



# THE GOOD NEWS



## Hundreds attend diocesan meetings to learn more about the Pastoral Plan

### Priest assignments will become effective July 1, 2016

"The challenge of the Diocese is really one of priest distribution," said Bishop Bradley to a packed house last month during the Southwest Deanery meeting in Holy Angels, Sturgis, one of eight deanery meetings held over six weeks to discuss the implementation of a new Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

On January 28th Bishop Bradley met with all priests in the diocese and announced the final configurations of the "parish collaboratives." He then hosted a series of Deanery meetings across the diocese to further detail the Diocesan Pastoral Plan to parishioners. The remaining one is scheduled for March 15, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Parish, Marshall.

The plan calls for the creation of 29 "Parish Collaboratives" from the existing 59 parishes [see page 5-8 for more details]. Each collaborative will be under the care of one pastor. As such 29 priests will be given pastor assignments and the remaining 25 priests will be assigned as Parochial Vicars or to other special ministries. Assignments will be announced by Bishop Bradley in May. Priests with new assignments will transition July 1st, 2016.

Parishioners attending the different meetings listened attentively as Msgr. Michael Osborn, General Secretary, presented detailed Diocesan data supporting the need for the plan as well as what the hopeful outcomes are.

"The plan is really 'vocation-hopeful,'" noted Msgr. Osborn who is also the Director of the Office of Vocations and has plans to roll-out a comprehensive vocations program. However, he notes, the best way

to encourage vocations is through prayer.

Parishes throughout the Diocese have generally maintained the same Mass schedule over the past 20 years, noted Msgr. Osborn, but with 33 percent fewer priests. Managing a "workable" weekend Mass schedule is one of the goals of the new plan.

During the month of March parishes are being asked to bring together a select group of parishioners and help decide on the best Mass schedule for their parish collaborative. Diocesan staff along with Msgr. Osborn and Very Rev. Robert Creagan will help to facilitate the discussions.

To aid in the overall transition of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Bishop Bradley has enlisted the assistance of Catholic Leadership Institute, a national consulting group that has worked on similar efforts in the Archdiocese of Boston.

"No other Diocese, to my knowledge, has created a plan like this," added Bishop Bradley who reiterated again that the plan does not call for any parish closing or mergers and that all parishes will retain their identity. With the overarching goal of the plan to provide for greater pastoral care for the people, Bishop Bradley's hope is that will translate into a more active and lived faith visible throughout the Diocese.

Watch for a special Diocesan Pastoral Plan edition of *The Good News* coming soon in your mail, featuring a breakdown of the new collaboratives, a timeline of changes, faqs and more as we enter this time of change and growth, *A Future Full of Hope*.

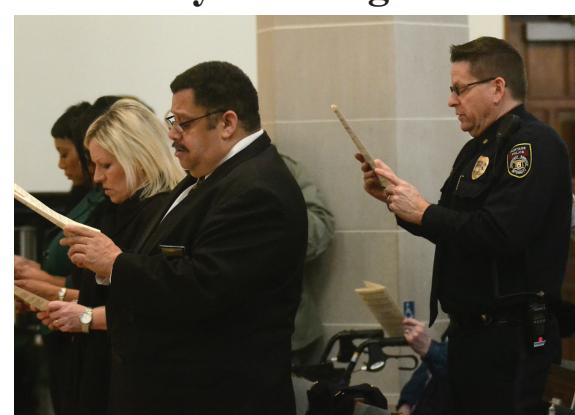
## Bishop Bradley honors Kalamazoo County shooting victims

Hundreds from around Southwest Michigan filled St. Augustine Cathedral on February 22, less than 48 hours after a mass shooting claimed the lives of six innocent people and left two more critically injured. Bishop Paul J. Bradley invited the community to come together to pray for all those impacted by the tragedy at the daily 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Bishop Bradley acknowledged the collective shock rippling through the community during his homily.

"As we gather together our hearts are saddened by the news of the tragic shootings that took place in our community last evening, taking the lives of six innocent people, leaving two people in critical condition, and an entire community feeling traumatized," he said.

"We come together to place all of our worries, sorrows, fears and all our questions in God's Hands. He is the one who knows the answers to all our questions; He is the one who will give us the comfort and consolation for which we all long."



Pictured above are Michigan State Senator Margaret O'Brien and Kalamazoo County Commissioner, Michael Seals along with other area representatives attended mass.

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## Thirty parishes represented at annual Rite of Election

On February 14 families, friends and sponsors of the 143 catechumens and candidates gathered at St. Augustine Cathedral for the annual Rite of Election with Bishop Bradley. This year 61 catechumens (those who will receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist during the Easter Vigil) and 82 candidates (baptized members who will be confirmed during Easter Vigil) represented 30 parishes from across the diocese. Members of the elect ranged in age from young children to grandparents and all ages in-between.

Bishop Bradley welcomed all participants in the Rite of Election liturgy and called the catechumens and candidates the "Class of 2016."

"Each year [I have] this great vantage point of seeing those of you who have been touched and inspired by God at the depths of your souls to make this very significant spiritual decision to enter into the Catholic Church," said Bishop Bradley.

The Rite of Election includes the enrollment of names of all the Catechumens seeking baptism at the coming Easter Vigil. Typically held on the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the cathedral church. The Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the diocesan bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect.

The liturgy is also referred to for the candidates as the "Continuing Call to Conversion." Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church describes the process for entrance into the Catholic Church for already baptized Christians. In most cases, these individuals make a profession of faith but are not baptized again.

Bishop Bradley, citing this liturgy as one of his favorites, commended the catechumens and candidates for their choice and commitment to their faith.

"Choosing to do what is right and just in a world that wants to blur any/all lines of morality is a growing challenge for all of us," he said. "Being willing to live our faith with joy and let the Light of Christ shine out in our lives no matter what the consequences takes great courage and conviction for everyone."

## INSIDE NEWS

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## FROM THE EDITOR

**By Victoria Cessna**

Communication Director & Editor of *The Good News*

I was engaging in small talk with a gift shop clerk while in Florida recently when she asked the expected, "Where are you from." When I answered "Kalamazoo" her co-worker piped in, without even looking up from her phone, and matter-of-factly said, "That's where the shootings were."

I'm not sure what rattled me more — the casualness of her comment or the new instant description linked to my hometown — replacing the more often-expressed comment of "oh there really is a Kalamazoo?"

