

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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August 16, 2019

Diocese humming with plans for episcopal ordination

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Bishop-elect William Joensen will be ordained a bishop for the Diocese of Des Moines on Friday, Sept. 27 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Des Moines.

St. Francis Parish was selected because it has the highest capacity of any church in the diocese. A large crowd is expected from the Des Moines diocese and the Archdiocese of Dubuque, where the bishop-elect was born and raised.

With the church expected to be filled to capacity,

the attendees will need a ticket. Representatives from each parish will be invited.

Broad representation from across the diocese will be present through participation in the choir. Parish directors of music are submitting local choral singers' names to the diocesan Office of Worship, said Father

Trevor Chicoine, the liturgy coordinator.

The 2 p.m. ordination and installation, rich in Catholic tradition, can be seen through a live broadcast on the diocesan website dmdioocese.org and on the diocese's Facebook page, facebook.com/dmdioocese. It can

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Bishop-elect
William Joensen

As camp winds down, construction ramps up at Catholic Youth Camp



The St. Thomas More Center, home of Catholic Youth Camp, is launching a capital campaign to raise funds to replace cabins that provided shelter for 1,500 kids this summer.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

St. Thomas More Center has been hosting Catholic Youth Camp for 35 years.

In 2019 alone, it hosted 1,500 children from every one of the 80 parishes in the Des Moines diocese and drew kids from neighboring dioceses and states. Thousands of kids have come to CYC over the years.

And while the camp has created decades of fun-filled memories, the buildings have

seen better days.

To address these needs, the St. Thomas More Center launched its \$5.5 million capital campaign this month, said Alex Kautzky, executive director.

"Catholic Youth Camp is a true gem of the diocese," Kautzky said. "But the reality is that our infrastructure is old and we need to address our buildings and make sure that we're here for the next 60 years."

The buildings have been on the radar of St. Thomas More Center's management for years.

"We've known for a

really long time that we need to address the cabins – and so that's our first project," Kautzky said.

The current cabins will be bulldozed in September. The new cabins will be ready before summer 2020, and will be more spacious with bigger bathrooms, central air and heat for retreats in the winter.

A few other projects will be addressed as money is raised.

"Dingman Hall needs significant upgrades," Kautzky continued. "It needs new windows and floors. It needs to be stripped down, but the bones are

good."

They also need a new pool. "Most camps that are doing camping on the level that we are doing it have access to a lake," Kautzky said. "We have access to a lake and we can canoe but we can't swim in the lake. And so the third project is a [larger] pool."

"The fourth project is building up the endowment," Kautzky continued. "It's important to me as executive director that when we invest in our infrastructure and that when we are recipients of the generosity

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Sister Jude celebrates 60th jubilee

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, director of administrative services of the Diocese of Des Moines, is celebrating her 60th anniversary as a Sister of Humility.



Sister Jude
Fitzpatrick

Born and raised on a farm near Dunlap in western Iowa, Sister Jude is the oldest of five children. The family's Catholic faith was the cornerstone of their upbringing.

"My parents were very faithful," Sister Jude said. "My mother had been a member of the parish since she was a child, having attended St. Joseph Catholic School. It was another important part of our early formation and eventually led to my vocation as a religious."

All five of the Fitzpatrick children attended the Catholic school in Dunlap. Some of the teachers had a positive influence on her decision to consider the vocation of religious life.

"I suppose I first thought about it when I was in grade school and primarily that's because some of the sisters I really liked and thought maybe I could be like them when I grew up," Sister Jude said. "Of course, that possibility waned from time to time, but it never fully went away."

Those sisters had an innate joy in their lives that was very attractive, she said.

"The sisters who were supportive [of my vocation call]

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A heart filled with gratitude

My good friends,

As I experience the waning days of my service as Bishop of Des Moines, my heart overflows with gratitude for the endless blessings I have received during my service with you, the faithful of this diocese. In the struggle to adequately express my sentiments, the simplicity of thank you perhaps best conveys the authenticity of my feelings.

When I first undertook my ministry here in May, 2008, at the behest of Pope Benedict XVI, the two individuals whom I had familiarity with were Bishop Joseph Charron and Monsignor Stephen Orr. Since then, I have been privileged to come to enjoy friendship, ministry, and service with you, the Church of Des Moines, whose numbers in the most recent analysis now stand at 165,000 souls or 19% of the population of southwest Iowa.

Quickly, I became an Iowan by choice. It is stabilizing to identify with the classic Iowan, grounded in common sense faith who is neighborly and whose character is embedded in “Iowa nice.” At the same time, I feel fortunate to be a part of the legacy of Bishop Maurice Dingman, Gov. Robert Ray and Ambassador Kenneth Quinn who witnessed to the world that Iowa also means openness of hearts and doors to those fleeing for their lives, fleeing from oppression.

And thus, it is the hybrid nature of the contemporary Iowan that I also cherish. We now share the journey with the Vietnamese, Cambodians, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Burmese, Mexicans and others from Central and South America and other countries, as well as our priests from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, South Sudan, Columbia, El Salvador, Mexico and India. They have embraced our faith, our culture and enriched it immeasurably



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

by integrating their remarkable personal gifts, culture and can-do spirit. Together, we are about our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved in our times by how we choose to live together in his name.

As I return to Minnesota I will do so as a missionary. It will be a challenge to share the character of me, a converted Iowan, with the folks to the north. Admittedly, I anticipate a bit of a struggle when it comes to whom to cheer for in the Hawkeye-Gopher contests.

People often scoff when I tell them that as a residential bishop, my boss is the Pope. In this arrangement, I have happily served under St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis. I also readily concede that an annual “job evaluation” was not conducted by the foregoing. It came as a total surprise to me, that one day in the course of opening the mail I came upon a letter from Pope Francis congratulating me on the 50th anniversary of my ordination as a priest. The authenticity of the letter is guaranteed by his now famous miniscule signature and the embossed seal of his pontificate.

I share it with all in the diocese because he instructs me to solicit your prayers on his behalf and sends his specific greetings to those in our diocesan community. As you might well surmise, it was also a consolation to me. I am grateful to Monsignor Larry Beeson for the translation from Latin to English.



To my Venerable Brother
Richard Edmund Pates
Bishop of Des Moines

We are attentive to all of the Pastors of the world, by whose help we are able to enjoy heavenly favor, now to you in a singular way, Venerable Brother, we wish to express our benevolence toward you because on the twentieth of this month of December, you will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of your priesthood, and, looking at the exercise of your pastoral zeal, by this letter we wish to congratulate you and to display the value of your works, including the excellence of your apostolic zeal.

For in your ministry, we judge that you were solicitous for the spiritual good of all those fellow believers in your care announcing with diligence the doctrine and heart of the Gospel, by the grace of which the Bishop knew you to be an excellent and prudent priest when you first began to work in The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota, in which presbyterate you have gone forth. Considering your gifts and merits, it pleased St. John Paul II in the year 2000 to name you Bishop and give you the title of Bishop of Suacinesem and Auxiliary of St. Paul and Minneapolis, in Minnesota from which work Benedict XVI, our illustrious predecessor, transferred you to the ecclesial community of Des Moines in the year 2008, where you still continue as Pastor.

We cannot fail to mention the works in the great areas of education, evangelization, and the fostering of justice and peace, which you also carried out excellently in the Conference of Bishops of the United States of America. From the great efforts that you make, we see that you truly share an exceptional sense of ministry. We are pleased to remember all things, which in these passing years made your ministry a mirror of Our Lord’s gentleness and spirit in persistently caring for the necessities of the clergy and people of God.

Receive, therefore, Venerable Brother, our congratulations, while we invoke the Lord, who rendering your anniversary day most joyful, grant to you, that, walking faithfully in the truth of the gospel, you may feel Christ present and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you may always turn toward his grace and mercy in the difficult work of charity.

We desire finally to bestow our Apostolic Blessing, which we extend to you, to those who are around you, to the sons and daughters of the flock in Des Moines and to all those participating in the celebration of the jubilee and also to those you hold dear in your heart. It is to be communicated, we earnestly ask they pray, so that we might fulfill our Petrine ministry diligently and wisely.

From the Vatican offices, November 27, 2018, the sixth year of our Pontificate.

Francis

Bishop’s Schedule

Friday, August 16

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

Sunday, August 18

Des Moines – Mass and farewell luncheon for Chris McCarville, former executive director of Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, St. Ambrose Cathedral and Djangos, 10:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Mass and dinner with Legatus, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 6 p.m.

Monday, August 19

West Des Moines – Mass with Faith Journey, Dowling Catholic High School, 8:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Building Commission, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

Des Moines – Vocation Department, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 21

Des Moines – Kum & Go Block Party, 4 p.m.

Friday, August 23

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

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee Meeting, Pastoral Center, 12:30 pm

Saturday, August 24

Waukee – Father Chinnappan Devaraj’s Installation Mass as Pastor of St. Boniface Parish, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

Waukee – Father Chinnappan Devaraj’s Installation Masses as Pastor of St. Boniface Parish, 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday, August 26

Norwalk – Catholic Charities’ Bishop’s Golf Classic, Echo Valley Country Club, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 29

West Des Moines – Mass of the Holy Spirit, Dowling Catholic High School, 10 a.m.

Friday, August 30

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

Saturday, August 31

Des Moines – Mass and farewell celebration, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

Des Moines – Mass and farewell celebration, St. Ambrose Cathedral,

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 3

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

Wednesday, September 4

Des Moines – Diocesan Staff Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 5

Windsor Heights – Theology on Tap, Sherwood Forest Event Center, 6 p.m.

