

# THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 56, No. 4

April 21, 2023

## ‘We are witnesses of all that he did’



Photo by David Ortega

Father Emmanuel Missihu, who was visiting from Togo washes feet on Holy Thursday at St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines.



Photo by Kevin Cox

Fathers Jacob Epstein and Luis Mejia carry the Eucharist out of Corpus Christi/Queen of Apostles Church to the parish hall for all-night adoration on Holy Thursday.



Photo by Father Litto Thomas

Seventh grader Christopher Hernandez-Ruiz, a student at St. Patrick Catholic School in Perry, re-enacts the Stations of the Cross.



At left: Father Michael Amadeo, pastor of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, baptizes Sharissa Johnson at the Easter Vigil.

The Diocese of Des Moines welcomed 112 people into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Some were catechumens, like Johnson, who had never been baptized into a Christian faith. Others were candidates, those who have been baptized but had not received their First Eucharist or confirmation.

## Annual priest assignments announced

Bishop William Joensen has made the following appointments effective July 13.

### Father Michael Berner

Father Michael Berner will be retiring after serving as pastor of Our Lady of Grace in Griswold, and St. Timothy in Reno/Cumberland.



Father Berner devoted his 37 years of priestly ministry primarily to serving rural parts of the Des Moines Diocese.

After attending St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs, he attended Creighton University and Notre Dame/Moreau Seminary. He was ordained in 1986 at St. Ambrose Cathedral by Bishop Gerald O'Keefe.

After ordination, he served for three years at Holy Spirit Parish in Creston; St. Edward Parish in Afton; and St. Patrick Parish in Lenox.

In 1989, he began two years of service at St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines, then served for a year at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny.

He returned to serving rural areas of the Diocese including: St. Patrick in Audubon; Holy Trinity

in Exira; St. Joseph in Earling; St. Peter in Defiance, St. Anne in Logan, Holy Family in Mondamin; St. Patrick in Missouri Valley; Corpus Christi in Council Bluffs; Ss. Peter and Paul in Atlantic; St. Mary in Anita; Our Lady of Grace in Griswold; and St. Timothy in Reno/Cumberland.

### Father Raphael Masabakhwa

Father Raphael Masabakhwa will be going on sick leave.

Originally from Kenya, he attended high school, college and seminary in Kenya. He earned a master's degree in sociology from Marquette University in

Milwaukee, and studied theology at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.

He was ordained in 1995 at St. Ambrose Cathedral by Bishop Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S.

Father Masabakhwa served primarily in rural areas in the Diocese. After ordination, he served at St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs. Beginning in 2005, he began serving for 12 years at St. Patrick Parish in Neola and St. Columbanus Parish in Weston.

In 2015, he began serving at



St. Patrick in Missouri Valley and St. Anne in Logan.

### Father Nicholas Smith

Father Nicholas Smith is moving from parochial vicar at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, to parochial vicar at Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

Father Smith attended Dowling Catholic High School, St.



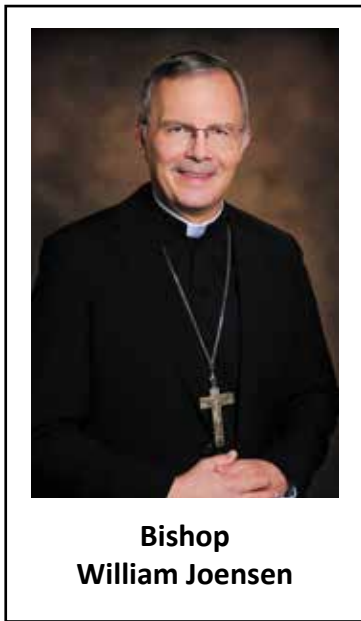
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# Called into the wild

The last Sunday of this April is designated as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. While we often reflect on the baptismal priesthood of the faithful to a lay vocation at work in the work, to the marital vocation to be spouses and parents who lay down their lives for one another and their offspring, or the singular vocation to give witness as a disciple of Jesus without the yoke of marriage or of orders or consecrated vows, this particular day is in fact dedicated to prayer for vocations to the diaconate, the priesthood, and consecrated life. Hence, I offer the following reflection, with the hope of stirring vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese of Des Moines.

Not long ago I had lunch with a couple from Iowa whose son died twelve years ago in an auto accident. He was a former student of mine whom I mentored and supported: very intelligent and creative, a romantic of sorts, given to profound mood swings. At one point he caused great distress for his family and friends as he was inspired by the movie, "Into the Wild," to simply leave his familiar surroundings and disappear for several days. He was eventually found walking along a highway several hundred miles away, carrying only a backpack. After he died, I was the one to meet his parents and family and pray with them in the makeshift hospital morgue as they beheld



**Bishop  
William Joensen**

the body of their beloved son.

The last twelve years have been a rollercoaster of emotions for his parents, with alternating moments of faith and unbelief, but they have remained together and found some peace in their grief. At the end of our lunch together, they gave me two personal items that belonged to their son: a decade finger rosary, and a little glazed ceramic stone with his name, 'Christian', embossed on it—probably given to him on a college retreat.

I accepted the items as sacred objects consecrated by suffering, memory, and undying love—handed over to me as an act of great generosity and friendship—and as a sign of letting go, entrusting their son to another. I

will cherish both items, remember his family, pray for them and their son Christian. It's not simply because the stone is circular, pale in color, that it seems like a little host. It's because what was exchanged between us was a Eucharistic act, deriving its meaning and reference from what Jesus does when he mysteriously draws us into the room the night before Passover when he radically hands himself over in the service of love. In a world that one day will end, his is a love that never ends.

Jesus Christ is the only Son and consummate gift of the Father to us. In taking on flesh, Jesus embarks on a mission of mercy. He anticipates the sacrificial death he freely undergoes by forming a new covenant community centered on his very person, his Body and Blood. Jesus becomes a priest without precedence even within the Jewish story of salvation, for he both offers sacrifice on behalf of others, and is the one who is sacrificed. Jesus is the only person who can meet our hunger and thirst on his terms, filling us with his presence and grace, transforming us into his Body. Our hearts are laid bare in this encounter with the Blessed Sacrament, our participation in the Eucharistic remembrance to "eat this, drink this. Be this to one another." For as St. Bernard of Clairvaux realized, "The measure of love is to love without measure."

By grace and faith, we recognize that to suffer for love's sake, to release and give ourselves away, is our most profound source of joy. Yet, we are also honest to confess that if we are to sustain this way of being to the end as Christ did, we must be replenished by him OFTEN, by receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist, adoring him, allowing him to accompany us in all the places and pathways of our lives—our homes, the sites where we labor, take leisure, laugh and cry, give thanks and grieve.

Yet for this to happen, we need men whose hearts are stirred and drawn by the Master of mercy, truth, and love to give themselves away to God and his Church as ordained priests who speak those inimitable words in the person of Christ, the head of the Body: "This is my Body, which will be given up for you." "This is my Blood, the Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant which will be poured out for you and for many." We need priests, men who imitate the Good Shepherd who seeks out the lost sheep. God's people need priests who are willing to venture "into the wild" where sickness, poverty, loneliness, abide—not to disappear forever, but so that others can find Jesus present to them, healing, strengthening, sealing love, forgiving and commending them to God.

Christ is calling men here and now in the Diocese of

Des Moines to let them exchange his heart for theirs, sacramentally recreating them by the Spirit, ordering them to the Body becoming whole. Our people desire priests we can relate to—who come from among our families and friends, our parishes and immigrant communities, our circles of work and play. We need priests who can help us remember: remember what Jesus did on Holy Thursday, remember who we are in God's sight, who love unto death and to life. We depend on priests to help us believe that "all my sufferings already belong, in advance, more to him" than to myself.

As we cherish the Eucharist, as well as the gift of priestly vocations and the gift of our faith, I call to mind many, including Christian and his parents. Each of us is afforded the chance to receive—not a stone embossed with our name—but the circular Host who is Christ himself, who hands himself over to us. As we—and in particular, men who are pondering whether they are called to the ordained priesthood of Jesus Christ—offer ourselves in service, sacrifice, and ever-unfolding love, we become worthy of the name of 'Christian'. This is a gift beyond merit or measure, a mystery we hope never to forsake or forget.

## Llamado a Rutas Salvajes

El último domingo de abril está designado como el Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones. Aunque reflexionamos frecuentemente sobre el bautis-

mo sacerdotal de los fieles a una vocación laboral como laicos en su lugar de trabajo, a la vocación matrimonial para ser esposos y padres quienes entregan su vida uno al otro y en su descendencia, o a la vocación especial de dar testimonio como discípulo de Jesús sin el yugo del matrimonio o de órdenes o votos como consagrado, este día en particular está de hecho dedicado a la oración por vocaciones al diaconado, al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada. Por lo tanto, ofrezco la siguiente reflexión, con la esperanza de motivar vocaciones al sacerdocio en nuestra Diócesis de Des Moines.

No hace mucho tiempo, estaba almorzando con una pareja de Iowa cuyo hijo había muerto hace doce años en un accidente

automovilístico. Él había sido mi estudiante a quien yo había apoyado y orientado; muy inteligente y creativo, con cierto romanticismo, con grandes altibajos emocionales. Hubo un punto en el que causó gran preocupación a su familia y amigos ya que, inspirado por la película, "Hacia Rutas Salvajes" (se llamaba "Into the Wild" en inglés) decidió dejar su ambiente familiar y desaparecer por varios días. Eventualmente lo encontraron caminando por la carretera a varios cientos de millas de casa, llevando consigo solamente una mochila. Después de su muerte, a mí me tocó reunirme con sus padres y familiares y orar con ellos en el ambiente de la morgue del hospital mientras

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## Dubuque archbishop retires

Dubuque Archbishop Michael Jackels' request to retire early for medical reasons was accepted April 4; Des Moines Bishop Emeritus Richard Pates was named apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Dubuque pending the appointment of a new archbishop.

Archbishop Jackels was appointed as Archbishop of Dubuque on April 8, 2013 and led the archdiocese through the Covid-19 pandemic, times of economic prosperity and uncertainty,

global conflicts, societal struggles on the topics of politics, racism, and right-to-life issues, and most recently an archdiocesan participation in the global synod process announced by Pope Francis.

Bishop Pates retired from the Des Moines Diocese in 2019. Since then, he served as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois from December of 2019 to September 2020 and the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota from April to December of 2021.



## Official

Bishop William Joensen made the following appointments effective July 13, 2023.

**Rev. Michael Berner**, from pastor of Our Lady of Grace, Griswold, and St. Timothy, Reno/Cumberland, to retirement.

**Rev. Raphael Masabakhwa**, from pastor of St. Anne, Logan, and St. Patrick, Missouri Valley, to medical leave.

**Rev. David Fleming**, from pastor of St. Pius X, Urbandale, to sabbatical. He will receive a new assignment upon completion of his sabbatical.

