

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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November 18, 2022

So much to be thankful for

Determination: Hamburg overcomes obstacles to build center

Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

This Thanksgiving, the people of St. Mary Parish in Hamburg are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support they received from across the Diocese as they struggled to build an education center for their faith formation program.

Finishing touches are going in the building, which Bishop William Joensen will bless the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

“We thoroughly appreciate everything anyone has donated or contributed,” said Cheryl Phillips, parish secretary. “It would have been a terrible struggle if we had not received the outpouring of love and support.”

The parish had been using a rectory that was constructed in

1895 as its religious education center until it was no longer safe to do so. It was torn down.

St. Mary’s started its capital campaign in 2019, only to have it placed on hold because of the flood. Muddy water covered farm fields, filled downtown streets, and the parish hall in the basement of St. Mary Church. With the insurance and donations from parishes in the Diocese, the parish recovered and repaired its hall.

They restarted the campaign after the cleanup of the flood only to be stopped again by the pandemic in 2020. Finally, with completion of the campaign, in January of 2021, they started to look forward to the building process.

At that point, St. Mary Parish was ready to build, but learned

Continued on page 11



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

Cheryl Phillips, Carolyn Maher and Teresa Jamison stand at the entryway of the new St. Mary Parish faith formation center in Hamburg. Next to the new building is the church.

Dedication: Creston gathers the harvest for faith-filled farmer



Photo supplied by Meredith Wulf

Before dawn on Oct. 27, trucks and combines from the hills around Creston headed to the farm fields of the late Paul Baker to bring in his crop for his family. Friends and family say Baker inspired others in how he lived his faith every day.

Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Faith, family and farm – those three words defined Paul Baker.

He was so well loved in his Creston community that, after his Oct. 20 death, neighboring farmers left their crops in the field for a day to harvest his 600 acres of grain.

Paul trusted in God for everything. When the 66-year-old learned he had advanced cancer, he was at peace. He celebrated his

46th wedding anniversary with the love of his life, Lynn, just a few days earlier. He was blessed with two daughters and two granddaughters.

Paul died two days after his diagnosis.

“He was ready,” his daughter, Meredith Wulf, said. “On the last day that he was with us, he said he was waiting for the Lord and He’s being slow because he’s ready to go. We’re a very faith-based family. It was very comforting for us to know that he was good and he was ready and that he would continue to be with us

always but in a different capacity.”

Paul was a role model in faith for the community – Catholic and non-Catholic – long before he became ill.

“Whenever you’d go to him for advice, he’d tell us to pray about it,” Meredith said. “If someone was having trouble or if their family needed prayers, they would reach out to one of us and ask Dad to pray for them.”

Paul’s brother, John, remembers his brother helping the parish. Paul and John along with two cousins would go to his par-

ish, Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Creston, every year about two weeks before Christmas to replace all the lightbulbs using long ladders.

Father Patrick Amedeka has been in the Creston community a few months, but he knew Paul embraced everyone and had a spirit of humility.

“I did not know who Paul really was until he died and the church was packed,” he said. “Paul moved them because of his relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Paul used technology to spread a smile to others, even if it

was on a flip phone.

He had a group of about 40 people he would text, sometimes as early as 5:30 a.m. He would send a Bible verse, sometimes a quote that was meaningful to him, or a joke. With a flip phone, he had to enter each cell phone number every morning and could only send in groups of about 10.

“People would ask to be on his texting tree,” Meredith said. “He would pray for each person as he put their phone number in.”

The Baker family is grateful
Continued on page 10

Imported and exported Thanksgiving

Many years ago, I offered regular sacramental help at a set of five rural churches where the Mass wine was produced and donated by a local winery. Previously, thanks to the leadership of the LaSalle Christian Brother who was their administrator, five parishes were merged into one parish that kept the five church sites open, but with a new name reflecting their appreciation for their beloved brother in Christ: St. John Baptist de La Salle.

The parishioners were generally people of deep faith: they loved receiving Jesus present in the Eucharist, and they were grateful to God and to the priests and ministers who offered them this precious gift. They were also thankful for the generous gesture of the vineyard owners for providing the special blend of wine that bore the “LaSalle” name of their parish cluster that had been transformed into one Body of Christ.

But over time, many folks also cultivated a taste for the sweet red wine itself, even as they knew it had been miraculously transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. They implored the vineyard owners to make the wine available for sale in local grocery and convenience stores, which they did. Many a table in the region was graced by the appearance of a bottle of LaSalle wine—which, depending on



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

one’s palate and preference for either sweet or dry wine, was either a good or not-so-appealing thing.

The celebration of the Mass contains many layers of mystery and meaning. At the heart of it, the word ‘Eucharist’ itself means ‘thanksgiving’, and there are different dimensions of thanksgiving in play: the thanksgiving of Jesus as he blesses the bread and the cup at the Last Supper and presents them to his heavenly Father as a pleasing offering. Though he knows it will entail unfathomable suffering and the ultimate gift of his own life, he is grateful for the mission the Father has entrusted to him. And he is thankful for the disciples who have heeded his call to follow him and join his intimate company around the table become altar—then, and now. As Pope Francis commented in his reflection upon Jesus’ desire to celebrate the Last Supper, on that sacred evening he anticipates every celebration of the Eucharist that will take place until the end of time. He longs for hungry and thirsty souls who recognize and receive him who alone satisfies the deepest longing of our hearts for love, for a sense of belonging, for a reason to be grateful no matter what struggles, setbacks, and suffering we presently confront in our own lives.

The Eucharist reveals a God who knows us and provides us with the most profound yet accessible means to join with Jesus in giving thanks to God. We thank the Father for giving us his only Son, who comes to save rather than condemn, and who reconciles and restores us to unity with one another—especially in a culture that preys upon polar antagonism and division. We thank God for our very lives, for our faith, and, if we are so blessed, for the labor we perform by the sweat of our brow, along with the use of our minds and creative talents. We are grateful for our vocations, which are personal responses to God’s love and the means by which we, too, lay down our lives with the fidelity that God’s grace makes possible.

One of the things I love about the Mass (and the attending opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration) is that I don’t have to be totally original and creative in expressing the thanks that wells up within me. Further, the celebration of Mass helps “convert” my sometimes less-than-grateful attitude into an encounter between God and myself that itself is a blessing. Mutual presence, even if marked by aching grief, unrequited earthly desires for justice, for healing of people I care about, distraction, listlessness or fatigue, is still a valid form of communion between God and his beloved sons and daughters. The words of Holy Scripture and the ritual prayers of the Mass are a library of love, a treasury of gestures and “table conversation” that bears the whole grain flavor of experience.

On a daily basis, God allows us to negotiate a cluster of concerns and commitments that press and squeeze us at times, but that inevitably produce more Spirit “juice” and fruit than we would harvest solely by our own initiative and efforts. We never start from scratch; God has anticipated our every need and consecrates the various “matters” we lay before him on the altar of the Church, the altar of our hearts. As the priest prays either silently or out loud: “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you. . . the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.”

All of us can exercise our baptismal priesthood and make the words of the Psalmist our own:

Greeting the Holy Father



Photo by Vatican Media

Bishop William Joensen greeted Pope Francis on Oct. 26 while attending a papal audience with a group on pilgrimage with the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

“You make the grass grow for the cattle

and plants to serve mankind’s need.

That he may bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart;

oil, to make faces shine,
and bread to strengthen the heart of man” (Psalm 104:14-15).

The good members of the LaSalle Parish in effect wanted to “export” their Mass wine into their homes and lives at large. Yes, the focus of their attention and their tastes may have blurred the lines between the sacramental and the naturally sensible, the mystical and the mundane. However, I do not want to criticize them but to commend us all to make our experience of Eucharistic worship and our consciousness of God’s gracious accompaniment through all our daily lives a more seamless affair. We develop the “taste buds” that stir both sweet joy when things go well, and acceptance and trust in the dry times that pervade prayer,

work, and family and friendships. We cultivate a habit of gratitude and praise of God that flows both ways through the doors of our parish and our homes, our pastures and our places of study and employment.

We are inclined to greater generosity to our fellow citizens who find themselves in the sorry “food deserts” that are ever more prevalent in our country, because we recognize how frequently others have supplied the means and stuff that we then make our own, just like those vineyard owners donated the grape wine that Jesus Christ transforms into himself. We become a people known for the spirit of Thanksgiving that not only stirs us to participate in the most religious of all our national holidays on the fourth Thursday of November; it draws us into communities of mutual presence and self-giving. We are moved to worship and work, to celebrate and sacrifice, because we have a God who loves to give thanks for us and with us, day after day, until the end of time.

Precious Blood distribution resumes

Beginning this weekend, Nov. 19-20, parishes will be permitted to resume distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful.

The distribution of the Precious Blood was suspended in March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the closing of many public, large group events.

Pastors have been working for the last few weeks with their local parishes to determine whether their community is ready to resume the practice. This may include having enough Eucharistic ministers who are trained and ready to assist.

The distribution of the Eucharist from a cup is not a mandate, said Father Trevor Chicoine, diocesan director of the Worship office. Rather, the decision rests with the pastor or parish administrator.

There may be varied and legitimate reasons for a pastor or parish administrator to choose to delay resumption of the distribution of both species, he said.

The Catholic Church teaches that bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus during the Mass. One receives the fullness of the Eucharist by receiving either the Body or the Blood.

