Diocese announces student art contest winners

Winners of the inaugural student art contest, “The Family Fully Alive,” have been chosen by a panel of diocesan judges. The contest was launched last fall to encourage students in both Catholic schools and religious education programs to explore the topic, “how is my family fully alive in the faith” through a variety of art mediums from painting, drawing, writing, music or video. Entries were received both locally and nationally. St. Charles Borromeo, Coldwater; Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School were honored with having the most entries. Winners receive a monetary scholarship award donated by the Knights of Columbus. Visit the diocesan website, www.diokzoo.org, for a full list of winners.

Kalamazoo and National First Place Awards

Art — Division 1 (Grades 4-8):
1st Place Winner: “Alive and Filled with the Spirit” by Maxine Poage, 8th grade, St. Monica School, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Writing — Division 1 (Grades 4-8):
1st Place Winner: “My Family is Fully Alive in the Faith” by Kathryn Wertheimer, 7th grade, St. Basil Catholic School, South Haven, Mich.
1st Place Winner: “My Faith Alive in the Arts” (poem) by Joshua Schatte, 8th grade, Emmanuel Parish, Beaver Creek, Ohio

HONORABLE MENTION:
“Family Fully Alive” (poem) by Ashleigh Cotter, 7th grade, St. Michael School, Cranford, NJ

Video — Division 1 (Grades 4-8):
1st Place Winner: “My Catholic Family” by Samantha Ochoa, 5th grade, Mother Seton School, Union City, NJ

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Parishes ready to welcome migrant farmworker families

During the summer months close to 20,000 migrant farmworkers from Texas, Florida and parts of Central America reside in the Diocese of Kalamazoo while performing seasonal farming work. Volunteers from parishes across the diocese form groups to go on weekly visits to some of the 300 different camps. During these visits volunteers provide a variety of fun activities from sports to crafts for both the children and the adults.

Additionally the diocese welcomes members of the religious communities and visiting clergy who aid in sacramental preparation and in the celebration of the Mass. Bishop Bradley celebrates the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Augustine Cathedral for the children of migrant families and also celebrates Mass at one of the migrant camps during the summer months.

Donations for migrant families will be collected until the middle of August. Items most needed include non-parishable food (flour, cereal, rice, pinto beans, sugar, oil, peanut butter, tomato paste, corn meal), glasses, dishes and large pots and pans, toiletries for infants, children and adults, and linens. Clothing for all ages is also needed, especially jeans, shorts; cotton/cotton-blend shirts and work boots for men. Donations may be taken to the St. Thomas More Student Parish office, 421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. The parish requests that donations should not be left outside.

For more information on volunteering for migrant ministry contact: Veronica Rodriguez, 269-903-0197; vrrodriguez@diokzoo.org.
Bishops gather for Spring General Assembly in St. Louis this month

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will gather for their annual Spring General Assembly, June 10-12, in St. Louis. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, USCCB president, will present a summary to the bishops on the consultation of U.S. dioceses for the 2015 Synod on the Family. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., will give an update on the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which Pope Francis will attend on his September Apostolic Journey to the United States.

Alice and Jeffrey Heinzen of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, will give one of three presentations by married couples on marriage and family. The Heinzens were observers to the 2014 Extraordinary Synod on the Family. The other presenters are Lucia and Ricardo Luzondo, directors of Renovacion Familia Ministries, and Claire and John Grabowski, Ph.D., members of the Pontifical Council for the Family. Curtis Martin, founder and CEO of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), will speak on messaging the Gospel to young people.

Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Communications, will unveil new digital resources available to U.S. bishops and dioceses. Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, will lead a discussion on themes associated with the anticipated encyclical by Pope Francis on ecology. Archbishop Wenski will also give an update on a planned 2017 convocation by the Bishops’ Working Group on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person.

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Promotion and Defense of the Unborn, will present on the Conference’s marriage policy efforts ahead of the anticipated decision by the U.S Supreme Court. Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo, MSPs, of Seattle will give an update on USCCB’s ongoing work in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. Bishop Eloi- zondo, who chairs the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America and the Committee on Migration, will join Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Orange, California, for an update on immigration reform.


The bishops will also debate and vote on revised Canticles for the Liturgy of the Hours for use in U.S. dioceses and whether to seek renewal of a five-year recognition from the Vatican for the Program of Priestly Formation, Fifth Edition.

USCCB report on immigrant detention calls for reform

On Monday, May 11, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Center for Migration Studies released a report on the U.S. immigrant detention system entitled, Unlocking Human Dignity: A Plan to Transform the U.S. Immigrant Detention System. The report examines flaws in the U.S. immigrant detention system and offers recommendations for reform. The report also highlights the need for due process protection, minimized detention, and respect for human dignity. Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, chair of the Center for Migration Studies, spoke about the importance of reforms: “There are ways to create a humane system and also ensure that immi-grants are complying with the law. But we have created a detention industry in this country which preys upon the vulnerability of our fellow human beings, the vast majority of whom are not criminals.”

The report was mentioned in a New York Times editorial on May 18, which also highlighted the need for changes to the immigrant detention system. For more information visit: www.usccb.org/aboutimmigrant-and-refugee-services.