Friday, September 6

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

Sunday, September 8

Red Oak – Confirmation & reception, St. Mary Parish, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, September 9

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11

Council Bluffs – Mass of the Holy Spirit, St. Albert School, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 12

Des Moines – Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, Noon

Friday, September 13

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

Saturday, September 14

Panora – Confirmation for St. Mary Parish, Guthrie Center, St. Cecilia Parish, Panora and St. Patrick Parish, Bayard at St. Cecilia Parish, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17

Des Moines – Diocesan Executive Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12:30 p.m.

Des Moines – Bishop’s Council, Embassy Club, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18

DeSoto – Men’s Radio Stag for Iowa Catholic Radio, Stonehaven Barn, 5 p.m.

Friday, September 20

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

Friday, September 20 – Monday, September 23

Des Moines – Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem annual meetings & investiture

THE CATHOLIC

MIRROR

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Hispanic Ministry launches The Señales Project to assist parishes with faith formation

Project builds upon things learned during V Encuentro



The Señales Project offers an opportunity to bring together leadership from parishes and schools with a significant Hispanic population for dialogue, conversation and sharing ideas regarding faith formation issues that will lead to action.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

The Diocese of Des Moines has launched The Señales Project.

The project's creation is a fruit of the V Encuentro and a response to the needs of parishes with a Hispanic presence, said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

The Señales Project offers an opportunity to bring together leadership from parishes and schools with a significant Hispanic population for dialogue, conversation and sharing ideas regarding faith formation issues that will lead to action.

The following parishes and schools have been invited to participate:

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

The group's first opportunity for dialogue and conversation will occur in October at The Señales Project Summit. Dr. Javier Orozco, executive director of Intercultural and Religious Affairs at the Archdiocese of St. Louis, will facilitate the summit.

Together, the group will formulate four action items to focus on over the next two years in four scheduled sessions.

These conversations will build upon information gleaned during the grassroots work of V Encuentro.

"We are getting these parishes to work together and collaborate and share," said Jessica Maciel Hernandez, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic youth ministry.

That includes exchanging ideas, identifying similar problems amongst parishes and finding a common solution.

"We want parishes to know that they are not alone in the issues they are dealing with and talk about how they can share the best practices with each other," Hernandez added.

The Señales Project will lead to pastoral planning that supports a "Community of Communities" model and offer:

- Pastoral planning for faith formation recognizing the Hispanic community as a whole

- Upholding a comprehensive vision for faith formation that is supported by each parish community
- Collaborating across parish boundaries when any one parish community is not equipped to handle certain pastoral needs of the Hispanic community

The Señales Project also plans on addressing issues prevalent in the Hispanic faith community.

"We want to accompany the families better," Gaffney

said. "The current system, sadly enough, is trying to communicate through the kids to the parents – not only the language but the written material. And even when it's translated into Spanish, they may not be able to read it."

The Hispanic community's bond of culture, tradition and faith also needs to be addressed.

"The language is one barrier, but it's not the only barrier," Hernandez said. "There's also the cultural barrier. How have we, as parishes and the diocese, taken into consideration customs and traditions and integrating these

people into the communities?"

This can be a starting point for a variety of conversations, Gaffney added.

"What does a faith formation that is open to a little bit more cultural perspective look like compared to a North American model?" he said.

For questions about The Señales Project, contact Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org or Hernandez at jhernandez@dmdiocese.org or Mayra Moriel de Banuelos at mmoriel@dmdiocese.org.

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What is faith?

What is faith?
We are people of faith.
We are every day, normal people, who realize where happiness can be found.
The Letter to Hebrews defines faith: Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.
We have found hope and joy in that which we cannot see.
Faith is taking a step into the unknown and trusting in God.
Faith demands a way of thinking that is completely opposite the expectations of people of the rationalism age.
Faith says that we cannot find the answers ourselves. We have to trust in God.
Faith is present when we listen to

Guest Column

By Father Luis Mejia



that voice within us that is our consciences. We follow this voice, trusting that as God found a way for Abraham to be the Father of many nations, he will find a way for us to confront and conquer the challenges of life.
We do that which is moral and we trust in God.

Somos un pueblo de fe.
Somos gente que vive su vida diaria de una forma normal en este mundo que carece de confianza en Dios.
Somos un pueblo que sabe que a traves de la fe podremos encontrar la felicidad eterna.
La carta a los hebreos define el verdadero concepto de la fe. La fe es la forma de poseer, ya desde ahora, lo que se espera y de conocer las realidades que no se ven. En este fe encontramos esperanza y gozo el cual no somos capaces de ver.
La fe demanda una nueva forma

de pensar completamente opuesta a la del mundo actual.
La repuesta de la verdadera fe no se puede encontrar en nosotros, sino confiamos en aquel que murio por nosotros. Queridos hermanos en este Domingo pidamosle al senior que nos aumente la fe.
Father Luis Mejia is the pastor of St. Patrick Church in Perry.

Saints offer formation & inspiration

During this month of August the Church gives us some beautiful feast days and memorials of the saints.
I think the Church, in its wisdom, realizes that we need both formation as well as inspiration.
Formation with the feast of St. Mary Major that proclaims that Mary is the Mother of God and thus Jesus is Savior of the world.
And formation with the feast of Transfiguration that Jesus is not just the fulfillment of the prophets and the law, but truly he is the Son of the Father on whom he is well pleased.

Guest Column

By Father Dan Kirby



As Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, so we too can be transfigured if we listen to him. This provides very solid formation as we begin a new month; Jesus

is the Son on whom the Father is pleased, Mary is the God bearer and if we listen to him we too can be transfigured and transformed.
Early in this new month we are presented with three saints (Dominic, Lawrence and Teresa Benedicta) who teach us about a love for the word of God, the importance of living a life of service and charity and sacrificial love for Christ and others.
St. Dominic, who founded the order of preachers, reminds us to have a profound love of the Sacred Scriptures and believe in the healing power of the word.

St. Lawrence, who was an early deacon in the Church, showed by his actions and care for others that charity and kindness win out.
Finally, St. Teresa Benedicta gave her life for Christ and teaches us to place Christ at the foundation of our lives.
Yes, these early August saints give us the shot in the arm that we constantly need.
Father Dan Kirby is the pastor of St. John Parish in Norwalk. He is also the vicar for newly ordained priests.

Searching for silver

Business was good.
So good, in fact, that the family company had become one of the largest breweries in New England, producing 300,000 barrels a year and supporting two generations of Geisels in Springfield, Mass.
Theodor Jr. could envision the future. A secure, prosperous one. A business he could hand down to his 15-year-old son. A proud legacy.
He confidently took the helm when his father died. Everything was mapped out.
And then, six weeks later, the unthinkable: Prohibition took effect, forever shuttering the family business.
Theodor felt rudderless. He dabbled in real estate but wasn't compelled to pursue it. Finally he got hired as Springfield's superintendent of parks. The park system included a fledgling zoo, where he often brought his son. It became a beloved part of his childhood, a place he spent hour after hour sketching animals.
Theodor aided his son's artistic endeavors, giving him the bills, horns and antlers of animals that had died, which he

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



incorporated into quirky sculptures. He was learning to think outside the box, to assemble body parts in unexpected ways to surprising effect. It was the perfect training for what would become the legendary career of Dr. Seuss.
I've been thinking about the role of change in our spiritual lives: its impact, our response. When something upends the status quo, we tend to operate less like a ballerina – leaning in, leaping forward – and more like a toddler being dragged out of a toy store, kicking and screaming.
Only looking back can we see the growth and grace that resulted, that wouldn't have happened had we been allowed to remain burrowed in our warm little nest.

My friend Wendy broke her elbow in a biking accident three years ago. Being laid up forced her to look within. Soon the Iowa native was searching for job openings in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She filled out an application by typing only with her left hand, pecking away at the keyboard. She got the offer and made the move, beginning the adventure of a lifetime.
Now she looks back on her biking accident with gratitude.
“Ultimately, it was a blessing because it gave me the opportunity to reflect on the state of my life and acknowledge that I was ready to make some changes,” she told me. “Also, getting through the pain helped me fully realize that I had the strength to make such a bold move.”
I've been asking for stories of silver linings, and I haven't been disappointed. At a birthday party on a sweltering Saturday, someone pulled me aside and described the bad teacher who had helped make him a good teacher. He learned so much from an experience he had wished away as a teen.
The following Saturday, at

another birthday party, I heard how a tornado knit together a neighborhood.
“Suddenly we all had the same weekend agenda,” a 50-something dad explained.
Neighbors shared hamburgers and power tools. Kids befriended other young explorers climbing fallen trees. Decades later, they remain close.
Sometimes in the spiritual life, we are like the toddler at the toy store: fists clinched, minds closed. We do not trust God's master plan. We cannot see the bigger picture, how the break-ups and breakdowns lead to breakthroughs. We forget that there is almost always an upside to being let down.
But stories like these remind us. And Catholic spirituality is based on storytelling. We gather around water, with incense and oil, and we tell stories. We pray the mysteries of the rosary. And sometimes we find ourselves living them: sorrowful and joyful, glorious and luminous. Water turned into wine.
Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Letters to the Editor

The following letters were received by Bishop Richard Pates.

