

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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October 21, 2022

Bless this harvest



Photo supplied by the Wenstrands
Above: Father Tom Thakadipuram blesses the farm of Pete and Dana Wenstrand near St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah.



Photos top and right by Father Jim Kirby

“To all of you who are farmers and all who are associated with agricultural production I want to say this: the Church highly esteems your work,” said St. John Paul II during his visit to Iowa in 1979. Pictures above and right were taken on the Witt Farm in Harrison County.

Celebrating marriage milestones rooted in faith



Betty and Ed Reinig, of St. Michael Parish in Harlan, celebrated 65 years of marriage.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

It was 1956 when Betty Lustgraaf, her sisters and friends were piling into the back of Ed Reinig’s car near Neola late one night after a dance.

“Don’t everybody get in the backseat!” he said and he had Betty sit up front with him.

Ed and Betty have been riding through life side by side ever since. On Oct. 19, they celebrated their 65th wedding

anniversary.

From day one, there was an element of faith in their relationship.

The carload of young people sped off from the dance to a late-night dinner in Avoca for food. Ed and his brother bought sandwiches for the girls, but the brothers wouldn’t eat. It was a time when a faith-

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Parish Renewal, Vibrancy initiative empowers catechists

By Beth Samson
Contributing Writer

One conversation with Stephanie Geraghty, coordinator of Religious Education and First Communion teacher at St. Mary in Avoca and St. Patrick in Walnut, will leave anyone inspired about religious education in her parishes – it certainly did for Bishop William Joensen.

Her creative passion for engaging children in their faith is palpable and effective.

Over the summer, she gave her second graders a challenge to read the entire Bible. The sweet reward for the kids who rose to the challenge – an ice cream party!

By the end of the summer, most of them had completed the challenge.

Geraghty’s goals for religious education are centered around growth, continuity, and engagement. When asked about the Ignite! Campaign, she is already thinking about how her parishes will benefit from the Parish Renewal and Vibrancy initiative.

They now have five teachers for religious education, and she plans to use the new endowment to help fund a retreat or workshop for teachers to continue learning, praying, and forming themselves

so they can, in turn, continue doing that for the kids.

“When we revitalize teachers, that trickles down to the kids in religious education and then to their families, and ultimately our whole community,” Geraghty said. She continued by expressing hope that their efforts will result in bringing families back to Mass

that haven’t returned since the pandemic.

“We want our pews to be full and the church to be noisy,” she said.

St. Patrick Parish in Imogene is another community focused on growth and engagement.

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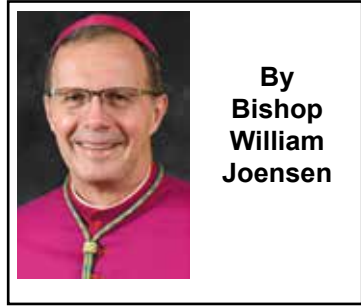


Photo by Beth Samson

Stephanie Geraghty, coordinator of Religious Education and First Communion teacher at St. Mary in Avoca and St. Patrick in Walnut stands with her second graders.

Cross Walk

[Note: Inspiration for this column comes from the recent "Christ Our Life" conference homily based on Luke's Gospel: 16:19-31.]



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

February 3, 1998, was not a shining day for America or for Americans living in Italy. Tragedy struck when a US Marine Corp EA-6B Prowler aircraft based at Aviano Air Base in northern Italy struck a cable in a narrow valley in the Dolomite mountains. The severed cable resulted in a cable car carrying twenty Europeans to plunge over 100 meters to their deaths. The accident was dubbed the Cermis massacre; it resulted from the decision of the pilot and navigator to have fun and take low-level videos of the scenery while flying much faster and much lower than specified by military regulations. The plane actually cut the cables from below.

The pilot and navigator, who shall remain nameless, were put on military trial in the U.S. and were acquitted of negligent homicide and involuntary manslaughter, though they were dishonorably discharged in part for destroying the video evidence.

With all due respect to our more valiant military service men and women, these two aviators were complacent and self-serving rogues who lived by their own rules, heedless of those around them who were at risk and vulnerable. Even if they did not directly intend death, they were at least mortal accomplices whom someday God will hold accountable; pray they have repented and confessed their lethal neglect.

The Cermis massacre is a grossly tragic, one-off event. Yet in a Gospel reading last

month, Jesus shows that even ordinary and seemingly benign neglect of others who have a claim on our care and compassion is a high stakes affair. You remember the reading of the rich man, traditionally called "Dives" and the poor man. Dives lives in a bubble of excess and ego. Jesus tells us the name of the poor man, Lazarus, but it is likely the rich guy never inquired.

Dives is the antitype of the Good Samaritan. He has no need even to cross over or go out the back door to avoid Lazarus; his pride propels him on his merry way, heedless of the peril before him. The rich man digs a spiritual chasm between himself and his fellow human beings into which he plummets to death.

Dives thinks he has friends, but they are of the sort that the Kardashians and Crazy Rich Asians would covet; even we can succumb to fascination and fandom when it comes to wealth. Franciscan University theologian Regis Martin reminds us of GK Chesterton's wry observation that "he could never quite understand the necessity people felt to heap honors upon a man simply because at some point in his life he had managed to corner the soybean market."

After death, Dives finds out how very alone, how very

thirsty his soul is. The saddest thing of all is that even as he craves relief from the netherworld flames, he still wants others to march to his music; he has no qualms ordering Lazarus and Abraham around: "Send them," he implores. He doesn't realize he's not in a position to ask for anything. And there are those who, following his footsteps, will find the road to hell is paved by

"In God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God..."

—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

the same inattention to people who are hurting.

How do we erect and reinforce our own walls, or create chasms between ourselves and others?

Humans establish all sorts of chasms among themselves: the class lines between the affluent and those who wonder where their next meal is coming from are most conspicuous. But there are those whose primary identity lies more with their partisan political affiliation than in being a disciple of Jesus or a believer in God. These folks are more likely to reinforce rather than remedy the polarization that plagues our social discourse.

There are those who know they are hurting, hungry and thirsty for human connection, for a place to lay their head and call home, and there are those who deny there's a problem, the NIMBYs who shrug their shoulders and say, "Not in my backyard."

Here's another example. We need not apologize for our belief that God in his goodness has created us male and female, that human sexuality is a great gift from God to be celebrated, revered, and gracefully expressed in the saving sacrament of marriage. Yet that doesn't permit us to exclude or write off those who are unsure of who they are, who feel like aliens in their own bodies, or who are attracted to persons of the same sex—persons who become like pawns being exploited in the culture wars by those who hold the Judeo-Christian view of human nature in contempt.

We are not obliged to ratify all inclinations as inherently good, or say that all choices are created equal in God's sight. But God help us if we do not accompany these persons, intentionally inviting and including them into our families, our parishes, our inner circles of relationships where Spirit and life flow freely. Recognition of our common dignity as daughters and sons of God and basic human decency will let us do no less.

God comes to save us all from ourselves. Jesus restores the cables across the great divide between heaven and earth; he ziplines down from his divinity into our humanity at the appointed time. Rather than clinging to life, he simply lets go and plummets into the abyss, to the lowest of low places which is death itself.

We profess in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus descends into hell. He restores connections among those who are humble enough to cry out to him for mer-

cy in this life, and those who have unfinished business in the cable car transporting them to the Father of mercies.

By grace and nature, we recognize God in one another, whether our bodies are covered with sores or our faces creased with worry, sadness, self-contempt.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said in reflecting on the Love who is God: "In God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, even affecting my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend. Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave" (Deus caritas est n. 18).

Dives was pathetically arrogant in saying to Abraham, "Send him." We are humbly and boldly prepared to say to Jesus, each and every morning, with gratitude and holy fear of the Lord, "Send me." SEND ME wherever you will, Lord: into whatever gaps I encounter, whatever chasms I discover—especially those I have been a party to in the past. Help me help others to cross from death to life, for they are my brothers, my sisters, your friends, my friends. SEND ME. SAVE US. And our joy will be complete.

Cruce de Peatones

[Nota: La inspiración de esta columna viene de la homilía de la reciente conferencia "Cristo Nuestra Vida basada en el Evangelio de Lucas: 16:19-31.]

El 3 de febrero de 1998 no fue un día ideal para los Estados Unidos o para los americanos que vivían en Italia. La tragedia sucedió cuando una aeronave del Cuerpo de Marinos de los Estados Unidos EA-6B Prowler, ubicada en la Base Aérea Aviano en el norte de Italia, se impactó con un cable en un angosto valle en las montañas Dolomitas. El cable con el que se impactó causó que un teleférico que transportaba a veinte europeos cayera más de 100 metros causándoles la muerte. El accidente fue llamado la masacre de Cermis; fue el resultado de la decisión del piloto y del navegador de divertirse tomando videos escénicos a baja altura mientras volaban mucho más rápido y a menor altura de las que establecen las regulaciones militares. De hecho, el avión cortó los cables desde abajo.

El piloto y el navegador, cuyo nombre no revelaremos, fueron sujetos a juicio militar en los Estados Unidos y fueron absueltos de homicidio negligente y de homicidio involuntario, aunque fueron dados de baja

deshonrosamente en parte por haber destruido el video de la evidencia.

Con todo el debido respeto a nuestros más valientes hombres y mujeres en el servicio, estos dos aviadores fueron unos rebeldes complacientes y egoístas quienes vivían bajo sus propias reglas, sin importarles que aquellos a su alrededor pudiesen estar en riesgo y vulnerables. Incluso si no tenían la intención directa de causarles la muerte, ellos fueron al menos cómplices mortales a quienes algún día Dios llamará a saldar cuentas; oremos para que se hayan arrepentido y confesado su negligencia mortal.

La masacre de Cermis fue un evento tremendamente trágico y aislado. Pero en la lectura del Evangelio del mes pasado, Jesús nos muestra que incluso en negligencias ordinarias y aparentemente benignas hacia otros, a quienes tenemos bajo nuestro cuidado y debemos mostrar compasión, es un asunto de suma importancia. Recuerden la lectura del hombre rico, tradicionalmente llamado "Epulón" y el hombre pobre. Epulón vive en una burbuja de exceso y de ego. Jesús nos dice el nombre del hombre pobre, Lázaro, pero es posible que el hombre rico nunca se lo haya preguntado.

