

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 55, No. 9

September 16, 2022

Hundreds join in procession with our Eucharistic Lord



A Eucharistic procession on Aug. 28 began at the Basilica of St. John and concluded at St. Ambrose Cathedral with prayers and benediction. (Left) Bishop William Joensen carries the Eucharistic in the monstrance on High Street in Des Moines as the group approaches the cathedral.



Photos by Wilfrido Matamoros

Hundreds came out for the Eucharistic procession on Aug. 28. The day began with 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of St. John, celebrated by Bishop William Joensen. It was followed by a procession from the basilica to St. Ambrose Cathedral, concluding with prayers for life, benediction and a reception lunch. Learn more about the Catholic Church's national Eucharistic Revival at EucharisticRevival.org.

Two seminarians reflect on journey and *Ignite!* Campaign

Kyle Rowan and Luke Mohan recently entered the seminary and are discerning a call to serve the Diocese of Des Moines as priests.

Mohan and Rowan are among the men impacted by the *Ignite!* Campaign's work to build up the endowed Seminarian Fund.

"We, along with future seminarians, will benefit from the fund for seminarians, which enables us to study for the priesthood without having to try and work simultaneously," said Mohan.

Rowan's home parish is Sacred Heart Catholic Church in

Bedford.

He credits his mother, Theresa Rowan, for igniting his love for the Catholic faith. It was she who encouraged him to be an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister and eventually a counselor at the Catholic Youth Camp in Panora.

While at Catholic Youth Camp, Rowan met recently ordained priests, Fathers Alex Kramer and Reed Flood.

"After meeting them, the possibility of becoming a priest turned into something tangible and exciting," Rowan said.

Continued on page 9

Christ Our Life Conference

Don't forget to get tickets to the largest Catholic event in the state: the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference on Sept. 24-25.

See well-known theologians and inspiring speakers including Father John Riccardo, Chris Stefanick, Matt Fradd, Patricia Sandoval, Keith Nester, Tim Jameson, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and Steve Angrisano at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

Doors open at 7 a.m. both days. On Saturday, Mass will begin at 9 a.m. with Father

John Riccardo as the homilist. Bishop William Joensen will welcome the crowd at 10:35 a.m. Sandoval will lead a presentation in Spanish at 1:15 p.m. at HyVee Hall.

Bishop Joensen will lead a Eucharistic procession, adoration and benediction beginning at 7:50 p.m.

On Sunday, speakers begin at 9 a.m. and the conference concludes with 12:30 p.m. Mass with Bishop Joensen as the homilist.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students age six

through college. For more information, go to christourlifeiowa.com.



Ode to teachers and those who accompany them

By now we are almost four weeks into a new school year. Hopefully our students, their families, teachers, administrators, staff and volunteers have settled into a comfortable, but not complacent, routine. For we should never cease to be grateful for the commitment and courage displayed by members of our school communities to continue our educational mission in the midst of a pandemic, with all the hardship, uncertainty, contentiousness, and sacrifice it entailed. They remain intrepid witnesses to the Gospel's challenge to bring everyone to life—real, abundant life in Christ, in the proper order of formation for each and every young person. As they live out their own baptismal and professional callings, educators cultivate communities of encounter and care for all who cross the threshold of our school buildings each day.

This past spring, the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education released an Instruction, "The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue." It's a rich document with too much to unpack here, but there is retrieval of the icon of the Church as mother and teacher. Within the fold of the Church, our schools are charged to express tenderness and charity. These charisms, or gifts, are to be partnered with the capacity to be guide and teacher in the way of truth, which is a mystery that englobes the whole of our lives. To be a lay teacher, leader/administrator, or a supporting staff member, is not simply the exercise of a job, a profession, though there is a high professional standard that must be fulfilled. It is to be sharer in a mission that is apostolic: one has been chosen and sent by God in a supernatural vocation to place oneself in rela-



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

tion with colleagues for the sake of young people, their parents and families, as well as the parish faith communities and larger society whom we serve.

Among various aspects of this responsibility entrusted to us by God, educators enable students to "look at reality in a whole new way—and to see ourselves and others with a renewed identity." They are to appreciate the immensity and awe-inspiring grandeur of the universe (which the most recent images from the James Webb space telescope stirred in many of us).

I believe the infrared capacity of this Webb telescope can be likened to what our faith does in our daily encounters with the various subjects and media that are the "stuff" of our teaching methods and classroom and co-curricular performances. Faith accesses dimensions of our world, of our own personal identities, that would otherwise remain hidden, dormant, neglected. As the Congregation for Education observes, given technological transformation and the pervasiveness of digital culture, there is a distinct synthesis of our faith, life, and culture that is ingredient to our educational mission. Our ongoing formation of our teachers and school leaders is to be creative and imaginative, so as to respect and connect with students' different modes of intelligence and diverse backgrounds.

And this is key—and I quote the Vatican Instruction directly: "Schools, even Catholic schools, do not demand adherence to the faith, however they can prepare for it." "It is possible to create the conditions for a person to develop a gift for searching and to be guided in discovering the mystery of his [or her] being and of the reality that surrounds him, until he reaches the threshold of faith. To those who decide to cross this threshold the necessary means are offered for continuing to deepen their experience of faith."

To develop a gift for searching. To be guided in discovering the mystery of one's being. To deepen the experience of faith. All of these aims imply that we as adults, as parents, clergy, schools staff and volunteers are open to deepening our own personal experience of faith—to be led by the Spirit so that we can lead, shepherd, and mentor others. In this respect, the profile and job description of a teacher provided by our ancient Christian tradition seems even more relevant. Laura Swan, in her book, *The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women*, cites an early Christian woman and wisdom figure:

"The same Amma [The-



Official

Bishop William Joensen made the following appointment effective July 21, 2022.

Rev. Julius Itamid from Calabar Archdiocese, to canonical administrator, St. Patrick Parish, Neola, and St. Columbanus Parish, Westin.

Bishop William Joensen made the following appointments effective Sept. 8, 2022. Deacon Michael Hunstman's appointment is effective Oct. 4, 2022.

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Eric Bertrand
Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Boehlert
Rev. Mr. Thomas Bradley
Rev. Mr. Darrl (Scott) Brooks
Rev. Mr. Mark Burdt
Rev. Mr. Juan Bustamante
Rev. Mr. Mark Campbell
Rev. Mr. Michael Carney
Rev. Mr. Francis Chan
Rev. Mr. Rick Condon
Rev. Mr. Fred Cornwell
Rev. Mr. Daniel Dombrovsky
Rev. Mr. Richard Fetterman
Rev. Mr. Ed Garza
Rev. Mr. Matthew Halbach
Rev. Mr. Kevin Heim
Rev. Mr. Kurt Heinrich
Rev. Mr. James Houston
Rev. Mr. Tom Hunkele
Rev. Mr. Michael Huntsman
Rev. Mr. Laurence Kehoe
Rev. Mr. Randy Kiel
Rev. Mr. Gregory Kolbinger
Rev. Mr. Greg Lievens
Rev. Mr. Frank Lopez
Rev. Mr. Dennis Lovell
Rev. Mr. Randy Lynch
Rev. Mr. Michael Manno
Rev. Mr. Dan Maxcy
Rev. Mr. Bob McClellan
Rev. Mr. Steve McGee
Rev. Mr. Monty Montagne
Rev. Mr. James Obradovich
Rev. Mr. Dave O'Brien
Rev. Mr. Dennis Patrick
Rev. Mr. John Pfenning
Rev. Mr. Eric Pugh
Rev. Mr. Douglas Renze
Rev. Mr. William Richer
Rev. Mr. Thomas Schenk
Rev. Mr. Terry Schleisman
Rev. Mr. David Schmidt
Rev. Mr. Donald Shannon
Rev. Mr. Patrick Snook
Rev. Mr. Raymond (Rob) Stark
Rev. Mr. Kelly Stone
Rev. Mr. Oran Struecker
Rev. Mr. Sam Sullivan
Rev. Mr. Stephen Tatz
Rev. Mr. Troy Thompson
Rev. Mr. Luke Tieskoetter
Rev. Mr. Emmet Tinley
Rev. Mr. Quan Tong
Rev. Mr. Paul Tran
Rev. Mr. Steve Udelhofen
Rev. Mr. Tony Valdez
Rev. Mr. Dennis Wright
Rev. Mr. Darwin Kruse
Rev. Mr. Dennis Luft
Rev. Mr. Ron Myers

