



THE GOOD NEWS

Diocese to move forward with plan to create 29 parish “collaboratives”

After a series of consultations with the priests, deacons, lay leadership and special committees, Bishop Bradley announced plans to move forward with a Diocesan Pastoral Plan to begin implementation this Spring. The plan calls for the creation of 29 parish “collaboratives” or groupings of two to four parishes.

One pastor will be assigned to lead each collaborative and other priests will be assigned as Parochial Vicars, chaplains or to special ministries.

The final configuration of parish collaboratives was announced to the priests on January 28th. “At the heart of this plan is the need to provide the best pastoral care of our people,” said Bishop Bradley.

“Additionally, it provides for our priests to be in positions that best utilize their pastoral skills and talents.”

The plan calls for all parishes to retain their identity but be grouped together to allow for the best pastoral care of the Catholic communities. “We are not closing or combining parishes,” explains Bishop Bradley. “Our hope and vision is that through a robust vocations effort, and continued prayer and discernment among our people, we will need all those parishes in the future as our Catholic community continues to grow.”

Bishop Bradley presented the vision and plan at two of the seven planned deanery meetings on the evenings of January 28th at St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo and February 2nd at St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan [see remaining schedule of Deanery meetings below].

Feb. 11 – Southeast Deanery Meeting – St. Mary Assumption, Bronson, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.; Holy Angels Parish, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Feb. 23 – Northern Deanery Meeting – St. Therese, Wayland, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m..

Feb. 29 – Lakeshore Deanery Meeting – St. Bernard, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

March 15 – Eastern Deanery Meeting – St. Mary Parish, Marshall, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

See page 2 for additional information.



Parishioners from around the diocese listen as Bishop Bradley discusses the changes that will occur with the Pastoral Plan during the first deanery meeting, Jan. 28 at St. Monica Parish. Over 150 people were in attendance.

The Presence Kalamazoo welcomes back Fr. David Mary

Eucharist-centered youth retreat returns for fourth year

By **Sarah DeMott**

The fourth annual The Presence, a retreat for students in grades nine through 12, will be held February 26 through Feb. 28 at Hackett Catholic Prep. A Eucharist-focused retreat, the weekend will feature praise and worship music, Mass, reconciliation, adoration, breakout sessions, time for fellowship and discussion, testimonies and more.

“The Presence is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in the Eucharist for an entire weekend,” says Andrea Perry, Director of Youth Ministry for St. Jerome, St. Joseph and St. Philip Parishes. “High school youth from around the diocese come together to grow deeper in relationship with Christ and connect with others who are on the same journey.”

Returning to The Presence is Fr. David Mary, the Superior of the

Franciscan Brothers Minor, a religious order based in Fort Wayne, Ind. Fr. David led the very first The Presence retreat in 2013. A friar since 19, Fr. David leads retreats, Bible studies, outreach to the poor and homeless and assists with vocation discernment.

“Fr. David Mary is very energetic and very passionate about what Christ did for us. He wears his love for the Lord and his vocation as a priest on his sleeve,” says Tim McNamara, Associate Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. “It’s really inspiring to all in attendance.”

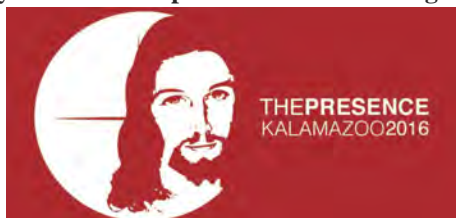
Breakout sessions will include separate boys and girls chastity talks, as they have in previous retreats. Additional sessions will focus on the Year of Mercy and related topics.

“This is not a one-time retreat. Many of our high

schooler’s are excited to return to The Presence. For some this will be their third or fourth time attending. This retreat is profound and life changing,” adds Perry. “It has been successful because it meets our teens exactly where they are. Our team understands the importance of being relevant and genuine. We have a great line-up of guest speakers who will give authentic and powerful testimonies.”

Also returning is praise and worship group, Full Armor Band.

Cost of the retreat is \$80. Registration is due by Feb. 10. Additional information and registration packet are available at thepresencekalamazoo.org.



Catholic Relief Services launches another year of popular Rice Bowl

This Lent, as they have for four decades, millions of Catholics around the United States will place a colorful cardboard box and calendar in their homes to begin a spiritual journey that changes lives around the world. They will be participating in the 41st year of CRS Rice Bowl, a program with an effect that goes far beyond the funds it raises for those who need support and services in communities throughout the United States and overseas.

For Catholic families, the “CRS Rice Bowl Effect” begins conversations about Lent and their faith, about the role of charity, and about the many different people who make up our world family. For Catholic parishes and schools, it unites communities for Lenten faith reflection around the spirit of serving those in need and the good work of the Church around the globe. And for those who benefit from its charity, the “Rice Bowl Effect” is a key to a better life.

Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs such as community gardens, food pantries, soup kitchens, support groups, and job centers. In 2015, the Diocese awarded three grants totaling \$12,500. Grantees were: Maple Valley Community Center of Hope which serves more than 100 families per week in Barry County; the Food Bank of South Central Michigan to support the Fresh Food Initiative, providing fresh food to the food insecure; and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Margaret, Otsego for the purchase of a refrigerator, freezer and shelving for their food pantry, and purchase of basic personal care items.

The remaining 75 percent goes to support CRS’ humanitarian programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

Rice Bowl Solidarity Meals: Three parishes in the diocese will host a Lenten Solidarity Meal in conjunction with Rice Bowl. A local Executive Chef will be preparing the meal, which will feature a dish from one of the 2016 CRS Rice Bowl featured countries: Colombia, Laos, Rwanda, Honduras or Madagascar. Events are scheduled for February 12, St. Mary Visitation, Byron Center; February 13, St. Stanislaus, Dorr and March 12, St. Margaret, Otsego. Contact Deacon Dean Hermann at brjosdcn93@gmail.com.

For each of the six weeks of Lent, there is a recipe and a story from a different country, focusing on a family or individual — lives that are being changed for the better by a CRS program. Each story illustrates a principle of Catholic Social Teaching and makes the connection between the gift of service and our faith — the “what” with the “why” of charity (see page 6 for more details).

Since its start in a parish in Allentown, Penn., as a response to the famine in the African Sahel region in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has evolved into a national response to hunger around the world, used by over 13,000 Catholic schools and parishes during the season of Lent.

CRS Rice Bowl materials are available in print, on the web, and through the mobile app and in English and Spanish. Follow CRS Rice Bowl on Twitter — @CRSRiceBowl and #4Lent4Life — and like CRS Rice Bowl on Facebook.

To donate and learn more about CRS Rice Bowl, visit crsricebowl.org or contact Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Sanctity of Human Life, liirwin@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0177.

For more Lenten 2016 resources, see page 6.

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna
Communication Director & Editor of *The Good News*

“Um, mama. Am I going to your work?”

Lost in a morning reverie, it wasn’t until my then pre-school daughter snapped me out of it with her question that I remembered she was in the backseat of my car expecting to be dropped off for preschool and wondering why we were on the highway instead of turning into her school’s parking lot. It seems my brain had switched into autopilot and it failed to register a new route and a new passenger.

Did you ever do something so often and so regularly you sometimes can’t remember doing it even moments after completing it? Sometimes we get so accustomed to the scenery on our daily commute that it becomes like wallpaper. We know it’s there but we fail to notice the details.

When it comes to observing the Lenten season I have to admit there have definitely been times I’ve switched into autopilot and navigated through the 40 days with the same routine: give up chocolate, attend Stations of the Cross a few times, order cheese pizza on Friday, try to generally be nicer, etc. If Lent is a time of spiritual “spring cleaning” then sometimes my efforts amount to a mere dusting rather than an intentional cleansing.

If you’re like me and in need of shaking up your Lenten routine a bit then you’re fortunate because this year Lent also falls within the Jubilee Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis.

So here are some ideas framed within our Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with a dash of mercy:

Prayer: We schedule dinner with friends, workouts, play dates for our kids—why not schedule time each day to pray. Loyola Press offers “3 Minute Retreats” – who can’t spare that?

Fasting: Try fasting from consumerism by purchasing only what’s necessary and donating your savings to those in need (**almsgiving** – it’s a double whammy). Sounds easy, right? Well, it’s not - especially if you wander past the shoe sales racks at Macy’s.

And because it’s the Year of Mercy I’m adding in my “dash” - **Conversion:** Get thee to confession. Nothing beats the grace from this under-utilized grace-filled sacrament (see page 6 for some preparation tips).

Pope Francis wrote that mercy “expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe” (Misericordiae Vultus, 21).

This Lent, whatever route you choose, be sure to use the route toward a new vision and give yourself time to notice all the things that have been there along the way.

Pope Francis FEBRUARY Intentions

Universal: That we may take good care of creation – a gift freely given – cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

Evangelization: That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

I hereby designate *The Good News* as the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, assignments, etc. issued under the caption “Official” are to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinion columns, features and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by *The Good News* or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

+Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

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Mission Statement of The Good News: *The Good News* is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Bishop of Kalamazoo is the publisher and president. *The Good News* is an extension in the print medium of the teaching authority of the Bishop. Therefore, it must always and at all times present Catholic teaching in an orthodox, authentic and balanced manner. Its mission and goals proceed from this fundamental reality. The mission of *The Good News*, therefore, is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to develop as mature, well informed Catholics and to deepen their commitment to, and relationship with, the Lord, their Catholic faith and their Church.

