

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Vol. 57, No. 8

Aug. 16, 2024

Historic revival energizes faithful

300 from Diocese join 50,000-60,000 strong at epic event



OSV News photo/Bob Roller

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc., blesses pilgrims during adoration at the opening revival night of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on July 17.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff writer

The historic National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last month fed the hearts and souls of 50,000-60,000 people who attended, including about 300 from the Diocese.

And many people will continue to learn, deepen their faith, and find healing from the insights of the speakers through their talks available online.

“The thing I love the most about this conference is the Church is alive,” said Julie Nelson, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. “Seeing all the priests and the bishops really

melts my heart and gives me so much hope.”

Joy and love permeated the air at the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years.

“We are big and powerful and beautiful in Christ Jesus as the Catholic Church,” said Tom Quinlan, also of Sacred Heart and director of the St. Joseph Evangelization Center in West Des Moines. “I’ll be going home to Des Moines with joy and hope in our renewal in our Catholic faith.”

Evening adoration, particularly on the first night, left people in awe.

The four national Eucharistic pilgrimages converged at Lucas Oil Stadium for adoration.

“It was breathtaking,” said Shannon Nye, of St. Patrick Parish in Neola. “There are no words to describe the feeling. They said ‘He is here.’ You got goosebumps. The whole room was silent. It was just... tears. You could hear sniffing.”

Maryanne Dailey, of St. Patrick Parish in Imogene, agreed.

“Just being in adoration with 50,000 people was so moving and so beautiful,” she said. “When there was just silence, everybody was feeling Jesus. I don’t know how you couldn’t feel Jesus last night. And the Holy Spirit was alive. I can’t explain it. It was wonderful.”

“My favorite part of the Eu-



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress



Ginger & Vance Peterson
St. John, Adel

Ginger: “I heard somebody say it’s the only Mass I’ve ever been to where you get gospel music and Latin all in the same Mass.”
Vance: “It was pretty impressive to hear 50,000 or 60,000 voices all in unison saying the prayers.”



Maryanne Dailey
St. Patrick, Imogene

“Just being in adoration with 50,000 people was so moving and so beautiful. When there was just silence, everybody was feeling Jesus. I don’t know how you couldn’t feel Jesus last night. And the Holy Spirit was alive. I can’t explain it. It was wonderful.”



Father Julius Itamid
St. Patrick, Neola
St. Columbanus, Weston

“It’s been an awesome experience to be here. It’s been a renewal of my faith, my priesthood, my zeal for the Eucharist, my soul, and my love for the Church. Having encountered Jesus personally, when I go home, I need to go and tell them about this.”



Father Litto Thomas
St. Patrick, Perry

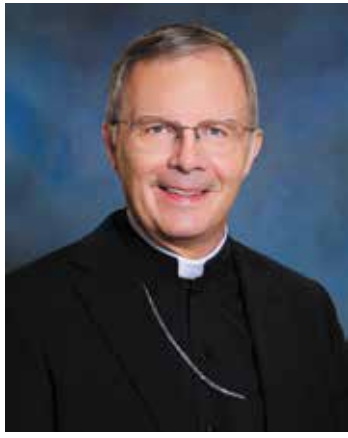
“It’s a testament to the strength and vibrancy of our Church. The Eucharist truly brings us together. It’s a sacrament of unity.”



Patty Mayer
Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart,
Ankeny

“Wow! It’s been pretty amazing. There are so many wonderful speakers who inspired me to look at how we do formation, how we bring people to Jesus, and how we bring people to the Eucharist. It’s opening up hearts in new ways. I am coming back with lots of ideas.”

Continued on page 8



Bishop William Joensen

In his recent book *True Confessions: Voices of Faith from a Life in the Church*, former National Catholic Register editor, episcopal advisor and author Francis Maier talks with a variety of people about why they remain steadfast in their Catholic faith.

In his conversation with former presidential speechwriter Bill McGurn and his wife, Julie, she recalls one of St. John Bosco's dreams: "In it he sees a ship—the Church—with the Holy Father at its bow. And it's on stormy seas filled with enemies. But he also sees two pillars: the Eucharist on one pillar and the Blessed Mother on the other, and that's where the Church finds safe anchor. So I keep coming back to those two pillars. Those are my lodestars" (Maier, *True Confessions*, p. 159).

It's been a stormy summer: tornadoes and thunderstorms wreaking havoc in our state; ongoing war in the Middle East, Ukraine, and other regions; an attempted assassination of a presidential candidate; depressed farm prices and markets; even the splendor of the Olympic opening ceremony was marred by the blasphemous parody of the Last Supper.

Yet it has also been a summer of momentous grace, renewed strength and hope, and radiant light breaking through the clouds

that roil around us. And at the heart of it all are the twin pillars of the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother.

At the end of June, we were privileged to host a segment of the Serra Route of the National Eucharistic Procession, kindling a burning love for Jesus in the hearts of thousands of people in Council Bluffs, Glenwood, Imogene, and Shenandoah while welcoming pilgrims from our state and across the country.

Then, in July, about 300 pilgrims from our Diocese joined a gathering of 55,000+ Catholics at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. I and other pilgrims are still reflecting and sharing the high profile and humble witnesses we encountered, absorbing the high-octane Spirit energy that enveloped us. We know we cannot keep the grace to ourselves; we embark upon the third year of our National Eucharistic Revival by drawing close to individuals who have yet to encounter the living Lord, inviting them to experience Jesus and committing ourselves to "Walk with One" in the enduring pilgrimage of life.

One particularly inspiring witness at the Congress was Sister Josephine Garrett, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. She shared her story of a heart-wrenching, early-childhood trauma and ensuing questions why God allows that memory to surface on occasion. Yet she knows that in embracing personal brokenness—in admitting we hurt, we sin, and we hunger for healing—we can press on with deepened trust mingled with consolation, joy and hope in God's unceasing love for us. The Eucharist is essential medicine in this transformative process of letting wounds come to light and

"It has also been a summer of momentous grace, renewed strength and hope, and radiant light breaking through the clouds that roil around us. And at the heart of it all are the twin pillars of the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother."

allowing Jesus to enter into our aching souls as balm, blessing, and sturdy support in whom we can find rest and relief.

As summer transitions into fall, we will again have an exceptionally graced opportunity in our Diocese with the upcoming **Christ Our Life Catholic Conference Sept. 28 & 29 at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines**. Sister Josephine and several other speakers from the National Eucharistic Congress will be at this eighth biennial conference right here in our own backyard!

This year's Christ Our Life (COL) will again assemble world-class speakers, celebrate opening and closing Masses, offer numerous opportunities for adoration and reconciliation, and supply inspiring music for many thousands of in-person attendees and those who follow on livestream. For the first time in COL history, all young people age 23 and under are invited to attend free of charge, thanks to generous donors who sponsor them. High school and college students are invited to a special lunchtime breakout session exclusively for them. By whatever means, I encourage you to secure your ticket and join us! Go to ChristOurLifeIowa.com to learn more and get your ticket plus one for a friend.

This past May and June, in various sites around the Diocese and in these pages and other venues, we also rolled out our refreshed diocesan mission and vision: **"Sowing God's Spirit: Cultivating Connections**

in Christ through Encounter, Friendship, and Communion."

Parish leaders and folks in the pews are now intentionally engaged in a period of Spirit-led discernment and commitment from among the six mission priorities and corresponding "toolkits" that have been crafted by a diverse array of lay persons and clergy from Central and Southwest Iowa. These toolkits are offered as a rich resource equipping us to bring the joy of the Gospel to bear upon the lives of our families, friends, and those who are searching for a sense of connection and belonging in an otherwise scattered culture. You can check out any or all of these toolkits by going to: dmdiocese.org/about-us.