La columna del Obispo en español está
en la página 14

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Girl gets kick out of football

Lena Rosloniec plays football at St. Albert

Kevin White
Contributing Writer

Senior Lena Rosloniec decided to try her hand at football for the first time this fall. She is believed to be the first female high school football player in St. Albert Catholic history.

“She’s been a welcome addition,” St. Albert head coach Jake Driver said. “She’s taught us to be inclusive. Once you’re a part of our team, you’re always a part of our team. She’s been at every practice. She’s done all things required to be a Falcon football player. Her contributions probably don’t show up on a stat sheet.”

We caught up with Rosloniec to ask her a few questions about her experience.

Q: When did you first begin to consider playing football and who did you seek out first?

A: This summer. Coach Driver. He was a bit skeptical at first. He said that there wasn’t really a kicker. Until (freshman) Kyle (Irwin) went out we didn’t have a kicker. I just thought, ‘Why not? It’s my senior year.’

Q: Since you’re a kicker, some people might assume you just kick throughout practice, off by yourself. But we understand that you go through all the drills with the rest of the team. Is that the case?

A: Yes, I do everything the rest of the team does.

Q: Did the team accept you pretty quickly?

A: The underclassmen were

kind of all in. They were excited. They’re the ones that have kind of rallied around me.

Q: Did it surprise you how difficult it was?

A: Not really. I kind of expected it. Let’s be honest. Football is very testosterone-fueled. It’s very violent. I knew it was going to be tough, but I’ve always been a very competitive person. I was like, ‘I’m going to push through.’

Q: Could you describe that first week?

A: It was definitely different. I was also sick that first week of camp. I had the flu and I had an extremely bad cold. So combine that with full pads and with how hot it was, there were some times I felt like I was going to pass out. But I pushed through. I’m always up for a challenge.

Q: Do you think you held your own?

A: I think a few were kind of shocked, once I got my form for tackling down, how hard I could actually hit. I think there were a few that were like, ‘Oh, ok.’

Q: Tell us about the time you and Jayden Beckman were running full speed and smacked into each other?

A: We’re covered in grass stains just laughing. I don’t know what happened. He looks at me and I look at him, and I’m like, ‘Sorry.’

Q: How have the coaches been throughout the season?

A: They’re very welcoming. It’s a different aspect, having a female on the team. But they’re



Senior Lena Rosloniec, a kicker for St. Albert Catholic School’s football team, says she’s always up for a challenge. Below, she’s pictured with her mother, Lisa, and brother, Michael.

not, ‘Oh, she can’t do this.’ They make me feel like I’m a part of the team.

Q: In games, have you noticed that opponents realize there’s a girl on the other team?

A: Yes. We’ve been warming up and you can just see them pointing. You can’t miss the braid that sticks out of the back of the helmet.

Q: Does dressing by yourself ever present a problem?

A: (Chuckling.) Sometimes they do forget about me. The one JV game they completely forgot to come grab me. I went down 10 minutes late and the coach was like, ‘Where have you been?’ I’m like, ‘Someone was supposed to come knock on my door, but nobody did!’

Q: Do you ever ask yourself,



‘Why am I out here?’

A: Sometimes, but then I just remember how much this is actually changing our school’s history and opening so many more doors for those little girls that do want to play.

Q: What would you say to

a young St. Albert student who might consider playing football or doing anything “outside the box.”

A: If you think you can do it, you can. Do what you believe in and don’t let anybody tell you no.



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Emmaus House names new associate director

Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

April Young became an associate director of Emmaus House in Des Moines on Oct. 31.

In her new role, she will be developing and facilitating a variety of spiritual formation opportunities at Emmaus House, in parishes and the wider central Iowa community.

Next summer, after she receives certification, she'll also offer spiritual direction.

Young has served in pastoral care for the past eight years. Most recently, she has been the director of mission integration at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston. She also served in pastoral care at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Des Moines.

"We were impressed with her education, her experience in pastoral care, her passion for

Emmaus House ministry and Ignatian spirituality, her compassion, and her gift in building relationships," said Kevin O'Donnell, director of Emmaus House.

Young is grounded in the Ignatian Tradition, through formation and personal practice. She's eager to bring its simple power to other people.

"I've been going to Emmaus House for spiritual direction for 11 years. It has been really instrumental in my own spiritual journey and my vocation journey," Young said. She learned that she was in the right place when she



April Young

was helping people who were experiencing a hard time.

"It's an honor to accompany people in their spiritual life," she said. "Having an opportunity to come back to a place that has done so much for me sounded like the perfect fit."

Young holds a bachelor's degree in English from Iowa State University and a graduate degree in pastoral care from Fordham University in New York. She's working on a graduate certificate in spiritual direction and retreats from Creighton University, which will be completed next year.

An open house welcoming Young to Emmaus House will be held at the Urbandale retreat center on Dec. 16 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. She's leading an evening of prayer and reflection Dec. 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. recognizing that the holidays can be difficult for people who are grieving or experiencing a major change in their lives.

Lessons learned from Christ Our Life Conference

Ellen Miller and Marilyn Lane relied on faith as they prepared for this fall's Christ Our Life Catholic Conference.

Co-founders of the biennial faith conference didn't know what to expect as the country emerges from a pandemic.

"We had no idea what kind of in-person or livestream numbers we would get" for the weekend faith conference held in September at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, said Lane.

Starting with the onset of the pandemic, an ongoing shift became greatly magnified--from selling mostly paper tickets to mostly purchasing online tickets. This left local parish promoters wondering how many parishioners were buying tickets, Miller said.

The event ultimately drew more than 4,600 people. Some tickets were sold just before the Sunday liturgy. People from nine countries picked up the livestream.

"It was beautiful how it all came together," Miller said.

"It may be indicative that, being post-COVID, people don't want to commit to almost anything ahead of time," Lane said.

For those who attended in person or online, a sense of the Holy Spirit's presence was

strong. "We have never before in our (post-conference) surveys read so frequently, by any stretch of the imagination, how the Holy Spirit was present, and people could feel it," Lane said. "We know he's always there. I truly believe a lot of people felt it more strongly this time."

After each conference, Lane and Miller work from an evaluation survey and steering committee input to make the next gathering even better. This year, they saw that need to maintain balance in meeting people where they are spiritually while offering speakers that stretch one's spirituality so they grow.

"A big part of our mission is to meet them where they're at and bring them one step closer to Christ," Miller added.

The pair, along with their board and advisers, have identified and are working on securing the contracts for speakers for the next Christ Our Life Catholic Conference in 2024.

They work years in advance to determine who might be the best qualified, most appealing speakers to each conference. Miller and Lane hope all those who enjoyed this year's event come back and that they all bring a friend.

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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See Facebook for the full chart



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

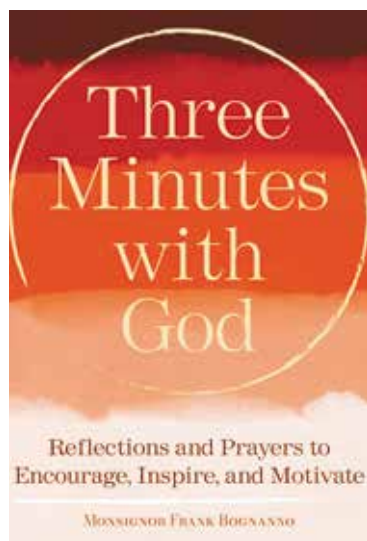
'Thought for the day' in a book

If you're looking for a holiday gift with special meaning, consider Monsignor Frank Bognanno's new book featuring his broadcast reflections called "Thought of the Day with Father Frank."

The book is called "Three Minutes with God: Reflections and Prayers to Encourage, Inspire, and Motivate." The book will be published as a paperback and an e-book.

The retired priest has shared his short spiritual thought of the day on Star 102.5 radio and WHO-TV in central Iowa since August 2018. Iowa Catholic Radio has also run a "Thought of the Week" with Monsignor Bognanno since January 2020.

Based on the positive response he receives regarding his vignettes, Monsignor Bognanno suggested to his niece, Patty Jo Crawford, who works for Franciscan Media, that the reflections might be pulled together in book form. Franciscan Media agreed and has grouped the reflections into three categories:



encouragement, inspiration, and motivation.

"Ever since I was a little girl, Uncle Frank was always the one who brought God to the center of every conversation," she said. "Now, working for a mission-based organization where the goal is to bring God to the center of people's lives, I was so excited to be able to connect Uncle Frank with my colleagues at Franciscan Media to give him access to a national platform."

Franciscan Media has compiled 260 of his one-minute reflections and added a prayer for each reflection, for a total of approximately three minutes in meditation daily with God. The 160-page book's foreword is written by Bishop William Joensen of the Diocese of Des Moines, who calls Monsignor Bognanno a "spiritual entrepreneur" whose heart is on display in the book, "afire with love for the Eucharistic Jesus and for the entire Body of Christ's Church." Bishop Joensen notes that Monsignor's ministry extends far beyond central Iowa through the means of modern media.

Monsignor's book will be released Dec. 6 and will be available for pre-order through Amazon.com. After the release date, it can be purchased online at Franciscan Media at: shop.franciscanmedia.org/. It also will be sold at Divine Treasures in Des Moines.

Proceeds will go to the Purify Project, which funds development of clean water systems in Catholic schools in Tanzania.

Year-end giving options

You can give the gift of joy and the promise of a better tomorrow to children, individuals and families this holiday season.

As 2022 comes to a close, now is the time to visit with a financial advisor to consider the best way you can bring a smile to someone's face this holiday season and beyond.

