

Vol. 56, No. 5

May 19, 2023

'Be Welcoming': New sculpture inspires



'Be Welcoming' sculpture

By Anne Marie Cox Staff Writer

At first glance, the figure looks like a lonely stranger, huddled and frightened.

Look again.

As you walk around Timothy Schmalz's stunning bronze sculpture, a new image emerges: an angel with an outreached hand.

The angel's message—and the title of the artwork: "Be Welcoming."

Schmalz's inspiration is Hebrews 13:2. "Be welcoming to the stranger, many have entertained angels unawares."

"The angel is represented welcoming the viewer to have a seat beside him," said Schmalz, who describes himself as a visual translator of the Bible.

"This is the type of sculpture I love where it's interactive. It beckons you to become a part of it," he said in a YouTube video about the artwork.

Anyone walking or riding by the east side of St. Ambrose Cathedral will be able to experience the sculpture's fascinating transformation, thanks to the generosity of Charllotte and Bob Janeczko, of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines.

Inspired by Schmalz's other sculpture focused on Hebrews 13:2, which rests in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, the Janeczkos made it their mission to bring one of his works to the Des Moines Diocese.

"We want everyone to see it and think about it," Charllotte said. "What does it say to them, and how does it bring people to Christ?"

The life-size image will be installed on the east side of St. Ambrose Cathedral along busy

Continued on page 3



Charllotte and Bob Janeczko hope a new sculpture installed at St. Ambrose Cathedral will bring people to Christ.

Man's journey with God comes full circle with baptism

By Carol Hollenbeck Contributing Writer

Delbert "Del" Settles made a lifelong commitment to the Catholic faith.

He married a Catholic girl, raised six children in the Church, and helped found Our Lady of Carter Lake (now part of Corpus Christi Parish).

Though he lived the life of a devoted Catholic parishioner, parent and husband, Del hadn't received any of the initiation sacraments – baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist – to be in full communion with the Catholic Church. "He was on the edges," said Deacon Monty Montagne.

The deacon learned of Del's situation: "I said, 'You go to church every Sunday. You know much of the Catholic faith. Is there anything that would keep you from joining the Church?" and he said 'No.""

Deacon Montagne invited Del to be baptized.

"He welled up with tears in his eyes and he said he would like to do that," Deacon Montagne said.

Father Jacob Epstein visited the Settles home several times and brought Del through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults program, also known as RCIA. Last Oct. 23, at age 87, Del came into full communion with the Catholic Church, celebrating the sacraments during a Sunday Mass at Corpus Christi Parish/ Our Lady of Carter Lake worship site. His son Donald was his sponsor.

Del's walk with God began at an early age. Born the youngest of six, his mother died when he was a baby. His father, a newspaper typesetter, was not able to take care of the children. Five were sent to a home for children, but the home did not accept babies.

Del, then an orphan, was placed in the foster care system, growing up on various family



Peggy and Del Settles

farms.

Throughout his younger years, Del would attend the clos-

est house of worship to the country home in which he was living.

Continued on page 10

Mother of the Church, Our Mother

By Bishop William Joensen

These days it seems devotion to the Blessed Mother is springing up around us like tulips and irises coming into bloom. The month of May is an especially verdant time for us to ponder, pray, and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Beyond the designation of Mary's month and the initial May crownings and processions such as the impressive scale of the one that took place at Dowling Catholic High School, there are the commemorations of Our Lady of Fatima (May 13), the celebrations of Mary, Mother of the Church (which this year falls on May 29, the day after Pentecost. where Pope Francis instituted the memorial on the Roman liturgical calendar) before concluding on May 31, the Feast of the Visitation. Add to this Marian feasting table the secular designation of the Second Sunday of May as Mother's Day, and we readily feel like we are being buoyed up both by our spiritual mother Mary and by the prayers, tenacious faith, and even the weakness of our own naturally God-given moms.

As I feel ever more at home in the Church of Des Moines, I likewise sense I am connecting with my Mom Marilyn's roots. She grew up with her parents and her younger brother Ralph in Holy Trinity Parish before her Dad died suddenly when she was five years old. Her widowed mother, Marie, was left to provide as a single parent for her kids; thus began a rapid procession of moves that passed through St. Augustin and Visitation Parishes before heading back to draw upon supportive presence from relatives in Waterloo, Iowa.

Though material means were starkly limited, as Grandma worked long hours in her own



Marilyn Joensen, pictured with three of her five children: Tom, Bishop William Joensen, and David. Not pictured are Mark and Ellen.

"beauty shop," my Mom's and uncle's lively faith was fostered by their attendance at Mass, their education at Our Lady of Victory Academy run by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs), and by the close knit bonds of extended family that transcended the "dirt poor" (my late Dad's description) conditions in which they grew up.

Later in life, after she was well on the way toward raising her five kids, someone once asked my Mom: "If you weren't Catholic, what church would you belong to?" Mom's rejoinder: "Asking what religion I would join if I left the Catholic Church is like asking me which child I would give up." Some hypothetical prospects simply beggar the imagination, especially for those rich in faith.

When the death of her Son on the Cross must have come close to tapping out the reservoir of her undying faith, the Mother whose heart had been searingly pierced did not despair of the promises Jesus had made that he would rise again. Her son embraced mortal weakness; she certainly did the same. Yet I am given to wondering if the Risen Christ in his great mercy and filial affection for his Mother might have made a swift and unrecordconsole and anoint her with his tender Spirit prior to appearing in the locked upper room to generate the Pentecost event.

Did she experience the luminous truth of the Resurrection but hold it in her heart until she and the apostles and others gathered with them could bask in the peace he breathed upon them and be stirred to compose a new rendition of her visitation Magnificat? Together, did they magnify the Lord with bursting souls at the marvelous news that death held no more sway, that fear would melt in the face of the Son who went to hell and back in order to call us to be united by the Spirit as the Church against whom the gates of the netherworld cannot prevail?

The Blessed Virgin Mary is Mother of the Church because her stark material poverty is the prelude to her spiritual largesse; every grace she receives is placed at the disposal of the children whom she gladly gathers under her maternal mantle. Every human person, male and female alike, is a child of God, a child of Mary, who loves us and spares no expense or energy in her intercession and devoted attention to us. She draws close to us so that we might never forsake trust that God is with us, that our knotty life can be unraved place for us in the household of Christ's Father's house.

The late Holy Father Benedict XVI reflected on Mary's role throughout her life as a beacon of hope and as the nucleus of a church community coming-to-be, thanks to her abiding presence and maternal solicitude for each of us. In his message, "Saved by Hope," the pontiff speaks directly to the Blessed Mother: "From the Cross you received a new mission. From the Cross you became a mother in a new way: the mother of all those who believe in your Son Jesus and wish to follow him. ... At the foot of the Cross, on the strength of Jesus' own word, you became the mother of believers."

The gentle pope continues, "The joy of the Resurrection touched your heart and united you in a new way to the disciples.... In this way you were in the midst of the community of believers, who in the days following the Ascension prayed with one voice for the gift of the Holy Spirit and then received that gift on the day of Pentecost. The 'Kingdom' of Jesus was not as one might have imagined. It began in that hour, and of this 'Kingdom' there will be no end."

My Mom's life situation has changed dramatically in the last couple months. She suffered her

remains incapacitated on her right side, which has necessitated a move to a care facility in Ankeny as she undergoes therapy and receives the support my siblings and I cannot provide. In so many ways, she who was the stalwart caregiver, the mother who looks after and prays constantly for the spiritual and natural well-being of her children, is now on the receiving end of the humbling, human support that tends to her basic bodily needs. It is a transition that many of us have faced with our parents, or are experiencing ourselves. It is a transition that I witnessed up close in my three years as chaplain at the largest care facility in Iowa, where the daily and Sunday celebration of Eucharist was populated by adult children sitting close to their parents and accompanied by elderly priests themselves in various states of cognitive and physical decline. It was always a poignant, sacred affair; now it is ever more eminently personal.

