

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Pilgrimages of faith, hope

Visually impaired man sees a way to raise funds for research

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Tyler Juranek, 25, was born with bilateral detached retinas and unable to see.

“I was almost two years old before my parents found out that I was blind,” said Juranek, a lifelong member of St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs. “My parents told me you can do anything you want to do. They said, ‘We want you to be a productive member of society.’ And I am.”

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Tyler Juranek of St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs leads the annual tractor “Ride Into Sight” with family friend Bennet Leuschen. Though Juranek was born visually impaired, he does not let that slow him down.



Honoring St. Michael the Archangel, about 70 people trekked from the south side of Des Moines to Indianola while praying for the saint’s protection.

16-mile walk honors archangel

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Eren Munoz and her family have had a lifelong devotion to St. Michael the Archangel, traditionally known as the commander of the army of God and spiritual warrior in the battle of good versus evil.

In fact, Eren’s father’s name is Miguel – Spanish for Michael.

Many Catholics, including the Munoz family, frequently recite the prayer to St. Michael asking for his protection against the wickedness and snares of the

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Upcoming capital campaign to benefit everyone in the Diocese

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The upcoming “Ignite! A Life. A Church. A Community.” campaign is an investment in people – in priests, women religious, deacons, mothers, fathers, teachers, catechists, and, especially, in children.

True to its name, this campaign seeks to spark the flame of faith in one life, one Church, and one community at a time, invoking the Spirit’s assistance in carrying out the universal call to missionary discipleship and

a bold vision for passing on our faith to future generations.

Set to officially begin in 2022, the \$45 million diocesan-wide effort will establish an endowment to provide more financial aid to Catholic school families.

It will also provide additional funding for the Diocese’s growing number of seminarians, support priests in their retirement, and promote parish renewal and vibrancy initiatives.

Further, a percentage of funds raised at each of the 80 parishes will be returned to parishes through a “parish share” component.

Catholics Schools Endowment, \$25 million

Catholic education has never been more critical to our future.

In the current funding model, tuition is lower than the actual cost of education and parishes with schools provide anywhere from 40-70 percent of their ordinary offertory income to support school operations.

A \$25 million endowment will complement the Catholic Tuition Organization tax-credit program, significantly boosting the amount of financial aid available each year to families in need.

Establishing this endowment will allow more families to share the blessings of Catholic education with their children and ensure the long-term vitality of our parishes and schools.

Support for seminarians, \$5 million

Over the last 10 years, the Diocese has ordained 17 priests, with five ordained priests in 2021 alone!

Currently, the Diocese has the resources to support up to 18 seminarians each year, yet projected class sizes for the foreseeable future are between 20 and



25 seminarians.

Bolstering the endowed Diocesan Seminarian Fund by \$5 million, while continuing to support seminarian education through the Annual Diocesan Appeal and Annual Seminarian Appeal will make it possible to have

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The New Adam's Family

With the release this month of the movie sequel, *The Addams Family 2*, we are invited into the chambers of the often bizarre, mildly scary, and weirdly attractive cast of characters identified as “one of the most iconic families in American history, up there with the Kennedys.” For the almost cult-like followers of parents Gomez and Morticia, their children Wednesday and Pugsley, family members Uncle Fester and Grandmama, butler Lurch, disembodied Thing and other creatures, it's almost as though every day is Halloween.

Yet as intriguing as the Addams are, there is another family who should capture our spiritual imaginations and intensify our participation in a drama that is sometimes frightful, frequently funny, periodically mystifying, and yet never boring. For as we pray in the *Salve Regina*, we “poor banished children of Eve” descended from our first parents who found themselves estranged from God by their own willful disregard for God's wise instruction. By virtue of our common humanity, we belonged to the first Adam's family whose story began in pure bliss but was hijacked toward a sober outcome until the God who is pure spirit intervened and took on flesh for our sake.

This God remains not a “thing” but a community of persons. St. Paul compares Jesus, the new Adam, to his predecessor: “Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

the one who was to come. . . . For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many” (Romans 5:14-15).

When we identify fully as body-soul beings with the new Adam, Jesus, we find ourselves belonging to a family where dysfunction or disability is an occasion for compassionate solidarity, and mutual vulnerability is befriended. We accept our own bodies with their own distinctive features and imperfections without needing to exaggerate our own exceptionalism in a sweated attempt that screams, “Look at me!” Instead, one has an attitude like Kathleen Berken, who lived in an “Arch” community in Clinton, Iowa with core members facing different cognitive and physical challenges.

Kathleen, who contracted Stage IV breast cancer and underwent surgery and treatment, observes, “During my year of treatment, no core member even noticed that I wore one breast short, or made disparaging remarks about my hair loss, weight gain, or change in appearance due to the ravaging effects of chemo.

It's not that they didn't care; they just didn't pay attention.” There is a countercultural note: “Their bathroom mirror reflects faces and bodies my culture doesn't celebrate on covers of celebrity magazines. So, a bald woman, forty pounds overweight with one breast, a red face, and mottle chemo skin, looks just like some of them. I found myself breathing more.”

Once baptized into Christ, our bodies are indeed a “temple of the Holy Spirit” that affords access to a community that is both human and divine, where we are free to breathe. Further, as a precursor to the glorified body with which God's friends – the “hallowed” saints – are invested, our practices surrounding death should rightly reflect our human dignity while maintaining a graced detachment that does not cling unduly to the mortal remains of loved ones (as was the case with the woman who had some of her husband's ashes baked into the clay vase that held the remainder that she intends to keep on her mantle at home until she dies). Nor should we manifest callous disrespect for the “stuff” that once marked our physical presence (as is the case, I suggest, in movements to legalize the composting of corpses and recycle them like any other organic material).

The body is important, Father José Granados reminds us, because it links us with our parents and connects us through generations to Adam and Eve with the same origin and history. Happily, “In this kind of generation, not

only is an original fault transmitted, but also the memory of an original beatitude, that is, an original relationship with God as a source of life and promise of fullness.” Our relationship with our mother and father may or may not become full-bodied friendship; in any event, beyond the natural order “there is a collective familial memory of happiness going back to Adam.”

While memory retrieves this past sense of original beatitude, there is also a future dimension of happiness accessed by faith that is inscribed in the individual body and the Body of Christ, manifest in the Church and the Eucharist. As we make our pilgrimage through life and begin to more intensely sense our mortality, our presence among a human community that mediates communion with God is a consolation and a source of hope, for we already anticipate the life of the new Adam, Jesus, and his death for our sake. The sacraments are our bodily means of remaining united with Christ. Granados concludes: “The Eucharist is the act by which, through the flesh and in union with Christ's flesh, the entire Church directs herself to him. Thus, by this happy act, the Church makes herself a happy city.” The new Adam's family is meant to radiate happiness even in the face of death beyond the Church to the whole world.

As a final note, I make this appeal: many clergy and others note the sorry trend among the children of deceased parents who were longtime practicing Catho-

lics and even daily communicants not to request the Mass of Christian Burial for their parents' eternal peace and joy, even when their folks clearly requested that the Eucharist be celebrated. Whether it is out of discomfort or misgivings given their own ambivalent faith lives, or a desire for efficiency or economy, I will not judge.

But it strikes me that it is not only a denial of the opportunity to invoke Christ's merciful grace and the merits of his salvific death to aid in their parents' purification and preparation for heaven, it is an offense against the command to “honor one's father and mother.” Further, as traced above, to omit Mass introduces a rupture in the bond of generations that extends in both directions: back toward the original blessing that enfolded the first Adam (and Eve), and toward the future hope of communion in the beatific vision. There we aspire to see not only God, but our parents and our siblings in their beautiful, glorified bodies.

While God and the Church might still supply what is lacking through the infinite merits of Christ's cross, to forgo the offering of the funeral Mass diminishes the prospect of happiness not only in heaven, but dampens the happiness that is available to us here and now in our concrete lived experience in the world. And that is something that no real-life family, let alone the new Adam's spiritual family, should suffer.

La Nueva Familia Addams

Con el estreno este mes de la película secuela, *La Familia Addams 2*, se nos invita a las cámaras de este grupo de personajes frecuentemente raros, algo espantosos y extrañamente atrac-

tivos que se identifican como “una de las más familias más simbólicas en la historia americana, al nivel de los Kennedys.” Para los seguidores casi religiosos de los padres Homero y Morticia, sus hijos Merlina y Pericles, miembros de la familia el Tío Lucas y la Abuela, el mayordomo Largo, Dedos quien no tiene cuerpo y las demás creaturas es como si todos los días fuera Halloween.

A pesar de lo intrigantes que son los Addams, hay otra familia que debería capturar nuestra imaginación espiritual e intensificar nuestra participación en un drama que en veces es espantoso, divertido a veces, periódicamente místico, pero nunca aburrido. Cuando oramos el *Salve*, nosotros “los desterrados hijos de Eva” descendiendo de nuestros primeros padres quienes fueron desterrados de Dios por su propia y voluntaria desobediencia a la sabia instrucción de Dios. Por virtud de nuestra humanidad común, pertenecíamos a la primera familia de Adán cuya historia comienza en sabiduría pura pero que fueron arrebatados hacia un sobrio resultado hasta que Dios que es espíritu puro, intervino y se formó de carne por nuestro bien.

