

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

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Deacon built life around faith, family

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Deacon Pat Kirkman was a builder.

He and his wife of 51 years, Christine, raised a family with five children. He built a business, a home and a life that centered on God.

"To love Pat was to love a man who knew how profoundly lacking and meaningless his life had been before (God) and how profoundly everything changed after that," said his pastor, Father P J M c M a n u s of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines.



Now, Father McManus envisions his parishioner building a mansion in heaven for those who will follow him.

Deacon Kirkman died June 2. He was 78.

Born in Des Moines in 1942, he served in the U.S. Army and served as a Des Moines fireman and emergency medical technician for five years. He was a carpenter by trade and owned his own construction company before managing property.

In 1997, he was ordained a deacon.

"He was ordained a deacon and appropriately so because he had a servant's heart," said his good friend, Monsignor Frank Chiodo.

The pastor of St. Anthony Parish recalled a time when he was serving in Leon and was supposed to go to the airport but a snowstorm prevented him from getting there. Deacon Kirkman drove from Des Moines to Leon and back to get his friend to the airport on time.

"That's the kind of guy he was. If somebody had a problem, he would help," said Monsignor Chiodo.

Deacon Kirkman used his carpentry skills to help the needy, said Deacon Dave Bartemes.

"Several years ago, I became aware of a structural problem at one of The Catholic

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Celebrating the gift of the Eucharist

On Corpus Christi Sunday, Catholics celebrated Jesus in the Eucharist: His love, healing and hope



The Feast of Corpus Christi, June 3, celebrates the Real Presence of Jesus, Body and Blood, in the Eucharist. Parishes celebrated with neighborhood processions to publicly witness their faith as a community. Top: Deacon Kurt Heinrich carries a monstrance with the Eucharist for St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines. Top right: Father Jose Reynaldo Hernandez, of three Des Moines parishes - Christ the King, St. Anthony and the Basilica of St. John - carries the Eucharist at St. Anthony's procession. To far right: Fathers Chris Hartshorn and Nipin Scaria, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. Right middle: Father Fabian Moncada, of Our Lady of the Americas, begins a procession. Right bottom: Father Dan Kirby, of St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, holds the Eucharist high for his parishioners to see.

Bishops appoint priest to focus on national Eucharistic Revival

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Ahead of the bishops' spring assembly, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington has appointed Father Jorge Torres, a priest of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, to help implement a planned multiyear National Eucharistic Revival.

Msgr. Jeffrey D. Burrell, USCCB general secretary, announced the appointment of Father Torres as a specialist for the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis June 7 and thanked Orlando Bishop John G. Noonan for releasing the priest for service to the USCCB.

In his new role, effective July 12, Father Torres joins the conference as the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis begins the promotion of a National Eucharistic Revival, known in the Diocese of Des Moines as Eucharistic Renewal, to renew the church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist," the news release said.

This Eucharistic initiative is part of the USCCB's 2021-2024 strategic plan, "Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope."

Planning for the national Eucharistic Revival has been tak-

ing place for over a year.

Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the evangelization committee, leads a bishops' advisory group on the National Eucharistic Revival made up of chairmen of other committees or representatives of those committees, including doctrine, vocations, divine worship, Hispanic affairs, pro-life, Catholic education, and marriage, family life and youth.

During the U.S. bishops' spring assembly June 16-18, Bishop Cozzens is scheduled to outline a plan for the National Eucharistic Revival, which will begin in the summer of 2022 and focus on dioceses and then parishes.

The document also outlines a proposal, subject to the approval of the bishops in November, of a possible National Eucharistic Congress in 2024.

"At every level of the three-year process, we will en-



Father Dan Kirby, at St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, carries a monstrance with the Eucharist in celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

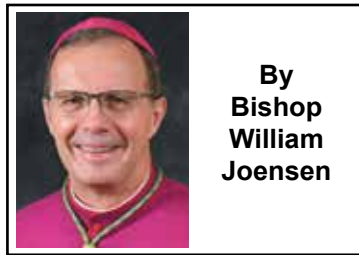
gage partnerships with ministries, apostolates and catechetical organizations to animate events at the local level and provide formation and resources for all ages and stages of faith."

The Sunday Mass obligation will be lifted July 24-25. See more on page 3.

Summer Camp, Desire, and Sunday Obligation

The late physicist-turned-priest, Monsignor Lorenzo Albacete, used to caution young people about the spiritual peril he calls, “the reduction of desire.” He refers to the condition whereby we become so accustomed to accepting the status quo or other conventions that we uncritically opt for the avenue of least resistance. We accept the dictates of the powers-that-be and go with the flow without exerting any creative energy or resistance to the unhealthy forces either outside or within ourselves that would pacify us. We neglect inclinations toward goods and experiences that would ultimately be personally fulfilling. We become “domesticated,” which might be a good thing for pets and livestock, but is ultimately unworthy for human beings whom God intends to be passionate, prophetic partners in his Kingdom project.

The remedy for the reduction of desire, says Albacete, is love—sheer, unadulterated love. Love is the “x-factor” that urges us beyond ourselves, that moves our hearts to become restless first responders to the promptings of grace, rather than cautious damage-control experts whose chief concerns are avoidance of punishment and personal convenience. In God’s wise design, love often discomforts us, but only so that God might disclose his mysterious presence. When we recognize his primary and most profound gift of self in his Son Jesus, our own desire



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

is activated to offer ourselves to him as we are without hesitation or second-guessing.

As I’ve come to learn about the great legacy of St. Thomas More Catholic Youth Camp near Panora, whose brand-new stylish cabins await this year’s campers (thanks to many friends and benefactors who’ve made them possible), my sense is that this summer extravaganza of fun, faith, and an incredible array of exhilarating activities induces, rather than reduces desire: desire for small-group sharing, for young adult mentors to look up to, for creativity and uninhibited joy and laughter, for well-designed risk-taking in the ropes course, and for newfound gratitude for one’s immediate family and for a larger family of faith within the Diocese of Des Moines. Above all, CYC sparks deepened desire for friendship with Jesus, fueled especially by the daily opportunities for Mass and Eucharistic adoration. CYC is a weeklong adventure of love!

In the Eucharist, Jesus’ desire to love us meets our own desire to be loved and love in return. As he sits down with his disciples in the Upper Room, he

reveals, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15), radically identifying himself with the bread and wine they share. And rather than saying afterward, “Been there, done that,” his self-offering anticipates his passion and death on the Cross and stirs his desire that spans life on earth: “I tell you from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father” (Matthew 26:29). The Eucharist both satisfies and stimulates our appetites for peace and consolation, companionship, for renewed wonder and gratitude.

I received a note not long ago from a woman who has long since returned with her husband to Sunday and weekday Mass. She had encountered a young-ish couple who used to attend their parish regularly. When she asked if they were back at Mass, they replied that, even though they had received the COVID-19 vaccine and were not really afraid of contracting the virus, they had grown used to watching the livestream in the comfort of their own home. Talk about the reduction of desire! While parish livestreams of Sunday Mass, weddings and funerals will be an enduring legacy of the pandemic as we continue to connect with our own people and a wider audience, and while there are certainly persons who have compromised health conditions or who care for those who do that make extra precautions a prudent

choice, there is no substitute for “real presence”: of Christ to us in his Eucharistic gift, and in our mutual presence to him and one another. There should be a gravitational pull on our hearts from the awareness that Jesus remains always turned to us and available at the altar and tabernacle, such that we would never settle for anything less than his technology-free presence. We do not want to be domesticated spectators but partakers at the divine banquet, any more than we would want to watch Fourth of July fireworks on TV or gaze at others who are savoring barbecue at their local neighborhood picnic.

I communicate in another message my long-planned decision to lift the dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sunday and holy days, effective this coming July 24th-25th. That weekend, we will proclaim the John 6 Gospel where Jesus multiplies the loaves and fish to feed the multitude, to be followed in subsequent weeks by passages from the Bread of Life discourse. By reinstating the Sunday Mass obligation, I am relating God’s clear expectation that we act on the desire he has instilled in us from the moment of our baptism to actually commune with him; we dare not domesticate and deaden this desire by ignoring it. Our worship together in church is an affair of the heart and head, and not blind submission to God’s commands or even the conventions of our Catho-

lic culture. We allow the Spirit gifts of piety/devotion and fear of the Lord to be guiding forces stirring attraction and respect for the Father who only asks that we receive his most precious gift: his beloved Son.

Even apart from the pandemic, I am aware of folks who see the summer months as a chance to “take a break from Church,” to find God solely in nature—even if that nature is a manicured golf course. In response, I would draw from Pope Francis, who observes, “In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living center of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life.” “On Sunday, our participation in Eucharist has special importance. . . .

In this way, Christian spirituality incorporates the value of relaxation and festivity.” Our souls, our world, grow larger, rather than drawing in on themselves: “The day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor” (Laudato ‘Si nn. 236-37).

We may not get to go to summer camp, but all of us can do our own spiritual “ropes course”—honoring the binding Sunday obligation by responding to the cords of love tethered to our Eucharistic Lord, who has set in store for us a feast for all seasons.

Campamentos de Verano, Afán y Obligación Dominical

El físico que luego se convertiría en sacerdote, Monseñor Lorenzo Albacete, advertía a los jóvenes sobre el peligro espiritual al que él llamaba “la dis-

minución del afán.” Él se refería a la condición en donde nos acostumbramos tanto a aceptar las situaciones actuales u otras situaciones ante las cuales sin crítica alguna tomando la ruta más fácil. Aceptamos lo que dictan aquel-

los que ostentan el poder y nos dejamos llevar por la corriente sin poner resistencia alguna ni ejercer energía creativa ante las fuerzas negativas dentro y fuera de nosotros que nos tranquilizan. Rechazamos tendencias hacia

bienes y experiencias que ultimadamente ofrecen satisfacción personal. Nos volvemos “domesticados,” lo que puede ser positivo para las mascotas y el ganado pero que a final de cuentas no es digno para seres humanos con quienes Dios busca ser apasionado, acompañante profético en el proyecto de su Reino.