For now, even though my brother David is remarkably, beautifully committed to visiting and accompanying her, Mom still sits for long stretches in her wheelchair in her room, pondering the staggering cross the stroke has introduced, the reconfiguration of her hope. She gazes occasionally upon the image of Mary that adorns her wall as she prays ever more simply, more childlike, the Rosary clutched in her left hand that still can grasp and function. She remains both mother and daughter of the Mother whose heart and soul will to help us say "yes" to whatever God proposes, whatever befalls us. No one suffers beyond the pale of Mary's maternal attention, her solidarity with our felt poverty.

The woman who is perpetually the lightning rod of the Spirit, the center of all communion, remains Mother of the Church for us. Though we know with certainty of faith and unswerving hope that our suffering will one day end, Mary draws us ever more intimately into the Kingdom that will never end, where the Church who once suffered becomes simply the Church who abides in joy, mutual presence, and a song to which we all know the lyrics as we together magnify the Lord.

acox@dmdiocese.org

Kelly Mescher Collins Staff Writer kcollins@dmdiocese.org

The Catholic Mirror (ISSN 0896-6869) is published monthly for \$25 per year by the Diocese of Des Moines, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines. POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE CATHOLIC MIR-ROR, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. PHONE: (515)237-5046 EMAIL: mirror@dmdiocese. org DIOCESAN WEBSITE:

www.dmdiocese.org

ed visit to her private chambers to eled, and that there is a designat- third and most serious stroke, and

Madre de la Iglesia, Nuestra Señora

En estos días parece que la devoción a la Santísima Madre está brotando igual que los tulipanes e irises están floreciendo. El mes de mayo es un tiempo especialmente fructífero para que podamos meditar, orar y honrar a la Santísima Virgen María. Más allá de la designación del mes de María y las tempranas coronaciones y peregrinaciones de mayo tal como la que se llevó a cabo en la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Dowling a gran escala, tenemos las conmemoraciones de Nuestra Señora de Fátima (13 de mayo), las celebraciones de María, Madre de la Iglesia (la cual celebramos este año el 20 de mayo, el día después de Pentecostés, la cual instituyó el Papa Francisco en el memorial de calendario litúrgico romano) antes de concluir el 31 de mayo con la Fiesta de la Visitación. Si adherimos a la tabla de festividades marianas a la designación secular del segundo domingo del mes de mayo como el Día de las Madres, y nos sentimos verdaderamente que estamos siendo elevados tanto por María, nuestra madre espiritual, y por las oraciones, tenacidad en la fe e incluso la debilidad de nuestras propias madres naturales que Dios nos ha concedido.

Conforme me siento más en casa aquí en la Diócesis de Des

Moines, siento al mismo tiempo que me estoy conectando con las raíces de mi mamá Marilyn. Ella creció con sus padres y su hermano menor Ralph en la Parroquia de Holy Trinity antes de la muerte inesperada de su papá cuando ella tenía cinco años. Su madre Marie, ya viuda, tuvo que hacerse cargo por sí sola de sus hijos; empezó una rápida serie de mudanzas que pasaron de las parroquias de San Agustín y Visitación, antes de mudarse a Waterloo, Iowa donde tendría una mayor presencia y apoyo de sus familiares.

Aunque los recursos materiales estaban algo limitados a pesar de las largas horas de trabajo de mi abuela en su propio "salón de belleza," la fe viva de mi mamá y de mi tío se alimentó de su asistencia a Misa, su educación en la Academia de Our Lady of Victory que administraban la Hermanas de la Caridad de la Santísima Virgen María (BVM por sus siglas en inglés), y por los fuertes lazos establecidos con nuestra familia extendida que trascendió en las condiciones de "mera pobreza" (descripción de mi difunto padre) en la que ellos crecieron.

Más delante en su vida, luego que ella iba firmemente a

Continued on page 10

Spring brings May crowning of Mary







'Be Welcoming' sculpture inspires

Continued from page I

Sixth Avenue, where it will face a multitude of people every day: walkers, cyclists and drivers. It will be lighted at night and accessible to all.

Bishop William Joensen will bless the new sculpture on Friday, May 26.

Welcoming strangers is a foundation of Christianity. Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph, were strangers in a new land when they fled King Herod's wrath by going to Egypt. When Jesus began his public ministry, he encouraged his followers to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35), and St. Paul encouraged Christians to stained glass windows and sculpture a means of educating people, Bob said. In some ways, it seems sculpture has become a lost art, he added.

"I think it's another three di-

mensional, tactical art that people can use to practice their religion and see God," he said. "Sculpting seems to have disappeared. Now, (Schmalz) is bringing it back."



The Church honors Mary as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf. Parishes and schools around the Diocese celebrated the crowning of Mary in May. Upper left: Father Seth Owusu looks on as a statue of Mary is crowned at St. Patrick Parish in Walnut. Top center: Father Owusu and parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Avoca crown Mary. Above: Father Max Carson and youth of Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs crown Mary. At left: All Dowling Catholic High School students honored the Blessed Virgin Mary by processing around the school and praying before crowning a Mary.

Sisters crown Mary



The St. Augustin Altar and Rosary Society hosted on May 4 The Real Sister Act, their spring event which included the recitation of the rosary, the crowning of Blessed Mother Mary, Mass celebrated by Father Christopher Pisut, pastor of St. Augustin, and a dinner with speaker presentations. The honored guests this year were Nazarene Sisters Rosalia Njura and Joan Clare Nyoroka, and Sacred Heart Sister Elsy Xavier. Also attending were: Franciscan Sister Joyce Blum, co-vicar of the religious sisters, Humility Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, and Sister Pat Scherer.

WWW.EUCHARIST.DOWR.ORG



welcome the stranger. (Galatians 3:28)

The Janeczkos first saw Schmalz's work during a gathering two years ago of Legatus, a group for Catholic business people. They were so inspired, they invited Schmalz to speak to the Des Moines chapter of Legatus and began an effort to bring one of his sculptures to Des Moines.

Their primary reason for placing the sculpture on the campus of St. Ambrose Cathedral is so that it could be seen by as many people as possible. A secondary reason is that it is close to the legendary Pappajohn Sculpture Park, which draws visitors from across the country.

The Catholic Church has a long history of producing beautiful artwork such as paintings, DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

THIS IS MY BODY

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2023

JUNE 10, 2023 | MANKATO CIVIC CENTER

COME AND JOIN THOUSANDS OF CATHOLICS AS WE REJOICE IN THE LORD THROUGH THE EUCHARIST!

Eucharistic Procession, Mass, Speakers, Music



EARLY BIRD PRICING EXTENDED!

REGISTRATION FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE BEGINS APRIL 1. Early Bird Prices for all registrants extended through May 15.

WWW.EUCHARIST.DOWR.ORG

_egislative session wraps up for the year

By Tom Chapman **Contributing Writer**

4

The Iowa General Assembly finished its 2023 session last towards K-12 education. week as lawmakers passed an \$8.5 billion budget.

Most of the spending goes million property tax cut. The legislature also

completed work on a \$100

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

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

CALDWELL PARRISH Funeral Home & Crematory

Urbandale • Adel • Winterset • CaldwellParrish.com

DES MOINES' ONLY CATHOLIC-OWNED & OPERATED FUNERAL HOME.

Budget

The budget bill for the Department of Health and Human Services spends more than \$2 billion.

The ICC was pleased that the final version, Senate File 561, included \$1 million for the Iowa MOMS (More Options for Maternal Support) program. This is an increase of \$500,000 from last year.

MOMS will provide services to pregnant women and families with infants through non-profit pregnancy resource centers.

Education

Because the Students First/ Education Savings Account program was passed earlier in the session, legislators cut the usual \$852,000 allocated for purchase of textbooks for nonpublic school students.

The legislature continued the funding of transportation services for nonpublic school students at \$8.9 million.

The final version of House File 430 is being sent to the governor. The bill prohibits schools from entering into employment

agreements that would prevent discussion of abuse incidents by former staff with potential employers.

The bill also grants immunity to school authorities for such discussions. The ICC has worked on this bill for years in different forms so it's good to get it over the finish line.

Work rules

The Senate and House passed the final version of Senate File 542, adding to the work activities and hours available to those under age 18.

The House added an amendment which requires sexual harassment training for 16 and 17-year-olds who will be allowed with parental permission to serve alcohol in restaurants.

Any harassment incidents involving a juvenile will be reported to the parents and the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

The amendment also narrowed the ability of the state to grant exceptions in workplace learning programs.