Este Dios permanece no como una “cosa” pero como una comunidad de personas. San Paulo compara a Jesús, el nuevo Adán, a su predecesor: ““desde Adán hasta Moisés, la muerte tuvo poder, incluso sobre aquellos que no desobedecían abiertamente como en el caso de Adán. Pero otro Adán superior a éste había de venir... Todos mueren

por la falta de uno solo, pero la gracia de Dios se multiplica más todavía cuando este don gratuito pasa de un solo hombre, Jesucristo, a toda una muchedumbre.” (Romanos 5:14-15)

Cuando nos identificamos plenamente como seres de cuerpo y alma con el nuevo Adán, Jesús, nos encontramos con que somos parte de una familia en donde la disfunción o incapacidad es una ocasión para solidaridad compasiva y en donde se acoge la vulnerabilidad mutua. Aceptamos nuestros propios cuerpos con sus propias características distintivas y sus imperfecciones sin tener que exagerar nuestra propia excepcionalidad en un esfuerzo desesperado que grita “¡Mírenme!” Por el contrario, tenemos una actitud como la de Kathleen Berken, quien vivió en una comunidad “Arco” en Clinton, Iowa con otras personas que enfrentaban diferentes retos físicos y cognitivos.

Kathleen, quien contrajo cáncer de seno en etapa 4 y se sometió a cirugía y tratamiento, nos dice, “Durante mi año de tratamiento, los miembros de la comunidad no se dieron cuenta de que me faltaba un seno, ni hicieron comentarios ofensivos sobre mi pérdida de cabello, mi aumento de peso, o cambio en apariencia debido a los devastadores efectos de la quimioterapia. No es que no les importara; ellos simplemente no ponían atención.” Hay una nota contra cultural: “El espejo de su baño refleja rostros y cuerpos que mi cultura no celebra en las portadas de revistas de celebridades. Entonces, una mujer calva,

con cuarenta libras de más, con un solo seno, una cara roja, y la piel manchada por la quimioterapia, se ve igual que algunos de ellos. Me vi con más alivio.”

Una vez que estamos bautizados en Cristo, nuestros cuerpos son precisamente un “templo del Espíritu Santo” que nos da acceso a una comunidad que es tanto humana como divina, en donde podemos respirar libremente. Más aún como predecesores del glorificado cuerpo con el cual los amigos de Dios – “los santos santificados” – están enfocados, nuestras prácticas alrededor de la muerte pueden reflejar correctamente nuestra dignidad humana a la vez que se mantiene un agraciado desapego que no se aferra excesivamente a los restos mortales de sus seres amados (como fue en el caso de la mujer que tomó parte de las cenizas de su marido para

cocinarlas con la vasija de barro en donde reposan el resto y el cual piensa tener en la repisa en su casa hasta que ella muera.). Tampoco debemos mostrarnos con una áspera falta de respeto hacia las “cosas” que marcaron en algún momento nuestra presencia física (como es el caso, pienso yo, en movimientos que buscan legalizar la descomposición de cuerpos y reciclarlos como cualquier material orgánico.)

El cuerpo es importante, nos recuerda el Padre José Granados, porque nos conecta con nuestros padres y nos conecta a través de generaciones a Adán y a Eva con el mismo origen e historia. Felizmente, “en este tipo de generación, no es solamente la transmisión de una falta original, pero también la memoria de una beat-

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Official

Bishop William Joensen has made the following appointment effective October 12, 2021.

Fr. Michael Antoh of the Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana, to canonical administrator of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Panama; St. Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, Portsmouth; and St. Boniface, Westphalia; effective October 12, 2021.

+
Faithfully in Christ

Most Rev. William Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop

Jason Kurth

Chancellor

Looking for hope & peace in the midst of grief

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Coming soon, the faithful may see in their churches extra candles, photos of deceased parishioners, or a book of remembrance so that prayers may be offered for those who have died.

The Catholic Church will collectively mourn the dead and remember that, through Jesus' suffering, we are promised hope of eternal life. Role models of the faith will be honored on All Saints Day on Nov. 1. On All Souls Day, Nov. 2, all those who died will be remembered.

This will be the second year the Church honors the deceased during the pandemic. To date, more than 700,000 in the United States have died from COVID-19, and in Iowa more than 6,500 have died.

Everyone has suffered in one way or another. The culture

appears to be in collective grief, said Deacon Randy Kiel, of Kardina Counseling.

"It's not only grief within society but a trauma to all cultures," he said.

"Talking with a therapist or joining a group process (e.g., grief group) can be wonderfully healing as it provides a safe space to experience grief, process the emotions of loss, and communicate feelings with others who are familiar with similar struggles," said Catholic Charities counselor Ann Grant. "The opportunity to foster gratitude is rich in these environments."

Healing through music

"So much of our discouragement, fear and anger seem associated with loss," said Aimee Beckmann-Collier, director of the Drake University alumni choir, Umeri. The choir's May 2020 concert was postponed until this past Oct. 3. It featured a requiem



Photo by David Collier

The Drake University alumni choir had hoped that a recent performance might offer solace, hope and peace as people cope with grief during the pandemic.

and other music that ponders suffering and peace.

The loss people are sensing today seems to be experienced and defined differently by individuals and groups: loss of identity, purpose, relationships, civility, death or declining health, lack of economic well-being, injustice, isolation, she wrote in the concert guide.

Music can provide "a window into how contemporary composers respond to the universal experience of loss in ways that speak to the angst of our own time," said Beckmann-Collier.

"The music featured in this concert will by no means solve the difficulties that continue to drain our individual and collective energies," she added. But the choir was hopeful that the performance would provide an opportunity to reflect and perhaps renew and reinvigorate the audience to "offer solace, hope and peace as we work for the common good."

Healing through prayer

Since March, 2020, Pamela Douglas, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, has been folding one paper crane for each Iowan who died of COVID-19. Her art installation now has more cranes than can fit in a display currently at Reiman Gardens in Ames.

"This pandemic experience is an historic phenomenon and communal experience," she wrote on her website. "The intent of the exhibit is to offer an opportunity to honor and reflect upon those who have been lost to COVID-19 within our families and communities."

Douglas prays for each Iowan who died of the virus as she folds the cranes. She adds the name of the deceased if she knows it.

The cranes display will be at Reiman Gardens until Dec. 9, with the exception of All Saints Day and All Souls Day due to a previous commitment. The art installment can be viewed begin-

ning Dec. 13 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, building 5.

Healing through community

A lot of people are grappling with a myriad of emotions as the pandemic stretches on, said John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

He and a few friends created Naming the Real retreat, an online opportunity to gather, pray and talk with others about the struggles people are experiencing.

In three, two-hour small group sessions and through additional online prayer resources, Naming the Real leans on practical tools of Ignatian spirituality, using the witness of Mary Magdalene at the tomb to process the past, acknowledge the present and discern next steps as the world emerges from the pandemic.

For more information or to register, go to dmdiocese.org/namingthereal.

La Nueva Familia Addams

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itud original, eso es, una relación original con Dios como la fuente de vida y una promesa de plenitud." Nuestra relación con nuestra madre u con nuestro padre puede o puede no ser una amistad plena; de igual forma, más allá del orden natural "hay una memoria colectiva familiar de felicidad que se registra desde Adán."

Cuando la memoria recupera ese sentido pasado de beatitud original, hay también una dimensión futura de felicidad a la que accede la fe y que está inscrita en el cuerpo individual y en el Cuerpo de Cristo, que se manifiesta en la Iglesia y en la Eucaristía. Al seguir nuestro peregrinar en la vida y que comenzamos a sentir nuestra mortalidad con mayor intensidad, nuestra presencia dentro de la comunidad humana que influye en la comunión con Dios es un consuelo y una fuente de esperanza, porque ya anticipamos la vida del nuevo Adán, Jesús, y su muerte por nosotros. Los sacramentos son nuestros medios corporales para poder permanecer unidos con Cristo. Granados concluye: "La Eucaristía es el acto por el cual, por medio de la carne y en unión con la carne de Cristo, toda la Iglesia se dirige a sí misma hacia él. Por lo tanto, por este feliz acontecimiento, la Iglesia se convierte en una ciudad feliz." La nueva familia de Adán debe radiar felicidad incluso al enfrentar la muerte, más allá de la Iglesia y para todo el mundo.

Como nota final, les hago esta súplica: muchos miembros del clero y otras personas observan la lamentable tendencia entre hijos cuando mueren sus padres, quienes eran católicos activos practi-

cantes e incluso que recibían comunión diaria, no solicitan una Misa de Cristiana Sepultura por la eterna paz y gozo de sus padres, incluso cuando sus padres solicitaron claramente la celebración de la Eucaristía. Ya sea porque es algo fuera de nuestra zona de comodidad o recelos consecuencia de la ambivalencia de sus propias vidas, o por algún sentido de eficiencia o por razones económicas, no les juzgo.

Pero a mí me parece que no es solamente el negar la oportunidad de pedir la gracia misericordiosa de Cristo y los méritos de su muerte salvadora en ayuda de la purificación de sus padres y en preparación hacia el cielo y es además una ofensa contra el mandamiento de "honrarás a tu padre y a tu madre." Más aun, como lo mencioné anteriormente, el evitar la Misa introduce una ruptura en el lazo generacional que se extiende en ambas direcciones: hacia el pasado rumbo a la bendición original que envolvió al primer Adán (y Eva), y hacia la futura esperanza de comunión en la visión beatífica. Ahí aspiramos a no solamente ver a Dios, sino a nuestros padres y nuestros hermanos en sus hermosos y glorificados cuerpo.