The Franciscan Friars are once again greatly humbled by your kind support and the generosity of your faithful parishioners. On behalf of the Holy Land Christians and the pilgrims who benefit from the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, thank you for all you do to support this effort.
A contribution in the amount of \$45,542.28 has been received for the

2019 Pontifical Good Friday Collection on June 19. This collection provides critical support for Christians in the Holy Land, including pastoral care, schools, housing, employment, refugee assistance and services for the vulnerable young and elderly. It also supports the sacred shrines entrusted to the care of the Holy Land Franciscans.
Larry Dunham, OFM
Commissariate of the Holy Land USA
John-Sebastian, OFM
Secretariat & Vice Commissary

We have received your recent check for \$31,391.59 and posted it to the 2019 Catholic Relief Services Collection and will appear in our annual report.
I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in your diocese. Thank you for all you do in support of the national collections!
Nicole Germain
Office of National Collections
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Catholic Mirror welcomes Letters to the Editor. Send 100 words or less, to The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309, or communications@dmdiocese.org.

Ask a Priest

Q. When the altar is prepared for the consecration, sometimes the cups are aligned in a row in front of the priest, while other times the cups are spread out or run along the sides of the priest on the left and on the right. Is there a reason for the way the cups are set up on the altar, or is it just the priest's preference?

A. IT SEEMS THAT nearly every parish does this a little differently. Some parishes bring up the cups already filled. Others wait to fill them at the altar.

Preparing the altar should not draw too much attention to itself – just as “setting the table” before a festive dinner shouldn’t be the focus.

Altar servers and communion ministers and deacons need to be on the same page in preparing the altar. There’s not any one correct way to do this.

Q. Does any other religion watch as closely as Catholics in regard to abuse situations?

A. THE SEXUAL ABUSE of minors crisis at first seemed to focus on the Catholic Church.

However, as time has gone on, it has become clear that other churches, schools, sports teams, politics, businesses, and ordinary homes are also the places where sexual

abuse occurs.

Unfortunately, it’s not only been a problem in our country but also in countries around the world.

The U.S. bishops adopted a program called *Virtus* (Latin for virtue). Priests, deacons, and anyone in Catholic schools or religion programs or youth programs are mandated to take the *Virtus* training.

There are regular updates that must be completed as well. I’m not aware of any other denomination that has a detailed program like *Virtus*. Perhaps some do.

Q. How often does a person have to be certified for Virtus?

A. IT’S GOOD to check with your pastor, principal or director of religious education.

Usually the training needs to take place only once, but there are updates that must be completed online regularly.

Background checks are also required of anyone dealing with minors.

For more information on *Virtus*, contact jfitzpatrick@dmdiocese.org.

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

Six candidates pursue formation for permanent diaconate





Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

At a Mass on July 27 at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Bishop Richard Pates accepted six men as candidates to the permanent diaconate formation program. They committed to pursue their vocation call to the diaconate. The candidates and their wives have discerned the vocation for a year and have three more years of study and prayer before ordination day. They are: Dan and Evette Dombrosky and Oran and Marilyn Struecker, of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines; Dan and Kelly Maxcy, of St. Mary of Nazareth Parish in Des Moines; Steve and Vivian McGee and Eric and Monica Pugh, of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines; and Stephen and Lisa Tatz, of the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines.

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Presented by Collins Travel and Pilgrimages



Hosted by Jason Collins, ...and Father Adam Westphal
founder of Collins Travel and Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish,
member of St. Francis Parish, Creston and St. Edward Parish
West Des Moines... 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. Questions? Email Jason@CollinsTravel.biz or call 515-850-6133.

Around the diocese

Aug. 16, 30 and Sept. 6 Fridays Widowed, Divorced, or Separated?

DES MOINES -- 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. The program is presented by a team of people who are willing to share their own experiences to help others. The weekend is at St. Thomas More Center Sept. 20-22. To learn more, come to an open house on a Friday in August or Sept. 6, 7-8:30 ap.m. at St. Augustin Parish. Contact Father Bob Schoemann at 515-418-1938, Daryl Stahl at 515-480-6617, or Dana Reed at 515-975-3745.

Aug. 18 Sunday Pro-life Rosary

PANAMA – St. Mary of the Assumption Parish invites everyone to join them in praying the rosary at 1:30 p.m. in the church. Each month the rosary rotates to a different parish in the Shelby County area. Thanks to the 21 participants who came to Defiance on July 21. Future dates are: Sept. 15 at St. Mary, Our Lady of Fatima in Portsmouth; Oct. 20 at St. Michael in Harlan; Nov. 17 at St. Joseph in Earling; and Dec. 8 after 10 a.m. Mass in Westphalia at St. Boniface Church.

Aug. 21 Wednesday Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- Movie at the Flix Brewhouse at 10 a.m. For reservations, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Aug. 27 Wednesday Catholic Widows and Widowers

WEST DES MOINES -- Business Meeting at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish. Guest speaker is a chiropractor. For more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 6 Friday Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- First Friday Mass at St. Augustin Catholic Church at 8

a.m. Breakfast following at La Mie Bakery and Restaurant. For more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 7 Saturday Rosary walk

DES MOINES -- The Companions of St. Francis Fraternity-Des Moines (an emerging fraternity) is holding a rosary walk from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Des Moines Art Center Rose Garden (aka the Clare & Miles Mills Rose Garden). The event is in observance of the Season of Creation, a worldwide celebration from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, intended to emphasize the importance of protecting our common home. Bring rosary and bottled water. Questions? Email companionsosf@gmail.com.

Sept. 10 Tuesday Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- Planning Meeting at 12:30 p.m. at Chicago Speakeasy. For more information contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 15 Sunday Belin Quartet Concert

DES MOINES -- The Performing Arts initiatives from St. Augustin Parish is hosting the local Belin Quartet at 4 p.m. There will be a free-will offering event with a reception following in the parish hall.

Pilgrimage in the Prairie

MAXWELL -- Celebrate the Season of Creation by joining a Pilgrimage in the Prairie from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church. Prayers and poems shared along with a reflection by Matt Russell, director of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light. Bring a chair; wear walking shoes.

Sept. 17 Tuesday Praying the Mass

WEST DES MOINES -- St. Francis of Assisi is hosting “Praying the Mass” with Father Ray McHenry and Father Mark McGeary from 7-9 p.m. Come learn about the elements of the Mass, the history and scriptural basis for the Mass, as well as our responsibility for full, conscious, and active participation in the Mass. We

Special Needs Ministry goes fishing



Photo by Mary Sankey

Barry Spears and Anna Allison, of Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny, fish at the Des Moines Area Community College pond in Ankeny on the free fishing day. This was part of the parish’s Special Needs Ministry’s program to engage in Corporal Works of Mercy.

will also celebrate Eucharist as part of the evening. All are welcome. Details at saintfrancischurch.org/adultfaith/events

Sept. 20 Friday Catholic Widows and Widowers

DES MOINES -- Meredith Test Gardens noon. Lunch to be determined. For more information, contact Judy LaRonde at 515-988-7791.

Sept. 22 Sunday Grilled Chicken and Ham Dinner

LENEX - St. Patrick Church is hosting its annual grilled chicken and ham dinner from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in their parish center. Cost of the tickets

are \$8.50/adults; \$5/ kids 6-12; age five and under eat free.

Sept. 24 Tuesday Special Needs Ministry

DES MOINES – St. Anthony Parish is hosting a “First Step Meeting” to kick off the process to put together a special needs ministry at St. Anthony Church at 6 p.m. The goal is to learn from those with special needs what St. Anthony can do to help bring kids with special needs closer to God. Caregivers and parents, with their kids, are invited to this meeting to share your stories, fears and needs. For more information, contact Tom Hanson at 515-770-7648.

Sept. 28-Oct. 1 Saturday-Tuesday

60 Minutes with Jesus
DES MOINES – St. Theresa Parish is having a parish mission with Father Jim Sichko, an acclaimed international speaker, author and priest of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. Father Jim Sichko will weave his everyday life experiences with the Gospel message. He will be speaking at all the Masses the weekend of Sept. 28-29 as well Sunday-Tuesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in the church.

Thursdays Alpha at St. Francis of Assisi

WEST DES MOINES -- Alpha helps bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing the good news of the Gospel. Sessions include a meal, video, and open discussion. Open to all adults. All are welcome.

Meets Thursdays, Aug 29-Nov 14, 6-8 p.m., Serra Room. Retreat day, Oct 19, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Serra Room. Details and registration at saintfrancischurch.org/adultfaith/shareyourfaith.

Wednesdays Divine Mercy Chaplet

DES MOINES – The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at St Augustin Chapel.

Latin Mass

DES MOINES – The Latin Mass at St. Anthony Parish is at 5 p.m. on Sundays and in the main church.

Sunday evening Mass

GREENFIELD – St. John Parish will have low-key Sunday evening Masses at 5 p.m. through the last Sunday of August.

Registration open for JustFaith

JustFaith is a small group program that will help you explore today’s issues through the lens of your faith and formulate a personal/group response. Visit the Center for Social Ministry’s website centerforsocialministry.org. Resources: Each eight-week session contains 1-2 books, articles and videos. Books will be provided the first week of class. Each session of the JustFaith program is \$80 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. To learn more, call 515-782-3054 or email centerforsocialministry@gmail.com.

Mass at the Iowa State Fair

Mass will be celebrated at the Iowa State Fair on Sunday, Aug. 18 at Pioneer Hall at 7:15 a.m.
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.

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A glimpse of recovery

Avid cyclist, priest overcomes illness to ride part of RAGBRAI

The rain falls in sheets.