El remedio para la reducción del afán dice Albacete, es el amor – amor puro y absoluto. El amor es la receta secreta que nos motiva a ir más allá de nosotros mismos, que hace que nuestros corazones se conviertan en promotores activos a las instrucciones de la gracia, en vez de ser expertos en control de daños

cuya preocupación principal es la conveniencia personal y evitar el sufrimiento. En el sabio diseño de Dios, el amor es por lo general incómodo, pero solamente para que Dios pueda revelar su misteriosa presencia. Cuando reconocemos su más importante y profundo regalo de sí mismo en su Hijo Jesús, nuestro propio afán se despierta para que nos ofrezcamos nosotros mismos a él cuando dejamos de dudar y de titubear.

Ahora que he estado aprendiendo sobre el gran legado del Campamento Juvenil Católico (CYC) de St. Thomas More cerca

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THE CATHOLIC

MIRROR

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Official



Bishop William M. Joensen announces the following priest appointments effective July 8.

Father Emmanuel Bassey, of the Archdiocese of Calabar (Nigeria), from ministry in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, to parochial administrator of St. Patrick, Lenox, and St. Patrick, Corning.

Father John Brobby, of the Diocese of Techiman (Ghana), from ministry in the Archdiocese of New York to parochial vicar, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines.

Deacon Maxwell Carson, upon priestly ordination June 25, to parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs, and chaplain, St. Albert Catholic School, Council Bluffs.

Deacon Jacob Epstein, upon priestly ordination June 25, to parochial vicar of Corpus Christi Parish, Council Bluffs.

Deacon Reed Flood, upon priestly ordination June 25, to further studies for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Deacon Bradley Robey, upon priestly ordination June 25, to parochial vicar at St. Pius X Parish, Urbandale.

Deacon Nicholas Stark, upon priestly ordination June 25, to parochial vicar, Christ the King Parish, Des Moines.

Father Litto Thomas, from parochial administrator, St. Patrick, Corning and St. Patrick, Lenox, to parochial vicar, Sacred Heart, West Des Moines.

William M. Joensen

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

Jason Kurth

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

Join us spiritually for the priestly ordinations of:

Deacon Maxwell Carson
Deacon Jacob Epstein
Deacon Reed Flood
Deacon Bradley Robey
Deacon Nicholas Stark

at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 25
olih.org/mass
facebook.com/dmdiocese



OFFICE of the BISHOP

Sunday obligation reinstated July 25

Bishop: "I'd like to personally welcome you to join us again at the wellspring of God's love."

Dear Friends in Christ,

This coming July 25th, the Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Sunday and holy day Mass obligation will be restored in the Des Moines Diocese. It was a profoundly sobering decision to suspend public Masses and the Sunday obligation over a year ago, and throughout this pandemic I know we have all longed for a more ordinary rhythm in our life of faith and communal worship. Reinstating the Sunday obligation is an encouraging step forward; it is being taken in response to a much improved public health situation, and the widespread accessibility of effective vaccines against COVID-19.

We have all experienced times when an unchosen period of absence has helped us to more deeply appreciate the many gifts in our lives, and my hope is that the same will be true in our experience of Sunday Eucharist and

the obligation that points the way toward shared presence with Jesus and one another. Our society often views obligations as burdens to be endured or obstacles to freedom. A healthier "human ecology" recognizes that obligations can often orient us toward the good, especially if we are mixed in our dispositions toward that good. I hope that the restoration of the Sunday obligation will give us all an opportunity to reflect on the marvelous generosity of the "One who alone is good" (see Mark 10:18), yet whose goodness is instilled in everything in this world in which we live, move, and have our being.

Fundamentally, our participation in communal worship on Sundays and holy days is both an entry into, and an expression of, an intimate personal relationship with Jesus. This intimacy is the transforming experience that gives life "a new horizon and a

decisive direction" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*/God is Love n. 1). We are invited to worship God who has gratuitously given us everything we have, including life itself. Further, the Mass draws us ever more deeply into the communal Body of Christ, the People of God whom Jesus calls and redeems. Our participation in Mass is not a supplemental practice in the life of discipleship; it is the beating heart of faith, the source and summit of our entire Christian life. If you have been away from Mass, whether due to the pandemic or for any other reason, I'd like to personally invite you to join us again at the wellspring of God's love.

While the general dispensation from the obligation will be lifted on July 25th, there will always be cases where individuals are excused or dispensed for serious reasons (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* n. 2181).

These reasons would include, but are not limited to, personal illness, known or suspected exposure to COVID-19, or if you are a caretaker of a member of the vulnerable population and your participation in Mass would expose him or her to a significant risk of contracting COVID-19. If you are unsure of your situation, please consult with your pastor who can assist you in your discernment.

On July 25th, the Gospel at Mass will recount Jesus' feeding the 5,000, and in the following weeks we will hear successive passages from the John 6 account of Jesus' Bread of Life discourse. As we prepare for the reinstatement of the Sunday obligation, please join me in praying for a greater awareness of, and attraction to, Jesus as the Bread of Life. Jesus nourishes and sustains us in all seasons of life. May we grow in our appreciation of Mass, and in our observance of Sunday

itself, a day of rest and feasting "which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world... the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality" (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*/On Care for Our Common Home n. 237). Let us continue to pray for Eucharistic Renewal, in our own Diocese and in the world. Please know of my prayers for you and all your loved ones. May you receive the blessing Jesus promises to those who Eucharistic hunger inspires all they do: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6).

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.

Queridos Amigos en Cristo,

Este próximo 25 de julio, el Décimo Séptimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, se reinstaurará en la Diócesis de Des Moines la obligación de la Misa dominical y de días de guardar. El suspender las Misas en público y la obligación dominical fue una decisión profundamente seria hace un poco más de un año, y durante esta pandemia sé que todos deseamos un ritmo más ordinario en nuestra vida de fe y alabar en comunidad. El reinstaurar la obligación dominical es un paso adelante alentador; éste lo tomamos en respuesta a la mucho mejor situación de salud pública y al extenso acceso a vacunas efectivas contra el COVID-19.

Todos hemos vivido situaciones en que un período de ausencia inesperado que nos ha ayudado a apreciar con mayor profundidad los dones que tenemos en nuestras vidas, y espero que lo mismo aplique en nuestra experiencia de la Eucaristía Dominical y la obligación que nos señala el camino a la presencia mutua con Jesús y uno con otro. Nuestra sociedad ve frecuentemente las obligaciones como cargas que tienen que tolerarse u obstáculos contra nuestra libertad. Una "ecología humana" más saludable reconoce que las obligaciones pueden frecuentemente orientarnos hacia el bien, especialmente si están mezcladas con nuestra disposición hacia ese bien. Espero que la restauración de la obligación Dominical nos dé la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre la maravillosa generosidad de "el único que es bueno" (vean Marcos 10:18), y cuya bondad se

inculca en todo en este mundo en el que vivimos, nos movemos y somos.

Fundamentalmente, nuestra participación en la alabanza comunitaria los domingos y días de guardar es la forma de entrar y de expresar un relación personal e íntima con Jesús. Esta intimidad es la experiencia transformadora que da a la vida "un nuevo horizonte y una orientación decisiva" (Papa Benedicto XVI, *Deus Caritas est*/Dios es amor n. 1). Estamos invitados a alabar a Dios quien nos ha dado todo lo que tenemos sin costo alguno, incluyéndose a sí mismo. Más aún, la Misas nos lleva más profundamente al Cuerpo de Cristo en común, el Pueblo de Dios a quien Jesús llama y redime. Nuestra participación en la Misa no es una práctica suplemental en la vida del discipulado; es el corazón latiente de la fe, la fuente y la cima de toda nuestra vida cristiana. Si han estado alejados de la Misa, ya sea debido a la pandemia o por cualquier otra razón, quisiera invitarles personalmente a venir de nuevo con nosotros a la fuente del amor de Dios.

Aunque se levantará la dispensa general de la obligación el 25 de julio, siempre habrá casos en donde algunos individuos tendrán dispensa o excusa por razones serias (ver el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica n. 2181). Estas razones pueden incluir, sin limitarse a éstas, enfermedad, exposición conocida o probable al COVID-19, o si usted cuida de alguna persona de la población vulnerable y su participación en la Misa pudiese exponer a esa persona a un serio riesgo de contraer COVID-19. Si no está seguro de su situación,

favor de consultar con su párroco quien puede ayudarle en su discernimiento.

El 25 de julio, el Evangelio en la Misa relatará cuando Jesús alimenta a los 5,000 y en las semanas siguientes estaremos escuchando pasajes de Juan 6 contando la proclamación de Jesús sobre el Pan de Vida. Al prepararnos a la reinstauración de la obligación dominical, únense por favor a mi oración para una mayor conciencia y atracción hacia Jesús, el Pan de Vida. Jesús nos nutre y nos sustenta en todas

las temporadas de nuestras vidas. Que podamos crecer en nuestro aprecio por la Misa y en la observación misma del domingo, día de descanso y de fiesta "sanación de las relaciones del ser humano con Dios, consigo mismo, con los demás y con el mundo garantía de la transfiguración final de toda la realidad creada" (Papa Francisco, *Laudato Si'*/ Sobre el Cuidado de la Casa Común n. 237). Sigamos orando por una Renovación Eucarística, en nuestra propia Diócesis y en el mundo. Estén seguros de mis

oraciones por ustedes y por sus seres queridos. Que reciban la bendición que promete Jesús a aquellos que se inspiran en el hambre Eucarística en todo lo que hacen: "Bienaventurados los que tienen hambre y sed de la justicia, porque ellos serán saciados"(Mateo 5:6).