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Bishop Paul J. Bradley announced the following creation of 29 parish “collaboratives”:

Allegan County - 4 Collaboratives

1. St. Peter, Douglas + San Felipe de Jesus, Pearl
2. St. Mary’s Visitation, New Salem + St. Stanislaus, Hilliards+ Sacred Heart, Watson
3. St. Therese, Wayland + SS. Cyril & Methodius, Gun Lake
4. Blessed Sacrament, Allegan + St. Margaret, Otsego

Barry County- 2 Collaboratives

1. St. Rose of Lima, Hastings + St. Cyril, Nashville
2. St. Ann, Gull Lake* (*Kalamazoo County) + St. Ambrose, Delton + Our Lady of Great Oak, Lacey

Berrien County - 5 Collaboratives

1. St. Anthony, Buchanan + St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs + Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Bridgman
2. St. Mary of the Lake, New Buffalo + St. Mary’s Assumption, Three Oaks + St. Agnes, Sawyer
3. St. Joseph—St. Joseph (+ Lake Michigan Catholic Schools)
4. SS. John & Bernard, Benton Harbor
5. St. Mary, Niles + St. Mark, Niles

Branch County - 1 Collaborative

- St. Charles Borromeo, Coldwater + Our Lady of Fatima, Union City + St. Mary’s Assumption, Bronson

Calhoun County - 3 Collaboratives

1. St. Mary, Marshall + St. John the Evangelist, Albion
2. St. Philip, Battle Creek (+St. Philip Catholic Central)
3. St. Joseph, Battle Creek + St. Jerome, Battle Creek

Cass County - 2 Collaboratives

1. Holy Maternity of Mary, Dowagiac + Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek + St. Margaret Mary, Marcellus
2. Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg + St. Ann, Cassopolis

Kalamazoo County - 6 Collaboratives

1. St. Augustine, Kalamazoo
2. St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo
3. St. Joseph, Kalamazoo
4. St. Monica, Kalamazoo (+Hackett Catholic Prep)
5. St. Mary, Kalamazoo + St. Ambrose, Parchment
6. St. Catherine of Siena, Portage

St. Joseph County - 3 Collaboratives

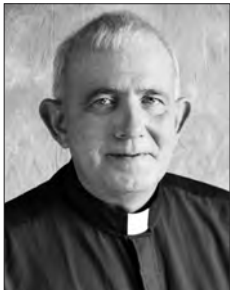
1. Holy Angels, Sturgis + St. Joseph,White Pigeon
2. Immaculate Conception,Three Rivers + St. Clare, Centreville + St. Barbara, Colon
3. St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg + St. Edward, Mendon

Van Buren County - 3 Collaboratives

1. Immaculate Conception, Hartford + St. Joseph, Watervliet
2. St. Mary, Paw Paw + Holy Family, Decatur + St. John Bosco, Mattawan
3. St. Basil, South Haven + Sacred Heart, Bangor + St. Jude, Gobles

EDITOR’S NOTE: Additional information will be updated on the diocesan website. Visit: www.diokzoo.org. The March edition of *The Good News* will featured expanded coverage of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

IN MEMORIAM



Rev. Carl Peltz, April 1, 1951 – December 26, 2015

Rev. Carl Peltz, 64, passed on to the Lord on December 26th, after bravely battling declining health in recent years. Fr. Peltz retired from active ministry for health reasons in 2014, after serving as a pastor and parochial vicar at nine parishes throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Fr. Peltz was ordained a priest on May 13, 1977, for the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio and was incardinated into the Diocese of Kalamazoo on January 12, 2000. He also served as a commissioned officer in the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy.

Fr. Peltz was born the first of five children on April 1, 1951, to Mr. William and Mrs. Theresa Peltz. He was ordained as a priest on May 13, 1977 in Steubenville, Ohio and incardinated into the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 2000. From 1983 through 1990, Fr. Peltz was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy spending three years in active duty and four years in the reserves. He was the only priest to serve 42 ships and spent time in Iceland, Sugar Creek, and Norfolk, and he truly enjoyed seeing Scotland, Ireland, and England.

Throughout his ministry in the Kalamazoo Diocese, Fr. Peltz served as Pastor in the following parishes: St. Ambrose Parish, Delton; Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey; St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Niles; St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs; Holy Family Parish, Decatur; St. John Parish, Albion; and St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan. He also served as Administrator for St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment, and as Parochial Vicar for St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph and St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage. Fr. Peltz was well versed and also published four books and 12 articles in the field of spirituality in the 1990s. He enjoyed meditating on the Gospels and the book of Psalms.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Bradley on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at St. Augustine Cathedral. Fr. Peltz’s cremated remains were interred privately at Fort Custer National Cemetery. Charitable donations in his memory may be made to organizations that help feed the hungry and take care of the homeless.



Rev. Al Russell, February 14, 1939 – January 16, 2016

Rev. Alfred Johnston Russell, 76, of Nags Head, NC, died on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at The Outer Banks Hospital. Born in Lockport, N.Y., he was the son of the late Alfred B. Russell and Loraine Johnston Russell. He served as pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish and its mission St. Cyril Parish, Nashville, from 2001 until 2010. He was ordained to the priesthood on October 1, 1966 for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and incardinated into the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 2005. He attained Senior Priest status when he retired in 2010.

At the time of his death, he served as the Associate Priest at Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish, with churches in Kitty Hawk and Nags Head. Father Al is survived by two sisters, Kathleen Navarre and Joan Costello. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by two siblings, Eugene Russell and Sister Judy Russell, SSMN.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held with the Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, NC, as principal celebrant. Concelebrating was Very Rev. Robert Creagan, Vicar for Clergy, who represented Bishop Bradley and the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Burial took place at the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Cemetery in Childs, Md.

THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

Lent: Our Spiritual Spring

Recently while I was in Walgreen’s on a snowy and blustery winter day, the sales clerk and I were commiserating with one another about the weather, and she said as the purchase was completed, “Well, cheer up, spring is only 84 days away!” As I walked away with that message ringing in my ears, I began to think that 84 days could not possibly be correct, and I was so grateful when I realized she was wrong; spring was only 60 days away (and as of this writing, it’s much closer; it’s less than 50 days away). While the forecast still predicts freezing and subfreezing temperatures and occasional accumulating snow over the days and weeks to come, it’s comforting to remember that spring is not far away; the time of new life and renewed hope is near.

While that’s true about our natural physical world, in our spiritual world, spring is already here. As we look at our liturgical calendar, February 10th is Ash Wednesday, and the first day of the Church’s annual 40-day “retreat”; it begins the spiritually rich Season of Lent. As you probably know, the word “Lent” is derived from an old-English word, lencten, meaning “springtime”. Lent is our spiritual springtime—the season for new beginnings and fresh starts. It is the great “Season of Grace,” and a wonderful 40-day period filled with opportunities to do what Ash Wednesday calls us to do: “Repent and believe the Good News.” Lent calls us to seriously reflect on our primary and most important relationship—the one we have with God—and to conduct a spiritual inventory or assessment on how healthy and strong that relationship is. Lent gives us the opportunity to see where our relationship with God needs to grow and deepen, and to develop a plan for growth.

While each Lenten season is important and valuable, this year in particular, in the midst of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are provided with a very special opportunity. In his beautiful message calling for Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote: “The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy.” (Misericordiae Vultus/Merciful Like the Father, #17) Not only should we think about, and honestly try to see where in our lives sin has distracted us from the spiritual goal of our lives, to be in union with God and to live in harmony with one another; we should also be focusing on how much, how desperately and to what lengths our loving God has gone to extend His love and mercy to us, even though we don’t deserve it. And so Pope Francis wants us not just to “turn away from sin” in our lives, but just as importantly to completely open ourselves to God’s love and mercy. We should do that by examining our consciences daily, and by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently. Unfortunately, many people let fear about going to confession stand in their way; they worry about knowing what to say, or let human embarrassment keep them from acknowledging the sins that are keeping us from being completely one with God and with each other. As Pope Francis writes so beautifully: “Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the center once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.” (#17)

That primary relationship in our lives—the relationship with God and with His people— was established on the day of our baptism when we, or more correctly for most of us, our godparents/parents, made our baptismal promises to reject Satan and sin, and to believe in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and in the Church which is the Body of Christ. This wonderful springtime of Lent challenges each of us to reflect on our baptismal promises and to renew those basic spiritual commitments. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing Himself for his public ministry, we should spend these 40 days of grace as a personal call to conversion from sin so that we too can fulfill our lifetime of following Jesus. During Lent, we find the three spiritual pillars so helpful: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (works of charity/mercy). We traditionally find it helpful to look for ways to intensify our prayer life, to take on fasting from pleasurable food or drink, and to look for ways to reach out to help those in need. Each of those traditional practices is excellent, and I hope each of us will make our own personal Lenten resolutions as to how we will pray, fast and reach out in charity and mercy.

During this Lent and during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is urging all of us to focus our particular attention on what we know as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. As you probably remember from your religious instruction classes, the Corporal Works of Mercy are to: 1) feed the hungry; 2) give drink to the thirsty; 3) clothe the naked; 4) shelter the homeless; 5) visit the sick; 6) visit the imprisoned; and 7) bury the dead. Pope Francis urges us: “Let us rediscover the corporal works of mercy. We cannot escape the Lord’s words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison.” (#15). Remember that Jesus is the One who first told us that our eternal salvation depends on these works of mercy in the Gospel of Matthew and the Parable of the Final Judgment when Jesus talks about separating all of humanity into two groups, the sheep and the goats. (Mt. 25: 31-45) Lent is a very good time to review our lives to see how well we are practicing these corporal works of mercy, and to make resolutions to take on these practices. We can volunteer at Catholic Charities or at the Gospel Mission or our local soup kitchen; if we can’t visit the local prison/jail, perhaps we can find ways to reach out to people “imprisoned” by other burdens, such as additions or emotional fears. How can I reach out to comfort those of my fellow pil-

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LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

Cuaresma: Nuestra primavera espiritual

Recientemente mientras estaba en Walgreens un día de invierno nevado y ventoso, la vendedora y yo nos compadecíamos uno al otro por el clima y dijo al finalizar la compra, “¡bueno, anímese, la primavera es en sólo 84 días!” Al alejarme con ese mensaje resonando en mis oídos, empecé a pensar que 84 días no podía ser correcto, y estaba tan agradecido al darme cuenta de que estaba equivocada; Solo faltaban 60 días para la primavera (y desde que empecé a escribir esto está mucho más cerca; faltan menos de 50 días). Mientras que el pronóstico predice aún temperaturas frías y congelantes y un ocasional acumulado de nieve en los días y semanas por venir, es reconfortante recordar que la primavera no está lejos; el tiempo de nueva vida y renovada esperanza está cerca.

