

Communications

Varidesk

Several diocesan staff members have been trying a new Varidesk model that allows a person to stand while working at their desk. Sandy Riesberg, of the Communications and Worship Offices, tried one.

Communication Convention

The Catholic Media Conference is this June in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Catholic Press Association offers training in social media, how well one can use media channels, building an integrated communication plan, handling hot topics, how to sell your story and keys to reaching people through Facebook. For more information check out the [CPA's website](#), email [Tim Walter](#) or call him at 312-380-6789.

Diaconate

Study Day

The deacons and deacon candidates, along with spouses came together on Feb. 17 for a Study Day. Karen Zwier, Ph.D., visiting professor at Drake University, lead an interactive discussion on miracles and faith.

Applications for next diaconate formation group

The deadline for submitting an application is March 31. If you would like to learn some of the history of the diaconate in the diocese, view [the diaconate documentary](#).

Director of the Permanent Diaconate

Deacon Jim Obradovich has been appointed to a three year term as director of the Permanent Diaconate. He succeeds Deacon Mike Manno in this role.

Evangelization & Catechesis

Lent

Lenten prayer books are still available. Contact the [Iowa Catholic Conference](#) for more information.

Diocesan Spring Ministry Day

Today, more than ever, parishes must rethink how to "do" Church. On March 8 at All Saints Parish in Stuart, Joe Paprocki, Ph.D. will identify strategies for renewing our parish communities and becoming a Church on the move. Gathering begins at 9 a.m. and the workshop ends at 3 p.m. Lunch is \$5.

In his book "A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion" (Loyola Press), Paprocki offers a number of strategies for transforming the way the average parish thinks, functions, worships, forms people in faith and engages the world. Paprocki holds a doctorate degree in ministry. This workshop is sponsored by the Catechetical Leaders Association of the Diocese of Des Moines (CLADD) and is ideal for religious education directors, youth ministry leaders, adult

faith formation leaders, pastors, and evangelization teams. To register, contact [Sherri Simmer](#) at 515-237-5058.

Building the Kingdom Lenten Mission

This Lent, we will be once again raising funds to help support a high school seminary in Nigeria led by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. This seminary has provided our diocese four priests who are currently serving here, and anything we can do to help support their work and the work of the future priests of our universal Church is appreciated. For more information, talk to your religious education leader or Catholic school administration. If you need additional envelopes or posters, please contact Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org or at 515-237-5058.

Young Adult Ministry

World Youth Day 2019 registering now

Join the Diocese of Des Moines as we undertake a pilgrimage to Panama to join millions of other young adults in a celebration of our Catholic faith. Registration and payments are open now for this January 2019 trip of a lifetime. More information is [available on our website](#).

Young Adult Lenten Small Group

If your parish isn't already offering an opportunity to join a small group this Lent, consider spending your Lent growing in faith with fellow young adults through our diocesan Lenten small groups. [Check our website here](#) for more information.

Novos Young Adults

Everyone in their 20s and 30s are invited to join Novos Young Adults for social, spiritual and service activities. Events typically happen every second and fourth Thursday of the month, with occasional weekend gatherings. For more information on events coming up in March, visit the [Facebook page](#) or contact [Justin White](#). Catch up with everything going on in Youth & Young Adult Ministry also on Twitter and Instagram: @YCDesMoines

Youth Ministry

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference Wants You

This year's youth conference in October will be called "Boldly Sent" and we want the youth of our diocese to be the ones to design its logo and t-shirt. Submissions can be made through Easter to [Justin White](#); further details can be found on [our website](#).

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference, known as DCYC, is a peer-led event gathering teens of the diocese together with their bishop in exploration and celebration of the Catholic faith. It's a one-day event with separate tracks for middle school (grades 6-8) & high school (grades 9-12).

Fanning the Flame Retreat

This retreat was rescheduled to April 7 due to weather. Therefore, registrations are still open.

Fanning the Flame is a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship, all oriented towards identifying the movements of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. This day will be very helpful for ninth and 10th graders preparing for confirmation. There is a separate track for sponsors and/or adult chaperones accompanying the teens to help them grow deeper in their faith as well.

The cost is \$40 for teens and \$20 for adults. The retreat will be held at the St. Thomas More Center. For questions or registration information, please contact [Justin White](#), director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, 515-237-5098.

Campus Ministry

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Super Bowl weekend, students teamed up with generous parishioners at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center & Church to help DMARC tackle hunger. The Campus Ministry “Souper Bowl of Caring” collections netted more than \$800.

Iowa Religious Freedom Day

After Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Catherine’s, students participated in the governor’s signing regarding “Iowa Religious Freedom Day.”