Fielmente en Cristo,

Reverendísimo
William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Obispo de Des Moines

Consecration to St. Joseph

Pope Francis calls our attention this year to St. Joseph. "In him, we never see frustration but only trust," said Pope Francis in his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*. St. Joseph is a spiritual father for all of us. Through him, we can grow closer to God.

JOIN US IN CONSECRATION

Lead your family, lead a group or privately make this sacred consecration. Together, we can follow Father Donald Calloway's 33-day preparation book *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. We'll start **July 14** and can pray together with the help of Iowa Catholic Radio, which will broadcast the daily prayers of consecration at 3:20 p.m.

All are invited to a Mass and consecration

Main celebrant is Bishop William Joensen

4 p.m. on Aug. 15

at St. Patrick Catholic Church at Irish Settlement

We celebrate the Year of St. Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. We celebrate a consecration to him as we commemorate the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Des Moines.

If you have already made the consecration, join us for the Mass and a renewal of your consecration.

The St. Joseph Consecration is organized and hosted by Iowa Catholic Radio and local faithful Catholics.

For more information, contact Deacon Mark Campbell at Campbell.markh@yahoo.com.



DAILY PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION BEGIN at 3:20 P.M. ON JULY 14, ON IOWA CATHOLIC RADIO.



Hawkeyes commentator overcame tragedy, makes faith a priority



Iowa Hawkeye sports commentator Gary Dolphin was the keynote speaker for the Iowa Catholic Men's conference.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Sports commentator and devout Catholic Gary Dolphin, voice of the Iowa Hawkeyes, gave the keynote address at the Iowa Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, May 22 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines.

"I love the beliefs and the teachings of the Catholic Church and my day starts with daily Mass – everyday," Dolphin said.

Born and raised in the small town of Cascade in eastern Iowa, Dolphin had a rude awakening to the harsh realities of life at just age 14 when his dad suddenly passed away.

The oldest of seven kids, Dolphin suddenly found himself the "man" of the house.

"I had some questions for God," Dolphin said.

He vividly remembers answering the door the next day and representatives from Catholic Charities were standing on his doorstep with bags full of food and clothing.

"That left a lifelong impression on me," Dolphin said. "That's why I am always willing to volunteer, schedule permitting."

He also never misses sending in his annual donation to Catholic Charities, knowing firsthand the good they do.

During his keynote, Dolphin talked about the Iowa

Hawkeyes and shared personal anecdotes from his years of sports commentary.

He also talked about the value and importance of good character.

"Be a Christian for your family and your neighbors," he said. "And remember, it's how you treat people. I'm big on treating people the way they should be treated – with respect and dignity."

Tim Jameson, a member of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines, was also a presenter and encouraged men to lead a holy life focused on prayer and to be courageous in witnessing for Jesus and his church.

Bishop William Joensen, who celebrated Mass for the men at the beginning of the conference said: "Any time men in Christ can gather to be spiritually fed by Mass and by some inspiring speakers who helped us trace the voice of both the Holy Spirit and the unfriendly spirits, and who can help us integrate our vocations in the world with our witness to Jesus, is time well spent."

"Tim Jameson and Gary Dolphin were compelling in calling us to not sit back but to step up now for the sake of the Gospel," Bishop Joensen continued. "Gary's humor helped the message go down well. And the informal conversations helped us to get to know one another better, to encourage each other and strengthen our bond as brothers in faith in the Diocese of Des Moines."

Unlock the potential & purpose within you

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

With two classes on "How to win a Catholic" under her Protestant belt, over time Barbara Heil's heart changed and mind opened to becoming a Catholic herself.

A former Pentecostal pastor, she shared her faith journey with women from across the Des Moines Diocese during the Diocesan Council for Catholic Women conference recently.

She encouraged women to live up to their potential and purpose, an ambition that may be tamped down because of a lack of time, disappointment, anxiety, or frustration.

"We want to unlock the life of God that the Lord has put within us," she said.

Heil recounted her transformation from a difficult childhood to a Christian and, after learning she'd been baptized as a baby, into the Catholic faith.

She came into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2013. Shortly thereafter, her mother, who was not practicing her faith, received communion after a 57-year absence.

Through living the Catholic faith, women can inspire hope in others.

"We can bring people to freedom through our witness, our testimony and our prayers," Heil said.

Bishop William Joensen



Our witness, testimony and lived faith have a powerful effect on others, said evangelist Barbara Heil during the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's recent conference.

invited the attendees to go deeper into their faith with prayer not just for themselves but for others so that, through intercessory prayer, people may be drawn to the Church.

"Help us to have a common vision," he said. "You, as a Council of Catholic Women, are so pivotal in this. The power of your prayer has a ripple effect far beyond your own individual groups and counsels. This touches people in ways they cannot yet appreciate."

The DCCW is part of a national women's organization, formed after World War I, which recognized the contributions of women during the war. They kept families together, supported the war effort and contributed to the Church.

Now, the national women's group serves as an umbrella organization, supporting and empowering all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service.

"Today, we are so grateful to be a united membership by which we can share ideas, projects and programs to all women around the United States, in the military and around the world," said Joan Gubbels, of Council Bluffs.

The organization is active in hosting an appreciation dinner for clergy, raising funds for the Ronald McDonald House, offering a scholarship to a St. Albert Catholic School senior, and supporting quilting groups that provide for the needy, those in shelters and nursing homes.

Legislature resolves key issues

By Tom Chapman
Contributing Writer

The legislative session ended with resolutions on several issues of concern to the Iowa Catholic Conference.

Catholic schools

During the last day of the session lawmakers passed HF 847, which includes:

- An increased tax credit to 75% for donors to School Tuition Organizations, which provide scholarships to lower- to middle-income students attending an accredited nonpublic school.

- Increases the total STO tax credits available to \$20 million (from \$15 million) starting next year

- Increases the tuition and textbook tax credit from \$250 to \$500 per-child for private school parents and makes the credit available to homeschool parents

Regrettably, the bill also treated private schools as if they were public schools in a provision forbidding schools from having mask requirements.

Lawmakers also left the passage of Education Savings Accounts to a future year.

The Catholic conference supported funding increases that assist nonpublic school students, including a step up to \$852,000 for textbooks (in HF 868) and an increase to \$9 million for transportation services (SF 615).

Abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to take up an abortion case about a Mississippi law that bans most abortions after 15 weeks.

However, even if the court would limit federal constitutional protections for abortion, it wouldn't make a difference in Iowa because of a decision by the Iowa Supreme Court which made abortion a fundamental right in the state.

That's why it's so important that the Iowa legislature passed HJR 5, the "Protect Life Amendment." The provision would clarify that Iowa's constitution does not contain a right to an abortion. If passed by the legislature again in 2023 or 2024, the amendment will go to a vote of the people of Iowa.

Taxes

The legislature passed a tax reform bill, SF 619, which moves up the timeline for income tax cuts and shifts non-Medicaid mental health funding to the state instead of from county property taxes. The Iowa Catholic Conference supported a few specific pieces in the bill:

- Sales tax exemption for equipment purchased by food banks

- Payment parity for counseling centers offering services by telehealth (including Catholic Charities)

- Tax credit increase for affordable housing projects and the creation of disaster recovery

housing/eviction prevention programs.

Human Services

The legislature passed HF 302, a long-time priority which phases out the loss of eligibility to families for childcare assistance when the family's income goes up.

In the human services budget bill, HF 891, the Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program received a \$1 million increase to \$4.3 million. The program is home-based and intended to connect families to resources such as housing, food and energy assistance, transportation, counseling, and parent education.

A few final thoughts

It's expected that the General Assembly will return late this summer to pass a plan which redraws Iowa's legislative districts.

Go to <https://votervoicenet/USCCB/home> and send a message to your representative and senators in opposition to eliminating the Hyde Amendment from the federal budget. Without the Hyde Amendment and related policies, billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion in the United States and throughout the world

Tom Chapman is the executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the bishops of Iowa.

Free Citizenship Class by telephone

This free citizenship class will prepare you to pass your US immigration citizenship interview.

Experienced teacher will conduct this class bilingual – English and Spanish. Please contact local instructor Jim Supina at (515) 961-2026.

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.

Deacon Kirkman remembered for kindness

Continued from page 1

Worker houses in Des Moines. The problem was well beyond my capability and would be too expensive to hire a contractor," he said. "Pat met me at the home the next day, evaluated the situation, proposed and executed a solution within a week. That's the Pat Kirkman I knew. He was a man who understood his skills and a man who would share those skills with others when needed."

"Deacon was a man you rarely see these days: A man of honor, strong conviction, and strength," said friend Lois Brookhart. "He loved Jesus, his family and he seemed to know no stranger. He would give you the shirt off his back if he thought you needed it."

During the funeral Mass, Father PJ McManus reflected on the foundation upon which Deacon Kirkman built his life.

"Marriage and family life, work and, of course, ultimately ministry as a deacon in the Church, it was entirely dependent on this relationship

(with God) that meant everything in the world. And the relationships that meant the most to him took their meaning, shape and form from Him," said Father McManus.

Though he suffered successes and failures both professionally and personally, Deacon Kirkman wouldn't let pain define him.

"Instead, he defined himself by victory, the victory of the Lord Jesus on the cross conquering sin and death, the promise of eternal life not only after death but right now," said Father McManus.

"Whenever he did a kindness for me or my family, which was often over our years of friendship, I would say 'God bless you, Deacon.' His response was always, without fail, 'He has!'"

- Lois Brookhart

In the final words of Mass, a deacon says, "Go and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord." Deacon Kirkman did that in many ways, not only in the context of the Mass, but by bringing healing and hope to others, said Bishop William Jansen.

Brookhart said: "Whenever he did a kindness for me or my family, which was often over our years of friendship, I would say 'God bless you, Deacon.' His response was

Congratulations to the new ordained deacons



Photos By Damien Tejeda-Benitz

Deacon Nick Smith, of St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines, and Deacon Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros, of St. Bernard Parish in Osceola, were ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 11.

