



APRIL 2016

[www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org)

Volume 19 Issue 3



## Parish transition teams meet to address collaborative Mass schedules

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan announced by Bishop Bradley last year, which involves the creation of 29 parish collaboratives, is moving forward. During March parishioners and priests from the newly formed parish collaboratives met to address and refine Mass and sacramental schedules. The parish transition teams of volunteers and parish staffs from each parish collaborative reviewed each parish's respective Mass and parish schedule and began to imagine ways to work together. The parish collaborative model will be fully implemented on July 1st of this year to coincide with new priest assignments.

The initial task of each parish transition team was to recommend an alternate Sunday Mass schedule that could realistically be celebrated by one priest. In some cases parish collaboratives may have overlapping Mass times and may decide to reduce the overall total number of Masses.

The Diocese is also offering a number of training opportunities to assist in the transition to the new



Jane Guido and Deacon David Guido, parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg, review the Parish Collaborative handout at a Deanery meeting held in Sturgis last month. The Guidos are also participating in a Parish Transition Committee to review and recommend Mass and sacramental schedules for their parish and St. Edward Parish, Mendon.

parish collaborative model. "Best Practices for Shared Parishes" is a workshop to be held on April 20th at Borgess Lawrence Education Center, Kalamazoo. The workshop is designed for clergy and parish lay leaders to offer assistance in the specific areas of how to work with different communities and diverse cultures within our parishes [see page 5 for more information].

In early May the Catholic Leadership Institute in conjunction with Bishop Bradley and diocesan staff will conduct a three-day training for priests. On the third day the priests will be joined by deacons.

"These training and educational opportunities are investments for each of us personally as we are enriched, and also investments in the future growth of our Diocese as we inaugurate the new Collaboratives," said Bishop Bradley.

**For more information on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope, visit [www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-pastoral-plan](http://www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-pastoral-plan).**

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## Annual Diocesan Scouting Mass to be held on April 17th



**The Annual Bishop's Scout Mass will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, beginning at 3 p.m., Bishop Bradley will celebrate Mass and commemorate the day with the Diocesan Scout Mass patch.**

The Mass is available for all Scouts and their leaders in attendance—which will feature the holy door as a symbol of mercy to celebrate the Church's recognition of the Year of Mercy. Scouts and adult leaders who will be receiving medals and patches for successful completion of Catholic Scout religious programs will be recognized during this Mass. Scouts are requested to bring their Pack/Troop flags (and a stand) to participate in the opening procession. Fellowship will follow in the Crowley Center located on the grounds of the Cathedral Campus.

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### How were you merciful this Lent?

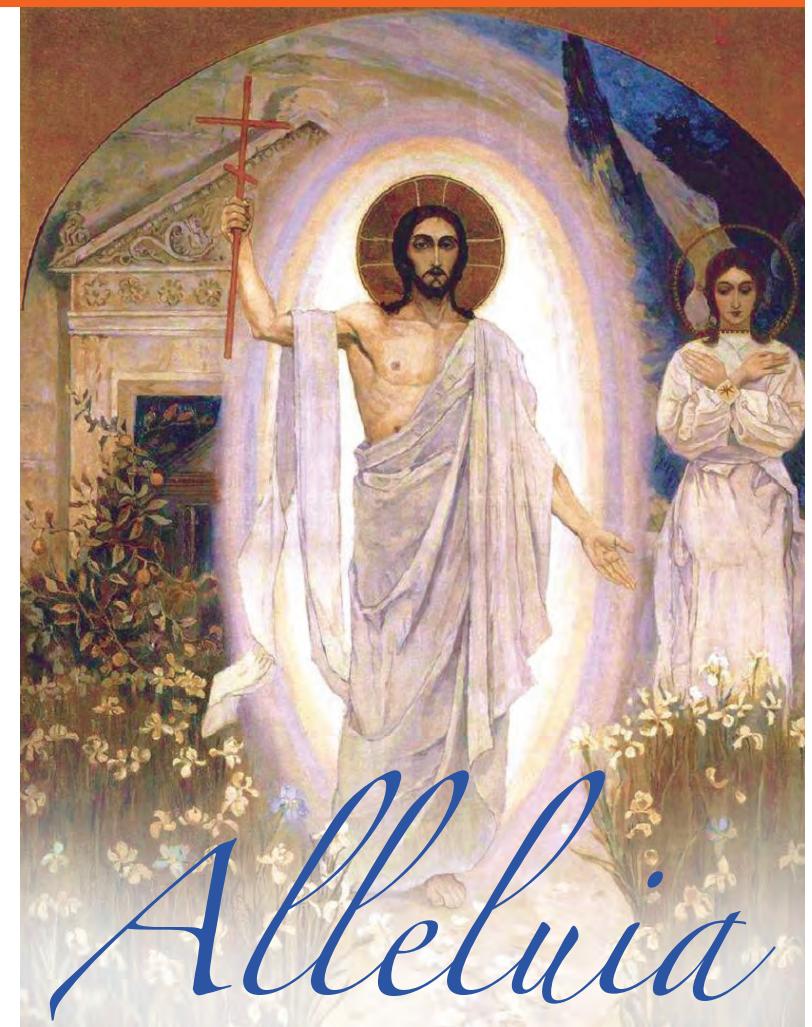
**Send us your photo for a chance at one of six CRS fair trade prizes.**

Did you incorporate mercy into your life this Lent? Volunteer at a soup kitchen, attend Stations of the Cross, donate money or goods or pray as a family? How did you incorporate the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy into your Lenten practices?

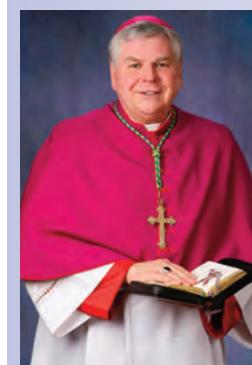
**Send your photos to [sdemott@diokzoo.org](mailto:sdemott@diokzoo.org) by Friday, April 15th, to be entered in a drawing for one of six CRS fair trade prizes. Entries will be assigned a number in the order they are received.**



*Winners will be randomly drawn; prize choice will be first come first serve.*



***"This is the Day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! — Alleluia!"***



These few words serve as a powerful and clear summary of the joyful reason that brings us together as Catholic Christians celebrating the great Easter event. "This is the Day" that the Lord, our Loving God, had planned from the beginning of time when the Original Sin of our first human parents ruptured the perfect relationship God had intended to have with humanity.

From that time on, our Loving God kept planning for the right time to reconcile His human family with Himself. That plan came to pass "in the fullness of time" when God sent His only-begotten Son into the world to win salvation for the world through His suffering, death and resurrection. His plan changed the world forever.

Easter celebrates the fact that Jesus has reconciled the world and saved us from our sins. Jesus' Resurrection has destroyed the power of sin and the lasting effects of death. We have been given the opportunity to claim the gift of eternal happiness with God in Heaven. "We rejoice and are glad"! And we sum up our joy in that acclamation that has been silent throughout these 40 days of Lent: "Alleluia!" May this powerful and joyful celebration of Easter be a time of blessing for you, your families, all our parishes and the entire Diocese of Kalamazoo.