Epulón es el opuesto del Buen Samaritano. Él no tiene necesidad siquiera de cruzar la calle o de salir por la puerta trasera para evitar a Lázaro; su orgullo le lleva a continuar en su estilo alegre, sin preocuparse del sufrimiento delante de él. El hombre rico escarba un acantilado espiritual entre él mismo y los demás seres humanos y cae en él hacia su muerte.

Epulón piensa que tiene amigos, pero ellos son del tipo que envidiarían los Kardashians y los personajes de "Locos, Ricos, Asiáticos"; incluso nosotros podemos sucumbir a la fascinación y la admiración cuando vemos la riqueza. El teólogo de la Universidad Franciscana, Regis Martin, nos recuerda de la irónica observación de GK Chesterton que "él no puede entender plenamente la necesidad que siente la gente de conferir honores sobre un hombre simplemente porque en algún punto de su vida logró acorralar el mercado de la soya."

Después de su muerte, Epulón descubre lo solitaria y lo sediente que es su alma. Lo más triste de todo es que incluso al buscar alivio desde las llamas del inframundo, él aún quiere que los demás bailen al son que él toca; él no tiene ningún problema en darles órdenes a Lázaro y a Abra-

ham.: "Envíalos," les implora. Él no se da cuenta de que no está en posición de pedir nada. Y hay aquellos que, siguiendo sus pasos, se darán cuenta de que el camino hacia el infierno está pavimentado con la misma indiferencia hacia la gente que vive con dolor.

¿Cómo erigimos y reforzamos nuestras propias murallas o creamos acantilados entre nosotros y los demás?

Los humanos crean todas formas de acantilados entre ellos mismos: las líneas de clase entre los afluentes y aquellos que se preguntan de dónde vendrá su próxima comida es una de las más conspicuas. Pero hay aquellos cuya principal identidad se refleja más en su afiliación partidaria política que en ser un discípulo de Jesús o un creyente en Dios. Estas personas tienen más tendencia a agravar antes que remediar la polarización que azota nuestro discurso social.

Hay aquellos que saben que viven con dolor, hambre y sed de conexiones humanas, de un lugar en donde poder reposar su cabeza y llamar su hogar, y hay aquellos quienes niegan la existencia de un problema, los que viven en la negación y que simplemente se encogen de hombros

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THE CATHOLIC

MIRROR

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Religious education kicks off across Diocese



Families at St. Ambrose Cathedral Parish in Des Moines gathered Oct. 9 to learn about the parts of the Hail Mary prayer and then prayed the rosary in several languages.

Nearly 12,000 youth from pre-K through high school are involved in religious education programming in the Des Moines Diocese.

Most are in a classroom model of learning while a growing number are experiencing a family-based model of catechesis. The programs teach the rubrics of the faith, prepare youth for sacraments, and help young people grow in their relationship with God.

“Our work is about creating the environment for an encounter with Jesus to occur,” said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

“Our formation sessions are really supportive small Christian communities with everyone – catechist and participant – on a journey of letting the Holy Spirit touch their hearts and transform them from the inside towards a deeper holiness.”

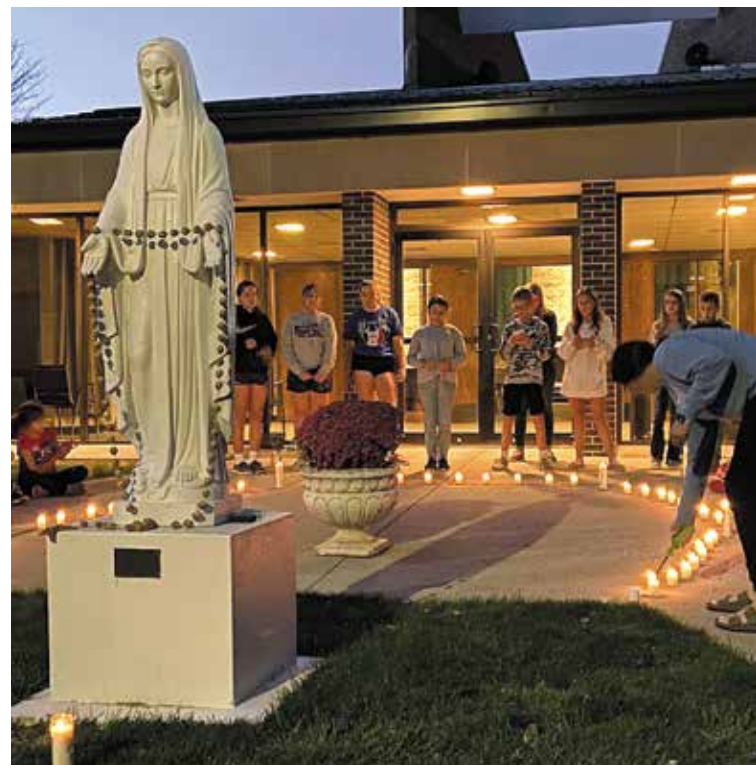
Nearly 3,000 volunteers help 343 pre-kindergarten students, 5,695 elementary and middle school students, and 2,979 high school students.



The Doyle family, of St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah, celebrates the start of their faith formation program. Pictured are Pete and Tiffany, who is the first and second grade catechist, and their children Delilah, Penelope and Jameson.



As third grader Santiago Flores, at St. Patrick Parish in Perry, studies the Hail Mary prayer, his friend William Chilield offers encouragement and affirmation.



Youth at religious education at St. John Parish in Greenfield kicked off October with a lighted rosary. High schoolers lit the candles as the Faith Formation youth (grades K-11) prayed the rosary. All children participate and parishioners were invited to join in.



Haley Frank; Clair Underhill; Maria Haas, coordinator of Youth Ministry; and Lauren Simpson celebrate the return of their Parish Inter-generational Faith Formation at Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona.



Caitlyn Shipley, of St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, participated in her parish's concert to kick off the religious education year. The contemporary choir at St. John's is called Rise Up.

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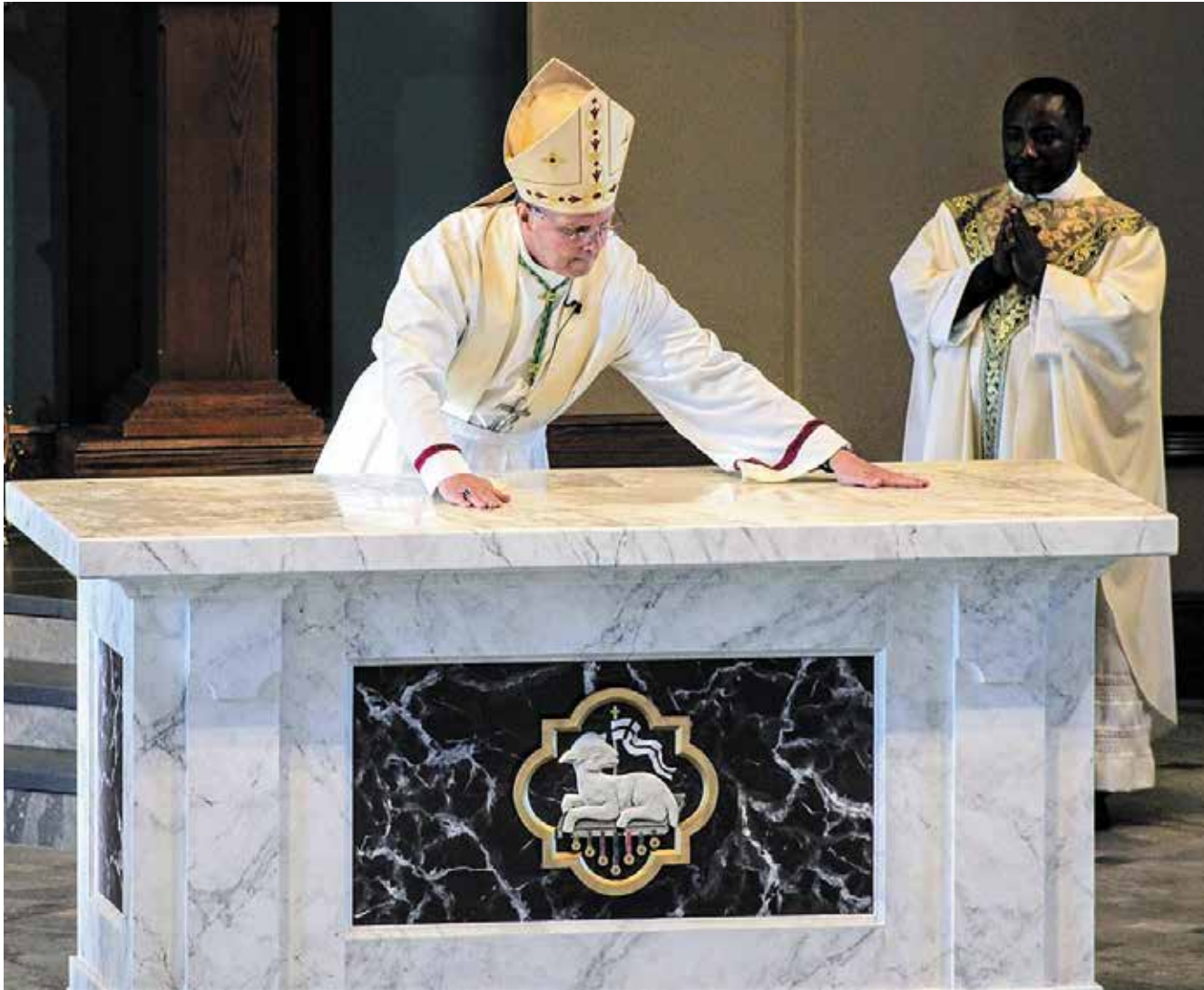
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Anointed altar a visible sign of the mystery of Christ



Bishop William Joensen consecrated a new altar, and blessed a new ambo and statue of St. Patrick at St. Patrick Church in Council Bluffs on Sept. 3. At left, the bishop anoints the altar, thereby setting it apart for sacred use. He poured Chrism oil in the middle, and in each of the four corners of the top of the altar, then rubbed the oil around the entire top. Pictured with him is Father James Ahenkora, pastor of the parish. Above, Father Trevor Chicoine, diocesan Worship director, assists the bishop.