Rev. Creagan

Marina Hentz

USCCB report on immigrant detention calls for reform

Sr. Mary Louise Martin, CSJ, passed away May 8. Services were held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sr. Mary Louise entered into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on January 2, 1930. She pronounced first vows on July 2, 1930 and final vows on July 2, 1955. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics with minors in science and social studies from Nazareth College and a Master’s degree in education from the Xavier University. She served as teacher at several elementary schools including: Holy Maternity School, Dawwagia; St. Veronica, Detroit; St. John Bosco, Mattawan; St. Gerard, Lansing; Holy Family, Byron Center; Holy Angels, Sturgis; St. Mary’s Visitation, Byron Center and many others. She finished her ministry working in pastoral care at Borgess Nursing Home.
Now that the 90-days of Lent/Easter/Ascension/Pentecost celebrations have been completed, our Liturgical Calendar reminds us that we have now returned to “Ordi-

tinary Time”. How-appropriate since the season for many other special celebra-
tions such as First Communions, Confirmations, Graduations and Ordinations is also beginning to wind down. Our Liturgical Ordinary Time coincides with the more relaxed schedule of after-school, summer-time activities available to us here in our beau-

tiful southwest Michigan. These next months are a good time for rest, recreation, reflec-
tion and renewal. As we probably all are aware, David Letterman, the very popular host of the Late Night show on TV for the past 30+ years, recently retired. Of his many claims to fame were his “Top Ten Lists,” which were always humorous and very clever. Coincidentally, Pope Francis, also issued his own “top ten list” of sorts. Last summer in an interview with the Argentinian magazine Viva, our Holy Father shared what he called “Ten Secrets for living a Joy-filled Life”.

As we enter into this “ordinary”/more-relaxed time of the year, I would like to focus on four of those “secrets” which seem particularly timely.

1. The first secret Pope Francis talked about was his wise advice: “Give of yourself to oth-
ers.” Pope Francis recalled a Sicilian woman that he knew from his youth, Concepcion Maria Minuto, who used to take care of his mother and whom he has known since he was 10 years old. He said this woman made a long-lasting impression on him, teaching him the value of serving others. He said, “People need to be open and generous towards others...If you with-
draw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes put-
trid.”

As we all know, through Baptism, each of us is a member of the Body of Christ. As such we are called to care for one another and be less self-focused and more focused on serving others in the Name of Christ. The culture all around us, however, would have us believe that each of us is the “center of the universe.” This is a dangerous philosophy and one, if really believed and followed, will leave us feeling empty and alone.

God gave each of us the gift of life; He fashioned us as unique human beings, made in His image and likeness. Our human nature is to be relational and mutually dependent on one an-
other; we are not intended to be isolationists, or to care only about ourselves.

These more relaxed days of ordinary/summer time provide all of us with limitless opportuni-
ties to give of ourselves as volunteers within our communities and through various parish/diocesan programs, from visiting the migrant camps to teaching or helping at a vaca-
tion bible school. Giving of ourselves is a wonderful secret to a joyful life, for ourselves and for others.

2. Another great secret shared by Pope Francis is, in his words, to “Take Sundays off,” and which I would re-title “Keep holy the Lord’s Day.” I read a column recently on the recent Pew Research study that focused on declining practice of faith in our society. The columnist made the observation “Certainly, societal expectations have changed. I remember when the church was literally called a -obligation dominical-, that already no es cierto.” Mientras que la sociedad puede haber cambiado, el precepto dominical no cambio. Cada católico practicante está todavía muy obligado a participar en la Misa todos los domingos (o Vigilia del Sábado) como una de las obligaciones más importantes que tenemos.

Es una obligación espiritual tan importante como lo es para nosotros físicamente comer, dormir o respirar. Celebrar nuestra fe a través de la Eucaristía es parte integral de nuestra salud y bienestar espiritual. Pero sobre todo dar ese tiempo cada semana juntos como comunidad de fe en la adoración a nuestro Dios a través de nuestra participación en la Misa, ¿qué más podemos hacer para “tomarnos los domingos libres”, o como me refiero a “mantener nuestros domingos santificados”? En los días de mi juventud, era muy común que la mayoría de las empresas comerciales se cerraran los domingos. El Domingo era diferente al resto de la semana porque había menos consumismo, menos deportes organizados y menos bullicio en general. Él foco se colocaba casi de manera natural en pasar tiempo de calidad juntos en familia. Una de las preocupaciones más comunes expresadas por muchas personas, es la atención casi obcecada que se presto a los deportes organizados que tienen prioridad sobre todo lo demás, incluyendo nuestras serias obligaciones espirituales. La práctica de nuestra fe al santificar el día del Señor se ha hecho en la adoración a nuestro Dios a través de nuestra participación en la Misa, ¿qué más podemos hacer para “tomarnos los domingos libres”, o como me refiero a “mantener nuestros domingos santificados”? 

In these next months, with summer winding down and the Liturgical Ordinary Time coinciding with the less structured days of summer activities, consider finding ways to “make holy” your Sundays with your family, consider turning off your elec-
tronic devices, and allow yourselves to be truly present to one another in the moment. There’s nothing more “sacred” and “holy” than keeping our primary relationships healthy and strong, beginning with God and continuing with our family.

3. Another one of Pope Francis’ “secrets” is “Don’t be negative”. I’m sure we all remember his Moms telling us, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, then don’t say anything at all.” As Pope Francis said, “When we talk behind somebody’s back, we are paying attention to the negative, which proves we have low self-esteem: This means, I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down. A healthier attitude is to be generous and treat others the way we want to be treated.”

