

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Schools strategic plan concludes: We're stronger together than apart

Greater collaboration in Des Moines metro area recommended

**By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer**

Catholic schools in the Des Moines metro area will be most effective by collaborating more closely, thereby moving a good faith-based education to excellent.

This was the finding of a year-long Blue Ribbon Task Force that embarked on a diocesan-wide strategic planning process last spring.

The process began after questions arose about declining enrollment and whether the current funding model was sustainable.

While all Catholic schools in the diocese were studied, a plan specifically addressing the needs of the schools in close proximity to each other in the Des Moines metro area emerged. The plan, called "A New Approach for a Stronger Future," calls for a new model of partnership centered on strengthening Catholic identity and faith formation, boosting enrollment, improving academics and addressing governance, finances and facilities.

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Support seminarians, retired priests, bishop and others during Annual Diocesan Appeal

St. Pius X Parish responds with overwhelming generosity

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Retired Father John Harmon uses humor in helping St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale seek donations for the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

"I tell them that if we don't make this appeal, they're going to send me to Barrow, Alaska," Father Harmon said. "I make a joke out of it."

After capturing parishioners' attention with jokes and

shenanigans, Father Harmon is transparent and honest about the need.

"You have to be real, you have to be human..." Father Harmon said. "I say, number one: Bishop Pates does not have a collection basket the way that we have."

Bishop Pates' activities are supported by the ADA, which includes regular travel throughout the 23 counties in our diocese to

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Welcome!

Catechumens and candidates were welcomed by Bishop Richard Pates during the Rite of Election March 9 and 10.



Photo by Maureen Kruse

Bishop Richard Pates greets Kevin Cox and Pamela Banderas-Islas, candidates from Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs. With them is RCIA team member Beth Wilson.



Photo by Jane Gaffney

Bishop Pates greets Joan Bloom, catechetical leader at St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah, and Hailey O'Hara, who will come into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

The Rite of Election recognizes the "Elect" (catechumens) who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Candidates, who have been baptized but have not received First Eucharist or been confirmed, were also welcomed. They will come into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The catechumens and candidates have been preparing through their local parish RCIA programs.

Bishop Richard Pates greets catechumens Jacqueline Robinson and Walt McDowell, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines.

Farmer who invited St. John Paul II to Iowa is receiving hospice care at home

Iowa farmer recalls fondest memories of Holy Father's 1979 visit

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

After receiving a cancer diagnosis, Joe Hays of St. Joseph Parish in Winterset has been receiving hospice care at his rural home near Truro.

He'll be remembered by those close to him as a caring father, husband, farmer and friend.

But for many Iowans across the state, Hays will always be remembered as the man who personally invited St. John

Paul II to Iowa in a letter to the Vatican in 1979.

And though it's been 40 years since that famous visit, Hays can vividly recall some of the details like it was yesterday.

After the pope's helicopter landed at Living History Farms in Des Moines for the outdoor Mass on Oct. 4, the Holy Father climbed down and made his way towards the altar. The Hays family was sitting in the fourth row behind many bishops.

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Farmer Joe Hays penned the letter that brought St. John Paul II to Iowa in 1979.

In the Heartland with Bishop Pates

Center of family faith life is Sunday worship

A friend of mine with three small children related that he is befuddled by many of his contemporaries who take very lightly, if at all, the fulfillment of their responsibility to attend Sunday worship with their families. He wonders why their priorities are so different from his. Number one for him is the Sunday gathering with his community of faith. All other activities will fall into place.

Those missing Mass point to games and activities for their children, which seemingly take precedence. Others identify the opportunity for time off and rest in the midst of otherwise hectic lives. Some will cite an incident/experience/reaction to the broader Church or parish priest. Still others sheepishly admit, "I got out of the habit" and have not resumed what was so valuable in their lives.

Surprisingly, but thankfully, these parents send their children to Catholic schools and religious education. Yet they fail to follow up with further practice of worshipping their loving God in the weekly cycle of Sunday Mass. The Church from the earliest, apostolic days established the practice of the "Lord's Day." On each Sunday, the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus were memorialized or made present. It became the foremost "ticket" on their journey to life eternal with the ever-living God.

While the Church holds Sunday worship as a serious obligation for all of us, it is vitally important for us to recognize also the significance, value and beauty of the liturgy so that we are attracted to it by its magnetic spirit and meaning.

The first part of the



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, proclaims the mind and heart of God. It is not merely an account of Israelite or Christian history. By the power of the Spirit, it is God's Word spoken in the moment to touch our lives in the call to conversion. We are invited to adapt our lives accordingly in order that they might be in line with God's will. Who of us does not need such guidance?

The second part of the Mass is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Therein, in alignment with the Last Supper, bread is transformed into the body of Christ and wine into his very blood. The death and resurrection of Jesus, the Paschal mystery, is made present, not repeated. And we the

priestly people become one with Jesus in the offering to the Father the sacrifice through which our salvation is won.

Then, from the altar of sacrifice we are fed with the very body and blood of Jesus. This remarkable personal gift unites us together in the one Lord, to be his body present in the world. We are challenged to scatter evil and promote love, truth, justice and peace. Moreover, on a personal level, as we consume the nourishing bread of Jesus, we take on his attributes: kindness, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, understanding, selflessness, sacrifice – the very stuff of holiness.

Certainly, we have to come to grips with those issues and other priorities that interfere with our Sunday worship. Might they not begin to fade in the face of the benefit and meaning of the Eucharist, of Sunday Mass? Literally, I cannot think of 100 reasons that take priority over regular Sunday worship.

Families that feature

Sunday worship as central to their common life benefit from a regular routine of the same Mass each week. This promotes engagement with parishioners and common parish activity, further enabling community, a central and rewarding feature of parish life.

Recently, in my week-end travels, I have experienced wonderful moments in the celebration of the liturgy. They were truly uplifting.

In the rural communities of Imogene, Adair and Leon, the Sunday Mass is centered around families and faith development. The families that came together for Sunday worship planned to include participation of all age categories. Following Mass there is a hot breakfast often prepared by the Knights of Columbus and especially enjoyed by the kids with their friends. The morning concludes with faith formation. For most of the families and especially the young people, the morning is the highlight of the week.

On a recent weekend,

I had the great joy of experiencing confirmation at four parishes: Audubon, Woodbine, Dunlap and the parishes of Shelby County at Harlan. The Masses were well celebrated especially by our high school confirmands. The prayer was spirited, uplifting, reverent and engaging. We prayed as families in one voice. I could see being actualized the timeless vision of the Second Vatican Council in the full, active and conscious participation of all the praying community.

My friend has an extraordinarily important point in that it is essential to make Sunday worship the Number One Priority in family life. Initially, it may draw protest from the younger generation. Sooner or later, I trust, they will come to appreciate it as an "eternal" gift. I strongly encourage those families not participating in Sunday liturgy to do so. Is there any better time to begin than during the Lent or Easter seasons?

Bishop installs new pastor for three parishes



Father Samuel Danso was installed as pastor of three parishes in the southeast part of the diocese: Sacred Heart in Chariton, St. Francis in Corydon and St. Brendan in Leon.

Bishop's Schedule

Saturday, March 16

Des Moines – St. Patrick's Mass, St. Ambrose, 10 a.m.

Atlantic - Father Chinna Silver Anniversary Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 17

Carlisle – Mass and Groundbreaking – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 9 a.m.

Monday, March 18

Des Moines – Iowa Amos Organization Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20 –

Thursday, March 21

Chicago – Visit to Mundelein Seminary and Deacon Mark McGeary

Chicago – Lumen Christi Conference

Friday, March 22

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

Saturday, March 23

Ankeny – Installation Mass for Father Michael Amadeo, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 24

Ankeny – Installation Mass for Father Michael Amadeo, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Mass, Hispanic Immigrant Leaders, Pastoral Center 1 p.m.

Des Moines – Dinner with International Sisters, St. Theresa, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26 –

Wednesday, March 27

Villanova – Church Management Meetings

Saturday, March 30

West Des Moines – Iowa Catholic Men's Conference – St. Francis of Assisi, 8 a.m.

Earling – Installation of Father Dan Gehler as Pastor, St. Joseph, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 31

Defiance - Installation of Father Dan Gehler as Pastor, St. Peter, 8 a.m.

Earling – Installation of Father Dan Gehler as Pastor, St. Joseph, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 2 –

Wednesday, April 3

St. Paul, Minnesota – Visit St. John Vianney and St. Paul Seminary seminarians

Thursday, April 4

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

Saturday, April 6

Council Bluffs – Diocesan Conference of Catholic Women, St. Patrick, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 7

Des Moines – Serra Club Sister Appreciation Dinner, McAuley Terrace, 5 p.m.