Consider these avenues for delivering help and hope:


- Your end-of-year contribution to any of the Diocese of Des Moines Endowment Funds will help in many ways. Think of a gift to one of the following endowment funds: Seminarian Endowment Fund, Priest Retirement Endowment Fund, Parish Mission Renewal Endowment Fund, Hispanic Ministries Endowment Fund, Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund or the Disability Ministry Endowment Fund


- Your gift to Catholic Charities could play a role

in feeding a child, providing housing for a family, protecting a domestic violence victim, helping a man or woman get counseling, or assisting a refugee fleeing violence resettle in a safe and supportive community.

- Your support of the Catholic Tuition Organization will help a family that feels a Catholic education for their children is out of reach. Donors who make gifts to the CTO receive a 75 percent tax credit.


In addition to providing some immediate holiday help to people, you can affect long-term change by exploring estate planning and general giving options with the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa. Donors have set up scholarships, housing funds, opportunities for parish support and more. For more information, reach out to our Stewardship Office at 515-237-5083.





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St. Albert raises \$4,000 during Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Members of the St. Albert Catholic cheer team presented representatives of the Jennie Ed Breast Health Center with a check for \$4,000. The school's Spirit Store, headed by Lisa Rosloniec, sold Tackle Cancer T-shirts for its Pink Out Day on Oct. 14, as October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. That raised \$3,000. Students also paid for an Out of Uniform Day sponsored by the cheerleaders, raising another \$1,000. Front row from left are cheerleaders Aria Shaw-Caldwell and Olivia Gardner; Samantha Fragoso, senior administrator of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation; and Michelle Kaufman, director of Oncology Services at Methodist Jennie Edmundson. Back row from left are cheerleaders Grace Julian, Dani Head, Elise Wolford and Aubree Brandau. All of the money raised goes directly to women in need of follow-up tests.

We have one newspaper

Several people across the Diocese of Des Moines received a publication called "Iowa Catholic Tribune." Be assured that the publication did not come from the Diocese. Our newspaper is "The Catholic Mirror." We did not produce nor fund the mailing and the Diocese does not share its mailing list with other groups. If you have questions, feel free to email communications@dmdiocese.org.

Local organizer meets pope



Paul Turner, a former lead organizer with A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (also known as AMOS), had an opportunity to meet Pope Francis recently. AMOS is an interfaith group of organizations that serve the poor and other social institutions. AMOS is part of the West and Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation, which had the private audience with Pope Francis on Oct. 14.

Umeri Concert

The Drake University alumni choir, Umeri, conducted by Aimee Beckmann-Collier will present *The Lessons, Carols, and Reflections of Christmas* on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m., at St. Ambrose Cathedral. The concert includes choral music, Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and reflections. In addition to the singers, featured participants will include a professional brass quartet, readers from Holy Family School and Dowling Catholic High School, as well as Sister Joyce Rupp, Father Tim Fitzgerald, Monsignor Steve Orr, Drake President Marty Martin, and others. There is no admission charge.

Around the Diocese

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 and a bake sale. Breakfast and lunch available.

Nov. 30 Wednesday

Nourish for Caregivers

DES MOINES – A support group based in faith for those who are caring for someone will meet at 6 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. For more information, contact Deacon Dan Maxcy, danm@holytrinitydm.org or Deacon James Houston, jhouston@saintpiuschurch.org.

Dec. 3 Saturday

Cookie Walk & Vendor Fair

INDIANOLA – The annual St. Thomas Aquinas Cookie Walk & Craft Sale will be 9 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. See more than 30 local vendors as well as holiday cookies, cinnamon rolls (dine in or carry out), coffee and hot cider.

Dec. 10 Saturday

Day of Reflection & Rest: A Silent Retreat

URBANDALE – Emmaus House invites you to enter more fully into the Advent season with quiet time to slow down and spend time in

prayerful reflection from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with facilitator Kevin O'Donnell. We'll gather the group at the beginning and end for a brief period of prayer, reflection and optional sharing. The time between is for silence as you choose to experience it. Cost is \$40 (scholarships available). Space is limited for this in-person retreat, so register soon at TheEmmausHouse.org.

Dec. 21 Wednesday

The Longest Night: Anticipating a Blue Christmas

URBANDALE – Grieving a loved one, retiring or losing employment, or a change in health or relationships can make the holidays feel like anything but "the most wonderful time of the year." Join us for a contemplative evening, reflecting on whatever is weighing on your heart this season. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Emmaus House. Cost is \$20 (scholarships available). April Young will facilitate the evening of prayer and reflection. For more information visit TheEmmausHouse.org.

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

ANKENY – RISE is an inclusive ministry that combines both teens and young adults with or without disabilities in a fun, friendly, and energetic environment. Its focus is on inclusivity, service, and social experiences and slightly different from classroom formation. RISE meets on the third Tuesday of the month, from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Registration is requested. Contact 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.

January, 2023

Pilgrimage to Tanzania

DES MOINES – Christ the King Catholic Church welcomes all to a pilgrimage to Tanzania. There you will meet the loving and hospitable people of our sister parish, share in their faith-filled lives and learn about their culture. Visit children at the boarding schools and see working water filtering systems that Christ the King has funded at diocesan schools. For more information contact Earl Harper at harper47@msn.com.

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.



Man discovers strength of ancestor's faith

Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Ed and Patty Origer of St. John Parish in Adel planned a trip to Luxembourg earlier this year – the country from which his ancestors immigrated.

“I am a fourth generation Luxembourger,” said Ed Origer. The country “started to allow descendants of Luxembourg the right to become a citizen.”

Origer checked dual citizenship off his list of things to do in 2021.

The final item was visiting the country. Origer was particularly interested in seeing the home village and church where his great grandfather would have lived and worshiped in Ospern. They traveled with the Luxembourg American Cultural Society group. But when they had free time, the Origers took a bus to Ospern.

While on a walking tour with the group a few days later in Luxembourg City, Ed noticed a street sign that read “Rue Origer”

(Origer Road).

“That’s unique,” Ed said. “Origer is not a very common name.”

After discussing with tour guide and local historian, Guy Dockendorf, Ed realized the street was named after a distant relative he knew nothing about – Monsignor Jean Origer.

“Monsignor Jean Origer grew up the son of a farmer, attended the Athenaeum and the Luxembourg Seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1902,” Dockendorf said. “After a few years as chaplain at the [Notre-Dame Cathedral] in Luxembourg City, he made his mark on public life in the state from 1910 as director of the St. Paul printing house and as director of the Catholic daily Luxemburger Wort.”

“In 1905, Monsignor Jean Origer was appointed editor at the *Luxemburger Wort* – the most important daily paper in Luxembourg,” said local historian Paul Dostert. “During World War I, he repeatedly defied German orders, which led to a ban on publication

of the Wort for several days in 1917.”

In 1922, Monsignor Origer became a member of Parliament and head of the right-wing party (Parti de la droite), Dockendorf added. He became a cathedral provost in 1929 – holding the title of Pontifical Chamberlain until 1933 when he was named Roman Prelate.

Monsignor Origer was powerful and influential.

“In 1938, he attuned Luxembourg to an anti-national socialist course,” Dockendorf said. “For this reason he was arrested by the Gestapo on Sept. 6, 1940, and was sent to Dachau Concentration Camp.”

Priests from all over Europe were sent to Dachau, held in buildings 26-30, known as the Priests’ Block. Monsignor Origer was one of them. He died at Dachau on Sept. 17, 1942, at the age of 65.

Ed was astonished to make this discovery, having no idea one of his relatives died under the Nazi regime.

“You hear about the concentration camps, and now you really have a connection that you never really dreamt,” Ed said. “You think about the Jews that perished, but it was more than that.

“The Catholics were persecuted, and [so were] people with disabilities,” he continued. “Having a son with disabilities, it really brings it home the atrocities that happened. It was more wide-



Ed and Patty Origer point to a street sign honoring his ancestor.

spread than you think. It opened my eyes.”

Ed never dreamt he had any family connection to the concentration camps.

“The fact that this man was so devout in his beliefs that he sacrificed his life,” Origer said. “And he was trying to help his fellow citizens. It is very humbling to think that someone from your family was of that caliber. That this man was one of the most powerful Catholic priests and politicians in Luxembourg when the Nazis came into power in Germany in the ‘30s.

“He had the courage to speak out against Nazis,” Origer continued. “I went over thinking I would learn about my family coming from a small farming village and to find one of our distant relatives was so involved in leadership before WWII and died for his Catholic beliefs was very surprising and humbling. It has motivated me to learn more about my relatives that still live there and more about what happened to Catholic priests during WWII that were sent to concentration camps.”

African-American candidate for sainthood celebrated



Organizers of the events raising awareness of Sister Thea Bowman at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny are: Marilyn Garvey, Jean Samson, Phyllis Burgett, and Jeanne Balk.

Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Last Lent, Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny focused on racism as sin.

The effort planted seeds.

Parishioner Marilyn Garvey led two book studies using “Thea Bowman, Faithful and Free” by Maurice Nutt.

“The members of the group were so inspired by Thea’s story that they suggested we do something to make more people aware of her incredible life, and her pathway to sainthood as one of six black Catholics currently being considered for sainthood,” she said.

On the weekend of Nov. 12-13, the parish raised awareness of Sister Thea. After Friday morning Mass, a presentation was offered. At Masses over the weekend, parishioners were invited to sing African hymns and learn more after Mass at coffee and donuts.