Continued on page 4
By love of Christ. others most in need of assistance and spread the message of the Holy Father to support victims of war and natural disaster and world. Your participation, through your donations and prayers, allow served, to serve him concretely.” He also reminds us that true power neighbor is not something abstract,” he said, “but profoundly con-

The annual Peter’s Pence collection will take place the weekend of June 27/28. This collection unites us in solidarity with the Holy Father and his works of charity toward those who are suffering around the world. Now in the third year of his pontificate, Pope Francis con-
tinues to call each of us to be a witness of charity. “To love God and neighbor is not something abstract,” he said, “but profoundly con-
crete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely.” He also reminds us that true power lies not in amassing possessions and resources for ourselves but in giving. “We must never forget that true power, at any level, is service, those bright summit is upon the Cross...it means entering the logic of Jesus who kneels to wash the Apostles’ feet,” he said.

Join Pope Francis and be a witness of charity throughout the world. Your participation, through your donations and prayers, allow the Holy Father to support victims of war and natural disaster and others most in need of assistance and spread the message of the love of Christ.

Annual Peter’s Pence second collection schedule for June 27-28, 2015
By Lisa Irwin, Associate Director

The annual Peter’s Pence collection will take place the weekend of June 27/28. This collection unites us in solidarity with the Holy Father and his works of charity toward those who are suffering around the world. Now in the third year of his pontificate, Pope Francis continues to call each of us to be a witness of charity. “To love God and neighbor is not something abstract,” he said, “but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely.” He also reminds us that true power lies not in amassing possessions and resources for ourselves but in giving. “We must never forget that true power, at any level, is service, those bright summit is upon the Cross...it means entering the logic of Jesus who kneels to wash the Apostles’ feet,” he said.

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June 27-28, 2015

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Confessions heard every Friday: noon – 1:00

By reflecting on just these four “secrets” out of the 10 Pope Francis originally talked about, perhaps we can see in a renewed way that our Faith gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive.”

Each day we are inundated with those awful headlines reporting on the growing numbers of those being brutally persecuted and inhumanely slaughtered just because they are Christians practicing their faith in Jesus Christ. We hear about those in precarious life-threatening cir-
cumstances who are forced to flee for their lives because of increased violence in their own homeland. We can not just passively ignore this reality affecting our fellow brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. At the very least, we need to pray for them. But we also need to pray for, work for, and lobby for peace — for an end to violence — for a respect for the gift of human life everywhere and in every circumstance.

Too often living a faith-filled life can be portrayed by the world around us as unnecessary, as unimportant, and/or as dull and burdensome. By reflecting on just these four “secrets” out of the 10 Pope Francis originally talked about, perhaps we can see in a renewed way that our Faith not only leads us ultimately to a life of eternal and unending happiness when we get to Heaven, but that it provides us with the “secrets to living a joyful life” right here, right now, in our daily lives. If we choose to allow faith to guide us and be the foundation of who we are, then we can be certain that we will live our lives in union with God and find the joy that God intends for each of us to have.

May these beautiful “ordinary” summer time months afford you the opportunity for a more re-
laxed reflection, a deeper connection and a joy-
filled experience of what it means for us to be a Child of God our Father and a vibrant member of the Body of Christ.

God Bless You.
Fortnight for Freedom presents opportunity to pray for religious liberty

June 21 to July 4, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops calls upon all Catholics to observe the Fortnight for Freedom, 14 days of prayer for religious liberty. This year’s theme is “Freedom to bear witness,” focusing on living lives that speak the truth of the Gospel.

“Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person,” says Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty.

During the Fortnight the Church will celebrate the feasts of several great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power.

U.S. Trappist monks say beer brewing enhances American monastic life

By Chaz Muth, Catholic News Service

SPENCER, Mass. (CNS) — The whosh of the beer tap opening, the gentle glug of the golden brew pouring into the goblet and the sizzle of the foaming mousse are joyous sounds to Trappist Brother Jonah Pociadlo’s ears as he prepares to savor the signature ale created in his monastery’s brewery.

The monk — swathed in his trademark black and white habit — then holds the glass above his head, squints to examine the bubbling liquid inside, before drawing it to his nose to savor the aroma radiating from the tumbler, which is ornamented with the name of the brew, Spencer Trappist Ale.

He then joins his fellow beer-brewing monks and lay workers to taste the ale at the Spencer Brewery, which officially began operations a little more than a year ago on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Mass. The monks began operating the first American Trappist brewery about a year ago. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

Trappist Brother Jonah Pociadlo prepares to pour Spencer Trappist Ale for an April 29 taste testing for fellow monks and lay workers at the new state-of-the-art brewery on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Mass. The monks began operating the first American Trappist brewery about a year ago. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

The Fortnight is a time of prayer, education and action. For more information on Fortnight for Freedom, including prayer, daily reflections and readings from the Vatican II document Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae), visit www.Fortnight4Freedom.org. To stay up-to-date on current religious freedom issues, sign up for text messages from the USCBB by texting the word “FREEDOM” to 377377.

St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher (June 22), St. John the Baptist (June 24), SS. Peter and Paul (June 29), and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (June 30). The Fortnight is a time of prayer, education and action. For more information on Fortnight for Freedom, including prayer, daily reflections and readings from the Vatican II document Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae), visit www.Fortnight4Freedom.org. To stay up-to-date on current religious freedom issues, sign up for text messages from the USCBB by texting the word “FREEDOM” to 377377.