Mientras que eso es verdad acerca de nuestro mundo físico natural, en nuestro mundo espiritual, la primavera ya está aquí. Al mirar nuestro calendario litúrgico, el 10 de febrero es miércoles de ceniza y el primer día de “retiro” anual de 40 días de la iglesia; comienza la rica temporada espiritual de Cuaresma. Como ustedes probablemente saben, la palabra "Lent (Cuaresma en Ingles)" deriva de una palabra del inglés antiguo, lencten, que significa "primavera". La Cuaresma es nuestra primavera espiritual —la temporada de nuevos comienzos y frescos inicios. Es la gran "Temporada de Gracia", y un período maravilloso de 40 días lleno de oportunidades para hacer lo que el miércoles de ceniza nos llama a hacer: "Arrepiéntanse y crean en el Evangelio." La Cuaresma nos llama a reflexionar seriamente nuestra relación primaria y más importante—la que tenemos con Dios—y llevar a cabo un inventario espiritual o evaluación sobre cómo es de sana y fuerte esa relación. La Cuaresma nos da la oportunidad de ver donde nuestra relación con Dios necesita crecer y profundizarse y desarrollar un plan de crecimiento.

Mientras que cada Cuaresma es importante y valiosa, este año en particular, en medio del año jubilar de la misericordia, estamos provistos con una oportunidad muy especial. En su hermoso mensaje pidiendo por el año de la misericordia, el Papa Francisco escribió: "La temporada de Cuaresma durante este Año Jubilar debe también ser vivida más intensamente como un momento privilegiado para celebrar y experimentar la misericordia de Dios." (Misericordiae Vultus / Misericordioso Como el Padre, #17) No sólo debemos pensar y sinceramente tratar de ver donde en nuestras vidas el pecado nos ha distraído de la meta espiritual de nuestras vidas, de estar en unión con Dios y vivir en armonía uno con el otro; debemos también enfocarnos en cuánto, con que urgencia y a qué extremos nuestro amoroso Dios ha ido para extender su amor y misericordia hacia nosotros, a pesar de que no lo merecemos. Y por lo tanto el Papa Francisco quiere que no sólo " alejemos el pecado" de nuestras vidas, sino que también así de importante nos abramos completamente al amor y a la misericordia de Dios. Debemos hacerlo mediante el examen de conciencia diario y celebrando el Sacramento de la reconciliación frecuentemente. Desafortunadamente, muchas personas dejan que el miedo de ir a la confesión se interponga en su camino; se preocupan por no saber qué decir, o dejan que la vergüenza humana les impide reconocer los pecados que nos mantienen alejados de ser totalmente uno con Dios y con los demás. Como el Papa Francisco escribe tan maravillosamente: "Pongamos el Sacramento de la reconciliación en el centro una vez más de tal manera que le permita a la gente tocar la grandeza de la misericordia de Dios con sus propias manos. Para cada penitente, será una fuente de verdadera paz interior." (#17)

Esa relación primaria en nuestras vidas—la relación con Dios y con su gente—se estableció el día de nuestro bautismo cuando nosotros, o más correctamente para la mayoría de nosotros, nuestros padrinos/padres, hicieron nuestras promesas bautismales para rechazar el pecado y a Satanás y creer en Dios, el Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo y en la Iglesia que es Cuerpo de Cristo. Esta maravillosa primavera Cuaresmal nos desafía a cada uno de nosotros a reflexionar sobre nuestras promesas bautismales y renovar esos compromisos espirituales básicos. Así como Jesús pasó 40 días en el desierto preparándose para su ministerio público, debemos pasar estos 40 días de gracia como una llamada personal a la conversión del pecado para que nosotros también podamos cumplir con nuestra vida de seguir a Jesús. Durante la Cuaresma, encontramos los tres pilares espirituales muy útiles: oración, ayuno y limosna (obras de caridad/misericordia). Tradicionalmente nos resulta útil buscar maneras de intensificar nuestra vida de oración, ayunar comidas o bebidas que nos dan placer y buscar maneras de llegar a ayudar a los necesitados. Cada una de esa práctica tradicional es excelente, y espero que cada uno de nosotros haremos nuestras propias resoluciones Cuaresmales personales en cuanto a cómo oraremos, ayunaremos y haremos obras de caridad y misericordia.

Durante esta Cuaresma y durante este año jubilar de la misericordia, el Papa Francisco nos insta a todos a centrar nuestra atención particular en lo que conocemos como las obras Corporales y Espirituales de Misericordia. Como probablemente recuerdan de sus clases de instrucción religiosa, las obras corporales de misericordia son: 1) alimentar al hambriento; 2) dar de beber al sediento; 3) vestir al desnudo; 4) dar refugio a los desamparados; 5) visitar a los enfermos; 6) visitar a los presos; y 7) enterrar a los muertos. El Papa Francisco nos insta: "Redescubramos las obras corporales de misericordia. No podemos escapar de las palabras del Señor a nosotros, ya que servirán como el criterio sobre el cual seremos juzgados: si hemos alimentado al hambriento y dado de beber al sediento, dado la bienvenida al extranjero y vestido al desnudo, o si hemos pasado tiempo con los enfermos y los presos. "

Seminarian Spotlight



Name: Maximilian Nightingale
Home Parish: St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph
High School: Lakeshore High School, Stevensville
Seminary: North American College, Rome

When did you first feel the call to become a priest? Was there an event or person who was heavily influential in your decision?

My grandpa was the first person to regularly suggest that I consider the priesthood when I was in high school. There was one Easter during high school when I stayed with a religious community for a few days. It was after this experience, witnessing the life of men who had given their lives to God with joy and love, that I became set on giving my own life to doing God's will.

What is a typical day like at the seminary?

Every day starts with Mass and morning prayer at 6:15 a.m. and then four hours of class at my university. Afternoons are usually for study, exercise, meetings, and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. At 6:45 p.m., we gather for evening prayer and then dinner. Every day is slightly different with formation conferences, parish Bible study, choir practice and other events going on.

What would surprise people the most about being a seminarian?

Probably how busy it is. I have talked to many who think we only pray and study all day, but all sorts of things keep us occupied.

What most draws you to become a priest?

I want to bring God to men and men to God through the sacraments which Christ has given to the Church. It is a wonderful thing to consider what God works through his priests.

What would your best advice be to a young man who thinks he may have a calling to the priesthood?

The most important thing is to develop the habit of regular prayer so that you become ever more attentive to God's will for your life. Also talk to priests and let the Vocations Office know that you are considering it.

Who is your favorite saint? Why?

After Our Lady, my favorite saint is probably St Thomas Aquinas. He was a Dominican friar in the 13th century who wrote some of the greatest theological works ever written. I have learned so many things from his writings (e.g. the harmony of faith and reason, how creatures lead men to God, what human happiness truly is) and I continue to turn to these writings in my studies. Even with his great intellect, he also possessed true humility by which he knew how far the mystery of God's transcends anything he could ever grasp in this life.

Who has been the most influential priest in your life?

My parish priest while I was in high school probably made the greatest impact. He answered many questions I had about the priesthood, and encouraged me to pray and read spiritual classics.

How do you build your relationship with Jesus and His Church?

Spend time with them. One of the best ways to do this is Eucharistic Adoration, to sit in the presence of Christ for an hour at a time. Here, you are also united with the Church throughout the world who are also gathered around Jesus in adoration.

What is the most interesting thing you have learned in seminary?

The most interesting thing is seeing, more and more, how the mystery of Christ touches every aspect of reality. All of Scripture, all of life, and all of creation ultimately point the reality of God made man in Christ Jesus, and this is a wonderful truth.



The Bishop's Perspective

Continued from page 3

grims on the journey of faith we share?

Pope Francis also urges us to practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy, which as you know are: 1) admonish the sinner; 2) instruct the ignorant; 3) counsel the doubtful; 4) comfort the sorrowful; 5) bear wrongs patiently; 6) forgive all injuries; 7) pray for the living and the dead. Of these spiritual practices, Pope Francis wrote: “Moreover we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brother and sisters to the Lord in prayer.” (# 15)

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, this Lenten Springtime, these 40 days of Lent, provide us with a wonderful opportunity to grow and to be renewed in our most important relationship: our union with our loving God, and our communion with and among all those in our lives with whom we are sharing this lifetime pilgrimage. Jesus tells us that our eternal salvation depends on to what degree we have not only prayed well, and gone to Mass regularly, and confessed our sins frequently, and devoted ourselves to fasting and sacrifice, but also to what degree we have reached out in Christ-like, loving service in practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. May this lenten springtime help us to hear Jesus say to us at the end of our lifetime pilgrimage: “Come you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Mt. 25:34)

God bless you, now and always!

(#15). Recuerden que Jesús es quien primero nos dijo que nuestra salvación eterna depende de estas obras de misericordia en el Evangelio de Mateo y la parábola del Juicio Final cuando Jesús habla sobre la separación de toda la humanidad en dos grupos, las ovejas y las cabras. (MT. 25:31-45) La Cuaresma es un muy buen momento para revisar nuestra vida para ver qué tan bien estamos practicando estas obras corporales de misericordia y hacer resoluciones para realizar estas prácticas. Podemos ser voluntarios en Caridades Católicas o en la misión del Evangelio o nuestro comedor local; Si no podemos visitar la prisión/cárcel local, quizás podemos encontrar maneras de llegar a la gente "prisionera" de otras cargas, tales como adiciones o miedos emocionales. ¿Cómo puedo llegar a consolar a esos compañeros míos peregrinos en el camino de fe que compartimos?

