OFFICE CLOSING
The Diocesan and Catholic Messenger offices will be closed from Noon Wednesday, Nov. 25 thru Friday, Nov. 27.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Fr. Mark Spring: 4947 Grand View Ln., Fort Madison 52627-7614; H: 319-246-1324, C: 319-470-1577

THE YEAR OF MERCY
On March 13, 2015, Pope Francis announced that the Church would observe a “Jubilee of Mercy,” beginning with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2015, and concluding on November 20, 2016, with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. “Ordinary” Holy Years are usually celebrated at the turn and midway through each century (for example, 1900, 1950 and 2000). In this case, Pope Francis has chosen to celebrate an “extraordinary Holy Year”—that is, a Holy Year outside of the “ordinary” sequence—as did Pope Pius XI in 1925 and 1933, Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1975, and Pope Saint John Paul II in 1983.

“Merciful like the Father….” is the ‘motto’ of this Holy Year. This is a shortened version of the verse in Scripture, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). The Pope wrote, “In mercy, we find proof of how God loves us. He gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. He comes to our aid whenever we call upon him. What a beautiful thing that the Church begins her daily prayer with the words, ‘O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me’ (Ps 70:2)! The assistance we ask for is already the first step of God’s mercy toward us. He comes to assist us in our weakness. And his help consists in helping us accept his presence and closeness to us. Day after day, touched by his compassion, we also can become compassionate towards others” (Misericordiae vultus 14).

The opening of the Jubilee will take place on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, reminding and impelling the Church to continue the work started at Vatican II.

During this Holy Year, the Sunday readings for Ordinary Time will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, called “the evangelist of mercy” because of the many parables recounted in that Gospel which show the mercy of God: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the merciful father.

As Pope Francis has said: “This is the time of mercy. It is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. Go forth!”

Resources for observing the Year of Mercy, information on pilgrimage sites in the diocese, and a calendar of events are all available on our website: http://www.davenportdiocese.org/YearOfMercy.htm.

The webpage is updated frequently, so please check back often. For information or questions contact Deacon Frank Agnoli, agnoli@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4257.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE
Vote to End Hunger Rally!: Sunday, November 8, 2:00 p.m. Grand View University, Des Moines. Speakers include Bread for the World President Rev. David Beckmann and Bishop Richard Pates from the Diocese of Des Moines. The event is free. Intended audience: students, faith leaders, parishioners, elected officials, presidential candidates and YOU! Please feel free to share the attached flyer with others as we are trying to get as many people as we can signed up for this event. To sign up go to http://www.eventbrite.com/e/vote-to-end-hunger-rally-tickets-18631039942. For transportation arrangements contact Loxi Hopkins, 563-888-4212 or guerrero@davenportdiocese.org or hopkins@davenportdiocese.org. To learn more go to http://votetoendhunger.org/.
The Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection is November 21-22. The diocese retains 25% of the proceeds to fight poverty within our own diocese. All parishes should have received their bulletin inserts as well as posters and envelopes. Please use the insert for your parish bulletin the weekend of November 14-15 and display the poster. If your parish materials have not arrived or you need more materials or have any questions, please contact Loxi Hopkins at hopkins@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4212.

Social Ministry Gathering: January 23-26, Washington, D.C. “Called to Live Mercy in Our Common Home.” This year’s annual national gathering takes inspiration from the encyclical Laudato Si and Pope Francis. This is an opportunity to meet and work with all the major Church organizations (USCCB, CRS, CCUSA and others) and visit with our elected representatives on Capitol Hill. To register go to https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/138516.

Fair Trade Catalog: The new SERRV Autumn 2015 catalog is now available. For a chance to buy Fair Trade handcrafts and gourmet food items from disadvantaged producers around the world, go to https://www.serrv.org/ and click on the image next to the catalog.

Project Rachel understands the emotional pain that follows an abortion; provides free referrals for confidential and caring counseling and reconciliation by trained professionals and can help get you on the road to spiritual recovery. The Project Rachel Helpline is available to take calls: 563-333-4107 or 1-888-456-HOPE. Calls are answered personally Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Voice messaging available all other times. All calls returned promptly and discreetly. Brochures are available by contacting Esmeralda Guerrero, guerrero@davenportdiocese.org. You may contact Project Rachel staff by calling the local Helpline: 563-333-4107 or email projectrachel@diodav.org.