**Rev. Trevor Chicoine**, to pastor, Our Lady of Grace, Griswold; and St. Timothy, Reno/Cumberland, while remaining pastor of St. Peter and Paul, Atlantic; and St. Mary, Anita; and to the role of Vicar for Divine Worship.

Bishop William Joensen made the following appointment effective April 14, 2023.

**Rev. Mr. Emmet Tinley**, from St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs, to retirement.

*William Joensen*

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

*Jason Kurth*

Jason Kurth  
Chancellor

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# Sacramental oils blessed, ready for parish use



Photo by Tarcicio Guadarrama

**Bishop William Joensen blesses oils that will be used in the sacramental life of the Church in the Diocese. Assisting the Bishop is seminarian Mike Mahoney.**



Photo by Julie Williamson

**Oils in the above image have been blessed and are ready to be poured into individual containers for the 80 parishes in the Diocese of Des Moines.**

During the annual diocesan Chrism Mass on March 31, Bishop William Joensen and all the priests of the Diocese called upon the Holy Spirit as they consecrated holy Chrism and blessed oils that will be used in sacraments throughout the year.

**Chrism** was consecrated. All those to be baptized, confirmed, or ordained as priests or bishops will be anointed with this oil. The Chrism, named for Christ the Anointed One, will also be used to anoint new church buildings and altars that serve the holy and anointed people of God.

**Oil of the Catechumens** is used for baptism, both for infants and adults.

**Oil of the Sick** is used in pastoral care of those who are ill or infirm from illness of mind or body, accidents or advanced age.

The Chrism Mass was held at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Atlantic, a midpoint between the east and the west sides of the Diocese. The Mass rotates with one year in a rural parish and one year at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Next year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the cathedral in Des Moines.



Photo by Julie Williamson

**About 30 people from three parishes came together to prepare the oils for distribution to parishes.**



Photo by Julie Williamson

**Several young people preparing for the sacrament of confirmation from Ss. Peter and Paul in Atlantic and St. Patrick in Massena helped prepare the oils for distribution.**



Photo by Julie Williamson

**At the conclusion of Chrism Mass, representatives from each parish could pick up their order of oils and bring it back to their parish for use throughout the year.**

## Catholic Charities is turning 100

Founded in September of 1924 by Bishop Thomas W. Drumm, Catholic Charities of Des Moines has grown and expanded in its 99 years of social ministry service to those in need within the Des Moines Diocese.

Were you a member of our team at some point in that journey?

Were you affected by our services as we expanded our programming over the years?

Have you supported our efforts to empower individuals and strengthen families by giving of your time, talents, or treasure?

We want to hear from you! The centennial celebration in 2024 is sure to be one for the record books!

Help us prepare for this monumental occasion by sharing

your stories of impact and inspiration with us.

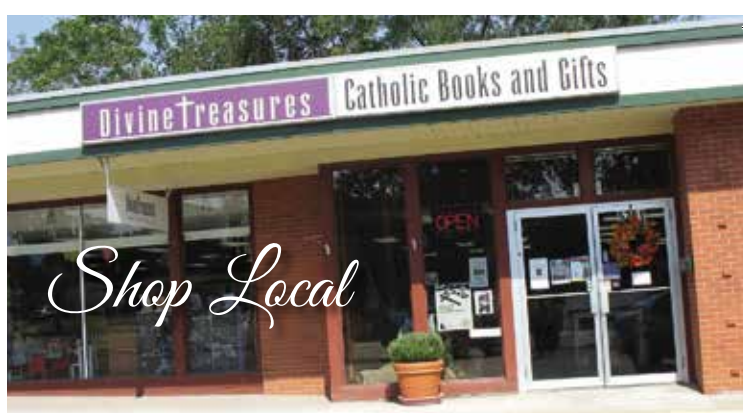
1. What is/was your relationship with Catholic Charities?

2. Share a story or memory of your employment or engage-

ment at Catholic Charities.

3. What one way should Catholic Charities celebrate its 100 year history/legacy?

Email your responses to [bsmith@catholiccharitiesdm.org](mailto:bsmith@catholiccharitiesdm.org).



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# Faith family cheers for basketball star

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

Caitlin Clark took her home state—and fans far beyond—on a thrilling ride to the University of Iowa women’s basketball team’s first appearance in the national championship game.

Though the Hawkeyes fell to Louisiana State University, Clark and her team demonstrated traits that her Catholic school alma maters—St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School and Dowling Catholic High School, both in West Des Moines—try to instill in all of their students: teamwork and good sportsmanship.

“Catholic education is about formation of the whole person, not just the mind,” said her pastor, Father Joe Pins, of St. Francis Parish. “Obviously athletics is a big part of that as well.”

In a postgame broadcast interview April 2, Clark talked about how her playing, which attracted national attention, affects the next generation of players.

“I want my legacy to be the impact that I have on young kids and the people in the state of Iowa,” she said. “I hope I brought them a lot of joy this season.”

Boy, did she!

“We’re just loving this,” said Shelley Goodell. She and a few dozen St. Francis parishioners gathered at St. Francis Parish March 31 to watch Clark’s Hawkeyes upset top-ranked South Carolina in the Final Four.

“There could not be a more perfect place to cheer her on than the place of her origin and the place where it all started,” Goodell said. “She’s confident. She’s a team player. She’s very humble. I think she represents what’s best about being raised in the Catholic faith. She really is the perfect role model for all the kids.”

Students at St. Francis School see Clark succeeding on the court and are amazed she



Photo credit: UI Athletics



top left: Caitlin Clark, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, helped take the Iowa Hawkeyes to the women’s college basketball championship this spring. Top right, fellow parishioners watched the Final Four game together to cheer Clark and the team on. Bottom left: Dowling Catholic High School girls basketball coach Kristin Meyer is seen with Clark toward the end of a triple overtime win in Clark’s junior year. Bottom right: Dowling staff Kasey Tickel, Lauri Stilwill and Meyer in Dallas at the Final Four game.

walked the same halls they do, said parent Maggie DeWitte. Last Friday, the school celebrated their alumna by lining the halls and clapping, which they typically do for graduating students.

“It was just a good memory for those kids,” she said.

Clark’s former coach at Dowling Catholic, Kristin Meyer, said Clark and a few other players worked with her to create the three Dowling Catholic Girls Basketball team pillars: tradition, love, and consistency.

“I think Caitlin lives out our

team pillars at an extremely high level,” Meyer said. “Caitlin absolutely loved wearing a Dowling Catholic jersey when she was in high school, and representing our school and community. She grew up watching her older cousins and older brother play at Dowling

Catholic and hearing stories from her mom and aunts and uncles who attended Dowling Catholic, and her grandfather who coached and was a school counselor here.”

Even in high school, Clark gave her time to positively influence younger players.

“Caitlin was always willing to give time and energy to work with younger players at our youth camps, visit with youth teams and promote Dowling Catholic and girls basketball in general,” Meyer said. “Caitlin knows she is in the spotlight and wants to inspire and encourage young athletes to dream big and then put in the work to achieve those dreams just like she has.”

Clark’s fellow St. Francis parishioners took note of her spending time after games signing autographs and posing for pictures.

“She’s so good about recognizing kids after games,” said Annette Wanek.

Clark has elevated the visibility of women’s basketball overall, said Jim Wanek.

“Quite a few people are following her and commenting on her skills and ability,” he said.

Father Pins said parishioners are just happy that the Clark family is a part of the parish faith family.

“I think we’re all very proud of the young lady whose made a great name for herself and worked hard and is dedicated,” he said.



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# Family joins in online prayer for 1,000+ days

By Elizabeth Elliott  
Contributing Writer

For more than 1,000 days, Deacon Reinhold “Renny” Kunze, of St. Brendan Parish in Leon, family and friends have prayed the Divine Mercy chaplet every day online.

They reached 1,000 days on the third Sunday of Advent in 2022.

Deacon Kunze said he mentioned to his five sisters in North Dakota and four children about the chaplet when the coronavirus pandemic began.

“Together we decided to say the chaplet every day at 8 p.m.,” he said. “A different person leads the chaplet and responds from the same location every day. The rest of us silence our phones to eliminate noise and listen and pray.”

Joining each night include his five sisters in North Dakota and granddaughter in Beaumont, Texas, among others.

He said the leader might mention a special intention of the world in need or a personal intention.

“We have invited other people as this is a conference call free of charge,” Kunze said. “We ask them to silence their phone as well.”

The chaplet concludes with the Hail Holy Queen, the Memorare, and the St. Michael Prayer,



Deacon Reinhold “Renny” Kunze, of St. Brendan Parish in Leon, has been praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day with his family for more than 1,000 days. Back row left to right: Mary Lindsey, Shelby Smith, Morgan Smith, Corey Lindsey, Tonya (Kunze) Lindsey, McKayla Herink, Troy Kunze, Zach Herink, Theresa (Kunze) Herink, Joe Herink, Tami (Kunze) Smith, and Brad Smith. Middle row, l-r: Tristan Herink, RJ Kunze, Macson Lindsey, Deacon Reinhold Kunze, Sandy Kunze, Phillip Kunze, and Elli (Smith) Vore. Front row, l-r: Trenton Herink, Tori Kunze, Lauren Smith, Maizee Lindsey, and Noah Herink.

and an additional prayer Deacon Kunze made up to St. Joseph during the year dedicated to St. Joseph.

“The other leaders had a prayer to St. Joseph as well,” he said. “Last year we prayed a prayer dedicated to the Eucharist. The leader chooses the prayer they may have for this intention. This year it is the same intention.”

Deacon Kunze said he ends with a special blessing for whatever the occasion may be to everyone who is on.

“Then we usually share any news we have with each other if you can get a word in edgewise as all phones come off silent after the final blessing,” he said.

Venerable Father Patrick Peyton, who used radio, television and film to promote the rosary, distributed a booklet on the rosary when Deacon Kunze was a child at home. The Kunze family had the booklet and prayed the rosary and night prayers together. Father Peyton’s motto was: “A family that prays together, stays

together.”

“Now with four children, 15 grandchildren, and 3 and a half great grandchildren, I am so thankful our family practices their faith and we still pray together in such a troubled world,” Deacon Kunze said. “Our son Troy, who is disabled, has never missed a night and Macson, our youngest grandson, loves to lead when it is his turn.”

Anyone is welcome to join their nightly Divine Mercy Chaplet. Dial into a conference num-

ber, 1-605-475-4000, a little before 8 p.m. every night. Follow the prompts and dial the access code of 618476# and 1 to confirm. It will ask to announce your name, which is optional.

“Most importantly when you have been connected, please press mute so there is no background noise during prayer,” Deacon Kunze said. “Also feel free to join the visit after prayer.”