Thank you!

Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa would like to extend a thank you to these seven individuals.

These hardworking volunteers have served on our Board of Directors since our inception in 2012 and have paved the way for the Catholic Foundation for years to come.



Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa



Around the Diocese

June 21 Monday Holy Hour

DES MOINES - All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays at 5 p.m. for an hour of Eucharistic adoration. Evening prayer will be livestreamed at Facebook.com/dmdiocese.

June 28 Monday Holy Hour

DES MOINES - All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays for an hour of Eucharistic adoration. Evening prayer will be livestreamed at Facebook.com/dmdiocese.

July 14 Wednesday Start Consecration Prayers

Begin 33 days of prayer in preparation for consecration to St. Joseph, through which we adopt St. Joseph as our spiritual father and try to live his virtues. A Mass and consecration will be at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15 at St. Patrick Church at Irish Settlement. Pray with Iowa Catholic Radio at 3:20 p.m. Bishop William Joensen will be the main celebrant. Questions? Contact Deacon Mark Campbell at Campbell.markh@yahoo.com

July 12 Monday Holy Hour

All are welcome to join Bishop William Joensen at St. Ambrose Cathedral on Mondays at 5 p.m. for an hour of Eucharistic adoration. Evening prayer will be livestreamed at Facebook.com/dmdiocese.

July 23 Friday Summer Fundraising Dance

DES MOINES -- Iowans for LIFE is sponsoring a summer dance from 6:30-10 p.m. at Jasper Winery Open Air Tent. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.IowansForLife.com or mail a check to

Iowans for Life, 1450 E. 33rd St., Des Moines, 50317. There will be live music from The Fabulous Rivas ('50s & '60s classic rock music), appetizers, sweets, beverages; a cash bar will be available with beer and wine; a dancing contest with prizes, and an auction for a VIP table for the Christmas Gala.

June 25 Friday Priestly Ordination

ANKENY - Five men will be ordained priests during a liturgy that begins at 5 p.m. Join us spiritually by watching at olih.org/mass or at Facebook.com/dmdiocese.

July 31 Saturday Sixth Annual Ignatian Retreat

DES MOINES -- Join us 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church for the sixth annual Ignatian Retreat (also accessible through Zoom). Jesuit Father Gene Merz (one of the founders of Emmaus House): "The heart of Ignatian Spirituality is reflection on experience in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ." During this sixth Annual Ignatian Retreat, Father Krettek will share with us his reflections on experience of Ignatian Spirituality, as both a spiritual director and director, and then invite us into our own reflections on experience. No prior experience with Ignatian Spirituality is required. All are welcome. Go to theemmaushouse.org/ignatian-retreat to learn more and register. Please theemmaushouse.org/contact with any questions.

August 8 Sunday 50th anniversary celebration

ANKENY - Father Larry Hoffmann will be celebrating the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Church. There will be a reception at St. Luke from 2-5 p.m.

August 15 Saturday Consecration to St. Joseph

IRISH SETTLEMENT - Join Bishop William Joensen at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Church for Mass and consecration to St. Joseph. Through St. Joseph, we can grow closer to God, have a fatherly role model and an intercessor. Start 33 days of preparatory prayer following Father Don Calloway's book and join in prayer every day at 3:20 p.m. starting July 14 on Iowa Catholic Radio. For more information, contact Deacon Mark Campbell at Campbell.markh@yahoo.com

June-September Garage Sale

JOHNSTON - The Bishop Drumm Garage Sale will be 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Thursday from June-September at the Bishop Drumm campus at 5837 Winwood Dr., in Johnston. Donations of good household items will be accepted at the time of the sale.

Faith Journey Catechetical Institute

Are you a Catholic who wants to fall deeper in love with Christ and his Church? Do you want to learn more about how you fit into greatest love story? Do you want to be strengthened in your understanding of our Church's teachings? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions then the Catechetical Institute is for you. Contact John Huynh at jhuynh@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5006, to begin your faith journey into the heart of our Catholic tradition. More information can be found at FaithJourneyCI.com

Rosary For The Unborn

DES MOINES - Join pro-life advocates in praying the rosary for the unborn each Saturday at 10 a.m. in front of Planned Parenthood on Army Post Road.

Memorial Day celebrated with Mass



Photo by Cathy Eastwood/St. Patrick Parish, Council Bluffs

Memorial Day was celebrated with Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery in Council Bluffs. Celebrants were Father James Ahenkora, of St. Patrick Parish, and Father Enrique Garcia-Elizalde, of Corpus Christi Parish. Deacon John Pfenning, of St. Patrick Parish, preached the homily.

House call introduces family to local church



Franciscan Sister Joyce Blum visits with a family that sought baptism for their son.

Sister Joyce Blum, whose ministry took her from Shelby County to El Salvador and back again, continues to reach out.

A Franciscan sister originally from St. Mary Parish in Panama, she serves the people of Shelby County.

Recently, she went to a small town named Kirkman.

"I have quite a number of Spanish-speaking families in that rural area," she said. "There might be about 60 families that live right in the town area and all others live around the countryside and are very dedicated to the dairy farms, and cultivation of corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

Yes, there are pigs and chickens too, that one sees as you drive the miles east from where I live at Panama."

Sister went to visit a Hispanic family that asked for their son, Ezequiel, to be baptized.

"Both parents are graduates of the University of Mexico with degrees in veterinary science and both are working with animals now," she said.

"What a blessing to be the welcoming person and let them know where to find the church, times of Masses and information about our Catholic school," she said.

Family Support Group

The Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph invites Des Moines diocesan families with children with disabilities to join a new online support group.

Every Monday, Noon - 1 p.m.

Send an email to lcarollo@ccharities.com to register. Send the email by Monday morning (9 a.m.) the day of the gathering. A link to the group will then be sent to you after you register. Questions? Contact Lisa Wagner-Carollo, lcarollo@ccharities.com OR (816) 659-8262. For more information, contact Patty Origer at poriger@dmdiocese.org or call 515-237-5057.

dmdiocese.org/disabilityministry

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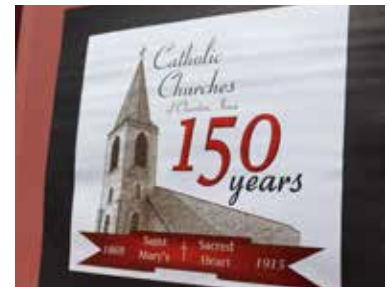


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Contact Kelly at kcollins@dmdiocese.org to place your ad.

Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton celebrates milestone anniversary

Bishop Joensen celebrated Confirmation Mass, participated in Eucharistic procession as part of the parish's anniversary festivities on Sunday, June 13



The temperature was near 90 degrees for the Eucharistic procession, held this year as part of Sacred Heart Parish in Chariton's anniversary celebration. The Knights of Columbus and the Iowa Scottish Pipes and Drums led the Eucharistic procession.

Photos by Kelly Mescher Collins and Jason Collins



Bishop William Joensen confirmed three Sacred Heart parishioners in Chariton on Sunday, June 13.

1,000 celebrate life at InnerVisions gala



InnerVisions HealthCare celebrated its 10-year anniversary on June 3 at its annual gala. More than 1,000 guests attended the event, highlighted by keynote speaker, Benjamin Watson (pictured left), former NFL tight end and Super Bowl champ. He spoke on the importance of "Being the One" to get involved in the life-affirming work of empowering at-risk, pregnant women and saving unborn babies. Since InnerVisions' founding, more than 1,230 undecided pregnant women have changed their minds and have chosen parenting or adoption as a result of receiving free medical services at InnerVisions. For more information or to get involved as a volunteer, visit www.ivhcare.org.



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The first qualification for families to receive tuition assistance is income. State law requires families to be at or below the following income guidelines. Once a family qualifies, they can receive tuition assistance based on their financial need.

*Family Size	**Maximum Income	*Family Size	**Maximum Income
2	\$ 69,680	5	\$124,160
3	\$ 87,840	6	\$142,320
4	\$106,000	7***	\$160,480

*** Add \$18,160 for each additional dependent

- 3) UPLOAD YOUR TAX RETURN ONLINE AT THE END OF YOUR CTO APPLICATION

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATION: JULY 31ST

Cabins blessed, Pates Plaza built in time for summer camp

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Summer began with a blessing of new cabins, outdoor Mass and expression of gratitude to the donors who raised \$2.86 million for the much-needed improvements at the St. Thomas More Center in Panora.

Bishop William Joensen thanked supporters for their help upgrading the home of Catholic Youth Camp and retreat center.

Joining him was retired Bishop Richard Pates, who came to see the new Pates Plaza, a shaded outdoor patio that will be used for everything from arts and crafts to faith programming, and science experiments. The plaza's name honors the Diocese's former shepherd, who advocated for the camp during the capital campaign.

"Bishop Pates made Catholic Youth Camp a priority and his guidance and vision played a huge role in the success of our capital campaign and the transformation of our campus," said Alex Kautzky, executive director of the camp and retreat center.

Support continues to come in. A local group called 10 Squared Women of Guthrie County gifted the St. Thomas More Center \$10,500 to run water from a pipe near a road to the Pates Plaza.

The new patio is about a quarter of a mile from the nearest water source so running water to the site will reduce the chances of kids getting dehydrated and allow for various activities, said Kim Patrick, a longtime supporter with her husband, Deacon Dennis Patrick.

The Patricks' passion for seeing the camp succeed has kept



Photo by Ben Friedman

Bishop William Joensen thanked supporters of the St. Thomas More Center, home of Catholic Youth Camp, blessed new cabins and a multiuse area named Pates Plaza on June 5.

them involved for years. Their three children attended CYC from the time they were young. They counseled, worked as staff or directed. He built the Marian shrine, helped build the office, and served as an owners representative for the construction of Charron Hall. He serves on the advisory board.