Monday, April 8

Des Moines – Catholic Schools Teachers' Mass, Dowling Catholic, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

Des Moines – Inauguration Mass, Dr. Fiore as President of Mercy College of Health Services, St.

Ambrose Cathedral, 9 a.m.

Des Moines – Inauguration of President Fiore, Mercy College of Health Services, 1p.m.

Thursday, April 11

Des Moines – School Administrators Retreat, St. Ambrose Hall, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 12

Des Moines – Priests' Day of Reflection, Catholic Pastoral Center and St. Ambrose Cathedral, 1 p.m.

Des Moines – Chrism Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 13

Des Moines – Palm Sunday Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 14

Des Moines – Palm Sunday Mass, St. Ambrose Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.

Des Moines – Boy Scouts Award Ceremony – Catholic Pastoral Center 2 p.m.

Des Moines – Ecumenical Procession for Peace, 3 p.m.

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All ages celebrate Ash Wednesday

Bishop Pates invites faithful into deeper engagement with God during Lent

Bishop Richard Pates invites the faithful of the Diocese of Des Moines to a deeper engagement with God and one another during the season of Lent through the practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

In a letter to parishes, he said inspiration of the diocesan vision of “The New Moment” calls everyone to:

- The renewed centrality of Jesus in the life of faith,
- Committing ourselves to discipleship of Jesus inspiring us to go be missionaries of Jesus in our lived experience, and
- In activity exercise the universal call to evangelizing – making Jesus Christ known and loved in our times, being especially attentive to reaching out to the millennials.

The bishop offered several resources to support the Lenten faith journey, including the text in English and Spanish of Pope Francis’ 2019 Lenten message.

He offered two almsgiving opportunities:

One is Catholic Relief Services’ annual Rice Bowl, which benefits the hungry and poor throughout the world. Support of the CRS Rice Bowl helps provide clean drinking water for vulnerable communities, seeds and training support to help farmers and health exams and treatment support for children.

A second opportunity is supporting Building the Kingdom. The diocese has supported the Holy Ghost Fathers Juniorate Seminary in Ihalia, Nigeria, for the last few years. The initiative, for religious education and Catholic school youth, connects students with their peers in Nigeria through their help in rebuilding facilities that had fallen into serious disrepair. The youth of the diocese have raised \$146,000 to date in support of the Nigerian school. For more information, contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org or Dr. Tracy Bonday at tbonday@dmdiocese.org.

In addition, Bishop Pates offered suggestions for prayer and conversion during the Lenten season. The centerpiece of this is a four-part booklet for small faith sharing groups developed by Deacon Matt Halbach called “The Wounded Body of Christ.”

This resource is intended to unite clergy and laity together to take a proactive step using a small group process in parish communities toward healing in the face of the clergy sexual abuse scandal. *(Read more about this booklet on page 7.)*



Ash Wednesday kicked off the Lenten season, an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. Pictured clockwise, starting top left, are: Jasalyn Jason, sixth grade, St. Joseph School in Des Moines; Kelly Jo Welter distributes ashes to Robert Schroeder at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Des Moines; Hillary Ho, first grade, of Holy Family School in Des Moines; and Father Trevor Chicoine distributes ashes at St. Francis of Assisi School in West Des Moines.

Reach 35,000 households in the Diocese of Des Moines

by placing an ad in The Catholic Mirror. Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org

CATHOLIC Youth CAMP

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

WHO? Students entering 3rd-12th grade

WHERE? Located on beautiful Lake Panorama in Panora, IA.

WHY? Campers encounter Christ, are immersed in the beauty of the Catholic faith, and live the adventure of His call.

*Financial Aid is available
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Talk about vulnerable!

So, there was the day my family was all sitting around the “screen” to watch some 50-ish-year-old man free-fall from a plane before his parachute opened.

For some 60 seconds he plummeted toward Earth.

While flipping and tumbling, he picked up speed; his face became more and more contorted. He probably didn't have the most toned face to begin with, maybe even a bit jowly, but with a tornado-like wind of more than 200 mph hitting his face, he hardly looked human.

My family's laughter escalated into hilarity. I will admit that I too was giggling a little inside underneath my internal shock of horror for this poor man, but self pity is hard to express let alone public humiliation.

This terrified man was me.

At this point, in order to save face with my family, I faked my laughter as if I was enjoying the experience of watching my face look like a distorted bowl of red Jell-O.

Then a beloved child shouted, “Look at Dad's eyes. It's like he's looking at his death!”

“Ha, ha, ha!”

That's right. I thought I was. To this day, I am still baffled that I actually sky dived and lived. It was a tandem jump from 13,500 feet above the farmlands of Iowa.

Let's Get Psyched

By Deacon
Randy Kiel



While ascending in the plane, I looked out the window and asked, “Is that Lake Michigan?”

“No” my tandem-jumping partner replied, “It's only the horizon.” I'm quite sure I saw the Sears Tower (also known as the Willis Tower).

I finally got the courage to speak out my deepest vulnerable feeling of the moment to my new best friend, “I am afraid!”

“Ah, you'll love it,” he said, “It'll be the best 60 seconds of your life!”

It wasn't. Now that time has passed and vulnerability has decreased in this family story, I can laugh about it with them, just maybe not quite as loudly as the rest of the family.

Isn't vulnerability hard?

We crave intimacy and closeness, yet when posed with an opportunity to be vulnerable we oftentimes choke. Being

vulnerable is the key to intimacy, the fullness of being known by another.

So, what is it about being vulnerable that makes us fight it so hard?

The verb *vulnare* (Latin) means *to wound*. This definition, then, indicates that we are most vulnerable where we are wounded. Please be careful not to become defensive at this point of the article. This is not about strength vs. weakness.

Vulnerability is one of the natural consequences of being created human. Even Adam and Eve were vulnerable to temptation simply because God willed it this way.

They were created only in the image of God, not to be a God.

We have all been wounded in life. Whether by abuse, criticism, neglect, failure or omission, wounds leave us vulnerable. Many times we are aware of these wounds, and other times these wounds live undetected within our subconscious, or at least until we feel vulnerability.

The fear of vulnerability does not mean passivity or submissiveness. To the contrary, it means the courage to be you, wounds and all. It is in being your true self that the risk of rejection is at its peak. It involves uncertainty and the chance of emotional exposure. It is now that another opportunity for wounding exists.

So what is the consequence of being inauthentic? Disconnection. When

we attempt to fool others by appearing perfect, strong, holy, intelligent, all put together or cool in order to connect, pretense will have the opposite effect upon people.

Those desiring to be relational will naturally pull away and retract.

Research shows that when we are around pretentious people, we have a physiological response through the elevation of our blood pressure. We can see by this that we resonate far too deeply with others not to perceive inauthenticity.

People can see the falseness of others if they look carefully.

People can also see authenticity if looking carefully.

At first glance of Jesus upon the cross, he was just another condemned criminal. But if one looked closer, they could see their Savior and Redeemer. It was from upon his cross that Christ gave pure vulnerability to us.

May we know that in order to be loved as he loved, we must allow ourselves to be seen as who we are. We must allow ourselves to be vulnerable. What a gift!

Deacon Randy Kiel, of Kardia Counseling in Clive, is a licensed therapist and serves at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines.

Focusing on my words during Lent

Growing up my Lenten sacrifices tended to center around food.

I'd give up candy, or snacks, or, as a young adult, beer.

But in the last few years, I've often been moved to try and give up noise, whether that's turning off the radio, or reading fewer online articles, or making greater efforts to avoid gossip.

Even more recently, I have noticed a worthy message from a former member of our diocese, Dr. Tom Neal, who has encouraged readers of his blog to fast from words. As he says, “not simply to make them fewer, but to make them worthier of our dignity and his majesty.”

In Scripture, we certainly find a theme of the importance of words. We are

Marriage & Family Life

By
Adam Storey



told that we can be defiled by our words (Matt 15:11), that our words have the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21), and that we will have to give an account for every careless word we say (Matt 12:36).

And in marriage and family life, I can think of few things that can do more to build marriage up, or tear it down, than

words.

My wife, Kara, is very generous with me, and it is a singular joy when I hear her bragging about something I've done, or who I am. She often tells me that she loves me and is proud of me, and those words have power. They have power, too, when I hear her tell someone else about her love and pride.

The opposite is also true. Words of anger and contempt can destroy a marriage. I've had to entrust many situations to God's mercy, when I've lost my patience, or intentionally hurt others through my words.

I've found that it's easiest to speak cutting words to the ones we're closest to, even when it's the most harmful.