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## Around the Diocese

### April 26 Wednesday Nourish for Caregivers

DES MOINES -- Nourish is an ongoing ministry that gathers once a month to support the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of family caregiver. The next meeting will be hosted at Holy Trinity School in the media center in Des Moines from 6-7:30 p.m.

### April 30 Sunday Community Poverty Simulation

WEST DES MOINES -- Interested in examining your beliefs about poverty? Are you willing to take the first step toward separating misconception from fact? The Center for Social Ministry invites you to participate in Re-Thinking Poverty, an experiential simulation that allows individuals to undertake living a month in poverty. Join us from 1:30-4 p.m. at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Cost is \$10. Register at [centerforsocialministry.com](http://centerforsocialministry.com) Register Online

### May 25 Thursday St. Vincent de Paul Golf Outing

PLEASANT HILL -- The St. Vincent de Paul Golf Fundraiser to Fight Hunger will be at Copper Creek Golf Course. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Registration is just \$150 per person and includes hosted food and beverages. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Randi Radosevich at [resource-director@svdpdsm.org](mailto:resource-director@svdpdsm.org) to register.

### June 3 Saturday Training for Sponsor Couples

DES MOINES -- The diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry will be offering a training for sponsor couples using Fully Engaged Program from 8

a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Please identify some couples in your community that would like to be part of this ministry. Call us if you have any questions: 515-237-5011 or 515-237-5051.

### June 22 Thursday Game Show Gala

DES MOINES -- The 2023 MercyOne House of Mercy Game Show Gala, presented by Community Choice Credit Union and produced by MercyOne Des Moines Foundation, will have doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the program start at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. It's a fun-spirited game show-style fundraiser for MercyOne House of Mercy, one of central Iowa's most comprehensive providers of behavioral health care, and the state's largest substance use disorder treatment program for parenting women with children. For more information, visit [MercyOne.org/desmoines/game-show-gala](http://MercyOne.org/desmoines/game-show-gala).

### July 22 Saturday Ignatian Retreat Day

URBANDALE -- Mark your calendar for Emmaus House's Annual Ignatian Retreat Day. The presenter this year is Amy Hoover, former director of the Creighton University Retreat Center and lay minister at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny. Held at St. Pius X in Urbandale, all are welcome to join us for a day of retreat. Watch our website for more details.

### Third Tuesday of the Month RISE: Special Needs Ministry

ANKENY-- RISE is an inclusive ministry that combines both teens and young adults in a fun, friendly, and energetic environment. Its pur-

pose is to provide young adults and teens with or without disabilities the opportunity to grow in friendship while engaging in service and social activities. They meet from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Register Mary Sankey at [marys@olih.org](mailto:marys@olih.org) or 515-964-3038 ext. 118.

### Other

#### Cathedral Holy Hours

All are welcome to join Bishop Joensen at St. Ambrose on Mondays for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer starting at 5 p.m. Evening prayer will be livestreamed on the Diocesan Facebook page.

#### May 4 through Sept. 28 Bishop Drumm Guild Garage Sale

JOHNSTON - This garage sale will be held each Thursday morning on Bishop Drumm's campus in Johnston from 8:30-12:30 pm. Donations are accepted on the Thursdays of the sale at the garage located on the campus or by calling Helen Thull at 515-669-4621. No computers, baby cribs or car seats, old electronics or TVs will be accepted.

#### Catholic Youth Camp

Sessions are beginning to near capacity for this summer at Catholic Youth Camp! Registering your campers today is the best way to ensure they get their preferred week and avoid the dreaded waitlist. Visit [stmcenter.com/sessions](http://stmcenter.com/sessions) today to see each week's availability. Volunteer counselor applications are also open. Anyone who will be 16 by May 1 is eligible to counsel. See attached flyers and visit [stmcenter.com/counselors](http://stmcenter.com/counselors) for more information and to apply today.

## CDA honors students



Julia Marsh, of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs, was honored for her essay in the category for grades 4-5. Looking on is emcee Jen Brown, of Spirit Catholic Radio Network.

### By Carol Hollenbeck Contributing Writer

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Anthony #330 of Council Bluffs, honored 71 award-winning students who participated in the court's annual Education Contest.

The court also presented a \$400 scholarship to elementary school Principal Pat Ryan during the March 27 awards dinner at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Council Bluffs.

This year's theme was "We Walk by Faith, not by Sight." Award-winning students showed

their work during the event. When young people demonstrate their deep faith in this way, it is moving and inspiring to all court members, staff, clergy, and parents who are present.

Members of the court presented awards to students in five categories: essay, computer art, photography, art, and poetry. There are three divisions: grades 4-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. Three nonpartisan adults do the judging.

The program was emceed by Spirit Catholic Radio host Jen Brown, and awards were selected and distributed by past Regent Mariann Hilderbrand.

## PRAY WITH US

For the last year, Bishop William Joensen and the Diocese of Des Moines have been praying to renew Eucharistic faith and worship among God's people and to ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance for the Diocese of Des Moines. As a strategic visioning process

continues, Bishop Joensen invites everyone to join him in praying that we will fulfill our share of God's mission in Southwest Iowa, so that every person might encounter Jesus Christ and experience his call to friendship and communion.

### Diocese of Des Moines Visioning Prayer

O God, you share with your people, your church, the mission to be the saving love of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a people of faith in southwest Iowa, send the Holy Spirit to ignite in us:

Sincere conversion to see, hear, think and act as Jesus;

Greater unity and bonds of peace;

Missionary zeal to spread good news that will spark a world aflame with love;

Genuine care for each other, especially those feeling lost or left out; and

Willingness to bear together the yoke that Christ makes light.

May our strategic visioning in the Diocese of Des Moines make us ever more focused, discerning, and free to fulfill our calling as a people made whole by the Heart of your Beloved Son.

Accompany us along the Way that leads to heaven, surrounded by Holy Mary, Joseph, and all the saints with whom we hope to dwell forever in communion with you,

+Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

### Diócesis de Des Moines Oración de Visión

Oh Dios, tú compartes con tu pueblo, tu Iglesia, la misión de ser el amor salvador de tu Hijo y nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo.

Como un pueblo de fe en el suroeste de Iowa, envía al Espíritu Santo para que encienda en nosotros:

una sincera conversión para ver, oír, pensar y actuar como Jesús;

una mayor unidad y lazos de paz;

un afán misionero para compartir la buena nueva encendiendo al mundo con amor;

un genuino cariño unos con los otros, especialmente con aquellos que se sienten perdidos o excluidos; y

el deseo de cargar juntos con el yugo que se hace ligero con Cristo.

Que nuestra visión estratégica en la Diócesis de Des Moines nos haga aún más enfocados, discernientes y libres para cumplir con nuestro llamado como pueblo que encuentra plenitud por el Corazón de tu Amado Hijo.

Acompáñanos en el Camino que nos lleva al cielo, rodeados de la María Santísima, José y todos los santos con quienes esperamos habitar por siempre en comunión contigo,

+Padre, Hijo, y Espíritu Santo. Amén.

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### 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](mailto:Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov).



## Mercy College welcomes new president

Dr. Adreain Henry was installed April 14 as the president of Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines.

Previously, he served as the chief academic officer and associate provost for Hallmark University in San Antonio, Texas, where he was formerly the dean of arts, sciences, graduate studies, and research.

A first-generation college student, he is a doctor of optometry. He also holds a doctorate in education in higher education management, a master's degree in business administration, and a master's degree in business.

Friends who honored Dr. Henry at a luncheon said he is a faith-filled man who is both confident in his leadership skills and a listener.



Dr. Adreain Henry

## St. Francis School gets new administrator

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in West Des Moines announced new leadership for the 2022-2023 school year.

Jeffrey G. Lynch will serve as the school administrator effective July 1. Lynch holds a bachelor's degree in education from Simpson College and a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership from Drake University.

He brings nearly three decades of expertise in education to the role and a passion for Catholic schools.

"With his love for Catholic education and years of experience, we are excited to have Mr. Lynch lead St. Francis School for years to come," said Father Joseph Pins, pastor of St. Francis Parish.

Lynch served as a high school teacher and a principal of a Catholic high school in Independence, Missouri. Prior to this, he served at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines as the assistant athletic director and a social studies teacher.



Jeffrey G. Lynch

## St. Joseph School gets new leadership

St. Joseph Catholic School in Des Moines announced new leadership for the 2023-2024 school year.

Lynn Ernst will be the school administrator effective July 1.

Ernst holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Loras College, a Certificate in Catholic School Leadership, and a master's degree in educational leadership from Creighton University.

"Lynn is a gifted educator and leader," said Donna Bishop, diocesan superintendent of Schools. "Her dedication to Catholic education is a blessing to the entire St. Joseph community and the Diocese as a whole."

With nearly three decades of expertise in education and a passion for Catholic schools, Ernst has taught in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, the Diocese of Sioux City, the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul, and is currently teaching at St. Anthony Catholic School in Des Moines. As a natural leader and collaborator, she has mentored new teachers while partnering with her peers to develop essential learnings, explore curricula, and promote growth for faculty and students.

## Catholic Foundation names new development director

Jodi Halligan has been named the new director of Development for the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa effective July 5.

"We are thrilled to bring Jodi into our team and to tap into her strong educational and interpersonal relationship background," said Sue McEntee, the foundation's executive director.

"Jodi's main focus will be to build planned giving within our Diocese and to work with individuals wanting guidance on how to best support their favorite Catholic entities beyond their lifetime," McEntee said.

Halligan has been a faith leader and educator within the Diocese for more than 16 years. Most recently, she served as the administrator at St. Joseph Catholic School in Des Moines. She'll use her skills in education, stewardship, and personal relationship areas to connect faith to philanthropy and investing.



Jodi Halligan

# Longtime minister to the deaf community wins national honor

By Elizabeth Elliott  
Contributing Writer

Peggy Chicoine, a parishioner of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny, recently won the Rev. David Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year Award from National Catholic Office for the Deaf.

The national award was established to honor individuals, organizations, or companies that have contributed significant dedication, support, and assistance to deaf Catholics.

Chicoine was nominated by Patty Origer, diocesan coordinator for Disability Ministry, and John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

"Peggy is the picture of accompaniment with persons who are deaf and our deaf community. She is an advocate, and ASL (American Sign Language) interpreter, coordinated our diocesan program for over 30 years, helped plan a deaf Christian Experience Weekend retreat multiple times at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, helps train new ASL interpreters, and helps clergy and lay ministers have competence in understanding and ministering to and with the Deaf community," they said in the nomination.

About 75 percent of the deaf CEW retreat is run by the Deaf community.

Chicoine grew up with deaf parents and is the oldest of three children.

"American Sign Language was our first language, and we had to sign in the home in order to have full communication



Peggy Chicoine

access in the home with our parents," she said.

