

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Local Holy Land pilgrims safely leave Israel after war starts

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Four couples from the Des Moines Diocese – including three deacon couples – were traveling to the Holy Land when war broke out in Israel.

They are now safe.

Deacon Monty and Kathy Montagne, Deacon Bob and Peggy McClellan, and Mark and Brenda Flores, all from from Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs, along with Deacon Kevin and Rhonda Heim, of St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines, were on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a group from Nebraska.

The group of 32 arrived Oct. 3 and completed about half of the pilgrimage before the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel and the start of war. On that day, the pilgrims were headed north to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. Ultimately, they were able to complete about 80% of the pilgrimage by the time they left Israel.

In an email to *The Catholic Mirror* written from the safety of Amman, Jordan, Deacon McClellan said he was confident Jesus was looking after the pilgrimage group.

They prayed the Surrender Novena each day of the pilgrimage led by Father Damien Wee, of the Archdiocese of Omaha, and Father Sean Timmerman, of the Diocese of Lincoln.

“The common prayer for this novena is: ‘Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything.’ There couldn’t have been a more appropriate prayer for our experience,” said Deacon McClellan.

Indeed, Deacon Montagne said: “We thought originally we were surrendering all of our cares and concerns from home. When the war began, everything shifted and we had to rely every day on our Lord. Our eyes were opened as to how God has been taking care of our many needs.”

Among their helpers was a Palestinian and an Israeli.

“Our bus driver, Rafael, was Palestinian while our guide, Husam, was Israeli. Both were dealing with concerns for their families while remaining faithful to our care,” Deacon McClellan wrote.

“After a couple days up

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Matthew 25: “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”

Catholic Charities sees jump in need



Photos by Kendall Begnoche

At left, Catholic Charities Food Pantry volunteer Becky Stidfole prepares daily food bags before the food pantry opens. Bags included fresh produce, bread and a treat. At right, Leon Stidfole, longtime volunteer at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, hands out daily meal bags to clients of the food pantry. On average, 600 food bags are handed out daily.

By Ryan Johnson
Contributing Writer

The number of families visiting the Catholic Charities Food Pantry on the east side of Des Moines increased nearly 40% in the past six months and has doubled in the past 18 months.

Earlier this year, the average number of families visiting the Catholic Charities Food Pantry at 1815 E. Hubbell Ave. was about 400 per month, representing nearly 870 individuals. Six months ago, about 600 families

representing 1,500 household members visited the food pantry. In August and September, 800 families representing nearly 2,000 people visited, as people came to pick up a monthly box of staple grocery items.

A series of events has led to a spike in the need for food assistance, according to Tom Leto, program manager and seven-year employee at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

“There are a few things that are going on,” Leto said. “There are two other pantries in our neighborhood that have closed in the past few months,

so we have additional traffic from the clients who used to go to those pantries, and now they come to us.”

Additionally, inflation and the rising cost of goods is leading to more people visiting both sides of the food pantry — the monthly side and the daily side.

“In general, food inflation, fuel inflation, cost of living ... if you compare what \$20 got you at the grocery store a year ago compared to today,” Leto said. “Everyone feels it and understands it.”

Leto also notes that changes to the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP), previously known as the Food Stamp Program, have also contributed to the increase in traffic to the pantry.

The Bright Side

Local grocery stores and food retailers regularly provide food to the pantry, which Leto describes as “food rescue.” Food that may otherwise be discarded and eventually end up in a landfill is rescued before it expires and is provided to the visitors to

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Deacon lived life with ‘unshakable integrity’

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Some people have a “bucket list” of things they want to do and experiences they want to have before they die.

Deacon Dave Bartemes didn’t have a bucket list.

“He had a tanker truck list and, though he checked off many if not most of the things on it, his tanker truck list never expired because when he checked off one thing, he’d just add another,” said his friend, Father Dan Krettek.

Deacon Bartemes, who embraced experiences and lifelong learning, died Oct. 11 at age 85. He leaves behind his wife of 62

years, Cora, sons Kevin, Paul, and Brian and their families.

Father Krettek remembers being a newly ordained priest assigned to St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale, and how warmly the Bartemes family welcomed him.

He also remembers the vast and majestic experiences Deacon Bartemes experienced as he embraced life.

“He experienced mountain climbing, traveling near and far, riding his bike, hunting, fishing, designing and building things both large and small, cooking, eating, drinking, feeding others, building, selling, laughing and on and on. Vast and varied experiences brought great joy to Dave’s life in the here and now,” he said

in a homily at the funeral for Deacon Bartemes on Oct. 16.

Deacon Bartemes had a divine wisdom, with a knowledge not just of how things work, but of how life works, said Father Krettek.

Born and raised in West Virginia, Deacon Bartemes met his “pretty lady” Cora Perrine at West Virginia State University.

“He grew up loving to roam over the mountains and the hills and loving trees,” she said.

What attracted her to him was his “unshakable integrity.”

“You never had to ever wonder whether Dave would do the right thing,” Cora said. “He had an unerring sense of what is the right thing, the moral thing,



Deacon David Bartemes

the high-ground thing to do.”

He served in the U.S. Army, then worked for Honeywell, which brought the family to Des Moines.

“Dave Bartemes was
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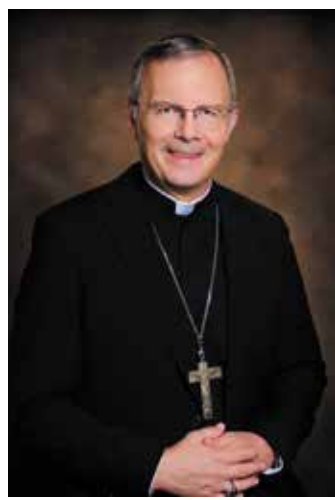
Getting our praise on track

As promised, Pope Francis released his follow-up message to his encyclical of eight years ago, *Laudato Si'*, (*On Care of Our Common Home*.) In *Laudate Deum*, (*Praise God for all his creatures*) (LD), issued this month on the Oct. 4 feast of his namesake, the Holy Father addresses not only Catholics, but all people of good will. He is increasingly alarmed that humans have not acted swiftly and seriously enough to alter the trajectory of global climate change. He calls for multilateral cooperation among nations and other bodies to enact “binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory, and readily monitored.” Only then can restorative processes be set in motion that will be “drastic, intense, and count on the commitment of all” (LD n. 59).

There is too much in LD to elaborate and digest here, but I hope to offer readers a sample of the Holy Father’s main points and spur them to read and reflect upon the exhortation themselves: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis made only passing mention of scientific data to further his case that we need lifestyle conversion from reckless consumption to more spare stewardship of earth’s natural resources. In LD, he adopts a more strident tone in the face of those who dispute and dismiss his argument that humans bear significant responsibility for disrupting the balance of ecosystems around the world. He counters with what he finds is a preponderance of scientific evidence to bolster his position.

This evidence supports what he calls the “anthropic principle” that humans are the cause for dramatic changes in temperature and weather phenomena that deviate from normal climatic patterns



Bishop William Joensen

throughout history—changes that have accelerated since the advent of the industrial revolution in the nineteenth century and even since his last intervention eight years ago. More than once, he readily admits that not every local weather event can be attributed to climate change—he does not judge whether our Midwest experience of derechos results from human agency. But overall, he doesn’t pull any punches as he describes the position of those who reject human responsibility for the spiraling disruption of the global environment as “scarcely reasonable” (LD n. 14)

Unsurprisingly, the pontiff’s claims are provocative, prophetic, and in some instances, perplexing—at least to this reader. At the core of his exhortation are his familiar bedrock principles: “Everything is connected” among all living things in the material universe, and “No one is saved alone” (LD n. 19). The Holy Father speaks metaphorically of our “suffering planet” that harbors a “silent disease” (LD nn. 2, 5). He likens desertification of the soil to a “physical ailment,” and the extinction of species as a “painful disfigurement” (LD n. 68).