When Kim asked her children how she should advocate for the camp with the women's group, she said, "Each of them said, aside from family, their faith

formation occurred at St. Thomas More. I have a lot to thank them for because I've got some pretty great kids."

Camp registrations are expected to reach capacity in the next few weeks, Kautzky said. Kids are excited about using the new cabins and they have pent up energy from the pandemic, she said.

Planned giving benefits parish, school, organization

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When Dick Ahlberg, a longtime member of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, passed away, a portion of his assets were gifted to his beloved parish.

This planned gift of \$5,740 will help Christ the King.

The pastor, Father PJ McManus, said Dick and his wife, Marilyn Ahlberg, were "pillars of the parish – they were always here."

Their son Dave said his father had a big influence on his Catholic upbringing.

"He made sure we all went to Mass as a family," Ahlberg said. "He made sure we kids could attend parochial school. We all went to Christ the King and then Dowling and St. Joseph Academy."

Dick was a charter member of Christ the King.

In addition to the sum of money, Dick also donated a grandfather clock to the rectory and a car, with the request that it be donated to a family that was in great need.

"We donated it to a recently arrived immigrant family from Africa that attends Christ the King," Father McManus said. "She was thrilled."

"He was very frugal, yet generous," Ahlberg said. "In his later years, he gave \$500-800 a month to charity. His donations went to Food for the Poor, Smile Train, Doctors Without Borders, Mercy Ships, St. Joseph Indian School, Mer-

cy Home, CARE, World Visions, Sisters of Charity and others.

"He said he has everything he needs and was willing to give away to those who didn't," the son added. "He got a kick out of buying goats, chickens and bags of rice for people in Africa."

Sue McEntee, executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa, says parishes, schools and other organizations benefit greatly when individuals take advantage of planned giving.


"Many believe you have to be 'wealthy' to make a planned gift," McEntee said. "In reality, all it takes is a simple, even small percent beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy to your favorite not for profit and you are a planned giver!"

The foundation stands ready to help.

Legacy, or planned gifts, provide the foundation for your parish, school or Catholic organization within the Diocese of Des Moines. Estate planning is the process of caring for yourself and your assets while you are living and planning for the orderly transfer of assets to other persons and organizations – both during your life and afterwards.

Through estate planning, you ensure the wealth you have accumulated over your lifetime goes exactly where you want it to go. Learn more about how the foundation can help with planned giving by going to CFSWIA.org or calling 515-237-5044.

Cathedral Holy Hours




Join Bishop Joensen
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for an hour of Adoration & Prayer

5-6 PM each Monday

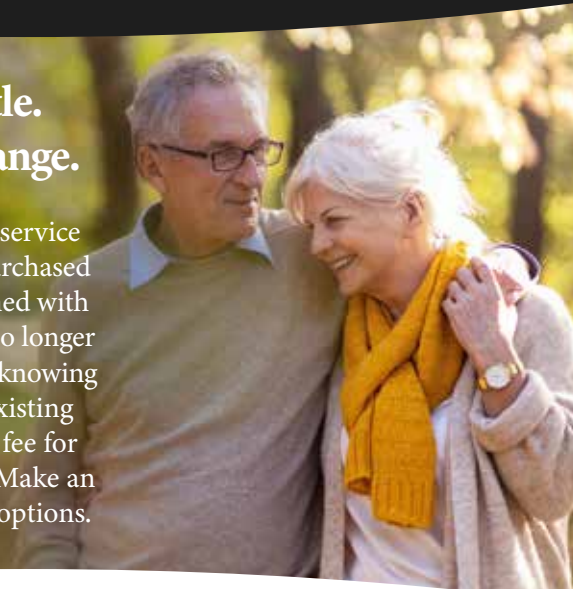
Evening Prayer will be livestreamed on the Diocesan Facebook page:
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Visit dmdiocese.org/holyhours to find out about
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Families now planning funerals postponed due to COVID

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Many nursing homes went into lockdown in March 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deacon Joe Cortese's mother was living at one of them.

Her health had been declining for several months. But then in May it took a turn for the worse.

Because of COVID, they were not able to visit her until she was "actively dying," Deacon Cortese said.

He arrived at the nursing home at about 6 p.m. on May 18, 2020. He and his brother prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet for her.

"And then she very quietly slipped away at about 8 p.m.," he said.

The funeral for his mother, Kathryn Mary Marasco Cortese, a member of St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines, has been on hold ever since because of the pandemic.

"My older brother lives out at Martina Place at Bishop Drumm, and he was on total lockdown until just a couple of weeks ago," said Deacon Cortese, a member of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. "And my other brother lives out in Connecticut, and they didn't want to be exposed to COVID while they were traveling."

Those were two major reasons for the wait.

"And we still haven't scheduled it yet," he continued.

Though restrictions across the country are lifting,

many are still wary and taking precautions.

"My brother in Connecticut wants to wait a little longer," he said.

While the funeral has been on hold, the family is grateful to Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home in Des Moines, where the cremated remains have been kept during this time of uncertainty.

"They checked with us a couple of times just to make sure we didn't forget about it and I told them we needed more time," Deacon Cortese said. "They were very gracious about that."

The urn will be buried next to their father's in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines after the funeral.

Mark Parrish, owner and funeral director at Caldwell Parrish, said families are now reaching out to plan funerals for family members that passed away during the pandemic.

"We are starting to see some of those families that held off on having services come back and wanting to schedule those now," Parrish said. "Maybe they didn't do a funeral Mass or service at the time. Or maybe they just did a private family Mass. Now they are coming back and having a full evening visitation and Mass the next day," Parrish added.

Others have decided not to reschedule.

"We are seeing some families that were planning [something for a later date] and now it's been six, eight, 12 months have gone by and they have just decided not to do any-



Deacon Joe Cortese (left) of St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines with his late mother, Kathryn Mary Marasco Cortese, and brothers John and Larry.

thing else," he added.

Livestreaming, a hallmark of the pandemic, was implemented at Caldwell Parrish to allow family and friends to safely participate from home. The feature is here to stay for those who want it.

"Families have really appreciated and liked it," Parrish said.

Mike Hoy, owner of Hoy-Kilnoski Funeral Home in Council Bluffs and Omaha, said streaming was actually an option already in place at his funeral home. But the pandemic prompted them to add even more cameras.

"We did purchase two

portable devices to stream from church and cemeteries and we will keep those activities going forward," Hoy said.

The uncertainties of 2020 were good reminders for us all that we are not in control, Deacon Cortese said.

"[We were] praying about the unknown and asking God for guidance on what to do," Parrish said. "We were leaning a lot on our faith and trying to make the right decisions."

Grief and loss compounded the roller coaster of emotions people felt hearing they would not be able to honor their loved ones in a traditional manner due to COVID restrictions.

"It was dealing with the anger on top of the sadness," Hoy said. "Maybe we were the easiest ones to cast that anger and sadness and just trying to navigate that and not take it personally."

Faith got them through, though not without trial. These men are like thousands of other Catholics who acknowledge the challenges of attending Mass via livestream.

"To not be present and receive the sacraments and Eucharist – it was difficult and also made me deepen my faith," Parrish said. "And I'm going to Mass a little bit more now, too."

Congratulations graduates!



Father Charles Kottas, pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in Council Bluffs, was honored as the 27th inductee into the St. Albert Hall of Recognition. Father Kottas has spent the last 25 years serving his parish and the last 21 years as canonical administrator of St. Albert School. He has raised more than \$10 million to benefit the school. St. Albert Catholic School President Anne Rohling presented him with the award.



Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines graduated 326 students on May 28. Collectively, the students earned \$11.2 million in scholarships.

Thirty nine St. Albert Catholic School seniors graduated May 23: 11 graduated summa cum laude (grade point average of 3.75 or higher), 10 magna cum laude (3.5 or higher) and nine more cum laude (3.0 or higher) status. The class earned nearly \$1.8 million in scholarships.

Catholic Charities: Perspectives from the pandemic

By Beth Gibbins
Contributing Writer

What positive impact occurred as a result of the pandemic?

This question was asked during a recent Catholic Charities staff meeting. Answers in finding a “silver lining” from the pandemic ranged from more time with family to starting a dream garden from seed over the winter.

In the midst of the pandemic, Catholic Charities also demonstrated its ability to operate and offer services despite COVID-19. The staff in four facilities already maintained a high degree of safety and health protocols. Clients quickly transitioned to heightened standards of care with the addition of masks, distancing, and sanitizing stations.

“The office staff rapidly adapted to working from home, while direct services staff continued to provide efficient 24/7 operations,” said Barbara Decker, executive director. “With the collaboration from each staff member, we had a smooth transition and responded to those difficult situations as we encountered them in a professional and caring manner.”

Refugee staff and counselors continued sessions over Zoom and telephone calls. The Council Bluffs abuse shelter used hotel rooms, when necessary, to maintain social distancing. The food pantry transformed an existing delivery window into a direct service window that works better than previous systems.

Not only do Catholic Charities programs remain open, but they are also providing needed disaster relief. Special collections resulted in hundreds of small grants through VISA gift cards to help COVID-19 and derecho victims, and provide rental and utility assistance.

“Parish members continued to be generous during quarantine,” said Debra Powers, director of development. “We thank them for making these grants possible.”

Not all outcomes were positive. The pandemic did take its toll on Catholic Charities.

Out of caution, the service provider had to suspend many volunteers. Some volunteers took a break to protect the health of themselves and their loved ones.

“It is serious when we have to disband our volunteers,” said Holly Ackermann, community outreach manager. “As volunteers return, we are looking at new roles and who will fill gaps of those who don’t return.”

Catholic Charities is grateful for the handful of critical volunteers who stayed on at the food pantry. New needs generated groups that gather personal protective equipment and sew colorful masks to keep clients and staff safe.

Fundraising through events was also affected, as we could not hold traditional events in person. Catholic Charities was able to have its golf outing and two virtual events that drew generous donations.