Sister Thea joined the Catholic Church when she was nine years old and entered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at age 15. She was the first and only African American in the religious community. She championed the cause of racial justice in the Catholic Church and in the

United States.

In 2018, Pope Francis recognized her as a Servant of God, the first step on the path to sainthood.

Garvey knew Sister Thea; she was a novice in the same religious community as Sister Thea and Garvey’s sister was a classmate of Sister Thea.

“She was an amazing person,” Garvey said. “She had a vibrancy about her that was just ethereal. She was just so open, so willing to listen to another person.”

Sister Thea was born in 1937 and raised in Mississippi. She earned a doctorate and taught English and linguistics as a college professor. Her life was dedicated to sharing the joy of the Gospel, cultural awareness and racial reconciliation.

She died in 1990 of cancer.

There are five other faith leaders of African descent who are also on the road to sainthood. They are: Venerable Pierre Toussaint; Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange; Venerable Henriette Delille; Venerable Father Augustus Tolton; and Servant of God Julia Greeley.

For more information, go to: usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/road-sainthood-leaders-african-descent



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One church marks 20 years of formation gatherings...

Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

A number of years ago, the father of intergenerational Catholic faith formation, John Roberto, presented his model for lifelong faith in Des Moines.

The pastor of Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona was intrigued and asked his staff to consider it for their parish.

Twenty years later, Ss. John and Paul Parish celebrates two decades of bringing parishioners of all ages, with or without children, together to talk about God and faith.

The attraction to an intergenerational model of lifelong learning and practicing faith was the involvement of everyone.

"There's something for everyone," said Jenni Lihs, director of Faith Formation.

The Altoona parish holds a gathering two times per month so parishioners can go on a Sunday or Wednesday night. Sessions begin with a meal and childcare is available.

A group activity and prayer kicks off the session. Some months, small groups break off with youth going to age-appropriate catechesis while adults grow in faith with a speaker. Other months, everyone stays together and experiences various stations that relate to the topic of the night.

One thing the parish learned is that there are different kinds of households.

"We have a number of grandparents raising children," Lihs said. "Whatever your household makeup is, we welcome and invite you in. There's something here for you."

Feedback from families in-

dicates that parents like learning the same things their children do so they can go home and talk about the topics together.

"We always say it's hard to explain it until you see it," Lihs said. "Come hang out with us for a night just to see how we do things."

Lihs was a teacher staying at home with her four young children when the opportunity to become the faith formation director arose.

"It was definitely a blessing I didn't know was coming," she said.

Her words of advice for par-

ishes considering an intergenerational or family-based faith program: Find a team that's all on the same page, that has the same goal in mind. She suggested parishes take small steps.

Consultant Paulette Chapman, whose expertise focuses on family and intergenerational catechesis, concurred.

"Several parishes in our Diocese are doing this," she said. At a meeting of catechetical leaders in the western part of the Diocese, several parishes indicated they're taking small steps toward family and/or intergenerational catechesis.



Father Mark McGeary, pastor of Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona, and Christy Bartels are having fun at the September kick off gathering for the parish's intergenerational faith formation program.



Evie Kline is face painting during the kick off for her intergenerational faith program.



More parishes exploring shift to intergenerational faith programs

The Diocese of Des Moines is seeing an increase in parishes that are shifting from a classroom model of faith formation to a family-based or intergenerational model.

"We have had a 12.5% increase in parishes who have moved into some form of Family Faith Formation processes" in recent years, said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization & Catechesis.

"Some are pure forms while others are a hybrid model of family faith and more traditional models," he said.

"I'm really excited to see parishes embracing the challenge to make adult faith formation a priority and to support parents and guardians as the first catechists of children," said Paulette Chapman, an expert in family and intergenerational catechesis and a consultant with the St. Joseph Evangelization Center. "It's a privilege to be part of it!"

Ss. John & Paul Parish in Altoona is the only fully intergenerational formation process in the Diocese, though other parishes are moving in that direction including:

- Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs
- St. Ambrose, Des Moines
- St. Catherine, Des Moines
- St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines
- St. Michael, Harlan
- St. John the Apostle, Norwalk
- Sacred Heart, West Des Moines
- St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines
- St. Joseph, Winterset

Advent 2022

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... while another kicks off unique plan for all generations

Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

St. Catherine of Siena Parish has shifted from a family-based model of catechesis to an intergenerational faith formation program.

Two issues prompted the change.

First, the pandemic gave the parish an opportunity to consider how it might redefine itself.

Second, the parish has relatively small numbers of students, especially in certain grades.

“We needed to figure out what we were going to do about faith formation since we don’t have a critical mass of children, youth, and families in every age cohort, which made it difficult to guarantee a really high-quality program across the board,” said Aimee Beckmann-Collier, a member of the Parish Council.

The parish saw three options: Maintain the status quo, combine with another parish, or create something new and unique to the parish.

“We fully expected parents would say, ‘Let’s combine with another parish,’” Beckmann-Collier said. But no, the parents had strong feelings about what the community is and what it stands for.

“One of the things that was impressed upon me (years ago) was that you shouldn’t choose a church or choose your priest, you should choose a community,” said parent Greg Bellville. “As

a young, single person, I found a community that was supportive. As we all grew together and started families, we said, ‘Let’s hang out. We’re all in a similar boat and have similar value sets.’ It’s been fantastic.”

Parent Laura Catherine Caruthers-Green, who is now the coordinator of Faith Formation and helped form the young families group, said, “What brings us back to St. Kate’s is the faith that we see in the people around us and the community support we see around us as we bring kids up as prayerful people and people who believe. It’s beautiful to see that we’re supporting each other.”

The parish involved a diversity of people – from young families to the deaf community, the college student community, and the African community – and consulted with John Gaffney, the diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis, and Paulette Chapman, a consultant with the St. Joseph Evangelization Center.

Chapman is currently working with six parishes in the Des Moines metro region that are stepping into family or intergenerational catechesis.

The parish opted to create something unique to it. Parishioners created Encounter, a once-a-month, intergenerational opportunity for people to grow in their faith no matter their age, no matter the number of people in their household.

“We could never have



Photo by David Collier

Brian Smith offered a reflection on the concept of covenant, which was the theme of the first Encounter gathering at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Des Moines. His reflection was prefaced by reading of Scriptures, assisted by the children.

created Encounter without Paulette’s help,” said Beckmann-Collier. “The seven parishioners who make up the Encounter planning team, and who invested five months in creating the new program, don’t have all the necessary expertise. But Paulette’s knowledge and experience, combined with the passionate dedication of the Encounter committee, made it

possible for us to create a meaningful monthly shared faith journey.”

“It exceeded my expectations,” Bellville said. “I think everyone really liked everyone getting together. I like my kids being around people in this parish. They’re good people with strong values.”

In the end, Encounter was

created based on listening to people of the parish.

“We modeled a synodal church, working together with a diverse group of people to create something that speaks to our parish values and unique characteristics,” said Beckmann-Collier. “Encounter is our way of discovering God in community.”

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Creston neighbors gather the harvest for faith-filled farmer

Continued from page 1

to the community for helping to bring in the crops.

Shortly after Paul's funeral, neighbors had a planning meeting to get the corn out of the field.

"They strategically made teams for the fields. Usually, when people don't work together all the time, things go wrong. That day, it was a well-oiled machine," Meredith said.

Paul was buried on a Tuesday.

On Thursday, before the sun rose, trucks were rolling to the farm. The day brought prime harvest conditions with hardly any wind.

A local farm implement dealer brought donuts and coffee. The Knights of Columbus brought sandwich trays and snacks. The co-op took all the grain that was hauled to town. Organized groups took sack lunches to those in the fields.

Students at St. Malachy School in Creston decorated the paper lunch sacks and made thank-you notes.

Paul's support of the school was unyielding, said Principal Jennifer Simmons.

"Paul attended the school himself and so did his daughters and now granddaughters and he loved this place," she said. "He made some great connections with the kids preparing them to be servers each week."

John estimates about 25 combines and about 38 tractors came to help with the harvest.

Even in death, Paul was bringing people together.

"People were standing around (after the harvest) and having a bite to eat in our garage.



Photos supplied by Meredith Wulf

Top photo: Farmers brought their equipment to help harvest Paul Baker's fields after he died. Above: The group of family and friends who assisted with the harvest take a group photo.

People who don't get along very well were interacting and socializing and telling stories," Mer-

edith said. "That was amazing. There was a lot of healing that happened that day."

Meredith learned something that autumn day: "I think the biggest thing I learned was the kind

of impact one person can have and to be more like my dad."

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Catch the Mass every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese.org](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese.org).

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Iowa Catholic Radio grows

Iowa Catholic Radio is building out its network.

The station is partnering with low power FM stations, generally at or under 100 watts that cover roughly a three-to-five-mile radius.

A few of these stations have agreed to become affiliates of the Iowa Catholic Radio Network.

“We’ve developed a second programming feed in order to serve those groups,” said ICR Director Matt Willkom. The customized programming feed includes weather forecasts for their areas rather than the Des Moines metro area, and it gives them an opportunity to tout local events during breaks.

“We feel like it’s a win for everybody because these low-power FMs receive assistance in the areas of engineering and FCC compliance along with some revenue sharing while at the same time remaining independent,” Willkom said. “We’re very proud to be partnering with people across Iowa who have poured their heart and soul into getting Catholic radio going in their community.”

