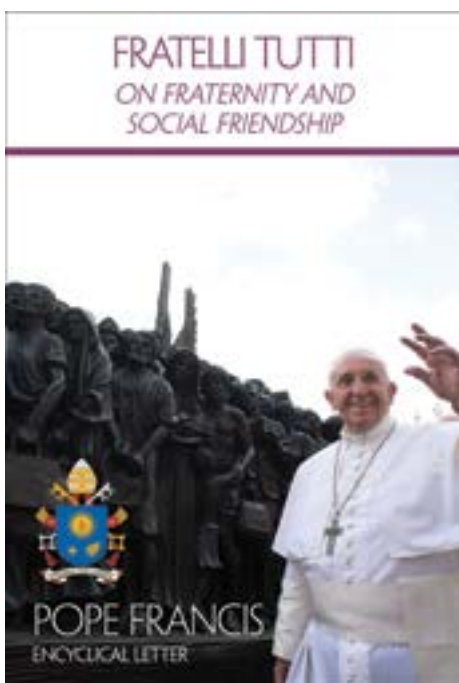


THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Pope Francis pens newest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*



VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis signed his new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, source of the document's title and inspiration.

Pope Francis set the text on the altar under the tomb of St. Francis and signed it on Oct. 3.

Pope Francis, in his social encyclical released Oct. 4, sees the need for human fraternity as more than just an abstract concept, but as a concrete path toward peaceful coexistence in a world fraught by war, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

Cardinal Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the document shows that "fraternity is not a trend or a fashion which develops over time or at a particular time, but rather is the result of concrete acts."

"In fact, if weapons -- and with

Continued on page 11

Feeding the hungry

Churches and non-profits work together to feed those in need amid COVID-19

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Job loss, furloughs and a reduction in hours due to COVID-19 has created a greater demand for assistance.

But pinning down the exact need is tricky, said Luke Elzinga, communications and advocacy manager at Des Moines Area Religious Council in Des Moines.

"It's a complex picture," Elzinga said.

"We've actually seen an overall decrease in use in our pantry," said Elzinga. "But the number of new people frequenting the pantry has risen."

Changes in government assistance in light of COVID-19 has reduced the food pantry need for some.

"Since April, everyone who receives food assistance has been getting the maximum possible benefit. So for some people, that's been a huge increase," Elzinga added.

A new population of individuals began using the food pantry, though, in the wake of layoffs and shutdowns. But as the economy improves, they are using it less, or not at all.

The CARES Act also meant an increase in unemployment benefits for a period of time, which could have temporarily skewed the number of people in need, he added.

Continued on page 8



Capital City Fruit distributed free USDA food boxes to those in need outside of Southridge Mall in Des Moines. Learn more about the USDA Food Box Program on page 8.



Volunteers loaded free USDA Food Boxes into people's trunks outside Southridge Mall earlier this year. Learn more about the USDA Food Box Program on page 8.



Beatified Italian teenager a 'model of sanctity'

By Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

OXFORD, England (CNS) -- Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian teenager who used his computer skills to foster devotion to the Eucharist was beatified in October, offers a model of sanctity for Christians in a new era of lockdowns, a British Catholic who lived with his family said.

"What's struck me most is the exceptional simplicity of his formula for becoming a saint: attending Mass and reciting the rosary daily, confessing weekly and praying before the Blessed

Sacrament," said Anna Johnstone, a professional singer and longtime friend of the teen's family.

Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15, was to be beatified Oct. 10 in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy.

The teenager developed a database and website that chronicled worldwide Eucharistic miracles.

Johnstone said Acutis was convinced good could be achieved through the internet. She said Catholics worldwide had found the information he disseminated massively affirming during a global coronavirus pandemic.

"He would urge young people

today to avoid bad aspects of social media and fake news, and to go to confession if they fell prey to it," said Johnstone, a Cambridge University theology graduate who also acted as governess to Acutis' twin siblings, born four years after his death.

Italian teenager Carlo Acutis was beatified Oct. 10 in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. He died in 2006 at age 15.



Mystic or Gnostic?



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

St. Teresa of Avila, one of four women doctors of the Church, is one of the wisest and most trustworthy guides we can consult to learn the way of prayer and the authentic workings of the Holy Spirit. In fact, I would go so far to say that any account of prayer that is not in harmony with hers is not to be trusted. Her description of the exceptional mystical graces afforded her is always joined to a more down-to-earth, unvarnished account of her own frailty and her great attachment to the humanity of Jesus and the saints. Though she was favored with ecstatic experiences that drew her into the upper realm of God's self-revelation, she never lost touch with the need to be vigilant against the tendency to pride, or to avoid thinking of oneself as somehow above and beyond the Church.

She knew the need to practice obedience to those whom the Church appoints as pastors, confessors, and spiritual directors. She quickly sensed which priests could discern the genuine promptings of the Holy Spirit versus the work of unholy spirits—spirits who would inflate our belief that we are “special” persons entitled to act subjectively as authority figures in our own right. While God blessed her with many mystical favors, St. Teresa teaches us that we must beware the tendency to think ourselves as somehow above it all, free to dismiss the counsel of persons who help us “keep it real,” and avoid going off into some self-isolating, spir-

itual la-la land. In other words, she is a true mystic who avoids the recurring tendency within the Church toward gnosticism. Here I will try to contrast what it means to be a ‘mystic’ versus a ‘gnostic’ as briefly as I can, because I think that one of the dangerous side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that afflicts us is the rise of a sort of gnostic attitude WITHIN the church, let alone outside the company of the faithful.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI contrasts encounters we have with the Risen Lord in Mass and the celebration of sacraments, or in unique moments where we know God has broken into our lives in ways similar to what Mary Magdalene or the apostles experienced, from properly mystical experiences. In a mystical experience, “the human spirit is momentarily drawn aloft out of itself and perceives the realm of the divine and eternal, only to return then to the normal horizon of its existence.” A mystical experience helps us slip beyond the normal limits of space and our own habits of mind. But it should not fool us into thinking that we can disregard the God-given significance of our bodies (as occurs in the medically activist, transgender mindset that would prey on those

whose felt identity is in tension with their natural sex).

Nor should we neglect the ways in which we are obliged to take care of the Body of Christ—whether it be the neighbor next to us, or those whom God has appointed pastors and teachers. The prophetic Spirit never prompts us to disregard the precepts of the Church, to pit our subjective freedom against the grace-enabled freedom that comes to us from doing what the Church does when it worships, professes faith, or practices charity. The Holy Spirit is an agent of belonging and unity, in contrast to the preference to always do things “my way.” The unholy spirit tempts us, Pope Francis observes, to prefer “a God without Christ, a Christ without the Church, a Church without her people” (see *Gaudete et exultate* n. 37).

The unholy spirit pits faith against reason; in contrast to a secular gnosticism that trusts only scientific knowledge and dismisses faith, an inverted form of spiritual gnosticism exalts faith to the extent that it casts good sense and the natural virtue of prudence aside.

The unholy spirit urges us to be gnostics, rather than set on the path that, by God's mercy, might lead us to become mystics. A gnostic attitude pits “my” experience of Jesus against the unfolding story of what St. Teresa and God's friends discovered at much personal cost, and selflessly hand on to us. Gnostics regard their own vision of reali-

ty to be perfect; one telltale sign of a gnostic tendency, says Pope Francis, is when “somebody has an answer for every question,” and where the need to be clear and sure conceals a need to control, to bend reality to our theories—including those of conspiracies and hidden agendas.

St. Teresa humbly submitted her account of her spiritual life and insights to her own wise guides and judges. Foremost among them was St. John of Avila. Upon critically reviewing her manuscript, St. John wrote her a letter commending her teaching on prayer, including her description of interior and exterior communications from God. St. John deciphers authentic communications that come from God which arrive in times of need, to strengthen us in time of temptation or doubt, or warn us of approaching danger. Such genuine favors are always consistent with Holy Scripture and the teaching of the Church. But he cautions: “Visions, whether imaginary or corporeal, are the most deceptive”; they should never be desired and should be actively resisted. “We should beg of God not to allow us to walk by sight, but defer the revelation of Himself and His saints until we reach Heaven.” We should prefer the ordinary way available to all God's people, cultivating humility, for even then we will be kindled in our love and affection for God, and our willingness to bear life's sufferings as penance—which is the opportunity afforded us all in the

midst of a pandemic. We are to worship Christ, especially in the Blessed Sacrament, more than any comfort or consolation, including those that attend visions, for these are too easily hijacked by the father of lies, the gnostic prince of darkness, disruption, and division.

Jesus at one point said he came to bring, not peace, but division (see Luke 12:51). Yet he admits division only as a transforming, purifying step to genuine communion, rather than the retreat into shallow cliques of like-minded people to whom we turn in person and in chat rooms when we are challenged to make sacrifices for love's sake, to admit we don't have all the answers. We do well to listen respectfully to persons with whom we disagree. We know that we, as much as anyone else, need ongoing conversion of mind and heart. We don't want to be gnostics, let alone self-made mystics, prophets, visionaries, or spiritual experts. God wills to reveal his face to each of us, for sure, but not so that we can stand apart from or over others. By our humility, our docility to our Church's pastors and doctors such as St. Teresa, along with our steadfast seeking of unity over division in the midst of social and political strife, we will be favored to reveal our Savior's face to others, which is the only recognition worth desiring in the first place.

¿Mística o Gnóstica?