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

Advertise in The Catholic Mirror! Call 515-237-5057 or email communications@dmdiocese.org.

DO YOU PAY IOWA TAXES? LET CTO HELP YOU PAY LESS! CATHOLIC TUITION ORGANIZATION TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE 75% IOWA TAX CREDIT BY DONATING TO THE

CATHOLIC TUITION ORGANIZATION

75% Iowa Income Tax Credit for Contribution to CTO Example for Individuals, S Corps, LLCs/Partnerships, Trusts, and Estates Consult with your tax advisor about potential tax benefits when donating to CTO. wo Tax Savings d Tax Savin

FOR EVERY **ONE** DOLLAR DONATED



taxable income (line 38 on Iowa Form 1040) is:	tax (based on 2023 tax rates) is approximately:	the following amount to CTO:	IA tax credit is:	IA income tax to (overpaym ent):	itemizing deductions on Federal return, deduct:	Federal tax by (assuming 32% rate):	Federal tax savings of:	donor (donation less tax savings) of:
Δ	B	2	<u>D = C x 75%</u>	<u>E = B - D</u>	F = C - D	<u>G = F x 32%</u>	H = D + G	<u>I = C - H</u>
\$100,000	\$ 5,486	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 1,736	\$ 1,250	\$ 400	\$ 4,150	\$ 850
\$150,000	\$ 8,486	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,625	\$ 2,861	\$ 1,875	\$ 600	\$ 6,225	\$1,275
\$200,000	\$11,486	\$10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,986	\$ 2,500	\$ 800	\$ 8,300	\$1,700
\$250,000	\$14,486	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$ (514)	\$ 5,000	\$1,600	\$16,600	\$3,400
\$300,000	\$17,486	\$25,000	\$18,750	\$ (1,264)	\$ 6,250	\$2,000	\$20,750	\$4,250



or call Mark at (515) 237-5010... Fulfill Your Pledge by December 15, 2023



GET \$.75 CENTS BACK IN TAX CREDITS







ESA law makes funding available for eligible students

Applications open May 31

By Nicole Evans Contributing Writer

Now a faith-based education is within reach for more students in Iowa.

The Iowa legislature approved a proposal to create Education Savings Accounts to help fund nonpublic education.

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed the Student First Bill on Jan. 24 surrounded by supporters of school choice.

This law makes state funding available for eligible Iowa K-12 students who choose to attend accredited private schools. It also provides public schools additional funding for students who live in the school's district but attend private schools.

"It is with great excitement that we celebrate a win for children in Iowa – the ability for families to choose the school that best fits their child's needs," said Donna Bishop, superintendent of schools.

How do ESAs work?

Parents who enroll their eligible children in an accredited private school will receive \$7,635 per child for the 2023- 2024 school year. Funds are deposited into the student's ESA (managed by a state contractor) yearly and the parent pays the school through an app. Funds remain available until the student graduates high school or turns 20. The remaining balance is returned to the state general fund.

The new law will be phased in over three years beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Year 1 - School Year 2023-24 • All students entering kindergarten

• All students enrolled in a public school

• A student enrolled in a private school with a household income at or below \$90,000 for a family of four.

Year 2 - School Year 2024-25

• All students entering kindergarten

• All students enrolled in a public school

• A student enrolled in a private school with a household income at or below an estimated \$120,000 (or 400% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines that will be updated January 2024).

Year 3 - School Year 2025-26

• All K-12 students in Iowa regardless of income

"The funds will be transferred from the state's general fund directly into a special state savings account most likely accessible by an app," said Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference. "The parent will use the app to pay approved vendors such as accredited nonpublic schools. Balances in student accounts will remain in their account until high school graduation or up to age 20."

This legislation will not change the core mission of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines to be collaborative communities of spiritual formation and academic excellence where students grow in faith and wisdom and emerge as responsible citizens dedicated to lifelong discipleship.

"The Student First Bill was written to maintain the independence of our Catholic schools," said Superintendent Bishop. "This bill will not restrict or make changes to the current Iowa core and faith-based curriculum we offer today as accredited schools in the state of Iowa. Faith will continue at the core of all we do and who we are as we remain rooted in Christ."

The new education savings accounts will not affect the Catholic Tuition Organization grants or tuition assistance provided to families through the Diocese. Donors to the CTO are encouraged to continue to support tuition assistance for families that want a Catholic education for their children.

There were 397 donors who contributed more than \$3.4 million in 2021 for tuition assistance this academic year.

Thirty-seven percent of the student population in the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools received tuition assistance this school year.

Learn more and apply

Applications open May 31, on educateiowa.gov/pk-12/stu dents-first-education-savingsaccounts. Applications for the 2023-2024 school year must be submitted by June 30.

Only one application is needed per household.

Parents/guardians can add multiple students attending multiple schools from their household.

The application process should take no more than 10-15 minutes and results will be available immediately.

Applications are valid for one year; a family must apply annually to remain eligible for the program.

Parents are invited to send their questions to studentsfirst@ iowa.gov or call 515-281-5211 for more information.

Heltons reflect on state wrestling experience

By Kevin White Contributing Writer

St. Albert Catholic School seniors David, John and Anna Helton are triplets who have attended St. Albert Catholic since they were in kindergarten.

David and John both earned eighth-place medals at the Class 1A state wrestling tournament in their careers, becoming only the 11th and 12th wrestlers in school history to earn state medals, and Anna was a team manager the past two seasons.

David finished with a career record of 146-58, which is the fourth-most wins in school history, and John finished 126-50, which ranks ninth on the school wins list.

The following are some thoughts from the triplets on state wrestling, growing up a triplet, and their time at St. Albert Catholic.

Q: David, you weren't close to qualifying for state in your first two years of high school. What changed in your junior year, when you qualified for the first time and placed eighth? off.

Q: John, you had an elbow injury that prevented you from competing for most of your junior year. Why do you feel you realized your potential as a senior, when you placed eighth?

JH: I'd say just the new coaches, Colton and Cory Lear, they had a big impact. I'd say that's what flipped the switch for David junior year, too. They've been wrestling for a long time, so they know all the tricks.

Q: Anna, what was it like for you to watch your brothers wrestle?

AH: There were a lot of times I was really anxious, because both of them had past injuries ... It was just a fun experience going up with them. I was kind of happy that John got eighth this year and David got eighth last year, so they couldn't really hold bragging rights over one another.

Q: Anna, most of your siblings eventually transferred to another parochial school. Why did you stay at St. Albert Catholic, and boys, what have you enjoyed about the experience? I just like the environment of St. Albert. We know everybody. It's just where we've been since we were in kindergarten.

JH: I really like the closeknit environment here and the community. You have middle school parents, elementary parents congratulating you in the hallways. You see the elementary students in the hallway, and they're like, 'Oh, he's a high schooler. I know him. He wrestles.' I really like

that aspect of it. DH: We wouldn't change it for anything. We really loved our time here.



DH: I went up two weight classes (from 138 to 152), so that definitely helped me out with my strength, because I was cutting a lot of weight and it wasn't paying AH: My parents kind of wanted me to stay with John and David, and I didn't have a strong desire to go. ... Our whole grade is close and so is our friend group, so I just decided to stay at St. Albert. I don't regret that decision.



St. Albert Catholic School seniors John, Anna and David Helton supported each other throughout the wrestling season.



Seven Exceptional Edencrest Locations to Serve You!

Edencrest at Timberline 515-422-8096

14001 Douglas Pkwy, Urbandale, IA 50323 Edencrest at Riverwoods Edencrest at Green Meadows 515-250-3052 515-204-7467 2210 E Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50320 6750 Corporate Dr, Johnston, IA 50131 Edencrest at The Legacy **Edencrest at Beaverdale** 515-422-8096 515-250-3052 2901 Cedar St, Norwalk, IA 50211 3410 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310 **Edencrest at Siena Hills Edencrest at The Tuscany** 515-313-3814 515-313-3814 1600 8TH SE, Altoona, IA 50009 455 SW Ankeny Rd, Ankeny, IA 50023

Around the Diocese

May 25 Thursday

St. Vincent de Paul Golf Outing PLEASANT HILL –

The St. Vincent de Paul golf outing will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 10 a.m. at Copper Creek Golf Course. Registration is \$150 per person which includes hosted food and beverages. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Contact Randi Radosevich at resourcedirector@svdpdsm.org for more information.

