



The Official Publication for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

THE GOOD NEWS

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Four men to be ordained priests on May 21

Bishop Paul J. Bradley will ordain four men to the priesthood at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, May 21st. The diocesan seminarians, Deacons Jose Haro, Bruno Okoli, Andrew Raczkowski, and Paul Redmond, who were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate last year, will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders from Bishop Bradley at 10 a.m. during the Mass of Ordination. Tickered seating is being distributed through the Office of Vocations. The Diocese will live stream the Ordination. Details may be found at www.diokzoo.org.

"The entire Church of Kalamazoo rejoices with these young men who will serve the good people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo," said Bishop Bradley. "Please also keep them in prayer and continue to pray for an increase in vocations."

For more on the four men see pages 6-7.

Students compete for first St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarships

After a year of work researching and tackling a challenging theology topic, ten students from the three Catholic High Schools were chosen to compete for top scholarship awards. This year marks the first-ever honorees for the St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship Program, created by the diocesan Office of Schools to recognize outstanding achievement in the theology capstone project, a mandatory requirement for all Senior Catholic High School students in the diocese.

Seniors began their work more than a year ago when they chose from 100 theology questions. Topics ranged from moral relativism to embryonic stem cell research to atheism. Last month, ten students were chosen by their local high schools to compete for the scholarship awards. Students presented to a panel of judges on April 22, 2016. Scores were tabulated based on a variety of factors including demonstration and depth of knowledge on the theology topic as well as written and oral presentation.

"The students' presentations were outstanding and inspiring," said Margaret Erich, Superintendent for the Catholic schools in the



Hackett Catholic Prep Senior Amanda Lawrence presents "Is Abortion Ever Justifiable" to a panel of judges during the first St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship competition.

Diocese. "Their work is a testament to the outstanding instruction and mentorship they've received. We're thrilled to be able to recognize these students with scholarships to assist them in their college careers."

The top ten students (in alphabetical order) are: Genevieve Bogedain, Hackett Catholic Prep; Stephen Graham, St. Philip Catholic Central High School; Amanda Lawrence, Hackett Catholic Prep; Patrick Sprague, St. Philip Catholic Central High School; Sarah McCoy, Lake Michigan Catholic High School; Rebecca Radomsky, Hackett

Catholic Prep; Ryan Stachowski, Lake Michigan Catholic High School; Emily Wesner, St. Philip Catholic Central High School; Caroline Yapp, Hackett Catholic Prep; and Mitchell Yelton, Hackett Catholic Prep.

Scholarships will be awarded as follows: \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place, \$2,000 for third place and remaining students will be awarded \$500. At presstime finalists had not yet been announced. A banquet will be held on May 21st to honor all students and their families, teachers and mentors.

Diocese offers resources to ready for Diocesan Pastoral Plan implementation



Parish staff from around the Diocese participated last month in the diocesan-sponsored "Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So that they may all be one." The workshop was created by the USCCB's Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.

The Diocese is fast at work conducting workshops, facilitating parish collaboratives and defining available resources to ready for the full implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope. July 1, 2016 marks a new chapter in the history of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. On this date the plan will be officially launched and a number of priests across the Diocese will begin new pastoral assignments. The plan, calling for the creation of 28 parish collaboratives, was announced by Bishop Paul J. Bradley this past January after a series of consultations with the priests, laity and a number of consultative groups.

On March 30th Bishop Bradley, along with Msgr. Michael Osborn and members of the Diocesan staff, held a two-hour meeting for parish staffs. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and share best practices.

Last month close to 150 people participated in the Diocesan-hosted, one-day workshop, "Best Practices for Shared Parishes." This workshop was created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and featured presentations by Rev. Stephen Dudek, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish and Canonical Administrator of San Juan Diego Academy, Diocese of Grand Rapids and Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Assistant Director of the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church, USCCB. During the day the presenters discussed themes of intercultural relationships drawing from important Church documents including Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, (The Joy of the Gospel).

Shared parishes are defined by the USCCB as a parish with two or more distinct cultural/ethnic communities. A recent report by CARA indicated that 33 percent of the 70,000 parishes in the United States fall within this category.

Kelly Moser, parish secretary, St. Mary of the Lake New Buffalo, enjoyed learning more about intercultural nuances and felt the concepts conveyed by the speakers applied to the Parish Collaborative model.

"Just recently we welcomed some neighboring parishioners to daily Mass when their Pastor was out of town," she noted when observing some of the positive sides to the creation of the Parish Collaboratives. "I'm getting really excited now about the possibilities," she said.

Early this month priests attended a three-day workshop with deacons joining them for one day. In addition members of Diocesan staff along with parish staff and volunteers attended a one-day workshop conducted by Catholic Leadership Institute to assist in parish transitions. The topics included transition and change management and evangelization.

For more information and details on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, visit: www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-pastoral-plan.

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna

Communication Director & Editor of *The Good News*

She wanted to be a stewardess. She became a mother of seven. As a young woman, she dreamt of traveling around the world. She finally took her first transatlantic trip at 55 as a college graduation present. Like many of us, my mom envisioned an exciting adventure-filled life. However, also like many of us, once she became a mother, the adventure story took on a different plot twist than the one she had imagined. And she adapted with an instinctual knack for knowing when to be consoler, when to be creative or when to give someone a much-needed kick in the pants.

It's an understatement to say that parenting seven children takes ingenuity and creativity. Luckily my mother was gifted with an abundance of both along with a much needed side order of humor and wit. When my brother wanted to be a buffalo for Halloween she became an expert seamstress and crafted a headdress that's still legendary. When the clock was ticking on a 15-page term paper deadline for her daughter, she stayed up all night typing.

When I think about the versatility of my own mother, I can't help but see an obvious kinship with the Blessed Mother, who our Church celebrates this month. For some she's Our Lady of Guadalupe, inspiring courage in the peasant Juan Diego, or for others she's Mary Undoer of Knots, helping untangle the messiness of life. Or maybe yet still for others she's Our Lady of Le Leche, tenderly nursing her infant son, the Savior of the world. She adapts. She's there for us when we need her, how we need her and at all ages and stages of life. Just like our mothers, whether still with us on earth or passed on to their heavenly home but still in our hearts.

Pope Francis described the power and beauty of the Blessed Mother on her Feast Day this past January 1st when he said, "She is the Mother of mercy, because she bore in her womb the very Face of divine mercy, Jesus, the Son of God, who made incarnate for our salvation, has given us his Mother, who joins us on our pilgrimage through this life, so that we may never be left alone, especially at times of trouble and uncertainty."

Hopefully you've got your mother covered with a special card or flowers, a heartfelt note of thanks or a special prayer of remembrance. While showering her with your gratitude or prayers this month don't forget to give a shout out to our Blessed Mother as well.

Happy Mother's Day!

Pope Francis MAY Intentions

Universal: That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Evangelization: That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.



The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

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

+Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

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Mission Statement of *The Good News*: *The Good News* is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Bishop of Kalamazoo is the publisher and president. *The Good News* is an extension in the print medium of the teaching authority of the Bishop. Therefore, it must always and at all times present Catholic teaching in an orthodox, authentic and balanced manner. Its mission and goals proceed from this fundamental reality.

The mission of *The Good News*, therefore, is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to develop as mature, well informed Catholics and to deepen their commitment to, and relationship with, the Lord, their Catholic faith and their Church.

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Newly ordained priests will celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving

On May 22, the day following their ordination, the four new priests for the Diocese of Kalamazoo will each celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. Following is the schedule:
Den. Jose Haro – St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo Mich., 3 p.m.
Den. Bruno Okoli – St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo, 11:30 am.
Den. Andrew Raczkowski – St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, 11 a.m.
Den. Paul Redmond – St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, 8 a.m.

Bishop Bradley calls two men to the Order of Transitional Deacon

Bishop Paul J. Bradley has called two diocesan seminarians to the Order of Deacon. Jeffrey Hanley and Max Nightingale, both seminarian students at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, will be ordained on Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m., St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

Hackett Catholic Prep names principal



Brian Kosmerick has been named principal of Hackett Catholic Prep following a nine-month appointment in an interim position. He assumes his new role effective immediately. Kosmerick began his educational career with Hackett in 2013 as Assistant Principal before he was named interim principal in July, 2015.

"We are pleased that Brian will continue to use his leadership skills to further advance the mission of Hackett Catholic Prep," said Bishop Paul J. Bradley.

"I'm confident Brian will continue to lead Hackett Catholic Prep to new levels of excellence and dis-

tinction," added Margaret Erich, Superintendent, Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Kosmerick, received his Bachelor's of Arts in Mathematics and Bachelor of Science in economics from Arizona State University in 2000 and his Master of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan, 2002. Prior to joining Hackett Catholic Prep he taught mathematics at Schoolcraft High School from 2002 – 2013.

"Hackett is a wonderful school and is truly a special place for students, families and communities," said Kosmerick. "The school is distinguished by the faith and support from the parents. My obligation and my passion is to join together our faith and support with academic excellence."

Kosmerick resides in Kalamazoo with his wife, Jamie, and their sons Nolan and Ethan.

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Bernice Beauvais passed away last month and Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sr. Bernice was born in Anchorville, Mich., on February 22, 1929, the daughter of Gabriel and Cecilia (Christie) Beauvais. She was a member of Immaculate Conception in Anchorville, at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on July 1, 1946.