**Happy Easter! Alleluia!**

*+Paul J. Bardley*

+Most Rev. Paul J. Bardley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo



## FROM THE EDITOR

**By Victoria Cessna**

Communication Director & Editor of *The Good News*

"We'll see."

That was the great Mom-equalizer phrase I used often when my children were young. Not wanting to constantly barrage them with "no" I pulled this out to respond to their lofty requests for everything from month-long trips to Disney World to hosting their 25 of their preschool classmates for an overnight slumber party.

I believe though it was my daughter who eventually squelched this habit of mine when she finally responded one day with, "'We'll see' just means no, so why don't you just say 'no'?"

Begrudgingly I have to admit she was right. I was intentionally being unclear to avoid confrontation and was not following my own often-quoted maxim of, "Say what you mean, mean what you say."

This past Lenten season we were reminded through the Scripture readings of Jesus' earthly ministry where He spoke directly and didn't "pull any punches." Everything he told the Apostles, who were at times rather thick-headed, came true. He didn't equivocate when asked the tough questions. He didn't shy away from telling them the plain truth about what was to come.

Because when we love someone we speak the Truth. And from that Truth comes a joy that can't be equalized.

Pope Francis expressed this best in a recent talk with seminarians. He said, "True joy does not come from things or from possessing, no! It is born from the encounter, from the relationship with others, it is born from feeling accepted, understood and loved, and from accepting, from understanding and from loving; ...Joy is born from the gratuitousness of an encounter! It is hearing someone say, but not necessarily with words: 'You are important to me.'"

We were so important to God that He sent His only Son to die for us. What if we were to capture our Easter joy and keep it with us throughout the year? Would it change our encounters with our family, our friends? Do we try and speak the Truth or fall back, like I did in my early parenting days, to playing both sides?

"There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter," Pope Francis wrote in the "Joy of the Gospel."

May this Easter season be one where you live as a Christian, mindful of the Lenten journey, but with the joy of Easter in your heart and radiating in everything you do.

Alleluia! Happy Easter!

### Pope Francis APRIL Intentions

**Universal:** That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

**Evangelization:** That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.



### 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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NOTICE: The MAY edition will be distributed in all parishes MAY 7 & 8.

[www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org)

**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.

**The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley**

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## Annual appeal helps fuel support for diocesan ministries

The Bishop's Annual Appeal, which provides the major fundraising support for the ministries, services and programs of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, begins this month with "announcement weekend" April 10 and 11. Registered parishioners will receive an informational packet and pledge card the week of April 18th. Each generous gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps support important ministries such as seminarian education, faith-formation programs for youth and adults and the pastoral ministry of Bishop Paul J. Bradley. More than 95 percent of all monies raised stays in the diocese.

"Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal extends the work of the Church in Southwest Michigan and beyond. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy may our work bear much fruit to help all those in need," said Bishop Bradley.

### DID YOU KNOW?

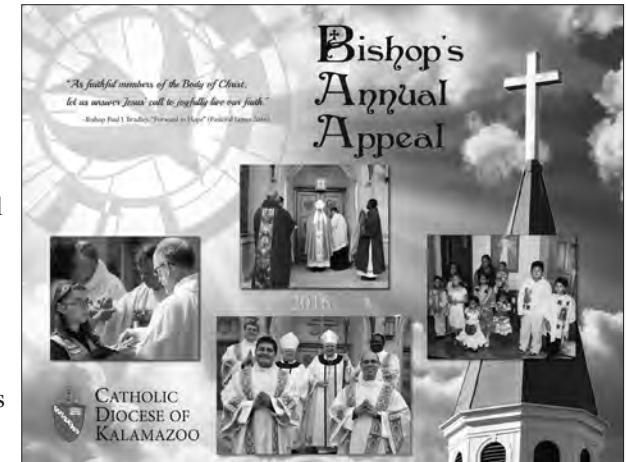
**\$250,000:** The average total cost of a seminarian education is \$250,000

**\$640,000:** Annual amount raised through the appeal to help support seminarian education

**\$85,000:** Total amount of money raised over goal that remained in parishes last year

Available again this year is an online giving option.

More information on the appeal may be found at [www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org).



## IN MEMORIAM



**Rev. James "Jim" L. Barrett**, 85, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 6 after a few years of declining health.

Fr. Barrett was born in Kalamazoo on June 17, 1930, son of Louis and Bernice (Muryne) Barrett. He was a member of St. Augustine Parish. He entered St. Joseph Minor Seminary in Grand Rapids in 1944 followed by Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit and finished at St. John Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, Mich. Fr. Barrett was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1956 by Bishop Joseph H. Albers for the Diocese of Lansing. He became a priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo upon its founding on July 21, 1971.

Fr. Barrett served at a number of parishes throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo including (then) St. John, Benton Harbor; St. Mary, Three Oaks; St. Basil, South Haven; St. Monica, Kalamazoo and his last, and longest assignment as Pastor, St. Mary, Marshall (1986 until his retirement in 2001). One of his greatest joys was to have concelebrated Mass with St. Pope John Paul II when he was in Philadelphia on October 4, 1979.

"Though I only got to know Fr. Barrett after he was already retired, he continued to give of his priestly ministry to the Diocese by serving on the Presbyteral Council for a period of time, as well as helping out at various parishes as long as his health allowed him to do so," noted Bishop Paul J. Bradley. "He was a priestly priest and a gentle man. Though we will truly miss him, we trust he will continue to assist the Church here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo from his new Home in Heaven."



Noteworthy in his pastoral ministry are the many renovations that took place under his pastorates. With the Vatican Council changes, he renovated St. John's Church in Benton Harbor and its two missions. Then at St. Mary in Three Oaks and at St. Agnes in Sawyer. Also, he made changes at St. Basil in South Haven. Lastly, the most complete renovation took place in Marshall at St. Mary Church. In all of his renovations, he has been open to new approaches to art work.

One of Fr. Barrett's loves has been his love of liturgy and he was involved in Catholic schools and promoted them well. On June 27, 2001, his retirement became official and settled down in his own home in Marshall.

Bishop Emeritus James A. Murray delivered the homily and remembered fondly his more than six decades of friendship with Fr. Jim.

"Now I can look back on my 58 years as a priest of the Catholic Church and say without any doubt that the year that I enjoyed most was that year in the early 60's when Jim and I served together in Lansing's Cathedral Parish," he said. "[Fr.] Jim Barrett enjoyed life and he knew how to have fun. He was more than a fellow worker, he was a true friend."

Visitation and Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Mary Parish, Marshall. Fr. Jim was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Marshall.

### Fr. Joseph Xavier invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy.



### Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

Please join us for 11 days in Italy.  
The Year of Mercy Pilgrimage begins November 8, 2016.

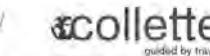
Cost per person \$3,799 includes air from Grand Rapids



Trip includes visits to Rome, Assisi, St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, Basilica of St. Francis, Marian Shrine of Loreto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel, Benedictine Abbey of Santis Trinita, Abbey of Montecassino, Rosario Sanctuary, Papal Audience, Vatican Museum.

For More Information, contact Ellyn Jones at SeaLandAir Travel — 269-657-5529

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## THE BISHOP'S PERSPECTIVE

### Living our lives with Easter joy and hope

Happy Easter, Alleluia!