Assignment

Holy Trinity of SE Warren County, Lacona and Sacred Heart, Chariton
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny
Diocesan-level Special Ministries and Projects
St. Patrick, Neola
All Saints, Des Moines
St. Anthony, Des Moines
Basilica of St. John
St. Patrick, MO Valley
St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines
St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Des Moines
St. Luke the Evangelist, Ankeny
St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny and St. Patrick Parish, Perry
Sacred Heart, West Des Moines
St. Luke the Evangelist, Ankeny
St. Augustin, Des Moines
St. Augustin, Des Moines
St. Pius X, Urbandale
Sacred Heart, Chariton
St. John the Apostle, Norwalk
Christ the King
Our Lady of the Americas, Des Moines
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny
St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines
St. Anthony and Our Lady of the Americas, Des Moines
Holy Family, Mondamin/ St. Anne, Logan
St. Joseph, Des Moines
St. Augustin, Des Moines
St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines
Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs
Ss John and Paul, Altoona
Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs
Holy Trinity and St. Ambrose, Des Moines
St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianola
St. Cecilia, Panora/St. Mary, Guthrie Center/St. Patrick, Bayard
St. Patrick, Council Bluffs
St. Joseph, Winterset
Holy Trinity, Des Moines
St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines
Assumption, Granger
Veteran's Ministry/Bishop Drumm
St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Des Moines
St. Luke the Evangelist, Ankeny
St. Peter, Council Bluffs
St. Pius X, Urbandale
St. John the Apostle, Norwalk
St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines
St. Joseph, Winterset
Basilica of St. John, Des Moines
St. Pius X, Urbandale
Basilica of St. John, Des Moines
St. Patrick, Council Bluffs
St. Anthony, Des Moines
St. Peter Vietnamese Community, Des Moines
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny
Christ the King, Des Moines
St. Boniface, Waukee
Retired
Retired
Retired

William Joensen

Faithfully in Christ
Most Rev. William Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines

Jason Kurth

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

odora] said that a teacher ought to be a stranger to the desire for domination, vainglory, and pride. A teacher should not be fooled by flattery, nor be blinded by gifts, conquered by the stomach, nor dominated by anger. A teacher should be patient, gentle and humble as far as possible; successfully tested and without partisanship, full of concern, and a lover of souls."

Our school staffs have been tested and have shown their mettle in these past few years with unprecedented grace and fortitude. Beyond the pandemic,

the changing winds in our society and even within our Church have sifted and purified their sense of commitment, vocation and mission. I continue to be inspired by my encounters with our school faculties and administrators. They are obviously not in this for material gain, but because of a sense that what they are about is a divine proposal and mission that God invites them to fulfill. They are truly lovers of souls.

Please join me in taking the initiative to thank all school teachers, staffs, and administrators for having weathered the brunt of the

pandemic, and for pressing on for the sake of something greater than themselves, or greater even than this world: the Kingdom of God. In this Kingdom, even the least child is the occasion of praise and thanksgiving by the angels to the Father of lights, who has conceived the universe on account of his overflowing goodness and love, reflected in the face of each and every young person and adult who composes our school communities.

THE CATHOLIC

MIRROR

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Congratulations to six new permanent deacons!



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins



Photos by Chelsea Dellaca



Bishop William Joensen ordained six men July 16 to the permanent diaconate.

They are Deacons Dan Dombrosky, Dan Maxcy; Steve McGee; Eric Pugh; Oran Struecker; and Steve Tatz.

Watch the livestream from this ordination at the Diocese of Des Moines YouTube channel.

African Conference for Catholic Clergy and Religious held in Des Moines



Photo by Father Jim Kirby




Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins

The African Conference for Catholic Clergy and Religious was held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines in July. African priests and religious serving across the United States attended. The concluding Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral included music from three local African choirs.

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Catholic
Mirror.***

Contact Sandy Riesberg by emailing sriesberg@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5046.


CELEBRATING MILESTONE
Anniversaries
with Bishop William Joensen

Saturday, October 1st Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines
Saturday, October 15th Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, Harlan



Registration required for Certificate of Blessing and reserved seating for couple and their friends and family. Light reception to follow. To register contact Cathy at 515-237-5004 or email her at cgearhart@dmdiocese.org.

Oda a los maestros y a aquellos quienes los acompañan

Estamos ya casi en la cuarta semana del nuevo año escolar. Esperamos que nuestros estudiantes, sus familias, maestros, administradores, personal y voluntarios ya están cómodamente establecidos, pero no complacientemente, en la rutina. Nosotros no debemos nunca dejar de estar agradecidos por el compromiso y el valor que muestran nuestras comunidades escolares al continuar con nuestra misión educativa en medio de una pandemia, con todas las dificultades, incertidumbres, contenciones y sacrificios que enfrentaron. Ellos permanecieron como intrépidos testigos del reto del Evangelio de traer a todos a la vida – real y abundante vida en Cristo, en el orden propio de la formación de toda y cada persona joven. Al vivir ellos su propios llamados bautismales y profesionales, los educadores cultivan comunidades de encuentro y cuidan de todos aquellos que cruzan cada día el umbral de los edificios de nuestras escuelas.

La Congregación para la Educación Católica del Vaticano publicó una instrucción en la primavera pasada, “La Identidad de la Escuela Católica para una Cultura del Diálogo.” Es un documento con mucha riqueza y con demasiado como para analizarlo aquí, pero restablece el ícono de la Iglesia como madre y maestra. Dentro del rebaño de la Iglesia, nuestras escuelas tienen el encargo de expresar ternura y caridad. Se debe asociar con estos carismas o dones con la capacidad de



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

ser guía y maestro en el camino de la verdad, la cual es un misterio que cubre nuestras vidas totalmente.

El ser un maestro laico, líder, administrador o miembro del personal, no es simplemente el ejercicio de un trabajo o una profesión, aunque se debe cumplir un alto nivel de profesionalidad. Es el compartir una misión que es apostólica: una que debe ser elegida y enviada por Dios en una vocación supernatural de colocarse a uno mismo en relación con los colegas por el bien de los jóvenes, sus padres y familias, así como de las comunidades de fe de las parroquias y la sociedad general a la que servimos.

Entre los varios aspectos de esta responsabilidad a la que Dios nos ha confiado, los educadores habilitan a los estudiantes a que “vean a la realidad de una nueva forma – y que nos veamos a nosotros mismos con una identidad renovada.” Ellos deben reconocer la inmensidad y la grandeza inspiradora del universo (a lo que nos llevaron a muchos de nosotros las imágenes más recientes desde el telescopio espacial James Webb.)

Creo que la capacidad infrarroja de este telescopio Web puede ser comparada a lo que hace nuestra fe en nuestros encuentros diarios con los diversos temas y la prensa que son el “relleno” de nuestros métodos de enseñanza y de nuestros desempeños en el salón de clases y actividades co-curriculares. La fe entra en dimensiones de nuestro mundo, como nuestras propias identidades personales, que de otra forma quedaría ocultas, dormidas, abandonadas. Así como lo observa la Congregación para la Educación, dada la transformación tecnológica y el dominio de la cultura digital, hay una distintiva síntesis de nuestra fe, vida y cultura que son ingrediente de nuestra misión educadora. La continua formación de nuestros maestros y líderes escolares es la de ser creativos e imaginativos, así para poder respetar y conectarse con los diferentes modos de inteligencia y variedad de orígenes de nuestros estudiantes.

Y esta es la clave – y cito textualmente la Instrucción del Vaticano: “La escuela, incluida la católica, no pide la adhesión a la fe; pero puede prepararla.” “Es posible crear las condiciones para que la persona desarrolle la aptitud de la búsqueda y se la oriente a descubrir el misterio del propio ser y de la realidad que la rodea, hasta llegar al umbral de la fe. Luego, a cuantos deciden traspasarlo, se les ofrece los medios necesarios para seguir profundizando la experiencia de la fe.”

Desarrollar un don de búsqueda. Ser guiado en el descubrimiento del misterio del ser de uno mismo. Profundizar la experiencia de la fe. Todos estos intentos implican que nosotros como adultos, como padres, clero, personal de las escuelas y voluntarios estamos abiertos para profundizar nuestra propia experiencia de fe – el ser guiados por el Espíritu para que podamos ser líderes, pastores, y mentores de otros. Respecto a esto, el perfil y descripción laboral de un maestro que nos ofrece nuestra ancestral tradición cristiana parece ser aún más relevante. Laura Swan, en su libro *Las Madres Olvidadas del Desierto: Dichos, Vidas e Historias de la Primeras Mujeres Cristianas (The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women*, que es su título original en inglés) cita a una de las primeras mujeres cristianas que era modelo de sabiduría:

“La misma Amma [Teodora] dijo que un maestro debe ser un extraño ante el deseo de dominio, vanagloria y orgullo. Un maestro no debe dejarse engañar por los halagos ni cegarse ante los regalos, conquistado por el estómago ni dominado por el enojo. Un maestro debe ser paciente, gentil y humilde tanto como le sea posible; puesto exitosamente a prueba y sin parcialidad, lleno de preocupación y con amor hacia las almas.”

