Blessings abound

Two men ordained priests for the diocese

Larry Breheny served for nearly 40 years

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Larry Breheny dedicated his life to helping others primarily through Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Des Moines. He died July 14.

A native of Keokuk and member of St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines, he began at Catholic Charities as a social worker in 1961 and held about 10 positions including executive director.

He oversaw growth of the agency, including the establishment of the homeless shelter and outreach center in Des Moines and domestic violence shelter in Council Bluffs.

He served the diocese as well, having become the first lay chancellor.

“Five bishops, hundreds of priests, religious women and deacons, along with thousands of lay people in this great diocese, including staff and board members, have made my work a joy rather than a burden,” he wrote in a program celebrating his retirement in 2000 from Catholic Charities and the diocese. “I have been blessed to have worked 38 years in ministry to people, not a ‘job.’”

“Larry was a passionate and dedicated leader in service and support to all in need,” said Catholic Charities Executive Director Dr. Barbara Decker. “On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff members of Catholic Charities, we share in Larry’s legacy and convey our gratitude for his many contributions. We

Long time Catholic Charities leader dies

Larry Breheny died July 14.

Continued on page 11
The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria, are seen June 24 after they drowned in the Rio Grande in Matamoros, Mexico while trying to reach the United States. The Pope contends that through the migrants “the Lord is calling us to conversion, to be free from exclusivity, indifference and the throwaway culture. Through them, the Lord invites us to embrace fully our Christian life and to contribute, each according to his or her proper vocation, to the building up of a world that is more and more in accord with God’s plan.”

From a situation at the border that is emmeshed with human tragedy and which from a moral viewpoint we need to seek reversal of in the immediate moment, there also emerges a vision. It points the way to new hope. In confronting this existential mess with the compassion that deeply resides in all of us, might we also activate the moral compass on which America has been built to reemerge?

* The full message of Pope Francis “It is not just about migrants” can be found on the Diocese of Des Moines website, dmdioce.se.org.
Brian and Angie Swee-ney of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines have a passion for helping veterans. Both were raised in military families. Brian’s father was a veteran and active in veterans’ affairs. Angie’s father was a career military man in the Air Force.

“We’ve always had a real affinity for the military and veterans and veterans’ affairs,” Brian said.

So when they learned about the Puppy Jake Foundation, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping military veterans through the assistance of well bred, socialized and professionally trained service dogs, they were intrigued.

“Angie heard about the Puppy Jake Foundation and signed up to be a volunteer, and so we signed up to be puppy sitters,” Brian said. “We puppy sat a dog named Bucky and we loved it.”

They decided to become trainers for Puppy Jake and have since trained three dogs.

Their first dog, Ike, was placed with a veteran in May 2017. Brian and Angie are currently training Rusty and PJ, who will be turned in on Sept. 26 to be placed with veterans.

“To be a Puppy Jake foster, we are responsible for the day-to-day training of the service dog for about 2.5 years,” Brian said. “The dogs live with us. We go to class once a week with a professional dog trainer and after 2.5 years of successful training the dog goes to a disabled veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder and does life-changing work that even people aren’t able to do.”

The Puppy Jake service dogs have a major impact on the veterans’ lives.

“(One veteran’s) night terrors were really bad, to the point that his wife was not able to sleep in the same bed as him because he thrashed around so bad and it was physically dangerous for her,” Brian said. “He got the service dog and the dog started breaking up the night terrors. And when he allowed the dog to sleep in bed with him it calmed him down to the point where his wife could come back and sleep in the same bed peacefully after he had the dog for six or seven months.

“That doesn’t sound like maybe a big thing but it was a huge improvement in their quality of life and they are very, very happy with their service dog,” Brian continued. “And I know that veteran is now able to go grocery shop and do errands on his own, and before he was not able to leave the house by himself.”

The Puppy Jake service dogs offer veterans a new sense of freedom and indepen-
Celebrate marriage with us at Anniversary Masses

By Deacon Randy Kiel

Let’s Get Psyched

When Pope Francis talks about evangelization, his poster child may well be an immigrant in North Dakota.

Sister Brenda Hernandez Valdes, a 34-year-old Daughter of Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe, lives more than 1,500 miles from her home in Coahuila, Mexico, serving the sprawling Diocese of Bismarck, N.D., and ministering to the Hispanics working in its booming oil industry.

Sister Brenda’s smile embodies the pope’s call for joyful missionary disciples: Her eyes disappear, and dimples appear at each upturned corner of her mouth. There is something magnetic about the small, friendly woman who is “in the gray habit.” She is Ex-hibited A for Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”) and a reminder for all Catholics of how joyfully evangelize.

Most of the Hispanics who relocated to North Dakota to work at an oil field are young. Some are only 18. Many are single, others are new parents. All are yearning for a sense of home. Amid the makeshift homes and temporary work, the early mornings

Giving joyful witness: how the Holy Spirit stirs the restless

By Christina Capcechi

Twentysomething

and the English lessons, they are seeking something stable, something familiar. It is a more extreme version of a search we all undertake: the quest for something more.


When the restless meet Sister Brenda, her joy is irresistible. They can’t help but wonder, “How do I get that?” Where does that come from? These encounters are only possible because Sister Brenda has ventured “out on the streets,” as Pope Francis put it, unafraid to get “bruised” and “dirty.” For her, that means the Walmart parking lot, where she carries grocery bags and distributes fliers, extending a personal invitation to each shopper to join her for Mass. She approaches with humility. She is not there to dispense wisdom. She believes she can learn even more than she’ll teach. That begins by listening, according to “Evangelii: “We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communica- tion, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur.”

This enables Sister Brenda to enter into their world, because “an evan- gelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives,” Pope Francis writes in “Evangelii.”

For Sister Brenda, that begins by fielding questions about warm- er jackets and better cell-phone plans. “They approach the Church for different needs,” she said. “Our people sacrifice a lot by living in small spaces, leaving their family or bringing it to live

in extreme weather conditions.”

She takes her time with each encounter, heeding one of the most practical tips in “Evangelii”: “Evangelization con- sists mostly of patience and disregard for constraints of time.”

The teenagers ask about her habit, and she talks freely, happily about religious life. Her message is bold: “Do not be afraid to open the doors to Christ!”

She encourages their parents, too. “It is very important to strengthen the vocational culture in parents,” she said.

Sister Brenda lives with two other Daughters of Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe. This spring they hosted a gathering for Hispanic youth at St. Jo- seph Catholic Church in Dickinson, N.D., to share their stories and perform a concert. Together they made beautiful music. Standing in the Walmart parking lot, greeting them at church, Sister Brenda is a guidepost for the lost and lonely. “In the Church,” she said, “they find family.”

Christina Capcechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.
Q. How do you dispose of religious artifacts that have been in a national disaster such as the flooding?

A. Religious artifacts (crucifixes, statues, pictures of Jesus or the saints, etc.) have no religious value in themselves; rather they are reminders of our faith and our devotion. If some object is mostly destroyed, there’s no point trying to restore it unless it is of some great value. We show to religious objects the respect and the dignity of those whom they remind us. In practical terms, this means that they can be burned or buried. They should not be put in the ordinary trash.