Big, heavy drops land with pelting force, slapping noisily off the cars and RVs and campers seeking temporary refuge in the abandoned parking lot of an emptied, months-closed Kmart.

Where there were once cars, now cyclists flood the path in loose formations. Sometimes in twos and threes, sometimes pulling mesh baby carriers, sometimes in single-file trains that seem to string on for a half-hour at a time.

The riders peel off the highway in a northeast vector. They embark on the first of many rural stretches of RAGBRAI, an annual weeklong cycling trek that has turned into the longest, largest, and oldest recreational bicycle touring event in the world. Rough estimates count over 10,000 cyclists pedaling the nearly 430-mile trail across Iowa.

They start here. In the rainy, arboreal hills of Council Bluffs.

It is 8 a.m.

For a moment, Father Glen Wilwerding, a Council Bluffs-area priest, watches from behind the rain-streaked passenger-side glass of a QLI pickup truck. QLI is an Omaha-based brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation center.

He tracks the cyclists as they sail down the hill and sweep around a bend drawn with traffic cones.

At the back of the truck, QLI residential team member Tafadzwa “TG” Ndoda and Father Glen’s brother, Gary Wilwerding, lift a silver TerraTrike—a long, three-wheeled recumbent bike offering reclined seats for two riders—from the pickup bed. Together, TG and Gary set the bike



onto the parking lot concrete and wheel it into place.

“What do you think?” TG asks, a question not entirely about the ride or about the rain. Father Glen eyes the TerraTrike, then flashes a smile at TG.

“Yeah, it’s a good day,” he says.

Today looks a little different for Father Glen than he’d expected. An avid cyclist himself, he’d trained for months to ready himself for this very moment—the first leg of the first day of his first-ever RAGBRAI. He’d proudly taken part in a slew of local rides and cycling challenges. Things like Omaha’s annual Owl Ride, whose distinct t-shirt he, to this day, keeps in regular rotation. Two months ago, everything

changed.

His left leg and right arm suddenly became weak—too weak to walk, too weak to write or use to hold a fork. Even worse, over a period of weeks, it became harder and harder to find the words when trying to speak.

These slow, creeping stroke-like symptoms were robbing him of the things that mattered most.

He was forced to step away from his responsibilities at Council Bluffs’ newly built St. Patrick Catholic Church.

After a lifetime of helping others find their path, Father Glen had to face the reality of rediscovering his own.

The uphill climb of recovery wasn’t enough to stop his love of cycling. Nor was it enough to stop QLI from putting cycling at the forefront of his rehab.

“It started with a question, really,” TG says. “I saw him wearing a biking shirt, and asked his family whether he’d be interested in being a part of RAGBRAI.”

TG, a direct support team member for the residents on QLI’s rehabilitation campus, first positioned the suggestion on a small scale. If Father Glen was receptive to the idea, TG thought, they could visit the RAGBRAI campground festival the night before the ride began. After pitching a collaboration with QLI’s adaptive sports and therapy teams, TG realized the experience could turn into something greater.

“I’d seen Father Glen riding on the stationary bikes in the adaptive sports workshop,” he says. “So the question became, ‘How can we actually ride for RAGBRAI?’ Within a day, the adaptive sports team had reserved the bike for us.”

Using the same tandem TerraTrike they’d eventually take for RAGBRAI, TG and Father Glen attempted a trial ride around the square-acre lake at QLI’s campus. The ride was both confirmation and reiteration. Not only was Father Glen physically capable of an outdoor ride over varied terrain, he wanted to challenge himself on the trail.

“I was surprised at how much work Father Glen was doing on the ride,” TG says. “It was encouraging. The man pedals hard.”

Father Glen situates himself in the rear seat of the recumbent bike. His feet clip into the pedals and a protective chest strap loops across his breastplate, under his arms, and around the aluminum seat supports. He hands his cane to his brother. The rain hasn’t slowed, but the bike—with TG at the helm and Father Glen providing a visible boost—glides out of the parking lot undeterred.

At the road entrance, an Iowa State Patrol officer asks them to hold position for a proper window. Finally, a gap. A breach



between two clumps of riders. The officer steps out of the intersection and waves the TerraTrike onto the path.

And, just like that, Father Glen is part of RAGBRAI. His first ever. Hopefully, the first of many.

The pair follow the trail at gentle pace. There is no rush, and this is no race.

After a little over a mile, they reach a massive, tented outpost giving riders shelter from the rain. It is here that one can find fresh sausage patties and grid-dle-made pancakes. Orange juice. Coffee to warm the bones.

The shelter is hosted by the Council Bluffs chapter of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic organization dedicated to supporting charitable causes and promoting the well-being of families within the community. Nearly all here present today, all those who helped build the shelter overnight and feed the rain-soaked cyclists passing through, are parishioners of Father Glen’s church.

They recognize him immediately. And they give him little time to park the bike in a convenient place before they leave the protective canopy to greet him with handshakes, hugs, and warm welcomes.

Father Glen is a celebrity here, both a familiar face and a source of inspiration. He’s personally blessed many of these families’ homes, has joined them for dinners, has helped commemorate their successes and given guiding light through their hardships. And before anyone can retrieve the cane to help Father Glen navigate the wet soil and gravel on which the shelter sits, he has already sprung from the seat of the bike, walking without help, shaking hands with old friends.

They know his story. Some have even visited Father Glen for days of therapy.

For the moment his

story doesn’t matter, not as much as his presence.

By the time Father Glen and TG make the concluding mile-long trip back to their launch point, the familiar parking lot dotted with campers and buses topped with bike racks, the deluge of cyclists has thinned. The officers controlling traffic begin to clear the cones from the roadway.

Still it rains. But Father Glen is all smiles. He lobs a joke at TG as they disembark from the bike.

“Here to Crescent?” he asks. A beat passes. TG and Gary Wilwerding realize he’s asking if

TG has the wherewithal to endure a ten-mile ride to Crescent, Iowa. The trio laughs.

Father Glen faces a winding road of rehabilitation. But he’s crossing goals off the checklist on the way. For now, it might only be one overcast stretch of RAGBRAI, but that represents an inspiring start.

“How’d you do?” Gary asks his brother. Father Glen responds simply, the same way the ride began:

“It’s a good day.”

Reprinted with permission from QLI. This article has been edited for length.

Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria

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Diocese welcomes new superintendent of Catholic schools

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Bishop Richard Pates named Donna Bishop as the new diocesan Schools Superintendent, which took effect June 30.

As superintendent of schools, she will oversee 17 Catholic schools with more than 6,300 students pre-kindergarten to high school across the Diocese of Des Moines.

“The Diocese of Des Moines is most fortunate in securing an individual such as Mrs. Bishop to succeed Dr. Tracy Bondy and carry forward the important initiatives she introduced,” said Bishop Pates. “Mrs. Bishop is committed to solidifying the Catholic character of our schools and moving forward with the recently developed strategic plan. We feel fortunate that she will be part of the Diocese of Des Moines team.”

Donna Bishop recently led the Archdiocese of Omaha through a regionalization process that the Diocese of Des Moines is experiencing today, said Dr. Jerry Deegan, who led the search committee.

“Her experience and background will be an asset to the Diocese of Des Moines as we move forward with implementing our updated vision for our schools,” Deegan said.

“She has a wide and deep experience about the process we’re going through now about the strategic plan, especially in the regional concept that we are looking at in this area...,” Deegan continued.

She brings a breadth and depth of experience that has been close to the ground relative to the work here in the Diocese of Des Moines, Deegan concluded.

Dr. Dan Ryan, president of Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, was also

part of the search committee.

“She has experience in several dioceses which gives her a well-rounded perspective on faith and educational issues,” Dr. Ryan said. “Having experience in the Archdiocese of Omaha and being an Iowa native is a great bonus because she understands the financial models and mindsets of pastors, principals and our families.

“Donna is an extremely hard worker who puts in many hours and exhibits great dedication to everything she does,” Dr. Ryan continued. “I feel we are very fortunate to have found this caliber of candidate, especially during this later than normal search.”

Bishop’s experience in Catholic education spans 36 years as a graduate, teacher, parent, coach, principal, executive director and assistant superintendent of Catholic schools. While serving the Archdiocese of Oma-

ha Catholic Schools as assistant superintendent of 65 schools and executive director of the consortium schools, she worked with multicultural populations.

In her most recent role as FACTS Education Solutions title manager, she assisted non-public schools across the country in using their federal education funds.

Bishop has a passion for Catholic education and has begun implementing the strategic plan.

“We’re moving along,” Bishop said. “I think at this point we’re moving at a pace that we can keep everyone informed and making sure it’s a team effort.

“We’re keeping the community informed and pastors informed so that the plan moves and there’s a smooth implementation process,” she added. “I want to see the diocese as a whole, system wide approach for best education practices.”

This new management



Donna Bishop

approach and plan ensures all schools are fiscally stable and financially secure moving forward.

“No one is going to be out on their islands by themselves,” she added.

“The Catholic schools office is the main hub for continuing to move and grow all of our schools.”

Learn more about the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools and strategic plan at dm-diocese.org/catholic-schools.

Mercy College kicks off school year with new president

**By Clare Heinrich
Staff Writer**

As the summer draws to a close, schools across the state are preparing to welcome back students and faculty alike.

Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines will be welcoming Dr. Douglas Fiore into the role of college president for the 2019-2020 school year.