Nuestro personal escolar ha sido puesto a prueba y han

demostrado su templanza en estos recientes años con una gracia y fortaleza sin precedentes. Más allá de la pandemia, los vientos de cambio de nuestra sociedad e incluso dentro de nuestra Iglesia han cernido y purificado su sentido de compromiso, vocación y misión. Me siguen inspirando mis encuentros con los miembros de la facultad y administradores escolares. Ellos no están aquí ciertamente por las ganancias materiales, pero por un sentido de que lo que hacen es una propuesta y misión divina a la que Dios les invita a cumplir. Ellos tienen ciertamente amor hacia las almas.

Les pido que se unan a mí en tomar la iniciativa de agradecer a todos los maestros, miembros del personal y administradores de las escuelas por haber aguantado el peso de la pandemia, y por ser firmes por el bien de algo más grande que ellos mismos, o más grande que este mundo: el Reino de Dios. En este Reino, hasta el más pequeño de sus hijos es ocasión de alabanza y agradecimiento de los ángeles hacia el Padre de la luz, quien ha concebido el universo a cuenta de su inmensa bondad y amor, reflejados en el rostro de todos y cada uno de nuestros jóvenes y adultos que forman nuestras comunidades escolares.

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CHRIST OUR LIFE

September 24 & 25, 2022 • Wells Fargo Arena • Des Moines, Iowa

World-Class Speakers:

Bishop William Joensen

Father John Riccardo

Matt Fradd

Patricia Sandoval

Keith Nester

Chris Stefanick

Tim Jameson

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

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Bishop blesses, dedicates school's completed expansion project



Photo by America Duran

On Aug. 22, Bishop William Joensen celebrated Mass, followed by a dedication of the expansion at St. Pius X Catholic School in Urbandale.

St. Joseph School in Des Moines breaks ground on expansion



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

On Aug. 5, St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines broke ground on the school's expansion, which will serve a growing student population and all members of its community. Plans include adding two new early childhood classrooms, three new middle school classrooms, a large multipurpose space that will serve as a parish activity center and school gymnasium, and an elevator to improve building accessibility.

Many recognized at inaugural Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools



Photo by Chelsea Dellaca

Many were recognized at the inaugural Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools, including Jennifer Raes, principal of St. Anthony Catholic School in Des Moines, who was named Administrator of the Year - Metro. Here she is pictured with fellow St. Anthony staff.

Watch the stories of all seven honorees at [YouTube.com/dmdiocese](https://www.youtube.com/dmdiocese)

Students welcomed back to the classroom



Photo by Father Jim Kirby

The kids arrive with their families on their first day back at St. Augustin Catholic School in Des Moines.



Photo by Father Jim Kirby

The Diocese has 16 Catholic schools across three regions — the Des Moines metro, rural communities (Perry, Creston and Harlan) and Council Bluffs — serving more than 6,100 students. Go to [dmdiocese.org/schools](https://www.dmdiocese.org/schools) to learn more.



Photo by Father Jim Kirby

Father Christopher Pisut, pastor of St. Augustin Parish, was on hand to greet students and parents at the parish school on the first day of classes.



Father Luis Mejia, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Perry, blesses a class as school begins at St. Patrick Catholic School.

Around the Diocese

Sept. 21 Wednesday Healing Service

DES MOINES – A healing service is offered every third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral. All are welcome to ask God for spiritual, emotional &/ or physical healing.

Sept. 25 Sunday 50th + Anniversary of Ordination

HARLAN – Father Wayne Gubbels, retired pastor, would like you to celebrate with him a Mass of Thanksgiving at 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael Church with an open house following in the parish center for his 50th + anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Please RSVP to St. Michael's office by Sept. 15, at 4:30 p.m. at 712-755-5244 or secretary@stmichaelparish.com.

Oct. 1 Saturday Memorial Mass for the Unborn

DES MOINES – St. Anthony Parish Respect Life Ministry is hosting a diocesan-wide Memorial Mass for the Unborn at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony's grotto right next door to the church. In case of inclement weather, it will take place in the church.

Marriage Celebration

DES MOINES – Join Bishop William Joensen and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries at the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral. A certificate of blessing is available with registration for couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (1, 10, 25 and 50+). Reserved seating available. Light reception follows Mass. Register by contacting Cathy at 515-237-5004 or email cgearhart@dmdiocese.org.

Oct. 2 Sunday Life Chain

DES MOINES – Join pro-lifers from central Iowa for the 33rd annual Life Chain from 2- 3:30 p.m. in prayer and praise for all lives God created. Parking and signs will be available at the new location, Des Moines Fellowship Church, 950 - 35th St. Participants will stand on the south side of University Avenue and 35th Street. Life Chain will take place rain or shine.

Sensory friendly Mass, bike ride

CHARITON – Sensory friendly family inclusion Mass and Knights of Columbus bike ride with Bishop William Joensen kicks off at 10:30 a.m. with Mass at Sacred Heart Church. A bike ride follows on Cinder Trail. Materials that can assist during the liturgy include noise cancelling headphones, wiggle seats, fidgets. These will be available or families can bring their own as the Diocese embraces and welcomes anyone with sensory issues or disabilities and their families. For more information, contact Patty Origer at poriger@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5073.

Oct. 4 Tuesday Young Catholic Network

DES MOINES – All young professionals in their 20s and 30s are invited to the Young Catholic Network starting at 6 p.m. with appetizers followed at 7 p.m. with a speakers panel. Parking is available at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Register at dmdiocese.org/ycn.

Oct. 8 Saturday Catholic Woman's League Luncheon

WEST DES MOINES – Catholic Woman's League of Des Moines is hosting a luncheon at Gilroy's Restaurant at 11 a.m. Cost is \$27 and please bring a non-perishable

food item for InnerVisions Health-Care. For more information, contact Kay McDonald at mcndldkthy@yahoo.com or 515-326-1755. Mail your reservation and name and guest name along with a check by Sept. 26 to Kay McDonald, 6622 Sutton Drive, Urbandale, IA 50322-8061.

Oct. 9 Sunday Harvest Festival

HARLAN – St. Michael's Harvest Festival dinner is 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Rosman Parish Center. A Staley's dine or drive through chicken dinner will be served. Cost: \$15/adults; \$5/children ages 3-8; free/children under 3. For more information call 712-755-5244.

Oct. 15 Saturday Marriage Celebration

HARLAN – Join Bishop William Joensen and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries at the 5 p.m. Mass at St. Michael Parish. A certificate of blessing is available with registration for couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (1, 10, 25 and 50+). Reserved seating available. Light reception follows Mass. Register by contacting Cathy at 515-237-5004 or email cgearhart@dmdiocese.org.

Oct. 19 Wednesday Healing Service

DES MOINES – A healing service is offered every third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral. All are welcome to ask God for spiritual, emotional &/ or physical healing.

Oct. 22 Saturday Big Band Affair

NORWALK – St. John the Apostle Parish is hosting the High Society Big for your listening and

dancing pleasure. The band will play the songs of Duke Ellington, Les Brown, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and many more big bands. Doors open at 6 p.m. following the 5 p.m. Mass. Pulled pork sandwiches, beverages, wine & beer will be available for purchase. You are welcome to bring snacks and appetizers for your table. Presale tickets are \$75 for a reserved table of 8; \$10 single ticket or \$12 at the door. Call 515-981-4855 or stop at the parish office to get your tickets.

Other

Eucharistic Banner Exhibit

DES MOINES – St. Theresa Church is hosting an Iowa Catholic Radio Network exhibit of Eucharistic miracles. Enter by way of the carport door on the west side of the church. Sept. 27-30 & Oct. 3-7: 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 1-2 & Oct. 8-9: 8 a.m. - noon, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Cathedral Holy Hours

DES MOINES – All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose on Monday nights for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer. These Holy Hours will be hosted from 5-6 p.m. each Monday. Evening prayer will be livestreamed on the diocesan Facebook page at facebook.com/dmdiocese.

Friends, Romans, Iowans podcast

Be sure to check out the diocesan young-adult focused podcast "Friends, Romans, Iowans." Episodes can be found wherever you get your podcasts, or at dmdiocese.org/fripod.

BVM sister devoted her life to education

Sister Judith Sheahan, of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 79 years, died July 11 at age 98.

Born in 1924 in Illinois, she entered the BVM congregation in 1942, professed first vows in 1945 and final vows in 1950.



Sister Judith served the Catholic schools of Des Moines from 1970 to 1998. She was principal at St. Joseph Academy for two years until the new Dowling Catholic High School opened in 1972. She became assistant principal at Dowling where she remained until 1984.