Q. What happens when a host or wine falls to the floor?

A. Care must be taken with the consecrated species of bread and wine. Still, accidents can happen, and a host can be dropped or some of the consecrated wine can be spilled. What to do? Well, ordinarily, the priest or the communion minister can simply pick up the host and return it to the altar. In the case of spilled consecrated wine, a purificator (the cloth that is used to wipe the rim of the chalice) can be used to soak up what was spilled. Then the purificator can be cleaned along with the other purificators from that Mass.

Q. How many cardinals are there in the United States and what do they do and what are their territories?


Got a question for “Ask a Priest” and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to communications@dmdiocese.org.
Around the diocese

July 22 Monday RAGBRAI WINTerset – St. Joseph Parish in 1026 N. 14th Ave. will celebrate Mass at 3 p.m. and then serve a $10 spaghetti dinner from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

July 23 Tuesday Catholic Widows and Widowers - WEst Des Moines – Business meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish. For more information contact Judy Lalonde at 515-980-7791.

July 25-27 Thursday-Saturday Rummage Sale ANkeny – Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish’s annual rummage sale schedule is as follows: July 25, 4-8 p.m. (early bird entrance for $5), July 26, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. and July 27, 8 a.m. to noon.

July 27 Saturday Anniversary Celebration WEst DES Moines - Father Chris Harthoorn’s celebration of his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood is July 27. (An incorrect date was mistakenly listed in the May edition of The Catholic Mirror).

August 2 Friday St. vincent de Paul DES Moines – St. Vincent de Paul is celebrating its 95th anniversary and planning its annual fundraising event, Kickin’ It Blue Jean Ball, from 6-10 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown Mercy Campus. Tickets are $95 ($70 for young professionals under 35) or be a Blue Jean sponsor for $1,000/table of eight. The evening will include dinner, drinks, live music, games, fellowship and silent auction. Even if you can’t make it, please consider making a donation to ensure that no one, especially children, go without their basic needs being met. Tickets and donations and sponsorships can be purchased made on our website at vopfdm.org/news-event-kickin-it-

August 3 Saturday International Rosary DES Moines – All are invited to St. Anthony Parish to experience this amazing rosary that will be prayed in six languages: German, French, Italian, Vietnamese, Spanish and English. Mass begins at 8:30 a.m. with the international rosary following. After the rosary, Monsignor Frank Chiodo will give a talk on “Making Disciples.”

August 4 Sunday Chicken Dinner ST. Mary’s – Immaculate Conception Parish is holding its annual chicken dinner from 12:30-5:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s Hall. Doors will open at noon. Cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 3-10. Menu includes great broasted chicken and pie. Take-outs are available by entering the east door. Bingo will be played and quilts of valor will be displayed in the church.

August 11 Sunday Retirement Celebration DES Moines – Father David Pfeifer is retiring. Join us in celebration of 43 years of active priestly ministry from 2-5 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church. Parishes served include St. Joseph, Christ the King, Visitation in Des Moines; St. Michael, Harlan; St. Patrick, Perry; St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlisle; Holy Trinity of St. Vincent, Winterset; Immaculate Conception, Maloy, St. Joseph, Mt. Ayr, St. Patrick, Grand River and St. Bernard, Osceola.

August 16, 30 and Sept. 6 Fridays Widowed, Divorced, or Separated DES Moines – The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce, or death is one of life’s most traumatic experiences. Beginning Experience® is a program intended for those suffering the loss of a loved relationship who are ready to come to terms with that loss and begin to move forward with their lives. Open houses are Aug. 16, 30 and Sept. 7 from 6:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church. A weekend program is Sept. 20-22 at St. Thomas More Center in Panora. Questions? Contact Father Justin White at jwhite@dmdioce.org or call 515-418-1038.

RAGBRAI Masses

Saturday, July 20, Council Bluffs • St. Peter Church, 4 p.m. • Corpus Christi Parish, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Queen of Apostles worship center • St. Patrick Church, 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 21 morning, Council Bluffs • St. Peter: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. • Corpus Christi: 7:45 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Spanish) at Queen of Apostles worship center; 8:30 a.m. at Holy Family worship site; 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Carter Lake • St. Patrick: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 21 evening, Atlantic • St. Peter & Paul Church, 6 p.m. • Monday, July 22 afternoon, Winterset St. Joseph Church: Mass at 3 p.m. The parish will host a pasta dinner from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. The church will serve as a waiting/cooling area for those attending the dinner.

Tuesday, July 23 evening, Indiana • St. Thomas Aquinas Church: 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24 morning, Indiana • St. Thomas Aquinas Church: 8 a.m.

Wednesday, July 24 evening, Centerville St. Mary Catholic Church, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 25 evening, Fairfield St. Mary Catholic Church, 6 p.m.

Friday, July 26 evening, Burlington Divine Mercy Parish, St. Paul Catholic Church, 6 p.m.

Masses celebrated at Iowa State Fair

Mass will be celebrated three times at the Iowa State Fair this year. Weekend Masses will be celebrated on Sundays, Aug. 11 and Aug. 18 at Pioneer Hall at 7:15 a.m. Mass in celebration of the holy day of obligation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be Thursday, Aug. 15 at 7:30 a.m. also in Pioneer Hall. Iowa Catholic Radio will be in the state fair parade on Wednesday, Aug. 7 and will have a booth at the fair on the visible path near the Bill Riley Stage. Iowa Catholic Radio will be at its booth at the fair every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The station will offer gift certificates and will be broadcasting all live and local shows at the fair. Deacons and priests will be on hand at the Iowa Catholic Radio booth. Confession will be offered, times to be determined.

Pedaling to the peripheries II: bicycling bishop and team to ride two legs of RAGBRAI

By Barb Arland-Fye The Catholic Messenger

They’re back in the saddle! Davenport Bishop Thomas Zinkula and the Pedaling to the Peripheries team are gearing up to ride the final two days of RAGBRAI (the Region’s Annual Dolly Bicycle Ride Across Iowa). The 427-mile ride starts in Council Bluffs on July 21 and finishes in Keokuk on July 27.

Priests at parishes along the route will celebrate Mass at each overnight stop on RAGBRAI – Council Bluffs, Atlantic, Winterset, Indianola, Centerville, Fairfield and Burlington – carrying on a tradition that Bishop Zinkula introduced last year.

Pedaling to the Peripheries team members rode the full length of RAGBRAI last year, their first as a team. Scheduling conflicts and other considerations required an abbreviated ride this year. A smaller team of 13 will ride from Fairfield to Burlington (July 26) and from Burlington to Keokuk (July 27).

Whatever distance he rides, the bishop views RAGBRAI as an opportunity to go out to the peripheries, encountering people of faith, no faith or lapsed faith, and setting an example as a joy-filled Catholic.

“It’s just exciting to continue our team,” said Jim Tiedje, Pedaling to the Peripheries’ program coordinator. “I was real pleased that the bishop was able to clear his schedule for those two days. This is a great opportunity to get into the (southern) part of the diocese with a down-to-earth bishop, making his rounds in the diocese in a casual manner.