Spring opportunities

Spring events include a Koinonia Retreat and several service opportunities for students to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Deaf Ministry

See the bulletin announcement in the attached master list.

Faith Journey

Catholic Culture Lecture Series

As Chesterton once pithily observed: a dead thing can go with the stream, but only a live thing can go against it. Catholic culture is alive and well in many ways, standing in contradistinction to some of the errors hastily embraced by modernity. It is the goal of the Catholic Culture Lecture Series to enhance and enrich the lives of the Catholic faithful. The Catholic Culture Lecture Series also looks to invite and engage in dialogue with our brothers and sisters who are not. Gatherings are on the fourth Saturday of every month from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. The next one is March 24 at the Catholic Pastoral Center and features Ryan Marr, Ph.D, who will speak on the effects of the Second Vatican Council. Light hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served for a free-will donation. For more information, please contact [John Huynh](#) at 515-237-5006.

Finance & Technology

Finance

FY18 Safety Incentive Program

We are still collecting your “best safety ideas” with \$5,000 to be awarded to the parish/school with the winning idea. Submit your idea today. Also, don’t forget that schools participating in the Catholic Mutual Safety Coordinator Program will receive \$1,000 for their efforts. Click [here](#) for further details.

Technology

ParishSoft’s 20th Anniversary Roadshows

Planning is underway for a one-day, tailored workshop to be presented by ParishSoft and hosted by the diocese. More details will be shared soon. In the meantime, click [here](#) for further information. If you have any feedback regarding this event, such as session topics to include, or if you would like to be involved in the event planning, please contact [Roni Argetsinger](#).

Hispanic Ministry

Call to protect the Dreamers

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are asking to call Members of Congress to protect Dreamers from deportation, to provide them a path to citizenship, and to avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process.

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-038.cfm>

Call 855-589-5698 to reach the Capitol switchboard. You will then receive instructions. Once you are connected to each Senator's office, please ask the person on the phone to deliver this simple message:

- I urge you to support a bipartisan, common-sense, and humane solution for Dreamers:
- Protect Dreamers from deportation and provide them with a path to citizenship.
- Reject proposals that undermine family immigration or protections for unaccompanied children.
- As a Catholic, I know that families are not "chains," but a blessing to be protected.
- Act now to protect Dreamers, our immigrant brothers and sisters.

Lent Retreat In Spanish

Our Lady of the Americas is hosting a Lent retreat in Spanish. This retreat will be held the weekend of March 16-18. The retreat will be facilitated by religious sisters who are coming from Colombia. For more information, please call Jessica Maciel Hernandez.

Iowa Catholic Men's Conference

The Iowa Catholic Men's Conference will have a track in Spanish. The Catholic speaker Natanael Reyes is coming to facilitate it. They will also have Fathers Luis Mejia and Fabian Moncada helping with it. This is a great opportunity for men in our community that would like to grow in their faith.

Talk for Parents in Spanish "Informing Parents about the effects technology has in youth"

Betty Mond, bilingual counselor for Catholic Charities, is facilitating a parenting session to tell about the excessive use of technology and effects in young people. This session will be on March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.

Natural Family Planning in Spanish

There is a natural family planning class in Spanish at Our Lady of the Americas. Class is free but materials are \$55. For more information please contact: Jose Miguel y Ana Luisa de la Cruz at 515-771-9057.

Radio Shows in Spanish

We invite you to listen radio programs in Spanish.

Fortaleciendo Nuestra Fe	Saturdays at 12:00pm	La Reina 1260AM Lareina1260.com
Alegre la Mañana	Thursdays at 10:00am	La Reina 1260AM
La Hora de Cristo Rey	Thursdays at 12:00pm	La Ley 105.5 FM
No Tengas Miedo	Domingos 10:30am	Iowa Catholic Radio

Social Media

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

Marriage and Family Life

Sponsor Couple Training

East Side

Our next Sponsor Couple training is scheduled for Sunday, March 4, at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The training will run from 1-5 p.m. Couples can register for this training by calling Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or [by email](#).

West Side

On Saturday, March 17 Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic will host a sponsor couple training. The training will run from 1-5 p.m. Couples can register for this training by calling Adam Storey at 515-237-5056 or [by email](#).

Catholic Divorce Survival Guide

A new session of the Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide 12-week program begins May 8 at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale. Gatherings begin at 6 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Please share the information that's listed in the attachment of bulletin announcements.

Natural Family Planning Classes

The next three-part series of classes on the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning is scheduled to begin Monday, April 2, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Games and More (Valley West Mall, West Des Moines). Cost is a one-time fee of \$130 for all course materials, classes, one year of consultation with certified instructors, and more. Need-based financial assistance is available. Online registration is required [at this site](#). For more information, call Rick or Alexi at [\(515\) 326-1434](tel:5153261434) or send an email to [them here](#).

