

Administration

Religious Retirement Collection

Attached is Bishop Pates' letter and the transmittal form for the Religious Retirement Collection scheduled for Dec. 8 and 9. Thank you for your support of this collection.

Communications

The Catholic Mirror

Recent editions of The Catholic Mirror [can be found here](#) on the new website.

In the Heartland With Bishop Pates

Get caught up on [recent radio shows](#) hosted by Bishop Pates here.

Promoting events/guest speakers

Friendly Reminder: We will check with the bishop's office to see if a Letter of Suitability/Letter of Good Standing is there before promoting events in which someone from outside the diocese is coming to teach about the faith. For more information, parishes can contact [Angie](#).

Column available for parishes

Tony Magliano: [Lessons learned in mission land](#). We have permission to reprint this column.

Evangelization & Catechesis

Deaf Ministry

Share the news

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center (on the Drake Campus) is the home of the Catholic deaf community. Sign language is available every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Visitors are welcome and appreciated to continue building this community and making the Gospel accessible to our sisters and brothers in Christ. For more information, contact [Peggy Chicoine](#).

Youth Ministry

Prayer and Action Summer Diocesan Mission

Registration and Mission Team applications for this summer's diocesan mission, "Prayer and Action" are up and ready to go. Check out [our website](#) for all the information.

Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Advent Reflection Series

During Advent, the diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry blog page, called "To Reconcile All Things", will be hosting a series of Advent reflections written by young adults in the Diocese of Des Moines. The first one went up on Monday, Dec. 3. Each of the following will be up every Sunday afternoon through the Dec. 23. Check them out [here](#)!

Campus Ministry

Father Mark Owusu and Grand Knight Alex Peters, for Council 14977 Drake, participated in the national Knights of Columbus College Council Convention. Peters brought back new ideas and is partnering with Campus Ministry on social justice volunteerism, recognizing International Day of Persons with Disabilities and other special programs.

((PHOTO OF FR. MARK & ALEX PETERS))

Students from Drake University and Des Moines University received personalized spiritual direction during our Busy Students Retreat at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center. The Retreat included extra personal prayer time, adoration, reconciliation and Candlelight Mass together. Thank you to our spiritual directors: Msgr. Larry Beeson; Msgr. Ed Hurley; Fathers Gene Koch, Ken Gross and John Ludwig; Deacon Rick Condon; Victoria Carver and Tom Green.

((PHOTO 0044 OF VICTORIA & STUDENT)) ((PHOTO 0041 OF MSGR. HURLEY & STUDENTS))

Finance & Technology

Finance

Quarterly Business Office Forums

Thank you to all of the parish/school office staff who attended the quarterly Business Office Forums held on Nov. 29 at Sacred Heart in West Des Moines and on Dec. 4 at St. Patrick in Council Bluffs. If you were unable to attend, the handouts will be posted on the diocesan [website](#) next week. Please contact us with any questions or comments.

Clergy Housing Letters

Don't forget to have your parish Finance Council approve the 2019 calendar year housing allowance for your clergy. **This must be approved and documented in the council minutes and a letter must be provided to the priest or deacon before the start of the calendar year.** If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Finance Department at 515-237-5028.

Year-End Reminders

Remember to begin ordering W-2s and 1099s, update any W-9s on file, and complete any clean-up so that your office is ready for the new calendar year.

Technology

New Technology Coordinator

Please welcome Greg Miller to the role of technology coordinator at the diocese. Greg's first day was Nov. 26. You can reach him by phone at 515-237-5007 or by [email](#).

ParishSOFT Year-End Resources

ParishSOFT offers free online training and resources to help your parish wrap up 2018 accurately and efficiently. Check out their end-of-year webinar [here](#).

Hispanic Ministry

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Celebrations for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe around the Diocese of Des Moines are in the attached pdf file.

Dowling Catholic High School will celebrate the feast on Dec. 12 at the school's St. Joseph Chapel with a procession and Mass with Bishop Pates at 3:30, dedication of a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a reception following.

