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THE CATHOLIC

MIRROR

July 15, 2022

Supreme Court overturns Roe in Dobbs decision

By Carol Zimmerman
Contributing Writer

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In a 5-4 decision June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its nearly 50-year-old decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in this country.

The court's 213-page ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* was not

totally unexpected due to the leak of an opinion draft a month earlier. The ruling emphasizes that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

The *Dobbs* case focused on Jackson Women's Health Organization, an abortion clinic in Mississippi that challenged the state's law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The court's reversal of

its long-standing abortion ruling brings abortion policy decisions to the state level. At least half of states plan to ban or restrict abortions with this decision in place, and 13 states have trigger laws put in place set to ban abortions right away upon *Roe's* reversal.

"We hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the court's majority opinion. *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* is the 1992

decision that affirmed *Roe*.

Alito was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

The vote to uphold Mississippi's abortion restriction was 6-3, with Chief Justice John Roberts voting with the majority. In a separate opinion, he said he would not have overturned the court's *Roe* decision.

Alito, writing for the

majority, said: "The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of *Roe* and *Casey* now chiefly rely -- the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment."

U.S. Catholic bishops

Continued on page 8

Congratulations!

Three ordained priests



Three men were ordained priests on June 24: Father Nick Smith, Father Alex Kramer, and Father Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros. Top left: Bishop William Joensen lays hands on Father Smith to ordain him as a priest. Top: Bishop Joensen presents the gifts to be offered at Mass to Father Kramer. Above: Father Mayorga Landeros makes a promise of obedience to Bishop Joensen. Left: For the first time following their ordinations, Fathers Kramer, Mayorga Landeros and Smith join other priests of the Diocese after communion.

Photos by America Duran/ America Duran Photography and Video

World-class lineup set for Christ Our Life

By Lore McManus Solo
Contributing Writer

Since its debut in 2010, the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines has grown from a regional gathering to an international event.

The seventh biennial (every two years) event will be held Sept. 24 and 25. This will be the second time that the conference will offer the choice of in-person or livestream tickets.

In 2020, despite COVID, livestream participants represented some 18 countries. Total attendance was estimated at 2,300 in-person and 4,200 livestream.

A world-class line up of speakers is confirmed, online and print ticket sales are underway and Catholic vendor spaces are filling up.

The conference is expected to attract more than 8,000 in-person attendees and see growth in livestream participants from across the world.

The Christ Our Life Catholic Conference will feature seven internationally renowned presenters.

- Father John Riccardo, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, is the founder and executive director of ACTS XXIX, a nonprofit apostolate designed to equip clergy and lay leaders to witness the power of the Holy Spirit to transform individuals and parishes. He hosts a podcast and "Christ is the Answer" radio program.

• Patricia Sandoval, host

Continued on page 6

Canoeing with grandparents and company

These summer days are far from lazy and hazy for most folks, including our farmers who are still playing catch-up due to a delayed growing season. But even apart from official holidays, it is a good to claim a wide-angle view, to look at and listen to the splendor of nature growing ever more verdant, fruitful. One Saturday provided me with two panoramic vistas: a bike ride on the High Trestle Trail bridge overlooking the Des Moines River basin from 13 stories up, and a car ride west near sunset on U.S. 34 through Lucas, Clarke, and Union Counties following Confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart, Chariton. It was at that latter moment I not only exclaimed to myself and God with the words of our Native American predecessors, “Iowa—a truly beautiful land,” but “Ah, the Des Moines Diocese—how blessed am I to call it home.”

Yet for all its natural beauty, our Holy Father Pope Francis has identified Sunday, July 24, as a day when we do well to behold an even richer storehouse of human beauty and blessings among us. He has called us to annually observe the fourth Sunday of July as the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly since it falls close to the Feast day of Saints Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus. In establishing this occasion, the Pope does not sugarcoat or idealize old age; clearly, it is a phase of life



By
Bishop
William
Joensen

where vulnerability increases and natural powers diminish at some point—and he knows this well himself as his joint problems continue to be acutely debilitating.

There is, nonetheless, an opportunity amid the mysterious fluctuation of personal capacities for seniors to be “poets of prayer” and “artisans of a revolution of tenderness” in our communities, our world. There is the mutual invitation for younger and older persons to be present to one another, to set aside the tendency to wallow in melancholy, to refuse to be a removed spectator glumly sitting on the back porch, or to fix one’s gaze solely upon the devices that of themselves cannot dispel loneliness. We can simply be together, punctuated by periods of conversation. We can cultivate the endurance to listen with love, even if that means that stories are sometimes repeated, or that in cases of dementia even basic facial recognition is a graced exception.

My own experiences for two years as chaplain at the largest senior care facility in Iowa,

and for nine years as monthly confessor to roughly 30 retired BVM Sisters in their “last stop” residence, Marian Hall, certainly stretched my capacity to listen, to be patient as I “moved about the cabin” and began to trust and let conversation flow as the Spirit provided. The sisters’ and residents’ grief was induced by the need to let go of previous proficiencies, relationships, and surroundings, and the sense that both the horizon of life and death, and the object of personal hopes and dreams, were no longer off in the sunset but fast approaching. Still, in retrospect, these challenges help transform those venues into places of encounter bearing the marks of a “great spiritual sanctuary,” as Pope Francis describes.

I reject the claims of those who compare listening to religious sisters’ confessions to being assaulted by popcorn. For I learned that if I could pause and suspend my internal timeclock, let go of the sense of haste which “puts us in a blender that that throws us away like confetti,” and be conscious of God’s enduring mercy available to both the penitent and myself, the drama of a human story with lines still to be written, to be grafted into the narrative of God’s saving love for each and every one of us, usually unfolded. Confession aside, the women and the men in both venues no longer had to be “on,” to “perform”; they experienced the

liberating effect of simply being cherished in themselves, worthy of attention and affection. To be sure, there was crankiness stemming from chronic pain, or the loss of inhibitions against saying what they really felt and thought that was not always graceful or pleasant. But how often might there be a certain softening of demeanor, a newfound rhythm of prayer and spiritual sensitivity that allowed folks to be more gentle with themselves (extending to themselves and other persons the same tenderness they bear for their grandchildren). And frequently, folks become more able to laugh at the ebb-and-flow of memory and mind that by God’s grace will soften life’s wounds and intensify love for the persons and priorities that really matter.

As Pope Francis cautions, the elderly are to be defined not so much by care plans but by projects of life that encircle death, that extend the roots of their insights, their faith, hope, and wisdom about what life is all about. They can be prophets, pointing us away from the propensity to repeat past conflicts, or the unhealthy tendency to simply steer clear of the messiness of life. For in this messiness, the creativity of the heavenly Father, the involvement of his Son who finds our families and faith communities so attractive he can’t stay away, and the Spirit-welder who sparks the desire for healing and unites our

wills, are to be found.

The bond of generations is intended by God to span streams that flow in both directions between young and old. In his message several years ago, “Christ is Alive!,” Francis invokes the image of the Church as a canoe, “in which the elderly help to keep on course by judging the position of the stars, while the young keep rowing, imagining what waits for them ahead.” For this to happen, young people cannot write off the elderly as representatives of a meaningless past, and senior adults cannot spend time grousing about how youth should act. Together, anxieties about the future can be dispelled, frailty and wisdom can mingle, and life lessons can be shared in a non-preachy manner that broadens perspective and frees us from brooding self-preoccupation.

Well, maybe by now you’re well past your attention span when it comes to my waxing in lofty terms about the honor, presence, and blessings we owe to grandparents and the elderly. So let’s get back to practical details about World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly—which is officially designated for July 24, but could well be enacted on any given Sunday or even multiple occasions. Here are some suggestions directly from the “Laity, Family and Life” branch of the

Continued on page 9

Naveguemos con los Abuelos y Compañeros

Estos días de verano están lejos de ser perezosos y brumosos para la mayoría de la gente, incluidos nuestros agricultores que todavía están tratando de ponerse al día debido a una tem-

porada de cultivo retrasada. Pero incluso aparte de los días festivos oficiales, es bueno requerir una vista de un amplio ángulo, para mirar y escuchar el esplendor de la naturaleza que se vuelve cada vez más verde y fructífera. Un sábado me proporcionó dos vistas panorámicas: un paseo en bicicleta por el puente High Trestle Trail con vista a la cuenca del río Des Moines desde 13 pisos de altura, y un viaje en automóvil hacia el oeste cerca del atardecer en la U.S. 34 a través de los condados de Luke, Clarke y Union después de la Misa de Confirmación en el Sagrado Corazón, Chariton. Fue en ese último momento que no solo exclamé para mí mismo y para Dios con las palabras de nuestros predecesores nativos americanos: “Iowa: una tierra verdaderamente hermosa”, sino: “Ah, la Diócesis de Des Moines: ¡Qué bendecido soy por llamarla hogar!”

