

# THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 53, No. 7

July 19, 2019

## Blessings abound

*Two men ordained priests for the diocese*



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins



Photo by Clare Heinrich

**Father James Downey, pictured above with his family, and Father Mark McGeary, at right, celebrate their June 21 ordinations.**



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

## Long time Catholic Charities leader dies

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



**Larry Breheny died July 14.**

Continued on page 11



In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

# Immigration: A moral crisis



By  
Bishop  
Richard  
Pates

The heart of anyone with human sympathy sank with the deplorable sight of 23 month old Angie Valeria and her father, Oscar Martinez Ramirez, as their bodies lay lifeless on the banks of the Rio Grande. Seeking a better life from the cruel existence of El Salvador, they fell victim yes to the waters of a rushing river but even more so to human indifference.

This tragedy is multiplied daily as children are ripped from the arms of parents or by being scooped up as they individually move with hordes of people who march north with two basic objectives: safety and a decent life. These children are thereafter confined so often in conditions not fit for human habitation.

Not quite so dramatic, but equally troubling, is the situation of a young woman I know who missed the dreamer cut-off by a matter of days and now her remarkable gifts remain dormant, a waste of talent. Like so many others, she is a victim of her parents' desire for a better life. She came with them as a child, all the family simply looking for an escape from poverty and degradation.

It has been told time and again that those seeking asylum, those seeking refuge from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico are driven by conditions that are seemingly



CNS photo/Loren Elliott, Reuters

**The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria, are seen June 24 after they drowned in th Rio Grande in Matamoros, Mexico while trying to reach the United States.**

hopeless – rife with poverty, lawlessness, violence, lack of education and honest jobs. If one probes down to the root cause one discovers drugs and the insatiable appetite of Americans, Canadians and Western Europeans for these drugs which continue to feed the crisis and spur the inevitable march northward.

At the expense of over-simplification, the current response to the immediate problem has a broad two-fold solution.

1.) The immediate situation of families and children at the border requires a humanitarian response. We are compelled to implement national and international law, that as laborious and painstaking and expensive as it is, will result in treating with respect and dignity these brothers and sisters

knocking at our door. Who can turn away kin when they come in desperation?

2.) The secondary response involves an initiative similar to the Marshall Plan after World War II. It will entail a massive investment to rebuild the broken cities and communities of Latin America that will entice the residents to stay home enjoying their culture and civilization which they truly prefer. Essential to this resolution is addressing the consumption and production of deadly drugs. The question is: Do we have the motivation to build the bridges necessary to achieve these ends?

Pope Francis, as he has consistently done, painted a broader picture of the migrant crisis in his message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees 2019 entitled: “It is not just about

migrants.”

The Holy Father insists that when we show concern for the migrant, the refugee, those seeking asylum, “we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.”

From an expanded perspective, Pope Francis asserts that today’s challenge is not only about migrants, “but also all of us, and about the present and future of the human family.”

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 enmeshed 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, dmdiocese.org.

## THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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## Bishop’s Schedule

**Friday, July 19**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, July 25**  
**Des Moines** – Growing Hope Globally 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Plymouth United Church, 6 p.m.

**Friday, July 26**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

**Des Moines** – Vocation Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

**Des Moines** – Cathedral Concerts, Zimpleman Family Plaza, Catholic Pastoral Center, 5 p.m.

**Saturday, July 27**  
**Des Moines** – Diaconate Rite of Candidacy Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.

**West Des Moines** –Picnic celebrating Father Chris Hartshorn’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, Sacred Heart Parish, 5:30 p.m.

**Des Moines** – Cathedral Concerts, Zimpleman Family Plaza, 5 p.m.

**Friday, August 2**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with

Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

**Des Moines** – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.

**Saturday, August 3**  
**Conception, MO** – Diaconate Study Day, Conception Abbey, 10:30 a.m.

**Greenfield** – Marriage Anniversary Mass, St. John Parish, 5:15 p.m.

**Sunday, August 4**  
**Des Moines** – Marriage Anniversary Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 8:30 a.m.

**Monday, August 5**  
**West Des Moines** – Diocesan staff picnic, Raccoon River Park, Noon

**Tuesday, August 6**  
**Minneapolis, MN** – Supreme Convention Knights of Columbus

**Thursday, August 8**  
**Des Moines** – Meetings with diocesan seminarians, Catholic Pastoral Center

**Des Moines** – Iowa Cubs outing with NOVOS, diocesan young adults, Principal Park, 7 p.m.

**Friday, August 9**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 13**  
**Red Oak** – Diocesan Presbyteral Council, St. Mary Parish, 10:30 a.m.

**Thursday, August 15**  
**Des Moines** – Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 7:30 a.m.

**Des Moines** – Mass of the Assumption, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 12:10 p.m.

**Friday, August 16**  
**Des Moines** – “In the Heartland with Bishop Pates”, Iowa Catholic Radio, Des Moines; KVSS, Omaha, 9 a.m.



## Official

**Effective July 1, 2019**  
Father Lawrence Hoffmann -- is appointed to a five-year term as Co-Vicar for Retired Priests.  
Father Kenneth Gross -- is appointed to five-year term as Co-Vicar for Retired Priests.