All of us fail in our speech, but this Lent is a chance to repent and to begin again.

To entrust our failings to God's infinite mercy, and to commit again to speak words that build up, and impart grace (Ephesians 4:29), especially within our families.

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

Beginning Experience offers comfort and healing to widowed and divorced

I lost my wife of 49 years to cancer. Although I had 19 months from Sandy's diagnosis until her death to prepare myself for her death, the pain was still overwhelming. I continued to work and that helped to fill my days. But when I returned home in the evening, the loneliness crept back in, much like a heavy fog that rolls in off the ocean, so thick that you can't tell where you are or which way to turn. I had to do something.

I knew that the Catholic Church offered a support program for people who had lost their spouse through death or divorce. I was about to go in search for information when a notice appeared in our Sunday bulletin with details regarding an

Guest Column

By Mike Kinter

open house at St. Augustin's for Beginning Experience. Although apprehensive, I decided to go and see what Beginning Experience was about. I arrived at St. Augustin's and was greeted warmly and began to relax. I soon learned that everyone there, even the facilitators, had suffered the tragedy of the death of a spouse or the heartbreak of a failed marriage.

They talked about a weekend at St. Thomas More Center at Lake

Panorama. I decided to sign up. The weekend was the best thing that could have happened to me. I soon learned that I was not alone in my grief; I could share as much or as little as I chose. If I cried, someone comforted me. The remoteness of the camp setting was the ideal place to learn how to deal with my loss. I got so much out of the weekend that I attended a second weekend six months later. I now volunteer my time as a facilitator.

I would urge anyone who has suffered the loss of a spouse, whether through death or divorce, to contact your parish priest about Beginning Experience.

This column was originally printed in the

November, 2017 edition of The Catholic Mirror.

The next Beginning Experience weekend is April 26-28 with open houses at St. Augustin on March 29, April 5, and April 12 starting at 7 p.m.

Mike Kinter is a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Seaton Parish in Carlisle.

Ask a Priest

Q. After many years of not attending Mass, my daughter has returned to the Church, I am, of course, delighted. However, I was disappointed to discover she cannot receive communion because she has Celiac Disease. The church does not allow gluten-free wafers. Why is this?

A. YOU ASK A GOOD question. There are many people who suffer from Celiac Disease and are not able to digest gluten.

Today, many restaurants have special sections of their menus with no-gluten options. Many parishes provide low-gluten hosts for those who have problems with gluten.

Low-gluten hosts are stored separately from ordinary communion hosts. When they are brought to the altar, they are in a separate container, often a small round container called a pyx (a Greek word for "box"). These pyxes are also used to take Communion to the homebound – whether regular hosts or low-gluten hosts.

In spite of this, some people cannot use even the low-gluten hosts. For centuries, the Church has insisted that bread or bread hosts be used for the celebration of the Eucharist, in imitation of Jesus who used bread and wine at the Last Supper.

Low-gluten hosts fulfill this requirement. There are also no-gluten hosts available, but the Church does not officially recognize them at this time. Since Celiac disease was not known at the time of Jesus, it would be interesting to see if today he would approve of no-gluten hosts. In any case, most parishes offer Communion from the Cup, and your daughter might

find this the answer to the dilemma.

Q. Are priests usually buried in their vestments?

A. OFTEN, PRIESTS ARE buried in their vestments, but it's not a requirement.

Q. Can priests be cremated?

A. YES. CREMATION WAS ONCE thought to be a denial of the resurrection from the dead, but that no longer is the reason for cremation. Many cultures around the world employ cremation for the disposition of mortal remains. It's increasingly more prevalent in our American society today.

Q. Do other countries celebrate the feast of St Blaise?

A. Yes.

Q. Why does each diocese get to set when confirmation is bestowed at what age?

A. WELL, IT'S A PROBLEM that doesn't go away.

People with children who move from one diocese to another are faced with this dilemma.

Every national conference of bishops is allowed the set the general age for confirmation.

The U.S. bishops' conference made the decision some years ago that they would leave that decision to the individual dioceses.

So, in the U.S. all dioceses can set their own age. And they do.

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

The ones who weave: how to repair the social fabric

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



When David Brooks travels the country, he seeks out the good news. The bad news is all too easy to find.

As a New York Times columnist writing about the social sciences, Brooks logs many miles for his reporting and speaking circuit. The 57-year-old father is keenly aware of the deep political fissures that upend kitchen tables and family reunions. He hears from parents whose children took their own lives. He talks to families whose loved ones overdosed on drugs. And he asks himself: what now?

"Aren't we all called at moments like these to do something extra?" Brooks wrote last month in a column.

Despite the isolation darkening and defining our era, he noticed, every community has "weavers" who stitch together the social fabric. There's the vet he met in New Orleans who helps other mentally ill vets, the Chicago woman looking out for neglected kids in her neighborhood, the guy who runs a boxing gym in Appalachian Ohio where he teaches young men about boxing and about life.

Brooks founded a program called "Weave: The Social Fabric Project" to help us more broadly replicate these community builders. He has synthesized their observations: "The phrase we heard most was 'the whole person.' Whether you are a teacher,

a nurse or a neighbor, you have to see and touch the whole person – the trauma, the insecurities and the dreams as much as the body and the brain."

This language rings of Catholic social teaching, though the program is secular in scope. And Brooks points the way by identifying a crucial skill of weavers: the ability to listen.

The weavers who come to mind, when I consider this classification, are Catholic sisters.

This March, as part of Women's History Month, we celebrate their impact with National Catholic Sisters Week.

While lay people honor their legacy, women religious are hosting events of their own – not to pat themselves on the back but to pay it forward, to continue their work of healing a fractured nation. Many center on listening.

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, for instance, are launching a "Listen Up!" campaign to encourage deep listening among people of all backgrounds.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation in Cleveland, meanwhile, will lead a workshop on civil discourse.

And Carmelite sisters in Baltimore are inviting teens to their monastery for a retreat that will help them learn to listen to God's voice. This has become more difficult now that young adults have cellphones, "a 24/7 public-opinion poll in their pockets," said Sister Cecilia Ashton, a retreat organizer.

Yes, these are the weavers. In these troubled times, they are our hope.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Young priest pays tribute to his late father

The homily of Father Trevor Chicoine at the funeral Mass for his father, Tim Chicoine, is printed at the request of Bishop Richard Pates. This is part two. Read the conclusion in next month's edition of The Catholic Mirror.

Tricky thing, love, in today's world. More and more I think it is difficult to learn what exactly it means to love in our ever busier and noisier lives.

Dad taught my sisters and I how to love. Now, saint he was not, and I still don't always live up even to his imperfect example (my sisters....well...). While I can't speak for them, here's how he taught me to love: He taught me how to love through integrity, he taught me how to love through priorities, and he taught me how to love as a father.

Dad taught me how to love through integrity. If you love somebody, you be yourself and you do your best. Dad didn't do anything half way. (Except that one time he tried to make dinner with leftover tuna, spaghetti, corn and a can of cream of mushroom soup...even the dog wouldn't eat it).

But seriously, there wasn't a thing he didn't do 100 percent. I never saw him be less than honest. Ever. Even when it cost him, even when it was hard: Dad was always above board. He was one of the safest men I ever knew. DuPont (where he worked) beat that into their employees and

Dad sure bought in.

He taught me to read every safety manual on every tool. There was a careful ritual for measuring ice on the pond each winter before even the dog really was allowed to go out on it without getting yelled at. When I returned from Rome in June and bought a car in Arizona, he made me promise to read the manual cover to cover before heading out on the road.

When it came to his work, Dad earnestly believed what he did made a difference. He crisscrossed this country from Delaware to California and this globe from Buenos Aires to Tokyo because he believed that the work he and his colleagues set themselves to helped ensure that more people had better access to safer food.

To the many good folks gathered here from Dupont/Pioneer/Corteva I say this: if you want to honor our Dad, carry out your work with the greatest integrity: keep people eating, keep growing safe food, keep caring for the land. As St. John Paul II said when he visited Iowa, "You are the stewards of some of the most important resources God has ever given the world. ... Conserve the land well."

Dad also taught me how to love through priorities.

What was important to him? Work, yes. But family, community, friends, recreation.

He taught me the value of investing in community. Whether it was



Father Trevor Chicoine with his father, Tim.

his work with the Knights of Columbus (whose presence here, by the way, does his name great honor), attending the farm sale of a retiring neighbor, always making sure there was a gathering of friends anytime we kids were home from school: dad knew what he loved and what was to be valued.

