

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 57, No. 12

Dec. 20, 2024

We Sow God's Spirit by Cultivating Connections in Christ.

Merry Christmas

Children from across the Diocese prepare for the birth of Jesus during the Advent season.



St. Augustin Catholic School third-fifth grade classes performed "Straight Outta Bethlehem" on Dec 12 under the direction of Erin Schieffer. The program was written by Christy Semson and arranged by Daniel Semson.



Fifth grade students in Julie Bliss's class helped lead the St. Pius X Advent prayer service as students and staff kicked off the Advent season.



Led by Ann Gedom, students at Holy Family Catholic School in Des Moines performed a Christmas program with the theme "Light of the World."



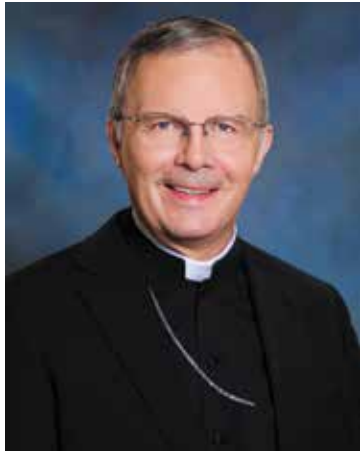
First grader Elizabeth Clark meets St. Nicholas at St. Joseph Catholic School in Des Moines.



Advent Angels meet weekly during Advent at St. Malachy Catholic School in Creston. Older students have a younger angel and gather throughout the building to complete an Advent activity together. Pictured at left are Eva Thelen, Holly Dunphy, Mary Keller, and Caroline Ramaeker.



First graders Henry Schmedding and Nina Grimm were among the elementary school students at St. Albert Catholic School in Council Bluffs singing in a Christmas concert under the direction of Sarah Ebke for family and friends on Dec. 8.



Bishop William Joensen

This Christmas Eve in Rome, Pope Francis will inaugurate the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 by opening the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. It's probably the hottest ticket in Catholicism since the turn of the Millennium in 2000, more so even than the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2015. This Jubilee will carry the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope."

Out of curiosity, I went through all the proper prayers, including prefaces, of the Christmas Eve and three Christmas Day Masses. Not once is the word 'hope' mentioned. What gives? I guess it depends on how we understand hope and the dynamic of our lives. The Holy Father, in his "Bull" declaring this Holy Year, "Hope Does Not Disappoint" (see Romans 5:5), describes the sense of hope that is familiar to everyone: "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring" (Spes non

confundit/SNC n. 1).

St. Thomas Aquinas specifies a key element of hope is that the good sought is not a sure thing but can be realized only with difficulty—it can become real for us. I don't hope for a full moon, but I do hope researchers discover a cure for cancer. Further, I'm fond of the definition of hope offered by Lance Morrow, the former essayist for Time Magazine who died recently: "Hope is goodness in a tough spot."

So when the good we've been seeking presents itself, and joy is unleashed, then hope melts away for we've realized our long-awaited desires. Hence Christmas, when the Messiah promised for ages finally appears in the lowly Bethlehem stable and is heralded by the angels appearing to the shepherds, adored by the Magi as the destination of their lengthy trek from the East, and pondered by Mary who takes all things said and done by her child to heart, then hope takes a hike and wonder-filled, contemplative celebration assumes its place. Before the Nativity Scene or tabernacle, the Latin American bishops in their Aparecida document urge us, "We stand before Christ, and in his presence, 'love pauses, contemplates mystery, and enjoys it in silence'" (see Dilexit nos/DN n. 57).

But Christmas joy on this side of the vale even for the children of the new Eve, Mary, doesn't last—for better or worse. How many children and adults,

having just opened their Christmas gifts and received the very items that were on their list, experience the thawing of other dormant desires instead of simply abiding in what has been received. Hope seems hollow when it is not founded on deep gratitude for the presence (not presents) God himself bestows on us in his Son.

More virtuously, Jesus, even as he is caressed by Mary, is a child on the move, with a mission to fulfill. From the stable in Bethlehem, off our Infant Lord goes: to be presented in the Temple, where He is acclaimed by Simeon and Anna, who've been waiting faithfully for what seems like eternity for this child. Their life's hope is fulfilled, even as they stir hope for us that the arduous drama of salvation has only begun to unfold.

Jesus flees with his parents to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. The Holy Family eventually returns to Nazareth, where annually, as observant Jews, they go to Jerusalem for the Passover. It is there that Jesus's identity as the Son of God is again disclosed by the intimacy he conveys in speaking of his Father's house.

The ultimate pilgrimage of hope for Jesus and for all Catholics and Christians is our life's path from entering the world to

the Father in heaven. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Jesus wants to bring us to the Father. That is why, from the very beginning, the Church's preaching does not end with Jesus, but with the Father." And one of Francis's predecessors, St. John Paul II, remarks, "The whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father." "Jesus's life among us was a journey of response to the constant call of his human heart to come to the Father" (DN nn. 70-

72).

How fitting that the observance of the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Des Moines will officially commence on Sunday, Dec. 29, the Feast of the Holy Family. We will begin with a "mini-pilgrimage" bearing the relic of the True Cross of Christ from the Catholic Pastoral Center in downtown Des Moines across the street to St. Ambrose Cathedral, where we will celebrate a 3 p.m. Feast day Mass with clergy and laity of the Diocese. Please consider joining us!

And from there, whether as individuals, small groups, or among parishes, the pilgrimages to the five specially designated churches throughout our Diocese will unfold throughout the Jubilee Year. (Please see the accompanying article in this edition of The Catholic Mirror found on page 3 for more details.) These pilgrimages are to be undertaken in hope, and are to be experiences that fortify and intensify our personal hope. They are to be encounters with the infinite divine and human love of Jesus radiating from his Eucharistic heart in the tabernacle, monstrance, and preeminently in Holy Mass.

Other devotions will further "decorate" our hope as we spend time in prayer allowing Jesus to convey his affection for us, his desire to accompany us every step of the way he has charted for us. The third and concluding year of our national Eucharistic Revival converges with this Jubilee in the Revival's encouragement

to "walk with one" by praying for, inviting, and accompanying others as a "moveable feast" migrating to the source and goal of all God's mercy and life. Again, Pope Francis: "Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross" (SNC n. 3).

"Happiness is our human vocation, a goal to which we all aspire" (SNC n. 21). Our good God wants us to experience the happiness he intends for us. He desires that the seeds of the Spirit sown in our hearts by the grace of baptism and other sacraments, by taking God's word to heart, take root and flourish as we accompany one another in communion of presence, mutual acceptance, and ever more perfect praise and thanksgiving to our Savior.

It is the encounter with Jesus in the sacrament of reconciliation that is the central moment commended to us by this Jubilee, for we all know the tensions and outright rupture in relationships that weaken hope and thwart the experience of communion. And in our heart of hearts, we know ourselves to be at least the partial cause of these insults to hope. All of us have sinned and are deprived of God's glory (see Romans 3:23). All will face judgment by God sooner or later. Our hope boldly prompts us to present ourselves as pilgrims before Jesus, the just judge, in the person of a priest confessor.

All of us find ourselves in the toughest of spots until God restores the goodness his love instills, the hope he heals, the friendship he bestows. To go to confession is a gift to ourselves and to those against whom we have sinned, living or now deceased—far beyond the Christmas Season, all the way to eternity.

The sacrament of reconciliation is a recipe for renewed hope. The late Pope Benedict XVI anticipated our present Jubilee as he reflects "On Saving Hope": "Our lives are involved with one another, through innumerable interactions they are linked together. No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone. The lives of others contin-

Continued on page 14

Pilgrims of Hope

The ultimate pilgrimage of hope for Jesus and for all Catholics and Christians is our life's path from entering the world to the Father in heaven.

Byzantine Catholics encouraged to contact priest of the Eparchy/Diocese of Parma

Interest has been shown in starting a Byzantine Catholic outreach in the Des Moines area for persons who were baptized and affiliate with the Byzantine tradition.

This past August, Father Bruce Riebe, a priest of the Ep-

archy/Diocese of Parma (Ruthenian Rite) Ohio, was assigned to an existing congregation in the Davenport Diocese. With the encouragement of his own bishop and the permission of Bishop William Joensen, Father Riebe is willing to extend his ministry to the greater Des Moines area if

genuine pastoral need is demonstrated. If you are a Byzantine Catholic, please contact him at 440-227-5037 or iowaoutreach@parma.org.

The Eparchy of Parma consists of 12 Midwestern states including Iowa.

Task force formed to study sacrament of confirmation

Bishop William Joensen has formed a 20-person task force to study and evaluate all aspects of when best to confirm young people in the Diocese of Des Moines.

The task force will make a recommendation to Bishop Joensen once it has completed its work—hopefully, by late spring 2025.

Bishop commissioned the task force with the following goals: to enhance the theological and pastoral understanding of confirmation; to be aware of diverse approaches and practices for administering the sacrament; to address the contemporary societal context with factors that are having a developmental impact on young people (some of which are causing spiritual, mental, and physical harm to children and youth); ultimately, to provide a well-informed recommendation

to him whether present diocesan practice regarding the sacrament of confirmation at 10th grade should be adjusted or remain the same.

