Congratulations! Father Jason Lee, our newest priest

Anticipation grows for WYD pilgrims

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

On July 25, 57 pilgrims bound for World Youth Day in Portugal will leave the Des Moines airport for a life-changing experience.

The young adults will see the universality of the Catholic Church while also experiencing various cultures that make up the Church.

Doh Noh saw a microcosm of that in Des Moines. The 19-year-old parishioner of St. Ambrose Cathedral and other young adults from her parish volunteered at Principal Park and held a cultural food day at her parish to raise funds for the trip.

“It brought all of our cultures together,” she said. “It made me think on an international level of all the Catholics around the world who will come together.”

St. John Paul II began World Youth Day with a gathering in Rome that was expected to draw 60,000 pilgrims, though 250,000 arrived. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued to gather young adults to accompany them on a worldwide level, to encourage their openness and hopes, hear concerns and requests, and pass on the truth and love that is Christ.

The Iowa pilgrims are leaving early so they can spend several days in the Diocese of Lieria-Fatima to stay with local Catholic families, experience their culture, sight-see and visit the site of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Then they go to Lisbon for the international gathering, where they’ll hear speakers and celebrate Mass with Pope Francis.

For Des Moines seminarian Stan Asjes, there are three reasons why he wants to go.

One, it’s a unique opportunity to have a truly universal experience of the Church.

Two, a unique fellowship can be experienced.

“I think we will learn a lot from each other as a group, and I also hope to be an authentic witness to what it means to say ‘yes’ and follow one’s vocation,” he said.

Three, the pilgrimage offers an opportunity to deepen one’s spiritual life by encountering God in a new way.

“The spirituality of pilgrimage, which involves a commitment to prayer and poverty, is something which is often forgotten in the contemporary life of the Church,” Asjes said.

No matter how much one prepares, there will be discomforts and things that might not go as expected when hundreds of thousands of people come together.

“It’s a pilgrimage, not a vacation,” said organizer Justin White, diocesan director of Young Adult Evangelization.

Perhaps the first challenge was just getting documentation. About half of the pilgrims are from St. Ambrose Cathedral and some of the parishioners, who are refugees or immigrants, did not have the documentation they needed. About seven or eight drove to the Portuguese embassy in Washington, D.C. for personal interviews to complete their paperwork.

Noh and her friend Dhe Mhe are from the Karenni ethnic group along the Thailand-Myanmar border. They marvel at having come from Thailand to the United States and now preparing for a trip to Portugal.

“I’m really excited,” Noh said. “I want to get a lot out of it, especially because I’ll be away from home. I want to make memories that I can share with my parents because they won’t be able to go with me.”

Meh also is looking forward to experiencing cultures from around the world.

“It’s extremely awesome! We worked really hard to be able to come this far and we’re almost there. We have to continue to thrive, commemorating and sharing our faith. Our faith at St. Ambrose is evident no matter how close or far we are from the parish.”

What Noh learned even before stepping on the plane was that a faith community that works together can make what might seem impossible possible. Parishioners helped her file for a passport and for U.S. citizenship and assisted with fundraising.

“It was an experience I had with my community and it brought us closer,” she said.

Heartbeat law on hold

A Polk County judge granted a temporary injunction blocking enforcement of Iowa’s new “heartbeat” law on July 17.

The bill was signed on July 14 by Gov. Kim Reynolds after the state legislature passed the bill in special session on July 11.

The law prohibits abortions after a heartbeat can be detected. The ACLU and Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit against the law last week claiming it was unconstitutional.

The judge’s order allows the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners to proceed with rule making for the law.

The Catholic bishops of Iowa released a statement after the bill was passed. They said:

“We commend the Iowa legislature for passing a law that would prohibit abortions after a child’s cardiac activity can be detected. As Pope Francis has said, ‘Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother’s womb.’ For us, this is a matter of personal rights and dignity and the common good. Human life is precious and should be protected in our laws to the greatest extent possible.

“As a state and as a society, we should commit ourselves to working for the protection of all vulnerable populations from violence wherever individuals or groups are at risk. We urge people of good will in Iowa both to work for an end to the practice of abortion and to join us in tireless, unrelenting and compassionate solidarity with pregnant women in distress, with the men who fathered these children, and with families in need.”
Not only the lonely — Part II

Bishop William Joensen

DIOCESAN WEBSITE: www.dmdiocese.org

El mes pasado tomé del reporte consultivo del Cirujano General de los Estados Unidos sobre “Nuestra Epidemia de Soledad y de Aislamiento” para reflexionar sobre las experiencias de desconexión social y aislamiento que enfrentan las personas de todas las edades en nuestra sociedad, especialmente los jóvenes. Mencioné que el reporte no está lleno de malas noticias, pero que reconozco razones que dan esperanza en las comunidades donde pueden protegernos contra la desesperación. La fe religiosa que nos lleva a una conexión más cercana con otras personas (yo añadiría, incluyendo a las Personas Divinas, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo) y que nos extiende más allá de los límites exclusivos entre personas que piensan similarmente o con similitudes demográficas es vital para la “salud del corazón” humano tanto al nivel natural como al espiritual. El reporte identifica el prosaico y al mismo tiempo riesgoso “capital social” de la confianza y la empatía que son la base de la vida y el fruto de las conexiones sociales.