We believe our Diocese's mission and vision is not something we came up with on our own. It is the same Holy Spirit of Pentecost, the Spirit by whom Mary conceived her Son and our Savior Jesus, who inspires our vision and propels us to be witnesses and bearers of Jesus to others in our own right. The Blessed Mother is both the pillar upon whom we can lean and the lodestar fixing our hearts on where God intends our lives to lead: to enduring communion with Jesus, Mary, and all God's friends in the court of heaven.

On Aug. 22, we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Queen of Heaven, who is the principal patroness of the Diocese of Des Moines. In my pastoral introduction to the mission and vision toolkits, I

write:

We take heart that Mary continues to accompany her Son's Church and intercedes on our behalf. Like her Son, Mary is forever "for us"; she "courts" us with the Spirit's gentle tug on our hearts. With the evangelical energy and good counsel of the Holy Spirit guiding our discernment, we enlist the practical wisdom and common sense of priests, deacons, religious, parish leaders, and lay persons of faith and good will who accompany us now, and who will soon, we pray, join our mission of Sowing God's Spirit.

We may not put a hand to a physical plow, but we invest our hearts and minds in this Kingdom project of allowing God to save souls through us, drawn in hope by our common vision: **"Cultivating Connections in Christ through Encounter, Friendship, and Communion."**

As we mark the Feast of the Queenship of Mary and prepare to embark upon a new school year, I think Sister Josephine is right: God is present and ready to reveal himself to those poised to perceive him. May Jesus, the Bread come down from heaven, open our senses and hearts to grasp how ordinary and simple encounters among the Body of Christ can be profoundly blessed. May God's Spirit pour down abundant gifts upon us in the ever-unfolding mystery of his love. I look forward to encountering you around the Diocese, and at the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference next month.

Come, Holy Spirit! Come ignite our hearts and seal the bonds of friendship and communion that are to be found in Christ, in union with Mary, Queen of Heaven.

In Our Mother's Court

En la Corte de Nuestra Madre

En su reciente libro *Confesiones Verdaderas: Voces de la Fe desde una Vida en la Iglesia*, Francis Maier, la exeditora del National Catholic Register, consejera episcopal y autor Francis Maier habla con una variedad de personas sobre el por qué permanecen firmes en su fe católica.

En la conversación de Maier con el pasado escritor de discursos presidenciales Bill McGurn y su esposa Julie, ella recuerda uno de los sueños de San Juan Bosco: "en él veo un barco – la Iglesia – con el Santo Padre en la proa. Y está en mares tormentosos llenos de enemigos. Pero también ve dos pilares: la Eucaristía en un pilar y la Santísima Madre en el otro, y es allí en donde la Iglesia encuentra puerto seguro. Entonces sigoyendo a esos dos pilares. Esos son mis puntos de referencia" (Maier, *Confesiones Verdaderas*, pág. 159).

Ha sido un verano tormentoso: tornados y tormentas eléctricas causando caos en nuestro estado; guerras continuas en el Medio Oriente, Ucrania y en otras regiones; incluso el esplendor de la ceremonia de inauguración de

los Juegos Olímpicos se manchó con una parodia de la Última Cena que es una blasfemia.

Aún así, ha sido un verano con un impulso de gracia, fuerza y esperanzas renovadas y una luz radiante que rompe de entre las nubes que nos envuelven. Y en el centro de todo están los dos pilares de la Eucaristía y la Santísima Virgen.

A fines de junio, tuvimos el privilegio de ser anfitriones de un segmento de la Ruta Serra de la Procesión Eucarística Nacional, encendiendo un ardiente amor por Jesús en los corazones de miles de personas en Council Bluffs, Glenwood, Imogene, y Shenandoah y dando la bienvenida a peregrinos de nuestro estado y de todo el país.

Luego en julio, aproximadamente 300 peregrinos de nuestra Diócesis se unieron a una reunión de más de 55,000 católicos en el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indianapolis. Yo mismo junto a otros peregrinos estamos aún reflexionando y compartiendo el alto perfil y los humildes testimonios con los que nos encontramos, absorbiendo el Espíritu de alta en-

ergia que nos envolvía. Sabemos que no podemos quedarnos con la gracia para nosotros mismos; estamos entrando en el tercer año del Reavivamiento Eucarístico Nacional acercándose a los individuos que aún no han tenido un encuentro con el Dios vivo, invitándolos a tener la experiencia de Jesús y comprometiéndonos a "Caminar con los Demás" en el largo peregrinar de la vida.

Uno de los inspiradores testimonios del Congreso fue el de la Hermana Josephine Garrett, religiosa de las Hermanas de la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret. Ella compartió su historia sobre el terrible trauma en su temprana infancia y respondiendo la pregunta de por qué Dios permite que estas memorias surjan ocasionalmente. Al igual reconoce ella que al acoger nuestras heridas personales – admitiendo que sufrimos dolor, que pecamos y que ansiamos la sanación – podemos seguir adelante con una profunda confianza entrelazada con el consuelo, el gozo y la esperanza en amor incesante que tiene Dios por nosotros. La Eucaristía es una medicina esencial en este pro-

ceso transformador que permite que las heridas salgan a la luz y permitiendo que Jesús entre en nuestras adoloridas almas como bálsamo, bendición y firme apoyo y en quien encontramos reposo y alivio.

En la transición del verano hacia el otoño, tendremos nuevamente una oportunidad con excepcional gracia en nuestra Diócesis con la próxima **Conferencia Cristo Nuestra Vida el 28 y el 29 de septiembre en la Arena Wells Fargo en Des Moines**. ¡La Hermana Josephine y varios presentadores más que estuvieron en el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional estarán en esa octava conferencia bianual aquí en nuestra propia casa!

Cristo Nuestra Vida (COL) reunirá nuevamente este año a presentadores de altura mundial, celebrando Misas de apertura y de clausura, ofreciendo numerosas oportunidades de adoración y de reconciliación, ofreciendo música inspiradora para los miles de asistentes en personas y para aquellos que siguen la conferencia en transmisión en línea. Por primera

Continued on page 11

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

We are there

Catholic Charities goes above and beyond

By Kendall Begnoche
Contributing Writer

It is hard to ask for help.

When adversity strikes, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines, is there to help our neighbors in need.

Catholic Charities is committed to empowering individuals and strengthening families. This is accomplished through the dedication, passion and commitment of our staff to go above and beyond for all who come to us searching for help. Our five vital program areas, including counseling, domestic violence and sexual assault programming, an emergency family shelter, a food pantry (part of the Des Moines Area Religious Council's network of pantries) and refugee services, are changing lives every day.

We are there for the dad who needs food to feed his family.

We are there for the newly arrived refugee looking to make Des Moines their new home.

We are there for the young woman who survived an abusive relationship and is putting her life back together.

We are there for the family who lost everything and is getting back on their feet.

We are there for those going through crisis.

We are there.

A former client named Isabella is a wonderful example. She and her two young boys came to the Catholic Charities' Emergency Family Shelter needing help. Her boys both have special needs and the income she was bringing in was not enough to sustain the care her boys needed. They lost their home and didn't know what to do. When they arrived at the Emergency Family Shelter, they were met with open arms. Isabella received the care, compassion and help she needed to move forward. She took advantage of every resource offered at the shelter to create a better life for her and her boys. Now, Isabella and her boys are thriving in a place of their own.

"Catholic Charities has saved a lot of lives over the years," said Isabella. "I don't know where I would have been without Catholic Charities."

In the Diocese of Des Moines, we offer loving support to those who are struggling. We know the road to success and self-sufficiency is not necessarily a straight path and it can look different to each person.

"For 100 years, Catholic Charities has diligently served the people of the Diocese of Des Moines with dignity and respect," said Catholic Charities Executive



Director Barbara Q. Decker. "We are committed to meeting people where they are and providing them the tools they need to be successful."