The task force will meet monthly. Their first meeting was in November. The task force includes clergy and laity from around the Diocese. Rural, suburban, and urban communities are represented, as well as a number of Hispanic representatives and staff who work in multi-ethnic parishes. Laity includes parents, religious education staff, youth ministers, Catholic school faculty, and evangelization staff. Bishop Joensen has appointed three diocesan point people to the task force: Father Trevor Chicoine, John Gaffney, and Jessica Pancha. For more information email John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Bishop William Joensen
Publisher
wjoensen@dmdiocese.org

Anne Marie Cox
Editor
acox@dmdiocese.org

The Catholic Mirror (ISSN 0896-6869) is published monthly for \$25 per year by the Diocese of Des Moines, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines. POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE CATHOLIC MIRROR, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. PHONE: (515)237-5046 EMAIL: mirror@dmdiocese.org

DIOCESAN WEBSITE:
www.dmdiocese.org



Official

Bishop William Joensen has made the following appointments.

Rev. Samuel Danso, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Dunlap, and Sacred Heart Parish, Woodbine, to continue while also serving as priest moderator of Holy Family Parish, Mondamin, for a one-year term effective immediately.

Rev. Mr. Thomas Hunkele, to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Indianola, effective Dec. 11, 2024 to Aug. 30, 2026.

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

Jason Kurth
Chancellor

Let the Jubilee begin

By **Father Trevor Chicoine**
Contributing Writer

Pope Francis has announced an ordinary Jubilee year which will begin on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday Dec. 29 and run for an entire year.

Ordinary Jubilees happen every 25 years. These are times of grace, forgiveness of debts, and of reconciliation.

The Jubilee year 2025 will center on the theme of hope, taken from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, "Hope does not disappoint."

The Diocese of Des Moines will focus on three areas during the upcoming Holy Year.

Prayer

Both the Bishop's priest council, called the Presbyterian Council, and the Jubilee papal documents emphasize devotions.

The Diocese will launch a new monthly column/blog penned by Monica Pugh, of St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk. Each month, she'll share a type of prayer, where it comes from, and how to do it.

Pilgrimage

Each Jubilee year, the Church establishes certain practices the faithful can undertake which grant special graces.

Among the graces established for the Jubilee of Hope 2025 are pilgrimages.

Considering the needs of the Des Moines Diocese and our diverse community, Bishop Wil-

liam Joensen has identified the following churches as places of pilgrimage for the Jubilee year:

- The Cathedral of St. Ambrose in Des Moines;
- The Basilica of St. John in Des Moines;
- Christ the King Church in Des Moines;
- Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Atlantic;
- Corpus Christi Church in Council Bluffs.

Some may recall from the previous two Jubilee years that the churches of pilgrimage had holy doors for the faithful to pass through.

This year, Pope Francis is inviting us to take a more active journey of faith.

When visiting one of the churches of pilgrimage, everyone is invited to attend Mass, or to attend another liturgy or devotional such as: Eucharistic exposition; a celebration of the Word of God; pray the Liturgy of the Hours; pray the Stations of the Cross; pray the rosary; or, spend some time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before the tabernacle.

Reconciliation

Everyone is especially invited to make a good confession, one of the greatest signs and acts of hope our faith gives us.

Beginning in early January,



Father Trevor Chicoine

each of the churches of pilgrimage will have "passport" postcards available.

Take a passport postcard and stamp it with a special Jubilee passport stamp that will be available at each of the pilgrimage sites.

If you visit all five Jubilee churches, please post a picture on social media and tag #dmdiocese or send a picture of your passport booklet to the Diocese. We will send you a book by Pope Francis to use as you continue your faith journey.

Bring hope to others

We are all invited to consider how we might grow in the virtue of hope during the Jubilee year.

Everyone is encouraged to make a good confession.

The faithful may also obtain the Jubilee graces by participating in opportunities for faith formation, perform the Corporal Works of Mercy (to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead), perform the Spiritual Works of Mercy (to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead) or visit the lonely or needy.

Father Trevor Chicoine is the diocesan vicar for Divine Worship, and serves as pastor of four parishes in the central part of the Diocese.



The Jubilee Year logo, with the theme Pilgrims of Hope, shows four figures representing all people, embracing each other to show solidarity that unites all of humanity. The choppy water at the bottom represents that a lifelong pilgrimage is not always on calm water. The anchor on the bottom of the cross illustrates hope. The pilgrim's journey is communal and moves us toward the cross.

Diez cosas que debes saber sobre el Jubileo 2025, el Año Santo que empieza

(OSV News) -- Carteles alrededor de la Ciudad Eterna anuncian "Roma si trasforma" -- "Roma se transforma" -- como explicación de los proyectos, presentes en todas partes, de infraestructura en curso, incluyendo la restauración de esculturas y monumentos icónicos, de cara al Jubileo 2025, un Año Santo que comienza en la víspera de Navidad.

He aquí 10 cosas que debes saber sobre el próximo Año Jubilar:

1. Año Jubilar, también conocido como "Año Santo", es un año especial en la vida de la Iglesia que actualmente se celebra cada 25 años. Estos años en la historia judía "se proponía como la ocasión para restablecer la correcta relación con Dios, con las personas y con la creación, y conllevaba el perdón de las deudas, la restitución de terrenos enajenados y el descanso de la tierra".

2. El Jubileo 2025 comienza a las 7:00 p.m. en la víspera de Navidad, el 24 de diciembre, con el rito de apertura de la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro en el Vaticano, inmediatamente antes de que el Papa Francisco celebre la Misa de Medianoche.

Las puertas representan el paso hacia la salvación que Jesús abrió a la humanidad.

3. El tema del Año Santo es "Peregrinos de la Esperanza".

4. Los años jubilares, que tienen raíces judías, enfatizan el sacramento de la reconciliación y la restauración de relaciones con Dios.

5. El Año Santo llama a los cristianos a la acción. El Papa

Francisco pidió "signos de esperanza" en el año jubilar, como el deseo de paz en el mundo, la apertura a la vida y la paternidad responsable, la cercanía con los prisioneros, los pobres, los enfermos, los jóvenes, los ancianos, los migrantes, y las personas "en situaciones de catástrofe o de inestabilidad social."

6. Se espera un flujo masivo de peregrinos en la Ciudad Eterna. El Instituto Nacional de Investigación Turística de Italia proyecta 35 millones de visitantes en 2025, casi el triple de los 13 millones registrados en 2023.

7. Habrá eventos importantes en Roma. Algunos de estos eventos coincidirán con canonizaciones importantes, como la del beato Carlo Acutis durante el Jubileo de los Adolescentes (25-27 de abril) y la del beato Pier Giorgio Frassati durante el Jubileo de la Juventud (28 de julio-3 de agosto).

8. Se espera que Roma brille y resplandezca. Muchos sitios y obras de arte famosos en Roma y en el Vaticano han sido limpiados o restaurados para el jubileo.

9. Aunque muchos eventos jubilares tendrán lugar en Roma y el Vaticano, es una celebración para toda la Iglesia.

10. El Año Jubilar concluye con el cierre de la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro el 6 de enero de 2026, en la festividad de la Epifanía.

El Año Jubilar también mira hacia el 2033, cuando la Iglesia conmemorará el 2000 aniversario de la pasión, muerte, y resurrección de Jesús.

Jubilee of Hope Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have gifted us in
your son Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity
kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds
that make humanity and the cosmos rise
unto the confident expectation
of the new heavens and the new earth,

when with the powers of Evil overcome,
your glory shall be manifested eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
the yearning for heavenly treasures
and pour over all the earth
the joy and peace
of our Redeemer.

To you God blessed in eternity,
be praise and glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

Join Bishop for Jubilee kickoff Mass Dec. 29

The Jubilee Year of Hope kicks off in Rome when Pope Francis opens a Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve.

In the Diocese of Des Moines, the yearlong celebration begins on Dec. 29, when Bishop William Joensen will begin Mass at 3 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave. Like in a Palm Sunday procession, those gathered will process across High Street to St. Ambrose Cathedral, where Mass will continue.

All are welcome to attend. The opening Jubilee Year Mass will satisfy the Sunday obligation.



"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

— Pope Francis in announcing the Holy Year

LAST CHANCE!



CTO
CATHOLIC TUITION ORGANIZATION



Help our Catholic school students and receive a 2024 Iowa Tax Credit*!
*Gifts to CTO qualify for a 75% Iowa tax credit

Donate today!
www.CTOIOWA.org
515-237-5010

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


CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH

Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

O blessed Joseph who died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, I beseech you, the grace of a happy death. In that hour of dread and anguish, assist me by your presence, and protect me by your power against the enemies of your salvation. Into your sacred hands, living and dying, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul.

Amen

John & Mark Parrish,
parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi



CALDWELL PARRISH
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY
Urbandale • Adel • Winterset • CaldwellParrish.com

DES MOINES' ONLY CATHOLIC-OWNED & OPERATED FUNERAL HOME.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOOK!

Human stories, faith insights, political maneuverings, and cultural clashes impacting Life issues.

“Great Read!”

Available online and at Divine Treasures Catholic Book Store

PULSE
life ADVOCATES

PulseForLife.org



HAMILTON
LAW FIRM, P.C.
DES MOINES - STORM LAKE - SIOUX CITY

Established in 1876, we're one of Iowa's most experienced law firms.


515.309.3536, 12345 University Ave., Clive, IA 50325



EXCEL
MECHANICAL CO., INC.