Mientras Dios y la Iglesia pueden seguir dándonos lo que falta a través de los méritos infinitos de la cruz de Cristo, el ignorar el ofrecimiento de la Misa funeraria reduce la perspectiva de felicidad no solamente en el cielo, sino que opaca la felicidad que tenemos disponible para nosotros, aquí y ahora en nuestra concreta experiencia de vida en el mundo. Y eso es algo que ninguna familia en la vida real debe sufrir, menos aún la nueva familia espiritual de Adán.

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Deacon Kramer ordained to transitional diaconate



Photos by the Pontifical North American College
 Deacon Alex Kramer, of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, was ordained to the transitional diaconate on Sept. 30 at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City by Washington, D.C. Cardinal Wilton Gregory. The transitional diaconate is the last major step toward ordination to priesthood. As a transitional deacon, he can baptize, witness marriages, celebrate funeral services outside of Mass, and preach the homily. Deacon Kramer is studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Above, Deacon Kramer receives the Gospel. Top right, Deacon Kramer promises obedience to the Bishop and his successors. Immediate right: Deacon Kramer with his parents, Mary and Allan. Far right: Deacon Kramer with Deacon Jim Obradovich and Father Reed Flood, both of Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines.



Ensure final wishes by engaging in estate planning

By Sue McEntee
 Contributing Writer

During our lives, we are always careful about managing our assets and making sure we are in control.

Most people have strong feelings about how they want their assets distributed once they die. There may be friends, distant relatives and charities such as the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa that you want to support. Without some basic planning, you could find that decisions will be made on your behalf that may not reflect your intentions.

There are essentially four ways a person's assets can be distributed upon death.

- By default according to state law,
- By will,
- By beneficiary designation, or
- By living trust.

If you die intestate, that is to say, without having executed a valid will while alive, applicable state law will determine how your assets will be distributed. These laws will distribute assets to your closest relatives even if you wouldn't have decided to divide things up that way. In addition, no provision for charity exists under the laws of any state, even if you made substantial charitable contributions during your lifetime.

If you die testate, i.e., having executed a valid will, then your assets will be distributed

according to the terms of your will. Either way, your estate will be subject to probate, a court supervised process in which the person's assets are identified; debts, taxes, and estate settlement costs are paid; and whatever remains is distributed (once again, according to the terms of your will if there is one but otherwise as required by state law).

Moreover, regardless of whether you die having executed a valid will, you can distribute certain assets without having to go through the probate process by leaving written instructions



during your life, commonly referred to as beneficiary designations or payable on death accounts. Examples include funds remaining in an IRA or the death proceeds associated with a life insurance policy you own or other financial assets such as bank and brokerage accounts. If you don't leave instructions then these assets will typically become subject to the probate process as well.

Assets placed in a living trust pass directly to named beneficiaries and do not go through the probate process. This is one of the advantages cited for this type of estate distribution vehicle.

Therefore, if you don't leave instructions in the form of a will, living trust and/or beneficiary designations, the government will decide how to distribute your

assets, not you. That means who gets your assets and how much is beyond your control. Without these planning documents, there is no way to support charitable causes that are important to you after you are gone.

If you would like more information about how you can include your parish, school or favorite Catholic entity in your long-term plans or more about other planning ideas, contact Sue McEntee at smcentee@cfswia.org or call 515-237-5044.

Sue McEntee is the executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa.

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Nurse finds her dream job helping women

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Katie Weidner was torn. She liked being a Catholic missionary on college campuses. She also liked nursing.

Weidner took it to God, praying that if he wanted her to be a missionary, he should remove her desire to be a nurse.

The answer was a blending of the two.

In 2019, Weidner became a nurse at Innervisions Healthcare in West Des Moines, where she uses her nursing skills and her gifts as a missionary.

Innervisions' focus is empowering women and encouraging women to choose life for their unborn children.

"I was really drawn to that first part, empowering women," Weidner said. Saving children from abortion is "absolutely necessary," she said. "But if we're looking past the women in front of us, another soul in

front of us, we're kind of missing the mark. There are two souls in front of us.

Weidner had served for three years in North Dakota and one year in Colorado with the Fellowship of Catholic University Student, also known as FOCUS. But her heart was still drawn to nursing, which she studied in college.

Her sister-in-law had been in contact with Innervisions' development director, Bryan Gonzalez, and she passed along to Weidner that the pregnancy medical clinic in West Des Moines was planning to expand to a second location.

Weidner connected with Gonzalez.

"I do remember that phone call very well," she said. "You could tell there was something different about Innervisions, and also impactful."

Today, Weidner meets with women who may be inclined to have an abortion and who need honest medical in-

formation. Many are scared, or don't understand what they've come to know.

"The culture just continually deceives them and lies to them and says (abortion) is their only option," Weidner said. "I say, 'No, let me educate you on other options.' It's an honor and humbling to walk with women in that, to see the change of heart."

There are days that are hard, such as when a woman decides to have an abortion. But Weidner said she knows people have free will, a gift from God, and she can't make the decision for the woman.

"When you meet with those women, you feel the weight of the cross a little bit, but then you're reminded that (Jesus) carried it first. He allows us to feel the weight and the worth of these two souls but ultimately gives us the grace to surrender and entrust them fully back to him," she said.

Once a woman has chosen life for her child, Innervisions tries to meet a variety of needs, such as with transportation and material needs, to help the mother and child.

Theresa Welch, executive director of Innervisions Healthcare is happy Weidner is on her team.

"We are very blessed to have Katie working for us. The calm, spiritual presence she brings to her patients is a true testament of who she is," Welch said.

"She lives her Catholic faith every day, even in the most difficult situations she encounters when her patients come to InnerVisions thinking that their only option is abortion. She gives them honest medical information in the most loving and compassionate way," Welch added.

Weidner is glad she found a job that blends her calling to missionary work with her desire to serve in the medical field.

"It's all I was expecting and more," she said.



Nurse Katie Weidner says serving women and the unborn at Innervisions is all that she expected and more.

Celebrating Respect Life month Mass for the unborn



Photo by Tom Quiner

St. Anthony Parish in Des Moines hosted a memorial Mass for the unborn on Sept. 25.

Memorial for the unborn



Photo by Kelly Mescher Collins

Bishop William Joensen blessed a new memorial garden dedicated to the unborn at St. John Parish in Adel.

Life Chain - Des Moines



Pro-life advocates stood in silent witness for life on Oct. 4 outside St. Theresa Catholic Church in Des Moines.

Life Chain - Council Bluffs



Joan Wege, Cathy Eastwood, Susan Van Voltenberg, Janet Swift, Lisa LaMantia, Eileen Smith and Catherine Schroeder stand in a Life Chain in Council Bluffs on Oct. 4.

Join Bishop William M. Joensen and the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa

Experience an authentic and faith-filled adventure in several of Italy's most exciting destinations

Departure is Tuesday, October 18, 2022 and we return on Friday, October 28, 2022.

During our nine nights in Italy, we will visit Assisi, Florence, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Rome. This exciting program will include daily Mass at local churches and basilicas. In the Eternal City, we will specifically visit the North American Pontifical College, attend the Papal audience, and join the Scavi Tour, and so much more! Participants should expect to walk during many of our tours as this tour will certainly help you get your daily steps in!

The trip price per person for the land portion of the program is \$4,785 and includes topnotch accommodations for 9 nights (based on double occupancy), breakfast and dinner daily, 3 lunches, ground transportation within Italy, all gratuities, entry tickets to iconic monuments and sights, and expert guides provided by our travel partner, Authentic Explorations. Airfare will be priced separately and trip insurance will be made available to participants who wish to purchase it at an additional cost. Single supplements available.



With only 45 spots available, this trip will book fast. If you would like more information, or to guarantee your spot(s) for this trip, email Gary Portuesi at Authentic Explorations at gary@authentic-explorations.com or call 646-767-0089

Around the Diocese

Oct 22, 29; Nov 5, 12 Fall Fish & Chicken Dinners

INDIANOLA – The Indianola Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Fall Fish & Chicken Dinners at the St. Thomas

Aquinas Parish Hall. Serving hours are 5:30 - 7 p.m. We offer in-hall dining or a speedy carry-out service. Cost is \$10/adults & carry-outs; \$5/children (6 to 12) and no charge for children age 5 & under. Our fish &

chicken breading does not contain wheat flour. A local Boy Scout troop will host a dessert table.

Oct. 23 Saturday Big Band Event

NORWALK – St. John the Apostle Parish is hosting the High Society Big Band playing the songs of Duke Ellington, Les Brown, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and many more. Event starts at 6:15 PM (immediately following the 5:00 Saturday evening Mass) and ends at 9:15 PM. Each table will be provided an

appetizer tray with pizza, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Pre-event tickets are \$75/reserved table of 8, \$10/single ticket or \$12/at the door. Call the parish at 515-981-4855 or stop by at 720 Orchard Hills Dr., Norwalk to purchase your tickets.