Sister Bernice received a Bachelor of Science degree from Nazareth College majoring in mathematics and a Master's degree in Education from Wayne State University. Sr. Bernice taught at St. Francis Home and St. Michael's in Pontiac, Mich., St. John Vianney in Flint, Sacred Heart in Birch Run, St. Joan of Arc and St. Gertrude's in St. Clair Shores and St. Joseph's in Kalamazoo. In 1975 Sister Bernice became Assistant Principal at St. Joan of Arc and also continued teaching kindergarten and the elementary grades. In 1982 Sister Bernice moved to Kalamazoo where she taught kindergarten and was also the RCIA Director and Pastoral Minister at St. Monica's in Kalamazoo. In September, 2013 Sister Bernice retired and moved to Nazareth Center.



Sr. Virginia Fettig passed away last month and Mass of Christian Burial was held at Nazareth. She was born in Detroit on October 30, 1921, the daughter of Arthur and Jenny (Sands) Fettig. Sr. Virginia was a member of St. Rita Parish in Detroit at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on June 19, 1937.

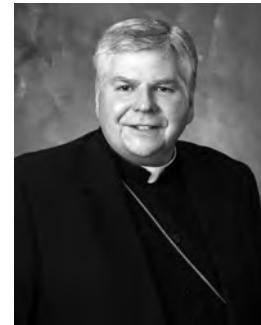
Sister Marie Therese earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with a minor in French from Nazareth College and a Master of Arts degree in Music from the University of Notre Dame. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in Systemic Theology and Liturgy from St. John University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Sister Marie Therese taught in several schools of the congregation including St. Anne in Detroit, St. Gertrude in St. Clair Shores and St. David in Detroit. Twenty-seven years were devoted to teaching Music and serving as organist, choir and liturgy director. Many summers were spent teaching music at Nazareth College. After forty-four years in education, Sister Marie Therese transitioned into Religious Education as a coordinator, director of adult education, teacher trainer and high school Religion teacher.



Sr. Barbara O'Donohue passed away on March 28 and a Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sr. O'Donohue was born in Detroit on February 18, 1928, the daughter of John and Agnes (Lietzan) O'Donohue. She pronounced first vows on January 3, 1956 and final vows on January 2, 1959. Sr. Barbara graduated from Dominican High School and received her college degree from the University of Detroit with a major in Music Theory and a minor in English/History. In 1953 she began teaching at Barbour Hall Military Academy in Nazareth, Mich. She also taught at several other schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Diocese of Lansing and at U.S. Military bases in Japan. Sr. Barbara returned permanently to Kalamazoo in the 1990's and became a Video Coordinator at Nazareth Center and the Volunteer Coordinator at Dillon Hall where she started a singing group called the "Dillonites" and several other programs for seniors. For eight years she also served as the AARP District Representative bringing awareness of senior needs in Kalamazoo.

THE BISHOP'S PERSPECTIVE

May – a time for new life, a time to celebrate the Holy Spirit, a time of new beginnings



As we welcome the “merry month of May,” I pray that we have seen the last of April’s showers, especially anything that looks or acts like snow. At the same time, we welcome the arrival of the amazing mystery of nature coming back to new life, flowers having courageously broken through the ground now blooming, robins patiently building their nests and buds beautifully forming on the trees. As we witness new life and the vibrancy of nature, what a fitting time to celebrate one of the three most important Feasts of the Church Year: **Pentecost**.

We sometimes refer to Pentecost as “the Birthday of the Church” because we celebrate the beginning of the Church’s mission, initiated by the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles in the Upper Room. Pentecost is the day when all of us as baptized and confirmed Catholics need to remind ourselves what an integral and essential role the Holy Spirit plays within each of our spiritual lives. The Holy Spirit first came into our lives on the day of our baptism. When we completed our initiation into the Church on the day we received the sacrament of confirmation, we know that we were “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” as the sacred chrism was put on our foreheads in the sign of the Cross by the confirming bishop.

While the Incarnation, or the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas is so essential to our faith, and while the Resurrection, or the glorious Solemnity of Easter, is the central mystery of our faith, all the pages of the Gospels lead up to the Pentecost event — the coming of the Holy Spirit. In fact, Jesus talked about that many times, and kept telling the Apostles that after He was “glorified” (which is a scriptural code word for His Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension), *then* He could send the Holy Spirit, Who would, “remind them of everything that I have taught you,” and Who would stay with them always.

Pentecost reminds us that all of us as baptized/confirmed Catholics share in that “mission” given by Jesus and initiated by the Holy Spirit. It’s not a mission that is just reserved for the pope, the bishops and the priests. It’s a mission for *all* of us. This month, as I travel throughout our diocese for confirmations of our young people, and also celebrate confirmation for adults and youth at our Cathedral, I am privileged to keep passing on this essential teaching that each and every one of us is a unique and special person, with special gifts and talents. When we choose to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our choices and decisions in our daily lives, we are helping the entire Body of Christ to grow in every way.

Dear family of faith, all of us are co-workers in the Vineyard; we are “collaborators,” sharing our Catholic faith and, by extension, we also hope we are helping the gift of faith to grow stronger in our little section of the Vineyard here in southwest Michigan.

During the beautiful month of May, we continue implementing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, further solidifying the 28 Parish Collaboratives. Last month our Diocese sponsored a workshop entitled, “Best Practices for Shared Parishes.” This workshop was aimed at helping all pastoral ministers to better understand and be equipped to best serve the diverse needs of the faithful. Also in the early days of this month, I will have joined with all our priests as we spend three days together in prayerfully preparing for this time of transition and reflecting on our priestly ministry. All permanent deacons will join us on the third of those three days. Additionally members of the lay faithful are also being prepared to assist in the transition whether in leadership positions on parish or finance councils or members of the Parish Transition Teams. Our diocesan staff as well continues to be available as resources for the implementation and to stand ready to accompany our parishes during this time of transition. All these important efforts highlight the importance of our need to reflect on those unique gifts and talents we have each been given by the Holy Spirit, and our share in the mission of putting those gifts and talents to use to further the mission of the Church.

As I reflect on the challenges that any change brings, I’m reminded of some wonderful words of wisdom Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*: “One of the more serious temptations which stifles boldness and zeal is a defeatism which turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, “sourpusses,” he wrote. “Nobody can go off to battle unless he is fully convinced of victory beforehand. If we start without confidence, we have already lost half the battle and we bury our talents. While painfully aware of our own frailties, we have to march on without giving in. (85)”

The Apostles faced a similar situation, giving in at first to being “sourpusses” overcome with fear and locked in the Upper Room. Had they stayed in that state and not “marched on” we wouldn’t have the Church as we know it today and we wouldn’t have this pivotal moment in the ongoing history of our own Diocese; an opportunity to imagine a more vibrant, stronger Church that is ready to embrace all people in Jesus’ love.

During the following weeks and months, as we implement the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and, in many cases, become acquainted with new priests who may be assigned to lead the new

Continued on page 4

LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

Mayo – tiempo para vida nueva, un momento para celebrar el Espíritu Santo, un tiempo de nuevos comienzos

Al dar la bienvenida al “feliz mes de mayo,” rezo para que hayamos visto lo último de las lluvias de Abril, en especial todo lo que se vea o actúe como nieve.

Al mismo tiempo, damos la bienvenida a la llegada del sorprendente misterio de la naturaleza volviendo a una vida nueva, flores habiendo brotado de la tierra con valor ahora floreciendo, petirrojos pacientemente construyendo sus nidos y capullos hermosamente formándose en los árboles. Al ser testigos de vida nueva y la vitalidad de la naturaleza, que tiempo apropiado para celebrar una de las tres fiestas más importantes del año litúrgico: **Pentecostés**.

A veces nos referimos a Pentecostés como “el cumpleaños de la Iglesia”, porque celebramos el comienzo de la misión de la Iglesia, iniciada por el dramático derramamiento del Espíritu Santo sobre los Apóstoles en el Cenáculo. Pentecostés es el día en que todos nosotros como católicos bautizados y confirmados necesitamos recordar que papel integral y esencial juega el Espíritu Santo dentro de cada una de nuestras vidas espirituales. El Espíritu Santo vino por primera vez a nuestras vidas el día de nuestro bautismo. Cuando completamos nuestra iniciación a la Iglesia el día que recibimos el sacramento de la confirmación, sabemos que fuimos “sellados con el don del Espíritu Santo”, al ser puesto el santo crisma en nuestra frente en el signo de la cruz, por el Obispo Confirmante.

Si bien la Encarnación, o el nacimiento de Jesucristo en la Navidad es tan esencial para nuestra fe, y mientras la resurrección, o la solemnidad gloriosa de la Pascua, es el misterio central de nuestra fe, todas las páginas de los Evangelios conducen al evento de Pentecostés — la venida del Espíritu Santo. De hecho, Jesús habló de eso muchas veces, y le repetía a los apóstoles que después que fuera “glorificado” (que es una palabra en clave bíblica para su crucifixión, sepultura, resurrección y ascensión), entonces podría enviar al Espíritu Santo, que les “recordaría todo lo que yo os he enseñado”, y quién se quedaría con ellos siempre.