La confianza promueve la comunicación y la cooperación, y mejora la salud de la población, la prosperidad económica y la familiaridad social — todos beneficios de or- den natural y supranatural. Para los creyentes cristianos, la confianza encuentra su principal frente en Jesús, cuya Divina Misericordia suaviza el antagonismo y la desconfianza que tenemos contra los demás cuando los consideramos extraños. La misericordia entre amigos y en los medios que denuncian en la misión de nuestra Diócesis, especialmente en cada parroquia y en el vaticano, tiene como objetivo formar un círculo vital que nos haga sentir que somos más que lo que somos. Conocemos en el espíritu que estamos juntos en Cristo.

Eso no quiere decir que no haya dificultades. En el reporte mencionan varios obstáculos que enfrentaríamos: la desorientación social e intelectual, el deterioro de la confianza, el envejecimiento de nuestra sociedad, el trastorno de la identidad y el aislamiento. También reconocen que esto no es algo nuevo. En los tiempos del médico general, en el siglo XIX, una epidemia de soledad y desconexión social fue una realidad.

También mencionan que hay un ritmo de vida más rápido, una nueva forma de interacción social y que en muchos casos, la tecnología ha reemplazado la interacción humana. Sin embargo, creo que la fe religiosa puede ayudar a nosotros a superar estas dificultades. La fe puede ser un vínculo que nos une a las personas de manera que podemos apoyarnos unos a otros y que nos permita encontrar un sentido en nuestras vidas.

El Cirujano General con su trabajo de divulgación social nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestras experiencias de desconexión social y aislamiento. La fe religiosa nos brinda una guía para entender y superar estas dificultades. En el contexto de la vida en sociedad, la fe religiosa nos permite encontrar un sentido y un propósito en nuestras vidas. En el contexto de la vida en sociedad, la fe religiosa nos permite encontrar un sentido y un propósito en nuestras vidas. En el contexto de la vida en sociedad, la fe religiosa nos permite encontrar un sentido y un propósito en nuestras vidas.
The Lord is present where we live our lives

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Join Bishop William Joensen in praising God and publicly witnessing to our Catholic faith by participating in the second annual diocesan Eucharistic procession on Saturday, Aug. 19.

Mass begins at 9 a.m. at St. Anthony Church’s grotto in Des Moines. After Mass, a Eucharistic procession will go 1.6 miles to St. Ambrose Cathedral, where benediction will be prayed. Refreshments will be available at the Catholic Pastoral Center, across High Street from the cathedral.

In the spirit of the national Eucharistic Revival initiative, the Diocese of Des Moines invites everyone to participate as they can. The faithful can come to Mass, walk in the procession, watch and pray as the procession goes by, or meet the procession at the cathedral for prayer and fellowship, said diocesan organizer John Huynh. Transportation is being arranged to take walkers back to St. Anthony after the conclusion of the procession.

Why should the faithful participate?

“This procession, like any other one, is done to symbolize life. Just as we journey through life, we’re on the road with Jesus and we’re moving toward heaven. In a procession, we’re journeying with Jesus.”

It’s supposed to remind us that through our life, we’re ideally moving closer and closer to heaven,” said Father Trevor Chicoine, diocesan director of Worship. “Here’s another way to look at it. “On the road of life, we’re going to encounter challenges and trials,” he said. “The point of life is conversion of heart and conversion of mind so that, ideally, one day we reach heaven in perfect union with Jesus. A procession is almost a mini-snapshot of what a Christian life should look like: We start. We end, and in between, we grow.”

Why do Catholics do public processions?

“We give praise and honor to God because we believe in Jesus,” said Father Chicoine. “We want to adore him, to be with him. Secondly, we want to give public witness to our faith. It’s not just what we do in church that’s important but it’s what we do out in the highways and byways of life. We’re not afraid to be seen to be Catholics and to walk with Jesus.”

Why do we carry the Eucharist in a monstrance?

“It’s like a moving tabernacle,” said Father Chicoine. “It houses the Lord in a place of honor or where we can reverence, see and be with him.”

A procession is symbolic of Christ in church and out in the world, said Father Chicoine.

“A group of faithful Catholics follow Jesus through the streets where we play, where we work, so that the Lord isn’t just present to us in our sanctuaries but he’s present out there where we live our lives.”

The Five First Saturdays Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

This year’s Eucharistic procession route, from St. Anthony Parish’s grotto to St. Ambrose Cathedral, is a 1.6-mile pilgrimage that’s open to all. Join us for 9 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony and a public profession of faith or meet us at the cathedral for benediction.

HISTORY OF THIS DEVOTION

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

THE INTENTION

This devotion is fulfilled with the intention of consoling and making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for our own sins, for the blasphemies and ingratitude of unrepentant sinners, and for peace in the world.