Sin embargo, a pesar de toda su belleza natural, nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, ha identificado el domingo 24 de julio como un día en el que hacemos bien en contemplar un almacén aún más rico de belleza humana y bendiciones entre nosotros. Él nos ha llamado a observar anualmente el cuarto domingo de julio como el Día Mundial de los Abuelos y los Ancianos, ya que coincide con la fiesta de Santa Ana y San Joaquín, los abuelos de Jesús. Al establecer esta ocasión, el Papa no endulza ni idealiza la vejez; claramente, es una fase de la vida en la que aumenta

la vulnerabilidad y los poderes naturales disminuyen en algún momento, y él mismo lo sabe bien, ya que sus problemas en las articulaciones continúan siendo sumamente debilitantes.

Hay, sin embargo, una oportunidad en medio de la misteriosa fluctuación de las capacidades personales para que los adultos mayores sean “poetas de oración” y “artesanos de una revolución de ternura” en nuestras comunidades, nuestro mundo. Existe la invitación recíproca para que los jóvenes y los adultos mayores se presenten unos a otros, para dejar de lado la tendencia dejarse vencer en la melancolía, para negarse a ser un espectador retirado y triste sentado en el porche trasero, o para fijar la mirada únicamente en los dispositivos que por sí mismos no pueden disipar la soledad. Simplemente podemos estar juntos, interrumpidos por periodos de conversación. Podemos cultivar la entereza para escuchar con amor, incluso si eso significa que las historias a veces se repitan o que, en casos de demencia, incluso el reconocimiento facial básico es una excepción agraciada.

Mis propias experiencias durante dos años como capellán en el centro de atención para personas mayores más grande de Iowa, y durante nueve años como confesor mensual de aproximadamente 30 Hermanas de la Caridad de Santa María Virgen jubiladas en su residencia de la “última parada”, Marian Hall, sin duda ampliaron mi capacidad

para escuchar, para ser paciente mientras “me movía por los cuartos” y comencé a confiar y dejar que la conversación fluyera según lo dispusiera el Espíritu. El dolor de las hermanas y los residentes fue inducido por la necesidad de dejar atrás las habilidades, las relaciones y el entorno anteriores, y la sensación de que tanto el horizonte de la vida y la muerte, como el objeto de las esperanzas y los sueños personales, ya no estaban fuera del atardecer de sus vidas pero se acercan rápidamente. Aún así, en retrospectiva, estos desafíos ayudan a transformar esos lugares en lugares de encuentro

con las marcas de un “gran santuario espiritual”, como lo describe el Papa Francisco.

Rechazo las afirmaciones de quienes comparan escuchar las confesiones de las hermanas religiosas como ser molestados con pequeñeces. Porque aprendí que si podía hacer una pausa y suspender mi reloj interno, dejar de lado la sensación de prisa que “nos pone como en una licuadora que nos esparce como confeti”, y ser consciente de la misericordia perdurable de Dios disponible tanto para el penitente como para mí mismo, el drama de

Continued on page 11

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Bishop William Joensen
Publisher
wjoensen@dmdiocese.org

Anne Marie Cox
Editor
acox@dmdiocese.org

Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer
kcollins@dmdiocese.org

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Official



Bishop William Joensen has made the following appointments effective June 24, 2022.

Rev. Alex Kramer to the Pontifical Gregorian University to study Canon law.

Rev. Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros to St. Anthony, Des Moines, while assisting the Vicariate of Hispanic Ministry in the Des Moines metropolitan area.

Rev. Nicholas Smith to parochial vicar, Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish, Ankeny.

Wm. Joensen

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

Jason Kurth

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

A leap of faith

Parish moves from maintenance to mission

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The seeds were planted about four years ago at a breakfast meeting.

Two parishioners and Father Chris Hartshorn talked over a cup of coffee about how to engage people to build a more vibrant parish at Sacred Heart Church in West Des Moines.

Around the same time, Father Hartshorn had been reading *Divine Renovation*, by Father James Mallon, and other books about innovative ways to be a parish.

“Covid put a magnifying glass on a lot of things,” said Father Hartshorn. “People are not responding to the faith in the way they used to. We need to be thinking and doing things differently.”

Sacred Heart began re-envisioning parish life following the model of *Divine Renovation*. Research was done and groundwork laid. Now, the parish is preparing to draw its 2,800 registered families together for a July 23 summit to talk about new ideas and the future. Details are on the parish website, sacredheartwdm.org.

“Father Chris put us on a journey that challenged us in

many ways to think about what role the parish plays in the community, in the Diocese, and in the wider world,” said Chris Halterman, of the pastoral council.

The parish model described in *Divine Renovation* seemed to fit the direction Father Hartshorn and his two parishioners were heading. They wanted to pivot the parish from a primarily maintenance mode, meaning continuing to operate as they had been, to more of a mission mode, meaning they needed to take the Gospel message beyond the church doors and into the community. While there will always be a certain amount of maintenance in providing the current pastoral care, they wanted to do more outreach.

A small leadership team was formed, members read *Divine Renovation*, and realized that it’s wasn’t about a program; it’s about finding the gifts/personality/charisms of the parish and building on those.

A lot of groundwork had to be done first: The parish leadership team examined strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the parish; and it needed a mission statement and a vision statement of where it wanted to go. “Sharing the Good News of God’s love through ac-



Members of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines build a wall in the parish hall as a means of using their gifts to help others.

tive apostleship” is the new mission statement.

The leadership team passed the effort on to the parish pastoral council, which now focuses on strategic planning and visioning.

The summit, proposed by parish priest Father Litto Thomas, will offer a platform for ideas so long as those ideas fit within the mission of the parish and help the parish create disciples willing to go beyond the walls of the church to spread the Good News.

The ideas aren’t intend-

ed to be carried out by staff but by parishioners who propose them or will serve as leaders and can help find resources to execute the ideas, said Lorelee Chase, parish business manager. It’s a bottom up approach, rather than a top down approach.

As the parish continues its effort, it’s understanding of mission work is evolving.

“I think we started thinking about *Divine Renovation* as a continuous improvement thing,” Chase said.

For each parish, the plan will look different.

“Each parish has its charism and what they’re good at. It has to be reflective of what makes each parish who they are,” she said.

Halterman is hoping for a big turnout at the parish summit.

“We need to harness the presence of the Holy Spirit that’s there,” he said. “I think Father Chris and the clergy assigned have been helping us develop a greater vision of what we could be and I think that’s the most exciting part.”

Staff at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny is exploring *Divine Renovation* and how it might apply to the parish.

“We recognize that this is not a program,” said Becky Robovsky, OLIH’s business manager. “It’s an attitude, a way of being.”

What attracts OLIH’s Adult Faith Formation Director Patty Mayer is that it’s about thinking outside the proverbial box.

“It’s not doing what we’ve always done. It’s making us re-envision ministry and reaching out to our parishioners,” she said. “By doing that, our goal is to be able to engage our parishioners in the life of discipleship and mission.”

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Deacon from 1st formation class celebrates 50 years

By Deacon Monty Montagne
Peggy McClellan
Contributing Writers

A Cursillo retreat in the 1960s led to a new role for clergy in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Ten men who attended that Cursillo all felt called to “something more” in the Catholic Church and wrote a letter to Bishop Maurice Dingman, asking him to consider initiating a formation program for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Des Moines.

Thus began their journey through a three-year formation process, which included instruction by professors at Creighton University, to become the first class of permanent deacons.

Deacon Larry Knotek was one of that group, nine of whom were ordained permanent deacons on June 4, 1972, at the Harlan Civic Center with Bishop Dingman presiding.

One of the group of ten

All are invited

Deacon Larry Knotek will be honored July 23, at the 4 p.m. Mass at Corpus Christi Church, in Council Bluffs. A reception follows in the church's Great Hall that evening from 5-7 p.m. All are invited.

was too young according to the guidelines to be ordained at that time. He waited and was ordained in 1977. Deacons did not wear the albs and dalmatics we see current deacons wear, but rather wore suits and stoles. Deacon stoles were not readily available then, so stoles for these special men were sewn by the Creighton University Drama Department.