While he affirms that human beings hold a unique and primary role in the “concert of all God’s creatures,” we are not superpowers who stand over nature, but are

immanently situated as participants with other creatures who “have stopped being our companions along the way and have instead become our victims” (LD n. 15; cf. nn. 25-26). He warns that if we do not embrace a “pilgrimage of reconciliation” (n. 69) and instead blithely maintain present practices that ignore irreversible cosmic implications for future generations, we are like persons “pushing a snowball down a hill” (LD n. 57).

For weal or woe, the world is a “contact zone” in which diverse relations in ecosystems of various scale either lead to mutual flourishing or inevitable demise. Nature cannot stand the strain we have imposed upon it when we strip the world of a sense of wonder and mystery that should generate gratitude, reverence, and a humble sense of responsibility in the face of nature’s Author.

Pope Francis alternatively denies and affirms responsibility for different parties for the precarious state of our global ecology. He denies that poorer nations and their peoples are the primary culprits making our world less habitable: “In an attempt to simplify reality, there are those who would place responsibility on the poor, since they have many children, and even attempt to resolve the problem by mutilating women in less developed countries.” “Yet, the reality is that a low, richer percentage of the planet contaminates more than the poorest 50% of the total world population” (LD n. 9)

The United States is the special object of the Holy Father’s prophetic critique; in what is a sort of “coup de grâce” in the entire exhortation’s next-to-last section, he notes, “If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of poorest countries, we can state that broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with

the Western model would have a long-term significant impact” (LD n. 72).

The Roman pontiff does not disparage technology in itself, but is especially wary and critical of a “technocratic” mindset that seeks and flexes power in the name of unbridled progress. In this respect, he echoes the late Pope Benedict XVI’s unfavorable analysis in *Spe Salvi* (*Saved in Hope*) of what we might call a “gospel of progress” endemic to modernity that is often at cross-purposes with genuine Christian hope. Pope Francis contends, “Artificial intelligence and the latest technological innovations start with the notion of a human being with no limits, whose abilities and possibilities can be infinitely expanded thanks to technology. In this way, the technocratic paradigm feeds upon itself” (LD n. 21).

Unless we examine our consciences and ask ultimate questions such as, “What is the meaning of my life? . . . And what is the ultimate meaning of all my work and effort?” we risk letting our fascination with progress produce horrible natural consequences for the earth and humanity (see LD n. 24). One isn’t sure if the pope is only speaking ironically or apocalyptically as he suggests we might flirt the dire prospect that we become an “age which was so advanced as to be actually the last one” (LD n. 28).

Pope Francis honors Catholic social teaching with its emphasis on subsidiarity, the precept that those closest to situations should share authority to make decisions impacting themselves (LD n. 37). In his usual synthetic approach, he calls for a new form of multilateralism that will supersede the stasis of old multilateral bodies such as the United Nations—a “multilateralism from below” (LD n. 27).

But I am left scratching my head pondering the import and validity of his claim that “post-modern culture has generated a new sensitivity [sic] towards the

more vulnerable and less powerful” (LD n. 39). I’m not so sure that a postmodern mindset which emphasizes autonomy, which is quick to claim victim status and seek redress as merited based on their construal of human rights—all the while showing blatant disregard for the preborn and persons with disabilities, as well as desensitizing or even exploiting young adults through media saturation to their need for real human connection—is to be affirmed for its sensitivity.

If anyone is truly sensitive it is Jesus. I am more readily inspired by the Holy Father on his initial mention of the “sensitivity of Jesus before the creatures of his Father” as displayed in Matthew 6:28-29 (LD n. 1). To be sure, Jesus is invoked only once at the beginning of the exhortation and once toward the end.

I wonder if these lean references to Christ might be intended to broaden the receptivity toward this message among “all people of good will,” particularly among those who will take part in the next Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai from Nov. 30-Dec. 12. Curiously or providentially, these dates coincide with the beginning of Advent/the Feast of St. Andrew through the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I pray that both St. Andrew and the Patroness of the Americas will intercede on behalf of all of us who are presented with Pope Francis’ exhortation and anyone who might be given sufficient pause as we ponder what the Lord requires.

With religious assent of mind and will to the Universal Pastor of our Church, I believe it is incumbent on all of us to take the Pope’s words to heart in reflection and prayer. And as the Spirit convicts us, we can then be ever more potent advocates with leaders in various sectors of society to advance the needed changes in policy and practice that will save our planet, and allow God to save us from ourselves.

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Hometown priest will return as archbishop

By Barb Arland-Fye
OSV News

DUBUQUE, Iowa (OSV News) -- Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula was to become the new archbishop of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, where he began his priesthood 33 years ago, on Oct. 18

He was ordained a bishop for the Diocese of Davenport six years ago.

Pope Francis named Bishop Zinkula to be the next archbishop of Dubuque July 26.

“I have been praying that I will be the kind of bishop the archdiocese needs and wants: a priest of deep and true prayer, a teacher of loving heart and firm resolve, and a shepherd of joy and peace who desires above all to do God’s will,” he said.

“This is a bittersweet moment for me. . . . It will be hard to leave the diocesan community in Davenport with whom I have journeyed for the past six years and who basically taught me how to be a bishop,” he said last July.

“I am nonetheless overjoyed,” he said, choking up, “to receive the appointment to return to my home diocese to serve as the 11th archbishop.” After taking a moment, he quipped, “Gosh I didn’t think I would tear up at all!”

Returning to his home archdiocese, where he was born in 1957 -- an Iowa farm boy who went on to become a lawyer before discerning a call to the priesthood -- he said: “It will be humbling and interesting to add the role of spiritual father to my relationship with

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Si desea encontrar la columna del Obispo Joensen en español, vaya a este enlace:

<https://www.dmdiocese.org/espanol>



OFFICIAL

Bishop William Joensen has made the following appointments effective immediately.

Rev. Jomi Manikombel Joseph to parochial vicar, Our Lady of the Americas, Des Moines; and St. Joseph, Des Moines.

Rev. George Boachie Nyarko to parochial vicar, St. Boniface, Waukee; and St. Theresa, Des Moines.

William Joensen

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

Jason Koehn

Chancellor

Imogene community perseveres, Irish Rose Forest blooms

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

From the tragic death of a young woman a quarter-century ago has come a new Imogene park bursting with life.

Its mission is simple: Give visitors something that its namesake, Margaret Rose “Peggy” McGinn, sought but struggled to find in the last seven years of her life – serenity.

On Sept. 17, Imogene dedicated Irish Rose Forest to the memory of Peggy and those like her who cope with mental illness.

What started as a patch of land with old foundations and bedsprings hidden by overgrowth is now, thanks to the perseverance of many, a calming retreat with hammocks, benches, a walking path, and even a 5-foot-tall wind chime shaped like a harp. One can almost hear its strings being softly plucked by the wind as a melody of birds and rustling leaves plays.

The lyrics of this melody repeat the same refrain: “Be at peace.”

“We’ve come a long way in the past 25 years in understanding mental illness, with more research, better understanding and better medications,” said Peggy’s mom, Mary Lou McGinn. “Most cases are very treatable and the stigma is less (thanks to better education) but we have a long way to go.”

The birth of the park goes back to 2003, when Peggy’s father, Joe McGinn, bought a little piece of property in his wife’s hometown of Imogene just down the hill from St. Patrick Church.