Pentecostés nos recuerda que todos nosotros como bautizados / católicos confirmados compartimos esa “misión” dada por Jesús e iniciada por el Espíritu Santo. No es una misión que sólo está reservada para el Papa, los obispos y los sacerdotes. Es una misión para todos nosotros. Este mes, mientras viajo a través de nuestra diócesis para la confirmación de nuestros jóvenes, y también celebro la Confirmación para adultos y jóvenes en nuestra catedral, tengo el privilegio de seguir transmitiendo esta enseñanza esencial de que todos y cada uno de nosotros somos una persona única y especial, con dones y talentos especiales. Cuando elegimos permitir que el Espíritu Santo guie nuestras elecciones y decisiones en nuestra vida cotidiana, estamos ayudando a todo el Cuerpo de Cristo a crecer en todos los sentidos.

Querida familia de la fe, todos somos compañeros de trabajo en la Viña; somos “colaboradores”, compartiendo nuestra fe católica y, por extensión, también esperamos que estamos ayudando a que el don de la fe crezca más fuerte en nuestra pequeña sección del viñedo aquí en el suroeste de Michigan.

Durante el hermoso mes de mayo, seguimos implementando el Plan Pastoral Diocesano, consolidando aún más las 28 colaboraciones parroquiales. El mes pasado nuestra Diócesis patrocinó un taller titulado, “Mejores Prácticas para las Parroquias compartidas”. Este taller estuvo dirigido a ayudar a todos los agentes de pastoral a entender mejor y estar equipados para servir mejor a las diversas necesidades de los fieles. También en los primeros días de este mes, me habré unido a todos nuestros sacerdotes al pasar tres días juntos en oración en la preparación para este tiempo de transición y la reflexión sobre nuestro ministerio sacerdotal. Todos los diáconos permanentes se unirán a nosotros en el tercero de esos tres días. Miembros adicionales de los fieles laicos también están siendo preparados para ayudar en la transición ya sea en posiciones de liderazgo en la parroquia o de consejos económicos o miembros de los equipos de transición Parroquial. También nuestro personal diocesano sigue estando disponible como recursos para la implementación y a estar listos a acompañar a nuestras parroquias durante este tiempo de transición. Todos estos esfuerzos importantes destacan la importancia de nuestra necesidad de reflexionar sobre los dones y talentos únicos que a cada uno se nos han sido dados por el Espíritu Santo, y nuestra parte en la misión de poner esos dones y talentos en uso para promover la misión de la Iglesia.

Al reflexionar sobre los retos que todo cambio trae, me acuerdo de algunas maravillosas palabras de sabiduría que el Papa Francisco escribió en *Evangelii Gaudium*: “Una de las más graves tentaciones que ahoga la audacia y el celo es un derrotismo que nos convierte en quejumbrosos y desilusionados pesimistas, “amargados”, escribió. “Nadie puede ir a la batalla a menos que esté totalmente convencido de la victoria de antemano. Si comenzamos sin confianza, ya hemos perdido la mitad de la batalla y enterrado nuestros talentos. Mientras dolorosamente conscientes de nuestras propias debilidades, tenemos que marchar hacia adelante sin ceder. (85).”

Los Apóstoles se enfrentaron a una situación similar, cediendo al principio a ser “amargados” superados por el miedo y encerrados en el cenáculo. Si se hubieran quedado en ese estado y no “marchado hacia adelante” no tendríamos a la Iglesia tal como la

Transformations hosts renown play "Late Nite Catechism" in June

"Late Nite Catechism," one of the longest-running plays in Chicago, is coming to Kalamazoo in June, courtesy of Transformations Spirituality Center, a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph. The one-woman play is described as part catechism class and part improv.

The program is a decided departure from Transformations typical program offering of spiritual retreats and workshops. Director Michele Gossman is excited to offer the community some "good, clean humor."

"We decided to bring this production to Kalamazoo because it is so appropriate for the setting that has been a part of the community since 1889," said Gossman. That setting is Holy Family Chapel at Nazareth, adjacent to Tranformations Spirituality Center.

The play centers around a Sister who conducts class and the audience becomes her students.

"Late Nite Catechism," written by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, made its debut in 1993 in Chicago and has been presented in more than 410 cities around the world with more than 3.5 million people in attendance.

The show has raised more than \$4 million for retired Sisters and Catholic Organizations.

Early bird registration by May 12 is \$40 for a single ticket, or two for \$70. After May 12 the cost increases to \$50 for a single ticket and \$90 for two. For more information contact: 269-381-6290; www.transformationscenter.org.

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

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

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



RSVP or for more information contact Ellyn Jones at 269.657.5529.

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The Bishop's Perspective

Continued from page 3

Collaboratives, we will certainly face many challenges. Even more certain, however, is the fact that God's Holy Spirit will be bringing all of us new opportunities for growth. I am very confident that we will overcome the challenges and, in the process, we will grow into a stronger and more vibrant local Church.

Just as the Apostles in the early Church, and as our newly-confirmed in our local Church, rejoice in the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, may we too share in that same Spirit-filled Joy. May we too embrace the profound words from the Psalm Refrain on Pentecost pleads: "*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth*" during this time of growth and change, and joyfully enter into the next Chapter of the life story of the people of faith here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

God Bless You.

conocemos hoy y no tendríamos este momento crucial en la historia en curso de nuestra propia diócesis; una oportunidad para imaginar una Iglesia más vibrante, más fuerte que está lista para abrazar a todas las personas en el amor de Jesús.

Durante las siguientes semanas y meses, a medida que implementamos el Plan Pastoral Diocesano y, en muchos casos, familiarizándonos con nuevos sacerdotes que puedan ser asignados para llevar adelante las nuevas Colaboraciones, sin duda enfrentaremos muchos desafíos. Aún más seguro, sin embargo, es el hecho de que el Espíritu Santo de Dios nos traerá a todos nosotros nuevas oportunidades para crecer. Estoy muy seguro de que vamos a superar los desafíos y, en el proceso, vamos a crecer en una iglesia local más fuerte y más vibrante.

Así como los Apóstoles en la Iglesia primitiva, y nuestros nuevos confirmados en nuestra Iglesia local, se regocijan en los dones y frutos del Espíritu Santo, que también podemos nosotros compartir esa misma alegría llena del Espíritu. Que también nosotros podemos abrazar las profundas palabras que el estribillo del Salmo en Pentecostés declara: "*Señor, envía tu Espíritu y renueva la faz de la tierra*" durante este tiempo de crecimiento y cambio, y con alegría entremos en el siguiente capítulo de la historia de vida de las personas de fe aquí en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo.

Dios los bendiga.

Catholic Relief Services second collection to be held May 14/15

By Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Sanctity of the Human Person

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be held the weekend of May 14-15. This collection funds six different Catholic agencies that work to serve our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. These agencies provide a broad range of services, including humanitarian aid, pastoral support, disaster relief, resettling displaced individuals and families, and legal and advocacy services for migrants.

Generous donations are used to:

- Feed suffering refugees through the USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).
- Assist the people of Bolivia and Ethiopia through

the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

- Offer legal assistance to struggling immigrants through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).
- Reach out to comfort isolated workers through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.
- Advocate on behalf of the poor and abandoned through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development.
- Send aid to victims of natural disasters through the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

More information can be found at www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/index.cfm.

Diocese provides resource for strengthening marriages

The Domestic Church Ministry Office for the Diocese of Kalamazoo is hosting a workshop to help married couples strengthen their relationship and pastoral ministers learn skills to accompany them on the journey. The workshop is about strengthening marriages, and about becoming Marriage-Building parishes that provide marriage support and encouragement to all married couples notes Socorro Truchan, Associate Director, Domestic Church Office, Diocese of Kalamazoo.

"The title comes from St. Augustine who said, 'The deepest desire of every human heart is to be seen and to see another in this same way.' This golden thread that runs throughout the program is the impetus that drives home the importance of strengthening our marital commitment to our spouse. This time is intended for married couples, parish staff, priests, deacons and wives, and all those who work with married couples," she added.

"Discovering Our Deepest Desire for Couples" will be held June 3 and 4 at Transformations Spirituality Center, Kalamazoo. Cost is \$40 per person are \$50 per couple which includes materials and lunch on Saturday. COST: \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. Registration is available online through Eventbrite at: <https://goo.gl/Ab1sY0>. For more information contact Jane Bodway at 269-903-0147; jbodway@diokzoo.org.



Christ-centered childbirth course balances spirituality with traditional preparation

By Sarah DeMott

What do you do when you want to marry your Catholic faith to the profound experiences of childbirth? If you're Marjorie McClure you start a program entitled "Wonderfully Made."

When St. Catherine of Siena parishioner McClure saw a gap in faith-based childbirth education, she was inspired to create a program to approach this momentous, life-changing transition to parenthood through a Catholic lens.

"I was at a conference and there was discussion about Christian childbirth education," says McClure, who has 27 years of experience in childbirth education. "My ears perked up. That was in 1991. I spent a lot of time discerning and really digging deep to find if that was what God was calling me to. It wasn't until 1997 that the first program was offered."