She started to interpret professionally. She has been a professional interpreter for 40 years and continues to do so.

Chicoine is a convert and joined the Catholic Church in 1986. She started by working as a sign language interpreter at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny in about 1990, then became the Deaf Ministry consultant in the Diocese and served in this capacity for 15 years.

She retired from her diocesan Deaf Ministry position in June 2020 but continues to serve at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church.

Chicoine has seen an impact to her faith through her ministry.

"I think the number one thing is I started understanding the Mass," she said. "I call upon the Holy Spirit to fill me and use me as a vessel and I do that a lot before I start interpreting Mass and other interpreting assignments outside of church."

She prays to the Holy Spirit for guidance as she interprets.

"When I say that prayer, I can feel his presence and I know that I'm doing God's work and allowing the priest's homily, lectors, and the music to use me as an instrument of God's word and love," she said. "It's just a joy and I love serving God's people."

"Never have I met someone who advocates for individuals more effectively than Peggy," Gaffney said. "She's really an inspiration, providing more opportunities for deaf community."

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## CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH

### Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

*O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death.*

*In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence,*

*and protect me by your power against the enemies of your salvation.*

*Into your sacred hands, living and dying,*

*Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.*

*Amen*

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# Knights share programs, ideas at convention

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

Ruth Archer had been up for 24 hours before Mass began April 16 to conclude the Iowa Knights of Columbus annual convention.

She had attended the convention on Saturday, then drove to the community hospital in Perry where she worked a midnight to 6 a.m. shift before returning early Sunday to watch her husband, Jim, serve in the fourth degree honor guard at Mass. Jim is the Grand Knight for the council at St. Patrick Parish in Perry.

"I wanted to experience it with him," she said.

The Archers were among the many families attending the successful Iowa Knights of Columbus convention held April 14-16 in Des Moines. Wives, children and various organizations such as Iowa Catholic Radio, Catholic Daughters of the Ameri-

cas, Trappist Caskets and Interventions Healthcare were among those at the Knights convention.

It drew members wanting to visit with each other and learn what's happening in parish councils and how they might be of better service to their fellow Catholics.

"We both think it's a good, positive experience for any Knight to be here," said Rick Brecht, Grand Knight of the council at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale. "There's plenty of things for us to learn as leaders in our council."

His friend, George Cockayne, also of St. Pius X Parish, agreed.

"It's wonderful to be in a group of like-minded believers in Christ who are all trying to help do the things that Father (Michael) McGiveny based the Knights of Columbus on: Charity, fraternity, unity and patriotism."

It was the second conven-

tion Jeff Robinson, of St. Jude Parish in Cedar Rapids, attended. As Grand Knight, he was looking forward to hearing stories of what activities other councils are engaged in.

"We're looking for different or new programs, or different ways to present programs," said Dave Olson, Deputy Grand Knight at St. Jude.

State Advocate Jason Follett, of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny, said a number of important initiatives were discussed throughout the weekend from the national Eucharistic Revival shared by Des Moines Bishop William Joensen, to the Aid and Support After Pregnancy program. While the Knights support women in crisis pregnancies by providing ultrasound machines to pregnancy centers throughout the state, the ASAP effort assists mothers after birth through the pregnancy centers.



Iowa Knights of Columbus State Advocate Jason Follett, of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny, shows an infant car seat as an example of the kind of help the Knights offer mothers through the Aid and Support After Pregnancy program. The carseat was passed around for donations. The national office will contribute, too.

## Congratulations!

Those honored from the Diocese of Des Moines include: Chaplain of the Year: Father Raphael Assamah, of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines; Service Program for Family – St. Francis of Assisi Council 12422, West Des Moines, St. Nicholas Shoe Drive; Family Honors – Jeremy and Tina Schechinger, Harlan; Grand Knight – Hugh O'Hagan, Basilica of St. John Council 644, Des Moines

## Leave a legacy gift through Endow Iowa

There are a couple of changes in the Endow Iowa tax credit program, one of which encourages donors to give sooner than later.

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa has four options for donors to select from so they can contribute by mid-summer for the broader Catholic community while earning tax credits.

Effective July 1, the Iowa Economic Development Authority will discontinue a waitlist process until the current waitlist is cleared, most likely sometime after Jan. 1, 2024.

It would be in the best interest of donors to make their gifts before July 1, said Maureen Kenney, diocesan director of Stewardship.

Also, as of this past Jan. 1, there is a cap on the amount of tax credit available per taxpayer. The state lowered the 25 percent tax credit to a maximum of \$100,000 per taxpayer. Therefore, no more than \$400,000 gift per taxpayer qualifies for the tax credit.

"I encourage anyone who wants to take advantage of this program and make a gift to a

diocesan Endow Iowa fund to contact the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa to get more information," Kenney said. The foundation can be reached at 515-237-5044 or [contact@cswia.org](mailto:contact@cswia.org).

The Endow Iowa tax credit is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for gifts made to a permanent endowment fund, established for the benefit of Iowa charitable causes, at a qualified community foundation in Iowa.

The Catholic foundation has four Endow Iowa Funds donors can use and access the tax credits:

- Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa Endow Iowa Fund #40486
- Diocese of Des Moines Schools Tuition Assistance Endow Iowa Fund #345891
- Dowling Catholic Legacy Tuition Assistance Endow Iowa Fund #232056
- Iowa Catholic Radio Foundation Endow Iowa Fund #288678

"We are very grateful for those who can share their resources with our endowments through the Endow Iowa program," Kenney said.

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## Celebrate Mary's Month

WITH US AT THE

# Lake of the Ozarks

<b>May 14</b>	<b>Mother's Day Brunch</b> <i>Join us for a complimentary meal; families and donations are welcome!</i>	<b>9:30am</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Mother's Day Mass</b> <i>Father John Schmitz, Rector, celebrant Unveiling new names on our Mothers' Wall of Life</i>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>May 27</b>	<b>Outdoor Summer Masses Begin at the Shrine!</b> <i>Masses held each Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 8:30 am</i>	
<b>May 29</b>	<b>Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church</b> <i>Mass celebrated by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, Diocese of Jefferson City followed by Marian Consecration</i>	<b>10:00am</b>

Near the Lake of the Ozarks, a little bit of heaven is nestled within the Ozark hills of Missouri. About 20 miles north of Camdenton and 17 miles west of U.S. Business Route 54, on MO-Route 5, come visit the Mothers' Shrine while you're enjoying the beauty of the Lake of the Ozarks.

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The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church  
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If you or someone you know is interested in discerning whether God is calling you to priesthood or religious life, contact Father Ross Parker at 515-237-5050 or [vocations@dmdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@dmdiocese.org).



# Walk/run supports Mary's Meals

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

Every registrant in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mary's Meals: Race to Feed Kids in downtown Des Moines will feed one child at a school for one entire year in Malawi.

Mary's Meals is a non-profit founded by Magnus McFarlane-Barrow, a regular speaker at the biennial Christ Our Life Conference.

After five years of receiving Mary's Meals, children in Malawi were 4.4 times more likely to participate in class than those not yet receiving Mary's Meals, according to website statistics.

Christ Our Life co-director and race volunteer Ellen Miller, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola, has been volunteering with Mary's Meals for over a decade. Her son Mike has worked full time for Mary's Meals for years.

"I've seen firsthand the joy, hope and peace that a cup of porridge brings not only to the children of Mary's Meals, but to the teachers, volunteers, cooks and their parents," Miller said. "And we love and support them."

The 5K walk / run begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the Women of Achievement Bridge, at 700 Robert D. Ray Drive in Des Moines. The race will start and finish on the east side of the bridge.

Strollers, dogs on leashes and cheerleaders are welcome. Drinks and snacks will be available after the race.

Registration is \$35 per person or \$85 for a family registration – two adults maximum. For those who can't be there in person, sign up as a virtual runner/walker. Also new this year is a non-timed donation only way to participate. Register at RunSignUp.com and search Mary's Meals Race to Feed Kids.



Participants from a previous Mary's Meals run/walk fundraiser support the program that provides food to more than 2.4 million children every school day in some of the poorest communities in the world.

# Pedaling for religious life across America

By Renee Webb  
Contributing Writer

The Diocese of Des Moines will be one of 22 dioceses where Bike4Vocations will be riding through this spring and summer.

Fern Greenwell will make the trek through 13 states on her bicycle, pedaling her way across America to raise awareness about religious vocations. She will be accompanied by her husband, Geoffrey, in an RV — deemed the "Vocation Van" — with their two dogs, Zsoltan and Rubic. The couple hails from Tuscon, Arizona.

## The trek begins

The endeavor begins with Mass celebrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, Florida on April 17 with the final destination of Seaside, Oregon in July.

In the Des Moines Diocese, they plan to stop at St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah and St. Peter Church in Council Bluffs on their route across the country.

"Geoffrey and Fern contacted us and we agreed to host them and offer hospitality and holy hour following Mass," said Father Tom Thakadipuram, pastor of St. Mary in Shenandoah and St. Mary in Hamburg. "They'll offer a brief appeal for vocations after communion. We are planning to invite young people to chat with them about vocations, both from Hamburg and neighboring parishes."

After stopping in Council Bluffs, the route will head north along the Missouri River, biking through Onawa and Sioux City.

"You might say I am the dogmatic one as I have to care for the dogs and Fern the activist, as she is pedaling," quipped Geoffrey.

Fern pointed out that while she has done two- and three-day



Fern Greenwell plans to bike thousands of miles across the country to raise awareness of vocations. Her husband, Geoffrey, will drive the "Vocation Van" for support.

bike trips as well as commuted everyday to school and work via bicycle for years, this will be the first time to undertake a ride of this magnitude.

Although her previous efforts were relatively short distances, she said, "They gave me the sense that I could go somewhere — even anywhere — on my bicycle. Since childhood, my bikes have always given me a sense of freedom and autonomy and I hope to push the limits further."

Given that Fern is a secular Third Order Discalced Carmelite, their spiritual director for this journey is a discalced Carmelite priest who may join them in Sioux City.

The idea to dedicate the ride to vocations came after they had planned the trip. As the ride will be such a physical effort, they

felt strongly it should be sanctified and offered up for vocations because they were aware of the great need.

"It was an inspiration that hopefully is a response to the Holy Spirit. We are at an age where we have health and resources and sufficient wisdom to offer this effort for this problem and say 'Here I am, Lord.' It is in a sense a prayer and a response to prayer as prompted by the Holy Spirit," said Fern, who added the journey will also sanctify their own marriage vocation.

## Seeds of faith

Through the Bike4Vocations, Geoffrey said, "We are sowing seeds from Florida to Oregon — perhaps someone will be inspired. We don't have any metrics in mind, just faith."