AIR CONDITIONING • REFRIGERATION • HEATING
COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS • MED GAS • BUILDING AUTOMATION
CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTING • PLUMBING

www.excelmechanical.us
(515) 288-1450



Shop Local

5701 Hickman Road
Des Moines, IA 50310

www.DivineTreasuresInc.net
515-255-5230

Des Moines Catholic Worker House Fund

Do you have an upcoming Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA? Do you have a donor advised fund? The Des Moines Catholic Worker House Fund is a 501c(3) non-profit. Your donations would be used to support the hospitality ministry of the Des Moines Catholic Worker House by providing food and other necessities to the homeless population of Des Moines.

Donations can be sent to:
Des Moines Catholic Worker House Fund
P.O. Box 1386 Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Or go to our website to give online at:
<https://friendsofcatholicworker.com/>

Victim Assistance Advocate

The diocese's Victim Assistance Advocate, Sam Porter, is a staff member at Polk County Victim Services. He helps people who are or were minors when they were victims of abuse by the clergy through a complaint process. He also helps them seek support and counseling services. Porter can be reached at 515-286-2024 or Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.

¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

Thousands of faithful Catholics across the Diocese celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with novenas, rosaries, Masses, processions, and dancing.

Corpus Christi Church, Council Bluffs



Carlos and Jayden Barrientos pray the rosary during a novena at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs

Pope: Mary's motherhood is the essence of Guadalupe

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Reducing the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe to anything other than an expression of Mary's universal motherhood diminishes the true essence of the iconic Marian devotion, Pope Francis said.

"The mystery of Guadalupe is to venerate her and to hear in our ears: 'Am I not here, I who am your mother?'" the pope said, referencing the words Mary is said to have spoken to St. Juan Diego. "This is the whole message of Guadalupe."

Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is deeply rooted in Latin America and connected to 16th-century Marian apparitions in Mexico. According to tradition, Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, an Indigenous Mexican, and left her image imprinted on his cloak. The image depicts Mary as pregnant, and it is said that roses -- foreign to the region -- miraculously spilled from his cloak when he presented it to the bishop.

Sacred Heart Church, West Des Moines



Photos by Robert Nandell

Dancers celebrated Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines.

Our Lady of the Americas, St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines



Hundreds processed from Our Lady of the Americas to St. Ambrose Cathedral in the bitter cold.

St. Bernard Church, Osceola



A family poses by an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard Church in Osceola.

St. Patrick Church, Perry



Christ the King Church, Des Moines



Around the Diocese

Dec. 22 Sunday

Advent Taizé Service

DES MOINES – Give yourself over to the simple Taizé prayer, song, and silence as a way to experience Advent in a period of joyful expectation. Holy Trinity Parish from 5-5:45 p.m.

Dec. 29 Sunday

Jubilee Save the Date

DESMOINES -- Opening Mass at 3 p.m. Meet at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave., where Mass will begin and be part of the procession to St. Ambrose Cathedral across the street. This Mass does count toward the Sunday obligation.

Jan. 4 Saturday

A Concert to Celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord

DES MOINES – ‘Fantasia of Carols’ will be performed by the St. Augustin Choir with members of the choirs of the Basilica of St. John and the Diocese of Des Moines at 7 p.m. at St. Augustin Church. Cost is a free-will offering.

Jan. 4-5 Saturday-Sunday

Nativity Display

ANKENY – The Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Church’s Respect Life Ministry is hosting a Nativity Display on Epiphany weekend. Beautiful nativities will be displayed in the multipurpose room with lights and Christmas decor and music. A hand-carved wooden Nativity by parishioner, Phil Kohler is being raffled. Raffle tickets are for sale in the office and at the event. Baked goods will be available for purchase, handmade rosaries and other items for sale as well. Times to attend are Sat., 6 -8 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Proceeds from the event will be donated to pregnancy resource centers. For information contact the church at 515-964-3038.

Jan. 7 Tuesday

Rights and Responsibilities of Catholic Ethics

URBANDALE -- Catholic Charities and Diocese of Des Moines Director of Social Justice John Huynh is hosting a monthly speaking series on Catholic Social Teaching. This month he will be discussing rights and responsibilities in Catholic ethics along with the Iowa Catholic Conference at 7 p.m. at St. Pius X Church.

Jan. 13 Monday

National Pastoral Musicians

The NPM Music Ministers’ annual chapter meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. online. Members will generate ideas for future events for music ministers in the Diocese and learn about June 2025 Regional Convention. Contact desmoinesia@npm.org for the link.

Feb. 11 Tuesday

Champions of the Marginalized: Catholicism’s Preferential Option for the Poor

DES MOINES -- Catholic Charities and Diocese of Des Moines Director of Social Justice John Huynh, D.Min is hosting a monthly speaking series on Catholic Social Teaching. This month he will be discussing Catholicism’s preferential option for the poor alongside a representative with the Catholic Charities Food Pantry at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa Church.

March 1 Saturday

FORGE Conference

FORGE, a new Des Moines apostolate, will host its first men’s conference featuring Matt Birk, Father Boniface Hicks, Pete Burak, Dr. Leonard Sax, and John Bishop, Ph.D., and more. FORGE aims to empower 1,200 Catholic men to fight for the Church’s view of the family. Learn more about the conference at myforge.org/conference/

Scott Hahn Coming

WEST DES MOINES – Scott Hahn, Ph.D., and the St. Paul Center will be at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Free and open to the public, the morning event offers an opportunity to study Scripture with one of the most respected scholars during the Lenten season. Mass is at 8 a.m., welcome and check-in at 8:45 a.m. Hahn will deliver talks at 9:05 and 10:50 a.m. Between his talks, a representative will give a presentation. For more information, contact the parish at 515-223-4577 or pgrothus@saintfrancischurch.org.

March 2 Sunday

DES MOINES – St. Catherine of Siena Student Center is presenting El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz for a discussion on immigration and the border at 2 p.m. at Sheslow Auditorium at Drake University. The free event is part of a dialogue series with the theme of faith in action for the common good.

Norwalk parish adds to worship space

St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk recently made some changes.

Two matching tapestries on a sanctuary wall behind the altar add warmth. On the tapestries there is a pattern of wheat with five pods, representing the five wounds of Christ.

A new crucifix, which matches the altar, chair, and ambo, is suspended just below a round window and above the altar.

“I’m pleased with the crucifix,” said Father Dan Kirby, pastor. “We had a small one. In this big space, we need to have something that draws people’s attention.”

New lights were installed last November after the parish realized the crucifix was a bit dark. Immediately, the shadow showed two crosses, one on other side of Jesus when the lights were turned off to the sanctuary. The lights on the crucifix remain on at all times.

A few weeks after the lights were installed, it was noticed that behind the crucifix, there is an image that appears to be a chalice.

Also added was an icon of the crucifixion with St. John the Apostle. Created by an iconographer in Wisconsin, it is located near the baptismal font and has a bank of candles in front of it.

“The main structure of the church is beautiful,” he said.

In consultation with a parish committee, he wanted to create

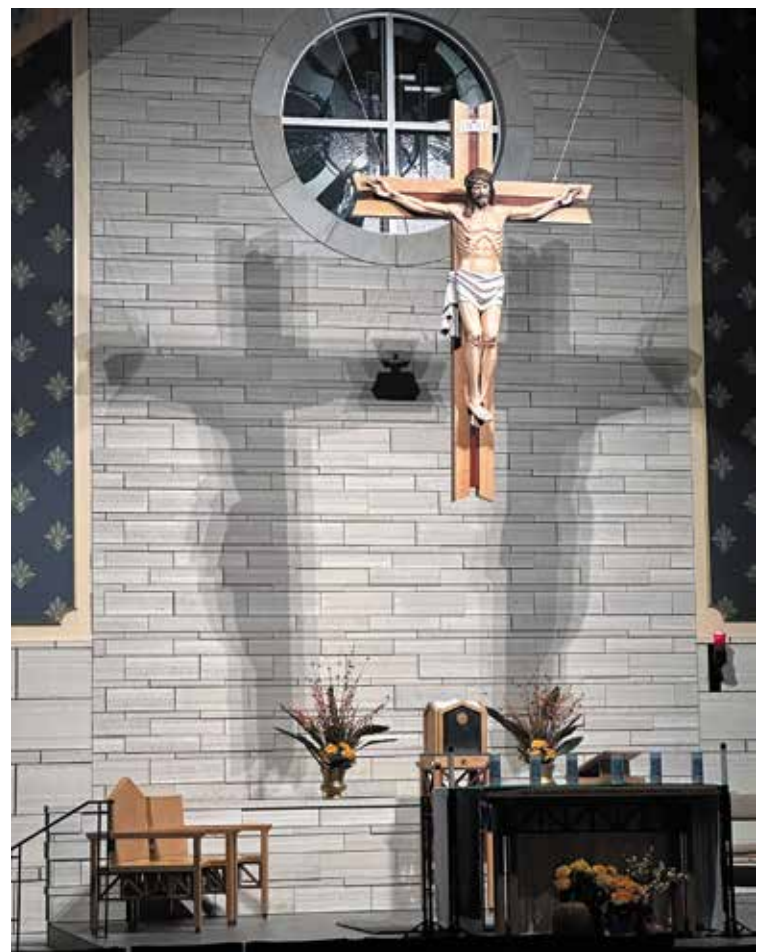


Photo by Deacon Eric Pugh

With new lighting in the sanctuary at St. John the Apostle Church in Norwalk, one can see shadows of two crosses on the wall with what appears to be a chalice in the middle, directly behind the crucifix.

a little more difference between the other parts of the building and the church. The building includes the worship space, office space, a gathering area, and a social hall.