Wonderfully Made places emphasis on the sacredness of the new life that is developing within a mother's womb, reframing birth from a painful inconvenience to an event of great sanctity and holiness. The Wonderfully Made program is offered at Borgess Hospital and structured as four sessions over two weeks. New sessions are offered every two to three months and are usually taken during the last trimester of pregnancy. Expectant moms and support are taught relaxation and spiritual reflection methods that help assuage fear, pain management techniques and comfort measures, and what to expect during labor and delivery in a spiritual and practical manner.

"We compare the bond between ourselves and God with the bond between mother and child. Without the love relationship a child shares with its mother, both sustenance and bonding, the child will not thrive," notes McClure. "Childbirth is another opportunity to nourish and deepen our relationship with Christ."

Anne Shank, St. Augustine Cathedral parishioner, mother of four and two-time student of Wonderfully Made, was grateful for the birthing tools unique to a faith-based program. "As Catholics, we try to incorporate our faith into everything we do," she says. "I knew I would need to rely on the Lord for strength during labor and birth and I knew I wanted scripture



relationship with God as co-creator of the human life that they will soon bring into the world," said **Bishop Bradley** in his letter of recommendation for the program.

"We're called to live Christ-centered lives. Wonderfully Made is a program that helps focus the vocation of wife and mother in light of our faith," says Shank. "It sheds light on the entire birthing process and how we can use our vocation as mothers to be united with Christ on the cross, to use the suffering of labor and delivery, offer that suffering up and be united with Christ. It's redemptive, in a way, that we can offer our suffering to help us grow in holiness." Having a faith-based birthing class also provides the unique opportunity to delve further into a devotion to Mary as the mother of Jesus. As a woman comes to her time of childbirth, she can draw strength, comfort and solace in the arms of our mother.

"Even though Wonderfully Made was inspired to be written ecumenically, it still offers the fundamental truth of Mary as Jesus' mother," says McClure. "In an unspoken but very present way Mary is the silent intercessor for each woman during their pregnancy, labor and birth. Just as she quietly intercedes with Jesus at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary cares for the mother in labor, and she advises her Son what would meet the mother's need, for she knows he is willing to listen."

For more information on Wonderfully Made or to register for the upcoming sessions in June or August, visit wonderfullymadebirthing.org.



The first mission the pope gives his nuncios, and the whole church, obviously is to proclaim the Gospel, he said. Next there is "the way the pope wants us and the church to be close to people, especially those who suffer, the poor. This is also what I've perceived in what he has told me and I will try my best to be a faithful emissary of the pope."

New nuncio to U.S. says he's ready to listen and learn

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the new nuncio to the United States, said he is ready to learn about the Catholic Church in the country and will try his best to be Pope Francis' emissary, particularly in promoting a church that is close to those who suffer.

The 70-year-old French native has been in the Vatican diplomatic corps for almost 40 years and said a nuncio's job is to help the pope fulfill his ministry of building up the local churches, respecting their diversity, while keeping them united with the universal church.

"The difficulty or the chal-

lenge," he said, is "to listen, to be careful about what's going on, to understand, to exercise dialogue — I think that's very important — to discover the beauty, the richness of the culture of the people, the way the people live (and) to help the inculturation of the Gospel in a particular culture."

At the same time, he said, a nuncio's mission is "to help the pope understand — the pope and those that work with him — to understand what's going on."

"The richness of the Catholic Church," Archbishop Pierre said, comes from that combination of valuing peoples and cultures and their local expressions of faith while being united universally.

The Other Six Days | By Jane Knuth



The Mercy Inside Suffering

Infinite mercy responds to our suffering; this we know through faith. But what if the suffering is acute? And long? And what if it affects not only ourselves but those we love also?

I have a friend whose cancer returned after 12 years absence. She has a family history of this disease: one sister died of it, and the other is undergoing treatment now. In a recent conversation I asked her this question: "Where do you see God's mercy in this?"

She said, "I see God's mercy in allowing me to suffer for other people and for myself. Heaven knows — there is a multitude of suffering in this world. We all suffer at some point in our lives. Jesus suffered. It's part of the path to Him. I see suffering as the ladder to heaven."

"At the same time, I feel God's compassion in the strength He gives me. You know, at my church every Friday, they have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. After this cancer diagnosis, I went to Mass and as I was walking up the aisle to sit down, I looked at the monstrance on the altar and my heart could "see" Jesus' power coming out from it. It was stunning. In my heart I heard this: 'I will strengthen you.'"

"A while later, I was in the hospital and they decided to insert an IV in the top of my wrist. The vein kept moving and the nurse poked the needle around for almost five minutes. She asked if I wanted her to try a different vein, but I just wanted her to get the thing in that one! It was painful enough already without another poke. During this struggle, suddenly I got another vision of the monstrance and Jesus and His power coming from it."

"And then, everything was okay."

"The pain didn't go away but I could deal with it. It was still excruciating but okay. A peacefulness came over me, just like in church. Shortly after, I asked her to try a different vein; she did, and it was working in seconds."

All of us who live on this planet know that God's mercy does not always end our suffering in the moment. My friend is showing me that sometimes mercy enters inside the suffering so that we end up with God.

Kalamazoo remembers Mother Angelica

Mother Angelica, foundress of EWTN, died March 27 at age 92. "Mother was a dynamic woman of faith who was very down to earth and made everyone feel at ease," says Deacon John Bodway



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Four new priests bring diverse backgrounds and talents to the priesthood

Three are “home grown” and one is from Africa. Two are from the same parish. What all four have in common is they answered the call to priesthood and will be ordained by Bishop Bradley on May 21. *The Good News* spent some time with the four Deacons to delve a bit deeper into what drew them to be servants to God’s holy people.

Following is an interview with Dcn. Jose Haro, St. Joseph, Parish, Kalamazoo; Dcn. Bruno Okoli, St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo; and Dcn. Andrew Raczkowski and Dcn. Paul Redmond, both St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo.

Tell us about your life and how you received the call to priesthood.



Dcn. Jose Haro:

My great-grandmother was a huge influence on my faith and encouraged me to play Mass with Coca-Cola and tortillas and a homemade altar. In high school, my youth director often mentioned she thought I had a vocation to the priesthood but I ignored it until my pastor, Msgr. Hazard mentioned it as well. I began meeting with a spiritual director during high school and by the time graduation came, I was ready to enter seminary.



Dcn. Andrew Raczkowski:

After graduating college, I felt called to become more involved in my parish’s volunteer activities, helping at Mass and focusing on my prayer life. It certainly didn’t happen overnight but each step led to another.



Dcn. Paul Redmond:

I pursued my idea of what would make me happy, computer game art. I was sitting in a chair staring at a screen making a product that people would sit in a chair and stare at a screen to use and realized as much as I liked the work, it was not what I wanted to do with my life. Somehow, someone’s sarcastic comment, “Maybe you should be a monk!” started the thought process going toward a religious vocation.



Dcn. Bruno Okoli:

I was eight years old when I first felt called to the priesthood. When I was an altar server in my home parish in Nigeria, seminarians came in the summer to do their apostolic work and I got to spend a lot of time with them. They were so happy and joyful I wanted to be just

like them. I found their lives are joyfully dedicated to service, which is what I wanted to do.



Dcn. Jose Haro reads the Gospel at this year's Chrism Mass.

What part of the ordination Mass are you most looking forward to?

Dcn. Bruno: The ordination Mass is unique and liturgically heavenly. I am most looking forward to the litany of the saints and the imposition of hands by the bishop and priests. These are very significant traditions of the ordination Mass rooted in the apostolic tradition.

Dcn. Andrew: The most profound part of the Mass to me is lying prostrate. It is a symbol of dying to yourself and in that way one is living more completely for Christ.

Dcn. Paul: In some of the ancient ordination rites, the ordinands would be covered with a funeral pall while they lay on the floor, to signify they have died to the world, and they will rise to become an Alter Christus, “Another Christ.”

What are you looking forward to the most as you being your priestly ministry?

Dcn. Bruno: By being a priest, I will be

able to help individuals and families physically, emotionally and spiritually; to share God with them. I look forward to confession and to pray for everyone through the celebration of Holy Eucharist.



Dcn. Bruno Okoli discusses the Jubilee Year of Mercy with students at St. Augustine Cathedral School.

Dcn. Paul: I look forward to hearing confessions. People are bound and burdened with the weight of sins, and sometimes feel crushed beneath them. In confession, Jesus

Everything you wanted to know about confirmation but were afraid to ask

Each year Bishop Bradley confers the sacrament of confirmation to more than 1,000 members of the faithful from eighth graders to adults. He travels throughout the Diocese to the 59 parishes and also celebrates two Diocesan Confirmation Masses at the Cathedral.

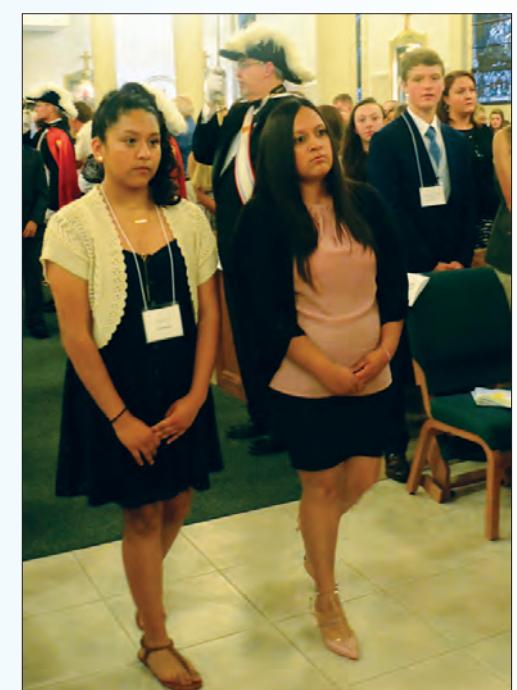
The sacrament and Mass is rich in symbolism and meaning. Following are just a few of the fun facts about confirmation you need to know to be as smart as an eighth grader.