Deacon Larry remembers the early years as having a lack of guidance and direction for these newly ordained deacons. Soon a community was formed, holding regular meetings and receiving ongoing education. A

constitution and ministry plans for each deacon were established.

Deacon Larry served at St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs as the choir director, but his liturgical functions were minimal. The main focus of diaconate ministry at the time was charity outside the parish.

This emphasis led Deacon Larry and his wife, Marianne, to begin a ministry to homeless families in the form of a shelter which they titled Micah House, based on God's command in Micah 6:8 “Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” These words epitomize the life of Deacon Larry and Marianne.

Deacon Larry recalls that he was attending a meeting with priests to discuss what to do with the old St. Francis Parish convent, and he burst out with “It should be a homeless shelter,” an idea he said was truly an inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

For him and Marianne, this was a huge leap of faith since



Deacon Larry and Marianne Knotek. Deacon Larry was in the first diaconate formation group in the Des Moines Diocese, which was among the first in the nation to have permanent deacons.

neither knew anything about the lives of homeless families or running a shelter. The idea was presented to Bishop Dingman, funds were raised and Micah House became a reality in 1987. The facility could house 8-10 families.

The Knoteks believe God had his mighty hand on the ministry, for whenever a need arose and money was needed, the exact amount would always arrive, either by donations or by a grant being approved.

A big example of this was Marianne being in the right place at the right time. She was attending a meeting in Des Moines, and the governor was present. Iowa had up to \$60,000 available for individual project reimbursements.

The governor said, “If you need help of any kind, just let me know.” The money was much needed at Micah House, since there were sewer issues and other needs. Marianne contacted the Governor's Office, reminded

him of his promise, and he cut through the “red tape” and gave Micah House the money.

Deacon Larry and Marianne retired from Micah House in 1996. Micah House continues to shelter homeless families in the Council Bluffs area.

The Knoteks have been married 65 years and have six children, two of whom are deceased.

After retirement from his career as a mechanical engineer, Deacon Larry served as a deacon at Corpus Christi Parish/Holy Family site.

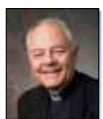
Deacon Larry will be honored on Saturday, July 23, at the 4 p.m. Mass at Corpus Christi Church, in Council Bluffs with Bishop William Joensen presiding. A reception will be held in the church's Great Hall that evening from 5-7 p.m. All are invited and welcome to attend this evening of thanksgiving and celebration.

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A note from the Editor

Due to unforeseen circumstances, *The Catholic Mirror* will not print an edition in August. We will return to our regular print schedule – the third Friday of the month – in September.

Watch our website at dmdiocese.org for the latest news.

If you have a story idea or an advertisement for the September edition of our diocesan newspaper, contact Sandy Riesberg at 515-237-5046 or sriesberg@dmdiocese.org.

Meet your future deacons

Stories by Liam Dale

Six will be ordained deacons on July 16

Dan Dombrosky St. Francis of Assisi Parish West Des Moines

Dan Dombrosky, of St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines, will be ordained a deacon on July 16 along with five others.

He felt called to the diaconate while at a men's conference in 2010, where he was inspired to go to confession for the first time in more than 20 years. He was overwhelmed by the grace he received through sacramental absolution.

"The experience caused me to reprioritize what was most important in my life, moving God to the top of the list," he said. "I was on fire for the faith, volunteering for everything and loving it. But God called me to do more."

His wife, Evette, was initially surprised by his interest in the diaconate. But when his attraction to it persisted, she realized he was answering a call to serve in a unique way.

"As Dan's passion grew through volunteering, I knew God's call was impossible to ignore," she said.

Now, after four years of formation, the couple is amazed



Evette and Dan Dombrosky

by the ways God has drawn them to serve.

"It's been transforming. The way I interact with people and the way I see the world has changed," Dan said. He has added more gentleness and patience to his daily interactions.

"It's been incredible to be pushed in new ways," he said of his pastoral experiences. "We've dived into situations we had not imagined being a part of."

He pointed to his experience with prison ministry and hopes that he's able to continue it.

Dan said: "No matter what we are called to do for the Diocese, we hope to serve God joyfully and bring others closer to Christ."

Dan Maxcy St. Mary of Nazareth Parish Des Moines

After attending the initial Faith Journey Catechetical Institute, Dan Maxcy, of St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines, asked his wife, Kelly, what she'd think if he were to look into becoming a deacon.

Kelly said she was waiting for him to ask.

At about the same time, the couple found themselves being asked by other people if they had ever thought of the permanent diaconate.

They went to a diaconate informational meeting and prayed.

"I had an epiphany and realized that it wasn't my job to

decide to be a deacon or not," Dan said. "Instead, I have to trust Christ and trust that he will take me where I need to go."

The couple's faith, prayer and works of service have changed over the last few years.

"I am a cradle Catholic and much of my life has included works of service both through my school and family. It has been a blessing to have Dan embrace serving others."

As a part of the diaconate formation, the candidates pick an "icon of Christ," which is a specific ministry that allows them to model Christ. Dan and Kelly chose one they could do together: InnerVisions HealthCare, a pro-life crisis pregnancy center.

"Being there in any capacity for those mothers has been transforming for us and we hope



Kelly and Dan Maxcy

we can bring those same skills into our ministry," Dan said.

The Maxcys have grown. "If Dan and I had not done this as a couple, both learning and growing together, I do not see that Dan would have completed the training," Kelly said. "This journey is an ongoing changing formation that we do together."

Steve McGee St. Joseph Parish Des Moines

Steve and Vivian McGee, of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines, attended an informational meeting four years ago about the permanent diaconate and decided to officially enter formation.

This wasn't an overnight decision though, Steve explained, "There were a lot of doubts tied up in it, but through testing the waters a bit, we figured out that it was the right place for us."

Steve's call started mysteriously.

"It popped into my head one day out of nowhere and I was surprised to find myself attracted to it. I had never really thought about it before then, but it seemed like a real movement in my heart," he said.

The call started there, and in the beginning was uncomfortable, but then matured.

"I was hoping that someone would tell me along the way that the life wasn't for me, but that thought faded away, and I started discovering the call myself," he said.

"It's interesting," Vivian said. "We had been involved in our parish for years thought we knew a lot about the Catholic faith. It's just amazing how much we've learned in the past four years. Christ has become more visible to us in many ways, and especially in the people we meet."

Steve and Vivian have sponsored couples preparing for marriage for several years and expanded their role in marriage ministry. But in formation, Steve found another way to share his gifts in care for the sick and dying.

"It is truly meeting people where they are," he explained. "There is so much room to see Christ in those situations and I look forward to how and where the Spirit will lead me once I'm ordained."



Steve and Vivian McGee

Eric Pugh St. Joseph Parish Winterset

Eric and Monica Pugh, of St. Joseph Parish in Winterset, can hardly believe that ordination day is here.

"It's a little unbelievable these formation years have passed so quickly," Eric said.

During formation, he retired from the U.S. Army as a master sergeant with a background in communications.

He had felt the calling to the diaconate before being deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. Deployment deepened his faith.

"The hardest thing about being deployed was access to the sacraments," Eric said. "Depending on where you were, you



Monica and Eric Pugh

might receive the Eucharist once a month and confession much less than that."

"We have no idea how good we have it with continual access to Mass and priests," he said. "As a deacon, I hope I can help others realize the opportunity they

have with their faith."

"It has been a privilege and honor to accompany Eric through formation," Monica said. "Everything we've done in the program has deepened our faith and it's been so wonderful learning all the things that we have."

Every part of the Pughs journey has been about taking steps in the right direction even when it was difficult. The time commitment didn't seem possible until God closed some doors and opened others for the Pughs.

"We're just continually hoping to grow our faith," Monica said. "I didn't know anything about the diaconate when Eric first brought it up over 10 years ago. But I knew if he was being called, I needed to support him and get out of God's way."

Oran Struecker St. Francis of Assisi Parish West Des Moines

Oran Struecker, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines, converted to the Catholic faith about 25 years ago.

The desire to become a permanent deacon has been on his mind for about 15 years.

Oran was positively influenced by the ministry of Deacon Dave O'Brien. His passion for bringing people to Christ had a profound effect in Oran's faith journey.

"A pilgrimage to the Holy Land played an important

part in my faith journey," said Oran's wife, Marilyn. "To be that close to the life of Christ brought the bible alive for me."