Oct. 28 Thursday Holy Happy Hour

URBANDALE – The St. Serra Club quarterly speaker program will be held at the Daughters of Mary, the New Eve House of Prayer,

7514 Oakwood Drive in Urbandale. Victoria Carver will share her story with a talk entitled Hermits, Old and New: Living an Ancient Vocation in Modern Times. Mass is at 5:30 p.m., a social at 6-6:30 p.m., and the talk is 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Nov. 20 Saturday Holiday Bazaar

WINTERSSET – St. Joseph Parish is hosting a holiday bazaar 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lots of unique craft items made by parishioners and a bake sale filled with treats. Breakfast and lunch available.

Nov. 20 Saturday Christmas Gala

WEST DES MOINES – Iowans for LIFE will host a pro-life Christmas Gala, The Holy Family, at Hy-Vee's Ron Pearson Center. The evening consists of cash bar, a dinner, an auction, and Christmas entertainment featuring top talent including Gina Gedler and Tony Valdez. Monsignor Frank Chiodo will speak on the importance of the pro-life movement. Tables of ten/\$600; \$65/seat. Order online today at IowansforLIFE.org.

Nov. 21 Sunday Blessing for Musicians

DES MOINES – Musicians, liturgists, pastors and guests are invited to join the Des Moines Diocese Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians at a Mass and reception at 3 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Come "make a joyful noise" during the Mass, which will include a blessing of musicians. Following Mass, enjoy light refreshments and networking opportunities at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Sarah Graf, desmoinesia@npm.org for further information.

OTHER

Nov. 5-6 Friday-Saturday Genocide Survivor Talk

DUBUQUE – Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Rwandan genocide survivor and author of *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Genocide*, will speak at Resurrection Church. Ilibagiza not only survived the genocide, but was also able to forgive her tormentors and her family's murderers. She credits her survival to prayer and a set of rosary beads given to her by her devout Catholic father. For the 2-day Retreat agenda and/or to register, visit immaculee.com/collections/retreats (scroll down and click on Dubuque retreat). For additional retreat or registration information, contact Diane Link at 563-590-5686 or dmlinkrn@gmail.com. At the Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn, mention "Immaculee retreat at Resurrection" for a discounted rate.

Rosary For The Unborn

DES MOINES – Join pro-life advocates in saying the rosary for the unborn each Saturday at 10 a.m. in front of 1040 E Army Post Road, Planned Parenthood, on the public sidewalk.

Cathedral Holy Hours

All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays for an hour of Eucharistic adoration and evening prayer. These Holy Hours will be hosted from 5-6 p.m. Prayer will be livestreamed at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

Catholic Daughters' summer luncheon draws crowd



Photo by Felicia Davidson
Catholic Daughters Regent Carol Hollenbeck and Treasurer Jan Roth greeted guests and took payment, while handing out raffle tickets at the door.

By Carol Hollenbeck

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Anthony #330, held its annual Summer Salad Luncheon on Aug. 11 at St. Peter Church hall in Council Bluffs.

The event is a fundraiser for the charitable organization.

All salads and desserts were prepared by the membership of the group. Food remaining was taken to Joshua House, a men's shelter.

Olympian returns to her alma mater



Dowling Catholic High School alumna (Class of 2014) Karissa Schweizer returned to the school Sept. 14 to talk to middle school and high school students to offer encouragement.

Student takes third in national education contest



Photo by Carol Hollenbeck

St. Albert High School student Mia Allmon holds her certificate for third place in Division III Art at the national level of Catholic Daughters of the Americas' Education Contest. Pictured (l-r) are Kevin White, director of advancement, Mariann Hilderbrand, chairperson of the annual education contest for local Council Bluffs Court St. Anthony #330, Allmon, and Julie Marlow, secretary of the Iowa CDA.

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Guide

Is anyone in YOUR family DIVORCED? Please give someone a copy of this ad or invite them to *The Catholic's DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide* 12-week group which begins November 8th at Holy Trinity Parish, 2926 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310. Cost of \$30 per person includes a "Personal Survival Guide" and all materials for 12 weeks. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teachings. Call Bill and Ann Moore for more information, or to register, at 515-480-3314 (Bill) 641-425-0109 (Ann) or email moorefamilysm@gmail.com. For more information visit www.catholicdivorce.com

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KCs serve Iowa Veterans Cemetery

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

After setting out to create a patriotic arm of service in 2008, the St. Francis Knights of Columbus chapter has since donated thousands of hours every year mowing and trimming Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

Members feel honored and fulfilled to be of service and pay their respects. But they are also saving the state money.

"It's unbelievable the amount of money the knights are saving [the state]...", said Keith Blum, cemetery superintendent.

It's almost a quarter of a million dollars to be exact, said Mark Lyle, a St. Francis Knight.

"The [value of the volunteer hour] is \$28.54 per hour, and you start running through the hours [times ten years]," said Lyle.

The volunteers are great guys, added Blum, most of whom are veterans. The average volunteer age is about 65 or 70 years old since the younger guys are still working.

"If I need them out there two times a week to mow, they would be there," Blum said.

The St. Francis crew runs a pretty tight ship, taking turns riding four mowers or walking with trimmers or push mowers.

"It takes all the pressure off the employees to mow," Lyle continued. "We mow all the areas, go around the headstones."

The volunteers maintain approximately 30 acres. The work is enjoyable and also rewarding.

"Many times you get comments from people visiting the graves, and they say, 'Boy, the grounds look really nice,'" Lyle said. "And that's a great shot in the arm."

Before plotting their day, Lyle always checks on where the funerals will be located to avoid disrupting the solemn occasion.

"If there's a service and I'm on a big mower, we'll just park our mowers and wait [out of respect for the deceased and their loved ones]," Lyle said. "Twice I've had veterans tell me war stories that they've probably never told their families."

The Knights also help park cars when there's an extremely large funeral.



The St. Francis Knights of Columbus maintain nearly 30 acres of land at the Iowa Veteran's Cemetery.



The St. Francis Knights of Columbus donate hundreds of hours every year to Iowa Veteran's Cemetery in mowing, trimming, parking cars for funerals and handing out wreaths at Christmas.

About 40 Knights turn out every year for the National Wreaths Across America Day, which is always held the last Saturday before Christmas.

On this day, wreath-laying ceremonies occur at more than 2,500 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad at the same time, with the mission of remembering, honoring and teaching.

Though last year's event was smaller because of COVID-19, in 2019 the Knights parked cars and handed out 1,500 wreaths from flatbeds dispersed

throughout the cemetery. Nearly 6,000 people were in attendance. The Knights also drove golf carts around, picking up infirmed or those unable to walk long distances.

Fellow Knights Tom Sepic and Vern Heithoff founded the patriotic arm of service at St. Francis. They have strong feelings about their work.

"We had a photographer [who is a member of the Knights] out there for the wreath laying," said Sepic. "On his way back after we put all the wreaths out a lady went up to him and gave him a big hug and thanked him very much for putting a wreath on the grave of the loved one. I think a good share of the Knights who work on the Wreaths Across America drove home feeling very fulfilled by what they did... We've gotten more thanks and looks of appreciation than you can imagine."

Several of the volunteers have been nominated by Blum for the Governor's Volunteer Award.

"I thought they should have it every year because that's just how much I appreciate those people," Blum said. "The Knights are unbelievable."



The St. Francis Knights of Columbus chapter help distribute wreaths to family members of the deceased veterans for the National Wreaths Across America Day.

Bishop becomes 4th Degree Knight

Bishop William Joensen joined 21 other members of the Knights of Columbus and Father Chinna Devaraj in exemplification ceremonies led by District Master 4th Degree Michael Gaspers to become a 4th Degree Knight on Oct. 10 at St. Boniface Church in Waukee. The patriotic degree embodies the fact that one can be both a faithful Catholic and a faithful citizen.



Photo by Robert Nandell

Franciscan Sister celebrates 40th jubilee

Franciscan Sister Maureen Leach will celebrate her ruby jubilee (40 years) as a Sister of St. Francis, of Dubuque on Oct. 23.

A 9 a.m. morning praise and the 12:30 pm Celebration of the Word will be livestreamed at youtube.com/dubuquefranciscans.

Sister Maureen is originally from Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, and is the youngest of the four children of Betty Gene and Vernon E. Leach.

She is an alumnae of St. Joseph's Academy and Dowling High School. In 1979, she received her bachelor's degree in Spanish with a math minor from the University of Northern Iowa.

Sister Maureen entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1980, was received into the novitiate in 1981, and professed final vows on Aug. 11, 1987.

Her ministries have included: activities director

at Stonehill Franciscan Services working with refugees from Cuba in Dubuque; social service worker/organizer with the National Farm Worker Ministry in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas; parish ministry in rural Guatemala; peace and justice center staff member; teacher trainer/adult education instructor; education coordinator at Visitation House Transitional Housing; Spanish/English interpreter; and licensed massage therapist specializing in hospice care in San Antonio, Texas.

Sister Maureen co-authored the book *Psalms Anew in Inclusive Language and Insights on the Journey, Trauma Healing and Wholeness*.

She presently serves on the Sisters of St. Francis leadership team in Dubuque.



Blind man leads tractor ride for vision research



Tyler Juranek of St. Peter Parish in Council Bluffs leads the annual tractor "Ride Into Sight" with family friend Bennet Leuschen on his Oliver tractor.