Our Lady’s Promise

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

How to Make Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The faithful are invited to make the following four steps on five consecutive first Saturdays as part of the devotion.

1. Go to confession on a day of your choosing close to the First Saturday.
2. Receive Holy Communion in a state of grace. For those who may have difficulty fulfilling this requirement on Saturday, Our Lord told Sr. Lucia “The practice of this devotion will be equally acceptable on the Sunday following the first Saturday when my priests, for a just cause, allow the faithful.”
3. Pray five decades of the Holy Rosary. When praying the Holy Rosary Our Lady invited us to insert between the decades “0 my Jesus, forgive us our sins save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.”
4. Spend 15 minutes in silent prayer meditating on one or more of the mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

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Ready to roll: 24 Hispanic leaders ready for mission

They join about 125 who’ve already become active in their faith communities

Bishop William Joensen sent 24 Hispanic lay leaders, who recently graduated from a faith formation program, out into their parishes and their broader communities to sow God’s spirit.

Leadership tools and confidence. Armed with these, 24 Hispanic men and women were sent on mission June 25 by Bishop William Joensen to sow God’s spirit in their faith communities.

The 24 comprise the fifth cohort of the Hispanic Lay Ecclesial ministry program in the Des Moines Diocese.

Started 10 years ago, the program has formed 150 Spanish-speaking leaders who work with their pastors and parish leadership in the Des Moines Diocese to help people know and love God more deeply.

The Diocese uses instructors and curriculum from the Instituto De Liderazgo Pastoral based at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

Through the program, students discovered what their gifts and talents are, what needs their parishes have, and then collaborated with their pastors on a project to help fill the need.

“Most of the projects respond to the needs of the parishes,” said Mayra Moriel de Banuelos, diocesan director of Hispanic Formation. “Many of them are in hospitality, which aligns with the mission of the bishop.”

For this post-pandemic cohort, it’s concerning that there appears to be fewer people attending Mass.

“The reason people may not be coming back is that they don’t feel they belong to a community,” Moriel said. “There are many groups in the Church and they have to get united and work together, work in communion.”

An example would be one parish’s young adult group reaching out to other parishes to invite their young adults to join them.

“The class drew people who had different reasons for joining,” said Mayra Moriel de Banuelos, diocesan director of Hispanic Formation.

“Some students are people who were not very active in their parishes but wanted to learn and wanted to respond. They look at this program as a way to get trained to be able to respond to the needs that they see,” Moriel said.

“We have others who see this program as a way to grow personally and they see that need in their own families. They ask: ‘How can I be empowered to respond to the needs of my family and all the families in my community?’”

Students in this latest cohort spent 20 months going through a process to discover more about themselves and how Christ works through them.

“In the Hispanic community, we talk about evangelization. We know who is God, but sometimes I don’t think we know who we are. First, think about who you are and from there you have to discover where God is in your life through all of the experience that you have,” said Nelly Lorenzo, director of El Instituto.

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Parish takes innovative approach to expansion

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

It’s typical when a parish adds on to a church to push out a side wall or back wall to add more seating.

Not at Sacred Heart Church in Woodbine.

For a renovation and expansion, the parish had in mind, the church was literally split in half and pulled apart.

Before the snow flies, it’s hoped new classrooms in the basement will be completed, a new addition in the center of the two existing halves of the church will be built, and a connection between the church and the parish hall will be constructed.

The parish is doing more than just building a structure, though. It’s also building stronger relationships in the community, said builder Todd Heistand.

“We’ve got a lot of volunteers from Woodbine who have been helping from digging the holes to hauling things in, and standing up the steel trusses,” he said.

The innovative project can be completed thanks to the local share of the Ignite! capital campaign, the volunteers who are helping, and a desire to do something special for the parish’s 120th anniversary.

Since the church needed some long-overdue exterior work done, the parish consulted with parishioner Heistand, who has a company that takes old historic buildings like offices and warehouses and converts them to apartments that he and his wife, Mary, manage. Heistand heard the church plans and said, “Why stop there?”

They dreamed big.

The classrooms in the basement of the church were barely bigger than closets, said Father Joel McNeil, the pastor.

And the church, which seated 100 comfortably, needed more room. Heistand said his four daughters had their weddings in Dunlap because their hometown church was too small.

The parish also imagined a connecting corridor between the church and the parish hall that sits right next to the church.

Father McNeil once visited a church that was built in the early 1900s, like Sacred Heart.

When that community grew in the 1930s, they cut the church in half, pulled it apart and filled in the middle. Father McNeil asked Heistand if that could be done with Sacred Heart Church.

“It’s an unusual approach, Heistand said, but it makes sense given Sacred Heart has no space on either side to expand. On one side is the street and on the other side is the parish hall.

With the church split in half, it was easier to access the basement for the renovation there, said Father McNeil. It wasn’t hard to move half of the church because it sat on beams rather than a concrete pad.

“When the house movers came, they joked and said this is the only time they’ve moved half a house,” he said.

In addition to the classrooms and seating for about 100 more people in the church, the worship space is getting new siding, new roofing, an upgraded electrical system, and new air conditioning.