“We got it, but we had no idea what we would do with it. A house used to be there. It was a place where little animals would run in and out,” said Mary Lou.

Joe and Mary Lou, of St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs, decided to honor the memory of

their daughter by naming their land the Irish Rose Forest.

They held on to the property for 11 years, then gave it to the Sons and Daughters of Imogene, a local nonprofit focused on community betterment.

The vegetation had taken over the property. A community-wide cleanup in 2018 made a dent but the property needed a lot of work to become usable.

As the property was cleaned up, the community had a vision and could more clearly see the potential for the property.

“Someone said ‘Hammocks’ and someone said ‘A walking path that’s handicapped accessible, a parking lot, and art,’” said Carla Kucirek. “Truly, it was the hands and the minds of probably 30 volunteers” who pulled together to make the vision a reality.

In 2022, the Sons and Daughters of Imogene received a grant from the Fremont County Foundation, and the community could get heavy equipment on the land to remove dead trees and do some work, said Rita Laughlin.

Since last year, the community installed tiling to dry out some areas, laid limestone for a walking path, purchased benches and two picnic tables, and installed four hammocks “for people to relax and calm their minds,” Laughlin said.

Local metal worker Bob Brand created the beautiful wind chime harp.

The community celebrated mental health awareness by dedicating the park to the memory of Peggy and those who grapple with mental health issues. Information was available from Shenandoah Medical Center, the National Alliance of Mental Illness of Southwest Iowa, and St. Patrick Catholic Church.

“The stigma of mental health is still there. I think the park and bringing awareness is a way we can ease into ways to



Top photo: The community of Imogene took a property in distress and turned it into new life with a mission to give visitors to the Irish Rose Forest serenity. A ribbon-cutting celebration was held Sept. 17. **Above left,** previous owners of the property, Mary Lou and Joe McGinn, are pictured in 2003 by the land named in memory of their late daughter. **Above right,** a sculpture in the new park takes the shape of a harp/windchime that makes soft sounds when the wind blows.

have conversations about mental illness,” Laughlin said. “There’s still hope. There’s still people to surround yourself with in the community.”

“Through my eyes, I think of it as a serenity park,” said James Doyle, who did much of the heavy lifting in bringing the park to life. “We could carry on

Mary Lou’s dream to dedicate this to her daughter and to mental health awareness. That was the focus of the whole thing. I just hope it serves its purpose.”



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Love of God and love within a family produces a prayer space

By Lydia Sheve
Contributing Writer

In August of 2020, Mary Beth Anastasi Goeser and her father, Bob Anastasi, began work on their dream project: a chapel on their land, built out of love for God.

Although the original idea had been to build a treehouse for Goeser's grandchildren to play in, it soon became clear that the Lord was leading them down a different path.

She started looking at plans online and found a prayer space that resembles a chapel.

Her father was immediately on board and the work began: clearing the land of poison ivy and other overgrowth, salvaging windows and doors, and creating a design.

"My father and I mostly built it," said Goeser, who along with her family is a parishioner at St. John the Apostle in Norwalk.

Other builders included her

uncle, husband, and various friends; but the majority of the work was done by the father-daughter duo who worked hard to side the exterior, lay the floors and ceiling, and plaster and paint the walls.

About the size of a small bedroom, the prayer space has room for two rows of short pews with an altar in the front.

"We found the pews at an old church that was getting rid of these 10-foot-long pews, and so my dad cut them so they would fit in here and rebuilt them," she said. "The altar came from the same place as the pews."

Other furnishings include an antique prayer chair, paintings of Jesus and Mary, and a crucifix resting on a large wooden base that can show the



different stations of the cross by turning a knob.

The chapel is not used for public events. Goeser's daughter and her family live in the house adjacent to the prayer space, and out of respect for their privacy, it is curopen only to their family.

Goeser feels sure that God has further plans for the prayer space, but for now she is content to simply wait and see what happens.

"I think it's important to just listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings and then just do it," she said.

To her, the land is more than just its pastoral charm.

"I've always called it a healing place... I just know that this is going to be a healing place for many people. Right now it's just our family but I think God has greater plans for it."

She believes that the most likely plan is for the property to become a retreat center.

The property continues to grow more beautiful day by day.

Anastasi works on it almost daily, mowing the grass and handling any maintenance. You would never guess it today, given the immaculately groomed lawn and gracefully waving wildflowers, but "It was kind of like a pit

when we bought it," Goeser said. "There were a lot of trees down everywhere and junk, old parts of cars, and the pond was all green and nasty."

The land south of Norwalk has been redeemed in more ways than one: as a way of consecrating it to God, saint medals are tucked into trees here and there. A Mary statue graces the area near the chapel, which is currently unnamed.

Anastasi wants to name it St. Mary, after his daughter, while she wants to name it St. Robert, after her father.



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THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

HISTORY OF THIS DEVOTION

In 1917, in the remote village of Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared on six different occasions to the three shepherd children with an urgent message for the world, which concerned the salvation of souls and peace in the world. On July 13, 1917 Our Lady showed the children a vision of hell and said, "You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace...I shall come to ask for...the Communion of reparation to be made on the first Saturdays..." Our Blessed Mother fulfilled her promise eight years later on December 10, 1925, when she appeared with the Child Jesus to Sr. Lucia in her convent cell and said, "Have compassion on the Heart of Your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them."



THE INTENTION

The requirements of this devotion are to be fulfilled with the intention of consoling and making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for our own sins, for the blasphemies and ingratitude of unrepentant sinners, and for peace in the world.

You are invited to morning Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in West Des Moines to celebrate this devotion at 7:15 a.m. on Nov. 4.

OUR LADY'S PROMISE

Then Mary held out her thorn-wreathed Heart and said, "See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me, to tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive month, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary."

All of the following facts, statements, or prayers are from a book "Fatima For Today" by Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR.

- Our Blessed Mother in all six appearances to the children advocated the recitation of the rosary daily.
- God wants to establish a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a way to save souls from hell.
- Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph.

Blessed Mother to Sr. Lucia

• "I am the Lady of the Rosary" (p 123, Oct. 13, 1917)

Prayers of Fatima

Pardon Prayer

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you.

Angel of Peace, Spring 1916

Angel's Prayer

O Most holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

Angel of Peace, Fall 1916

Eucharistic Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 1917



Faithful visit St. Jude relic

More than 3,000 people came to St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Sept. 26 to see a relic of St. Jude Thaddeus. At left, Bob Pederson, of the Knights of Columbus, takes a picture of the relic before the public was admitted. Father Carlos Martins is taking the relic across the United States over nine months under commission of the Vatican. The goal is to give people an experience to pray with and encounter an apostle of Jesus. St. Jude, known as a patron of hopeless cases, was a first cousin of Jesus. Christ acts through the relics, said Father Martin. "Even if people don't get the miracle they desire, God will give them what they do need," he said.

Deacon lived life with 'unshakable integrity'

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one of the nicest people I've ever known," said his friend, Deacon Jerry Barnwell. "I am very fortunate to call him a good friend, and his wife, also."

Deacon Barnwell became familiar with his friend in a small deacon sharing group. "He was very proactive for the poor, and very proactive for prisoners and prison ministry," he said.

Deacon Bartemes read an article in the newspaper about jail ministry at the Polk County Jail and met the chaplain, who said he needed Catholics to visit the Catholics in jail.

Deacon Bartemes responded.

He was ordained a deacon in 1986, and continued to serve the incarcerated at prisons in Mitchellville, and later at Newton.

Deacon Bartemes was an

author, penning two publications.

He wrote the story of how the restored permanent diaconate evolved in the Des Moines Diocese, *The Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Des Moines: The Early Years*, and about his experience attempting to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa with other cancer survivors, *We Call her Kili*.