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Sister used her talent in service to youth, elderly

Humility Sister Joan (Mary LeAnne) LeBeau, 89, turned her love of cooking into an art and ministry, serving the Des Moines metro area for more than 40 years.

Sister Joan died Oct. 8 at the Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston.

Joan Margaret LeBeau was born May 15, 1933, in Chicago. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1953 and professed vows in 1955 as Sister Mary LeAnne.

Sister began her ministry in Ottumwa and Davenport.

In 1966, she moved to the Des Moines metro area where she ministered for the bulk of her life. She began in food service

at Dowling High School, Des Moines (1966-78), and then in care settings, including Crestview Acres, West Des Moines (1978-90), Bishop Drumm Care Center (1990-91), Mercy Hospital, Des Moines (1991-95), and both Mercy Senior Services and Park Place Continuing Care Retirement Community, Des Moines (1995-2002).

From 2002 to 2009, she was the Assistant coordinator for the Humility sisters at Bishop Drumm where she served those who needed a listening ear, a supportive prayer, a task completed or anything else to enhance their quality of life. She became part of another family by helping the

parents care for their two young children.

Sister's passion was cooking. She not only provided nourishment but also shared unique baked goods, such as gingerbread houses, donating them to auctions and events to raise money for affordable housing.

Sister's Mass of Christian Burial was Oct. 15 in Davenport with burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery also in Davenport.



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

Council Bluffs Knight advocates for dignity

By Liam Dale
Contributing Writer

Since Tony Jordan started asking for luggage for homeless families at Micah House in Council Bluffs, he's been stopped in the grocery store by folks with suitcases for him in their car trunks.

He's had truck deliveries from western Nebraska.

Others have said they can't stop by, but they'd be happy to order luggage online and have it delivered to the shelter.

Over time, he's watched people grow in awareness of the needs of the less fortunate.

Now, the parishioner of St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs says people bring him their luggage plus a box of diapers or food or other supplies.

"It's an unexpected by-product. The luggage program made people more familiar with the receiving hours of the homeless shelter and what the shelter actually needs," he said. "Some people either didn't know where the shelter was, what they needed or when to bring it. By bringing luggage, they say 'Oh, you need diapers, food,' and it has become a more regular thing. It was really great!"

It all started with an idea Jordan had while working at Micah House. A local Knight of Columbus, he noticed a need among the families.

"I saw that a lot of people were bringing in all of their stuff in trash bags when they moved in, which is fine for when they come in, but what I noticed is that when



Photo by Michael Gasparis
Tony Jordan shows some of the luggage that's been donated to residents of Micah House, restoring some of their dignity as they move on.

they left, they were still moving everything in trash bags and that sparked the idea," he said.

Leaving a homeless shelter with a job lined up can and should be exciting, Jordan said. However, it can be demoral-

izing when everything you own is packed in a handful of trash bags.

"My first thought was to wonder if there was a way to get these families and individuals a more dignified way of totting around their things," he ex-

plained. "That's when I asked the other Knights if they had spare luggage they could donate."

The response from his council was well received.

Following the local success, he presented his effort at

the Fourth Degree meeting at the state convention of the Knights of Columbus earlier this year.

"The state convention was very helpful for banding together different councils' efforts in all areas," Jordan said. "We even saw some councils that are wanting to start their own luggage programs for shelters."

So far, the effort has had a big impact at Micah House with thousands of donations received and distributed to residents. The shelter has 23 rooms, each one capable of housing a family. Jordan figures there's an average of 75 people at the shelter each night.

"We're so happy that it's turned out the way that it has," Jordan said. "And while our program has been successful, we look forward to seeing other Knight councils and shelters start up similar programs in their own cities."

Jordan hopes that by promoting this type of service, there will be an increased effort to offer dignity to the homeless and vulnerable.

He's proud of his community.

"Council Bluffs is such a beautiful place," he said. After high school, he moved away and returned about six years ago.

"The Catholic community here is just so giving. Every time someone is in need, the community comes together," he said. "I wouldn't live anywhere else. I'm glad I'm back here to raise my family."

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate, **Sam Porter**, is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps people who are or were minors when they were victims of abuse by the clergy through a complaint process. He also helps them seek support and counseling services. Porter can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov.

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Clergy Caucus for the common good



Twice a year, interfaith leaders gather to build relationships with each other, talk about some of the pressures they're seeing impacting their congregations, and imagine how they want to act together. Bishop William Joensen and Father Nipin Scaria, rector of St. Ambrose Cathedral Parish, joined the most recent discussion of A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy, also known as AMOS.

Feast of St. Francis celebrated



Photo by Phillip Grothus

Father Joe Pins, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, is greeted by his dog Francis. Father was blessing pets in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis.

Around the Diocese

Oct. 21 & 28 Fridays Fall Fish & Chicken Dinner

INDIANOLA – The Indianola Knights will be hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken dinners. Serving hours are 5:30 to 7 p.m. Adults & take-outs are \$13. Children (6 to 12) \$6. Children 5 and under are free. Desserts can be purchased from the Boy Scouts with a free-will donation.

Oct. 22 Saturday Big Band Affair

NORWALK – St. John the Apostle Parish is hosting the High Society Big Band from 6:15-9:15 p.m. Doors open following the 5 p.m. Mass. Pulled pork sandwiches, beverages, wine & beer will be available for purchase. You are welcome to bring snacks and appetizers for your table. Presale tickets are \$75 for a reserved table of 8; \$10 single ticket or \$12 at the door. Call 515-981-4855 or stop at the parish office to get your tickets.

Oct. 26 Wednesday Caregivers Support Group

DES MOINES – Holy Trinity and St. Mary of Nazareth Churches are co-hosting a monthly caregivers support group called Nourish for Caregivers. Monthly meetings are at Holy Trinity Parish in the media center of the school building. Contacts: Deacon Dan Maxcy, danm@holytrinitydm.org and Deacon James Houston, jhouston@saintpiuschurch.org.

Nov. 4 & 11 Fridays Fall Fish & Chicken Dinner

INDIANOLA – The Indianola Knights are hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken dinners. Serv-

ing hours are 5:30 to 7 p.m. Adults & take-outs are \$13. Children (6 to 12) \$6. Children 5 and under are free.

Nov. 5-6, Sat.-Sun. Fall Craft Show

DES MOINES – Join us for our annual fall craft show on Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Christ the King Parish. We will also give away four \$50 Visa/Mastercard gift cards just for visiting our vendors.

Nov. 6 Sunday

Staley's Broasted Chicken Dinner
COUNCIL BLUFFS – Come to Corpus Christi Parish's annual Staley's Broasted Chicken Dinner held at St. Albert School, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dine in and take out available. \$15/ages 9 and up; \$10/ages 4 to 8; ages 3 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office 712-323-2916 or at the door on the day of the event.

Nov. 11-12, Fri.-Sat. Beaverdale Boutique

DES MOINES -- The 45th Beaverdale Holiday Boutique will be in person. Friday, Nov. 11 from 5:30 -8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish. Vendors will be spotlighted on the parish's Facebook and Instagram platforms. For more information go to <https://holytrinitydm.org/school/get-involved/beaverdale-holiday-boutique>.

Nov. 12 Saturday

Marriage Enrichment Seminar
DES MOINES – Dr. Jim Healy, will provide a half-day digital marriage enrichment experience from

10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. called "How to be Married and Stay Engaged." It will offer practical ways for couples to build skills for a strong, joyous and faith-filled marriage. Contact Tom Quinlan, tquinlan@sjeciowa.org, director of the St. Joseph Evangelization Center, with questions.

Nov. 19 Saturday Holiday Bazaar

WINTERSSET – St. Joseph Parish is hosting a holiday bazaar 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lots of unique craft items made by parishioners and a bake sale. Breakfast and lunch available.

Third Tuesday of the Month RISE: OLIH Teen/Young Adult Special Needs Ministry

ANKENY – RISE stands for Reaching Inclusion through Service and Experience. Its purpose is to provide young adults and teens with or without disabilities the opportunity to grow in friendship while engaging in service and social activities. RISE meets on the third Tuesday of the month, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Registration is requested, and inquiries can be directed to Mary Sankey at marys@olih.org or 515-964-3038 ext. 118. Visit the OLIH special needs webpage <https://www.olih.org/special-needs-1> and click on "RISE-sign-up" to register. The cost is free, and open to all denominations.

Diaconate Formation

Men interested in learning about the role of deacons are invited to attend one of upcoming information meetings 6:30-8 p.m., which will include information about the requirements for admission into the deacon formation program.

Oct 24 - OLIH, Ankeny
Oct 24 - Ss. Peter and Paul, Atlantic
Nov 10 - St. Boniface, Waukee
Nov 17 - St. Patrick, Missouri Valley

Questions, contact deacondesmoines@gmail.com or vocations@dmdiocese.org

Cathedral Holy Hours

DES MOINES -- All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Monday nights for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer beginning at 5 p.m. Evening prayer will be livestreamed on the Diocesan Facebook page.

Friends, Romans, Iowans podcast

Be sure to check out the Diocesan podcast "Friends, Romans, Iowans." Hear casual conversations with Catholic leaders from around southwest Iowa.

St Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, please pray for us; St. Jude worker of miracles, please pray for us; St. Jude help of the hopeless, please pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day, with a sincere heart, by the 8th day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank you, St. Jude.

PRAY WITH US

For the last year, Bishop William Joensen and the Diocese of Des Moines have been praying to renew Eucharistic faith and worship among God's people and to ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance for the Diocese of Des Moines. As a strategic visioning process

continues, Bishop Joensen invites everyone to join him in praying that we will fulfill our share of God's mission in Southwest Iowa, so that every person might encounter Jesus Christ and experience his call to friendship and communion.

Diocese of Des Moines Visioning Prayer

O God, you share with your people, your church, the mission to be the saving love of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a people of faith in southwest Iowa, send the Holy Spirit to ignite in us:

Sincere conversion to see, hear, think and act as Jesus;

Greater unity and bonds of peace;

Missionary zeal to spread good news that will spark a world aflame with love;

Genuine care for each other, especially those feeling lost or left out; and

Willingness to bear together the yoke that Christ makes light.