The changes provide a sense of the transcendence, said Father Kirby.

“It’s to lift people up to a sense of the sacred,” he said.

Knights support deacon formation class



Members of the St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 12422 presented Deacon Jim Houston, Director of the Permanent Diaconate of the Des Moines Diocese, with a check on Dec. 11. The donation is to be used for training materials and for instruction to the members of the current diaconate class.

ENCOUNTER THE EUCHARIST

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Community Choice Convention

Center in Des Moines, IA

VIP access at 5:00pm

Event Begins at 7:00pm



Scan to buy tickets

Tickets:

\$100 General Admission

\$300 VIP

Iowa Catholic Radio | 1355 50th St. Suite 500, West Des Moines, IA 50266

Iowa Catholic Radio is a 501(c)(3) organization



IGNITE!
A LIFE. A CHURCH. A COMMUNITY.
Campaign for the
Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

“May the abundant graces God bestows in Jesus flow from our laps into the lives of others for generations to come.”

BISHOP WILLIAM M. JOENSEN

Dear Friends in Christ,

St. Paul encouraged a local church, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6). Three years ago, we were inspired to initiate an undertaking that promises to renew and enrich our local church, the Diocese of Des Moines. Today, I am so moved by your response—a response so robust it’s making an indelible mark on our collective faith communities.

Like the hardy group of Christ’s first followers, your selfless participation in the IGNITE! Campaign has become a cornerstone for future endeavors. I am deeply edified by your commitment, for it spurs our ongoing mission to cultivate encounters, friendship, and communion in Christ. Through your generous contributions, you have helped extend the path for intangible blessings, ranging from forming the minds and souls of future generations to accompanying those who have devoted their lives to pastoral service.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all who have participated in this transformative endeavor. Your stewardship will produce enduring fruit, ensuring that the Gospel of God’s Kingdom will be proclaimed and lived throughout our Diocese and beyond! May God’s grace and abundant blessings abide with you and all whom you hold in your hearts.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William M. Joensen, Ph.D.



Transforming the Di

Catholic Schools: Empowering Faith & Academic Excellence



Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Church, are collaborative communities dedicated to spiritual formation and academic excellence. Students grow in faith and wisdom, emerging as responsible citizens committed to lifelong discipleship.

The Diocese of Des Moines has long recognized the importance of our Catholic schools and made them one of the priorities of the Ignite! Campaign. Fifty-six percent of the campaign goal was allocated to address challenges faced by our Catholic schools, where funding traditionally relies on tuition. This model is no longer sufficient, prompting a new approach to sustain and grow Catholic education.

The Ignite! Capital Campaign funding of our Catholic schools will focus on tuition assistance. Recently, the state's recognition of parental choice through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) has opened the door to many families who want to choose a Catholic education for their child.

While ESAs are a tremendous resource, they don't fully address the rising costs of education – that is where the Ignite! Campaign will further the mission of our schools.

Historically, school budgets have been supplemented by parish contributions – some as high as 80% of the total budget. This is why the Ignite! Campaign funding is so critical to the ongoing growth and success of our Catholic schools. As tuition matches the true cost to educate each student, we need to have the Ignite! funding available to ensure access to all students in need.

This year, 304 students across the Diocese received tuition assistance through the Diocesan Tuition Assistance fund, which is supported by the Ignite! Campaign. Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA) distributed \$213,760 this school year to families in need, with countless more to benefit in the years to come.

The Diocesan Schools Office has implemented a plan to align administrator, faculty, and staff compensation with market rates as well as to enhance facilities and technology to support the academic and faith-based needs of students. For many years, these important aspects of education were put on the back burner as schools ran lean budgets to ensure tuition was affordable.

Your ongoing support—through fulfilling your Ignite! campaign pledge, tithing, and volunteering—plays a vital role in the mission of Catholic education. Together, we are building a legacy of Catholic values, nurturing future leaders, and providing families the opportunity to choose an education rooted in faith.

Seminarian Support

At the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Matthew Johll was reminded of why he was studying to be a priest for the Diocese of Des Moines.

“The Holy Mass is the source and summit of our faith,” he said. As a seminarian, he looks forward to celebrating that sacrament and making Jesus in the Eucharist available to people.

“The whole purpose of priesthood is to be at the service of the people of God,” Johll explained.

He is grateful for the support those people have already shown to him and his brother seminarians through the Ignite! Capital Campaign. Eleven percent of the three-year campaign, which raised \$37 million, was earmarked for Seminarian Support. Those funds will augment the Diocesan Seminarian Fund.

“Training seminarians has to be one of our top priorities,” said Father Ross Parker, diocesan director of Vocations. Johll began his study of theology this fall at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY. Also helping the diocesan seminarians to “configure themselves to Christ for the sake of his church” are St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

There are seven men at this stage of their formation. The Diocese pays for their room and board, as well as their books, and provides a monthly stipend so they can devote themselves entirely to their studies.

Additionally, four men from southwest Iowa are studying philosophy at St. Pius X Seminary, located at Loras College in Dubuque. Father Parker said the Diocese gives them a grant to help with their education.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Campaign funds will allow the Diocese of Des Moines to support as many as 20 or 25 seminarians. That will be helpful, since Father Parker is seeing more interest from young men who are looking to 2025.

“That's going to be really nice to have those funds,” he said. “That will give us a buffer when our numbers increase, which I think they will.”

“People are so generous to vocations,” said Cathy Jordan, coordinator of Vocations. “I'm always humbled by how much people are willing to give and to support our seminarians.”

So is Johll. “I'm very grateful for all the funding that the Diocese has and the generosity of the people,” he said. “And, to know there are a lot of people praying for me and for my brother seminarians is very powerful.”



Diocese of Des Moines



Priest Retirement Support

Retired Fathers John Acra, David Polich, and Gregory Leach remain involved in various ministries throughout the Diocese.

They may step back from active ministry in retirement, but priests never stop being priests.

Support for the Ignite! Capital Campaign is “essential” to helping retired priests, said Monsignor Ed Hurley, who has been working with the diocesan Priests’ Pension Fund Society for nearly 40 years.

He is deeply appreciative of the supporters of the campaign because the need continues to grow.

Ongoing ministry

Priests continue to serve long after they retire. “The majority of retired priests offer weekend Mass coverage when parish priests are on vacation,” said Msgr. Hurley.

“When parishes have communal penance services, the helpers they bring in are often retired priests,” he added.

Support is vital

In honor of their long service and recognizing the responsibility to care for these men for the

rest of their lives, the Diocese of Des Moines made support for priests’ retirement a focus of the Ignite! Capital Campaign. At the end of the three-year campaign, \$37 million had been pledged, with \$2 million of it earmarked for retired priests.

The Diocese of Des Moines has 43 retired priests with 38 fully vested in the retirement plan, said Msgr. Hurley. Five receive partial pensions.

Not all priests serving in the Diocese are covered by the Priests’ Pension Fund Society. Contributions are made to the home dioceses or religious communities of international priests temporarily serving in southwest Iowa to help them prepare for their retirement.

The Diocese has a Contingency Fund designed to help priests as needed, said Msgr. Hurley. The Diocese also provides “very good health insurance as well as a supplementary plan.

Priests are expected to provide their own living expenses after retirement, so they are encouraged to participate in the 403b plan offered to diocesan employees. Their employer, generally a parish or school, matches a portion of their contribution.

In addition, the Diocese fully pays for medical insurance for retired priests. The capital campaign supports this.

Ongoing need

A portion of the Annual Diocesan Appeal goes to the pension fund and priests often include the fund in their wills. But to maintain the fund, additional contributions must be added each year. That’s why capital campaigns are vital.

Ongoing support from parishioners for retired priests is essential. “We need to have their support in the coming years,” said Msgr. Hurley.

A group of diocesan seminarians, along with Father Max Carson, assistant director of Vocations, visited the National Eucharistic Congress this past summer.



led to serve

Parish Share

Michele Brant knows that when it comes to raising money for a capital campaign it takes a village, and she’s proud of the way St. John Parish in Greenfield was able to support the Diocese of Des Moines’ Ignite! Capital Campaign.

She’s grateful for the campaign funding that will support this small Adair County faith community through the “Parish Share.”

The Ignite! Capital Campaign raised \$37 million, with 17 percent designated for sharing with parishes. Parish Share is what is returned to the parish once their individual goals are met. For St. John, this translates into about 25 percent.

The Parish Share may be used for approved specific needs. The only exception is using the money for operating expenses.

At St. John, where there are 155 registered families, parishioners pledged \$58,345 to the Ignite! cam-

aign. They have paid 75 percent of that, according to Brant, who is the parish’s finance chair. They have started to receive their share from the Diocese and will apply those dollars to replacing the old heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the church. The estimated cost of the project is \$65,000. The parish share funds will cover about 15 percent of that.

Projects in parishes across the diocese are supported through the capital campaign, said Norm Bormann, diocesan director of Property Management, Safety and Security.

“Some of these projects wouldn’t happen or would be harder to accomplish if it wasn’t for the manner in which these capital campaigns are done, where some of the money goes back to parish,” he said.

The campaign saves the parishes from having to run their own capital campaigns, Bormann said.

“This was worthwhile and we’re happy with it,” Brant said, adding, “I’ve always been very proud of our parish and the way we’ve responded.”