**Effective July 25, 2019**  
Father Glen Wilwerding -- as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs to Pastor on Leave of Absence of St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs.

Father James Ahenkora -- as Pastor of St. John Parish, Greenfield and St. Patrick Parish, Massena to Pastoral Administrator of St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs.

Bishop Richard Pates  
Bishop of Des Moines

Jason Kurth  
Chancellor



## The New Moment

# West Des Moines couple serves veterans through the Puppy Jake Foundation

By Kelly Mescher Collins  
Staff Writer

Brian and Angie Sweeney 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' 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-

dence.

"They can be a real calming influence and help them navigate crowds, giving the veteran a greater sense of security, allowing them to be out and about on their own," Brian continued. "Prior to that many veterans are trapped in their own house because their anxiety level doesn't allow them to interact with the public on their own."

Korean War veteran Denny Doorman, a recipient of a Puppy Jake dog named Simon, said that's what happened to him after the war.

"I became a recluse," Doorman said on a special Independence Day edition of "In the Heartland with Bishop Pates" that aired July 5 on Iowa Catholic Radio. "I tried to go to school and get an education and I finally achieved that when I was 65. I stayed in mostly because people have a tendency to slam things down and make a lot of noise and it upset me for a long time. Simon's gotten me over that. If he sees that I'm starting to meltdown he'll come up and get on my lap and get right in my face."

Doorman has had Simon for three years now.

"It's been wonderful," Doorman said on the bishop's radio show. "He goes with me every place I go – except the dental clinic."

Brian and Angie see their volunteer work in training and preparing the dogs as a ministry and a way of giving back to veterans.

"It's a long-term ministry because you have to work a long time before you see any tangible results, but helping some-



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

**Brian and Angie Sweeney of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines enjoy giving back through their volunteer work with the Puppy Jake Foundation. They train service dogs to be placed with veterans. Here they are pictured with their daughter, Jen, and dogs Rusty and PJ. In his work, Brian serves as director of finance and operations at Iowa Catholic Radio and Angie is head cook at Dowling Catholic High School. See video of Brian's work with the Puppy Jake Foundation at [DMDiocese.org](http://DMDiocese.org) or at [bit.ly/PuppyJake](http://bit.ly/PuppyJake).**

body who is really not in the position to help themselves or isn't getting the help that they should be getting from certain branches of the federal government fits right into our Catholic faith," Brian said. "It's ministering to others that are less fortunate and our family's developed a skill in service dog training whereby we

can use that to help others."

Puppy Jake is looking for more volunteers.

"I wish more people would get involved," Angie said. "It's a great thing. There are so many veterans that are in desperate need of a service dog and not enough people out there to train and help get these dogs placed."

See video of Brian Sweeney's work with the Puppy Jake Foundation and portions of his and Doorman's interview with Bishop Pates at [DMDiocese.org](http://DMDiocese.org) or at [bit.ly/PuppyJake](http://bit.ly/PuppyJake).

Learn more about the Puppy Jake Foundation at [puppy-jakefoundation.org](http://puppy-jakefoundation.org).



**Aug 4th**  
10:30AM to 9:00PM

OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1271 E 9TH Street Des Moines, Iowa 50316

**OLOAFestival 2019**

**August 4 from 10:30am to 9:00pm**

latin food entertainment live music dances family activities



## Celebrate marriage with us at Anniversary Masses

This month, Kara and I will celebrate nine years of marriage.

We're still relatively new, and yet as I look back on the past nine years I see so many surprises, challenges and hidden graces that I never could have predicted on our wedding day.

As we share our lives together, our love continues to grow and deepen.

And while we do have to work at our marriage every day, our primary work continues to be an attempt to be open to God's grace in our marriage.

We are able to *give more* in our marriage because we have *received more*. The graces of marriage do not end on the wedding day, they begin, and it is beautiful to see the surprises and power of that grace!

As we approach our anniversary, we are also approaching our diocesan anniversary Masses, which will be celebrated next month. This is the chance each year for us to gather as a diocese to honor and pray with couples celebrating milestone anniversaries.

### Marriage & Family Life

By  
Adam Storey



This year our two anniversary Masses are **Saturday, Aug. 3 at 5:15 p.m. at St. John Church in Greenfield, and Sunday, Aug. 4 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.**

Strong marriages are vital to our Church and broader society and these Masses can be a powerful way to celebrate the gift of marriage.

Additionally, a certificate of blessing is available with registration for couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (5-year increments and 50+ years). Reserved seating will be available for these couples and their families.

These Masses are open to all

families who would like to honor and celebrate marriage!

To register call Cathy Gearhart at 515-237-5004 or email her at [cgearhart@dmdioocese.org](mailto:cgearhart@dmdioocese.org).

Whether you are celebrating your own anniversary, or the anniversary of a friend or relative, or even if you just want to celebrate and support marriage, I hope to see you there!