We offer many opportunities to accompany us in the mission, from donating to volunteering. Our passionate and dedicated staff and team of volunteers make the work we do possible.

"I encourage all to learn about the exceptional life-changing work we do at Catholic Charities and see all the ways we are there for our communities," said Decker.

The Catholic Charities network of 168 agencies, along

with Catholic Charities USA, the network's national membership organization, has launched an awareness campaign promoting the life-giving work undertaken each day by Catholic Charities agencies around the country.

Through national and local

advertising efforts, the campaign will shine a spotlight on the vast and varied services that the Catholic Charities network provides to millions of people in need each year. Learn more at WeAreThere.US.

Get your message into the homes of 30,000 parishioners in central and southwest Iowa. Contact Sandy to advertise in the next edition of *The Catholic Mirror*.
sriesberg@dmdiocese.org
515-237-5046

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CHRIST OUR LIFE

September 28 & 29, 2024 • Wells Fargo Arena • Des Moines, Iowa

World-Class Speakers:

Bishop William Joensen

Msgr. Stephen Rossetti

Fr. Robert Spitzer

Fr. Craig Vasek

Sr. Josephine Garrett

Jeff Cavins

Jason Evert

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

Julie MacFarlane-Barrow

Steve Angrisano

Doubting Thomas
1602-1603
Caravaggio

FOR OUR
SEARCHING
SOULS

All-Weekend Pass/In-Person and Livestream Tickets:

Adults: \$30 Youth: Ages 23 and under FREE

(All attendees must have tickets from COL website/
back of your parish)

ChristOurLifeIowa.com 866-206-3303

Spanish language headsets will be available on-site.

Q: Did inaugural religion bee go well? A: Yes!

By Denise Mulcahy
Contributing Writer

“What happened to Pharoah with each plague God sent?”

“What could you do to live out the Corporal Work of Mercy to bury the dead?”

“What do we call the Mass where the oils used throughout the year are blessed?”

“How many tribes of Israel were there?”

“In the Bible, which book follows the four gospels?”

Would you know the answers to these questions? The middle school students in our diocesan Catholic schools were faced with questions like these as a part of

the inaugural Religion Bee competition last April.

Beginning in January, middle school students from our Catholic schools began their preparations. This started with a preliminary quiz. After the quiz, the top scorers at each school participated in a school Religion Bee. Many of the school bees were held during Catholic Schools Week as one of the events to celebrate the week. The top four finishers at each school would be participating in the Diocesan Religion Bee on March 22.

Forty-four students from 11 of our middle schools gathered at St. Pius X to compete in our first annual middle school Religion Bee and answer questions about our Catholic faith. They were joined by a roomful of parents,

grandparents, and teachers who were there to support and encourage their efforts. After an hour and half and nearly 150 questions, our diocesan team of five students had been assembled. Our team, consisting of students from three different schools, would represent the Diocese of Des Moines in Cedar Rapids for the inaugural Iowa Catholic School Religion Bee on April 26.

Our students and everyone with them, were excited, a little bit nervous, and ready to give it their best. On the stage in the Xavier High School auditorium, the teams from each of the four dioceses in Iowa took their places and were ready to begin.

At the school and diocesan bees, students answered questions individually but at the state



Diocese of Des Moines Religion Bee Team with their Runner-Up trophies. Left to right: Leo Buyske (St. Albert), Macky Buyske (St. Albert), Patrick Lora (St. Luke the Evangelist), James Pease (St. Augustin), and Gianna Jones (St. Luke the Evangelist)

bee, the students worked together as a team. If they answered incorrectly, they had to wait for the next question to try to earn points. The team from the Diocese of Des Moines made it through the first two rounds and were able to compete in the championship round.

Our diocesan team and the team from the Archdiocese of Dubuque answered questions neck and neck in the final round, and suddenly, it was a tied match. If the next question could be answered after the first clue, that team would win. Those in the audience held their breath as the question was read, “Which saint was known as a ‘big, dumb ox’ by his peers?” It seemed the teams buzzed in at the exact same time and the correct answer was given,

“St. Thomas Aquinas.”

At the end of the bee, the Des Moines diocesan state Religion Bee team placed as runner-up. Throughout the entire process, the middle school students represented their schools and our Diocese well. Each student put their best effort forward and each one was gracious whether they got the answer correct or not.

Our Catholic schools thank the students, who made us proud in your efforts and knowledge of the faith. The schools are grateful to the parents, who chose Catholic schools for their children and who supported them in this opportunity. Thank you to the teachers, whose witness and energy helped prepare the students for the school, diocesan, and state bees!



We're close in all the ways you need.
Yes, we are located nearby for your convenience.

Through the years, we have formed close relationships with the families we serve.

As neighbors, we are there when needed most.

With a skilled and caring staff.

With a warm and comforting atmosphere.

With answers and options few funeral homes can offer.



Iles Funeral Homes

Celebrate Life the Way You Live It
www.IlesCares.com

YOU ARE INVITED!

A Child is Born!

A PRO-LIFE CHRISTMAS GALA
AUCTION & MUSIC • DINNER • KEYNOTE • NAME THAT TUNE!

Keynote by Dr. John Bruchalski
“My Conversion from Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine”

NOVEMBER
23
2024



PULSE
life ADVOCATES

IOWA EVENTS CENTER, Hall C
730 Third Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309

Cocktails & Silent Auction @5pm | Dinner @6:30pm

Tickets \$100 • \$900 for a table of 10

SEATING LIMITED • RESERVE SEATS ONLINE

pulseforlife.org • 515-255-4113 • sschiltz@pulseforlife.org

Classified

Are you passionate about serving the poor and connecting with volunteers? St. Vincent de Paul Des Moines is looking for a Vincentian Services Liaison to oversee all parish-based conferences, lead communications, assist with recruitment, and collaborate with multiple

employees. This is a part-time position and requires a degree in human services or related field, 2+ years of experience, and excellent public speaking skills. If you are interested, please contact the Executive Director at 801- 73rd Street, Windsor Heights 50324.

Subscription renewal time

Help us continue to provide hope, inspiration, and opportunities of service by taking a subscription to *The Catholic Mirror*, your diocesan newspaper. Send \$30 to

The Catholic Mirror, 601 Grand Ave.,
Des Moines, IA 50309
or go to dmdiocese.org/giving.

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.

Digitized record-keeping benefits all parishes

Greater efficiencies introduced to parishes were funded through the Annual Diocesan Appeal

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The Diocese has launched a new, automated system for the safe environment program that makes life easier for parish staff and better protects confidential information for employees and volunteers.

And the new, improved system comes at no additional cost to parishes.

There are several benefits to the new system, which is why many dioceses across the country are shifting to an automated approach, said Eileen Valdez, diocesan director of Human Resources.

"The system provides more confidentiality of personal information, a more secure method for getting applications in; it's faster; and the parish or school has immediate information about how the background check is flowing through the system," she said.

"This is a big service the Diocese offers to the parishes," she added.

"I am very much looking forward to getting it fully integrated here at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart," said Tom Primmer, director of faith formation at the Ankeny parish. "It has taken quite a

bit of time to process the reports in the past and reaching out to all the people (who need background checks and safe environment training). Having it all automated will be a huge efficiency for our office processes."

Parishes doing it on their own would need to manage the relationship with vendors who do the background checks and the safe environment training, and keep track of which employees and volunteers completed the process. Parishes would have to go through an annual electronic audit and an onsite audit every three or four years.

The service offered to parishes and schools by the Diocese saves time and resources that could be allocated to other ministries, Valdez said.

Shortly after the U.S. bishops addressed the abuse crisis in 2002, dioceses across the country launched safe environment programs to educate Church employees and staff on how to prevent opportunities for abuse. Background checks were required and educational bulletins through Virtus were required to provide safe environments for children.