May 31 Wednesday Nourish For Caregivers

URBANDALE -- All caregivers – whether you are caring for an aging parent, spouse, disabled child or are a professional that cares for all -- are invited to Nourish for Caregivers on from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church in Urbandale in the Archangels meeting room. Use the east entrance. For more information, contact Deacon Dan Maxcy at danm@holytrinitydm.org or Deacon Jim Houston at pastoralcare@saintpiuschurch.org.

June 3 Saturday Training for Sponsor Couples

DES MOINES -- The Office of Hispanic Ministry will be offering a training for sponsor couples using the "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 4 Sunday Corpus Christi Processional

DES MOINES– St. Augustin Parish's Corpus Christi procession with bagpipes begins at 4 p.m., with dinner to follow in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to join us as we process through the neighborhood. All area Knights of Columbus are invited to dress in their regalia and First Communion classes are invited to come in their First Communion attire. Golf cart assistance will be available to those with difficulty walking.

June 16 Friday Sacred Heart of Jesus Festival

WEST DES MOINES -- A Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast Day Festival starts at Sacred Heart Parish with Mass at 5:30 pm and then a party in the parking lot at 6:30 pm with food trucks, live music, family activities, etc. It's free and all are welcome.

June 22 Thursday House of Mercy Game Show

DES MOINES -- The 2023 MercyOne House of Mercy Game Show Gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. It's a fun-spirited game show-style fundraiser for Mercy-One House of Mercy. For more information, visit MercyOne.org/ desmoines/game-show-gala.

June 24 Saturday March for Life

DES MOINES -- The Iowa March for Life will begin at 1 p.m. on the west steps of the Capitol with prayer and a rally. The group will walk to the Iowa Supreme Court building. **Biking for Babies**

ANKENY -- Biking for Babies annual ride begins at 7 a.m. Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. Rides of differing lengths will begin at staggered start times.

July 22 Saturday Ignatian Retreat Day

URBANDALE -- Mark your calendar for Emmaus House's Annual Ignatian Retreat Day with presenter 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. Go to theemmaushouse.org for details.

Now through Sept. 28 Bishop Drumm Garage Sale

JOHNSTON - This garage sale will be held each Thursday morning until Sept. 28 on Bishop Drumm's campus 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.

Second place photo honors Paralympian

By Carol Hollenbeck

C a t h o l i c Daughters of the Americas member Mary Sue Wickham, of Council Bluffs, won second place at the statewide CDA semi-annual convention recently.

Wickham captured Paralympian Josh Turek at the Council Bluffs YMCA. Turek is a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from the 20th District.

The Council Bluffs native is a four-time Paralympian (2004, 2012, 2016 and 2020.) He is a three-time Paralympic medalist, winning two gold medals and one bronze medal.



State Rep. Josh Turek, of Council Bluffs, in award-winning image.

After he and his USA Paralympic Basketball team won the 2020 Gold Medal, he retired from the sport. Turek is pictured in front of Wickham's quilt display of the Olympic rings and her own smiley face basketball "to represent the USA."

School sisters celebrate jubilees

On June 17, 35 U.S. School Sisters of St. Francis will celebrate milestone anniversaries of service as women religious. These are the sisters who served in the Diocese of Des Moines who will be celebrating Jubilee this year.

75 YEARS

Sister Theresa Panther was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Alverno College



Des Moines, she served as principal of All Saints School in Des Moines (1981-1987). Sister Theresa now ministers in prayer and presence at Trinity Adult Family Home in Madison.

60 YEARS

Sister Theresa Engel was born in Westphalia, Iowa. She

earned a bachelor's degree from Alverno College (1967) and a master's degree from the University of



St. Thomas (1973). In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Tess served as pastoral associate in St. Boniface Parish in Waukee (1991-2002); was an organizer for AMOS (A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy) in the Des Moines Diocese (2002-2003); and served as director of intergenerational faith formation for team parishes

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

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;

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.

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

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



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.



in Fort Dodge (2005-2012).

Sister Patricia Throener was born in Osmond, Nebras-

ka. She has a bachelor's degree from Alverno College (1966) and a master's degree from Creighton



University (1983). In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Patricia taught at St. Joseph School in Earling (1971-1978). Sister Patricia now ministers through prayer and presence at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee.

Cards for the sisters may be mailed to the sister's name, ATTN: U.S. Province Jubilee Committee, 1545 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215.

Retiring DRE grateful to accompany families

By Anne Marie Cox Staff Writer

Theresa Romens says after 24 years of serving as the director of religious education at Holy Rosary Parish in Glenwood it's time for her to step back and encourage someone else to lead the parish's faith formation program.

She and her husband of nearly 45 years want to travel, visit kids in Minnesota and spend time with grandchildren.

Romens has been a gift to the parish.

"Theresa brings years of experience" to Holy Rosary, said the pastor, Father Dan Siepker. "She's very creative, very spiritual."

"I really consider it a ministry. I was called to do this," she said.

Romens started as a catechist in Protivin, Iowa, where a Franciscan sister encouraged her to teach sixth grade. With her husband in the military, the family moved to Germantown, Illinois where she served as a catechist and helped coordinate the faith formation program.

The Romens family moved to the Twin Cities, where she became a parish administrative assistant and helped with their Generations of Faith model of faith formation.

As she moved to Glenwood, she contacted Holy Rosary and she was hired by the former pastor, Father Paul Monahan, to do religious education for youth ranging in age from three to high school.

In her time there, though, she branched out to offer lifelong faith formation. Not only does she serve the youth, but she leads retreats, a book study and more.

She was ahead of her time, said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

"Her wisdom about adults as the primary audience for formation was as strong back then as it is today," he said. "In many ways Theresa is a prophet as the new General Directory for Catechesis indeed calls for intentional pastoral care in forming adults as the priority in formation." One of the best pieces of advice Romens received was from Cindee Hays, of St. Mary Parish



Theresa Romens

in Red Oak, who told her to walk with people.

Indeed, Romens has accompanied her fellow parishioners from womb to tomb. And in their own way, they accompanied Romens through some challenging times.

"My husband went to Iraq twice. I don't know what I would have done without my parish," she said.

Romens knows just about everyone's name. It's important for people to be called by name, she said.

As she prepares to retire, Romens sees her former students bringing their own children for baptism or First Communion.

"I'm kind of the grandma of the parish," she said.

Gaffney, who works with faith leaders across the Diocese, said: "I hope Theresa will be available to help us mentor those new to parish formation leadership as she enjoys retirement."

The accidental DRE

By Anne Marie Cox Staff Writer

Kayla Richer says her evolution from catechist to fulltime director of religious education was a happy accident.

Preparing for retirement, she reflected on how she got her start.

She wanted to be part of her four children's religious education, so she volunteered to be an assistant in their classes at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

One day, the lead teacher didn't show up. Organizers asked her to step up and try teaching the class.

She's been teaching or leading religious education ever since. This spring, she's retiring after serving 25 years in leadership at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

After teaching at Sacred Heart, she became a part-time director of religious education at the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines. Then, a full-time director position opened up at her home parish, where she and her husband, Deacon Bill Richer, were married 52 years ago.

"How many people can say they have a full-time job in their home parish? I've been very, very fortunate," Kayla said.

Over the years, her philosophy for sharing the faith has been simple.

"I think that faith that lasts a lifetime is rooted in the knowledge that we are beloved and cherished children of God and sharing how we know that is what catechesis is all about," she said. "That's where it begins: Sharing that God loves you."

The connection between her faith and her job is big, she said.

"I think that being able to live my faith through my job has been such a blessing," she said. "I not only get to talk about it but learn about it every day. It's been great for me."

Over the years, she's met some pretty amazing people.

"All the wonderful examples of faith in the people I've been lucky enough to encounter over the past 25 years has been such a gift to me -- priests, coworkers, friends, catechists, all those people have been a part of my faith history and it's been such a blessing," she said.

After he came into full communion in the Catholic Church, John Gaffney said Richer invited him to be a catechist.