*Adam Storey is the diocesan director of Marriage & Family Life. He can be reached at [astorey@dmdioocese.org](mailto:astorey@dmdioocese.org) or 515-237-5056.*



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins  
**Leon and Rose Leinen of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines participated in last year's Marriage Anniversary Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.**

## Okay, so then what?

If, perhaps, you are in college and thinking about your soon to be discovered career, somewhere between the ages of 18 and 24, then you are most likely asking yourself, what will my future path be like? Well, you will graduate, get a job, get married and probably have children. Even though plans will not go completely as expected, you will naturally recalculate. You'll likely go through a few more jobs and maybe buy a house. This isn't necessarily the path you planned, okay, SO THEN WHAT?

If you are like the many, you'll go to soccer, softball and football practices and games for your kids on a regular basis, possibly even enough dance and music lessons to supply a Broadway play. You'll try to make sure to be a good parent and faithful spouse and might even pick out a Church in which to worship as a family. You'll watch your children go to the parties, proms and then their own graduation. At this point, you'll remember

### Let's Get Psyched

By Deacon Randy Kiel



that it was just yesterday that they were learning "Itsy bitsy spider". You'll have done and said all the things your parents did and said, some of which you vowed you never would do and say. You'll then try to forgive yourself as a parent.

Regardless of your will power, physical condition, or historical athleticism, you'll then have a mid-life crisis or two. Hopefully, you will recall the significance of your wedding vows during the good as well as the rougher times. Your children will graduate from college and with any luck; they will carry on with a

happy and stable life. You'll become an in-law and then a grandparent. Someone then calls you grandma or grandpa, or meemaw or peepaw. You might then live out your life in some form of pre-planned leisure, drawing income from a retirement fund; you also might not.

You'll slow down, take walks in the morning, work in the garden, and finally read what you want. You'll talk, text, or do whatever is the new way to reach your children and grandchildren and pray for a response, if they are not too busy. Remember the dreaded "Cats in the Cradle" song? This path sure looks differently than expected, okay, SO THEN WHAT?

Did we think all along that we had total control over "our path" anyway? Well then, one day we die. If fortunate, it will happen during the death decades, somewhere between the years of 70 to 90, which will be known by others as a long full life. Inevitably, we die. Death is the tomorrow that awaits us all, the day that

holds no alternative.

But is that it? "Someday I'll just be buried in the ground?" One of the biggest questions of all time is: "Will there still be a conscious ME somewhere?" "Is there really life after death?"

Honestly, I think everyone has hoped that there is something that comes after this life. Maybe deep within the smallest recesses of our minds, we all hope for it. Let's ask ourselves these questions: "Am I living as I am to live according to God?" "Am I telling others about this path?" "Do I know how to explain the path that I am on to eternal life?" Whatever stage of life we are in, let us all remain faithful to the path that God has given to us, the path that walks with Jesus his Son. This is the answer to the question.

*Deacon Randy Kiel is the founder of Kardiac Counseling and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. To connect with him, email [randy@kardiaccounseling.com](mailto:randy@kardiaccounseling.com).*

## Giving joyful witness: how the Holy Spirit stirs the restless

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 woman in the gray habit. She is Exhibit A for Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel") and a reminder for all Catholics of how to effectively 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.

Among the makeshift homes and temporary work, the early mornings

### Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



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.

Sister Brenda recognizes their quest, and Pope Francis names it. "The world of our time," he writes in "Evangelii Gaudium," is "searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope." The "desolation and anguish" of a secular life, he writes, offers an entryway for evangelists—for "the Holy Spirit works on restlessness."

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 communication, 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 evangelizing 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 warmer 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 consists 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. Joseph 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 Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.*



Ask a Priest

*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?*

**A. THERE ARE 15** U.S. cardinals (American-born, were

ordained, or have served in the United States).

Six cardinals currently lead U.S. archdioceses: Cardinal Blase J. Cupich – Chicago; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo - Galveston-Houston; Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan - New York; Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley – Boston; Cardinal Joseph William Tobin, CSsR – Newark.

Four U.S. cardinals currently serve in another capacity: Cardinal Raymond L. Burke - Patron of the Order of Malta; Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell - Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life; Cardinal James M. Harvey - Archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls; Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien - Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Six U.S. cardinals are retired: Cardinal William J. Levada - Prefect Emeritus, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Cardinal Roger M. Mahony - Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles; Cardinal Adam J. Maida - Archbishop Emeritus of Detroit; Cardinal Justin F. Rigali - Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia; Cardinal James F. Stafford - Major Penitentiary Emeritus; Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl - Archbishop Emeritus of Washington.

Got a question for "Ask a Priest" and its author, Father John Ludwig? Send it to [communications@dmdioocese.org](mailto:communications@dmdioocese.org).

St. Peter Vietnamese Community celebrates 10th anniversary



St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community in Des Moines celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 30 with Bishop Richard Pates. Pictured are Father Ly Chu, Deacon Paul Tran, Bishop Richard Pates, a visiting deacon and Father Ross Parker.

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa offers free Catholic guidance on charitable giving, now and for the future.

Inspire the young ones in your life to live their faith boldly.