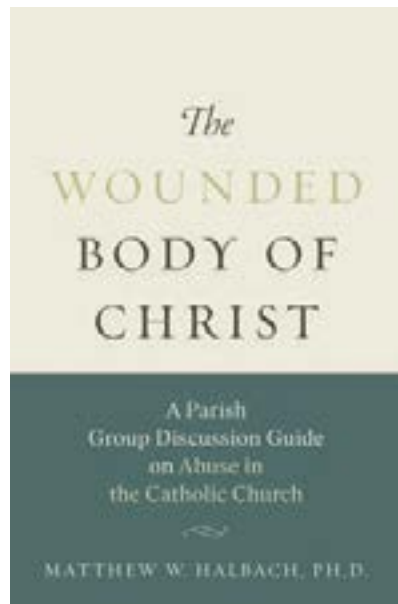
His passion was the outdoors. You'd only have to step foot for a moment on that acreage south of here and realize that. How fitting, Mom, Kaley, Naomi and I keep saying that he died doing what he loved with friends he cherished.

I say this to the great community

of paddlers, especially to the Redrock Armada here with us: we love you. Dad loved you. There is no blame. There should be no guilt. Priorities. Dad knew what he loved. Thanks to you folks in particular, for the love and care you have shown him and us.

Father Trevor Chicoine serves St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. The conclusion of this homily will be printed in next month's edition of The Catholic Mirror.

Ankeny parish offers small group discussions on church sex abuse



**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

When news broke early last fall with new accusations about sexual abuse and cover ups in the Catholic Church, the faithful were angry, sad and confused as to how this could happen.

Deacon Matt Halbach, Ph.D. of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny, who is an author, public speaker and deacon, decided to write a booklet to help those struggling.

"It became clear to me in [my speaking engagements] that there's a real hunger in people to do something productive about this terrible reality," he said.

People want to respond in constructive ways with other Catholics, he continued.

"Not just hearing it in the news or from the pulpit, but to actually respond and do something," Deacon Halbach said. "Take action, get into dialogue with other Catholics, share ideas around this topic in a way that is healthy.

"And when the church gathers together in times of great difficulty, that's when wondrous things can happen," he added.

His booklet, "The Wounded Body of Christ: A Parish Discussion Guide on Abuse in the Catholic Church," is filled with Scripture, reflections, discussion questions and prayers.

Throughout the four sessions, parish groups focus on:

- The church is the body of Christ
- Being a wounded body
- Healing a wounded body
- Anticipating a glorified body

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny felt com-

pelled to offer this opportunity for parishioners who wanted to discuss their thoughts, emotions and reactions in the wake of this church crisis.

"Our parish really wanted to do something..." said Patty Mayer, director of adult faith formation at OLIH.

The three parish deacons and their spouses at OLIH each hosted the four-week small group discussions.

"People are drawn to this and we want to understand," Mayer said. "We want to believe in the church and the authority of the church, and yet this really hurt a lot of people."

It was also a reminder about the role of the laity.

"The laity has an important role in the church, as we can get involved and dig in and advocate for change to happen," Mayer added.

Deacon Steve Udelhofen and his wife, Myrna, hosted one of the small groups. He said emotions have been raw, but they are grateful for the opportunity.

"Some people have been pretty upset about things and are in the healing process," he said. "But most people feel it's an absolute disappointment in the hierarchy and not tackling this situation."

Many of them struggled with the themes of forgiveness not just for the abusers, but especially for the bishops and cardinals who covered it up.

"It allowed me to remember in a deeper sense that forgiveness does not mean I have to forget, and does not mean I can shirk my responsibility for prevention in the future," Deacon Udelhofen said.

However, the group has been pleased with the response of the Diocese of Des Moines.

"They have been thrilled that our diocese seems to have been way ahead of the curve with Protecting God's Children program and the way we handle issues," Deacon Udelhofen said.

Deacon Halbach said he hopes the book brings healing.

"I hope it shows that the church at large cares about what the people of God think, how they are feeling and how they are doing," he said. "I hope it's just one resource of many to come of this terrible reality of clergy abuse that engages people to share their thoughts and concerns."

Farmer who invited pope cherishes memories



Clockwise from top left: Joe Hays with his wife, Ann; Hays listens to Archbishop Celestino Migliore, who served as permanent observer to the United Nations when he came to Iowa for the 30th anniversary of the pope's visit; Hays with his family; the rosary St. John Paul II gave him.

Continued from page 1

On his way to the altar, the man leading St. John Paul II stopped and said, "Excuse me your holiness, this is Joe Hays - the farmer."

"He holds me by the hand and says, 'Oh yes, the farmer. We are all farmers,'" Hays recalled.

During the exchange, St. John Paul II put a rosary in his hands.

That rosary - now considered a relic - has never been

far from Hays' side. He's carried it in his pocket for the last 40 years and has tried to pray with it every day.

Hays will never forget the encounter their late son, Paul, had with the Holy Father.

Paul had special needs and would frequently exhibit erratic behavior. He lived at the Woodward State Hospital at the time.

During the bearing of gifts, Paul suddenly marched up to the Holy Father with his three ears of corn, put his hand on the

pope and said, "You're Pope John Paul II."

"I think the pope recognized that he was special," Hays said.

"The pope turns to him, puts his hand on his forehead and gives him the sign of the cross," Hays recalled. "After that [encounter] for two years we never had a problem with Paul."

Paul passed away in 2008.



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PRAYER & MISSION

Everything you want in a mission trip and it's close to home

Prayer and Action is 6-day mission trip helping people in our diocese

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

High schoolers seeking a summer mission trip opportunity won't have to go far from home.

The Diocese of Des Moines is offering Prayer and Action, a week of helping others in need in our own Iowa communities of Atlantic and Shenandoah the weeks of June 16-23 and July 7-14.

During the day young people will spend time in service, and evenings will be reserved for prayer, reflection and social time.

All students entering 10th-12th grade in the fall of 2019 are invited to register.

"It's a way to engage our teens in meaningful experiences of evangelization and spiritual growth right here at home," said Justin White, director of youth and young adult ministry at the Diocese of Des Moines. "Oftentimes parishes will spend hundreds of dollars on a week-long trip [to somewhere far away]. A lot of parishes aren't able to do that and many teens and families aren't able to do that."

This local mission work also creates a sense of solidarity within our own Iowa communities, White added.

"There are people who are indeed right here in our own diocese that we could be reaching out to, and this is just another way of doing that," White said.

Lynda Marshall, director of religious education at St. Mary Parish in Shenandoah, said these experiences are good for kids.

"It builds character and really shows them another side of people and gets them outside of their box," Marshall said. "I think it's going to be a wonderful opportunity for them to get their feet wet with missionary work."

This local mission trip approach was modeled after similar mission trips held in the Diocese of Salina, Kansas.

Cost is \$80 per participant, and includes housing and all meals. To learn more and register contact White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5098 or visit www.dmdiocese.org/PrayerAndAction.

St. Francis Parish offers sign language ministry

Workshops and sign language at Sunday Mass are part of parish outreach

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines is now offering sign language at every Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass.

It all began when a family with a special needs child approached the pastor, Father Ray McHenry, inquiring about sign language at the parish.

"We thought it was the proper thing to do," Father McHenry said. "We could reach out to our parishioners to enhance their experience of celebrating Mass.

"It's also important for the parish," Father McHenry continued. "We're called to full and active participation in the liturgy. If some of those are not able to have full participation because of their hearing problems, this allows them to fully engage in the Mass. That's why it's important."

The response has been positive, said Jess Streit, special needs ministry coordinator at the parish.

"People absolutely love it," Streit said. "We have gotten so much great feedback about how beautiful it is and how it enhances their Mass to see the words...and they feel really good and inspired by their faith."

The parish has also started offering sign language workshops for anyone interested in attending. The first one was held in January.

"Everyone was invited to come to a free workshop, and two of our interpreters presented and taught them simple signs," Streit said. "We also went through a lot of the Mass responses."

It was a fun family event with kids learning alongside their parents.

"We just see it as one more opportunity to welcome all into the body of Christ, because we are all one body of Christ and if anyone is missing, then we're not whole...," Streit said.

"If there's a need out there and if there's someone who wants to be involved, we need to do our part to make sure they can participate and that they are welcome and invited, because that makes us all better," she said.

St. Francis has become the second parish to offer weekly sign language interpretation.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Des Moines has been offering sign language interpretation at a Sunday Mass for years.



Heidi Parrow offered sign language interpretation recently at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.



Jess Streit, special needs coordinator at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines, with Father Ray McHenry, the pastor. The two say reaching out to those with hearing impairments is important. St. Francis Parish now offers sign language every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Mass.