The process of formation helped the couple discern God's calling to the diaconate.

"I didn't think I'd be smart enough or be able to speak in front of people, but I trusted and it was a blessing to see how God took all of my strengths and weaknesses and used them," Oran explained.

The Strueckers are involved with several healing ministries in the Diocese and look forward to other ways that they will be called to service in the



Oran and Marilyn Struecker

coming years.

"We have no idea where Christ will lead us," Marilyn said. "But we're pretty sure that we'll be doing it together."

Steve Tatz Basilica of St. John Des Moines

Steve Tatz, of the Basilica of St. John Parish in Des Moines, had admired priests since he was at Sacred Heart Catholic School and Dowling Catholic High School.

He worked as a vocations specialist for the Diocese of Des Moines in 2001, when he became more aware of church min-

istries including the diaconate.

"It was then that I started sensing a nudge from God that maybe he was calling me to serve as a deacon," Steve said.

"We spoke about it for years, but the timing didn't seem quite right, especially with young children at home," said his wife, Lisa. "The calling continued to grow through the years. We had been turning more and more of our lives over to God, so we finally decided to respond to the call."

"There was never an

'epiphany' moment but, rather, a loving and growing relationship with God and the recognition of a broken world still very much in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ," Steve said. "I want to help and serve his people."

The Tatzes said they've grown spiritually intellectually, pastorally and personally.

"I'm so thankful to be able to have taken part in the formation with Steve and the others in the cohort," Lisa said.

"I cannot say enough of

the value and importance of journeying together with our wives, the core team, and the bishop," Steve said.

"Humans were meant for relationships, for communion. This definitely is not something that could ever be done exclusively by books or online."

He added: "And our marriage has grown even stronger as a result. I pray that love spills over into my diaconal ministry."



Lisa and Steve Tatz

Around the Diocese

July 20 Wednesday Healing Prayer Service

DES MOINES -- Every third Wednesday of the month, there is a prayer service for healing held at St. Ambrose Cathedral. The start time is moving up to 5:30 p.m. each month. All are welcome to the cathedral to ask God for spiritual, emotional and/or physical healing.

July 21-23 Thursday-Saturday Parish Rummage Sale

ANKENY -- Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish's annual rummage sale, at 510 E First St., benefits Our Lady's Little Learners Pre-School. Remaining items are donated to St Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities. Details at www.olih.org/church-events/

rummage-sale. Times of the sale are: 7/21 from 4-8 p.m. (Early bird entrance \$5 from 4-5 p.m.); 7/22 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and 7/23 from 8 a.m. to noon.

July 21-Sept. 8 Thursdays Sacred Land: Food & Farming

This JustFaith Ministries program explores our connection with the land and our responsibility for it. Meet online Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$80. Register here: <https://csm.coursestorm.com/course/sacred-land-food-and-farming>

July 29 Friday ACCCRUS Mass

DES MOINES -- The African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the Unit-

ed States is a group formed by the U.S. bishops to provide support to African missionary priests and religious women who serve in our parishes, schools, hospitals and other ministries. The group is holding its annual conference in Des Moines at the end of July. They invite everyone to join them at a 5 p.m. Mass the last day of their conference at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Bishop William Joensen is presiding.

Aug. 17 Wednesday Healing Prayer Service

DES MOINES -- Every third Wednesday of the month, there is a prayer service for healing held at St. Ambrose Cathedral. The start time is moving up to 5:30 p.m. each month. All are welcome to the cathedral to ask God for spiritual, emotional and/or physical healing.

Aug. 27 Saturday Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools

INDIANOLA -- In honor of Bishop William Joensen's passion for education, we cordially invite you to attend the inaugural Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. The dress code is business casual. For more information and to purchase tickets visit dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/support or call 515-237-5079.

Christ Our Life conference

Continued from page 1

of "De Dos en Dos" on EWTN, shares her compelling testimony that leads us to understand the love and mercy of Jesus. Sandoval focuses on how Christ can bring to light hidden wounds and heal us.

- Susan Tassone leads a worldwide movement on behalf of the souls in purgatory. A renowned Catholic speaker and award-winning author of 13 books, her work has been endorsed by more than 12 cardinals and bishops.

- Keith Nester, of Cedar Rapids, is a Harley motorcycle-driving husband and father of three adult children who spent 20 years in Protestant ministry. A discernment process in 2017 led him to the Catholic Church. Today, he is the executive director of Down to Earth Ministries, and creates social media content, including his "Catholic Feedback" podcast and The Rosary Crew, a livestream prayer community.

- Matt Fradd is known for his "Pints With Aquinas" podcast and has authored several books. After a profound conversion in 2000, he became a missionary, serving in Australia, Canada, Ireland and Texas, sharing his personal story of sin and salvation.

- Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's life calling began over a pint of beer amid brotherly brainstorming on how to help war

refugees. From there, he ultimately became the founder and CEO of Mary's Meals. He's been part of the conference's lineup from the first conference, continuing to give updates and thank supporters. Mary's Meals feeds more than 2.2 million children in 20 countries.

- Steve Angrisano is a joyful, reverent music missionary who combines singer, songwriter and storyteller talents. Featured at dozens of World Youth Days, National Catholic Youth Conferences and national pro-life marches, he's served as the conference's worship leader since 2012.

- Jon Leonetti will serve as emcee. He entertains and evangelizes with colorful anecdotes, interesting introductions, and prayerful segues. He's also a nationally known Catholic speaker, author, radio and podcast host, parish mission presenter and pilgrimage leader.

- Bishop William Joensen, of the Diocese of Des Moines, will provide a welcome to conference participants and celebrate Mass on Sunday, providing a homily.

The conference, a non-profit organization and comprised of hundreds of volunteers, is based in the [Diocese of Des Moines](http://www.dmdiocese.org).

Tickets / Event Fees

Online ticket sales are available at: www.christourlifeiowa.com/tickets/. Tickets will be available at dozens of Catholic parishes across Iowa. Nearly every parish in the Des Moines Diocese has an outreach person selling paper tickets.

The cost, whether in-person or livestream, is \$25 for the entire weekend for adults and \$15 for college-age students and younger. Children under the age of 5 are free of charge. Priests, religious, and deacons may attend free of charge. Hard copy tickets will be sold after Masses in parishes approximately one month prior to the Sept. 24 and 25 event.

Accommodations

Sign language interpreters will be available at the conference.

Speaker Patricia Sandoval will lead a break-out session in Spanish at 1:15 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, in Hy-Vee Hall, which is adjacent to the arena.

Sister celebrates silver jubilee

Sister Joan Clare Silas, of the Nazareth Sisters of the Annunciation, is celebrating her silver jubilee as a religious woman.



Born and raised in Kenya, Sister became a nurse and has ministered in health care in Kenya and the Diocese of Des Moines. Currently, she serves at MercyOne.

Her thanksgiving Mass will be at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale on Sept. 11 at 11 a.m.

The Catholic Mirror subscription appeal

Help us continue to provide news and inspiring stories of faith to you each month by taking a subscription for *The Catholic Mirror*.

Each year, all registered and active parishioners within the Diocese of Des Moines are asked to support *The Catholic Mirror* monthly newspaper with a \$25 voluntary subscription.

Funds raised help offset the cost of producing and distributing *The Catholic Mirror* – a cost of about \$140,000 annually.

Subscriptions can be purchased by check payable to *The Catholic Mirror* (601 Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50309) or online at dmdiocese.org/giving/special-collection-giving.

Your support is instrumental in bringing important news and inspirational stories of faith to central and southwest Iowa and beyond. Thank you!

PRAY WITH US

For the last year, Bishop William Joensen and the Diocese of Des Moines have been praying to renew Eucharistic faith and worship among God's people and to ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance for the Diocese of Des Moines. As a strategic visioning process

continues, Bishop Joensen invites everyone to join him in praying that we will fulfill our share of God's mission in Southwest Iowa, so that every person might encounter Jesus Christ and experience his call to friendship and communion.

Diocese of Des Moines Visioning Prayer

O God, you share with your people, your church, the mission to be the saving love of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a people of faith in southwest Iowa, send the Holy Spirit to ignite in us:

Sincere conversion to see, hear, think and act as Jesus;

Greater unity and bonds of peace;

Missionary zeal to spread good news that will spark a world aflame with love;

Genuine care for each other, especially those feeling lost or left out; and

Willingness to bear together the yoke that Christ makes light.