"That invitation really was Jesus working through Kayla to invite me into a vocation that would take me on a journey I never would have dreamed," said Gaffney, who now serves as the diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis. "Kayla is a blessing to her parish community and to the Church of southwest Iowa."

Father Hartshorn, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, agreed.

"Kayla has been a real gift to Sacred Heart Parish. Why? Because she has shared



Kayla Richer

her gift of faith with our children and families," he said. "Kayla has gone the extra mile to meet people where they are on their faith journey and walk with them to help them grow in faith and knowing they are loved by God and our community of faith."

As she prepares for retirement, Richer has advice for young parents.

"To someone who is thinking about being a catechist but they're afraid they don't know enough, I have found that there's just no better way to grow in your faith than by sharing your faith and teaching it," she said.

In retirement, Richer plans to sit for a while.

"I'm looking forward to having more time to do simple things like read or have more time for my prayer life," she said. She's looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and reconnecting with friends.



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@ polk countyiowa.gov.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines,

With Deacon Omar Gutierrez



8

Catholic Charities: Activating compassion for 99 years



By Bobbi Jo Smith Contributing Writer

Catholic Charities USA is a national organization founded over a century ago by men and women who believed that the collective efforts of the church to faithfully serve people in need could change the course of poverty in our nation.

While each of the 167 local Catholic Charities agencies serves that mission, each is unique in the programs and services offered depending upon the needs within its diocese.

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 Diocese.

Five cornerstone programs exist to empower individuals and strengthen families and are delivered with care and compassion.

Refugee Services

Catholic Charities Refugee Services works through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. State Department. Our partnership with these entities affords us 90 days to resettle clients who have family or close friends living in our area. Every family is unique, and requires a variety of services ranging from health exams to job placement assistance to school enrollment, language classes, and bus training.

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, we resettled 452 refugees. Because we are devoted to ensuring the entire family has a great start in their new lives here A 24-hour crisis phone line, emergency shelter, court advocacy, educational classes and materials, counseling, and support groups are a few of the ways we help men, women and children feel safe and empowered.

Catholic Charities' program serves nine counties in southwest Iowa: Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby.

Our 24-hour crisis line is 888-612-0266.

Food Pantry

Without basic nutrition, it is difficult to think beyond dayto-day needs. Catholic Charities wants to help our clients fulfill their basic needs and help explore other barriers that our clients face. Nearly 20% of all people living in central Iowa are food insecure.

Those in need can receive a three-day supply of food once per month at no cost. Additionally, our daily food counter is open to anyone during our business hours: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We distribute approximately 35,000 pounds of rescued food every month. Visit us at 1815 Hubbell Ave. in Des Moines.

Counseling

The Catholic Charities Counseling Program offers help and hope. Our licensed, professional therapists work with clients of all faiths and backgrounds to address issues including depression, anxiety, stress, marital issues, relationship problems, child behavior problems, trauma, abuse, and more. We deliver services from a trauma-informed perspective and our clinical staff are trained in evidence-based practices and interventions. We provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for clients in Des Moines and Council Bluffs and offer telehealth for those in need of services in more remote areas of the diocese. Bilingual services are also available. To learn more or schedule an appointment, call 515-237-5045.

Family Shelter

Often when individuals and families least expect it, life takes a turn and a roof over your head is no longer something that can be guaranteed. Shelter is a basic need that can often be taken for granted.

Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter keeps homeless families together during a very difficult time in their lives. Our experienced staff understands that homelessness is not a simple issue. The goal is to help each family leave the shelter with stable housing, financial stability, and empowerment to live a successful, sustainable life.

The facility provides a safe environment for up to 10 families at a time, with clean and modern amenities. Evening meals are cooked and served by volunteers.

All families seeking shelter should contact Primary Healthcare Outreach, the centralized intake agency in our community: 515-248-1850.

Support the mission

At Catholic Charities of Des Moines, we actively pursue grant funding to support each of our programs, but financial contributions from parishioners and donors is pivotal to our efforts.

The infrastructure we have built allows us to deliver programs and services to those who find themselves in need – putting your generosity into action to connect people with exceptional life-changing experiences that inspire full human potential and growth.

To learn more about Catholic Charities programs and services or how your time, talent or treasure can become a life-saving mechanism for those in need, visit www.catholiccharitiesdm.org.

Biking for Babies

Local ride is June 24

Biking for Babies is hosting its third annual local ride June 24 in Ankeny.

The national organization proclaims the dignity of every life and forms young adults into missionary disciples of Jesus.

Beginning with 7 a.m. Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist with Bishop William Joensen, rides of various lengths will begin at staggered times throughout the morning. There's a family 5-mile ride, a 22-mile ride and a 46-mile ride. The number of participants

and volunteers is growing.

"The number of people supporting the planning has blossomed," said Nikki Biese, executive director of Biking for Babies.

Local pregnancy centers that will benefit include InnerVisions HealthCare in West Des Moines and Des Moines, Martha's House of Hope in Ames and Agape Pregnancy Resource Center in Des Moines.

A Midwest route is also planned from Rochester, Minnesota to St. Louis July 9-16. The national ride is growing from its original route in 2009 to eight routes this summer.

"It's growing tremendously," said Biese.

For more information or to register, go to bikingforbabies. com.



In the last 13 years, Biking for Babies has raised \$1.26 million for life-affirming work. Pictured is co-founder Jimmy Becker.

InnerVisions a partner of Biking for Babies Prolife medical clinic gala June I

InnerVisions Healthcare has partnered with Biking for Babies to promote life.

InnerVisions, a crisis pregnancy medical clinic in the Des Moines metro area, has received grants from Biking for Babies for its work serving women with unplanned pregnancies.

Biking for Babies, a national organization, holds summer bike rides to raise awareness and funds for prolife efforts. Biking for Babies will be a sponsor at InnerVisions' annual gala June 1 as a means of raising awareness both of its national ride in July and its annual local bike ride to be held June 24 in Ankeny. "It's a wonderful way to partner," said Bryan Gonzalez, director of development for InnerVisions. "We're helping to promote their mission and efforts. They're helping to promote our programs and services. It's a great symbiotic relationship."

make a fully informed decision. We hope they choose parenting or adoption."

InnerVisions tries to identify the obstacles that stand in the way of a woman choosing life for her child.

"We want to do what we can to remove that obstacle so she can make a decision without those obstacles interfering in that decision-making process," Gonzalez said.

In 2022, about 70 percent of InnerVisions patients walked through their doors before they were seven weeks pregnant, he said.

in Iowa, the post-resettlement program, which cares for refugees beyond the initial 90-day service, is a critical component of Catholic Charities' program that elevates our level of service.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Abusive, violent or threatening situations happen in every part of the community to men and women of all backgrounds. The Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, located in Council Bluffs, provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

Accompanists

Assumption Catholic Church is seeking to hire additional accompanists to play piano for 2-4 masses per month. If interested, please contact Lori Ancona, Music Director, at lancona@assumtiongranger.org.

Edward **Jones**

Helping you build a secure financial future

Matt Kneifl, financial advisor recognized by *Forbes*

Matt Kneifl, CFP[®], AAMS[®] Financial Advisor

1100 73rd Street | Windsor Heights, IA 50324 (515) 279-2219 | Matt.Kneifl@edwardjones.com



Member SIPC Source: April 2023 Forbes.com InnerVisions provided medical services to 673 individual pregnant women, who visited 983 times at one of two clinics last year.

"We're serving more and more abortion-seeking pregnant women in need," Gonzalez said. "While we don't perform or refer for abortions, we provide free, compassionate medical education to them so when they leave our doors they're at least able to "That means InnerVisions has a unique opportunity to play an important role in that decision-making process. We take that responsibility seriously."

InnerVisions HealthCare is holding its annual gala with the theme "Miracle of the heartbeat" at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines on June 1. Dr. William Lile, who practices in obstetrics and gynecology, opened a prolife clinic more than 20 years ago in a former abortion building in Florida. He is a nationally known speaker and has assisted the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in promoting life

For information for the clinic or to get tickets to the gala, go to ivhcare.org.

