30 years. Third, the Pope wanted to promote peace among the various religious traditions within Islam. He said that he prayed for a long time to determine if he should make the trip. He knew that there would be large crowds of people, many not wearing masks. In the end, he decided that the effort to go was worth it.

One visit from one pope certainly won’t change everything in that part of the world, but it does make a small opening both religiously and politically.

Q. Many people have not been to Mass for nearly a year. Is that a concern?

A. **Yes, it is.** In all religions, death is a reminder that we are mortal. Thus, there have been numerous obituaries have indicated that funerals and burial. Can you comment on this?

Q. During the past year, many people have died without the Mass of Christian Burial. How does one make their peace with the imperialism of one’s soul?
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A group of prominent Catholic scholars said they believe it is morally acceptable for anyone to receive any of the COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States.

“Catholics, and indeed, all persons of good will who embrace a culture of life for the whole human family, born and unborn, can use these vaccines without fear of moral culpability” for abortion, the eight scholars said in a statement released March 5 through the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

The statement refers to the vaccines developed by Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience.”

“Pfizer and Moderna’s connection is more remote than that of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine,” he said in the video.

The scholars said, however, “we think it (is) a mistake to say that both these vaccines are morally permissible to use yet that some ought to be preferred to others.

“There appears to be no real distinction between the vaccines in terms of their connection to an abortion many decades ago, and thus the moral starting point of equivalence,” they said.

Ryan T. Anderson, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, joined seven other scholars in developing the statement.

The scholars explained that their conclusion is based on the fact that the cell line used for the development of the vaccine, known as HEK293, is far removed from the embryonic kidney cells originally obtained from an unborn child that was aborted in the early 1970s.

“The exact circumstance of the abortion are not known, but the scientists producing the cell line were not directly involved and, crucially, the abortion was not performed for the sake of providing biological materials to researchers,” the statement explained.

In addition, they said, no new fetal tissue is being used or needed to maintain the cell lines, which are produced in research laboratories. The scholars also said that HEK293 cells are commonly used in testing other products, including processed foods, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

“The cell line also is used as an alternative to animal testing, they noted. “Use has contributed to an enormous number of new medical treatments and medical procedures developed over the last several decades.”

It thus seems fair to say that in addition to the use of HEK293 cells by the scientific community, nearly every person in the modern world has consumed food products, taken medications or used cosmetics/personal care products that were developed through the use of HEK293 cells in the food, biomedical and cosmetic industries,” the statement said.

They concluded there is a strong moral reason for people to receive the vaccines when they become available because it will provide the “greatest possible protection for the most vulnerable among us.”

“The attenuated and remote connection to abortions decades ago and the absence of any incentive for future abortions offer little if any moral reasons against accepting this welcome advance of science.”

Pope names woman Scripture scholar as secretary of biblical commission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has named Sister Nuria Calduch-Benages, an Old Testament scholar and professor at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University, to be secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

The Spanish member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family of Nazareth is the first woman to hold the position, which involves coordinating the work of the 20 biblical scholars from around the world who study topics in Scripture studies and interpretation on behalf of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

According to the norms of the commission, as revised by St. Paul VI in 1971, the secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission also serves as a consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Sister Calduch-Benages, who will celebrate her 64th birthday March 26, was born in Barcelona, Spain.

Director of Family Faith Formation

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in West Des Moines, IA is seeking a Director of Family Faith Formation. This is a new and exciting position at Sacred Heart responsible for working in a team environment with the larger Family Formation Team to equip families as the first educators of the faith. This position will implement, support and evaluate family-based formation, parent-led sacramental preparation programs and youth offerings for Sacred Heart families with children from birth through 6th grade. This is a full-time, exempt position reporting to the Pastor. Bilingual applicants (English/Spanish) highly encouraged to apply. Full job description and details to apply can be found at www.sacredheartwilm.org/employment.

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese’s Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services. He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.
Pope: Iraq visit was ‘sign of hope for suffering people

Nevertheless, despite its cultural significance in the world, Iraq was destroyed by war, which is "always the monster that, as the ages change, transforms itself and devours humanity," he said.

Departing from his prepared remarks, the pope denounced armed warriors who profit from war and sold weapons to terrorists not only in Iraq, but in other parts of the world suffering from violence.

"Today, who sells weapons to terrorists, who is carrying out massacres in other parts of the world, such as Africa for example? Is it a question I would like someone to answer," the pope said.

The answer to war, he added, is fraternity, which is a challenge for Iraq and "for many regions in conflict and, ultimately, for the entire world."

The interreligious meeting in the ancient city of Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, was a significant moment that brought together the spiritual descendants of "our father in the faith," he said.

In Ur, the pope said, "standing together under those luminous heavens -- the same heavens (from which) our father Abraham saw us, his descendants -- the phrase you are all brothers and sisters seemed to resound once again."

Recalling his visits to Mosul and Qaraqosh, two cities devastated by Islamic State militants, the pope called for prayers for the people so that God may give them the strength to rebuild.

Pope Francis said, "in Iraq, despite the roar of destruction and weapons, the palm, a symbol of the country and of its hope, has continued to grow and bear fruit."

The same goes "for fraternity. It does not make noise, but is fruitful and makes us grow," the pope said. "May God, who is peace, grant a future of fraternity to Iraq, the Middle East and the entire world!"