INCYC
NOVEMBER 21-23, 2019 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

From inspirational messages, trading hats and pins and spiritual moments that could change lives, teenagers say the National Catholic Youth Conference is an amazing experience.

NCYC is the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the country. The biennial, three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for teenagers and their adult chaperones can be a new moment in their relationship with Jesus.

This year's gathering is Nov. 21-23 in Indianapolis. Youth ministry leaders are taking registrations now.

At the last gathering, Sam Webster, of Panora, said he liked "seeing all these young Catholics across the country that share the same faith with me and hearing some of the awesome speakers."

Larissa Crawford, of Stuart, said, "I think my favorite part is being around all these Catholic teens and being able to express my faith."

Check out more Facebook live videos from the last gathering by going to [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese) and clicking on videos.

Registration can be completed through youth ministry leaders or through Justin White, diocesan director of Youth Ministry. He can be reached at 515-237-5098 or jwhite@dmdiocese.org. For more information, go to dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/youth-and-young-adults/youth-ministry/ncyc

If you're looking for Lenten retreats, contact John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org. He is offering several options for parishes or groups.

FOCUS brings joy of gospel to college students amidst many temptations

FOCUS missionaries currently work at Drake University and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Des Moines

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Before coming to Des Moines, Brianna Intrieri was studying at the University of Pittsburgh.

A friend recommended she check out the Catholic Newman Center and FOCUS – the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

FOCUS is a Catholic collegiate outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel with college students.

“I hadn’t been practicing my faith but I had a friend who was...,” Intrieri said. “She gave my phone number to a FOCUS missionary and he texted me and invited me to play soccer with a group of people.”

Though she didn’t think the people would be “cool,” she decided to go because she loved the sport.

“To my surprise there was a big group of Catholic people and they were so normal, and I became friends with them just through playing soccer,” Intrieri continued. “They didn’t have an agenda for me, they just encountered me and got to know who I was.”

One of those people invited her to Bible study.

“At this time I wasn’t practicing my faith,” Intrieri said. “But I really liked the people I was spending time with. I started going to the Bible study and the women really challenged me in my faith. I was living without knowing there was a God who loved and cared about me. And from then on it was in the Lord’s hands.”

She fell in love with everything FOCUS offered. And after graduating pre-med, she became a full-time FOCUS mis-

sionary to help other struggling women better know God and understand his love for them.

FOCUS sent her to Des Moines, where she began serving college students at Drake University and St. Catherine of Siena’s Newman Center across the street.

“I knew it was the Lord’s will...,” Intrieri said. “It was the craziest and easiest thing I could say yes to.

“Life without knowing God is tough,” she continued. “It’s very challenging – especially in college, when it’s such a time for growth and challenge and your beliefs and character are being tested.

“We’re all made to live with the Lord at the center of [our] lives, and it’s easy to put friends at the center...,” she added. “It’s not as easy to get through college without the Lord.”

She works with a team of three FOCUS missionaries who are recent college graduates. Two are from Minnesota, one is from Nebraska.

Their work involves encountering students and inviting them into friendship through social activities and hanging out, which could include going to the gym or getting coffee.

After creating a friendship, the FOCUS missionaries begin inviting students into prayer, Bible study, Mass and more. Eventually, they encourage some of the students to lead Bible studies and build them up to be leaders.

Olivia Ring is also a FOCUS missionary at Drake University. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she first met students involved with FOCUS.

“I saw that they had a light and joy about them,” Ring said, which attracted her to FOCUS events and activities.

She became more in-



The four focus missionaries serving at Drake University and St. Catherine of Siena Newman Center are Luke Kubic, Brianna Intrieri, Olivia Ring and Joel Bittner. Also pictured is Father Mark Owusu, who said the missionaries are extremely helpful because they have a deeper understanding of the college student’s worldview.

involved with FOCUS her junior year of college and began leading a Bible study for freshman women.

“These experiences made it clear to me that [evangelization] is a call for everyone in the Catholic Church, myself included,” Ring said. “The Good News needs to be shared.”

Father Mark Owusu, pastor of St. Catherine Parish, said he greatly appreciates the partnership he has with the FOCUS missionaries.

“Many of the FOCUS missionaries are right out of college,” Father Owusu said. “They have a deeper understanding of college worldview, campus life and student ministry. They can relate well to students at Drake University. They can assist with the ministry of presence and offer authentic friendship that is very core to ministry at St. Catherine of Siena.”

Being a missionary allows them to witness the work of God firsthand.

“The greatest joy of being involved in FOCUS is that I have the honor of seeing how God works in the lives of students on campus,” Ring continued. “It is so exciting when a student will share something that stood out to them in prayer, they realize how much God loves them or they step outside of their comfort zone and invite someone to Mass or Bible study.”

Learn more about FOCUS at focus.org.

Meet the FOCUS Missionaries of Des Moines



Luke Kubic

Hometown: Coon Rapids, MN

College: Graduated from St. Mary’s College with a degree in sports management and marketing

Greatest joy of FOCUS?

“The greatest has been the growth in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ and being able to share my journey with students on campus. Being able to pray a holy hour and attend Mass every day has been a blessing that is hard to put into words. It has changed my life.”



Olivia Ring

Hometown: Savage, MN

College: Graduated from University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in special and elementary education

What made you decide to become a FOCUS missionary?

“My involvement with FOCUS allowed me to see how simple and relationship-based sharing the Gospel could be, and I knew that I wanted to continue sharing it through FOCUS.”



Joel Bittner

Hometown: Lincoln, NE

College: Graduated from University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in mathematics and education

Greatest joy of FOCUS?

“Seeing the joy in the students as they come to know Jesus. College can be difficult and promotes many bad lifestyles. However, when students allow Jesus in their lives they find truth, beauty and goodness despite the evil. There’s nothing better than seeing college students live fully alive in Christ.”



Brianna Intrieri

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

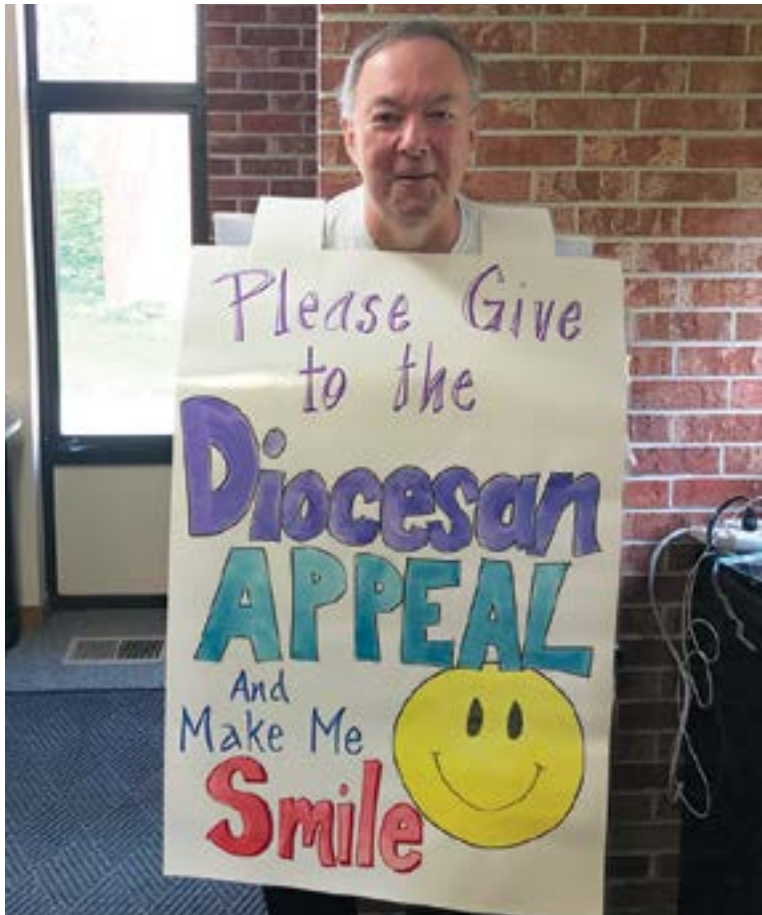
College: Graduated from University of Pittsburgh with a degree in pre-med

Greatest joy of FOCUS?

“Walking alongside of women as they begin to let Jesus lead their life. In college I lived without the Lord and when I invited him into my life, everything changed for the better. Now I am able to share in that walk with others and it is my greatest joy.”



Parish has great ADA success



Father John Harmon, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale uses humor to capture parishioners' attention when asking for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. He is also open, honest and transparent about the need.

Continued from page 1

confirm young people, install new priests, celebrate Mass and much more.