### Pilgrimage to England and Ireland

Presented by Collins Travel and Pilgrimages

Hosted by Jason Collins, founder of Collins Travel and member of St. Francis Parish, West Des Moines... and Father Adam Westphal, Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Creston and St. Edward Parish in Afton, Diocese of Des Moines

Join us for this Incredible Journey of Faith and Adventure to England and Ireland June 9-20, 2020!

**Things we'll do in England**

- \* Explore Windsor Castle
- \* Take pictures outside of Big Ben
- \* See historic Churchill War Rooms from WWII
- \* View breathtaking Westminster Abbey
- \* See Tower of London, martyrdom site of St. Thomas More

**Things we'll do in Ireland**

- \* Experience Shrine of Our Lady of Knock
- \* Explore quiet Irish towns of Limerick and Knock
- \* Tour Guinness Brewery
- \* Discover unique and historic Dublin
- \* .....and much, much more!

Trip includes daily Mass, confession, time for shopping & relaxation!

View full itinerary at [www.CollinsTravel.biz](http://www.CollinsTravel.biz). Questions? Email [Jason@CollinsTravel.biz](mailto:Jason@CollinsTravel.biz) or call 515-850-6133.

# INTERNATIONAL ROSARY

Saturday, August 3, 2019  
Mass 8:30 - Rosary Following

St. Anthony Catholic Church  
15 Indianola Rd. Des Moines

## All Are Invited...

To this amazing Rosary that will be spoken in six languages!  
**German, French, Italian, Vietnamese, Spanish and English**

Mass begins at 8:30 AM with the International Rosary following. After the Rosary, Monsignor Chiodo will give a talk on "Making Disciples."  
Mark your calendar and invite a friend

[StAnthonyDSM.org](http://StAnthonyDSM.org)



# Around the diocese

## July 22 Monday RAGBRAI

WINTERSET – St. Joseph Parish, 1026 North 8<sup>th</sup> 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 LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

## 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 is 4 – 5 p.m. with a \$5 fee), 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 Hartshorn’s celebration of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination of 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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, donations and sponsorships can be purchased/made on our website at svdpdsm.org/news-events/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 12:30-5:30 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 through 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 Polich 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 SE Warren County; Immaculate Conception, Maloy; St. Joseph, Mt. Ayr; St. Patrick, Grand River and St. Bernard, Osceola.

**Aug. 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 love 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. 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church. A weekend program is Sept. 20-22 at St. Thomas More Center in Panora. Questions? Contact Father Bob Schoemann at 515-418-1938, Daryl Stahl at 515-480-6617 or Dana Reed at 515-975-3745.

# 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 Register’s Annual Great 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’ team leader. “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 the Pedaling to the Peripheries team at Mass.

# 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., 2 p.m. (Spanish) at Queen of Apostles worship site; 9:30 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., 11 a.m.

## Sunday, July 21 evening, Atlantic

Ss. 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 p.m. to 6:30

p.m. The church will serve as a waiting/cooling area for those attending the dinner.

## Tuesday, July 23 evening, Indianola

St. Thomas Aquinas Church: 6 p.m.

## Wednesday, July 24 morning, Indianola

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.



**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 meets individually with a director daily. Opportunity to join the monks for Mass & prayer. Directors: **Father Richard Reiser, Father Kevin Schneider, SJ, Sister Ann Marie Petrylka, OSM, and Ellen Lierk.** Register now at [www.StBenedictCenter.com](http://www.StBenedictCenter.com).



During this retreat the group will gather daily for a conference and for Mass; each participant meets individually with a director daily. Opportunity to join the monks for Mass & prayer. Directors: **Father Richard Reiser, Father Kevin Schneider, SJ, Sister Ann Marie Petrylka, OSM, and Ellen Lierk.** Register now at [www.StBenedictCenter.com](http://www.StBenedictCenter.com).

**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 & their sons ages 11–15**. Includes, weather permitting, dodgeball competition, water balloon toss, hayrack ride, Mass, & a traditional blessing of the sons. Directors: **Edward DeSimone, Ph.D.,** Professor of Pharmacy, Creighton University, **Father John Norman,** and a team of fathers & sons. Register now at [www.StBenedictCenter.com](http://www.StBenedictCenter.com).

**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 revealing his love for us. **Father Joel Macul, OSB, STL,** serves as prior of our monastery. Register now at [www.StBenedictCenter.com](http://www.StBenedictCenter.com).

**St. Benedict Center**  
[www.stbenedictcenter.com](http://www.stbenedictcenter.com)  
[Retreats@stbenedictcenter.com](mailto:Retreats@stbenedictcenter.com)  
802.352.8819

## Join us

# July 26 & 27 for

# Cathedral

# Concerts

Six bands.  
Two nights.  
One weekend.  
Check out this year’s Cathedral Concerts on Grand July 26 and 27 at the Catholic Pastoral Center’s Zimpleman Family Plaza.

The party starts July 26 at 5 p.m. with JMMJ. Then Hollywood Burnout takes the stage at 6:15 and Parranderos Latin Combo begins at 8 p.m.