SYMBOLS

Laying on of hands — The Bishop stretches out his hand over the confirmands and calls down the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a profound gesture which is also used in other sacraments including the anointing of the sick and ordination of a priest. This gesture is also used during the consecration of the bread and wine at Mass, so that they become the body and blood of Christ. In Confirmation, the Bishop or Priest calls upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit to overshadow the person being confirmed.

Anointing with Oil — Chrism, which is a special oil blessed by the Bishop during the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, is used for anointing during confirmation. Anointing is a symbol of being called and strengthened for an important task, which is derived from ancient times. In Confirmation, the person is being anointed to go forth in life as a Catholic, as a disciple of Jesus, as a person of the Spirit, with confidence and strength.



Bishop Bradley interacts with confirmandi at confirmations at St. Philip Church, Battle Creek and the Diocesan Confirmation Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral.

calls to us while we are in the tomb, "Lazarus, come out!" and we come out, bound hand and foot, and he says, "Untie him and let him go free." We are unbound from our sins in order to be free to follow Jesus and be united to Him in His life here on earth.

What has been the most rewarding part of your ministry so far (as deacons and seminarians)?

Dcn. Jose: I have experienced God's presence among His people whether it be by bringing comfort to the sick or bringing new life to the baptized, God's presence is evident in all he does for His holy people.

Dcn. Bruno: Priesthood is a call from God – a gift that is given not because of merit but because of God's love and mercy. When I get out of the way the Lord does what he says: "Do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit" (Mk 13:11).

Dcn. Paul: When people share their stories about how God's graces has transformed their lives. A parishioner in Detroit told me his unborn child had no heartbeat for three weeks and they were going to the hospital. One of the Missionaries of Charity told them to ask for the intercession of the MC martyrs in Yemen. They did and when they got to the hospital, their baby had a strong heartbeat. God can use every situation, even horrific tragedy on the other side of the world, to bring about good.

What is the most interesting part of ministry

Dcn. Jose: It has been interesting to see how unpredictable the Holy Spirit can be. He is always there to give you the wisdom necessary to deal with whatever surprises may come your way.

Dcn. Bruno: Jesus is the reason we are alive. It is like Jesus' parable of the vine and the branches. If I am cut off from him, I can do nothing (cf. Jn. 15:5). As much as I am attached to him, he will continue to do his work through me. Prayer, adorations, sacraments and Mass are very much interesting parts of the ministry and have always kept me closer to Jesus.

Do you have a favorite memory from seminary?

Dcn. Bruno: The community holy hour always brings to me what it means to adore the Lord communally. I always feel the presence of God in such a way that I would love to be in that mood the rest of my night. I also loved the racquetball tournaments.

What unique gifts do you bring to your ministry?

Dcn. Jose: I feel the Lord has put into my heart a deep love for the family. In a time when the family is being attacked from all sides I feel the Lord has truly inspired me to help strengthen the family by walking close to them through their joys and struggles.

What is your favorite Bible verse or religious quote?

Dcn. Jose: "He should know that whoever undertakes the government of souls must prepare himself to account for them." St. Benedict of Nursia.

Dcn. Bruno: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a



Dcn. Andrew Raczkowski reads at this year's Good Friday service.

prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5.

Dcn. Andrew: "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46

Dcn. Paul: "Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will — all I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me." St. Ignatius.

Who would you like to thank for getting you to this point?

Dcn. Jose: My mother for all her encouragement and support throughout the years. Her faith and prayers were always there to help when things got difficult and for this I will be forever thankful.

Dcn. Bruno: To my uncle Fr. Francis Ekejindu who was so instrumental during my

seminary years in Nigeria; to all the priests and parishioners of St. Anthony's Parish Ikenga; to Fr. Ken Schmidt, Msgr. Martin and all the priests and communities in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor; all my friends and well-wishers; and Bishop Bradley, the Vocations Office, my fellow seminarians and the Diocese of Kalamazoo for all the support and prayers.

Dcn. Andrew: My parents, who are both deceased, for teaching me the faith; Fr. Tom Lumpkin, who allowed me to volunteer at the Manna Meal soup kitchen in Detroit; my brother Sean for his guidance over my lifetime. Fr. Farrell for his encouragement; and the Daughters of Charity who taught me what it means to be a servant to people.

Dcn. Paul: Our Blessed Mother. I felt the invitation to the priesthood first from her and when I was struggling that first year in seminary I entrusted myself to her completely, and she took care of everything. She has been with me, always pushing me forward toward her Son Jesus. And of course, my parents and family, who have supported me and prayed for me.



Dcn. Paul Redmond at the pulpit. All four Transitional Deacons read at this year's Good Friday service at St. Augustine Cathedral.



Words — The bishop or priest performing the confirmation recites the words 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit'. This symbolizes a legal contract when signed and sealed is considered authentic and binding. To be sealed with the Spirit is to be confirmed as a Christian believer.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit — As Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

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The Fruits of the Holy Spirit — The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

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• Gentleness • Faithfulness • Modesty • Self-control • Chastity.**





The Catholic Difference

The merciful grace of the truth

By George Weigel

At the Easter Vigil a few weeks ago, tens of thousands of men and women, mature adults, were baptized or entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. Each of them walked a unique itinerary of conversion; each of these "newborn babes" (1 Peter 2.2) is a singular work of the Holy Spirit. Some of them came to Catholicism from an empty space, a spiritual desert; others found in the Catholic Church a more complete expression of the one Church of Christ into which they had been baptized, albeit in a different Christian community. So there are no grand generalizations to be made about those who became Catholics at Easter.

But it's probably fair to say that few of them embraced Catholicism because they found it ambiguous. Or uncertain about the Creed it professes. Or confused about its understanding of how Christians ought to live the truth of their baptism. In fact, it's almost certainly the case that, for many of those who came into full communion with the Catholic Church from other Christian communities, it was the doctrinal and moral confusions in the community of their baptism that led them to seek a Church that knew what it believed, why (and Who) it worshipped, and how it proposed that we should live.

If these new Catholics were properly catechized before their baptism or reception, they were also prepared for the Christian reality of failure, which the Church calls "sin:" they would have come to understand that every one of us lives by the divine mercy alone; that we are all "worthless servants" (Luke 17.10); and that we are, finally, saved by the merits of Jesus Christ alone. Yet these new Catholics would also have learned that failure is an old story in the Church, and that the Father of mercies is eager to welcome back those who stray, if only they acknowledge that they have fallen off the path marked out by God's Son and commit themselves to a different future.

I thought of these new Catholics, and their motivations for entering the Church, when reading Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, "The Joy of Love," and particularly this sentence in paragraph 307: "'To show understanding in the face of exceptional situations never implies dimming the light of the fuller ideal, or proposing less than what Jesus offers to human beings. Today, more important than the pastoral care of failures is the pastoral effort to strengthen marriages and thus to prevent their breakdown."

The Holy Father set in motion these past two years of contention and, one hopes, constructive dialogue in the Church because he knows that marriage and the family are in deep trouble throughout the world, just as he knows that marriage, rightly understood, and the family, rightly understood, are the basic building blocks of a humane society: the family is the first school of freedom, because it is there that we first learn that freedom is not mere willfulness; marriage, for its part, is the lifelong school in which we learn the full, challenging meaning of the law of self-giving built into the human heart.

Why are marriage and the family in trouble? *Amoris Laetitia* reviews a lot of the reasons, some of which go back to Adam and Eve, and some of which are contemporary expressions of that original sin of pride. The Holy Father also speaks with understanding and compassion of the difficulty that many young people have today in forming lifelong commitments. And he calls the Church to take the ministry of marriage preparation with ever greater seriousness, seeing it as an essential instrument of evangelization, especially for those who have trouble understanding that commitment is liberating.

In reading his apostolic exhortation, I came back to a conversation I had with Pope Francis some months after his election. I said that I wanted to present his vision of the Church accurately. So was I right in saying that he stressed God's mercy so that, through an experience of that mercy, people would come to know God's truth? He assured me I was. It is within that dyad of mercy and truth, which can never be separated, that I suggest the Church read and absorb *Amoris Laetitia*.

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"Waiting in Joyful Hope"

Share truth of family with mercy, help those struggling, pope says

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The same mercy and patience that are essential for building a strong family must be shown to those whose families are in trouble or have broken up, Pope Francis said in his highly anticipated postsynodal apostolic exhortation.

The document, "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love), on Love in the Family, released April 8, contains no new rules or norms. However, it encourages careful review of everything related to family ministry and, particularly, much greater attention to the language and attitude used when explaining church teaching and ministering to those who do not fully live that teaching.

"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love," Pope Francis wrote. People grow in holiness, and the church must be there to give them a helping hand rather than turn them away because they have not attained some degree of perfection.