"Who's paying his gasoline bill?" Father Harmon said. "Who's paying his car insurance and all the various expenses that Bishop Pates has?"

These are just some of the many activities supported by the ADA:

- The diocese pays for the priests' health insurance and retirement.

- The diocese also has a need for more priests. It costs nearly \$40,000 per year for each seminarian's education. The diocese currently has 16 seminarians. Two of them – Nick Stark and Jake Epstein – are from St. Pius X Parish.

- A portion of the funds from the Annual Diocesan Appeal goes to Catholic Charities, which helps feed, clothe, shelter and counsel those in need in the community.

Father Harmon isn't above holding signs and baskets in the gathering space after Mass.

He also spends a lot of time making phone calls, ringing doorbells and sitting down with parishioners to ask for their donation.

In 2018, the parish was \$31,000 above goal, said Father David Fleming, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale. The overages were rolled into the parish's operational funds and will help with next year's budget.

That's a giant leap from the past. Before the increased focus on outreach and home visits, the parish had a \$20,000-\$30,000 deficit with the ADA, Father Harmon said.

"And now it's just the opposite – they're coming in droves," Father Harmon said. "People have just been incredible."

Father Fleming is overwhelmed and humbled by people's generosity.

"We let them know that this is important for all of us, and we give too," Father Fleming added.

"We don't make apologies for asking – this is what it takes to be a family of faith together," he continued. "We have that obligation to give as we can and what we can and whatever way we can."

"You let people know from your heart that these bills need to be paid, we need priests – there's no wasting of your money," Father Harmon concluded.

Young Catholic: Giving is important

Loral Rainey gives of her time, talent and treasure

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Loral Rainey, who is part of the millennial generation, was born and raised Catholic. She attended St. Pius X Parish and school in Urbandale and graduated from Dowling Catholic High School in 2003.

"My family was always very involved in the church," Rainey said. "I watched my parents involved in different committees and serve on the school board and things like that. We were always at church, and faith was always an important part of our life."

When Rainey became an adult, she made the faith her own. That included giving of her time, talent and treasure.

"To me, it's important because I want to have a vibrant church and a church that's active and a sense of community, so that

people of all ages want to be a part of our Catholic Church..." said Rainey, who now attends St. Augustin Catholic Church in Des Moines. "And [hopefully they] feel that there is a place for them and that they can be a part of the community."

She gives back by serving on the Diocesan Young Adult Council and volunteering in her parish's youth group.

"That's important to me, because I think we can always find ways to reach out to more people, whether it's people who have left the Catholic Church or people who have never been a part of it," Rainey added.

In addition to giving of her time and talents, Rainey also gives of her financial resources, increasing her donation each year. Last year she gave \$400 to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

"It's important," Rainey said. "Operationally, it's how our diocese can succeed. We need



Loral Rainey of St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines said it's important for her to give.

[donations] to survive.

"At the end of the day, the diocese is a business, and it can't function if we don't support it monetarily," Rainey continued. "It supports our priests and their medical and retirement, administrative costs and outreach."

Schools plan forges collaboration

Continued from page 1

The plan was shared at a Schools Summit March 7, open to pastors, educators, school board members and anyone interested in the future direction of Catholic schools.

The plan explains that the Des Moines metro area has 11 Catholic elementary schools with enrollment of 3,808 students and one Catholic high school with enrollment of 1,406 students this school year. Each grade school is an individual entity supported by one or more parishes, all pursuing a similar mission to educate students.

The plan's bottom line says it is time to look seriously at how schools working together versus individually might produce better results given the challenges they face, according to Meitler consultants.

Areas that may be addressed through greater collaboration include:

- Branding/marketing
- Setting tuition and changing funding model
- Funding tuition assistance
- Fundraising/major gift initiatives/planned giving/endowments

- Transforming teacher/administration compensation with equity for all schools

- Training and supporting school boards for strong governance

- An aligned K-12 academic program creating accelerated and advanced paths for students

- Continually exploring innovative and relevant academic programs

- Enhancing professional development

- Technology expertise, technical and instructional support

- Purchasing curriculum, technology, etc.

With this phase of process completed, it's time to take the next step in determining how the schools can partner together to achieve efficiencies and excellence, said Dr. Jerry Deegan, chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

"This is the why and the what, and now we move toward the how," he said.

The plan has the support of Bishop Richard Pates.

"It is a strong plan. I think it bodes well for the future," he said at the Schools Summit. "I strongly endorse its

implementation. I think this plan is the way to go forward."

Father Joe Pins, of St. Joseph Parish and School in Des Moines, explained to the crowd at the summit why collaboration makes sense.

"We're best when we work together, when we break down those barriers," he told the crowd. "We are one."

The regional schools together are focusing on the same mission of creating and sustaining a Catholic culture that involves everyone so that graduates are joy-filled missionary disciples of Christ, he said. He encouraged using high standards to drive all subjects and said Catholic education is a primary mission of the entire diocese.

"The plan is a statement of what needs to happen to fulfill our new vision," said diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday.

The next steps, moving toward implementation of the plan, will involve many meetings with focus groups and various stakeholders to seek feedback, she said.

The plan is available at dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/strategic-plan.



Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins

Left to right: Diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday; Father P.J. McManus, of Christ the King Church and School in Des Moines; and Misty Hade, principal of St. Francis of Assisi School in West Des Moines.

Carlisle parish breaks ground this weekend on initial phase of expansion

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish excited about added space for activities, worship

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlisle is breaking ground this Sunday on its initial phase of expansion.

Phase 1 includes:

- Larger entry and gathering space
- West-side entrance
- Larger, handicap accessible bathrooms
- Large janitorial, storage and mechanical space
- New parking spaces on the south side of the parking lot
- Septic system (to support the entire future parish facility)
- New 6-inch water main for future sprinklers
- Moving the sacristy
- Necessary dirt work prep for building the new hall

Later, Phase 2 will focus on the new sanctuary and Phase 3 on new classrooms.

Carlisle is a rapidly growing community, and over the last two years the parish grew by 45 families, said Father Jim Kirby, pastor of the parish.

Eleven couples were also married at the church, which is an increase.

“With the growth and the

needs of the overall parish, we definitely need to expand,” Father Kirby said.

Without expanding, the parish will struggle to accommodate.

“We are severely handicapped by not having the facilities we need to worship, celebrate and educate our youth,” Father Kirby continued.

Currently, the parish hall is connected to the sanctuary. The overflow are seated in the parish hall.

“[For events] there has to be a big changeover,” said Amy Bishop, a member of the capital campaign steering committee. “We have to take up all the seats, change the tables.”

The lack of space impacts the many events they hold at the church for the communities of Carlisle and Pleasantville.

“There’s no place in Carlisle that can accommodate wedding receptions...and it’s important for our parish to be able to gather as a community outside of our liturgies,” Father Kirby said.

The parish has already raised \$1.2 million of its capital campaign goal and has another \$1



Father Jim Kirby, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlisle, said expansion is necessary at the parish to meet the growing needs of the communities of Carlisle and Pleasantville.

million to raise, said Amy Bishop, a member of the parish’s capital campaign steering committee.

“Our intent is to continue to aggressively pursue the building of the parish hall and be ready

to build the church soon,” Father Kirby said.

The enthusiasm amongst parishioners is high and their excitement and momentum is great, both Father Kirby and Bishop

agreed.

Learn more and make an online donation at stelizabethcarlisle.com.

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Lynnette Otero is a speaker, the author of *Feeling Joy Again*, and operator of her Health and Wellness Consulting business. Having lost her husband to cancer, she and her family live life to the fullest, expectant of great tomorrows.



Lisa Schmidt is a freelance writer, speaker, and founder of The Well women’s ministry. She is devoted to improving quality of life for others and has a heart for building community.

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Register for the annual convention of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at www.desmoinesdcccw.org or contact Carolyn at 712-527-4206. \$25 registration includes breakfast and lunch.

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Clean Hearts Initiative helps those struggling with pornography

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Through his work as a spiritual director and consultant to church professionals, Tom Green has been asked about resources for those dealing with pornography.

His eyes were opened to the problem pornography plays in the lives of many people be they young or mature, married or single.

To better understand the issue, he read the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Response to Pornography." In response to the pastoral letter, Green discovered a plethora of resources that were either difficult to find, to navigate or were outdated.

"The problem of pornography has been created by society, but society is not keeping up with offering solutions to address the problem or help heal broken lives, relationships and marriages," he said.

Through his firm Gateways Pastoral Resources, Green

has worked closely with dioceses and parishes on a number of projects. He saw an opportunity to offer help to those on the "front lines" to reach and minister more effectively and compassionately to those hurt by pornography.