When the parish came to the diocesan Building Commission for approval for the project, it was challenged to ensure that the facility was accessible for the disabled. Given space constraints, a long ramp wasn’t feasible and an elevator will be installed in another phase of development.

Architect Rick Emwiler, who helped design the new parish classroom space at St. Mary Church in Hamburg, designed a ramp that has 90-degree angles going around the space where a low-use, limited application elevator will eventually be installed. The LULA elevator is cheaper than a commercial-use elevator, Heistand said.

“They came up with a good solution,” said Father McNeil. Heistand and his wife, who was the sister to the late Father Tom Coenen, grew up in Woodbine, and they raised their family there.

“It’s such a cool historic little church,” he said. “We wanted to make sure it didn’t look any different once the expansion was in.”

Sacred Heart Church in Woodbine is being renovated and expanded in an innovative way that preserves the historic integrity of the worship space and gives workers greater access to the basement level for work. Local workers have come together on the project, saving funds and strengthening bonds in the community.

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@polkcountyiowa.gov.
Around the Diocese

July 22 Saturday
Annual Ignatian Retreat
URBANDALE – Emmaus House’s Annual Ignatian Retreat Day features presenter Amy Hoover, former director of the Creighton University Retreat Center and lay minister at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart in Ankeny. All are welcome to join a day of retreat. Go to TheEmmausHouse.org for more details.

July 26 Wednesday
RAGBRAI
DES MOINES – The four Iowa dioceses are teaming together to coordinate Mass as RAGBRAI rides through each diocese. For Des Moines, the cathedral will offer Mass at 5 p.m.

Aug. 3-5 Thursday-Saturday
Holy Trinity Parish Garage Sale
DES MOINES – Save your donations and bring them to Holy Trinity Church beginning July 30 after 10:30 a.m. Mass and continuing on July 31 and Aug. 1. Our garage sale will run on Aug. 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Aug. 5 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Aug. 6 Sunday
Annual Chicken Dinner
ST. MARYS - The 78th Annual Chicken Dinner will be at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall in St. Marys. Opening prayer will be at 12:30 p.m. with serving hours being 12:30-5:30 p.m. Games for all ages, face painting, farmers market, raffle items and we will be selling our commemorative cookbooks and cups. Carry out dinners are also available. The cost of the dinner is adults/$15 children ages 3-10/$5.

Aug. 11-12 Friday-Saturday
St. Joseph Parish Garage Sale
DES MOINES – St. Joseph Parish will accept donations (no TVs, computers or exercise equipment) on Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Aug. 7-9 from 5-7 p.m. The garage sale will be Aug. 11 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Aug. 12 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Volunteers Needed
DES MOINES – At the Catholic Charities’ Food Pantry, volunteers are needed. “Shop” with guests as they receive their 3-day monthly food supply, prepare “rescued” food bags, help pick up/deliver/load/unload cars of donated food items and pitch in where needed. Typical shifts are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday. Go to catholic-charitiesdm.org/contribute/volunteers to join our team!

Feed the hungry
DES MOINES – Sign up to provide a meal at Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. We need volunteers to deliver a cooked meal or ingredients for a complete meal to the shelter. Several dates are open this summer in July and August. Contact knovak@catholic-charitiesdm.org to volunteer.

Weekly through Sept. 28
Bishop Drumm Guild Garage Sale
JOHNSTON - This garage sale will be held each Thursday morning until Sept. 28 on Bishop Drumm’s campus in Johnston from 8:30-12:30 p.m. 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.

Sister Judith Bisignano dies
Sister Judith Bisignano, originally from Des Moines, died June 9. She was 81 years old and in the 58th year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Sister Judith, formerly known as Sister John Catherine, was born to Alphonse “Babe” and Catherine (Dwyer) Bisignano. She graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines in 1960 and held a bachelor’s degree in biology, master’s degree in biology and science teaching in earth science, and a doctorate in education.

Sister Judith spent 45 years ministering in education in New Mexico and Arizona. In 2015, she helped co-found Makeit, a Tucsan-based non-profit organization focused on supporting programs to protect the Ecuadorian rainforest and its Achuar people.

Beloved Dowling Catholic teacher dies
Longtime Dowling Catholic High School teacher and friend, Timothy Sheaff, died June 21.

Sheaff grew up in Ankeny, and graduated from Dowling Catholic, where he met his wife, Cindy, and The Catholic University of America. He and Cindy married in 1990 and raised six children.

His life revolved around his family and God.

He began teaching drama, debate, speech and film at Dowling Catholic in 1997. A coach of the nationally-renowned Speech and Debate team, he founded a national debate tournament. He was inducted into the National Speech and Debate Association Hall of Fame and the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame.

“Tim was a pillar of Dowling Catholic,” said the high school President Dr. Dan Ryan. “You felt his presence at so many of our events and through his high expectations in the classroom, in speech and debate and through the performing arts. His demonstration of personal faith and commitment to our mission made Tim an individual you cannot replace, but rather you try to emulate.”