I wanted to begin listing all the amazing examples of the outpouring of care and support in the community, to detail all the inspirational prayer services and how our Cathedral was brimming with people for the Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley. I also wanted to remind the woman laser-glued to her phone that six innocent people lost their lives and two other victims were fighting to hold on to theirs and there's never anything casual about that.

My stunned politeness prevailed and I didn't say a thing. I simply paid for my items, managed a thin smile and left.

I like to think the woman was distracted and not really as cavalier as she appeared about the mass shooting that devastated my beloved community. And in this Year of Mercy I need to give her that benefit of the doubt. But the encounter sifts through my brain as a cautionary tale. I hope I never become numb to anyone's pain and suffering.

C.S. Lewis knew a thing or two about pain and loss. He wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Are we listening?

And maybe this is what we're called to do during our Lenten journey — turn up our listening — notice the pain and suffering around us and respond. In love.

In his homily for the Mass in honor of the victims of the tragic shooting, Bishop Bradley concluded with these beautiful words, "...we will be absolutely certain that this tragedy will not have the final word. The final Word is Jesus — and Jesus is the Victor — and those of us who follow Jesus share in that victory."

My Lenten advice: Put down your phones and follow Him. Respond to the pain and suffering around you by being a broker of hope.

### Pope Francis MARCH Intentions



**Universal:** That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

**Evangelization:** That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

### 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

**PUBLISHED:** monthly/10 times per year  
**DISTRIBUTION:** The first weekend of the month via parish bulletins.

Circulation: 20,000. **DEADLINES:** Advertising reservations by the 1st of the month preceding the month of publication. Mailing address: THE GOOD NEWS, Diocese of Kalamazoo, 215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760. Fax 269-349-6440, Telephone: 269-903-0163.

Email: [vcessna@diokzoo.org](mailto:vcessna@diokzoo.org).

NOTICE: The APRIL edition will be distributed in all parishes APRIL 2 & 3..

[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.

## "Waiting in Joyful Hope"



### Special edition of The Good News to mail in March

A special edition of *The Good News* will be mailed to registered households in March. The four-page edition will include details and illustrations on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Beginning January 28th Bishop Bradley has visited all six deaneries and hosted meetings to offer details on the plan which calls for the creation of 29 parish collaboratives (see related article on the cover). The plan will be implemented on July 1st.

For information visit [www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-pastoral-plan](http://www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-pastoral-plan)



More than 30,000 Catholics watched Pope Francis celebrate Mass in nearby Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on a big screen at El Paso's Sun Bowl Feb. 17. The celebration, which included music and special blessings in addition to the simulcast of Pope Francis' Mass, was hosted by Catholic Extension and jointly coordinated with the Diocese of El Paso.

Photo courtesy of Catholic News Service

### Cover story continued – Kalamazoo County shooting victims honored

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy Bishop Bradley issued a statement expressing profound sadness and also commanding the courage of the first responders. He said, "We are shocked and saddened by the horrific acts of violence in our beloved Kalamazoo. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of the six innocent people whose lives in this world were so mercilessly ended. May they live forever with God in the life of the world to come. We also pray for the perpetrator; may God show him mercy and change his heart. We commend the courage and dedication of our first responders for their commitment to keeping our community safe. Finally we pray for an end to all forms of violence. May this Lenten season be a time for all of us to turn away from sin and be freed from the strong hold of evil's influence so that we can live together in security and peace. May all those impacted by this senseless tragedy be comforted by the love of our united prayers."

The names of the six victims, Mary Jo Nye, Dorothy Brown, Barbara Hawthorne, Mary Lou Nye, Tyler Smith, Richard Smith, were recited as the congregation prayed collectively. Bishop Bradley concluded his homily by assuring the faithful that the tragedy will not define the community.

"This tragedy will not have the final word," he said. "The final Word is Jesus — and Jesus is the Victor — and those of us who follow Jesus share in that victory."

**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.



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### IN MEMORIAM



Sr. M. Cora Thoman, CSJ, passed away in late January and Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sr. Cora was born Mary Katherine in Shelby County, Ind., on March 12, 1924, the daughter of John and Ida (Ruhlman) Thoman. She was the third of five children and throughout her life cared deeply for her siblings, Fredrick, Rosemary, Rita and Dolores as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mary Katherine was a member of St. Vincent's Church in Shelby County, Ind., at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tipton on September 1, 1942. She received the name Sister Mary Cora at her reception on July 2, 1943. She pronounced first vows on July 2, 1945 and final vows on July 2, 1948.

Sister Cora attended St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind. She graduated with a B.S. from Fontbonne College in St. Louis and with a M.S. in Secondary Education from St. Francis College in Fort Wayne, Ind. Most of her religious life was spent in education as teacher or principal. She taught at several elementary parochial schools in Indiana, as a G.E.D. instructor at the Kokomo Opportunities Industrial Center and as librarian at St. Paul Elementary and Bennett High School.

## THE BISHOP'S PERSPECTIVE

### New Beginnings: in Faith and for our Diocese

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent, it is my privilege to celebrate the Rite of Election at St. Augustine Cathedral. I get to witness the inspiring commitment of a large number of people who fill the Cathedral, joined by members of their family and all those who are prayerfully supporting them in their new adventure. Some of them are very young, and others are more seasoned, but all of them are excited as they prepare to enter into the Church. When I addressed them a few weeks ago, I affectionately called them the “Class of 2016”. But this is a special “class”; they are not adorned with the iconic cap and gown of academic graduates. They are the “class” of 143 people who are about to become new Catholics. Sixty-one of these 143 are Catechumens, who will receive all three sacraments of Initiation: baptism, confirmation and Holy Eucharist; 82 are Candidates, people already validly baptized in other Christian denominations who will be received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil in just a few weeks. Each one with their own story, and each one on a journey to be united with the Body of Christ in a new way — a brand new beginning.

During the liturgy St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans was read which reminded all of us that it is through our baptism that we enter into a special, intimate relationship with Jesus; we enter into His death and resurrection, and we share in His victory over sin and death. In St. Paul’s words, baptism gives us a *“spirit of adoption through which we cry ‘Abba, Father!’ We are children of God....and heirs with Christ.”* In my homily, I built on those words, speaking about our identity as children of God united by our baptismal promises. The 61 Catechumens who will be baptized in just a couple weeks at the Easter Vigil will experience that new and life-changing relationship with God for the first time, and they will rejoice in being able to know God as Father, and to know that Our Father God sees them as His precious child — a vibrant part of the Body of Christ. The 82 Candidates who will be received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil, will have their identity as a baptized person into Christ enriched and strengthened through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

My dear sisters and brothers, as we consider these 143 people who are choosing a new, spiritual identity, I think all of us should be renewed in our own faith journey that remains steady and constant, but ever new as well.