Fiore has more than 30 years of experience in the education field, taking on the roles of dean, provost, and vice president. He served in both K-12 and higher education schools, acting as principal for 20 years in public universities.

Although Mercy will be the first Catholic institution he’s worked for, Fiore has been drawn to the Catholic education. What makes a school like Mercy College different?

“A welcoming faith experience is what it is all about,” said Fiore. “It’s full of compassion built on the Catholic faith.”

After receiving a recommendation out of the blue, Fiore applied for the position at Mercy College, believing that his years in higher education prepared him for this role. Mercy College’s board decided to bring him in beginning in the summer of 2018 to work alongside Dr. Barbara Decker, the retiring president. Fiore was touched by the openness and honesty

shown to him by the faculty and staff, which made it easy to learn what they need and want from their new president.

“The presence of God is felt here,” said Fiore.

Fiore aims to present this model of faith and service to the community during his time as president. He plans to build on what Mercy College does because he believes it is important to take what they do outside of campus. They will reach out to other Mercy schools and hospitals to communicate and share ideas. Their programs are always adapting and changing in order to serve to the community’s needs.

Mercy College is planning to partner with Dignity Health Global Education and the Common Spirit Network in order to move more of its nursing classes online within the next year. This will allow the school to provide more accessible education to students who would be otherwise unable to participate.

“We are growing to follow need and service,” said Fiore.

He is proud to be an integral part of Mercy College. He values the foundation set for the school and community by the Sisters of Mercy. He is ready to create, remodel, and serve others through the Catholic faith.

Learn more about Mercy College of Health Sciences at mchs.edu.

Schools strategic plan implementation proceeds



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

Business and finance experts on a finance subcommittee meet and advise the diocesan Schools Implementation Committee.

**By Dr. Jerry Deegan
Contributing Writer**

There has been progress on the Diocesan Schools Strategic Plan over the past few months.

A large number of meetings have taken place with leadership groups to review the overall plan, explain the concept of a regional school system in the Des Moines area and get feedback and input on how to help move the process along. Meetings were held with the following:

- All pastors in the Des Moines area;
- All boards of education in the Des Moines area;
- Some finance councils and or parish council members;
- All principals in the diocese;
- Bishop’s Council;
- Diocesan Finance Council;
- Presbyteral Council.

Feedback from these meetings indicated a better understanding of the issues our schools are facing and the complexity of developing a regional school system with the Des Moines area schools. People felt more detail is needed to fully understand some parts of the strategic plan. Not knowing or being able to provide details was expected because working on the details of the plan

is our next step.

An Implementation Committee has been formed. The committee members are:

- Father Joe Pins, pastor of St. Joseph Parish;
- Connor Flynn, Lessing Flynn Advertising;
- Marty Flaherty, Holy Family Principal;
- Mary Jo Kever, Principal St. Pius X School;
- Dr. Dan Ryan, President Dowling Catholic High School;
- Steve Lacy, Retired CEO of Meredith Publishing,
- Steve Chapman, retired business leader;
- John McIlhonn, President Holy Family Foundation;
- John Huynh, diocesan director of Faith Journey;
- Nicole Waller, diocesan Schools Office representative focusing on diversity outreach;
- Dr. Jerry Deegan, implementation coordinator.

The initial committee meetings in April, May and June consisted of doing research to determine what areas of the plan would be priorities.

Each member of the Implementation Committee now heads up a subcommittee made up of 10 or more constituents from across the schools and parishes. The subcommittees are finance, governance, marketing and enrollment, academics, formation

and discipleship, diversity, and advancement. These subcommittees began meetings in July to determine what is working in the focus area, what is not working, and what recommendations can be made for a more detailed, multi-year regional implementation plan for the bishop’s for approval. I am extremely excited about the work that has been achieved and the enthusiasm I have found from those involved. A deep commitment to Catholic education is evident in every one of the volunteers and the committees.

Meitler, who lead our planning process, will continue to partner with St. Albert School throughout this year to further develop the strategic plan in their school. We are fortunate to have them on board.

Our goal is to continue to communicate the work of the committee and the subcommittees as the process moves along. We plan to continue to meet with the bishop, pastors, leadership groups and parents as we move through the process this fall to share what has been accomplished and get feedback and input. If you have not done so, I encourage you to visit the diocesan website at dm-diocese.org/catholic-schools/strategic-plan to review the plan, the key findings of the plan and several articles that help provide background and research of regional school systems.

New St. Albert leaders greet families at gathering before new school year

“The positive energy flowing from the room was almost palpable”

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs is starting off the new school year with a new leadership team.

The creation of the new leadership team is in response to the findings of the strategic planning process, undertaken by the Diocese of Des Moines.

A gathering was held August 7 for the St. Albert community, the new executive director, Deacon Vernon Dobelmann, wrote on his blog.

“As the executive director, this was my first real opportunity to share my vision for the school with a wider audience beyond the staff,” Dobelmann said. “I wasn’t sure what to expect in regard to turnout, but it was a joy to watch people stream in through the doors as we approached the starting time. We had set up 75 chairs earlier in the day. We still ended up with people standing up in the back of the room. Wow! Thank you to everyone who came.”

The gathering seemed to be fruitful for the new leadership team and the St. Albert community.

“The positive energy flowing through the room was almost palpable,” Dobelmann said. “After many years of public speaking, I still get excited when I can see that people are enthused about the message I am sharing. In that room last night we all shared at least one thing in common – the success of St. Albert



A large crowd turned out at St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs on Aug. 7 to hear from the new executive director, Deacon Vernon Dobelmann. In his blog post, Dobelmann said “the positive energy flowing from the room was almost palpable.”

Catholic Schools.”

Donald George, the new director of early childhood and KidzKare at St. Albert, felt positive about the turnout.

“People are obviously genuinely interested in what occurs at St. Albert and very supportive of continuing the tradi-

tion,” George said. “I really got a sense of how important the tradition is and we want to build on that and keep it going.”

George said he has already been made to feel welcome and part of the St. Albert family.

“One of the really big factors for me....is that my per-

sonal values fit into the environment that is here, and that is really important to me,” George said.

“I just feel privileged to be associated with a fine center and the overall school program and it makes me proud to come to work every day,” George concluded.

Learn more about St. Albert Catholic School at saintalbertschools.org. Follow Dobelmann’s blog at deaconvernon.com/deacon-vernons-blog.

Meet St. Albert’s new leadership team

Deacon Vernon Dobelmann, Executive Director

Leading the school in his new position, Vernon Dobelmann will be responsible for institutional advancement, strategic plan development and promoting the fundamental values of a Catholic school.

He attended Paul VI Pontifical Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies and was ordained a deacon in June, 1999. His experience includes teaching theology and serving as the varsity basketball coach at Valle Catholic High School in Ste. Genevieve, Mo. and serving as an interim principal at Assumption Parish in O’Fallon, Mo. and superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming.



Angela Whitfield, Director of Academics PK-12

Angela Whitfield, an established educator with more than 20 years of experience, is the new Director of Academics, PK-12. She will look at scope and sequence of the academic program, cultivates teacher leadership, and work to improve instruction and use data for school improvement.

She was the manager of youth programs at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha and has taught in both public and Catholic schools. Whitfield has used data extensively to improve student performance and curriculum. She worked as an assistant director of adult education and the Read Right Coordinator at Metropolitan Community College.



Patrick Ryan, Associate Director of Curriculum

Patrick Ryan, a St. Albert alumnus and 14-year teaching veteran at St. Albert Schools, will be the Associate Director of Curriculum. He will be responsible for working with the Director of Academics to ensure the successful integration of scope and sequenced curriculum.

He will help with improving and supporting teachers. He was a fifth grade classroom teacher and head varsity football coach.

He has an administrative license and master educator K-8 reading license in Iowa.



Donald George, Director of Early Childhood and KidzKare

Donald George, an experienced administrator of early childhood education programs in Omaha for the past 20 years, will be the Director of Early Childhood & KidzKare.

He has extensive knowledge of best practices in early child-

hood programs including evaluation and selection of programs, policies and curriculum. He was the director at Premier Academy Child Enrichment Center but has experience with a Head Start program and spent seven years with the Bright Horizons program at First National Child Development Center.



Katie Grudle, Director of Mission and Campus Life

Katie Grudle, a 2004 St. Albert graduate and current parent, is the Director of Mission and Campus Life. She served Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha for 11 years as campus minister, theology teacher and other student services.

Grudle will create a climate at St. Albert Schools that cultivates and maintains high standards for student behavior, learning, attendance and safety with a strong sense of Catholic identity.

She manages the social, emotional, physical and spiritual programming at the school.



Prayer and Action

Teens help communities of Shenandoah and Hamburg during summer mission week

By Clare Heinrich
Staff Writer

July 7-12 marked the first Prayer and Action week for the young people of the Diocese of Des Moines.

Fourteen teens, their adult leaders, and the Prayer and Action Mission Team spent the week in Shenandoah, where they served members of the community.

This week of faith and service reached out to those most in need in Shenandoah and Hamburg through the open hands and hearts of teen participants and their adult leaders. Throughout the week of Prayer and Action, teens painted, cleaned, did yard work, and performed other meaningful tasks for the vulnerable.

Participants spent the week in an atmosphere free of distractions, allowing them to foster their faith, inspire charity, and

lead them closer to Christ. The experience allowed them to foster relationships with other teens from the diocese and strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

Participants split into several groups to work on service projects. They built decks, scraped and painted houses, and performed general maintenance for citizens who needed a little extra help. Each day, they celebrated Mass and spent time in prayer.