Santa Teresa de Ávila, una de las cuatro mujeres doctores de la Iglesia es una de las guías más sabias y confiables a quien podemos consultar para

aprender sobre la función de la oración y de las obras del Espíritu Santo. De hecho, me atrevería a decir que no debe confiarse ningún tipo de oración que no está en armonía con su estilo. Su descripción de las excepcionales gracias místicas que le fueron concedidas va siempre de la mano con un recuento más sencillo y a nivel de suelo sobre su propia fragilidad y su gran conexión a la humanidad de Jesús y de los santos. A pesar de que fue favorecida con experiencias de éxtasis que le llevaron a un nivel superior en la revelación de Dios mismo, nunca perdió contacto

con la necesidad de estar vigilante ante la tendencia hacia el orgullo, o el evitar pensar sobre sí misma como alguien por encima o más allá de la Iglesia.

Ella sabía de la necesidad de practicar obediencia hacia aquellos a quien la Iglesia había designado como pastores, confesores y directores espirituales. Ella podía sentir rápidamente cuáles sacerdotes podían discernir los verdaderos llamados del Espíritu Santo contra las obras de espíritus malignos – espíritus que inflaban nuestra creencia de que somos personas “especiales” con facultad de actuar subjetiva-

mente como figuras de autoridad en nuestro propio derecho. Aunque Dios la bendijo con muchos favores místicos, Santa Teresa nos enseña que debemos estar alertas ante la tendencia de pensar que nosotros mismos estamos de alguna manera por encima de todos, con la libertad de ignorar el consejo de personas que nos ayudan a “mantenernos en la realidad” y evitar el partir hacia un tipo de autoaislamiento en una tierra espiritual de fantasía. Dicho de otra forma, ella era una verdadera mística que evitaba la tendencia común dentro de la Iglesia hacia el gnosticismo. Aquí voy a tratar de contrastar tan brevemente como me sea posible, lo que significa ser un “místico” contra un “gnóstico,” pero creo que uno de los efectos secundarios más peligrosos de la pandemia del COVID-19 que nos afecta es el avance de un tipo de actitud gnóstica DENTRO de la iglesia, sin mencionar fuera de la compañía de los fieles.

El Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI hace contraste dif-

erenciando los encuentros que tenemos con el Señor Resucitado en la Misa y la celebración de los sacramentos, o en momentos especiales en donde Dios ha penetrado en nuestras vidas en formas similares a las que vivieron María Magdalena y los apóstoles, contra las experiencias místicas adecuadamente identificadas. En una experiencia mística, “el espíritu humano es extraído momentáneamente de sí mismo y percibe el ámbito de lo divino y eterno, para luego regresar al horizonte normal de su existencia.” Una experiencia mística nos ayuda a escurrirnos más allá de los límites normales del espacio y de nuestra propia condición mental. Pero no debe esto engañarnos haciéndonos pensar que podemos ignorar el significado que Dios ha dado a nuestros cuerpos (como sucede en los activistas clínicos, en que el pensamiento transgénero hace presa de aquellos que sienten que su identidad está en conflicto con su sexo natural.)

Continúa en la página 4

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Bishop William Joensen has made the following appointments effective October 15, 2020.

Father Protas Opondo Okwalo, SJ, administrator, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center, Drake Newman Community, to pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center, Drake Newman Community

Father James Ahenkora, pastoral administrator, of St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs, to pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs.

Father Luis Mejia, pastoral administrator, St. Patrick Parish, Perry, to pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Perry.

William Joensen

Faithfully in Christ,
Most. Rev. William Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop

Jason Kurth

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

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.

Culture of life highlighted during October

The annual Respect Life Month celebration is a nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life.



Pro-life advocates lined Broadway in Council Bluffs, from 16th Street to 35th Street on Life Chain Sunday, traditionally the first Sunday in October. The silent witness drew 110 people including Father James Ahenkora of St. Patrick Church and Marty Cannon of the St. Thomas More Law Society. The annual event in Council Bluffs has been organized by Ray and Marie Turpen and Eileen Smith for the last 19 years.

Josie Talley and Lizzie Erickson of Dowling Catholic High School participated in the Life Chain along Merle Hay Road in Des Moines in October. Katie Vasque of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines with her children Rowan, Penny and Greta.



Father PJ McManus, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, visits a parishioner while taking preventative measures to avoid the coronavirus.

Cancer survivor advocates for others fighting for life

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer



This month, Emily Hoffman celebrates her seventh year as a cancer survivor.

Since battling cervical cancer, she has lobbied government officials for research funding, shared her patient perspective with healthcare professionals and mentored other cancer patients and survivors.

During Respect Life Month, she's being honored with the Cervivor Spark award, from the national cancer survivor group Cervivor.

"The Cervivor community of cervical cancer survivors understood me like no one else did when my treatment ended and I felt so lost," she said. "Cervivor also taught me how to share my story effectively and the importance of being a patient advocate."

Reaching out to other survivors didn't come quickly. It took two years from being declared cancer-free that she felt comfortable sharing her story.

Every year, 13,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States and 4,000 will die from it.

"I could easily have been one of those 4,000 women in 2013 at the age of 30 because I had no symptoms," she said. "It was only by the luck of me scheduling my annual exam, like I had done every year since high school, that my cancer was found."

Within a year, a tumor had grown on her cervix, leading to a stage two cancer diag-

Emily Hoffman

nosis and six months of chemotherapy and radiation.

"If I hadn't been scheduling routine exams, the outcome could have been very different," Hoffman said.

Now that a vaccine has been developed that could eradicate this type of cancer and five other types, she's become a patient advocate to educate others on cancer prevention to ensure no one else has to experience what she gone through.

"That means no more women would die from this disease or suffer the same long-term side effects from treatment that I do," she said.

"I still have days when I wish I could unload my advocacy responsibility and not be 'the girl with cancer,'" she said. The encouragement of friends, family and the Cervivor community motivate her to keep her moving forward.

Domestic Violence Awareness month noted by Catholic Charities



Catholic Charities shelter in Council Bluffs for victims of domestic abuse housed 336 women, men, and children last fiscal year. Of those who were sheltered, 113 were children. The Catholic Charities program assisted petitioners in filing 67 civil protection orders, and worked with 151 people who attended programs called Journey Beyond Abuse and Seeking Safety. "Violence in any form – physical, sexual, psychological, or verbal – is sinful; often, it is a crime as well," according to the U.S. bishops in their 2002 statement When I Call for Help.

Disabilities Awareness Month



Robert Fisher, of St. John Parish in Adel, lobbies legislators for opportunities for the disabled. Fisher, who has used a wheelchair all of his life, is a member of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. He works for Hy-Vee grocery store.

Expansion underway at two growing metro parishes

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Parishes in the growing Des Moines' suburbs of Altoona and Norwalk are expanding.

Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona is building a new parish hall, said the pastor, Father Tim Fitzgerald.

"It's been a long time coming," Father Fitzgerald said. "The parish started a conversation about it 15 years ago," he continued. "The parish hall is not big enough, and the current hall and offices were the original 1985 building when the parish was about 200 households – now it's about 900 households.

The parish has outgrown its current space, which is a "happy problem," he added.

The new hall is under construction between the current social hall and faith development



Ss. John and Paul Parish in Altoona (left) and St. John Parish in Norwalk (right) have construction projects underway.



center.

"It will be connected to the current hall building," Father Fitzgerald said. "There will be a walkway connecting to the Faith

Development Center."

The new \$3 million, 6,000-square-foot parish hall will be used for parish gatherings, meals, socials, the Knights'

fish fry and more.

Expected completion is Easter 2021.

"It will serve the parish needs into the next generation," Father Fitzgerald said. "This month is the parish's 37th anniversary."

Father Dan Kirby, pastor of St. John Parish in Norwalk, said they, too, are excited about expanding to better meet the needs of the growing community.

"In the community of Norwalk housing is exploding all around us, and you definitely do see that the community is growing," he said.

There are currently about 750 households who at-

tend St. John.

The parish's \$3 million project includes renovating the offices, building a new day chapel for daily Mass, small funerals, weddings and Eucharistic adoration, as well as building a new youth room. They will also pave a new access road for improved traffic flow and a covered drop off.

"I just think when the people see the building, there's an excitement," Father Kirby said. "It's an opportunity to serve the parishioners, but also the wider community."

The project is expected to be complete in February 2021.

¿Mística o Gnóstica?

Continúa de la página 1

Tampoco debemos ignorar las formas en que estamos obligados a cuidar del Cuerpo de Cristo – ya sea el vecino de al lado o aquellos a quienes Dios ha encomendado como pastores y maestros. El Espíritu profético nunca nos llama a ignorar los preceptos de la Iglesia, a enfrentar nuestra libertad subjetiva contra la libertad que concede la gracia y que nos viene por hacer lo que la Iglesia hace en sus prácticas de culto, profesa su fe, o pone en práctica la caridad. El Espíritu Santo en un agente de pertenencia y de unidad, contrario a la preferencia de siempre hacer las cosas a mi manera. El espíritu maligno nos tienta, como observa el Papa Francisco, a que tengamos preferencia por "un Dios sin Cristo, un Cristo sin la Iglesia, una Iglesia sin su gente" (ver Gaudete et exultate n. 37) El espíritu maligno enfrenta nuestra fe contra la razón; en contraste al gnosticismo secular que confía únicamente en el conocimiento científico y que desecha la fe, una forma invertida de gnosticismo espiritual exalta la fe de tal forma que crea un buen sentido acompañado de la virtud natural de la prudencia.

El espíritu maligno nos empuja a ser gnósticos, en vez de colocarnos en el camino que, por la misericordia de Dios, nos pueda llevar a convertirnos en místicos. Una actitud gnóstica confronta "mi" experiencia de Jesús contra la reveladora historia de los que Santa Teresa y los amigos de Dios descubrieron a un costo mucho más personal y que desinteresadamente nos entregan. Los gnósticos consideran que su propia visión de la realidad es perfecta; un signo revelador de una tendencia gnóstica dice el Papa Francisco, es cuando "alguien tiene una respuesta para cualquier pregunta," y cuando la necesidad de ser claro y seguro esconde una necesidad de controlar, de acomodar la realidad a nuestras teorías – incluyendo aquellas teorías de

conspiración y nuestras agendas ocultas.