Humility Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, who was superintendent of Schools at the time, hired her as the schools coordinator, focused on the areas of curriculum and staff development. In 1998, she retired.

"The gift of her presence was indeed a tremendous blessing to everyone associated with Catholic education in this city and throughout the Diocese," Sister Fitzpatrick said.

Sister Judith also ministered as an elementary and secondary teacher in Fort Dodge, an elementary teacher in Illinois and Wyoming, a secondary teacher in Minnesota, Dubuque and California. She also served the congregation as an administrative assistant.

Sister's Mass of Christian Burial was July 15. She was buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Dubuque.

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.



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Milestone anniversary Masses celebrated in October with Bishop Joensen



Photo by Laura Wills Photography

Adam and Kara Storey talked about marriage and the upcoming Milestone Anniversary Masses on the Sept. 16 broadcast of "Making it Personal with Bishop Joensen."

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

All are invited to attend the Marriage Milestone Anniversary Masses October 1 in Des Moines and October 15 in Harlan.

But this day will hold special significance for couples celebrating milestone anniversaries of 1, 10, 25 and 50+ years of marriage. In fact, couples celebrating these milestone years are encouraged to register in advance to receive a special Certificate of Blessing and have reserved seating for themselves and their families. A light reception will follow at both locations.

Adam Storey, diocesan director of Marriage and Family Life, appeared with his wife Kara on the September 16 broadcast of "Making it Personal with Bishop Joensen," heard on the Iowa Catholic Radio Network and the Spirit Catholic Radio Network.

"During our marriage prep classes, we say: 'The church

is invested in you – and not just until the day of your wedding,'" Storey said. "We're invested in you through your whole married life. And we're going to be here for you with you throughout your marriage, no matter what comes."

During the broadcast, Bishop Joensen said the Mass is a great opportunity for people to come together in celebration.

The Milestone Anniversary Masses also also a source of joy and inspiration for the entire congregation.

The Mass on Sat., October 1 is at 4 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. The Mass on Sat., October 15 is at 5 p.m. at St. Michael Parish in Harlan. Light reception to follow at each.

To register for this Mass contact Cathy Gearhart at 515-237-5004 or email cgearhart@dmdiocese.org.

Listen to Bishop's entire interview with Adam and Kara Storey at iowacatholicradio.com/making-it-personal/.

Father John Harmon dies at age 67

Father John Harmon, who served in both rural and urban parishes, died Aug. 16.

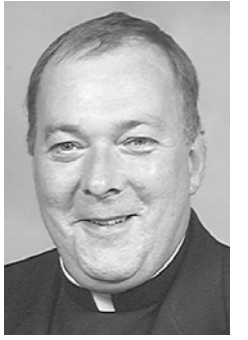
His funeral Mass and burial took place in New York, his home state. A memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Pius X Parish Aug. 29.

Father Harmon, born in New York City, went to high school in New York. He moved to the Midwest and attended Conception Seminary in Conception Missouri, College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and Sacred

Heart Seminary in Hales Corner, Wisconsin. He was ordained by Des Moines Bishop William Bullcock in 1993.

Father Harmon served at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines and a number of rural parishes including St. Anne in Logan; Holy Family in Mondamin; Immaculate Conception in St. Marys; Assumption in Churchillville; St. Patrick in Irish Settlement; St. Bernard in Osceola; St. Patrick in Grand River; St. Joseph in Mt. Ayr; and Immaculate Conception

in Maloy. From 2009 to his retirement in 2018, he served at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale.



Founder of local association of the faithful dies

Kathleen O'Leary, a member of a Des Moines association of the faithful, died July 31.

Known as Mother Kathleen and devoted to God, her faith led her to found an association of the faithful called the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus in Des Moines.

In 1994, she began to wear a religious habit of the new

community and professed private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and fidelity to the Holy Father and the Church.

She was born in Sioux City and lived for a short time in Virginia before returning to Sioux City.

She earned a doctorate in psychology and counseling.

In the Des Moines Dio-

cese, she worked for ChildServe in Johnston, MercyOne in Des Moines and the Iowa Veterans Hospital in Des Moines. Then she began a private practice.

Her Mass of Christian Burial was Aug. 8 at the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines. Memorials can be made to the Basilica of St. John Foundation in her name.

Religious woman of more than 70 years dies

Sister Harriet (Mary St. Edward) Ping, 89, died July 22 at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston.

Born in Fort Madison, she entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1951 and professed vows in 1954.

Sister held an associate's degree in elementary education, a bachelor's degree in science and a master's degree in biology and physics. For 27 years, she taught science and math at eight schools,

seven of them in Iowa including St. Joseph in Dunlap in the Des Moines Diocese. She also taught at a high school in Montana.

From 1981 to 1997, she served as a librarian in Davenport, then became a receptionist and bookkeeper for Martina Place in Johnston until her retirement in 2002. In retirement, she volunteered at a retreat center and Humility of Mary Housing. In 2016, her ministry of prayer and witness continued at Bishop Drumm.

Sister's funeral was July 28. She was buried at Magnificat Chapel at the Humility of Mary Center in Davenport. Memorials can be made to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary.



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Liturgical Music Director

All Saints Catholic Church in Des Moines is seeking a part-time (average 20 hours per week) Liturgical Music Director to develop, lead and direct appropriate music for weekend liturgies, holy days, and other parish celebrations. Candidate should possess a four-year degree in Music, and experience in choral conducting is required. Able to supervise direct reports and volunteers. Compensation is based on candidate's experience and educational background. Resumes can be sent to Fr. Robert Harris, Pastor at the parish no later than November 1, 2022.

Paving the path for immigrants to thrive: Sister leaves a legacy

By Barb Arland-Fye
The Catholic Messenger

OTTUMWA — Sister Irene Munoz, or “Madre Irene,” as she is known fondly in the Hispanic community, leaves more than her heart in Ottumwa after retiring July 31 as multicultural minister.

For the many people whose lives she touched, Madre Irene - who is originally from West Des Moines - leaves the gifts of inspiration, motivation, perseverance and the Catholic faith to carry on her work of service to and empowerment of others for generations to come.

She became a nurse, a religious woman and a human rights advocate.

She helped people like Ana De La Torre, director of Religious Education for St. Mary of the Visitation Parish in Ottumwa, where Madre Irene served for the past 23 years of her 65-year ministry with the Congregation

of the Humility of Mary. Ana was 14, newly arrived from Mexico with her mother and siblings, when she met Madre Irene in 2003. Ana’s father had arrived earlier and appreciated Madre Irene for her compassion and encouragement toward him.

“The first time we came to Mass, she asked us to stand up as she welcomed all the new families,” De La Torre said. The congregation applauded when her family stood up.

“Finding a new family within the church was nice,” she



Humility Sister Irene Munoz, left, visits with one of the many well-wishers at her retirement celebration July 31 at Central Park in Ottumwa, after enjoying a potluck and dancing at St. Mary of the Visitation Church across the street. Sister Munoz served for 23 years as multicultural minister for the Ottumwa area and a total of 65 years in active ministry.

said. Her family became close with Madre Irene, who through the years encouraged Ana and many other immigrants to get involved in the church and the community.

Madre Irene was a mentor to Sandra Trejo-Wirfs.

Now Trejo-Wirfs is involved with the League of United Latin American Citizens.

LULAC detailed Madre Irene’s groundbreaking influence and advocacy for immigrants, calling her an “Iowa Civil Rights Icon.”

LULAC said in a statement most people know Madre Irene as a community leader “welcoming immigrants to Ottumwa and helping to address their basic and faith needs.”

Madre Irene “started her social justice service in Muscatine advocating for the rights of the farm workers and their families,” LULAC said.

“Sister Irene’s early years working with others in the Muscatine-area migrant ministry were ground-breaking for us since the CHM community was just opening to ministry opportunities outside of classrooms and hospitals,” said Sister Johanna Rickl, the community’s president.

After her ministry in Muscatine, Madre Irene earned a master’s degree in pastoral ministry, with an emphasis on Hispanic ministry. Afterwards, she ministered to immigrants in the Archdiocese of Denver, focusing on the Western Slope where immigrants worked in ski resorts.

In 1999, Madre Irene moved to Ottumwa to serve the Hispanic community.

She “helped to assimilate the immigrants into the community,” recalls Ottumwa Mayor Rick Johnson. He called her “the Mother Teresa of Iowa” and applauded her inspiration and engagement that has helped Ottumwa become a welcoming community to all residents.

Reprinted with permission from the The Catholic Messenger.

