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. Augustine 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 Damian 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

Catholic Charities sees jump in need

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

Earlier this year, the aver-age 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 pan-try. In August and September, 880 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 sev-en-year employee at the Catho-lic 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 lead-ing 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 under-stands it.”

Leto also notes that chang-es to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously known as the Food Stamp Program, have also con-trIBUTED 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 land-fill is rescued before it expires and is provided to the visitors to

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 be-cause when he checked off one thing, he’d just add another,” said his friend, Father Dan Krettek.

Deacon Bartemes, who em-braced 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 em-braced 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 experi-ences brought great joy to Dave’s life in the here and now,” he said.

In a homily at the funeral for Dea-con Bartemes on Oct. 16, Deacon Bartemes had a di-vine 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

Continued on page 5

continued on page 5
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 this new one, Deus Pater (Praise God for all his creatures) (LD), issued this month on the Oct. 4 feast of his namesake, the Holy Father ad- dresses not only Catholics, but all people of good will. He is in- creasingly concerned that humans have not acted swiftly and seri- ously 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 condi- tions: that they be efficient, obliga- tory, and readily monitored.”

Only then can restorative pro- cesses be set in motion that will be “drastic, intense, and count on apocalyptic, and readily monitored.”

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 appeal in Laudato Deum, (Praise God for all nations and other bodies to enact “binding forms of energy transition that meet three condi- tions: that they be efficient, obliga- tory, and readily monitored.”

In Laudato Si’, Pope Francis makes many pointed mention of scientific data to further his case that we need lifestyle con- version from reckless consump- tion to responsible use of the 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 coun- ters with what he finds is a prepon- derance of scientific evidence to bolster his position.

This stance supports what he calls the “anthropic principle” that humans are the cause of dra- matic climate change and extreme weather phenomena that deviate from normal climatic patterns

Bishop William Joensen

As noted, the Pope is in his natural habitat, behind the camera, with a Sony A7rII, lens 16-35mm, f/4.5, ISO 400, exposure 1/320. (LD n. 24). One isn’t sure if the pope is speaking ironically or apologetically as he suggests we might flir the dire prospect that we become an “age which was so advanced as to be actually the last one” (LD n. 28).

Pope Francis offers to the- mic social teaching with its em- phasis on subsidiarity, the precept that those closest to situations should share authority to make decisions impacting them selves (LD n. 37). In his usual synthet- ic approach, he calls for a new form of multilateralism that will supersede the status of old multi- lateral bodies such as the United Nations and “a new multilateralism from below” (LD n. 27).

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 dismiss the limits of the Lord requires... We wonder what the Lord requires... Finally, this phrase is a sort of “coup de grâce” in the exhortation’s next-to-last paragraphs with genuine Christian hope. Pope Francis contends, “Artificial intelligence and the latest technolo- gies innovations start with the verbalisation of human intentions along the way and have in- tended to simplify the complex and ever-changing 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 global population disturbs the entire earth’s system 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 seven times greater than those of individ- uals living in China, and about seven times greater than the United States are about two seven times greater than the average change—he does not judge the position of those who reject the exhortation’s next-to-last paragraph. “And what is the mean- ing of my life?” I wonder if these lean refer- ences to Christ might be intended to broaden the receptive toward this message among “all people of good will,” particularly among those who will be presented with Pope Francis’ exhortation and anyone who might be given sufficient space 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 fully prepared to participate with leaders in various sectors of soci- ety to advance the needed chang- es in policy and practice that will change the course of our lives, and allow God to save us from ourselves.

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 Archdio- cese 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.

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.

Faithfully in Christ

Most Rev. William Joensen, Ph.D.

Bishop
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.

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 Freemont 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 struggle 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 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.”
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 Goesser’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 Goesser, 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. Goesser’s daughter and her family live in the house adjacent to the prayer space, and out of respect for their privacy, it is open only to their family.

Goesser 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 in 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.”

Anastasi wants to name it “The Island” after her father, while she wants to name it St. Robert, after her father.

Find news, photos and inspiring stories on our Facebook page. Look us up! Facebook.com/dmdioocese

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.

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 months, 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)

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’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.

Eucharistic Prayer


Paid Advertisement

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.
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 Martinis 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 relic, said Father Martin. “Even if people don’t get the miracle they desire, God will give them what they do need,” he said.

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, although over several days as seats were available on departures through Paris, Dubai and Qatar.

Dear friends,

I pray for all those families that saw a day of celebration become a day of mourning” Oct. 7, the pope said. “And let us continue to be moved by the pain of Gaza, since we are now witnessing a death toll of more than 950 Palestinians and said 5,000 others 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 let me say to you, to the world, that you are not alone. I am here with you. I am with you.”