Santa Teresa presentó humildemente la experiencia de su vida espiritual y de sus observaciones a sus propios guías y jueces. Principalmente entre ellos se encontraba San Juan de Ávila. Al revisar sus manuscritos con criticismo, San Juan le escribió una carta elogiando su enseñanza sobre la oración, incluyendo su descripción de comunicaciones interiores y exteriores por parte de Dios. San Juan descifra comunicaciones auténticas que vienen de Dios y que llegan en momentos de necesidad, que nos fortalecen en casos de tentación o de duda, o para prevenimos de algún peligro que nos acecha. Tales favores genuinos siempre son consistentes con las Santas Escrituras y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. Pero él le advierte: "Las visiones, tanto imaginarias como corporales, son las más engañosas"; nunca debemos desearlas y debemos resistirlas activamente. "Debemos suplicar a Dios que no nos permita caminar por lo que vemos, pero que volteemos a la revelación de Él mismo y de Sus santos hasta que alcancemos el Cielo." Debemos entonces preferir la forma ordinaria que está disponible a todo el pueblo de Dios, cultivando la humildad, porque incluso entonces se encenderá en nosotros nuestro amor y afecto hacia Dios, y nuestra voluntad de tolerar los sufrimientos de nuestras vidas como signo de penitencia – que es la oportunidad que se nos ha ofrecido a todos en el medio de una pandemia. Debemos adorar a Cristo, especialmente en el Santísimo Sacramento, más que cualquier comodidad o consuelo, incluyendo a aquellos que atienden las visiones, ya que éstos pueden ser engañados fácilmente por el padre de la mentira, el príncipe gnóstico de las tinieblas, de las perturbaciones y de la división.

Jesús en un punto dijo que venía a traernos, más que paz, división (ver Lucas 12:51). Aún así él

admite la división únicamente como un paso transformador y purificante hacia una genuina comunión, en vez de la acción de retirarse a grupos superficiales de personas que piensan igual y a quienes buscamos tanto personalmente como en las redes sociales cuando se nos reta a hacer sacrificios por amor, para admitir que no tenemos todas las respuestas. Hacemos bien en escuchar respetuosamente a personas con quienes no estamos de acuerdo. Sabemos que, al igual que muchos otros, necesitamos una conversión de mente y de corazón continua. No queremos ser gnósticos, menos aún autotombrarnos como místicos, profetas, visionarios o expertos espirituales. Seguramente Dios desea revelar su rostro a cada uno de nosotros, pero no para que nos distingamos o nos pongamos por encima de los demás. Por medio de nuestra humildad, de nuestra docilidad con los pastores de nuestra Iglesia y de doctores tales como Santa Teresa, junto a nuestra constante búsqueda de unidad sobre división en medio del caos social y político, seremos favorecidos en poder revelar el rostro de nuestro Salvador a los demás lo cual es, en primer lugar, el único reconocimiento que vale la pena desear.

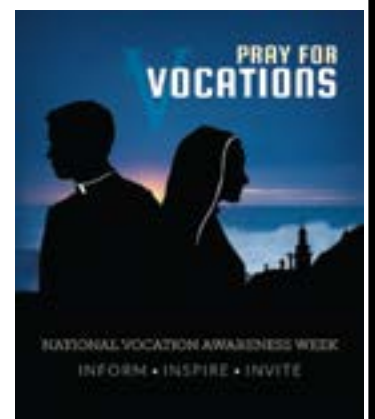
Cultivating a culture of vocations



Taylor Hawkins (right) of Christ the King Parish was accepted into the novitiate for the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln. On her day of reception, she was given the name Sister Benedicta.

National Vocations Awareness Week is Nov. 1-7

National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated Nov. 1-7. Please pray for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of a vocation.



Follow the Office of Vocations - Diocese of Des Moines at Facebook.com/DMVocations

November 11 is Veterans Day

Veterans reflect on service

by Kelly Mescher Collins

Portsmouth veteran recalls time in Navy



Rich Heller Heller of St. Mary Parish in Portsmouth recalls volunteering at 20 years old to serve in the Korean War.

Volunteering before being drafted meant he could choose the branch of military he wanted to serve.

"I wanted to go on a ship, and see the world if I could – and I did," Heller said. "And my oldest brother was in the Navy in World War II, so I knew

something about it."

He was stationed to the USS Essex, where he worked in the engine room as a MM2, machinest mate, second class.

His was the first Navy ship to have steam catapults put on at that time, so planes had a 125mph takeoff

He felt grateful having a Catholic priest on the ship with them.

"We had Mass every day and on Sunday they had Mass on the hanger deck," Heller said. "The ship I was on was 942 feet long – the size of about four football fields. We had 92 planes."

He also met a celebrity on this ship – Neil Armstrong – who was a Naval fighter pilot.

"And he got shot down in North Korea, and our helicopter went over and picked him up in the ocean and brought him back to the ship," Heller said.

"And the next day, the bakery on the ship baked a cake for him and welcomed him back," Heller continued. "And just by accident, that afternoon I was going on a four hour watch in the afternoon, and he was there on the mess desk eating a piece of cake and drinking a cup of coffee. And I grabbed a piece of cake and shook hands with him and welcomed him back."

The years have flown by and many of his fellow Korean War veterans are no longer around.

Heller's family celebrated his 90th birthday on Aug. 19 with a drive-by birthday party that included handing passers-by a piece of cake. Heller and all of his children and grandchildren were there to celebrate.

His daughter also coordinated a card shower, and he received nearly 120 birthday cards in the mail.

Council Bluffs veteran served in U.S. Air Force



One of the chaplains' vehicles during the Vietnam War.

Jim Hunter of Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs was drafted into the military at age 19 for the Vietnam War.

"I didn't believe much in war – I didn't think it was serving the right purpose, but I went and did my duty, and after years I have changed my outlook on it," Hunter said. "But it probably never should have happened."

It was an eye-opening experience for him and his fellow soldiers who were mostly fresh out of high school.

"Mostly we were so naïve to what war circumstances

were really about," said Hunter, who served the U.S. Air Force.

"The one thing the unit was most proud of was that towards the end of the war we actually forced the Paris Peace accord," he said. "The war was brought to an end out of the Air Force unit that put so much pressure on the North Vietnamese that they went back to signing a peace deal."

Finding time to focus on faith was difficult during his time in the military.

"It was an ordeal just to get to Mass," Hunter said. "Most of us were working 12 hours a day. At the time they held Mass at the end of the runway every Saturday or Sunday."

Mass was eventually celebrated in a 10-minute time frame.

"That's how we did it," Hunter said. "There were several Catholic priests on the base and they would take turns celebrating the Masses – because the operation was so fast-paced there wasn't always time."

Upon Hunter's return to the states, he and his fellow service men were not welcomed home.

"I was let out at Travis Air Force base in California on a bus to the San Francisco airport," he said. "There was an anti-war demonstration going on and they were calling us names and somebody threw a Michelob beer bottle and it hit me in the head."

His faith became increasingly important to him after his time in the military ended. It helped him deal with many of the post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms he had after the war.

"I think what happened was the belief in God became more true for me as time went on," Hunter said. "And I had to learn to let go a lot of baggage of bad things that we did and that happened. It took probably the better part of 20 years to get there."

Going through the RCIA program in 2006 was also an "eye opener."

He credits two diocesan priests in particular for his journey – Fathers Chris Reising and Glen Wilwerding – who sat with him and engaged in conversation about topics of faith.

Diocesan priest serves military



Father Zach Kautzky is serving the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Father Zach Kautzky was born and raised on the family farm outside of Perry.

He and his siblings attended St. Patrick Catholic School and Parish and – despite the 45 minute commute each way – graduated from Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines.

His beloved uncle, Father Jon Kautzky, was a source of inspiration for his vocation.

Father Jon kept cattle at the family farm, baptized the Kautzky kids and even married Father Kautzky's parents. His faith made an impact on the entire family before he passed away in 2000.

"For me, it was seeing the priest in the important times of people's lives – seeing the priests as the person of Christ, walking with people and helping them be closer to God," Father Kautzky said.

During his interview on *Making it Personal with Bishop Joensen* on Iowa Catholic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio network, Father Kautzky said church felt like "home."

"And for me, it was the idea that the priest is going between God and man – bringing God to people through the sacraments," Father Kautzky continued. "My uncle was certainly an inspiration, as were a number of holy priests in our diocese."

Father Kautzky was ordained in 2010 by Bishop Emeritus Richard Pates. One of his first assignments was serving as a chaplain at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines.

While on a retreat he recognized God's "call within the call."

"The retreat center was next to the Marine base, and I kept hearing these explosions in the middle of the retreat," he said. "And I asked the monk [what those noises were.]"

Camp Pendleton was right next door, where the Marines conduct weapons training.

"And I remember seeing those Marines and walking around town and thinking they looked like high schoolers from Dowling," Father Kautzky said. "And I wondered, 'Who is looking out for them? Who is help-

ing them, especially after they get out of high school?"

Young adults fresh out of high school are facing lots of life changes, opportunities and temptations as they step out on their own. He felt God calling him to be there for these young men and women serving our country.

"I was really affirmed by the number of quality students [I knew in Des Moines] going off to the military, and a lot of them are staying in touch with me. And the Lord placed that in my heart a few years ago."

Father Kautzky is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force. He went through eight weeks of training; the first two of which were basic training.

"It was really a culture shock getting woken up at 4 in the morning," he said, with drill sergeants yelling at you and marching in uniform.