May our strategic visioning in the Diocese of Des Moines make us ever more focused, discerning, and free to fulfill our calling as a people made whole by the Heart of your Beloved Son.

Accompany us along the Way that leads to heaven, surrounded by Holy Mary, Joseph, and all the saints with whom we hope to dwell forever in communion with you,

+Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

Diócesis de Des Moines Oración de Visión

Oh Dios, tú compartes con tu pueblo, tu Iglesia, la misión de ser el amor salvador de tu Hijo y nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo.

Como un pueblo de fe en el suroeste de Iowa, envía al Espíritu Santo para que encienda en nosotros:

una sincera conversión para ver, oír, pensar y actuar como Jesús;

una mayor unidad y lazos de paz;

un afán misionero para compartir la buena nueva encendiendo al mundo con amor;

un genuino cariño unos con los otros, especialmente con aquellos que se sienten perdidos o excluidos; y el deseo de cargar juntos con el yugo que se hace ligero con Cristo.

Que nuestra visión estratégica en la Diócesis de Des Moines nos haga aún más enfocados, discernientes y libres para cumplir con nuestro llamado como pueblo que encuentra plenitud por el Corazón de tu Amado Hijo.

Acompáñanos en el Camino que nos lleva al cielo, rodeados de la María Santísima, José y todos los santos con quienes esperamos habitar por siempre en comunión contigo,

+Padre, Hijo, y Espíritu Santo. Amén.



From the dark...



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

...to the light



Photo by Eren Muniz

Father PJ McManus, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, blessed about 75 pilgrims as they embarked on an eight-hour walk in honor of St. Michael on Oct. 1 from the church to the Garcias' family acreage known as the Ranch of St. Michael in Indianola. They walked to profess their faith. "Just like St. Michael defeated the enemy and won the battle, we also can win the battle through the sacraments of the Catholic Church," said Eren Muniz. Bishop William Joensen celebrated Mass for the pilgrims at the end of their journey.

Catholic Daughters annual luncheon



Catholic Daughters Member Kathi Markel pictured with her two grandchildren who helped serve and do clean-up at the Catholic Daughters Annual Summer Salad Luncheon.

By Carol Hollenbeck

Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Council Bluffs held their annual Summer Salad Luncheon on July 13 for more than 110 guests.

Court St. Anthony #330 drew the crowd at St. Peter Catholic Church's social hall.

Ticket prices included two free raffle tickets for donated gift cards, Scentsy candle basket, dog basket, free haircuts, discount cards or centerpiece arrangements.

The 102-year-old court has

held this fundraiser at the same location for many years.

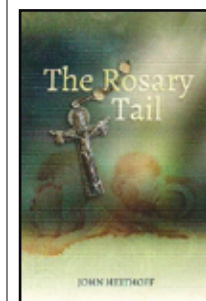
The motto of the international CDA organization is "Unity & Charity." All proceeds fund the charitable causes of the court, which include local, statewide and national non-profit organizations.

Member Kathi Markel brought two of her grandchildren to help with serving and clean-up. They were helpful and kind, and they look forward to helping again next year.

If you're looking to get your message out to the Catholic community in central and southwest Iowa, contact Sandy at sriesberg@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5046.

HOW TO BE MARRIED & STAY ENGAGED

Join Dr. Jim Healy or a half-day digital marriage enrichment experience on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. called "How to be Married and Stay Engaged." It will offer practical ways for couples to build skills for a strong, joyous and faith-filled marriage. Contact Tom Quinlan, tquinlan@sjeciowa.org, director of the St. Joseph Evangelization Center, with questions.

He found it by his vehicle in a public parking lot. Was this Divine Providence or mere coincidence? As the true story unfolds, the answer to this question is revealed.

Two beads on a short chain attached to a crucifix was all that remained of a rosary. Of no use as a rosary without the rest of it, did this once-blessed remnant yet have a spiritual purpose?

Author John Heithoff tells the inspirational story of how a broken rosary helped him with his broken faith.

The story of how The Rosary Tail helped John keep faith shaken under trial and find joy in God's grace will enhance your trust in sacred objects, even broken ones. Don't miss this fascinating tale about the rosary tail.

Softcover 64 pages \$9.99

Scan to Order

John Heithoff is a graduate of St. Albert High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He has a B.S. in psychology from Iowa State University and a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law. His children, Beth and Nathan, live in the Omaha area, and he has three grandchildren.

TheRosaryTail.com

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Lenox parish celebrates deep faith roots



It has been 150 years since the establishment of Lenox. As farmers settled in the southwest Iowa area, they brought their faith with them. Two priests from Conception, Missouri – Father Placidus McKeever and Father Euvène Phalen – came to celebrate Mass in homes or the country schoolhouse. With the community of Lenox celebrating sesquicentennial this past summer, so too was St. Patrick Parish of Lenox celebrating the roots of the Catholic faith in the community.

On the weekend of Sept. 17-18, the parish marked the milestone occasion with a bilingual blessing, and a holy hour of adoration and benediction on that Saturday, according to the pastor, Father Emmanuel Bassey. There were games, a free meal for everyone in the Lenox community and surrounding areas, traditional Hispanic food and pinatas, and fireworks, said parishioner Kathy Ecklin. Several former pastors came for the festivities. On Sunday, a bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated. Pictured above are parishioners at the Sunday Mass.

One-of-a-kind faith center celebrates 50 years

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

A Des Moines regional adult faith formation center is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a slight name change, the addition of a consultant who specializes in family faith and a commitment to focus on the needs of the community.

What was the St. Joseph Educational Center, a one-of-a-kind resource that focuses on adult faith, is now called the St. Joseph Evangelization Center.

“Evangelization is a primary mission of the Church; it’s why we exist,” said Tom Quinlan, executive director of the center.

The SJEC pivoted from

primarily providing parish workshops to focus on serving parish staffs and councils in their leadership roles.

With the addition of consultant and longtime local catechetical leader Paulette Chapman, the center offers support to parishes as they move from a classroom-based model of religious education to a more family-focused approach.

SJEC, which assists 24 Des Moines metro area parishes is unique, said Deacon Matt Halbach, a former director of the SJEC.

“It’s a vision that is true, beautiful, and good,” he said.

The creation of the SJEC came at the behest of Bishop

Maurice Dingman, who led the Des Moines Diocese after Vatican II with the task of promoting renewal in the Church, said Father Tim Fitzgerald, also a former SJEC director.

Bishop Dingman saw a need for more resources for the Catholic community to help adults grow in their faith. And so while a new coeducational Catholic high school was built in West Des Moines to replace a boys’ high school operated by the Diocese and a girls’ academy operated by the Sisters of Charity, known as the BVM sisters, the SJEC was founded.

“Preparing disciples for mission: This was revolutionary stuff in a diocese that had nev-

er known something like this,” said Father Fitzgerald. “It was 25 years before this model was taken up by the U.S. bishops and spelled out in the 1999 document called ‘Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us,’ stating that lifelong growth in faith is the model and goal for all faith formation, and that adult growth in faith is to be front and center with all faith formation.”

The center, in many ways, represented a changing church. It was directed by lay people and focused on training parish leaders, offering homily preparation and providing print resources and book resources that had never been available in the diocese. It offered the first theological li-



Tom Quinlan

brary collection in the diocese. The center was a founding partner of an ecumenical project called January Thaw and it sponsored resource days for parish staffs, school personnel and adults seeking greater understanding.

In 1986, it began a collaborative venture with Creighton University in Omaha for bachelor’s level theology courses offered in Des Moines to give adults a solid grounding in the Catholic tradition. Those classes, begun by Father Jim Polich, existed for 25 years.

The faith center has been led by those who know “that a changing church requires new and different approaches,” said Father Fitzgerald.

“What are the needs? What are the gifts? Those ever-old, ever-new questions guide the center to this day,” he said. “A changing church requires new and different approaches.”

Quinlan hopes the emphasis on evangelization and boosting skill development among faith leaders will create systemic change that will benefit the Des Moines metro area for many years to come.

“God is calling the center to a renewed strategic vision though its ultimate goal remains to proclaim the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world,” he said.



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Standing for life



Photo by Catherine Schroeder

Prolife witnesses stand in the annual Life Chain in Council Bluffs.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

Ed Kordick of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, and Tim Stacy, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, stand along University Avenue on Oct. 2 for Life Chain, a public witness for life. Moines.

Though the annual Life Chain silent witness for life moved from Merle Hay Road in Des Moines to University Avenue, it drew a crowd of prolife people holding signs and praying for life.

Ed Kordick, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, said he tries to understand why someone might want an abortion because of convenience or they don't want to suffer. But ultrasound technology and science in general is showing that there is life from conception.

"We are God's children from the very moment of concep-

tion," he said. A strong supporter of prolife pregnancy centers that help women through pregnancy and after a baby is born, Kordick added: "We need to support all human beings."

Tim Stacy, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, said he has believed for a long time that a baby has a right to be born because of his Catholic faith, but also because it's a human right.

"I don't understand why other human rights are so much more important than a baby who is not born. They don't have any rights. I just want to be a voice for them," he said.

Catholic Charities baby shower grows

Three agencies with roots in Catholic Social Teaching are partnering to serve the common good on the west side of the state.

A West Des Moines-based outreach called Mary's Helping Hands provided infant and baby supplies and Gabriel's Corner in Council Bluffs provided a much needed supply of diapers for the ninth annual Catholic Charities' community baby shower in Council Bluffs.

Last year, Mary's Helping Hands, which started at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, provided 50 bags of items for Catholic Charities to include in the bags of supplies they gave away to new or expecting parents.

This year, Catholic Charities received 85 bags of bottles, baby clothes and more from Mary's Helping Hands and 80 packets of diapers from Gabriel's Corner, said domestic abuse advocate Nicole Gurnon.

In addition to these agencies, a YMCA club, Walmart, Sam's Club, local community members as well as 10 service providers in the community provided maternal and baby items and information on community resources to be included in the gift packets.

"It's been a huge success," she said.

The community baby shower on Oct. 21 is scheduled to be at the Salvation Army parking lot on the Charles E. Lakin Campus in Council Bluffs. Mary's Helping Hands, along with Iowa Total Care, helped sponsor the event with Catholic Charities.