El Papa Francisco también nos insta a practicar las obras espirituales de misericordia, que como saben son: 1) Enseñar al que no sabe 2) Dar buen consejo al que lo necesita 3) Corregir al que se equivoca 4) Perdonar al que nos ofende 5) Consolar al triste 6) Sufrir con paciencia los defectos del prójimo 7) Rezar a Dios por los vivos y por los difuntos. De estas prácticas espirituales, el Papa Francisco escribió: " Igualmente se nos preguntará si ayudamos a superar la duda, que hace caer en el miedo y en ocasiones es fuente de soledad; si fuimos capaces de vencer la ignorancia en la que viven millones de personas, sobre todo los niños privados de la ayuda necesaria para ser rescatados de la pobreza; si fuimos capaces de ser cercanos a quien estaba solo y afligido; si perdonamos a quien nos ofendió y rechazamos cualquier forma de rencor o de odio que conduce a la violencia; si tuvimos paciencia siguiendo el ejemplo de Dios que es tan paciente con nosotros; finalmente, si encomendamos al Señor en la oración nuestros hermanos y hermanas.. (# 15)

Mis queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo, esta primavera cuaresmal, estos 40 días de Cuaresma, nos proporcionan una oportunidad maravillosa para crecer y renovar nuestra relación más importante: nuestra Unión y nuestro amor a Dios, y nuestra comunión con y entre todos aquellos en nuestras vidas con quien estamos compartiendo esta vida de peregrinaje. Jesús nos dice que nuestra salvación eterna depende en qué grado no solo hemos orado e ido a Misa regularmente y confesado nuestros pecados con frecuencia y dedicado al ayuno y sacrificio, pero también hasta qué punto hemos llegado a otros en servicio amoroso como Cristo practicando las obras de misericordia corporales y espirituales. Que esta primavera cuaresmal nos ayude a oír a Jesús decirnos al final de nuestra peregrinación de esta vida: “Vengan, benditos de Mi Padre, hereden el reino preparado para ustedes desde la fundación del mundo ". (MT. 25:34)

¡Dios los bendiga, ahora y siempre!

Collection for diocesan priests' retirement set for March 5/6

For the third consecutive year The Priests' Retirement Collection will be held the weekend of March 5th and 6th. All monies collected through the “Diocesan Priests Retirement Collection” will directly benefit the Bishop Paul V. Donovan Good Shepherd Fund and be used to fill the gap in priests' retirement.

The Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection was approved by Bishop Bradley to be conducted in the diocese for five consecutive years. As is the case with many companies and institutions with pension plans in today's world, the diocesan priests' retirement program is not fully funded.

This Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection is separate from the annual national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which supports retired priests, brothers and sisters of religious orders and institutes across America. All monies collected this March will directly benefit priests of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Visit the diocesan website, www.diokzoo.org, for more information including a detailed brochure and frequently asked questions.

Diocesan Heating Assistance Program assists those in need during brutal winter months

The Diocesan Heating Assistance Program (DHAP) will continue until all funds are used. If you know of someone needing heating assistance, call your parish or mission. Heating Assistance Volunteers will screen all those who come in for assistance. The maximum amount of assistance is \$250 per household per heating assistance season.

Anyone still wishing to make a contribution to the 2015-2016 Diocesan Heating Assistance Program may send a check (payable to the Diocese of Kalamazoo / Memo: DHAP), 215 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Kerry Williams at kerrywilliams@ccdok.org.



Pray for Vocations

Visit www.diokzoo.org
 Download Prayer Card for Vocations

Caring Network debuts “Mama Academy”

New programs offer free education for expecting and new moms

By Sarah DeMott

This year the “Class of 2016” will include the first graduates of the newly formed “Mama Academy” at Caring Network, an agency of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Mama Academy offers free classes to pregnant and new mothers on pregnancy, nutrition, childbirth, postpartum, infant care and breastfeeding for expecting moms of all ages.

Julie Davis, certified childbirth instructor, teaches the “Childbirth Preparation and Parenting” class for teen parents. This six-week class series for mothers age 13 to 20 focuses on the bodily and emotional changes that occur during pregnancy, nutrition, childbirth, pain management options during labor, postpartum recovery and infant care. Those expectant moms who attend all six classes receive a free car seat. Classes are held Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The next session of courses will start April 14.

“It is exciting to expand class offerings, making women feel supported and empowered in their role of motherhood,” says Davis. “It’s also a terrific way to connect with other mothers.”

Also offered through Mama Academy is “Childbirth Basics for All,” a four-week class designed for expecting mothers of all ages. The next series will be



Julie Davis, certified childbirth instructor, teaches pregnant teens about labor and delivery during a Childbirth Preparation and Parenting Class in Caring Network's new Mama Academy. The class is free for pregnant and new teen mothers.

held Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. starting March 3.

Making the Most of Motherhood is a month-long class featuring a different topic each week, including healthy habits, dealing with stress, breastfeeding benefits and tips, and a special class for teen moms with children under 1. All classes are free of charge.

Classes are designed to present information in an informal manner that encourages participation. The father of the baby or birthing partner is also encouraged to attend. For more information, call 269-381-9800.

Catholic Scouts deepen faith while pursuing emblems

Girl and Boy Scouts have several opportunities for retreats centered around their Catholic faith



January 16-17, two weekends were held for boy scouts. Middle school boy scouts from the Diocese of Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo gathered at Rota Kiwan in Kalamazoo for the Ad Altare Dei weekend retreat, where they spent the weekend learning about the sacraments. The same weekend, high school boy scouts gathered in Grand Rapids for Part 1 of the Pope Pius XII emblem, studying the different vocations of life, including religious orders, consecrated life and marriage. Part 2 will be held Feb. 20-21.

Girl Scouts grades 4-6 will gather at Camp Merrie Woode in Plainwell for the I Live My Faith retreat weekend, Feb. 12-14. There they will focus on how to bring prayer, service and other aspects of their faith into their daily lives, as well as how to build and support their relationship with Christ.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting Celebration of Faith Scout Retreat will be Saturday, March 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Dowagiac. Mass will follow at 5:30 p.m. All scouts grades K-5 are welcome to attend and earn the Bishop Baraga emblem.

The last day to submit religious award requests for both adult and youth is March 22. Religious emblems will be given out at the annual Bishop's Scout Mass with Bishop Bradley on Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m. in St. Augustine Cathedral. Anyone in attendance will receive the annual Scout Mass patch.

For more information on Catholic Scouting or any of these events, contact Tim McNamara, tmcnamara@diokzoo.org, 269.903.0139.

Pictures provided by William Zeman, taken at the Ad Altare Dei weekend retreat.



The Other Six Days | By Jane Knuth



A Year of Mercy

I am sure that no man asks mercy and grace with sincerity, without mercy and grace being given to him first.

— Julian of Norwich

Shortly before Thanksgiving, while she was at work, my friend Grace's wallet was stolen out of her purse. She had a suspicion that the wallet walked away with a man who had been in the vicinity earlier in the day but there was no evidence, and so she couldn't accuse him.

“But,” she says, “I decided I could pray for him.” Grace went about the business of reporting all the items missing: credit cards, driver's license, and cash. The police gave her little hope of ever seeing the wallet or the photos of her grandchildren again. “That only gave me more reasons to pray for the thief,” she says.

Several weeks passed and Grace travelled out of town for a short trip. When she returned there was a postcard from the US Postal Service in her mailbox asking her to call them, so she did.

“We have your wallet,” the clerk told her. “Someone dropped it in a mailbox. Bring some I.D. and you can pick it up.”

“I was so excited,” says Grace, “that I drove there the next day. My wallet was in perfect condition, not dirty or scuffed at all. Even better, everything except the cash was inside it: the driver's license, the cards, and most important — my grandchildren's pictures. And behind the kids' photos, the twenty dollar bill I keep for emergencies was still there. The thief obviously didn't search through my things because everything was where I usually store it. I guess he only needed some extra cash.”

2016 continues the Year of Mercy and this column will report the mercy that appears in the other six days of our weeks. Julian of Norwich says that God's mercy is so great that He grants it before we even ask for it. I know she is onto something here: Grace picked up her wallet at the Post Office on Dec. 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and the first day of the Year of Mercy.

World Marriage Day Celebration hosted by diocese and Familia

The Diocese of Kalamazoo and Familia of Kalamazoo will host a celebration of married couples and families on Saturday, February 13, at St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo. The celebration will begin with Mass at 9 a.m., including a special blessing for married couples. A reception will follow in the St. Monica Community Building.

World Marriage Day is “a reminder of the importance of marriage, a time to honor husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society,” says Socorro Truchan, Associate Direc-

tor of the Domestic Church at the diocese. “It celebrates the beauty of a married couple's faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in their covenant and their vocation.”

World Marriage Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of February each year.

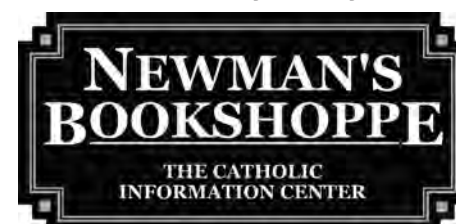
“In today's climate, where the design of marriage as fruitful and life giving is questioned, celebrating marriage is as important as ever,” Truchan notes. “WMD is a time when the entire world can join together with a common goal — to celebrate the good of marriage between one woman and one man.”



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Annual Diocesan retreat to explore the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Registration is now open for the annual diocesan retreat, The Year of Mercy: The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, on March 5-6 at Transformations Spirituality Center.