Celebrating lives of dedicated service

70 years
Sister Helen Vinton, formerly Sister Helen Jean, is celebrating her 70th jubilee as a Sister of Providence. Born in Nebraska, she ministers as a life quality consultant and senior executive officer at Southern Mutual Help Association in New Orleais, Louisiana.

Sister Helen entered the
60 years
Sister Virginia Jennings celebrated her diamond jubilee (60 years) last month.

Sister was born in Des Moines and raised in Sioux City. She entered the Dubuque Franciscans in 1962, was received as a novice in 1963 and professed final vows in 1970.

Sister served as a teacher and principal in parish schools in Illinois and Iowa and also in ad

ministrative roles for the congregation.


Sister Virginia is now enjoying retirement at Mount St. Francis Center in Dubuque.

Cards can be sent to Sister Virginia at 3390 Windsor Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001.
The Diocese of Des Moines will honor educators, administrators and volunteers for their exceptional service to Catholic education during the second annual Bishop’s Celebration of Catholic Schools on Aug. 26 at St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines.

All are invited to attend to congratulate those who will be honored and celebrate the life-changing effect of a faith-centered education, which has been offered in the Diocese for more than 150 years.

Keynote speakers feature the Clark family. Dowling Catholic High School alumna Anne Nizzi Clark, daughter of Bob Nizzi, a former counselor and coach at Dowling Catholic High School, and her husband, Brent, chose St. Francis of Assisi and Dowling Catholic for their three children: Blake, Caitlin, and Colin. Anne will share her experience with the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools as a student and as a parent. The Clark family will discuss how Catholic education helped position each for success in the classroom and beyond.

Three people were selected from 70 nominations to be honored for their impact at Catholic schools and their commitment to faith, academic excellence, and fostering a vibrant school community. They are:

- Administrator of the Year, Misty Hade, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic School in Ankeny
- Teacher of the Year, Ann Levine, St. Malachi Catholic School in Creston
- Volunteer of the Year, Katie Fitzgerald, St. Anthony Catholic School in Des Moines

“All of this year’s nominees are stellar examples of faith in action with a desire to promulgate the Catholic faith through strong, vibrant Catholic schools,” said Donna Bishop, superintendent of Schools. “While it was difficult to narrow the honorees down to three individuals, I believe the three chosen were the best of the best. We are blessed to have such amazing administrators, teachers and volunteers advocating on behalf of our Catholic schools.”

Honorary chairs of the second annual event are Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, and John George and Mary Goddard, of the Kremer Foundation. The foundation has awarded more than $80 million in tuition grants to Catholic elementary schools nationwide including several in the Des Moines Diocese.

Four couples are co-chairing the event. They are: Stephanie and Spencer Cox, of St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines; Tracy Deutmeyer and Matt Edwards, of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny; Sara and Dan Huegerich, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale; and Annie and Andrew Salgado, of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

For tickets and more information, visit dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/support or call 515-237-5079.

Three seminarians take next big step toward priesthood

Seminarians Connor Lynch (pictured above left with his family), Dominic Nguyen and Luke Mohan (pictured above right with Bishop William Joensen) were accepted by Bishop Joensen to Candidacy, a major step in their journey to priesthood. Lynch will begin studies in Rome in the fall. Nguyen will study at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mohan will go to St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, New York.
Continued from page 2

cos e incluso religiosos. El Papa Francisco menciona a Gabriel Marcel cuando comenta, “Sólo me comunico realmente contigo mismo en la medida en que me comunico con el otro.” Debemos encontrar nossotros de amor reales que nos extiendan más allá de nuestras familias y pequeños grupos. “El más noble sentido social hoy fácilmente queda anulado dentro de intelectuales egosístas con apariencia de relaciones inten-
sas.” “Los grupos cerrados y las parejas autoreferenciales, que se constituyen en un “nossotros” contra todo el mundo, suelen ser formas idealizadas de egoísmo y de mera autopreservación.” (FT n. 87).

Puedo detectar como surge la resonancia del Espíritu San-
to en el reporte consultivo para “construir una cultura de conen-
sión” basada en los valores central-
es de amabilidad, respeto, servi-
io y compromiso con los demás y en nuestra propia más reciente expresión de la visión y misión de nuestra Diócesis de Des Moines, centrado en el llamado a CULTI-
VAR CONEXIONES EN CRIS-
TO. Por medio de varias formas de encuentro con Jesús, especial-
mente unos con otros en la Ecu-
aristía, la invitación a una amistad con Él nos une en comunidades en donde la vida fluye libremente y la gracia se convierte en nues-
tra respuesta natural con todos aquellos con quienes no encon-
tramos, incluso si esto consiste en momentos difíciles y sufriente.