Popular Theology of Tap series for young adults returns this summer

Theology on Tap will kick off this summer, on Fridays from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. beginning July 10 at TGI Fridays in Kalamazoo. This fun and faith-filled program features dynamic speakers in a casual environment and is specifically geared to young adults, college age through their thirties, married or single to gather for fellowship and discussion.

“This year we plan to explore the topic of joy,” said Tim McNaughton, Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, “We are working on a dynamic list of people who live their faith with joy and can be inspiring to all of us.” A concluding Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley will be held in August.

Check the diocesan website for current information.
The Ministry of Deacon
Receive the Gospel of Christ,
Whose herald you have become.
Believe what you read, Teach what you believe, And practice what you teach.
— The Rite of Ordination of a Deacon

The Rite of Ordination for the Order of Deacon is rich in symbolism and sacred ritual. Following are some brief highlights from the recent ordination Mass of Jose Haro, Bruno Okoli, Andrew Raczkowski and Paul Redmond.

After the Liturgy of the Word the Rite of Ordination begins within the Mass with the Calling and Presentation of the Candidates. After being assured the candidates have been found worthy the Bishop chooses them for ordination to the Order of Deacons. The assembly in turn gives their consent.

Promise of the elect
The Bishop examines the candidates by asking a series of questions. Then the candidates make a commitment to celibacy and promise obedience to the Bishop as successor to the Apostles.

Invitation to Prayer
The candidates lay prostrate and the congregation prays and sings the Litany of Supplication.

Laying on of Hands
Deacons are ordained by the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination. In awesome silence the Spirit of God is invoked upon the candidates.

Prayer of Ordination
The Bishop prays that God will grant the dignity of the diaconate to these men. By the holy gesture of Laying on the Hands, and by the Prayer of Ordination, the Office of Deacon is conferred through the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Investiture with Stole and Dalmatic
The newly ordained are vested with stole and dalmatic, thus outwardly showing the liturgical ministry they will carry out.

Handing over the Book of the Gospels
Deacons are called to proclaim the Gospel and preach the faith in word and deed.

The Fraternal Kiss
By the fraternal kiss, the Bishop seals the deacons entry into the Order of Deacons. All deacons present welcome the newly ordained.
Bishop Bradley celebrates
6th anniversary as
Bishop of Diocese of Kalamazoo

June 5th marked six years as the fourth bishop of
the Diocese of Kalamazoo for Most Rev. Paul J.
Bradley. His sixth year as our bishop was a busy one.
He travelled on a Peace Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in
September with 19 other bishops. He also made a
pilgrimage to Rome in celebration of his 10th year as
a bishop. Ever mindful of his role as the shepherd of
the diocese he penned his third pastoral letter entitled,
“The Church: A Center of Hope”, which emphasized
living the faith as joyful witness to the world.

Bishop Bradley was appointed to the “Priorities and
Plans Committee” for the USCCB, as well as Region VI Representative to the USCCB Adminis-
trative Committee. He also served on the Sacred
Heart Major Seminary board. Last month, Bishop
Bradley ordained four seminarians into the transi-
tional deaconate. He also confirmed thousands of
parishioners throughout the diocese.

Focused on forgiveness,
pastor awarded by WMU

Fr. Ken Schmidt honored as Outstanding Alumnus

For over a decade, Fr. Ken Schmidt has been guiding victims of
trauma on the path of healing. He is now being recognized for his hard
work, specifically in the areas of trauma recovery and interpersonal for-
giveness, as an Outstanding Alumnus by the Department of Counselor
Education and Counseling Psychology of Western Michigan University.

Over 1000 people in the Diocese have attended his workshops on for-
giveness, in which he teaches a
process of how to forgive physical and emotional injuries.

Through the diocesan Trauma Recovery Program, which Fr.
Schmidt founded in 2002 with Sharon Froom, more than 400 peo-
ple have found ways to move past childhood trauma. Another version
of this program is conducted for in-
mates in the Kalamazoo County Jail.
The trauma recovery program started
in the diocese has now been initiated
in many other U.S. dioceses, including Los Angeles, Orange, Atlanta and
New Orleans. The manuals co-authored by Fr. Schmidt and Froom are
available in four languages.

Fr. Schmidt and Froom are also co-founders of Trauma Recovery
Associates, a non-profit organization that trains mental health profession-
als and spiritual caregivers to understand the long-lasting effects of child-
hood trauma and gives them tools to respond more effectively to aid
survivors’ healing. Through this organization, Fr. Schmidt and Froom
have led training workshops, retreats and presentations around the world
– 6,000 people, 21 states and six countries.
Awaiting ecology encyclical, Catholic groups prepare for pope’s message

By Dennis Sadowski

Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Few papal encyclicals have been as eagerly awaited as Pope Francis’ upcoming statement on the environment.

While no date other than early summer for its release has been announced, anticipation is building among Catholics as well as non-Catholics and advocates for the environment. Based on the pope’s past statements, they expect the document will call people to protect human life and dignity through greater appreciation and preservation of God’s creation.

Representatives of Catholic organizations told Catholic News Service they are not only preparing for active study of the encyclical in parishes and schools, but that they hope the document will open doors with leaders of other faiths and religious traditions, secular environmental groups and policymakers in the U.S. and around the world.

The encyclical and follow-up programs also are being seen as a way to build momentum for Pope Francis’ first U.S. visit in September and move world leaders to reach a climate change pact during the U.N. Climate Change Conference meeting in Paris Nov. 30-Dec. 11.