Even if you aren’t riding RAGBRAI – join me the Pedaling to the Peripheries team at Mass.

Guided/Directed Retreat

July 28 – August 3

Schuyler, NE

During this retreat the group will gather daily for a conference and for Mass; each participant will have a director daily. Opportunity to join the monks for Mass & prayer.


Fathers and Sons - Together Forever

August 3, 8:30 a.m. - August 4, 12 p.m.

Schuyler, NE

This fun retreat provides opportunities for open communication & mutual learning between fathers & sons ages 11-18. Includes, weather permitting, dodgeball competition, water balloon toss, hayrack ride, Mass, & a traditional blessing of the sons!

Directors: Edward DeSimone, Ph.D., Ellen Lierk and Justin White. Register now at jwhite@dmdioce.org or call 515-418-1038. Daryl Stahl at 515-480-6617 or Dana Reed at 515-975-3745.

The Lord is Rich in Mercy

August 15, 6 p.m. - August 18, 1 p.m.

Schuyler, NE

"In a special way the Psalms bring to the fore the grandeur of God’s merciful action" (Pope Francis). In this retreat we will listen attentively to the Psalms of Mercy so we can experience through them the concrete reality of God’s loving mercy for us. Father Joel Macul, OSC, STL, serves as prior of our monastery. Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com.

The Catholic Mirror – July 19, 2019

www.dmdiocese.org

6
Priest returning to native Ghana after serving campus ministry, St. Catherine, Drake University community

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Father Mark Owusu, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish and Drake Newman Community in Des Moines and diocesan director of campus ministry, is returning to his native Ghana in September. His new assignment is professor at the Catholic University of Ghana.

Father Owusu has served as the diocesan director of campus ministry since 2012.

He came to the United States in 2007 and studied at the University of St. Thomas, earning his MBA before coming to Iowa.

His first assignment was at the St. Gregory Retreat Center in Bayard for two years before beginning work at St. Catherine.

“It takes patience to work as a shepherd of God’s flock,” Father Owusu said.

He has enjoyed his role serving the three constituents of the St. Catherine community: Residential parishioners; college students; and the deaf community (St. Catherine is home of the deaf community in Des Moines.)

Father Owusu readily admits he has grown during his time here.

“I’m still maturing as a man and also as a man of God and a shepherd,” he said. “That is really, really important to be a man and to be able to understand who we are and self-awareness so that we can be a good shepherd to God’s flock.

“It also opened my eyes to what goes into managing a parish,” he said. “From the spiritual side and the human relationship side to evangelization and people. I also learned so much about how you need to be able to pray with the people to understand them and bring them on board.”

He’s learned that young people are looking for something more.

“All of them are on fire with their faith, but many are still battling to come to a full understanding of the faith,” he said.

“Many are yearning for a community they can call their home, grow their faith and build their life to become good leaders of the community and church.”

These are things that can’t be found on social media, he added.

Father Owusu’s next assignment is professor at the Catholic University of Ghana, where he’ll be teaching full time and assisting with ministry.

And it directly reflects the joy that fills his heart.”

He and his brother have also decided to open a nonprofit kitchen for those struggling with addictions in Ghana.

Erin Smith, campus minister at St. Catherine, said Father Owusu will be missed.

“Some people whistle while they work,” Smith said.

“Father Mark sings as he serves and it directly reflects the joy that fills his heart.”

SJEC gets new director

Tom Quinlan has been named the new ministry director for the St. Joseph Educational Center beginning July 1.

Quinlan has been a director of religious education in the Diocese of Joliet for the past 17 years and has been in parish and diocesan catechetical ministry in northern Illinois for 25 years.

He has authored two books: Excellence in Ministry (Loyola Press, 2017), and How to Talk to Children About the Mass (Twenty-Third Publications, 2017).

Quinlan has worked extensively with the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, serving on the governance board, representative council and multiple committees.

“Tom is a uniquely qualified individual with his years of experience both at the parish and diocesan levels,” said Dr. Dan Ryan, president of Dowling Catholic High School.

The SJEC is located at Dowling Catholic and focuses on serving 23 parishes and the broader Catholic community of Des Moines. The primary focus of the center is to coordinate educational development for current and future parish employees, to provide adult faith formation programming, and to serve as a unifying element between the parishes, Catholic schools and Catholic families.

“A particular focus I’ll bring is supporting parents in their faith development, so that they can better foster a deep and vibrant Catholic faith in their families,” Quinlan said.

An Adventure in Peru

in the footsteps of the Incas

9 DAYS: FEBRUARY 10-18, 2020
Hosted by veteran tour leader Rev. John Vakulskas
Visiting: Lima, Machu Picchu, Cuzco, Lake Titicaca and much more!

Price includes: R/T Air Miami, Daily Tours, First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Daily Mass, Rail Transportation Cuzco/Machu Picchu/Cusco, transfers, guides. Seats are extremely limited.

$3,499 per person from Miami (double occupancy)

FOR FULL DETAILS:
Rev. John Vakulskas
Box 347 • Okoboji, IA 51355
712.490.8047
johnvakulskas@gmail.com
www.carnivalpriest.com
Laity boosts, service in parishes communities

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Imagine you’re a pastor with a multicultural parish and a couple of parishioners come to see you.

They say they’ve done an analysis of the parish, they see a need and they feel called by God to help meet that need. Or, they are willing to help where ever you see a need. They come with 18 months of religious formation that gives them the confidence and the knowledge to be lay leaders in service to the parish.

In the last five years, 90 people have done this in the Des Moines diocese, resulting in a boost in ministries and service within the Hispanic Catholic communities.

“This is beautiful, when parishioners can sit and dialogue about what they see, and the pastor can share with them the vision he has and they can complement that,” said Mayra Moriel de Bamuels, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry.

“I’m a big supporter of the Hispanic Lay Formation program,” said Father PJ McMamus, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

“We have several new program and services which have been by those trained in the program,” he said.

The most recent class of 41 men and women in the Hispanic Lay Leadership Formation program concluded 18 months of prayer and study with a June retreat at Conception Seminary in Missouri and a sending Mass on June 30.

At the Mass, Bishop Richard Pates sent them out to work through their parishes to serve others.

With this third cohort, a total of 90 Hispanic people have been prepared to minister in their communities.

As part of the formation program, they analyzed the diocese and their own parishes. They were required to create a ministry plan in cooperation with their pastors.

Some of the plans from the most recent graduates include:

• Going to homes and inviting people who have been away from the church to return
• Supporting families who want to go to church by caring for their children
• Providing formation for catechists so they grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus and can share that with the children they teach
• Helping people understand the Sunday readings so they’re more focused at Mass and can live the faith more fully
• Bringing Marriage Encounter to the diocese for Spanish-speaking married couples
• Accompanying young couples in their first five years of marriage
• Coordinating groups in the parish to cook and bring food to area shelters
• Accompanying people who have had a loved one die, offering a support group for families or for children who have lost someone in the family
• Visiting and bringing the Eucharist to persons who are in the hospital or ill at home

“As part of the classes, they do an analysis of the reality of their parishes and an analysis of the reality of the diocese. Through those analyses, they look at how they can contribute with their gifts and talents,” said Moriel. “They have to pray and see what God is calling them to do. They have to present a pastoral project that they can implement in the next couple of years in the parish.”