On July 27, Eli Alger kicks off the evening, followed by Stu Ryan O’Brien Pub Band at 6:15 p.m. with Grand Ave Ruckus capping off the evening at 8 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public. Dinner and drinks will be available for purchase. Food will be available from a number of trucks and local vendors. In addition, a variety of beers will be available for purchase from Confluence Brewing.

Artists will be showing their work. If you’d like to share your photography, sculpting, painting, etc. email Justin White at [jwhite@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jwhite@dmdiocese.org).

*Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*

**10 Days with Katie Patrizio & Fr. Chris Reising**

**January 6-15, 2021**

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[www.katiepatrizio.com/pilgrimage](http://www.katiepatrizio.com/pilgrimage)





## 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.

## 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 Catholic Student Center and Drake Newman Community in Des Moines, will be returning to his native country of Ghana in September after 12 years in the United States.

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



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

**Father Mark Owusu, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish and Drake Newman Center 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.**

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.

"Many 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.

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."

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## Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

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Forty one 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.

## Laity boosts ministries, 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 Banuelos, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry.

"I'm a big supporter of the Hispanic Lay Formation program," said Father PJ McManus, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.

"We have several new program and services which have begun 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 and 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.

Graduates have come primarily from Des Moines but also from Adel, Waukee, Perry, Osceola, 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 authorization 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 by 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](http://iowacatholicconference.org) and click on "Join the Network." You'll receive any state alerts.
- Visit [justiceforimmigrants.org](http://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. Hosffman 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 merciful love and Christian hospitality." I think those are good words to live by.

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





# enidos

## 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 Encuentro process 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 Committee, where she learned

about immigrant rights and has helped with “Know Your Rights” educational events in the immigrant community.

She has volunteered at a nonprofit that helps victims of domestic violence, and has volunteered to help Des Moines University’s medical Spanish class.

She 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 chief of police, Des Moines school board and other organizations.

Why does she help so many people and organizations?

“I don’t see any barriers, just 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

TOTAL POPULATION  
OF U.S. HISPANICS  
AS OF JULY 1, 2017

**58.9 million**

**18.1 %** PERCENTAGE OF U.S. POPULATION  
THAT IS HISPANIC

ESTIMATED HISPANIC  
POPULATION IN IOWA

**189,368**

**5.9 %** PERCENTAGE OF IOWA POPULATION  
THAT IS HISPANIC

**61,514**

*Estimated total Hispanic population in the Diocese of Des Moines*

AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE FOR IOWA LATINOS IN 2017

**3.7**

THE MEDIAN AGE OF IOWA’S LATINO POPULATION IN 2017

**23.7**

MEDIAN AGE IN IOWA

**38.1**

**\$46,376** MEDIAN INCOME OF LATINO  
HOUSEHOLDS IN 2017

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
IN IOWA IN 2017

**\$58,570**

*Data from the US Census as July 1, 2018 and State Data Center of Iowa*

#### Parishes in the diocese that provide pastoral services in Spanish and have Mass in Spanish every week

Corpus Christi in Council Bluffs  
Basilica of St. John in Des Moines  
Christ the King in Des Moines  
Our Lady of the Americas in Des Moines  
St. Anthony in Des Moines  
St. Bernard in Osceola  
St. Patrick in Perry  
St. Mary in Red Oak  
Sacred Heart in West Des Moines

#### Parishes that have Mass in Spanish once a month

St. Michael in Harland  
St. Boniface in Waukee

## Fe 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 choir, doing it for vanity 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 as 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 Hernández 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,” Gaesser said. “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 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.”

“We work with a company that gives us recommendations on fertilizer based on the recent weather pattern that we’ve had,” Gaesser continued. “We have a good idea of what our yields should be, so we don’t over apply.”

Gaesser is 100 percent no-till and has put in hundreds of terraces and miles of waterways in his fields over the years to prevent runoff and soil erosion. His cover crops also sequester nutrients, protect the soil and prevent erosion.

Learn more about the North America Smart Climate Change Alliance at [nacsaa.net](http://nacsaa.net).



Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins

**Ray Gaesser of St. Patrick Parish in Lenox said “farming is a 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.**

## CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH

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

*O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary,  
obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death.  
In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence,  
and protect me by your power against  
the enemies of your salvation.  
Into your sacred hands, living and dying  
Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.*

**Amen**

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

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## 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.**



## Reflecting on inaugural Laudato Si' Conference

By John Gaffney  
Contributing Writer

As young Methodist teens, my friend and I had a chance to experience Saint John Paul II's visit to Iowa on October 4, 1979. What Julie and I didn't realize at the time is that we, along with 350,000 people, were to hear the Pope's first public message on the damages to the environment.

Forty years later, in my role as the Diocesan Director for Evangelization and Catechesis, I had the opportunity to be part of the inaugural Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church Conference sponsored by the Catholic Climate Covenant and Creighton University. As I ponder the event, I ask myself what impact the Greatest Commandment has on me as I consider the climate crisis issue. What does it mean for me to proclaim love of God, and love of neighbor as myself?

Father Kenneth Himes hits this issue directly in his keynote. We have four options when it comes to being an instrument of God's love. These options are a continuum from the most basic adherence to the Ten Commandments to being faithful to what Christ asks of us in the Gospel.