He also had a love for the outdoors, particularly his "happy place" on his tree farm, said Deacon Jim Houston.

He had a lifelong passion for planting trees, which he did in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and on his dream farm in southern Iowa, where "he had planted 30,000 hardwood trees to preserve the land and bless the future," said Cora.

Deacon Bartemes will be remembered for how he loved.

"Dave's love for God was

thoroughly incarnate in how he loved life itself, those whom he loved, those who loved him, and the good earth that sustains us," said Father Krettek.

He loved his family.

He loved the Church and serving in the Church as a deacon: teaching, preaching, and performing works of charity.

"Dave loved the poor, whatever form their poverty took: economic, social, mental, emotional, you name it," said Father Krettek.

He loved Dr. Richard Deming, the Above and Beyond cancer community, Emmaus House, his alma mater West Virginia State University and St. Pius X Parish.

"He didn't just have an enlightened and lively mind and lifestyle. He also had a very enlightened and lively heart, and that came through in the way he loved," said Father Krettek.

Local Holy Land pilgrims safe

Continued from page 1

north we returned to Jerusalem. It was a little concerning to pass heavy trucks carrying tanks and other military equipment headed south. At one point we came to a slowdown of traffic, seeing cars parked haphazardly on both sides of the road. Soon we saw why. There was a field full of military equipment and soldiers. The cars belonged to the reserves that had been called up," he said.

The group learned their flight home had been canceled. They were due back on Friday, Oct. 13. Should they try to get another flight out of Tel Aviv or use another option?

"The travel agency was working hard for us, eventually determining that flying out of Jordan was our best option," wrote Deacon McClellan. "The trip to Amman, Jordan is about a two-hour drive, but it took nearly six hours to cross the border."

Once safely in Jordan, the tour group found flights home over several days as seats were available on departures through Paris, Dubai and Qatar.

There was an unexpected

blessing amid the turmoil.

"While here in Amman, we were able to travel by bus to visit Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land beyond the Jordan River before his death. This is a place we would not have been able to experience if Jesus was not taking care of everything" for the pilgrim group, said Deacon McClellan.

Father Luis Mejia, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, said he'd been updating parishioners on the status of their friends on the pilgrimage and asking for prayers that they return safely.

"We have been praying for them," he said.

Over time, the group's understanding of the word "pilgrimage" changed," said Deacon Montagne.

"Though the sightseeing has ended, our pilgrimage continues. Today, we set aside seven hours for adoration, praying for peace in the region and for all the many innocents," he wrote in an email from Jordan. "The Surrender Novena we began on the first day has opened our hearts to God's great mercy."

Pope condemns terrorism, but expresses concern for Gaza civilians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis condemned Hamas' terrorist attacks on Israel and pleaded with the militants to free their hostages unharmed, but he also expressed concern about Israel's tightening siege on Gaza and its impact on innocent civilians.

"I continue to follow with sorrow and apprehension what is happening in Israel and Palestine. So many people killed, and others injured," the pope said Oct. 11 at the end of his weekly general audience.

As the pope spoke, the Israeli Defense Forces website was reporting more than 1,200 Israelis killed by Hamas and more than 2,800 Israelis injured.

At the same time, the Gaza Ministry of Health was reporting a death toll of more than 950 Palestinians and said 5,000 others were injured as Israel continued its airstrikes on Gaza.

"I pray for all those families that saw a day of celebration be transformed into a day of mourning" Oct. 7, the pope said. "And I ask that the hostages be released immediately," he continued. Israeli government officials have estimated that Hamas is holding some 150 Israeli hostages.

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Around the Diocese

Oct. 20, 27 Nov 3, 10 Fish & Chicken dinners

INDIANOLA – The Indianola Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken dinners at St. Thomas Aquinas parish hall. Adults & carry-outs/\$13; children (6 to 12)/\$6; children 5 and under/ free. Our fish & chicken breading contains no wheat flour. Boy Scout Troop 123 will be hosting a dessert table. Check us out on our Facebook page “Indianola Knights”.

Oct. 20 Friday Community Baby Shower

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- Join the Catholic Charities’ Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault team from 4 – 6 p.m., for the 9th annual Community Baby Shower. This drive-thru/walk-up event is located in the Salvation Army Parking Lot (715 N. 16th St., Council Bluffs) and is open to all expecting mothers and families with newborns, providing them with newborn items and community resources.

Oct. 20-21 Friday-Saturday Apostle to the Apostles Retreat

DES MOINES – Mary Magdalene has been portrayed variously in Scripture, tradition, Church teaching, legend, and popular imagination for all of Christian history. In this retreat, we will meet her in these sources and in our own reflection and prayer drawing on sources as diverse as movies, papal documents, contemporary scholarship, and other studies. Join us Oct. 20, 6-8 p.m. & Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit our themmaushouse.org for more information.

Oct. 25 Thursday Theology of the Body

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- Author Monica Ashour will speak in a bilingual presentation to parents in partnership with Corpus Christi Parish about Theology of the Body. For more information, contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056.

Oct. 26 Friday Theology of the Body

DES MOINES -- Author Monica Ashour will talk to parents in partnership with St. Augustin Parish about Theology of the Body. For more information, contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056.

Oct. 17 Saturday Theology of the Body

ALTOONA -- Author Monica Ashour will present a full-day seminar at Ss. John and Paul Parish about Theology of the Body. For more information, contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5056.

Oct. 26 Thursday Nourish for Caregivers

URBANDALE – The next monthly support group meeting is at 6-7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X in Urbandale. All caregivers are welcome.

Oct. 29 Sunday Chicken Dinner

STUART – All Saints Parish is hosting its annual chicken dinner from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. featuring Staley’s chicken. Cost is adults/\$12; children ages 6-12/\$5; and free for children ages 5 and under. Carry out is available by calling 515-523-1943 after 7 a.m. on the 29th. There will be a pie auction at noon to benefit LC Clinic.

Nov. 4-5 Saturday-Sunday Fall Craft Show

DES MOINES – Christ the King Parish is holding its annual fall craft show Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at its parish hall, 5711 SW 9th St..

Nov. 4 Saturday Sponsor Couple Training

DES MOINES – The Diocese is hosting a sponsor couple training at the Catholic Pastoral Center from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants can join this training in person, or online. Couples must register for this training by emailing astorey@dmdiocese.org or calling Adam Storey at 515-237-5056. To participate virtually, couples must be registered by Oct. 25 so that materials may be mailed in advance.

Nov. 5 Sunday Chicken Dinner

COUNCIL BLUFFS - Come to the Corpus Christi Parish’s Annual Staley’s Broasted Chicken Dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Albert School. Cost is ages 9 and up/\$15; children ages 4 to 8/\$10; children age 3 and under are free. Dine in & take out available. Theme baskets/crafts available for purchase. Over a hundred theme baskets for sale. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office 712-323-2916 or at the door on the day of the event.

Nov. 6 Monday Divorce Survival Guide

WEST DES MOINES – The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide is a guide 12-week group meeting at St. Francis of Assisi parish. Cost is \$30 per person includes a “Personal Survival Guide” and all materials. 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.

Nov. 9 Thursday Mozart’s Requiem

DES MOINES – St. August Parish is hosting this concert at 7 p.m. performed by St. August Choir and members of other parish choirs. There is no cost but there will be a free-will offering.

Nov. 11 Saturday Big Band Affair

NORWALK – St. John the Apostle Parish is hosting the High Society Big Band from 6:15-9:15 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.. Pulled pork sandwiches, chips and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for a free-will offering. You are welcome to bring snacks/appetizers for your table and BYOB (beer/wine only). Presale tickets are \$90 for a reserved table of 8, \$12 single ticket or \$15 at the door. Call 515-981-4855 or come to the parish office to get your tickets.