Los Lirios Pre-Pascuales

Woman religious honored as one of International Women of Courage

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Comboni Sister Alicia Vacas Moro, a Spanish missionary sister and registered nurse, was one of 14 women to receive this year’s International Women of Courage Award, an annual honor from the U.S. Department of State for women who have demonstrated leadership in their human rights work.

The 49-year-old woman religious, who is the Jerusalem-based Middle East provincial superior of the Comboni Sisters, has provided medical care to the poor in Egypt and training to women and children in the West Bank.

Last March, she volunteered to go to Italy to care for elderly sisters from her order where 45 of the convent’s 60 residents tested positive for the coronavirus and 10 of the sisters later died.

The women’s awards were presented during a virtual ceremony at the State Department March 8, International Women’s Day.

Continúa la página en la Misa del funeral del Dr. Lejeune en la Catedral de Notre Dame en París, Bruno, un joven que tenía Trisomía 21, pasó al frente durante las oraciones de los fieles, tomó el micrófono, y dijo, “Merci, mon professeur, por lo que hizo por mi padre y por mi madre. Gracias a usted, estoy orgulloso de mí mismo.” No cabe duda por qué hace unos par de meses, el Papa Francisco avanzó la causa por la canonización de Lejeune reconociendo sus virtudes heroicas y permitiendo que a este Siervo de Dios se le refiera como Venerable Jérôme Lejeune.

Si se puede decir que Lejeune llevó el bastón de San José en su promoción por la protección de los derechos y por la inclusión de personas con Síndrome de Down, entonces nosotros en la Diócesis de Des Moines podríamos estar orgullosos del “lirio” de reconocimiento que se le da a una de nuestras hijas que han promovido el legado de Lejeune en sus propias acciones. La Dra. Meghan O’Neill Guzman, graduada del 2002 de Dowling Catholic High School cuya cumbia y alto nivel de éxito en la cancha de básquetbol y en el salón de clases y que luego se traducían en estudios e investigación en el Colegio de Medicina de la Universidad John Hopkins y ahora médico asistente en el Hospital para Niños Ann & Robert H. Lurie en Chicago. Ella dirige a la visita de la Clínica Lurie para Niños con Síndrome de Down, en donde su principal investigación es el caracterizar mejor el estado neurológico y el desarrollo del comportamiento de niños con Síndrome de Down. La meta final es de hacer el ofrecer estrategias terapéuticas e intervenciones que beneficien a estas personas y a sus seres queridos. La Dra. O’Neill Guzman va a ser honrada después de Pascua con el Premio al Exalumno Joven Distinguido de Dowling. ¡Felicitaciones, chere professeure!

Si la Dra. O’Neill Guzman puede ser comparada con un lirio, no estaré seguro si quiero describir a San José o al Dr. Lejeune como las espinas que la rodean. De seguro todos ellos encontraron y vencieron los espinosos retos que enfrentaron con valentía creativa. En conjunto, ellos representan una bendición pre pascual y una hermosa fuente de inspiración de parte de aquellos a quienes amamos – padres, madres y todos los hijos de Dios!

Associate Director of Youth Ministry, St. Boniface Catholic Church, Waukee

St. Boniface Catholic Church in Waukee, IA, is seeking an Associate Director of Youth Ministry. The position will plan, lead, implement, and evaluate youth ministry for families of St. Boniface youth ages 6th - 12th grade, as well as oversee family-based preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. This position is responsible for working collaboratively with other team members in the parish Evangelization & Faith Formation Office to support and partner with parents as the first formators of their children in the faith.

The ideal candidate will have a depth of reflective spirituality and be passionate about guiding parents and accompanying youth. Proven experience inviting and forming adult and youth core team members using EDGE, PURPOSE and LifeTeen programs, as well as a minimum three years of experience coordinating parish youth ministry is desired.

Desired start date is June 2021. Full position description and application instructions are available at https://sbtbonfacethe.org/employment.

Caldwell Parish: Caring about your loss and your faith. Des Moines’ Only Catholic-Owned & Operated Funeral Home!

You don’t need to settle. Funeral preferences change.

You are not obligated to fulfill your service with the funeral home where you purchased your pre-plan. You’ve have pre-planned with Caldwell Parish. We can work with the funeral home that best fits your needs and budget. You have what you have in mind, take comfort knowing that Caldwell Parish honors all existing pre-arrangements. There’s never a fee for the transfer to another funeral home. Make an appointment today to discuss your options.

www.CaldwellParrish.com

URBANDALE
8201 Hickman Rd.
515-276-0551
Urbandale, IA 50322
ADEL
735 South 14th St.
515-993-4240
Adel, IA 50601
WINTerset
1823 N. John Wayne Dr.
515-462-4080
Winterset, IA 50273
For over 138 years, the Knights of Columbus has financially protected generations of Catholic families. Our life insurance program offers a variety of temporary and permanent solutions to protect those you love.

The bond of sincere friendship can be found in our Band of Brothers—the Knights of Columbus. Go online and start the easy process at kofc.org/join. See what we can do together to protect God’s gifts.

Protect What Matters Most

For over 138 years, the Knights of Columbus has financially protected generations of Catholic families. Our life insurance program offers a variety of temporary and permanent solutions to protect those you love.

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

St Joseph
- model of faithful fatherhood & protector of the Holy Family

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis

We follow the example of St. Joseph to showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves—in time—protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness.

—Pope Francis