Meanwhile, organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Climate Covenant and Catholic Rural Life are working on joint programs as well as complementary resources to share the pope’s document.

The bishops will discuss steps to spread the encyclical’s message during its spring meeting in June in St. Louis.

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School helps to reach more children

Six years ago, several Paw Paw churches decided to meet and discuss vacation bible school, including St. Mary Catholic Parish. Through those discussions, it was discovered that by pooling resources and talent, they could reach more children, especially since at the time each church was only getting a small number of children participating in their VBS program. Since then, six area churches have banded together to create an ecumenical VBS.

“It has worked out beautifully here in Paw Paw to hold an ecumenical VBS,” says Debra Hohiemer, director of education at St. Mary’s Parish. “It has shown courage chapter, Fr. Ankley attended the annual Courage Conference.

“I went to the conference last year for the first time and found it to be a time of peace, education, and grace,” he said. If you struggle with same-sex attraction or have a family member that struggles please consider attending this year.”

The 28th Annual Courage Conference, “Move beyond the confines of the homosexual label to a more complete identity in Christ,” will be held July 30th to August 2nd at The University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill. This conference is open to men and women with same-sex attraction and their friends, families, and spouses.

The conference features fellowship with Courage and Encourage members from across the country and around the world and talks from renowned speakers on topics such as identity, friendship, vocation, discipleship, and forgiveness.

For more information on the conference, visit: www.courage.org; for diocesan resources visit: www.diockzoo.org.

John Paul II and ‘America’

In the years preceding the Great Jubilee of 2000, John Paul II held a series of continental synods to help the Church in different locales reflect on its distinctive situation at the end of the second millennium, and to plan for a future of evangelical vigor in the third. These Special Assemblies were easily named in the case of the Synods for Africa, Asia, and Europe. But when it came to the Synod for the western hemisphere, John Paul threw a linguistic curveball that made an important point.

It was expected to be called the Synod for the Americas. But at John Paul II’s insistence, it became the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for America. As in America, singular. Why? Several reasons.

The pope believed that the western hemisphere had experienced a single, great “first evangelization,” when the Europeans crossed the Atlantic and planted the Cross from Quebec to Tierra del Fuego. Moreover, he thought that this first evangelization had a particularly powerful symbol and patroness in Our Lady of Guadalupe, whom John Paul often cited as the example of a “perfect inculturation” of the Gospel. And then there was the future: John Paul hoped that, were the Church in the two halves of the Americas to think of itself as one, single “subject” of that first evangelization, it might be better prepared, spiritually and imaginatively, to undertake the new evangelization as a common enterprise.

All of this, and more, is beautifully captured in a new documentary from the Knights of Columbus — “John Paul II in America: Uniting a Continent.”

Those under 30, whose living memories of John Paul are of an old, enfeebled man, should watch this moving film to be reminded what an extraordinarily handsome, dynamic and compelling figure the Polish pope was in the first two decades of his pontificate, before the Parkinson’s began to erode his immense physical strength. Here is John Paul kissing and dandling babies, whooping it up with young people in Madison Square Garden, reaching out and embracing the halt, the lame, and the elderly — all of which helped make possible the new papal model that Pope Francis has lived to such effect.

And then there is John Paul II speaking truth to power: to visibly nervous representatives of communist governments at the United Nations in 1979; to Pinochet, Sistozenni, the Argentinean junta, and other authoritarian abusers of human rights in Latin America; to the adolescent Sandinistas in Nicaragua when they tried to drown out his sermon in Managua with idiotic chants. The younger John Paul II was an exceptionally charismatic man. But unlike so many other leaders of his era, he never played the demagogue; the style was always in service to the substance he preached, which was Jesus Christ.

And then there is John Paul II, the mystic, celebrating Mass before crowds in the hundreds of thousands, even millions, yet withdrawing at moments inside himself, into that special place where he conducted his ongoing and intense dialogue with the Lord — only to re-emerge, magnetic as ever, to summon all of us to be the missionary disciples and saints we were baptized to be.

The World Youth Days John Paul celebrated in “America” — including his last one, in Toronto in 2002 — get well-deserved attention in the film, for here was the pope demonstrating to the world (and to skeptical bishops) that young people want to be challenged to lead lives of heroic virtue, just as they want to know that the Church will be with them, offering reconciliation and mercy, when they fail to reach the mark—as we all do. The effects of those electric days are still being felt, decades later, among the liveliest parts of the Church in this hemisphere.

“John Paul II in America: Uniting a Continent” has already been shown on several local television stations. It would be well worth contacting your local programming director and asking him or her to consider airing this visually compelling, thought-provoking film, in preparation for Pope Francis’ visit to the U.S. in September.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. George Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.
LCWR goes on ‘with our normal life’ after mandate ends, official says

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious said the organization is pleased to be “going on with our normal life, so to speak,” now that the Vatican’s mandate to reform the group has concluded.

Sister Sharon Holland told Catholic News Service that the leaders of the organization and Vatican officials reached agreement on several key issues under a mandate for reform issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in an atmosphere that promoted understanding and respect.

The mandate emerged from a doctrinal assessment by congregation representatives that began in 2009.