However, it fell short of the budgeted funds raised in a ‘normal’ year.

Despite the challenges, Catholic Charities looks to a brighter future. A recent survey brought in this positive message from a donor: “I try to be vocal on how important it is to help those in most need. Catholic Charities is on the front line to help shelter and feed those in greatest need. More importantly, the presence and Christian interaction with



others offers them hope.” We hope you see from these shared perspectives the value of our programs in the community and consider partnering with

Catholic Charities through charitable giving, fundraising events, and volunteer time. Make Catholic Charities part of your best pandemic story.

For more information, visit catholiccharitiesdm.org or call 515-244-3761.

Campus Ministry boosted with new missionaries

The Diocese’s Campus Ministry program welcomes two new members to the FOCUS missionary team. FOCUS, which stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Students, serves primarily in a campus outreach role at Drake University and integrates with Campus & Student Ministry at St. Catherine Parish in Des Moines. Aurelia Isenbart is the new FOCUS team director for the upcoming academic year. Colin Flattery is a first-year missionary. They will join Bridget Dunn and Bryan Warday who will each return to Drake for a second year.



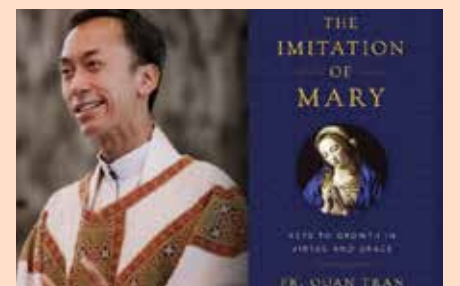
Making it Personal with Bishop Joensen



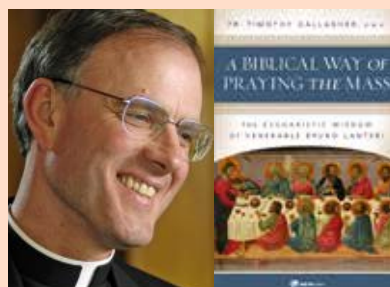
Jonathan Pageau, French Canadian iconographer, podcast host



Carrie Gress, Author of "The Anti-Mary Exposed: Rescuing the Culture from Toxic Femininity"



Father Quan Tran, Author of "The Imitation of Mary: Keys to Growth in Virtue and Grace"



Father Timothy Gallagher, Author of "A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass"



Noelle Mering, Author of "Awake Not Woke: A Christian Response to the Cult of Progressive Ideology"

The Catholic Mirror is looking for stories of faith and inspiration.

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a your ideas!



Check out all of Bishop Joensen’s episodes featuring these guests and many more at iowacatholicradio.com/making-it-personal



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The world needs a father's heart

The June celebrations of the Sacred Heart and Father's Day, this year also set within the Year of St. Joseph, have got me thinking about a father's heart.

Musing on such a heart, I reread *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis' apostolic letter which accompanied his proclamation of the Year of St. Joseph (Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021).

Patris Corde, which means "with a father's heart," is a beautiful letter in which Pope Francis communicates to us the fatherly love of St. Joseph for Jesus, as well as what this love means for all of us.

What resonated most with me is the simplicity and humility of a father's heart. St. Joseph is one of the greatest and humblest saints in our Catholic tradition. He is the patron saint of the entire Catholic Church, and yet he didn't start a religious order, or launch a powerful apostolate - we don't even have any of his quotes!

Instead, as Pope Francis writes,

Marriage and Family Life

By Adam Storey



"Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-18)... [and] he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth."

It's often tempting to measure our fatherhood by the type of things we can put in a spreadsheet: hours worked, or income earned, or our kids' achievements.

St. Joseph offers a very different vision of fatherhood, one that is shaped by tenderness, acceptance, quiet courage, and dignified work. Our world certainly needs the witness of strong fathers, but sometimes I think we are tempted to imagine

that this translates into "powerful" fathers, a sort of machismo that doesn't actually serve the Kingdom of God.

The heart of St. Joseph, and the heart of Jesus, show us a different model.

I am convinced that my most important work as a dad is letting my kids know that I love them and that I'm proud of them. I try to say it ad nauseam. When I get eye rolls and exacerbated sighs I know I'm doing it right! I also know that I need to waste time with my kids, even when there is nothing to do or say. They'll painfully admit that I'm virtually impervious to their complaints of boredom! These small and simple things are at the heart of fatherhood, and so I try to focus on them, even though I do so very imperfectly.

As a dad, the moments I most regret are when I try to "take charge" and impose my will on my family through yelling, or a cutting remark, or closing myself off from my wife and kids. Yet, even these

moments can be redeemed.

"The history of salvation is worked out 'in hope against hope' (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses," writes Pope Francis. "All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty."

The world today needs strong fathers, and it also needs what Pope Francis has often called a "revolution of tenderness." During this Year of St. Joseph, I hope you'll take the time to read, or reread, *Patris Corde* and by God's grace I hope all of our hearts can more fully be conformed to the hearts of Jesus and his foster father, Joseph.

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

What gives you peace of mind?

What give you peace of mind?

This question has given me much to reflect on.

Healing the sick

I became a physician at my Dada's insistence. I am grateful to him for the profession he elected for me. Healing the sick, making the broken lives whole and keeping the healthy from getting ill became my mission.

The mission will remain with me as long I am considered to be competent by my patients and my colleagues. I was especially gratified to assist in care of my older brother in March 2020 in Mumbai. However, the opportunity to take care of my wife, Mary, for over five years during her struggles to cope with Alzheimer's dementia has fulfilled my mission and provided me with a total peace of mind. I am utterly grateful for this opportunity

Guest Column

By Dr. Udaya Kabadi



even though there are days when I question God, "Why me?" The answer erupts instantly as a question "If not you, then who?"

Education

If healing the sick is my mission, education is my passion. Educating myself and sharing the garnered knowledge with my students and my peers has brought me immense satisfaction and humility.

I was humbled when a teacher

offered me an opportunity to teach my classmates in high school on a topic of 'Sanskrit' language. Presumably, my teacher must have recognized my dedication towards learning and my desire to share.

During the post graduate medical training, a senior resident (Registrar) was always expected to conduct a weekly teaching session on the 'on call' day for rotating medical students. Over time, students from other wards joined my sessions and we had to move to regular classrooms to accommodate the students. The pattern continued during my training and rest of my career in the United States. God blessed me with a skill that took me around the world to lecture and teach.

My passion of education has complemented my mission of healing and provided me peace of mind.

Philanthropy

Helping the needy has become a big part of my life since I espoused St. Francis. prayer, "make me an instrument of your peace."

The prayer inspired me to put others before self. St. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) became my role model about selfless giving with no expectation of return. I wish I could give one tenth of what she did. I try. The lasting peace can be summarized in one word 'Joy.' Jesus first, others next and you (I) last.

In summary, the only way to be at peace is to share talents, treasures and time; follow the principle 'to live is to love.'

Dr. Udaya Kabadi is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines.

Class of 2021 is ready to serve

Guest Column

By Jeff Miller
St. Albert Catholic School

Good afternoon fellow students, soon to be graduates, parents, friends, educators and administrators.

It is my privilege to be standing before you today to reflect on some of the most memorable chapters of our lives, the lessons we've learned, and the road that lies in front of us.

The Class of 2021 is filled with passionate, driven, resilient individuals with great ideas and the energy and enthusiasm to accomplish great things. We have endured much, and we are still standing.

As our class motto begins, our past is indeed our heritage. As young adults on our individual faith journeys, we have enjoyed the freedom of being able to explore our faith here at St. Albert and learn about God and his love for all of us.

We have an expectation to treat others with respect despite differences and learn from one another and the example Christ has set forth.

We will always treasure that priv-

ilege and appreciate our parents, grandparents, friends and sometimes even strangers that have made our Catholic education and expression of faith possible over the last 13 years.

Because of a variety of factors (including a global pandemic), we are all very aware of our responsibilities to one another, and even to ourselves. We have taken on a team mentality that some of us experienced from a relatively young age, but now, out of necessity, have employed the concepts in real world situations that we find ourselves.

Everything we do has an effect on someone around us and also says something about who we are.

We strive to be individuals that work hard and exceed our potential in order to make the entire group an amazing display of ingenuity, creativity and positive energy.

You might hear from the news or other outside sources that the young people of society are not prepared to lead. I would encourage you to take a look at our class, which is filled with bright, logical, respectful people who are eager problem solvers, practical, ready to serve our country, our families and even new friends.



Jeff Miller

We are ready to see what works and combine real world experience from those who have gone before with new ideas and philosophies to achieve the best outcome with the resources that we have.

We are able to learn from history

and value people instead of things.

We are ready to listen to wisdom from those who have gone before and step into the future confident and composed, ready to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

Finally, I would like to leave you all with the following promise from God found in the book of Isaiah.

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand; those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Congratulations and job well done, Class of 2021.

Jeff Miller received the Spirit of St. Albert award, along with fellow senior Grace Garrigan.

Miller, Garrigan and Anna Schewe were honored speakers at the St. Albert Catholic School graduation May 23.

I love a rainy night

Faith that Conquers

By Kelly Mescher Collins



Growing up on a farm, our livelihood was often at the mercy of Mother Nature.

During a drought, I distinctly remember my Mom telling us kids (there are nine of us) that we needed to pray for rain. If we were too young to understand, my Mom explained in simple terms that it was important for the crops to grow.

We knew all about the crops – walking beans felt like the bane of our existence in the summertime. (At least until we graduated to roguing and detasseling corn.)

My Dad would call upstairs in the early morning hours of summer to us less than enthusiastic kids, wanting nothing more than to bask in the few months afforded to us for sleeping in.

“Time to get up,” my Dad called.

He wanted us to get dressed and eat breakfast so we could head out to the field to walk beans.

Ever the seasoned farmer, my Dad reminded us that it was important to get out there early before it got hot. He had the water jug and hoes ready to go. [Insert

kids groaning.]