Now that three groups have gone through the formation process, it’s time to bring all of them together to create a sense of community among the graduates, Moriel said. Another step is to see the graduates begin to take on leadership roles through their parish pastoral councils, finance councils and school boards.

“The formation gives them more confidence to participate there,” Moriel said.

Grads have come primarily from Des Moines but also from Adel, Waterloo, Perry, Ossesa, Ankeny and Council Bluffs. In addition, two from the Archdiocese of Dubuque participated in the first cohort.

The diocese will begin recruitment for the fourth class beginning in September with the group beginning the process in January. For more information, contact Moriel at 515-237-5011 or mmoriel@dmdiocese.org.

Legislative update on federal immigration issues

By Tom Chapman
Contributing Writer

Immigration policy continues to be a topic of great public interest in the United States. The pictures of the father and his daughter who drowned in the Rio Grande, as well as reports of inhumane conditions for children in custody at the border, touch our conscience and invite action.

Our principles of Catholic social teaching would suggest that good government has two duties in this area. The first duty is to welcome people from other places out of charity and respect for the human person as best we can. The second duty is to regulate our borders for the sake of the common good, as it’s not possible to accept everyone who might want to be here. These principles seem to make sense to most people.

There’s some good news on the legislative front. H.R. 6, “The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019” passed the U.S. House last month and has been sent to the Senate.

The Dream Act would provide a possible path to eventual citizenship to Dreamers. These are people who were brought to the United States as children — it’s the only home they know, even though they don’t have legal authority to be here. (If you’re born here, you’re a citizen.) This bill would protect about 800,000 young people in the United States from being deported. It would be a big step for Dreamers who have been here for years but have been working and living in uncertainty.

Our next goal is to encourage the Senate to take action on the Dream Act. Prospects do not look good at the moment, but we will continue to look for a path forward. We were also pleased that Congress passed supplemental aid for unaccompanied minors at the border before the July 4 recess. We will continue to support stronger health and safety protections for children in custody. Much attention has been paid recently to the separation of family during immigration proceedings on our southern border.

On the other hand, the bishops are very concerned about the President’s announcement about possible raids in major cities.

We are also asking HUD to withdraw its rule that, if finalized, would remove thousands of migrant families and children from federal housing programs.

Here at the state level, one of the bishops’ priorities has been to discourage the state from conducting additional local enforcement of federal immigration laws, and to pass laws that would help immigrant families thrive.

One item the Iowa Catholic Conference has worked on, for example, is to make it possible for immigrants who are here without papers to receive a special driver’s license. They would have to pass the same tests as anyone else. This would make it easier for them to get to work as well as help law enforcement personnel by providing an authentic identification of people they might come in contact with.

You can help support good public policy in a couple of ways:

• Go to iowacatholicconference.org and click on “Join the Network.” You’ll receive any state alerts.

• Visit justiceforimmigrants.org to see action alerts on federal issues.

I’d like to leave you with a final thought. One of the speakers at the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in 2017 was Dr. Houstffman Ospino. He has also spoken here in the Diocese of Des Moines. He said, “Immigrants are neither the enemy nor a threat; they are the face of Christ, the living Gospel that we are called to embrace with mercyful love and Christian hospitality.” I think those are good words to live by.

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

Bienvenidos

Fifty nine Hispanic Catholics have graduated from an 18-month faith formation program that gives them confidence to take on leadership roles in their parishes. Recruitment for the next group begins in September with the class beginning in January.
Lumen Christi nominee a community leader

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Ana Lilia Rojas, of the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines, has been nominated for Catholic Extension’s annual Lumen Christi Award.

The honor is presented to a person who has demonstrated how the power of faith can transform lives and communities. Winners have been devoted to serving the poor in under-resourced dioceses and have built faith, inspired hope and ignited change.

“Rojas has volunteered her time to serving others out of the kindness of her heart and commitment to her community,” wrote the diocese in the nomination form. “She is the definition of what Gandhi described as ‘being the change you want to see in the world.’”

A native of Mexico City, Rojas has been a leader and an advocate in the Hispanic community in the Diocese of Des Moines. She is married and has three children.

She graduated from the Hispanic Lay Leadership Formation program, was part of the diocesan Encounter program and has assisted St. Patrick Parish in Perry with the V Encuentro process.

“My faith has grown stronger,” Rojas said. “It’s not just about believing but also about living it.”

She has supported her parish’s Hispanic Ministry with religious education classes, quinceañera formation, Bible classes and fundraising activities for a seminary in El Salvador.

She has been a leader in the broader community. Rojas is an active member of American Friends of Hispanic Ministry, the Hispanic Lay Leadership program, the Hispanic Youth Group and the Hispanic Ministry Women’s Group.

She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Spanish and a minor in Latin American studies.

Rojas has volunteered many times with the Consulate of Mexico serving the Des Moines area and has spoken about immigration with the Des Moines mayor, Polk County Sheriff, Des Moines school board and other organizations.

Why does she help so many people and organizations?

“I don’t see any barriers, just about the need of others,” she said. “I find a way to help others. I like to see how the community comes together.”

Hispanic Ministry at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population of U.S. Hispanics as of July 1, 2017</th>
<th>58.9 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of U.S. Population that is Hispanic</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Hispanic population in Iowa</td>
<td>189,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Iowa population that is Hispanic</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total Hispanic population in the Diocese of Des Moines</td>
<td>61,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average family size for Iowa Latinos in 2017</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age of Iowa’s Latino population in 2017</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income in Iowa in 2017</td>
<td>$46,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income in Iowa in 2017</td>
<td>$58,570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fev y Vida builds confidence, skills for parish lay leaders

By Carlos Arreola
Contributing Writer

We are all called to serve. Sadly, there are few who do not listen to the call.

I am Carlos Arreola and I am 20 years old.

I was one of the many who blocked his ears and didn’t want to hear the call to serve.

I was in several ministries back home in California for a while, without knowing the importance of what it meant. I was involved in the youth ministry in the church, doing it for fun and to get attention from the ladies who walked in.

I moved here (Des Moines) in 2016 and joined the Christ the King Parish Hispanic youth choir. I served in the choir to kill time, not for a deeper meaning.

I was in a secular band, where I started to see risks and where alcohol was involved and I realized that was not a good thing last year. God convinced me to change. I began to serve with seriousness and dedication with my girlfriend, Andrea Rodriguez, who knew how prayer worked and went to Mass.

Over time, I began to take my service in the church more seriously rather than an “extracurricular activity” or a place to shred on the guitar.

My girlfriend Andrea and I share in ministry with our choir “Dios Es Amor.”

Recently, Andrea’s aunt sent us an invitation to a hands-on instruction program through Fe y Vida Institute teaching people how to work with youth.