Como lo proclama nuestra declaración de visión, Jesús no es simplemente el “domande” am-
ozoto que derrama su vida por los demás de su cuerpo y de su sangre. El nos muestra la humili-
dad de Dios al no tener miedo de compartir la “necesidad” que tiene de nosotros. Los amigos más verdaderos de Dios, in-
cluyendo a santos como Santa Teresa de Calcuta, saben que el án

However, we must discern and practice the love and sharing that Jesus desires us to live in our communities, embracing the challenges and difficulties that come with it. The Church invites us to be a place of encounter with Jesus, where we can experience a true sharing of life and, in turn, be instruments of God’s grace.

Eucharistic Revival, Mass will be offered at each overnight stop along the route. GET FUEL FOR THE SOUL DURING RAGBRAI! In the spirit of the national Eucharistic Revival, Mass will be offered at each overnight stop along the route. Come to St. Ambrose Cathedral Aug. 26 for 5 p.m. Mass! For other Catholic-sponsored events go to Diocese of Sioux City – www.sccatholic.org Diocese of Des Moines – dmdioce.org Diocese of Davenport – davenportdioce.org

I am not a connotación de ese sentido de comunidad en donde hay aislamiento y desconexión. El lugar de encuentro en donde nos encontramos hoy no es el principal centro social de nuestra historia. Jesús quiere incorporar nuestra historia en su historia, la cual es más increíble que cualquier cosa que pudiera-
mos imaginar. Dios se revela para ser, por toda la eternidad, una Trinidad de personas per-
fectas en amor y en relación, unidas en ser Dios, pero sin ser una comunidad cerrada y cerca-
da a donde no podemos entrar. El Padre envía a su Hijo en la plenitud del tiempo para que pueda participar en la comunión de amor que es Dios, gracias a Jesús que se convierte en Dios con nosotros, humano y divi-
ño a la vez en el milagro de la Encarnación. Jesús tiene un gran dese

Las conexiones que dan vida que este viaje para que podamos re-

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 y el Diciembre durante las actividades en la parroquia o en otros niveles que son “un entrelazado de sobre-
vivencia”, que permiten la indif-
en donde prevalece la soledad y desconexión. El lugar de encuentro en donde estamos ahora como sociedad y como Iglesia va a dar lugar a algo hermosamente hu-
ano, misteriosamente divino y evangélicamente potente. No comprendo plenamente el cómo esta misión va a resultar ni pre-
cisamente qué forma va a tomar, pero les invito a acompañarme a mí y a tantos otros que compartimos esta visión para que podamos re-
sucitar la confianza y el gusto de las conexiones que dan vida que nos propone Dios en Cristo.

No Solamente los Solitarios —2da Parte

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La parroquia ya no es fun-

damentalmente un territorio geográfico, pero un “espaço de vida” en el cual existen las con-

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Deacon Tinley, dedicated to family and faith, dies

Perhaps Deacon Emmet Tinley heard the same call from God as St. Francis: “Rebuild my Church.”

Council Bluffs Deacon Chuck Hanna considered this as he remembered his friend, Deacon Emmet Tinley, who died June 21 at the age of 80.

“Emmet’s faith never wavered and his hope never waned. He lived a life of great gusto and has earned a heavenly reward,” Deacon Hanna said as he preached the funeral homily. “Our sorrow that he is no longer with us is very real and painful, but we should rejoice that he has found his place in heaven and we had of knowing him.”

Deacon Tinley worked on sharing God’s love through his family, his parish and the broader diocesan community.

Domestic Church

Deacon Tinley married Susan Ternus and together they raised six children.

He was a rock for his family, which suffered much pain over the years. He and Sue had one child, Rose Marie, who was stillborn. He also had three brothers and two sisters die prematurely.

“In each of these tragedies, Emmet held the family together,” said Deacon Hanna. “The weight of these losses would have broken many, but not Emmet.”

Deacon Tinley’s son, Tim, also admired his father’s strength.

“While he could be incredibly silly at times, his children could always count on his steadfast belief in us, and his advocacy,” he said.

Deacon Tinley worked a number of jobs before settling into a career as a certified public accountant in banking as a certified bank auditor. Though he worked long hours, he always made time for family, according to Tim.

“He found a way to be a constant presence for his children. He rarely missed games, swim meets, concerts or plays,” he said. “Somehow, he made sure we all had our own special memories with him.”

Parish

Deacon Tinley was long involved in parish life.

While attending Creighton University, he was an organist at St. Francis Church in Council Bluffs.

“I remember midnight Masses, when he’d end with the organ turned all the way up and ‘Joy to the World’ was ringing out,” said Deacon Hanna.

At St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs, it seemed as though he was involved in every- thing from lecturing to serving as a Eucharistic minister and musician.

After retirement, he became St. Patrick Parish’s business manager. Having a hand in nearly everything, “he became the unofficial project foreman” when the parish built a new worship space.

“He was here daily, sometimes more than once,” said Deacon Hanna.

For his parish’s new home, Deacon Tinley obtained two pieces of stained glass that came from the original St. Francis Church where he played the organ years earlier.

Diocese

In the early 1980s, Deacon Tinley and Sue considered a call to the diaconate. But given both were pursuing master’s degrees and were busy raising children, they decided the timing wasn’t right.

Years later, the timing was right and Deacon Emmet was ordained in 2006.