Continued from page 1

Now, he's raising funds to offer help and hope to others with vision challenges.

A member of the Knights of Columbus (Third Degree), and owner of the massage therapy clinic Unleashed Relief, Juranek is an inspiration.

"He's an amazing young man and never seems to have a

bad day," said Father Chuck Kottas, pastor of St. Peter.

Being visually impaired it not always easy, Juranek admits, but God has been a guiding light.

"God has just been there like my guide dog," he said.

"I tell you that I could not have done it without God," Juranek continued. "The Catholic faith has helped me immensely."

Growing up, Juranek was more interested in computers and video games until his Dad brought home a "little, antique John Deere tractor" when he was a teenager. His father taught him how to drive the tractor around their small farm property under his close watch.

In 2018, Juranek organized the inaugural Ride Into Sight tractor ride through Pot-

tawattamie County to raise money for the University of Iowa's Institute for Vision Research. Juranek has been treated by a doctor there for years.

The 2021 ride had 47 tractors participate. They rode 46 miles and raised over \$8,000. (The \$25 fee pays for riders' lunch and snacks.)

Every year, Juranek leads the ride. He asked family friend, Bennet Leuschen, who installed a special buddy seat on Juranek's Oliver tractor, to be his eyes.

"It just gives you a sense of helping out and it gives you a pretty good feeling," said Leuschen.

"The people that are out there [along the route] know what's going on – the research for the blind and they know Tyler," Leuschen continued. "They are waving and it's just a great feeling. I think the people love seeing all of the tractors go by. And I've kind of coached Tyler on how to wave and stuff. I'll give him a signal on the arm as far as which arm to wave with."

The Ride Into Sight tractor ride was featured on the cable channel RFD-TV.

The fundraiser receives many donations, including some from virtual riders.

Before the trip begins,

Juranek remembers riders who have died, offers an opening prayer, recites the Pledge of Allegiance and thanks veterans for their service.

Leuschen has been inspired by Juranek.

"He's just a really driven person," Leuschen said. "He's very passionate about doing things for the blind and these tractor rides and raising money for them. He's never let his blind stop him from doing things."

Father Kottas has known Juranek his whole life.

"He read last Sunday. And people just say, 'How does he do that?'" said Father Kottas, noting that Juranek is a fantastic lector. "He has a braille machine [to transcribe the readings.] He really is super."

In addition to being a business owner, Juranek sells items on the internet, was an Eagle Scout and is a sharp shooter.

Juranek said he chooses to give thanks when he's feeling down in the dumps.

"I think about how fortunate I am that God gave me speech, hearing, smell and ... touch," Juranek said. "I understand that someone has it a lot worse than I do. And I just thank God for every day he gives me because it's tremendous."

16-mile walk honors St. Michael the Archangel

Continued from page 1

devil.

So as the Feast day of St. Michael approached at the end of September, Munoz and her family wanted to do something special.

They were inspired when a group of parishioners from their parish, Christ the King on Des Moines' south side, made a nearly 20-mile pilgrimage march to Milo in honor of St. Jude. And so they wanted to do something similar to offer up their prayers asking for St. Michael's intercession and protection while expressing their faith publicly.

"We would like people to know that there are people out there that still have faith," said Munoz, who is coordinator of Hispanic Ministry at Christ the King. "There are Catholics out there that are still awake and not asleep."

After receiving permission from the pastor, Father PJ McManus, they plotted their pilgrimage route from Christ the King Parish to the Munoz family acreage on the edge of Indianola, otherwise known as The Ranch of St. Michael. It's a 16-mile trek.



The group celebrated with food, dancing, prayer and Mass at the end of its 16-mile pilgrimage walk.

Munoz asked friends and parishioners to help spread the word. Some prepared with prayers, petitions and fasting.

But nothing could have prepared them for the overwhelmingly positive response from the community – nearly 70 people showed up at 2:45 a.m. to receive a blessing from Father McManus

before their 3 a.m. departure on foot.

Members of the group took turns holding up a large banner featuring a picture of St. Michael as they marched along Highway 69. They prayed the rosary, sang and spent quiet time in reflection as they made their 8-hour pilgrimage. As they neared the finish, they began chanting, "Who is like God?" The rousing response: "No one is like God!"

"It was very powerful," Munoz said. "I wanted to cry because I made it. I walked all the way, and I thought I wasn't able."

A celebration of music, traditional Mexican dancing and food awaited at The St. Michael Ranch. Mass was also celebrated.

"I wanted to cry because I felt like the Lord's presence was there," Munoz said. "We were just so happy and thankful we did it."

Christ the King parishioner Gustavo Ceballos made the walk with his mother.

"I was just giving thanks for another day and another year of my life," Ceballos said. "It helped me just realize how much closer you could be to God and how much more devoted you could be. I am somewhat devoted butI could always improve."

He also thought about his kids and ways he could be a better example while instilling a sense of gratitude and faith.

Ana Hernandez, of St.

Francis Parish in Marshalltown, made the pilgrimage for a personal intention – her mother's health as they await test results from the doctor.

"I fasted and prayed for her and for the worst not to come," Hernandez said. "And if it was God's will to give us strength to get us through."

She also prayed for the end of the pandemic and for world peace.

To learn more about future pilgrimages and other activities in the Hispanic community at Christ the King, join the Facebook group, Eren En Cristo Rey, at facebook.com/eren.christthe.king.1.

We're looking for stories of inspiration!

Send your ideas to Kelly Mescher Collins at kcollins@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5054.

Celebrating marriage as a lifelong calling

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

When Steve and Cindee Hays celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, they asked their pastor to give them a blessing toward the end of Mass because they wanted to be witnesses and show parishioners that it is possible to have a long lasting marriage.

A little boy in the back, not knowing what was happening, stood up and clapped in the quiet moment.

Steve and Cindee chuckled at the memory.

They plan to witness to the sacrament of marriage again by attending a special Mass with Bishop William Joensen that honors couples with milestone anniversaries.

"I want to give thanks for 50 years," she said. "It's still quite a journey and I just think it's important we get together and celebrate these milestones for a lot of these younger couples, to see people who do it," Cindee said.

"You can get there," Steve said.

Steve, who is from Red Oak, and Cindee, who is from northern Illinois, met at a fraternity party at Creighton University in the fall when she was a fresh-

man and he was junior.

They went on a date and the rest, as they say, is history.

They married Aug. 6, 1971 and two months later, they hit the road for Steve's job. They went from southwest Iowa to Texas, to Omaha and Pennsylvania before settling back home in Red Oak with their two daughters.

Steve and Cindee say they see things differently.

"We have a lot in common but we're two different personalities," she said. "I'm in ministry and he's in accounting. We look at life through different lenses. We help people in our own calling, our vocation. In ministry, I'm looking at a person's faith and trying to journey with them, and he's looking at the financial side. We're helping them and walking with them."

There are three ingredients to a good marriage, they said: Knowing that God is with you in the marriage, respecting each other, and communicating.

They carved out time for respect and communication by agreeing to have lunch together every day.

"It was the only time when the girls were in school that we could talk about the big picture and what was going on," Cindee said.

Steve adds a fourth ingredient: Compromise.



Photo by Anne Marie Cox

While Steve and Cindee Hays, of St. Mary Parish in Red Oak, see life through different lenses, they say God, respect and communication have helped them through thick and thin over the last 50 years of marriage. They plan to go to one of Bishop William Joensen's milestone anniversary Masses.

"In 50 years, you realize there were things that we were both different in, and in that process you have to learn to give and take and if you don't do that, you won't make it," Steve said.

Raised a Methodist, Steve joined the Catholic Church through the RCIA program in 1983. He joined the Knights of Columbus, where the couple made friends.

Cindee said community helps a marriage.

"Especially when we had friends about the same age, they had problems but the problems were different. Your lives are different but you realize that

no one person gets by, or has an easy life," Cindee said. "That support from your parish is huge, especially walking with other couples with the same interests."

They realized God was working in their lives when Steve suffered a heart attack 16 years ago.

Cindee accepted that his fate was out of her hands; he was in the hands of his doctor and God.

In the face of the challenges the couple faced, they boil down what's important in life. For Steve and Cindee, that's faith.

Here are the dates, times and locations for the milestone anniversary Masses with Bishop Joensen.

- Saturday, Oct. 30, 4 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines

- Sunday, Nov. 7, 11:30 a.m. at St. Anne Catholic Church, Logan

- Saturday, Nov. 13, 5 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, Red Oak

To register, call Cathy Gearhart at 515-237-5004 or email her at cgearhart@dmdiocese.org.

Young Catholic Network learning from industry veterans

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

It's possible to have a successful career and still do good.

Retired Meredith Corp. chair and CEO Steve Lacy shared this and more before a crowd of 60 young Catholic professionals who gather every other month to network and learn how to live their faith in the workforce.

One key to becoming successful is bringing in business.

"The thing that many of us miss is the successful person in most organizations is the person who has the ability to evangelize what the company or organization does and sell it to other people," he said. This applies to those in law, business and even education.

"Are you passionate? Can you share it with your friends in a really enthusiastic way? That is selling. Selling is not evil," he

said. Even in the nonprofit arena, one raises money by sharing enthusiasm of the services offered to those who could support the endeavor.