We, the faithful people of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Kalamazoo have a unique and special identity, which is a critically important dimension of how we live our faith.

Just like the 143 men and women “Class of 2016”, our entire Diocese of Kalamazoo is also embarking on a new adventure. Established only 44 years ago on July 21, 1971, we are initiating “New Beginnings”, ready to mature and move into the next phase of our history as we build up the Kingdom of God. To guide us in this important adventure, we have developed the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope.

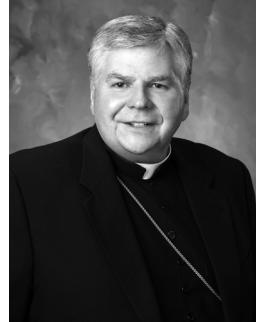
Over the last several weeks, I have hosted meetings in each of the six deaneries to explain what this Diocesan Pastoral Plan is, to try to answer any questions and reassure any concerns, and provide people with materials and information about the details of the plan. At the heart of this initiative is the commitment to provide the best pastoral and sacramental care for God’s people that we can in light of our current circumstances. We are initiating a plan for our own “new beginnings” — one that I believe will allow us to live our faith even more joyfully and vibrantly.

It is my fervent hope that by attending one of the deanery meetings, reading past articles in The Good News, conversing with your pastor or reading information on our diocesan website, you have become familiar with the rationale for and the details of the plan. Beginning July 1st, we will form 29 parish collaboratives, each of which will be led a Pastor for each of the parishes which make up that particular collaborative; each parish retains its wonderful and unique identity; parishes within the collaborative will work together in every way possible to form even stronger ties with neighboring parishes; no parish will close. Depending on the size of the collaborative, other priests may be assigned as parochial vicars or chaplains to assist the pastor in providing for the pastoral and sacramental care of the people. Lay people will be invited to exercise lay ministry in ways to help serve the needs of the parish collaborative. Everyone will be encouraged to participate in ways that will help us all to live out our baptismal promises, to help build up the Body of Christ, and to help our Diocese to move forward in hope.

In addition to understanding the details of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, all of us need to take the time to make sure that we understand where we are on our own faith journey, and the vital relationships we share with each other as members of the Body of Christ in our Diocese. We are a part of the Church at many different levels. We are members of the domestic Church, our unique and loving family. We are members of our parish Church, where we live out our faith through the sacraments and in loving communion with other members. We are members of the universal Church, with Pope Francis as the Vicar of Christ on earth. And here, in southwest Michigan, we are also members of the Diocesan Church.

As the bishop of the diocese, I have been appointed and entrusted with the responsibility for the pastoral care and spiritual concern of all the people living within the territory that makes

**Continued on page 4**



## LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

### Nuevos comienzos: en la Fe y para nuestra Diócesis

Cada año el primer domingo de Cuaresma, es para mí un privilegio celebrar el rito de elección en la Catedral San Agustín. Puedo presenciar el compromiso alentador de un gran número de personas que llenan la Catedral, acompañadas por miembros de su familia y de todos aquellos que los apoyan en oración en su nueva aventura. Algunos de ellos son muy jóvenes, y otros son más experimentados, pero todos ellos están entusiasmados mientras se preparan para entrar en la Iglesia.

Cuando me dirigí a ellos hace unas semanas, afectuosamente los llame la “Clase del 2016” pero esta es una “clase especial”; no están adornados con la icónica toga y birrete de graduados académicos. Ellos son la “clase” de 143 personas que están a punto de convertirse en los nuevos católicos. Sesenta y uno de estos 143 son catecúmenos que recibirán los tres sacramentos de iniciación cristiana: Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía; 82 son candidatos, gente ya válidamente bautizada en otras denominaciones cristianas que serán recibidos en la plena comunión con la Iglesia en la Vigilia Pascual en pocas semanas. Cada uno con su propia historia, y cada uno en un viaje para unirse con el Cuerpo de Cristo de un modo nuevo — un nuevo comienzo.

Durante la liturgia, la carta de san Pablo a los romanos fue leída y nos recordó a todos que es a través de nuestro Bautismo que entramos en una relación íntima especial con Jesús; entramos en su muerte y resurrección, y participamos en su victoria sobre el pecado y la muerte. En las palabras de san Pablo, el bautismo nos da un “espíritu de adopción, por medio de la cual podemos excluir: ‘¡Abba, Padre!’. Somos hijos de Dios...y herederos con Cristo.” En mi homilía, construí sobre esas palabras, hablando acerca de nuestra identidad como hijos de Dios, unidos por las promesas de nuestro bautismo. Los 61 catecúmenos que serán bautizados en sólo un par de semanas en la Vigilia Pascual experimentarán esa nueva relación con Dios que cambia la vida por primera vez, y se alegrarán de poder conocer a Dios como Padre, y saber que nuestro Padre Dios los ve como sus preciosos hijos — una parte vibrante del Cuerpo de Cristo. Los 82 candidatos que serán recibidos en la plena comunión con la Iglesia en la Vigilia Pascual, tendrán su identidad como bautizados en Cristo enriquecida y fortalecida a través de los sacramentos de confirmación y la Eucaristía.

Mis queridas hermanas y hermanos, al considerar a estas 143 personas que están eligiendo una nueva identidad espiritual, creo que todos nosotros deberíamos ser renovados en nuestro propio camino de fe que permanece estable y constante, pero siempre nueva también. Nosotros, el pueblo fiel del Cuerpo de Cristo en la diócesis de Kalamazoo tenemos una identidad única y especial, que es una dimensión de importancia crítica de cómo vivimos nuestra fe.

Al igual que los 143 hombres y mujeres de la “Clase del 2016”, toda nuestra diócesis de Kalamazoo también se está embarcado en una nueva aventura. Establecida hace solo 44 años el 21 de julio de 1971, estamos iniciando “Nuevos comienzos”, dispuestos a madurar y pasar a la siguiente etapa de nuestra historia mientras construimos el reino de Dios. Para guiarnos en esta importante aventura, hemos desarrollado el Plan Pastoral Diocesano: Un Futuro Lleno de Esperanza.

