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

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 Frad, 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 Hy-Vee 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.

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 PROCESION 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.
By Bishop William Joensen

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 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 fulfill 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 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 understood to be 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 one’s profession, but rather 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 relation 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 whole new identity.” They are to appreciate the immensity and awe-inspiring mystery of the universe, 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 performance. 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 synthetic 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 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, school staff and volunteers are open to deepening our own personal experience of faith—to be led by God’s Spirit so 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: Savies, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women, cites an early Christian woman and wisdom figure: “The same Amma [Theodora] 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; success- fully tested and without par- don, full of care, 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 our sense of commitment, vocation and mission. I continue to be inspired by my encounters with our school faculties and administrators. They are obviously and insistently in this for material gain, but because of a sense that what they are about is a divinely proposed 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 con- ceived the universe on account of his overflowing goodness and love, reflected in each and every person and adult who composes our school communities.
Congratulations to six new permanent deacons!

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

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.

Reach 35,000 households by placing an ad in The Catholic Mirror.

Contact Sandy Riesberg by emailing sriesberg@dmdioce.se.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@dmdioce.se.org.
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 ininterrumpidos 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 propio 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: “La escuela, incluida la católica, no pide la adhesión a la fe; pero puede preparar.” “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 decidan transpasarlo, 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 intentan implicar que nosotros como adultos, como padres, esposos, 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 Primera 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 madres cristianas que era modelo de sabiduría: “La misma Amma [E-adora] 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 regales, conquistado por el estómago ni dominado por el enojo. Un maestro debe ser paciente, gentil y humilde tanto como le sea posible; puesto extremadamente ávido de querer y conciliar, lleno de preocupación y amor hacia las almas.”

Nosotros personal escolar ha sido puesto a prueba y han demostrado su templanza en los 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 resigno a aceptar nuestros miembros de la facultad y administradores escolares. Ellos no están aquí ciertamente por las ganancias materiales, pero por un sentido de lo que hacen en una muera y misión divina a la que Dios les invitó 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 nosotros tiene ocasión de alabanza y agradecimiento de los ángeles hacia el Padre de la luz, quien ha concedido 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.

Oda a los maestros y a aquellos quienes los acompañan

By Bishop William Joensen

Crear la capacidad de ser guía y maestro en el camino de la verdad, la cual es un misterio que cubre nuestras vidas total- mente. 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 de tiempo e intercessión que la rodea, y que nos vea en cierta forma – y que nos veamos a nosotros mismos 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.)

Spanish language headsets will be available on-site.
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

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

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/dmdioce
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 & physical healing.

Sept. 25 Sunday
50th Anniversary of Ordination
HARLAN – Father Wayne Gubbel, 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@saintmichaelparish.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 on Oct. 1. St. Anthony’s gym will be used to accommodate 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 5:30 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) or Reserved seating available. Light reception follows Mass. Register by contacting Patty Origer at poriger@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5073.

Oct. 4 Tuesday
Young Catholic Network Adoration and Evening Prayer
Young Catholic Network adoration and evening prayer. These nights for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer. These Holy Hours will be hosted from 5:30 p.m. each Monday. Evening prayer will be livestreamed on the diocesan Facebook page at facebook.com/dmdioce.

Oct. 19 Wednesday
Healing Service
HARLAN – Join Bishop William Joensen and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries at the 5:30 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) or Reserved seating available. Light reception follows Mass. Register by contacting Patty Origer at poriger@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5073.

Oct. 9 Sunday
Harvest Festival
HARLAN – St. Michael’s Harvest Festival dinner is 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Rosarian Parish Center. A St. Ailey’s drive or through chicken dinner will be served. Cost: $15/Adults, free/children under 3. For more information, contact Kay McDonald at mcckdln@thyclay.org or 515-326-1755. Mail your reservation and name and guest name to Everyone Cares, 5202 Sutton Drive, Urbandale, IA 50322-8061.

Oct. 15 Saturday
Marriage Celebration
HARLAN – Join Bishop William Joensen and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries at the 5:30 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) or Reserved seating available. Light reception follows Mass. Register by contacting Patty Origer at poriger@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5073.