Since the safe environment program was launched, nearly 30,000 background checks have

been completed for volunteers and staff.

At Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, there are 320 people associated with the faith formation program, and about 350 volunteers in total who need to have background checks and do safe environment training, Primmer said. With a turnover rate of about 20-25% every school year, the parish needs 60-80 new volunteers who need background checks and safe environment training.

"There's quite a bit of savings when you think about it" with the new digitized approach, he said. There's no shredding of confidential documents, printing costs, copier ink, or human resource time spent to do follow-ups.

Whereas it used to be that an employee or volunteer would complete a form that included one's name and Social Security number, now they can use a computer program and do the application online. In doing so, their private information like their Social Security number isn't sitting on a desk or in a file folder and passed from person to person.

Under the old, paper system, it could take weeks before a parish or school might learn that an employee or volunteer had something in their past that might disqualify them or limit their ability to serve in the parish or school.

Deacon Hannan dies after more than 30 years of ordained ministry

Deacon Charles Hannan died July 20 after a lifetime of service.

Born in 1943, he attended Creighton University, where he earned a law degree and met his wife, Carolyn. They were blessed with five children.

His close friend, Deacon Monty Montague, recalled during the funeral Mass homily, that he'd visited with Deacon Hannan the day before he died, bringing him communion and praying with him.

The pair were in diaconate formation community number eight, ordained on Valentine's Day in 1988.

Though he said the group couldn't sing well, they did sing for their entrance hymn what had become their theme song, *Here I am Lord*, by John Michael Talbott.

"The song asks 'Who will bring light to those in darkness? Who will tend the poor and the lame? Who will bring the bread of finest wheat to the world?'" he said.

"In song, we responded, 'Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.'"

Deacon Hannan used his skills as an attorney to minister

to others, said Deacon Montague. During the farm crisis, he "was one of the best lawyers a farmer could have," and Deacon Hannan was generous with his time at his parish, St. Patrick in Council Bluffs.

Recalling tributes, he said, his friend "was passionate about

making sure people were treated fairly and with respect. He had a great faith and the heart of a servant."

"Little do we know how many lives Chuck touched in his ministry," said Deacon Montague, "but we are pretty well assured it was many."



Deacon Charles Hannan

Catholic Divorce Survival Guide

DATE:

Begins Tuesday, October 29
12-week session,
break for Christmas and New Year]

TIME: 6-7:30 pm

LOCATION:

St. Pius X Catholic Church
Parish Center Room 103,
Urbandale, IA

COST: \$30 for materials
[Scholarships available upon request]

QUESTIONS:

Contact Bill or Ann Moore
moorefamilysm@gmail.com

or phone:

Bill cell: 515-480-3314
Ann cell 641-425-0109



Diocesan staff spent the last few years digitizing background checks and safe environment training records, and training parish staff on how to use a new online system. Pictured above left to right are: Eileen Valdez, Human Resources director; Sierra Freeman, Safe Environment administrative assistant; and Shirlee Krouch, Human Resources coordinator.

Under the new system, parish administrators can follow a dashboard to monitor the progress and results appear faster.

The Diocese began to implement an online approach a few years ago. It has taken time for all the old files of employees and volunteers to be scanned in so the entire system became digitized.

Background checks are com-

pleted every five years for long-time employees and volunteers. While parishes and schools pay \$28 for each background check, there was no additional cost to them to shift the program to the online system thanks to parishioner contributions to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which supports the safe environment program.

Cultivating Compassion in Our Daily Lives

September 7, 9:30 a.m. - September 8, 1 p.m.

Schuyler, NE



Come away and ground yourself for the challenges of daily life with experiential compassion practices, personal reflection, and small group dialogue in sacred community with the Holy One. **Terri Storer, Annette Jordan, PhD,** and **Michaela Johnson** are spiritual directors, retreat leaders, and Boundless Compassion facilitators.

Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com

Praying with St. Teresa of Avila

September 9 - December 14

online



7 Zoom sessions **Sep. 9+23, Oct. 7+21, Nov. 4+18,** and **Dec. 2, 7:00am - 8:00pm, CST. December 14, 9:30am - 2:30pm:** optional retreat day at **St. Benedict Center.** We will let *The Interior Castle* by St. Teresa of Avila take us toward the very center of our soul from where God calls us. Facilitator: **Steven Blum, PhD.**

Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com

Contemplative Prayer Retreat

September 27, 7:30 p.m. - September 29, 1 p.m.

Schuyler, NE



In contemplative prayer, we divest our minds of all thoughts and images in order to receive the pure and simple light of God directly into the summit of our souls. This retreat is for those who have begun the practice of non-conceptual prayer. **Fr. Thomas Leitner, OSB,** has practiced contemplative prayer for 45 years.

Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com

St. Benedict Center
www.sbbenedictcenter.com
Retreats@sbbenedictcenter.com
402.352.8819

Des Moines native to lead Loretto sisters

Des Moines native Sister Mary E. “Buffy” Boesen was elected during a July 5-10 delegate assembly by the Sisters of Loretto to be the congregation’s next president.

Sister Buffy, as she is affectionately called, will take office on Sept. 15 to begin a four-year term, succeeding current President Sister Barbara Nicholas.

Sister Buffy is the sister-in-law of Des Moines Mayor Connie Boesen, who is married to Sister Buffy’s brother, Ted Boesen.

Sister attended Holy Trinity School and St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines. She is the daughter of Patricia (Rice) and Theo-

dore (Ted) J. Boesen, Sr.

Sister Buffy served as president of Loretto Academy in El Paso, Texas, for more than 22 years before retiring in 2021.

Throughout her ministry, she has been involved in education and community service.

Sister Buffy has a background in both regular and special



Loretto Sister Mary “Buffy” Boesen

education, having taught in Iowa, Colorado and Kentucky. She previously served on Loretto’s executive committee for nine years, has served for many years as the community’s treasurer and is chairperson of its Finance Committee and was a member of the community’s investment committee for 40 years. Sister Buffy was received into Loretto in 1978. She resides in El Paso.

In the United States and throughout the world, Loretto Community members serve in many fields, including education, healthcare, elder care, environmental stewardship and advocacy.

Subscribe to your diocesan newspaper

The Catholic Mirror, our diocesan newspaper, is a major communication and evangelization tool distributing stories of God’s love and compassion two ways: into the mailboxes of registered Catholics in the Diocese, and into their newsfeeds on various social media platforms.

In fact, our diocesan publication is a major driver of digital outreach. Consistently, some of the top pages at dmdiocese.org carry stories of God’s Spirit working among us that either first appeared, or will appear, in our monthly newspaper.

Help us continue to cultivate connections in Christ by sharing stories from around the Diocese. Take a subscription to *The Catholic Mirror*.

“I invite you to join me in subscribing to our monthly newspaper for inspirational stories and spiritual reflections of hope, to obtain the latest news on the Church in central and southwest Iowa, and to become aware of ways to support others in need,” said Bishop William Joensen.

To subscribe, mail \$30 to *The Catholic Mirror*, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309 or go to dmdiocese.org/giving.