"My terrestrial goal is pretty

undergoing a period of reflection called synodality. The metaphor is that we are journeying together as a church. In this sense, this bike trip represents a personal opportunity to understand our church in this spirit of synodality. Between Florida and Oregon is a continent of wonderful Catholic history and experience. Hopefully we may discover something about what a consecrated life means to different people."

## How to get involved

The Greenwells urge everyone to pray for vocations. They offered a simple suggestion: adding to the prayer before meals, such as "and from this table call forth the vocations that will provide for the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal church sufficiently."

The public is invited to follow the Greenwells on Twitter @canonlaw233. They selected that handle in reference to Canon Law 233 which states: "The duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal church are provided for sufficiently. This duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and, in a special way, priests, particularly pastors."

The Greenwells will also post regularly to a blog at [bike4vocations.org/vocations](http://bike4vocations.org/vocations). They can be reached by email at

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# Hibernians honor clergy, religious

Group presents gift to school



**Top photo:** The Des Moines Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians presented a check for \$3,000 to Martin Flaherty, principal of Holy Family School in Des Moines for teachers at the school. Pictured are Shannon Maher and Jim Duffy with Flaherty.

**Above:** The Hibernians held its annual St Patrick's Day Dinner on March 18. The St Patrick's Day Dinner is held to honor the Irish clergy and religious in the Des Moines area. Pictured is Jim Duffy who received the Hibernian Irishman of the Year award and Shannon Maher, president of the Hibernians in Des Moines.

# Llamado a Rutas Salvajes

Continued from page 2

ellos sostenían el cuerpo de su amado hijo.

Los últimos doce años han sido una montaña rusa de emociones para sus padres, alternando momentos de fe con incredulidad, pero se han mantenido juntos y han podido encontrar algo de paz dentro de su dolor. Al final de nuestro almuerzo, me dieron dos artículos personales que habían sido de su hijo: un anillo de una década del rosario, y una piedra de cerámica glaseada grabada con su nombre, 'Christian' – la cual le dieron probablemente en un retiro de la universidad.

Acepté los artículos como objetos sagrados consagrados al sufrimiento, la memoria, al amor inmortal – que se me entregaron como un acto de gran generosidad y amistad – y como un signo de desprendimiento, de confiar su hijo a alguien más. Voy a atesorar ambos objetos, recordar a su familia, orar por ellos y por su hijo Christian. No es simplemente porque la piedra es circular, de color pálido, que parece como una pequeña hostia. Es porque lo que intercambiamos fue un acto Eucarístico, derivando su significado y referencia de lo que hace Jesús cuando misteriosamente nos lleva al salón de la noche antes de la Pascua cuando se entrega a sí mismo de manera radical al servicio de amor. En un mundo que algún día ha de terminar, su amor es algo que nunca terminará.

Jesucristo es el único Hijo y el don consumado que nos da el Padre. Al asumir la carne, Jesús se embarca en una misión de misericordia. Él anticipa la muerte en sacrificio a la cual se entrega libremente al formar una nueva alianza en comunidad centrada en su persona misma, su Cuerpo y su Sangre. Jesús se convierte en un sacerdote sin precedente, ni siquiera dentro de la historia judía

de la salvación, ya que ambos ofrecen el sacrificio a nombre de otros, pero él es quien está siendo sacrificado. Jesús es la única persona que puede satisfacer nuestra hambre y sed en sus términos, llenándonos con su presencia y gracia, transformándonos en su Cuerpo. Nuestros corazones están al descubierto con el Santísimo Sacramento, nuestra participación en la conmemoración Eucarística de "coman esto, beban esto. Sean esto unos con los otros." Como lo dijo San Bernardo de Clairvaux, "La medida del amor es el amar sin medida."

Por la gracia y la fe, reconocemos que sufrir por amor, el dejar ir y darnos a nosotros mismos, es nuestra fuente más profunda de gozo. Además, también somos honestos al confesar que si debemos mantener este estilo hasta el final, como lo hizo Cristo, debemos reabastecernos de él FRECUENTEMENTE, al recibir el Sacramento de la Eucaristía, adorándolo, permitiéndole acompañarnos en todos los lugares y caminos de nuestras vidas – nuestros hogares, nuestros lugares de trabajo, donde descansamos, reímos y lloramos, damos gracias y nos lamentamos.

Pero que para esto suceda, necesitamos hombres cuyos corazones son agitados y llamados al Maestro de la misericordia, verdad y amor para darse a sí mismos a Dios y a su Iglesia como sacerdotes ordenados quienes hablen esas inimitables palabras en la persona de Cristo, la cabeza del Cuerpo" "Este es mi Cuerpo, que será entregado por ustedes." "Esta es mi Sangre, la Sangre de la Alianza Nueva y Eterna que será derramada por ustedes y por muchos." Necesitamos sacerdotes, hombres quienes imiten al Buen Pastor quien sale a buscar a la oveja perdida. El pueblo de Dios necesita sacerdotes que estén dispuestos a lanzarse "a rutas salvajes" en donde la en-

fermedad, la pobreza, la soledad, prevalecen – no para desaparecer para siempre, pero para que otros puedan encontrar la presencia de Jesús en ellos, sanando, fortaleciendo, sellando el amor, el perdón y encomendándolos a Dios.

Cristo está llamando a los hombres aquí y ahora en la Diócesis de Des Moines para que le permitan intercambiar su corazón por el de ellos, recreándose sacramentalmente por el Espíritu, ordenándoles al Cuerpo haciéndoles plenos. Nuestra gente necesita sacerdotes con quien puedan relacionarse con – quienes vengan de entre sus familias y amigos, de nuestras parroquias y de nuestras comunidades migrantes, nuestros círculos de trabajo y juego. Necesitamos sacerdotes quienes puedan ayudarnos a recordar: recordar lo que hizo Jesús el Jueves Santo, recordando quienes somos ante los ojos de Dios, quien nos ama hasta la muerte y hasta la vida. Dependemos de los sacerdotes para ayudarnos a creer que "todos mis sufrimientos le pertenecen, anticipadamente, más a él" que a mí.

Al apreciar la Eucaristía, así como el don de las vocaciones sacerdotales y el regalo de nuestra fe, me vienen a la mente muchos, incluyendo a Christian y sus padres. A cada uno de nosotros se nos presenta la oportunidad de recibir – no una piedra con nuestro nombre grabado – pero la Hostia circular que es Cristo mismo, quien se entrega él mismo a nosotros. Así como nosotros – y en particular, hombres quienes están pensando sobre si están llamados a la ordenación sacerdotal de Jesucristo – nos ofrecemos a nosotros mismo en servicio, sacrificio, y amor interminable, nos hacemos merecedores del nombre de 'cristianos.' Este es un regalo más allá de mérito o medida, un misterio que esperamos nunca abandonar ni olvidar.

# Priest assignments announced, effective this summer

Continued from page 1

John Vianney College Seminary and St. Paul Seminary, School of Divinity in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained last June at St. Ambrose Cathedral by Bishop William Joensen.

After ordination, he began his priestly ministry at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny.

## Father Nicholas Stark

Father Nicholas Stark will become canonical administrator at St. Elizabeth Seton in Carlisle, while also retaining some pastoral responsibilities at Christ the King, Des Moines.

Father Stark attended Dowling Catholic High School, St. Pius X Seminary at Loras College in Dubuque and St.



Paul Seminary, School of Divinity in St. Paul, Minnesota.

He was ordained in 2021 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny by Bishop William Joensen.

After ordination, he began his priestly ministry at Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

## Father David Fleming

Father David Fleming will be going from pastor of St. Pius X, Urbandale, to sabbatical.

Father Fleming attended Dowling Catholic High School, Grand View College, University of Northern Iowa and St. Ambrose University. He studied theology at the North American College in Rome.

Originally from Des Moines, he was ordained in 1990



at St. Ambrose Cathedral by Bishop William Bullock.

After ordination, he began serving in parishes including: St. Augustin in Des Moines; St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines; Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny; All Saints in Stuart; St. Patrick in Council Bluffs and St. Pius X in Urbandale.

He has also served the Diocese as the director of Vocations, chancellor, exorcist and vicar general.

## Father Bradley Robey

Father Bradley Robey will move from St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale to parochial vicar at St. Peter and Paul, Parish in Atlantic, St. Mary Parish in Anita; Our Lady of Grace Parish in Griswold; and St. Timothy Parish in Reno/



Cumberland.

Father Robey attended Dowling Catholic High School, Conception Seminary College in Missouri and St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota.

He was ordained in 2021 at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny by Bishop William Joensen.

After ordination, he began his priestly ministry at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale.

## Father Trevor Chicoine

Father Trevor Chicoine will become pastor, Our Lady of Grace in Griswold; and St. Timothy in Reno/Cumberland, while remaining pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul in Atlantic; and St. Mary in Anita; and to the role of Vicar of Worship.



Originally from Immaculate Conception Parish at St. Marys, Father attended Interstate 35 Community School in Truro, Loras College in Dubuque, the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Pontifical Gregorian University and did post-graduate work at Pontifical University Santa Croce.

He was ordained in 2017 at St. Ambrose Cathedral by Bishop Richard Pates.

After ordination, Father served at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines. Most of his priestly ministry has been in rural parishes including: Ss. Peter and Paul in Atlantic; St. Mary in Anita; Our Lady of Grace in Griswold; and St. Timothy in Reno/Cumberland.

Father Chicoine has served as the director of the diocesan Office of Worship since 2020.



# Students support fellow classmate



St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs is proud of its students who participated in a “Brave the Shave” event in support of fellow classmate Mason, who is in sixth grade. They are “Mason Strong!”

## ICC offers legislative update

**By Tom Chapman  
Contributing Writer**

Here’s an update on what’s been happening at the state Capitol.

### Food stamps

After a four-hour debate on Thursday, Senate File 494 passed the House by a vote of 58-41. It goes to the governor for her signature. Five Republicans joined Democrats in opposing the bill. This bill makes significant changes to income verification systems for Medicaid and food stamps (SNAP) in Iowa. It’s our concern that the new requirements create unnecessary hurdles and will lead to some eligible persons losing benefits. The bishops of Iowa signed an interfaith letter opposing the bill.

### Pregnancy centers

A subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee has passed Senate File 324, which contains an increased appropriation for the Iowa MOMS maternal support program and a fatherhood engagement initiative. The ICC supports the bill.

The Iowa MOMS program provides assistance to crisis pregnancy centers.

### Adoption support

The House unanimously passed a bill the ICC supports to double the tax credit for adoptive parents to \$10,000 over the next two years. House File 351 goes to the Senate for its consideration.

### Weapons

House File 654 passed the House and goes to the Senate. It relates to the carrying and possession of weapons by certain persons and in certain locations. The Iowa Catholic Conference opposes the bill.