It is my fervent hope and prayer that having completed this Lenten journey designed to lead us closer to Christ and to fall more deeply in love with Him and His Church, you are now filled with Easter joy. Easter renews our hope and teaches us, through Jesus' dramatic victory over the power of sin and death, that we never run out of chances to come to God and grow in faith.

In St. Luke's account of the Easter event, he focuses our attention on the three holy women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary, the mother of James) who very early on Sunday morning went to Jesus' tomb to finish caring for His dead body. But to their utter amazement when they go there they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and two Angels who asked them: "Why are you looking for the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised. Remember what He told you..." Immediately, the women ran back to find the apostles and to share this amazing news with them. The apostles were confused and, as St. Luke tells us, they found the women's story "seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them."

Isn't that amazing! The apostles' reaction – those who had been closer to Jesus than anyone else – is that what the women were telling them "seemed like nonsense." From our faith perspective, we might find that hard to believe. If, however, we put ourselves in their shoes, how can we blame them? They had seen Jesus' brutally tortured; even though they had all run away (except for one), they knew that He had been killed, and that his dead body had been buried. At this point, to imagine that He could be alive was more than a little hard to believe, even for them.

In our own day and time, perhaps that reaction to faith in general and the Good News of Jesus' resurrection in particular, may be rather common reaction. Belief in God, a familiarity with God's Revealed Word, and an acceptance of the teachings of the Church is as hard for many people today as it was for the apostles initially to accept the witness of the holy women which, to them, seemed like nonsense. Many people today live primarily in the "here and now"; they are limited by what they can see, touch, analyze and have explained by science. For them, they see religion and faith in the same way: they conclude it's all nonsense. Many of us were baptized as Catholics when we were infants and raised in the faith throughout our lives; others may have embraced the faith later on in their lives; and for still others, there may have been some starts and stops and re-starts again along their journey of faith. No matter where you might find yourself, all of us are given the wonderful opportunity during these Easter days to renew our baptismal promises and to recommit ourselves to continue living our lives as people of faith.

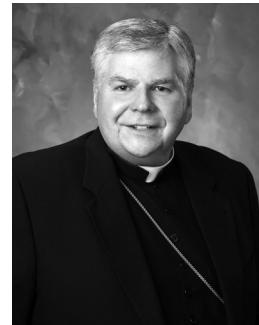
As we all realize, that is not an easy thing to do these days. We are living in a time of great skepticism; a time of growing secularism; a time of increased relativism and materialism. While there have always been challenges to faith, we are living in a time with increased distractions and temptations every place we look. Our culture is adopting standards and embracing lifestyle practices that are clearly inconsistent with God's ways and traditional moral standards. Each and every day we are forced to make conscious choices and decisions about whether to follow God's ways or the ways of the world.

So in the midst of all these challenges, a very important question to ask ourselves this Easter is: will we be like the disbelieving apostles who at first could not see beyond what "seemed like nonsense" since it went against reason at all levels; or, like Peter, will we run as fast as we can to find the Risen Lord and follow Him wherever He leads? According to Luke's account, Peter was the one who was at least open to what the women first told the apostles; he immediately set out to see for himself. He didn't just walk to the tomb; he ran all the way to see for himself. St. Luke tells us: "he saw and was amazed."

It would take some time for that amazement to turn into strong faith for Peter, as well as for the rest of the apostles. It would take even more time for them to be prepared to begin the Great Mission of the Church's evangelization which took place on Pentecost through the power of the Holy Spirit. But the seeds of powerful faith were ignited on that first Easter morning—it was the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection that allowed their hope to be restored.

My dear Family of Faith, that is what the Lord Jesus wants to do within each of our hearts in these Easter days—to restore our hope and to strengthen our faith—in Him, our Risen Lord. Easter is about new life in Christ. Easter means hope renewed. Easter is all of us, people of faith, practicing our faith, living our faith, and witnessing to our faith in our world which surely challenges us, and may even possibly ridicule or criticize us. But it is our faith in Easter that calls us to share Easter joy and hope with the world, and in that sense, to change the world, even just a bit, through the ways we live our lives as people of faith.

As I hope you are aware, the Diocese of Kalamazoo is embarking on a new "moment" in our diocesan life as we implement the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope. Over the last two months, I have been so inspired



## LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

### Viviendo nuestras vidas con alegría y esperanza Pascual

¡Felices Pascuas! ¡Aleluya!

Es mi ferviente esperanza y oración que habiendo completado este camino cuaresmal diseñado para llevarnos más cerca de Cristo y enamorarnos más profundamente de él y de su Iglesia estén llenos de la alegría de la Pascua. La Pascua renueva nuestra esperanza y nos enseña, a través de la dramática victoria de Jesús sobre el poder del pecado y de la muerte, que nunca nos quedamos sin posibilidades de llegar a Dios y crecer en la fe.

En el Evangelio del domingo de Pascua, San Lucas centra nuestra atención en las tres santas mujeres (María Magdalena, Juana y María, la madre de Santiago) quienes muy temprano en la mañana del domingo fueron a la tumba de Jesús para terminar el cuidado de su cuerpo muerto. Sin embargo, para su total asombro cuando van allí encontraron que la piedra había sido removida del sepulcro, y dos ángeles que les preguntó: "¿Por qué estás buscando al que vive entre los muertos? Él no está aquí. Él ha sido levantado. Recuerden lo que les dijeron... "Inmediatamente, las mujeres corrieron para encontrar a los apóstoles y compartir esta increíble noticia con ellos. Los apóstoles estaban confundidos y, como nos dice San Lucas, se encontraron con la historia de las mujeres "parecía no tener sentido y no les creyeron."

¡No es increíble! La reacción de los apóstoles - los que habían estado más cerca de Jesús que cualquier otra persona - a lo que las mujeres les decían "parecía no tener sentido." Desde nuestra perspectiva de fe, podríamos encontrar eso difícil de creer. Sin embargo, si nos ponemos en sus zapatos, ¿cómo podemos culparlos? Habían visto a Jesús brutalmente torturado; a pesar de que todos ellos habían huido (a excepción de uno), sabían que él había sido asesinado y que su cadáver había sido enterrado. Para este momento, imaginar que pudiera estar vivo era más que un poco difícil de creer, incluso para ellos.

En nuestros días, y tiempo, tal vez esa reacción a la fe en general y la buena nueva de la resurrección de Jesús, en particular, puede ser una reacción bastante común. La creencia en Dios, una familiaridad con la palabra revelada de Dios, y la aceptación de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia es tan difícil para muchas personas hoy en día como lo fue para los apóstoles inicialmente aceptar el testimonio de las santas mujeres, que, para ellos, parecía no tener sentido . Muchas personas viven hoy principalmente en el "aquí y ahora"; están limitados por lo que pueden ver, tocar, analizar y lo que la ciencia les explica. Ellos, ven la religión y la fe de la misma manera: concluyen que todo es una tontería.

Muchos de nosotros fuimos bautizados católicos cuando éramos bebés y criados en la fe a lo largo de nuestras vidas; otros pueden haber abrazado la fe más adelante en sus vidas; y aún para otros, puede haber habido algunos arranques y paradas y reinicios de nuevo a lo largo de su camino de fe. No importa adonde se encuentren, a todos nosotros se nos da la oportunidad maravillosa durante estos días de Semana Santa para renovar nuestras promesas bautismales y renovar nuestro compromiso de seguir viviendo nuestras vidas como personas de fe.