“The Tinleys threw themselves into the program,” said Deacon Hanna. “They joined the formation team. The team was responsible for selection (of deacon candidates) and formation. This required countless hours of meetings, interviews, and ultimately trips to Conception Abbey to walk beside the candidates in formation.”

The Tinleys accompanied three groups of deacon candidates through the formation process. Deacon Tinley not only helped deacon candidates become ordained, as chair of the Deacon Council he was responsible for selection (of deacon candidates) and formation.

Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines held Vacation Bible School for youth in kindergar- ten to fifth grade.

Deacon Emmet and Susan Tinley

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The Tinleys accompanied three groups of deacon candidates through the formation process. Deacon Tinley not only helped deacon candidates become ordained, as chair of the Deacon Council he was responsible for continuing education for those who were ordained and serving in the Diocese.

Tim thanked everyone at the funeral for their love and support.

“So many parishioners eagerly jumped into action to ensure we were all able to say goodbye to him in his spiritual home.”

Friendship with God and others celebrated in summer

At St. Patrick Parish in Missouri Valley, Tiffany Yolk and her son, Grant, (above) learn about St. Kateri Tekakwitha and how the Native Americans learned about Jesus.

Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny had 160 children, including five individuals with special needs, at its Vacation Bible School.
**World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly**

Sunday, July 23

A letter from Pope Francis celebrating World Day for Grandparents, Elderly

Dear brothers and sisters!

"His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). This is the theme of the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and it takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-56). God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly, as Mary did to Elizabeth, and gain wisdom from their experiences. Yet, above all, the Lord wants us not to abandon the elderly or to push them to the margins of life, as tragically happens all too often in our time.

This year, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly takes place close to World Youth Day. Both celebrations remind us of the “haste” (cf. v. 39) with which Mary set out to visit Elizabeth. In this way, they invite us to reflect on the bond that unites young and old. The Lord trusts that young people, through their relationships with the elderly, will realize that they are called to cultivate memory and recognize the beauty and strength of a much larger history. Friendship with an older person can help the young to see life not only in terms of the present and realize that not everything depends on them and their abilities. For the elderly, the presence of a young person in their lives can give them hope that their experience will not be lost and that their dreams can find fulfillment. Mary’s visit to Elizabeth and their shared awareness that the Lord’s mercy is from generation to generation remind us that, alone, we cannot move forward, much less save ourselves, and that God’s presence and activity are always part of something greater, the history of a people. Mary herself said this in the Magnificat, as she rejoiced in God, who, in fidelity to the promise he had made to Abraham, had worked new and unexpected wonders (cf. vv. 51-55).

To better appreciate God’s way of acting, let us remember that our life is meant to be lived to the full, and that our greatest hopes and dreams are not achieved instantly but through a process of growth and maturation, in dialogue and in relationship with others. Those who focus only on the here and now, on money and possessions, on “having it all now,” are blind to the way God works. His loving plan spans past, present and future; it embraces and connects the generations. It is greater than we are, yet includes each of us and calls us at every moment to keep pressing forward.

For the young, this means being ready to be free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive.

For the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities. Let us all look ahead! And allow ourselves to be shaped by God’s grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past!

In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between young and old, God points us towards the future that he is opening up before us. Indeed, Mary’s visit and Elizabeth’s greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation: in their embrace, God’s mercy quietly breaks into human history amid abundant joy. I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting, to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace between the young Mother of God and the elderly mother of St. John the Baptist, and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon.

Next, I would invite you to make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly. ... The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is meant to be a small but precious sign of the blessing of that day. Let us all look ahead! And allow ourselves to be shaped by God’s grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past!

In the meeting between Pope Francis and the feasts of Jesus’ grandparents, Sts. Joachim and Anne. This year, the feast is July 26.

To you, the young who are preparing to meet in Lisbon or to celebrate World Youth Day in your own countries, I would ask: before you set out on your journey, visit your grandparents or an elderly person who lives alone! Their prayers will protect you and you will carry in your heart the blessing of that encounter. I ask you, the elderly among us, to accompany by your prayers the young people about to celebrate World Youth Day. Those young people are God’s answer to your prayers, the fruits of all that you have sown, the sign that God does not abandon his people, but always rejuvenates them with the creativity of the Holy Spirit.”
“Be careful not to practice your right- eousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” (Mt 6:1)

The Eucharist, body and blood of Christ, under the appearance of bread and wine, is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. The importance of appearance and substance was driven home to me years ago by a homily I heard as a young seminarian that deepened my appreciation of the spiritual meaning in the Eucharist.

When I first saw Miami from the plane as we were descending, it seemed calm, unperturbed, and simple. Once landed, I encountered a reality with greater contrast than I had ever known. The appearance that greeted me just minutes before. Isn’t this kind of the same thing as the sacrament of the Eucharist? The bread and wine remain ordinary in appearance, but we know they have been changed into the extraordinary Body and Blood of our Lord.