Parish Renewal & Vibrancy

Dreams come in all shapes and sizes, and the Ignite! Capital Campaign is helping the parishes and ministries of the Diocese of Des Moines name them, plan for them, and bring them to life.

About 9 percent of the \$37 million raised during the three-year campaign was devoted to Parish Mission Renewal and Vibrancy, with \$70,000 in “micro investments” awarded in the first year alone. Campaign literature says it was 8 percent of the \$45 million goal.

“The Diocese can do some big things, but where most people are going to feel God’s grace, love and mercy is going to be in their parish community or their Catholic school or at a retreat center,” according to John Gaffney, diocesan director of Evangelization and Mission. “What we wanted to do, at the very core, is say, ‘What’s holding you back from being able to do that? And what happens if the money is not what holds you back?’”

DREAMS FULFILLED

The Parish Mission Renewal Endowment Fund will ultimately have \$5.75 million—with \$3.25 million from the Ignite! campaign and \$2.5 million from the Excellence in Education Capital Campaign, which was conducted by retired Bishop Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S.

Drawing 3.75 percent of the principal would provide a little more than \$200,000 each year to help parishes dream about how to spread the Gospel to an even greater extent once the Parish Missional Renewal Endowment Fund is fully funded, Gaffney said.

The first round of grants included \$10,000 for Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs, which enabled the parish to purchase 25 handheld translators. Father Luis Mejia, the pastor, said this has made Corpus Christi one community with two languages, Spanish and English. The devices operate through the sound system and can be used with headphones to provide a translation of the homily and Mass parts from one language into the other. It is also beneficial for parishioners with hearing difficulties.

“People feel more engaged in the liturgy,” said Father Mejia. “It’s not just that ‘I have to go to Mass because it is my Sunday obligation,’ but ‘I leave church with something in my heart.’”

FOR THE GOOD OF ALL

Some funds are being used for projects that are good for the whole Diocese, said Gaffney. One example is a workshop that informed parish leaders, staff and volunteers about the new Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

In addition, the St. Thomas More Center in Panora received a little more than \$6,500 to host a Family Camp last Oct. 18-20. This “micro investment” also enabled the center to offer confirmation retreats, featuring NET Ministries, this past September and plans to have one May 9-10, 2025, said Jason Anderson, the center’s executive director.

“The financial support of the Diocese allows us to be able to try something, to be able to do something new,” Anderson said. “That means a lot.”



Corpus Christi parishioners celebrated this summer at the annual parish festival.



With help from the Ignite! Campaign, family camp, confirmation retreats, and more are being introduced at St. Thomas More Center.

Stories written by Jennifer Willems

A Historical Achievement for the Diocese of Des Moines



- \$37 million raised
- 7 gifts of \$500,000+
- 257 gifts of 20,000+
- 1,106 gifts of \$5,000+
- 7,129 Donors
- 1/3 of parishes surpassed goal
- 900+ volunteers
- \$2,645 average household gift
- 34% of registered households participated

The Ignite! campaign is an opportunity to honor the sacrifices of those who came before us by following their example and passing our faith on to future generations. Please join us in making our vision for the Catholic Church strong in southwest Iowa by pledging or fulfilling your pledge online. Scan the QR code at right or visit www.DMDiocese.org/giving/ignite

To make unique gifts such as stock, grain or IRA, please contact the Office of Stewardship at Stewardship@DMDiocese.org or call 515-237-5079.

SCAN



St. Albert runner wins every race, sets state record

**By Ryan Johnson
Contributing Writer**

Imagine running your first high school cross country race and finishing first. Then, consider the endurance it takes to win every race of the season and set a new state meet record in under 18 minutes. That's exactly what Lili Denton did this fall.

What's even more amazing is Lili had never run cross country until the fall season. The junior at St. Albert Catholic High School in Council Bluffs traditionally played volleyball each new school year. Come spring, she traded her court shoes for running spikes for the school's track team as a long-distance runner.

"I was in sixth or seventh grade when I started running," said Denton. "My mom, Stephanie, motivated me. She used to run, and we'd run together."

Based on her success running in 3,000 and 1,500 events in track, her coach, Bob Weidman, encouraged her to run on the cross country team in addition to playing volleyball. She managed to do both this fall and maintain academic success. It's not the first time she's competed in two sports in the same season. In addition to running on the track team, she plays for the high school soccer team.

Win after win

At her first cross country meet of the year in Glenwood, Denton ran a 17:57 in the girls varsity 5K race. Remarkably, it was her best time of the season. Although a fall sport and normally cooler than summer training, September and October were unseasonably hot, making for a grueling cross country season for Denton and her teammates.

As the season went on, Lili remained undefeated in her high school cross country meets. She qualified to run at the girls state cross country meet at Lakeside Golf Course in Fort Dodge on Saturday, Nov. 2. She not only finished first in Class 1A, she set a new state record for her class, finishing the 5K race at 17:59, nearly 30 seconds ahead of the next runner.

"I walked into every race with a clear mindset," she said. "I ended up really liking it. I was glad that I went out for cross country and that I could do it in addition to volleyball."

Rooted in Faith

Denton stays grounded in her success thanks to her Catholic faith. Her Catholic upbringing coupled with her education at Catholic schools provided the foundation she needs to maintain focus on her priorities in life, namely God and the Church.

Running and living our Cath-

olic faith take discipline. The Bible speaks of discipline, including in 1 Corinthians 9:25, "Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one."

A routine helps Denton maintain her focus and her faith. This includes getting enough sleep, eating the right type of foods and preparing for each meet. Before each meet, she makes a mental checklist of what she needs and wants to accomplish.

"My faith plays a big role in my life, especially going to a Catholic school and going to Mass every Wednesday," said Denton. "We have religion class four days a week. And attending Mass on weekends at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Council Bluffs."

Before each race, Denton and her teammates gather together for a team prayer, further demonstrating their faith.

"At state, it was a bigger field of girls, and I didn't really know what was going to happen," said Denton. "I gave everything to God, knowing he had a plan for me."

Looking ahead, Denton aspires to run cross country and track in college. No doubt she will take her faith with her regardless of where she continues her education and athletic competitions.



Lili Denton is supported after a race last fall. The St. Albert Catholic School student in Council Bluffs had an outstanding cross country season setting a state record.

A/V ministry support forming for parish livestreamers

A new group is forming in the Diocese for those who minister by providing livestream video of Masses or other liturgies for their parishes.

The purpose is to increase each other's ability to manage and operate audio/video systems through skill building and collaboration, thereby more effectively evangelizing the world by sharing the beauty of the Catholic Church through the internet.

The group sees collaborative efforts providing peer-to-peer training, professional training, sharing of online training resources, and more.

To learn how you can be a part of this supportive group, contact Lee Burlison at lburliso@hotmail.com or 515-729-3371.

Are you a Licensed Mental Health Professional?

Join the Diocese of Des Moines Mental Health Referral Network. The Office of Marriage and Family Life is looking for more local clinicians who would like to support Catholic families and individuals seeking mental health care that aligns with and respects our Catholic beliefs and values. We are especially in need of therapists who can provide services in other languages, especially Spanish or Vietnamese.

If you are interested in joining or for more information about this program, please contact John Gaffney, interim director of Marriage and Family Life and Director Evangelization and Mission jgaffney@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5026.



SCOTT HAHN

Study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today's most respected scholars.



Saturday, March 1
8:00 am - 12:05 pm

St. Francis of Assisi
7075 Ashworth
West Des Moines

FREE

sfaprays.com/hahn




Seeing service in a new light

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines, serves with a mission to empower individuals and strengthen families.

I am pleased to now serve as executive director of this mission-centered organization.

As a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Urbandale, I have always known about Catholic Charities and the work they do in the community. Now, I get to see first-hand the impact every one of our programs has on our neighbors in need.

I was given the opportunity to volunteer at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry shortly after I started. It was a great experience serving clients alongside our dedicated volunteers, some of whom are my fellow parishioners.

I was surprised to learn that 600-700 bags of food are given out every day and even more individuals are impacted through the monthly program. The food pantry is a lively place that brings us the

Catholic Charities



By Mike Sheehy

opportunity to serve those in need as Christ did.

Recently, I visited the Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program in Council Bluffs. I was blown away by the dedication of the team and everything they do to serve survivors across nine counties in southwest Iowa.

I gained a new perspective on just how vital programs like this are for those who are hurting.

Before starting at Catholic Charities, I knew the most about the Catholic Charities

Emergency Family Shelter because my wife and I provide a monthly meal to those living in the shelter. This is something we are grateful to continue to do, now with an inside look at the difference these meals make.

I am inspired by everything these families are doing to rebuild their lives.

I am also constantly impressed by the work the Catholic Charities Refugee Services team does for our refugee clients who are escaping persecution to start anew in Des Moines. I had the opportunity to welcome a family to Des Moines and it was heartwarming to see a family reunited and excited for their new life here in Iowa.

There is no doubt of the immense good Catholic Charities does for our Diocese. There is a consistent and growing need for programs like the ones we offer. Our clients receive life-changing care that supports them in their time of struggle.

Catholic Charities has a great history of

rising to meet the needs of our community. I am pleased to be a part of this great legacy of serving the most vulnerable and looking at ways to address the new needs we are seeing.

I encourage others to get involved with Catholic Charities to see first-hand the great impact we have on the community.