The exhortation was Pope Francis' reflection on the discussion, debate and suggestions raised during the 2014 and 2015 meetings of the Synod of Bishops on the family. Like synod members did, the pope insisted that God's plan for the family is that it be built on the lifelong union of one man and one woman open to having children.

Synod members, including priests, religious and laypeople serving as experts and observers, talked about everything from varied cultural forms of courtship to marriage preparation and from the impact of migration on families to care for elderly parents.

Pope Francis' document touches on all the issues raised at the synods and gives practical advice on raising children, urges a revision of sex-education programs and decries the many ways the "disposable culture" has infiltrated family life and sexuality to the point that many people feel free to use and then walk away from others.

Much of the document is tied to the theme of God's mercy, including Pope Francis' discussion of welcoming the vulnerable.

The synod issues that garnered the most headlines revolved around the question of Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried, as well as Catholic attitudes toward homosexuality.

"In no way must the church desist from proposing the full ideal of marriage, God's plan in all its grandeur," Pope Francis said.

He repeated his and the



Pope Francis greets newly married couples during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in this Sept. 30, 2015, file photo. Pope Francis' postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), was to be released April 8. The exhortation is the concluding document of the 2014 and 2015 synods of bishops on the family. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

synod's insistence that the church cannot consider same-sex unions to be a marriage, but also insisted, "every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity."

On the question of families experiencing difficulties, separation or even divorce and remarriage, Pope Francis said responses to the questionnaires sent around the world before the synod "showed that most people in difficult or critical situations do not seek pastoral assistance, since they

do not find it sympathetic, realistic or concerned for individual cases."

The responses, he wrote, call on the church "to try to approach marriage crises with greater sensitivity to their burden of hurt and anxiety."

The role of an individual's conscience made frequent appearances in the document, not only regarding the situation of those who may determine their new union is best for their family, but also regarding decisions over how many children to have.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley statement on "Amoris Laetitia"/The Joy of Love:

"Pope Francis' long-awaited Apostolic Exhortation on the family is a warm and loving pastoral letter from a father to his family of faith offering practical wisdom interwoven with important affirmation of Church teaching. In "Amoris Laetitia" (Latin for "The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis examines many of today's important topics: love, marriage, children and family life.

"He speaks lovingly and pastorally, encouraging everyone to, in his words, 'keep striving toward something greater.' In the midst of this Jubilee Year of Mercy, much of what Pope Francis teaches in this document is a reminder that no one, and no family, is perfect. As he states: 'The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereo-type of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems.'

"He urges us all to seek God's mercy and forgiveness for any of our mistakes and sins, and he directs all those involved in ministering to families to 'shepherd with mercy,' to patiently listen to people in the midst of their struggles, and to guide them toward renewed efforts to keep moving forward.

"The Holy Father invites all of us to accompany each other; to avoid making judgments about anyone's circumstances; to listen with compassion and understanding. Pope Francis reaffirms traditional doctrinal and moral principles of the Church regarding marriage, family and children. He reminds us of the powerful image of the Church as a field hospital, and calls upon all of us involved in ministering to families — bishops, priests, lay ministers — to listen to, and journey alongside, all those who are wounded, offering hope and God's unconditional love and mercy.

"The document is well-worth a close and prayerful reading. As Pope Francis writes: 'I do not recommend a rushed reading of the text. The greatest benefit, for families themselves and for those engaged in the family apostolate, will come if each part is read patiently and carefully.'

"It is my hope and prayer that people will engage with, and be inspired by, this newest of Pope Francis' major teachings so that each of us will experience more deeply the joy of God's love for us, and our love for one another."

Friends of Dorothy Day commend important step in her sainthood cause

By Chaz Muth,
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The recent update in the sainthood cause for American Catholic icon Dorothy Day is welcome news to many of her friends and associates who believe her understanding of Catholic social teaching should be held up as a church value.

The Archdiocese of New York announced April 19 an important next step in the canonization process for Day: a canonical inquiry into the life of the co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and famed peace activist.

"For those who knew her, there is no question about Dorothy's holiness and her prophetic witness," said Patrick Jordan, a former managing editor of The Catholic Worker newspaper that Day helped launch in 1933 and one of her

longtime companions.

The canonical inquiry by the archdiocese — which is sponsoring Day's sainthood cause and is where she oversaw some of the Catholic Worker houses of hospitality for poor and marginalized people — will find a historical commission issuing a report placing Day's life in historical context and reviewing her unpublished writings.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan will appoint theological experts to review her published writings — two readers for each publication — with an eye toward doctrine and morals.

Day's sainthood cause was first undertaken by one of Cardinal Dolan's predecessors, Cardinal John J. O'Connor, in 2000.

The U.S. bishops unanimously endorsed Day's sainthood cause during their 2012 fall general assembly.



Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, is pictured in an undated photo. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York has opened the canonical inquiry on the life of the social justice advocate, the archdiocese announced April 19. (CNS photo/courtesy Milwaukee Journal)

Day was born in Brooklyn in 1897 and shortly thereafter her family moved to San Francisco, where she was baptized an Episcopalian. Her family later moved to Chicago, and Day attended the University of Illinois.

When it comes to happiness, there's no app for that, pope tells teens

By Junno Arocho Esteves,
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Happiness "is not an 'app' that you can download on your phones nor will the latest update help you become free and great in loving," Pope Francis told thousands of teenagers.

Youth from around the world flocked to Rome for a special Year of Mercy event for teens aged 13-16. The celebrations began April 23 with confessions in St. Peter's Square.

The pope caught many off guard as he made an unannounced visit to the square. After greeting several people, he placed a purple stole over his shoulders and sat down, joining more than 150 priests offering the sacrament of reconciliation.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the pope "listened to the confessions of 16 boys and girls," spending more than an hour in the square.

Celebrating Mass with the

young people April 24, the pope told them true freedom is priceless and comes from making the courageous decision to do good and not from the mediocre belief that happiness can be easily obtained through worldly possessions and fashion.

A person's happiness has "has no price and cannot be bought," the pope told them during the Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Gray clouds looming over St. Peter's Square did little to deter an estimated 100,000 young teens and pilgrims from attending the final Mass of the jubilee celebration.

In his homily, the pope encouraged the youths to carry out the "enormous responsibility" entrusted to the disciples by Jesus in the Sunday Gospel reading: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Love, he said, is the "only valid 'document' identifying us as Christians" and the only path to happiness.

True love is free "without being possessive" of people or worldly things, he said. "There is always a temptation to let our affections be tainted by an instinctive desire to take, to have what we find pleasing; our consumerist culture reinforces this tendency. Yet when we hold on too tightly to something, it fades, it dies and then we feel confused, empty inside," he said.

The freedom that comes from love, he continued, does not come from "doing whatever you want," which only makes people "self-centered and aloof," but is a gift that comes from "being able to choose good."

"Be skeptical about people who want to make you believe that you are only important if you act tough like the heroes in films or if you wear the latest fashions. Your happiness has no price; it cannot be bought," the pope stressed.

The first day of the celebration ended late April 23 with music and testimonies at Rome's Olympic Stadium for an estimated 70,000 youth. In a video message played at the rally, Pope Francis compared the absence of Jesus in one's life to being somewhere without a cell-phone signal so it is impossible to connect with each other.

"Just remember that if Jesus is not in your life, it is as though there was no signal," he said. "Let's always place ourselves where we have the signal: the family, the parish, the school, because in this world we will always have something to say that is good and true."



Pope Francis hears confession of a youth April 23 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

However, she left college to work as a journalist in New York City. While in Manhattan, she got involved in the causes of her day, such as women's suffrage and peace, and was part of a circle of literary and artistic figures of the era.

In Day's personal life, though, she went through a string of love affairs, a failed marriage, a suicide attempt and an abortion. But with the birth of her daughter, Tamar, in 1926, Day embraced Catholicism. She had Tamar baptized Catholic, which ended her common-law marriage and brought dismay to her friends.

Seeking to fuse her life and her faith, Day wrote for such Catholic publications as America and Commonweal. In 1932, she met Peter Maurin, a French immigrant and former member of the Christian Brothers. Together they started the Catholic Worker newspaper in the midst of the Great Depression and opened a house of hospitality, from which eventually spun dozens of similar houses and farm communities in the U.S. and

elsewhere.

The archdiocese also will interview eyewitnesses to Day's life, gathering evidence that will be sent to the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes and to Pope Francis.

If, after examining the information, the Vatican congregation and the pope recognize Day's heroic virtues, she will be declared "venerable," the next step in the canonization process. She now has the title "servant of God."

Beatification and, ultimately, canonization are the next steps in the process. In general, one miracle determined to have occurred through the intercession of a candidate for sainthood is required for beatification and a second such miracle is needed for canonization.

Holy Family RADIO
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MAY 17 - 20
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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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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 5:30-8:00p.m. en el Lawrence Education Center del Hospital Borgess, 1521 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI. La reunión es para todos los voluntarios que ayudarán con el ministerio y para aquellos que quieran ser voluntarios nuevos. 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.