Posadas

Posadas is a traditional Advent celebration that Franciscan missionaries developed in Central and South America to introduce the faith. It is still very popular in many Central and South American countries. We would like to share [a resource](#) developed by the Knights of Columbus to celebrate posadas in your communities and integrate the Latino community.

Natural Family Planning in Spanish

Contact: Jose Miguel y Ana Luisa de la Cruz at 515-771-9057 if you would like to host a class in Spanish in your parish.

Radio Shows in Spanish

We invite you to listen radio programs in Spanish:

Fortaleciendo Nuestra Fe	Saturdays at noon	La Reina 1260AM – 96.5FM Lareina1260.com
Proclamando la Grandeza del Señor	Saturdays at 10 a.m.	La que Buena 106.9FM y 14.90AM
La Hora de Cristo Rey	Thursdays at noon	La Ley 105.5 FM
Alegre la Mañana	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	La Reina 1260AM – 96.5FM
No temas	Domingos 10:30 a.m.	Iowa Catholic Radio

Social Media

Please visit the diocesan Facebook page in Spanish. Diócesis de Des Moines and give us a like.

Human Resources

Please come to [our website](#) to see the positions open at the St. Thomas More Center and the diocese.

Marriage and Family Life

Is anyone in YOUR family DIVORCED?

Please give someone a copy of this ad or invite them to *The Catholic's DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide* 12- week group which begins Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at St Augustin Parish. Cost of \$30 per person includes a "Personal Survival Guide" and all materials for 12 weeks. Find comfort and counsel

consistent with Catholic teachings. Call Bill and Ann Moore for more information, or to register, at 515-480-3314 (Bill) 641-425-0109 (Ann) or [email them](#). For more information [visit the website](#).

Schools

Celebrating Advent

Catholic school students are celebrating Advent with special Advent prayers and activities to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. In addition, many second grade students are preparing to receive the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time during Advent.

Catholic Schools Week

Schools are gearing up for Catholic Schools Week, which will be held during Jan. 27-Feb. 2. During the week, schools will hold open houses and a variety of events to celebrate and inform others of our great schools.

In addition, Bishop Pates will be celebrating Mass on Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. at St. Augustin to honor school faculty, staff, and administrators for their years of service. Bishop will celebrate Mass at St. Albert at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 31.

Strategic Planning

Meitler Consultants will be in Des Moines the first week of December to meet with the Blue Ribbon Task Force, Executive Committee and pastors with schools in the Des Moines Metro area.

Stewardship

Preparations for the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal

The 2019 ADA kicks off March 2-3. Parishes are working diligently to review and update the target levels for their parishioners. An email was sent to each parish in early November outlining this request along with a parish information form to be completed and returned **by Friday, Dec. 14**. If you did not receive the email or have further questions, please contact the stewardship office.

Sharing God's Gifts Campaign Wraps Up

The five-year SGG campaign is coming to a close. The stewardship office is sending out 1,400 letters before the end of the calendar year to parish and diocesan donors with pledge balances to encourage remittance. The letters contain dual signatures from your pastor and the bishop and outline the specific ways in which SGG funds have been stewarded. Thank you for your assistance!

New Instructions for Gifts of Stock

Diocesan stock transfer instructions have been updated. To assist a donor with a gift of stock for a diocesan campaign, please reference the new stock transfer instructions available on [our website](#).

Save the Date – 38th Annual Project HOPE Appeal

The annual collection for the Project HOPE (Help our Parents Educate) scholarship program will be gathered the weekend of Jan. 26-27 to coincide with Catholic Schools Week. The worship aid, collection transmittal form, and in-pew envelopes will be provided to each parish in early January. Thank you for encouraging the generosity of your parishioners!

Vocations

Ordination to the Priesthood

We invite everyone to join us for the ordination of Deacon Ryan Andrew to the priesthood on Friday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines. Flyer of invitation can be found in Bulletin Announcements.