Como todos sabemos, eso no es una cosa fácil de hacer en estos días. Estamos viviendo en una época de gran escepticismo; un tiempo de creciente secularismo; un tiempo de mayor relativismo y materialismo. Si bien siempre ha habido desafíos a la fe, estamos viviendo en un tiempo con un aumento de distracciones y tentaciones por donde quiera que miremos. Nuestra cultura está adoptando normas y abrazando prácticas de estilo de vida que son claramente incompatibles con los caminos de Dios y las buenas costumbres tradicionales. Cada uno y todos los días nos vemos obligados a elegir y tomar decisiones conscientes acerca de si seguir los caminos de Dios o los caminos del mundo.

Así, en medio de todos estos desafíos, una pregunta muy importante para hacernos esta Pascua es: ¿vamos a ser como los apóstoles incrédulos que al principio no podía ver más allá de lo que "parecía no tener sentido", ya que iba en contra de la razón en todos los niveles; o, como Pedro, vamos a correr tan rápido como podemos para encontrar al Señor resucitado y seguirle dondequiera que El conduzca? De acuerdo con el relato de Lucas, Pedro fue el que estaba por lo menos abierto a lo que las mujeres contaron por primera vez a los apóstoles; el inmediatamente partió para ver por sí mismo. No se limitó a caminar hacia la tumba; corrió todo el camino para ver por sí mismo. San Lucas nos dice: "el vio y se sorprendió."

Se necesitaría algún tiempo para que ese asombro se convirtiera en una fe fuerte para Pedro, así como para el resto de los apóstoles. Se necesitaría aún más tiempo para que pudieran estar preparados para comenzar la gran misión de evangelización de la Iglesia que tuvo lugar en Pentecostés a través del poder del Espíritu Santo. Pero las semillas de esa poderosa fe fueron encendidas en aquella primera mañana de Pascua, fue la buena noticia de la resurrección de Jesús que permitió que su esperanza fuera restaurada.

Mi querida familia de fe, eso es lo que el Señor quiere hacer en cada uno de nuestros corazones en estos días de Pascua— restaurar nuestra esperanza y fortalecer nuestra fe— en Él, nuestro Señor resucitado.

La Pascua se trata de una nueva vida en Cristo. La Pascua significa esperanza renovada. La Pascua somos todos nosotros, las personas de fe, practicando nuestra fe, viviendo nuestra fe y dando testimonio de nuestra fe en nuestro mundo que seguramente nos desafía, y puede incluso posiblemente ridiculizarnos o criticarnos. Pero es nuestra fe en la Pascua que nos

## **Msgr. Michael Osborn named "Missionary of Mercy" by Pope Francis**

Msgr. Michael Osborn, Vicar General for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, has been appointed a "Missionary of Mercy" by Pope Francis. The Holy Father first referenced the idea of "missionaries of mercy" in his bull of induction, "Misericordiae Vultus" (Merciful like the Father) announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The pope designated 1,142 religious and diocesan priests from all over the world to preach and teach about God's mercy and serve especially as confessors during the Year of Mercy, which ends Nov. 20. The men were to receive their special mandate during a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 10.

Their special mission, Pope Francis has said, is to be a living witness of God's closeness and love — to knock on the doors of people's hearts and let God into their lives, especially those who have become distant from the church.

Pope Francis told his specially appointed men that the reassuring strength of God's love — not the "bludgeon of judgment" — will bring the "lost sheep" back to the fold.

"Being a missionary of mercy is a responsibility that is entrusted to you because it asks you to be a firsthand witness of God's closeness and his way of loving, not our way, which is always limited and sometimes contradictory," he said.

Meeting with hundreds of missionaries who came to Rome to receive in person their special papal mandate on Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis said he wanted to highlight the unique aspects of their new ministry so they would carry it out properly and be "a real help" to the people they encounter.

He said he wants the missionaries to be a living expression of "the church who, like a mother, welcomes anyone who approaches her," knowing that through her they will become one with Christ.

In the confessional, the pope said, they must remember that it is Christ who welcomes, listens, forgives and grants peace. "We are his ministers and we always need to be forgiven by him first," he said.

Msgr. Osborn was unable to attend the official commission in Rome. He is one of 8 number of priests within Michigan to be appointed. Specific events related to his new role will be detailed in upcoming edition of *The Good News* and also on the diocesan website. "The Diocese of Kalamazoo rejoices in this recognition by our Holy Father of one of our own priests," said Bishop Bradley. We congratulate and prayerfully support Msgr. Osborn as he begins this special ministry in addition to his other responsibilities throughout the remainder of this Jubilee Year of Mercy."

## **Pope Francis makes debut on Instagram, Vatican official says**

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Firming up his presence on social media, Pope Francis made his debut on the photo-sharing app Instagram, a Vatican official announced.

Msgr. Dario Vigano, prefect of the Secretariat for Communications, said the pope's new account "Franciscus," was set to go online March 19 and offer another side of his pontificate through photos. The pope's Twitter account has more than 25 million followers in nine languages.

Whether at general audiences or during foreign trips, thousands of people try to take a coveted "papal selfie" with the pope. While it is unlikely the pope will pose for his own selfies, the account will offer viewers a glimpse into the pope's life and messages.

The announcement was made just two weeks after Pope Francis met with Kevin Systrom, CEO and co-founder of Instagram.



Pope Francis meets Kevin Systrom, co-founder and CEO of Instagram, during a private audience at the Vatican Feb. 26. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)



## **The Bishop's Perspective**

Continued from page 3

and encouraged through the visits I have been making for the seven Deanery meeting we have held in February and March. I have found in each place very large, sometimes even "standing-room-only" crowds of our faithful people who had come to hear about our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. In addition, I have been very impressed and grateful for the commitment and perseverance of the Parish Transition Teams that have been meeting this month to consider new Mass and sacramental schedules for the newly formed Parish Collaboratives. While each step along the way is an important part of the journey, I believe that this Diocesan Pastoral Plan will help to prepare our entire Diocese and each of our 59 parishes within the 29 newly formed Collaboratives to be an even more visible and vibrant Church in Southwest Michigan. Just like the Apostles on that first Easter morning, we are being called and challenged to be strong in faith even when it may not make sense. But when we find our strength in God's Presence among us and our shared faith together as members of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, the fruits of our faith will be plentiful and give evidence of that good fruit in the lives of people living and witnessing to our faith, even as we grow closer in our relationships with our Risen Lord and with one another.

In these glorious Easter days, let us imitate the lives of the Holy women, along with Peter and all the apostles, as we renew our commitment to live our faith with joy and hope. Despite the tendency of some to consider faith as nonsense, may our renewed faith give us the courage and conviction to run after our Risen Lord as we keep growing in holiness and as we live our faith with Easter joy and hope in this world, and in the life of the world to come. May we be motivated to share Easter's Good News with everyone we meet.

Happy Easter! Alleluia!



llama a compartir la alegría y la esperanza de la Pascua con el mundo, y en ese sentido, cambiar el mundo, aunque sólo sea un poco, a través de las maneras en que vivimos nuestras vidas como personas de fe.