May our strategic visioning in the Diocese of Des Moines make us ever more focused, discerning, and free to fulfill our calling as a people made whole by the Heart of your Beloved Son.

Accompany us along the Way that leads to heaven, surrounded by Holy Mary, Joseph, and all the saints with whom we hope to dwell forever in communion with you,

+Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen



Diócesis de Des Moines Oración de Visión

Oh Dios, tú compartes con tu pueblo, tu Iglesia, la misión de ser el amor salvador de tu Hijo y nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo.

Como un pueblo de fe en el suroeste de Iowa, envía al Espíritu Santo para que encienda en nosotros:

una sincera conversión para ver, oír, pensar y actuar como Jesús;

una mayor unidad y lazos de paz;

un afán misionero para compartir la buena nueva encendiendo al mundo con amor;

un genuino cariño unos con los otros, especialmente con aquellos que se sienten perdidos o excluidos; y

el deseo de cargar juntos con el yugo que se hace ligero con Cristo.

Que nuestra visión estratégica en la Diócesis de Des Moines nos haga aún más enfocados, discernientes y libres para cumplir con nuestro llamado como pueblo que encuentra plenitud por el Corazón de tu Amado Hijo.

Acompáñanos en el Camino que nos lleva al cielo, rodeados de la María Santísima, José y todos los santos con quienes esperamos habitar por siempre en comunión contigo,

+Padre, Hijo, y Espíritu Santo. Amén.



Honoring exceptional service at Catholic schools

By Nicole Evans
Contributing Writer

The Diocese of Des Moines announced it will honor

six educators, administrators and volunteers for their exceptional service to Catholic education during the inaugural Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools on Aug. 27 in Indianola.

This event unites the entire diocesan community in celebration of the life-changing impact our faith-centered education has provided for more than 120 years.

Three honorees from the Des Moines metro and three honorees from the rural and Council Bluffs community were selected for this award out of nearly 70 nominations. Honorees were se-

lected based on their demonstrated impact on the diocesan Catholic schools and their commitment to faith, academic excellence, and fostering a vibrant school community.

Leaders share a passion for Catholic education

Administrator of the Year - Des Moines Metro

Jennifer Raes, *St. Anthony Catholic School, Des Moines*

Jennifer Raes is the administrator at St. Anthony Catholic School, where the learning environment began in 2010 to include Two-Way Language Immersion and biliteracy development.

"I love to walk the halls and enter the classrooms hearing Spanish and English spoken – what a gift to all of us," Raes said.

A graduate of St. Pius X Catholic School and Dowling Catholic High School, she earned her bachelor's degree in education with a middle school endorsement and a minor in mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa. Raes also earned an endorsement in coaching from Drake University. She continued her education and earned a master's degree in educational leadership from St. Ambrose University in 2003.

Her career in education began at St. Pius X Catholic School where she served as a middle school math teacher for 20 years and as an assistant principal for three years. She spent six years as the assistant principal at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School before joining the team at St. Anthony Catholic School in 2018.

"Jennifer models faith in action through her passionate leadership as principal of St. Anthony's," said Sheila Thurston, a St. Anthony parent. "She engages effectively with teachers and inspires students. She has built a growing, thriving school community based on Christ's love for each of us."



Administrator of the Year - Rural

Jennifer Simmons, *St. Malachy Catholic School, Creston*

Jennifer Simmons, the administrator at St. Malachy Catholic School in Creston, has more than 20 years experience in education.

She earned a bachelor's degree in science from Northwest Missouri State University and a master's degree in educational leadership from Viterbo University.

She taught fourth grade in Liberty, Missouri beginning in 1999. Prior to moving to Creston, Simmons spent 14 years in Des Moines at St. Joseph Catholic School teaching middle school math and science, and serving as assistant to the principal.

"Catholic schools are a very special place to work and St. Malachy is a huge piece of the Creston community puzzle," shared Simmons. "We provide students with great opportunities to learn about God and to take care of our community. Our amazing teachers provide our students with a wonderful education where we try our best to reach the needs of all our learners."

Simmons has made STEM education a priority for St. Malachy Catholic School. Today, the school boasts a 1:1 student-to-device initiative and robust STEM programming where students in all grades have the opportunity to explore problem-solving and critical thinking using the latest technologies.

"Mrs. Simmons goes above and beyond what a principal should be," said Michelle Wagner, a St. Malachy parent. "She spends countless hours outside of the school day making sure the school is the best faith and educational location it can be."



Educators focus on forming well-rounded students

Teacher of the year - Des Moines Metro

Cyndi Hofmeister, *Christ the King Catholic School, Des Moines*

Cyndi Hofmeister earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and a master's degree in teacher leadership, curriculum, and instruction from Buena Vista University.

A product of Catholic education, her commitment to it is evident in her efforts to provide opportunities for her students to learn and grow while recognizing their value as God's creation.

"It is important to realize that every student learns differently and our jobs as teachers are to access their strengths to help them be successful and well-rounded human beings," shared Hofmeister.

Hofmeister has taught middle school religion and social studies at Christ the King since 2013.

"Cyndi is an example to her students in every interaction with them. She treats them with kindness, empathy and compassion. She models treating others as you would want to be treated," said Renee Vuper, a Christ the King parent.



Teacher of the Year - Rural

Amy Smith, *St. Patrick Catholic School, Perry*

St. Patrick Catholic School first grade teacher Amy Smith earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education with a special education endorsement from Indiana University. She has taught in Perry for the last four years.

She is known for her passion for Catholic education coupled with the value she places on students' backgrounds, interests, and familial values.

"I choose to teach in a Catholic school because my entire heart is Catholic education. I desire to answer God's call to make disciples with every class I encounter. Although my students are young, the depth of their faith and their desire to know Christ is astounding," said Smith. "By choosing to teach in a Catholic school, I can directly take part in fostering their love of Jesus."

Smith recently attended the English as a New Language program at the University of Notre Dame. Through her experience with the ENL program, Smith integrates experiential activities that help students practice the language in each subject.

"I looked forward to having my son in her class because I have always admired the way she so calmly and lovingly teaches children," said Mindy Farmer, a St. Patrick parent. "Students blossom under her care academically, personally, and spiritually."



Volunteers illustrate a servant's heart

Volunteer of the Year

Des Moines Metro

Janet Peter

St. Theresa Catholic School

For over 13 years, Janet Peter has volunteered at St. Theresa Catholic School nearly every weekday.

Whether it's reading to the school's youngest learners, organizing the lost and found bin, or helping out in the front office, Peter serves with a generosity of spirit and kindness to all. Her strong personal commitment to meeting the needs of the school and its students has made a lasting impact on the entire St. Theresa community.

"Janet has a true servant's heart. She makes herself available to the staff to help wherever needed," said Elaine Oursler, a St. Theresa staff member. "She will clean the teacher's lounge first thing each morning and even helped to take student temperatures each morning throughout the pandemic, even before vaccines were available."

Peter and her husband are members of St. Theresa Parish where the couple attends Mass every week. Well-known and loved by those in the St. Theresa community, Peter openly talks about God and inspires others to servant leadership by sharing her Catholic faith.

"She [Janet] is dedicated to helping anyone in need. Janet does all the 'little things' around school that others don't notice," said Mary Baker, a St. Theresa staff member. "She is our very own St. Theresa."



Volunteer of the Year

Rural

Nancy Kilbride

St. Albert Catholic

Nancy Kilbride has been a steadfast volunteer at St. Albert Catholic for decades.

She served as an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) sponsor and team member for three years with her late husband, John.

Together, Kilbride and her husband were founding members of the St. Albert Ambassadors program in 2002, acting as chair couple for five years. They also hosted the Bishop's dinner for the St. Albert Benefit Auction for 10 years.

Kilbride sat on the Board of Education for the Diocese of Des Moines for nearly a decade and her family established the John and Nancy Kilbride Science Scholarship, which awards a St. Albert student interested in science a \$1,800 tuition scholarship annually.

In her continued efforts to support the school, she frequently volunteers her time in the school's Business Office.

"Nancy exemplifies the dedication needed to keep our Catholic schools alive and thriving. She has championed St. Albert Catholic for decades," said Anne Rohling, the school's president. "Her presence in the school, volunteering at many, many functions, is an inspiration for all of us. We truly admire her deep faith in the Catholic religion, her ability to serve others and her desire to serve St. Albert."