Bishop's Discernment Retreat

This is a unique opportunity, Dec. 21-23, for men who are high school **seniors** or older thinking about priesthood. Is Christ calling you to join the seminary? Please join us at this retreat with Bishop Pates and seminarians to ask Christ personally! Email [Vocations Director Father Ross Parker](#) or call 515-237-5050. Registration form can be found in Bulletin Announcements.

Prayers of the Faithful

Please pray for vocations during Mass using prayers of the faithful found [on our website](#).

BIRTHDAYS

December

Koch, Eugene R.	3
Smith, David L. SJ	3
Daniel, Ambrose Ladu	7
Peters, Michael G.	15
Adibe, Anthony CSsp	15
Mejia, Luis Mejia	17
Krettek, Daniel F.	25
Charron, Joseph L.	30
Wilwerding, Glen	30

January

Freeman, James A.	1
Masabakhwa, Raphael	8
Berner, Michael B.	9
Beeson, Lawrence A.	9
Abdelsamad, Bashir Eldaw	17
Siepker, Daniel	20
Bognanno, Frank E.	21
Orr, Stephen L.	27
Kirby, James	28
Appiagyei-Boakye, Bright	29

ANNIVERSARIES

December

Harris, Robert	14
Livingstone, James	20
Kunnel, Thomas TOR	26

January

McNeil, Joel	1
Garcia-Elizalde, Enrique	6

Other Organizations

Beginning Experience

Beginning Experience Open House will meet on three Friday nights; Dec. 14, Dec. 21 and Jan. 4. The meeting time is at 7 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church Hall in Des Moines.

What if the worst thing you think could happen and does, like you are widowed, separated or divorced? What if life changes in the blink of an eye? How do you cope? How do you deal with the grief, loss and pain? Beginning Experience can help. You don't have to suffer alone. We have walked through similar feelings which you are facing in your life. We are willing to walk with you in this journey discovering a new hope and meaningful life. The open house gives beginning steps of healing and is also an invitation to attend our weekend of Jan. 18-20. If you wish to know more about the healing process, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Benedictine Oblates

Please share with your parish that Oblates of Conception Abbey meet monthly in Des Moines to study the Rule of St. Benedict as a means of fostering their own spiritual growth. Anyone interested is invited to the meeting Jan. 27, 2:30-5 p.m. at the Basilica of St. John for a potluck (bring a dish to share), discussion and vespers. Benedictine Father Daniel Petsche will present a program. Questions can be directed to [George Appleby by email](#).

Catholic Charities

No Room at the Inn

Thanks to all who supported No Room at the Inn! We are so grateful to all of our sponsors. All the proceeds for No Room benefit the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter. Sponsors are: Mercy, Decorated Occasions, Christiani's Catering, Splash Seafood Bar & Grill, Ball Team, Jim and Jeanne O'Halloran, Joe & Betsy Happe, Ryan Staiert Interior Design, Walsh Door and Security.

New Catholic Charities Development Director

We are pleased to announce the employment of Debra Powers, director of

Development for Catholic Charities. Deb begins her employment today. She has extensive and diverse background in nonprofit fundraising, donor and board engagement, planned giving, organizational and strategic planning, and related areas of expertise. Among her varied experiences, Deb has successfully led annual fund campaigns, secured new major donors, and provided oversight in the areas of donor cultivation and stewardship. In the past 14 years, Deb has demonstrated a strong focus in the areas of development and fundraising which will contribute to her new role at Catholic Charities. She is a graduate of Marycrest College in Davenport with an undergraduate degree in communications and public relations. Deb conveys a warm, engaging, and positive spirit. In her letter of application, Deb stated, "I have a strong connection to Catholic Charities...my passion for the organization is genuine." She has relocated to Des Moines from Eastern Iowa. Please join us in welcoming Deb to her new position at Catholic Charities.

Retirement Wishes

Two of our long-standing staff members have announced their retirement from Catholic Charities this winter. Ken Bresnan, Parish Outreach Liaison, has been with the agency for over eight years. He has contributed many hours on the road visiting parishes, coordinating volunteer and collection drives, and advocating for those in need.