CCL also offers two supplementary classes designed to help couples with natural family planning during post-partum and pre-menopause. For more information, visit the [Couple to Couple League website](#).

Schools

Strategic Planning Kick Off Event

Meitler Consultants introduced strategic planning for diocesan schools to pastors, school administrators and board members on March 1. Each school location will be visited during the next two months. Schools will be visited March 20-23, April 10-12, and April 24-26.

Principal Position Available

St. Anthony School in Des Moines is seeking a licensed administrator for the 2018-19 school year. Please find details and application at the [Teach Iowa website](#).

NCEA National Convention

The convention will be held in Cincinnati, April 3-5. Msgr. Frank Bognanno will receive the Lead. Learn. Proclaim Award given by NCEA on April 3. There are only 42 educators recognized annually for this national award.

Stewardship

Annual Diocesan Appeal

The Annual Diocesan Appeal weekend is March 3-4 in all parishes. The Annual Diocesan Appeal handbook is available [online](#). It contains a timeline and details about the appeal. Download this information today.

Online resources are also [available here](#), including an audio message from Bishop Pates supporting the ADA. As new resources are added to the site, pastors, business managers and parish secretaries will be notified. Parishioners have been receiving their letter and a message from Bishop Pates during the last few weeks of February. Thank you for your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal!

Vocations

Seminary Visit

Young men who are juniors in high school and older are invited to experience the real world of seminary. A trip is planned for April 14-16 to Conception College Seminary. If you know of a young man who is interested or needs to find a weekend that better suits his schedule email [Father Ross Parker](#) or call 515-237-5050.

Nun Run

A road trip for young ladies in grades 9-12 is planned for March 12-15. Get a sneak peek into religious life visiting convents and staying with sisters in the St. Louis area including:

- Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr Saint George
- Little Sisters of the Poor
- Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters

For questions or to register contact [Deb Barry](#) or [Father Ross Parker](#).

National Catholic Sisters Week – March 8-14

National Catholic Sisters Week is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8–14. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. It's our chance to recognize all they have done for us. It's our hope that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example.

Prayers of the Faithful

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

Worship

Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum will soon be upon us! Attached is a ritual script for the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night with the addition of the RCIA rubrics. May you find it helpful for your preparation of the Easter Vigil! Also attached is this month's Worship Newsletter which includes a quick summary of the most commonly asked questions from all of you regarding preparation and celebration of the Paschal Triduum.

Chrism Mass Choir

As in past years, we hope to have a nice representation of musicians and singers from around the Diocese as part of the music ministry for Chrism Mass. Last year's ensemble reflected our cultural diversity while still building a strong sense of unity. This year's music ensemble will be joined by the youthful voices and musicians of the Teen Choir from Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, under the leadership and direction of Ms. Anna Lee. Please prayerfully considering joining the music ensemble for this liturgy. The following rehearsals are scheduled in Des Moines and Kim Mandelkow, from the Office of Worship, is very willing to schedule additional rehearsals in other regions if there is interest. It is my hope that participants attend at least one rehearsal before Friday, March 23.

Monday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, first floor

Monday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, first floor

Tuesday, March 20, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. location TBD, *rehearsal with the Teen Choir*

Friday, March 23, 5:00 p.m. Final Rehearsal before Mass at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral

If you are interested in participating in the music ministry for Chrism Mass and cannot make it to rehearsals due to schedules or distance, please know that you can receive the music and rehearsal recordings via mail or email to help you rehearse on your own prior to March 23rd. Simply contact Kim Mandelkow in the Office of Worship at kmandelkow@dmdiocese.org or (515) 237-5043. Let's raise our voices and sing a joyful song to the Lord!

Birthdays

March

Dorton, John	3
Bertogli, John	5
Windschitl, Andrew	5
Parker, Ross	9
Harris, Robert	10
Koch, Paul	14
Gubbels, Wayne	15
Nimerichter, Dean	16

April

Ahenkora, James	4
Amadeo, Michael	6
Gross, Ken	7
Aubrey, Robert	9
Mathew, Antony	12
Tran, Tan	18
Fontanini, Christopher	19
Neal, Mark	22
Bruck, Don	27
Monahan, Paul	29

Anniversaries

March

Abdelsamad, Bashir	31
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April

Daniel, Ambrose	28
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Other Organizations

Beginning Experience

Beginning Experience Open House

The next round of open houses will meet on three Friday nights: March 16, 23 and April 6 at 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Augustin Church Hall. A weekend retreat is slated for April 20-22. See the master list of bulletin announcements. For more information on this healing ministry, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee 515-360-8268 or Father Bob Schoemann 515-418-1938.