One of the bill’s provisions would legalize Iowans having a gun locked away in their car while in school driveways or parking lots if they’re dropping off or picking up a student or school staff member. Even though we are sure many people don’t take time to leave their gun at home now, technically this is a Class D felony under current state law.

Lawmakers removed provisions that required an employer to allow guns locked away in their parking lot after receiving objections from the business community.

### Timetable

Iowa legislators stop getting paid on April 28. That is usually a target date for the end of the legis-

lative session. The biggest issues remaining are the resolution of the property tax cut discussions and the budget bills.

### Save the date

The Iowa March for Life will be on Saturday, June 24. A rally will start at 1 p.m. outside the state Capitol on the steps of the west side of the building with the March for Life beginning at 1:45 p.m. The march is an opportunity to proclaim the value of all human life and advocate for the protection of life in state law. Gov. Kim Reynolds, Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird, legislators and pro-life advocates have been invited.

*Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the bishops of Iowa.*



**Tom Chapman**

## Ankeny churches offer Easter egg hunt



Photo by Larry Murphy

Four Ankeny area churches partnered April 2 to provide an ecumenical special needs Easter egg hunt. The churches – Ridge, Lutheran Church of Hope, Ankeny First Methodist, and Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart – provided more than 300 eggs. An ASL interpreter was at the event and the library provided beeping and special accommodation eggs. Pictured above, Anna and Nathan Lewis, of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny, brought Allie and Sammy to the egg hunt.

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# Grandma made her life a work of art

Two parts reverence, one part mischief. That's how I'd sum up my grandma, whose name – Elinor Marcella – captures her mix of poise and playfulness.

She raised five kids with a kind of 1950s ease: neck bows and neatly coiffed hair, family dinners and at-home haircuts, playing Bud & Travis on the record playing and zipping around town in a Ford LTD station wagon.

Grandma died this week – two days shy of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday – and we are left to distill her remarkable life, turning memories in our minds, scanning slides frozen in time. It's 1972 and she's standing at Glacier National Park, a gold scarf tied around her dark hair. It's 1992 and she's playing Solitaire in the porch, greeting all who come and go. It's 2022 and she's in the party room of the condo, cooing over her newest great grandbaby.

There was always a twinkle in her eye – a spark of recognition, a sense of fun. She wanted kids to be kids. Her own inner child was alive and well; up until her final weeks, she'd request a corner piece of cake covered in frosting.

You could count on Grandma to be

## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



your cheerleader. She saw your special gifts and believed in them.

She never sought the spotlight but preferred her supporting role – keeping books for her husband's business, keeping house, keeping it all together. She never sang the melody but always found a harmony, enhancing the other singers.

She took certain fundamentals seriously – her Catholic faith, the sacrament of reconciliation, marriage, education – but wasn't afraid to take her own approach on all the less-crucial stuff. Reverence and mischief.

Her OB-GYN was strict about weight gain, so she'd schedule her appointments for first thing in the morning and then indulge in a hot fudge sundae on the way home. In her 70s and 80s, when she'd meet

girlfriends for lunch, they'd ditch the main course and cut straight to dessert.

Grandma deferred to Grandpa but quietly wielded influence, calling to mind the quote in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”: the man is the head [of the house], but the woman is the neck, and she can turn the head any way she wants.”

Grandpa preferred to drink 2 percent milk, but skim milk seemed healthier and cost less in the '60s, so Grandma poured skim milk into 2-percent cartons. The head doesn't always realize when the neck subtly turns.

Her love of beauty led her to become an artist in her own right – the kind of quiet, resourceful one who makes a house a home, who makes memories and makes gifts: embroidering personalized shirts for her children, sketching their portraits, crafting whimsical Christmas cards, painting porcelain dolls for each granddaughter in the color of their birthstones.

Those twinkling eyes never missed flashes of beauty. She'd relish a sunset or a pair of earrings or a beautifully wrapped gift, setting it on display for days before

opening it and occasionally re-wrapping it afterwards.

In her final days, I gave her an early Easter gift wrapped in watercolor florals. She was near death and speaking very little, but she admired it as only Grandma could.

Her Easter came early this year, skipping the second half of Lent and cutting straight to dessert, her heavenly home.

The rest of us honor her memory when we slow down and soak up the beauty in our midst, sensing – if not fully grasping – that it points us to God.

Grandma lived out the words from St. John Paul II's letter to artists, who wrote that “all men and women are entrusted with the task of crafting their own life: in a sense, they are to make of it a work of art, a masterpiece.”

She painted nine decades with such vibrance and joy. Masterpiece, indeed.

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

## To be Eucharist like Christ

At each Mass celebration, we hear the words of consecration as the priest prays the same words uttered by Jesus: “Do this in memory of me.”

They are not just vocal emissions but a loving invitation for us to join him in giving up his life for the world's salvation and caring for the needs of our neighbor.

To this point, the thirteenth chapter of St. John's Gospel sets a precedent. In washing the disciples' feet, Jesus urges us to extend similar services to our sisters and brothers. “For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done” (Jn. 13:15).

In the Eucharist, Jesus invites us to join him in salvaging the world by making his forgiveness available. He remarks that wherever any of these services are made available, it is done in memory of him and for him. Thus, the Eucharist ought to move us toward co-creating the type of world that God intended.

Raniero Cantalamessa, reflecting on

### Seeds from Scripture

By Father Livinus Anweting



the injunction “Do this in memory of me,” says, “He (Jesus) did not mean ‘merely do what I have done, repeat the same ritual.’ He also said: ‘Do the essence of what I have done, offer your bodies as a sacrifice, as you have seen me do.’”

“But there is something even more pressing and heart-piercing in these words of Jesus. We are his body, his members (1 Cor. 12:12), so it is as if Jesus was saying to us, ‘Allow me to offer the Father my own body; do not keep me from offering myself to the Father,’” Cantalamessa added.

Celebrating and participating effectively in the Eucharist challenges us

daily to do what Jesus did. He took bread and gave it to us and performed an action – he broke the bread. The bread that he broke is himself, fulfilling the Isaian prophesy of the Messiah who will be “broken (atritus) for our transgressions” (Isa. 52, 53:5). He broke himself before his Father as a perfect sign of his obedience “unto death” to re-establish God's right that was violated by sin.

In this obedience, Jesus gave fully his human will to the Father, overcoming every resistance and making alive the beautiful words of the Scripture: “sacrifices and offerings you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; Then I said, here I am, I have come to do thy will, O God” (Heb. 10: 5-9). Isn't it amazing that what Jesus gave his disciples to eat is the bread of his obedience and his love for the Father? In this way, to do what Jesus did that night implies, first, that we break ourselves by laying before God all hardness and rebellion towards him or others; and second, to crush our pride, submit, and say yes entire-

ly to all that God asks of us.

Jesus obeys the Father, and desires that we also obey God. As Jesus' disciples, we too must repeat the words: “Here I am, I have come to do your will, O God!”

To be Eucharist, like Jesus, signifies being abandoned to the Father's will. We, too, are broken people either by sin or the circumstances of our lives, and therefore are in need of God's grace and healing.

May we, then, in the Eucharist, lay our brokenness before Jesus and ask that it be transformed in the manner of his death and resurrection by imitating him in being obedient to the Father and serving our brothers and sisters.

*Work Cited: Cantalamessa, Raniero. The Eucharist: Our Sanctification. Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1993.*

*Father Livinus Anweting is the administrator of St. Patrick Church in Corning, and St. Patrick Church in Lenox.*

## In the Eucharist, we strays can find our ‘forever homeland

I love dogs. Not like I love my family, or like I love Jesus, but I really do have a strong affection for dogs.

A few months ago, I came home from teaching and was welcomed by an unfamiliar, and rather unpleasant, smell in the convent. Entering our large dining room, I noticed the puppy crate had been set up, and indeed was being used! Little Charlie was about 5 months old and it was love at first sight. Although he really did stink.

Earlier that morning, my religious community was serving over 400 families at our weekly food pantry when — seemingly out of nowhere — Charlie had shown up soaking wet, muddy and full of friendly energy. Sister Kate noticed that this rather large Siberian Husky puppy was causing distress among our pantry guests and quickly put him on a leash.

When I met him some hours later, Charlie had already been given the first of several (very necessary) baths and was making himself at home. He was all cuddles and kisses. Everyone was his friend, and he made sure you knew you were loved.

Through the neighborhood grapevine

### Guest Column

By Sister Alicia Torres



we learned that Charlie had been abandoned by his owners. Caring for man's best friend is not easy: It takes time, attention and resources. The people who had originally owned Charlies must have thought, “Surely the nuns will take care of him.” And we did.

But could we become his forever home?

In religious life (and really all Christian life), a great virtue to cultivate is detachment. Unfortunately for me, that virtue wasn't kicking in (nor was I really attempting to foster it) when it came to Charlie. All I wanted was to keep him. But with three German Shepherds, our little Franciscan community already had our hands full, and for all of his positive character traits, there was not one drop of guard dog in Charlie. At the time we had a small renovation proj-

ect going on in the convent, and not one “stranger” (construction worker) who entered was bereft of a kiss from him.

Six days after he came to us, we were able to locate a proper Husky rescue, and a few weeks after that, we received the good news that Charlie had been adopted -- he had found his forever home.

If you and I are honest, we really are looking for the same thing as Charlie, aren't we? Don't we have a deep, innate desire for home? And no matter how good it can get this side of heaven, that desire is just never fully satisfied.

During my theology classes, I was blessed to befriend Father Tom Norris, an Irish theologian and a visiting professor to Mundelein Seminary. He had a way of teaching — and storytelling -- that could leave one not only stunned but speechless and immobile — as if he could open a wellspring of grace, and you couldn't help but let yourself be lovingly soaked in the glory. One day, as he was describing the paschal mystery he stated: “Good Friday is when the ‘homeland’ enters exile so that the exiles may enter the ‘homeland.’”

I was totally blown away; I began to

realize in a new way that the paschal mystery wasn't just something that happened 2,000 years ago.

What happened on Good Friday and what was victoriously completed in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus is represented for us in the Eucharist at every Mass. In those moments of consecration — so timeless — we are invited with the priest to truly pray the Mass. In doing so, we enter into something that is real, and truer than anything this side of heaven.

Charlie had to roam for a few months before he found “homeland,” but you and I don't ever have to wait that long. The forever home we long for begins right here, right now, in every Eucharist.

*Sister Alicia Torres is an executive team member for the National Eucharistic Revival, editor of the Heart of the Revival e-newsletter, and a member of the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago, a religious community that carries out the mission of the church through service to the poor, evangelization and teaching.*



# Learning from my brother with Down syndrome

## Guest Column

By Jacinta Hamilton

March 21 marked the observance of World Down Syndrome Day—a celebration of the countless individuals that bless our world with this condition.