In another area of growth, the station obtained land southwest of Creston where a tower could be located. The tower would allow KLOX 90.9 FM to increase its reach from its current 500 watts to 100,000 watts, which

is the largest an FM station can be.

ICR is working on finalizing a site plan so it can move forward.

In addition, the network has a construction permit to expand KIHS 88.5 FM in Adel from its current 560 watts to 12.5 kilowatts, which would help fill in some gaps in the Des Moines metro area.

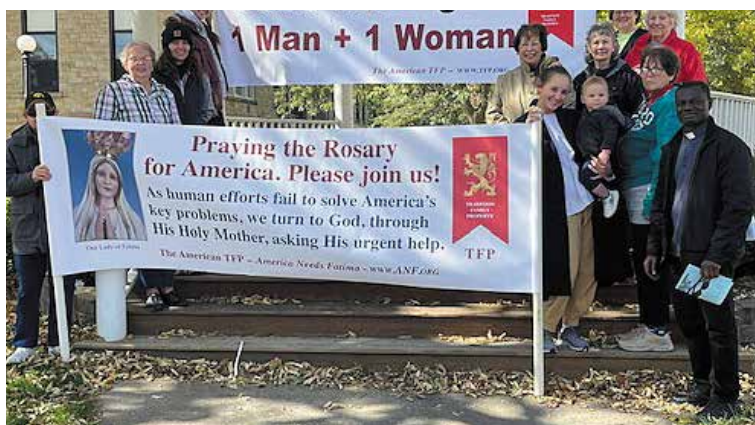
For those who can’t access ICR, they can use the app to hear podcasts of shows, sacred music, contemporary music and more.

ICR will celebrate its successes and thank supporters at its Dec. 10 dinner at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines. Go to IowaCatholicRadio.com/events to learn more.



Listeners responded to the October Pro-Life Diaper Drive by donating more than 10,000 diapers which were given to InnerVisions to distribute to moms facing an unexpected pregnancy.

October, month of the rosary, marked with prayer



On Oct. 15, parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton met at the gazebo at the courthouse to pray the rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is Oct. 7. Pope Leo XIII in 1884 called for October to be the month of the rosary.

Parish’s Thanksgiving gratitude

Continued from page 1

construction costs had skyrocketed.

“It’s been one obstacle after another,” said Carolyn Maher, a parish trustee. Looking for spaces for children to meet with their catechists, they gathered in the parish hall kitchen, in the church by the altar and the confessional.

The parish met with diocesan officials asking for help and the Diocese responded.

Monsignor Ed Hurley led the effort; he visited with the people of St. Mary and a few others, then recommended a plan. The 79 other parishes that comprise the Diocese of Des Moines were invited to lend a helping hand to one of their own in the diocesan faith family by holding a special collection. The Diocese provided some funding and other finance options were explored.

“The whole parish has been very determined and resilient in their efforts to finally get this project accomplished,” said Monsignor Hurley. “Several parishioners were instrumental. They have been pursuing this goal for many years.”



Cheryl Phillips, Carolyn Maher and Teresa Jamison, of St. Mary Parish in Hamburg, anxiously await supplies and finishing touches to put on their parish’s new faith formation center.

The small parish with a big heart is grateful to its parishioners for their support, their patience and their perseverance, said Phillips.

They’re also grateful to the Diocese and the parishes big and small, urban and rural, who pitched in to help.

“The Diocese has been so good to us and Bishop Joensen has really supported us,” said pa-

rishioner Teresa Jamison, chair of the Parish Council.

“Our building is being built on donations of the pledges from our parishioners, other parishes and the Diocese,” she said.

“And love,” added Phillips. “Not only from our parish but from the many contributors who came forward.”

MediGold rebrands plan

To better bring the mission and values of a Medicare insurance plan closer to those health care partners, the MediGold Medicare Advantage plan is being renamed to MediGold MercyOne Medicare Plan effective in 2023.

This rebranding will provide strong name recognition with a reliable Iowa-based health care provider – MercyOne – known for its commitment to operating as a compassionate healing ministry of Jesus Christ to transform the health of communities.

“We believe the name change will establish better and more definitive alignment with our regional health ministries and improve brand recognition by leveraging the trusted names of our Trinity provider partners,” according to MediGold CEO Jack Randolph.

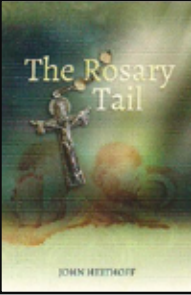
MercyOne is part of a larger healthcare network called Trinity.

“We also believe the closer we align the names of our plans, it will also benefit our members,” Randolph said.

Created in 1997 to provide a cost-effective, alternative Medicare Advantage option for Medicare beneficiaries, MediGold, like MercyOne, has a strong commitment to a positive member care experience for both Catholics and non-Catholics alike, which leads to improved health outcomes and lowered costs. In fact, MediGold (Iowa) was recently recognized by U.S. News & World Report as

a 2023 Best Medicare Advantage Plan in Iowa.

While the name is changing, MediGold will continue to manage the operational and administrative aspects for all member plans. Current members will be notified of the new plan name and any benefit upgrades. No action is required by members to remain enrolled in the plan. Those interested can learn more at www.MercyOne.org/medicare.



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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.

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Delight in the world, like God does

As our days are getting shorter and colder, I've found myself anticipating Advent, and looking forward to our preparation for the Incarnation.

Usually when I think of Advent, I focus on things I can do to prepare my heart for Jesus, whether that is a greater commitment to prayer, or fasting, or some other act that can help me get ready for Christmas.

This year however, I've been focused less on my heart, and more on what the Incarnation reveals about God's heart.

Specifically, lately I've been reminded over and over again that God delights in us. We can point to many reasons for

Marriage and Family Life

By Adam Storey



the Incarnation. It was necessary to free us from sin, it reveals the Father's love for us, it fulfills the promises God made to Israel. But certainly, one reason for the Incarnation is that God desires to dwell with us! God looks at creation, and just as in Gene-

sis, he says again "it is good!"

This Advent I am asking for the grace of gratitude, for the grace to see the world and respond like God does, with delight and love. Gerard Manley Hopkins casts a vision for this type of delight in his poem, "As Kingfishers Catch Fire," which beautifully expresses the goodness of being.

A more practical way to grow in gratitude is to keep holy the Sabbath with worship and with rest. Six days of the week I'm called to work, to give my best effort to improve and enrich the world. One day a week God commands me to pause, and receive the world as gift. Even for those

who legitimately have to work on Sundays, there can be small acts which sanctify that time. And I'm willing to bet that many of us, (or at least me), often find unconvincing ways of excusing ourselves from this divine imperative.

This Advent I hope to do better, and I hope that you'll join me in praying for the grace to delight in the world like God does.

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Why do they leave?

Frequently, I talk with people who refer to themselves as "formerly Catholic."

It seems to be some type of badge of honor or shield to say, "I used to be Catholic, but now I'm..."

As we mature and further engage with our faith, we may experience the sadness felt for many family members or friends who have left the faith, or maybe are just not practicing the faith.

How are we to engage in conversations with those who have left the Church? Should we even try? Yes! If we don't talk to them, who else will? Why is it that so many have left to begin with? I'd like to expound upon three common areas:

A loss of meaning

I have been told by many folks that they just don't see any reason for going to Mass anymore because they don't get anything out of it. When hearing this from a person, be careful not to illegitimize this reason, but rather, validate this difficulty. Perhaps their perception is that the Mass is boring, "same old, same old." If, in the conversation with the person, there is little to no appearance of defensiveness, then ask what they used to get out of it long before they left. What do they imagine other people might be getting out of Mass that keeps them coming back? If there is

Let's Get Psyched

By Deacon Randy Kiel



defensiveness, stay with the individual's pace and validate the difficulty. So far, this would be an example of the beginning of a wonderful conversation for the sake of a person's soul.

A new way of thinking

Whether due to life experiences or information shared by friends, or relatives from other religions, our belief systems, if not secure, can be easily influenced. Learning about the Catholic faith is a very large continuum. We are all sheep trying to follow the flock, but many impressions may form within the mind, such as: "I don't believe in organized religion" and "I'll take my chances and just believe how I choose to believe." A good question to ask during these conversations is, "What has changed in your thinking about God from long ago?" It is not necessary that an apologetical discourse be delivered at this time. If you feel inadequate to have this

conversation, please know that you actually are fully adequate. Just simply talk with the person and above all, listen!

A wound happened

Our Church is very human. Many have been wounded by the clergy, leaders, parishioners, or even the theology of the Church. Many have known experiences other than love from Catholics in their life. If a person is open to sharing, ask if they are willing to share the story of their wound with you. One must be quite careful at this point to affirm the person and never minimize the other person's wound. This is a time of being Christ to the person. Respect them; appreciate the honesty; do not judge them. If any temptation to compare wounds arises, resist it. Share personal experiences at another time so as not to injure the tenderness of the person's woundedness.

These conversations are not to be seen as accidental but rather as invitations to further the path of spiritual restoration for all involved. Showing our wounds reveals a part of us that we often feel a sense of shame and may even be afraid of having others know. How different would our world be, if it seemed more acceptable to open up and to anoint each other in our physical, emotional, and spiritual sick-

nesses!

It is a privilege to be a part of sacramental healing; to listen and allow someone to share with you what he or she is going through. These three common reasons for leaving are not the whole picture of our fellow brethren, but a glimpse into how easily many might vulnerably be changed into having a distanced position with the Church.