CRS Rice Bowl

Collections starts Ash Wednesday, February 10: Now is the time to place your order for your free CRS Rice Bowl materials. Materials will be shipped in early January. Place your order by calling 800-222-0025 or by sending back the postcard that was mailed to your parish.

Kick-Off Breakfast Events are being planned and we are looking for host parishes. If your parish is interested in hosting a breakfast please contact Loxi Hopkins, 563-888-4210 or hopkins@davenportdiocese.org.

Diocesan Volunteer Program: The Social Action Department recently re-launched the Diocesan Volunteer Program (DVP). The primary focus of the volunteer program grant is to assist in providing support to individuals for short-term mission work and to support new and existing global projects and partnerships within the Diocese of Davenport. People interested in applying please visit our website to obtain a copy or the grant criteria and application http://www.davenportdiocese.org/socialaction/sadodvolunteerprogram.htm.

The 2016 National Migration Week Small Grant Program is available to Catholic parishes, schools and organizations. As part of this year’s National Migration Week celebration the USCCB has a small grant program available to provide resources to launch outreach or educational efforts at the local level to welcome strangers. For more information go to http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/index.cfm.

FAITH FORMATION


Strong Catholic Families Initiative: With the recent World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis’ visit to the U.S., and the recently concluded Synod on the Family, families is at the forefront of our attention in the Catholic Church. Why not tap into this attention, and see if this Initiative can help you and your parish more effectively connect with parents and families? Contact Don Boucher, boucher@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4243.
NCYC: From November 18-22, 830+ high school youth and adult leaders from our diocese will pilgrimage to Indianapolis for the 2015 National Catholic Youth Conference. We have representation from 43 of our parishes. Whether or not you have someone from your parish or Catholic school attending, you and your parishioners can support these youth and adults on their pilgrimage by praying for them. You can also tune in online to watch the general sessions and some workshops (go to http://www.ncyc.info/ and look for the live stream schedule which will soon appear). Finally, if you do have youth and adults going, please include a prayer intention for them at all your Masses on November 14-15 and 21-22, and consider giving them a special blessing at your Masses on November 14-15.

The Church is Young – A National Conversation to Mobilize Pastoral Ministry with Young Catholics: Our diocese is serving as a pilot diocese for the local phases of this national project scheduled to take place from 2016-2018. It focuses on local conversations in our parishes and schools with youth and young adults, parents, and ministry leaders leading to a diocesan conversation with Bishop Amos and diocesan and parish ministry leaders. Conversations will take place throughout November and early December, and the diocesan conversation will take place Monday, January 18. Webinars will soon be held for parish and school leaders to further explain and support the process. Please see http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/churchisyoung.htm for more and emerging information on this process.

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

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<th>Basic Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/7/15: <strong>Ecclesial Ministry</strong>, IlaMae Hanisch</td>
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<td>12/5/15: <strong>Baptism</strong>, Dr. Corrine Winter</td>
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<td>1/16/16: <strong>Confirmation</strong>, Don Boucher</td>
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<td>2/20/16: <strong>Reconciliation/Anointing</strong>, Fr. Paul Appel</td>
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<td>3/19/16: <strong>Eucharist I</strong>, Dr. Corrine Winter</td>
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<td>5/21/16: <strong>Cultural Diversity</strong>, Miguel Moreno &amp; Guest</td>
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<td>6/16/16: <strong>Matrimony</strong>, Dc. Frank &amp; Marianne Agnoli</td>
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<td>7/16/16: <strong>Holy Orders</strong>, Bishop Amos, Fr. Thom Hennen &amp; Deacon David Montgomery</td>
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<td>8/20/16: <strong>Personal/Pastoral</strong>, IlaMae Hanisch</td>
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<td>9/17/16: <strong>Catholicism</strong>, Dr. Corrine Winter</td>
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<td>10/8/16: <strong>Commissioning Liturgy</strong>, Location TBA</td>
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**On-Site Format:** All courses held at the Diocese of Davenport, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**DVD/YouTube Format:** The order of courses is as stated above; however each group will determine its monthly meeting time.

Application form and additional information may be found on the diocesan website, www.davenportdiocese.org (Chancery-Faith Formation-Lay Ministry-MFP Forms). For information regarding the courses or the Ministry Formation Program contact John Valenti, valenti@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4244.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** December 4-6, Iowa City. Encourage couples in your parish to participate in this marriage enrichment program designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their relationship. The emphasis of the weekend is on communication between husband and wife. Couples are able to spend quality time together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life to concentrate on their marriages. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a positive, renewing experience for couples that have a good marriage, but want to make it even better! For more information go to http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm.