Retreat facilitators Deacon Kurt Lucas, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Parish Life & Lay Leadership, and Jamin Herold, Associate Director of New Evangelization, will lead discussions on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, how they can become part of your life and how they help deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ.

The retreat begins with Mass at 9 a.m. on Saturday and concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. The weekend will include Mass, reconciliation, conferences, Eucharistic Adoration and opportunities for personal prayer and reflection.

Early registration cost is \$100 for double occupancy, \$125 for single occupancy and \$80 for commuters if paid by February 12. After that, cost will be an additional \$20. Cost includes lodging, meals, snacks and all retreat materials.

For information or to register, contact Jane Bodway, jbodway@diokzoo.org or 269-903-0147.



Photos taken during the 2016 Kalamazoo March for Life by John Grapp.

40 Days for Life campaign kicks off February 9th

The 40 Days for Life campaign will kick off with a candlelight vigil prayer service on Tuesday, February 9th, at 6:30 p.m. Participants will gather on the public sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood in Kalamazoo. Throughout the 40 days of Lent people will pray and fast with the intention for the end of abortion.

To get involved and for more information visit: www.40daysforlife.com/kalamazoo ; Facebook: 40 Days for Life of Kalamazoo; Email: 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com ; 269.254.9337



One of last year’s winners, Robin Heffron Brendlinger, submitted this photo of her daughters enjoying a simple Friday Lenten meal.

“Merciful Like the Father” theme selected for diocesan Rice Bowl Photo Contest

For its third annual CRS Rice Bowl photo contest the Diocese of Kalamazoo has chosen “Merciful Like the Father” as the theme.

So how does the photo contest work? Throughout Lent, the Diocese of Kalamazoo will be posting about mercy, Rice Bowl and Lent on the diocesan Facebook page (www.facebook.com/catholicdioceseofkalamazoo) . At the beginning of each week, one of the posts will be a call for photo submissions. Simply post your photo before Noon each Friday of Lent showing how you are merciful or focused on prayer, fasting or almsgiving. We will announce a randomly selected winner each Friday at 3:30 p.m. The winner will receive one of several fair-trade prizes.

The first prize will be drawn February 18th.

*Any photos submitted after Noon on Fridays will not be included in the contest. Photos submitted are only valid for the week they are posted. Winner will be contacted by diocesan staff via Facebook message. Submission of photos gives the Diocese of Kalamazoo rights to repurpose photos for Rice Bowl and Lent-related communications.



Pope Francis receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent last year. Photo: Catholic News Service

Pope offers handy tips for preparing for confession; booklet in Italian first distributed last year

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After a brief explanation of why people should go to confession — “because we are all sinners” — the pope listed 30 key questions to reflect on as part of making an examination of conscience and being able to “confess well.”

The guide is part of a 28-page booklet in Italian released last year by the Vatican publishing house. Titled “Safeguard your heart,” the booklet is meant to help the faithful become “courageous” and prepared to battle against evil and choose the good. [The booklet is not published in English.]

The Oct. 10, 2014, homily, which is excerpted in the booklet, said the best way to guard one’s heart is with the daily practice of an “examination of conscience,” in which one quietly reviews what bad things one has done and what good things one has failed to do for God, one’s neighbor and oneself.

The questions include:

- Do I only turn to God when I’m in need?
- Do I take attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?
- Do I begin and end the day with prayer?
- Am I embarrassed to show that I am a Christian?
- Do I rebel against God’s plan?
- Am I envious, hot-tempered, biased?
- Am I honest and fair with everyone or do I fuel the “throwaway culture?”
- In my marital and family relations, do I uphold morality as taught in the Gospels?
- Do I honor and respect my parents?
- Have I refused newly conceived life? Have I snuffed out the gift of life? Have I helped do so?
- Do I respect the environment?
- Am I part worldly and part believer?
- Do I overdo it with eating, drinking, smoking and amusements?
- Am I overly concerned about my physical well-being, my possessions?
- How do I use my time? Am I lazy?
- Do I want to be served?
- Do I dream of revenge, hold grudges?
- Am I meek, humble and a builder of peace?

Catholics should go to confession, the pope said, because everyone needs forgiveness for their sins, for the ways “we think and act contrary to the Gospel.”

“Whoever says he is without sin is a liar or is blind,” he wrote.

Confession is meant to be a sincere moment of conversion, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God’s willingness to forgive his children and to help them back on the path of following Jesus, Pope Francis wrote.

Lenten Lecture Series with Very. Rev. John Fleckenstein

This Lent, join Fr. John for a Midweek Faith Lift. Fr. John will present a 4 part lecture series, “Teachings of Vatican II” from 6-7:30 p.m. in the St. Philip Parish Center in Battle Creek. Audio files of each lecture will be available on the parish website.

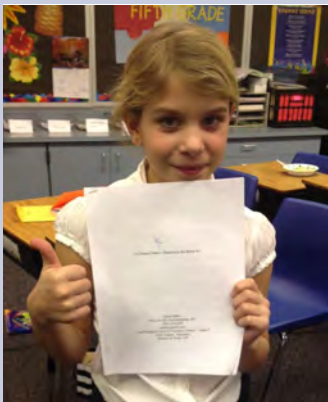


- Feb. 17: Second Vatican Council - History, Purpose, and Vision
- Feb. 24: The “Why” & “How” of Revisions to the Liturgy
- March 9: Constitution on the Church and Divine Wisdom
- March 16: The Laity and the Church

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT

The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration was held January 31 through February 6. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Following are just a few examples of that theme in action at Catholic Schools throughout the diocese:

Lake Michigan Catholic 5th grader wins American History Essay contest
Chloe Kibler, Lake Michigan Catholic fifth grader, wrote the winning essay for the Algonquin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) American History Essay Contest. This year's essay topic is "A Colonial Family's Reaction to the Stamp Act." Chloe's essay will advance to compete at the state level.



St. Philip students serve the community
St. Philip Catholic Central Interact Club wrote more than 50 Christmas Cards and donated cookies to the Veterans Administration to be delivered to veterans during the holidays.

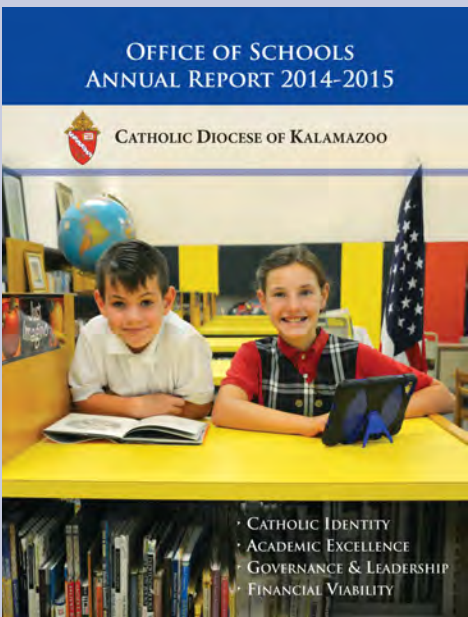


Hackett Catholic Prep student chosen for prestigious U.S. Senate Youth Program
Caroline Yapp, a senior at Hackett Catholic Prep, has been chosen as one of only two students to represent the State of Michigan at the United States Senate Youth Program. Yapp will travel to Washington D.C., March 5-12, where she will attend meetings and briefings with Senators, House Representatives and Congressional staff, the President, a Justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of Cabinet Agencies, an Ambassador to the United States and senior members of the national media. In addition she received a \$5,000 scholarship.

Office of Schools releases annual report
The diocesan Office of Schools has made available its Annual Report 2014-2015. Copies were distributed last month to Catholic school families and the full report is posted online at: www.diokzoo.org/schoolsannualreport2015.

The report highlights key initiatives and information within the schools’ key priorities of Catholic identity, academic excellence, governance and leadership and financial viability.

For more information contact: Office of Schools, 269-903-0207.



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Pope releases new book centered on mercy

“The Name of God is Mercy,” the book in the form of an interview with Pope Francis by the Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli, was released last month in 86 countries and was presented in the Augustinianum Institute, Rome by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin and the actor Roberto Benigni during a conference moderated by the director of the Holy See Press Office, Fr. Federico Lombardi, S.J. The event was also attended by Msgr.

Giuseppe Costa, director of the Vatican Publishing House (LEV), and Zhang Agostino Jianqing, a detainee in the prison of Padua, Italy who has converted to Christianity and received Baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation last year. An extract of one of the Oscar winner Roberto Benigni's readings dedicated to “The Ten Commandments” was

used by the Pope in the homily he pronounced during the end of year Te Deum in 2014, in which he spoke of the weakness of the human being, who at times tends towards slavery and sin for fear of freedom.

The book, whose cover bears the signature of the Pope in the Italian, Spanish, French, English and Portuguese editions, is divided into nine chapters. It begins with “The Time of Mercy” and concludes with “How to live the Jubilee well.” Throughout the other seven chapters Francis dialogues with Andrea Tornielli — whom during a four-hour interview this summer, in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, asked him forty questions on issues linked by the common thread of mercy, described by the Pope as “God’s identity card.”

— Source: Vatican News Service

Catholic Charismatic Conference to be held this summer in Kalamazoo

The 2016 All Michigan Catholic Charismatic Conference will be held on July 8th, 9th & 10th at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth, Mich. At the Charismatic Conference, people from the Dioceses of Michigan come together for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship, suggestions on evangelization, fellowship, Mass, confession and to hear speaker presentations.