I foolishly said, “No” because the Fe y Vida Institute was too far away.

When Jessica Maciel Hernandez and her friend, Karla Garcia, mentioned the same program, Andrea asked for days off work and I cleared my schedule so we could go.

We learned a lot about how to work with our ministry’s kids and even our siblings who are teenagers.

We learned about lifestyles in different cultures, how media and pop culture affect children, pick up information on codes of ethics, theory and skills in communication, professional and nonprofessional counseling, and more.

I learned about how to arrange the liturgy, choosing songs for the Mass adequately. We learned several games to encourage, teach, and make young people reflect.

I learned about the importance of music, reflection and how to raise the self-esteem of young people who come and want to learn from God.

In these four and a half days we did not just learn. We lived great experiences with people from other states of the country, even one or two from another continent.

We thank El Instituto Fe y Vida for the great teaching opportunity and immense support in the proper evangelization and pastoral care of Hispanic youth.

There are no barriers between you and the service of God. Let’s not be deaf to the call.
Farmers caring for our common home
Lenox farmer who promotes environmentally friendly practices says farming is a vocation and a privilege

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Growing up, Ray Gaesser always knew he wanted to be a farmer.

“For me, farming is a vocation,” said Gaesser, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Lenox. “It’s a job he loves. And one he sees as a privilege – the work of feeding the world.”

“Farming is the only thing I ever wanted to do,” Gaesser added.

It’s a career path filled with many uncertainties – ranging from the weather to the markets – naturally creating a reliance on God in all seasons.

Gaesser has long seen how he is cooperating with God in his work and gift of caring for God’s creation.

“We have a responsibility to care for the land that we are blessed to be able to manage,” Gaesser said. “I thank God every day that I’m able to farm and we have family members now that are going to continue on.”

“My son is a 50/50 partner this year.”

His son Chris graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in agronomy 10 years ago and brings his knowledge and passion for farming to the family business.

His daughter Jennifer also owns some land she rents out to her dad.

Recognizing the great responsibility that comes with protecting God’s natural resources is crucial, said Gaesser, a board member for Solutions from the Land, an organization working to advance proven and innovative agricultural solutions that benefit farmers, the public and the planet. Solutions from the Land works to inspire, educate, and equip agricultural partners to innovate and lead efforts to sustain productivity, enhance climate resilience, and contribute to local and global goals for sustainable development.

Gaesser is involved with the organization’s initiative called the North America Smart Climate Change Alliance, which encourages climate-smart agriculture strategies to enhance and adapt North American agriculture to changing climate conditions.

He was also invited to the 2nd Laudato Si’ conference at Creighton University in June. It’s the first of three biennial conferences to convene, equip, and inspire current and potential leaders who can more deeply integrate Laudato Si’ and its climate change teaching into the U.S. Catholic Church.

“It absolutely plays into my faith,” Gaesser said. “It’s what we’ve learned as Catholics over my 66 years is that life is a gift. And I like to say that our vocations as farmers is a gift from God and we need to do the best we can and manage what we have in a way that conserves those precious resources that we have.”

Advancements in technology have made conservation and protecting the environment easier, Gaesser said. He hopes those can be embraced.

“We use GPS technology and everything gets turned on and off within one inch of what it’s supposed to be,” Gaesser said. “We also soil test and don’t over apply nutrients.”

“Farming is the only vocation and it’s a job he loves and feels privileged to do. Gaesser said he has a responsibility to care for the land. He has installed hundreds of terraces and miles of waterways over the years to protect the soil. He is a board member for Solutions from the Land, North American Climate Smart Agricultural Alliance. He’s also chair of both the Iowa Conservative Energy Forum and Iowa Smart Agriculture.”

Late Father Jim Kiernan remembered at Mass, car rally

Top: Father John Acrea celebrated the Commemorative Mass for the late Father Jim Kiernan on Sunday, July 7 at Dowling Catholic High School’s St. Joseph Chapel. Father Kiernan’s nephew Peter Kiernan organized the event, pictured here with his son James and Father Acrea. The collection taken at Mass was donated to Iowa Catholic Radio to assist in evangelization efforts. Bottom: People enjoyed checking out the classic and antique automobiles on display after the Commemorative Mass.

Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins
Catholic Charities leadersriver Brethren dies

Continued from page 1

extend our prayers and comfort to his family and many friends.”

In celebration of Brethren’s retirement, Bishop Emeritus Joseph Charron wrote: “I have come to know Larry as a man of deep faith who has guided the works of human service and social justice in this diocese with utmost integrity and the highest of moral standards. In his personal life, Larry has witnessed for us a man who lives Gospel values and incorporates them into his work.

“Under the leadership of Larry Brethren, our Catholic Charities agency has earned great respect within our own Catholic community and in the wider community as well,” he wrote.

Brethren attended St. Ambrose University in Davenport, where he earned a bachelor’s degree, attended one year of theological studies in the minor seminary and served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain’s assistant before working briefly for the state as a social worker in Atlantic.

In 1961, he began working as an entry-level social worker for Catholic Charities. He earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Iowa.

When he began at the diocese, he was primarily helping with adoptions, foster care and single pregnant women.

This was when Catholic Charities operated the Christ Child Home, from which about 40 infants were adopted annually and more young children lived temporarily at the home at the direction of the courts.

He was named executive director of Catholic Charities in 1985, and was named chancellor of the diocese in 1990 while continuing to serve as executive director of Catholic Charities – then called the Catholic Council for Social Concern – and as general manager of the chancery and staff.

In appointing Brethren as chancellor, Bishop Bullock described him as a “man of integrity, a man of high performance and a man who will listen and lead.”

Asked how he handled the responsibilities, he admitted “That is a delicate balancing process that I try to keep on top of at all times. I also have tremendous support from the people here in the building and the diocesan staff.”

He was a role model for Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference.

He always paid attention to how any new policy or outreach program would actually affect the individual person,” Chapman said. “He was very compassionate and a strong person of faith.”

Brethren was a mentor to former Catholic Charities Executive Director Nancy Galeazzi.

“He led Catholic Charities with commitment and compassion for people in need,” she said.

“His strong social work perspective shaped all levels of service and his commitment to social justice inspired him to advocate for the poor, resettle refugees and initiate a domestic violence program,” she added. “Larry was a strong supporter of the professional counseling program and I remain thankful for the opportunity I had serving under his leadership.”

The Larry Brethren Catholic Charities Endowment Fund, created about the time he retired, continues to support Catholic Charities services.

A funeral Mass was scheduled for Friday, July 19 at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony Church in Des Moines.

Des Moines native Benedictine Father Denis Mead has died

Longtime theology teacher Benedictine Father Denis Mead, a Des Moines native, died June 18 at the age of 89.

James Thomas Mead was born in 1930 to Joseph and Ella Mead in Des Moines, was raised in rural Madison County. He attended grade school in Cumming and began high school at Dowling Catholic in West Des Moines. He transferred to Maur Hill Prep School in Anochin, Kansas.