You will be impressed by the nimbleness of the organization and the passion with which the staff and volunteers serve.

An hour of your time as a volunteer, a financial donation during this end-of-year giving season, or a contribution of necessities to our programs are all ways you can serve through Catholic Charities.

More information can be found at catholiccharitiesdm.org/get-involved.

Mike Sheehy is the executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines, and a parishioner at St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale.

Holy Day schedules

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. We 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) and has been celebrated on Dec. 25 since the first centuries of the Church. 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 six months apart. In the gospel, John the Baptist said about Jesus, "He must increase



Father John Ludwig

I've Been Wondering...

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 particular to each country 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.

Father John Ludwig is a retired priest of the Diocese of Des Moines. Send questions to communications@dmdiocese.org.

From saints to celebrities:

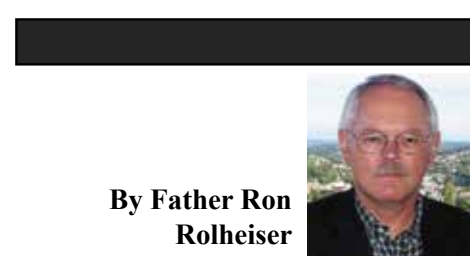
Our evolution in admiration & imitation

When I was a young boy growing up in a Catholic community, the catechesis of the time tried to inspire the hearts of the young with stories of martyrs, saints, and other people who lived out high ideals in terms of virtue and faith. I remember one story in particular which inspired me, the story of a third-century Christian martyr, St. Tarcisus.

As legend (or truth) has it, Tarcisus was a twelve-year-old acolyte during the time of the early Christian persecutions. At that time, Christians in Rome were celebrating the Eucharist in secret in the catacombs. After those secret masses, a deacon or an acolyte would carry the Eucharistic species, the Blessed Sacrament, to the sick and to prisoners. One day, after one of those secret masses, young Tarcisus was carrying the Blessed Sacrament enroute to a prison when he was accosted by a mob. He refused to hand over the Blessed Sacrament, protected it with his own body, and was beaten to death as a result.

As a twelve-year-old boy, that story inflamed my romantic imagination. I yearned for that kind of ideal in my life. In my young imagination, Tarcisus was the kind of hero that I wanted to be.

We've come a long way since then, both in our culture and in our churches. We are no longer moved much romantically by either the saints of old or the saints of today. Yes, we still make an official place for



By Father Ron Rolheiser

them in our churches and in our abstract ideals, but we are now, in effect, moved much more by the lives of the rich, the famous, the beautiful, our pop stars, our professional athletes, the physically gifted, and the intellectually gifted. They now inflame our imaginations, draw our admiration, and it's them we want to be like.

In the early nineteenth century, Alban Butler, an English convert, collected stories of the lives of the saints and eventually set them together in twelve volume set, famously known as Butler's Lives of the Saints. For nearly two hundred years, these books inspired Christians, young and old. No longer.

Today, Butler's Lives of the Saints has effectively been replaced by multiple magazines, podcasts, and websites which chronicle the lives of the rich and famous and stare out at us from our phones, our laptops, and from every newsstand and grocery store checkout line.

In effect, we have moved: from St. Tarcisus to Justin Bieber; from Therese

of Lisieux to Taylor Swift; from Thomas Aquinas to Tom Brady; from St. Monica to Meryl Streep; from St. Augustine to Mark Zuckerberg; from Julian of Norwich to Oprah; and from the first African American saint, St. Martin de Porres, to LeBron James. It's these people who now inflame our romantic imagination and whom we would most want to be like.

Don't get me wrong, it's not that these people are bad or that there's anything wrong with admiring them. Indeed, we owe them some admiration because all beauty and talent take their origin in God who is the author of all good things. From a saint's virtue to a movie star's physical beauty, to an athlete's grace, there's only one author at the origin of it all, God.

Thomas Aquinas once rightly pointed out that to withhold a compliment from someone who deserves it is a sin because we are withholding food that someone else needs to live on. Beauty, talent, and grace need to be recognized and acknowledged. Admiration is not the issue. Rather, the issue is that while we need to admire and acknowledge talent, grace, and beauty, these do not in themselves radiate virtue and saintliness. We shouldn't automatically identify human grace with moral virtue, though that's the temptation today.

As well, a weakness in our churches today is that while we have vastly refined and upgraded our intellectual imagination and

now have better and healthier theological and biblical studies, we struggle to touch hearts. While we have more power to satisfy the intellect, we struggle to touch the heart, that is, we struggle to get people to fall in love with their faith and especially with their churches. We struggle to inflame their romantic imagination, as we once did by invoking the lives of the saints.

Where might we go with all of this? Can we find saints again who inflame our ideals? Can the fine work on hagiography (on the lives of the saints and other moral giants) being done today by Robert Ellsberg become the new Butler's Lives of the Saints? Can secular biographies of some moral giants in our own age draw our imitation? Can the life of a Dag Hammarskjöld become for us a moral and faith inspiration? Is there a new Therese of Lisieux out there?

Today, more than ever, we need inspiring stories about women and men, young and old, who have lived out heroic virtue. We need moral exemplars, moral mentors. Otherwise, we cheat ourselves by simplistically identifying human grace with moral virtue.

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

Year-end farewell at Emmaus House

Kevin O'Donnell stepped down as director of Emmaus House, a center for spiritual companionship and contemplation, in Urbandale on Dec. 4.

The Board of Directors for Emmaus House named associate director April Young as the new director effective Dec. 4.

O'Donnell was hired as co-director in 2018, and with the retirement of Father Dan Krettek took on the role as director.

During O'Donnell's time of service, Emmaus House completed a successful capital campaign and relocation in 2020 from the Sherman Hill neighborhood in Des Moines to Urbandale, as well as adjusting programming during the pandemic.

Jim Egger, chairman of the Emmaus House Board of Directors, said: "On behalf of the

Emmaus Community, I express gratitude for Kevin's service through the pivotal experiences of relocating the Center and navigating the challenge of COVID. I enthusiastically welcome his successor, April Young, who is very well-suited to guide our programs into the next 50 years of ministry."

Young brings a range of pastoral and institutional experience to her new role.

She has served as associate director at Emmaus House since October 2022. Previously, she served as director of mission integration for CHI Living Communities, pastoral ministry at St. Theresa Parish, and administrative and pastoral roles within the diocesan offices in Des Moines.

Young holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Care from Fordham

University and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction and Retreats from Creighton University.

Emmaus House is a ministry of the Diocese of Des Moines and is open to people of all faiths.

Located at 3315 70th St. in Urbandale, it offers hospitality, companionship, spiritual direction, and a place for quiet prayer and reflection.

Earlier this year, it celebrated its 50th anniversary of service in the Diocese of Des Moines.



Kevin O'Donnell

Tune in to "Making It Personal With Bishop Joensen" to hear Bishop's weekly podcast, available at iowacatholicradio.com. Hear local and national Catholics share their stories of faith.

Upcoming shows include:

- Dec. 21: Professor Charles Camosy takes a broad look at healthcare issues.
- Dec. 28: Iowa State Trooper Kenny Jensen reflects on his experiences during the Greenfield tornado.



Consejero Sobre Asistencia de Víctimas

El Consejero sobre Asistencia de Víctimas es un empleado de Polk County Victim Services. Ella ayuda a víctimas de abuso sexual por parte del clero durante el proceso de la queja y buscando servicios de apoyo y consejería. Pueden comunicarse al 515-286-2028 o en advocate@dmdiocese.org.



To keep our students on the road to success, Dowling Catholic High School relies on the generosity of those who support the We Are Maroons Annual Appeal. The Annual Appeal helps ensure our students and teachers have the resources they need to be successful and impacts every aspect of the DCHS experience, including faith and academic programming, student activities, athletics and the arts.

Now is the perfect time to make a gift to DCHS. As we approach the end of the year, we are seeing more and more supporters choose to donate:

- Shares of stock
- Donor Advised Funds
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA (donors 70 1/2 and older)

These options may provide favorable tax benefits with the flexibility to support DCHS!

Your support can truly make a difference in preparing Leaders for Life, Centered on Christ. To donate, please visit www.dowlingcatholic.org/donate or mail a check to Dowling Catholic High School, 1400 Buffalo Road, West Des Moines, IA 50265.



Join Bishop William M. Joensen and Rev. Trevor Chicoine

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

Departure is Wednesday, August 27, 2025 and we return on Sunday, September 7, 2025.

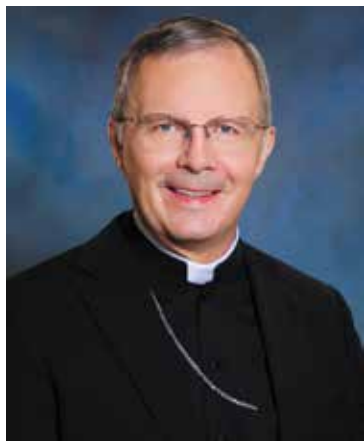
During our 9 nights in France, we will visit Paris, Lourdes, Lyon, Vichy, Paray-le-Monial, Ars-sur-Forman, Avignon, Arles, Aix-en-Provence, Marseille, and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. This exciting program will include daily Mass at local churches and basilicas, a spiritual journey through the Basilique de Sacre-Coeur, dinner cruise along the Seine, tour the of the Roman ruins, and so much more! Participants should expect to walk during much of the tours as this tour will certainly help you get your daily steps in!