Durante las últimas semanas, he acogido reuniones en cada uno de los seis decanatos para explicar lo que este Plan Pastoral Diocesano es, tratar de responder cualquier pregunta y tranquilizar cualquier inquietud, y proveer a la gente con materiales e información sobre los detalles del plan. En el corazón de esta iniciativa está el compromiso de proporcionar el mejor cuidado pastoral y sacramental que podamos para el pueblo de Dios a la luz de las actuales circunstancias. Estamos iniciando un plan para nuestros propios “Nuevos comienzos” — uno que creo nos permitirá vivir nuestra fe aún más alegre y vibrante.

Es mi ferviente esperanza que asistiendo a una de las reuniones de decanato, leyendo artículos anteriores en el periódico The Good News, conversando con su pastor o leyendo la información en nuestro sitio web diocesano, se han familiarizado con la razón de ser y los detalles del plan. A partir del 1º de julio, se formarán 29 colaboraciones parroquiales, cada una de las cuales será conducida por un pastor por cada una de las parroquias que conforman la particular colaboración; cada parroquia conserva su identidad única y maravillosa; las parroquias dentro de la colaboración trabajarán juntas en todas las maneras posibles para formar vínculos más estrechos con las parroquias vecinas; ninguna parroquia se cerrará. Dependiendo del tamaño de la colaborativa, otros sacerdotes podrán ser asignados como vicarios parroquiales o capellanes para ayudar al párroco en la prestación de la atención pastoral y sacramental de la gente. Los laicos serán invitados a ejercer los ministerios laicales en maneras para ayudar a servir las necesidades de la colaboración parroquial. Todos serán animados a participar en formas que nos ayude a todos a vivir nuestras promesas bautismales, para ayudar a edificar el Cuerpo de Cristo, y para ayudar a nuestra Diócesis a avanzar en la esperanza.

Además de conocer los detalles del Plan Pastoral Diocesano, todos nosotros tenemos que tomarnos el tiempo para asegurarnos de que entendemos a dónde estamos en nuestro propio camino de fe, y las relaciones vitales que compartimos unos con otros como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo en nuestra diócesis. Somos una parte de la Iglesia en muchos niveles diferentes. Somos miembros de la iglesia doméstica, nuestra única y querida familia. Somos miembros de nuestra parroquia, donde vivimos nuestra fe a través de los sacramentos y en comunión amorosa con los demás miembros. Somos miembros de la Iglesia universal, con el Papa Francisco como Vicario de Cristo en la tierra. Y aquí, en el suroeste de Michigan, también somos miembros de la Iglesia diocesana.

# Seminarian Spotlight



Name: Deacon Andrew Raczkowski  
 Home Parish: St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo  
 High School: Portage Central High School, Portage  
 Seminary: Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit

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

When I was young, the idea was planted after Mass at St. Monica's one Sunday while I was praying in front of the statue of Mary, something my older sister and I did regularly. One Sunday I guess I just made the decision. I just figured from that time that I would be a priest. And an astronaut, because I thought I could do both. I came back to the idea when I was in my 20's. I was working as an artist at a videogame studio. I wanted a life that was genuinely meaningful, and I wasn't finding it where I was in what I was doing. As I thought about it, it almost started to dominate all I could think about. "What if I gave my life to God?"

## What is a typical day like at the seminary?

I tend to try to get up early and pray for an hour early in the morning, and then we pray Morning Prayer and have Mass. We'll have classes and meals, evening prayer. On weekends, we may be free, or we might have some other formation, and we deacons have a weekend parish assignment. Within that schedule, we have time for exercise, fun, reading, homework, and we have time to hang out with our friends here at the seminary.

## What would surprise people the most about being a seminarian?

We're normal people. We have normal interests, and normal talents, and normal weaknesses. Guys here have been doctors, accountants, camp counselors, artists, businessmen, and bartenders. We play sports, read books, draw pictures, hang out with friends, and some even brew beer. We just try to make sure that everything centers on Jesus Christ.

## What most draws you to become a priest?

What draws me most to become a priest is the vocation to reconcile people to God - to be a bridge between God and the brokenness that we all experience is possibly one of the most profound callings that I can imagine. I hope very much to be a good confessor and a good teacher.

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

Don't be afraid. Jesus said, "Peace be with you," and "I have come that you might have life, and have it to the fullest." God has a plan, and we participate in that plan by our cooperation. The call to the priesthood is a beautiful fulfillment of that desire for communion.

## Who is your favorite saint? Why?

St. Andrew is one of my favorite male saints because he is my patron saint. Every time he shows up in John's Gospel, he is always introducing someone to Jesus, which is what I hope to do.

## Who has been the most influential priest in your life?

Fr. Consani — he's the first priest I remember seeing and thinking, "He is a really happy person. I want what he has."

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

Prayer and work. I pray for the grace to live in relationship with Jesus and to build up that relationship in the Church. Then I try to work the best I can to build up the Church.

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

Everything began in the Garden of Eden, and was re-drawn the right way in the Garden of Gethsemane. We received our identities from God first in the Garden of Eden, and then that identity was damaged, and the damaged humanity was restored in Christ.



## The Bishop's Perspective

Continued from page 3

up the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Primarily that means the approximately 110,000 Catholics in the nine counties that make up our diocese; however, it also means that I must be spiritually concerned about and try to work for the good of all the approximately 900,000 people living within these nine counties. I pray for them and I work for ways to foster good will among all those who live in this part of the Church.

From my perspective, I prefer to look at our Diocese as a very large Parish, with me, the Bishop, as the Pastor of this Parish. Just as the pastor in your local parish is your spiritual father, I too am the spiritual father for the entire Diocese of Kalamazoo. In addition, the Bishop has a special and fraternal relationship with all the priests who serve in the Diocese; the priests are my primary collaborators. We have three primary and very important responsibilities: to teach the faith, to shepherd our people, and to help people, including ourselves, to grow in holiness. While priests have a fraternal relationship due to Holy Orders, between the Bishop and the priests, there is also a very special relationship of spiritual father with his sons.

A very important responsibility that I have as Bishop is to exercise great care for every parish, as well as the overall care for the Diocese. One of the ways I do that is to make sure that every parish has the spiritual and pastoral care needed by assigning priests as pastors to each parish, and if needed and available, additional priests as parochial vicars and chaplains. Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan has been developed to proactively address the challenge of assigning the number of priests that we have in the most efficient way possible. In order to do that effectively, we must reconsider how our priests are assigned, where they are serving and how we can best use their talents and gifts they have been given through their ordination.