Ministry to the Migrant Farmworkers

The Diocese of Kalamazoo will host their beginning of the season meeting on Thursday, June 9 from 5:30 – 8:00p.m. at the Lawrence Education Center of Borgess Hospital, 1521 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI. This meeting is for all the volunteers that will be helping with the ministry to the migrant farmworkers and for those who wish to volunteer for the first time. On that day we will provide some resource material, answer any questions that you may have regarding Migrant Ministry and it is also an opportunity to meet other volunteers. If you wish to volunteer or have any questions, please call 269-903-0197.

Calendario/Calendar

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 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*)

Junio/June

Temporada del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano, hasta Noviembre.

Centro Alemán ubicado en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Hartford. Se abrirá para los meses de Junio, Julio y Agosto. Horario: Lunes y Martes de 6:30-8:30 pm y Domingos de 12:30-2:30 pm. (Horario sera confirmado) (*Diocesan Migrant Ministry Season, until November. Aleman Center located at Immaculate Conception Church, Hartford, will be open for the months of June, July and August. Time: Monday and Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 pm and Sundays from 12:30-2:30 pm. Times to be confirmed*)

4 (Sábado) — 8:30a.m. – 5 p.m. **Instituto San Agustín - Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Segundo Año de Formación 2014-2017.** Tema: Profetas por el Padre Fred Thelen. (*St. Augustine Institute - Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program, Second Year of Formation 2014-2017, Topic: Prophets by Fr. Fred Thelen*).

4 (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. Temas incluyen: origen de la celebración, responsabilidades como Cristianos, la juventud en la sociedad de hoy y otros temas de importancia. Lugar: Immaculate Conception Parish 63559 60th Ave, Hartford, MI. (*Diocesan Quinceañera Retreat. Young ladies who will be having a Quinceañera celebration must attend this retreat with their parents and main sponsors. Topics include: origin of the celebration, responsibilities as Christians, youth in today's society and other topics of importance. Location: Immaculate Conception Parish 63559 60th Ave, Hartford, MI*).

9 (Jueves) — 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. **Reunión Ministerio Migrante.** Reunión de principio de Verano para todos los voluntarios del Ministerio Migrante y para todos aquellos que estén interesados en ser voluntarios. Lugar: Lawrence Education Center (Salón#122), 1521 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI. (*Migrant Ministry Meeting*) (*Beginning of the Summer Meeting for all Migrant Ministry volunteers and those who are interested in becoming volunteers. Location: Lawrence Education Center (Classroom#122), 1521 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI*)

10 (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*)

Memoria Histórica del Ministerio Hispano/Latino

Tomada del Plan Pastoral Diocesano del Ministerio Hispano/Latino 2007

La presencia hispana/latina en la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos ha estado presente desde hace mucho tiempo. La primera comunidad se estableció en San Agustín, Florida en 1593. En Michigan, tenemos datos desde 1880 cuando el censo de Detroit registró unos 600 hispanos/latinos de diferentes países de Latino América. Aunque es imposible dar una fecha exacta de los comienzos de la inmigración de personas de habla hispana a esta área, para 1940 un gran número de familias hispano/latinas ya se habían mudado al suroeste de Michigan para trabajar en los campos y las fábricas. Muchos hombres y mujeres llegaron durante el Programa Bracero (1942-1964) para trabajar en los campos. El ministerio con y para hispanos/latinos de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo comenzó con la presencia de sacerdotes mexicanos que venían a celebrar misas en los campos y en una pequeña capilla, que fue construida en una granja de cebollas en Fennville. El Programa Bracero fue un acuerdo entre los Estados Unidos y México que permitía a mexicanos venir a trabajar a los Estados Unidos por una temporada. Aunque se esperaba que fuera un esfuerzo temporal, solamente durante la guerra, muchos continuaron viiniendo y trabajando por la demanda de mano de obra, pues muchos al regresar de la guerra no quisieron volver a los campos,

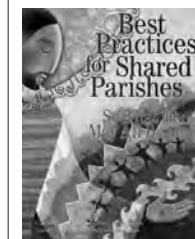


dada la necesidad creada por la economía que comenzaba a florecer. Con unos 12,000 hispanos/latinos residentes y más de 20,000 migrantes viiniendo cada año a esta área, comenzó un programa de servicio pastoral. Muchos sacerdotes, religiosos, religiosas y laicos visitaban los campos, llevando comida y ropa a los migrantes, durante esos años.

Desde el comienzo de la creación de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo y la asignación del Obispo Paul V. Donovan, como su primer obispo, aumentó el interés por atender y prestar servicios pastorales a los hispanos/latinos que vivían en su jurisdicción. El Obispo Donovan, solicitó a sacerdotes y representantes laicos, que participaran en el 2º Encuentro Hispano/Latino en Chicago en 1972. Fruto de ese esfuerzo, fue la creación del Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, formado con representantes laicos de las parroquias de Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Hartford, y Fennville y, los sacerdotes, religiosos, reli-

giosas que atendían la comunidad hispano/latina. El Comité se reunía con el Obispo cada mes para estudiar y responder a las necesidades de la comunidad hispana. Fue este grupo junto con el Obispo quien vio la necesidad de fomentar la presencia de nuevos ministros, que compartieran la tarea pastoral. Se apoyó la formación de los candidatos al Diaconado Permanente. Los candidatos debían hablar español y, el programa de formación también en español, fue establecido, con el apoyo de Rogelio Manrique y Tom Bissonnette de la Oficina Hispana del Medio-Oeste. Los candidatos eran llamados por sus comunidades para entrar al programa de formación diaconal. Nueve diáconos de habla hispana fueron ordenados por el Señor Obispo Paul V. Donovan en Julio de 1977. El Diácono Maximino Rodríguez, quien actualmente sirve en la comunidad de San Felipe de Jesús, Pearl formó parte de este grupo de pioneros. (La Memoria Histórica, continuará en la próxima edición).

Conferencia Diocesana: Mejores Prácticas para Parroquias Compartidas



El pasado 20 de abril se llevó a cabo la conferencia diocesana sobre Mejores Prácticas para Parroquias Compartidas organizada por la Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural e Hispano. El Obispo Paul Bradley inicio la conferencia con una oración y palabras de bienvenida. 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 presentaron durante la conferencia. Hubo un gran número de personas, unas 112, de alrededor de la Diócesis que participaron en esta conferencia. La mayoría de los participantes expresaron su agradecimiento por haber ofrecido esta conferencia que fue

excelente. También expresaron que les ayudará en su ministerio, en especial para esta nueva etapa de colaboración entre parroquias. Algunos comentarios de la gente son: "Esta conferencia es para todos porque incorpora todos los elementos de relaciones interpersonales: Párroco a empleados, empleados a feligreses, feligreses a feligreses y feligreses a la comunidad." "Hay que desarrollar una actitud de 'nosotros', reconociendo el regalo de la diversidad." "Necesitamos crear una cultura de encuentro." "Diversidad es un regalo que nos lleva a la unidad el uno con el otro y con Jesús."

La Conferencia anual de Migrant Resource Council

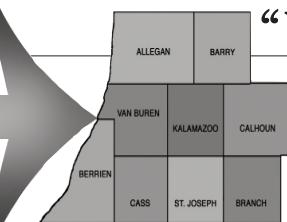


será el 18 de mayo del 2016 de 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. en el edificio de Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064. Lema de este año: "Sembrando Semillas – Cultivando Colaboraciones". Costo antes del 9 de mayo \$20, después de esta fecha \$25 y para los estudiantes son \$10. 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 o llame al teléfono 269.539.5189.

The annual pre-season conference of Migrant Resource Council will take place on May 18, 2016 from 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. at the Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064. The theme for this year is "Planting Seeds – Cultivating Partnerships." Cost of the conference is \$20 before May 9th, \$25 after May 9th and cost for students is \$10. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who participate in migrant ministry or for those who in one way or another have contact with the migrant farmworkers. There is a lot of important information provided in this conference. To obtain more information or for registration, the contact person is Bonnie Knowlton, bknowlton@vbisd.org or phone 269-539-5189.

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 Confirmation Schedule

May 14: St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, 10 a.m.

May 14: St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, 5:30 p.m.

May 15: St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 11:30 a.m.

May 16: St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, 6:30 p.m.

May 22: SS Cyril and Methodius Parish, Wayland, 9:30 a.m.

May 22: St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, 4 p.m.

May 23: St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, 5:30 p.m.

June 4: St. Mary Parish, Niles, 4:30 p.m.

June 5: St. Mary Parish, Bronson, 11 a.m.

June 11: St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, 9 a.m.

June 19: St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, 11 a.m.

June 26: Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan, 11 a.m.

Activities around the diocese CENTRAL DEANERY

Kalamazoo

May 14: Discussing the Nuts and Bolts of Jail Ministry, a diocesan gathering for those involved in jail,

prison and youth detention ministry, Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at St. Mary School Gym in Paw Paw, MI. No cost, but RSVP requested. Contact: Lisa Irwin at lirwin@diokzoo.org or 269-903-0177.

May 14: The Arts: Avenues to the Divine, Transformations Spirituality Center, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Day of exploring art with Fr. Bob Huttmacher, OFM. Contact: 269-381-6290 x249

May 30: Annual Mt. Olivet Cemetery Memorial Day Mass, 10 a.m.

June 3-4: Discovering Our Deepest Desire training weekend, Transformations Spirituality Center. Training for married couples, priests, deacons and those in marriage ministry. Cost: \$30/person or \$50/couple. 6-9:30 p.m. Friday evening, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Contact: Jane Bodway, 269-903-0147.