"We have other chaplains teaching us how to function in the military as a chaplain," he continued. "How to be faithful to our faith background while also realizing that we're an officer and we're working within a pluralistic organization within the government and how to navigate some of those tricky situations."

Father Kautzky arrived at Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, Louisiana just a few weeks before COVID-19 became widespread, where he is a pastor at the on-base chapel, celebrates weekend and daily Masses and helps with parish life activities.

He also serves police officers, firefighters, K-9 units and more embedded within the unit.

There is a shortage of priests serving in the military, he added, with 75,000 Catholics in the Air Force and only about 55 priests serving them worldwide.

"For me as a chaplain, I'm happiest when I'm hearing confessions of Catholics and reaching out to our airmen," he said. "Many of them have stopped practicing their Catholic faith... That's where a priest can really be helpful – bringing some of those people back and inviting them into the community – focusing on evangelization and reaching out to the Catholics."

Navy veteran's faith comes full circle



Kevin Cox

Kevin Cox lacked direction after graduating from St. Albert Catholic in Council Bluffs.

"College didn't really click with me, and so I just didn't really have any direction..." Cox said. "I was always interested in the military... My oldest brother was in the Navy and he told me about the Navy life and things you get to do and how there are pretty good technical fields to learn, so when you get out it would translate well, so that's why I made the decision to join the Navy."

While Cox is a proud veteran, the hardest part of his 28 years of service were the deployments – he did six of them. Most of that time was spent in the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield and the Global War on Terrorism.

"Basically you leave everybody and everything behind and you leave the states and you live and eat and breathe and work on the ship for six [to nine] months," Cox said. "It's

Continued on page 15

Around the Diocese

Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6 Fall Fish & Chicken Dinners

INDIANOLA, — The Indianola Knights of Columbus will

be hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken dinners on Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6, 13 & 20. Serving hours are 5:30 - 7 p.m. All meals will be served from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall as a drive-up carry-out service only.

Each meal will contain a generous portion of fried Alaskan pollock, chicken tenders, French fries, cole slaw & a dinner roll. The cost per meal is \$10.

Virtual rosary aimed to unite Catholics in ‘moment of prayer’ for nation

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called for a “moment of prayer” to unite Catholics across the country at a time when there is “much unrest and uncertainty” in the United States.

The USCCB host a virtual rosary event Oct. 7, which was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Des Moines Bishop William Joensen prayed the Our Father for the intentions of the Holy Father in the virtual event.

“The faithful are en-

couraged to join in this prayerful moment of unity for our country, to seek healing and to ask Our Lady, on her feast, to pray for us and help lead us to Jesus,” according to a statement from the USCCB.

Mercy College names new academic deans

Ryan “Bud” Marr, Ph.D., is returning to Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines as its new academic dean. Kristy Irwin, director of assessment and accreditation has been named associate dean of academics.

Marr spent the last three years as the director of the National Institute for Newman Studies in Pennsylvania. In that role, he worked to promote knowledge of the life, work and influence of St. John Henry Newman.

Marr served at Mercy College from 2014-2017 first as the director of Campus Ministry, then as assistant professor of phi-

losophy. Prior to coming to Des Moines, he served as campus minister and professor of theology at St. Louis University and as a chaplain in North Carolina.

He cohosts a radio show called “UnCommon Good” on Iowa Catholic Radio with Bo Bonner, director of mission and ministry and assistant professor at Mercy College.

Marr holds a bachelor’s degree in theology from John Brown University, a master’s degree in divinity from Duke Divinity School and a doctoral degree in historical theology from St. Louis University.

Irwin holds two Master of Science degrees from Emporia

State University in educational administration, supervision, and evaluation and curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in curriculum leadership.

She will be responsible for providing academic oversight for academic programs and will continue to have oversight for Mercy College’s assessment and accreditation activities.

National Association of Church Personnel Administrators names Valdez as president-elect of board of directors

Alexandria, Virginia —The National Association of Church Personnel Administrators has named Eileen Cull Valdez, director of Human Resources for the Diocese of Des Moines, as president-elect of its Board of Directors.

The announcement was made by Elizabeth Allen, director of Human Resources of the Diocese of Portland, Maine and president of NACPA’s board.

“We’re grateful to Eileen for accepting this leadership role in our association,” said Allen. “Eileen’s experience in the Diocese of Des Moines and her exceptional service on the NACPA Board of Directors are great credentials that will help the association move forward as we mark our 50th anni-

versary next year.”

Valdez has served the Diocese of Des Moines since 2011. As director of Human Resources, she is responsible for the operational and technical personnel duties of the HR office in the diocese. Prior to this position, Valdez was a human resources professional for 14 years with Merit Resources Inc. now known as Aureon in Des Moines.

NACPA represents human resource directors, finance directors, chancellors, school administrators and other Church leaders in arch/dioceses nationwide and has as its mission “to promote justice in the workplace.”

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St. Albert Catholic School announces new president



At the Oct. 7 press conference, Anne Rohling was introduced as the new president of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs. Rohling attended St. Albert as a child and is the first female president.

Anne Rohling will become the new president of St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs beginning Nov. 2.

A graduate of the school and native of Council Bluffs, she brings a wealth of business and legal acumen to the role, having guided strategic initiatives and negotiated multi-million dollar contracts for a number of Fortune 500 companies.

After her time in corporate America, Rohling opened an independent legal practice in Council Bluffs, where she practiced patent law and advocated on behalf of the elderly. Her legal

experience includes prosecution, business operations, regulatory compliance and litigation management.

She holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Business Administration degree from Creighton University and Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law.

A parishioner of St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs, she has served as the director of religious education for the last few years.

"Anne Rohling is steeped in the experience of Catholic education in her own life path, and in her own commitment to parish religious ed-

ucation and voluntary involvement in communal and corporate outreach," said Bishop William Joensen.

"Anne brings many years of experience in the business world, has very deep roots in the Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa communities, and has an abundant enthusiasm and passion for St. Albert and Catholic education," said Joe Narmi, school board president.

For Rohling, this role is personal.

"My father passed away when the oldest of my six sib-

lings was 10 years old," she said. "My mother sacrificed to provide all of her children with a Catholic education, each one attended parish schools and graduated from St. Albert High School.

"This model of sacrifice and the experiences St. Albert afforded me, opened my eyes to the beauty of Catholic education and the profound desire to support and promote Catholic education in my community," she added.

Bishop Joensen said she's a natural leader.

"I believe she is moved

by the Spirit to embrace this great personal and professional sacrifice by making this momentous transition at this point in her career on behalf of St. Albert Catholic School and I am profoundly grateful," he said.

Rohling will be the first female president at the cradle-to-college school.

"Anne is a tremendous addition to the strong and diverse leadership at St. Albert," said Jeff Lenz, St. Albert Foundation president.

St. Francis receives National Blue Ribbon designation



Gabe Ireland, in eighth grade science class, is mixing cornstarch and water together to simulate the texture and properties of the part of the Earth's mantle called the asthenosphere.

St. Francis Catholic School in West Des Moines is among six Iowa schools to be named a National Blue Ribbon School this year. The elementary school was nominated for exemplary high performance. Begun in 1982, the program recognizes both public and private elementary, middle and high schools based on overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achieve-

ment gaps among student subgroups. Since 2001, five diocesan schools have been named Blue Ribbon Schools: Sacred Heart in West Des Moines, 2000/2001; Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, 2003; St. Augustin in Des Moines, 2004; Holy Trinity in Des Moines, 2008; and St. Francis in 2014. Schools can reapply for the designation after five years.

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Feeding those in need

Continued from page 1

Another factor making it difficult to determine the need is the influx of support from the community.

“From the Midwest standpoint, we all want to chip in when people are down,” said Leslie Van Der Molen, poverty reduction program manager at Catholic Charities. “So when COVID-19 first hit and schools closed for the year, we saw an increase in pop-up pantries in the community through church groups and other organizations. Because of additional surplus, it was really hard to gauge the need.”

With COVID-19, mobile food pantries have become more popular.

“A trend we’ve noticed is that we are seeing less people are out at brick and mortar food pantries, but more at our mobile food pantries,” Elzinga said. “Despite the fact that our pantries implemented a drive up, people still seem to feel more comfortable going to outdoor places to pick up food.”

In response to this concern, DMARC started a delivery service during the pandemic.

“If folks are homebound and can’t get out to a food pantry, they can call our neighbor and we’ll bring out a delivery the next day,” he added. “We’ve partnered with Central Iowa Center for Independent Living.”

Smaller towns across the diocese are working with parishes to offer help to those in need.

Marianne Sullivan, of

Sacred Heart Parish in Woodbine, is vice president of the Woodbine Community Food Pantry Outreach Center board.

The center provides assistance to parents, supplying meals to kids throughout the summer who wouldn’t be receiving breakfast and lunch at school.

“Parents rely on that,” Sullivan said. “For some kids, that’s all they get to eat.”

“They were very appreciative,” Sullivan added.

Linda Lehan, of St. Patrick Parish in Dunlap, regularly volunteers at the Dunlap Community Food Pantry.

“It gives me a good feeling to help out the community and help out those in need, and I’ve got the time to volunteer,” Lehan said. “It just makes me feel good.”

When the pandemic first hit, they saw an influx of clients, but it eventually leveled out. She expects the need to increase over the winter months.

The food pantries are there for people, and someone should never feel ashamed or unwelcome at a food pantry, Van Der Molen said.

“I think our goal is to always be here, especially when there are people experiencing a need for the first time,” Van Der Molen said. “Our goal is to safely serve everybody and treat them with dignity and respect. There are a lot of people who don’t want to utilize the food pantry because they feel like they failed. But we don’t view it that way – we’re here to help when you’re in need.”

USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program unites farmers’ products to families in need

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When COVID-19 became widespread, the hospitality industry came to a halt, leaving many farmers without a market for their food products.

“Early this spring farmers were actually plowing under their crops across the country,” said Brent Addison, director of sales and marketing at Capital City Fruit in Norwalk. “And so the USDA said, ‘Let’s keep the farms going and put together a program so that the processors and distributors would find a way to get food to the people who needed it most.’”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service quickly created the Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

By partnering with national, regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels and other food service businesses, it became possible to purchase up to \$4 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products from American producers of all sizes.

The program has been supplying food boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meat products and a combination box of fresh produce, dairy or meat products. Distributors package these products into family-sized boxes, then transport them to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need. Each box contains approximately 20 pounds of food



The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service quickly created the Farmers to Families Food Box Program this spring to unite farmers’ food products with people in need.

The Des Moines Area Religious Council and the Catholic Charities Food Pantry were two of the local organizations that helped distribute the boxes.

Dowling Catholic High School graduate Brendan Comito, chief operations officer at Capital City Fruit, is happy to be a part of this program.

“We are able to reach even more people through the USDA Food Box program,

which is a win on multiple levels,” Comito said. “It is a win for U.S. growers, for the companies and their employees assembling the food boxes, for the non-profits such as DMARC, and for the people in our community that need food assistance.”

To date, nearly 100 million food boxes have been distributed.



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Hospitality becomes more important during pandemic



Left: Ushers Maren and Audrey Trettin welcome guests to Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines. Usher Kevin Wittrock cleans pews after Mass at St. Patrick Church in Audubon. Darrell and Nancy Wittrock enter St. Patrick Church in Audubon while their son, Kevin, holds the door open for them.

**By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer**

As churches began to reopen for public worship after closing due to COVID-19, there were many more tasks to consider.

Who would encourage everyone coming to wear a mask to prevent spread of the virus?

Who would clean the church after each gathering?

Who would offer hand sanitizer and help people find the baskets where they could put their tithing gifts?

Parish hospitality ministers – the ushers – have stepped up in an increasingly important role. Not only are they welcoming parishioners and guests, they’re ensuring that safety measures are followed so the faithful

can continue to worship.

“The role of ushers has changed and it’s changed for the better,” said Lorelee Chase, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

“When we had to plan to reopen our doors after almost three months of nobody allowed in the church, the task seemed almost impossible,” she said. “There were so many regulations that needed to be met to have people safely worshipping.”

The parish began working with veteran ushers, but quickly realized many more were needed and some who had served for many years could not because they’re vulnerable to the coronavirus.

Maren Trettin and her 11-year-old daughter, Audrey, became ushers at the parishes 5

p.m. Mass on Saturdays. Audrey is often seen standing outside the door with a big “Welcome to SH” sign.

Maren volunteers to share her gifts and talents and to role model for her children.

“With the pandemic, unfortunately, many of the ways in which we would normally volunteer aren’t quite possible yet,” she said. “When they asked for people to help usher, I thought it would be a good way to continue volunteering and something my kids can do as well.”

It worked for Audrey.

“I volunteer because I love helping,” she said. “I would also like to be like my mom someday because I can tell she has a close relationship with God. I like to volunteer because I know it’s helping me build a relationship with God and I know I’m helping as much as I can for my age.”

The role of usher changed at St. Patrick in Audubon and Holy Trinity in Exira, too.

“Before the pandemic

broke out, people thought that the main task for ushers was to greet people at the entrance of the church or to open the door for them,” said the pastor, Father David Nkrumah. “But when the pandemic broke out, it took on a different dimension all together.”

Ushers now make sure the church pews have been disinfected, stand ready to take guests to their seats, offer hand sanitizer, provide a face mask for those who come without one, and ensure social distancing at communion time. They open the doors widely as people leave so visitors don’t have to touch the doors and disinfect the pews after Mass.

“When we asked for volunteers, we got new ones,” said Father Nkrumah. “People volunteered to assist in all of the jobs. They are so wonderful.”

Alice Lauridsen, of St. Patrick in Audubon, had been in charge of scheduling the ushers before the pandemic. Now, she not only schedules them but serves as one herself along with members of the Audubon and Exira joint parish council.

Kurt Petersen has been an usher at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs for about 35 years and said he has additional responsibilities as a hospitality minister since COVID-19. He and fellow ushers encourage parishioners to use masks and social distance. Ushers dismiss people from church so there isn’t a crowd at the doorway. They also spray the pews and wipe door handles.

“If somebody needs something, they’ll come to us or if they have questions, they’ll ask us,” he said. “It’s a way of ministering.”

“There is a new normal for what going to Mass looks like and it can be intimidating,” said Trettin at Sacred Heart. “It’s the usher’s job to help put people at ease and make things run as smoothly as possible so that parishioners can focus on participating in the Mass. It’s a bonus if you can put a smile on their face at the same time.”

COVID-19 impacts clergy

**By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer**

For one weekend in mid-September, about 20 Des Moines metro area priests were under quarantine because they’d been near someone who had COVID-19. Among those quarantined were eight priests in active ministry and 12 priests who are retired.

Due to the fact that many priests unavailable to assist with Masses, there was a scramble to ensure that sacraments were celebrated and worship services were held. Many of the retired priests the diocese relies on to assist when a pastor is unavailable were also under quarantine.

Ultimately, the Masses were covered, the quarantine ended and the priests returned to their regularly scheduled ministries.

This served as a reminder that even ministers of the Church are vulnerable to the

virus.

Bishop William Jonsen was among those in quarantine last month.

“I feel a little bit like I’ve been liberated from my time of self-isolation after coming into contact with one of our priests who tested positive for COVID-19,” said Bishop Jonsen in video posted on social media afterward. “Thankfully, Father is doing well, has observed his own period of time before returning to his active ministry. But it reminds us how precarious our lives are.”

The bishop later added: “These experiences continue to orient us to our ultimate horizon of eternal life in Christ Jesus.”

The diocese highly recommends all those on church or Catholic school property wear a mask, observe social distancing and wash their hands frequently as a charitable means of protecting others from the spread of COVID-19.

Outdoor Mass draws a crowd



Father David Nkrumah, pastor of St. Patrick in Audubon and Holy Trinity in Exira, celebrates an outdoor Mass twice per year for parishioners. The last outdoor Mass in Audubon drew some worshippers who are vulnerable to the coronavirus and felt safer worshipping outside than in a church.

Online option draws viewers from a dozen countries to faith conference



About 2,000 people were in attendance under social distancing guidelines at the 2020 Christ Our Life Conference at Wells Fargo Arena in September.



Camille and Robert Rajnauth of Trinidad livestreamed the weekend conference.



This conference attendee livestreamed from Canada.



Mary Ann Borg and Tania Attard, sisters from Malta, streamed the conference.



People attending the conference were required to wear masks in all common spaces.

**By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer**

The Christ Our Life Conference held Sept. 26-27 drew nearly 2,000 people in-person at Wells Fargo Arena. All attendees were required to wear face masks in common areas and observe social distancing guidelines.

Another 1,400 connections were made by viewers online.

"I think it was just full of the Holy Spirit," said co-chair Marilyn Lane of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. "I have been told so many stories.... God graced the shortcomings that COVID caused."

"It was like everybody was so joyful to be together – being

tighter as a faithful community," said co-chair Ellen Miller, of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola. "We were also thirsting for it. We were fed and it was beautiful."

With the new online option, parishes across the state hosted watch parties, and people joined the conference from the comfort of their homes from at least 12 countries.

"There's a woman [I know who livestreamed the event] and she grabbed me and said, 'I have to tell you, that was my first conference and it was the most amazing thing. I am so on fire,'" said Lane. "[My friend said] 'I can't imagine being there, but ... I felt everything like I was there.'"

Another woman shared that while livestreaming, she turned

to see her youngest child, under the age of two, kneeling in front of the television as the priests kneeled.

As a result of positive feedback and the ability to reach homebound, and those with mobility issues or unable to travel, they will offer the online ticket option again for the next conference, Sept. 24-25, 2022.

Christ Our Life will be posting 2-3 minute clips from some of the best moments at this year's conference on its Facebook page in the weeks to come at Facebook.com/ChristOurLifeIowa. Organizers started a blog, Christ Our Life Everyday, which can be found at ChristOurLifeIowa.com.



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Pope Francis' encyclical letter



Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at the University of Durham, England, speaks at a press conference for the release of Pope Francis' new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," in the synod hall at the Vatican Oct. 4. (CNS photo/ Paul Haring)

Continued from page 1

changing not only the structure of the international community but also the dynamics of relationships within it."

Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at the University of Durham, England, noted that "this letter has its roots in a specific interfaith encounter" and seeks to rally action in the name of the truths proclaimed by faith, beginning with the truth that all people were created by God.

"Faith is our well-spring," she said. "It is part of how we can name and move beyond the grieving indifference of our age."

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops, welcomed the encyclical.

"On behalf of the Catholic Church in the United States, I welcome the Holy Father's new encyclical letter on human fraternity. Like 'Laudato Si' before it, 'Fratelli Tutti' is an important

contribution to the Church's rich tradition of social doctrine.

"Pope Francis' teaching here is profound and beautiful: God our Father has created every human being with equal sanctity and dignity, equal rights and duties, and our Creator calls us to form a single human family in which we live as brothers and sisters," said Archbishop Gomez.

"God's plan for humanity, the pope reminds us, has implications for every aspect of our lives — from how we treat one another in our personal relationships, to how we organize and operate our societies and economies.

"In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person," the archbishop said.