New beginnings take courage and of course, like our inspirational 143 catechumens and candidates, they take faith. In addition to making these changes for how our priests are distributed to serve our parishes, we also of course must be praying for an increase of vocations to the Priesthood — to pray for more men to hear God's call to consider a vocation as a priest to serve here in our Diocese. For that, all of us need to pray, and encourage those in our families and our parishes who may indeed need some help in listening to God's voice calling them to the Priesthood. For many people change and transition can be challenging, even anxiety-producing — that is very understandable. But we need to keep moving forward on our journey of faith, encouraging one another along the way, and helping to find new ways to keep moving forward in hope. As we move into the implementation phase of the plan I, along with members of the Diocesan staff and lay leaders, will work tirelessly to provide information and resources to help greater understanding and participation.

My dear Family of Faith, our Lenten journey will soon culminate in the glorious Feast of Easter as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Easter assures us that Jesus' Victory has overcome all obstacles, and that as we move forward in our faith journey, walking with Jesus at our side, that we will be able to overcome any and all obstacles encounter along the way. Let us move into this time of new beginnings with confidence, and move forward in hope, living our faith with joy.

Como obispo de la diócesis, he sido designado y ha sido confiada la responsabilidad de la pastoral y la preocupación espiritual de todas las personas que viven en el territorio que conforma la diócesis de Kalamazoo. Principalmente, esto significa los aproximadamente 110.000 católicos en los nueve municipios que conforman nuestra diócesis; sin embargo, también significa que tengo que estar espiritualmente preocupado y tratar de trabajar por el bien de la totalidad de los aproximadamente 900.000 personas que viven dentro de esos nueve condados. Rezo por ellos y trabajo para encontrar maneras de fomentar la buena voluntad entre todos aquellos que viven en esta parte de la Iglesia.

Desde mi perspectiva, prefiero mirar a nuestra diócesis como una gran parroquia, conmigo, el Obispo, como Pastor de esta parroquia. Así como el párroco en su parroquia local es su padre espiritual, yo también soy el padre espiritual de toda la diócesis de Kalamazoo. Además, el Obispo tiene una especial relación fraterna con todos los sacerdotes que sirven en la Diócesis; los sacerdotes son mis principales colaboradores. Tenemos tres principales y muy importantes responsabilidades: enseñar la fe, pastorear a nuestro pueblo, y ayudar a la gente, incluidos nosotros, a crecer en santidad. Mientras que los sacerdotes tienen una relación fraterna entre el obispo y los sacerdotes debido al Orden Sagrado, también existe una relación muy especial de padre espiritual con sus hijos.

Una responsabilidad muy importante que tengo como obispo es ejercer gran cuidado por cada parroquia, así como la atención integral para la diócesis. Una de las maneras en que lo hago es asegurándome de que cada parroquia tiene el cuidado espiritual y pastoral necesario mediante la asignación de sacerdotes como pastores de cada parroquia y, si es necesario y disponibles, sacerdotes adicionales como vicarios parroquiales y capellanes. Nuestro Plan Pastoral diocesano ha sido desarrollado de manera proactiva para abordar el reto de asignar el número de sacerdotes que tenemos en la forma más eficiente posible. Para ello, debemos reconsiderar cómo son asignados nuestros sacerdotes, donde sirven y cómo podemos utilizar mejor sus talentos y dones que han recibido a través de su ordenación.

Nuevos comienzos toman coraje y, por supuesto, como nuestros inspiradores 143 catecúmenos y candidatos, toman fe. Además de realizar estos cambios de cómo nuestros sacerdotes serán distribuidos para servir a nuestras parroquias, también, por supuesto, debemos estar orando por un aumento de vocaciones al sacerdocio — orar por más hombres que escuchen la llamada de Dios a considerar la vocación como sacerdote a servir aquí en nuestra diócesis. Para eso, todos necesitamos orar y alentar a aquellos en nuestras familias y en nuestras parroquias que puedan, de hecho, necesitar alguna ayuda en escuchar la voz de Dios llamándolos al sacerdocio. Para muchas personas el cambio y la transición puede ser un desafío, incluso producir ansiedad — que es muy comprensible. Pero tenemos que seguir avanzando en nuestro camino de fe, alejándonos el uno al otro a lo largo del camino, y ayudando a encontrar nuevas formas de seguir avanzando en la esperanza. A medida que nos acercamos a la fase de ejecución del plan Yo, junto con los miembros del personal Diocesano y líderes laicos, trabajare incansablemente para proveer información y recursos para ayudar a una mayor comprensión y participación.

Mi querida familia de fe, nuestro camino cuaresmal culminara pronto en la gloriosa fiesta de la Pascua, al celebrar la muerte y resurrección de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. La Pascua nos asegura que la victoria de Jesús ha superado todos los obstáculos, y que a medida que avanzamos en nuestro camino de fe, caminando con Jesús a nuestro lado, podremos superar cualquier y todos los obstáculos que nos encontraremos en el camino. Avancemos en este momento de nuevos comienzos con confianza y avancemos en la esperanza, viviendo nuestra fe con alegría.



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## Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land, March 25, 2016

During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We are reminded of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded. Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. They face complex political, religious and military challenges which have resulted in war, unrest and instability. Many Christians are fleeing persecutions of ISIS and other Islamic extremists and require basic humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, clothing, blankets and medical care.

The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection is taken up in every Catholic parish around the world at the Holy Father's request. The funds raised are administered by the Franciscans and support signs of hope that can be seen despite the challenges cited above. The Holy Land encompasses Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Rhodes. Twenty-nine parishes provide a space to worship as well as Christian formation, youth and family programs, and pastoral care. Schools serve over

10,000 students in pre-K through 12th grade, and are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. Other initiatives include homes for orphans, housing for senior citizens and families, seminarian formation, university scholarships and the maintenance and preservation of fifty-four shrines connected to the life of Jesus and the prophets.

Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help Christians in the Holy Land carry the cross. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability and express your solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land.

**For more information about the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land and the work of the Franciscans, go to <http://www.myfranciscan.org/our-mission/the-good-friday-collection/>.**

**For information about the administration of this collection in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or [lirwin@diokzoo.org](mailto:lirwin@diokzoo.org).**

## 'Simple, not silly': Children's questions become book by Pope Francis

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children may say the darnedest things, but when it comes to questions about faith they can make even the most learned parents and priests pause.

"These are tough," Pope Francis said when presented with questions from 30 children from around the world.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, who went through the questions with the pope, said half the time he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope wasn't.

The questions, illustrated with the drawings of the children aged 6-13, and the pope's answers will be published March 1 as the book "Dear Pope Francis."