**Natural Family Planning Links:**

- **Billings Ovulation Method NFP course** is available online at http://learnfponline.com. A certificate of completion will be issued.

- **Couple to Couple League (Sympto-thermal) Method, New Online Options:** CCL now offers two online options for those couples who do not have a local CCL Teaching Couple, or for those whose schedule prevents them from attending local instruction. Couples will receive the same materials as those attending on site classes, plus access to professional chart reviews until confident in their method skills.
  - Live Class Online (check website below for dates and times) - $130
• Self-Paced Online - $99
  http://ccli.org/products/services/nfp-instruction/home-study-course.php

Engaged couples are encouraged to begin NFP instruction at least four to six months prior to the wedding date.

Additional NFP contacts information can be found on the diocesan website,
http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm

Marriage and Parenting Resource: Attached is the November issue of “Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers.” These may be used in parish bulletins or as links on parish websites.

Marriage Preparation: The Diocese of Davenport offers several marriage preparation program formats: One-day, Weekend (two-day), Sponsor Couple (through your parish) and Online (under special circumstances-with parish approval).

One-Day
• January 30, 2016: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, registration deadline is January 22
• February 27, 2016: Bettendorf, St. John Vianney, registration deadline is February 19

The fee is $125 per couple and is payable by credit card or PayPal. To register or for more information go to http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/Marriage%20and%20Family.htm. For questions contact Barb Butterworth, 563-888-4240, butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org.

Online: To be used only under special circumstance with parish approval. Go to http://www.marriageministries.com/courses/catholic-marriage-prep-class/

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
To report child abuse contact: Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator: 563-349-5002, vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

SISTERS OF HUMILITY, DAVENPORT
7th Annual Gift Swap: Dec. 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Humility of Mary Center, Davenport. Doors open 6 p.m. beginning with a short talk, “The Pope’s Message to the Paris Earth Summit” by Fr. Bud Grant, professor of environmental theology at St. Ambrose University. After Fr. Bud’s talk participate in the Holiday Gift Swap. As a way to reduce, reuse and recycle everyone is invited to bring new or gently used items that are perfect for re-gifting … then shop the swap for that perfect gift for one or more on your list! No money necessary. Leftover items will be donated to Humility of Mary Housing and Shelter programs. Also enjoy homemade goodies and visit with the sisters!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, DES MOINES
A Weekend of Healing and Hope with Immaculee Ilibagiza: February 12-13, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Des Moines. As a survivor of the Rwandan genocide who lost her family, Immaculee found peace through forgiveness. She will speak about overcoming struggles, the power of forgiveness, the miracles of the rosary and so much more! The retreat includes a healing Mass with Fr. Ubald, a Rwandan priest graced with a beautiful gift of healing. Cost is $57 (and bring a guest for $38). Register at www.immaculee.com or contact Anne Spina at 515-864-6945. See the attached flyer.

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND
To register contact: 563-336-8414 or olpretreat@gmail.com. All programs include a delicious homemade meal prepared with local and organic ingredients. To learn more about Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat visit www.chmiowa.org.

Icon Retreat: Mary, Untier of Knots, Byzantine Style Icon: November 8 – 14 | Sun, 5pm – Sat, 1pm. Pope Francis discovered the painting of Mary, Untier of Knots, while a student in Germany and is responsible for devotion to her in Brazil and Argentina. Mary is pictured as calmly undoing the knots of a very long ribbon. During this retreat we will paint/write/pray this icon. We will learn the meaning of the symbols and colors of the icon. Step-by-step instructions. All materials provided. No particular artistic talent necessary. Leanne K. Spacek presenter
Come to the Quiet: Generosity: Wed, November 18 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. One of the many characteristics of living Celtic spirituality is a disposition toward generosity. This disposition is nourished when recognizing the abundant blessings of Earth bestowed by the Divine then soulfully responds in generous spirit through care and service. Fee: $20.

Come to the Quiet: Darkness: Wed, December 9 | 9:30am – 3:30pm. In the darkness and stillness of Earth, light is born. December blesses us with the gift of darkness – the place of gestation, quiet, seeing things not visible in the light. By embracing the darkness we inspire our soul-seeing – “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.” *Le Petit Prince* (1943) Antoine de Saint Exupéry. Fee: $20.