Martha's House benefits from Biking for Babies

Todd and Johna Clancy, who are strong supporters of Martha's House of Hope in Ames, are grateful that Biking for Babies helps the maternity home for women in crisis pregnancies.

The two organizations are a good match. The bike ride raises awareness of the need to support women in crisis pregnancies and offers grants to organizations like Martha's House that support prolife efforts.

"Our visions align and we dovetail well," said Todd Clancy. He and his wife, Johna, supported Martha's House shortly after it was launched in Ames and, after the couple moved to Indianola and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, they continued to support the maternity home.

"It's an extension of our faith," he said.

Martha's House of Hope began after a fire took the life of a young woman from Boone named Martha. In her memory, the community identified a need for women in crisis pregnancies and created a safe home where pregnant women and parenting moms can stay until their child is one year old.

The home is meant to help

Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

El Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas es un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a víctimas de abuso sexual por parte del clero durante el proceso de la queja y buscando servicios de apoyo y consejería. Pueden comunicarse al 515-286-2028 o en advocate@ dmdiocese.org.



women who have no support system: no family, and the father is not around to help.

"It's tough to get on your feet," Todd said.

The home does have some criteria the women need to meet.

"We have an expectation that our residents attend some sort of church service every weekend," Todd said. "And we work with different organizations to provide financial skills, jobs and education."

The four-bedroom home is filled with love for the mothersto-be, and at capacity. In fact, it has a waiting list.

Organizers first thought Martha's House would serve college students given its location near Iowa State University. However, many women who come needing help are in their mid 20s.

"They realize they need help and want to move forward with their lives," Johna said.

Martha's House is at the crux of three dioceses: Des Moines, Sioux City, and Dubuque. It has support in all three and organizers are grateful.

"It's been hard at times, but it's been really neat to the see the success now," Johna said.

Laying the foundation Supportive approach expands affordable housing to Council Bluffs

By Anne Marie Cox Staff Writer

Des Moines-based Anawim Housing is expanding into the Council Bluffs area at the invitation of the community to help address homelessness.

A recent study on the issue in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area provided some eye-opening news.

"A huge amount of philanthropic support goes to address homelessness without addressing the root causes of homelessness," said Brenda Mainwaring, president and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation in Council Bluffs.

The community has two excellent homeless shelters, but needs to address those root causes, she said.

After much discussion, the community turned to an organization with a proven track record for serving the vulnerable homeless population: Anawim Housing.

In the past 13 years, Anawim Housing quietly increased its footprint across the state developing affordable housing for families. Founded by Mercy Sister Stella Neill in 1987, Anawim has developed affordable housing in Polk County, Ottumwa, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City, said Executive Director Cynthia Latcham.

Simultaneously, it has expanded to become the largest provider in Iowa of permanent supportive housing. The program provides housing and ongoing supportive services.

This permanent supportive

Remembering Father Jim Kiernan



"Don't Just Make The Sign of The Cross. PRAY IT!"

Passed into eternal life on May 15, 2016 housing arm of the organization is what's coming to Council Bluffs.

"We wanted to find some partners that would be able to help us address those upstream needs and Anawim is among the best in the state," Mainwaring said.

In Polk County, Anawim serves 400 people in 250 households – both individuals and families -- with permanent supportive housing.

"We're taking all of our expertise that we've learned in Polk County and we're using a staff we hired in Council Bluffs to offer this project to about 20 households that are experiencing homelessness," said Latcham.

Catholic Charities, which has an emergency shelter in Council Bluffs for domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking victims, is grateful for community support in addressing the long-term needs of the homeless by looking at its root causes, said Executive Director Barbara Decker.

Last year, various service providers talked about where there are gaps in the help that's offered to people in Council Bluffs.

"We wanted to make sure we're looking at the problem as a system, not simply as a single entity performing an isolated activity," Mainwaring said. It was determined that supportive housing was needed.

So far, so good.

New Visions Homeless Shelter in Council Bluffs is vetting those who will be given shelter through Anawim. "We are very thankful and receptive to Anawim Housing because it does provide another creative solution to house our friends experiencing homelessness," said New Visions CEO Brandy Waller.

In her 20 years of working in homeless services, Waller said success comes when individuals have housing, supportive services and a champion for them. Individuals may need access to food programs, a medical clinic and more.

Using that formula is a winwin for the community because individuals have housing and, with supportive services, may not be using the local hospital emergency room as a doctor's office or get arrested for trespassing because they have nowhere to go, Waller added.

"It's approaching a person in a holistic manner and setting them up for success," she said.

Mainwaring also said the process is going smoothly.

"Anawim has been terrific in integrating their services into what's already being done in the Council Bluffs area," she said.

Iowa West Foundation is financially supporting the expansion of Anawim to Council Bluffs.

"When we think about how we want to fund programs, it's about supporting our neighbors and creating a community where people love to live. If somebody doesn't have shelter, they can't even begin to think about all of the other ways to succeed," Mainwaring said.



We're close in all the ways you need.

Yes, we are located nearby for your convenience. Through the years, we have formed close relationships with the families we serve. As neighbors, we are there when needed most. With a skilled and caring staff. With a warm and comforting atmosphere. With answers and options few funeral homes can offer.









Priest earns doctoral degree Madre de la Iglesia, Nuestra Señora



10

Father Daniel Adjei, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, earned his doctorate degree in systematic theology from Duquesne University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Systematic theology is the study of all of the different branches of theology and bringing them together.

Continued from page 1

criar a cinco hijos, alguien le preguntó en una ocasión a mi madre: "Si ustedes no fueran católicos, ¿a qué iglesia asistirían?" Mi madre les respondería: "El preguntarme a qué religión me afiliaría si dejara la Iglesia Católica es como preguntarme a cuál de mis hijos abandonaría." Algunos prospectos hipotéticos simplemente rondan la imaginación, especialmente en aquellos con una fe abundante.

Cuando la muerte de su Hijo en la Cruz debe haber llegado a los límites de su reserva de fe ilimitada, la madre, cuyo corazón había sido ferozmente atravesado, no se alejó de las promesas que había hecho Jesús de que resucitaría. Si hijo acogió su debilidad mortal; ella hizo precisamente lo mismo. Y aún así me atrevo a preguntarme si el Cristo Resucitado en su gran misericordia y filial afecto a su madre, le haya hecho una visita rápida y no documentada a sus aposentos para consolarla y ungirla con su tierno Espíritu, antes de aparecer en el salón cerrado con llave previo al evento de Pentecostés.

¿Vivió ella la verdad luminosa de la Resurrección, pero la mantuvo en su corazón hasta que ella y los apóstoles y los demás reunidos allí pudieron aspirar la paz que él sopló sobre ellos y motivarse para componer una nueva rendición del Magnifica durante su visitación? Ya juntos, ¿magnificaron al Señor con almas rebosantes al recibir la maravillosa noticia de que la muerte ya no tenía el dominio, que el miedo desaparecería antes el rostro del Hijo quien descendió a los infiernos y regresó para poder llamarnos a la unidad en el Espíritu como Iglesia ante quien no prevalecerán las puertas del inframundo?

La Santísima Virgen María es la Madre de la Iglesia porque su marcada pobreza material es el preludio de su gigantez espiritual; cada gracia que recibe la pone a disposición de sus hijos a quienes ella reúne con gusto bajo su man-

5701 Hickman Road

Des Moines, IA 50310

to maternal. Todas las personas humanas, hombres y mujeres por igual, son hijos de Dios e hijos de María, quien nos ama y no escatima nada y quien con energía nos brinda su intercesión y atención devota a nosotros. Ella se nos acerca para que nunca perdamos la confianza de que Dios está con nosotros, que nuestras anudadas vidas se pueden desatorar y que existe un lugar designado para nosotros en la mansión de la casa del Padre de Cristo.

El fallecido Santo Padre Benedicto XVI reflexionó sobre el papel de María durante su vida como luz de Esperanza y como el núcleo de una comunidad de iglesia en desarrollo, gracias a su constante presencia y de su asistencia maternal con nosotros. En su mensaje, "Salvados por la Esperanza," el pontífice habla directamente a la Santísima Madre: "Desde la Cruz recibiste una nueva misión. Desde la Cruz te convertiste en madre nuevamente: la madre de todos aquellos que creyeran en tu Hijo Jesús y quisieran seguirlo... Al pie de la Cruz, en la fuerza de la propia palabra de Jesús, te convertiste en la madre de los creyentes."