Nov. 12 Sunday Fall Dinner

AVOCA – St. Mary Parish is holding its fall dinner from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. featuring Staley’s chicken. The cost is adults/\$15; children ages 10 and under/\$6 for children ages ten and under. Dine in or carry out. For more information call 712-343-6948.

Nov. 18 Saturday Holiday Bazaar

WINTERSSET – St. Joseph Parish is hosting a holiday bazaar 8:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lots of unique craft items and a bake sale. Location is at the Community Room of Union State Bank next to Fareway on U.S. Hwy 92 due to a scheduling conflict at the church.

Run/Walk

WEST DES MOINES -- Mary’s Helping Hands is organizing a run/walk (5k + 1 mile fun run) at Valley Community Center. Professionally timed race. Proceeds benefit those who come to Mary’s Helping Hands, an organization that supports expecting mothers and fathers. For more information or to register, go to maryshelpinghandsiowa.org

NPM Membership Meeting

In honor of St. Cecelia, patron saint of Musicians, join fellow members of the Des Moines Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians at their annual membership meeting online from 1 - 2 p.m. Contact Julie at desmoinesIA@npm.org for the link and for more information.

OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE Nov. 13-18 Mon.-Sat. In-person Monastic Experience

CLYDE, MISSOURI – The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration will host an in-person monastic experience. There is no cost to attend. For more information, contact Sister Maria Victoria at vocation@benedictine-sisters.org, call (660) 944-2221 ext. 127, or visit BenedictineSisters.org

Iowan serves Christian Family Movement

Heather Honkomp, of St. Joseph Parish in Winterset, has become the digital communications manager for Christian Family Movement. She’s been active in her parish as a Eucharistic minister and lector, a sponsor couple with her husband, Jeff, in the Altar and Rosary Society, and served as the director of religious education for six years. Christian Family Movement offers an opportunity to grow in faith with family and community.



Heather Honkomp

Mercy College debuts new mascot

Mercy College of Health Sciences has a new mascot to represent the community: the Mercy College Guardian. The mascot serves as a tangible, unifying symbol for a school, said school President Adreain Henry, OD, EdD.

“Mascots ignite a sense of pride in the institution and confidence in its future. Mercy College has much to take pride in, from its Catholic heritage to its exceptional healthcare education rooted in compassion. The mascot not only embodies this rich history but also motivates students and the community to rally behind the institution’s vision. In Des Moines, Mercy College has found its place and identity, and it aims to share this sense of belonging with everyone.”



Hibernians contribute to Seminarian Fund



John Langin (left) and Jim Duffy (right) present Bishop William Joensen a check to help support seminarians. Langin and Duffy are with the Father James Kiernan Polk County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Hibernian donation is one of many donations made each year by the group in the Des Moines Diocese.

Happy 70th wedding anniversary!



Donald and JoEllen Klein, of St. Patrick Church in Dunlap, will celebrate 70 years of marriage on Nov. 10.

Donald Klein and JoEllen Koski were married Nov. 10, 1953 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Earling. They were blessed with six children: Donna (Tom) Hubbell of Omaha, Nebraska; Kevin (Ann) Klein of Ida Grove, Iowa; Robert Klein (deceased); Laurie (Dean) Wilke of Panama, Iowa; Bart (Lisa) Klein of Dunlap, Iowa; Bryan (Dawn) Klein of Logan, Iowa. They also cherish 13 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. A card shower is being held in their honor. Cards may be mailed to Don and JoEllen Klein, 203 Y Street, Apt. 1, Dunlap, IA 51529.

Victim Assistance Advocate

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

Tune in to Iowa Catholic Radio or Spirit Catholic Radio Network Fridays at 9 a.m. to hear “Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen.” Upcoming guests include:

- Oct. 20 - Monica Ashour on Theology of the Body
- Oct. 27 - Kelly Breaux, of Red Bird Ministries, Catholic fathers grieving child loss
- Nov. 3 - Stephen Minis, president of Benedictine College
- Nov. 10 - Christina Shauer, of MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center, on healthcare and veterans.

Can’t tune in at 9 a.m. on Fridays? Go to IowaCatholicRadio.com and click on podcasts to catch up on all the shows you’ve been missing!

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communications@dmdiocese.org.

Catholic Charities sees jump in need

Continued from page 1

the food pantry. This food is provided each day to as many as 600 to 650 people who come to the daily window at the pantry.

In August, the food pantry accepted 61,069 pounds of donated food. For the year, the food pantry has received in excess of 200 tons of donated food.

“We take a lot of donations, ‘food rescue’ as we call it from Hy-Vee, Panera, Chick-fil-A, Costco, Walmart, Anderson Erickson, Price Chopper and others,” Leto said. “A lot of places donate food to us on a daily basis. This includes bread, cakes, pastries, meat, dairy and produce, from a variety of stores.”

Catholic Charities’ full-time food pantry employees Leto and Deborah Kesling oversee the delivery of food to the pantry, which is a full-time job. They rely on 90-plus unique volunteers who donate their time to unloading food and stocking the pantry.

“We are pretty much run on volunteers,” Leto said. “They contribute roughly 800 hours of service to the community each month. These volunteers do everything from driving their personal vehicles to rescue food to unloading trucks and helping

Longtime client appreciates Food Pantry help

Nancy May benefits from the generosity of donations and the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. She’s been visiting the food pantry during the past 20 years. During a recent visit, she enjoyed some of the fresh produce donated by area growers.

“I love it because they treat me very nice,” May said. “They go out of their way to help people, and it’s a great place to be.”

The Catholic Charities Food Pantry isn’t just providing food and personal products, it’s building a community with the residents who need to supplement their needs from the generous donations.

guests with their monthly food selection.”

The Catholic Charities Food Pantry is open 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday. During that time period, volunteers give away all the food that is rescued and brought to the pantry.

Another source of food donations: farmers and homeowners with gardens. For instance, a group in Madrid donated 20,000 pounds of produce in August and September.

Personal Products Needed

In addition to the food distributed to individuals in need, the pantry also distributes diapers, baby wipes, baby formula

and personal hygiene products.

“We hope to make these items available to families, but our inventories do not always support the need,” Leto said. “Diapers (size 4 or larger) are always a challenge having available. Baby wipes are in short supply. Personal hygiene items such as bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and toilet paper are always in high demand and needed.”

If you would like to donate to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, you can do so on the Catholic Charities website or mail a check to 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309 with “food pantry” in the memo line. Food and personal hygiene products can be dropped off at the food pantry. Leto suggests calling ahead of time.

Get The Catholic Mirror delivered straight to your inbox each month. To get the digital version, call 515-237-5046 or email communications@dmdiocese.org

Youth contemplate faith journey leading up to & after confirmation



High school youth from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Panama went on retreat to the Cloisters on the Platte.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Panama had a high school retreat to walk the life-size Stations of the Cross at the Cloisters on the Platte in Gretna, Nebraska.

Freshmen reflected on their preparation as they journey toward their confirmation, and sophomores discerned where God may be leading them after confirmation. Juniors/seniors reflected on their ministry of visiting the sick and homebound or praying with anyone who would like their presence now that they are confirmed disciples of Jesus Christ.

Parish women’s retreat focuses on service



St. Mary Parish in Avoca hosted a women’s retreat on Sept. 23 entitled “Set Sail for Service” with Maureen Hoffman and Julie Gross. Women of God from various parishes in the region attended. Pictured above are, left to right, Jan Kenkel of Oakland, Lynne Carroll of Avoca, Philly Brandes of Hancock, and Cindy Gross of Walnut.