After his graduation, he began history studies at St. Benedict’s College. In 1949 he entered the Novitiate at St. Benedict’s Abbey, receiving the monastic name Denis, so named for St. Denis of Paris.

He professed first vows in 1950, went to Rome to study for the priesthood and was ordained in 1955 at the Abbey of San Pietro in Assisi, Italy.

He studied for five years at the Lateran University, obtaining license and doctoral degrees in Canon law.

Upon returning to Atchison in 1961, Father Denis began his principal ministry as a professor of theology at St. Benedict’s College. For the next 26 years, he would teach thousands of students, along with an eight-year stint as a dormitory prefect, overseeing one floor of student housing and living with the students.

In 1969-1983, he served as a novice master, overseeing the Abbey’s newest members.

In 1987, he put his Canon law degree to work in a new way, volunteering to serve the marriage tribunal for the Diocese of Jatai in Goias, Brazil while praying and working along brother monks at the Abbey’s mission in São José Priory.

He returned to the United States two years later to continue as a professor of theology at Benedictine College.

He went back to Brazil in 2001 to serve as novice master and director of formation. He helped with parish ministry and the marriage tribunal.

In 2005, he returned to the United States, where he served the Archbishop of Kansas City as a Canon lawyer. In retirement he continued to serve the monastic community.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Benedict’s Abbey Church on June 24 with interment in the abbey cemetery.
Catholic Youth Camp supporter James “Greenie” Green passes away

By Anne Marie Cox

Staff Writer

James “Greenie” Green, a longtime supporter of Catholic youth programs, died June 17.

A parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines and St. Patrick Parish of Grand River, Green worked at the Des Moines Register for 30 years and as director of RAGBRAI for 15.

Outside of work, he dedicated much time to Catholic Youth Camp, Teens Encounter Christ (also known as TEC) and the Dram Team, which supported teens who may not be able to experience RAGBRAI.

“Greenie was likely the oldest altar boy and camp counselor the Catholic Church has encountered, and also likely one of the most enthusiastic and passionate in both roles,” said his obituary in the Des Moines Register.

“Greenie was one of the founders of the TEC program for the diocese and, as a leader of this, he never lost his spirit which supported teens who may not be able to experience RAGBRAI,” said Father Greg Polich.

“He was an incredible person and one of the most important people we had,” said Father Polich.

When we moved down to CYC every summer in preparation for the big ride, Father David Polich’s first assignment was at St. Joseph Parish in 1976, when he met Green, his wife and family. They grew close, with Father Polich celebrating family weddings and Green’s funeral Mass.

“He was an incredibly popular person,” said Father Polich.

“He was a great guy. People really loved him.”

Father Polich added: “He was a great guy. People really loved him.”

Deacon Bob Sullivan lived it.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decide that it’s over, I will miss it because I’ve really enjoyed being around the kids,” said Hughes.

“It’s like seeing Jesus in each and every one of them,” said Hughes.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decide that it’s over, I will miss it because I’ve really enjoyed being around the kids,” said Hughes.

“It’s like seeing Jesus in each and every one of them,” said Hughes.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decide that it’s over, I will miss it because I’ve really enjoyed being around the kids,” said Hughes.

“It’s like seeing Jesus in each and every one of them,” said Hughes.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decide that it’s over, I will miss it because I’ve really enjoyed being around the kids,” said Hughes.

“It’s like seeing Jesus in each and every one of them,” said Hughes.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decide that it’s over, I will miss it because I’ve really enjoyed being around the kids,” said Hughes.

“It’s like seeing Jesus in each and every one of them,” said Hughes.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decide that it’s over, I will miss it because I’ve really enjoyed being around the kids,” said Hughes.

“It’s like seeing Jesus in each and every one of them,” said Hughes.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes.

“Dad would never leave a job unfinished,” Deacon Sam Sullivan said.

“Dad was God drawing people in, not away from people,” he said.

When I decis...
Western Iowa still struggling after devastating flooding

By Clare Heinrich
Contributing Writer

Since last April, families in the west end of the diocese along the Missouri River have been suffering from severe flooding.

Residents in the community of Bartlett and others areas experienced devastating losses: houses, vehicles and personal possessions.

Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Des Moines have raised more than $100,000 for supporting flood victims, which the county doesn’t have enough funds to go around.

“Western Iowa still struggling after devastating flooding,” said Deb Powers, Catholic Charities of Des Moines’ development director.

Dean Doty, of Bartlett, experienced tremendous losses. His house was swept clean off of its foundation with the force of the water, the house he was still working on repairing from the floods of 2011.

At the time of the flood, Doty and his family were in the process of fortifying their house, protecting whatever they couldn’t take with them. They had heard that the water was nearing them, but they still had some time before they needed to leave.

In the absence of news about the status of flood water coming downstream, he and his family didn’t realize until it was almost too late that they had to leave.

Road closures made it difficult to escape the flooding. The railroad bridge was taken out when a levy collapsed. The water was nearly up to the road by the time the Doty family left town.

Looking back, the waves of water were already flowing over the interstate as they drove away.

The Dotys have been unable to return home for three months now. They reside in a camper in Omaha, and worry about returning to the remains of their home and the cost of buying a new house. They have been applying for grants, but with the influx of flood victims, the county doesn’t have enough funds to go around.

“We lost everything,” said Doty. “We just feel stuck.”

Lori Severn barely managed to escape with her animals, including horses and goats, which took at least 4-5 hours to load them safely. After her animals were taken care of, she only had time to pack a few personal belongings before the waters reached her.

Severn, who has a college-age child, has a few more months with the temporary housing she currently resides in.

She worries about finding a new place that will accommodate herself and her animals. All the rental houses in the area are already taken by others who outran the water.

The members of the Bartlett community stick together, though. Many offer words of encouragement, extra money for the Bartlett community stick together, though. Many offer words of encouragement, extra donated items, or a place to rest.

As with many in the community, this round of flooding isn’t the first Rob and Diane Haney have experienced. They suffered from the flooded in 1952, which broke the levy near Rob’s grandparent’s house, and in 2011, when a local church group volunteered to help clean up.

This round drove the Hantrys completely off their property.

Both the Hantrys are on disability. Before the floodwaters hit, it was difficult enough to purchase the necessities. Now with the unknown expenses that accompany temporary housing and living arrangements, it is nearly impossible.

Despite the circumstances, the Hantrys take consolation in turning to their faith.

“The most amazing thing about a flood is how Jesus gets involved,” said Rob.

The Hantrys are awestruck by the community’s outreach towards those in need. Not only does Catholic Charities provide funds to those in need, local churches and service organizations offer free-will donations to anyone who stops by. Several churches provide hot meals each night.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation to Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesdm.org.

Reach 35,000 households in the Diocese of Des Moines with an ad in The Catholic Mirror.
Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5054.

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese’s Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services.

He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.

Catholic Charities is dispersed 250 grants averaging $500 a piece per family. These grants have paid utilities, basic needs, mortgage payments, water filters, and furnaces.

Furniture Mart, Casey’s General Store and Menards offered gift cards to flood survivors.