Como espero ya saben, que la Diócesis de Kalamazoo se está embarcando en un nuevo "momento" en nuestra vida diocesana a medida que implementamos el Plan Pastoral Diocesano: Un futuro lleno de esperanza. Durante los últimos dos meses, he estado tan inspirado y alentado a través de las visitas que he estado realizando para las reuniones de siete Decanatos que hemos celebrado en febrero y marzo. He encontrado en cada lugar multitudes muy grandes de nuestros fieles, a veces incluso solo quedando lugar parados solamente, que habían venido a escuchar acerca de nuestro Plan Pastoral Diocesano. Además, he estado muy impresionado y agradecido por el compromiso y la perseverancia de los equipos de transición parroquiales que se han reunido este mes para considerar nuevos horarios para las misas y sacramentos para las recién formadas colaboraciones parroquiales. Si bien cada paso en el camino es una parte importante del viaje, creo que este Plan Pastoral Diocesano ayudará a preparar a toda nuestra Diócesis y a cada una de nuestras 59 parroquias dentro de las 29 Colaboraciones recién formadas a ser una Iglesia todavía más visible y vibrante en el suroeste de Michigan. Al igual que los apóstoles en aquella primera mañana de Pascua, estamos siendo llamados y desafiados a ser fuertes en la fe, aun cuando no tenga sentido. Pero cuando encontramos nuestra fuerza en la presencia de Dios entre nosotros y nuestra fe compartida juntos como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo, los frutos de nuestra fe serán abundantes y dan evidencia de esos buenos frutos en la vida de las personas que viven y son testigos de nuestra fe, así como nos acercamos en nuestra relación con nuestro Señor Resucitado y entre cada uno.

En estos días gloriosos de Pascua, imitemos la vida de las mujeres santas, junto con Pedro y todos los apóstoles, al vivir nuestra fe con alegría y esperanza. A pesar de la tendencia de algunos a considerar la fe como algo sin sentido, que nuestra fe renovada nos de la fuerza y convicción para correr detrás de nuestro Señor resucitado mientras seguimos creciendo en santidad y vivimos nuestra fe con alegría Pascual y esperanza en este mundo, y en la vida del mundo futuro. Que estemos motivados para compartir las Buena Nueva de la Pascua con todos con los que nos encontramos.

¡Felices Pascuas! ¡Aleluya!

## **Vatican statistics report increase in baptized Catholics worldwide**

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of baptized Catholics worldwide has grown at a faster rate than that of the world's population, according to Vatican statistics.

The figures are presented in the "Annuario Pontificio 2016," the Vatican yearbook, and will appear in the Statistical Yearbook of the Church, which gives detailed figures on the church's workforce, sacramental life, dioceses and parishes as of Dec. 31, 2014.

The number of baptized Catholics reached 1.27 billion or 17.8 percent of the global population, the statistics office reported March 5.

Despite the increase of Catholics worldwide, the yearbook noted a "less dynamic" growth of only 2 percent in Europe. While the continent is home to almost 40 percent of the Catholic global population, the percent of the world's Catholics living in Europe has slowly decreased over the past nine years, it said.

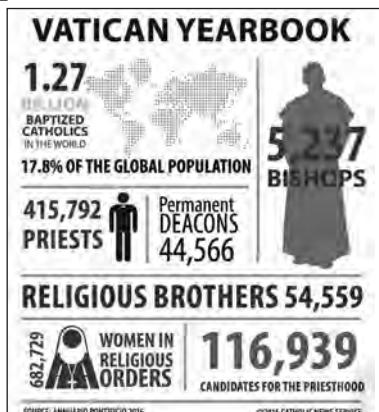
However, with the exception of Oceania, the number of baptized Catholics has grown faster than the general population growth on every continent.

"The African continent remains without a doubt the one with the highest growth," the report said; the number of Catholics in Africa increased by 41 percent, while the number of Catholics in Asia grew by 20 percent.

The percentage of baptized Catholics as part of the general population remains highest in North and South America where they "make up almost half" of the world's Catholics, it said.

The number of bishops of the world continued to increase, reaching 5,237 worldwide compared to 4,841 a year earlier.

The total number of priests — diocesan and religious order — around the world was 415,792, which the report said was statistically "stable." There was a steady increase of diocesan priests in Africa, Asia and Central and South America, while numbers in North America, Europe and Oceania continued to decrease.



## Diocesan program helps participants overcome painful childhood experiences

By Dr. Phyllis Florian

Director, Trauma Recovery Program

"I didn't think I qualified for it."

When we talk to people about the Recovery Trauma Program, we notice, frequently, that they hesitate to describe themselves as trauma survivors. Perhaps a pastor, a therapist or a friend who might have had personal experience with the program has referred them. Perhaps they were curious because of an article in *The Good News*. They call us and want to know more. It is then that we realize that they do not readily connect with the term "trauma" when describing their own experiences.

"Sure, there were some things about my childhood that were different, but that's not trauma."

"I know it happened to me, but that was a long time ago. I'm way past it now."

"I don't qualify as a trauma survivor. I just had a messy home life. No big deal."

The Trauma Recovery Program is available for Catholics who had childhood experiences that may have hurt them — physically, emotionally and/or spiritually. It does not measure the "extreme-ness" of the

person's experiences or the dramatic nature of an incident in his/her past, or the frequency with which a hurt may have occurred. It focuses on how these past experiences — varied as they may be — affect a person's current functioning. How does this person view him or herself? What is the quality of this person's current relationships? How does this person handle the day-to-day stresses that come up? Many factors inform how a person may "qualify" for the Trauma Recovery Program.

So, what is the Trauma Recovery Program? It is a learning opportunity, and a treatment model. What makes the program unique is that the focus is not on the past, but on the present and the future. The program helps people identify patterns of coping or problem solving that just do not seem to be effective anymore, and it offers alternatives that are based on sound clinical practices. It helps people get un-stuck. The program gives people a safe place to explore how they feel about themselves, while learning new skills to re-think the sticky situations that interfere with their wellbeing. It teaches them to try again (and again) as needed. It gives people hope that the present and future can be different.

**If you are interested in learning more about the Trauma Recovery Program, contact Phyllis Florian at (269) 381-8917 ext 223. Currently registration is open for Fall 2016 classes.**

## Best Practices for Shared Parishes Diocesan Conference

Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
Transformations Spirituality Center,  
3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Topics for the day:

- Shared Parishes and Intercultural Sensitivity
- The Catholic Understanding of Parish Life and Mission
- Inclusion and Stewardship in Shared Parishes

### Conference presenters are:

- Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Assistant Director, Hispanic Affairs Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.
- Rev. Stephen Dudek D. Min., Diocese of Grand Rapids, MI

The cost to attend is:  
**\$10 per person.**

Priests and deacons are invited to attend at no cost.



## Young adults invited to weekend retreat at Bair Lake Bible Camp

"Living Without Limits" is the theme for a weekend retreat designed specifically for young adults, college age through 40. The program is hosted by the diocesan Youth and Young Adult ministry office in conjunction with the Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues. The retreat begins on Friday, April 8th at 7 p.m. and continues through Sunday, April 10th until 1 p.m. Dynamic speakers along with time for prayer, discernment, relaxation, discussion will be available. In addition recreation time sponsored by Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues. The retreat will be held at Bair Lake Bible Camp, 12500 Prang St., Jones, Mich.