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Amen

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

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Archbishop returns home

Continued from page 2

my fellow archdiocesan priests who have been my brothers and friends for so many years.”

On April 4, the pope accepted the resignation of Archbishop Jackels, 68, for health reasons and appointed Bishop Richard Pates, the retired bishop of Des Moines, as Dubuque’s administrator.

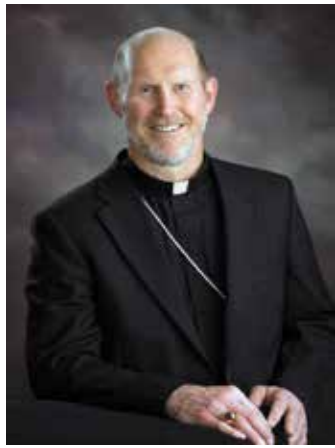
“Pope Francis has blessed the Archdiocese of Dubuque with a native son,” Bishop Pates said. “Archbishop-elect Zinkula is very beloved in the archdiocesan community and will exercise service and leadership that will draw Church members close to their vital mission.”

Shortly after arriving in the Diocese of Davenport and following a number of high-profile incidents of racism, Bishop Zinkula issued a letter calling for “prayer, learning and action” to end racism.

He joined with the bishops of Iowa in opposing the reinstatement of the death penalty, the application of which was “deeply flawed,” said the Iowa Catholic Conference in a February 2018 letter.

Archbishop Zinkula earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, economics and business at Iowa’s Cornell College and a law degree from the University of Iowa.

Then he attended Theologi-



Archbishop Thomas Zinkula

cal College (the seminary of The Catholic University of America) in Washington and earned a master’s in theology from Catholic University in 1990. He was ordained to the priesthood May 26, 1990, by then-Bishop (later Archbishop) Daniel W. Kucera at St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque. He earned a licentiate of Canon law in 1998 from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario.

While serving at various parishes in the Dubuque Archdiocese, including as a pastor, then-Father Zinkula also worked in the metropolitan tribunal, served as judicial vicar from 2000-2010, and as episcopal vicar from 2012-2014. From 2014 until his ordination as Davenport’s bishop in 2017, he was rector of St. Pius X Seminary in Dubuque.

The new archbishop said upon his appointment that he

hopes “my being a native son and priest of the archdiocese will make the transition somewhat quicker and easier. Having served the archdiocese in various assignments as a priest for 27 years, I know it quite well. I am looking forward to becoming reacquainted with the people of the archdiocese that I already know and getting to know many more of the faithful. I want to hear and share their joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties.”

“He is one of ours. The transition will be easier for us,” said Father Dustin Vu, priest chaplain for Loras College in Dubuque. “Praise God for that! He’s well-loved here. It’s kind of like family again,” added Father Vu, who met the archbishop in 2004, when Father Vu was ordained to the priesthood.

“It’s certainly an answer to prayer,” said Father Dan Knepper, a retired archdiocesan priest. “I was happy when I saw the announcement.”

“I was very happy to have Pope Francis send him back to us,” said Msgr. Thomas Toale, the archdiocese’s vicar general and moderator of the curia. “We are very grateful he is back home. He is one of us,” he told *The Catholic Messenger*, newspaper of the Diocese of Davenport.

Vespers was slated for Oct. 17 and the installation liturgy on Oct. 18.

Life Chain kicks off Respect Life Month

Since 1973, when the Supreme Court legalized abortion with the historic Roe v. Wade ruling, the Catholic Church in the United States has observed “Respect Life Month” in October. The first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday.

As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning to the end of their lives, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

Find a novena and more information here: dmdiocese.org/resources/social-justice/life-and-dignity/respect-life-month



Council Bluffs pro-life advocates kicked off Respect Life Month on Oct. 1 with the annual public witness for life, called Life Chain. The Council Bluffs Planned Parenthood office, which stood across the street from the crisis pregnancy center Gabriel’s Corner in Council Bluffs, recently closed. Supporters of Gabriel’s Corner held 40 Days for Life prayer vigils for the past 10 years in hopes of changing hearts and minds.



More than 50 people stood along 31st Street and Kingman Boulevard in Des Moines on Oct. 1 to pray and hold signs supporting life for the unborn.



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Care for Creation

Families enjoy restored prairie



Father Adam Westphal, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola, blesses a prairie by the church.

By Elizabeth Williams
Contributing Writer

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish's pastor, Father Adam Westphal, blessed the church's new prairie meditation stations in Indianola as a doe and her two fawns casually walked out of the restored prairie on the church property.

The parish's Creation Care Team hosted the family prairie blessing event on Sept. 30. More than 50 parishioners attended.

"It was a beautiful evening and a fun family gathering," noted Rita Bresnan, who heads up the parish's Creation Care Team. "We want everyone to enjoy God's creation, including the prairie."

The church installed a dozen meditation pedestals along the prairie's perimeter. Each display on the pedestal contains a fact about the prairie, a quote from *Laudato Si* and a reflection.

The family prairie celebration took place the weekend before the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with food, children's games and activities, a fire ring to roast marshmallows and a speaker, in addition to the blessing.

"If you've got even an extra acre on your church property, I would recommend planting it to a prairie," said Ron Scheve, who got the 5-acre restored prairie at St. Thomas Aquinas Church planted in 2015.

This fall, the Indianola parish is going to add another acre of

prairie, concentrating on flowers with 54 varieties of flowering prairie plants to be planted this fall.

A restored prairie promotes environmental diversity, attracts pollinators, and is low maintenance.

"We don't mow it. Our only maintenance is a controlled burn once in the spring," Scheve explained.

The current prairie has 68 different varieties of flowering plants and three types of grasses. It attracts butterflies, insects, rodents, ground birds and the occasional family of deer curious enough to attend a Catholic blessing celebration.

'Laudate Deum' a 'timely call' to 'choose life or death,' say Catholic ecological advocates

(OSV News) -- Pope Francis' latest plea to urgently address global warming and climate change is being hailed by Catholic ecological advocates as "a great call to action."

On Oct. 4, the pope released his apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum* (*Praise God*), warning that the clock is ticking on the dangers of climate change -- and both a paradigm shift and practical strategies are critically needed to avert looming disasters in nature and human society.

"This is a global social issue and one intimately related to the dignity of human life," wrote Pope Francis.

In the exhortation, which follows his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, *On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis said "the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point" due to climate change, "one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community."

With the global average temperature rapidly rising to greenhouse gas emissions, extreme weather and dramatic climate shifts have impacted millions, particularly the impoverished, said the pope, who also lamented an international inertia in reining in emissions.

The new exhortation is "timely," said Tomás Insua, co-founder and executive director of the nonprofit *Laudato Si'* Movement, which works through close to 900 member organizations in 115 countries to foster a Catholic approach to the care of the environment.

Insua, who is based in Rome, said the pope's message underscores how "it's a deeply Christian thing to be concerned for God's beloved creation (and) ... deeply rooted in this very biblical love of creation."

Laudate Deum relies on "stark language" to convey the grave impact of global warming on weather and climate, said Dan Misleh, founder of

the Catholic Climate Covenant, a Washington-based nonprofit that works with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on ecological awareness and advocacy.

"My thoughts are that Pope Francis is heartbroken," Misleh said. "He wrote *Laudato Si'* eight years ago. And here we are in 2023 ... and he's saying, 'We just need to do more. We have no more excuses for inaction.'" The direct tone of *Laudate Deum* speaks to people -- among them, Catholics -- who reject scientific evidence supporting global warming, said both Insua and Misleh.

Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima, Washington, episcopal moderator for Catholic Climate Covenant, said he knows firsthand the impact of climate change.

During a pastoral visit two years ago to a parish in that state, he witnessed "the entire town ... encircled by flames" from field fires sparked due to lack of rainfall. The blazes displaced some 15 parish families, even as "waves of smoke" drifted from Canada from other fires, creating hazardous working conditions for nearby fieldworkers harvesting fruits.

Like Pope Francis, Bishop Tyson decried "the lack of progress by our society, including our church, in addressing this crisis."

Misleh said the new exhortation's call was prophetic, evoking the words of the Lord, spoken through Moses, to the ancient Israelites as recorded in Deuteronomy 30:19: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live."

Read the full letter from Pope Francis here: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html



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CTO offers tuition assistance for Catholic schools

By Nicole Evans
Contributing Writer

Brian Kolhaas was raised in Catholic schools.

He wants the same benefit – of having the Catholic faith infused in all aspects of life – for his children.

“Growing up, we started school with prayer, started classes with prayer, and ended the day with prayer. Athletic contests began with prayer. Seeing that as important when I was growing up, I wanted that for my children, too,” he said.

He believes so strongly in a Catholic education, he was willing to make the sacrifices that would be necessary to have his three children go through St. Albert Catholic School.

The Catholic Tuition Organization has helped the Kolhaas family and thousands more choose a Catholic school in the Diocese of Des Moines through tuition assistance. Donations come to the CTO, which gives the funds to students that need tuition assistance. Donors receive a 75% tax credit on their state income taxes for their contribution to the CTO.

“We’ve been blessed that

since inception, the Catholic Tuition Organization has given nearly \$50 million in awards in tuition assistance” in central and southwest Iowa, said CTO Executive Director Mark Reed.

This year, he’s trying to raise \$4.5 million to give to families for next school year. He hasn’t reached that goal yet and he’s running out of time. The donations to the CTO must be in by the end of the year for donors to qualify for the 75% tax credits from the state.

This current school year, there were more families that qualified for tuition assistance than ever before, Reed said. The majority of students are from families whose total income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, their total income was less than \$60,000.

The CTO doesn’t cover the entire cost of tuition for a student in a Catholic school in the Des Moines Diocese, but it helps. Awards ranged from 10 percent to 49 percent of the tuition.

Despite the availability of state offered Education Savings Accounts, there is still a need for donations to the CTO to assist students of families in need. CTO awards will be used first for

tuition. If a family has ESA funding, that will be used after CTO awards to help cover the balance of tuition. Any remaining funds from the ESA will be held in the student’s account for future tuition needs or an ESA qualifying expense like tutoring or a computer.

The need is great, Reed said.

“We have a school where upwards of 90 percent of their kids get CTO awards and several other schools where more than 50 percent of their students qualify for and have received awards,” he said.

“Donors know their money is going to the most needy students and they get a 75% tax credit in return,” Reed said.

Kolhaas says his whole family benefits from their children at St. Albert.

“I didn’t have a lot of ties when we first started with our oldest daughter at St. Albert. But we quickly found other families and made those connections quickly,” he said.

The CTO tuition assistance has helped his family. Kolhaas said, “Every little bit helps.”

To contribute to the CTO, visit CTOIowa.org or call Reed at 515-237-5010.

Synod begins work with focus on Holy Spirit and listening

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis opened the work of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops asking members to meditate on ancient theological texts about the Holy Spirit, have the courage to be honest about their disagreements, and focus much more on listening than on sharing their opinions.

The synodal process “is not easy, but it’s beautiful, very beautiful,” Pope Francis told some 364 other synod members and 85 non-voting experts, ecumeni-

cal delegates and facilitators the afternoon of Oct. 4 as the synod work began in the Vatican audience hall.

“A certain asceticism” is needed for the synod, the pope said.

He asked forgiveness from journalists trying to cover the monthlong meeting but insisted “a certain fasting from public words” would be needed to ensure the proper spiritual atmosphere for the synod members.

Pope Francis also repeated

what he has said many times: “the synod is not a parliament” where the ideas of opposing parties will be debated and voted up or down along party lines.

Neither, he said, is it “a meeting of friends” getting together to exchange opinions and try to solve problems they see around them.

“The synod is a journey that the Holy Spirit makes,” he said, so constant prayer and listening are necessary to follow the path the Spirit indicates.

Pope names first woman secretary of dicastery for religious

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has appointed a woman for the first time to be the No. 2 official of the Roman Curia office that works with religious orders and their members.

Consolata Missionary Sister Simona Brambilla will be secretary of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the Vatican announced Oct. 7.

According to Vatican statistics published in February, there are nearly 609,000 professed religious women in the world. There are just under 50,000 religious brothers and just over 128,000 religious-order priests.

For decades women religious and many bishops decried the lack of women in top leadership roles at the dicastery which is called to promote religious life, including approving the statutes of religious congregations, when the vast majority of them are communities of women.

Sister Brambilla, a 58-year-old Italian, has been an external member of the dicastery since 2019. She served two terms as superior of the Consolata Missionary Sisters, leading the congregation from 2011 to May 2023.

Happy Anniversary

Permanent deacons ordained
30 years ago, Oct. 9, 1993 in
Cohort 9:



Deacon Jeff Boehlert
Deacon Marvin Brewer
Deacon David Garza
Deacon David Lovell
Deacon Dennis Lovell
Deacon Dennis Luft
Deacon Tom Starbuck
Deacon Steve Van Kerckwoorde
Deacon Charles Wolford
Deacon Richard (Dick) Ziller

We remember the late Deacon George Catanzano, Deacon Clarence Christensen, Deacon Dan McGuire, and Deacon Stephen Rallis, who was ordained with this group.

Permanent deacons ordained 40 years ago, Oct. 8, 1983
in Cohort 6:

Deacon Jim Doyle
Deacon Gregg Erickson
Deacon Gene Jager
Deacon Mike McCarthy
Deacon Edward Miller
Deacon Alan Richardson

We remember the late Deacon Raymond Rocha and Deacon Mark Stageman, who were ordained with this group.

Des Moines Catholic Worker House Fund

Do you have an upcoming Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA? Do you have a donor advised fund? The Des Moines Catholic Worker House Fund is a 501c(3) non-profit. Your donations would be used to support the hospitality ministry of the Des Moines Catholic Worker House by providing food and other necessities to the homeless population of Des Moines.

Donations can be sent to
Des Moines Catholic Worker House Fund
P.O. Box 1386 Ankeny, Iowa 50021
Or call 515-778-6428

Director of Faith Formation

St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Harlan, Iowa is seeking a Director of Faith Formation for grades K-12. St. Michael’s is a parish of approximately 500 families with over 100 students in the Faith Formation program. The Director of Faith Formation should have strong communication and organizational skills as well as a commitment to the importance of good catechesis in developing the faith of our youth. Job responsibilities include: management of faith formation weekly programming as well as special liturgical events; coordinating all Sacraments and ensuring that diocesan requirements are met; recruiting catechists and making sure they meet safe environment standards.

Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and live a life that is compatible with all Church teachings. A degree in education or theology or related fields is preferred or religious education experience.

Applicants should also be familiar with social media and have strong computer skills and be willing to collaborate with pastor and parish staff.

Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume to Fr. Clement Owusu, 1912 18th St., Harlan, Iowa 51537, or email to secretary@stmichaelparish.com.

Applications will be taken until the position is filled. EOE

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In God's generosity, I've received a full life.

I have a fulfilling job, in a community I love, while my wife and I get to raise five beautiful children.