One summer night my Mom was driving us home after a softball game and the song “I Love a Rainy Night” by Eddie Rabbit came on.

“Oh, I love this song!” my Mom exclaimed, cranking up the volume and singing along. Of course, she reminded us that we kids needed to pray for rain.

I should point out that my Mom rarely cranked up the radio. But it just reflected her level of enthusiasm and hope in the Lord that he would provide.

Much of Iowa is in a drought right now. We even had some 80 degree days in April. But then suddenly the rain came in May – a stretch so long that even farm kids like me were also silently hoping

for some sunshine on the side.

There were many times during this long, overcast rainy stretch where I found myself thinking: “I bet there are a lot of farmers out there praying for rain.”

Even in retirement, my Dad was a Farmall-loving, RFD-TV watching farmer through and through. Though his days of plowing and planting were behind him, he often enjoyed checking out the fields on his drives. He seemed to light up seeing combines and tractors moving about in the fields, participating in God’s cooperative work of feeding the world.

Last spring my Dad’s health took a turn for the worse, and I had a feeling his time on earth was coming to an end.

The day I learned my Dad was moving from the hospital to hospice, I did what any daughter would do – I prayed for him. I was sad and did not want to say goodbye.

But just as a farmer friend reminded me, to all things there are a season.

It was while praying for my Dad that I felt a nudge by the Holy Spirit to check the calendar of Catholic feast days.

Unaware of what I might find, I discovered the Feast Day of St. Isidore, the patron saint of farmers, was just a few days away. I knew the end was near.

May 15, the feast day of St. Isidore, ended up being my Dad’s last full day on earth – he passed away the morning of May 16, 2020.

Upon reflection, it all made sense. A farmer doesn’t quit until the job is done. I remember many times supper sat waiting sometimes hours for my Dad and brothers who were outside well into the dark planting fields, cleaning stalls, fixing fences, tending to frozen water troughs – whatever duty called.

But the next day, God gave my Dad rest.

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



I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

Q: Why are some Holy Days transferred to Sunday, but others are not? Why not transfer the Assumption, et al. to Sunday. I understand that Christmas can't be transferred.

A. ACTUALLY CHRISTMAS COULD conceivably be transferred to a Sunday, just as the other feasts have been transferred to the following Sunday. We simply don't know what actual day Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but that feast was placed on a calendar day near the winter solstice (when the days are the shortest in year).

It is contrasted with the feast of the birth of John the Baptist on a calendar day near the summer solstice (when the days are the longest). Those feasts are about six months apart.

In the gospel, John the Baptist said about Jesus, “He must increase while I must decrease.” So the days begin to be longer from the feast of Christmas to the feast of John the Baptist in June. Then the days begin to get slowly shorter until Christmas.

Holy Days differ from country to country. For example, St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, is a Holy Day in Ireland, but not in other countries. There is reason for transferring the Ascension to the following Sunday, and for transferring the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ to the following Sunday.

In our country, Holy Days are not holidays (as they are in some places). The ordinary Catholic has to go to work on weekdays, and so the feast of the Ascension and the Body and Blood of Christ would “get lost” to those people if it were not on a Sunday – when most people don’t have to go to work.

The liturgical calendar understandably makes some choices about dates, days, and seasons. The Assumption of Mary and the Immaculate Conception are feasts of Mary and are celebrated on a calendar day – Aug. 15 and Dec. 8 respectively. The Ascension and the Body and Blood of Christ are not celebrated on a calendar day but a number of days

after Easter (a feast which changes from year to year, and is ALWAYS on a Sunday). Hence those feasts have also been transferred to Sundays.

Q. In reading daily lives of the saints, I have noticed sometimes it is hundreds of years between when a saint dies and when he or she is officially named a saint- what goes on during those hundreds of years. Who keeps the memory of the saint in the process? I noticed some people are at the Blessed state for a long time. -Maryellyn

A. THERE ARE COUNTLESS saints who have never been “officially” canonized. Those who are canonized can serve as examples to us of how to live faithful and holy lives. As far as I know, even St. Joseph was never officially canonized, nor was Mary the mother of Jesus. Yet we certainly consider them saints. The process of canonization developed over the centuries. Local bishops at one time declared some people as saints. Today, the Pope has reserved that to Roman Pontiff alone. The Church’s procedure seeks to learn as much as possible about the person who is a candidate. No person is perfect, but many are faithful and holy. Often enough the cause is undertaken by a bishop or a religious community. It takes time and money to see it to completion.

St. John Paul II canonized hundreds of people during his time as the Bishop of Rome. Whether they are canonized shortly after their deaths or decades or centuries later doesn’t make them any more or less saintly. Some have complained that we only seem to canonize priests or bishops or popes or religious sisters, rather than ordinary lay people. Whether we are officially named saints really isn’t nearly as important as living saintly lives.

Send questions for Father John Ludwig to communications@dmdiocese.org.

The Binding Power of Hatred

Guest Column

By Father Ron Rolheiser



Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. We know this works for love. Does it also work for hatred? Can someone’s hatred follow us, even into eternity?

In her recent novel, *Payback*, Mary Gordon poses that question. Her story centers on two women, one of whom, Agnes, has hurt the other, Heidi. The hurt had been unintentional and accidental, but it had been deep, so deep that for both women it stayed like a poison inside their souls for the next 40 years.

The story traces their lives for those forty years, years in which they never see each other, don’t even know each other’s whereabouts, but remain obsessed with each other, one nursing a hurt and the other a guilt about that hurt.

The story eventually culminates with Heidi seeking out Agnes to confront her for some payback. And that payback is hatred, an ugly, pure hatred, a curse, promised to last until death, ensuring that Agnes will never be free from it for the rest of her life.

Agnes doesn’t know what to do with that hatred, which dominates her world and poisons her happiness. She wonders if it will also color her eternity: “Her last meeting with Heidi had troubled her belief in the endurance of the ties of love. Because if love went somewhere after death, where, then, was hate? She had understood, in Heidi’s case, that it was the other side of the coin

of love. Even after death would Heidi’s hatred follow her, spoiling her eternity, the cracked note in the harmony, the dark spot in the radiance?

Since Heidi had come back into her life, Agnes had, for the first time, been truly afraid to die. She had to make herself believe that the love of those who loved her would surround her always ... keeping her from the hatred and ugliness that Heidi has shown her. She had to believe it; otherwise ... the otherwise was too unbearable even to name.”

Gabriel Marcel correctly states that to love someone is to ensure that this person can never be lost, that he or she (as long as the love continues) can never go to hell. By that love, the other is connected (“bound”) always to the family of love and ultimately to the circle of love inside of God. However, is this true then too for hatred? If someone hates you, can that touch you eternally and contaminate some of the joy of heaven? If someone’s love can hold you for all eternity, can someone’s hatred do the same?

This is not an easy question. Binding and loosing, as Jesus spoke of it, work both ways, with love and with hatred. We free each other through love and constrict each other through hatred. We know that from experience and at a deep place inside us intuit its gravity. That is why so many people seek reconciliation on their deathbeds, wanting as their last wish not to leave this world unreconciled. But, sad fact, sometimes we do leave this life unreconciled, with hatred following us into the grave. Does it also follow us into eternity?

The choice is ours. If we meet hatred with hatred, it will follow us into eternity. On

the other hand, if we, on our part, seek reconciliation (as much as is possible practically and existentially) then that hatred can no longer bind us; the chord will be broken, broken from our end.

Leo Tolstoy once said: There is only one way to put an end to evil, and that is to do good for evil. We see that in Jesus. Some hated him, and he died like that. However, that hatred lost its power over him because he refused to respond in kind. Rather, he returned love for hatred, understanding for misunderstanding, blessing for curse, graciousness for resentment, fidelity for rejection, and forgiveness for murder. But ... that takes a rare, incredible strength.

In Gabriel Marcel’s affirmation (that if we love someone that person can never be lost), there is a caveat implied, namely, that the other does not willingly reject our love and choose to move outside of it. The same holds true for hatred. Another person’s hatred holds us, but only if we meet it on its own terms, hatred for hatred.

We cannot make someone stop hating us, but we can refuse to hate him or her and, at that moment, hatred loses its power to bind and punish us. Granted, this isn’t easy, certainly not emotionally. Hatred tends to have a sick, devilish grip on us, paralyzing in us the very strength we need to let it go. In that case, there’s still another salvific thing remaining. God can do things for us that we cannot do for ourselves.

Thus, in the end, as Julian of Norwich teaches (and as our faith in God’s compassion and understanding lets us know) all will still be well, hatred notwithstanding.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. Reach him at ronrolheiser.com.

Campamentos de Verano, Afán y Obligación Dominical

Continued from page 1

de Panora, en donde sus nuevas y renovadas cabañas esperan a los asistentes de este año (gracias a muchos amigos y benefactores quienes hicieron que esto sea posible), siento que esta extravagancia veraniega de diversión, fe y de una gran variedad de emocionantes actividades, más que reducir el afán: afán por pequeños grupos de fe, de mentores jóvenes a quienes admirar, de creatividad, gozo y risas ilimitadas, de una bien diseñada pero arriesgada pista de cuerdas, y una renovada gratitud por nuestra familia inmediata y por la gran familia de fe dentro de la Diócesis de Des Moines. Más que nada, el CYC despierta un afán más profundo de buscar una amistad con Jesús, con la estimulación especial que da la oportunidad diaria de la Misa y de adoración Eucarística. ¡El CYC es una aventura de amor de toda una semana!