Marriage Spirituality: Sat, December 12 | 9am – 4pm. Deacon Daryl and Pat Fortin will facilitate a day of reflection on what it means to live out your marriage vocation with God as the third partner. A day for prayer, talks, walks and conversation on how to grow together spiritually as a couple. Day concludes with Mass at 4pm with Msgr. Frank Henricksen. Fee: $40/couple.

Advent Taize’ Vigil Service with special guest artist: David Haas: Wed, December 16 | 6:30pm. Taize is an ecumenical movement, drawing Christians of all denominations together in unified and compassionate prayer. All people of faith are invited to participate. Pre-registration encouraged. No fee.

**EAGLES’ WINGS COUNSELING AND RETREAT CENTERS, Davenport**

To register, for questions or information about obtaining a spiritual director, or Christian counseling contact Marcia Moore, marcia@eagleswings.ws or 563-324-7263, http://www.eagleswings.ws. Located at 5816 Telegraph Rd., Davenport.

Healing Mass and Adoration: Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. Adoration begins at noon with Mass at 1 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and prayers for healing following Mass. (No Mass in January)

**BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER/ST. MARY MONASTERY, ROCK ISLAND, IL**

Contact Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108, retreats@smmsisters.org or online at www.smmisters.org/retreats/retreats-and-programs to register for programs mentioned below.

The Practice of the Welcoming Prayer: Sat., Nov. 7, 9:30 am–4 pm. The Welcoming Prayer is a method of consenting to God’s presence and action in our physical and emotional reactions to daily life. The purpose of the Welcoming Prayer is to deepen our relationship with God through this practice of attending, letting go and surrendering to God in the present moment of daily life. Fee: $45, includes lunch. Presenters: Florrie Dammers and Chris Kraft.

Preparing for Advent with Lectio Divina: Sat., Dec. 5, 9-11:30 am. This morning retreat will provide an opportunity to focus on the Advent Season and the coming of Christ among us. The practice of Lectio Divina will be used to break open the Advent Scriptures and provide a focus for your Advent journey. Fee: $20. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Murphy, OSB.

Silent Directed Retreat: “The Lord Delights in You” (Isaiah 62:4): Sun., Jan. 17 (Check-in: 4:6:30 pm; Conference: 7 pm)-Wed. Jan. 20, 4 pm. Register now for this popular retreat which fills early. You will receive personal time with a spiritual director. In addition to daily Eucharist, there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Centering Prayer, personal prayer, silence, rest, prayer with the Benedictines and walking the grounds. Spiritual Directors: Sr. Margaret Murphy, OSB; Sr. Mary Schmidt, OSB; Toni Petersen; Fr. Mark DeSutter. Register and pay in full by Dec. 17: $315. Registrations after Dec. 17: $325. Commuter fee: $225, includes all lunches and dinners.

Young Adult 24-Hour Retreat: Fri., Jan. 22, 7 pm (Check-in: 6:30-6:45 pm; Conference: 7 pm) - Sat., Jan. 23, 7 pm. The Davenport Diocese Theology on Tap planning team is sponsoring a 24-hour retreat for young adults in their 20s and 30s. The theme is to be determined. Call and express your interest in attending and details will be available. Facilitators: Young adult planning team. $115 (private room), $108 (shared room). Register and pay in full by Dec. 22. Registrations after Dec. 22: $125 (private room), $118 (shared room). Commuter fee: $65, includes lunch and dinner.
**Catholic Sister for a Day:** Nov. 14-15 Sat., 9am to Sun., 1pm. Experience life as a Benedictine Sister with other single Catholic women 18-50 years old. Enjoy prayer, meals and conversation with Sisters. Join the Benedictines as they serve God with personal and communal prayer and hear about the process of discernment and Benedictine life. Join us and take the step you need to discover whether God is calling you to religious life. Fee: There is no cost; you are our guest! For information contact Sr. Stefanie MacDonald, OSB (309) 283-2300 or vocation@smmsisters.org.

To support the ministry of your parish, school and the diocese these groups automatically receive the *Mini-Messenger*:

- **Deacons**
- **Diocesan Corporate Board**
- **Youth Ministers**
- **Pastoral Associates**
- **Directors/Coordinators of Faith Formation**
- **Parishes**
- **Catholic Foundation Board**
- **Sisters**
- **RCIA Parish Contacts**
- **Diocesan Liturgical Commission**
- **Priests**
- **Parish Lay Directors**
- **Bookkeepers**
- **Diocesan Board of Education**
- **Diocesan Planning Commission**
- **Seminarians**
- **Diocesan Pastoral Council**
- **Principals**
- **Parish Life Coordinators**

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.
RALLY!