Squad

FIND YOUR

<p>HIGHMARK SENIOR LIVING lubbett</p>	<p>Jjuan Hakeem jjuan.hakeem@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>RIVERWOODS 2210 E PARK AVENUE DES MOINES 515.207.6660</p> <p>THE LEGACY 2901 CEDAR STREET NORWALK 515.599.9021</p>
<p>Susan Babcock susan.babcock@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>BEAVERDALE 3410 BEAVER AVENUE DES MOINES 515.416.6200</p>	<p>Marti McMahon marti.mcmahon@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>TIMBERLINE 14001 DOUGLAS PKWY URBANDALE 515.420.1968</p>
<p>Antoinette Deleon antoinette.deleon@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>GREEN MEADOWS 6780 CORPORATE DRIVE JOHNSTON 515.585.6063</p>	<p>Shawn Kinnison shawn.kinnison@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>THE TUSCANY 1600 8TH STREET SE ALTOONA 515.808.5358</p>
<p>Shelly Timm shelly.timm@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>KETTLESTONE 806 SE TALLGRASS LANE WAUKEE 515.499.4422</p>	<p>Jessica Johnson jessica.johnson@edencrestliving.com</p> <p>SIENA HILLS 465 SW ANKENY ROAD ANKENY 515.526.5908</p>



EDENCRESTLIVING.COM

INDEPENDENT + ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE

Around the Diocese

Aug. 17 Saturday Ignatian Retreat Day

DES MOINES – Jesuit Father Larry Gillick, of Creighton University, will lead Ignatian Retreat Day, from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at St Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines. Father Gillick was with Emmaus House for its first Ignatian Retreat Day and is returning as Emmaus House celebrates its 50th year of ministry. For more information and to register, visit website theemmaushouse.org/ninth-annual-ignatian-retreat

Aug. 18 Sunday Pray a Monthly Rosary

DES MOINES -- Join fellow Iowans to pray the rosary the third Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m. (rain or shine) at the Iowa State Capitol, west side steps. For more information call Diana at 515-974-7691 or Jeff at 515-778-6087.

Rosary for Life

WESTPHALIA – In August the monthly Rosary for Life will be at 1:30 p.m. at St. Boniface Parish in Westphalia and is the occasion of our “30th year” of praying the rosary in Shelby County for life. All are invited to this most special event and a reception will be held in the church hall following the prayers.

Aug. 24 Saturday Celebration of Schools

WEST DES MOINES -- The Bishop’s Celebration of Catholic Schools is at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Des Moines. This event unites all of our Catholic schools across the Diocese in celebration of Bishop William Joensen’s unwavering commitment to our Catholic schools. To reserve your tickets visit annual Bishop’s Celebration of Catholic Schools (dmdiocese.org) or call 515-237-5079 or email lholms@dmdiocese.org today.

Sept. 5 Alpha Course

WAUKEE -- Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly environment. All are invited to Alpha at St. Boniface Church in Waukee on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 5. In an Alpha course, guests meet weekly for dinner, a video, and open discussion around some of life’s biggest questions. Invite a friend. All are welcome. No cost. Register at stbonifacechurch.org/alpha or call Faye Akers at 515-987-4597.

Sept. 8 Sunday Music Mission Concert

STUART – All Saints Catholic Church is hosting a music mission concert at 7 p.m. at by Daniel Oberreuter, the lead singer of the Catholic band, The Thirsting. During the concert, Come Hold my Son, participants will journey through the mysteries of the rosary.

Sept. 15 Sunday African Catholic Mass

WEST DES MOINES – Come and join us for our African Catholic Mass 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, featuring an African priest, the Sudanese choir from St. Ambrose Cathedral, and the African choir from St Catherine, members from around our Diocese.

Sept 10 – Oct 8 Tuesdays Called & Gifted

WAUKEE – This Catholic spiritual gifts discernment process will meet from 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Mother Teresa Room at St. Boniface Catholic Church. The cost is \$50 for all sessions and materials. For details and to register by Aug. 30, visit stbonifacechurch.org/called-gifted or call Faye Akers at 515-987-4597.

Sept 10 – Dec 19 Thurs. The Wild Goose

WAUKEE – This small group discussion series meets from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the Mary & Joseph Room at St. Boniface Catholic Church. The cost is free will donation. The Wild Goose is a video and small group discussion series with the opportunity to both learn about and encounter the Holy Spirit. For details and to register by Aug. 30, visit stbonifacechurch.org/adults-learn or call Faye Akers at 515-987-4597.

Other

Sept. 3 - Nov. 19 Lean on Me Grief Support

ANKENY – A grief support group meets every Tuesday 4-5:30 p.m. in the meeting room at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. For more information contact : Julie Shannon, parish nurse, at julie.shannon@slte.org.

Catholic Charities’ Disaster Relief

Calling all pastors: If you have parishioners who suffered damage as a result of recent tornadoes, contact Catholic Charities! Through our Disaster Relief Assistance Program, funded by Catholic Charities USA, we are able to offer support to individuals and families, living in the Diocese of Des Moines, who were affected by these storms. Funds are still available. Visit catholic-charitiesdm.org/disaster-relief to apply for assistance.

Catholic Charities’ Summer Program Needs

Looking for something to do this summer? Catholic Charities has you covered! We have created a list with some of our programs’ most needed items. Consider participating in our Catholic Charities 100 Challenge by donating 100 items in celebration of our centennial year! Visit catholic-charitiesdm.org/news for information on how you can make an impact.

New guide helps with funeral planning

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

Can I donate my body to a medical school when I die? If so, how do they do a funeral?

How can I tell my kids what I'd like at my funeral?

These are among the frequently asked questions faithful Catholics think about as they contemplate their own end-of-life plans.

The recently released *Catholic Funeral Planning Guide* provides resources for arranging a Catholic funeral.

"The Catholic Church offers profound and sacred traditions of various rites in the wake of death, providing solace and support to those who mourn and the privilege of remembering you at the altar of the Lord," wrote Bishop William Joenes in a forward to the guide.

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa in collaboration with the Diocese of Des Moines created the guide to help individ-

uals learn how to make plans for their funeral, and to help pastors accompany parishioners and their families during a time of grief, said Sue McEntee, executive director of the Catholic Foundation.

The guide explains Catholic funeral rites. There are three: the Vigil (also called a wake); the funeral liturgy (a Mass or prayer service); and the Rite of Committal, which is done at the cemetery.

For each of these, you can list your wishes directly in the guide, share it with loved ones and keep a copy with important papers.

Questions to complete include whether you have a favorite outfit you'd like to wear for the Vigil, your preferences for who might give a eulogy at the Vigil or Rite of Committal, and who would do the readings at a funeral Mass.

The guide "is something a priest can use when sitting down with a family after the death of a loved one," said McEntee. Or, "an individual can fill it out and send it to their children and give it to their church and say this is what



OSV News photo

A mourner touches a casket in this file photo.

I want to happen when I die. It's a great conversation starter for a topic not always easy to discuss."

"Having a funeral plan in place takes the guesswork out of a time that's full of grief and emotion," said Father Trevor

Chicoine, pastor of four parishes and diocesan Vicar for Divine Worship. "It also helps give family and friends confidence that they're doing exactly what the deceased wanted."

To get a copy of the guide,

check with your local parish or download it from the Catholic Foundation's website at catholicfoundationiowa.org/organizations/resources/.

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/>

Basilica of St. John Foundation Gala /Auction
September 22, 2024
Tea Room, 713 Walnut St., Suite 600

5:00 p.m. Cocktails / Appetizers
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Auction

Tickets: \$50 each; 200 tickets available

Contact: Marianne Wadle, 515-707-3803

Shop Local

5701 Hickman Road
Des Moines, IA 50310

www.DivineTreasuresInc.net
515-255-5230

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.

IOWA CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK

WIN GRANDSTAND CONCERT TICKETS!

Listen to Iowa Catholic Radio for your chance to win Grandstand concert tickets at the Iowa State Fair! And stop by the Iowa Catholic Radio booth at the state fair, located in the heart of the fairgrounds just west of the Anne and Bill Riley Stage!

OUR MISSION:

- Teach, Defend and Evangelize the Catholic Faith

FAIR FEVER
AUGUST 8-18, 2024

1150 IOWA CATHOLIC RADIO
94.5 IOWA CATHOLIC RADIO
88.5 IOWA CATHOLIC RADIO
105.3 IOWA CATHOLIC RADIO

STREAMING 24X7
iowacatholicradio.com

Love, joy permeate Eucharistic Congress

Continued from page 1

charistic Congress was adoration on the first night," said seminarian Mike Posegate, of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale. "Just to see everyone be silent and adoring our Lord in the Eucharist was really a powerful and beautiful moment that I'll never forget."