Oct. 2 Sunday
Life Chain
DES MOINES – Join pro-life supporters 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 S 33rd Street. 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 Mass is available for families with children who have sensory needs. Children will be able to experience the Mass without sensory barriers. This Mass is a family-friendly Mass and is accessible to all. The Mass is open to all families attending. Children are encouraged to choose their Mass experience.

Oct. 22 Saturday
Big Band Affair
HARLAN – Following the Life Chain, St. John’s Apostolic Parish is hosting the High Society Big Band 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 for $5 each. Cost is $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. 3-5 & Oct. 8-9: 8 a.m. – noon, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Catholic 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 5:30 p.m. each Monday. Evening prayer will be livestreamed on the diocesan Facebook page at facebook.com/dmdioce.

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/podcast.

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 even 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.

Diocese of Des Moines Oración de Visión
Oh Dios, tu compartir 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 santuario de Iowa, envíala al Espíritu Santo para que encienda en nosotros,
una sincera conversación para ver, oír, pensar y actuar como Jesús;
una mayor unidad y lazos de paz;
un afán misionero para compartir la buena nueva en todo el mundo con amor;
un gran cariño con todos 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 nuestra misión como pueblo que encuentra plenitud por el Corazón de tu Amado Hijo.

Acompañáronos en el Camino que nos lleva al cielo.

Contact Sandy at sriesberg@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5046.

Reach 35,000 households by placing an ad in The Catholic Mirror.

BVM sister devoted her life to education
Sister Judith Sheehan, 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 1994.

Humbly 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, Iowa 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.

Contact the Catholic Mirror at 515-237-5046.

THE Catholic Mirror September 16, 2022
www.dmdiocese.org
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 Bullough in 1983.

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 Churchville, 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 religious woman of more than 70 years dies

Sister Harriet (Mary St. Edward) Ping, 89, died July 22 at Bishop Drums 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.

Religious woman of more than 70 years dies

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.

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.

The Catholic Mirror  September 16, 2022
Is anyone in YOUR family DIVORCED? Please give someone a copy of this ad or invite them to The Cath olic’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 moorefamilyds@gmail.com.

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

By Barb Arland-Fye
The Catholic Messenger

OTTUMWA — Sis ter Irene Munoz, or “Madre Irene,” as she is known fondly in the Hispanic commu nity, 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 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 Raki, the community’s president.

After her ministry in Muscine, 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.
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 in-separable 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 priesthood.

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.

My intentional discernment of the priesthood didn't start until my senior year at Dowling. As I reflect now, I can see many signs of God starting to work 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 go 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.

I pray that God continues to direct me towards my vocation and that I be made worthy of being ordained, and he became a priest for this beautiful Diocese.

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!
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Don’t forget to let us know your name and what parish you’re with!
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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The bottom line? It's for the KIDS and their futures!
Happiness: Our daily bread

Let’s Get Psyched

By Deacon Randy Kiel

Someday 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. Or the wind-down of an interview – right after the formal conversation has wrapped up – produces a comment that stops you in your tracks. Or the wind-down of an interview – right after the formal conversation has wrapped up – produces a comment that stops you in your tracks. Or the wind-down of an interview – right after the formal conversation has wrapped up – produces a comment that stops you in your tracks. 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 would God do today?’” In the guidance of the Holy Spirit, things are always trying to happen. And once in a while, we pay enough attention to call our energy to them.

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 speed things along, speed things along, speed things along. We can accelerators, we can connect the dots, we can be hands and feet. I immediately 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 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 puts it.

Take her morning walk to Mass, which begins at 7:30 a.m. from her house, at St. Odilia Catholic Church in Shoreview, Minn. She sometimes 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, then in one evening giving him a watch to wear. She is an effective visor for safer nighttime 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 regular-ly 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 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 was able to act. Soon after, Rick, hosted Craig and his wife for three weeks.

“I pray for the people who God puts in my path,” Jan said. “And, oh, 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 be lieve how God is so generous in showing us his ways.” Don’t be afraid, don’t be frustr ated. 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.

How to participate with the Holy Spirit

By Deacon Randy Kiel

I was 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 a cattle drive, with all of us split per petually exhausted and disoriented.

Kara and I were discussing how to move forward and we decided we needed a family meeting. We brought up the idea of what 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 of fer ing 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 hos pitality and simplicity, while our kids fo rced more on their perceived lack of suf ficient 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 hav ing tried to live out our mission, our real ized implementation was a mixed bag.