May we receive these thoughts today as an admonition to reach out to others and offer a healing ear and a healing heart. Let's pray to be offered over sacramentally to our marginalized brothers and sisters who, whether they are aware of it or not, may eagerly be awaiting your invitation to talk.

"He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains." Psalm 107:14

Deacon Randy Kiel is the founder of Kardiac Counseling and serves Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him, email randy@kardiacounseling.com.

No cell phones, no problems: Saluting the digital minimalists

It started with news from Camp Wapo, the Bible camp I'd attended as a kid. The camp counselors in Amery, Wisconsin, enforce a strict no cell-phone policy: Ditch your iPhone when you arrive, get it back when you leave.

My reaction surprised me. I felt relief, triumph, a sense that the arc of the moral universe, to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had been snapped toward justice by noble adults undeterred by the protests of preteens.

This meant that kids today can have the same authentic camp experience I'd had, that generations have had. New friends, tippy canoes, midnight adventures. Sun tanning, star gazing, soul searching. Camp could mean something more – not just be a backdrop for TikTok videos.

Georgetown professor Cal Newport makes the case for less screen time in his 2019 book "Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World." A digital minimalist, he explains, is someone who gets lost in a book, a sunset or a woodworking project. These people have developed "a philosophy that puts our aspirations and values once again in charge of our daily experience...a philosophy that prioritizes long-term meaning over short-

Twentysomething

By Christina Cappechi



term satisfaction."

I love this wording, which hints at the spiritual underpinnings: values pave the way, the big picture trumps fleeting pleasures.

Christian author Shauna Niequist explores the spiritual impact of social media in her new book "I Guess I Haven't Learned That Yet."

"It's like standing in the center of a packed stadium every single day and expecting the constant noise and jostling not to take their toll on your spirit," she writes.

How can we hear the still, small voice of God in a stadium?

There are Catholics who understand this. In order to discern their vocations and their next steps, they are eliminating the noise.

The St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul,

Minnesota, runs a propaedeutic stage program, a year of preparation before young men enter seminary (or pursue other paths). They may only use their cell phones on Saturdays – a policy the men have come to appreciate.

"It pushed us to encounter each other, to engage with each other on a much deeper level than we might initially do right away," said Dominic Wolters, 23, a St. Paul native who participated in the program last year and is now in his first year of theological studies at the seminary. "It was challenging but also deeply enriching."

Meanwhile, first-year FOCUS missionaries are asked to cool off romantic relationships, making fewer phone calls to a boyfriend or girlfriend and no texting at all. Instead, they're encouraged to write letters in order to communicate "in more intentional ways," as Shannon Hicks, a formation director, put it.

The policy is designed to give them "a freedom of heart," Hicks said. "We're asking them to examine whether electronic communication carries with it the meaning their relationship deserves. I have seen it give missionaries the space to take a step back and look at their motivations for romantic relationships."

Tessa Soukup, a 22-year-old from Duluth, Minnesota, serving at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, struggled with the policy at first, wishing she could connect more readily with her boyfriend, Jacob.

"Is it hard?" she said. "Yes. But is it worth it? Even more so, yes. It truly is an opportunity to be stretched to learn how to love better, to discover where some of my priorities were not ordered. Now I think of him throughout my week in moments and think of ways I can share that with him when we do have our conversations. I look forward to sharing my week with him in that way, and I've learned to pray for him when I can't have that immediate gratification."

We can cave to the addiction of scrolling or we can pursue a freedom of heart.

Will it be hard? Yes.

But will it be worth it? Even more so, yes.

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

Food for childlike faith

We find in Luke 10:21-24 an interesting passage where Jesus tells his disciples that God has hidden the Kingdom of God from the wise and has chosen to reveal it to the childlike.

Reflecting on these words as a father of three small children, I am taken by their truth. Children see value and delight in truth and beauty in ways that are most honest and simple. Children do not ponder about the intrinsic logic of a daisy, they are simply taken in by it and allow it to touch them by being what it is: a beautiful flower to be admired, caressed, smelled, and shown off to others. They appreciate it as a daisy and find joy in discovering it and playing with it.

In this same way, children understand that love is what is meant when the words "I love you" are uttered. For children, love means no trickery and gives itself in full because there is no quantity that can express love. Grayson, my youngest son, tells

Food for the Journey

By John Huynh



me often that he loves me "to heaven and back." When asked why to heaven and not to the moon, he tells me because "heaven is the farthest from anything." There is no complexity to reality; there is only beauty and wonder.

Children also have an abounding amount of exuberance, finding great happiness in doing things repeatedly. I once lost count of how many times the Frozen soundtrack played in our car rides. Or, once for an entire month I read *Fox In Sox* every night to our boys before bed time. Our prayers each evening begin and end

the same way since we first started to pray together years ago. Yet, to my children it is as if each time we do these things it is like we are doing a new thing.

It is no wonder, then, that we are so fond of our childhoods. We yearn for simplicity and sanity. That apostle of common sense, Gilbert Chesterton, understood how important it is to be childlike. For that reason, he suggests that "the madman is not the man who has lost all reason, but the madman is a man who has lost everything except his reason."

I think we need to approach the Eucharist with this childlike enthusiasm. Yes, it is wonderful and necessary for us as faithful adults to try and understand the inner logic of the Eucharist, from transubstantiation to the grace received. Yet, it would be most beneficial for us to first take the words "This is my body" at face value. When we do this, we realize that there is no trope or trickery here, only the precious

Body of our Lord.

We also would do well to find joy in the reception of our Lord at Mass each day and/or each week as a new occasion to be united with Christ. As adults we tend to become weakened in our imagination and lose the kind of vivacity which finds jubilee in the seeming monotony of the Mass. And yet to the child, each Mass is a brand-new affair received in awe. The childlike faith sees each Mass as a new encounter – a new chance – to come closer to the Lord. It may be a routine celebration, but it is far from being tediously old. To regain and maintain our strength for an unchanging faith, we must eat the food which gives us the vitality needed to be childlike: we must come to the Eucharist.

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I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

Q. This year my daughter is going to be confirmed. Her religion teacher is asking what she would like for her confirmation name. Does she have to choose a new name? If so, why?

A. NO. THERE IS NOTHING in the Rite of Confirmation that speaks of a new name. It's a leftover from an earlier time when it was thought that persons were confirming their baptism and becoming adult Catholics (even in grade school!).

But in fact, confirmation is a sacrament where the bishop or his designate confirms the baptism that took place when those people were babies.

That's why when adults are baptized, they are confirmed at the same ceremony, and there is no mention of a new

name. The person's baptismal name is most appropriate for those being confirmed.

Confirmation was once thought to be a "coming of age" ceremony, where young people were accepting their role as "adult" Catholics. The catechesis for confirmation no longer uses that approach.

In the Eastern Church and in some Hispanic countries, children are confirmed at the same time they are baptized. Clearly the "coming of age" teaching wouldn't work in those cases. A person can certainly choose a confirmation name if they like, but it certainly isn't necessary.

Q. I heard in a recent sermon that Baptism is the responsibility of the whole parish, not just the parents and sponsors. Can you explain?

A. THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL belongs to the whole Church, not just the bishop and the priests. So living the teachings of Jesus is supported by the faith of all the people, not just the parents and the sponsors. Of course, the parents and the sponsors play a more intimate role in the formation of their children, but it's everyone's responsibility to contribute to the overall community of faith. Everyone plays a role.

Q. At a recent funeral I observed that there was a white cloth placed over the casket of the deceased. What is the purpose of that ritual?

A. THE WHITE CLOTH is called a funeral pall. It represents the baptismal garment that was used when the person was bap-

tized. The accompanying prayer says: "In the waters of baptism, N. died with Christ and was raised to new life. May N. now share with him eternal glory." The Easter Candle is also used as a reminder of the baptismal candle given to parents or sponsors.

Due to a technical glitch, these questions are from our "best of" collection of Father John Ludwig's columns.

Father John Ludwig is a retired priest of the Diocese of Des Moines. Email questions to Father Ludwig at communications@dmdiocese.org or send them to The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.

Questions on the sacraments

Can anything good come from Okarche, Oklahoma

Father Ron Rolheiser



It is not enough merely to have saints; we need saints for our times! An insightful comment from Simone Weil. The saints of old have much to offer; but we look at their goodness, faith, and selflessness and find it easier to admire them than to imitate them. Their lives and their circumstances seem so removed from our own that we easily distance ourselves from them.

So, I would like to propose a saint for our times, Stanley Rother (1935-1981), an Oklahoma farm boy who became a missionary with the poor in Atitlan, Guatemala, and eventually died a martyr. His life and his struggles (save perhaps for his extraordinary courage at the end) are something to which we can easily relate.

Who is Stanley Rother? He was a priest from Oklahoma who was shot to death in Guatemala in 1981. He has been beatified as a martyr and is soon to become the first male born in the United States to be canonized. Here, in brief, is his story.

Stanley Rother was born to a farming family in Okarche, Oklahoma, the oldest of four children. He grew up helping work the family farm and for the rest of his life

and ministry he remained forever the farmer more than the scholar. Growing up and working with his family, he was more at home tilling the soil, fixing engines, and digging wells than he was reading Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. This would serve him well in his work with the poor as a missionary, though it served him less well when he first set out to study for the priesthood.