**The registration cost is \$25 per participant and includes all meals. For more information and to register please contact Tim McNamara, tmcnamara@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0139.**



Shannon and Sam Sheets, show above, will present at Young Adult retreat.

**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.



RSVP or for more information contact Ellyn Jones at 269.657.5529

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## The Other Six Days | By Jane Knuth



### Always Wait Three Days

My husband Dean and I are driving to the airport and I am pondering the mystery of interruptions and delays in my life. "Do you think that frustrating delays are a sign that my will isn't in line with God's will? Is it possible that a long wait could be God's mercy?"

Dean glances at me worriedly and says, "I have two connecting flights to catch; let's not talk about delays right now."

"Oh. Sure, I get that. We can talk about delays...later." I look sideways at him and we both laugh. Sometimes it requires trust in God to put aside topics of conversation, and sometimes it requires trust to bring them up. How does one know when God is saying, 'Preach the Good News,' or if he is saying, 'Be still and know that I am God?'

It's not only words, but actions, too. How do we discern the difference between letting opportunities slip away or waiting for God's guidance? My friend Jessica turned down seven marriage proposals and broke off one engagement before she met and married her husband of 35 years. "God might ask us to wait," she says. "It can be hard but that is mercy, too."

Someone once told me a story about an elderly lady who had experienced much suffering and sorrow in her life, yet she always had a smile on her face. When asked the reason for her joy she replied, "The worst day in the history of the world was the day Jesus was crucified. God was betrayed, tortured, and died at the hands of his people — horrific. But three days later was the absolute best day in the history of the world; God rose from the dead and saved all of us from our sins." She paused and showed her ever present smile. "So, no matter how bad things look in my life, I always wait three days. And I've never regretted it."

## Annual Retreat for Adults with Cognitive/Developmental Disabilities to take place April 23-24



"The Story of St. Faustina — Showing Mercy to the Poor," is the theme for this year's annual Diocesan spring retreat hosted by the Office of Ministry to Persons with Disabilities. The two-day experience designed for adults with cognitive or developmental disabilities will be held in the Lakeview Lodge at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis. Participants are asked to bring a donation of food (non-perishable canned items or boxed meals) to illustrate the corporal work of mercy to feed the hungry.

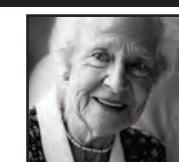
Registrations are due by April 11th and will be limited to 20 persons. Cost is \$35 per person and scholarships are available. For more information contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org.

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## Calendario/Calendar

### Abril/April

**Abril — Temporada del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano** (Abril a Noviembre). Visitas a los campos migrantes. (Diocesan Ministry to the Migrant Farmworkers. Visits to the migrant camps).

**9 (Sábado)** — 9 a.m. – 1p.m. Retiro Diocesano de Quinceañeras – retiro bilingüe para la preparación de quinceañeras. También deben participar los padres de las quinceañeras en el retiro. Lugar: St. Joseph Parish, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI. (Diocesan Quinceañera Retreat. Bilingual retreat for the preparation of quinceañeras. The young ladies must participate with their parents)

**15 (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)

**16 (Sábado)** — 10 a.m.-12m. Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, Reunión anual con el Obispo y el Comité Diocesano de Liturgia. Centro Pastoral Diocesano (Hispanic Ministry Diocesan Pastoral Committee, annual meeting with the Bishop and the Diocesan Liturgy Committee, Diocesan Pastoral Center)

**20 (miércoles)** — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Conferencia sobre las Mejores Prácticas para Parroquias Compartidas, para los sacerdotes, personal de las parroquias, personal de la Diócesis y profesores. Presentada por El Reverend Doctor Stephen Dudek de la Diócesis de Grand Rapids y Alejandro Aguilera-Titus de la Secretaría para Asuntos Hispanos de la Conferencia de los Obispos. (Conference: Best Practices for Shared Parishes, for priests, parish staff, Diocesan staff and teachers. Presented by the Reverend Doctor Stephen Dudek of the Diocese of Grand Rapids and Alejandro Aguilera-Titus from the USCCB's Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs.)

**23 (Sábado)** — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instituto San Agustín - Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Segundo Año de Formación. Tema: Práctica Pastoral (Instituto San Agustín – Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program, Second Year of Formation. Topic: Pastoral Practicum.)

**30 (Sábado)** — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instituto San Agustín – Formación Continua para los Graduados. (Instituto San Agustín – Continued Formation for the Graduates.)

### Mayo/May

**Mayo — Temporada del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano (Abril a Noviembre).** Visitas a los campos migrantes. (Diocesan Ministry to the Migrant Farmworkers. Visits to the migrant camps).

**14 (Sábado)** — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instituto San Agustín – Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Segundo Año de Formación. Tema: Espiritualidad como Inmigrante Hispano/Latino por Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Secretaria para la Diversidad Cultural, Conferencia de los Obispos. (Instituto San Agustín – Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program, Second Year of Formation. Topic: Spirituality as a Hispanic/Latino Immigrant by Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.)

**14 (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: Immaculate Conception Parish, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, 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).

**18 (Miércoles)** — 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. Conferencia Anual de Migrant Resource Council VBISD Conference Center, 490 Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI (Annual Pre-Season Conference for the Migrant Resource Council, VBISD Conference Center, 490 Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI)

**30 (Lunes)** — Cerradas las oficinas del Centro Pastoral Diocesano por Día de Memorial. (The Diocesan Pastoral Center is Closed due to Memorial Day)

**La Conferencia anual de Migrant Resource Council** será el 18 de mayo del 2016 de 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. en el edificio de Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064. Sería muy bueno que todas las personas que participan en el ministerio migrante o de una u otra manera se relacionan con los campesinos, participen en esta conferencia en donde se obtiene información muy importante.

Para obtener una registración o más información contacte a Bonnie Knowlton a [bknowlton@vbisd.org](mailto:bknowlton@vbisd.org) o llame al teléfono 269-539-5189.



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## "Felices Pascuas. Jesús Ha Resucitado y Está Entre Nosotros!"

Por Fanny Tabares

La Resurrección de Jesús es el fundamento de nuestra fe y esperanza: Cristo vence la muerte, y nuestro Dios, es un Dios de vida. La vida triunfa sobre la muerte; la luz sobre la oscuridad; el amor triunfa sobre el egoísmo y la paz triunfa sobre la guerra.