Green, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, founded Clean Hearts Initiative, which produced a new web portal that aggregates the most current and helpful resources for those struggling with or affected by pornography use. The site is Create-CleanHearts.org.

Catholic dioceses can subscribe to the web portal, offering easy one-stop access to resources, thereby getting services, tools and expert support they can publish on their websites or other platforms. The site saves time for individual pastors, spiritual directors, directors of religious education and faith formation professionals from having to sift through countless websites, podcasts, counseling services, books and articles.

While the subscription is most cost effective if a diocese subscribes and shares it with all

of its parishes, individual parishes are welcome to subscribe.

Green said, together with collaborator Kathy Fech, "We are committed to curating – evaluating, organizing and explaining all necessary tools – saving valuable staff time and budgets" by directing subscribers to resources that are proven to be effective.

Only resources that align with the Catholic faith and Christian values are offered.

Their goal is to provide information that helps individuals, couples and families.

"We want to help people who often struggle and suffer in secrecy, learn about pornography, how to break free and get help. We believe that, in addition to the sacraments, our recommended resources can create pathways to heal themselves and their relationships, protection and accountability to remain free and support restoring their relationships with God."

For more information, contact Green at 515-229-6072 or Tom@createcleanhearts.org.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

The Iowa Catholic Conference and bishops of Iowa hosted a legislative breakfast on Feb. 19. The bishops took time to visit with legislators about the issues.

Iowa Catholic Conference legislative update

By Tom Chapman
Contributing Writer

The first legislative "funnel" deadline, when bills needed to be passed out of committee in order to be considered for the rest of the year, was March 8. Here is where several bills stand.

Death Penalty

A bill to bring the death penalty back to Iowa passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 7. All Democrats and two Republicans voted no. Senate File 296 would provide for the death penalty for murder in the first degree offenses involving kidnapping and sexual abuse offenses against the same victim who is a minor.

Please contact your Senator in opposition. There is an alert and sample message at vocter-voice.net/ICC/campaigns/64121/ respond. The Iowa Catholic Conference has a resource page on the death penalty at iowacatholicconference.org/issues/human-life-and-dignity/death-penalty/.

Education Savings Accounts

For the first time an Iowa legislative committee has passed an Education Savings Account bill. The Senate Education Committee approved SF 547 on March 6 to provide ESAs in the amount of about \$4,000 for parents of children with special needs. Thanks for Sen. Jerry Behn (R-Boone) for shepherding the bill through committee.

ESAs allow parents who choose not to enroll their children in a public school to receive a deposit of public funds into a savings account set up by the state. This money could be used by parents for Catholic school tuition and some other education expenses including tutoring.

Regarding some bills the ICC supports:

- SJR 21, proposing that the Constitution of the State of Iowa does not secure a right to or require the funding of abortion, passed the Senate State Government Committee
- HSB 68, to return voting rights

to people who are released from prison after a felony conviction, passed the House Judiciary Committee

- The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, SF 508, passed the Senate Local Government Committee
- SF 523, providing for additional penalties for pregnancy termination in contexts other than abortion (people attacking pregnant women), passed the Senate Judiciary Committee

• SSB 1038, a bill to address racial profiling in Iowa's justice system, did not move out of committee despite some last-minute efforts from NAACP and other advocates

• HF 455 would prohibit government from using hotels that do not receive certification on the prevention of human trafficking. There was a hearing on Wednesday but the bill didn't make it out of committee.

Regarding some bills the ICC opposes:

- HF 648, legalizing sports betting, passed the House State Government Committee.
- SF 516, relating to the employment of unauthorized aliens and mandating use of the federal "e-verify" system, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee
- SF 513 and HSB 214, bills to provide contraception without a prescription, were advanced out of committees in the House and Senate.

• HF 636, carrying guns in public places, passed the House Public Safety Committee.

• SF 406, which would collect data on all crimes committed by non-resident aliens, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. This new bill adds a new section to the "anti-sanctuary" cities law the ICC opposed last year.

• SF 538 passed the Senate Labor and Business Relations Committee. It puts additional work requirements on many Medicaid recipients. Obviously people should work if they are able, but the main concern with this legislation is that the additional requirements will cause families to lose their health care coverage.

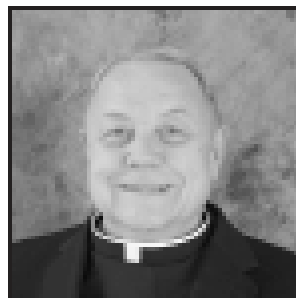
Chapman is executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference

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Special Needs Coordinator Position

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is looking to hire a Special Needs Ministry Coordinator. This position coordinates the parish's efforts in being a welcoming parish for persons with special needs and facilitates their needs being met by the parish. The person in this position coordinates the curriculum calendar and lesson plans for persons with special needs in the Youth and High School Faith Formation programs and is present on Wednesday evenings to ensure active participation of persons with special needs in catechesis. This coordinator also ensures the involvement in parish life of persons with special needs, influences the welcoming atmosphere of the parish, and guides staff and volunteers in meeting the needs of persons with special needs. Bachelor's degree in special education or related field is required and experience in serving students with challenging behavior is preferred. Experience in catechesis is preferred. The position requires 25 hours a week. Please send resume and references by March 29, 2019 to Christen Cota, the Director of Faith Formation at: 7075 Ashworth Road West Des Moines, IA 50266 ccota@saintfrancischurch.org

Retired federal investigator is focused on helping former inmates find success after prison

St. Vincent de Paul leadership is building re-entry program for men leaving prison

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

Jim Wachuta led an exciting career as a federal law enforcement officer for 31 years.

He investigated robberies in Chicago, assaults, homicides, and worked on such high profile cases as the Unabomber Ted Kaczynski and the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas.

Much of Wachuta's work ended with putting people in prison.

Now retired, Wachuta is focused on giving back and offering a helping hand to the same types of people he helped put away.

He is helping lead the way with SVDP's reentry program called IMMERSION, which focuses on building former inmates to think, act and behave more positively and productively through a focus on healthy relationships, employability, financial capability and stretching expectations.

SVDP in Des Moines developed IMMERSION nearly two years ago, thanks to a grant opportunity, said executive director Steve Havemann.

IMMERSION is a strategic approach to re-entry, Havemann said.

The services of IMMERSION are:

- Mentoring
- Employment
- Community partnerships
- 72 hours of transitional programming
- Education for Vincentians and volunteers
- Education for returning citizens and their families and loved ones
- Advocacy
- Housing

The IMMERSION model has been so successful that the national SVDP president approached Wachuta and Havemann, asking them to establish and co-chair a National Re-Entry Task Force and develop a national model that can be reproduced throughout the country.

"By developing a consistent, nationwide model, we can put together a much stronger program that can be modeled around the country," said Wachuta, a parishioner at All Saints Parish in Des Moines. "There's a lot of interest in this work and a lot of folks want to get involved, but they're not sure how.

"We're putting together a quality re-entry program with wrap-around services," Wachuta added, including food, education, clothing, financial assistance, childcare, educational classes and transportation assistance.

The Des Moines SVDP office has worked with 600 returning citizens over the past two years, Havemann said.

"Barriers were obtaining a driver's license and re-connecting with family," Havemann said.

Finding employment after felony charges is also a barrier.

"So we've tried to work strategically with local employers who are flexible and willing to hire those individuals and get back them to work," he said.

"We know that there's a lot of individuals coming out of incarceration and [building] healthy relationships at home and at work has been a real challenge, as well as financial literacy, basic spending plans, and how to protect yourself from re-offending when you're earning income," Havemann added.

Randi Radosevich, resource director at SVDP, works closely with the inmates at the prisons in Fort Dodge, Rockwell City and Clarinda before they make the transition back into society.

Before being released, they will have served anywhere from six months to 15 years in prison, Radosevich said. For many, this is not their first trip to prison.

"They are very nervous [about being released]..." Radosevich said. "A lot of the inmates... [worry about] making their own schedules and paying bills."

Despite their past mistakes, they are treated as equals.

"Everybody treats them with dignity," Radosevich said. "They are treated the same as a customer walking in the door at the SVDP Thrift Store, and they are always very gracious."

It's the right thing to do, Wachuta said.

"The Lord believes in second chances," Wachuta said. "He forgives people. The Lord was imprisoned. And one of the [criminals] the Lord hung on the cross with asked Jesus to accept him. And he said, 'You will see me in heaven before the day is over.'"

Learn more about SVDP at svdpdsm.org.