His initial years in the seminary were a struggle. Trying to study philosophy (in Latin) as a preparation for his theological studies proved a bit too much for him. After a couple of years, the seminary staff advised him to leave, telling him that he lacked the academic abilities to study for the priesthood. Returning to the farm, he sought the advice of his bishop and was eventually sent to Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland. While he didn't exactly thrive there academically, he thrived there in other ways, ways that impressed the seminary staff enough that they recommended him for ordination.

Back in his own diocese, he spent the first years of his priesthood mostly doing manual work, redoing an abandoned property that the diocese had inherited and turning it into a functioning renewal center. Then, in 1978, he was invited to join a diocesan mission team that had begun a mission in Guatemala. Everything in his background and personality now served to

make him ideal for this type of work and, ironically, he, who once struggled to learn Latin, was now able to learn the difficult language of the people he worked with (Tz'utujil) and become one of the people who helped develop its written alphabet, vocabulary, and grammar. He ministered to the people sacramentally, but he also reached out to them personally, helping them farm, finding resources to help them, and occasionally giving them money out of his own pocket. Eventually he became their trusted friend and leader.

However, not everything was that idyllic. The political situation in the country was radically deteriorating, violence was everywhere, and anyone perceived to be in opposition to the government faced the possibility of intimidation, disappearance, torture, and death. Stanley tried to remain apolitical, but simply working with the poor was seen as being political. As well, at a point, a number of his own catechists were tortured and killed and, not surprisingly, he found himself on a death list and was hustled out of the country for his own safety. For three months, back with his family in Oklahoma, he agonized about whether to return to Guatemala, knowing that it meant almost certain death. The decision was especially difficult because, while clearly he felt called to return to Guatemala, he worried about what his death there would mean to his elderly

parents.

He made the decision to return to Guatemala, fired by Jesus' saying that the shepherd doesn't run when the sheep are in danger. Four months later, he was shot to death in the missionary compound within which he lived, fighting to the end with his attackers not to be taken alive and made "to disappear". Instantly, he was recognized as a martyr and when his body was flown back to Oklahoma for burial, the community in Atitlan kept his heart and turned the room in which he was martyred into a chapel.

A number of books have been written about him and I highly recommend two of them. For a substantial biographical account, read Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda, *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run*. For a hagiographical tribute to him read Henri Nouwen, *Love in a Fearful Land*.

We have patron saints for every cause and occasion. For whom or for what might Stanley Rother be considered a patron saint? For all of us ordinary people of whom circumstance at times asks for an exceptional courage.

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

Acción de Gracias Importado y Exportado

Hace muchos años, ofrecí ayuda sacramental regular a un grupo de cinco parroquias rurales en donde el vino de la Misa lo producía y donaba una vinatería local. Anteriormente, gracias al liderazgo del Hermano Cristiano Lasallista quien era su administrador, las cinco parroquias se fusionaron en una parroquia que mantuvo los cinco templos abiertos, pero con un nuevo nombre que reflejaba su aprecio por su querido hermano en Cristo: San Juan Bautista de La Salle.

Los parroquianos era generalmente personas de una profunda fe: a ellos les encantaba recibir a Jesús presente en la Eucaristía, y también estaban agradecido con Dios y con los sacerdotes y ministros que les ofrecían este precioso regalo. Ellos también estaban agradecidos con el generoso gesto de los dueños de la vinatería por ofrecerles una mezcla especial de vino que llevaba el nombre "La Salle" de su conjunto parroquial que se había transformado en un Cuerpo de Cristo.

Pero con el tiempo, muchas de las personas desarrollaron el gusto por el dulce vino tinto mismo, aún cuando sabían que se había transformado milagrosamente en el Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo. Ellos replicaban a los dueños de la vinatería que pusiera el vino a la venta en la tiendas y mercados locales, lo cual hicieron. Muchas mesas de la región agraciaban su apariencia con una botella de vino La Salle – la cual, dependiendo de la preferencia y paladar de la persona respecto a vinos dulces o secos, era o muy bueno o no muy apetitoso.

La celebración de la Misa tiene muchos niveles de misterio y de significado. En el centro de esta, la palabra misma 'Eucaristía' significa 'acción de gracias', y hay muchas dimensiones diferentes de acción de gracia en juego: la acción de gracias de Jesús cuando bendice el pan y el cáliz en la Última Cena y los presenta a su Padre celestial como una ofrenda de amor. Aunque sabe que esto va a significar un terrible sufrimiento y la entrega de su vida misma, él está agradecido por la



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

misión que el Padre le ha confiado. Y está también agradecido por los discípulos que han respondido a su llamado de seguirle y de unirse a su íntima compañía alrededor de la mesa que se convierte en altar – entonces y ahora. Como lo comentó el Papa Francisco en su reflexión sobre el deseo de Jesús de celebrar la Última Cena, en esa sagrada noche anticipa la celebración de todas las Eucaristías que se llevarán a cabo hasta el final de los tiempos. Él desea almas hambrientas y sedientas que le reconozcan y le reciban a él quien por sí mismo satisface los más profundos deseos de amor en nuestros corazones, de un sentido de pertenecer, por una razón para estar agradecidos sin importar las dificultades, caídas y sufrimiento que enfrentamos actualmente en nuestras propias vidas.

La Eucaristía revela a Dios quien nos conoce y nos provee con los medios más profundos, pero a la vez disponibles, para unirnos a Jesús en dar gracias a Dios. Damos gracias al Padre por darnos a su único Hijo, quien viene a salvarnos, en vez de venir a condenarnos, y que nos reconcilia y restaura en unidad unos con los otros – especialmente en una cultura que se aferra a un antagonismo polarizado y a la división. Damos gracias a Dios por nuestras propias vidas, por nuestra fe y, si contamos con esa bendición, por el trabajo que hacemos con el sudor de nuestra frente, junto al uso de nuestras mentes y talentos creativos. Estamos agradecidos por nuestras vocaciones, que son respuestas personales al amor de Dios y los medios por los cuales nosotros también, entregamos nuestras vidas con

la fidelidad que la gracia de Dios hace posible.

Una de las cosas que me encantan de la Misa (y la asistencia oportuna a la Adoración Eucarística) es que no debo ser completamente original y creativo en expresar las gracias que viven dentro de mí. Más aún, la celebración de la Misa nos permite "convertir" mis algunas veces actitudes poco agradecidas en un encuentro entre Dios y yo mismo que son en sí una bendición. La presencia mutua, aún si la marca un gran dolor, deseos terrenales de justicia no correspondidos, por la sanación de las personas que conozco, distracciones, oídos sordos o fatiga, es aún una forma válida de comunión entre Dios y sus amados hijos e hijas. Las palabras de la Santa Escritura y las oraciones rituales de la Misa son una biblioteca de amor, un tesoro de gestos y una "conversación de mesa" que nos da el gran sabor de la experiencia.

Diariamente, Dios nos permite negociar con una gama de preocupaciones y compromisos que nos presionan y torturan en veces, pero que inevitablemente producen más jugo de "Espíritu" y frutos que podemos cosechar solamente por nuestra propia iniciativa y esfuerzos. Nunca empezamos de cero: Dios ha anticipado ya todas nuestras necesidades y ha consagrado los diversos "asuntos" que ponemos frente a Él en el altar de la Iglesia y en el altar de nuestros corazones. Como el sacerdote que ora ya sea en silencio o en voz alta: "Bendito eres Señor, Dios del Universo, por este pan... por este vino, fruto de la vida y del trabajo del hombre que recibimos de tu generosidad y que ahora te presentamos para que se convierta en bebida de salvación."

Todos nosotros podemos ejercer nuestro sacerdocio bautismal y hacer nuestras las palabras del Salmista:

Haces brotar el pasto para el ganado y las plantas que el hombre ha de cultivar,

para que de la tierra saque el pan y el vino que alegra el corazón

del hombre.

El aceite le dará brillo a su rostro y el pan fortificará su corazón. (Salmo 104:14-15)

Los fieles de la Parroquia de La Salle en efecto querían "exportar" el vino de su Misa hacia sus hogares y a sus vidas en general. Sí, el enfoque de su atención y de sus gustos puede haber sido nublado por la línea entre lo sacramental y lo sensiblemente natural, lo místico y lo mundano. Sin embargo, no quiero criticarles, sino llamar a todos a hacer de nuestra experiencia de adoración Eucarística y nuestra consciencia sobre la gracia del acompañamiento de Dios durante toda nuestra vida diaria un asunto más natural. Desarrollamos nuestras "glándulas gustativas" para que muevan entre el dulce gozo de cuando las cosas salen bien, y la aceptación y confianza en los tiempos secos para que prevalezca la oración, el trabajo y la familia y amigos. Cultivemos el hábito de la gratitud y alabanza a Dios que fluye en ambos sentidos a través de las puertas de nuestras parroquias y nuestros hogares, nuestros pastizales y nuestros lugares de estudio y de trabajo.

Estamos inclinados a una mayor generosidad a nuestros conciudadanos quienes se encuentran en lamentables "desiertos alimenticios" que tanto prevalecen en nuestro país, porque reconocemos lo frecuentemente que otros han proveído los medios y cosas que hacemos propias, así como los dueños de la vinatería que donaban el vino de uva que Jesucristo transforma en sí mismo. Nos convertimos en personas conocidas por el espíritu de Acción de Gracias que no solamente nos mueve a participar en la más religiosa de todas nuestras fiestas nacionales el cuarto jueves de noviembre; nos lleva a comunidades de presencia mutua y de entrega movidos por la alabanza y el trabajo, para celebrar y sacrificar, porque tenemos un Dios que gusta de dar gracias por nosotros y con nosotros, día tras día, hasta el fin de los tiempos.