Como hijos de este Dios de vida debemos ser fuente de transformación social venciendo el odio, la discriminación, la indiferencia y comprometiéndonos a crear vida a nuestro alrededor, a cambiar la muerte por la vida por medio de la compasión en este Año Santo. ¿Y Cómo?... Practicando las obras de misericordia: Dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, dar posada al peregrino, vestir al desnudo, visitar al enfermo, socorrer a los presos y enterrar a los muertos. Y en general estando más atentos y sensibles a lo que pasa a nuestro alrededor y no permitiendo insultos, discriminación o rechazo especialmente a los más vulnerables o necesitados. Siendo menos indiferentes y defendiendo siempre el respeto a la dignidad humana sin importar religión, idioma, color de la piel o país de origen. O



como dice el Papa Francisco: "Muchas personas, golpeadas por los problemas más graves del mundo actual, por la violencia y la intolerancia, se han

convertido en refugiados, trágicamente obligados a abandonar sus casas, privados de su tierra y de su libertad". Por esta razón, el Santo Padre Francisco ha indicado que estas son las personas que necesitan de nuestra ayuda, "que os piden en voz alta ser escuchados, y que son más que nunca dignos de todo vuestro esfuerzo por la justicia, la paz y la solidaridad. El compromiso de la Iglesia Católica es servir a las necesidades de los pobres y de los refugiados, a sostener las familias y las comunidades y a proteger la dignidad

inalienable y los derechos de cada miembro de la familia humana. Nosotros los cristianos — ha asegurado — creemos que Jesús nos llama a servir a nuestros hermanos y hermanas, a cuidar de los otros, a prescindir de su procedencia o circunstancias".

La celebración de la pascua en primavera es como una explosión de vida que penetra todos nuestros sentidos y nos ayuda a entender mejor este misterio profundo de transformación, resurrección y vida.

**La Pascua es fruto de la compasión y del cuidado de los unos por los otros.**

## Fortaleciendo las Familias en la Fe (Reflexión #20)

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 Abril: Ya comenzó la primavera. Estamos viendo que los días son más largos y que tenemos más sol. En este mes de abril, ¿por qué no aprovechar el tiempo para salir en familia y ver cómo todo toma vida de nuevo?. En estos días de primavera podemos aprovechar para seguir enseñando a nuestros hijos sobre la resurrección de Jesús. Con cosas tan sencillas como el nacer de una planta, se aprende más sobre el amor de Dios. Aprovechemos para ir a un día de "picnic", a dar un paseo, o para comenzar a plantar un jardín. Démosle la oportunidad a nuestros hijos que experimenten la creación y recordarles que todos somos parte de ella y que debemos cuidarla. A nuestros jóvenes podemos hablarles sobre el cuidado y la misericordia hacia nuestro prójimo. Quizás alguien en nuestro vecindario necesite una mano que le ayude, ya sea a recoger la basura que se acumuló afuera con el invierno o en cortar el pasto que pronto estará grande. Quizás en su parroquia estén necesitando algún tipo de ayuda para la que se pueda ofrecer toda la familia. En nuestro mundo de ahora que a veces hay mucha violencia e indiferencia, mostrémosle a nuestros hijos pequeños y jóvenes que Jesús resucitó para dar vida.



## Ministerio con los Campesinos Migrantes

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo tendrá la reunión para comenzar el ministerio con los campesinos el **jueves 9 de junio de 5:30-8 p.m.** La reunión es para todos los voluntarios que ayudarán con el ministerio y para aquellos que quieran ser voluntarios. En ese día, proporcionaremos material de recursos y contestaremos a las preguntas que tenga sobre el Ministerio Migrante. También es una excelente oportunidad para conocer a otros voluntarios. Si desea ser voluntario o si tiene alguna pregunta, llame al 269-903-0197.

## Programa de Recuperación de Traumas en Español

La Diócesis, ya ha trabajado con cuatro grupos en español y los participantes han expresado que se han beneficiado bastante de este programa. El programa consta de dos sesiones personales con la consejera una al comienzo y otra al final y diez sesiones en terapia grupal. El nuevo grupo de apoyo en español, se reunirá comenzando el **5 de abril del 2016** con una sesión cada semana hasta el 7 de junio. Es indispensable hacer cita personal lo más pronto posible con la consejera Lissette Mira-Amaya, antes de ser admitido al programa.

Si usted conoce a alguna persona que en su infancia o de adulto sufrió cualquier tipo de trauma (físico, sexual, negligencia, etc.) y quiere ayudarle, por favor remítalo a una de las siguientes personas: Lissette Mira-Amaya (269) 929-7084 o Fanny Tabares (269) 903-0209. Es indispensable hacer cita personal lo más pronto posible con la consejera Lissette Mira-Amaya, antes de comenzar el programa.

El Programa de Recuperación de Traumas está basado en el Modelo de Trauma, un modelo psico-educacional que ayuda a las personas a aprender cómo integrar sus sentimientos, pensamientos y comportamientos. Las investigaciones actuales indican que los recuerdos en la memoria, en el mejor de los casos, son de poco fiar. Por lo tanto, este modelo infunde vivir eficientemente en el presente en lugar de re-establecer recuerdos reprimidos. La curación no toma lugar en el nivel de los recuerdos. La curación ocurre en el nivel del procesamiento e integración de los sentimientos, pensamientos, percepciones, y comportamientos. El trauma es un suceso o una serie de sucesos combinados con la vulnerabilidad de una persona que crea un obstáculo en el normal desarrollo humano.

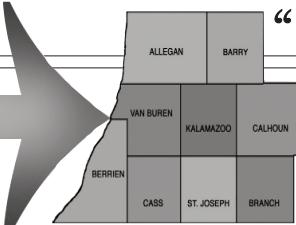
La Diócesis de Kalamazoo ha comenzado el Programa de "Trauma Recovery" en inglés desde hace 13 años y ha tenido un gran éxito a nivel nacional e internacional y ahora lo está ofreciendo en español.

Aproveche de esta oportunidad de consejería gratuita si usted o alguien que usted conoce lo necesitan.



## Here & There

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



## "Waiting in Joyful Hope"

### CENTRAL DEANERY

Kalamazoo

**May 14-15: 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: July 16-17, Sept. 24-25, Nov. 12-13. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199, struchan@diokzoo.org.

Portage

**April 24: Diocesan Confirmation**, St. Augustine Cathedral, 3 p.m. Contact: Dave Reilly, dreilly@diokzoo.org, 269-903-0193.

### LAKESHORE DEANERY

Watervliet

**April 16: 6th Annual International Food Faire**, St. Joseph Parish – Father Nadrach Center, 6 p.m. Cooks representing different countries prepare their favorite foods. Proceeds go to the Diocese of Lodwar, Kenya. Tickets: \$15 – not available at the door. Contact: Parish Office – 269-463-5470.

### NORTHERN DEANERY

Dorr

**April 5: Pilgrimage to Cross in the Woods**, leave from St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr, 5 a.m. – projected home by 10:30 p.m. Cost: \$60. Contact: Sheryl O'Connor, soconnor2149@sbcglobal.net.

Byron Center

**April 30 and May 1st: Shroud Encounter**, St. Mary's Visitation Parish, 7 p.m. \$5 admission fee, under 18 free. Life-size replica of the Shroud of Turin will be on display, presentation covers all aspects of the history, science, art and theories surrounding the Shroud. Info: ShroudEncounter.com.