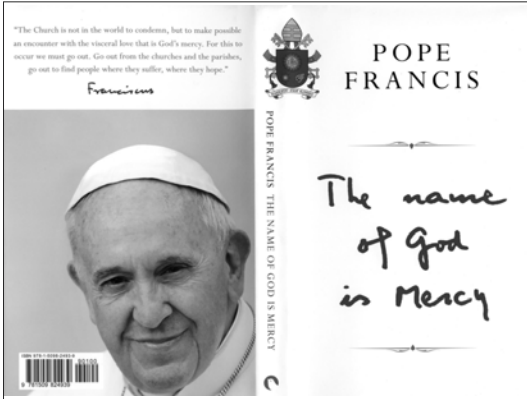
Currently there are three active Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups within the Diocese:

Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ prayer group meets every

Thursday at St. Catherine of Siena, 1150 W. Centre Ave., Portage from 6-8 p.m. A healing mass is celebrated the 1st Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Praise, Prayer and Share meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month with Deacon Al Bell facilitating, at St. Phillips Parish Center, 112 Capital NE in Battle Creek at 6:00 p.m.

God’s Goodness in Our Lives - Sacred Heart Church, 201 W. Walnut St. Bangor, MI Charismatic Prayer Group meets weekly on Monday nights for prayer and education.



This is the book jacket of the U.K. and Commonwealth edition of "The Name of God Is Mercy," featuring an interview Pope Francis did with Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli. The cover text was handwritten by the pope. (CNS photo/Bluebird)

Pope to visit marginalized communities in Mexico

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will visit some of the most marginalized communities in Mexico and seek to bring hope to a country deeply suffering from crime, corruption and inequality when he visits in February.

The Vatican announced details about the pope's Feb. 12-17 trip to Mexico, during which he will stop in six cities, including two in the state of Chiapas and — across from El Paso, Texas — Ciudad Juarez, which just five years ago was considered the "murder capital of the world" as drug cartels disputed a trafficking corridor.

The pope said in November that he wanted to visit cities where St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI never went. But he said he will stop at the capital of Mexico City to pray at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. “But if it wasn’t for Our Lady I wouldn’t” go there, he had told reporters.

The pope will fly out of and return to Mexico City each day after celebrating Mass at the basilica on the second day of his trip.

Over the following four days, he will visit a pediatric hospital in the capital as well as families and indigenous communities in the southernmost state of Chiapas, Mexico’s poorest state, which gained worldwide attention for the 1990s Zapatista rebellion.

He will visit young people and religious in Morelia, celebrate Mass on the Mexican-U.S. border in Ciudad Juarez and visit its infamous Cereso state prison, where at least 20 people were killed during riots in 2009 triggered by rival gangs among the prisoners.

“We are certain that the presence of the Holy Father will confirm us in the faith, hope and charity and will help the church move ahead in its permanent mission,” the Mexican bishops’ conference said in a Dec. 12 statement. “It will encourage believers and nonbelievers and commit us to the construction of a just Mexico, with solidarity, reconciliation and peace,” the statement said.

Here is the pope’s itinerary as released by the Vatican.

Friday, Feb. 12 (Rome, Mexico City)

• Arrival at “Benito Juarez” International Airport in Mexico City. Officials to greet pope.

Saturday, Feb. 13 (Mexico City)

- Welcoming ceremony at the National Palace. Courtesy visit with the president of the republic.
- Meeting with representatives of civil society and the diplomatic corps. Speech by pope.
- Meeting with Mexico’s bishops in the city’s cathedral. Speech by pope.
- Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Homily by pope.



Pilgrims hold up images of Our Lady of Guadalupe during an annual pilgrimage in her honor at the cathedral in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Dec. 11. The Vatican announced Dec. 12 that the pope will visit Mexico from Feb. 12-17. His trip will include a stop in Ciudad Juarez, the city across from El Paso, Texas, that is known for drug-related violence. (CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzalez, Reuters)

Sunday, Feb. 14 (Mexico City, Ecatepec, Mexico City)

- Mass in the area of the “study center” of Ecatepec. Homily by pope. Pope recites Angelus.
- Visit to the Federico Gomez Children’s Hospital of Mexico. Greeting by pope.
- Meeting in the National Auditorium with representatives of culture. Speech by pope.

Monday, Feb. 15 (Mexico City, Tuxtla Gutierrez, San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico City)

- Mass at the city's sports center with the indigenous community from Chiapas. Homily by pope.
- Lunch with representatives of the indigenous community and the papal entourage.
- Visit to the cathedral of San Cristobal de Las Casas.
- Meeting with families at the Victor Manuel Reyna Stadium at Tuxtla Gutierrez. Speech by pope.

Tuesday, Feb. 16 (Mexico City, Morelia, Mexico City)

- Mass with priests, seminarians, religious men and women, and consecrated persons. Homily by pope.
- Visit to the city’s cathedral.
- Meeting with young people at the Jose Maria Morelos Pavon Stadium. Speech by pope.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 (Mexico City, Ciudad Juarez)

- Arrival at Abraham Gonzalez International Airport in Ciudad Juarez.
- Visit to Cereso prison. Speech by pope.
- Meeting with workers and employers at the Colegio de Bachilleres of the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Speech by pope.
- Mass at the fairgrounds of Ciudad Juarez. Homily and greeting by pope.
- Departure ceremony at the Ciudad Juarez International Airport.

Contributing to this story was David Agren in Mexico City.

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St. Stanislaus Parish

Sweetheart Soup Dinner

Sunday, February 22, 2015
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Adults – \$9
Children (7-12) – \$4
6 and under – Free

Featuring: Authentic Czarnina, Hearty Chicken Noodle, Seafood Chowder, Cheesy Broccoli, and Packed Potato

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For more information, call St. Stanislaus Parish at (269) 793-7268

Kalamazoo parish offers free family life seminars



FAMILY LIFE

Seminars

PRESENTED BY

St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish
421 Monroe St, Kalamazoo, MI 49006 Phone 269-381-8917

Seminar topics range from parenting skills to aging to fun physical activities for the entire family.

“We purposely designed the series to be offered on different days and times to allow for flexibility,” adds Fr. Schmidt. “We don’t expect anyone to necessarily attend all eight seminars but to pick and choose what’s most interesting to them.”

Inspired by the focus Pope Francis has given to the family, a Kalamazoo-area parish is offering a series of seminars designed for families of all shapes and sizes.

Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, pastor, St. Thomas More Parish, is excited about the eight-part series of seminars and hopes that it’ll be ongoing.

The family life series has been a goal of Fr. Schmidt for some time but he was able to make it a reality with the help of a parish committee and a motivated graduate student who have taken on the planning.

“We have such amazing resources available and when we started asking people they offered their services free of charge,” he said. “Because of that we’re excited to open these up to everyone in the community.”

All seminars are free of charge and open to the community. They are held at St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, 421 Monroe St. in Kalamazoo (near WMU’s campus). Free child care will be provided but reservations are required two days prior to the scheduled seminar. Contact: (269) 381-8917.

NOTE: The April 17th workshop is part of a research project at Western Michigan University. The first 25 attendees who agree to participate in the study will receive handouts on child sexual abuse as well as a book to read with their children on the topic. Participants who complete the two-hour training will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card. A month following the training, participants will be emailed a follow-up survey. Individuals who complete the follow-up survey will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card via email.

Family Life Seminars:

- February 18: “Learning How to Kiss a Frog,”** Bill McNulty, MA, middle school principal (retired), 7-8:30 p.m. This presentation offers parents knowledge and information about the developmental aspects of early adolescence that is relevant to effective parenting.

February 25: “There are Many Ways to Become a Parent,” Colleen Cachero, Theresa Johnson, and Jan Kerby, 6:30-8 p.m. Members of this panel will discuss several ways to become a parent, including foster care, and both domestic and international adoptions; and answer questions from the participants.

February 28: “Love Will Steer Me Through – A Crash Course in Generational Religious Conversations,” Jane and Ellen Knuth, 2:30-4 p.m. These mother and daughter co-authors will share highlights from their book, Love Will Steer Me True, a retrospective of their long-distance conversations on life and faith during the five years Ellen spent in Japan.

March 2: “Living Well as a Family,” Sara Burhans & Heather Christy, Just Move Fitness, 6:30-8 p.m. Games and activities to stay active with your kids and eat a healthy diet.

March 11: “Aging in America,” Patti Stratton, LMSW, Area Agency on Aging, 2-4 p.m. This presentation offers a closer look at issues including caregiving and self-care, dementia and community resources.

March 16: “Human Development Across the Lifespan,” 6:30-8 p.m. Gary Bischof, PhD, LMFT Professor & Chair, Family & Consumer Sciences. This presentation and discussion will address life-cycle developmental issues including both individual and family development.

April 13: “Grief – A Family Experience,” Dianne Litynski, Hospice Chaplain, 7-8:30 p.m. This presentation will speak to how we experience grief at different stages of development and how we experience grief as a family.

April 17: “Partnering with Families to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse,” 2-4 p.m., Jennifer Foster, PhD, Asst. Professor, Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology. Parents and other caregivers will learn the warning signs of sexual abuse, red flags of sexual offenders and developmentally appropriate ways to talk with their children about CSA.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct Number

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and **Reporting Line: 877-802-0115**. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the diocese’s effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within diocesan institutions and ministries only. If you have some other concern about diocesan schools, parishes or ministries, please contact the appropriate diocesan school, parish or office directly. In all cases of sexual abuse you are encouraged to report all cases to the local police or protective services.



Last Chance - “The Merciful Family”
Student Contest Submissions due Feb. 15

The second Diocese of Kalamazoo National Student Art Conest is almost at an end. If you are planning to submit your child’s art, prose, poetry, music or video submission to the contest, you have until February 15.

The contest is open to students nationwide grades 4 through 12 and will be judged in two age categories. Winners will receive a monetary scholarship courtesy of the Michigan Knights of Columbus and an official Diocese of Kalamazoo award certificate, signed by Bishop Paul J. Bradley.

For more information or submission requirements, visit www.diokzoo.org/national-student-contest. Contact Socorro Truchan with any questions at struchan@diokzoo.org or 269.903.0199.