The community baby shower is in its ninth year and helps strengthen families and empower individuals. It has grown from serving 20-25 families to 55 last year. Registrations indicate 80 families may be served this year, Gurnon said.

Catholic Charities serves nine counties in southwest Iowa. The donation from Mary's Helping Hands is a big help.

"It allows us to focus on getting those donations to the community and adding to the bags" for the pregnant or new parents, Gurnon said.

"Clearly, the need is there and we're here to serve and help those who need," said Shelby Lane, Mary's Helping Hands client operations and donation drive coordinator. Donations that come in from individuals around central Iowa are now benefiting expecting and new moms around the state.

"We want to make sure this continues because of the success," Gurnon said. "We see this as something that is years and

Support offered for caregivers

Who is caring for the caregivers?

The parents of a sick or disabled child may need someone to talk to.

The spouse or adult child of a loved one with dementia or cancer can grow tired in offering 24/7 care.

Deacon Jim Houston, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, remembers feeling exhausted while he and his wife, Mary, cared for a sick child.

He is working with Deacon Dan Maxcy, of Holy Trinity and St. Mary of Nazareth Parishes in Des Moines, to bring a Chicago-based support group called Nourish for Caregivers to the Des Moines metro area.

Holy Trinity, St. Pius X and St. Mary of Nazareth Parishes are partnering together.

Nourish began three to four years ago by two women who were caregivers. Deacon Maxcy received support from the diocesan Disability Ministry to learn how to get such a support group started.

Nourish for Caregivers will have its first meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at Holy Trinity beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"It's a ministry that is not widespread," said Deacon Maxcy. We're used to going to the homebound and nursing homes and assisted living centers and calling on people in need of care," he said.

But the Church could help the spouse, family member or friend who is caring for the sick or elderly, he said.

"Those people don't really have a faith-based entity that would care for their faith needs," he added.

"People are just worn out," Deacon Houston said. He hopes Nourish can help them.

Nourish for Caregivers will be a support for people of any or no faith, Deacon Maxcy said. All are welcome.

For more information, call Deacon Maxcy at 515-255-3162 ext. 124 or danm@holytrinitydm.org. Or, go to NourishforCaregiver.com.

Strategic approach taken to pastoral care for those in nursing homes, care centers

About a year ago, the diocesan coordinator of Disability Ministry called a meeting of pastoral care ministers so she could become familiar with their work and they could get to know her.

In the meeting, someone asked if all of the faithful at nursing homes, independent living and assisted living centers were getting their sacraments. The nursing homes were beginning to let parish ministers visit again as covid cases fell.

They found that some of the care centers didn't know who to call. And, they learned not all parishes knew of the many different care centers in their areas.

Deacon Dan Maxcy, of

Holy Trinity Parish and St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines, and Deacon Jim Houston, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, teamed up with Patty Origer, diocesan coordinator of Disability Ministry.

They're in the process of cataloguing all of the care centers in the Des Moines metro area and figuring out in which parish geographic boundaries they belong. They're also creating a flyer for the care centers showing where the parishes are located, what services they can offer and when to call them such as when someone might want or need the anointing of the sick sacrament.

The hope is that someone in each parish will become familiar with someone at each of the care centers in their parish so that the centers know who to call and the parishes can extend pastoral care.

Just in the last few of weeks,



Deacon Dan Maxcy leads a communion service at Calvin Community Center in Des Moines.

Deacon Houston said he's received calls from a couple of care centers reaching out to ask for a Catholic minister to visit.

"People are starting to come back to nursing homes," Origer said. "It's a perfect time to re-vamp what we're doing and offer visits from Catholic representatives."

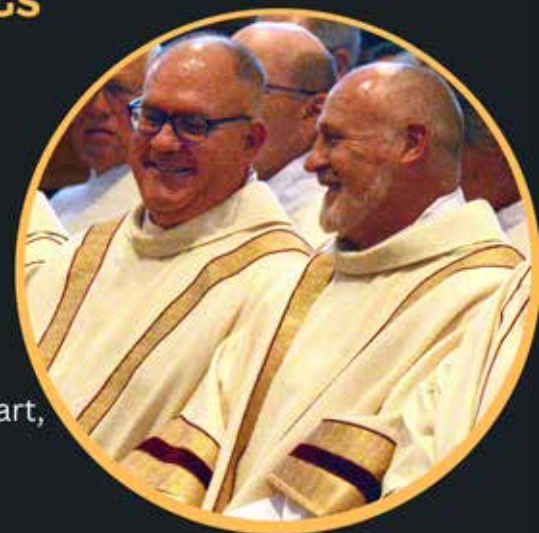
INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

PERMANENT DEACONS

SAVE THE DATE
6:30-8 PM

- Oct 24 Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, in Ankeny
- Oct 24 Ss Peter & Paul, Atlantic
- Nov 10 St Boniface, Waukee
- Nov 17 St Patrick, Missouri Valley

Questions? Contact deacondesmoines@gmail.com or vocations@dmdiocese.org



Parish Renewal initiative empowers catechists

Continued from page 1

In July, they hosted a “Bless Our Heritage” celebration to bless their Heritage Garden, which honors the priests and families who have been a part of their community throughout their 142-year history and includes a stepping-stone rosary used by children in their Youth Faith Formation program.

“Our program spiritually guides kids as young as three years old through high school seniors in Catholic teachings, sacramental preparation, and prayer,” according to Rita Laughlin, director of Religious Education at St. Patrick.

The program meets in a 100-year-old former convent across the street from the church. The parish is using some of their parish share from Ignite! to update the original windows in the convent.

“This will not only provide a more welcoming and safer environment for our youth,” Laughlin said, “but also sends a clear message that our youth matter, and the efforts of our catechists are important.”

Laughlin is also excited about how St. Patrick’s will benefit from the Parish Renewal and Vibrancy initiative, particularly in developing faith leaders who are on fire with the Holy Spirit and passionate about bringing people closer to Jesus.

“We have a long list of parishioners who fit that description, and we are excited about the opportunities provided through Parish Renewal and Vibrancy,” Laughlin said. “We will bring committees together to create a common vision for our parish to grow in our faith together.”

Campaign surpasses \$25 million

Most Wave 3 parishes kicked off their campaigns in early October. Meanwhile, parishes from Wave 2 have started to make goal, helping the campaign surpass \$25 million.

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic, with 248 registered families, recently went over its Ignite! goal of \$285,000.

“What made a difference

for us was our people – not only our strong leadership team, but also our engaged group of volunteers. Their positive attitude was infectious,” said Father Trevor Chicoine, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul.

“It helped that our leadership identified a project our parishioners were excited about and motivated to support. The funds from our parish share will lay the foundation to modernize our parish center,” he said.

St. Anne Parish in Logan with 140 families has also recently eclipsed its goal of \$100,000.

Father Raphael Masabakhwa, pastor of St. Anne’s, and Mike and Cindy O’Kane, the campaign chairpersons, embraced their role and recruited a team of six volunteers who set out to contact every registered family in the parish.

St. Anne Parish will primarily use their “parish share” to replace the heating and air conditioning systems and reduce debt.

“The parishioners of St. Anne’s in Logan are wonderful people who have listened to the call of the Holy Spirit, praise God!” said Mike and Cindy O’Kane.

Now that Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Anne Parishes have exceeded their campaign goals, they get to keep 75% of any gifts they receive going forward.

To learn more about Parish Renewal and Vibrancy and support the Ignite! Campaign, visit <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite>

Faith at the center of milestone anniversaries



Mary and Larry Hagerla of St. Mary of Nazareth Parish in Des Moines, celebrated 60 years of marriage at a Mass for couples with milestone anniversaries..

Continued from page 1

ful Catholic didn’t eat after midnight if he planned to go to communion the next day. The brothers were fasting.

The next day, Ed took Betty to a home show.

They dated for about a year before marrying at St. Patrick Church in Neola. She was 18 and he was nearly 21 years old.

“I remember when I took her hand in church,” he said. “It was such a wonderful feeling.”

Betty laid flowers before a statue of Mary, as was tradition for a bride, praying that she be a good wife and mother.

“She certainly has guided me all my life, I know that,” Betty said.

Betty and Ed settled on a farm and began their family that grew to include four children.

How did they make it to 65 years of marriage?

Now parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Harlan, the couple relied on God. They had good role models in their parents’ marriages, and they were involved in church activities from Eucharistic ministry to teaching religious education. They went beyond the church by serving as foster parents.

“Ed and I have tried to put God at the center of our lives,” said Betty. “When God is at the center of your life, there’s a strong peace.”

Bishop William Jonsen honored more than 40 couples celebrating more than 1,530 years of marriage with a Mass at St. Michael Church in Harlan and St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines for those with milestone anniversaries.

At the Des Moines Mass, Mary and Larry Hagerla of St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, celebrated 60 years of marriage.

“It takes a lot of commitment and Christ behind you,” said Mary. “It’s love and you have to make that commitment that God’s given you the grace to stay.”

Larry recommended couples not give up.

“When there’s hard

times, you know better times are ahead. You hang on. There’s always better times ahead,” he said.

Also celebrating 60 years of marriage were Marie and Steve Franzenburg, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines. The couple met in junior college in Marshalltown.

“She had great eyes,” he said.

The trick to a long marriage, she said, is to keep working at it and to be forgiving.

He joined the Catholic Church shortly after they were married.

For the couple, faith has provided “a moral compass. A line has been set and we pay attention to that,” Steve said.

Fred and Jo Ann Kimmel, of St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, celebrated 65 years of marriage. She dedicated her life to Catholic education first as a teacher for 33 years at All Saints School then for six years as a director of religious education at St. Anthony Parish and a director of religious education at her home parish for 11 years.

“We’ve had one big philosophy all our lives, and it’s what we told our daughter,” Jo Ann said. “God has to be at the center of your life.”

“Marriage is a 50/50 proposition,” Fred said. “I think you have to share your life and I think you have to be there for one another. And of course, God has to be at the center of your home. I just don’t think you’ll ever be happy unless you’re living the teachings of Jesus and the Church.”


John and Nancy Appel marked their 25th anniversary by attending the Mass. The parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines met at a company picnic at Adventureland.

“And so we’ve been on a rollercoaster ever since,” John said. “It’s been a great ride!”