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Imperfect prayer is still worth doing

October is a month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Pope Francis encouraged all of us to “rediscover the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries.” I took Pope Francis’ invitation to heart, because honestly this hasn’t been a strong devotion in my prayer life in recent years. My personal prayer time is usually filled with other things, and while I’ve always been attracted to the concept of the family rosary, with four small children at home this devotion has remained just that; a concept.

It’s not that my family doesn’t try to pray the rosary. It’s just that usually we can get through half a mystery before someone wanders off, a couple kids are fighting, someone is distracted (me as of-

Marriage and Family Life

By Adam Storey



ten as anyone), or there are tears. After all that struggle it is easy to feel like it’s just not worth it.

Pope Francis has reminded me, it’s worth it! Our Father receives and cherishes all our prayers, those prayed with great devotion, and those prayed while we are distracted, tired, and even at times rushed (no judgment)!

Often times at home I’ll ask my

kids to participate in some chore or task around the house. And their help is always a mixed bag. They sometimes work imperfectly, or they slow me down, or I find myself acting as a referee. Yet even if I feel like I could do the job more quickly, or better, without their help, I still delight in their participation. As a father, it’s a joy to share my work with my kids, and in that time together we share our lives with each other. This is how God looks at us when we pray! It’s imperfect, certainly, and yet it is how God invites us to participate in His work, and it is how He shares His own life with us. This month Pope Francis has reminded us that our prayers matter, and that the rosary is an especially powerful prayer, especially in times of difficulty and trial.

So no matter how often, or how

perfectly, you pray the rosary I hope you’ll join me in responding to the invitation of Pope Francis. Let us grow in this beautiful devotion, so that as we reflect on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, “we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise”!

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

Faith, courage and humility

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day, an annual reminder of the service and sacrifice made by our veterans.

My dad, Paul Mescher, was a veteran and a proud member of the local American Legion in Carroll County. When we buried him this past May in my hometown of Halbur, he received military honors. During the playing of Taps, the 21-gun salute and folding of the American flag that had draped his casket before presenting it to my Mom, there was not a dry eye in sight.

My sister, Lieutenant Colonel Amy Price, also served for 26 years.

I have a strong respect and admiration for our veterans and military – and really anyone who embodies truth and justice and displays bravery and conviction to do what is right – especially in the face of peer pressure, judgment or worse.

History is filled with examples of courageous people of faith.

St. Joan of Arc was a young, pious teenage girl who felt called by God to lead the French army to its victory at the Siege of Orléans over the English in the 1400s. She was eventually captured and burned at the stake at just 19 years old.

The movie *Hacksaw Ridge* tells the story of U.S. Army Private First Class Desmond Doss, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in World War II. Despite being mocked by his peers and pressured by superiors, he held steady to his beliefs, refusing to bear arms while serving as a medic. Without a weapon to defend himself, he still saved 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa.

And who can forget the pivotal scene in the movie *Braveheart* and Mel Gibson’s rousing pep talk to Scottish warriors before later screaming, “F-r-e-e-e-d-o-m!” He portrayed William Wallace, considered one of Scotland’s greatest heroes and chief inspiration for Scottish resistance to King Edward in the 13th century. Wallace was eventually captured, condemned to death, hung, disemboweled, quartered and beheaded.

Most of us have never engaged in military battle. But there’s not a human on this planet who has avoided battle with the unseen enemy – the evil one.

As Dan Burke writes in his book, *Spiritual Warfare and the Discernment of Spirits*, “the battle is unavoidable.”

Guest Column

By Kelly Mescher Collins



In Ephesians, St. Paul says: “For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.”

The Church offers protection and a place of retreat. The sacraments, especially the Eucharist and reconciliation, lighten our load and give us strength.

Great theologians, including St. Vincent de Paul and former soldier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, have pointed to humility as part of a strong arsenal.

“Humility and abandonment to the will of God in every moment is one of the most powerful weapons at our disposal in our daily spiritual battles for peace,” Burke writes. “The reason for this is if we are humble, and we are open to whatever the Lord brings, we are thereby attached to very little, and the enemy has little room to tempt us.”

Keeping my Bible at the ready and trusting in God are key for getting through life – though none of us ever really get through it completely unscathed.

“In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” it says in Ephesians 6: 16-17.

I regularly take up my rosary, which St. Padre Pio called “the weapon against the evils of the world today.”

I find comfort knowing faithful have been praying the rosary for the Virgin Mary’s intercession for centuries.

In fact, Oct. 7 was the anniversary of the Holy League of 1571’s victory over the Ottoman Navy at the Battle of Lepanto, marking the entire month of October as the month of the rosary. Catholics celebrate Oct. 7 as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (formerly known as Our



Kelly Mescher Collins’ father, Paul Mescher, was a proud veteran and received military honors at his burial earlier this year.

Lady of Victory).

A song by my favorite Christian band, Rend Collective, sums up my approach.

“When I stand accused by my regrets, and the devil roars its empty threats, I will preach the Gospel to myself, that I am not a man condemned – for Jesus Christ is my defense.”

“When the doubt and shame hang over me... like the arrows of the enemy. I will run again to Calvary – that

rugged hill of hell’s defeat – my fortress and my victory.” (Rend Collective, *Nailed to the Cross*, off the album, *Good News*)

Kelly Mescher Collins is multimedia journalist for the Diocese of Des Moines. She can be reached at kcollins@dmdiocese.org.

Ask a Priest

Q. Did God really create the universe in seven days?

A. Almost certainly not. The story of creation is meant to indicate that God is at the very beginning of the universe. It's not intended to solve geological or astronomical or historical issues. In fact, in the book of Genesis, there are two stories of creation. One is in chapter one; the other in chapter two. Look it up to see the differences. For early believers, these stories helped to form a people of faith in a God who loved them and cared for them from the very start.

Q. How does the religious history of the world and the scientific history of the world match up?

A. We are constantly learning more. Every generation adds to our knowledge in many subjects. Religion and science are not rivals for our votes. A crazy comparison might ask how does mathematics influence language? It doesn't. Science offers us insights into space, medicine, astronomy, and chemistry. Religion attempts to connect us with God and with one another. Prayer and worship don't preclude the advances in science. Rather, science often assists us in helping one another to live more complete and more loving lives.

Q. If you go to purgatory, then how do people go to hell?

A. Oh my. We hope that no one goes to hell. It's understandable that we think of purgatory and heaven and hell as specific geographical places. But we have no direct experience or knowledge of them. We know that the earth is round, but we usually think of it as flat – for example, when building a home or school or office building, we lay out the plans flat. If that's the case with the earth,

imagine how much more mind-boggling is trying to conceptualize heaven or hell or purgatory. We think of heaven as “up” and hell as “down,” but those terms really don't work when we know the earth is not flat. Heavy stuff, eh?

Q. Is our life determined before we are born?

A. No. Some things are determined: where we are born, what language we speak, what kind of education we are lucky enough to receive, what color our eyes and hair and skin are. But we also believe that we have free will to make decisions about our lives. We'd like to think that we are COMPLETELY free, but we know our lives would be very different if we grew up in a different country with different parents and a different kind of government and a different language. Even our DNA determines if we are susceptible to certain diseases or other conditions. We are free in many ways, but not in every way.

Q. Does God know what I am going to do – does he know what path I am going to take already?

A. Well, it's a fair enough question, but we simply don't know. Take a few minutes when you get a chance, and take the bible off your bookshelf. Turn to the book of Psalms and look at Psalm eight. It's not very long, but it will give you a look at how small our understanding is of the magnitude of God.

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

The Hidden Face of Evil

Guest Column

By Father
Ron Rolheiser



We tend to be naïve about evil, at least as to what it looks like in everyday life. Our picture of evil has been falsely shaped by images taken from mythology, religious cults, and from books and movies that portray evil as personified in sinister spiritual forces. Demons haunt houses, appear at séances, are summoned up by Ouija boards, contort bodies, and are exorcized by the sprinkling of holy water. Whatever evil does reside inside this concept of demonic forces (and you can believe in them or not) is infinitely eclipsed by the ordinary face of evil which looks out at us from newscasts, is daily manifest in ordinary life, and is manifest too in our own face on a given day.

Mostly we are blind to the hidden evil that foments inside us, tears communities apart, and eats away at God and goodness. The Gospels can help us understand this.

In the Gospels, the evil one has two names because evil works in two ways. Sometimes the Gospels call the evil force “the Devil” and other times they call it “Satan”. What's the difference? In the end they both refer to the same force (or person) but the different names refer to the different ways in which evil works. Devil, in Greek, means to slander and to tear things apart. Ironically, Satan means almost the exact opposite. It means to unite things, but in a sick and malevolent way.

So evil works in two ways: the devilish works by dividing us from each other, tearing us apart, and having us habitually slander each other so that community is forever being torn apart through jealousy and accusation. The satanic, on the other hand, does the opposite, with the same result. The satanic unites us in a sick way, that is, through the grip of mob-hysteria, social hype, self-serving ideologies, racism, sexism, envy, hatred and in a myriad of other malevolent ways so as to draw us into mob-hatred, gang-rapes, lynchings, and crucifixions. It was satanic forces that engineered Jesus' crucifixion.

When we look at our world today, from politics to social media to what's happening inside many of our religious circles, we would have to be blind not to see the powers of the “devil” and of “satan” at work (however you personally define and picture these).

Where do we see the devilish at work? Basically everywhere. Today, most everywhere,

you see persons sowing division, attributing false motives to others, calling for them to be distrusted and ostracized. Indeed, this is almost the dominant element we see in our politics and in our social media. The result is the breakdown of community, the stalemate in our politics, the breakdown of civility, the loss of trust in the meaning of truth, the smug belief that our own idiosyncratic narrative functions as truth, and the near universal neglect of elemental charity. Today we are witnessing a dangerous breakdown of trust and civility, coupled with a massive erosion of simple honesty. The devil must be smiling.