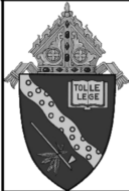
Submissions can be mailed to:
National Student Contest
Diocese of Kalamazoo
215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Sacred Music at the Cathedral
2015-16 concert season



Dr. Thomas Fielding
organist in recital
with members of the KSO strings,
Dr. Barry Ross, concertmaster

Friday, 5 February 2016, 7pm
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Retiro Diocesano para las Quinceañeras y Encuentro Diocesano Pre-Matrimonial

Por Veronica Rodriguez

Retiros Diocesanos para la preparación de Quinceañeras

Para las jóvenes que cumplen quince años y para sus padres, los retiros diocesanos para la preparación de quinceañeras en el 2016 son:



Sábado, Abril 9, 2016 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo;
Sábado, Junio 4, 2016 en Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford;
Sábado, Julio 16, 2016 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo;
Sábado, Septiembre 10, 2016 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo.

El objetivo del Retiro Diocesano de Quinceañera es de reflexionar sobre las tradiciones religiosas, la virtud de la familia y las responsabilidades sociales que la quinceañera de hoy en día abarca. Al igual que reflexionar sobre las responsabilidades cristianas del joven de hoy. Recuerden que primero deben de hablar con su párroco (por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha que desean celebrar la quinceañera). También recuerden que deben participar en la formación que proporcione la parroquia. El Retiro Diocesano para las Quinceañeras y sus padres es un complemento a esa preparación que ofrece la parroquia. Los temas que se tratan son: Origen de la Fiesta de Quinceañera; significado de los símbolos y liturgia; los sacramentos; responsabilidad cristiana y social; y otros temas de importancia para los jóvenes y la familia.

Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial Diocesano

Para las parejas que se van a casar o para las parejas de matrimonio que quieren un día de reflexión, las fechas de los Encuentros Pre-Matrimoniales Diocesanos en el 2016 son de 10:00a.m-3:00pm las siguientes fechas:
Sábado, Marzo 5, 2016 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo
Sábado, Mayo 14, 2016 en Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford
Sábado, Agosto 13, 2016 en San Felipe de Jesús, Fennville
Sábado, Octubre 1, 2016 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo.

Las parejas que desean casarse, recuerden que primero deben hablar con su párroco (por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha que desean celebrar la boda). También recuerden que deben participar en la formación que proporcione la parroquia. El Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial Diocesano es un complemento a esa preparación que ofrece la parroquia. Los temas que se tratan son: El sacramento del matrimonio; el llamado del matrimonio; matrimonio modelo de comunidad en el mundo; oración; dialogo conyugal; los hijos; la salud; economía del matrimonio y otros temas de importancia. Para más información, pregunte en su parroquia o puede llamar a la oficina Diocesana al 269-903-0197.

Calendario/Calendar

Febrero/February 2016

10 (Miércoles) Miércoles de Ceniza. Comienza la Cuaresma. *(Ash Wednesday. Lent begins.)*
12 (Viernes) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Reunión de Migrant Resource Council** (agencias que ofrecen servicio a la Comunidad Migrante). *(Migrant Resource Council Meeting, agencies that offer services to the Migrant Community)*
20 (Sábado) 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Instituto San Agustín - Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Segundo Año de Formación.** Tema: Etica y Moral por el Padre Steve Cron. *(Instituto San Agustín - Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program, Second Year of Formation. Topic: Ethics and Moral by Fr. Steve Cron.)*
29 – Marzo 2 Reunión Nacional sobre el V Encuentro. Facilitado por la Secretaria de Asuntos Hispanos de la Conferencia de los Obispos. *(National Meeting regarding the V Encuentro. Facilitated by the USCCB's Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs.)* Los Angeles, California.

Marzo/March 2016

5 (Sábado) 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo.** Tema: Ecclesiología por Timothy Matovina . *(Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program. Topic: Ecclesiology, by Timothy Matovina.)*
5 (Sábado) 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial,** para parejas que se van a casar. También para parejas de matrimonio interesadas en reflexionar sobre su vida matrimonial. Lugar: St. Joseph Parish, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI. *(Pre-Marriage Encounter in Spanish for those who will be getting married and for married couples who would like to have a day of reflection).*
5 (Sábado) 10 a.m. – 12 m. **Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana,** Centro Pastoral Diocesano *(Hispanic Ministry Diocesan Pastoral Committee meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center),* Kalamazoo.
11 (Viernes) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Reunión de Migrant Resource Council** (agencias que ofrecen servicio a la Comunidad Migrante). *(Migrant Resource Council Meeting, agencies that offer services to the Migrant Community)***Diciembre/December**
11 (Viernes) 7 p.m. **Misa Bilingüe, Celebración de Nuestra Sra. De Guadalupe,** Catedral de San Agustín, Kalamazoo, MI, Preside el Señor Obispo Paul J. Bradley *(Bilingual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, MI. Presiding Bishop Paul J. Bradley).*
16 (Miércoles) Comienzan las Posadas y Novenas Navideñas en las Parroquias. *(Beginning of the Posadas and Christmas Novenas in the Parishes.)*

Miércoles de Ceniza en Año Santo

Por Dra. Fanny Tabares

El próximo 10 de febrero iniciamos la Cuaresma con el Miércoles de Ceniza, que para los católicos es muy importante. La Cuaresma es un tiempo de reflexión y la iglesia nos invita a la conversión y a renovarnos espiritualmente; es decir, volver nuestra mirada a Dios con cambios y propósitos concretos a través de la oración, la ofrenda y el ayuno. Es una invitación a una vida nueva a dejar el pasado, a liberarnos de nuestras cargas negativas y de todo aquello que nos hace daño o entristece. La iglesia nos invita a la reconciliación, a perdonar y a perdonarnos a nosotros mismos y a ser personas nuevas; a descubrir en nosotros y en los demás el amor y la misericordia infinita de Dios.

En este Año Santo, dedicado a la Misericordia, la cuaresma debe ser más especial. El Santo Padre nos pide estar más conscientes y atentos a las necesidades de las personas más pobres y vulnerables ya sea por la pobreza, enfermedad, condición social o cualquier otra razón que haga a una persona más frágil o víctima de injusticias. El papa Francisco nos pide hacer algo para cambiar este mundo por un mundo más amable y respetuoso de la dignidad del ser humano para crear ambientes de más amor y caridad en dónde no haya lugar para la violencia de ningún tipo. Hacer de este mundo un lugar de felicidad, armonía, y paz para todos

Durante el Año Santo, cada diócesis ha dedicado



Fortaleciendo las Familias en la Fe (Reflexión #19)

Por Verónica Rodríguez

“El hogar es el lugar correcto para que la fe se convierta en vida, y para que la vida se convierta en fe”. (Papa Francisco, Homilía en la Misa de conclusión del Encuentro Mundial de Familias, Filadelfia 2015)



Actividad para hacer en familia este mes de Febrero: el miércoles 10 de febrero se celebra el miércoles de ceniza y se da inicio a la Cuaresma. Muchos de nosotros acostumbramos ir en familia a recibir las cenizas. En ese día también están disponibles en las parroquias unas cajitas llamadas “Plato de Arroz.” Si no sabemos para qué son estas cajitas, ¿por qué no comenzar una bonita tradición de solidaridad aprendiendo sobre el Plato de Arroz y fomentar esta tradición en familia?

Plato de Arroz es el programa de Cuaresma de Catholic Relief Services para las familias y comunidades de fe en los Estados Unidos que quieren poner su fe en acción. A través de Plato de Arroz, se invita a los participantes a escuchar historias sobre sus hermanos y hermanas necesitados en todo el mundo, y dedicar sus oraciones, ayuno y donativos de Cuaresma para cambiar la vida de los que sufren en la pobreza en diferentes países del mundo. Los participantes realizan su jornada durante los 40 días de la Cuaresma. En las cajitas de cartón, su familia va depositando la cantidad de dinero que desea donar y se devuelven las cajitas a la parroquia el domingo de Ramos, marzo 20. Este dinero es coleccionado para “Catholic Releif Services (CRS)” para ayudar a los pobres en todo el mundo. Se llama “Plato de Arroz” porque si todos colaboramos, de arroz en arroz podemos alimentar a centenares de personas. Estas son las sugerencias de “Catholic Relief Services” para la familia:
Oración – Oramos por los demás en la Iglesia universal. Reflexionamos sobre qué tipo de persona Dios nos llama a ser, y pedimos su orientación para vivir a la altura de nuestro potencial. Hay muchas maneras de orar, y muchas personas y comunidades que necesitan nuestras oraciones.
Ayuno – Nosotros ayunamos, o sacrificamos cosas, como un recordatorio de eliminar las cosas en nuestras

una puerta simbólica que nos invita a entrar en la presencia de Dios, a entrar a una vida nueva, a atrevernos a dar el paso de la conversión.



Durante este tiempo de cuaresma, hagamos por lo menos una visita en familia a nuestra Catedral, la Catedral San Agustín en Kalamazoo para atravesar la puerta del Año Santo con el propósito de entrar en una vida nueva.

La Iglesia nos pide durante la cuaresma obras concretas de sacrificio y ofrenda y una manera concreta podría ser recordando y practicando las obras de misericordia, acogiendo a las personas nuevas de nuestra comunidad sobre todo a los recién inmigrantes o que están en necesidad de comida, vestido, transporte y amistad invitémosles a nuestra casa; visitar a los enfermos y socorrer a los necesitados. La iglesia

en Estados Unidos a través de CRS nos pide de una manera simbólica y concreta donar para el plato de arroz que son unas cajitas que todos recibirán en sus parroquias para colocar allí el fruto de nuestro sacrificio en cuaresma con el fin de compartir con los más necesitados de todo el mundo.

Que la Cuaresma sea un caminar hacia el interior espiritual de nuestras vidas.

vidas que se interponen en el camino de nuestra relación con Dios. Cuando sentimos hambre o decidimos no comer las cosas que nos gustan, recordamos que todo lo que tenemos es un don de Dios. Nuestro ayuno también nos recuerda a aquellos que no tienen suficientes alimentos, que experimentan el hambre sin una elección. Dios llama a cada uno de nosotros para cuidar a los necesitados.