Why celebrate at the Mass? It was a recognition of their shared faith.


“It felt right,” Nancy said.

Reflecting on their 65 years together, Ed Reinig said: “You wonder where the time went.”



Contemplative Prayer Retreat

Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. – Nov. 20, 1:00 p.m.
Schuyler, NE



In contemplative prayer, we divest our minds of all thoughts and images in order to receive the pure and simple light of God directly into the summit of our souls. This retreat involves breath practice. It is for those who have begun the practice of non-conceptual prayer. **Father Thomas Leitner, OSB**, directs St. Benedict Center.

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Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death


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

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

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

Amen

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



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Christ Our Life conference draws crowd



Photo by America Duran
Marilyn Lane
Co-founder of the conference



Photo by America Duran
Jon Leonetti
Speaker



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins
Chris Stefanick
Speaker



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins
"We're like a lightning rod for the Holy Spirit," Bishop William Joensen said in welcoming a crowd to the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference. Addressing those attending by livestream, he said, "It radiates throughout the states and the world. The church universal is here in microcosm." He noted the energy in the crowd as the conference began: "The vitality of the church has come real and alive here and in a very marvelous way."



Photos by America Duran
Vendors sold religious books, t-shirts, jewelry and more to the many faithful who came to the 2022 Christ Our Life Catholic Conference in Des Moines on Sept. 24-25.



Photo by Mayra Moriel de Banuelos
Patricia Sandoval shares her story in Spanish to a breakout group.

With Roe overturned, march will focus on Congress, laws to end abortion

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Jeanne Mancini wants it to be clear: The national March for Life in Washington will continue even with the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, its 1973 ruling that found a right to abortion in the U.S. Constitution and legalized it nationwide.

The court overturned Roe June 24 in its ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks. The court affirmed the law 6-3 but also voted 5-4 to overturn Roe as well as 1992's Casey v. Planned Parenthood ruling, which affirmed Roe.

The Jan. 20 March for Life will be the 50th rally and march since the first such event Jan. 22, 1974. Organized by Nellie Gray, a government lawyer, and the Knights of Columbus, it took place on the first anniversary of the Roe ruling.

This January there will be one difference: The march up Constitution Avenue, which has always ended at the Supreme Court building, will end at the East Front of the Capitol instead.

This reflects the pro-life movement's focus on politicians instead of Supreme Court justices, and support for a national abortion ban, at 15 weeks of gestation, in a bill proposed by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Mancini, in her capacity as head of March for Life Action, the organization's lobbying arm, added her support for that measure in September.

"Limiting abortions after 15

weeks is the least we can do to protect women, as well as babies who at this stage are already fully formed in their mother's womb and can feel pain," her statement read. "It is consistent with what we know from science about the harm of late abortion, as well as in line with where Americans stand on the issue."

On Oct. 13, Mancini an-

nounced the theme for the Jan. 20 rally and march: "Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America."

"We are going to celebrate," she said. "History is shifting now, and we have to take stock of all that has happened."

Mancini called the national march "critical to our strategic plan."

Looking for story ideas

The Catholic Mirror is looking for story ideas. If you know of a faith program that strengthens one's relationship with God, or an inspiring witness to the faith, call 515-237-5046 or email communications@dmdiocese.org.

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Goodbye George

By Tom Klein

A few weeks ago, my 84-year-old uncle was killed in a traffic accident up in rural northwest Iowa. He'd been driving his antique farm tractor down a highway early one evening, and was struck from behind. Details of the accident are unknown; Authorities are investigating yet.

Tonight, I phoned one of his sons, a cousin that my three brothers and I became close to while growing up on the farm.

My cousin Deny was doing well, but the hurt was still present and painful. We talked about the grieving process. It'd taken me a full year after my Dad died to finally embrace he was gone. Both our dads had been farmers. Their livelihood was based on nature and the four seasons. It seems natural to me closure would take a full year.

Over Labor Day weekend, my Uncle George had driven his 1940s Silver King tractor in the town's holiday parade. George fully enjoyed driving it; the tractor was a family heirloom. He'd purchased it from the farm estate after my Grandpa Henry died. George had taken good care of the tractor. He was quite proud of it, happy to show it off to the local farming community and townsfolk. He'd done so in numerous small town parades previously.

George was the last of the Great Generation for our family. Born in 1938 as a baby of the depression, he'd grown up in a devout, faith-filled Catholic home. His parents actively practiced their Catholic faith. Two of George's aunts were Franciscan Nuns, working as Missionaries in

China during the Japanese invasion. They were captured and placed under house arrest until the end of the war. From a young age on, George witnessed how to practice his faith unwaveringly, his close family members as role models. That example would follow him through his formative years and all throughout his life.

The shock of George's death affected Deny and his siblings deeply. There was no opportunity to say goodbye. Children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren experienced loss. Uncle George was active, in decent health, and fully enjoyed his extended family. Even after losing his wife to sudden illness, George remained upbeat, happy to talk to people, involved with family, and was genuinely a pleasure to visit with. Always hospitable, he exemplified how to reflect God's love to those around us. George loved and enjoyed people.

After the accident, his son, Ray, collected his thoughts. Father Hogan felt they exemplified George so well that he included them in his homily for the funeral Mass. In essence, Ray's message was one of hope and peace. George saw God's beauty in people and all his creation. George would not hold a grudge against those who'd wronged him. Giving them instead the benefit of the doubt, he practiced God's forgiveness and love. He learned this from his parents during his life; it was clearly



George waves to those watching a parade on the sideline just a few days prior to the accident. Cheering on George are: Tom Klein's brother, his son-in-law, and two young grandsons. One of the boys is named Henry, in honor of his great-great grandpa. The family believes that, with his warm smile and a big wave, George was unconsciously bidding everyone farewell.

exemplified by his aunts to their captors.

To honor his dad's memory, Ray reiterated we are to take in all God's goodness, and be grateful for all the blessings he bestows. We are not to sink into resentment, vengeance, or hate. We are instead to continue on in love and gratitude for the time George was with us. Even in grave death by another, Ray said George would want the family to exercise God's love and grant his peace. In Matthew's Gospel, Peter asks how many times we must forgive our brother: even up to seven times? Jesus replies not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Our forgiveness is to be limitless

and infinite.

The days since the accident and funeral have given me time to think and reflect on all this. George had provided a lifelong example of how to spread God's love. His accident allows us to experience God's power and love directly, by practicing his immeasurable forgiveness. We are to share God's love with others. Christ Jesus tells us to love one another as he loves us. And so we must. Goodbye George.

Thomas Klein is a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

Allowing God to write my saint story

Every night during bedtime prayers, our two-year-old daughter, Marigold, insists on leading our family's Litany of Saints. As she tries to remember which saint comes next on the list, she'll inevitably glance up at the ceiling before taking a quick peek at the faces surrounding her.

"Saint. . . Gabriel, pray for us. Saint. . . Ceci, pray for us. Saint. . . Gemma, pray for us. Saint. . . Zita, pray for us. Saint. . . Mary, pray for us. Saint. . . Lulu, pray for us. Saint. . . Mama, pray for us. Saint. . . Daddy, pray for us."

While she's caught on that our children are all named after saints, I haven't yet informed her that she has no authority to canonize us. I actually find Marigold's sweet, though dissident, prayers a weighty reminder of the goal and hope Adam and I have for our family: to one day be counted among the saints in heaven.

That may sound lovely and upbeat, but I'm often intimidated by our universal

Marriage and Family Life

By Kara Storey



call to sainthood. The beloved saints we read about suffered incredible trials. St. Teresa of Calcutta experienced the dark night of the soul. St. Zélie Martin buried four of her children. St. Jane Frances de Chantal spent much of her life afflicted with anxiety and depression. Recalling their lives, I'm tempted to fear.

What will be asked of me?

What will I have to give up?

"Give me the crown, but not the cross, oh Lord!" my flesh cries out.

Thankfully, God isn't asking me to be Teresa, Zélie or even Jane. He's asking

me to be Kara of Des Moines, promising me the grace to suffer whatever trials come my way.

In "On the Call to Holiness in Today's World," Pope Francis writes, "There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. The important thing is that each believer discerns his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts, rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them."

Trust me, the Lord is giving me more than enough saint-making moments in my little home on 52nd Street. The baby waking multiple times at night, never-ending crumbs on the floor and navigating sibling squabbles are just a start. Pope Francis refers to these moments as opportunities for

"everyday holiness," again writing, "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance, I see the holiness of the Church militant."

Some days I persevere, but more often I hit the ground under the weight of the tiniest cross. Fortunately, he's there to pick me up when I fall.

As we look ahead to the feasts of All Saints and All Souls Day, may we all have the courage to pray, "Lord, make me the saint you want me to be. Make my family the saints you know we can be."

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

The tough prayer

By Kenan Bresnan

If you would look in my book of prayers that I have both collected and written, you would find one entitled "the tough prayer." The inspiration for this prayer came one day as I was a bit frustrated by some world leaders. I really don't like them. And then I remembered that Richard Nixon had a famous enemies list. That is not what I am after but it made me think that I am to pray for all. Even if I don't like them.

So, who does that mean that I should pray for? Today, Vladimir Putin tops my list. And Mr. Xi from China would also be on my prayer list.

Now I am going to stop with proper names. Why would I want to tell all of you who is on my list? Some of these might be on your list of people to be thankful for

There is no right or wrong list for everyone. Each of us will have our own. The purpose of this prayer is to pray for those who offend you, whose views and personalities rub you the wrong way. God's love is for all.

This is one way to look at tough love. If you open my prayer book and go to this prayer, all you will see is "The Tough Prayer." There is no list of people; that page is blank. I want to pray for people, not make an enemies list. Some people might be on my tough prayer list for a while and then not be.

The fact that my list is blank, means that I have to remember who I want on this list by name each time that I pray it. When I consciously have to call their name to memory, it reminds me that they have been named by God, that they are a person just

like me. They need our prayers.

Who might make your list?

An in-law or two, your governor or mayor, a city councilperson or school board member, your senator or congress person, members of your parish who approach religion differently than you, a person with a social media presence that offends you, or the person who really ticked you off yesterday. Your list will be different than mine, but I wanted to give you an idea of who needs your prayers.