Save the Date
8.27.22

BISHOP'S CELEBRATION
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Join us Aug. 27 at
St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Church in
Indianola for the
inaugural Bishop's
Celebration of
Catholic Schools!
For more
information and to
purchase tickets
visit bit.ly/3jVroPd
or call 515-237-
5079.

Dobbs ruling corrects an injustice

Diocese statement on Dobbs decision

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* corrects the grave injustice introduced in 1973 by *Roe v Wade*, when we, as a country, denied the right of the unborn to exist.

Now, the legality of abortion rests with the states.

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life possesses inherent dignity from the moment of conception to natural death and beyond.

We advocate for the protection of human life in keeping with the common good.

The gift from God of life is sacred, regardless of appearance or age.

Therefore, as Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP, of Sydney, Australia, has commented, we want to be "in solidarity with those who wish to migrate from the womb to the world."

Our advocacy applies for every person, both mother and unborn child.

We encourage lawmakers to prioritize policies that affirm dignity and life, and support

women, children and families.

The Catholic Church has a long history of assisting pregnant and parenting mothers by providing health care and social services.

We will continue to accompany women and couples facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, offering them love and compassionate care.

It is our hope that as citizens and residents of this country, we can remain engaged and find common ground even if we hold differing viewpoints.

May we abide as true neighbors despite our differences, and respect each other's dignity through civil discourse.

As the social doctrine of the Church envisions, may we become "people capable of bringing peace where there is conflict, of building and nurturing fraternal relationships where there is hatred, of seeking justice where there prevails the exploitation of man by man. Only love is capable of radically transforming the relationships that (humans) maintain among themselves."

La decisión de la Suprema Corte

La decisión de la Corte Suprema de los EE. UU. en *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* corrige la grave injusticia introducida en 1973 por *Roe v Wade*, cuando nosotros, como país, negamos el derecho a existir de los no nacidos. Ahora, la legalidad del aborto recae en los estados.

La Iglesia Católica enseña que toda vida humana posee una dignidad inherente desde el momento de la concepción hasta la muerte natural y más allá. Abogamos por la protección de la vida humana en consonancia con el bien común. El regalo de Dios de la vida es sagrado, independientemente de la apariencia o la edad. Por lo tanto, como ha comentado el arzobispo Anthony Fisher, OP, de Sydney, Australia, queremos ser "solidarios con aquellos que desean migrar desde el útero materno al mundo". Nuestra defensa se aplica a todas las personas, tanto a la madre como al niño por nacer. Alentamos a los legisladores a priorizar políticas que afirmen la dignidad y la vida, y apoyen a las mujeres, los niños y las familias.

La Iglesia Católica tiene una larga historia de ayudar a las madres embarazadas y madres brindándoles atención médica y servicios sociales. Continuaremos acompañando a mujeres y parejas que enfrentan embarazos inesperados o difíciles, ofreciéndoles amor y atención compasiva.

Tenemos la esperanza de que, como ciudadanos y residentes de este país, podamos seguir comprometidos y encontrar puntos en común, incluso si tenemos puntos de vista diferentes. Permanezcamos como verdaderos prójimos a pesar de nuestras diferencias y respetemos la dignidad de los demás a través del discurso civil. Como prevé la doctrina social de la Iglesia, pueden llegar a ser "personas capaces de llevar la paz donde hay conflicto, de construir y cultivar relaciones fraternas donde hay odio, de buscar la justicia donde prevalece la explotación del hombre por el hombre. Solamente el amor es capaz de transformar radicalmente las relaciones que (los humanos) mantienen entre sí."

Abortion not a fundamental right in Iowa

By Anne Marie Amacher
The Catholic Messenger

The Iowa Supreme Court ruled June 17 that the state constitution does not provide a fundamental right to abortion, overturning its previous decision regarding abortion.

"Today's Iowa Supreme Court's decision is very good news," said Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference. "The court corrected its 2018 decision and recognized there is no fundamental right to abortion in the Iowa Constitution. However, the court did not decide what constitutional standard should replace it."

He said a Protect Life Amendment to the constitution is "still needed to provide clarity to the situation. However, today's ruling moved us closer to the day the people of Iowa can protect pre-born children."

According to the pro-life Alliance Defending Freedom, the opinion stated the previous court decision "lacks textual and historical support" and that its "constitutional footing is unsound." The opinion found no support for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland's "reading of the due process clause as providing fundamental protection for abortion."

Thomas More Society Senior Counsel Martin Cannon, said:

"Thomas More Society has also been very involved in advising the legislature in drafting and passing the 24-hour waiting period that is at the heart of today's ruling. This is a huge victory for Iowa's pro-life movement in which the Thomas More Society has been very active."

The ruling "has given us the hope and encouragement and renewed motivation to fight harder and work more," said Maggie DeWitte, executive director of Pulse Life Advocates.

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Historic day at the court: Roe reversed

Continued from page 1

who have supported a reversal of *Roe* immediately reacted positively to the court's decision that comes at the end of this year's term.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called the decision a "historic day in the life of our country, one that stirs our thoughts, emotions and prayers." "We pray that our elected officials will now enact laws and policies that promote and protect the most vulnerable among us," said the June 24 statement by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, and Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"We give thanks to God

for today's decision ... This just decision will save countless innocent children simply waiting to be born," said the New York Catholic bishops in a statement shortly after the court's opinion was released.

Those on both sides of the issue were outside the court when the ruling came down and continued to gather in force throughout the afternoon with posters, bullhorns, hugging and shouting.

In remarks from the White House June 24, President Joe Biden said the court's decision was "a sad day for the country in my view, but it doesn't mean the fight is over," and he urged Americans to respond with their votes in the upcoming elections.

He also urged dem-

onstrators to "keep all protests peaceful," adding: "We must stand against violence in any form, regardless of your rationale."

The *Dobbs* opinion is very similar to the leaked draft that called *Roe* "egregiously wrong from the start."

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan wrote a joint dissent that emphasized the significance of the court's previous decisions on this issue.

They added: "Whatever the exact scope of the coming laws, one result of today's decision is certain: the curtailment of women's rights, and of their status as free and equal citizens."

They also noted that their dissent "with sorrow -- for this court, but more, for the many

millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection."

When the court announced last year that it would take this case, after considering it more than a dozen times since 2020, the justices said they would only review one of the three questions presented to them: "Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

That point of viability -- when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own -- was a key point in this case, because the Supreme Court had consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before 24 weeks, or when a fetus could survive on its own.



Fr. Nick Smith

Congratulations on your Ordination

&

Welcome to your first assignment!

The Parishioners of

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church, Ankeny

Grandparents Day celebrates 'teachers of tenderness'

Catholic Church celebrates World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on the Sunday closest to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, July 24

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

-- The elderly can find purpose in their old age by teaching future generations about the value and importance of tenderness, Pope Francis said.

Elderly men and women often have "a special sensitivity for care, for reflection and affection" that is sorely needed in today's war-torn world, the pope said in a video message released by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network June 30.

"We are, or we can become, teachers of tenderness. And indeed, we can!" he said. "In this world accustomed to war, we need a true revolution of tenderness."

At the start of each month, the network posts a short video of the pope offering his specific prayer intention. For the month of July, the pope dedicated his prayer intention to the elderly.

The Catholic Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly each July on the Sunday closest to the feast of Ss. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents. The celebration is July 24 this year.

In his video message, the pope noted the high number of older men and women in the world compared to young people and said that today, there are "many plans for assistance for the old age, but few plans for existence."

Prayer for second annual Grandparents & Elderly Day

I give thanks to you, Lord,
For the blessing of a long life
For, to those who take refuge in You,
Grant always to bear fruit.

Forgive, O Lord,
Resignation and disillusionment,
But forsake me not
When my strength declines.

Teach me to look with hope
To the future you give me,
To the mission you entrust to me
And to sing your praises without end.

Make me a tender craftsman
Of Your revolution,
To guard with love my grandchildren
And all the little ones who seek shelter in You.

Protect, O Lord, Pope Francis
And grant Thy Church
To deliver the world from loneliness.
Direct our steps in the way of peace.

Amen.

Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

Feast of Corpus Christi honors True Presence of Jesus



The June 16 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – also known as Corpus Christi – was celebrated with processions around the Diocese. Above, a depiction of the Last Supper at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs. Far left, a procession begins at St. Augustin Parish in Des Moines. At left, Father Chris Hartshorn, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, blesses a monstrance holding the Eucharist.