Some teens were from Shenandoah, making the service project very personal.

“We need to help our own community before reaching out to others,” said Piper Wise. “We want to brighten the lives of those in our community,” added Megan Schraeger, one of the Prayer and Action Mission Team leaders.

It was easy to see how close the participants grew to each other. They built their own community over the course of the

week, sharing jokes and riddles to make each other laugh. Each one expressed how welcoming the team and Shenandoah community were.

“It’s fun to do something you don’t do every day.”

The mission of the week was to share their faith through fun, fellowship, and service.

“Catholic tradition has held, from Matthew 25 down through Pope Francis today, that our faith must reach out to the most vulnerable,” says Justin White, Diocesan Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. “Prayer and Action is one of the ways that the youth of our Diocese are able to do that, and in a particularly meaningful way since through it they’re able to help those who are right here in our own Diocese.”

To learn more about future Prayer and Action trips, contact Justin White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org.



Teens from the Diocese of Des Moines participated in Prayer and Action, serving those in need in Shenandoah and Hamburg. As part of their work, these young people spent time painting houses.

Former schools superintendent celebrates diamond jubilee

Sister Dolores Marie McHugh will celebrate 70 years in religious life this fall. She is among seven diamond jubilarians who will gather in the Mount Carmel Motherhouse Chapel in Dubuque on Sept. 8 for a liturgy of thanksgiving.

Sister was born in Ambridge, Pa. She entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sept. 8, 1949. She professed first vows on March 19, 1950, and final vows on July 16, 1957.



Sister Dolores McHugh

Sister Dolores Marie ministered in Des Moines from 1974 to 1984 as superintendent of schools and educational coordinator and consultant for the diocese. She was an elementary teacher and principal in Chicago; Glendale, Calif.; and Kansas City, Mo. She served as congregational president from 1992 to 2000 and first vice president from 1984 to 1992. She also served the congregation as a pastoral care coordinator at Mount Carmel in Dubuque.

To send a congratulatory message to a sister on her jubilee or to donate to the BVM congregation on behalf of these sisters, please go to bvmsisters.org/whatnew_jubs.cfm.

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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.

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Longtime schools, diocesan & religious community leader celebrates 60th jubilee

Continued from page 1

were teaching me at the time,” she continued. “It probably seems unusual in this day and age, but by the time I had graduated high school I had already made application to the Sisters of Humility.”

Sister Jude moved to the motherhouse in Ottumwa Sept. 8, 1959 after graduation from high school.

The first three years were her novitiate.

“It was formation on everything from what it means to be a Sister of Humility, what the vows mean, and a heavy emphasis on philosophy and theology. It also meant that we were beginning a college career as well, so it was a very packed schedule.”

The women often had roughly 25 credit hours per semester.

“It was designed to keep us busy and it worked,” Sister Jude said.

The second year of the novitiate was focused on spirituality and theology, with the third year’s focus back to college prep.

“At the end of the third year we made our first vows,” Sister Jude said.

Her family was tremendously supportive of her call to religious life.

“My dad said, ‘I don’t care what you want to be – you can be whatever you want to be. You can be a ditch digger if you want, you just be the best darn ditch digger you can be,’” Sister Jude said.

It affirmed her choice while challenging Sister Jude not to settle for anything less than she could be.

Her family made sacrifices to visit her, especially those early years, Sister Jude added.

“The time to see us was very limited,” she said. “They would come to Ottumwa for two hours on a designated Sunday. This was pre-interstate days. They would get up early to milk the cows, make the drive and stop somewhere for Mass along the way and reverse the procedure going home.”

Sister Jude has held many roles over the years, including superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Des Moines, principal of St. Theresa School in Des Moines, teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes in Bettendorf and chancellor for the Diocese of Des Moines.

“As I have thought about the last 50 or 60 years, I have found it interesting that in almost every instance, whatever changed



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, a mentor and friend to many in the Diocese of Des Moines, celebrates 60 years in her religious community, the Sisters of Humility.

in my life was due to a call,” she said. “I never really went out and applied for a particular job.”

Times have changed and the Sisters of Humility continue to respond in this day and age, Sister Jude added.

“When I entered the Sisters of Humility, we were primarily an order devoted to teaching,” she said. “We were dedicated to education and health care and then also added what we called social work. Over those years, a lot of

that has changed... But through it all, we have said we are open to wherever God calls us in response to the signs of the times.”

Local family shares tight bond with Sister Jude Fitzpatrick



Terry and Joyce Lillis, longtime friends of Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, celebrate the reopening of the Catholic Pastoral Center after major renovations. Sister Jude keeps this picture on her desk.

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Terry and Joyce Lillis of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines call Sister Jude Fitzpatrick a friend. Their friendship began 25 years ago in education.

“The first time I met her I was chair of the Dowling Board of Education,” Terry said. “She was always very much involved in Catholic education.”

Sister Jude has held many roles, including teacher, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Des Moines and principal at St. Theresa Catholic School in Des Moines.

She was also chancellor

of the Diocese of Des Moines, and she and the Lillises would often see each other at meetings.

They had a common interest in quality, Catholic education.

In fact, when the Lillis family made a donation for the renovation of the Catholic Pastoral Center, they chose to have the space housing the Schools Office named the Sister Jude Fitzpatrick Schools Suite.

The Lillis family and Sister Jude also share a passion for basketball.

“She is an avid basketball fan,” Terry said. “She actually started the girls’ parochial league as a coach and strong supporter of female activities.”

Sister Jude was often in the stands when all three of the Lillis children were playing for St. Pius X Catholic School and then later for Dowling Catholic.

“Our daughter played at Iowa, and Sister Jude was there always,” Terry said. “She brought a contingent of Sisters of Humility out of Davenport with her.”

Nowadays, Sister Jude can often be found at the Knapp Center cheering on the Drake Bulldogs, where Lillis’ daughter,

Jennie Baranczyk, is head coach for the women’s basketball team.

Sister Jude was also by the Lillis family’s side during life’s more difficult times. Earlier this year, Terry’s older brother Bill Lillis passed away.

“She was right there with us all the time,” Joyce said. “I know her prayers were straight to God, and she worked with us as a family and was always there and it meant a lot to us as a family.”

“She cares about other

people,” Joyce continued. “She always sees a positive in every negative when challenges arise. She always has a smile on her face. She finds the positive and finds the light.”

Terry and Joyce agree that Sister Jude is a true Christian witness.

“We respect her and we are so happy for her on her 60th anniversary,” Joyce said.

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Congratulations to diamond jubilarians who ministered in schools, hospitals

The following Sisters of Mercy are celebrating 70 years in their vocation as religious women. They have all served the Des Moines diocese.

Sister Mary Sean Crimmins
Sister Mary Sean Crimmins has seen many places during her 70 years as a Sister of Mercy. Born in Denver, Colorado, Sister Mary Sean entered at Mount Loretto in Council Bluffs. She served in various nursing positions at hospitals in Denver, Georgetown, British Guiana, Oregon and Omaha. She served at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines (1967-69) and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Centerville, Iowa (1969-74). She served her community's Denver convent and St. Catherine Residence in Oregon. She offered pastoral care at Mercy Hospital in North Dakota. Sister Mary Sean returned to Denver in 1990 and



served at Life, Inc. (1990-92); Senior Resource Center (1992-05) and for the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community (2005-16). She then faithfully cared for her brother for two years. She has now returned to Omaha and resides at Mercy Villa.

Sister Sharon Ekler
Sister Sharon Ekler has spent 27 years of her 70 years in ministry in education and has served overall in six states. Initially, she wanted to be a nurse, but she was sent to teach.



In Omaha, Sister Sharon taught at three schools and was principal at two. She spent three years in Des Moines at All Saints School (1956-59). In Colorado, she was a teacher and principal. Sister Sharon spent one school year as principal and teacher in Williston, North Dakota.

In 1982 Sister Sharon made a change and went into ministry work. She served as a pastoral assistant, director of

a retreat center in Colorado. She also served as director of sponsorship (1990-93) and vice president of sponsorship (1994-03) at Mercy Medical Center in Durango, Colorado.

Sister Sharon has a bachelor's degree from College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska, a master's degree from Saint Xavier College (now University) in Chicago, Illinois, and a certificate in Theology from Washington Theological Union.

Sister Mary Donata Landkamer

Sister Mary Donata has ministered in many places during her 70 years as a Sister of Mercy. Born in Hebron, Nebraska, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at Mount Loretto in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1949.



She ministered in education three schools in Nebraska, one school in Missouri and one school in California.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, she served in education at Holy Family in Council Bluffs, (1963-64); Queen of Apostles in Council Bluffs (1966-67) and All Saints in Des Moines (1967-71).

Sister Mary Donata then made a change and worked at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines in physical therapy (1972-78) and the admitting department (1978-79).

She served in pastoral care and as a chaplain in Joplin, Missouri and Loup City, Nebraska.

Sister served at a shelter in Springfield, Missouri, (1991-94) and as a personal care aide at a hospital (1994-96).

"I treasure my call to Mercy and thank God for all the blessings and encouragement I have received along the way," said Sister Mary Donata.

Sister Mary Donata has a bachelor's degree from College of Saint Mary and a certificate in chaplaincy from the United States Catholic Conference.

Sister Mary Rosalima Wilkinson

Sister Mary Rosalima

became familiar with the Sisters of Mercy after being raised with her sister and brother at St. James Orphanage in Omaha. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949 at Mount Loretto in Council Bluffs.