Another key is how you relate to others.

"Remembering you can, in fact, take care of your employees while still making a lot of money for the company is also a very important and not difficult thing to do with a Christian mindset," he said.

Attendees volunteered some examples they already witness. One company allowed its employees to go to Ash Wednesday Mass. Another allows its employees paid time off to volunteer, which keeps employees happy and is a draw for recruiting new workers.

The idea can be even simpler, Lacy said.

"Acknowledge the people nobody else acknowl-

es," he said. "The nighttime cleaning person. Do you know that person's name?"

A third suggestion is to evaluate how you spend your time, "especially when you're raising kids. You have no time. You've got to pick



your shots really carefully," Lacy said. When he could, he'd schedule meetings for mornings or mid-day so not only he but others could be available for soccer games and other family activities.

"You should always be able to hold your head high and feel that you not only did good for the business but you did good as well," Lacy said. "They are not mutually exclusive."

The next Young Cath-

olic Network gathering is Nov. 9 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Des Moines with networking, drinks and appetizers at 6 p.m. and Dan Kinsella, the featured speaker, beginning at 7 p.m. Kinsella deals with risk every day as a managing partner at Deloitte. There's risk when it comes to sharing your faith in the workplace. What's the reward? How can prayer help avoid the pitfalls? Register at dmdiocese.org/YCN.

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps victims of abuse of minors by clergy through a complaint process and in seeking support and counseling services.

He can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov.

Anniversary Masses

Join the Diocese of Des Moines as we celebrate the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage! Bishop Joensen will be celebrating three anniversary Masses this fall to pray with, bless and honor couples celebrating milestone anniversaries. Certificates of blessing and reserved seating is available for couples celebrating 1, 10, 25 and 50+ years of marriage. A light reception will follow the Mass.



Times and Locations:

- Saturday, October 30th, 4 PM at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, IA
- Sunday, November 7th, 11:30 AM at St. Anne Catholic Church, Logan, IA
- Saturday, November 13th, 5 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church, Red Oak, IA

To register call Cathy Gearhart at 515-237-5004 or email her at cgearhart@dmdiocese.org.



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Other Ways To Donate!

1. A charitable contribution can still be accepted by CTO and the donor is eligible for traditional tax deductibility on both state and federal tax returns. Those contributions will also be used for tuition assistance for qualifying families.
2. Other school tuition organizations in Iowa, who offer the same 75% tax credits as CTO, have tax credits available. If you are interested in donating to Catholic school tuition organizations in the other dioceses, or if you would like you funds to remain in your community, contact jwells@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5010, for contact information.
3. Pledges are now being accepted for 2022.
4. You can also redirect your gift this year to the Catholic Education Endowment as part of the Ignite! Campaign. For more information on this option, go to <https://www.dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/catholic-education-endowment>.

The bottom line? It's for the KIDS... and their futures!



St. Serra Club supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life

The St. Serra Club of Des Moines has been taking advantage of the last days of summer and early fall to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The organization hosted a luncheon for seminarians, their parents and friends on Aug. 11.

“This is one of our favorite events because it gives us an opportunity to talk with the bishop, seminarians and priests who we are encouraging and supporting with our prayers and gifts,” said Susie Flood.

“This is also nice because parents can meet the seminarians, connect with other parents and visit with some of the priests of our Diocese,” she said.

The St. Serra Club is grateful for help from Mike Mahoney for the meal, Boesen the Florist for flowers and all who came to offer their prayerful support.

On Aug. 23, the group hosted its annual Priest Appreciation Picnic at Walnut Woods State Park in West Des Moines.

Most recently, the organization encouraged parishioners to celebrate Priesthood Sunday on Sept. 26 by leaving a card with words of gratitude and tribute for their priests.

The St. Serra Club prays for vocations, invites young men who share a love of the faith to consider priesthood or religious



Above: Deacon Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros visits with Father Richard Chamberlain. Seminarian Jason Lee talks with Father Greg Leach. At left: St. Serra Club members Jo Helling and Mary Jo Harty.

life, encourages priests in their ministry and affirms seminarians, priests, religious women and the bishop.

The next activity is a holy happy hour on Oct. 28 at the Daughters of Mary, the New Eve House of Prayer, 7514 Oakwood Dr in Urbandale. Email dm@serrainternational.org for more information.

To meet club members from your parish and to learn more about the club go to dmsera.com.

BVM sister of 80 years dies

Sister Concetta Naba, 100, of Mount Carmel Bluffs in Dubuque, died Oct. 5.

Private funeral services were Oct. 11.

She was born on May 23, 1921, in Des Moines, to Jesse and Mary Ellen (Angelo) Naba. She entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the BVM congregation, on Feb. 2, 1941, from Visitation Parish, now known as Our Lady of the Americas Parish, in Des Moines. She professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1943, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1948.



In Iowa, Sister Concetta was an elementary teacher at St Raphael in Dubuque, St. Jude in Cedar Rapids, Sacred Heart in Manly, St. Joseph in Sioux City, and Holy Name in Marcus. She also taught at St. Ferdinand and St. Jerome in Chicago; St. Gilbert in Grayslake, Illinois; St. Eulalia in Maywood, Illinois; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tempe, Arizona, where she also taught religious education. She was a nurse aide at the BVM Motherhouse in Dubuque and at the Bishop Drumm Home in Des Moines, where she also ministered to the elderly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Ruth Janssens and Rifa Mae Naba, and two nieces and nephews. She is survived by two nieces, many grandnieces and grandnephews, and the Sisters of Charity, BVM with whom she shared life for 80 years.

Memorials may be given to Sisters of Charity, BVM Support Fund, 1100 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003 or online.

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Put in the work to see growth

My nine-year-old son has recently decided that someday he's going to play in the NFL as a wide receiver.

This leads to fun conversations over breakfast, where we'll discuss attractive teams and how to approach contract negotiations. It has also led to a daily training regimen of push-ups, pull-ups, and routes in the backyard. I'm his quarterback for now, and I'm bad enough that the theory is if he can catch a pass from me, then he could catch a pass from anyone.

At first, my son's plan seemed far-fetched, but I've been impressed with his commitment to daily workouts, and it's been fun to see him get stronger and more confident.

The NFL might still not be in the

Marriage and Family Life

By Adam Storey



cards (or maybe it is), but I have no doubt that with his daily practice he has a lot of fun and success in his future.

This got me thinking about the spiritual life, and how important daily effort is to growth.

We recognize how important daily work is for athletes, musicians, and employees, but we often forget that truth when it comes to the most important aspect

of our lives, our faith.

Now I admit, the spiritual life is different, since it is always primarily about grace, not effort. Yet we do have a part to play. Our commitment matters, and if we aren't willing to put in the work, we shouldn't expect to see growth.

In the spiritual life, this translates to a commitment to prayer and conversion. And even though saying "put in the work" is certainly an oversimplification, there is some truth to it.

Concretely this will look very different for each person, but it could include a commitment to a daily time of prayer (I'd suggest at least 15 minutes), a daily examination of conscience, celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation at least every

month, weekly Mass, and regular fasting. There is no one way to live in relationship with God, but like every relationship, it requires frequent communication and regular effort.

My son's commitment has impressed me, but it's also challenged me because just like everyone else, I can tend to cut corners in my spiritual life. Moving forward I hope I can commit to the effort it takes for daily growth, and I will continue to beg for the grace to make it so.

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

The rosary - A spiritual weapon for the ages

October is the month of the rosary.

After a battle at sea in 1571 that ended in an unlikely victory for Christians, Pope Pius V created the Feast Day of Our Lady of Victory, celebrated every year on Oct. 7. (The feast day has since been changed to Our Lady of the Rosary.)

In the 1500s, the Turks were powerful, conquering lands as they built their Islamic empire. Their next target - Christian kingdoms in the Mediterranean, including Rome.

Amid their impending doom, Christian European leaders gathered a fleet. But they had little chance of defeating the much larger, more skilled and experienced Turkish fleet.

On the day of the battle, Pope Pius V called for Catholics all over Europe to pray the rosary and ask for the intercession of Our Blessed Mother.

The European fleet achieved the impossible - scattering the Turks and saving Europe. It went down in history as the Battle of Lepanto of 1571. The battle was a turning point in the Turkish invasions of Europe.

This is just one example. Throughout history, Catholics have turned to the Virgin Mary, praying the rosary for her intercession.

In 1917, the Virgin Mary ap-

Faith That Conquers

By Kelly Mescher Collins



peared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Our Lady told the children: "Pray the rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."

She also warned that if enough people did not pray, repent and have a conversion of heart, there would be a second war, much worse than the first. (We all know how that turned out.)

Our Lady of Fatima promised a sign for all to see at the last of her six consecutive visits on Oct. 13, 1917. The sign, now known as "The Miracle of the Sun," occurred before nearly 70,000 people. The sun put on a dazzling display of spinning and dancing in the sky before "falling" to earth. (People screamed and ran in terror as they thought the sun would kill them.) The sun returned to its normal spot, but not before drying out a rain soaked, muddy field where the people had gathered.

Our Lady appeared to the chil-

dren again in October 1918 to tell them she would soon take Francisco to heaven; Jacinta would soon follow. They both died from the Spanish flu, in 1919 and 1920, respectively.