Pat Nestvedt, Director of Programs has been with Catholic Charities for over 15 years. His role evolved over the years. Currently, he oversees accreditation, compliance, grants, and programs. Congratulations and many thanks to Ken and Pat for their dedicated service to the mission of Catholic Charities and those we serve! Both will retire in late December.

Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa

The CFSWIA is working to make the community aware of the opportunity for any individual to donate to any Catholic parish, school, or organization within the Diocese of Des Moines on this list at any time. This list can be viewed and donations can be made [on our website](#).

Center for Social Ministry

Center for Social Ministry offers JustFaith – Winter 2019

JustFaith is designed for people who want to live more simply, love more compassionately, and make a difference by responding to the needs of the world. This small group program will help you explore today's issues through the lens of your faith and formulate a personal/group response. Through prayer, engaging reading, thought-provoking dialogue and relationship building, you'll share a journey of faith that invites you to consider how you can "be the change" in our world.

[Learn More](#)

[Register Today!](#)

Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey

The beginning of the third millennium has been characterized by the global reality of migration, and by a growing number of migrants. This, in turn, has led to a marked increase in fear and national

sentiment which seeks to close borders – to turn away the other. As Christians, how should we navigate and respond to the tension between our global reality and our calling as disciples?

The Center for Social Ministry is offering JustFaith Ministries' 8-week module on migration at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, on Thursdays from 9-11 a.m., beginning Jan. 24. This module offers participants the opportunity to learn more about the challenges of contemporary migration, and explore together, through prayer and dialogue, a way to answer our call to discipleship.

[Learn More](#)

[Register Today!](#)

Christian Experience Weekends

Women

The Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply "experience" themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. A women's CEW will be held at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church in Ankeny Jan. 18-20. For more information, contact [Nicole Vortherms via email](#) and/or via phone at 515-423-6040. You can also visit [their website](#).

Men

The Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply "experience" themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community. A men's CEW will be held at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church in Ankeny Feb. 15-17. For more information, contact [Curt Carlson via email](#) and/or via phone (515-783-3819). You can also visit [their website](#).

Emmaus House Spirituality Center

A Day in the Desert

Are you looking for time and space for prayer and reflection, but don't have the time for a long retreat? If so, please consider joining us for "A Day in the Desert" at Emmaus House. Our next "Day in the Desert" retreat is on Jan. 5. For more information and to register, please visit our [website](#) or contact Kevin O'Donnell by [email](#) or phone at 515-282-4839. All are welcome!

Contemplative Prayer

We hope that you will join us at Emmaus House for contemplative prayer every Wednesday at Noon. We begin with a brief prayer, followed by 20 minutes of contemplative prayer, and then continue with spoken intentions. We conclude by 12:45 p.m. We look forward to gathering together for this time of prayer.

Spiritual Direction

In our busy lives, it is often difficult to hear the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual direction can help us to be more attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Spirit. For additional information, as well as to schedule a spiritual direction session, contact [Kevin O'Donnell](#) or visit our [website](#).

Eucharistic Celebration

Please join us at Emmaus House to share the celebration of the Mass in a small, intimate setting every Tuesday and Friday at noon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Retreats and Days of Private Prayer

Take time apart to pray and reflect on God's presence in your life. Various types of retreats and days of private prayer are available. Please see our [website](#) for additional information on our various offerings, and contact [Kevin O'Donnell](#) with any questions.

St. Thomas More Center

Registration for Catholic Youth Camp 2019 is underway and spots are filling quickly. Every summer, over 1,400 young people will come to CYC to pray, learn about the Catholic faith, and have fun in the outdoors. This summer, we will continue our tradition of Faith and Fun as we create memories, build friendships, and experience God's profound love.

Catholic Youth Camp is a sleep away summer camp for students entering 3rd grade through high school graduation. CYC is located just outside Panora IA – about an hour from Des Moines and less than two hours from Council Bluffs. **Sponsorships are available.** More information can be found at [**STMCENTER.COM**](http://STMCENTER.COM).

If you would like to receive promotional materials for your school or parish, please email CYC at office@stmcenter.com.