En la Eucaristía, el afán de Jesús por amarnos se encuentra con nuestro propio afán de ser amados al mismo tiempo. Cuando se sienta con sus amigos

en la Habitación Superior les revela, “Yo tenía gran deseo de comer esta cena pascual con ustedes antes de padecer” (Lucas 22:15), identificándose radicalmente con el pan y con el vino que compartían. Y en vez de decirles después “esta historia ya me la se” su sacrificio personal anticipa su pasión y muerte en la Cruz y despierta su afán que se expande más allá de su vida en la tierra: “En verdad les digo que no volveré a beber el fruto de la vid hasta que vuelva a beber el vino nuevo en el reino de mi Padre” (Mateo 26:29). La Eucaristía estimula y satisface nuestros apetitos por paz y consuelo, compañía y de renovada maravilla y gratitud.

Recibí una nota no hace mucho tiempo de una mujer que hace mucho tiempo regresó a la Misa dominical y semanal con su esposo. Ella se encontró con una pareja joven quienes asistían regularmente a su parroquia. Cuando les preguntó si ya habían regresado a Misa, ellos le contestaron que a pesar de que ya habían recibido la vacuna del COVID-19 y que no tenían verdaderamente

miedo de contraer el virus, ellos ya se habían acostumbrado a ver la transmisión en vivo desde la comodidad de su hogar. ¡Vaya manera de disminución en afán! Aunque las transmisiones de la Misa Dominical, bodas y funerales van a ser el legado de la pandemia al seguir conectándonos con nuestra feligresía y con una mayor audiencia, y aunque hay ciertas personas que tienen situaciones de riesgo de salud o que cuidan de personas con quienes deben tener mayores precauciones, no hay sustituto a la “presencia real”: de Cristo ante nosotros en su regalo Eucarístico, y en nuestra presencia mutua con él y uno con otro. Debe haber una fuerza gravitacional que jala nuestros corazones a la consciencia de que Jesús permanece siempre volteando hacia nosotros y está disponible en el altar y en el tabernáculo, de manera que nunca nos conformemos por nada menos que su presencia fuera de la tecnología. No queremos ser espectadores domesticados, sino participes en el banquete divino, así como no quisiéramos ver los fuegos artificiales el 4 de Julio

en la televisión u solamente ver a los demás que disfrutaban una carne asada en el día de campo de su vecindario.

Estoy comunicando en otro mensaje mi decisión que he planeado desde hace mucho tiempo de levantar la dispensa de la obligación de participar en la Misa Dominical y días de guardar en efecto el 24 y 25 de julio. Ese fin de semana, proclamaremos el Evangelio de Juan 6 en donde Jesús multiplica los panes y los peces para alimentar a la multitud, al que durante las siguientes semanas seguirán pasajes sobre el discurso del Pan de Vida. Al restaurar la obligación de la Misa Dominical, estoy estableciendo la expectativa clara de Dios para que actuemos en base al anhelo que ha puesto en nosotros desde el momento de nuestro bautismo para tener una verdadera comunión con él; no nos atrevamos a domesticar y marchitar este anhelo al ignorarlo. Nuestra alabanza juntos en la iglesia es una conexión del corazón y la cabeza, no una sumisión ciega a las órdenes de Dios ni a las tradiciones de nuestra cultura católica. Dejamos que los dones del Espíritu de Piedad/devoción y temor a Dios que sean las fuerzas que nos guían despertando nuestra atracción y respeto hacia el Padre quien solamente nos pide que recibamos su más precioso obsequio: su amado

Hijo.

Incluso fuera de la pandemia, he sabido de algunas personas que ven los meses del verano como una oportunidad de “tomarse un descanso de la Iglesia,” para buscar a Dios en la naturaleza – incluso si la naturaleza es un bello campo de golf. En respuesta, tomo las palabras del papa Francisco quien dice, “En la Eucaristía, ya se ha logrado la plenitud; es el centro vivo del universo, el centro rebosante de amor y de vida interminable.” “El domingo, nuestra participación en la Eucaristía tiene una importancia especial... De esta forma, la espiritualidad cristiana incorpora el valor del relajamiento y la festividad.” Nuestras almas, nuestro mundo, crecen más, en vez de crecer hacia sí mismos. “El día de descanso, centrado en la Eucaristía, hace brillar su luz por toda la semana y nos motiva a preocuparnos más por la naturaleza y por los pobres” (Laudato Si n. 236-37).

Tal vez no vayamos al campamento de verano, pero lo que podemos hacer todos para nuestra “pista de cuerdas” espiritual” – honrando la obligación Dominical respondiendo a los acordes de amor conectados a nuestro Señor Eucarístico, quien ha preparado una fiesta para todos nosotros en todas las estaciones.

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Pope: Prayer is like music, gives life melody

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- People need to find harmony between prayer and the demands of everyday life, Pope Francis said.

"It is inhumane to be so absorbed by work that you can no longer find the time for prayer. At the same time, prayer that is alienated from life is not healthy," the pope said June 9 during his weekly general audience.

"The time dedicated to being with God revives faith, which helps us in the practical realities of life, and faith in turn nurtures prayer without interruption," he said.

The audience was held in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where the pope spent the first 30 minutes chatting at length with individuals, blessing them or objects they had brought, signing books and greeting children. While the pope was maskless, attendees were obliged to wear masks, but many ignored social distancing rules when they crowded along the barricades to greet and speak with Pope Francis.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his series on prayer by looking at the importance of perseverance and praying unceasingly.

How is it possible to re-

main in a constant state of prayer, especially when people's lives are busy or filled with disruptions or distractions? the pope asked.

One tradition offers something called a "prayer of the heart" and is based on repeating with faith the words, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," until these words match the rhythm of breathing, and it is spread throughout the day, he said.

"Indeed, we never stop breathing, not even while we sleep, and prayer is the breath of life," he said.

Having a heart in a constant state of prayer, he said, is like having a flame perpetually lit even while carrying out daily tasks, taking a walk or standing in line. Even short, brief prayers, like "Lord, have pity on us" or "Lord, help me" are enough, he added.

"Prayer is a kind of musical score, where we put the melody of our lives," he said.

Prayer, then, is not meant to clash with everyday duties and obligations because it acts as "the place where every action finds its meaning, its reason and its peace," he said.

It is not easy to do, Pope Francis said, but just remember "that God, our Father, who must take care of the entire universe, always remembers each one of us. Therefore, we too must always remember" and find time



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets people during his general audience in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican June 9.

for him.

Work and prayer are complementary, he said, like the symmetry of the human body with its two hands, eyes and ears.

So, while it is inhumane to have to work so much that it leaves no time for prayer, he said, it is likewise harmful to live a life of prayer alienated from real life. In that case, prayer becomes

"spiritualism, or worse, ritualism."

Remember, he said, that Jesus did not stay forever in his glory on Mount Tabor but came down from the mountain with his disciples to resume his daily journey.

That spiritual experience remained in their hearts as the light and strength of faith and

a light and strength for the days of trial that were coming, the pope said.

Prayer revives faith, which supports daily life and nurtures prayer, making a positive feedback loop keeping "alight that flame of Christian life that God expects of us," he said.

Hope comes from noticing God at work even in small things

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- For those who learn to look carefully, the world is filled with signs of God's presence, and noticing those signs is the best way to get over feelings of disappointment, Pope Francis said.

Before praying the Angelus June 13 with hundreds of visitors in St. Peter's Square, the pope spoke about the day's reading from the Gospel of Mark and its parables about the farmer who sows seeds and about the tiny

mustard seed that grows into a hardy shrub.

Through the parables, the pope said, Jesus "teaches us that even everyday things, which at times all seem the same and which we carry on with distraction or effort, are inhabited by God's hidden presence; that is, they have meaning.

So, we too need attentive eyes to be able to seek and find God in all things."

The story of the mus-

tard seed, he said, is an encouragement to look beyond initial appearances, beyond the seemingly insignificant mustard seed, "in order to discover the presence of God who, as humble love, is always at work in the soil of our life and history.

This is our confidence, this is what gives us the strength to go forward every day, patiently, sowing the good that will bear fruit," the pope said.

the dicastery said.

The Catholic Church can help to ease tensions by "encountering and accompanying one person at a time on their journey of faith in digital media," said John Grosso, director of digital media for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

"Pope Francis has been opening our eyes and refocusing our orientation, not changing anything. He's calling us back to the call of the Gospel," especially in serving the needs of the poor and the vulnerable, said Alexandra Carroll, communications manager for social mission for the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. Grosso told CNS that being near the pope made him feel near to someone who "radiates holiness just with his smile and affection" but also someone who is "carrying a heavy burden, the heavy burden of the church and of the world."

Museum of Family Prayer opens contest to create best Mary Garden

NORTH EASTON, Mass. (CNS) -- The Museum of Family Prayer in North Easton is now accepting entries for its second annual Mary Garden Contest.

The contest began in 2020 to help families "find peace while quarantined at home," said a news release announcing this year's competition. "The response was heartwarming. ... A Mary Garden is a great activity to share the Catholic faith in a joyful and simple way, especially as families and individuals continue to watch the garden grow."

Participants can send in pictures of the Mary Garden they have created in their home or school.

The Museum of Family Prayer encourages the creation of all sorts of gardens -- traditional outdoor gardens, spaces with plants and flowers on porches, prayer spaces inside of apartments, or any sacred space used by individuals and families to pray to Mary.

A Mary Garden usually contains a statue or image of Mary.

Entries for the contest will be divided into two groups: Private/family gardens and community/church gardens.

The deadline for entries is July 26. Entries can be submitted at <https://www.museumoffamilyprayer.org/mary-garden-contest2021>. More details about the contest can be found at the website.

Vatican works to make digital space a place of encounter

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- The Catholic Church can break new ground in fostering dialogue in the often-polarizing space of the digital web, said participants in a Vatican communications initiative.

The initiative, "Faith Communication in the Digital World," was sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Communication and brought together 16 young communication specialists from around the world to address

"how the church can and should be present online."

The 12-month program is designed to develop proposals that will address "the main problems and issues users currently face with the internet."

"The COVID-19 crisis has led to an increased sense of urgency felt by many in the church to learn an effective communication approach and to ensure a social media presence that witnesses an evangelical 'style,'"



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