- Do not harm your neighbor
- Prevent harm to your neighbor
- Remove harm to your neighbor
- Promote the good of the neighbor

Where do my actions fall in this continuum considering the climate crisis? At this moment I fall firmly in the most basic level of love by doing no harm to my neighbor. I was reminded by the

Conference speakers, participants and Pope Francis that everything is connected, "Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society" (no. 91). This is what it means to love God and love my neighbor as myself.

Pope Francis addresses this issue in *Laudato Si'* when he writes, "Creation is the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things" (no. 77). God's gift is life. It is not random. It is thoughtful and fully expresses a divine regard for all of creation. Pope Francis continues, "Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection" (no. 77).

What I learned is that I have a lot of growth potential when it comes to actualizing the Greatest Commandment in my life. Moving from feeling dominate over creation toward recognizing God's love in all created things is my first step, and perhaps yours, from doing no harm to my neighbor towards promoting the good of my neighbor regarding the climate crisis.

*This conference in June in Omaha focused on integrating Laudato Si' (Our Common Home) into the U.S. Catholic community and was sponsored by Creighton and Catholic Climate Covenant.*

## Catholic Charities leader Breheny dies

Continued from page 1

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

In celebration of Breheny'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 Breheny, our Catholic Charities agency has earned great respect within our own Catholic community and in the wider community as well," he wrote

Breheny 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 Breheny as chancellor, Bishop Bullock described him as a "man of integrity, a man of high performance, 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."

Breheny 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 Breheny 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 Meade, born in 1930 to parents Joseph and Ella Meade 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 Atchison, 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.

From 1969-1981, 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 house, ST. Joseph 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 Archdiocese 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 internment in the abbey cemetery.



Father  
Denis Mead

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## 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 is 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, at the age of 60, began his multi-year stint as ‘oldest CYC counselor of all time,’” wrote Alex Kautzky, executive director of the St. Thomas More Center, on the center’s Facebook page.

“One of his points of pride was counseling with his granddaughter, Abby. Greenie also created the ‘Dream Team’ program, which helps disadvantaged youths earn a new bicycle by keeping good grades, training regularly and riding the entire RAGBRAI route,” she wrote. “Bringing together the things he loved, Greenie had these ‘Dreamers’



**James “Greenie” Green was a strong supporter of Catholic Youth Camp.**

make the trek out 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 outgoing person. High energy,” said Father Polich. “His faith was just so strong. That guided so much.”

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

### Diocese of Des Moines Marriage Anniversary Masses

**Join Bishop Richard Pates for his annual anniversary Masses, praying with couples celebrating milestone anniversaries!** On August 3 Bishop Pates will be celebrating an anniversary Mass during the 5:15 p.m. vigil Mass at St. John Catholic Church, 303 NE Elm St, Greenfield, IA 50849, and on August 4 Bishop Pates will be celebrating an anniversary Mass during the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High St, Des Moines, IA 50309. A certificate of blessing is available with registration for couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (5 year increments and 50+ years), and a light reception will follow both Masses. Reserved seating will be available for these couples and their families during the Mass.

**To register for either Mass call Cathy Gearhart at 515-237-5004 or email her at [cgearhart@dmdiocese.org](mailto:cgearhart@dmdiocese.org)**

## Director of religious education and faith formation celebrates 35 years in ministry

By Clare Heinrich  
Contributing Writer

To find a true witness to the Catholic faith, look no further than the small town of Portsmouth.

Henrietta “Hank” Hughes is celebrating 35 years of ministry as director of religious education and faith formation at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima parish and has loved every second.

“When I decide that it’s time for me to hang up my hat, 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.”

Hughes moved to Portsmouth in 1969. Born Presbyterian, she was involved in the youth program and Vacation Bible School, enjoying ministries directed at young people. After attending Masses with her soon-to-be husband, she began inquiring more about Catholicism and converted. Despite her nervousness about stepping into the unknown, she felt called to the faith.

“When we moved down

here, there was just something missing.”

As she reached out more to the community of faith, Hughes began teaching religious education. In 1983, she became the parish secretary. Seeing her dedication and love for her community, St. Mary’s pastor and director of religious education taught her how to take over as DRE.

Through her role as DRE, she worked with both teachers and students, beginning with elementary and middle school but soon reaching out to high school as well. She made an effort to take the faith outside of the classroom, providing opportunities for service projects and fundraisers.

“Hank Hughes is one of the best religious education directors I have been honored to have encountered in the Diocese of Des Moines. Hank’s contribution in Portsmouth over the past 35 years is the message that Jesus loves you, he gave his life for you, and he walks by your side every day,” said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

While some families

have moved away and others cope with extracurricular activities or travel that conflict with Mass times, the importance of family in the Portsmouth community gives Hughes hope.

“Families come home to their roots... that has always amazed me, how much the family means and how they get together,” she said.

Hughes genuinely enjoys being with the youth, fostering their love for the faith. Her ministry has become a part of her own faith, a vocation of service through the care for others. Although she is prepared to step down from her role as DRE, Hughes feels blessed for her time with the individuals of her community.