Israel’s tightening siege on Gaza and its impact on innocent civilians.

“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 to the Diocese of Des Moines. “The cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Jerusalem, where we began our day, is now our end.”

After returning home, we were able to travel by bus to the Dome of the Rock, the site where Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended into heaven. We were able to travel by bus to the Dome of the Rock, the site where Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended into heaven. We were able to travel by bus to the Dome of the Rock, the site where Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended into heaven. We were able to travel by bus to the Dome of the Rock, the site where Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended into heaven.

Get your tickets online: www.pulseforlife.org
**Around the Diocese**

**Monday, October 26, 2023**

**Fish & Chicken dinners**

**INDIANOLA** — The Indianola Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken dinners at St. Thomas Aquinas parish hall. Dinner time is 5-7 p.m. on Thurs. Oct. 26, with carry-outs. $13; children 6 to 12/$6; children 5 and under free. Our fish and chicken breading comes from real flour. Boy Scout Troop 123 will be hosting a dessert table. Check out our Facebook page “Indianola Knights”.

**Choir retreat**

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** — Author and Oklahoma State University professor Mary Ashour will speak in a bi-monthly series on Theology of the Body. For more information, contact Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or calling Adam Storey at 515-237-5046.

**Fall Craft Show**

**WINTERSET** — St. Joseph Parish is hosting a holiday bazaar 8:30 - 1:30 p.m. at St. Pius X in Urbandale. 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. Call 515-480-3314 (Bill) 641-257-5046 for more information.

**Staley’s Broasted Chicken Dinner**

**Staley’s Broasted Chicken Dinner** is being held at St. John’s Catholic Church in Council Bluffs on Oct. 25. The dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and will be served on the church parking lot. 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 715-893-4948 or come to the parish office to get your tickets.

**Community Baby Shower**

**Community Baby Shower** is being held in their honor. Cards may be mailed to Don and Karen 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.

**Mascots ignite a sense of pride and community**

**Mascots ignite a sense of pride and community**

**Hibernians contribute to Seminarian Fund**

**Hibernians contribute to Seminarian Fund**

**John Langan (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!**

**Happy 70th wedding anniversary!**

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

**Donald and Jollileen Klein were married Nov. 10, 1953 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ewing. 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; Barb (Lise) 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 Jollileen Klein, 203 Y Street, Apt. 1, Dunlap, IA 51529.**

**Iowan serves Christian Family Movement**

**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.**

**Mercy College debuts new mascot**

**Mercy College debuts new mascot**

**Mercy College Health Science Health** has a new mascot to represent the community: the Mercy 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 pride in, from its Catholic heritage to its exceptional educational and health care 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 identity and place in the community, and it aims to share this sense of belonging with everyone.”

**Victim Assistance Advocate**

**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 PorteR@polkcounty.ia.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.”**

**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 Brown of Red Bird Ministries, Catholic fathers grieving child loss
- Nov. 3 - Stephen Minis, president of Benedictine College
- Nov. 10 - Christine Shauer, of MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center, on healthcare and veterans.

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**Call 515-237-5046 or email communications@dmdiocese.org.**

**Heather Honkomp**
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.

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 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 Ave., 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.

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Parish women’s retreat focuses on service

St. Mary Parish in Avoca hosted a women’s retreat on Sept. 23 entititled “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.
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.

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 in the metropolitan tribunal, then-Father Zinkula also worked as judicial vicar from 2000-2010, and as episcopal vicar from 2012-2014. From 2014 until 2020, he was rector of St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque. He earned a licentiate of Canon law in 1998 from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario.

As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect the dignity of every human life. 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.

Archbishop-elect Zinkula before his ordination as Davenport’s bishop in 2004, when 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.

“Archbishop-elect Zinkula has been a leader and a pastor for so many years. I’m happy when I saw the announcement.”

The Catholic Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.
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Families enjoy restored prairie

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.

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish’s pastor, Father Adam Westphal, blesses a prairie by the church.

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‘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 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.”

Laudato 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, episopal 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 the 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/franciscus/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco-apostolic-exhortation-laudate-deum.html

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OSV News

Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live.
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, ecumenical 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 said “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.

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

Hiring

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 Ossuuw, 5121 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 phenomenon and its proposed cures. One factor certainly is our culture’s overemphasis on productivity. Many people are pressured into measuring their 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 break, 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 consciously 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 515-237-3056 or astrorey@dmdiocease.org.
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