VOTE TO END HUNGER

Students, faith leaders, parishioners, elected officials, presidential candidates — YOU!

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015  *  2 p.m.
Grand View University, Sisam Arena  *  1500 Morton Ave., Des Moines

Speakers include Bread for the World President Rev. David Beckmann & Bishop Richard Pates of the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

Sign up at votetoendhungeriowa.eventbrite.com

TWITTER: @Vogt_Susan *EDUCATORS, LEADERS, & MINISTERS: You are welcome to reprint these MM's and PP's in bulletins, newsletters, and on your website with proper credit, (By Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net). When used on a website, please also link to my website: www.SusanVogt.net

MARRIAGE MOMENTS
648. Nov. 2: "They seemed...to be dead, and their passing away was thought an affection." (Wisdom 3:2) Nov. 2 is All Souls Day when we are urged to remember those who have gone before us in death. As a couple, call to mind your deceased relatives. What have you learned from each of them? In prayer, ask them to watch over you and lead you to God.

649. Nov. 9: Trip down Memory Lane - With Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching, remember the first time you met your beloved's family. Our family of origin greatly influences our behavior - for good or for ill. Honor the good in your beloved's family of origin and let go of harping on the bad.

650. Nov. 16: "In those days...the sun will be darkened...and the stars will be falling from the sky." (Mark 13:24-25) Jesus warns us of tribulations and all loving couples bear their share. Are you going through any current tribulation as a couple? Share your burden. If not yourselves, pray for those who are having a hard time in their marriage.

651. Nov. 23: Feast of Christ the King: Thanksgiving is usually a feast of family and food - but it takes a lot of work. "Are you the King of the Jews?" (John 18:33) Don't let family hierarchy absolise either of you from both being a servant and at least having a moment of being King or Queen for a day this week.

652. Nov. 30: As we enter the holy season of Advent, the rest of the world often knows this as the holiday and party season. Who does most of the decorating, buying, cooking, and cleaning up around your home? Is it shared? Is it hectic? Is it too much? Simplify. (See Advent Waiting for ideas.)

PARENTING POINTERS
649. Nov. 6: "This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors..." (Mark 12:43) Our faith (and common decency) calls us to share our resources with those who have less. BUT, how much is a fair amount to give? A 10% tithe is easier for a person of wealth than a person who is poor. Review with your kids how your family donates money and time. Between now and Thanksgiving, how will you be generous?

650. Nov. 13: "We share the pain of couples who struggle without success to conceive a child. We admire and encourage families who adopt a child [or] become foster parents" (Follow the way of Love). November is National Adoption month. Have you ever considered this way to give life?

651. Nov. 20: "A mother's soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience." (Emily Dickinson) Although written by a woman about mothers, could this same sentiment be said about fathers? Hopefully, yes. Check your language and family life for unnecessary gender stereotypes this week.

652. Nov. 27: Do you have a family tradition for how you spend the day after Thanksgiving? (shopping, eating leftovers, playing games, etc.) Decide together how best to use your precious family time this weekend. Don't let shopping rob you of what's really important.

a weekend of Healing and Hope with IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA

FEB. 12-13, 2016
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
2926 Beaver Ave
Des Moines, IA 50310

Registration Contact
Cathy McLaughlin
cwmc27@gmail.com

Local Contact
Anne Spina
anne.m.spina@gmail.com
(515) 864-6945

Friday, Feb. 12
- 4:00 - 5:00pm - Doors Open / Fellowship / Registration / Book Store
- 5:00 - 6:30pm - Retreat Begins / Session 1
- 6:30 - 7:30pm - Break
- 7:30 - 9:00pm - Session 2
- 9:00pm - Conclusion of Day 1

Saturday, Feb. 13
- 8:30 - 9:00am - Gathering / Registration
- 9:00 - 10:30am - Session 3
- 10:30 - 11:00am - Break
- 11:00 - 12:30pm - Session 4
- 12:30pm - Conclusion of Retreat

For more information or to register, please visit:
www.immaculee.com

Special Retreat Presenter
Fr. Ubald
Rwandan Priest with gift of Healing