Despite lines to get in and for food, people seemed to be energized by the crowd.

"It's overwhelming the number of people," said Deacon Mark Campbell of the Basilica of St. John. "There's so much joy. Everybody seems to be happy."

"It's been an awesome experience to be here," said Father Julius Itamid, administrator of St. Patrick Parish in Neola and St. Columbanus in Weston. "It's been a renewal of my faith, my priesthood, my zeal for the Eucharist, my soul and my love for the Church."

Speakers focused on the gifts that stem from the Eucharist like healing and hope.

"Our hope is in the Lord who has already won the victory and delivered us," said Bishop William Joensen, adding that Jesus wants to be with us and to have us bring others to God, the Father.

Colleen and Paul Tauke, of St. John Parish in Adel, were amazed by the connections weaved

through meeting various people, by adoration opportunities, and the Masses.

Colleen, a quilter, said all those small conversations about families, kids, and parishes have something in common.

"We're all trying to make that love connection," she said.

What struck Paul was when one of the speakers said knowledge is good but love makes you a saint.

He wondered how pilgrims to the Eucharistic Congress could bring back to their parishes the energy they found in celebrating the faith.

"How can we share that love you get from the Eucharist with people, especially people who have left the Church? How can we bring them back?" he said.

Nelson pondered the same.

"How can we bring this back to Des Moines? How can I bring this back to Sacred Heart? How can we as a Church keep this going after the conference is over?" she asked.

Father Litto Thomas, of St. Patrick Parish in Perry, said the Eucharistic Congress was "a testament to the strength and vibrancy of our Church. The Eucharist truly brings us together. It's a sacrament of unity."



Deacon Eric and Monica Pugh, of St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, and Vivian and Deacon Steve McGee, of St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.



Seminarians ready for the first full day of the National Eucharistic Congress, left to right: Dominic Nguyen, Adam Hanten, Isaiah Peterson, Luke Mohan, Mike Posegate, Kyle Rowan, Andrew Robey, Matthew Johl, and Father Max Carson.



From St. Patrick Parish in Imogene, pilgrims to the Eucharistic Congress were: Dan Kinsella and his family Kari, Elizabeth, Rachel and Danny; Maryanne and Rick Dailey; and Sandy and Darwin Bugg.

Need affordable Medicare that's in step with your life?

Choosing the right Medicare coverage can be confusing.

I can help you find a plan that's right for YOU and YOUR BUDGET.

health markets



Call today for personalized service!
(402) 807-3685



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.

witte Spiritual Journeys

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 wittetravel.com or call 616-957-8113.

Diocese raises money, then raises spirits

Minden family grateful for support



The McDermott home shortly after the April 26 tornado swept through town.

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The deafening roar of a tornado as it destroys your home can shake the strongest of people.

But those in the Diocese of Des Moines who suffered from two destructive twisters this spring have felt something even stronger than those howling, horrifying winds: the loving embrace of Catholics near and far.

After Minden and Shelby County were hit April 26 followed by Greenfield on May 21, the 80 parishes of the Diocese raised about \$125,000 to replace lost appliances, beds, clothes, and other essentials.

That collection raised something else: the spirits of those who suffered from the storms.

One day this summer, Minden resident Jennifer McDermott was having a particularly sad day. Her home had been destroyed and her mother's was damaged. Rebuilding had been a struggle.

Then her cellphone rang. On the other end was Humility Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, senior advisor to Bishop William Joensen.

"I think she put the hope in me. I didn't have much," McDermott said. "She just really turned things around for me that day."

Jennifer and Jeremy McDermott, and Jennifer's mother, Judy Jensen, are among those who will be helped.

As the tornado swept through Minden, the McDermotts and their 21-year-old son, Kaden, raced to their shelter in the basement. As they emerged from the shelter a few minutes later, Jennifer approached the basement stairs, looked up, and saw the sky.

Their home was damaged beyond repair: A beam in the garage was gone and its foundation shifted; the bicycles were gone; the roof was gone; kitchen appliances were damaged; and a car was totaled.

Their parish, St. Patrick in Neola, responded in force.

Immediately after the tornado, people in and around Neola brought supplies to the community center. Supplies were gathered at the United Church of Christ in Minden, too.

It was humbling for Jennifer



Jennifer and Jeremy McDermott show their new home under construction. Pictured left to right: Jeremy holding Boomer, Kaden, Judy Jensen, and Jennifer.

to go to her parish and get a few needed items.

"I was so amazed by that organization, but a part of me had a different feeling. I'm a giver. I love to give. I love to entertain. I love to make people happy. Sometimes, for people like that, it's kind of hard to take."

Sister Jude has been working to identify people like the McDermotts who could use some of the funds gathered with the collections. Jennifer had heard that the Diocese was dispersing financial support and applied online.

The McDermotts will be able to get a new refrigerator, dishwasher, stove, and microwave with dollars donated in the special collections.

As the McDermotts build a new home, they are living temporarily with Jennifer's mother, Judy Jensen. Her home suffered damage to the roof, the siding, and windows that sprayed a basement carpet in glass. The family used to gather in the basement to watch TV and relax, but they haven't because the TV was damaged.

Parishioners who contributed to the special collection are helping Jensen get a new television. Once new carpet is installed, the

family will be able to gather in the evenings to relax and watch TV together.

One can hear progress with the sound of tools and trucks in Minden these days. Local contractor Randy Ring of R&T Construction is framing the McDermotts' new home. At other homes, new windows are going in, roofs are being repaired or replaced, and new siding is going up.

Jennifer encourages people to continue their support.

"Don't stop checking in on us," she said. "It's going to take time for our town to rebuild."

In an email to Jennifer, Sister Jude said, "I do hope that each day brings a little ray of hope and that you are experiencing God in the midst of it all."

"I've been overwhelmed with receiving what the Diocese has done. They're really trying to work hard and reach out to people like us who've been through this," Jennifer said. "Keep remembering what we've been through. Keep the prayers going because it's going to take time to recover."

Anyone needing help from the Diocese in their tornado recovery effort should contact their local pastor.

Help leads to hope in Greenfield

The Vry family of Greenfield lost their home in the May 21 tornado, but thanks to donations from a special collection in the Diocese's 80 parishes, they will be able to find rest.

Joceline Vry, her husband, Curtis, and their two young sons will receive new beds as well as much-needed appliances for a new home now being built. For now, the Vrys are camping in Joceline's parents' backyard.

The memories are still fresh from the fateful day when Joceline and her sons huddled in their basement while Curtis, a volunteer firefighter, was out storm-spotting to help sound the alarm. He and another firefighter had to outrace the storm when they couldn't find shelter in time.

They all survived, but the Vrys' home suffered so much damage, they could no longer live in it. They were able to sell the home as-is to someone who will repair it, so they are building a new home outside of town.

One recent Sunday, Humility Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, senior advisor to Bishop William Joensen, attended Mass at St. John Church in Greenfield to offer help to tornado victims from the special collection.

"Sister Jude asked, 'What's something you need?' I said we are unfortunately going to need new beds and new appliances," Joceline said.

Sister Jude brought more than financial assistance. She brought hope.

Joceline was surprised by how much the Diocese was able to help her family. She's now collecting cost estimates for the beds and appliances, and she says she's grateful for the help from the Catholic community of southwest Iowa.

"I was in awe. I was very overwhelmed," she said. "I didn't expect it."

For now, the family is taking it one day at a time.

"We know it's all going to work out in the end," Joceline said. "We know there's a purpose for everything."

To other survivors, she says: "Don't give up hope and ask for help."



Joceline and Curtis Vry's home was severely damaged in the May 21 tornado that hit Greenfield.