El gentil candidato a doctorado continua, "el gozo de la Resurrección tocó tu corazón y te unió de una nueva manera a los discípulos... De esta forma estuviste en el medio de la comunidad de creyentes, quienes oraban como una sola voz los días posteriores a la Ascensión, pidiendo el don del Espíritu Santo y recibiéndolo el día de Pentecostés. El "Reino" de Jesús no era el que se habían imaginado. Éste comenzó en esa hora, y este 'Reino' no tendría fin."

La condición de vida de mi mamá ha cambiado dramáticamente en el último par de meses. Ella acaba de sufrir su tercer y mayor infarto cerebral y está prácticamente incapacitada de su lado derecho, lo cual la ha forzado a vivir en una institución de asistencia en Ankeny en donde ella recibe terapia y el apoyo que mis hermanos y yo no podemos of-



recerle. De muchas formas, ella, quien era la firme responsable de nosotros, la madre quien nos cuidaba y oraba por nosotros constantemente por el bienestar natural y espiritual de sus hijos, está recibiendo ahora humildemente el apoyo humano que se encarga de sus necesidades corporales más básicas. Es una transición que muchos de nosotros hemos enfrentado con nuestros padres, o que estamos enfrentando nosotros mismos. Es una transición que he enfrentado muy de cerca en mis tres años como capellán en la institución de cuidados más grande de Iowa, en donde la celebración diaria y dominical de la Eucaristía se llena de hijos adultos quienes se sientan cerca a sus padres y acompañando a los sacerdotes ya mayores que están en sus propios estados de declive físico y cognitivo. Siempre fue un asunto sagrado y de importancia y ahora es un asunto eminentemente más personal.

Por ahora, mi hermano David está firmemente comprometido maravillosamente a visitarle y acompañarle. Mi mamá aún se puede sentar por largos períodos en su silla de ruedas en su habitación, pensando sobre la cruz que le ha causado la embolia, la reconfiguración de su esperanza. Ella observa ocasionalmente la imagen de María que adorna su pared y ora con más sencillez, más como los niños, el Rosario que sostiene firmemente en su mano izquierda, que es la que aún le funciona. Ella permanece tanto madre como hija de la Madre, cuyo corazón y alma nos ayuda a decir "Sí" a cualquier cosa que nos proponga Dios, a lo que nos depare. Nadie sufre más allá de la protección de la atención maternal de María, su solidaridad con nuestra pobreza terrenal.

La mujer que es perpetuamente un rayo de luz del Espíritu, el centro de toda la comunión se mantiene como Madre de la Iglesia para nosotros. Aunque sabemos con la certeza de nuestra fe y de nuestra inagotable Esperanza que nuestro sufrimiento terminará un día, María nos acerca más íntimamente hacia el Reino que no tiene fin, en donde la Iglesia que en algún momento sufrió, se convierte simplemente en la Iglesia que goza de alegría, de presencia mutua, y un canto del que conocemos bien la letra, para que juntos podamos magnificar al Señor.

Man's journey with God comes full circle with baptism

Continued from page 1

He remembers walking to a Latter-Day Saints Church and a Baptist church.

He joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Lincoln, Nebraska, then in his early 20s, he met the love of his life, Peggy, at an outdoor movie.

They were married by a priest in a Catholic Church on Feb. 9, 1957. At the time of their marriage, the priest urged Del to become a Catholic, but he was "not willing to take that step at that time."

The couple lived in Ohio, then returned to Nebraska. He worked at a Veterans Administration hospital, but longed to return to using his skills he learned in the military and got a job serving private jets. After jobs in Grand Island and Des Moines, they settled in Carter Lake while he worked at Eppley Airfield.

After a layoff, Del earned a special mechanical license to work at First Methodist Church in Omaha as custodian and caretaker of their systems. While there on Sundays for work, he would go into a side chapel to worship.

Del and Peggy, now married 66 years, have six grown children Cheryl, Patty, Barbara, David,

SAVE THE DATE!

In honor of Bishop Joensen's passion for education, we invite you to join us for the Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools on August 26 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. This event unites the entire Diocese of Des Moines community in celebration of the lifechanging impact our faith-centered education has provided for more than 150 years. During the event, the diocese will recognize special honorees, educators, administrators, and volunteers for their impact on our Catholic schools. Learn more at dmdiocese.org/catholic-

Donald and Jim.

The children were raised in Peggy's Catholic faith. For all those years while his family grew, Del attended Mass with them. He supported their religious education

The family belonged to Our Lady of Carter Lake since the first Mass there in 1970. Del did yard work and helped choose their new pews, removing the old and installing the new. He actively and consistently supported his church over the years.

While he had the keys to the church, "I would drive by during the day and go in and talk to the Lord," he said. "I felt he was sitting there beside me."

Del sought and walked with God throughout his life from this challenging childhood through adulthood and parenthood. A lifetime of honoring God finally came full circle to full communion in the Catholic Church.

Del is clearly a man of God, Deacon Montagne said.

"I suspect over time, he did some soul searching. He just needed that last step. I'm convinced the angels were rejoicing," he said. "It was great to have him baptized in their local church at Carter Lake. It was a happy moment."

schools/support or scan the QR code below.





COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS - MED GAS - BUILDING AUTOMATION **CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTING - PLUMBING** www.excelmechanical.us (515) 288-1450

Created Equal June 15, 2023 | 10-11:30 am

West48 Conference Center | 1601 48th St, West Des Moines RSVP at www.StraightTalkSeniorLivingSeries.com or (515) 321-7059



www.DivineTreasuresInc.net 515-255-5230

Get your message out to 30,000 Catholic households in central and southwest Iowa. Advertise in The Catholic Mirror.

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

Reflections

Daughter's faith inspires her father

That's not funny

Earlier this month my third child received her first reconciliation and first Holy Communion.

Having accompanied my older children, I generally knew what to expect, and yet I was deeply struck by my daughter's overflowing joy and simple faith as she received the sacraments.

As we prepared, when we'd ask her what she most looked forward to she'd say "Having Jesus enter my heart."

When we'd ask her what Jesus was saying to her she'd simply respond "that he loves me."

My daughter is already a pretty joyful girl, but I have never seen a smile as wide as hers after her first reconciliation, and first Holy Communion.

It can feel cliché to point to the faith of children as a model for our own faith, except for the fact that Jesus himself points

Marriage & Family Life



to their example. Familiarity can sometimes lead us to overlook those nearest to us, and we can sometimes foolishly mistake cleverness and extensive information for wisdom

My daughter recently encountered Jesus, and his mercy and love in such a profound way that she could not stop smiling. I have encountered Jesus in these same sacraments countless times.

She obviously sees more clearly than

I do, and I pray for the grace to see through her eyes. My daughter's faith inspires me, but I also have to say I'm proud of the way my wife and I have raised her. Even though my wife and I make mistakes on a daily basis, my daughter's reconciliation and first Holy Communion reminded me that we have worked hard to provide our children with a vocabulary of faith.

Jesus is wanting to encounter each of us in every moment and situation, and so the question becomes, when we do encounter him will we recognize him?

My daughter knows the voice of Jesus, and she hears his message of love and mercy, because my wife and I have tried to echo his voice as her parents. We can be confident in our efforts to echo God's voice, not because we are particularly good at it, but because we have been promised God's support and grace in our mission as

his disciples.

Growing in faith is never an isolated affair, but it happens in community. Just as my daughter has provided me an example of faith, I know that in my love I've provided her a witness that helps her recognize Jesus when she encounters him.

It is always messy, and never perfect, yet praise God that he draws us to himself with others!

And what is true in my family is true in all of our lives! May we all enter more deeply into communities of faith, in our families, in our parishes, and in our neighborhoods!

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

There is a God-given ability within us to be humorous. Some even possess a talent for humor. We have all known really funny people.

Humorous people innately know that humor has key elements: timing, safety, knowing your audience, and knowing that humor is a two-way street. If it is only funny to the speaker, then it isn't humor.

We all love good humor, but in reality, not all humor is good. While humor is an innate talent, wrongful humor is a developed skill; it's not funny.