The sacrament of the Eucharist teaches us a critical spiritual lesson: Our faith is less about surface appearances and more about the substance within. In today’s world, symbols like rosaries and crosses, used as mere accessories, their deeper significance diluted in superficial display when the person wearing them acts contrary to the Gospel. The Eucharist ought to remind us of this. It is not hedonistic; it is, in fact, a sacrifice, a mystery to be shared with others. If we do, we will have no reward from our Father in heaven. Yes or no.

And then we proceed. It is, in fact, spiritual. It honors the creator, reminds us of the one wild and precious life we are given. It calls to mind ancient words from St. Irenaeus, a great theologian of the Church: “The glory of God is man fully alive.”

God wants us to live our lives to their fullest capacity. He’s yearning for us to embrace the beauty of creation with the gifts He has given us — strong legs, clear eyes, big hearts, nimble fingers. One part Theology of the Body, one part Carpe Diem.

Presented with an iPhone full of apps, a pair of tennis shoes and a cloudless blue sky, what will we choose? Will it make me feel alive or more listless?

This approach naturally finds a balance, combining thrills and comforts, real discipleship and deliverance.

Sometimes it points us to a treat — tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich savored on a rainy day. Other times it asks us to face the couchie life of a morning walk. Sometimes it means staying up late to enjoy a fire and fellowship. Other times it means going to bed early because your body needs the rest.

St. Irenaeus’ mantra replaces all the secular metrics: Am I happier? Am I thinking better? Am I more productive?

The overarching question: Am I fully alive? Am I glorifying God?

Summer is the perfect time to pose this question and then enjoy simple childhood delights like walking barefoot in grass. Even if we don’t know the research affirming its health benefits, we know in our hearts: It makes me feel alive.

I’ve been keeping a running list of the little things that make me feel alive. Some are crazy, like an old quilt paired with a good book. But many involve contrasts that tingle, shock me awake. Putting on a wet swimsuit. Rising early to read Scripture. Pushing myself to swim a few more laps.

Rubin recognized, we have become so preoccupied with the pursuit of happiness that we have become so disconnected from our own minds. Often we spent so much time and effort looking for happiness that we have become less able to recognize and embrace the happiness that is already present in our lives.

We have come to see happiness as something that we can achieve and control, whereas happiness is something that we can experience and appreciate within our daily lives. The key to finding happiness is to focus on the present moment and to be grateful for the little things that make us feel alive. By doing so, we can cultivate a sense of gratitude and appreciation for the everyday moments that bring us joy.

By Christina Capecchi

Twentysomething

By John Huynh

Fully alive: The summertime invitation to glorify God

The idea came on my birthday, one of those fully formed thoughts that arises unbidden, a cerebral click. The day began with a brief summer rain, and a chill still hung in the air. I headed to the gym, rolling down my windows and cranking up the radio. Bruce Springsteen crooned “Dancing in the Dark,” the ballad of a listless young man searching for inspiration.

“Man, I’m just tired and bored with myself. How do I feel alive?”

I knew better; but practically, both in my private faith and as part of the Godhead. And although he is individual and who now is with the Father — the Word (the Christian scriptures). I believe that participation in the Eucharist is the single most important part of my discipleship. Commitment to the Eucharist, Jesus’ teaching, and the church are, save for graced attentive moments in prayer, the heart of my faith and lived discipleship. Habitually I relate more to Christ than to Jesus.

And, let me risk adding this: I believe that is true for various Christian churches. We have churches that relate more to Christ and churches that relate more to Jesus (not that either excludes the other). For example, my own church, Roman Catholic, is a very Christ-centered church. In Ecclesial community, Eucharist, the sacraments, and Jesus’ teachings are key. No true Roman Catholic can ever say that all I need is a private relationship to Jesus. That is also true of most Anglicans, Episcopalians, and mainline Protestants. It is less true for churches within the Evangelical family, where the salient mandate in the Gospel of John to have an intimate relationship to Jesus more easily becomes the central tenet within Christian discipleship.

But unlike many of the faith-filled mystics and saints that I read, and unlike many of my Evangelical friends and colleagues, I struggle to have a real sense that Jesus is an intimate friend and lover. I struggle to be the beloved disciple in John’s gospel who has his head reclining on the breast of Jesus and for whom one-to-one intimacy with Jesus relativizes everything else. I know that Jesus is real and wants an intimate relationship with each of us; but truth be told, I struggle to actually feel that most days and to make it the central part of my discipleship. Commitment to the Eucharist, Jesus’ teaching, and the church are, save for graced attentive moments in prayer, the heart of my faith and lived discipleship. Habitually I relate more to Christ than to Jesus.

Relating to both Jesus and Christ

For too many years, for me, Christ was simply Jesus’ last name. Jack Smith, Susan Parker, Jesus Christ. Intellectually, I knew better; but practically, both in my private faith and as part of the Godhead, I functioned as if Jesus were simply Jesus’ surname. Whether in prayer, writing, or preaching, I almost always used the two names together, Jesus and Christ, as if there were a perfect merging of faith, hope, and love. Irenaeus recognized, we have become so disconnected from our own minds.

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