Joceline and Curtis Vry and their two young sons at the site where they plan to build a new home. Contributions to a special diocesan collection will help the Vry family get new beds and appliances.

Connecting with others renews us

The little church in this river town looks like the kind of porcelain church you'd place in a Christmas village, its white siding dotted with tall green windows, centered by arched green doors and topped with a green gable roof. It lacks only an oversized wreath with a red bow.

Built in 1868 as a Baptist church, it was similar in size and structure to other country churches of the period. But when the church ceased to be, it assumed another sacred purpose: It was filled with books and became the town library.

The fact that it still operates as a library today, open five days a week, feels like a miracle in itself.

The moment you step inside, you sense

Twentysomething

By Christina
Capecchi



its history. The church-library sounds like creaky floorboards and smells like old books. It houses two floors of books, the upper level being a wraparound loft, where rocking chairs sway at window tops.

Its entire book collection was donated and donations continue to roll in, contributing to the ongoing sense of

goodwill. The activities held here aren't all that different from the ones that ensued in its early years. On Wednesday afternoons, adult crafters gather. On Saturday, families come for storytime. These are functions of church: to make something beautiful, to hear a great story, to feel less behind.

This is a space for community, in all its forms – now, just as surely as in 1868.

The little church-library feels like a balm, a hidden gem whose very existence is a comfort, countering the many ways modern life isolates us.

It's no mistake that community and communion share the same origin. As Catholics, we believe that the ultimate community is offered through Holy

Communion. When Mass is celebrated, heaven touches Earth. The communion of saints flock to the altar: doctors of the church, gardeners, librarians, children, the beloved parish priest who married your great grandparents.

When we connect with others, we are renewed. We replenish the reserves that will help us make it through the winter.

Like the church-library by the river, embrace simple communal pursuits this season. Then join the communion of saints at Holy Communion, where the bonds are eternal.

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

Q&A: When did Christianity begin?

Q. Can you tell me when Christianity began? I've completed reading the Bible three times and wonder also about where it is in the Bible. Acts of the Apostles?

-Sally Schroeder

A. OF COURSE, Christianity began with Jesus himself. When he had chosen the apostles and the many disciples, you could say that Christianity had begun. However, after the resurrection and ascension, the disciples proclaimed the faith and welcomed many converts. A more precise answer can be found in the Acts of the Apostles 11:26. Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch. "For a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians."

The challenge, of course, is for all of us to live our lives as a witness to our faith in the good news that Jesus brought. And, in that sense, Christianity is still developing and growing. Matthew 7:21 tell us "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

Q. Does the Church stand against the



I've Been Wondering...

Father John Ludwig

death penalty or is it permitted to execute a prisoner?

A. OVER THE CENTURIES and over the last several decades, there has been an evolution in the Church's teaching about capital punishment. The Old Testament commandment "Thou shalt not kill" was liberally abrogated for a number of situations, usually for the commission of murder, but also for other crimes.

Some have quoted the Code of Hammurabi injunction "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." But that quote was a limitation on killing – in other words, if someone put out your eye, the most you could do was to put out the aggressor's eye; you weren't allowed to kill the aggressor.

It's hard to imagine Jesus suggesting that it is acceptable to kill under any circumstances. Kings and queens have allowed, even encouraged, putting people to death for a number of reasons. The protec-

tion of society was given as the motivation.

St. John Paul II cautioned that in today's world, imprisonment was certainly enough to protect society from the threat of further danger by a murderer. Pope Francis said, in 2017, "the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person', and the Church works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

Putting someone to death today can rightly be called society's revenge. It seems we have found all kinds of reasons not to observe the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." King Henry VIII in England condemned Sir Thomas More to death because he would not sign the oath of allegiance permitting Henry to divorce his wife. It's not an exaggeration to say that today the Church is clearly opposed to capital punishment. It's an important pro-life stance.

Q. Can a person receive the anointing of the sick more than once. I remember being taught that it was to be received only once.

A. THE SHORT ANSWER is yes. Following the Second Vatican Council, the teaching regarding the sacraments was updated to allow a number of changes. Catholics used to refer to the "last rites" as a once-in-a-lifetime sacrament.

We no longer call this sacrament the "last rites." The Church instead calls this the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It can be conferred when someone is in old age and/or in serious illness. It can be repeated during a longtime illness. It can also be celebrated in a communal way with the parish community during a weekday or a weekend Mass. It can also be celebrated in care centers.

If someone has already died, the Church does not anoint a dead body. Rather, there are compassionate prayers and blessings for the deceased person in the ritual book.

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

What shapes a soul?

In a section of her poem *The Leaf and the Cloud*, Mary Oliver describes her feelings as she stands by the gravesite of her father and mother. She reflects on how both their virtues and faults influenced her life. Then she ends the reflection with these words:

I give them – one, two, three, four – the kiss of courtesy, of sweet thanks.

May they sleep well. May they soften. But I will not give them the kiss of complicity.

I will not give them the responsibility for my life.

What shapes our souls? How much is mystery? How much is genetics? How much is the influence of others? How much is our own responsibility? For instance, when I reflect on what helped shape my own soul, the influence of my parents looms large.

Part of me is my mother. She was a sensitive person, someone who sometimes couldn't say no when it was called for. So, she often found herself over stretched and tired. Today some would say that she didn't keep proper boundaries. She had sixteen children. Her critics can rest their case.

She was a generous person, always giving things away. As a child I was sometimes angry with her for that. I didn't want a generous mother. I wanted things. What she wanted was harmony in her family.

By Father Ron
Rolheiser



I remember her coming to tears one Saturday morning as she was cleaning the house and trying to keep peace and order in a family that, on that particular day, was given over to disorder and arguments. She told us how disappointed she was that our family wasn't like the Holy Family.

We weren't the Holy Family and she was sometimes frustrated, not so much with us as with the plain inadequacy of life. Beyond this, she was a happy person, more naturally buoyant in spirit than my father. She danced more easily than he, laughed more spontaneously, and was an easier touch for us as kids. She took life less reflectively than he, though not as unreflectively as we naively supposed. During one period of her life, she kept a diary and it testified to the fact that she'd thought more deeply about things than we'd supposed.

Her deepest longing was for a true home and here she got lucky. She met my father. From soon after they met until the day he died, they became soulmates in every sense of that word. She didn't have

to tell him her secrets or share with him her frustrations, and neither he in reverse. They understood each other without having to explain themselves. In all my years of growing up, I cannot ever recall them having a single misunderstanding or even being angry with each other.

My father died of cancer and she, who had been strong until his death, died three months later of pancreatitis and a loneliness nobody could cure. Today some would look at that and say she was a co-dependent. But she would laugh and tell you that she got what she wanted from life. She died of missing my father, died happy. There's something to be envied in that.

I'm her son and when I contemplate these things, my own soul becomes less of a mystery, as do my struggles, my faults, my longings, and my strengths. I even understand why I'm tired a lot!

And then a good part of me is my father. There's a lot in me that can be explained by my genes. My father didn't dance easily, though he was a deeply affectionate man. Dancing was too public for him. He preferred to express affection in private. He loved my mother, his family, and most everyone, but his way was not to trumpet this in public. There was a reticence here that could sometimes look like coldness, but you had to read his actions and his eyes. They told a different story. He had

an abhorrence of all exhibitionism, hated long ceremonies, and loathed cheap public displays of anything. He also disliked excess in anything. His was the way of moderation, proper restraint in everything. Our family likes to quip that moderation was his only excess.

He was the stubborn uncompromising moral principle in my upbringing. He agonized over all that was not right in the world and his patience didn't always meet the test. I feared his eyes at those times when I disappointed him. I also feared, and still do, ever disappointing him. He was one of the most moral people I've ever met and he had a sixth sense that was nearly infallible. He knew right from wrong in a way I couldn't doubt. He instructed me on that – often against my protests. If I end up in hell, I can't plead ignorance. My father equipped me, faith-wise and morally, for life. But I have the faults that come with that too, his faults, compounded by my own.