Mariage and Family Life

By Deacon Randy Kiel

I’ve got it under control.”

Happiness

We’ve made great strides in some areas, and no prob lems 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 fam ily as we try to live according to a shared purpose. In Amorita Laetitia Pope Francis wrote that forming a family is “to resolve to be a part of God’s dream, to choose life with him, to want to build with him.” It’s humbling and amazing to think that God asks us to participate in his sal vif ic 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 “shepherding in mercy.”

I personally feel like I’m entering the fall with a lot of excitement. I have been renewed by my family’s dreaming to-gether, our goals, both short and long-term, and our efforts to live together more faith fully. We certainly won’t live it out perfect ly, 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!

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

A larger concern. There are many different

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Names of the Eucharist in our lives

By John Huyah

Eucharist is our spiritual food for spiritual growth.

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 giving up of our time that we could be spending somewhere 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 Eucharist will demand we do not live a faith that is comfortable.

Q. If your Catholic Church raised children and did 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 of a bride couple wants to 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. 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.

Father John Ludwig

I’ve Been Wondering...

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 numbers of writings 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 parables. 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 the Bible is read in the way that it is contained 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 time we receive Communion at their wedding but with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakened 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 Huyah is the deacon director of the Faith Journey program. He can be reached at jhuyah@mdnioce.org or at 515-237-5006.

Questions on the Bible and weddings in the Church

A biblical formula for forgiveness

Father Ron Rolheiser

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 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 weeks, then rest for one year (a sabbatical).
• We work for seven weeks, then rest for 49 years, then have a jubilee where the world itself goes on sabbatical.
• We live for a lifetime, then enjoy an eternity of sabbatical.

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

• We can hold a mini-grudge of seven weeks, then rest for a year...and start the process over again.
• 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 major soul-shattering wound for 49 years, but then we need to give it up.
• We can hold a major soul-shattering wound for 49 years, 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 talk 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. For many years is a more realistic timeframe. (Note that the “statute of limitations” v-a-v is 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 neglect, and the length of time we need to put into perspective are far more than seven years. It may take 49 years, half a century, to make peace with the fact that someone neglected us or was emotionally or sexually abused in our youth.

There are wounds so deep and traumatic that it is not only on every deathbed 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 bearing embrace of God after death.

The ability to forgive is more contingent upon grace than upon willingness. 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 a wound to the body; it strips us of our strength.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website: Rolheiser.com. He can be contacted through his website: Rolheiser.com. Ron Rolheiser. www.dmdioce.org
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. She 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 (1977-78), and schools in Arizona and Bettendorf, Iowa. She was a vice principal in Hawaii.

Since 1987, 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 Maria Caridad Inda (Maria Caritas) – 70 Years
Born in Mexico City, Mexico in 1934, Sister Maria 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 was 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 1942. Sister Margaretter Fitzgerald entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1962 and made her first profession in 1965.

She 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 (1969-70). She also taught at Sacred Heart School in Johnston (1956-57).

Sister also taught at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston (1970-1991), 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 Apartment homes (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 Margarettha Fitzgerald (Mary Isabelle) – 60 years
Born in Collins, Iowa, in 1932, Sister Margarettha entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1962 and was the executive director of the Spanish Education Development Center in Washington, D.C.

In Des Moines, she taught at St. Joseph School in Neola (1966-67), St. Theresa School in Des Moines (1969-70). She also taught at Sacred Heart School in Johnston (1956-57).

She taught the 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.

Sister Margarettha 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 (1969-70). She is the majority owner of Martina’s Place (2004-06), the pastoral care 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 Des Moines and has been a CHM associate since 1997. She came in contact with CHM sisters through volunteering with Quad Cities Interfaith, which is the mother of two adult children. Diana served as an associate coordinator from 2015 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 American 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, 14 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 place to find growing — a spiritual resource.
Bishop blesses, consecrates altar at new Emmaus House location

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.

Learn more about opportunities, including spiritual direction and group offerings at TheEmmausHouse.org.
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ES TÚ EL HOMBRE QUE PONE A TU FAMILIA SOBRE UNA FUNDACIÓN SÓLIDA?