Where do we see the satanic at work? Everywhere as well. More and more we are retreating into tribes, gangs, with those others who think like us and have the same self-interests to protect. While this can be a good thing, it's not good when we unite in ways that are rooted in self-serving ideologies, economic privilege, racism, sexism, false nationalism, envy, and hatred. When this happens, our group ceases being a community and becomes instead a mob, a sick one, which at the end of the day, whatever its particular idiosyncratic slogan, ends up chanting, as did the crowds on Good Friday, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” It's significant that in the Gospels almost every time the word “crowd” is used it's used pejoratively. Commentators tell us that almost without exception every time the word “crowd” appears in the Gospels it could be preceded by the adjective “mindless.” Crowds are mindless; worse still, they generally have a sick bent towards crucifixion. The renowned Czech novelist Milan Kundera highlights this when he shares his strong fear of “the great march,” the sick fever that so generally infects a crowd and, soon enough, has them chanting “Release to us Barabbas! And as for Jesus, crucify him!” This is the face of satan in ordinary life, the actual face of evil.

We need to name this today as we see the ever-intensifying and bitter polarization inside our families, communities, neighborhoods, cities, and countries. Factionalism, anger, bitterness, distrust, accusation, and hatred are intensifying most everywhere, even inside our own families where we are finding it harder and harder to sit down together, be civil with each other, and talk through our political, social, and moral differences. Sadly, even the deadly presence of a pandemic which threatens all of us has worked to divide rather than unite us.

Evil doesn't ordinarily have the face and feel of the devil in *Rosemary's Baby*; it has the face and feel of this evening's newscast.

Oblate Father Ron Rollheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted through his website ronrollheiser.com.

We welcome Letters to the Editor

The Catholic Mirror welcomes Letters to the Editor written by parishioners of the Diocese of Des Moines. Letters should pertain to issues of faith. Please keep letters to 300 words or less. Send to communications@dmdiocese.org or The Catholic Mirror 601 Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50309

Watch Bishop Joensen's reflections

...plus, his Wednesday Mass livestreamed at 12:10pm on Facebook



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Former Imogene teacher dies

Dominican Sister Mary Ann Heyd, also known as Sister Wilberta, died Sept. 6 at St. Dominic Villa, Hazel Green, Wisconsin.

Born in 1931 in Peoria, Illinois, Sister Mary Ann made her first religious profession as a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa Aug. 5, 1952, and her perpetu-

al profession Aug. 5, 1955. She taught for 31 years and served as director of religious education for seven years, subprioress and liturgist for three years, pastoral associate for eight years, family care giver for eight years, and community visitor for two years.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Mary Ann taught

at St. Patrick, Imogene, 1959-1966. She also served in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Nebraska and Kentucky.

The funeral Mass was held at the Dominican motherhouse, Sinsinawa, Sept. 11, followed by burial in the Motherhouse Cemetery. Memorials

may be made to the Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI, 53824-9701 or at www.sinsinawa.org/donate online. Repeat broadcasts of the wake and funeral for Sister Mary Ann are available online at www.sinsinawa.org/live. Click on the "on demand" tab.



Sister Mary Ann Heyd

Sister devoted her life to education

Sister Jean M. (Jean Francis) Byrne, BVM died Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Caritas Center in Dubuque, Iowa. She was 94.

She was born on Nov. 13, 1925, in Chicago and entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation Sept. 8, 1943, from St.

Charles Borromeo Parish, Chicago. She professed first vows on March 19, 1946, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1951.

Sister Jean ministered as a secondary teacher at St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines and Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines. She was an elementary teacher in

Council Bluffs, Iowa; Chicago; and Butte, Mont. She served the congregation as BVM Personnel Office director and Mount Carmel Archives volunteer.

Virtual visitation and Rite of Committal were held Sept. 25. A memorial Mass was Oct. 1. Burial was in the Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to Sisters of Charity, BVM Support Fund, 1100 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003 or online at https://www.bvmsisters.org/support_donate.cfm.



Sister Jean M. Byrne

Sister's gift for music carried through her life

Dominican Sister Baptist Stohrer died Aug. 31 at St. Dominic Villa, Hazel Green, Wisconsin at age 93 after spending 73 years with her religious community.

The funeral Mass was held at the Dominican motherhouse, Sinsinawa, Sept. 4, followed by burial of the remains in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Born in 1927 in Urba-

na, Illinois, Sister Baptist made her first religious profession as a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa Feb. 3, 1947, and her perpetual profession Aug. 5, 1950.

She primarily taught music in elementary and high schools for 20 years before beginning a 40-year tenure in music at Rosary College/Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois. Sister Baptist ministered as a

liturgist for one year and in administration at Villa Schifanoia, Florence, Italy, for one year. A former student described her "as always pleasant and easy to learn from." She served in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and South Dakota.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Baptist taught at St. Patrick Grade and High Schools in Imogene in 1947.

Memorials may be made to the Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI, 53824-9701 or at www.sinsinawa.org/donate online. Repeat broadcasts of the wake and funeral for Sister Baptist are available online at www.sinsinawa.org/live. Click on the "on demand" tab.



Sister Baptist Stohrer

Congregation of the Humility of Mary Jubilarians

Eight religious women with the Congregation of the Humility of Mary, who have ties to the Diocese of Des Moines, celebrated jubilees this past summer.

On Aug. 30 the congregation had a private Mass of Celebration in the Magnificat Chapel at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport.

75 Years

Sister Rosalia (Mary Andrew) Riedel was born in 1923 in Milford, Ohio. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1945 and made her first profession in 1948. Sister Rosalia received a BA in elementary education from Marycrest College in Davenport and 40 years later received a certified nurse's aide degree from Scott Community College in Davenport.

She taught elementary school in Iowa in Centerville, Bettendorf, Albia, Oskaloosa and Ottumwa. In the Diocese of Des Moines, she taught at St. Theresa School (1962-63). She also taught in Montana and Illinois.

After teaching, her ministry focused in a different direction. She worked in Davenport at the Center for Active Seniors as a program assistant, a program facilitator and finally as a volunteer.

Sister Rosalia now resides at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston, where she is active in a ministry of prayer and witness.

70 years

Sister Rachel Beeson was born in 1932 in Des Moines. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1950 making her first vows in 1953.

Sister Rachel studied education at Ottumwa Heights College in Ottumwa, received her BA in education from Marycrest College in Davenport, and an MA in elementary administration from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Gerardeau, Missouri. She also completed a corporate ministry program at St. Louis University in St. Louis.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister Rachel taught at St. Joseph in Dunlap (1954-55) and St. Anthony in Des Moines (1960-62). She was teacher and assistant principal at St. Pius X in Urbandale (1967-69); principal at St. Pius X (1969-71), St. Albert in Council Bluffs (1973-77), and St. Anthony in Des Moines (1977-81). She also served schools in Iowa in Cosgrove, Oskaloosa, Centerville, Davenport, Albia, Clinton and Muscatine. She served a school in Minneapolis and Benton, Missouri as well.

Sister Rachel's varied ministries also included: plant coordinator at Ottumwa Heights in Ottumwa, coordinator of retired at Marycrest in Davenport, women's counselor at New Life Style in St. Louis, religious education coordinator at St. Anthony Parish in Knoxville, Iowa. She was a member of the Seeds of

Hope team in Davenport, matching volunteers with opportunities to serve the homeless, migrants and refugees, inner-city children and the elderly.

Sister Rachel currently lives in Davenport, Iowa at Humility of Mary Center where she is active in a ministry of prayer and witness.

60 years

Born in Bernard, Iowa, in 1938, Sister Kathleen (Moadonna Marie) Henneberry entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960 and made her first profession in 1963.

Sister Kathleen received her BA in elementary education from Marycrest College in Davenport. She continued her education at many colleges with a focus on spiritual direction, theology, hospice care and pastoral ministry.

Her teaching ministry in Iowa found her at Ottumwa, Davenport, Albia, Centerville, and Davenport. In the Diocese of Des Moines, she taught at St. Joseph, Dunlap (1966-68). She also taught in Montana and Illinois.

Sister Kathleen's parish ministry found her in Davenport, St. Louis, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. In the Des Moines diocese, she served Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton and St. Francis Parish in Corydon (2003-08).

From 2008-2010 Sister Kathleen served as the CHM coordinator at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston. She currently lives in Davenport at the Hu-

mility of Mary Center where she works with Sister Rosie Restelli as sacristan, volunteers for the CHMs and visits immediate family members who suffer serious health issues.

Sister Catherine (Ramona Marie) Linnenkamp was born in Sigourney, Iowa, in 1938 and entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963.

Sister Catherine received her associate's degree in education from Ottumwa Heights College, a BA in education from Marycrest College in Davenport and an MA in education from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her ministry of teaching in Iowa found her at St. Anthony School in Des Moines (1967-68). She also taught in Ottumwa, Albia and Bettendorf. She served as principal in Albia and two schools in Davenport.

Her ministry as assistant registrar at Marycrest College began in 1986. She then became registrar at Teikyo/Marycrest University.

Changing ministries in 2000, she worked in health information management at Genesis Medical Center in Davenport. Currently Sister Catherine lives in Davenport and serves as the CHM finance clerk at Humility of Mary Center.

Sister Rosalind (Mario) Restelli was born in 1942 in Great Falls, Montana, and entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963.