The Catholic’s DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide

Is anyone in YOUR family DIVORCED? Please give someone a copy of this ad or invite them to The Catholic’s DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide 12-week group which begins October 17th at 6 pm at Sacred Heart Parish, 1627 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50265. Cost of \$30 per person includes a “Personal Survival Guide” and all materials for 12 weeks. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teachings. Call Bill and Ann Moore for more information, or to register, at 515-480-3314 (Bill) 641-425-0109 (Ann) or email moorefamilysm@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN MEMORIAL MASS for the UNBORN

October 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. - St. Anthony Parish

Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Divine Mercy

We will pray for all the babies who were taken from this life because of abortion. We will also pray for the mothers and fathers who are suffering from the scars of abortion.

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Meet our newest seminarians

Andrew Robey St. Joseph, Des Moines



My name is Andrew Robey and I am from St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines. I graduated from Dowling Catholic High School in 2022, and I am a seminarian for the diocese of Des Moines.

My first thoughts about the priesthood arose when I was in fifth grade, when a friend of mine had brought up the idea of becoming a priest.

In that same year, my brother had joined seminary, and I was intrigued by his decision. I also began serving at Mass, and loved assisting at the altar.

One morning at the breakfast table, I told my mom that I was going to be a priest, and since then, it has always been in the back of my mind. I have had uncertainties along the way, but the feeling that I should be a priest never left.

My faith grew significantly in my last two years of high school.

I began going to daily Mass my junior year and it quickly became an inseparable part of my day.

This, along with frequent visits to Eucharistic adoration and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation on a regular basis, continued to strengthen my call. My junior year, I decided to reach out to Father Ross Parker and I applied for the seminary.

When I think about the fact that God may be calling me to the priesthood, I am extraordinarily humbled. I feel peace and joy with my decision to enter seminary, and I trust that by God's grace, I will be made worthy of the priesthood.

Adam Hansen St. Theresa, Des Moines



Hello, my name is Adam Hanten from St. Theresa Catholic Church. I really enjoy watching sports, playing golf, or hanging out with friends - especially late night theological conversations.

Growing up, I attended St. Theresa Catholic School, which was vital for growing the roots of my faith. I got involved in altar serving as soon as I could in third grade, and that is what I can now pinpoint as the beginning of my appreciation for the Mass.

I attended Dowling Catholic High School. It was there that my faith would start to flourish. From great retreats to tough obstacles, God put the friends, places, and events in my life that I would need to bring me to where I am in life and my faith today.

My intentional discernment of the priesthood didn't start until my junior year at Dowling. As I reflect now, I can see many signs of God starting me on this path from a young age, but it wasn't until I went on a retreat during my second semester as a junior that I started hearing this calling from God.

I soon found myself praying about a call to priesthood and would keep finding more and more peace and

signs pointing me that direction the more I discerned that call.

That summer I volunteered a few weeks of my time to be a counselor at Catholic Youth Camp. That was an amazing experience and crucial to continuing my discernment.

I met Father Ross Parker, the vocations director there as well as some of the seminarians from our Diocese. Through conversations with them and reflecting on the formation I was already experiencing at camp, those two weeks were imperative for my journey in helping me know that I was truly on the path that I needed to be on.

Fast forward a year to today, I am now extremely excited to be starting my first year of college seminary and I can't wait to see where God takes me. Please pray for all current and future seminarians of our Diocese, they are greatly appreciated and we can't walk this road all on our own.

Matthew Johll Basilica of St. John, Des Moines



The desire to pursue the bride of Christ through priesthood has been one that has slowly and steadily been growing over the last couple of years.

Priesthood is something that I have always respected but for many years, respectfully avoided.

I have always had a desire to give of myself completely to others, and for the majority of my life I assumed that I would be pursuing this desire in a vocation of marriage. As I neared college I read *To Save a Thousand Souls* to "check" the discernment box but this was done at simply an intellectual level, which was lacking an openness to counsel, and based on a shallow prayer life/relationship with God.

After graduating and working in the engineering industry for a few years, diving into young adult/parish ministry, and embracing life with family in the area, a restlessness began to grow in my heart that would not back down, even amid various romantic relationships.

Gradually, I began to discuss the idea of priesthood more seriously with close friends and with my spiritual director.

As conversations progressed and I took these thoughts to prayer, I realized how great my attraction to the life of priesthood had become, and so I contacted Father Ross to begin the application process.

At each step, I have felt this desire grow. I am excited to see where seminary leads. Please pray for me and my fellow seminarians as we go through formation and strive to unite our lives to that of Christ. I pray that all who read about my short but winding journey (thus far) may be encouraged to deepen their prayer life through scripture and the sacraments. To echo many who have come before me: I will see you in the Eucharist!"

Seminarian celebrates Candidacy Mass



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

During the Candidacy Mass at the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines, diocesan seminarian Stan Asjes was recognized by Bishop William Joensen as worthy of being ordained, and he became a candidate for ordination to the priesthood. Asjes will continue studying in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ignite: Two seminarians reflect on vocation journey

Continued from page 1

Like Rowan, Mohan was also inspired by a priest.

He grew up in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, attended St. Francis School and graduated from Dowling Catholic High School. Becoming a priest was not on Mohan's mind when he started at Dowling. But Father Zach Kautzky, the chaplain, pointed out the ways God was active in Mohan's life.

"It was during that time that God planted the seed of discernment that eventually grew during college," he said.

The \$45 million *Ignite!* Campaign is a diocesan-wide effort that will impact schools, parishes, priests, seminarians, and every family in southwest Iowa. The average class size of diocesan seminarians over the last 10 years has blossomed to 22, yet current funding, while consistently generous, provides support for only 18. The campaign aims to bolster the current endowed Seminarian Fund with \$5 million to keep up with the growth in its average class sizes.

The campaign's signature initiative is a \$25 million endowment for tuition assistance. Proceeds from

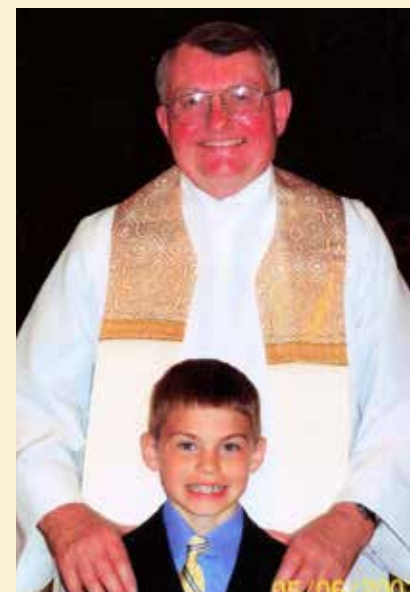
the endowment will complement yearly funding from the Catholic Tuition Organization, significantly increasing the amount of aid available to families desiring a Catholic education for their children.

"Many of us are extremely grateful for our Catholic primary and secondary education, which gave us strong roots of faith. I think it is important to continue to support the ministry of Catholic schools in the Diocese," Mohan said.

The campaign has rolled out in waves throughout the year. Preparations for the third and final wave are currently underway. Wave Three, which kicks off in October, is also the largest, including 39 parishes and over half of all registered families in the Diocese. To date, the campaign has raised over \$24 million in gifts and pledges.

As the campaign continues to unfold, seminarians like Rowan and Mohan are thankful that families throughout the Diocese are investing in them so they can carefully discern God's will.

"I pray that God continues to call me to the vocation of becoming a priest for this beautiful Diocese,"



Seminarian Luke Mohan with Father Ed Hurley

Rowan said. "I look forward to seeing all of you in the Eucharist."

For more information about the campaign and seminarians, including the videos and frequently asked questions, visit dmdiocese.org/ignite.



Thank you for supporting our seminarians in both prayer and monetary donations. Scan the QR code or give at dmdiocese.org/giving/special-collection-giving

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Don't forget to let us know your name and what parish you're with!

High School Youth Minister

St. Joseph Parish is looking for a high school youth minister. The primary task is implementing a curriculum that engages students to grow closer to God in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation using materials by Alpha and Altarion. The HS Youth Minister also leads students on a pilgrimage to the National Catholic Youth Conference. Students provide help during fish fries and are involved in other service opportunities. The Minister will direct Vacation Bible School during the summer and encourage small groups that meet off campus in order to continue their faith journey. The hours range from 12-15 a week and includes teaching the students every Wednesday from September through April from 6-8:30 pm. Please contact David Ortega for more information or to apply. Email: dortega@stjosephcatholicdsm.org. 515-402-4734.

MAINTENANCE CUSTODIAN JOB OPENING

All Saints is seeking a part-time (average 20 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 manner; perform some maintenance repairs as needed; and perform all janitorial cleaning duties of the facilities including deep cleaning. 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. Resumes may be sent to Fr. Harris at the parish no later than November 1, 2022.