"What did God do before the world was made?" one child asked. "Do bad people have a guardian angel, too?" asked another.

In the book, coordinated and published by the U.S.-based Loyola Press, Pope Francis responds to those and 28 other queries; some of the questions are theological, others are practical and a few are about the pope personally, including what he wanted to be when he grew up.

To the question about what God was doing before creation, the heart of the pope's answer is, "Think of it this way: Before creating anything, God loved. That's what God was doing: God was loving."

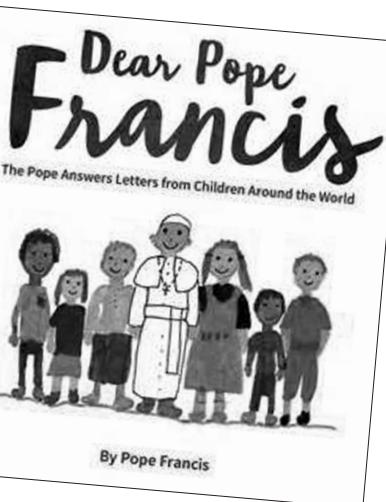
Questions about Jesus, war and peace and about heaven also are included, though Father

Spadaro was keeping those exact questions and answers under wraps during a late January interview.

Some of the personal questions made Pope Francis laugh and the pope's answers to those questions made Father Spadaro laugh, the Jesuit said. The pope admits in the book that when he was small he wanted to be a butcher because the butcher his grandmother bought meat from had an apron with a big pocket that seemed to be full of money.

The children's questions are "simple, but not silly," said Father Spadaro, who discussed them with Pope Francis and recorded his answers.

Father Spadaro heads La Civiltà Cattolica, a Jesuit journal filled with articles on philosophy, theology, literary criticism and political theory. He has never worked



with young children and said he was in awe of how the pope handled the questions — taking them seriously and responding to them honestly and clearly.

Some of the pope's answers, he said, are "inspired."

"This is important," Father Spadaro said. "It says a lot about the magisterium of Pope Francis; he knows his ministry can reach children."

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## The Other Six Days | By Jane Knuth



My assignment is to write a series of columns about the Year of Mercy. Being an ordinary person from the pews, I am not confident that I know anything about this topic so I borrow a book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, *You Did It to Me: a Practical Guide to Mercy in Action*. After reading it I know some definitions and I'm inspired to search for people who are actually doing mercy to see it in action.

Wrist deep in coleslaw, Jenn, Phylis, Brenda, and Barb are mixing it with their gloved hands. Their goal is to package it in individual portions for distribution by a different church group to hungry people in the neighborhood. But first the cabbage has to be blended with the carrots. For an hour they and their fellow volunteers, Joe, Luanne, Tootie, Paul and Jerry have been re-packaging bulk food of all kinds; meat, potatoes, soup, fruit, and condiments and are half finished. Their conversation is light with good humor and the work is bringing them joy.

I ask them this question, "Would you call this work 'mercy'?"

Joe ponders, "How can we have mercy for someone we don't even know?"

Jenn says, "You can pray for them."

Joe thinks about that for a moment and replies, "Okay. Praying is asking God to have mercy on someone. But what we're doing here is a different thing. One is asking God to have mercy and the other is *doing* something about the problem."

Phylis says, "I see this work as compassion."

Tootie agrees, "Mercy seems more like forgiveness."

Phylis looks thoughtful. "But when you bring forgiveness into it, then a type of judgment sneaks in, too."

Brenda sympathizes with the difficulties of imprecise language. "Is there a difference between mercy and compassion?"

I tell her that, according to Fr. Gaitley, mercy is defined as *love when it encounters suffering*.

"So praying for people who are suffering is mercy," Jenn nods.

"I think so," says Brenda. "And when we pray for the people we are helping it changes everything because prayer changes us. Mercy comes back to us through the time spent praying." She recites the Magnificat when Mary says, 'The Mighty One has done great things for me...His mercy is from age to age.' "Even Mary received mercy and she didn't need forgiveness for anything."

Jenn looks at the peanut butter stuck to her gloves and the blotches of soup on her apron. "So maybe packing food is mercy because we are loving people who are hungry? Even if we never meet them. Even when there's nothing to forgive."

Meeting mercy in action overpowers reading about it. I suddenly want to hug all these people in their messy aprons and sticky gloves.

## 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](mailto:lirwin@diokzoo.org)



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## El Papa Francisco estuvo en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.

Este 16 de febrero, el Papa Francisco estuvo en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, y allí frente al Rio Bravo, oró por los migrantes que han sufrido cruzando la frontera.

A continuación parte de su homilía referente a los migrantes pronunciada en la Santa Misa en la ciudad fronteriza de Juarez:

“La gloria de Dios es la vida del hombre, así lo decía San Ireneo en el siglo II, expresión que sigue resonando en el corazón de la Iglesia. La gloria del Padre es la vida de sus hijos. No hay gloria más grande para un padre que ver la realización de los suyos; no hay satisfacción mayor que verlos salir adelante, verlos crecer y desarrollarse”.

“...En este Año de la Misericordia, y en este lugar, quiero con ustedes implorar la misericordia divina, quiero pedir con ustedes el don de las lágrimas, el don de la conversión.

Aquí en Ciudad Juárez, como en otras zonas fronterizas, se concentran miles de migrantes de Centroamérica y otros países, sin olvidar tantos mexicanos que también buscan pasar «al otro lado». Un paso, un camino cargado de terribles injusticias: esclavizados, secuestrados, extorsionados, muchos hermanos nuestros son fruto del negocio de tráfico humano, de la trata de personas.



No podemos negar la crisis humanitaria que en los últimos años ha significado la migración de miles de personas, ya sea por tren, por carretera e incluso a pie, atravesando cientos de kilómetros por montañas, desiertos, caminos inhóspitos.

Esta tragedia humana que representa la migración forzada hoy en día es un fenómeno global. Esta crisis, que se puede medir en cifras, nosotros queremos medirla por nombres, por historias, por familias. Son hermanos y hermanas que salen expulsados por la pobreza y la violencia, por el narcotráfico y el crimen organizado. Frente a tantos vacíos legales, se tiende una red que atrapa y destruye siempre a los más pobres”.

## Calendario/Calendar

### Marzo/March

5 (Sábado) — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo. Tema: Eclesiología 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).