Dar – Nosotros damos donativos con un espíritu de generosidad hacia nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados, en honor al llamado de Jesús de servir a nuestro prójimo. Esta Cuaresma, a través de nuestros sacrificios, podemos empoderar y transformar las vidas de nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados.

Solidaridad – Como nos recuerda el Papa Francisco, estamos llamados a encontrarnos con los marginados, a llegar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas, sin importar dónde viven — y permitirles que lleguen a nuestras vidas también.

Práctica – Nuestra práctica cuaresmal requiere autodisciplina. Como nos recuerda la doctora Carolyn Woo, presidenta de CRS, sin la práctica, nunca podremos aspirar a mejorar a nosotros mismos—ya sea que estemos aprendiendo a tocar el piano, o tratando de

profundizar en nuestra vida espiritual.

El Plato de Arroz de CRS puede enriquecer tu caminar cuaresmal. Convierte tu mesa familiar en una expresión de solidaridad global y da tiempo para crecer juntos como una familia. Para más información sobre el plato de arroz y para ver otras sugerencias para hacer en familia, pueden ir a <http://www.crsricebowl.org/es/families>. Para reflexiones/actividades para los jóvenes, pueden ir a <http://www.crsricebowl.org/es/schools#grados>.

Oración de Cuaresma

Dios de toda la creación, Te damos la bienvenida a nuestra vida de una manera nueva esta Cuaresma. Estamos listos para servir a tu pueblo, especialmente a nuestros hermanos y hermanas más necesitados. Estamos dispuestos a vivir tu llamado a la misericordia. A través de nuestras oraciones, ayuno y donativos de Cuaresma, concédenos aprender a caminar como una sola familia humana universal. Que aprendamos a escucharnos unos a otros, y al hacerlo, escuchar las palabras misericordiosas de Cristo. Amén.



Here & There

Here & There publishes parish, Catholic school and diocesan sponsored events. Submissions should be sent to Vicki Cessna, Email: vcessna@diokzoo.org

Map of Michigan showing the location of Kalamazoo County.

Map of Michigan showing the location of Kalamazoo County.

CENTRAL DEANERY
Kalamazoo

Feb. 14: Rite of Election, St. Augustine Cathedral, 3 p.m.

Feb. 24: Widowed Friends support group, Diocesan Pastoral Center. Support group for men and women who have lost their spouses. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month, 4-5:30 p.m.

Feb. 26-28: The Presence, Hackett Catholic Prep. Weekend conference for high school students. Bishop Bradley to celebrate Mass. Contact your parish youth minister for more information. Registration due Feb. 10, available at thepresencekalamazoo.org.

March 2: KDCCW – Disabled or Differently-Abled, St. Joseph Parish, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Topic is Reexamining Our Attitude toward Our Brothers and Sisters with Disabilities. Register: Sue Annis, 269.629.5757, sannis58@aol.com.

March 9: Widowed Men support group, Diocesan Pastoral Center. Support group for men who have lost their wives. Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 4-5:30 p.m.

March 12-13: Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend, Transformations Retreat Center. Marriage Preparation weekend for engaged couples. Should be completed minimum of 6-9 months prior to wedding. Cost is \$175. Additional 2016 dates: May 14-15, July 16-17, Sept. 24-25, Nov. 12-13. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269.903.0199, struchan@diokzoo.org.

March 12: Lenten Reflection, St. Monica Parish. Prayerful morning of reflection on rediscovering Jesus through Lent; includes continental breakfast, presentations, prayer and reconciliation. Begins with Mass at 9 a.m.

Portage

Feb. 20: Monthly Energizer, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 6:30 – 8:30

SOUTHEAST DEANERY
Three Rivers

March 10: Priest Day of Recollection, Immaculate Conception Parish, 1:30 p.m.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY
Niles

Feb. 14: Vince Ambrosetti Concert, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 7 p.m. Concert by Grammy-nominee Vince Ambrosetti.

Feb. 15-17: “Awaken Our Hearts” parish mission, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 7 p.m. Parish mission led by Vince Ambrosetti.

OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE

Feb. 18-21: Faces of Mercy online conference for moms. Online conference for moms to gather to pray, learn, support each other and explore the message of mercy. Visit www.catholicconference4moms.com for more information.

Michigan Catholic Choir beginning rehearsals, accepting new members: The Michigan Catholic Choir is beginning rehearsals for a special Patriotic Hymn Festival. The choir is current accepting new members. For more information, please visit www.TheMichiganCatholicChoir.org or call 810-820-6191 x/101

LAKESHORE DEANERY
Benton Harbor


Feb. 12: Parish Lenten Mission, St. Bernard Parish, 7-8:30 p.m. Speaker, Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio “A New Look at Lent, The Holy Year of Mercy, and Who Needs Confession?”

Feb. 13: Parish Lenten Mission, St. Bernard Parish, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Speaker, Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio “A New Look at Lent, The Holy Year of Mercy, and Who Needs Confession?”

March 4-6: New Life Retreat, St. Andrew School of Evangelization, St. Bernard.

NORTHERN DEANERY
Dorr

Feb. 25: Be the Match Marrow Drive, St. Stanislaus School, 1-5 p.m. All those aged 18-44 are encouraged to attend to donate marrow.



**Bishop Bradley’s
Stations of the Cross schedule**

February 12: St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo, 7 p.m.

February 19: St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater, dinner begins at 5:30pm; stations at 7 p.m.

February 26: Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor, dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.; stations to follow

March 4: Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg, Fish Fry begins at 5 p.m.; stations at 7 p.m.

March 11: St. Mary Parish, Marshall, Fish Fry begins at 5 p.m.; stations at 7 p.m.

March 18: St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan, Fish Fry begins at 4:30 p.m.; stations at 6 p.m.

March 25: St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 1 p.m.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Penance Services, Lenten Retreats and more

CENTRAL DEANERY
Penance Services

Feb. 17: St. Mary, Kalamazoo, 6:45 p.m.

Feb. 23: St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment, 7 p.m.

March 2: St. Ann Parish, Augusta, 6:30 p.m.

March 3: St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, 7 p.m.

March 9: St. Jude Parish, Gobles, 6:30 p.m.

March 10: St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, 6 p.m.

March 13: St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, 5 p.m.

March 16: St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, 6:30 p.m.

March 16: St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, 7 p.m.

St. Jude Parish, Gobles, Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. Feb. 12, 26, March 11. 12:30 p.m. Feb. 19, March 4, 18.

Lenten Video Series, St. Jude Parish, Gobles. “The Mystery of God” Mondays, 7-8:30 pm.

LAKESHORE DEANERY

St. Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, Confessions 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Monday during Lent; **Adoration** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

St. John Parish, Benton Harbor, Confessions 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Friday during Lent; **Adoration** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, Confession and Adoration 5-6 p.m. every Sunday during Lent

St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 5:30 p.m. followed by Mass

St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo, Stations of the Cross, Fridays after 5:30 p.m. Mass

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman, Stations of the Cross, Fish Fry begins at 5 p.m.

Feb. 13: Lenten Retreat on mercy, St. Basil Parish, South Haven, 9 a.m. – 2p.m., lunch provided, donations encouraged. RSVP to Jay Landry by Feb. 11 – jayfreelandry@gmail.com, 269.637.2404 x116.

Feb. 17: Penance Service, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman, 6:30 p.m.

March 4-5: Keep the Light On Adoration, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman, March 4 at 9:45 a.m. through 9 a.m. March 5.

SOUTHEAST DEANERY

March 15: Penance Service, St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg, 7 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers, Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7 p.m.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7 p.m.

March 18: Reenactment of the Stations of the Cross, Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, 7 p.m. Put on by Faith Formation students.



Transformations
SPIRITUALITY CENTER
3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048



The Landscape Within with John O'Donohue
Sat, March 12; 9am-3pm
Betsy Meagher, CSJ
Explore your 'inner landscapes' through images, poetry, music, stories and personal reflection. John O'Donohue, even from his heavenly vista, continues to inspire and reveal fresh insights that touch our inner rhythms.

A Woman's 12 Step Retreat
April 1 - 3
Karen Anne Jackson, CSC
This weekend retreat will examine the reality of needing to be willing as we travel through the 12 steps.

Art as a Doorway to Prayer
Sat, April 2; 9am-3:30pm
Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ
Prayer can center us, quiet us, open us to the transcendent, model a prayerful spirit, bring us into the presence of the Lord, set the specific mood for our prayer, and provide the material for what we might call visio divina, spiritual gazing, the visual analog of lectio divina.


More info & register at
TransformationsCenter.org
269-381-6290 x327

Save the Date for “The Story of St. Faustina - Showing Mercy to the Poor” - An overnight retreat for adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities, April 23-24, 9:30 a.m. Saturday through 1 p.m. Sunday at Camp Friedenswald Lakeview Lodge. Cost is \$35, scholarships are available. Registration deadline is April 11. Contact: Lisa Irwin, 269.903.0177, lirwin@diokzoo.org

Join us on a pilgrimage to Rome, Siena, and Florence to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Portage and the Jubilee Year of Mercy.



Join Fr. Robert Creagan, the pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church and diocesan pilgrimage director, for a 10-day pilgrimage. November 2 – 11, 2016. Trip includes:

- Daily mass and devotion prayers.
- Highlights of the life of St. Catherine of Siena.
- Visits to the four major basilicas of Rome.
- Attendance in the Papal Audience with Pope Francis.



Join us for a special travel presentation...

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM
Marian Hall, on the campus of St. Catherine of Siena Church 1150 W. Centre Avenue, Portage, MI.
RSVP or for more information contact Ellyn Jones at 269.657.5529.

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