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Finding Our Spiritual Gifts in the Third Chapter of Life



October 8, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Schuyler, NE



Those in the retirement years are invited to explore the spiritual gifts and opportunities available in the Third Chapter. **Nancy Hemesath, MA**, an organizational & life coach, will guide you, touching on themes of solitude, gratitude, listening and wisdom: elements of a successful journey inward that create a joyous, meaningful life.

Register at www.StBenedictCenter.com

Creative Praying with *The Saint John's Bible*

October 29, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Schuyler, NE



We will pray with passages from Scripture (*lectio*) and let Illuminations from *The Saint John's Bible* help us connect with them more deeply (*visio*). We will then be invited to visually express what is in our hearts. **Glenda Dietrich Moore, MA**, is an artist, spiritual director and ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Register now: www.StBenedictCenter.com

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We're looking for a few good stories!

If you know of an inspiring ministry or person in your parish, let us know. Email story ideas to Anne Marie Cox at acox@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5046.



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St. Patrick in Imogene celebrates parish history



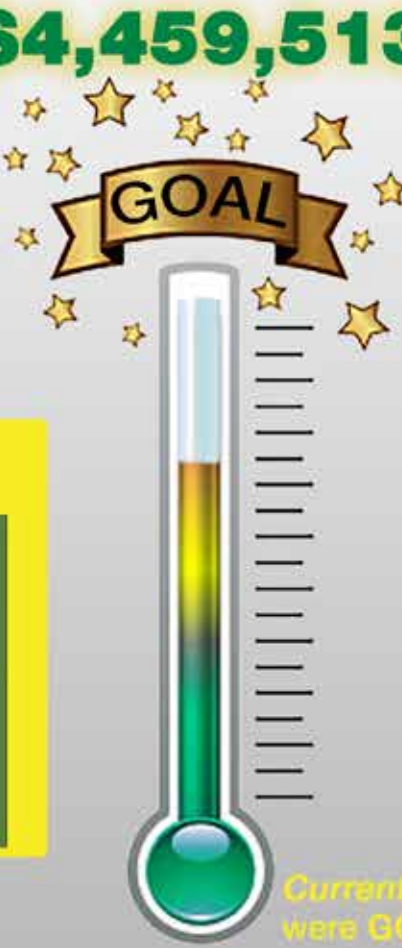
St. Patrick Parish in Imogene kicked off its “Bless Our Heritage” celebration July 9 with a 5K, historical displays of St. Patrick Academy, 50 years of religious education, the evolution of the parish’s three church buildings and more. An all-class reunion drew alumni and a video honoring more than 250 military service members from the parish played during the day. The celebration included a Mount Calvary self-guided cemetery walk, a carnival and Mass with Bishop William Joensen, and Fathers Lazarus Kirigia, William Leahy, Ken Gross and Eliud Mwenda. Bishop Joensen blessed the heritage garden honoring the priests, sisters, faith and the future of the parish. Loved ones were remembered at the poignant memorial lantern launch at the local ballfield. The Sons and Daughters of Imogene hosted the 25 minute fireworks show. Many stayed to watch a championship softball game.




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Finding a shared purpose in the family

About a month ago my wife and I were wrestling with how to balance all the demands on our time, our goals, and the ever increasing activities with the kids. Family life was taking on an eerie resemblance to “whack-a-mole” and we felt perpetually exhausted and disoriented.

Kara and I were discussing how to move forward and we decided we needed a family meeting to think about who we want to be, and how we’re going to get there. We gathered our children (ages 10 years to 6 months), built enthusiasm by offering the kids sugary drinks, and we wrote a family mission statement. We began with a conversation about who we want to be. Kara and I talked about our love for hospitality and simplicity, while our kids fo-

Marriage and Family Life

By Adam Storey



cused more on their perceived lack of sufficient video game systems. Even with our divergent priorities, it was a fruitful and clarifying meeting, and we decided to have another meeting (with more sweet treats) in a month.

At the second meeting, after having tried to live out our mission, we realized implementation was a mixed bag.

We’ve made great strides in some areas, and no progress in others (a.k.a. still no video games).

Even in the midst of failures, I do see a new enthusiasm and joy in my family as we try to live according to a shared purpose. In *Amoris Laetitia* Pope Francis wrote that forming a family is “to resolve to be a part of God’s dream, to choose to dream with him, to want to build with him.” It’s humbling and amazing to think that God asks us to participate in his salvific work, especially considering how often we fall short. This is why Pope Francis, immediately after speaking of our call to participate in God’s work, describes family life as “a ‘shepherding’ in mercy.”

I personally feel like I’m entering

into the fall with a lot of excitement. I have been renewed by my family’s dreaming together, our goals, both short and long-term, and our efforts to live together more faithfully. We certainly won’t live it out perfectly, and yet every failure is a chance to show mercy and to begin again. I pray that all our families can recognize the incredible gift offered to us as individuals and in our families. He wants us to become most fully who we are made to be and to build upon and participate in his saving work!

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

Happiness: Our daily bread

Happiness. I wish it were a constant emotion, but it is not.

In fact, no emotion is constant; emotions are fluid and transient. We experience happiness at times, yet, in other moments or days we can’t seem to find it. *Since mankind has been perpetually searching for happiness, why are so many people unhappy?*

Research has shown us that happiness and unhappiness occur as a result of patterns in our lives: patterns in how we *do* things, which are called behavioral patterns, and patterns in how we *think*, which are called cognitive patterns.

Our varied behavioral and cognitive patterns lead to each person’s unique emotional make-up. This is part of what determines how happy or sad one feels from day to day. It is through both patterns that the chemical structure of our brain may be affected, thus producing a change in our emotions, moods, and perceptions.

We all feel down from time to time – and when it is in response to a particular situation, then it is normal.

However, many people feel unhappy *much* of the time, and that points to a larger concern. There are many different behavioral patterns that can have a negative

Let’s Get Psyched

By Deacon Randy Kiel



effect on our happiness, and here are some of the more common ones: staying indoors, social isolation, excessive substance usage, poor sleep, and inactivity.

Just as our poor behavioral habits can detract from our happiness, so can poor cognitive patterns - that is, the way we think about ourselves and the world around us. Some of the more common patterns of thought that produce unhappiness are patterns such as perfectionism, dissatisfaction with life, unrealistic expectations of self and others, pessimistic forecasting of future, and negative attachments to the past.

Oh, what easy patterned traps to fall into.

It has been said that happiness is like a garden – it must be tended to, otherwise, weeds will inevitably sprout again. (On a personal note: I just took a break

from writing and weeded one of my gardens. I feel “happy” with that done.)

Reflectively, through our Church’s teachings, we are taught that the deepest source of happiness is derived from our three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love. The souls within us desire happiness more deeply than the human mind is necessarily aware. Our basic emotional make-up is not able to attain this level of happiness on its own. When we are in the graces of Christ, as given to us by the Holy Spirit through faith, hope, and love, then consequently and supernaturally, a deep sense of serenity enthrones the soul.

This serenity is far greater than our daily pleasures; it is needed as our daily bread. This is what we ask for in the Lord’s prayer. The word for this happiness from Christ was like the word SHALOM in Hebrew, meaning “all is well.”

In basic communication, we often use the words, faith and belief, interchangeably, but a great distinction between the two is as follows: Belief is a knowledge that we *hold on* to, so as to understand.

Faith is a *letting go* of knowledge that supports human understanding and transcends us to a deeper awareness than knowledge ever could.

Hope does not mean the yearning to attain that which we desire or avoiding that which we dread. But rather, hope is our lunging toward God to carry us through, not around, the darkened days. Through hope, the fear of eternal perdition is squashed.

Love, as taught to us by St. Thomas Aquinas, has three points: First, to align the will of our mind and soul for the sake of the good of all others. Second, to choose not to take advantage of others for our own sake. And third, he taught us that perfect love is dying for the sake of others, especially if we think they don’t deserve such a sacrifice.

Christ drove this point home with his prayer to his Father, “Forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

May this happiness be our soul’s pursuit. As St. Paul says, “So that faith, hope and love may abound.” I pray for you to have happiness in this day. Shalom!

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.

How to participate with the Holy Spirit

Sometimes gold flakes surface along the periphery. The first or last picture in a photo shoot is the winner. The opening or final page of a book delivers the line that you hold to your heart. Or the wind-down of an interview – right after the formal conversation has wrapped up – produces a comment that stops you in your tracks.

This morning I interviewed a Catholic counselor, focusing on the nature of his work. Once we’d covered my final question, I asked how he likes his job.

“It’s been a joy,” he said. “My mantra is, ‘What wants to happen today?’ In the guidance of the Holy Spirit, things are always trying to happen. And once in a while, we pay enough attention to join our energy to what God wants to happen.”