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)

15 (Martes) — 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Reunión de Decanato con el Obispo Bradley sobre el Plan Pastoral, Lugar: St. Mary Parish, 212 Hanover Street, Marshall, MI 49068. (Deanery Meeting with Bishop Bradley, Pastoral Plan).

20-27 — Semana Santa (Holy Week)

24-25 — Cerradas las oficinas del Centro Pastoral Diocesano. (The Diocesan Pastoral Center is Closed)

27 (Domingo) — Domingo de Pascua (Easter Sunday)

28 (Lunes) — Cerradas las oficinas del Centro Pastoral Diocesano.

(The Diocesan Pastoral Center is Closed)

### 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. – 1 p.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 Reverendo 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.

## Conferencia Diocesana: Mejores Prácticas para Parroquias Compartidas

El 20 de abril del 2016 de 9:00am a 3:00pm, se llevará a cabo una conferencia diocesana sobre Mejores Prácticas para Parroquias Compartidas. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus de la Conferencia Católica de los Obispos, Secretaría para los Asuntos Hispanos y el Reverendo Stephen Dudek, D.Min. de la Diócesis de Grand Rapids presentarán durante la conferencia. La conferencia es para: Asistir a los párrocos y a sus equipos para lograr un alto nivel de integración eclesial entre feligreses pertenecientes a diversas culturas. Está diseñada como instrumento práctico para (a) evaluar situaciones pastorales desafiantes a la luz de los principios pastorales y valores pastorales católicos; (b) identificar respuetas pastorales para manejar situaciones pastorales basándose en prácticas óptimas comprobadas; (c) aplicar capacidades interculturales internamente en forma de actitudes, conocimiento y destrezas; y (d) discernir estrategias de planificación pastoral basadas en un proceso de desarrollo de integración/inclusión eclesial y sensibilidad intercultural, que puedan llevar a un más alto nivel de sentido de corresponsabilidad.

A esta conferencia, se invita a: párrocos, personal de las parroquias, personal de la Diócesis, profesores y todas las personas que estén o vayan a estar en una posición de decisión. La conferencia será en Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. Costo de la conferencia es \$8 por persona antes del 25 de marzo del 2016. \$10 por persona si se registra después del 25 de marzo. Para más información o para registrarse llame al (269) 903-0197 o por email mtrumm@diokzoo.org.

## Best Practices for Shared Parishes Diocesan Conference

On April 20, 2016 from 9:00am to 3:00pm, a diocesan conference regarding Best Practices for Shared Parishes will take place. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, USCCB Assistant Director, Hispanic Affairs Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and the Rev. Stephen Dudek, D.Min. from the Diocese of Grand Rapids will present during the conference. The purpose of the conference is: To assist pastors and their team in achieving a high level of ecclesial integration among their culturally diverse members. It is designed as a practical tool to (a) assess challenging ministerial situations in light of Catholic pastoral principles and values, (b) identify pastoral responses to address ministerial situations based on proven best practices, (c) apply intercultural competencies in the form of attitudes, knowledge, and skills, and (d) discern pastoral planning strategies based on a developmental process of ecclesial integration/inclusion and intercultural sensitivity, which lead to a higher level of stewardship.

Pastors, parish staff, diocesan staff, teachers, and anyone who is or will be in a decision making position are invited to this conference. The conference will take place at Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. The cost is \$8 per person before March 25, 2016, \$10 per person if you register after March 25th. For more information or to register, you can call (269) 903-0197 or by email mtrumm@diokzoo.org.

### Madre Blanca Ilvia Álvarez Rincón, fundadora de la Congregación

#### Misionera Sierva del Divino Espíritu

El pasado 11 de febrero murió la Fundadora de las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu quienes han ayudado por varios años en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo en el ministerio con los campesinos migrantes y en los últimos años han establecido una casa en la parroquia de San Felipe de Jesús, Pearl con cuatro de sus religiosas. El Obispo Paul Bradley compartió con ella su celo misionero cuando visitó la casa madre de las Hermanas en Colombia

La Madre Blanca Ilvia Álvarez Rincón nació el 11 de febrero de 1930 en Armenia, Colombia, en un hogar de profundas raíces cristianas. Obtuvo su Doctorado en Filosofía y Letras en la Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana de Medellín en 1960 y se especializó en Psicopedagogía Correccional, en el Instituto Fray Luis Amigó de Medellín.

Ingresó a la Congregación de las Hermanas Tercarias Capuchinas de la Sagrada Familia en julio del año 1951 y en esta Congregación fue Maestra de Novicias entre los años 1964-1968.

Máxima Autoridad en su Provincia de San José de 1968-1974 y Directora de los Colegios: La Inmaculada



de Medellín; Colegio de María y Normal de La Merced en Yarumal (Antioquia).

Por inspiración Divina, la Hermana Blanca Ilvia Álvarez Rincón, fundó en 1976 el ICOFES (Instituto de Capacitación Femenina del Espíritu Santo). Siendo Provincial le inquietaba que las jóvenes del campo, de bajos recursos económicos no pudieran estudiar y fueran rechazadas en las comunidades religiosas. Decía: Lo importante es la Vocación, porque ésta sólo la da el Señor; la preparación intelectual se puede adquirir; “no se puede aceptar que se pierdan vocaciones a la vida religiosa, por falta de preparación intelectual y de recursos económicos”, en esto coincidió con Monseñor Jesús Alfonso Uribe Jaramillo, quien además decía que “las vocaciones hay que ayudarlas, la Providencia Divina no nos faltará con lo necesario para sostenerlas.”

En 1983 junto con el obispo Jesús Alfonso Uribe Jaramillo la Hermana Blanca Ilvia Álvarez Rincón fundó la Comunidad de las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu en La Ceja, Antioquia (Colombia) bajo la espiritualidad de San Francisco de Asís. Actualmente están presentes en varios países: Colombia, Ecuador, Panamá, Italia y Estados Unidos -en nuestra Diócesis-. Comunión fraterna, sencillez y alegría caracterizan su estilo de vida.

## 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 Miriam Amaya, antes de ser admitido al programa.

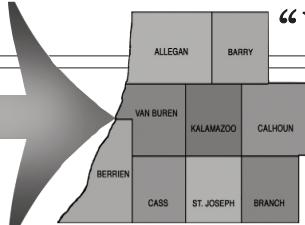
Si usted conoce a alguna persona que en su infancia o de adulto sufrió cualquier tipo de trauma (físico, sexual, negligencia, etc.) y quiere ayudarle, por favor remítalo a una de las siguientes personas: Lisette Mira-Amaya (269) 929-7084 o Fanny Tabares (269) 903-0209. Es indispensable hacer cita personal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



### Bishop Bradley's Stations of the Cross schedule

**March 18** – St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan, 6 p.m.  
**March 25** – St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 1 p.m.