The tough prayer is not necessarily a prayer for others to change, although I have no objection if they do. I am praying to God that he helps them.

I might also suggest the following if you need your own words to pray for them.

The Lord bless and keep you

The Lord let his face shine upon you

And be gracious to you!

The Lord look kindly and

Give you Peace!

(From the book of numbers)

I hope that you are getting the message, that we pray by name for all kinds of people. As we get into the habit of doing this, hopefully it will help us open wider our door to civility to them or talking about them.

I think that it is important that as we think about people on our list, or an encounter that we have with one of them, that we also look at ourselves and think about how we are acting.

Are we gaining a place on their tough prayer list?

Ken Bresnan is a parishioner at Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola.

Following the path of inspiration

During his down time at work, a Minnesota surgeon often browses the New Yorker in the hospital library. One day he spotted its famed cartoon caption contest – a caption-less cartoon that calls on readers to submit captions and then vote on their favorites, to be published in the following issue of the magazine.

The fun is trying to explain an oddity or the juxtaposition of two disparate elements in a single sentence. The contest generates some 5,000 to 10,000 entries a week. And this doctor was intrigued by the cartoon he saw: a husband and wife lying in bed behind prison bars.

“I stared at the cartoon for several minutes and typed a few duds,” he wrote. “Then I was called to start a surgery and, literally, in those few seconds before I logged off, the caption came to me.”

He typed: “How about we just stay in tonight?”

The caption won the contest.

What happened in the span of those three or four seconds?

Inspiration struck.

As a Catholic journalist, I have

Twentysomething

By Christina Cappechi



always been fascinated by that Eureka moment. I often ask people to describe the scene in detail: room, time of day, beverage at hand, music in the background. There's something satisfying about painting a picture, pinning down all the elements in place when the elusive experience occurred.

A criminal prosecutor told me he sets his alarm for 4 a.m. and makes Cuban coffee so he can write fiction before his kids wake up. His preferred method: paper and pen.

“This morning, right after my prayer, this story I've been thinking about for 18 months just kind of came together,” he said.

What made it click?

“Who knows?” he said. “I like to think it was grace and a bit of the Holy Spirit.”

The late novelist John Hassler found it helpful to read his old journals. “Between novels,” he said, “I will browse through my 30 years of journal entries looking for topics to write about, and this, together with my memory and imagination, produces the fiction.” If he needed an extra boost “to get the language rolling,” he'd craft a letter to a friend.

A chemist described the central role of his Catholic faith when he's stuck in a science experiment. “Then I turn to God for guidance and I am amazed,” he said. “Things start to click in my head and problems are solved. I am very appreciative and I thank God – sometimes out loud.”

Movement can shake out a new idea, getting outside your head or your office.

“I get some of my best ideas in the morning when I'm thinking in the shower, rubbing my scalp,” the artistic director of an acclaimed theater told me. “Maybe it's a scene I'm not satisfied with and I'll rub my scalp really hard and something will pop up.”

Unloading the dishwasher helps me. My fingers are free from the keyboard, but

my mind keeps turning an idea.

Undertaking a different creative endeavor – especially one that doesn't involve a deadline or any degree of mastery – can get the juices flow. Einstein called this tactic “combinatory play” – the act of opening up one mental channel by experimenting in another. That's why he'd play the violin when he was struggling to solve a mathematical puzzle. It worked.

This underscores the Catholic belief that the body, mind and soul are intimately connected. We can spark one by tapping into another. And the health of one dimension often leads to the health of another. A long walk, a clearer mind. An active prayer life, lower blood pressure.

Reflecting on creativity fills me with hope. We are creative beings, made in the image and likeness of the Creator. We are capable of beautiful things. And a brilliant new idea may arrive any second.

Christina Cappechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.



I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

Q. Can you tell me a little about the subject of angels? Are they separate beings? What do we know about them?

A. ANGELS ARE MENTIONED in both the Old Testament and in the New Testament. The word itself comes from the Greek, which means “messenger.” In our day, angels are depicted much as humans with wings, but there is no biblical evidence for that. In scripture, they are often portrayed in the guise of humans.

In the book of Genesis, angels are sent to announce the birth of a child and its future destiny (Gen. 16:11 and 18:9-15). An angel guides Israel through the wilderness (Ex. 23:20).

Jesus speaks of angels (Luke

12:8-9), and the births of John the Baptist and Jesus are announced by the Angel Gabriel. An angel assists Jesus in the Agony of the Garden (Luke 22:43). An angel removes the stone from the tomb of Jesus (Matt. 28:2-3). Angels are part of the heavenly court at the last judgment (Matt. 13:39-41 and 25:31-46). This corresponds to the popular Jewish belief at that time, and the only dissenters were the Sadducees who denied the existence of angels. The Pharisees affirmed the existence of angels.

Sometimes we refer to people who help us in a time of need as “angels.” They may not even know that they are messengers from God, but we know. The fact is, we can't begin to even imagine the magnitude of God, and so we rely on messengers

who can help us in our daily struggles. A belief in guardian angels is widespread but has never been a part of Church dogma, though there is a liturgical observance in October in the Roman calendar of feasts.

Q. Can you clarify what happens to our body vs. our soul at the time of death – our individual judgment before Jesus, and then again at the end of the world – the Second Coming of Christ? - Jeff, Grimes, Iowa

A. I WISH I COULD! At the time of Jesus, the people of Israel didn't think of themselves as divided into bodies and souls. Rather, it was the totality of the person.

Greek philosophical influences, however, divided persons into bodies and souls. Body was the physical; soul was the spiritual or animator.

When we read the gospels, there is scant reference to what happens to us after death. The one major exception can be found in the Gospel of St. Luke – the story of the rich man (sometimes called Dives)

and the poor man Lazarus (apparently no relation to the good friend of Jesus). Cf. Luke 16:19-31. Whether that story is primarily about life after death is uncertain. Some hold that the story Jesus tells is really about how we live in this life, how we care for the underdog, how we share what is given to us. Another reference to the judgment can be found in Matthew 25:31-46, where the king divides the nations like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The judgment is based on how people treat others, the hungry, the poor, the naked, the stranger, the sick, the imprisoned.

For God, we know there is no time – only an eternal now. So, when we think of a particular judgment at the time of death and a general judgment at the end of time, we are thinking in human terms which mean nothing to God. It's pretty heady, I admit, but no one has come back from the dead to explain it to us.

My best advice is for us to live our lives gratefully and generously. God will figure it all out.

On being jealous of God's generosity

Father Ron Rolheiser



“The cock will crow at the breaking of your own ego – there are lots of ways to wake up!”

John Shea gave me those words and I understood them a little better recently as I stood in line at an airport: I had checked in for a flight, approached security, saw a huge lineup, and accepted the fact that it would take at least 40 minutes to get through it.

I was all right with the long wait and moved patiently in the line – until, just as my turn came, another security crew arrived, opened a second scanning machine, and a whole lineup of people, behind me, who had not waited the forty minutes, got their turns almost immediately. I still got my turn as I would have before, but something inside of me felt slighted and angry:

“This wasn't fair! I'd been waiting for forty minutes, and they got their turns at the same time as I did!” I had been content waiting, until those who arrived later didn't have to wait at all. I hadn't been treated unfairly, but some others had been

luckier than I'd been.

That experience taught me something, beyond the fact that my heart isn't always huge and generous. It helped me understand something about Jesus' parable concerning the workers who came at the 11th hour and received the same wages as those who'd worked all day and what is meant by the challenge that is given to those who grumbled about the unfairness of this: “Are you envious because I'm generous?”

Are we jealous because God is generous? Does it bother us when others are given unmerited gifts and forgiveness? You bet! Ultimately, that sense of injustice, of envy that someone else caught a break is a huge stumbling block to our happiness. Why? Because something in us reacts negatively when it seems that life is not making others pay the same dues as we are paying.

In the Gospels we see an incident where Jesus goes to the synagogue on a Sabbath, stands up to read, and quotes a text from Isaiah – except he doesn't quote it fully but omits a part. The text (Isaiah 61,1-2) would have been well known to his listeners and it describes Isaiah's vision of what will be the sign that God has finally broken into the world and irrevocably changed things. And what will that be?

For Isaiah, the sign that God is now ruling the earth will be good news for the

poor, consolation for the broken-hearted, freedom for the enslaved, grace abundant for everyone, and vengeance on the wicked. Notice though, when Jesus quotes this, he leaves out the part about vengeance. Unlike Isaiah, he doesn't say that part of our joy will be seeing the wicked punished.

In heaven we will be given what we are owed and more (unmerited gift, forgiveness we don't deserve, joy beyond imagining) but, it seems, we will not be given that catharsis we so much want here on earth, the joy of seeing the wicked punished.

The joys of heaven will not include seeing Hitler suffer. Indeed, the natural itch we have for strict justice (“An eye for an eye”) is exactly that, a natural itch, something the Gospels invite us beyond. The desire for strict justice blocks our capacity for forgiveness and thereby prevents us from entering heaven where God, like the Father of the Prodigal Son, embraces and forgives without demanding a pound of flesh for a pound of sin.

We know we need God's mercy, but if grace is true for us, it must be true for everyone; if forgiveness is given us, it must be given everybody; and if God does not avenge our misdeeds, God must not avenge the misdeeds of others either. Such is the logic of grace, and such is the love of the God to whom we must attune ourselves.

Happiness is not about vengeance, but about forgiveness; not about vindication, but about unmerited embrace; and not about capital punishment, but about living beyond even murder.

It is not surprising that, in some of the great saints, we see a theology bordering on universalism, namely, the belief that in the end God will save everyone, even the Hitlers.

They believed this not because they didn't believe in hell or the possibility of forever excluding ourselves from God, but because they believed that God's love is so universal, so powerful, and so inviting that, ultimately, even those in hell will see the error of their ways, swallow their pride, and give themselves over to love. The final triumph of God, they felt, will be when the devil himself converts and hell is empty.

Maybe that will never happen. God leaves us free. Nevertheless, when I, or anyone else, is upset at an airport, at a parole board hearing, or anywhere else where someone gets something we don't think he or she deserves, we have to accept that we're still a long way from understanding and accepting the kingdom of God.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

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'Faithful Citizenship' calls on us to be part of political process

By Tom Chapman
Contributing Writer

The U.S. bishops have encouraged participation in the political process as a means of helping the common good.