“It has been very rewarding... I have to love it if I’ve been in it for this long!” she laughs.



## Family man Deacon Bob Sullivan passes away

By Anne Marie Cox  
Staff Writer

Deacon Bob Sullivan lived what he preached.

“His faith was important,” said his son, Deacon Sam Sullivan. “He not only talked and shared his faith, but he lived it.”

The father of 16, a third generation farmer, longtime supporter of Catholic youth programs and minister to those imprisoned, Deacon Bob Sullivan died June 16 at the age of 96.

Born on a farm near Dunlap, he and his wife, Theresa, were married 67 years and raised 16 children.

They ministered extensively to people wherever they were. He helped found the Teens Encounter Christ retreat, also known as TEC, in the Diocese of Des Moines, and often spent weekends at the St. Thomas More Center serving youth. He and Theresa served about 30 years in the Residents Encounter Christ, a prison ministry also known as REC. He was active with a youth group in Woodbine and with hospice.

“Faith was important to him and he wanted to give it away: Faith, love, Christ,” Deacon Sam said.

Deacon Bob joined the deacon formation program in the early days of the diaconate as one of seven. By the end of formation, he was the only one left in the third class to be ordained in 1977.

The Sullivans became

well known for a single phrase: “Sure do!”

Deacon Sam recalled how it got started.

“Dad would never leave without telling mother, ‘I sure do love you,’” he said. One day, the father sent a son, who was maybe five or six, to tell Theresa that he’d be in from the farm for dinner at a certain time and “I sure do love you.”

The son ran home and told his mother that the father would be in for lunch at that time and added “Sure do.”

From that time on, their expression of love became “Sure do!”

“There is a “Sure do” sign resting on the mantle of Dingman Lodge to this day,” said Alex Kautzky, executive director of the St. Thomas More Center, home of Catholic Youth Camp.

The farming crisis of the 1980s hit the family hard, and the Sullivans lost their farm. In the midst of the turmoil, Deacon Bob continued to be a source of support and counsel for other farmers.

“He was kind, gentle and loving. He never met a person he didn’t like,” said a friend, Deacon Dave Bartemes. “He had a strong impression on me and I would have to say that it was partial to what led me to the diaconate, his kindness. His voice matched his kindness: soft and welcoming.”

Deacon Sam said his father’s faith in him never faltered.

“My life took a detour,” he said. “He and mother never

gave up hope and never stopped praying for any of their kids.

And when I returned and started watching what dad was doing and visited with him about what and why diaconate was important and meant to him, it became more apparent that I needed to look and see if I was called.”

In a way, his father was a tool for God, said Deacon Sam.

“We all come with our own baggage and our own sins. He had a way of sharing himself and it would draw people in simply because of his humility and allowing God into his life. It was God drawing people in, not dad.”

As he researched his book “The Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Des Moines: The Early Years,” Deacon Bartemes wrote that Deacon Sullivan wanted his story to be shared with the other deacons. He said, “Tell them this: Bob Sullivan was a farmer. Tell them to farm the Church the way you would farm the land: Love it, care for it and cherish it.”





# 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 other 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 thanks to the generosity of parishioners and others.

Stores such as Nebraska 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 furniture and appliances, rent, mortgage payments, water heaters and furnaces.

"We had some custom cases such as funding a generator for an elderly man on oxygen and tires for a young lady who had lost absolutely everything and her car was all she had left," 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 minutes to pack what they could and 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 donated items, or a place to rest if they have the means for it.

"It's nice to see the kindness of others," said Severn. "People stepping up to the cause kind of gets you."

As with many in

the community, this round of flooding isn't the first Rob and Diane Hantys have experienced. They suffered from the flooding 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 Hantys completely off their property.

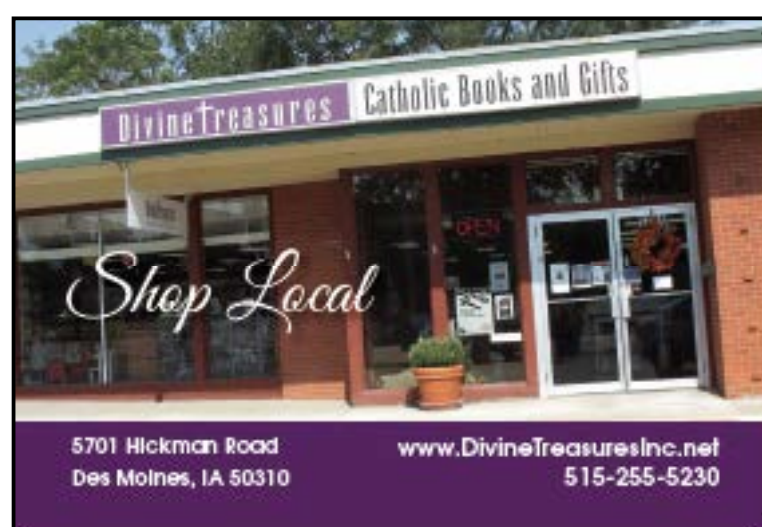
Both the Hantys are on disability. Before the floodwaters hit, it was difficult enough to purchase the necessities. Now with the unknown expenses that accompany temporary housing and living arrangements, it is nearly impossible.