Some types of wrongful humor are sarcasm, cynicism, judgmentalism, passive aggressiveness, inside jokes, and insults. None of these are relationally funny.

Humor can be used as a great disguise, whether to cover up an awkward situation or hide an insecurity. This wrongful type of humor can go too far. When people hold the notion that in order to be funny, someone must be mocked, teased, ridiculed, belittled, discriminated, or judged, humor becomes not a tool to bring about laughter, but rather a vehicle to cause harm.

As a result from someone's need to hide behind humor at the expense of others, harm can range from hurt feelings to serious casualty. Relationships can end, crimes

Father Ron

Rolheiser

Let's get Psyched



can be committed, and people can die. This is not funny; this is sad!

Sarcasm is angry humor, but anger none the less - cynicism is hopeless humor,

Passive aggressive is a smile upfront

Inside jokes are seemingly funny on the inside but injurious to those on the outside.

worship and pray within our sanctuaries.

Hopefully, people are made to feel

welcomed and wanted. This would demonstrate the hospitality of Christ that all are welcomed to worship him.

Wouldn't they be deeply offended if they realized that within many of the pews around them or even within the sacristies, were people secretly mocking them, belittling them, ridiculing them, and judging them with terms such as the CEOs (Christmas and Easter only) or "those lazy people." These are not funny words; they are sad punches. This is really sad!

Realizing that this happens, we can help to stop it. This wrongful humor happens within both the laity and the clergy. We are given the charge of love and kindness, not a charge of insult and judgmentalism. What is hiding behind this humor? It is at least the fear of not knowing how to talk to others about Jesus and not knowing how to lead others toward Christ within our Catholic Church. We need to learn how to evangelize. This means we must stretch to be kind, not cold! Simple examples of this would be smiling and greeting people we do not know, assuming the best of intentions in others, and resist the temptation of presuming something about others that we do not know.

We never really know the true story of

other people's lives, do we?

St. Dismas, a saint we know very little about and who is rarely discussed, was the penitent thief on the cross next to Christ.

Imagine asking him one day, "How'd you get here?"

He might answer wittingly with a sideways smile and a wink, "I was invited by him!" as he outstretches his arms toward our Savior. Sometimes, good humor can even humble us.

Let's follow the example of St. Dismas and stretch toward others with the love of Christ. Let's love on everybody that walks through our Church's doors as well as our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces

Remember, Jesus is "The Open Door." So, may we all be careful to resist the temptation of wrongful humor and return to the humor that is God-given. It is always timely; it is always safe; and it is always a two-way street.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us humor and for being the laughter in our souls.

Deacon Randy Kiel serves Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines. Connect with him at randy@kardiacounseling.com.

Binding and loosing

given us in the incarnation.

But what about the reverse? Suppose I refuse to forgive someone who has wounded me in some way; suppose I hold grudges and refuse to let go of the wrong that another has done to me, am I binding that person in sin? Does God also refuse to forgive and let go because I refuse to forgive and let go? How does the Body of

er, that refusal does not bind God to do likewise. Put more simply, when I hold a grudge against someone who has wronged me, keeping him constantly aware that he has done wrong, I am keeping that person tied to their sin – but God isn't endorsing this. Heaven will not go along with my emotional blackmail.

These distinctions though provide

ignore Christ's teaching on marriage and sexuality. We bind a friend when we refuse to give him our approval to cheat in his business in order to make more money. A friend binds you when she refuses to bless your moral compromises.

In Robert Bolt's play, A Man for All Seasons, we see Henry VIII literally beg Thomas More to bless his marriage to Anne Boleyn. Henry appeals to their friendship, appeals to their shared humanity, and tries to morally bully Thomas by telling him that his refusal to approve is timidity and arrogance. Yet Thomas refuses to approve. He binds Henry in conscience and Henry knows he is bound. In the end, he kills Thomas for his refusal to compromise and give permission, to (biblically) loose him. Ever since God took on concrete human flesh, grace has a visible human dimension. Heaven is watching earth – and is letting itself be helped by the best of what we do down here, but not bound by the worst of what we do down here.

but hopeless none the less. but a stab in the back.

Whispers of judgmentalism are simply critiques on the inside but reckless sin to the outside.

A common example of this wrongful humor happens several times per year within our own parishes. During Christmas and Easter seasons, as well as several other occasions, we see larger crowds gather to



Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. These words of Jesus apply not just to those who are ordained to ministry and administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but to evervone inside the body of Christ. All of us have the power to bind and to loose.

What is this power? How do we bind and loose each other on earth in a way that engages heaven?

One part of this allows for some easier explanation. Here's an example: If you are a member of the Body of Christ and you forgive someone, Christ forgives that person and he or she is loosed from sin. Likewise, if you, as part of the Body of Christ, love someone and remain connected to him or her, that person is connected to the Body of Christ and through you (biblically) touches the hem of Christ's garment, even if he or she is not explicitly confessing that. That is one of the incredible gifts

Christ work regarding the "binding" part of the power that Jesus gave us?

This is a difficult question, though a couple of preliminary distinctions can shed some light on the issue.

To begin with, the logic of grace – and grace, like love, has a logic - only works one way. In grace, just as in love, you can be gifted beyond what you deserve, but the reverse is not true. The algebra of undeserved grace works only one way. Love can give you more than you deserve, but it cannot punish you more than you deserve. God gives us the power to set each other free, but not the same kind of power to keep each other in bondage.

Second, in this life, as C.S. Lewis used to say, hell can blackmail heaven, but this is not true in the other realm. Thus, while we can hold each other captive, psychologically, and emotionally, on this side, God does not ratify those actions.

When we bind each other here in this world by refusing to forgive each othonly an ambience for an understanding of this. What does it mean to bind a person?

The Christian power to bind and loose is the power to bind and loose in conscience, in truth, in goodness, and in love. When I refuse to forgive another, when I hold a grudge, I am acting not as the Body of Christ, nor as an agent of grace, but precisely as part of the very chain of sin and helplessness that Christ was trying to break. When I act this way, it is I who need to be loosed from sin since I am acting contrary to grace. My non-forgiveness may well bind another person emotionally, keeping her bound in that way to her sin, but it is the very antithesis of the power that Christ gave us.

Biblically, we bind each other when, in love, we refuse to compromise truth and when we refuse to give each other permission to take false liberties and make bad choices. Thus, for example, parents bind their children when they, lovingly but clearly, refuse to give them permission to

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

Your journey is just beginning!



Whether your are a new Catholic, or a young Catholic man embarking on the next stage in life, the Knights of Columbus can be the catalyst to grow in your faith through service with your brothers!

We are the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world!



Our world needs more Knights of Columbus.

Our world needs YOU to join today! Scan the code below or go to kofc.org/joinus to register

Use the code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** for 1 year trial membership*

*Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are "practical" Catholics







kofc.org/join

Protecting Catholic Families Since 1882.



Trust a Catholic company to protect your Catholic family.









nd disability income insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Co conditions, and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent or t n, CT 06510 1-800-38 Products may yary by sta

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



Michael Bormann eneral Agen 563-689-6801 michael.bormann@kofc.org Eastern Iowa



402-379-0180 neil.pfeifer@kofc.org Western Iowa



Walker Bormann ssistant Genera



563-219-5800 walker.bormann@kofc.org Eastern Iowa



Dan Ginther Field Agent 515-460-3411 daniel.ginther@kofc.org Carlisle, Altoona, Elkhart, **Des Moines**



Donnie Kenkel Field Agent 712-579-9066 donald.kenkel@kofc.org Council Bluffs, Atlantic, Red Oak, Glenwood, Avoca/Walnut, Shenandoah, Portsmouth





Rob Ryan Field Agent 515-490-8753 robert.ryan@kofc.org West Des Moines, St. Francis, Sacred Heart

Justin Wadle

Field Agent 515-975-2688

Perry, Ankeny,

Des Moines/All Saint's



Knights of Columbus'

C Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



Pete Seuntjens Field Agent 712-880-0044 peter.seuntjens@kofc.org Harlan, Earling, Audubon, Dunlap, Logan



Gregory Waddle gregory.waddle@kofc.org St. Augustin, St. Anthony's,