However, the fight to recognize the value of all life continues, and the statistics are staggering. Ninety five percent of babies with Down Syndrome in Ireland are reportedly aborted. Iceland claims to have “eliminated” Down Syndrome by killing 100% of babies with Down Syndrome by abortion.

In the U.S, approximately 74% of expectant parents abort a child with Down Syndrome. This brutal landscape is in stark opposition to the beautiful experiences of families who choose to give life to babies with Down Syndrome.

The reality is Trisomy 21 is not a death sentence, it’s a blessing.

I believe that we are at a moment of grace in this country where we can call deeper, and more profound attention to human life with special needs.

Ultimately, I think the personal stories and the faces attached to the diagnosis are how hearts will be changed.

Fourteen years ago, upon learning that my little brother was born with Down Syndrome and would do some things more slowly than his siblings, my eight-year-old self spontaneously responded with “It’s not a race!”

Words cannot express the blessing that Gabriel is to his parents, six siblings, and to his many other family members and friends.

This young man has had an overwhelmingly powerful influence on those who know and love him. He makes life fuller and richer in every way! Gabriel is the most loving and self-giving person I know, and I believe he has his finger on the



Gabriel Hamilton

**The Hamilton siblings, from left to right: Angelica, Bernadette, Mary, Raphael, Martha, Jacinta and Gabriel in the middle.**



pulse of what life is truly about.

There is not a thing about him I would change. The fullness of Gabriel’s life is not measured by his external abilities, but rather his eternal value as a child of God.

Just before we entered the hospital room, my dad told my siblings and I that there was something extra special about our new brother, Gabriel. In his words, we had a beautiful and healthy baby brother who was truly a blessing to our family.

Dad told us that Gabriel had what is called Down Syndrome. He said that Gabriel was perfect and needed lots of our love. He also said that it may take him longer to learn how to do certain things. Dad said it was not really a big deal because we were all going to help Gabriel.

I distinctly recall telling him in a matter-of-fact way: “Well, it’s not a race, Dad!”

Where that came from, I cannot tell you. But I do know that this mantra that life, learning, and achievement are not diminished by a “disability” still holds true today.

Not knowing what Down Syndrome was at the time, I can now undoubtedly say that my knowledge of it would not have mattered. Without being able to express it at the time, I somehow knew Gabriel’s Down Syndrome was only a small part of him, it was not his identity.

“I just felt blessed,” was my mom’s response to what she felt when she learned of Gabriel’s diagnosis at birth.

This was a grace.

This is not meant to indicate that other responses are not genuine or appropriate.

However, my mom’s response shows that a special needs diagnosis does not need to be a moment of grief, but rather a celebration of life. My own experiences tell me that yes, a child with special needs will affect your family life, but in the best possible way! Even though Gabriel may not conform to the “ideals of society,” he clearly teaches me that life, learning, and achievement are not a race, and this has permeated all aspects of my life.

For far too long, persons with special

needs have been targeted as not worthy of life.

We were endowed by the Creator to reverence all human life. Seeing all life through a lens that celebrates the dignity, self-worth, intrinsic value, and above all the immortal soul of each person will enable us to strongly defend all human life from conception until natural death.

The right to life is uncompromisable and is an exercise of our free will in defense of the most vulnerable.

I echo the words of St. John Paul the Great who said, “Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.” (Apostolic Journey to the United States of America, 1995).

My hope is that Gabriel’s story will inspire others to see the infinite value of individuals with special needs in their own lives.

*Jacinta Hamilton is a senior at the University of Iowa majoring in elementary education. She’s a parishioner at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Iowa City*

## Struggling to give birth to hope

Father Ron Rolheiser



After Jesus rose from the dead, his first appearances were to women.

Why?

One obvious reason might be that it was women who followed him to his death on Good Friday, while the men largely abandoned him.

As well, it was women, not men, who set off for his tomb on Easter morning, hoping to anoint his dead body with spices - so it was women who were in the garden when he first appeared.

But there is, I believe, a deeper and more symbolic reason.

Women are the midwives. It is generally women who attend to new birth and women who are more paramount in initially nurturing new life in its infancy.

In any birth a midwife can be helpful. When a baby is born, normally the head pushes its way through the birth canal first, opening the way for the body to follow.

A good midwife can be very helpful at this time, helping to ease that passage through the birth canal, helping ensure that

the baby begins to breathe, and helping the mother to immediately begin to nurture that new life.

A midwife can sometimes mean the difference between life and death, and she always makes the birth easier and healthier.

Jesus’ resurrection birthed new life into our world, and in its infancy that life had to be specially midwived, both in its emergence and in the initial breaths it took in this world.

The resurrection birthed many things, and these had to be midwived; initially by the women to whom Jesus first appeared, then by the apostles who left us their eyewitness accounts of the risen Jesus, then by the early church, then by its martyrs, then by the lived faith of countless women and men through the centuries, and sometimes too by theologians and spiritual writers.

We still need to midwife what was born in the resurrection.

And many things were born in that event - an event as radical as the original creation in what it gave birth to.

The resurrection of Jesus was the “first day” a second time, the second time light separated from darkness.

Indeed, the world measures time by the resurrection. We are in the year 2023 since it happened. (Christianity was born with that event. New time began then. But scholars calculated that Jesus was thirty-three years old when he died and so they added thirty-three years so as to begin new time with the date of his birth.)

Prominent within what the resurrec-

tion gives birth to and what needs still to be midwived, is hope.

The resurrection gives birth to hope.

The women in the Gospels who first met the resurrected Jesus were the first to be given a true reason for hope and were the first to act as midwives of that new birth.

So too must we.

We need to become midwives of hope. But what is hope and how is it given birth in the resurrection?

Genuine hope is never to be confused with either wishful thinking or temperamental optimism. Unlike hope, wishful thinking isn’t based on anything. It’s pure wishing.

Optimism, for its part, takes its root either in a natural temperament (“I always see the bright side of things”) or on how good or bad the evening news looks on a given day. And we know how that can change from day to day.

Hope has a different basis.

Here’s an example: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a deeply faith-filled scientist, was once challenged by an agnostic colleague after making a presentation within which he tried to show how the story of salvation history fits perfectly with the insights of science regarding the origins of the universe and the process of evolution. Teilhard went on to suggest, in line with Ephesians 1, 3-10, that the end of the whole evolutionary process will be the union of all things in one great final harmony in Christ.

An agnostic colleague challenged

him to this effect: That’s a wonderfully optimistic little schema you propose. But suppose we blow up the world with an atomic bomb. What happens to your optimist schema then?

Teilhard answered in words to this effect: If we blow up the world with an atomic bomb, that will be a set-back, perhaps for millions of years. But what I propose is going to happen, not because I wish it or because I am optimistic that it will happen. It will happen because God promised it - and in the resurrection God showed that God has the power to deliver on that promise.

What the women who first met the risen Jesus experienced was hope, the kind of hope that is based on God’s promise to vindicate good over evil and life over death, no matter the circumstance, no matter the obstacle, no matter how awful the news might look on a given day, no matter death itself, and no matter whether we are optimistic or pessimistic.

They were the initial midwives helping to give birth to that hope. That task is now ours.

*Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website [ronrolheiser.com](http://ronrolheiser.com) or facebook.com/ronrolheiser.*



## National News

## Supreme Court temporarily blocks lower court rulings restricting abortion pills amid legal challenge

WASHINGTON (OSV News) -- The U.S. Supreme Court said April 14 it would temporarily keep in place status quo federal regulations regarding the use of an abortion drug, giving the court additional time to consider a lower court's ruling to stay the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of the drug.

The Justice Department and the pharmaceutical company behind the abortion pill had asked the U.S. Supreme Court earlier in the day to intervene in the case.

An order signed by Justice Samuel Alito stayed U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's previous ruling in the case until April 19. A coalition of pro-life opponents of mifepristone, the first of two drugs used in a medication or chemical abortion, sought for the FDA's approval of the drug to be revoked, arguing the government violated its own safety standard when it approved it in 2000.

Proponents of the drug argue it poses no harm to women who use it for abortion, and claim it is being singled out for political reasons. In an April 14 statement, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said, "We hope that the final ruling will result in removal of chemical abortion from the market altogether. Abortion is never the right choice for a difficult or unexpected pregnancy, as it always ends one life and risks another."

## World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is July 23

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has chosen "His mercy is from age to age," a passage from the Gospel of Luke, as the theme for the 2023 celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

On the world day, which will be celebrated July 23, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, according to the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

Catholic parishes, dioceses, movements and associations are asked to organize local celebrations as well, the dicastery said in a short note April 13.

Pope Francis chose the theme -- which is a line from Mary's Magnificat in the first chapter of Luke -- to tie the celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to World Youth Day, which will be celebrated just over a week later, in Lisbon, Portugal, the dicastery said.

The theme for the youth gathering Aug. 1-6 is "Mary arose and went with haste" from Luke 1:39, the dicastery said, and it describes how Mary sets out to visit her elderly cousin Elizabeth and "proclaims, in the Magnificat, the strength of the alliance between young and old."

Pope Francis celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021 and decreed that it be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.

## Mercy sister to receive Laetare Medal



OSV News photo/Matt Cashore, University of Notre Dame  
Mercy Sister Rosemary Connelly, former executive director of Misericordia in Chicago and lifelong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, will receive the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal at the university's 178th commencement ceremony May 21, 2023. Sister Connelly is pictured in a Feb. 3 photo. The university announced the honor May 19, the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is known as Laetare Sunday.

## Cardinal George biography prompts reflections on his legacy

By Maria Wiering  
OSV News

(OSV News) -- Before he died in 2015, media often asked Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago about his legacy. It was a question he had answered along the lines of having "tried to be a good priest and a good bishop." It also was a question he had dismissed as "trying to make sense of my years here by fitting them into a narrative, a story line."

However, in 2014, at what would be his last public Mass, he gave the congregation a more robust answer.

"Different people, of course, will have different takes on my years here as archbishop," he said in his homily. "Some of them I might appreciate and some not, but that's the fate of anyone in a public post, a position of public trust. The question I have to ask myself is, 'With what have I been entrusted?' and 'What have I done with this gift?' At some point, Christ will question me: 'What have you done with my people? Are they holier because of your ministry? Are they more generous? More loving toward others?' In short, you are my legacy."

Author Michael R. Heinlein includes Cardinal George's words in "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I." (OSV), available on Kindle and set to be released in paperback March 6. The 425-page book is the first biography of the prelate, a Chicago native who returned to the city as its archbishop in 1997 and who died in 2015.

Cardinal George "filled a particular role in American Catholicism by kind of being ... a 'thinker in chief,'" Heinlein said. "He was someone who could help us understand the faith amid struggles and difficulties, and not lose sight of what really is most important in our faith."