It's a full life, but at regular intervals this fullness can easily turn into feeling overwhelmed. This feeling is a common struggle in our present age. Quite a few books have been written about the phenomena and its proposed cures.

One factor certainly is our culture's overemphasis on productivity. Many people are pressured into measuring their

Marriage & Family Life



By Adam Storey

worth by their output, and so busyness becomes a badge of honor and accomplishments become more important than identity.

Even as I push against our cult of

busyness, I'd be lying if I said I don't get sucked into it at times. It's a recurring struggle in my life, and it's been on my heart as we enter again the season of fall.

Fall is a meaningful time to reflect on this challenge, as the days get shorter and the landscape prepares for the slumber of winter. It's as if creation itself is inviting us to take a breath, to slow down, and to just be.

I love the rhythm of the seasons, and the rhythm of our liturgical year for that matter, because it is constantly reminding us of truths we know in our heart, and con-

stantly inviting us deeper into the mysteries we've entered by baptism.

This fall my prayer is that I can make a bit more space to just be, to thank God for what he's given me and to rest in his presence.

May we all have the grace to do a little less this fall, and be a bit more.

Adam Storey leads Marriage & Family Life Ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines. He can be reached at 515-237-5056 or astorey@dmdiocese.org.

Ignite the fire of friendship

About 10 years ago, I attended a women's conference. Life was overwhelming at the time and I was searching; I went to adoration to find peace.

As I entered the chapel, I fell to my knees as I asked the heavy question on my heart: "What do you want of me, Lord?"

What I heard was "Meet me at 4 p.m." I knew instantly what that meant.

The office closed at 4 p.m., but I often stayed well past 6 p.m. I knew that God was asking me to leave the office on time and end my day with him in the chapel. Somehow I sensed this was not a one and done request, but an ongoing, daily visit.

Although I initially resisted, once I started, it became the best decision I could have made for myself. Every day I entered into my holy hour asking, "What do you want of me, Lord?" and as the year progressed, I grew in the knowledge that God was calling me to something more, but not yet.

My prayer shifted from trying to fig-

Food for the Journey



By Patty Mayer

ure it out, to listening and allowing Jesus to reveal what I needed to know in the moment. I came to love my time alone with Jesus in the chapel and I found the peace I was searching for at the conference.

Although nothing changed in my marriage or my ministry, life was no longer overwhelming. Some people ask, couldn't you have prayed like this at home? I could have prayed at home, but I believe that my time in prayer, in front of the tabernacle or in Adoration, offered me so much more.

A few years later, I read the words of Pope Francis that gave me words for my experience.

"Do you allow yourselves to be gazed upon by the Lord? But how do you do this? You look at the tabernacle and you let yourselves be looked at...it is simple! 'It is a bit boring; I fall asleep.' Fall asleep then, sleep! He is still looking at you. Know for sure that he is looking at you! ... This warms the heart, igniting the fire of friendship with the Lord, making you feel that he truly sees you, that he is close to you and loves you." (Pope Francis Address to the Participants at the International Congress on Catechesis, 27 September 2013)

Being in the loving presence of Jesus gave me more than I thought I needed or even deserved. Jesus' loving gaze provided me the peace, strength, and courage to continue to move forward and discern where he was calling me next.

The "next" in my story is where I am today.

Did you know that there is Eucharistic adoration at Our Lady's Immaculate

Heart Parish every Saturday morning from 8:30-10 a.m.? The St Michael chapel is also open anytime the building is open. In good times and bad times – come and allow Jesus gaze upon you!

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish is hosting 40 Hours in October. Although 40 hours is intended to be a time of continual prayer for 40 hours, we have intentionally created space for four 10-hour days throughout the month of October. Join us on Mondays. We have exposition after our normal 8:30 a.m. Mass, a speaker at 6:30 p.m., and benediction at 7 p.m. Speakers include Eileen Burke-Sullivan, Father Reed Flood, and April Young. All are welcome. For more details go to OLIH.org and click on Events.

Patty Mayer director of Adult Faith Formation | RCIA coordinator at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny.

Surrendering to Love

Father Ron Rolheiser



Perhaps all of Jesus' invitations to us can be summarized in one word, surrender. We need to surrender to love.

But why is that difficult? Shouldn't it be the most natural thing in the world? Isn't our deepest desire a longing to find love and surrender to it?

True, our deepest longing is to surrender to love, but we have some deep innate resistances to give ourselves over in surrender. Here are a couple of examples:

At the Last Supper in John's Gospel when Jesus tries to wash Peter's feet, he meets a stiff resistance from Peter – Never! I will never let you wash my feet! What's ironic here is that, perhaps more than anything else, Peter yearned precisely for that kind of intimacy with Jesus. Yet, when it's offered, he resists.

Another example might be seen in the struggles of Henri Nouwen. Nouwen, one of the most gifted spiritual writers of our generation, enjoyed immense popular-

ity. He published more than 50 books, was a much sought-after professor (tenured at both Harvard and Yale), received invitations daily to give talks and lectures around the world, and had many close friends.

And yet, inside all that popularity and adulation, surrounded by many friends who loved him, he was unable to let that love give him any real sense of being loved or of being lovable. Instead, through most of his life he labored inside a deep anxiety which had him believe that he wasn't lovable. On occasion this even landed him in clinical depression. And so, through most of his adult life, surrounded by so much love, he was haunted by a sense that he wasn't loved, nor worthy of being loved. Moreover, he was a deeply sensitive person who more than anything else wanted to surrender to love. What held him back?

In his own words, he was crippled by a deep wound he couldn't quite name and whose grip he couldn't shake. This was true for most of his adult life. Eventually, he was able to free himself from his deep wound and surrender to love. However, it took a traumatic death experience for that to happen. Standing too close to the highway at a bus-stop one morning, he was struck by the mirror of a passing van which sent him flying. Rushed to a hospital, for some hours he hovered between life and death. While in that state, he had a very

deep experience of God's love for him. He returned to full consciousness and normal life as a profoundly changed man. Now, after experiencing God's love for him, he could finally also surrender to human love in a way he had been incapable of previous to his "death" experience. All his subsequent books are marked by this conversion in love.

Why do we fight love? Why don't we surrender more easily? The reasons are unique to each of us. Sometimes we are dealing with a deep wound that leaves us feeling unlovable. But sometimes our resistance has less to do with any wound than it has to do with how we are unconsciously fighting the very love we so painfully seek. Sometimes, like Jacob in the Bible, we are unconsciously wrestling with God (who is Love) and consequently unconsciously fighting love.

In the Bible story where Jacob wrestles all night with a man, we see that in this struggle he has no idea that he is wrestling with God and with love. In his mind, he is wrestling with a foe he needs to conquer. Eventually, when the darkness of the night gives way to more light, he sees what he is wrestling with – and it is a surprise and shock to him. He realizes he is fighting love itself. With that realization, he gives up struggling and instead clings to the very force he had been previously fighting, with

the plea: "I will not let you go, until you bless me!"

This is the final lesson we need to learn in love: We wrestle for love with every talent, cunning, and strength inside us. Eventually, if we are fortunate, we have an awakening. Some light, often a crippling defeat, shows us the true face of what we have been wrestling with and we realize that it's not something to be conquered, but it's the very love to which we have been longing to surrender.

For many of us, this will be the great awakening in our lives, a waking up to the fact that in all our ambitions and schemes to show the world how worthwhile and lovable we are, we are in unconscious ways fighting the very love to which we ultimately want to surrender. And, usually, as with Jacob in the biblical story, it will take the defeat of our own strength and a permanent limp before we realize what we are fighting against is really that to which we most want to surrender.

And this is surrender, not resignation, something we give ourselves over to rather than something that defeats us.

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



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