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Steve Havemann, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, and Jim Wachuta of All Saints Parish in Des Moines, are co-chairs of SVDP's National Re-Entry Task Force to help prisoners with successful re-entry into society. They created a national model that will be reproduced throughout the country.

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Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death.

In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence,

and protect me by your power against the enemies of your salvation.

Into your sacred hands, living and dying, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.

Amen

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En las Tierras del Corazón Con el Obispo Pates

Centro de la vida familiar... misa dominical

Un amigo mío que tiene tres hijos me comentaba que está extrañado que muchos de sus contemporáneos que se toman muy a la ligera, si acaso, el cumplir con su responsabilidad de asistir a Misa los domingos con su familia. Él se pregunta el por qué sus prioridades son diferentes a las suyas. La prioridad para él es la reunión dominical con su comunidad de fe. Todas las demás actividades se acomodan después.

Aquellos que no asisten a Misa mencionan juegos y actividades de sus hijos, las cuales parecen tener precedente. Otros señalan la oportunidad de tomarse tiempo libre y descansar en medio una vida ajetreada. Algunos mencionaron algún incidente o reacción a la Iglesia en general o algún sacerdote en una parroquia. Unos más admitirán con cierta culpa “perdí el hábito” y no he vuelto a hacer lo que era tan valioso en mi vida.

Sorprendentemente, pero afortunadamente, estos padres envían a sus hijos a escuelas católicas y a educación religiosa. Aun así, incumplen en dar seguimiento con la práctica de alabar al Dios que los ama, en el ciclo semanal de la Misa Dominical.

Desde los principios de la Iglesia, se establecieron días apostólicos en la práctica del “Día



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

del Señor.” Cada domingo, se hacía memoria sobre la muerte y resurrección del Señor Jesús o se reconocía de alguna forma. Esto se convirtió en su principal “boletín” en su camino hacia la vida eterno con el Dios eterno.

Aunque la Iglesia sostiene que la Misa en domingo es una obligación seria para todos nosotros, es de vital importancia que también podamos reconocer el significado, valor y belleza de la liturgia para que nos sintamos atraídos a su significado y al magnetismo de su espíritu.

La primera parte de la Misa, la Liturgia de la Palabra, proclama la mente y el corazón de Dios. No es simplemente el relato de la historia de los israelitas o de los cristianos. Por el poder del Espíritu, es la proclamación de la Palabra de Dios al momento en que toca nuestras vidas en el llamado a la conversión. Se nos invita a adaptar correctamente nuestras vidas de modo que puedan estar en línea con la voluntad de Dios. ¿Quién de nosotros no necesita de esa guía?

La segunda parte de la Misa es la liturgia de la Eucaristía. Es ahí, en cumplimiento con la Última Cena, el pan se transforma en el cuerpo de Cristo y el vino es su mismísima sangre. La muerte y la resurrección de Jesús, el misterio Pascual, se hace presente, no repetido. Y nosotros, el pueblo sacerdotal, nos convertimos en uno junto con Jesús en el ofrecimiento del sacrificio hacia el Padre, por medio del cual nos ganamos la salvación.

Entonces, desde el altar del sacrificio nos alimentamos con el cuerpo y la sangre mismos de Jesús. Este maravilloso regalo personal nos une en el Señor, para ser su cuerpo presente en el mundo. Tenemos el reto de eliminar el mal y de promover el amor, la verdad, la justicia y la paz. Más aún, a nivel personal, al consumir el pan nutritivo de Jesús, asumimos sus atributos – bondad, compasión, perdón, generosidad, entendimiento, abnegación, sacrificio – eso que nos hace santos.

Ciertamente, tenemos que atender esos asuntos y otras prioridades que interfieren con nuestra Misa dominical. ¿No comenzarían éstos a desvanecerse al enfrentar el beneficio y significado de la Eucaristía, de la Misa dominical? Literalmente, no puedo pensar en 100 razones

que puedan tener prioridad por encima de la asistencia regular a Misa los domingos.

Las familias que hacen la Misa del domingo algo central en su vida común, se benefician de una rutina regular de asistir a la misma Misa cada semana. Esto promueve una conexión con miembros y actividades comunes de la parroquia, creando comunidad que es el tema central y característico de la vida de una parroquia.

Recientemente en mis viajes de fines de semana, he vivido maravillosos momentos en la celebración de la liturgia. Éstos fueron verdaderamente motivantes.

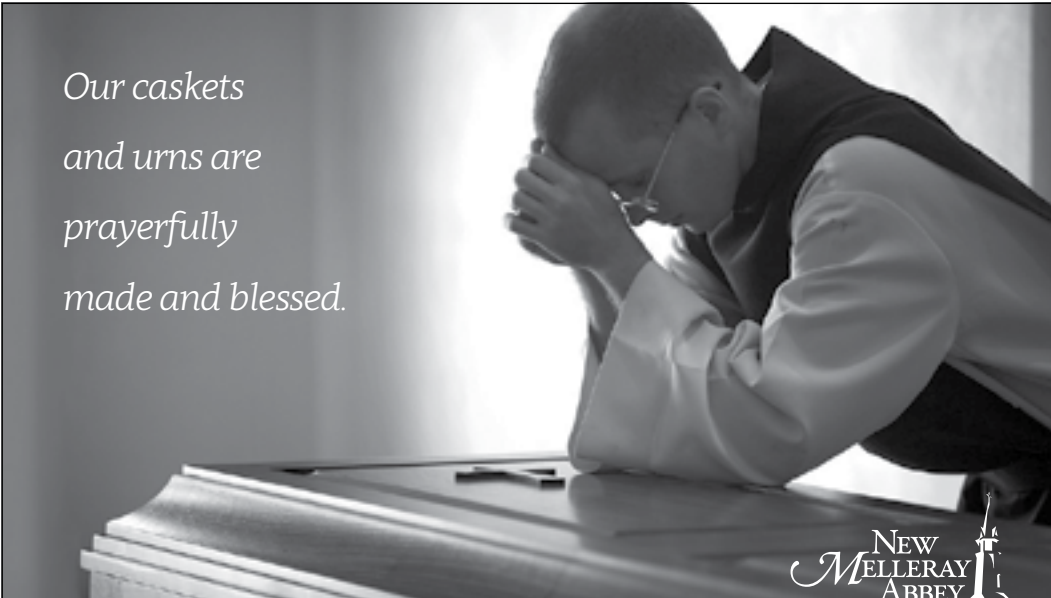
En las comunidades rurales de Imogene, Adair y Leon, la Misa del domingo se centra alrededor de las familias y el desarrollo de la fe. Las familias se reúnen en un Misa dominical que está planeada para incluir la participación de personas de todas las edades. Después de Misa hay algún desayuno, generalmente preparado por los Caballeros de Colón y que disfrutaban especialmente los niños con sus amigos. La mañana concluye con formación de fe. Para la mayoría de las y, especialmente

para los jóvenes, la mañana es el momento especial de la semana.

En un fin de semana reciente, tuve la gran alegría de vivir confirmación en cuatro parroquias: Audubon, Woodbine, Dunlap y las parroquias del Condado de Shelby en Harlan. Las Misas se celebraron especialmente por nuestros confirmandos de preparatoria. La oración se sentía con mucho espíritu, ánimo, reverencia y compromiso. Oramos como familias a una sola voz. Podía ver como se actualizaba la visión eterna del Concilio Vaticano Segundo en la plena, activa y consciente participación de toda la comunidad de oración.

Mi amigo tiene un punto extraordinariamente importante que es esencial para que la Misa dominical sea Prioridad Número Uno en la vida familiar. Al inicio, puede que la generación más joven proteste. Tarde o temprano, tengo la esperanza, vendrán a comprender que es un regalo “eterno.” Hago un firme exhorto a esas familias que no participan en la liturgia dominical a que lo hagan. ¿Hay algún mejor lugar en donde estar durante las temporadas de Cuaresma y Pascua?

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Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

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

Winterset Knights of Columbus raise funds for the needy in the community



The Winterset Knights of Columbus held a Valentine's Day Gala Feb. 16, raising \$12,633 for the St. Joseph Community Compassion Fund, which helps those in need in the community. The fund provides for such needs as gas, groceries, utility bills and medical equipment.

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services. He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or advocate@dmdiocese.org.



news & events for faithful listeners

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Pope Francis called on "holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God's plan and to be an example for other families"

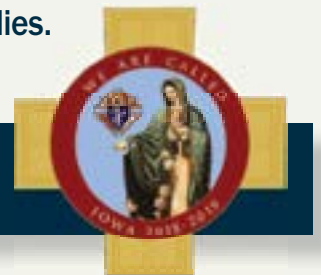
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