The trip price per person is tentatively \$6,559* and includes topnotch accommodations for 9 nights (based on double occupancy), breakfast and dinner daily, ground transportation within France, all gratuities, entry tickets to iconic monuments and sights, and expert guides provided by our travel partner. *Pricing will be finalized 6 months prior to departure (due to airfare).* Trip insurance is not provided by the travel agency, but is strongly recommended.



With only 58 spots available, this trip will book quickly. If you would like more information or a brochure, email Sue McEntee at smcentee@cfswia.org or call 515-393-5239. To guarantee your spot(s) for this trip, email Natalie Delph at Witte Travel at natalied@wittetravel.com or call 616-957-8113.

Peregrinos de Esperanza



Obispo William Joensen

Esta Noche Buena en Roma, el Papa Francisco va a inaugurar el Jubileo Ordinario del Año 2025 abriendo la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro. Este es probablemente el mayor evento dentro del catolicismo desde el inicio del milenio en el año 2000, más aún incluso que el Jubileo Extraordinario de la Misericordia en el 2015. Este Jubileo lleva el tema, "Peregrinos de Esperanza."

Por pura curiosidad, estuve repasando las oraciones correspondientes, incluyendo los prefacios, de las Misas de Noche Buena y de las tres Misas del Día de Navidad. En ninguna de éstas se menciona la palabra 'esperanza.' ¿Por qué será? Creo que esto dependo en lo que entendemos por esperanza y en la dinámica de nuestras vidas. El Santo Padre, en su "Bula" declarando el Año Santo, "La Esperanza No Defrauda"

(ver Romanos 5:5), describe el sentido de esperanza que es familiar para todos: "En el corazón de toda persona anida la esperanza como deseo y expectativa del bien, aun ignorando lo que traerá consigo el mañana" (Spes non confundit/SNC n. 1). Santo Tomás añadiría que un elemento clave de la Esperanza es que el bien que se busca no es algo seguro pero que puede lograrse con dificultad – puede convertirse en algo real para nosotros. No espero una luna llena, pero espero que los investigadores descubran una cura contra el cáncer. Por lo tanto, me gusta la definición de esperanza que nos ofrece Lance Morrow, el recientemente fallecido ensayista de la Revista Times: "La esperanza es la bondad en una situación difícil."

Entonces, cuando se nos presenta el bien que hemos estado buscando y nos llenamos de alegría, la esperanza se desvanece porque hemos logrado nuestros tan esperados deseos. Así en la Navidad, cuando finalmente llega el Mesías prometidos por años al insignificante establo de Belén y es anunciado por los ángeles a los pastores, adorado por los Magos como el destino del largo trayecto desde Oriente, y meditado por María quien tomaba en su corazón todo lo que se decía y hacía su hijo, entonces la esperanza sale de escena y la cel-

bración contemplativa llena de maravilla toma su lugar. Estando ante la Escena de la Natividad o el tabernáculo, los obispos latinoamericanos, en su documento de Aparecida nos motivan, "Estamos ante Cristo y en su presencia, 'el amor se detiene, contempla el misterio y lo disfruta en silencio'" (ver Dilexit nos/DN n. 57).

Pero el gozo de la Navidad en este lado de la moneda incluso para los hijos de la nueva Eva, María, no es perdurable – para bien o para mal. Cuántos niños y adultos, luego de abrir sus regalos de Navidad y de haber recibido las cosas que tenían en su lista, sintieron que se derretían otros deseos internos en vez de simplemente enforcarse en lo que han recibido. La esperanza parece superficial cuando no está fundada en una profunda gratitud por la presencia (no por los presentes) que Dios mismo nos da en su Hijo.

Más virtuosamente, Jesús, incluso cuando lo acaricia María, es un niño en movimiento, con una misión que cumplir. Nuestro Infante Señor parte del establo en Belén: a ser presentado en el Templo en donde es aclamado por Simeón y por Ana, quienes han estado esperando fielmente por este niño lo que parece ser una eternidad. La esperanza de sus vidas se ha cumplido, incluso a la vez que ellos motivan la fe

en nosotros de que el drama de la salvación apenas comienza a desarrollarse.

Jesús huye a Egipto con sus padres para escapar de la furia de Herodes. La Sagrada Familia regresa a Nazaret eventualmente, en donde cada año, como judíos responsables, van a Jerusalén para la Pascua. Es ahí donde la identidad de Jesús como el Hijo de Dios se manifiesta nuevamente en la intimidad que conlleva al hablar en la casa de su Padre.

El último peregrinar de esperanza para Jesús y para todos los católicos y cristianos es el camino de nuestras vidas desde que entramos al mundo hasta con el Padre en el cielo. Como nos recuerda el Papa Francisco, "Jesús desea raernos al Padre. Es por esto por lo que, desde el principio, las predicaciones de la Iglesia no terminan con Jesús, sino con el Padre." Como uno de sus predecesores, San Juan Pablo II, menciona, "la plenitud de la vida cristiana es una gran peregrinación a la casa del Padre." "La vida de Jesús entre nosotros fue un camino en respuesta a el constante llamado de su corazón humano a venir al Padre" (DN nn. 70-72).

Qué apropiado es que la observación del Año Jubilar en la Diócesis de Des Moines va a comenzar oficialmente el domingo 29 de diciembre, la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia. Comenzaremos con una mini peregrinación portando la reliquia de la Verdadera Cruz de Cristo del Centro Pastoral Católico en el centro de Des Moines al otro lado de la calle ha-

cia la Catedral de San Ambrosio, en donde celebraremos a las 3 pm la Misa de la Fiesta con el clero y los laicos de la Diócesis. ¡Por favor consideren unirse a nosotros!

Y de allí, ya sea como individuos, grupos pequeños o entre parroquias, se llevarán a cabo las peregrinaciones hacia las cinco iglesias designadas específicamente a lo largo de la Diócesis durante el Año Jubilar. (Para más detalles favor de leer el artículo incluido en esta edición de The Catholic Mirror en la página 3). Estas peregrinaciones deben llevarse a cabo en esperanza, y deben ser experiencias que fortalezcan e intensifiquen nuestra esperanza personal. Estos deben ser encuentros con el amor divino infinito y humano de Jesús que radia desde su corazón Eucarístico en el tabernáculo, en la custodia y preminentemente en la Santa Misa.

Otras devociones "decorarán" aún más nuestra esperanza al tomar tiempo en oración y permitiendo que Jesús no entregue su afecto hacia nosotros, su deseo de acompañarnos en cada paso del camino que ha planeado para nosotros. El tercer y final año de nuestro Reavivamiento Eucarístico nacional se converge con el Jubileo en el llamado del Reavivamiento de "caminar juntos" orando, invitando y acompañando a los demás como una "fiesta ambulante" migrando hacia la fuente y meta de toda la misericordia y vida de Dios. De

Continued from page 15

Pilgrims of Hope

Continued from page 2

ually spill over into mine; in what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse. So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death." "It is never too late to touch the heart

of another, nor is it ever in vain. . . . Our hope is always essentially hope for others; only thus is it truly hope for me, too" (Spe salvi n. 48).

May God pour out the graces of renewed hope and deepened connection with Jesus and those whom he has placed in your lives as we accompany one another throughout this Jubilee Year!

Part time Music Coordinator

The Music Coordinator facilitates the worship life of the parish community through music and liturgical planning, preparation, and coordination. The qualified candidate will be a practicing Catholic with knowledge of scripture, liturgy and liturgical music and be proficient in at least one performance area, keyboard, choral, voice, etc. Personal or professional experience in music leadership preferred. Please send your resume, cover letter and references to Rev. Michael Hutchison, office@stjohnsadel.org.

Director of Faith Formation

St. John's Catholic Church in Adel is seeking a Director of Faith Formation. The full-time (35 hour week) position includes benefits with a flexible schedule. Located west of the Des Moines Metro area, St. John's is a growing parish community. This leadership position is responsible for the overall planning and implementation of the religious education and sacramental preparation of the parish. More information can be found on our Parish Website: www.stjohnsadel.org



Edencrest

YOUR

Refreshing

NEXT CHAPTER

HIGHMARK
SENIOR LIVING

Hubbell

EDENCRESTLIVING.COM



BEAVERDALE Des Moines
3410 Beaver Avenue | 515.416.6200
Todd McNamara
todd.mcnamara@edencrestliving.com

GREEN MEADOWS Johnston
6750 Corporate Drive | 515.585.6063
Antoinette Deleon
antoinette.deleon@edencrestliving.com

KETTLESTONE Waukee
805 SE Tallgrass Lane | 515.499.4422
Shelly Timm
shelly.timm@edencrestliving.com

TIMBERLINE Urbandale
14001 Douglas Pkwy | 515.420.1968
Marti McMahan
marti.mcmahan@edencrestliving.com

THE TUSCANY Altoona
1600 8th street se | 515.808.5358
Tasha Tucker
tasha.tucker@edencrestliving.com

SIENA HILLS Ankeny
455 SW Ankeny Road | 515.526.5908
Jessica Johnson
jessica.johnson@edencrestliving.com

Coming Soon! **PLEASANT HILL** Pleasant Hill
6151 Martha miller Dr | 515.415.3455
Carla Ellerman
carla.ellerman@edencrestliving.com

RIVERWOODS Des Moines
2210 E Park Avenue | 515.207.6660
Karrie Pratt
karrie.pratt@edencrestliving.com

THE LEGACY Norwalk
2901 Cedar Street | 515.599.9021
Jjuan Hakeem
jjuan.hakeem@edencrestliving.com

Pope: Nativity scenes are reminder of Lord's love and tenderness

ROME (CNS) -- Making his customary visit to the Rome Basilica of St. Mary Major to pray before his trip to the French island of Corsica, Pope Francis also met and prayed with dozens of actors staging a living Nativity scene.