Catholic Charities has dispersed 250 grants averaging $500 a piece per family. These grants have paid utilities, basic needs, mortgage payments, water filters, and furnaces.

Furniture Mart, Casey’s General Store and Menards offered gift cards to flood survivors.

Catholic Charities has donated items, or a place to rest.

People stepping up to the cause kind of gets you,” said Severn.

Lori Severn barely managed to escape with her animals, including horses and goats, which took at least 4-5 hours to load them safely. After her animals were taken care of, she only had time to pack a few personal belongings before the waters reached her.

Severn, who has a college-age child, has a few more months with the temporary housing she currently resides in.

She worries about finding a new place that will accommodate herself and her animals. All the rental houses in the area are already taken by others who outran the water.

The members of the Bartlett community stick together, though. Many offer words of encouragement, extra donated items, or a place to rest.

As with many in the community, this round of flooding isn’t the first Rob and Diane Haney have experienced. They suffered from the flooded in 1952, which broke the levy near Rob’s grandparent’s house, and in 2011, when a local church group volunteered to help clean up.

This round drove the Hantrys completely off their property.

Both the Hantrys are on disability. Before the floodwaters hit, it was difficult enough to purchase the necessities. Now with the unknown expenses that accompany temporary housing and living arrangements, it is nearly impossible.

Despite the circumstances, the Hantrys take consolation in turning to their faith.

“The most amazing thing about a flood is how Jesus gets involved,” said Rob.

The Hantrys are awestruck by the community’s outreach towards those in need. Not only does Catholic Charities provide funds to those in need, local churches and service organizations offer free-will donations to anyone who stops by. Several churches provide hot meals each night.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation to Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesdm.org.

Reach 35,000 households in the Diocese of Des Moines with an ad in The Catholic Mirror.
Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5054.

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese’s Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services.

He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.

Catholic Charities is dispersed 250 grants averaging $500 a piece per family. These grants have paid utilities, basic needs, mortgage payments, water filters, and furnaces.

Furniture Mart, Casey’s General Store and Menards offered gift cards to flood survivors.

Catholic Charities has dispersed 250 grants averaging $500 a piece per family. These grants have paid utilities, basic needs, mortgage payments, water filters, and furnaces.

Furniture Mart, Casey’s General Store and Menards offered gift cards to flood survivors.

Catholic Charities has donated items, or a place to rest.

People stepping up to the cause kind of gets you,” said Severn.

Lori Severn barely managed to escape with her animals, including horses and goats, which took at least 4-5 hours to load them safely. After her animals were taken care of, she only had time to pack a few personal belongings before the waters reached her.

Severn, who has a college-age child, has a few more months with the temporary housing she currently resides in.

She worries about finding a new place that will accommodate herself and her animals. All the rental houses in the area are already taken by others who outran the water.

The members of the Bartlett community stick together, though. Many offer words of encouragement, extra donated items, or a place to rest.

As with many in the community, this round of flooding isn’t the first Rob and Diane Haney have experienced. They suffered from the flooded in 1952, which broke the levy near Rob’s grandparent’s house, and in 2011, when a local church group volunteered to help clean up.

This round drove the Hantrys completely off their property.

Both the Hantrys are on disability. Before the floodwaters hit, it was difficult enough to purchase the necessities. Now with the unknown expenses that accompany temporary housing and living arrangements, it is nearly impossible.

Despite the circumstances, the Hantrys take consolation in turning to their faith.

“The most amazing thing about a flood is how Jesus gets involved,” said Rob.

The Hantrys are awestruck by the community’s outreach towards those in need. Not only does Catholic Charities provide funds to those in need, local churches and service organizations offer free-will donations to anyone who stops by. Several churches provide hot meals each night.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation to Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesdm.org.

Reach 35,000 households in the Diocese of Des Moines with an ad in The Catholic Mirror.
Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5054.
El corazón de cualquier persona con compasión se habría destrozado con la deplorable imagen de la niña de 23 meses de edad Angie Valeria de sus padres o cuando les recogen cuando se unen individualmente a las masas de personas que marchan hacia el norte con dos objetivos fundamentales: seguridad y una vida decente. Estos niños son luego confinados a condiciones que no califican para un albergue humano.

No tan dramático, pero igualmente preocupante, es la situación de la joven que yo conozco que no alcanzó la fecha límite para los “dreamers” por cuestión de días y como ahora sus remarcables talentos permanecen inactivos, un desperdicio de talento. Como muchos otros, ella es víctima del deseo de sus padres de buscar una mejor vida. Ella vino con ellos cuando era una niña, cuando toda la familia simplemente buscaba un escape a la pobreza y a la degradación. Se ha dicho una y otra vez que aquellos que buscan asilo, que a aquéllos que buscan un tomo de Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras y México les impulsa condiciones que no parecen ofrecer esperanza alguna—— una abundante pobreza, falta de marcos legales, violencia, falta de oportunidades de educación y empleos honestos. Si uno busca a fondo la respuesta a la causa principal nos encontramos que las drogas y el inescusable aperito de los americanos, canadienses y europeos occidentales por estas drogas y que sigue alimentando la crisis provocando las inevitables marchas hacia el norte. Arriesgándome a sobre simplificar, la respuesta actual al problema inmediato tiene una solución amplia en dos aspectos:

1) La situación inmediata de las familias y niños en la frontera requiere de una respuesta humanitaria. Estamos obligados a implementar leyes nacionales e internacionales, que a pesar de que tan laborioso, minucioso, costoso pueda ser, resulten en un trato reparatorio y digno con aquellos hermanos y hermanas que tocan a nuestra puerta. ¿Quién puede ignorar a sus parientes cuando los buscamos con desesperación?

2) La segunda respuesta consiste en una iniciativa similar al Plan Marshall luego de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Esta consistiría en una inversión masiva para reconstruir las ciudades y comunidades desdobladas de América Latina buscando motivar a sus residentes a permanecer en sus hogares, disfrutando de su cultura y civilización, que es lo que verdaderamente prefiere. Algo esencial a esta resolución es el atender el consumo y producción de drogas letales.

pregunta es: ¿Tenemos la motivación necesaria de construir los puertos necesarios para lograr estas metas? El Papa Francisco, como la hace constantemente, pinta una imagen más amplia sobre la crisis migratoria en su mensaje del Día Mundial de Migrantes y Refugiados 2019 titulada: “No se trata sólo de migrantes.” El Santo Padre insiste que cuando mostramos preocupación por los migrantes, refugiados y aquellos que buscan asilo, “mostramos preocupación por nosotros mismos, por todos; al cuidar de ellos, todos crecemos; al escucharlos, también nos dice voz a esa parte de nosotros mismos que mantenemos oculta ya que nos es bien aceptada en estos días.”

De una perspectiva amplia, el Papa Francisco nos asegura que el reto de hoy no es solamente sobre los migrantes, “sino de todos nosotros, y sobre el presente y el futuro de la familia humana.” El Papa explica que por medio de los migrantes “el Señor nos llama a la conversión, a ser libres de la exclusividad, la indiferencia y la cultura de lo desechable. Por medio de ellos, el Señor nos invita a acoger plenamente nuestra vida cristiana y a contribuir, cada quien de acuerdo con su propia vocación, a construir un mundo que esté más y más de acuerdo al plan de Dios.”