July 8-10: All Michigan Catholic Charismatic Conference, Transformations Spirituality Center. Contact: 800-837-2622

July 16-17: Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend, Transformations Spirituality Center. Marriage Preparation weekend for engaged couples. Should be completed minimum of 6-9 months prior to wedding. Cost is \$175. Additional 2016 dates: Sept. 24-25, Nov. 12-13. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199, struchan@diokzoo.org. Transitional Diaconate Ordination – June 25 at 10 a.m. Contact: courage@diokzoo.org

Bishop Bradley and local guests hit the airwaves for bi-annual pledge drive

This month Bishop Bradley, along with diocesan staff, will participate in Holy Family Radio's Spring Pledge drive. Bishop Bradley will take to the airwaves on Thursday, May 19th at Noon.

Others participating from around the Diocese include:

- Very Rev. Robert Creagan - St. Catherine of Siena - Wednesday, May 18th; 3 p.m.
- Brian Kosmerick, principal, Hackett Catholic Prep, Thursday, May 19 – 9 a.m.
- Rev. Dan Doctor, Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, Thursday, May 19th – 2 p.m.
- Dale and Susie Boone - Co-Chair Couple for Kalamazoo - Thursday, May 19th, 5 p.m.
- Knights of Columbus - Michigan - Bob Fox, Garry Merritt and guests - Friday, May 20 - Noon
- Very Rev. John Fleckenstein, Pastor, Vicar for Education, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, Friday, May 20, 2 p.m.

Holy Family Radio is lay apostolate and a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Its network of stations licensed by the FCC, include 140 AM Grand Rapids, 91.5 FM Kalamazoo and 89.7 FM Battle Creek. The station's mission is to broadcast the knowledge, truth and faith of the Roman Catholic Church. To listen online visit: www.hfrlive.net and for more information on the radio ministry visit: www.holyfamilyradio.net.

The diocesan Ministry to Persons with Disabilities ministry held a retreat at Camp Friesenwald last month.

Participants explored the life of St. Faustina and collected can goods to donate to the community pantry housed at Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg. The Persons with Disabilities a Family Day Mass and Picnic, Saturday, July 16th from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, 24832 US-12, East, Edwardsburg. Bishop Bradley will be the celebrant. Complementary food and beverages provided. The event is free but reservations are appreciated by July 8th. For more information or to RSVP contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org.



Widowed Men monthly gathering — All widowed men are invited to join together for a time of fellowship and discussion on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is May 11 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. 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 Truchan at 269-903-0199.

Widowed Friends monthly gathering — All widowed men and women are invited to attend a monthly night of fellowship and discussion for men and women on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The next gathering is May 25 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. 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 Truchan at 269-903-0199.

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.

Courage:

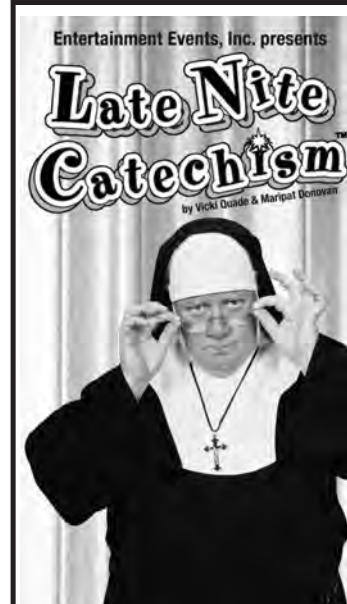
A Roman Catholic Apostolate



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

Congregation of St. Joseph
Transformations
SPIRITUALITY CENTER
3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048



Sun., June 12; 2 - 4pm Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth

Late Nite Catechism is an **uproariously funny play** that takes the audience back to a time when habit-clad Sisters taught Catechism.

The irrepressible Sister teaches class to a roomful of "students." Throughout the class the benevolent instructor rewards the "students" for correct answers with glow-in-the-dark rosaries and other nifty prizes.

She'll take you back to an earlier time which is **laugh-out-loud funny**, whether you were in parochial school or not!

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

Second Annual Young Adult Prom

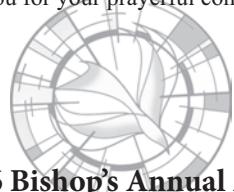
Join other local young adults for a free dinner dance at the St. Thomas More Social Hall on Saturday, May 21 from 6 to 10 p.m. Potluck style dinner (bring a dish to pass) will be served from 6 to 7, followed by dancing and a photo booth. This year's theme is "Decades" – dress in the style of whichever decade you choose (zoot suits and hoop skirts encouraged) and we'll have a playlist representing many eras. RSVP by email to lisa.levasseur@hotmail.com and include the number of guests and what type of dish you are bringing.

VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Sessions

May 11, 1 p.m. – St. Ann Parish, 12648 East D Ave., Augusta

May 31, 6 p.m. – SS. John & Bernard Parish, 555 E. Delaware Ave., Benton Harbor (St. Bernard site)

Your generous support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal makes possible the many ministries and outreach of the diocese. This month Bishop Bradley celebrates confirmations throughout the diocese and will ordain four men to the priesthood. This is just a glimpse into the many ways your participation in diocesan Church helps spread the gospel. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal Parish Target Goals

Blessed Sacrament, Allegan	\$51,295
Holy Angels, Sturgis	\$52,433
Holy Family, Decatur	\$17,294
Holy Maternity, Dowagiac	\$26,421
Immaculate Conception, Hartford	\$23,032
Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers	\$46,068
Our Lady of Fatima, Union City	\$11,676
Our Lady of Great Oak, Lacey	\$5,712
Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg	\$70,210
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgeman	\$30,925
Sacred Heart, Bangor	\$18,707
Sacred Heart, Dowagiac	\$30,638
Sacred Heart, Allegan	\$8,307
San Felipe de Jesus, Fennville	\$6,781
SS Cyril & Methodius, Wayland	\$37,828
SS John & Bernard, Benton Harbor	\$149,836
St. Agnes, Sawyer	\$24,885
St. Ambrose, Delton	\$14,769
St. Ambrose, Parchment	\$60,154
St. Ann, Cassopolis	\$16,624
St. Ann, Augusta	\$87,768
St. Anthony, Buchanan	\$23,628
St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo	\$129,123
St. Barbara, Colon	\$8,560
St. Basil, South Haven	\$89,438
St. Catherine of Siena, Portage	\$278,869
St. Charles of Borromeo, Coldwater	\$52,325
St. Clare, Centreville	\$8,171
St. Cyril, Nashville	\$8,415
St. Edward, Mendon	\$19,841
St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs	\$8,661
St. Jerome, Battle Creek	\$26,456
St. John Bosco, Mattawan	\$59,597
St. John, Albion	\$50,480
St. Joseph, Battle Creek	\$144,063
St. Joseph, Kalamazoo	\$121,346
St. Joseph, St. Joseph	\$195,545
St. Joseph, Watervliet	\$58,506
St. Joseph, White Pigeon	\$20,840
St. Jude, Gobles	\$18,461
St. Margaret, Otsego	\$65,988
St. Margaret/Mary, Marcellus	\$12,156
St. Mark, Niles	\$33,433
St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg	\$64,742
St. Mary of the Lake, New Buffalo	\$51,166
St. Mary, Bronson	\$67,902
St. Mary, Kalamazoo	\$43,694
St. Mary, Marshall	\$78,190
St. Mary Visitation, New Salem	\$47,520
St. Mary, Niles	\$67,550
St. Mary, Paw Paw	\$59,108
St. Mary, Three Oaks	\$24,314
St. Monica, Kalamazoo	\$156,775
St. Peter, Douglas	\$57,959
St. Philip, Battle Creek	\$145,143
St. Rose of Lima, Hastings	\$57,990
St. Stanislaus, Dorr	\$29,246
St. Therese, Wayland	\$65,129
St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo	\$128,668
Total 2016	
Bishop's Annual Appeal Targets	\$3,370,361

Good things happen every day

Bishop Bradley welcomed scouts from around the diocese for the annual Bishop's Scout Mass. On April 17, Scouts and leaders received religious medals commemorating achievements over the past year.



Students at Immaculate Conception School, Three Rivers, teamed-up with local artist and Kalamazoo Valley Community College instructor Francis Granzotto to create colorful bowls. The staff then hosted a potluck supper. The church and school community came together to enjoy fellowship and purchase the student bowls. Proceeds went to CRS Rice Bowl.

2nd grade students at Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary, Benton Harbor, learned about business as they got creative to be the best employees at “Dad’s Doughnut Shop.”



Students at St. Ann's School, Augusta, got to work preparing bulbs that were used in the church for Easter. Students learned that bulbs are removed, dried and planted again in the fall.



The diocesan website has a new look.

The goal with this redesign was for the new site to be more efficient and effective in style and functionality. Check it out at www.diokzoo.org

Care When You Want It



Online Check-in for Treatment

We understand you don't have time for sickness, let alone waiting forever in some waiting room to see a doctor. That's why we give you care when you want it.

Borgess ER and urgent care patients can check-in for treatment times—anytime, anywhere. Women who need a mammogram can schedule one whenever and wherever they choose, too. Just visit schedule.borgess.com to find a location and time that work for you.

* 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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