Sister Rosalima's ministry was mainly in education as teacher, principal, liturgist and musician. She began her teaching career at St. Patrick School in Council Bluffs in 1952. In Nebraska, she taught at 10 schools in her years of ministry.

She was a pastoral associate at Immaculate Conception, Rushville and St. Leo's in Gordon.

In Iowa, Sister Rosalima taught at Holy Trinity in Des Moines; Queen of Apostles in Council Bluffs and substituted at St. Albert Schools in Council Bluffs.

Sister Rosalima enjoys her retirement as a volunteer at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, where she has been since 2002.



Planning underway for episcopal ordination

Continued from page 1

also be heard on Iowa Catholic Radio.

Dubuque Archbishop Michael O. Jackels will preside at the ordination.

The sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred by the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination. Archbishop Jackels

will anoint Bishop-elect Joensen with Sacred Chrism.

The archbishop will invest the new bishop with an episcopal ring, a miter (the liturgical headdress for bishops in the Latin Church), and a pastoral staff or crosier (which ordinarily is shaped like a shepherd's crook). All are symbols of the office and ministry of a bishop.

Pope Francis'

representative to the United States, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre, will be present as the bishop-elect is entrusted with the care of the Diocese of Des Moines.

He will read a translation of the Apostolic Bull signed by Pope Francis communicating the appointment.

Immediately following the ordination and installation

until 6:30 p.m., there will be an opportunity for the public to greet and congratulate the newly ordained bishop.

The meet and greet will be at the Ron Pearson Center, 5820 Westown Parkway in West Des Moines.

The public is invited to vespers, also called evening prayer, on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral,

601 Grand Ave. in Des Moines. The bishop-elect will formally knock on the cathedral doors and be admitted as the next bishop-to-be. This prayer service is open to the public.

Watch for additional details at the diocese's website: dmdiocese.org.

Catholic Youth Camp construction

Continued from page 1

of our donors that we can assure them that we have plans to maintain the things that we are doing."

The first gift came from the Diocese of Des Moines. On behalf of the highly successful Sharing God's Gifts diocesan capital campaign, Bishop Richard Pates announced a \$1.1 million gift, which will be put toward the construction of the new cabins and other needs.

"Bishop Pates has been instrumental in pushing this campaign forward," Kautzky said. "He believes so much in the work that we're doing and I'm so grate-

ful for his wisdom and guidance. And he wants people of the diocese to know that the diocese is invested.

"This significant lead gift really gives us footing as we move forward," Kautzky said. Bishop Pates was also central to the comprehensive facilities assessment.

"Bishop gave us a Blue Ribbon Committee of architects and designers," Kautzky continued. "We went through every single room and closet and looked under every single sink.

This gives donors peace of mind knowing CYC has done its due diligence, Kautzky added.

"Among the top five

priorities of the Diocese of Des Moines is our commitment to our youth and young adults, and their engagement in the faith," Bishop Pates said. "Our CYC campers participate in Mass every day and their fun at camp is mixed naturally with learning about Jesus. I'm thrilled by the extraordinary generosity of the Sharing God's Gifts capital campaign that enables significant diocesan support of CYC in times of extraordinary need. This investment will pay dividends for decades to come."

St. Thomas More Center hired the Omaha-based Steier Group to assist with the fundraising efforts.

"We want to make sure that we have successes along the way, so we've broken the [campaign] down into different categories," Kautzky said.

They have four separate fundraising categories to gauge their progress:

- Cabins at \$2 million
- Dingman Hall at \$1.5 million
- New pool at \$1.5 million
- Endowment fund at \$500,000.

To make a donation contact Kautzky at 515-309-1936 or email alex@stmcenter.com. Learn more about Catholic Youth Camp visit stmcenter.com.

Sponsorship opportunities: Help young people attend camp



The public can help send kids to camp through CYC's sponsorship opportunities.

Catholic Youth Camp offers sponsorship opportunities every year to make sure every child who wants to be there can go.

"Money is never a reason you shouldn't get to go to camp," said Alex Kautzky, executive director. "We sponsor over 150 kids every single year. We had 50 kiddos that were at CYC for the first time this year."

"We take such pride in the fact that we are able to stretch ourselves in that way and make sure this is never about the numbers but always about the kids that get to come here and that we make sure we bring it to as many kids as we possibly can."

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities contact Kautzky at 515-309-1936 or email alex@stmcenter.com.



St. Augustin School leader fondly remembered

Longtime St. Augustin School Principal Dr. Nancy Dowdle retired last school year after 47 years in Catholic education, 32 of them at St. Augustin Catholic School in Des Moines.

A graduate of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs, she taught music and served as a counselor before coming to Des Moines and serving the St. Augustin community.

"I've known Nancy for approximately 30 years," said parent Steve Lacy. "I have always been impressed with the high-quality student that St. Augustin School produces. They perform well at Dowling Catholic, in college and into their long-

term lives. I believe that is due to Nancy Dowdle's strong leadership skills."

"Dr. Dowdle was a guiding light for me throughout a rambunctious childhood," said former student Marcus Branstad.

"As a regular visitor to her office, I can tell you she was tough, but I always came out of that office knowing how much she truly cared about me and wanted me to succeed."

"I look back on my eight years at St. Augustin School very fondly and truly appreciate all that Dr. Dowdle did for me and the thousands of other students who passed through her halls," he said.



Dr. Nancy Dowdle, with her husband, Dr. Jim Dowdle, and their family celebrate her retirement from St. Augustin Catholic School in Des Moines.

Second annual Cathedral Concerts draw a crowd to the Catholic Pastoral Center



Photo by Ken Seeber

Hundreds of people came to the second annual Cathedral Concerts July 26 and 27 at the Zimpleman Family Plaza in front of the Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines.



Photo by Ken Seeber

Neola parish hears about the importance of praying to Mary



Father Richard Cortese, the national director of the Marian Movement of Priests visited St. Patrick Parish in Neola in July to celebrate Mass and talk about the importance of the rosary and consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



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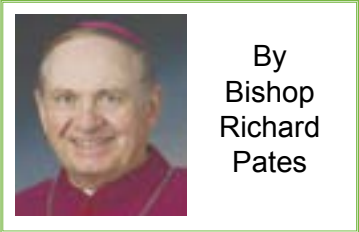
Un Corazón Lleno de Gratitud

Mis Buenos amigos,

Al empezar a vivir los últimos días de mi servicio como Obispo de Des Moines, mi corazón rebosa con gratitud por las interminables bendiciones que he recibido durante mi servicio hacia ustedes, los fieles de esta diócesis. Al no encontrar la forma de expresar adecuadamente mis sentimientos, la simpleza de un gracias es tal vez el mejor reflejo de la autenticidad de mis sentimientos.

Cuando comencé mi ministerio aquí en mayo del 2008, por petición del Papa Benedicto XVI, los dos individuos con quienes estaba familiarizado eran el Obispo Joseph Charron y Monseñor Stephen Orr. Desde entonces, he tenido el privilegio de poder disfrutar de amistad, ministerio, y servicio con ustedes, la Iglesia de Des Moines, cuyos números en el análisis más reciente refleja hoy 165,000 almas o el 19% de la población del suroeste de Iowa.

Rápidamente, me he convertido en ciudadano de Iowa por decisión. Da mucha estabilidad el identificarse con el habitante típico de Iowa, centrado en una fe con sentido común y amigable con una personalidad basada en la “amabilidad de Iowa.” Al mismo tiempo, me siento afortunado de ser parte



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

del legado del Obispo Maurice Dingman, del Gobernador Robert Ray y del Embajador Kenneth Quinn que han dado testimonio al mundo de que Iowa también significa apertura de nuestras puertas y de nuestros corazones a aquellos que huyen por salvar sus vidas, huyendo de la opresión.

Y con esto, obtenemos la naturaleza híbrida del habitante contemporáneo de Iowa que tanto aprecio. Ahora compartimos el camino con los vietnamitas, camboyanos, sudaneses del sur, eritreos, birmanos, mexicanos y de otros países de Centro y Sudamérica y de otros países, así como nuestros sacerdotes de Nigeria, Ghana, Kenia, Sudán del Sur, Colombia, El Salvador, México e India. Ellos han acogido nuestra fe, nuestra cultura y la han enriquecido ilimitadamente integrando sus remarcados dones personales, su cultura y su actitud positiva. Juntos, trabajamos en nuestra misión de hacer que Jesucristo sea conocido y amado en nuestros tiempos al optar por vivir juntos en su nombre.

Al regresar a Minnesota,

lo hago como misionero. Va a ser un reto para mí el compartir mi personalidad, la de un habitante de Iowa converso, con la de los habitantes del norte. Admito que, va a ser muy difícil cuando llegue el momento de apoyar a alguien en los juegos entre los Hawkeyes y los Gophers.

La gente por lo general se mofa cuando les digo que como obispo residencial mi jefe es el Papa. Bajo estos términos he tenido la dicha de servir bajo San Juan Pablo II, el Papa Benedicto XVI y ahora con el Papa Francisco. Admito también que los anteriormente nombrados no me hicieron “evaluaciones laborales” anuales. Me llegó como una total sorpresa, que un día en el curso de abrir mi correo, abrí una carta del Papa Francisco felicitándome por el 50 aniversario de mi ordenación como sacerdote. La autenticidad de la carta está garantizada por su ya famosa minúscula firma y el sello marca de su pontificado. La comparto con todos en la diócesis ya que me insta a solicitar sus oraciones a su nombre y envía saludos especiales a aquellos en nuestra comunidad diocesana. Como pueden ustedes suponer, también me sirvió de consuelo. Le agradezco a Monseñor Larry Beeson por traducir la carta del latín al inglés.