Father Daniel Flens, who served as Cardinal George's priest secretary beginning in 2003, was among those whom Heinlein interviewed. A Chicago priest currently ministering in the Diocese of Venice, Florida, he said "Glorifying Christ" highlights the cardinal's intellectual gifts while revealing his hidden physical sufferings and the other challenges he faced.

Cardinal George was born in Chicago in 1937. He planned on becoming a priest, but at age 13 was struck by polio, an event Heinlein called a "game-changer." Young "Frannie" had planned to enter Chicago's seminary high school, Archbishop Quigley Pre-

paratory Seminary, but when he arrived on crutches, formators told him that despite his good record, he would "never be a priest of Chicago" due to his disability, the cardinal later recounted. So, instead of diocesan priesthood, he sought formation with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and entered the religious community. In 1963, he was ordained a priest.

He earned two doctorates, in theology and philosophy. In his 30s, he became provincial superior of the Oblates' Midwestern Province, and then was elected to the worldwide community's No. 2 position, which involved significant travel. He next served as bishop of Yakima, Washington, and then archbishop of Portland, Oregon, before St. John Paul II appointed him to the Chicago Archdiocese and named him a cardinal. During his ministry, Cardinal George made significant contributions to the church, both in the United States and internationally, serving on U.S. bishops' committees and international commissions, in Vatican congregations and synods of bishops, and as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Amid these responsibilities, Cardinal George lived with the long-term effects of polio in his legs: On the evening before his installation in Chicago, he told his priests that if he was ever walking with them and happened to fall, just to pick him up, Father Flens told OSV News, noting that he did that himself at least once.



Photo from Archdiocese of Chicago  
A new book about Chicago Cardinal Francis George shares how the long-term effects of polio influenced his ministry.

After several bouts of cancer, in 2014 Cardinal George became the first archbishop of Chicago to retire from office. He was succeeded by now-Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, who had been bishop of Spokane, Washington. Cardinal George died the following year at age 78.

Cardinal George's sister, Margaret Cain, told OSV News "the polio made him holy."

"He suffered," she said. "Anybody that suffers and offers it up to Christ, which he did, I think God hears. ... He didn't think of himself, he thought of Christ and his church."

Heinlein thinks the cardinal's final witness lies in his choice of resting place. Rather than be interred in a mausoleum with most of Chicago's other archbishops, including his predecessor Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin, he chose to be buried next to his parents in All Saints Catholic Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Even in death, Cardinal George is accessible to his peo-

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## International News

### Pope Francis confirms trip to Mongolia in September

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis confirmed he will travel to Mongolia in September, becoming the first pope to visit the Asian nation, which is home to a cardinal and some 1,300 Catholics.

In an audience April 14 with executives and staff of ITA Airways, the airline that has taken the pope on his international trips since 2021, he said that he will visit Mongolia, a country sandwiched between Russia and China, after traveling to Hungary in late April and Marseille, France, in September.

During an airborne news conference on his return flight from South Sudan in February, the pope told journalists there was a "possibility that from Marseille I will fly to Mongolia."

To the airline workers, Pope Francis said that "God willing" he will leave for his 41st apostolic trip, traveling to Hungary April 28-30 "and then there will be Marseille and Mongolia, and all the others that are on the waiting list."

In August 2022, Pope Francis named Italian Bishop Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to be the first cardinal based in Mongolia. The cardinal, 48, is the youngest member of the College of Cardinals.

### Notre Dame cathedral repairing fire damage

PARIS (OSV News) -- Notre Dame Cathedral will get its spire back by the end of 2023, more than four years after it was devastated by a fire.

But to reopen by its deadline of Dec. 8, 2024, the cathedral, a beloved symbol of France, needs to meet three conditions, currently in the works. This includes cleaning and restoration of the interior of the building; restoration of masonry and collapsed vaults; and working to restore the missing spire and frameworks, which, according to the newest statement from the "Rebuild Notre Dame" committee, "is in progress, both on the Ile de la Cité and in the workshop."

More than 1,000 people, spread throughout France, are working simultaneously on the revival of the masterpiece of Gothic art that Notre Dame is, including nearly 500 workers, craftsmen and supervisors who are currently working on the building site, inside the cathedral.

Notre Dame also attracted an unprecedented surge of generosity in the history of French philanthropy, with 340,000 donors from 150 countries raising \$929 million in donations.

### Over 50,000 massacred in Nigeria for being Christian in the last 14 years

ABUJA, Nigeria (OSV News) -- At least 52,250 people have been killed over the last 14 years in Nigeria just for being Christian, a new report published April 10 revealed.

The report, titled "Martyred Christians in Nigeria" and published by the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), says 30,250 of those killed were killed since 2015, when President Muhammadu Buhari came to power.

The report blames what it calls Buhari's radical Islamism for those killings. Approximately 34,000 moderate Muslims were also butchered or hacked to death within the same period.

The sheer number of Christians and moderate Muslims killed or displaced has sent chills down the spines of many, including Andrew Boyd, spokesman for Release International, which serves the persecuted church in some 30 countries. He described the report's finding as "a staggering death toll."

"It is absolutely appalling that so many Christians are being targeted for their faith and killed in Nigeria, while the Nigerian government seems to stand by and let it happen. It is no less appalling that the international community appears content to stay on the sidelines and watch," he told OSV News. Meanwhile, Aid to the Church in Need, in its own report, has given voice to the thousands of Christians persecuted for their faith in Nigeria.

# Synod's North American phase concludes with a call to mission

By Gina Christian  
OSV News

(OSV News) -- The final document for the North American phase of the 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality was released April 12, capturing a process of dialogue and discernment that two participants described as 'messy,' 'joyful' and unifying -- like the synod itself.

"It's amazing what comes about when ... you invoke the Holy Spirit in the conversation," Julia McStravog, a theologian and co-coordinator of the North American team for the synod's continental phase, told OSV News.

"The synodal approach provoked a genuine appreciation and joyfulness on the part of the people of God to be able to engage in conversation, even if they were talking about difficult issues," team co-coordinator Richard Coll told OSV News. Coll also serves as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Led by Catholic bishops from Canada and the United States, McStravog, Coll and their fellow team members have now synthesized the results of synod listening sessions throughout the two countries, producing a 36-page final document available for download at [uscbb.org/synod](http://uscbb.org/synod). (According to the USCCB, the Catholic Church in Mexico is participating in the global synod with the Latin American Episcopal Council, or CELAM, given its long partnership with that conference.)

The North American synod team -- consisting of eight bishops, three laywomen, two priests, two laymen and two women religious -- spent time in prayer, silence and discussion to distill responses for inclusion in the text, which forms a response to the Document for the Continental Stage issued by the Holy See's General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in October 2022.

The final document for the continental stage from North America, along with the contributions of the six other continental assemblies, will form the basis of the "Instrumentum Laboris," the global synod's working document, to be released by the General Secretariat in June.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, who leads the North American team with Canadi-



CNS photo/Robert Duncan  
Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, is a member of the synod preparatory commission.

an Bishop Raymond Poisson of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier, Quebec, presented the document at the Vatican April 12.

Launched by Pope Francis in October 2021, the multi-year synod of bishops -- the theme of which is "communion, participation and mission" -- seeks to cultivate an ongoing dynamic of discernment, listening, humility and engagement within the Catholic Church.

The North American report highlighted three key themes: the implications of baptism, communion with Christ and one another, and missionary discipleship as a living out of the baptismal calling.

"Our baptismal dignity is inseparable from our baptismal responsibility, which sends us forth on mission," the document stated. "Every human person possesses the dignity that comes from being created in the image of God. Through baptism, Christians share in an exalted dignity and vocation to holiness, with no inequality based on race, nationality, social condition, or sex, because we are one in Christ Jesus."

By virtue of their baptism, participants in the synod's North American phase expressed "a desire for a greater recognition of, and opportunities for, co-responsibility within the church and her mission," with greater collaboration "among the laity and the clergy, including bishops," said the document. It stressed "there can be no true co-responsibility in the church without fully honoring the dignity of women."

An "authentic acknowledgment and respect for the gifts and talents of young people is another vital aspect of a co-responsible church in North America," said

the document.

Amid "polarization and a strong pull towards fragmentation," synod participants in North America emphasized the need to "maintain the centrality of Christ," especially in the Eucharist.

The document candidly acknowledged that a "significant threat to communion within the church is a lack of trust, especially between bishops and the laity, but also between the clergy in general and the lay faithful."

The clergy sexual abuse crisis in particular has caused "major areas of tension in North America," as have "the historical wrongs found in the residential (and) boarding schools for Indigenous people, which ... included abuse of all kinds," said the document.

In their introduction to the document, Bishop Flores and Bishop Poisson admitted the need to "(make) efforts to listen more effectively to those from whom we have not heard, including many who have been relegated to the margins of our communities, society and church." They noted their "absence" in the synodal process was "not easily interpreted but was palpably felt."

Among those often missing from synodal sessions were priests, with bishops acknowledging their responsibility to address that lack "by example and by conveying the transparency and spiritual/pastoral fruitfulness of synodality."

Synod participants listed women, young people, immigrants, racial or linguistic minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, people who are divorced and civilly remarried without an annulment, and those with varying degrees of physical or mental abilities as marginalized within the church.

Outreach and inclusion of these groups is ultimately driven at the local level by the faithful actively living out their baptism, McStravog told OSV News.

At the same time, "the bishops really took to heart the call ... to reach out to the periphery," Coll told OSV News, who added that virtual synod sessions enabled broader participation.

Synod participants consistently articulated a longing for better formation in the faith and in Catholic social teaching, the document said.

As the synod process moves into its next phase, Coll and McStravog pointed to the need for humility and openness to God's will.

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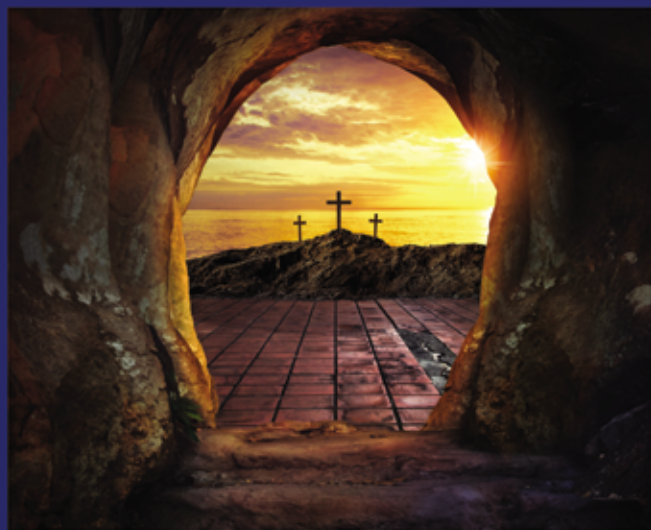
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