What a thrilling prospect! God is always at work but in mostly hidden ways. If we can attune ourselves to his promptings, we can actually assist him. We can accelerate his cause, we can connect the dots, we can be his hands and feet.

Immediately I thought of my aunt Jan, an empty nester whose generosity and availability flows from a deep prayer life. She trusts in God, she trusts the stranger in

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



her midst, and she jumps at any chance to somehow connect the two.

Because Jan is paying attention and always in conversation with God, she sees these opportunities more than the rest of us. She joins her energy to God’s, as the counselor put it.

Take her morning walk to Mass, which begins at 7:30 a.m. three miles from her home, at St. Odilia Catholic Church in Shoreview, Minn.

One morning she was passed by an 81-year-old man in a motorized scooter. They struck up a long conversation. Soon Jan was serving Dale lunch at a nearby park and giving him flashers and a reflective visor for safer night-time scooting.

His life story spilled out. Dale had studied under Ansel Adams and befriended

Jack Kerouac. He’d been widowed. And most recently, he’d lost the right to drive a car.

Jan checks in with Dale regularly and plans to help with his next camping trip.

Another morning Jan relieved a biker who had been chased by two lost dogs on his way to work. She assumed reign of them, keeping the wilder one from the highway and finally securing her collar in order to call the owner.

Then there was the time a priest friend from Indiana called about Craig, a parishioner who had gone into cardiac arrest right before a flight made a layover at the St. Paul-Minneapolis airport. Jan zoomed into action. She and her husband, Rick, hosted Craig and his wife for three weeks.

“I pray for the people who God puts in my path,” Jan said. “And I ask God to remove all the obstacles keeping me from him.”

Spending 10 minutes in silence every day listening to God has been crucial for Jan. If God can work through a donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem, she figures,

he can work through her. “I believe I’m right where God wants me to be – and if I’m not, he will direct me.”

Her generosity is fueled by gratitude. “Look, look, look! God has been so incredibly generous. I can’t possibly not return that generosity.”

Every day in service to God is an adventure. It’s also a source of abiding peace.

“Something is happening in my life recently,” she said. “I just cannot believe how God is so generous in showing us his ways: ‘Don’t be afraid, don’t be frustrated. I’ve got it under control.’”

As the seasons shift and a new school year clicks into gear, may we pay attention to openings from the Holy Spirit. May we rise each morning with holy curiosity, asking, “What does God want to happen?”

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

Names of the Eucharist in our lives

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that the Eucharist can be called ‘Sacrifice’ with regards to the past in our commemorating the Lord’s Passion.

Regarding the present, it is called ‘Communion’ because in receiving it we are communing with our Lord, taking him into ourselves, and by it we are united to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Looking to the future, the Eucharist can be called ‘Viaticum’ as it is spiritual food for our journey towards heaven.

But why is this important?

I think it is valuable for us to remember that within the sacrament of the Eucharist is contained the entirety of how we are to have a relationship with the Lord in recognizing its various aspects.

St. Thomas in that same question tells us that just as when we are born and we need food to grow, so too does baptism gives us new life in Christ, and the

Food for the Journey



By John Huynh

Eucharist is our spiritual food for spiritual growth, which is confirmation.

Thus, recognizing that the Lord whom we receive daily or weekly gave himself first as a sacrifice should remind us that part of our spiritual growth requires an imitation of that sacrifice. In concrete terms, this might mean the giving up of our time that we could be doing something else to volunteer at local shelter or our parishes.

This could mean that we wear our faith “on our sleeves,” even at the cost of ridicule. In all, it really means that the Eu-

charist will demand we do not live a faith that is comfortable.

Understanding that Eucharist is communing with our God and to be united with one another should remind us that in receiving the Eucharist our relationship with God is strengthened to become the central relationship in our lives.

This means that our relationship with Jesus should be the guiding and organizing principles of our other relationships.

In other words, our relationship with Jesus should give meaning, vitality, and support to our relationships with those whom we love. On the other hand, our relationship with Jesus ought to guide us to be more forgiving and generous to those whom we might struggle to love.

Lastly, to receive Jesus in the sacrament as Viaticum should remind us daily to be grateful for the gift of salvation. Here, I think Thomas Merton’s words,

from *Thoughts in Solitude*, provide us with something to reflect on:

“To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.”

John Huynh is the diocesan director of the Faith Journey program. He can be reached at jhuynh@dmdiocese.org or at 515-237-5006.



I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

Q. I tried to listen to the podcast “Bible in a Year” but got discouraged. I expected it would be read like a book, but it seems the readings skip from one part of the Bible to another. Why isn’t the Bible read in chronological order? -Anne, Des Moines

A. You’re not alone. The Bible is not a book. Rather, it’s a collection of a number of writings from different times and places. It’s more like a library than a book. Many people would like to read the Bible, and they open it up like they might read a book of history or a novel. It’s doesn’t work so well, because the Bible is a collection of a number of documents from different centuries. They are placed in what we call “biblical order” from Genesis to Revelation. Some of the “books” of the Bible are poetry, some are letters, some are prophecies,

some are songs, and some are histories. Scripture scholars spend years and years trying to determine the dates when the various “books” were written, but they can only approximate when a given text was written – and to whom it was addressed.

For example, the four gospels we have are named (by someone in history) as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Nonetheless, none of the gospels claim to be written by anyone by those names. The letters of St. Paul, on the other hand, often include the author and the group to whom the letter is written. The best way to read the Bible is the way that the Church reads the Bible at Sunday Mass -- using a three-year cycle. Then, if a person wants to pursue more scriptural study, choose one of the books of the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Questions on the Bible and weddings in the Church

Q. If our Catholic raised children do not get married in the Catholic Church, and later decide to return to the church, what steps are required from them for the Church to acknowledge their marriage? -Doug Elbert

A. My best advice is to talk to your local priest or deacon to determine what steps need to be taken. Often enough, it’s an easy process of welcoming them back and arranging a time to “bless” their marriage. Occasionally, if there have been previous marriage(s), an annulment may be in need to complete the process. If they are sincere in wishing to become active Catholics again, I’m sure that your pastor or his delegate will be most helpful in working out the details.

Q. Is it permissible if a bridal couple wants to receive Communion at their wedding but not everyone else? Deb, Des Moines

A. No. The Eucharist is by nature communal. It’s not a matter of “me and Jesus”. Rather, it is the gathering of a community of faith. I’m not sure why a couple would want to exclude their families and friends from receiving Communion on this important day. It would almost be parallel to serving the wedding cake only to the couple. It wouldn’t be very hospitable or welcoming.

Email questions to Father John Ludwig at communications@dmdiocese.org or send them to *The Catholic Mirror*, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.

A biblical formula for forgiveness

Father Ron Rolheiser



Nothing is as important as forgiveness. It is the key to happiness and the most important spiritual imperative in our lives.

We need to forgive, to make peace with the hurts and injustices we have suffered so as not to die angry and bitter. Before we die, we need to forgive - others, ourselves, and God, for what happened to us in this life.

But, that isn’t easy to do; indeed, sometimes it is impossible to do.

That needs to be said because today there is a lot of well-intended literature around, in every kind of circle, which gives the impression that forgiveness is simply a question of willing it and moving on. *Let it go and move on!*

It doesn’t work that way, as we all know.

Wounds to the soul take time, a long time, to heal, and the process is excruciatingly slow, something that cannot be rushed. Indeed, the trauma from an emotional wound often affects our physical health. Healing takes time.

In looking at the question of healing and forgiveness, we can get a long-neglected, valuable insight from the Jewish and Christian spirituality of the Sabbath.

Keeping the Sabbath holy isn’t just about honoring a certain day of the week; it’s also a formula for forgiveness.

Here’s how it works. The theology and spirituality of Sabbath teach us that God created the world in six days and then rested on the seventh day, the *Sabbath*. Moreover, not only did God rest on the Sabbath, God declared this a day of rest for everyone forever, and with that God set up a certain rhythm for our lives.

That rhythm is supposed to work this way:

- We work for six days, then rest for one day.
- We work for seven years, then rest for one year (a sabbatical).
- We work for seven times seven years, 49 years, then have a jubilee where the world itself goes on sabbatical.
- We work for a lifetime, then enjoy an eternity of sabbatical.

Now, that rhythm is also intended as the rhythm for how we move towards forgiveness:

- We can hold a mini-grudge of seven days, but then we need to give it up.
- We can hold a major grudge for seven years, but then we need to give it up. (The “statute of limitations” is based on this.)
- We can hold a massive soul-searing wound for 49 years, but then we need to give it up.
- We can hold a massive soul-shattering wound until our deathbed, but then we need to give it up.

This highlights something which is too often absent in therapeutic and spiritual circles today, namely, that we need time to be able to forgive, and that the length of time needed is contingent upon the depth of the hurt.