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

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

The Hantys 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](http://catholiccharitiesdm.org).



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





# Inmigración: Una crisis moral

El corazón de cualquier persona con compasión se habría destrozado con la deplorable imagen de la niña de 23 meses de edad Angie Valeria y su padre Oscar Martínez Ramírez, al ver sus cuerpos yacer sin vida en las orillas del Río Bravo. Al buscar una vida mejor a la cruel existencia en El Salvador cayeron víctimas sí, a las aguas de la corriente de un río, pero más aún a la indiferencia humana.

Esta tragedia se multiplica día a día cuando se arrancan niños de los brazos 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



By  
Bishop  
Richard  
Pates

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 aquellos que buscan asilo provenientes de Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras y México les impulsan 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 insaciable apetito 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, o costoso pueda ser, resulten en un trato respetuoso y digno con aquellos hermanos y hermanas que tocan a nuestra puerta. ¿Quién puede ignorar a sus parientes cuando nos buscan con desesperación?

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

pregunta es: ¿Tenemos la motivación necesaria de construir los puentes 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 damos voz a esa parte de nosotros mismos que mantenemos oculta ya que nos es bien aceptada estos días.”

Desde 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.”

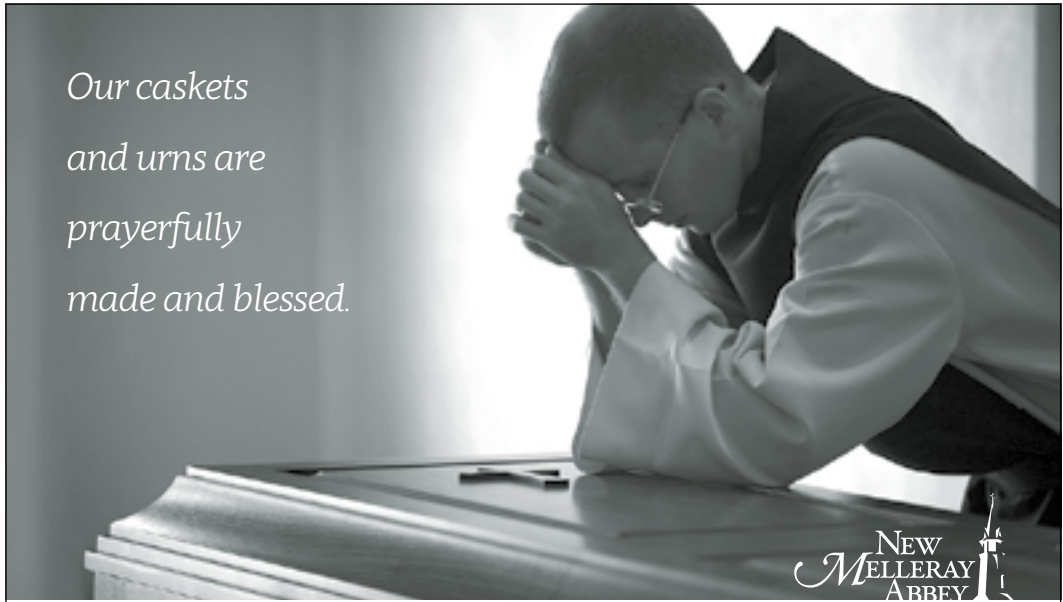
Desde una situación en la frontera que está entrampada con la tragedia humana, y que desde un punto de vista moral necesitamos buscar el cómo revertirle inmediatamente, surge también una visión. Señala hacia un camino de esperanza. Al confrontar el desorden existencial con la compasión que reside profundamente en todos nosotros, ¿podremos también reactivar la brújula moral en la que los Estados Unidos se han construido para poder resurgir?

\* El mensaje completo del Papa Francisco “No se trata solo de migrantes” lo puede encontrar en el sitio web de la Diócesis de Des Moines, DMDiocese.org.

## Parish Pastoral Musician

St. John Paul II Parish – Holy Spirit Church

St. John Paul II Parish, a parish with 2,000+ households in Carroll, Iowa, is seeking a full time pastoral musician for the Holy Spirit Church site. Must have the ability to serve as an accompanist on the keyboard. For more information, call Rev. Kevin Richter, Pastor, at 712-792-9244, or send resume/CV to St. John Paul II Parish 1607 N. West Street, Carroll, IA, 51401; or email to [kmprichter@gmail.com](mailto:kmprichter@gmail.com).



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## Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

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



## 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. 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.

"If any legislature can force believers to reveal their innermost thoughts and feelings shared with God in confession, then truly there is no area of human life that is free or safe from government," he added.

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*, and was joined by the rest of the state's Catholic bishops in asking faithful to urge their state representatives to oppose the bill.

# 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.



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“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.”



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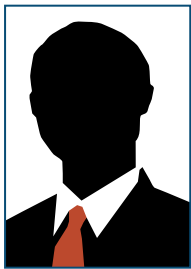
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