### SOUTHEAST DEANERY

Three Rivers

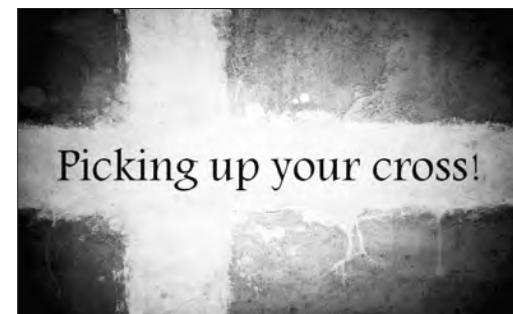
**April 23: Annual Auction and Drawdown**, Immaculate Conception Church, 5 p.m. Food, games, live and silent auction and more – fundraiser for Immaculate Conception Catholic School. Tickets: purchased from school or students. \$25 for \$1,000 prize drawdown ticket (includes dinner), \$15 for dinner ticket.

## Keeping Easter in our hearts all year long

By Nancy Servoss

Every year, I am reminded that the ministry of Jesus did not end on Easter Sunday. When I look back on that trek into Jerusalem where the 'King of the Jews' was crucified, I find a timeless meaning about bearing witness to those who continue to carry the cross.

During this season, I need to remember the woman I met a few months ago. She endured decades of abuse but had a perseverance not unlike the Jewish prophet from Nazareth. Homeless and looking for a job, she shared stories about addiction, rape, and a suicide attempt. During our conversation, she became curious about me. "Why do you write?" she asked.



Picking up your cross!

### How do I tell her I write because Holy Week happened?

During this season, I need to remember my son and his Mexican wife who experienced a broken immigration system, and ultimately walked across a border because it was, effectively, the only route home; I need to address racial tensions that perpetrate job sites, convenience stores, traffic stops and neighborhoods; I need to recall my visits to a shelter where I met women trying to escape the mental and physical clutches of violence; I need to think of my strong, disenfranchised gay friends. And finally, last but not least among them, I need to understand the most vulnerable of all: the children I tutored. My heart breaks when I realize that poverty impedes learning. "Why are you here?" they ask.

### How do I tell them I come to see the face of God?

During this season, I need to make sense of the Lenten journey by gripping on to the modern-day cross. I need to find the courage to do that which seems so difficult. As I struggle with thoughts of discomfort and fear, I need to ask myself, "Why is it so much easier to wipe the face of the historical Jesus than look into the eyes of those who suffer today? Are not both the same?"

The season of Easter embraces the Gospel message and emphasizes a redemption story. It is about grace and it invites me — and all of us — to find the risen Lord. So where do I look? The Gospel message invites me to look for those who carry the cross today because, in them and with them, I will find the risen Jesus. I will find mercy. I will find joy. So, as I contemplate this most profound resurrection story, I pray that I will have a bit more courage to look for Him in the most unlikely places.

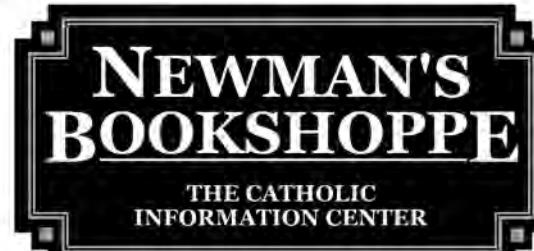


Nancy Servoss is a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish. She is a wife, mother and 'Nana.' After thirty years of work in area social service agencies, she is now retired and takes classes at Earlham School of Religion. She serves on the Board of Directors for JustFaith Ministries, and is active in social ministry.



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## All Michigan Catholic Charismatic Conference scheduled for July 8, – 10, 2016

The All Michigan Catholic Charismatic Conference will come to Kalamazoo this summer, July 8-10. Speakers will include Michigan native James Alan "Butch" Murphy, the director of the Leadership Formation for the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service. His background includes a variety of experiences from youth and adult formation leader to a bodyguard for Mother Teresa to a prospector in Alaska.

Another Michigan native Bill Richert and Friends will be providing the music.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley will celebrate Sunday's liturgy at the Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth Center, Kalamazoo. Call 800-837-2622 to register.

**Transformations SPIRITUALITY CENTER**  
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3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048



**The Arts: Avenues to the Divine**  
**Sat., May 14; 9am-3pm**  
**Fr. Bob Hutmacher, OFM**

We will spend the day looking at how art – in any form – is both a share in God's creative power and a way of touching the Holy.

Fr. Bob spent many years living in Assisi where he studied the lives of Saints as well as the music and art of their times.

The program will enable participants to see the power of the arts in the lives of the faithful.

\*\*\*This retreat is cosponsored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

**Watercolor: The Free Flow of Letting Go**  
**Sat., May 21; 9am - 3:30pm**  
**Led by Frankie Dutil, CSJ**

Come for this day of watercolor painting, and experience letting go – for precise control in watercolor is usually beyond us! No prior experience with watercolor painting is needed to enjoy this day.

More info & register at [TransformationsCenter.org](http://TransformationsCenter.org)  
269-381-6290 x327

## Courage: A Roman Catholic Apostolate

Spiritual support for Catholic men and women with same-sex attractions who desire to live chaste lives in accordance with the teachings on the Roman Catholic Church. Contact: [courage@diokzoo.org](mailto:courage@diokzoo.org)



## Looking for some faith-filled family-sized fun that's also free? Check Out the Monthly Energizer

The Energizer offers something for the entire family and is hosted by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Join with other families from across the Diocese on Saturday, April 16th for a discussion on indulgences during the Year of Mercy. The Energizer is held at St. Catherine of Siena, Portage, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The program consists of food and fellowship, praise and worship music, a 25 minute talk for adults, and a coinciding craft lesson for the children under 12.

This event is free. For more information contact: Jamin Herold, [jherold@diokzoo.org](mailto:jherold@diokzoo.org), 269-903-0141 or Tim McNamara, [tmcnamara@diokzoo.org](mailto:tmcnamara@diokzoo.org), 269-903-0139.

## Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish

The Diocese of Kalamazoo continues with the Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish. If you know someone who has suffered any type of trauma (physical, sexual, neglect, etc.) either in the past or present, please refer them for help to Lisette Mira-Amaya 269-929-7084 or Fanny Tabares 269-903-0209. The new Support Group in Spanish will begin on April 5, 2016. It is necessary to make an appointment as soon as possible, before the program begins, with the counselor Lisette.

## 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.

## Catholic Charities honors volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 10-16



“Our volunteers understand that we all belong to each other,” says Tim Lieser, President/CEO, Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo. “One body, many parts — we all are called to share our unique and varied talents that God has given us with the larger body of humanity.”

National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, is an opportunity for Catholic Charities to say “Thank You” for its hundreds of volunteers that give tirelessly to the organization.

**For volunteer opportunities, contact Jeannine Boehm at 269-381-9800 or visit —**

[www.ccdok.org](http://www.ccdok.org). Shown above are Caring Network volunteers (from left) Patti Hokanson, Colleen Dawson, Erin Scott, Kristen Gleason and Kristen Cipich.

### Pictured right:

**St. Stanislaus Elementary, Dorr** — Bishop Bradley celebrated the Stations of the Cross with students from St. Stanislaus Elementary School on Friday, March 4th. After Stations Bishop Bradley spent time at the school reading to the children.

### Pictured below:

**Lake Michigan Catholic** students collected personal care and clothing items during National Catholic Schools Week to donate to the Department of Human Services for foster children. The students were able to donate several boxes of items to the foster children program.



Middle school students at St. John Bosco Parish perform The Living Stations Tableau, a reenactment of Jesus’ Passion.

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