Thus, for example: When we are slighted by a colleague at a meeting, we need a little time to sulk about that injustice, but normally a few days can help put it into perspective and enable us to let it go. When we are coldly terminated at a job by an unfair employer, seven days or seven weeks will often not be enough time for us to put this into a larger perspective, to let it go, and to forgive. Seven years is a more realistic timeframe. (Note that the “statute of limitations” vis-a-vis this biblical insight.)

There are traumas we suffer which leave far deeper wounds than those left by an unfair employer who treated us unfairly. There are wounds we suffer from abuse, neglect, and years of injustice that need more than seven years to process. It may take 49 years, half a century, to make peace with the fact that we were bullied as children or were emotionally or sexually abused in our youth.

There are wounds so deep and traumatic that it is only on our deathbeds that we can make peace with the fact that they happened to us, let them go, and forgive the person or persons responsible for them.

Finally, there can be wounds that

are too deep, too disempowering, and too painful to ever process in this life. For them, thankfully we have the merciful healing embrace of God after death.

The ability to forgive is more contingent upon grace than upon willpower. *To err is human, but to forgive is divine.* This little slogan contains a deeper truth than is immediately evident. What makes forgiveness so difficult, existentially impossible at times, is not primarily that our egos are bruised and wounded. Rather, the real difficulty is that a wound to the soul works the same as a wound to the body; it strips us of our strength.

This is particularly true for those soul-searing and soul-shattering traumas that take 49 years or a lifetime to heal, or sometimes can never be healed in this lifetime. Wounds of this kind radically disempower us, particularly towards the person who did this to us, making it very difficult for us to forgive.

We need a spirituality of Sabbath to help us.

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

Sisters of Humility 2022 Jubilee Celebration

The Congregation of the Humility of Mary celebrated the jubilees of five vowed sisters and two associates who served in the Des Moines Diocese. They were honored during a special Mass of celebration at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport on June 26.

Sister Roberta Brich (Mary Roberta Ann) – 70 Years

Born in Minden in 1934, Sister Roberta Brich entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1952 and made her first vows in 1955.



Sister earned a bachelor's degree in education and an education specialist degree and taught in the Des Moines Diocese at St. Anthony School (1956-57). She also taught in Ottumwa, Marshalltown, Rock Island, Illinois and served as principal at St. Joseph School in Neola (1977-1978), and schools in Arizona and Bettendorf, Iowa. She was a vice principal in Hawaii.

Sister Roberta worked at the Conflict Center in Denver before becoming vice president of her religious community from 1996-2004 and president from 2004-2008.

She then ministered as the religious education coordinator in Davenport and served on her religious community's membership team.

Sister Roberta lives and volunteers at the Humility of Mary Center in Davenport where she is also active in a ministry of prayer and witness.

Sister María Caridad Inda (María Cáritas) – 70 Years

Born in Mexico City, Mexico in 1934, Sister María Caridad Inda entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1952 and made her first profession in 1955.



She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Spanish and a doctorate in international studies.

Sister taught in the Des Moines Diocese at St. Joseph High School in Neola (1961-1964). She also taught in Ottumwa and Fort Madison.

Later, she was the director of the Projects/Spanish Program for the Latin American Bureau of the U.S. bishops' conference in Davenport. She served in a number of roles with the Overseas Education Fund, with International Education Development, and was the executive director of the Spanish Education Development Center in Washington, D.C.

Since 1987, Sister Caridad has been the executive director of the Center for International Resources, Inc. in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, which offers intensive, integrated, total immersion programs to develop both language fluency and a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary Latin American culture as reflected in Mexican society.

Sister Joan LeBeau (Mary Leanne) - 70 Years

Sister Joan LeBeau was born in 1933 in Chicago. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in

1952. Her first vows were pronounced in 1955.

Sister Joan went to St. Mary School in Chicago. She worked in food service at Dowling School in Des Moines (1966-1978) and Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston (1990-1991), along with schools in Ottumwa, Denver and facilities in West Des Moines



In Des Moines, she also worked in environmental services at Mercy Hospital (1991-95), in housekeeping at Mercy Senior Services and Park Place Apartments (1995-2002), and as assistant CHM coordinator at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center (2002-2008).

Sister Joan is active now in a ministry of prayer and witness at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center.

Sister Margaretha Fitzgerald (Mary Isabelle) – 60 years

Born in Collins, Iowa, in 1942, Sister Margaretha Fitzgerald entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1962 and made her first profession in 1965.

Sister Margaretha earned bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education, plus a master's degree in religious studies.

In the Des Moines Diocese, she taught at St. Joseph School in Neola (1966-67), St. Theresa School in Des Moines (1969-1970), Christ the King School in Des Moines (1972-76 and 1977-80), and St. Anthony School in Des Moines (2000-2009). She also taught in Oskaloosa, Sigourney, Bettendorf, Davenport and



Dodge City, Kansas.

Sister Margaretha lived in Des Moines and was active as a care giver and substitute teacher before becoming vice president of her religious community in Davenport (2012-17).

She lives in Davenport and is active in a ministry of prayer and witness.

Sister Sue Sellers (Mary Matthew) – 60 years

Sister Sue Sellers was born in Des Moines in 1943 and entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1962.

Sister Sue earned a bachelor's degree in education.

Her ministry of teaching in Iowa found her at schools in Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, and in the Des Moines Diocese at Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines (1972-76).



She also taught in Montana and Colorado.

She was the director at Roth Hall in Ottumwa (1978-81), served as an admissions counselor and a librarian in Davenport, was the manager at McAuley Terrace Apartments in Johnston, Iowa (1994-2002), and served as the center director at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport.

In Johnston, she was the resident assistant at Martina Place (2004-06), the pastoral care activity assistant at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center (2006-2010) and from 2010-2014 she was the CHM coordinator at Bishop Drumm where she continues to volunteer.

CHM Associates – 25 years.

Diana Gray is a native of Davenport and has been a CHM associate since 1997. She

came in contact with CHM sisters through volunteering with Quad Cities Interfaith. She is the mother of two adult children. Diana served as an associate co-leader from 2017 until 2021. She also was the resident life coordinator at the Humility of Mary Center from 2018 until 2021.



Evalee Mickey was educated by the sisters at Ottumwa Heights Academy and College, and has associated with them throughout her life.

"The teachings and ideals of the sisters have been a source of direction for me in many ways and at many times," she said.

She moved with her husband, G.W Mickey, to North Liberty, Iowa in 2004. She then became a CHM associate and was active in social justice issues



at her parish. She attended the School of Americas watch rallies where she "crossed the line" and was then arrested for trespassing in 2002, serving 28 days in federal prison in Pekin, Illinois. Evalee is mother to 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She is a member of St. Thomas More Social Justice Commission in Coralville, Pax Christi USA and Peace Iowa.

The CHM associate program was developed to answer the call of many seeking a deeper, spiritual existence without becoming fully-vowed members. The linkage with the Humility Sisters offers a support system, a way to experience other perspectives, a nudge to keep growing --- a spiritual resource.

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Bishop blesses, consecrates altar at new Emmaus House location



Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bishop William Joensen dedicated the new altar at Emmaus House on Aug. 14 during Mass. The rite for the Dedication of the Altar is considered among the most solemn liturgical services. This included the anointing and incensation of the altar. Before Mass, Emmaus House former co-director Father Dan Krettek introduced two local artists: Fritz Trost of Grimes, a local artist who built the altar, candle holders, ambo, crucifix, and tabernacle; and Joan Broek, of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale, who painted the artwork behind the altar representing the Road to Emmaus. After Mass, attendees engaged in discussion with the local artists, toured the building and enjoyed refreshments.



Local artist Fritz Trost, of Grimes, built the altar, candle holders, ambo, crucifix, and tabernacle. Joan Broek, of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale, painted the artwork behind the altar representing the Road to Emmaus.



The Dedication of the Altar is considered among the most solemn liturgical services. This included the anointing and incensation of the altar.

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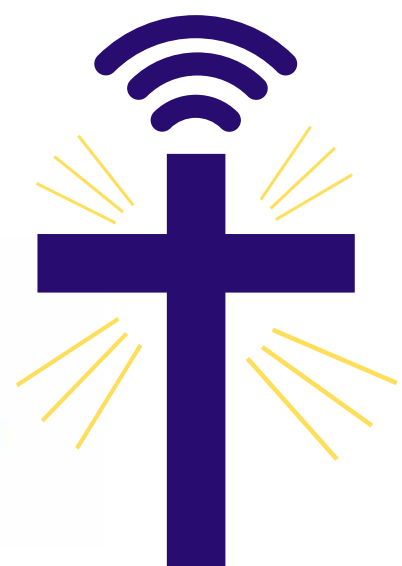
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