“The whole experience has allowed us to see the fruitfulness of a process that was carried out in a sort of contemplative way,” said Sister Sharon, vice president of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe, Michigan. “It takes time to be quiet, to pray and reflect. We’ve seen both the power and the potential of respectful honest dialogue. We hope that we’ve all learned a good deal about the importance of listening well.

“Hopefully we’ve both experienced and shown the possibility of dealing with tension or misunderstanding or difficulties in a way that helps resolve, rather than allowing them to develop into polarization,” she added.

Sister Sharon’s comments came a month after the April 16 announcement at the Vatican that the reform process had successfully concluded. The announcement at the Vatican came the same day LCWR officers met with Pope Francis at his office for 30 minutes discussing his apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel.”

Both parties released a two-page Joint Final Report the same day that outlined several reform steps already completed or that were to be undertaken by LCWR. Both also agreed to a 30-day moratorium for comment.

No immediate word was released by the Vatican May 15.

In a statement posted on the LCWR website May 15, the organization’s leadership said that when the findings of the assessment were issued in 2012, its board of directors decided to place all discussions in a context of communal contemplative prayer in order to discern how best to respond.

The assessment of LCWR, whose 1,500 members represent 80 percent of the 57,000 women religious in the United States, was initiated after complaints were lodged by unnamed U.S. Catholic leaders.

Led by Archbishop Leonardi P. Blair of Hartford, Connecticut, the assessment took three years to complete. Citing “serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life,” the Vatican announced a major reform of the conference in 2012 to ensure their fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women’s ordination and homosexuality.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle was appointed to oversee the reform. Bishop Thomas J. Prockowiak of Springfield, Illinois, and Archbishop Blair were named to assist him.

Three years of what Sister Sharon called “intensive dialogue” with the congregation and the three bishops followed along with annual meetings with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Faith, which oversees religious life.

The LCWR leadership in its statement said all interactions with the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith the U.S. prelates “were always conducted in a spirit of prayer and openness.”

The leadership team credited Archbishop Sartain for his “sincerity and integrity” for encouraging the organization to continue in dialogue over the findings of the assessment.

“We engaged in long and challenging exchanges with these officials about our understandings of and perspectives on critical matters of faith and its practice, religious life and its mission, and the role of a leadership conference of religious,” the statement said. “We believe that because these exchanges were carried out in an atmosphere of mutual respect, we were brought to deeper understandings of one another. We gained insights into the experiences and perspectives of these church leaders, and felt that our experiences and perspectives were heard and valued.”

In addition, the report said the bishops and LCWR leaders had “clarifying and fruitful” conversations about “the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist; the place of the Liturgy of the Hours in religious communities; the centrality of a communal process of contemplative prayer practiced at LCWR assemblies and other gatherings; the relationship between LCWR and other organizations; and the essential understanding of LCWR as an instrument of ecclesial communion.”

LCWR’s full statement is online at: www.lcwr.org

Books use different approaches to offer valuable lessons to youths

Reviewed by Daniel S. Mulhall
Catholic News Service

“From Teens to Twenties: Lessons Every Young Adult Should Learn”


“Discerning Your Vocation: A Catholic Guide for Young Adults”


Human development is an interesting field of study. Over the last 100 years a variety of social sciences have explored what are developmentally appropriate tasks for each stage of life. A great deal of study has gone into trying to understand the development that takes place during adolescence, the period that runs roughly through the teen years but may begin earlier and often continues into the early 20s.

The two books considered in this review also address these adolescent years but from a religious development perspective. While they come from the same publisher and are aimed at the same audience, their approaches are very different. Both offer ideas that would be beneficial to the teens to which the books are addressed, but only one of the books offers these ideas in a teen-friendly way.

“From Teens to Twenties” offers 28 lessons that the author, Alexander J. Basile, feels that teens should learn. Basile chairs the religion department at Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, New York. The lessons would generally be considered standard fare for adolescent development, such as Lesson 21, “‘Unplug and listen for the silence,’” or Lesson 25, “Money never guarantees anything.”

The ideas presented are reasonable and of substance, and generally would be valuable information for teens to learn. The concern is that the lessons are offered as advice. The rule of thumb when working with adolescents is to help them to discover the truths of life (and faith) for themselves with the guidance of the faith community.

To be clear, this does not mean that teens determine what is true for them, but that they discover the truth held by their faith communities. While the tone of the writing is not preachy, it certainly does a lot of telling teens what they should know, do and understand. While the intended audience for the book is clearly teens themselves, adults who work with teens might be the more likely readers.

“Discerning Your Vocation” addresses many of the same life and faith lessons found in “From Teens to Twenties,” but presents them from the perspective of discernment: when stuff happens in life what steps can you take to understand what it means and how it will affect your life. Instead of telling teens what they should feel or think, “Discerning Your Vocation” offers a process that young people can use to make sense of events, along with their thoughts and feelings, and see if they can find, through this process, their own vocational call.

The intended audience for “Discerning Your Vocation” is, according the preface, “students and young adults who are in search of God’s will.” If someone is searching for clarity in their vocational call, this short book by young men and a woman who have recently made the decision to enter a religious community could be of great value.

Youth leaders and parents of teens are encouraged to read these books themselves to see if they are worth passing on to their young people.
Bienvenida a los Campesinos Migrantes de la Diócesis

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo da la Bienvenida a todos los campesinos migrantes que ya están llegando a los 415 campos que cubre la Diócesis en los nueve condados de Al- legan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph y Van Buren. El Ministerio Multicultural e Hispano de la Diócesis les da la bienvenida y les desea que esta temporada también esté plena de bendecir espiritual para todos los campesinos y sus familias. Las Parroquias abrirán sus puertas para acoger a los campesinos que llegan de Texas, Florida, México y otros lugares incluyendo países de Cen- tro América.