For the third year in a row, the basilica and an Italian association that promotes the tradition of Nativity scenes, including living representations, turned the neighborhood around the basilica into a small Bethlehem with the manger on the basilica's steps.

After a noon Mass Dec. 14 celebrated by new Cardinal Rolandus Makrickas, coadjutor archpriest of the basilica, parishes, prayer groups, confraternities and Italian folklore groups provided the actors and the tableau. Marching bands, musicians, singers and dancers performed for the crowd.

Later, after Pope Francis prayed before the Marian icon "Salus Populi Romani," as he does before and after every foreign trip, he met inside the basilica with the living Nativity participants.

With the couple playing Mary and Joseph holding a baby and standing alongside him, Pope Francis told participants, "Christmas always brings us joy. Christmas brings us the tenderness of a baby."

Gazing at a Nativity scene, he said, the newborn baby Jesus "gives us hope," and the image of Mary is a reminder that people can count on "the care of a mother, Our Lady, who accompanies us throughout our lives" and on the example of St. Joseph, who worked to support his family.

Pope Francis also told the crowd that if there was anyone present "who does not have peace in your heart, remember that God forgives everything and God forgives always. Do not be afraid to ask the Lord's pardon because he forgives everything, and he forgives always."

"He came for us, with so much tenderness," the pope said.

On historic Corsica trip, pope says faith and culture need not clash

AJACCIO, France (CNS) -- Pope Francis became the first leader of the Catholic Church to set foot in Corsica, the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte, praising the French island's heritage of popular piety as a bridge between faith and secular culture.

As people become increasingly indifferent toward God's presence and word, particularly in Europe, the church must avoid hasty and ideological judgments that "would pit Christian culture and secular culture against one another," he said in a speech Dec. 15, closing a conference on popular religiosity in the Mediterranean region.

"Instead, it is important to acknowledge a mutual openness between these two horizons," the pope said, noting that expressions of popular piety -- devotional practices such as processions or praying the rosary in common -- evoke the Incarnation by expressing the Christian faith in a specific cultural context while engaging people "who are on the threshold of faith."

"Although they may not practice their faith regularly, popular piety enables them to experience their roots and affections, as well as to encounter ideals and values

that they find useful for their own lives and for society," he said.

Pope Francis began the 47th international trip of his pontificate by arriving in Ajaccio after a 75-minute flight from Rome; he was scheduled to spend just 10 hours on the island.

When he landed, the pope was greeted by Bruno Retailleau, France's minister of the interior. The trip marked the pope's third visit to France -- he traveled to Strasbourg to address the European parliament in 2014 and participated in a meeting of Mediterranean bishops in Marseille in 2023 -- but notably did not travel to Paris for the reopening of the Cathedral of Notre Dame Dec. 7 which was attended by more than 1,500 dignitaries.

People waving Corsican flags lined the streets along the pope's route to the convention center where the conference was being held -- no French flags were visible, reflecting the island's sentiment of being distinct from the rest of France. People on the decks of cruise and cargo ships docked at the city's port were also waving to the pope.

With Cardinal François-Xavier Bustillo of Ajaccio riding with him in the popemobile,

Pope Francis stopped to visit a sixth-century baptistry that had been part of the diocese's first cathedral and was discovered during an excavation project on the island in 2005.

Speaking at the conference in France, which enshrines the separation of religion and civil society in the first article of its constitution, Pope Francis called for an "evolving and dynamic" concept of secularity that is "capable of adapting to different and unforeseen situations and of promoting constant cooperation between civil and ecclesial authorities for the benefit of the whole community."

Although he seemed short of breath at public events in the prior week, the pope read from his prepared remarks without visible signs of difficulty and often put his speech aside to recount anecdotes.

Expressions of popular piety, he said, can nurture "constructive citizenship" in a secular society by spurring Christian groups, such as Corsica's confraternities, to cooperate with civil institutions to perform good works.

Peregrinos de Esperanza

Continued from page 14

nuevo. El Papa Francisco: "La esperanza nace del amor y se basa en el amor que surge del traspasado corazón de Jesús en la cruz" (SNC n. 3).

"La felicidad es nuestra vocación humana, una meta a la que todos aspiramos" (SNC n. 21). Nuestro buen Dios quiere que vivamos la felicidad como lo tiene planeado para nosotros. Él desea que las semillas del Espíritu que ha sembrado en nuestros corazones por la gracia del bautismo y de los demás sacramentos, tomando la palabra de Dios en nuestros corazones, dejándola que haga raíz y que crezca al acompañarnos los unos a los otros en comunión de presencia, aceptación mutua, y una alabanza más perfecta y agradecimiento a nuestro Salvador.

El momento central que se nos ha encomendado en este Jubileo es el encuentro con Jesús en el sacramento de la reconciliación, ya que todos tenemos tensiones y rompimientos directos en las relaciones que debilitan nuestra esperanza y que reducen la experiencia de la comunión. Y en el corazón de corazones, sabemos que nosotros mismo somos al menos la causa parcial de estos insultos a la esperanza. Todos nosotros hemos pecado alejándonos de la gloria de Dios (ver Romanos 3:23). Todos enfrentaremos el juicio de Dios tarde o temprano. Nuestra esperanza nos llama directamente a presentarnos a nosotros mismos como peregrinos

ante Jesús, el juez justo, en la persona de un sacerdote confesor. Todos nos encontramos en algún momento en los puntos más difíciles hasta que Dios restaura la bondad que genera su amor, la esperanza que sana, la amistad que nos ofrece.

El sacramento de la reconciliación es una receta de esperanza renovada. El fallecido Papa Bene-

dicto anticipó nuestro presente Jubileo al reflexionar en "Esperanza que Salva": "Nuestras existencias están en profunda comunión entre sí, entrelazadas unas con otras a través de múltiples interacciones. Nadie vive solo. Ninguno peca solo. Nadie se salva solo. En mi vida entra continuamente la de los otros: en lo que pienso, digo, me ocupo o hago. Y viceversa, mi

vida entra en la vida de los demás, tanto en el bien como en el mal. Así, mi intercesión en modo alguno es algo ajeno para el otro, algo externo, ni siquiera después de la muerte." "Nunca es demasiado tarde para tocar el corazón del otro y nunca es inútil... Nuestra esperanza es siempre y esencialmente también esperanza para los otros; sólo así es realmente esper-

anza también para mí." (Spe salvi n. 48).

¡Qué Dios derrame las gracias de una esperanza renovada y un sentido de conexión profunda con Jesús y con aquellos a quienes ha puesto en sus vidas en nuestro acompañamiento mutuo en este Año Jubilar!

More Catholic families trust Iles Funeral Homes thanks to our compassionate, dedicated staff.



Barb Bellizzi - St. John the Apostle
Kelly Broderick - St. Boniface
Mark Dreckman - St. Pius X
Jan Hogan - St. Francis of Assisi
Mary Jo Howe - Sacred Heart
Ted Lockwood - St. Pius X
Mark Masters - St. Boniface

Pat O'Keefe - St. Mary of Nazareth
Brad Rea - Holy Trinity
Al Sieren - St. Patrick's
John Smith - St. Francis of Assisi
Doug Vail - St. Joseph
John Wild - Christ the King
Larry Zahm - St. Joseph



WESTOVER CHAPEL - GRANDVIEW PARK CHAPEL - DUNN'S CHAPEL
NORWALK CHAPEL - SUNDBERG-KIRKPATRICK CHAPEL - BRANDT CHAPEL

www.IlesCares.com



Knights of Columbus®



Lead, they'll follow.



kofc.org/join
Promo Code:
BLESSEDMCGIVNEY




kofc.org/unete
Codigo:
BLESSEDMCGIVNEY



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Wishing You and Your Family a very Blessed Christmas



Michael Bormann
General Agent
563-689-6801
michael.bormann@kofc.org
Eastern Iowa



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



Walker Bormann
Assistant General Agent
563-219-5800
walker.bormann@kofc.org
Eastern Iowa



Jeremy Borchers
Assistant General Agent
402-750-4775
jeremy.borchers@kofc.org
Western Iowa



Donnie Kenkel
Field Agent
712-579-9066
donald.kenkel@kofc.org
Council Bluffs, Atlantic, Red
Oak, Glenwood, Avoca/Walnut,
Shenandoah, Portsmouth



Rob Ryan
Field Agent
515-490-8753
robert.ryan@kofc.org
West Des Moines, St. Francis,
Sacred Heart



Pete Seuntjens
Field Agent
712-880-0044
peter.seuntjens@kofc.org
Harlan, Earling, Audubon,
Dunlap, Logan



Gregory Waddle
Field Agent
515-218-3550
gregory.waddle@kofc.org
St. Augustin, St. Anthony's,
Christ the King



Justin Wadle
Field Agent
515-975-2688
justin.wadle@kofc.org
Perry, Ankeny,
Des Moines/All Saint's



Knights of Columbus®
Knights of Columbus,
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510