So much of us, our strengths and weaknesses, take root in our upbringing – but still, we are responsible for our own lives.

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 facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

En la Corte de Nuestra Madre

Continued from page 2

vez en la historia de COL, todos los jóvenes de 23 años y menores están invitados a asistir sin costo alguno, gracias a los generosos donantes que los están patrocinando. Se invita a los estudiantes de preparatoria y universitarios a una sesión especial durante el almuerzo, exclusivamente para ellos. Por cualquier método, ¡les exhorto a conseguir su boleto y unirse a nosotros! Visiten ChristOurLifeIowa.com para más información y para conseguir su boleto y uno más para una amistad.

Estos pasados mayo y junio, en varios sitios en la Diócesis al igual que en estas páginas y en otros lugares, también lanzamos nuestras nuevas misión y visión diocesanas: “Sembrando el Espíritu de Dios: Cultivando Conexiones en Cristo por medio del Encuentro, la Amistad y la Comunión.” Los líderes parroquiales y las personas en las bancas de las iglesias están ahora comprometidos intencionalmente en un período de discernimiento y compromiso guiados por el Espíritu de entre las seis misiones prioridades y su “cajas de herramientas” correspondientes, desarrolladas por un diverso grupo de personas que incluye tanto a laicos como a miembros del clero del centro y del suroeste de Iowa. Estas cajas de herramientas se ofrecen como un rico recurso

que nos equipa para traer el gozo del Evangelio para aplicarse en las vidas de nuestras familias, amigos y aquellos que buscan un sentido de conexión y pertenencia en una cultura dispersa. Ustedes pueden ver una o todas las cajas de herramientas haciendo clic en esta liga: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/about-us>.

Creemos que la misión y la visión de nuestra Diócesis nos son algo que se nos ocurrió por nuestra cuenta. Es el mismo Espíritu de Pentecostés, el Espíritu por el cual María concibió a su Hijo y Salvador nuestro Jesús, quien inspira nuestra visión y nos impulsa a dar testimonio y a ser portadores de Jesús a los demás en nuestro propio esfuerzo. La Santísima Madre es tanto el pilar sobre quien podemos apoyarnos y como el punto de referencia que Dios quiere que sirva como guía para nuestras vidas: a una comunión duradera con Jesús, María y todos los amigos de Dios en la corte celestial.

El 22 de agosto celebramos la Fiesta de María, Reina de los Cielos, quien es la patrona principal de la Diócesis de Des Moines. En mi introducción a las cajas de herramientas de la misión y la visión escribí:

Confiamos que María sigue acompañando la Iglesia de su Hijo e intercede por nosotros. Así como su Hijo, María está siempre

“por nosotros”, ella nos “acortaja” con el gentil jalón del Espíritu en nuestros corazones. Con la energía evangélica y con la guía del buen consejo del Espíritu Santo en nuestro discernimiento, conseguimos la sabiduría práctica y el sentido común de sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos, líderes parroquiales y personas laicas con fe y buena voluntad que nos acompañan ahora y quienes pronto, es nuestra oración, se unirán a nuestra misión de Sembrar el Espíritu de Dios.

Tal vez no tomemos el arado físicamente, pero enfocamos nuestras mentes y nuestros cora-

zones en este proyecto del Reino permitiendo que Dios salve alma por medio de nosotros, atraídos por la esperanza en nuestra visión común: “Cultivando Conexiones en Cristo por medio del Encuentro, la Amistad y la Comunión.”

Al marcar la Fiesta del Reinado de María y nos preparamos para iniciar un nuevo año escolar, pienso que la Hermana Josephine tiene razón: Dios está presente y listo para revelarse a sí mismo a aquellos que están dispuestos a percibirlo. Que Jesús, el Pan que descendió del cielo, abra nuestros sentidos y corazones para capturar el cómo los encuentros sim-

ples y ordinarios con el Cuerpo de Cristo pueden ser una profunda bendición. Que el Espíritu de Dios derrame abundantes dones sobre nosotros en el continuo misterio de su amor. Busco encontrarme con ustedes alrededor de la Diócesis y en la Conferencia Católica Cristo Nuestra Vida el próximo mes.

¡Ven Espíritu Santo! Enciende nuestros corazones y sella los lazos de amistad y de comunión que encontramos en Cristo, en unión con María, Reina del Cielo.

WE ARE
HIRING

LEARN MORE

➔





THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF Mary
MOTHER OF THE CHURCH
176 MARIAN DRIVE, LAURIE, MISSOURI
MOTHERSSHURINE.COM

SUBMIT YOUR RESUME BY AUGUST 30, 2024

↓

Gary Slater, Interim CEO
gslater@mmocs.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Mothers' Shrine seeks a highly motivated, entrepreneurial leader who can lead its growth and operations toward becoming a world-class pilgrimage site.



Classified

Help Build Community Engagement: Vincentian Services Liaison Needed! St. Vincent de Paul Des Moines seeks a dynamic and compassionate individual for the part-time position of Vincentian Services Liaison. This role involves overseeing parish-based conferences, engaging volunteers, and enhancing outreach efforts. Key responsibilities include attending meetings, leading communication initiatives, and providing training and presentations. The position requires local travel and occasional evening and weekend availability. **Qualifications include** a degree in Human Services or a

related field, or equivalent experience, with a minimum of two years in the Des Moines area. Strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills are essential. The ideal candidate will be skilled in driving organizational change and building grassroots volunteer efforts. This role offers a chance to make a meaningful impact within the community while working in a supportive, professional office environment. A valid driver's license is required. Join us in making a difference! If you are interested, please contact the Executive Director at 801- 73rd Street, Windsor Heights 50324.

CARING ABOUT YOUR LOSS AND SHARING IN YOUR FAITH

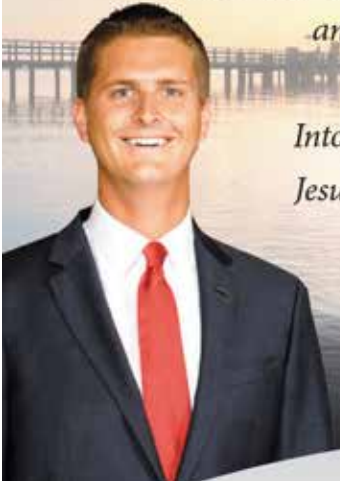

Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

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.

Associate Director

The Iowa Catholic Conference (ICC) is the public policy agency of the Catholic bishops of Iowa. The ICC seeks an associate director. This part-time position reports to the Executive Director of the ICC and will require about two to three days a week. Key position duties will include:

- Advocating on legislative proposals with lawmakers and government staff
- Testifying before subcommittees of the legislature and administrative agencies and assisting in the organization of stakeholder testimony
- Maintaining communications with issue-related advocacy groups.

Bachelor's degree and one to two years related experience preferred. Ability to maintain confidentiality of information and an attitude of helpfulness is essential. Support of the mission of the Catholic Church is required.

For more information or to apply, send a cover letter and resume to: Search Committee, Iowa Catholic Conference, 530 42nd St., Des Moines, IA 50312 or info@iowacatholicconference.org. Application deadline is Aug. 30, 2024.

Protect your family's future

JOIN THE KNIGHTS KofC.org/JoinUS



Knights of Columbus®



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

Life insurance needs are not one-size-fits-all



Term life insurance is an affordable way to protect those you love for a specific period of time.

Contact me today to learn more about our term life insurance programs.



kofc.org/join
 Promo Code:
BLESSEDMCGIVNEY




kofc.org/unete
 Código:
BLESSEDMCGIVNEY




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