Tenemos un gran número de valiosos voluntarios y voluntarías que alegremente y con gran entrega colaboran en este ministerio para poder lle- gar como iglesia y como comunidad de fe a todos los campesinos. Como cada año, la Diócesis invita misioneros que nos ayuden en la atención espiritual y pastoral de los campesinos, visitando los campos y atendiendolos desde las parroquias cercanas. También el Centro Alemán ya está recibiendo a los campesinos para ofrecerles ropa y comida de emergencia. Deemos una bondadosa acogida a los campesinos y misioneros que vienen a enriquecer nuestra parroquia local con su trabajo y con su fe.

Calendario/Calendar

| 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 6:30-8:00 pm y Domingos de 12:30-2:30 pm. |

| 6 (Sábado) | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Retiro Diocesano de Quinceañeras – retiro bilingüe para la preparación de quinceañeras. También deben participar los padres de las quinceañeras en el retiro. Temas incluyen: origen de la celebración, responsabilidades como cristianos, la juventud en la sociedad de hoy y otros temas de importancia. Lugar: Inmaculada Concepción Parish 65359 60th Ave, Hartford, MI. |

| 12 (Viernes) | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m Reunión de Migrant Resource Council (agencias que ofrecen servicio a la Comunidad Migrante). 27 & 28: 7:30 am – 8 pm Instituto San Agustín – Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Primer Año de Formación, Retiro espiritual de dos días. Tema: Identidad: En- cuentro con Dios Trinidad. Lugar: St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt, MI. |


| 10 (Viernes) | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m Reunión de Migrant Resource Council (agencias que ofrecen servicio a la Comunidad Migrante). 22 (Miercoles) 7:30 pm Misa en un Campo con el Señor Obispo Paul Bradley. Campo por confirmar. |

| 25 (Sábado): | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Retiro Diocesano de Quinceañeras — retiro bilingüe para la preparación de quinceañeras. También deben participar los padres de las quinceañeras en el retiro. Temas incluyen: origen de la celebración, responsabilidades como cristianos, la juventud en la sociedad de hoy y otros temas de importancia. Lugar: St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 602 W. Chicago Street, Bronson, MI. |

Programa de Consejería en Español: Programa de Recuperación de Traumas

La hemos trabajado con dos grupos en español; los participantes han expresado que se sentían aliviados, que se sentían capaces de tomar decisiones más sencillas, que se sentían más guían en sus vidas. La mayoría creía que se habían liberado de la culpa y que podían empezar a vivir de acuerdo con el Señor. Algunos piensan que al tener una experiencia de la muerte, se han convertido en persona más fuerte. En el grupo de 20 personas, el 80% estaban dispuestos a recomendar el programa a sus amigos. El 90% creyó que el programa fue de gran ayuda para ellos.

Por Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu

Con esta frase definimos lo que siente nuestro corazón: “¡Cese la represión!” Al día sigui- deniente fue asesinado mientras celeb- braba la Eucaristía y Romero en- tonces fue ofrecido como sacrificio en el altar dando la vida por su pueblo, suplicando que cesara la vi- lencia y que se respetara la vida de los pueblos.

Oscar Romero nació el 15 de agosto de 1917 en Ciudad Barrios, en el departamento de San Miguel, El Salvador. Era el segundo de 8 hermanos, hijos del matrimonio for- mado por el teólogo y trabajadora social, Santos Romero, y de Guadalupe Galdámez. Los restos del Arzobispo Romero se encuen- tren en la cripta de la Catedral Metropo- litan en San Salvador, justo debajo del altar mayor del templo. El Arzobispo Romero fue un hombre de Dios y servidor de los pobres y de Caritas Internacional lo ha escogido como patrono junto con Teresa de Calcuta y Martín de Porres.

El Arzobispo Romero une para San Salvador, pero también para los salvadoreños en general. Conocido por su sereno y abnegado servicio a la Comunidad Migrante (agencias que ofrecen servicio a la Comunidad Migrante). Ha dejado llenos de alegría y entusiasmo, conocidos una tarde de música, danza, juegos y deliciosa comida que deleita el paladar de estadounidenses, mexi- canos y colombianos.

Este día de trabajo fue una experiencia maravillosa que nos ha dejado llenos de alegría y entusiasmo, conocimos una comunidad unida, comprometida y afinada para hacer las cosas bien. Parte de diferentes grupos de comida, así mismo los encargados de logística, animación musical, el baile; todos ellos conformaron por parte de la parroquia hicieron posi- ble el desarrollo de esta actividad, en verdad nos queda claro que tenemos en esta iglesia local un gran número de líderes, de cristianos comprometidos, con esperanza y de- seos de hacer crecer la iglesia de Jesucristo, nuestra igle- sia católica.
Here & There

Central Deanery

Augusta:
- June 17: Kalamazoo Diocese Council of Catholic Women Human Trafficking event, St. Ann Parish, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Informatonal event on human trafficking. Cost: $20, includes boxed lunch. RSVP by June 10. Contact: Sue Amis, (269) 629-5757 or sanxis6@aol.com.
- June 14: Unleashing your inner St. Joseph with Mark Houck, St. Monica Parish, 9 a.m. President and Co-Founder of The King’s Men will discuss how St. Joseph is a model for all men. Mass at 9 a.m. followed by talk and lunch. No cost or RSVP.
- June 30: Matthew Leonard presents Found!, St. Monica Parish. Talk given by internationally known speaker, including Mass and opportunity for confession.