The third child, Lucia, gave her life to God and became a Carmelite nun. She said: "There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the holy rosary."

Sister Lucia also said: "Those who give up saying the rosary and who do not go to daily Mass have nothing to sustain them, and so end up by losing themselves in the materialism of earthly life."

Many people do not know that years later the Virgin Mary also came to Kibeho, Rwanda with messages of love and mercy, but also a warning.

Our Lady began appearing in Rwanda in 1981, 13 years before the genocide killed over 1 million people. The messages to the young visionaries included a foreshadowing of the genocide.

Genocide survivor and Catholic author Immaculee Ilibagiza later wrote several books about the events, lamenting over how few took heed of Our Lady's warnings.

Our Lady of Kibeho reminded people to pray the rosary daily. But she also asked the visionaries to reintroduce the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows to the

world, promising that the recitation of this rosary in conjunction with (not in place of) the traditional rosary would result in forgiveness of sins and understanding why we commit such sins to avoid the devil's snares and be filled with the love of God.

November 28 is the feast day of Our Lady of Kibeho, commemorating her visits to Rwanda

St. Pius of Pietrelcina (commonly known as Padre Pio) called the rosary "the spiritual weapon of our times."

In fact, the rosary is so powerful, the devil himself has attested to its power. The late Father Gabriele Amorth, exorcist for the Diocese of Rome, performed many exorcisms. His experiences are documented in several books.

"During an exorcism, Satan told me, through the possessed person, 'Every Hail Mary of the rosary is a blow to the head for me; if Christians knew the power of the rosary, it would be the end of me!'"

That's enough to convince me to start praying the rosary more.

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

Hours of adoration leaves you spiritually uplifted

My buddy, Tony Murphy, first mentioned the idea of one-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Monroe County.

It has become a monthly event at St. Patrick Church in Melrose for the last 12 years.

My wife and I have been blessed to attend most of these monthly gatherings. When we enter the church and kneel in the Presence of Jesus, his Body, Blood, soul, and divinity, my emotional response has always been awe and wonder.

To say this hour of adoration is spiritually uplifting is an understatement. The hour passes too quickly; I have never been bored; no two hours are the same.

Adoration becomes addictive.

Many of our fellow adorers have been with us since we started. The hour soon becomes an important part of our religious life. You will be amazed at the spiritual uplifting this hour will give you.

It is not difficult to implement

Guest Column

By Tony Humeston



the practice of adoration in a parish. All it takes is desire and some willing participants. Two or three people can get the ball rolling.

Try it.

You will be astounded at how easy it is to get started. After all, the Holy Spirit will guide you. This is a perfect project for an Altar and Rosary group or the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

Any questions? Ask Barry at blhannan@gmail.com or Tony at tonyhumeston@mediacombb.net



Tony Humeston is a cradle Catholic, graduate of St. Ambrose University and retired businessman. He's a parishioner of

St. Mary Parish in Albia.

Bedtime stories of saints: comfort and companionship

We never really outgrow the desire for a bedtime story. It just takes different forms when we're older: Netflix, the evening news, Instagram Stories.

But the original cannot be improved upon, the bare-bones version told in the dark. When it doesn't come with special effects, it flips on more lights in the listener's imagination.

Claire Ellendson understood this, in a fundamental way, when she was serving on NET Ministries, an evangelization team for Catholic young adults. After an exhausting, exhilarating day of talking to teens about Jesus, she and a teammate would collapse in the house of a kind stranger – a spare couch in the basement, parallel twin beds in a corner bedroom. Her teammate would ask a simple question, a Catholic twist on that universal childhood request: "Tell me a story about a saint."

She knew there was a deep reservoir of saint stories in Claire, a cradle Catholic from Faribault, Minn., and the third of 10 children.

"We are naturally drawn to a good story," said Claire, now 25, who belongs to the Church of St. Mark in St. Paul, Minn., and works as a nanny. "The power of storytelling is a gift from God, and it's innately human."

Claire's bedtime stories gave rise to late-night conversations about zeal for the Gospel and love of Christ and holding onto truth in the midst of trial. Eventually, they turned into a weekly podcast she titled "Dead Friend," which is how Claire sees the saints: like older sisters and wiser

Twentysomething



By Christina Capecchi

friends in heaven.

Each podcast features one saint and results from considerable research and prayer. Claire records the podcast in her pajamas nestled in her apartment in the Minneapolis neighborhood Uptown.

"Maybe it's to get into the spirit of bedtime stories," she said, laughing. "I'm chilling."

The goal was to fill an unmet niche: conversational podcasts – not academic – that highlight the humanity of the saints. Her voice is unpretentious. She's both eloquent and unafraid to use young-adult speak, describing when a saint "wasn't down with" something or didn't "vibe" with someone.

It appears to be working. Since her inaugural episode last August, she's garnered more than 10,000 downloads – some from far-flung cities across the globe. Claire marked the podcast's one-year anniversary by bringing on a special guest: her local bishop, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, who discussed his love for St. Joseph.

The list of saints she's covered is lengthy: St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Jane de Chantal, Blessed Chiara Badano,

St. Lidwina of Schiedam, St. Gemma Galgani, Venerable Emilie Engel and so on. But she's got countless to go, and she now fields requests.

"To share the podcast has been so great because it's simply: 'Wow, this is how the Lord worked in their lives!' And that builds up my faith so much. It gives me a weekly reminder of all the heavy lifting the Lord has done."

In the process of studying these saints, she's felt a shift. The saints are not there simply to inspire her, but to accompany her.

As All Saints Day nears, she urges Catholics to pick a saint to study. "See if

they can be a new dead friend of yours!"

Claire tries to live simply like St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi and purges her closet every three months. Soon she'll be selling her furniture, preparing to leave her apartment and live in a friend's home to attend a program for radiation therapy. "I'm going to downsize my life," she said. "I'm craving simplicity."

The saints help her trust in God as she makes her next step. "God will use everything! He wants to make us a more vivid version of ourselves."

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

When we doubt the power of prayer

Guest Column



By Father Ron Rolheiser

We need to pray even when that seems the most lifeless thing to do. That's a counsel from Michael J. Buckley with which we need to challenge ourselves daily. In the face of real life, prayer can often seem like the most lifeless thing to do. What difference does prayer make?

I will pray for you! Please keep me in prayer! Know that you have my prayers! We use those expressions all the time. I suspect not a day goes by that most of us do not promise to pray for someone. However, do we really believe our prayers make a difference? Do we really believe that our prayers can stop a pandemic, ease tensions within our communities, erase centuries-long misunderstandings among various religious denominations, cure someone dying of a terminal disease, bring our children back to church, or help someone forgive us? What can prayer do in the face of our own helplessness in a situation?

Jesus said there are certain demons that can only be cast out by prayer and fasting. I suspect that we find that easier to believe literally, in terms of an evil spirit being cast out of a person, than we believe that our prayer can cast out the more earthly demons of hatred, injustice, misunderstanding, division, war, racism, nationalism, bigotry, and physical and mental illness. These are the real demons that beset our lives and even though we ask for God's help in prayer, we don't often do it with a lot of confidence that our prayers will make a difference. How can they?

The long history of Judaism and Christianity has taught us that God is not in the easy habit of positively interfering in nature and human life, at least not in ways that we can see. Miracles do happen, perhaps by the millions in ways that we cannot perceive. But, if we cannot see miracles, how are they real?

Reality has different modalities. There is the empirical and there is the mystical. Both are real, though both are not equally observable as an action of God in history. If a dead body rises from its grave (the Resurrection) or if a race of people walks dry shod through the Red Sea (the Exodus) that is clearly an intervention of God in our world, but if some world leader has a change of heart and is suddenly more sympathetic to the poor, how do we know

what prompted that? Likewise, for everything else for which we pray. What inspired the insight that led to the discovery of a vaccine for the pandemic? Pure chance? A touch from above? You can ask that same question vis-à-vis most anything else we pray about, from the world situation to our personal health. What is the source of an inspiration, a restoration to health, a melting of a bitterness, a change of heart, a correct decision, or a chance meeting with someone that becomes a grace for the rest of your life? Pure chance, simple luck, or a conspiracy of accidents? Or does God's grace and guidance positively touch you because of prayer, someone else's or your own?

Central to our faith as Christians, is the belief that we are all part of one mystical body, the Body of Christ. This is not a metaphor. This body is a living organism, just as real as a physical body. Inside of a physical body, as we know, all parts influence each other, for good and for bad. Healthy enzymes help the whole body to retain its health and unhealthy viruses work at sickening the whole body. If this is true, and it is, then there is no such thing as a truly private action. Everything we do, even in our thoughts, influences others and thus our thoughts and actions are either health-giving enzymes or harmful viruses affecting others. Our prayers are health-giving enzymes affecting the whole body, particularly the persons and events to which we direct them. This is a doctrine of faith, not wishful thinking.

Earlier in her life, Dorothy Day was cynical about Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower) believing that her isolation in a tiny convent and her mystical "little way" (which professed that our smallest actions affect the events of the whole world) was pious naiveté. Later, as Dorothy gave herself over to symbolic actions for justice and peace that in effect seemed to change very little in real life, she adopted Therese as her patron saint. What Dorothy had come to realize through her experience was that her small and seemingly pragmatically useless actions for justice and peace, were not useless at all. Small though they were, they helped open up some space, tiny at first, which slowly grew into something larger and more influential. By slipping some tiny enzymes into the body of the world, Dorothy Day eventually helped create a little more health in the world.