A mi Venerable Hermano
Richard Edmund Pates
Obispo de Des Moines

Estamos atentos con todos los Pastores del mundo, con cuya ayuda podemos disfrutar del favor divino, y hacia usted de una forma singular, Venerable Hermano, deseamos expresarles nuestra benevolencia hacia usted debido a que el día veinte de este mes de diciembre, usted celebrará el Jubileo de Oro de su sacerdocio y que, al observar el ejercicio de su fervor pastoral, por medio de esta carta deseo felicitarle y demostrar lo valioso de sus obras, incluyendo la excelencia de su fervor apostólico.

Porque por su ministerio, podemos apreciar que usted es peticionario del bien espiritual de todos aquellos hermanos creyentes bajo su cuidado, anunciando con diligencia la doctrina y el corazón del Evangelio, por la gracia por la cual el Obispo sabía que usted sería un excelente y prudente sacerdote en sus comienzos trabajando en la Arquidiócesis de St. Paul y Minneapolis, Minnesota, cuando comenzó su presbiterado. Considerando sus dones y sus méritos, San Juan Pablo II tuvo el placer de nombrarle Obispo y de otorgarle el título de Obispo de Suacinesem y Auxiliar de St. Paul y Minneapolis, en Minnesota, labor por la cual Benedicto XVI, nuestro ilustrado predecesor, le transfirió a la comunidad eclesial de Des Moines en el año 2008, en donde usted continua como su Pastor.

No podemos dejar de mencionar sus obras en las grandes áreas de educación, evangelización y la promoción de la justicia y la paz, los cuales llevó a cabo excelentemente en la Conferencia de Obispos de los Estados Unidos de América. A partir de los enormes esfuerzos que llevó usted a cabo, vemos que usted comparte un excepcional sentido de ministerio. Nos complace recordar todas las cosas, las que con el correr de los años han hecho de su ministerio un espejo de la gentileza y del espíritu de Nuestro Señor al cuidar persistentemente de las necesidades del clero y del pueblo de Dios.

Reciba, por lo tanto, Venerable Hermanos, nuestras felicitaciones, a la vez que invocamos al Señor, quien le otorga un aniversario lleno de gozo, que le conceda que, caminando fielmente en la verdad del evangelio, sienta la presencia de Cristo y que, por medio de la intercesión de la Santísima Virgen María, pueda usted siempre voltear hacia su gracia y misericordia en la difícil labor de la caridad.

Deseamos, finalmente, presentarle con nuestra Bendición Apostólica, la cual le extendemos a usted, a aquellos quienes le rodean, a los hijos e hijas del rebaño en Des Moines y a todos aquellos que participan en la celebración del jubileo y también a aquellos a quienes ocupan un lugar especial en su corazón. Comuníqueseles pues, extendiéndoles nuestra súplica de que oren, para que podamos cumplir nuestro ministerio Petriano, con diligencia y sabiduría.

De las oficinas del Vaticano, el 27 de noviembre del 2018, el sexto año de nuestro Pontificado.
Francisco

Francisco



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Iowa's newest top Knight makes history

Youngest and first African American elected in the state

By Dan Russo
Witness Editor

WATERLOO — While sitting in St. Mary Church in New Haven, Connecticut, at a Mass during which the state deputies for the Knights of Columbus from around the world were officially installed, Paul Lee contemplated his unique situation.

It wasn't long before the father and member of St. Stephen the Witness Parish and Student Center in Cedar Falls was marching down the aisle June 7 with his wife and children to be placed for a term as the head of the Knights in Iowa.

"There were a lot of emotions," recalled Lee. "There was an immense sense of gratitude to God that he would put our family in this unique position."

"During that Mass, I just thought of my story being (part of a family) growing up in the north county part of St. Louis, where society would say it's a little rough, and being afforded many different opportunities to serve and be a servant leader."

"And within my Knights of Columbus journey, I joined the Knights just to help out and to grow closer to Christ. I had no clue it would lead me to be the top servant out of nearly 32,000 members in the state of Iowa. You feel the weight of responsibility," he said.

At 33-years-old, Lee is treading new ground for several reasons. He is the youngest state deputy in Iowa history, with only two other men worldwide having served as state deputies at younger ages.

He is also the first person from the Archdiocese of Dubuque to be elected since 2004, and he is the first African American ever to serve as Iowa's top Knight.

He will serve a one-year term that officially begins in July after being elected by delegates from across Iowa at the most recent state convention.

It is then customary for state deputies to be re-elected for a second term that also lasts a year.

Lee's father was born and raised Catholic so he was familiar with the Knights as a child. Lee himself was raised a missionary Baptist until sixth grade. At that point, he, his mother and two siblings converted. He became a member of the Knights with his dad while in his teens, but wasn't really active at first.

The Knights operate under the guiding principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, which fuel much of their action. Lee began to get a deeper sense of these ideals when he was asked to help found a college Knights council at his parish in 2010. Although he was 24 and had already graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, he was asked to help out by a friend from church who was still in school. Eventually, Lee served as the first grand knight of St. Stephen's College Council 1487, one of over 200 councils in Iowa. He later worked aiding college councils around the state.

In 2012, he was appointed as a district deputy to oversee four to five councils.

The Knights charitable activities have had a significant impact on the Lee family, especially the organization's effort to provide ultrasound machines to crisis pregnancy centers. In 2013, the Lees, who have three living children, lost a son at birth.

"That has been something really special for the two of us, and it helped us through the grieving process," Amanda said. "It gave us something proactive."

By 2014, the Knights in the Waterloo area were able to raise \$42,000 for the machine, one of 26 in the state purchased through the program.

"They have told me that since the machine has been there, they have saved 100 lives," said Paul Lee.

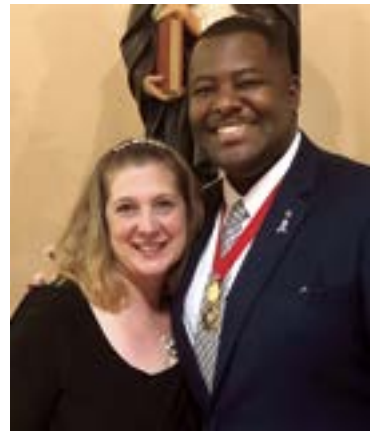
Lee believes his African American heritage and youth may be assets to the Knights' mission to engage and evangelize everyone.

"In my time being here (in Iowa), I've met a number of good Catholics who just so happen to be African American. I was talking to my dad last week. ... He reminded me how my election and service will pave a path for others, that it's OK to be involved and be active in the faith when you don't look like someone

who's in the pews with you week in and week out.

"If I can be a catalyst for more people growing closer in their faith with Jesus, and I'm biased in thinking the Roman Catholic Church is the best way to grow in your faith, if that's the Holy Spirit's will, thy will be done."

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Amanda and Paul Lee



News & Events for Faithful Listeners



Ut Fidem and Iowa Catholic Radio Presents

"Extra Ordinary News"

An evening with
Fr. John Riccardo

December 7, 2019
Grand Ballroom at the Iowa Events Center
Presentation begins at 7 pm

Tickets available online @
iowacatholicradio.com/father-riccardo

Tune In LIVE!

Iowa Catholic Radio's
Fall Care-A-Thon
August 26-30

To Donate visit iowacatholicradio.com

Iowa Women's Catholic Conference
"The Soul of the Matter"

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019, 8 am - 3 pm

To learn more and register visit
iowacatholicradio.com/womensconference

www.IowaCatholicRadio.com | 515.223.1150

Catholic radio programming in Spanish

Fortaleciendo Nuestra Fe

Sabado al mediodía, La Reina 1260 AM, 96.5 FM

La Hora de Cristo Rey

Jueves al mediodía, La Ley 105.5 FM

Alegre la Mañana

Thursdays at 10 a.m.,

La Reina 1260 AM, 96.5 FM

No temas

Domingos 10:30 a.m., Iowa Catholic Radio

1150 AM, 88.5 FM, 94.5 FM

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.

Iles Funeral Homes

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www.IlesFuneral.com

We're close in all the ways you need. Too, we are located nearby for your convenience. Through the years, we have formed close relationships with the families we serve. As neighbors, we are there when needed most. With a skilled and caring staff. With a warm and comforting atmosphere. With an array and a place for the needs of our community.

A Higher Purpose

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS (RSVP)

Keep the faith alive by supporting our seminarians and postulants. As the strong right arm of the church, the Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. The Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious. Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians in their area. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of RSVP. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success. The Iowa Knights sponsor both the annual seminarian conference, the newly ordained priest conference, and financial support every diocesan seminarian throughout the state.



Scan to learn more about the Knights

Rise Up and Share God's Joy... Join the Knights of Columbus — visit www.kofc.org/joinus
To Learn More www.iowakofc.org | Follow us on facebook/[IowaKnightsOfColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/IowaKnightsOfColumbus) and Facebook.com/[caballerosdecoloniowa](https://www.facebook.com/caballerosdecoloniowa) | on twitter.com/[IAKnights](https://twitter.com/IAKnights)



Join Our Team!

*Serve your local Catholic community,
become an agent with the Knights of Columbus!*



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