July 11-12: Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend, Transformations Retreat Center. Marriage Preparation weekend for engaged couples. Should be completed 6-9 months prior to wedding. Cost is $175. Contact: Jane Boedey, (269) 903-0147, jboedey@diokzoo.org.

July 19-20: Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend, Transformations Retreat Center. Marriage Preparation weekend for engaged couples. Should be completed 6-9 months prior to wedding. Cost is $175. Contact: Jane Boedey, (269) 903-0147, jboedey@diokzoo.org.

July 21-27: World Meeting of Families Diocesan Pilgrimage, Philadelphia. Seven-day pilgrimage to Philadelphia for World Meeting of Families, sponsored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo and Canterbury Pilgrimages and Tours Inc. Pope Francis will be in attendance. Contact: Jamin Herold, (663) 653-0117, jherold@diokzoo.org.

Sept. 26: Spanish Pre-Marriage Encounter, St. Joseph Parish. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. One day retreat for the formation of engaged couples or married couples who wish to have a day of reflection. Contact: Fanny Tabares, (269) 903-0209, tabares@diokzoo.org.

Kid’s Men and Into the Wild: Those who would like to become a guide for the “Kid’s Men and Into the Wild” program are encouraged to contact St. Monica Parish. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the church and activities will take place on weekends. For more information, please contact Deacon Kurt Lucas at (269) 903-0183 or klucas@diokzoo.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offered in Michigan

In celebration of the Year of Marriage, there are several opportunities to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Michigan. These weekends are a great way to renew and enrich your marriage and faith. Upcoming weekends will be held June 26-28 at St. Joan of Arc in St. Clair Shores; August 7-9 at St. John in Fenton; Sept. 25-27 at the Holiday Inn in Troy; and Oct. 16-18 at the Saginaw Center for Ministry in Saginaw. For more information or to register, visit www.wmme.org or contact Harry and Karen Porter at (888) 628-7433.

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

Parting With Processed:
10 Tips for Eating Healthier

Why are the waistlines of Americans growing? One of the main reasons why so many of us struggle with weight is that we are continually surrounded by unhealthy, cheap temptations, from fast food meals to processed snack foods.

So how can we all eat healthier and battle the bulge more effectively? Here are 10 tips:

1. **Eat less processed and more whole.** Try to forgo boxes, bags and cans in the grocery store. If something comes prepackaged, it’s often been dehydrated, bleached, salted, sweetened and fattened to compensate for nutrition lost during packaging. Keep in mind, there are some processed foods that are still good for you, such as bagged spinach or cut vegetables. The most heavily processed foods are often frozen or pre-made meals, including frozen pizza and microwavable dinners.

2. **Shop on the outside edge of the store.** The best place to find unprocessed, healthy, whole foods is to shop and purchase most of your groceries on the outside edge of the store. This is where you’ll find meat, eggs, dairy and seafood, for example.

3. **Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.** The more colorful you make your plate, the more likely you are to get the vitamins, minerals and fiber your body truly needs.

4. **Choose more whole grain.** Buy and consume more products that are whole grain, and contain unbleached, unenriched grains like whole wheat, brown rice, oats or quinoa.

5. **Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1 percent) milk.** Both of these options contain the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk, but with less saturated fat and fewer calories.

6. **Be clear about food labels.** Learn the basics of and how to read food labels. If a food label isn’t clear, leave the item on the shelf.

7. **Watch sodium.** If you’re going to eat them from time to time, choose lower-sodium versions of foods like soup and frozen meals. Select canned foods labeled “low sodium,” “reduced sodium” or “no salt added.”

8. **Hail to H2O.** Drink more water. Soda, energy drinks and sports drinks are a major source of unnecessary sugar and calories.

9. **Lean on leaner protein foods.** Meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts and seeds are all good sources of protein. Whenever possible, select leaner cuts of meat.

10. **See seafood more often.** You should try to eat at least eight ounces a week of a variety of seafood. Seafood is known for its heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids, and includes fish (like salmon, tuna and trout) and shellfish (like crab, shrimp, mussels and oysters).

**Megan Neirgarth, a certified physician assistant (PA-C) with Borgess Family Medicine & Pediatrics, can be reached at (269) 552.0100.**

Mark your calendars for June 6-14 to meet and greet some of the Diocese of Kalamazoo seminarians. The men will be visiting the Northern and Eastern Deaneries of the diocese to participate in Mass and Holy Hours. Additionally they will be sharing their vocations stories at parish gatherings. Visit the diocesan website for up-to-date information and itinerary; www.diokzoo.org. Shown above is seminarian Matthew Montgomery greeting a parishioner at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Wayland.

Sharon Fredericks was honored for her decades of service to Catholic Charities at their annual Celebrate Life Luncheon and Fundraiser on May 7th at the Kalamazoo Country Club. This year’s luncheon focused on honoring Catholic Charities’ volunteers, pictured (left/right/above).

Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) first graders experienced the beauty of new life in their classrooms when they witnessed baby chicks hatching.

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Save The Date — www.ccdok.org to register

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