Photos gathered from Facebook

Bishop Joensen's Column

Canoeing with grandparents and company

Continued from page 2

Vatican:

- The elderly are the focus of the day and all that surrounds it. A specific Sunday Mass should be identified for the celebration. We know that participation by many seniors in Sunday Mass has declined, in part due to fear of contagion and lockdowns. For many in our region, the health emergency has ended. This can be an opportunity to invite them to regain the habit of attending Mass, which may also require the need to coordinate transportation.

- The Holy Father's message can be shared by young people with grandparents and the elderly at the celebration itself: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20220503-messaggio-nnonni-anziani.html)

documents/20220503-messaggio-nnonni-anziani.html.

- If seniors remain at home or in other residences, it is a gesture of closeness and consolation to visit them—especially those who are most isolated—to communicate love and to deliver the Holy Father's message, along with a gift, flowers, etc. The encounter itself and the deepening of relation and friendship is itself a great fruit that may result. But there's an added blessing:

- Visiting a lonely elderly person in the days preceding and following July 24 has been recognized by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See as a work of mercy that enables persons to obtain a Plenary Indulgence, which is the remission of temporal punishment associated with

sin already forgiven. Elderly persons who are able to attend Mass, or who, if unable, who take part in Mass through television, radio, or the web, may likewise obtain this Plenary Indulgence.

- The collection from the Day's Masses can be dedicated to support projects in favor of poor elderly people in one's community.

- And, of course, any associated social gathering, and the posting of images and comments connected with the day on social media, can highlight the joy and blessings that come from being together in the same "canoe," the Church, where the dignity of every season of life and the beauty that shines forth amid the bond of generations can be featured.

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Amen

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Hurt feelings are always a big deal

Personal emotional make-up is as unique within us as our fingerprints.

We feel emotions similarly, yet uniquely. While differing emotional reactions may be the source of entertainment for some in a reality TV show, it also may be the source of conflict for others.

When I hear someone say that they are not an emotional person, I wonder what might have happened to this person to produce such thinking. Then I become worried. Worried that this person might contain an internal rage which may be unleashed at any moment. This would be due to what is called suppression of emotion which is not a healthy way to process emotion.

Yet, at times we all can minimize our feelings as though they are simply a small matter in life. "Am I hurt, you ask?" "Oh, no big deal. I'm fine!" Who hasn't said that a couple of thousand times over the years? We all have. Learning what to do with hurt feelings is a life skill that can be learned at any point of a person's life.

Words can hurt. Words can in-

Let's Get Psyched



By Deacon Randy Kiel

jury. It is quite painful to have unhealthy communication with loved ones, family, friends, and work colleagues. It is through communication that we connect and our spirits touch. When injurious words offend someone, feelings are hurt, thus an important need arises; the need to be validated. If not validated by others, we must at least validate ourselves. Being hurt matters a lot. Hurt feelings need to be felt and expressed as appropriately warranted. If we don't think that emotions are important, then we are at risk of having them inappropriately express themselves, sometimes at inopportune moments. Yikes! That can be so embarrassing! I might ask myself, "What's wrong with me?"

Painful emotions are sometimes sadness and loneliness, and at other times, love and affection. It hurts to love. With painful emotions, we often try to hide, minimize, justify, rationalize, deny, and pretend our emotional self away as though it is wrong, weak or not supposed to be a part of us, but it is. We were created to be emotional. It is part of what contributes to us being a rational being.

In today's culture, we hear some refer to people as an animal. What a degradation! We are neither animals, nor creatures; we are human beings, full of spirit, thought, and emotion. God allowed man to give names to all the animals, but God himself gave names to his most special creations: man and woman, the human being. After the fall of man, new emotion came to mankind, that being pain, suffering, toil, and labor.

There are some laborious jobs that are quite difficult to do, but that is how all our work goes. Work is a labor which causes our brow to sweat, in one form or another. Most often, the hardest thing to do in life

isn't the work of our jobs and careers, but rather it is the other people. The human element, thus, the relational aspect to almost any job is usually the most difficult part of our work. And why is this? It is because our feelings can get hurt by people more often than any other work-related circumstance. Hurt feelings are never a small matter. Some people have quit their jobs over hurt feelings.

Couples divorce mostly over hurt feelings. Neighbors have feuded over hurt feelings. Churches have divided over hurt feelings. Countries have gone to war over hurt feelings.

Finding resolution for hurt feelings is sometimes an arduous task. Just because we might find resolution, doesn't necessarily mean that the hurt goes away. Many times, we must come to terms with our feelings so as to attain peace within and with others. So therefore, may we pray:

"Lord, give me the wisdom of your compassionate heart to comfort the hearts of those who are hurting, even when it may be me that is hurting."



I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

Q. Why does the priest kiss the altar at the beginning and end of Mass? - Emily

A. IT'S A SIGN OF REVERENCE for the Lord's Table. The Second Vatican Council reminded us that the presence of Christ is to be found in four ways:

1. In the people who have gathered;
2. In the Scriptures;
3. In the priest himself;
4. In the consecrated bread and wine.

So, the altar, the Lord's Table, where the liturgy is celebrated is shown a special sign of veneration at the beginning of the Mass and at the conclusion of the Mass.

I found it amusing one time, when a new altar server asked me why the priest rubbed his nose on the altar at the beginning and the end of Mass.

Clearly that young man didn't understand the significance of what he thought he was witnessing!

Q. Why does the deacon kiss the Gospel after reading it?

A. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED that sometimes, athletes will kiss the trophy that they have just won – a tennis or a golf tournament, for example.

When a priest is ordained, the presiding bishop places the book of Gospels in the priest's hands.

The bishop admonishes the priest to proclaim the Word not only in his voice but also in himself.

The Gospels are given priority over all the other parts of Scripture. For centuries, the people have been invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

So, when the deacon or the priest concludes the reading of the Gospel, he kisses the words he has just proclaimed.

Q. Why does the priest put a piece of the

Liturgy questions abound

Eucharist in the wine during the Lamb of God?

A. THE EARLIEST PRACTICE of the celebration of the Eucharist involved one loaf – leavened or unleavened.

It was broken during the Communion Rite so that it could be distributed to the faithful.

In the early centuries, Christians outside Rome could not always travel to the city for Eucharist, so when the bishop broke the consecrated bread before communion, he would set aside a piece for each missing group of the faithful.

Then a minister brought this piece of consecrated bread to the gatherings in those villages, and the priest would drop it into the chalice from which everyone would drink.

Today, the priest still uses a larger host which is broken into several

pieces.

Long ago, when unleavened, small hosts were introduced for the people, the breaking became symbolic of something which was once necessary.

Fast forward now to today: Before "communion from the cup" was common, the priest dropped a particle of the host into the chalice to include everyone in the congregation who weren't permitted to receive from the cup itself.

Whether we receive communion only under the form of bread or only under the sign of wine, we have participated well. If we are able, receiving both the host and the cup is a more visible sign of our communion.

Email questions to Father John Ludwig at communications@dmdiocese.org or send them to The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309.

Suicide and our misunderstandings

Father Ron Rolheiser



Margaret Atwood once wrote that sometimes a thing needs to be said, and said, said again, until it doesn't need to be said anymore. That's why I write a column annually on suicide, mostly saying the same things over and over again. The hope is that, like a note put into a bottle and floated out to sea, my little message might find someone needing consolation after losing a loved one to suicide.

What's needs to be said, and said again, about suicide? Four things.

First, that it's a disease and perhaps the most misunderstood of all diseases. We tend to think that if a death is self-inflicted, it is voluntary in a way that death through physical illness or accident is not. For most suicides, this isn't true. A person who dies by suicide dies, as does the victim of a terminal illness or fatal accident, not by his or her own choice. When people die from heart attacks, strokes, cancer, AIDS, and accidents, they die against their will. The same is true for suicide, except that in the case of suicide the breakdown is emotional rather than physical –

an emotional stroke, an emotional cancer, a breakdown of the emotional immune system, an emotional fatality.

This is not an analogy. There are different kinds of heart attacks, strokes, cancers, breakdowns of the immune system, and fatal accidents. However, they all have the same effect; they all take someone out of this life against his or her own will. No one who dies through suicide actually wants to die. He or she only wants to end a pain that can no longer be endured, akin to someone jumping to his death out of a burning building because his clothes are on fire.