### St. Augustine Cathedral Holy Week Schedule

**March 20** – Palm Sunday Mass, 11:30 a.m.  
**March 22** – Chrism Mass and Reception, 6 p.m.  
**March 24** – Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.  
**March 25** – 7 Last Words, noon Stations of the Cross, 1 p.m. Lord's Passion, 1:30 p.m.  
**March 26** – Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 p.m.  
**March 27** – Easter Mass, 11:30 a.m.

## Lenten Activities

### CENTRAL DEANERY Penance Services

**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.  
  
**March 13** – Lenten Vespers, Holy Family Chapel, 6:30 p.m. Please enter via Nazareth Center.  
**March 15** – Msgr. Martin's final Lenten talk, St. Augustine Cathedral, 7 p.m. Topic is Mercy and the Pursuit of Personal Perfection. Previous talks are available to listen to on the diocesan website.

## Best Practices for Shared Parishes Diocesan Conference

On April 20, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., all are welcome to attend a diocesan conference, Best Practices for Shared Parishes. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, USCCB Assistant Director, Hispanic Affairs Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and the Rev. Stephen Dudek, D.Min. from the Diocese of Grand Rapids will present during the conference. The conference is designed to assist pastors and their team achieve a high level of ecclesial integration among their culturally diverse members.

It is designed as a practical tool to:

- assess challenging ministerial situations in light of Catholic pastoral principles and values,
- identify pastoral responses to address ministerial situations based on proven best practices
- apply intercultural competencies in the form of attitudes, knowledge, and skills, and
- discern pastoral planning strategies based on a developmental process of ecclesial integration/inclusion and intercultural sensitivity, which lead to a higher level of stewardship.

Pastors, parish staff, diocesan staff, teachers, and anyone who is or will be in a decision making position are invited to this conference.

The conference will take place at Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048.

The cost is \$8 per person before March 25, 2016, \$10 per person if you register after March 25th. For more information or to register, you can call (269) 903-0197 or by email mtrumm@diokzoo.org.

## "Waiting in Joyful Hope"

### 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.

## Activities around the diocese

### CENTRAL DEANERY

#### Kalamazoo

**Sundays – Adult Bible Study, St. Joseph Parish**, 10 a.m. Join an adult Bible Study while your children attend formation classes. All are welcome to attend as your schedule permits. Currently studying Luke.

### 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**, Bridgeman, Stations of the Cross, Fish Fry begins at 5 p.m.

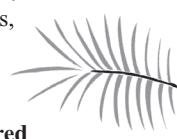
### SOUTHEAST DEANERY

**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.

### Portage

**March 12** – Monthly Energizer, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. An evening of fun, faith and more for the whole family. Topic is Divine Mercy. Additional date: **April 16** – Indulgences.



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

### EASTERN DEANERY

#### Marshall

**March 15** – Pastoral Plan Deanery Meeting with Bishop Bradley, St. Mary Parish, 7-9 p.m.

### NORTHERN DEANERY

#### Byron Center

**April 30** – 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.

**May 1** – Shroud Encounter, St. Mary's Visitation Parish, 2 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

## THE GOOD NEWS | 7

history, science, art and theories surrounding the Shroud. Info: ShroudEncounter.com.

### SOUTHEAST DEANERY

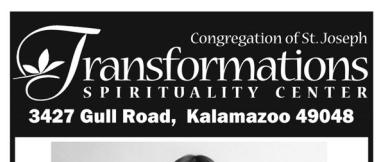
#### Three Rivers

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



## 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. Fellowship and discussion is the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is Wednesday, April 13th, 2016 from 4 - 5:30 pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center (215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo). For any questions or more information, please call Fr. Don Klingler at 269-254-8138 or Socorro at 269-903-0199. For more information, contact the Courage chaplain at courage@diokzoo.org.



### 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 Fennelly, 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.

### A Mystic's Invitation to Love the World: A Taste of Teilhard de Chardin

**Sat, April 9; 9am-3:30pm**  
**Led by Judy Cauley, CSJ**

Teilhard's world view of ever-evolving, Spirit-filled creation gave us the first rendering of the sacred story of the universe. Reflecting on Teilhard's story and spiritual legacy can help us see how Mystery is working in our lives.

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

## ProximoTravel

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**Deacon Bruno Okoli** visited students at St. Augustine Cathedral School to talk about the Holy Door, the importance of the journey to and through it, and the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Students made a pilgrimage through the Holy Door at St. Augustine Cathedral in December.



Lake Michigan Catholic's fourth through seventh grade students participated in the King Arthur Flour Bake for Good: Kids Learn Bake Share Program, and they learned that math, science, reading, and baking know-how equals great bread to bake and share. Each student went home with two bags of King Arthur flour, a *Bake for Good*: Kids recipe booklet, Red Star yeast, a KAF dough scraper, a bread donation bag, and bread baking skills. One loaf was donated to Lighthouse Ministries in Benton Harbor and the students kept the other loaf. More than 100 loaves of bread were delivered last month to the Lighthouse Ministries where it was distributed to their children and families.



Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of **Our Lady of Fatima Church** in Union City and donations from other generous people in the community, a new nativity set was purchased and displayed this past Advent season. The project was spearheaded by Marion Heater and Rosie Shaffer and was overseen by Our Lady of Fatima's Altar & Rosary Society. The manger was expertly handmade from old barn siding by parishioners Jacque Helwig and Fred Woods.



**Immaculate Conception Catholic School** in Three Rivers recently announced plans to expand their class offerings to include 5th grade. The school's elementary offerings will include two multi-age learning environments; a lower elementary classroom for kindergarten through second grade and an upper elementary classroom for third through fifth grade. The school also hopes to add a Young Five program contingent on enrollment numbers. The program would be only the second Young Five program available in Three Rivers.

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**Borgess Emergency & Trauma Center**  
1521 Gull Road, Kalamazoo

**Borgess-Pipp Hospital Emergency Room**  
411 Naomi St., Plainwell

**Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital Emergency Room**  
420 West High Street, Dowagiac

**Immediate Medical Care at Borgess at Woodbridge Hills**  
7901 Angling Road, Portage

\*This service is only available for patients who do not have a life-threatening emergency. In a life-threatening emergency, always dial 9-1-1 or immediately go to the nearest emergency room.

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