Catholic Charities

Heart to Heart Club at Duchesne Academy

High school students from the Heart to Heart Club at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha continue their excellence in service by organizing their annual drive for the clients of Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program in Iowa. Their generosity enables us to provide shampoo, conditioner, and other items needed for our clients and their children in our shelter in addition to our clients throughout our nine county coverage area.

Pictured are Olivia Youngblood and Maeve Cavanaugh of Duchesne Academy with their cart full of donations.

Healthy Me, Healthy We!

2018 National Theme for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Catholic Charities is helping spread awareness

During February our Prevention Specialist, Emilee Birchard, offered programs at schools in southwest Iowa to help students know what a healthy relationship is and to give students ways they can help each other foster respect for all students. Currently the Healthy Relationship curriculum is being presented at schools in Logan, Sidney, Red Oak, Atlantic, Treynor and Council Bluffs. Throughout the participating schools, students were involved with exhibiting our Teen Dating Violence Awareness posters and information tables.

Students in Logan-Magnolia MS (Caption under photo)

The purple squares have a form of abuse from the power and control wheel on them (using children, name calling, unwanted touching). The students first worked in groups to decide which quadrant the card would fit in best (emotional/mental, verbal, physical, or sexual). They then put the squares on the board and had to say why they picked which quadrant. This gives them a good visual about how no matter what the abuse is, it affects us emotionally and mentally and how trauma affects everyone in many different ways.

Pictured: Thomas Jefferson High School students hanging posters for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Caption under photo: Healthy Me, Healthy We awareness rings with informational cards were assembled by MVP members from Thomas Jefferson High School for distribution to schools within our coverage area.

Caption under Students in Atlantic working in groups to decide which quadrant of abuse to put their squares in.

Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa

Request for 2018 Grant Proposals

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa is prepared to provide grants to parishes, schools, and other Catholic entities as part of its mission to promote a legacy of giving and support within the Diocese of Des Moines. This fiscal year, \$50,000 in grant funding is available across two grant categories: General Grants and Parish Enrichment Grants. The deadline for submitting grant proposals is 4 p.m. on Friday, April 20. Grant applications and instructions [are available online](#).

State of the Catholic Foundation – Regional Meetings

The financial market may have a mind of its own but the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa can assist you in navigating these ever-changing waters. We'll help you get a read on the current investment outlook and share the strategic plan that guides us at our upcoming regional meetings beginning Monday, March 19, at noon at the Catholic Pastoral Center. All are welcome!

Catholic Tuition Organization

Tuition assistance is available for 2018-2019 school year. Applications are available at all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines. Or apply online at www.fairapp.com

Center for Social Ministry

Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey

“Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey” offers participants the opportunity to learn more about the challenges of contemporary migration and the opportunity to explore together, through prayer and dialogue, a way to answer our call to discipleship. This Catholic-friendly, 8-week module will be offered on Tuesday evenings, beginning the first week of April. For more information, visit the [Center for Social Ministry website](#) or contact [Susie Tierney](#) at 515-782-3054.

Cultivating Nonviolence, Harvesting Peace

“Cultivating Nonviolence, Harvesting Peace” is a program of JustFaith Ministries that is based on Jesus witness and our call to live nonviolently. This eight-session module invites participants to formulate a response to the violence within ourselves, our communities and our world. Center for Social Ministry will be offering this Catholic-friendly module on Monday evenings, beginning the first week of April. For more information, visit the [Center for Social Ministry website](#) or contact [Susie Tierney](#) at 515-782-3054.

Emmaus House Spirituality Center

Mercy College of Health Sciences

New President Named

Douglas J. Fiore, Ph.D., will become the next president of Mercy College of Health Sciences effective June 10. He will take the reigns as Barbara Quijano Decker retires.

Fiore currently is the provost and vice president of academic affairs at Park University. He holds a doctoral degree in educational administration from Indiana State University, a master's degree in education from Purdue University and a bachelor's degree in education and speech arts and sciences from Hofstra University. Throughout his career he held leadership roles at several higher education institutions and in the public K-12 school system.

Parishes

St. Joseph Educational Center

The St. Joseph Educational Center is pleased to announce that the third edition of Home Faith magazine will be available on our website starting March 1. Visit sjeciowa.org and click on HOME FAITH. This edition will focus on RCIA, both those going through the process and those facilitating it.

Also, save the date for our spring 2018 event on April 14th from 8 a.m. - noon at St. Boniface parish in Waukee. A free morning workshop entitled *Keeping Your Own Cup Full: Self-care for Caregivers* will be presented including two keynotes, choice of one breakout session, light refreshments and a comedian. To register, visit sjeciowa.org and click on EVENTS.