Prayer is a sneaky, hidden antibiotic - needed precisely when it seems most useless.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted at ronrolheiser.com.

The Nature and Controversy of Sacred Music

Father John Ludwig's column will be back next month.

By Father Andrew Galles

I recently attended a liturgical conference held at Notre Dame University where many aspects of the Roman rite liturgy were discussed through the presentation of academic papers. One of the primary topics was sacred liturgical music and exactly what constitutes the ideal form of music that accompanies liturgical rites, particularly the celebration of the Mass.

Though the past several decades have produced so-called liturgical music of questionable quality and suitability for the liturgy, the battle of the church against secular and profane influences in her music goes back centuries.

For instance, during the 1500s, the church continually was on guard against "parody" Masses, where composers of polyphony would weave secular dance or folk tunes into their liturgical compositions.

In the late 18th century, during the time of Mozart and the symphonic Mass, every effort was made to ensure that the music did not turn into a performance that resembled going to the opera instead of praying the sacred liturgy.

The late 19th and early 20th century saw numerous abuses in the liturgy where operatic divas desired to showcase their voice with virtuosic solo pieces. All of these practices employed religious words and liturgical texts, but the style and attitude of the music often did not exude the true spirit of the liturgy.

Our times are no different as music is the subject of much opinion. Though the church continues to legislate her sacred music and give sound theological and liturgical guiding principles, many still revert to individual opinion.

Today, part of the problem we often see is the cult of "individuality" – what my preferences are, what I want, what my favorite type of music happens to be. Instead of asking what the church desires or has deemed fit for the liturgy (which often differs significantly from what many might assume), we insist upon our own preferences.

There are many songs that I like and have a fondness for, both religious and secular, but it doesn't mean that I think they have any rightful place within the celebration of Mass. Rather, we look to the church to form us liturgically and spiritually.

Music in the liturgy is at the service of the liturgical action that is taking place, as well as at the service of the Biblical texts and the prayers. The music should not be random selections of things that we like to sing or hear, but an integrated whole that results in singing the Mass, not merely singing at the Mass.

The church gives us these Biblical texts, called propers, to be sung as an integral part of the Mass – an experience virtually unknown in most parishes. Thus, the liturgy and her music is not of our own making, based upon our own sentiments and emotions, but a weekly (and daily) cohesive gift of the church, each with its own musical and Biblical coherence.

Father Andy Galles is the director of worship for the Diocese of Sioux City. This column is reprinted with permission from the Diocese of Sioux City Lumen.



Father Andrew Galles



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Bishop Kemme: There is no better model of priesthood than Father Kapaun

PILSEN, Kan. (CNS) -- God put the desire to be a priest in Father Emil J. Kapaun's heart at an early age, Bishop Carl A. Kemme of Wichita, Kansas, said during a homily Sept. 26 in Pilsen, the hometown of the war-hero priest and sainthood candidate.

"That thought was no doubt supported and encouraged by his parents, his pastor and the religious sisters responsible for his education," Bishop Kemme said.

"It seems no one was surprised by this desire," he said.

Father Kapaun was ordained June 9, 1940, Bishop Kemme said. "A happy day for the Kapaun family and for his parish in Pilsen."

Speaking to a packed St. John Nepomucene Church on a beautiful fall day, Bishop Kemme described Father Kapaun's life as being like the many facets of a brilliant diamond.

"One could rightly recall, especially here, Emil's early years, his relationship with his parents, his dedication to hard work, even his simple way of life," he said. "Here young Emil Kapaun grew into the man God needed him to be, a man of virtue and values, hard work and determination."

Father Kapaun was born in rural Kansas and ordained a priest in 1940 for the Diocese of Wichita. He served in several parishes, as well as a chaplain for nearby military bases. In 1944, he was granted permission to enter the U.S. Army Catholic Chaplain Corps, where he served for two years.

He rejoined in 1948, and in 1949 was sent to Japan, then to South Korea with the troops. In June 1950, communist North Korea invaded South Korea, and the U.S. entered the war.

Father Kapaun was captured and sent to a prison camp in North Korea, where he continued to serve the men. He died May 23, 1951, and in 2013 was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on the battlefield. It is the United States' highest military honor.

In March of this year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Hawaii announced it had positively identified his skeletal remains.

His remains arrived at Wichita's Eisenhower National Airport Sept. 25. They were then taken as part of a procession to his hometown church in Pilsen for public and private services.

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Pope: By listening to Holy Spirit, synod can be a process of healing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A synod calls on everyone to become experts in "the art of encounter" in a way that is uplifting and transformative, Pope Francis said, formally opening the process leading up to the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

"Celebrating a synod means walking on the same road, together" just like Jesus did -- encountering, listening and discerning with all who one meets, the pope said in his homily at the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 10.

"Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: 'It's useless' or 'We've always done it this way?'" he asked.

Some 3,000 people attended the Mass, including the 270 people -- cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and laypeople -- invited to the day of reflection in the Vatican Synod Hall Oct. 9.

The weekend of events began the "synodal journey," which will explore the theme, "For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission." Bishops around the world were to open the process in their dioceses Oct. 17. The diocesan phase, which runs until April, will focus on listening to and consulting the people of God.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, Bishop William Joensen



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets the crowd as he leads the Angelus from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 10.

appointed John Gaffney, director of Evangelization and Catechesis, to be the point person. The Diocese is aligning its strategic visioning process with the synod process, which is also deeply listening to the faithful.

In his homily, the pope said the Church should begin the synodal process "by asking ourselves -- all of us, pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity -- whether we, the Christian community, embody this 'style' of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity."

The day's Gospel read-

ing (Mk 10:17-30) of Jesus setting out on a journey and encountering a rich man offers just one example of how Jesus "walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts," he said. "He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side."

Celebrating a synod, he said, means walking on the same road as others and living out the "three verbs" that characterize a synod: to encounter, listen and discern.

Capital campaign preparations underway

Continued from page 1

a sustainable funding source to support the growing number of men discerning the priesthood.

Support for priests, \$2 million

Priests have given their lives to God in service to the people of our Diocese, and it is our honor and commitment as a faith community to provide them with a dignified retirement.

With 38 retired priests in the Diocese and an expected 18 retiring in the next 10 years, adequately funding the Priest's Pension Fund will be an ongoing challenge that we must meet head on. Increasing the Priest's Pension Fund by \$2 million will bring the fund more in line with the annual need over the next 10 years.

Parish Renewal and Vibrancy, \$3.5 million

A key mission of the Diocese is to help people of all ages grow in their relationship with God and live as disciples of Jesus in their homes and communities. Formation begins at the home and continues at the parish, and families and catechetical leaders throughout the Diocese need the resources, training, education, and programming to fulfill this critical mission.

The campaign will provide \$3.5 million to help deepen and enrich the religious lives of

all by supporting efforts at both the parish and diocesan level.

Parish Share, \$7.5 million

Ensuring vibrant parish life is a major priority of the campaign.

A percentage of funds raised at each of our 80 parishes will be returned directly to each parish to be used for its own needs. These funds will total approximately \$7.5 million.

Parish share funds will enable each parish to grow in its pastoral vision and address areas such as building expansion, repairs and renovations, parish endowments, debt relief or the capital needs of a parochial school. Pastors and parish leaders will determine how best to use these resources.

Preparations for public phase underway

Throughout October and November, pastors and parish leaders will be attending campaign orientation meetings that preview how the campaign will unfold at each parish.

These meetings will be led by the Diocesan Stewardship Office and the Steier Group, the Catholic fundraising firm that is assisting with the effort.

For additional information about the campaign, please visit the campaign website, dmdiocese.org/ignite.



CONGRATULATIONS

With gratitude for their exemplary service and dedication to the mission of Dowling Catholic High School, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Jerry and Pat Deegan with the Civitas Award, the highest honor given by Dowling Catholic. This award recognizes those who have put their heart and soul into the school by demonstrating the highest levels of leadership, philanthropy and citizenship.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

It's Much More than a Tootsie Roll



When you see Knights in yellow vests that read "Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities," you should smile. When these Knights are holding their bright cans and collecting donations around town, they are helping to recognize the dignity of every person.

For every donation, each donor is offered a piece of candy by the Knight present, most commonly a Tootsie Roll. Because of these little gifts of appreciation, the "Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities" has frequently referred to as the "Tootsie Roll Drive." It is a popular and successful fund-raisers conducted by Knights of Columbus councils.

The campaign, which stretches back decades, is about more than just candy — it is about serving those with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Councils' participation in this campaign as well as many other fund-raising endeavors last year contributed to the \$185 million and volunteered over 75 million hours last year helping various causes.

The Knights of Columbus not only conducts the "Tootsie Roll Drives" in their efforts to help people with intellectual and physical disabilities, but has also partnered with the Special Olympics since its founding along with other programs.

So the next time you see a Knight in a yellow vest asking for donations outside a grocery store, and you receive a Tootsie Roll, remember it's more than a "Tootsie Roll Drive." It's a chance to provide people with intellectual and physical disabilities more resources to live a happy life.



Scan to learn more about the Knights



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