Sacerdote de Iowa que ayuda a latinos a encontrar su voz recibirá premio CCHD

Por Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- El padre Guillermo Treviño no estaba seguro de qué esperar cuando el obispo Thomas R. Zinkula lo asignó en 2018 a la Parroquia San José en la zona rural de West Liberty, Iowa, con una población de 3,808 habitantes.

El joven sacerdote -- entonces de 32 años y tres años ordenado -- había vivido en el área de Quad Cities del estado a lo largo de la frontera con Illinois. Vivir una nueva vida como sacerdote en la Diócesis de Davenport le generaba mucha incertidumbre, recordó.

Cuatro años después, el padre Treviño, párroco desde julio de 2021 de la parroquia, así como de la Iglesia San José en las cercanías de Columbus Junction, no lo hubiera hecho de otra manera.

Durante los últimos cuatro años, el sacerdote, hijo de inmigrantes mexicanos, ha cimentado una estrecha relación con los feligreses de ambas comunidades, donde la mayoría de los residentes son latinos y muchos trabajan en las industrias agrícola y frigorífica.

Su ministerio se basa en servir a las personas cuya voz a menudo se pasa por alto -- o al menos ese era el caso hasta que los ayudó a formar Escucha Mi Voz. Esta organización permite que las personas hablen sobre sus preocupaciones y luego hagan algo para abordar esas necesidades.

Por ejemplo, abordaron como obtener algunos de los fondos federales de ayuda por el COVID-19 de los que anteriormente habían sido excluidos porque no eran ciudadanos estadounidenses.

A instancias de los miembros de Escucha Mi Voz, el Concejo Municipal de West Liberty otorgó en junio cheques de \$700 a 200 residentes de la ciudad para ayudar a aliviar el impacto de la pandemia en la vida familiar.

Dicha organización es una extensión de Quad Cities Interfaith, financiada por la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano. Este grupo primario existe desde hace varios años y aborda cuestiones relacionadas con la justicia climática, la vigilancia policial, la inmigración, y la educación.

Escucha Mi Voz surgió para que la gente pudiera abogar por sí misma. La victoria del Concejo Municipal fue un gran paso, que resultó de las personas dándose cuenta de que tenían el poder de efectuar cambios, expresó el padre Treviño.



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

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

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

Your support can truly make a difference in preparing Leaders for Life, Centered on Christ. To donate, please visit www.dowlingcatholic.org/donate or mail a check to Dowling Catholic High School, 1400 Buffalo Road, West Des Moines, IA 50265.

Pope blesses sculpture for homeless project



CNS photo/Vatican Media

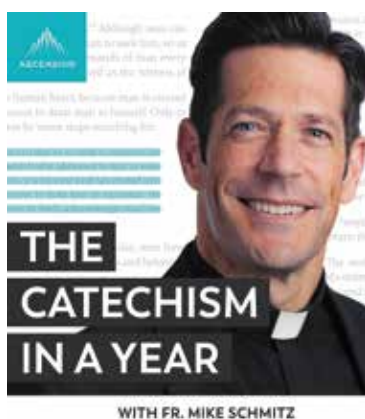
Pope Francis waves to members of the Vincentian religious orders and lay communities Nov. 9 after blessing Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz's new sculpture, *Sheltering*. The statue, which features a dove laying a blanket over a homeless person, will be used in conjunction with a Vincentian project to build homes for some 10,000 people in 160 countries.

New yearlong podcast focuses on catechism

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Beginning Jan. 1, Ascension Press will launch "The Catechism in a Year," taking listeners through the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and "providing explanation, insight and encouragement along the way."

Over the course of 365 daily podcast episodes, Father Mike Schmitz will read the entire catechism.

Throughout 2022, the priest has hosted the popular "The Bible in a Year" podcast with Scripture scholar Jeff Cavins. Father Schmitz read every verse of the Catholic Bible in 365 days, using a reading plan based on Cavins' Great Adventure Bible Timeline.



The reading plan organizes the 14 narrative books of the Bible into 12 periods to help readers understand how they relate to one another and to God's plan for salvation. A priest of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, Fa-

ther Schmitz is a popular Catholic speaker and author.

He and Cavins created the Bible podcast with the backing of Ascension.

"We don't think it's an accident that after 'Bible in a Year,' the No. 1 requested thing from our audience was a 'Catechism of the Year,'" said Lauren Joyce, communications and public relations specialist at Ascension.

Helping the faithful understand and read the Bible with Cavins' timeline learning system and the podcast format "made such a big difference for accessibility," she said at a Nov. 2 news conference via Zoom.

Iowa priest helps Latinos find their voice

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Father Guillermo Treviño wasn't sure what to expect when Davenport Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula assigned him in 2018 to St. Joseph Parish in rural West Liberty, Iowa, population 3,808.

The young priest, then 32 and three years ordained, had lived in the Quad Cities area of the state along the Illinois border.

Living a new life as a priest in the Diocese of Davenport posed much uncertainty, he recalled.

Four years later, Father Treviño, pastor since July 2021 of the parish as well as the similarly named St. Joseph Church in nearby Columbus Junction, wouldn't have it any other way. Over the past four years, the priest, the son



Father Guillermo Treviño

of Mexican immigrants, has cemented close relationships with the parishioners in both communities, where the majority or residents are Latino and many work in

the agricultural and meatpacking industries.

His ministry is rooted in serving people whose voice is often overlooked -- at least until

he helped them form Escucha Mi Voz, Spanish for Hear My Voice.

The organization allows people to speak up about their concerns -- and then do something to address those needs, like getting some of the federal COVID-19 relief funds from which they had previously been excluded because they were not U.S. citizens.

At the urging of Escucha Mi Voz members, the West Liberty City Council in June awarded \$700 checks to 200 city residents to help ease the impact of the pandemic on family life.

Maintenance Custodian

All Saints is seeking a part-time (average 10 hours per week) Maintenance Custodian. Hours to work are flexible and will vary weekly (Sunday through Saturday), as needed. Main duties include assure that the parish facilities are maintained in good condition and in a safe and secure manner and perform some maintenance repairs as needed. Skills and/or abilities desired, but not required, include able to lift or move heavy objects, basic electrical and plumbing knowledge, and able to operate basic tools and equipment needed to perform the job. Compensation is based on candidate's experience and skills. For more information go to our website: www.dmall Saints.org. Resumes may be sent to Fr. Harris at the parish no later than December 1, 2022.

Preschool Director

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School of West Des Moines, IA, is seeking a full-time Preschool Director. This position establishes a nurturing and stimulating environment for preschool and early childhood. Responsibilities include hiring, training, and supervising staff, organizing curriculum program activities, communicating with families, achieving enrollment, accreditation and operational objectives, proposing annual budget. Attend BOE/PACC meeting. A Bachelor's degree in Education is preferred. Interested candidates should contact Diane Jones at djones@saintfrancisschool.org or 515-457-7167.

Pope: Love the Lord by loving the poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Wars, famine and calamities of every kind can tempt Christians to a paralyzing fear that the world is about to end; what they must do instead is act, even in a small way, to make the world a better place, Pope Francis said.

Loved by God, "let us love his most discarded children. The Lord is there," the pope said Nov. 13, celebrating Mass for the World Day of the Poor.

In Italian villages and other places, too, there is a tradition at Christmas to set an extra place at the table "for the Lord who will surely knock on the door in the person of someone who is poor and in need," the pope said.

"And your heart, does it always have a free place for those people?" he asked those at Mass. "My heart, does it have a vacancy for those people? Or are we so busy with friends, social events and obligations that we never have room for them?"

After Mass and the recitation of the Angelus prayer, the Vatican set a place for 1,300 people to share a festive meal in the Vatican audience hall.

Pope Francis joined them for lunch. And, thanks to a donation from a supermarket chain, the Vatican sent 5,000 boxes of pasta, rice, flour, sugar, salt, coffee, milk and oil to Rome parishes for distribution.

In addition, with the help of volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians, the Vatican set up a free medical clinic in St. Peter's Square for the week, offering physical exams and blood tests to anyone in need.

And, with the price of electricity more than doubling in Italy over the past year, the Vatican also was helping poor families with their utility bills, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the Vatican organizer of the world day.

Cardinal tells leaders at COP27 they have duty to act on climate change

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (CNS) -- Leaders gathered in Egypt for the U.N. climate summit have "a moral obligation" to act seriously and together to safeguard the planet and to offer concrete aid to people suffering the "more frequent and more serious humanitarian impacts caused by climate change," said Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

The Vatican secretary of state led the Holy See's official delegation to COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh Nov. 6-18.

The cardinal told world leaders Nov. 8 that "the growing phenomenon of migrants being displaced" by climate change is something they must act on because currently "they lack access to international protection" recognizing them as deserving special care.

And, he said, if it is not possible to give them special status as refugees, "it is important to recognize migration as a form of adaptation and to increase the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration."

The 2015 Paris Agreement, which the Vatican has signed on to, set out "four pillars" for immediate action: mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage payments. Cardinal Parolin told the summit that the four pillars are "interconnected and are a matter of fairness, justice and equity."

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St. Vincent de Paul is looking for a compassionate Vincentian Services Liaison with a sense of ministry to oversee all SVdP parish-based conferences and lead conference communications. The work hours are variable. For more information go to www.svdpsm.org or contact Steve Havemann, 515-282-8328, ext. 120 or execdir@svdpsm.org.

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