Desde una situación en la frontera que está entrampada con la tragedia humana, y que desde un punto de vista moral necesitamos buscar el cómo revertirlo inmediatamente, surge también una visión. Señala hacia un camino de esperanza. Al confrontar el desorden existencial con la compasión que reside profundamente en todos nosotros, ¿podremos también empujar a aquellos hermanos y hermanas que resulten en un trato respetuoso, minucioso, a pesar de que tan laborioso, un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a los migrantes “el Señor nos llama a la conversión, a ser libres de la exclusividad, la indiferencia y la cultura de lo desechable. Por medio de ellos, el Señor nos invita a acoger plenamente nuestra vida cristiana y a contribuir, cada quien de acuerdo con su propia vocación, a construir un mundo que esté más y más de acuerdo al plan de Dios.”

Desde una situación en la frontera que está entrampada con la tragedia humana, y que desde un punto de vista moral necesitamos buscar el cómo revertirlo inmediatamente, surge también una visión. Señala hacia un camino de esperanza. Al confrontar el desorden existencial con la compasión que reside profundamente en todos nosotros, ¿podremos también empujar a aquellos hermanos y hermanas que resulten en un trato respetuoso, minucioso, a pesar de que tan laborioso, un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a los migrantes “el Señor nos llama a la conversión, a ser libres de la exclusividad, la indiferencia y la cultura de lo desechable. Por medio de ellos, el Señor nos invita a acoger plenamente nuestra vida cristiana y a contribuir, cada quien de acuerdo con su propia vocación, a construir un mundo que esté más y más de acuerdo al plan de Dios.”

Desde una situación en la frontera que está entrampada con la tragedia humana, y que desde un punto de vista moral necesitamos buscar el cómo revertirlo inmediatamente, surge también una visión. Señala hacia un camino de esperanza. Al confrontar el desorden existencial con la compasión que reside profundamente en todos nosotros, ¿podremos también empujar a aquellos hermanos y hermanas que resulten en un trato respetuoso, minucioso, a pesar de que tan laborioso, un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a los migrantes “el Señor nos llama a la conversión, a ser libres de la exclusividad, la indiferencia y la cultura de lo desechable. Por medio de ellos, el Señor nos invita a acoger plenamente nuestra vida cristiana y a contribuir, cada quien de acuerdo con su propia vocación, a construir un mundo que esté más y más de acuerdo al plan de Dios.”
Pope: Migrants are people, not just a social issue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians are called to follow the spirit of the beatitudes by comforting the poor and the oppressed, especially migrants and refugees who are rejected, exploited and left to die, Pope Francis said.

The least ones, “who have been thrown away, marginalized, oppressed, discriminated against, abused, exploited, abandoned, poor and suffering” cry out to God, “asking to be freed from the evils that afflict them,” the pope said in his homily July 8 during a Mass commemorating the sixth anniversary of his visit to the southern Mediterranean island of Lampedusa.

“They are persons; these are not mere social or migrant issues. This is not just about migrants, in the twofold sense that migrants are, first of all, human persons and that they are the symbol of all those rejected by today’s globalized society,” he said.

By Pablo Kay
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — In a last-minute twist, a California bill that would have required priests to break the sacramental seal of confession was shelved by its sponsor amid a remarkable grassroots campaign mounted by the state’s Catholics, members of other faith groups, and religious liberty advocates from across the country.

S.B. Bill 360 was withdrawn the day before a scheduled July 9 hearing in the California Assembly Public Safety Committee, effectively removing it from any further consideration this year.

“S.B. 360 was a dangerous piece of legislation,” said Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, who had led the California bishops in opposing the bill.

Hill’s decision came on the same day that the Public Safety Committee released a staff report raising serious First Amendment and enforceability concerns about the proposed law, while noting that no other state had taken such an approach to the sacrament.

In its original form, S.B. 360 would have ordered priests to disclose any information they might hear in confession concerning the sexual abuse of minors.

An amended version of the bill -- which would deny confidential confessions to priests and church personnel who work with priests -- passed the California Senate in a 30-2 vote May 24.

Archbishop Gomez had previously called the proposed legislation “a mortal threat to the religious freedom of every Catholic” in a May 17 column for Angelus.

The bill’s author, state Democratic Sen. Jerry Hill of San Mateo decided to shelve his bill after learning that it did not have enough votes to pass out of the committee.

Hill’s decision came on the same day that the Public Safety Committee released a staff report raising serious First Amendment and enforceability concerns about the proposed law, while noting that no other state had taken such an approach to the sacrament.

In its original form, S.B. 360 would have ordered priests to disclose any information they might hear in confession concerning the sexual abuse of minors.

An amended version of the bill -- which would deny confidential confessions to priests and church personnel who work with priests -- passed the California Senate in a 30-2 vote May 24.

Archbishop Gomez had previously called the proposed legislation “a mortal threat to the religious freedom of every Catholic” in a May 17 column for Angelus.

The bill’s author, state Democratic Sen. Jerry Hill of San Mateo decided to shelve his bill after learning that it did not have enough votes to pass out of the committee.

Ut Fidem and Iowa Catholic Radio Presents
Extra Ordinary News
An evening with Father John Riccardo
And the premier of “The Veil Removed”
December 7, 2019
Grand Ballroom at the Iowa Events Center
Presentation begins at 7 pm
Tickets available online @ iowacatholicradio.com/father-riccardo

Parishes celebrate Corpus Christi

St. Augustin Parish (top) in Des Moines and Sacred Heart Parish (middle) in West Des Moines both held Corpus Christi Processions. St. Anthony and Christ the King Parishes (bottom) in Des Moines had their first combined procession.

‘Dangerous’ bill on seal of confession withdrawn before key hearing

By Pablo Kay
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) -- In a last-minute twist, a California bill that would have required priests to break the sacramental seal of confession was shelved by its sponsor amid a remarkable grassroots campaign mounted by the state’s Catholics, members of other faith groups, and religious liberty advocates from across the country.

S.B. 360 was withdrawn the day before a scheduled July 9 hearing in the California Assembly Public Safety Committee, effectively removing it from any further consideration this year.

“The bill’s author, state Democratic Sen. Jerry Hill of San Mateo decided to shelve his bill after learning that it did not have enough votes to pass out of the committee,” he added.
I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

How the words “UNDER GOD” came to be added to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

In a message to Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart at the meeting of the Supreme Council in Louisville, August 17, 1954, President Eisenhower, in recognition of the initiative of the Knights of Columbus in originating and sponsoring the amendment to the Pledge of Allegiance, said:

“We are particularly thankful to you for your part in the movement to have the words ‘under God’ added to our Pledge of Allegiance. These words will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength we must remain humble. They will help us to keep constantly in our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded. For the contribution which your organization has made to this cause, we must be genuinely grateful.”

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Have an IRA, 401K, TSA or SEP?
We have designed annuities that can be used to fund these retirement products.