She received an associate degree in teaching from Ottumwa Heights College in Ottumwa, Iowa, and a BA in elementary education from Marycrest College in Davenport. Her ministry of education found her at schools in Iowa in Marshalltown and Bettendorf. In the Diocese of Des Moines, she St. Pius X in Des Urbandale (1965-66) and St. Joseph School in Neola (1977-90 and 1991-94). She also taught in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Sister Rosalind also served as a pastoral minister at St. Patrick Parish in Neola starting in 1994 until retirement. She was the last Sister of Humility to serve in Neola, having ministered there for 37 years. Sister Rosalind now lives at Humility of Mary Center in Davenport where she is a sacristan.

Sisterr Johanna (Mary Johanna) Rickl was born in 1942 in Glendive, Montana, and entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963.

She received her associate degree in education from

Face masks deemed expression of faith that deepens safety precaution

LEWES, Del. (CNS) -- When Father Brian S. Lewis walked into St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewes to celebrate Mass on a recent fall Saturday evening, he was sporting a unique face mask.

Mask wearing is a requirement for most people to enter the worship space as a public safety measure during the coronavirus pandemic, so a friend of Father Lewis' sister-in-law crafted a face covering fitting for the pastor of the Delaware parish.

It's all black with a small white patch at the center top of the cloth, resembling the white collar on the black clerical garb most priests wear. The "cleric" mask elicits laughter, stares, double takes and curiosity, Father Lewis told Catholic News Service during a recent interview.

"I wear it proudly, not only for the shock value and because it's funny," he said. "It also symbolizes something that should be on full display. Wear-



Father Brian S. Lewis

ing the mask can be a spiritual work of mercy."

Chiefs' star kicker: Catholic faith, family are priority

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) -- Harrison Butker's impact on the football field is tremendous.



Harrison Butker

As the kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, he was a vital component to the team's victory in Super Bowl

LIV.

But the morning after the game, as he told the attendees at the Knights of Columbus 55th annual College Councils Conference, he still had to take out the garbage.

This simple act was a humbling reminder to him while on top of the football world.

"Outside of the bright lights of the stadium, with the fans and the notoriety that come with being an NFL player, the greatest impact that I will make

with my time on this earth is remaining dedicated to my primary vocation -- helping my family get to heaven," he said.

Butker, a member of the Knights of Columbus who joined while a student-athlete at Georgia Tech, challenged College Knights to make an impact on their communities and college campuses by "showing by our actions what a Christ-centered life looks like put into practice."

Pope Francis addresses United Nations

Pope Francis asked members of the United Nations how they think they can respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and build a more peaceful, more just world when many of their countries spend billions of dollars on military weapons and when their treatment of the unborn, of refugees and of women shows so lit-

tle respect for human life.

"We must ask ourselves if the principal threats to peace and security -- poverty, epidemics, terrorism and so many others -- can effectively be countered when the arms race, including nuclear weapons, continues to squander precious resources that could better be used to benefit the

integral development of peoples and protect the natural environment," the pope said in his video address, which was broadcast Sept. 25 during a virtual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.N. is celebrating its 75th anniversary. On the fifth anniversary of his visit to the U.N. headquarters in New

York, Pope Francis returned to themes he has repeated since the COVID-19 pandemic began: Humanity faces a choice between trying to go back to an often unjust "normal" or taking the opportunity to rethink economic and political policies, putting the good of all people and the environment ahead of concern

for maintaining the lifestyles of wealthy individuals and nations. The pope spoke in Spanish; a Vatican translation of his speech follows, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

Congregation of the Humility of Mary Jubilarians

Continued from page 14

Ottumwa Heights College in Ottumwa, a BA in biology from Marycrest College in Davenport, and an MS in zoology from Arizona State University. She later completed the Qualified General Interpreter Program at Des Moines Area Community College and is a charter member of the Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association.

Her ministry of teaching began at St. Anthony School in Des Moines (1965-66), and continued in Montana, Arizona and Ottumwa, Iowa. Sister Johanna did pastoral work in Chiapas, Mexico for 13 years and later in Montana. She was pastoral administrator of a parish in Montana for 10 years.

From 2003-2008 she lived in the CHM New Hope Community, serving residents of the River Bend neighborhood of Des Moines and interpreting at Mercy Medical Center.

Sister Johanna has served as president and vice president of the CHM community and is currently part of the CHM Leadership Team in Davenport. Much of her attention is directed to the CHM sponsored ministries, Humility Homes &

Services, Inc and Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat.

Born in Davenport, Iowa, St. Alphonsus Parish, in 1940, Sr. Nancy (John Mary) Schwieters entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960 and made her first vows in 1963.

Sister Nancy received an associate degree in elementary education from Ottumwa Heights College, Ottumwa, IA, a BA in elementary education from Marycrest College, Davenport, and an MA in religious education from Seattle University. Her ministry of teaching in Iowa found her at St. Pius School in Urbandale (1964-65). She also taught in Marshalltown and Davenport, and in Montana. She coordinated the CHM formation program at the Ottumwa Heights Center in Ottumwa.

Sister Nancy served with John Lewis Community Services as a job connect and computer lab mentor. She continued that ministry with Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. in Davenport. She has since retired and is active in a ministry of prayer and witness.

Sister Mary Penelope Wink (M. Damien) was born in Evanston, Illinois in 1941. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in 1960. Her first vows were pronounced in 1963 and final vows in 1968.

Sister Mary Penelope received a BA in biology from Marycrest College in Davenport, an MS in biology from Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas, and an MA in gestalt psychotherapy from Integro in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. She also has various certificates in programs related to pastoral services and psychotherapy.

Sister Mary Penelope taught in Iowa at St. Pius X in Urbandale (1964). She also taught in Marshalltown and Ottumwa. She worked with single mothers while working in a university laboratory in Nashville, Tennessee and in Houston.

She also acted as CHM formation director and associate coordinator. Since 1975, Sister Penelope's ministry has been that of pastoral work in different parishes in Chiapas, Mexico. In addition, since 2002 she has ministered as a psychotherapist and since 2018 as a polarity integration therapist in Chiapas.

Founder of KCs to be beatified

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) -- Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, will be beatified during a special Mass Oct. 31 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

On May 27, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis had signed the decree recognizing a miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney, clearing the way for his beatification. Once he is beatified, he will be given the title "Blessed."

The Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes announced the date for the beatification July 20.

The miracle recognized by the Vatican occurred in 2015 and involved an U.S. baby, still in utero, with a life-threatening condition that, under most circumstances, could have led to an abortion.

That baby, Mikey Schachle, is now 5. His parents, Dan and Michelle Schachle, of Dickson, Tennessee, prayed to Father McGivney to intercede with God to save their son, still in his mother's womb, who was given no hope of surviving a life-threatening case of fetal

hydrops.

Father McGivney (1852-1890), the son of Irish immigrants, was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, and was ordained a priest in 1877 for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford. He founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882.

He originally started the Knights as a service organization to help widows and orphans. The fraternal order for Catholic men has become the largest lay Catholic organization in the world with 2 million members and sponsors a wide range of educational, charitable and religious activities.

Father McGivney, who will be the first American parish priest to be beatified and has long been a hero of working-class Catholics, can be viewed as a martyr of a pandemic. When he died of pneumonia complications at age 38 in 1890, it was during an outbreak of influenza known as the Russian flu in Thomaston, Connecticut.

Veterans reflect on service

Continued from page 1

very difficult to be away from home for that long and again, working and sleeping and eating and do everything in the same place and it gets a little tedious."

Cox admits to falling away from this faith while serving in the military.

"A lot of the ships didn't have Catholic priests -- we were fortunate on my last one that we did have a Catholic priest," Cox said.

"It was when I retired and moved back to Council Bluffs when I felt the need to reconnect with the Church, and that's when I went back to my childhood parish," said Cox, who was raised Catholic. "I went through RCIA to get confirmed -- I was never confirmed."

While there, he discovered Corpus Christi was looking for a parish manager, which matched his skill set -- and he now works for the church where he was raised.

Corning native on Army service

Lynn Schafroth of St. Patrick Parish in Corning joined the Army National Guard as a senior in high school.



Lynn Schafroth

at the Red Oak Armory before training Vietnamese officers in Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Schafroth's Catholic faith is extremely important to

him, and he has made point of giving back.

He and wife, Linda, helped lead the Teens Encounter Christ 3-day weekend at St. Thomas More Center 23 times. He helped lead a program called Quest for freshman and sophomores, and has been a chaperone for the National Catholic Youth Conference three separate times.

He and Linda were also involved in marriage preparation, and have met with 25 engaged couples over the years.

"I felt like I needed to give back to the community in some way, and to me the church was the logical choice," Schafroth said.

Miracle Approved! Father McGivney to be Beatified!

ROME – The Vatican today (May 27) announced that Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, a Connecticut priest who served his flock during the pandemic of 1890, before himself becoming ill and dying of pneumonia.

The pope's action means that Father McGivney can be declared "Blessed," the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

"Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s.

Father McGivney also remains an important role model for parish priests around the world and left us a transformative legacy of effective cooperation between the laity and clergy.

Father McGivney spent his entire priesthood in parish ministry and died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890—two days after his 38th birthday—after falling ill amid a pandemic. Recent scientific evidence indicates that that pandemic—like the current one—may have been caused by a coronavirus.

Known by his contemporaries for his devotion to the faith and his embodiment of the characteristics of the "Good Samaritan," his cause for sainthood was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997. St. John Paul II—who was pope at that time—lauded Father McGivney's principles, stating in 2003, "In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth."

The Knights are offering three dates you can join in a free livestream of our latest documentary—Father Michael McGivney: An American Blessed—ahead of his beatification Mass on Oct. 31. This new short documentary explores the life, legacy and impact of Father Michael McGivney, apostle of spiritual brotherhood and unity, who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882.

The 20-minute film will air on the K of C YouTube and Facebook channels in three, exclusive, limited time events:

- September 26 at 8 p.m. ET
- October 25 at 8 p.m. ET




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