Second, we should not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of a suicide victim, believing (as we used to) that suicide is the ultimate act of despair and something God will not forgive. God is infinitely more understanding than we are and God's hands are infinitely safer and gentler than our own. Imagine a loving mother having just given birth, welcoming her child onto her breast for the first time. That, I believe, is the best image we have to picture how a suicide victim (most often an overly sensitive soul) is received into the next life. God is infinitely understanding, loving, and gentle. We need not worry about the fate of anyone, no matter the cause of death, who exits this world honest, oversensitive, gentle, overwrought,

and emotionally crushed. God has a special love for the broken and the crushed.

Knowing all of this, however, doesn't necessarily take away our pain (and anger) at losing someone to suicide; but faith and understanding aren't meant to take our pain away but rather to give us hope, vision, and support as we walk within our pain.

Third, we should not torture ourselves with second-guessing when we lose a loved one to suicide: "What might I have done? Where did I let this person down? If only I had been there? What if ...?" It can be natural to be haunted with the thought, "if only I'd been there at the right time." Rarely would this have made a difference. Indeed, most of the time, we weren't there for the exact reason that the person who fell victim to this disease did not want us to be there. He or she picked the moment, the spot, and the means precisely so that we wouldn't be there. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that suicide is a disease that picks its victim precisely in such a way so as to exclude others and their attentiveness. This is not an excuse for insensitivity, especially towards those suffering from dangerous depression, but it should be a healthy check against false guilt and fruitless second-guessing.

We're human beings, not God. People die of illness and accidents all the

time and sometimes all the love and attentiveness in the world cannot prevent a loved one from dying. Love, for all its power, is sometimes powerless before a terminal illness.

Fourth, when we lose a loved one to suicide, one of our tasks is to work at redeeming that person's memory, namely, to put that person's life into a perspective wherein his or her memory is not forever tainted because it is viewed through the prism of suicide.

A proper human and faith response to suicide should not be horror, fear for the victim's eternal salvation, guilty second-guessing about how we failed this person, and a hushed, guarded tone forever afterwards when we speak of him or her. Suicide is indeed a horrible way to die, but we must understand it (at least in most cases) as a sickness, a disease, an illness, a tragic breakdown within the emotional immune system. Most of all, we must trust God, God's goodness, God's understanding, God's power to descend into hell, and God's power to make all things right, even death by suicide.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

Naveguemos con los Abuelos y Compañeros

Continued from page 2

una historia humana con líneas aún por escribir, por injertar en el relato del amor salvífico de Dios por todos y cada uno de nosotros, habitualmente desplegado. Dejando de lado la confesión, las mujeres y los hombres en ambos lugares ya no tenían que estar “encendidos” para “actuar”; experimentaron el efecto liberador de ser queridos en sí mismos, dignos de atención y afecto. Sin duda, había mal humor derivado del dolor crónico, o la pérdida de inhibiciones para decir lo que realmente sentían y pensaban que no siempre era agraciado o agradable. Pero con qué frecuencia puede haber una cierta dulzura en el comportamiento, un nuevo ritmo de oración y sensibilidad espiritual que permitía a las personas ser más amables consigo mismas (extendiendo a sí mismas y a otras personas la misma ternura que sienten por sus nietos). Y con frecuencia, la gente se vuelve más capaz de reírse del flujo y reflujo de la memoria y la mente que, por la gracia de Dios, suavizará las heridas de la vida e intensificará el amor por las personas y las prioridades que realmente importan.

Como advierte el Papa Francisco, las personas mayores se definen no tanto por los planes

de cuidado sino por los proyectos de vida que rodean la muerte, que extienden las raíces de sus intuiciones, su fe, esperanza y sabiduría sobre lo que es la vida. Pueden ser profetas, alejándonos de la propensión a repetir conflictos pasados, o de la tendencia malsana a simplemente mantenernos alejados del desorden de la vida. Porque en este desorden, la creatividad del Padre celestial, la implicación de su Hijo que encuentra nuestras familias y comunidades de fe tan atractivas que Él no puede quedarse fuera, y el Espíritu-fundidor que enciende el deseo de sanar y unir nuestras voluntades, están para ser encontrados.

Dios tiene la intención de que el vínculo de las generaciones atraviese las corrientes que fluyen en ambas direcciones entre los jóvenes y los viejos. En su mensaje de hace varios años, “¡Cristo está vivo!”, el papa Francisco invoca la imagen de la Iglesia como una canoa, “en la que los ancianos ayudan a mantener el rumbo juzgando la posición de las estrellas, mientras los jóvenes siguen remando, imaginando lo que les espera por delante.” Para que esto suceda, los jóvenes no pueden descartar a los ancianos como representantes de un pasado sin sentido, y los adultos mayores no pueden perder el tiempo

quejándose de cómo deben actuar los jóvenes. Juntos, las ansiedades sobre el futuro se pueden disipar, fragilidad y sabiduría se pueden mezclar, y las lecciones de vida se pueden compartir de una manera no sermoneadora que amplía la perspectiva y nos libera de la preocupación por nosotros mismos.

Bueno, tal vez a estas alturas ya haya superado su capacidad de atención cuando se trata de que me exprese en términos elevados sobre el honor, la presencia y las bendiciones que le debemos a los abuelos y a los ancianos. Así que volvamos a los detalles prácticos sobre el Día Mundial de los Abuelos y los Ancianos, que está designado oficialmente para el 24 de julio, pero bien podría promulgarse en cualquier domingo o incluso en varias ocasiones. Aquí hay algunas sugerencias directamente del Dicasterio del Vaticano para los “Laicos, la Familia y la Vida”:

- Los adultos mayores son el centro del día y todo lo que les rodea. Se debe identificar una misa dominical específica para la celebración. Sabemos que la participación de muchas personas mayores en la misa dominical ha disminuido, en parte debido al temor al contagio y los aislamientos. Para muchos en nuestra región, la emergencia sanitaria

ha terminado. Esto puede ser una oportunidad para invitarlos a recuperar el hábito de asistir a Misa, lo que también puede requerir la necesidad de coordinar el transporte.

- El mensaje del Santo Padre puede ser compartido por los jóvenes con sus abuelos y ancianos en la misma celebración:

- [II Jornada Mundial de los abuelos y de los mayores, 2022: “En la vejez seguirán dando fruto”](#) | [Francisco \(vatican.va\)](#)

- Si los mayores se quedan en casa o en otras residencias, es un gesto de cercanía y de consuelo visitarlos, especialmente a los más aislados, para comunicarles amor y entregarles el mensaje del Santo Padre, junto con un regalo, flores, etc. El encuentro mismo y la profundización de la relación y la amistad es en sí mismo un gran fruto que pueden resultar. Pero hay una bendición adicional:

- Visitar a un anciano solitario en los días anteriores y posteriores al 24 de julio ha sido reconocido por la Penitenciaría Apostólica de la Santa Sede como una obra de misericordia que permite a las personas obtener Indulgencia Plenaria, que es la remisión de la pena temporal asociada al pecado ya perdonado. También podrán obtener esta Indulgencia Plenaria las personas mayores que

puedan asistir a Misa o que, en su defecto, participen en la Misa por televisión, radio o Internet.

- La colecta de las Misas del Día puede ser dedicada para apoyar proyectos a favor de los ancianos pobres de la propia comunidad.

- Y, por supuesto, cualquier reunión social asociada, y la publicación de imágenes y comentarios relacionados con este Día en las redes sociales, pueden resaltar la alegría y las bendiciones que provienen de estar juntos en la misma “barca”, la Iglesia, se puede presentar la dignidad de cada etapa de la vida y la belleza que irradia en medio del vínculo de las generaciones.

Annual Chicken Dinner

Immaculate Conception Church's 77th Annual Chicken Dinner will be Sunday, Aug. 7 at church in St. Marys, Iowa. Serving hours from 12:30 -5:30 pm. Fried chicken, games for all ages, farmers market, raffle items. Carry out dinners are also available. Cost is \$12.50/adults and \$5/children ages 3-10.



Photo by Mountain Lion Media LLC

Healing Prayer Service

Every third Wednesday of the month, there is a healing prayer service at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High St. in Des Moines.

The start time for the prayer service is moving up to 5:30 p.m.

Join us for the next services, July 20 and Aug. 17 at 5:30 p.m. to ask God for spiritual, emotional and/or physical healing.



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Neil Pfeifer
General Agent
Northeast Nebraska/
Western Iowa
402-379-0180
neil.pfeifer@kofc.org



Mike Bormann
General Agent
563-689-6801
michael.bormann@kofc.org