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue and participation in political life is a moral obligation," they said in their document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

The bishops of Iowa are sharing videos on how Catholics can participate in the political process.

One means is by voting. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8. An identification card will be required. The first day for in-person voting is Oct. 19.

Dubuque Archbishop Michael Jackels has a message on voting: "Vote for someone who will do the most good or the least harm," he said in a recent video on social media.

Sioux City Bishop R. Walker Nickless encourages a "better kind of politics" based on the

common good.

DACA Recipients

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit recently issued its decision in *Texas v. United States*, affirming a lower court's ruling that deemed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to be unlawful.

The decision comes after the Biden Administration appealed a July 2021 decision that has halted adjudication of all new DACA applications and threatens protection for current beneficiaries.

The appellate court's decision returns the case to the district court to consider the impact of regulations published by the Department of Homeland Security on Aug. 30 to codify the program.

DACA, which was implemented in 2012, allows certain undocumented individuals who were brought to the United States as children – commonly known as "Dreamers" – to remain in the country.

The current DACA population includes nearly 600,000 active recipients with more than 80,000 first-time applications

sitting unprocessed. D A C A does not provide beneficiaries with legal status or create a pathway to citizenship, but it does offer temporary protection from removal and eligibility to apply for work authorization.

There are multiple bills pending before the U.S. Congress that would provide permanent relief to Dreamers, including the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R.6) and the Dream Act (S.264), both of which have been endorsed by the U.S. bishops.

For more information on "Faithful Citizenship" go to iowacatholicconference.org.

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops in Iowa.



Tom Chapman

Cruce de Peatonos

Continued on page 14

y dicen, "esto no pasa en donde yo vivo."

Aquí tenemos otro ejemplo. No tenemos por qué disculparnos por creer que Dios en su bondad nos ha creado masculinos y femeninos, que la sexualidad humana es un gran regalo de Dios que debe celebrarse, dársele reverencia y que se expresa con gracia en el salvador sacramento del matrimonio. Aún eso no nos permite excluir o cancelar a aquellos que no están seguros de quienes son, que se sienten extraños en sus propios cuerpos o quienes se sienten atraídos hacia personas del mismo sexo – personas que se convierten en peones que son explotados en las guerras culturales por aquellos quienes ven con desprecio el punto de vista judeocristiano sobre la naturaleza humana.

No estamos obligados a ratificar todas las inclinaciones como inherentemente buenas, o decir que todas las opciones son creadas iguales ante los ojos de Dios. Pero que Dios nos ayude si no acompañamos a estas personas, invitándoles intencionalmente e incluyéndoles en nuestras familias, nuestras parroquias, nuestros círculos de amistades en

donde el Espíritu y la vida fluyen libremente. El reconocimiento de nuestra dignidad común como hijos e hijas de Dios y nuestra decencia humana básica no nos permitirían que hiciéramos menos.

Dios viene a salvarnos a todos de nosotros mismos. Jesús repara los cables entre la gran división entre el cielo y la tierra; él baja aceleradamente desde su divinidad hacia nuestra humanidad en el momento preciso. En vez de aferrarse a la vida, él simplemente se suelta y se deja caer al abismo, a lo más bajo de los lugares bajos que es la muerte misma.

Nosotros profesamos en el Credo de los Apóstoles que Jesús desciende a los infiernos. Él restaura la conexión entre aquellos que son lo suficientemente humildes para gritar pidiendo su misericordia en esta vida, y aquellos que tienen asuntos aún sin terminar en el teleférico que les transporta hacia el Padre de las misericordias.

Por gracia y por naturaleza, reconocemos a Dios en nosotros mismos, ya sea que nuestros cuerpos estén llenos de llagas o si nuestros rostros están marcados por la preocupación, la tristeza y el rechazo a nuestras faltas.

Como lo dijo el Papa

Benedicto XVI al reflejar en el Amor que es Dios: "en Dios y con Dios, amo también a la persona que no me agrada o ni siquiera conozco. Esto sólo puede llevarse a cabo a partir del encuentro íntimo con Dios, un encuentro que se ha convertido en comunión de voluntad, llegando a implicar el sentimiento. Entonces aprendo a mirar a esta otra persona no ya sólo con mis ojos y sentimientos, sino desde la perspectiva de Jesucristo. Su amigo es mi amigo. ... Al verlo con los ojos de Cristo, puedo dar al otro mucho más que cosas externas necesarias: puedo ofrecerle la mirada de amor que él necesita" (Deus caritas est n. 18).

Epulón fue patéticamente arrogante al decirle a Abraham, "envíalo." Estamos humildes y audazmente preparados para decirle a Jesús todas las mañanas, con gratitud y santo temor de Dios, "Envíame." ENVÍAME a donde tú desees, Señor: a cualquier brecha que me encuentre, cualquier abismo que descubra – especialmente a esos de los que he sido parte en el pasado. Ayúdame a ayudar a otros a cruzar de la muerte a la vida, porque ellos son mis hermanos, mis hermanas, tus amigos, mis amigos. ENVÍAME. SÁLVANOS. Y nuestro gozo estará completo.

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Pope to young artists: Don't copy superstars; be original, authentic



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Young students who are members of the National Youth Advisory Council meet with Pope Francis at the end of his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 13. Pictured with the pontiff are Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia, the federation's episcopal adviser; Julia Zerbos of Gary, Ind.; Christopher Leach, director of strategy and formation for the federation; Tania Vergara-Gongora of Louisville, Ky.; and Justin Fannon of Boston.

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis told young musical artists to be original, creative and true to themselves and to use their talents to promote peace.

"Do not try to copy the big 'stars' of show business. Do not follow the trends and patterns of success," he said Oct. 14 during an audience with organizers and participants in a Christmas music contest promoted by the Pontifical Foundation Gravissimum Educationis.

"Do not be afraid to be yourselves. Will they criticize you? Yes, but be yourself, original, creative, (inscribing) your own personality in art," he said.

The contest invited people between the ages of 16 and 35 to produce new songs inspired by Christmas and its values: life, love, peace and light, according

to the initiative's website, christmascontest.it/en/. Contestants were competing in three categories: lyrics, music and interpretation. The best three pieces will be performed during the 2022 edition of the annual Christmas concert at the Vatican.

The pope told the young artists, "Do not repeat the clichés of a fake and corny Christmas that has nothing to do with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and its meaning for humanity today."

Above all, he said, their work must be based on a sense of wonder, amazement and awe.

"We have lost the sense of awe and we must regain it," he said.

Christmas amazement is rooted in the unthinkable, he said: "a God who became flesh, who became a helpless baby, born of a virgin, in a grotto and whose cradle was a manger for animals. Awe. If one does not feel awe, the

song does not speak to the heart, it does not communicate."

"With this creative style of amazement and simplicity, you can make your contribution to the cause of peace, which is the great gift God wanted to give the world with the birth of his son," the pope told them.

"In recent months, the thunder of war has been growing in Europe and the world," he said. "Let us not give in to this extortion, please! Let us not fall into this trap!"

"Let us continue to dream of peace and work for peace, sowing seeds of fraternity and social friendship" by always keeping one's hand outstretched to others, he added.

One way to do that is with music, which is "very valuable" as a universal language that "crosses borders and barriers," Pope Francis said.

Pope announces a second session for Synod of Bishops assembly

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Saying he did not want to rush the process of discerning how the Holy Spirit is calling the church to grow in "synodality,"

Pope Francis announced that the next assembly of the Synod of Bishops would take place in two sessions. The synod assembly, with mostly bishops as voting members, will meet Oct. 4-29, 2023, as previously announced, the pope said, but the assembly will have a second session in October 2024 as well.

Pope Francis made the announcement Oct. 16 at the end of his Angelus address. He had met Oct. 14 with the synod leadership. The pope and local bishops kicked off the listening and discernment process

for the "synod on synodality" in October 2021, and by November the synod secretariat is expected to release a working document for continental assemblies.

With 112 of the 114 bishops' conference in the world having sent in a synthesis of what emerged in the listening sessions in their countries, Pope Francis said that "the fruits of the synodal process underway are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush.

To have a more relaxed period of discernment," the pope announced, "I have established that this synodal assembly will take place in two sessions" rather than the one originally planned.

Pope: Love, solidarity must be part of plan to end hunger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Success in eradicating hunger will require acts of love and solidarity, not just carefully planned and executed international programs, Pope Francis said.

"This requires, first of all, that we see others as our brothers and sisters, as members of the same human family, whose sufferings and needs affect us all," the pope said in a message Oct. 14 to a ceremony in Rome ahead of the U.N. celebration of World Food Day Oct. 16.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's latest estimate puts the global hunger figure for 2021 at between 702

million and 828 million people.

"These estimates imply that, since 2015, the increase in the number of undernourished people in the world has practically eroded all progress that had been made during the preceding decade, bringing the world back to hunger levels that prevailed in 2005," the organization said.

The theme chosen for the 2022 World Food Day was "Leave no one behind," and official events looked at ways to ensure that by promoting "better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life."

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It's Much More than a Tootsie Roll



When you see Knights in yellow vests that read "Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities," you should smile. When these Knights are holding their bright cans and collecting donations around town, they are helping to recognize the dignity of every person.

For every donation, each donor is offered a piece of candy by the Knight present, most commonly a Tootsie Roll. Because of these little gifts of appreciation, the "Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities" has frequently referred to as the "Tootsie Roll Drive." It is a popular and successful fund-raiser conducted by Knights of Columbus councils.

The campaign, which stretches back decades, is about more than just candy — it is about serving those with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Councils' participation in this campaign as well as many other fund-raising endeavors last year contributed to the \$185 million and volunteered over 75 million hours last year helping various causes.

The Knights of Columbus not only conducts the "Tootsie Roll Drives" in their efforts to help people with intellectual and physical disabilities, but has also partnered with the Special Olympics since its founding along with other programs.

So the next time you see a Knight in a yellow vest asking for donations outside a grocery store, and you receive a Tootsie Roll, remember it's more than a "Tootsie Roll Drive." It's a chance to provide people with intellectual and physical disabilities more resources to live a happy life.



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